

# The Dogumentary

24th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

November-December 2006

## December Meeting

The December meeting will be held at the Hopkins VFW, with dinner at 6:00 and the meeting starting at 7. This is the annual all-members meeting that you are expected to be at, or else at least reaffirm your intention of staying in the club next year, if you cannot attend. There will be no speaker, as the 2007 officers will also be elected at the meeting, and the victory parties can drag on for hours.

## Waterdogs Calendar 2006-07

<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>
<b>Apr 5</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>

**July 21-28 '07 LOTW Musky Tour**

## President's Corner – Steve Haagenon



You've probably all been looking forward to this, but it is unbelievable to me that this is my last President's column. For me, the year has gone incredibly fast and it's been a great one. As usual, you always get back more than you

put into anything. The great officers, board members, committee chairs and members have all done so much to make this a great year that it has been fun and an honor to serve as president this year.

Congratulations to Nasty, Griz and Janitor on a great fishing year. Griz had an awesome run all year long but Nasty stayed close and pulled it out in a photo finish. Again this year, tournament attendance was a key for all of our winners. All three attended all of the tournaments. Also, congratulations to our Waterdog of the Year. We couldn't have made a better choice than our club communicator, editor, humorist, seminar speaker and even a great fisherman. Congratulations to our original fresh speller, Phish Dique.

Final congrats go to Kirk and his netter, Perp on their success in the final tournament on the Rum. We'll look forward to your tournament secrets at the December meeting.

Thanks to Kojak and his committee for another great banquet. It was fun to see the spouses and families that we talk about as we fish and who support us in our hobby. Great job on the slide show, Little Angel. My wife, who usually describes the show as "Too many pictures of men with fish", even declared it to be excellent. Thanks for all your work.

With this year drawing to a close, our focus turns to next year. I hope you're all giving some thought to who you will vote into leadership for next year. I'm sure Perp, Dr. Meat and Little Angel are all working hard on their campaign speeches. I know any of them would make a great vice president and president but it's up to you to pick who it will be. In addition to whoever isn't elected as

president, Suzie, Helen and Rocky make up the ballot for next year's board.

The final two items relate to membership for next year. First, if you know of anyone who would make a good Waterdog, now is the time to get them on the waiting list. Second, the December meeting is mandatory if you are going to be in the club next year. If you can't make the meeting and are going to remain a member, you need to call me and let me know you are going to stay a member. While I certainly want 100% of us to return as members, if you are not going to be able to remain a member please let me know. Remember that if you feel that you are unable to be a participating member next year, it is respectful to the club and fellow members to bow out of the club for a while. We certainly want you back when you are able to participate again. Remember that returning Waterdogs go to the top of the waiting list and we have even accepted returning Dogs when it has pushed our membership above 30. Past members are always welcome on the LOTW trip and as guests at our meetings.

Thanks again for your support this year and for allowing me the privilege of being president for the year.

See you at the meeting.  
Pharm Buoy

For spearheading a great banquet, the final fresh spelling of the month goes to Co-Jaq.

### **Smallmouths get even Smaller Mouths at Waterdog's Final 2006 Tournament**

Eighteen Waterdogs braved cold and windy conditions on the Rum River on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> in the last of seven tournaments for the year, this one being for the elusive smallmouth bass. The water temperature in the river had dropped nearly 20 degrees over the course of a week, due to an unseasonable cold-snap that settled in and stayed for the tournament. And the fishing was as cold as the Waterdogs fingers, with just eight keeper smallies caught by three guys, for the lowest tournament fish count of the year. The no live bait requirement may have made the fishing more difficult, but very likely the weather conditions had a big effect.



**Perp Pre-Fishes a Keeper**

In the end, it was Bubble Boy Kirk Duholm and partner Brian Karsjens who won the tournament with 5 fish caught on crankbaits and plastic worms. They will reveal their super cold-front strategy at the next meeting. In second place was the team of Nasty and Carmen with one fish of 19.5", caught by Nasty with just minutes to go in the tournament. In third was the team of Fishdick and Dr Meat with two smaller fish. The other teams were frozen out of the standings.



**Captain Kirk with a Rare Tight-Mouth Bass**

The highlight of the tournament had to be the lunch that followed the fishing. Brother Dave Anderson treated the club to a Famous Dave's Barbeque lunch catered by his son who is a

manager of a famous Dave's restaurant. It was a fantastic way to end the tournament season with a big feed. Thanks a lot, Felix! There will be a special vote at the meeting to elect Felix as the PFCC (Permanent Food Committee Chairman).

**Nasty Ekes Out '06 Tournament Series Win**

Half-way through the tournament series this year, it was a run-away for tournament points by the Griz, who had three first-place finishes and one second after four tournaments, and he had also caught the big fish in three of those tournaments for those extra points, as well. But, the tenacious and steady performance of Nasty Boy eventually won out, as he out-pointed Griz in the last three tournaments, with the Rum River being the deciding event. At the Rum, Nasty's one fish was worth second-place points of 17, while Griz finished with the pack and a one-point 'show' placing. That allowed Nasty to pass him for the year with a final total of 99 points to Griz's 96. One ten-inch bass for Griz would have been enough for him to stay in first place for the year, but the river would not allow it. Nasty placed in all seven tournaments, and was the only one to do so, thanks to the Rum River. In third place for the year was The Janitor with 85 points, who also placed in all the tournaments except the Rum River. After third place, the yearly point totals dropped off sharply into the rest of the club standings.



**Nasty Boy with the Golden Bass**

**The Sun Sets on 2006**

The 2006 tournament year saw many extremes, which seems to be the usual for the club. The tournaments started out with a freezing cold trout outing, and ended with a freezing cold bass trip. Along the way, a few

fish were caught in these interesting and widely varied numbers:

Tournament	Attendance	#Fish Caught
Whitewater	24	100+
Chisago	26	200+
Gull	18	33
Carver Co	26	200+
Wissota	16	50+
Minnetonka	25	30
Rum River	18	8
Average	22	

The best attendance is seen at the local tournaments.

The personal attendance record looks like this:

# of tournaments made	# of Dogs
7	5
6	7
5	11
4	3
3	1
2	3
Avg.	5.1

Most Dogs take advantage of the 7-tournament series to miss one or two of the events.

**2006 Banquet Fun**

Once again, our annual banquet was a good time for all, thanks to Kojak, Little Angel, and the rest of the tournament committee. A great meal at Buca was enjoyed by all, except Dr Meat, who prefers red meat. Scott Squire's slide show was excellent, once again, with the many shots of club members at their best.

Nasty, Griz, and the Janitor collected their rods for their top three finishes in the tournament series. Fishdick was Waterdog of the Year, Nasty was Captain of the Year, and for the second year in a row, Carmine was Little Buddy of the Year. Kojak had many Dogs on the edge of their seats with the numerous nominations for Weenie of the Year, but in the end, it was Fluffy and his bottle-rocket antics at Lake of the Woods that enabled Matt to take the coveted award for the second year in-a-row. We can all breathe easier ... for now.

**December All-Members Meeting**

The December meeting will be our annual business meeting where new officers will be voted in, and money collected for dues and

Lake of the Woods from all those members that are staying in the club. **Annual club dues are \$75, and the LOTW deposit is \$125.** As of now, there is no indication that anyone is leaving the club.

Three club members have been nominated for next year's VP, which in turn becomes the president in 2008. The nominees are Brian Karsjens (Perp), John Schaffhausen (Dr Meat), and Scott Squire (Little Angel). Each will give a heart-felt campaign speech full of empty promises and impossible goals before the voting begins.

The board will also be voted in, with the non-winning VP candidates as nominees, along with Suzy, Helen and Rocky who were nominated in October. It is still uncertain who's responsibility it will be to keep track of who is on the board, just in case they decide to meet next year.

### **The Waterdog Interview: Tom Keller**

By Suzy



**Name:** Tom Keller

**Handle:** Helen

**Where you live:** Plymouth

**Hometown:** St. Paul

**Where you work:** General Mills

**What you do at work:** Corporate Quality Manager for the Pillsbury Branded food products. I'm the Dough Boys' "body guard."

**Where you went to college/high school:** University of Minnesota -- Go Gophers!

**Spouse's name:** Janet

**Kids:** Annika (4) and Sam (3)

**Pets:** Bailey, our yellow lab

**Favorite fishing rod:** Custom rod that my wife gave me

**Favorite fishing lure:** Watermelon-colored Senko, hooked wacky-style!

**Favorite fishing reel:** Zebco 202

**Favorite species to fish for:** I like mixing it up, but bass and trout are the most fun for me

**Favorite restaurant:** The Blue Point, seafood restaurant in downtown Wayzata

**Favorite beverage:** Dark flavorful beer. None of that whimpy "light/lite" stuff.

**Favorite cut of meat:** Porterhouse

**Last book you read:** Flags of Our Fathers

**What you do for fun when you're not fishing:** When I get the chance, I love to mountain bike, golf, hunt, canoe and ski,

but now I mostly play with the kids.

**Favorite body of water to fish on:** Whitefish Chain

**Your boat:** 1989 17.5 Lund Tye

**Your dream boat:** Anything but a 1989 Lund Tye. A Ranger (maybe a 18.5 Reata?)

**Favorite moment fishing with a Waterdog:** Seeing your partner catch a personal best

**One of your all-time favorite fishing memories:** Fishing with my younger brother on Whitefish in the mid 70's. I was 14, my brother was about 11 and Al Lindner was fishing with a client next to us. We had the spot and ALL the action. It was sweet in a mean sort of way.

**Word that best describes you:** Introspective

**Favorite dessert:** Pecan pie

**Favorite band or musical artist?** Jonathan Richman

**Star Trek or Battlestar Galatica?** Star Trek

**Brady Bunch or Partridge Family?** Partridge Family

**Wilma or Betty?** Betty!

**Favorite, on-the-water snack?** Granola bars

**Your fishing vehicle (for towing your boat or your dream boat):** '03 Ford Explorer

**Favorite fishing magazine:** In-Fisherman

**Favorite fishing TV show:** *In-Fisherman or Angling Edge*

**Favorite fishing radio program:** *Bear Facts & Fish Tails -- it's on at a good time*

**Topwater or plastic worming?** *I like both, but worms have been better for me*

#### **Personal bests?**

Biggest musky: 0" (*Tiger muskies don't count*)

Biggest northern pike: *Mid 30's*

Biggest walleye: 26"

Biggest LM bass: 22"

Biggest SM: 20"

**Volunteer or community activities (other than Waterdogs):** *Off and on trip leader for Boy Scouts and other volunteer stuff through work, such as Paint-a-thons, Habitat, etc. Completing some organized holiday letter writing to the troops in Iraq now. The family also gets involved with different volunteer activities during the holidays, delivering meals, etc. I am also trying to start a fishing league at General Mills.*

**What fishing "personal best" would you like to hit in the coming year?** *Musky – I'd like to catch one.*

**Why you like being part of the Waterdogs:** *Fellowship and learning how to be a better fisherman. The tournaments are a blast; I always learn a bunch from my fishing partner.*

#### **News from the Old Dog Files**

Here's a picture of former Dog Greg 'Huckleberry' Eagle who has been living in Tampa Florida the past three years. He caught this 9.5 pound largemouth at Stickmarsh, and it's his biggest to-date.



#### **Another Crystal Pierz Story.**

I think it would be safe to say that Crystal Pierz Marine's reputation suffered last year among the Waterdogs. My own dealings with them caused me to swear off using them ever again. My thoughts were to see if Terry would do some side work when I needed repairs or take it to the marine dealer in Paynesville, near my Dad's farm where I store the boat for the winter.

As fall progressed, circumstances emerged where it would just be easiest to give Crystal another chance. Besides when I picked up my boat last year, after over 4 weeks of waiting for winterizing and a paint repair, Terry had told me that they had a new service manager and that he was hopeful that things were going to improve. My first indication of this was that the price was much better than the old service manager had quoted me. In addition, Perp received a refund of some of his fees from last year when he complained of the excessive price he had been charged.

So, I gave them another try. I brought my boat over on a Thursday and the first thing I saw was a pile of service checklists on the counter that included prices right on the form. No more nebulous quotes and opportunities to charge whatever they could get away with. They also had a sign indicating that after a certain date they were only doing winterizing and that other work could be scheduled for later in the winter. That sounded smart to me.

I asked when my boat might be done and was told that it might be done by Friday. I assumed that he thought it was earlier in the week than Thursday as he didn't say, "Tomorrow." Maybe he meant the next Friday. To my surprise, before 10:00 the next morning, they called to say my boat was ready. I couldn't pick it up until Saturday. But when I got there the price was just what I expected, (which was less than I paid the year before) and the boat was on the street waiting for me before I walked out the door.

So, good price, excellent service. What more could I ask for? I'm sure they still run into some glitches just like any business. But, for now, they sure have earned my business back.