

The Dogumentary

25th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

December 2007

'All Members' Meeting December 6

The next meeting will be devoted to official club business, where we select officers for the upcoming year, and also discuss tournaments and other potential events for the next year.

If you do not plan on staying with the club in 2008, please let another member know so the news can be related, and the spot filled by one of the guys on the waiting list. We have not had much turnover over the past few years, but you'd have to admit that the few new guys we've added have been great additions. If your participation has not been what you would have liked, and you see little improvement for the coming year, you could consider taking some time off. We have always welcomed retreads back to the club after a break, and of course, former members are always invited to attend the Rock and Roll musky tour.

As of press time, we are still meeting at the Hopkins VFW at 6pm for dinner, and 7pm for the meeting. The VFW has told us that they are no longer serving food, but you can still get a hamburger and fries that look almost like real food.

The 2007-2008 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Dec 6	Monthly Meeting–Elections
Jan 4	Monthly Meeting
Feb 1	Monthly Meeting
Mar 7	Monthly Meeting
July 19-26	Rock&Roll Musky Tour

President's Corner

James Ferstenou



It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting down to write my first Dogumentary article as President and now here we are near the end of another year. What a year it has been. We celebrated our 25th anniversary, had one of the closest tournament series races in recent years and most importantly, had a lot of fun along the way.

I have really enjoyed my time as President and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped along the way. Thanks to the committee Chairmen and committee members for all of your work and making things run smoothly. Thanks to the 25th anniversary committee for their efforts in organizing a special event. Lastly, thanks to all of you for giving me the opportunity to lead the club. I look forward to being Chairman of the Board in the upcoming year and to handing over the reigns of President to Little Angel.

Griz

2007 Banquet a Great Success

The banquet committee put together another fun event at the Midland Hills Country Club, for the 25th Anniversary Waterdogs Banquet. The food may have been the best ever, and the slide show and other entertainment was a good time for all. Thanks to Chips, Fluffee, Little Angel, and all the other Dogs that helped put it all together.

Several awards were also presented at the banquet for actions that were way above, or way below, the call of duty. Most significant was the award for Waterdog of the Year, which was won by Dave 'Greenstick' Haberle. This was the first time that a Waterdog has won the award in his rookie year with the club. Dave's commitment, camaraderie, and hard work really stood out this past year, and were a big benefit for all of us in the club. We look forward to rewarding Dave with more fish and a lot less pain in 2008.

The semi-precious Weenie Award was a run-away for Dr. Sticky Fingers, although several other dogs made some rather feeble attempts at the title during the year. It's just hard to beat the drama of a Coast Guard rescue that has now become one of the top-viewed videos on you-tube. Rumor has it that a major film studio is also pursuing the rights to the story.

Other awards for bravery and heroism, or just basically showing up, were Captain of the Year – Dr. Sticky Fingers, and Little Buddy of the Year – Dr. Meat.

Three custom-made rods by Thorne Brothers were also awarded to the top three finishers from the 2007 tournament series. Bob Blakely, Bob Dickey, and Paul Johnson were the proud recipients of the new jousting sticks.

Waterdog Elections are in December

By now, you should have made your donations to your favorite Waterdog presidential candidates party, and reaped the benefits of doing so. The candidates are busy writing their speeches, and will be having a televised debate before the elections at the December meeting. Hopefully, there won't be skeletons in any of the candidates closets that will come

out and derail their campaigns before the elections.

We will be voting for the 2008 Vice-President, who, as it is written in the bylaws, will become the President in 2009. The three candidates are John Schaffhausen (Dr. Meat of the Prime Party), Kevin Miller (Bud Nubbins of the Sudz Party), and Tom Keller (Helen of the Uncle Tom's Cabin Party).

We will also be voting for 2008 board members, and it is requested that somebody please bring a copy of the bylaws so we can better remember how to do this.

2008 Dues and Don'ts

The dues for next year will stay the same at \$75, and are due starting in January. The LOTW trip deposit will be \$150 this year, and are also due at the January meeting for all that are going. It is a status symbol to get your dues in early, or even be first, so paying in December is OK. That way you can also be sure to avoid the social embarrassment of being late, and suffering through the odiferous retaliation of The Treasurer.

Waterdog Tales

Pursuant to Article 63b of Rule 758.3 in the Waterdog bylaws, volume XVII, the winners of each tournament must present to the club their winning strategy during a following meeting in order to be awarded the points for the top finish. Well, due to the LOTW meeting and such, this never happened for the Carver County Bass Tournament, which was won by the Bobs Against the World team of Liebrock and Dickey. We are writing here to set the record straight and fess up, although no matter what subsequent ruling may be made, we are keeping all monetary and congratulatory awards that have already been handed out. Here at long last is the story by FD:

The Carver County Shoot-Out was a tournament that was different from most Waterdog events in that it was warm, partly sunny, and not too windy for the two-day event. The previous year, both Bobs placed well in the event on different teams, and so we decided to try some of the same lakes that we had success on before. On the first day, we tried Lotus Lake, where Rocky and Bertha had

done well the year before, although my own experience had been a skunk on a slimy day years earlier. Not really knowing where to start, we began moving down the shoreline from the access, throwing spinnerbaits over the weeds and senkos under the docks. We really didn't connect on any real decent fish until we had moved half way down the west side, and started to pick up more fish from under the docks, so we stayed with that method. Rocky was throwing a 4-inch green watermelon senko hooked wacky-style, and I was using a 5-inch white senko on a weedless hook. We were the only WD boat on the lake till noon, and by then we were culling fish. I remember one spot where we were moving by a dock that was only 2 sections long, and didn't bother to hit, but as I looked back, I saw 2 bass milling about in the clear under the dock. Rocky got a cast in there, and pulled out an 18-incher, which was fun to see.



We stayed on the lake all day, and fished every stretch of dock there was. The best spots were where there were multiple docks and stuff in the water, mostly on the north end of the lake. Our biggest fish that day was a 21.5 that I caught from under a floating swim platform just across the little bay from Bertha's brother's place. The first cast I made to the spot landed on the platform, so I twitched it off and got a hit, but no hook-up. So I did the same cast again, and this time the fish was on. We saw right away that it was a good one, and I had to drag him up and over a rope before we could net it. That fish was my lifetime biggest bass, that decided to bite during a tournament – Sweet!



The second day, we went to Steiger Lake, where Kojak and I had done well the year before. At lunch on the first day, Janitor was commenting on how Steiger was so choked up with weeds, so I decided to bring my musky gear to better reef those sows out of the slop. When we started the second day, Nasty was there too, and while he was fishing alone, waiting for Wags to find the lake, he picked up 5 keepers. Meanwhile, we just had one from the weeds around the access, dock, and shallow bay area to the south. After a couple of hours we moved to the north and east side of the lake, where the milfoil was really heavy, but there was an inside area of more clear water from shore out to about 1.5 feet deep. We slogged our way into the shallows, and were flipping our same worms as the day before into the weed pockets and edges. For about an hour and a half, the action was furious, with a couple doubles, and two-in-a-rows, and all kinds of commotion until we were way over our 10. Nearly all the fish from the inside edge were nice ones at 15-18 inches. We fished a few other areas the rest of the day, but that inside weedline was tops by far.

We tried another inside edge on the south side of the lake, near the end of the tournament, but it wasn't going. The slop was so thick on our way out of the shallows, that the trolling motor couldn't pull us through it, so we fired up the big motor and chopped our way out. After that, the water intake on the big motor got plugged up, so we went back to the trolling motor and randomly casted the outside of the weedline. With just a few minutes to go, I got a 20 incher on a spinnerbait in from the deep weed edge in about 8 feet. It was a fitting end to a great two days of fishing for team Bob.