

The Dogumentary

32nd Year

The of-fish-ial voice of the Waterdogs

December 2014

2014 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

January 1st Waterdogs Monthly Meeting

January 1st New Years Day at the Crik

From the Desk of the President:

I write my last Dogumentary entry as president before I turn the reigns over to our esteemed Hillary to lead us in 2015. I can't help but look at this as a possible precursor to our 2016 presidential elections, and a repeat by the other Hilary. I'm sure that is what Shorty is hoping for. Looking back, it has been an exciting year. One that welcomed six new members into the Club, brought in a great run of speakers, saw a closely contested tournament series, and provided several wienie award nominees. I was surprised to see myself in the mix, although I suppose dropping your phone down a fish hole justifies the nod. As I said at the banquet, I want to thank all of our committee chairs and those on our committees, along with our officers. You all kept everything moving smoothly, despite a few challenges thrown our way, and could not have done it without you.



While the year seemed to fly by, I'm definitely looking forward to some ice fishing. I'm also excited to try out my

new Vexilar FLX-28 that my wife got me for my birthday. Hopefully, this will bring more success on the water. Judging by our early cold temps, we'll probably get on the ice earlier this year. I have already seen a few guys on the ice, but I still think it's too early.

All in all, I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving with their families, and wish you all the best this holiday season.

Banana Boy

We Were Just Trying to Catch Dinner!

It's Sunday morning Nov 30, I'm home in Mound.MN with the wind howling off frozen Harrison bay. It's a good time to write a story about liquid 70 degree water and pelagic fish.

Last weekend in southwest Florida it was 80 degrees with a easterly breeze of 5-10 knots. My younger brother from Wisconsin had arrived for our annual weekend of fishing and football(my wife flies back to Mound, too much for her to take). We had fished the day before in the `back bay' for snook and redfish. Caught 2 of each but both undersized so neither made it to the fryer. This morning we were heading out 19 miles to my `snapper hole'. It's a pile of rocks about 20 yards in diameter that a friend of mine gave me the coordinates to after catching a nice bunch of tasty mangrove snappers there. His name is Jack so in my Garmin it is simply known as Jack's Mang.

Offshore fishing requires a lot of preparation. The prior afternoon we had purchased 2 blocks of chum, 1 box of frozen squid, 2 bags of ice and fifty live shrimp. The shrimp would be kept in the canal overnight in my `keeper'. The keeper is simply a 5 gallon bucket with holes punched in it and with kids toy noodles pieces tie wrapped to it for flotation. We left at 7 am with some water and sandwiches. It was sunny and warm but with more breeze than ideal.

Since the winds were easterly the first 5 miles was smooth and comfortable but as we got further from shore the waves increased to 3 to 4 feet. Thats not a problem for the 23 foot Grady-White I run but its' not really much fun for the passengers. Had it not been our last chance to get out I may have turned back but the forecast was for an onshore breeze later in the day and if that held up the seas would calm. We got wet and we stopped a

few times but an hour later we arrived and dropped anchor.

I put out the first block of chum. The technique is to let the chum produce a slick that the snappers will rise to. It's about 45 feet deep in this spot and it will take at least one full block before we will see them, if we see them at all. Visibility is about 10 feet here and if they come up to feed on the chum you can see them. In the meantime my brother and I



put on live shrimp and dropped them to the bottom. I use medium weight rods for this with 30-40 pound braided line and 20 pound fluorocarbon leader. Depending on the strength of tide a 1-2 ounce slip weight should work and law requires a circle hook, size 2 or 3 since these fish have small mouths. We started catching fish right away, undersized gag grouper which went back and some nice white grunts and porgies which went into the cooler. But not what we came for, Mangrove Snapper.

The first block of chum was gone, so I put out the new one. No sign of fish in the slick but we decided to give it a try. What you do is put a live shrimp on with no weight and simply toss it into the chum slick and let it sink slowly. I use a Shimano Baitcaster for this because it allows you to freeline with almost no drag. If a fish picks it up, the line will play out easily until you engage the drag. I like it because you can hear it run out yet the fish doesn't feel much weight. Anyway, it went off and I reeled in a nice snapper. I told my brother OK now we are going to catch a bunch. Could be 50 of these down there I said so now it's your turn. Out went another shrimp and within minutes off went the reel. He engaged the drag but something was wrong. What should have been a mangrove snapper which would instinctively try to go to the bottom, this fish just ran straight away. I thought he might be going to Mexico. The reel was screaming and was certain he would bail us (take all the line). After a 100 yard run, he slowed. Finally he actually stopped and

there was some line left which my brother reeled and pumped. The fish made a few more runs but we were making progress. We knew once he saw the boat he would run again and he did. I had no idea what it was, kingfish, big spanish mackerel, cobia, or bonita were all possibilities. We caught that fish and it was a bonita. They are one the toughest, strongest fish for their size in the gulf and great fun to catch, unfortunately inedible!

By now it was 2 pm, the seas were calm we had one mangrove snapper, 4 grunts and 2 porgies in the cooler. It was time to head home, clean fish, rinse down the boat and watch football. Does it get any better?

Stu (Spanky) Pagel

Bertha and Frat Brother Rob's Deer:

Bertha and good friend and frat brother Rob, hunting in Wadena. This my eighth year up there. The last three, I have harvested real nice bucks. All three have been shot in pretty much the same exact location. In fishing we would call it the spot on the spot. It sure makes it helpful to be set up, ready, and looking at this one little area at prime time.



Bertha's 8 and Rob's 10

Membership

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

Currently, we have one opening for a new club member next year as OJ will not be renewing his membership, and we have two people on the waiting list. Our new member will be Bruce Zilke, recommended by Mama's Boy.

December is the meeting when we want to know if you are continuing membership or not. If you are not attending the meeting, please confirm with me that you will be a member next year. Alternatively, whether or not you are attending the December meeting, please let me know if you are dropping out. Kojak

Welcome our newest member Bruce Zilke. I met Bruce when I started at Olympic Steel, Inc. 3 years ago, Bruce is our Shipping Supervisor. I found out early on that Bruce had an interest in fishing, and I have had the pleasure of fishing with him on a few occasions. Bruce, got hooked on fishing while living in Kentucky and was a member of KY Bass, and Redman clubs in the past. His fish of choice is smallies, or largemouth bass but he also has an interest in multi-species. He also enjoys ice fishing, for which he is preparing to spend some time on the ice over the Holidays. Mama's Boy



Public Relations at Toro in Bloomington, where I handle general PR issues, brand, social media, digital media and manage our Media Production team.

A little bit about your family

My wife and I both grew up in Cedar Rapids, IA, but didn't meet until after college when mutual friends introduced us here in Minneapolis. Growing up in CR, we knew similar people (made for interesting stories later in life) and lived about a mile away from each other. We have been married for 11 years this September, live in Shoreview, and have two boys (Aidan, 7 and Rylan, 5).

What's your handle and the story behind it?

I picked up the handle, Banana Boy, fishing with Janitor when I pulled a banana out of my cooler on the boat. It was then I learned of the superstition people have with bananas in the boat. Works for me!



Bio of the Month: Branden Happel

Who brought you into the club and what's your relationship to that person?

I was introduced to the Club by Fishdick in early 2000, when we worked together at RBC Dain Rauscher. Being relatively new to the Twin Cities, we often talked fishing and he would tell me about the Waterdogs. Wanting to try new waters, learn new techniques and meet people with similar interests in fishing, he got me on the waiting list and later became a member in 2005.

What's your profession?

Where did you grow up and what's your history with fishing?

I grew up in Cedar Rapids, IA, and spent most of my grade school years fishing creeks and rivers. While my parents didn't do much fishing, it was my grandmother who introduced me to fishing and would often take me out panfishing and to other spots around town. As kids, we would often wade a small creek near our house, catching crawfish and

fishing smallies in the deep holes. We also spent much time on the Cedar River fishing catfish, striped bass, and really anything that bit. As we got into middle and high school, I started going to Lake Winnibigoshish with a good friend of mine and his family on an annual fishing trip for pike and walleyes. It was here that I fell in love with Minnesota and its many amazing lakes.

What's your favorite species to fish? Why? What's your favorite technique?

Smallmouth bass, because of the fight. Growing up as a 'river rat' in Iowa, we often would fish for anything that bit – but focused mostly on smallies tossing small spinners and jigs.

What's your most memorable fishing experience?

Besides the memories of my younger years fishing with my grandmother, the more recent memorable experience would have to be fishing with Fishdick and Mushroom a few years ago at LOTW when we caught nine muskies in one day. We found a pattern and saw fish on almost every spot that fit the elements we were seeking. The action was phenomenal, and will be a hard one to top.

What do you like about being a Waterdog? The camaraderie with friends, learning new techniques, and trying new waters. Branden (Banana Boy) Happel

Special Services News

Future Angler's Foundation Fundraiser

What: Fundraiser Dinner with Silent and Live Auction for Future Angler Foundation Tickets are \$20 each or a table of 8 for \$150.

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bloomington

When: Saturday, January 3, 2015 7:00 pm (Sponsored by Yamaha and Skeeter) in conjunction with the NPAA (National Professional Anglers Association) annual conference

The Waterdogs have reserved a table for 8 for this event.

Contact Mama's Boy to attend dougsquire@comcast.net

Look what's going to be in the Silent Auction: WIN a Day on the Water with Al Lindner in Sept./Oct. 2015 and a complete Set of "Walleye Insider Magazines"! The auction is for a complete set of Walleye Insider magazines and a day on the water with Al Lindner next fall (Sept/Oct.) Link to Al Lindner video below

[FAF Walleye Insider/Al Lindner Day on the Water Auction](http://www.futureangler.org)
www.futureangler.org

Thanks,
Mamas Boy

**Photo of the Month
Wood Ducks by Juan**

