

The Dogumentary

27th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

February 2009

February Meeting at VFW

The February meeting will be at the palatial Hopkins VFW once again. A resemblance of dinner is at 6pm, and the meeting will begin at 7:00.

Our speaker will be Ron Schara, who will give his usual and interesting random walk through the world of fishing.

2009 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Feb 5	Monthly Meeting	.
March 5	Monthly Meeting	
March 21	Trout Tournament	
March 28	Trout Back-Up Date	.
April 2	Monthly Meeting	
April 25	Crappie Tournament	
May 7	Monthly Meeting	
May 30-31	Walleye Tournament	.
June 4	Monthly Meeting	
June 19	Bass Tournament	
July 2	Monthly Meeting	
July 18-25	2009 RockNRoll Musky Tour	
August 6	Monthly Meeting	
August 22	Bass Tournament II	
Sep 3	Monthly Meeting	
Sep 19	Multispecies Tournament	.
Oct 1	Monthly Meeting	
Nov 5	Banquet	

See the last page for the 2009 Tournament Details

Only 6 Months until the LOTW Trip

Get your paperwork done ASAP

- 1. RABC**
- 2. Sportsman's Card**
- 3. License**

From the Desk of the President, Helen Tom Keller



The February meeting will be held at the Hopkins VFW, with dinner at 6:00pm and meeting at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker this month is Ron Schara, the Minnesota icon. He always has something interesting to say and I am looking forward to his visit. I clearly remember the last time he spoke and it wasn't for what he said, it for what happened the weekend before he spoke, but I'll get to that later.

It might be February, but open water fishing is alive and kicking. The winter trout season opened on January 15. I hope some of you have been out enjoying the streams. Trout fishing is one of my favorite things to do in the winter. It's a great way to clear the winter cobwebs. I highly recommend it, in fact we should think about a midwinter club outing.

Cold weather and busy kids have kept me from enjoying the Trout season so far, but I'm looking forward to my wife's birthday. Yep, that what I said, my wife Janet and I have made it a February tradition to take a day off around her birthday to go fishing. She fly-fishes while I spin cast. It's a great way to reconnect and enjoy some time together.

I remember a few years ago, we were fishing Hay Creek near Redwing. I was driving around looking for a spot on the stream to fish. I edged over to the side of the road to get a better view of the stream when that sinking feeling came upon us. I am sure most of you can relate to the "invisible hand" that grabs the vehicle, sliding it into the ditch. After stopping, our SUV literally slid sideways down the grade and right into the ditch. There was nothing we could do. We tried, but there was no way we could get the vehicle out of the ditch without help.

After about 30 minutes an old ¼ ton pick-up came along. It was a local farmer and his family. They tried in vain to pull us out. Their efforts just made the problem worse. The SUV slid in further and sunk in deeper. They actually were leaving to get their tractor when a guy in a Ford F350 showed up. Needless to say, he pulled our Ford Explorer out like it was toy. We all exchanged pleasantries, some laughs, we got a few tips, and went our separate ways. Janet I and walked the stream laughing about the experience and were warmed by the generosity of strangers.

After a couple of hours, we decided to take a break and get a bite to eat at the Hay Creek Saloon. Hot burgers and a few cold beers later we were ready to hit the stream. I asked for the check while digging into my wallet. Looking up at the Waitress I said, "you don't take credit cards do you?" "Nope, cash or local checks" the waitress said. "We got a problem," I said. My wife said "loser", laughing at my expense. I said, "Happy Birthday!!" The owner came over and said "no problem, here's the address, just mail a check when you get home". "Really? I can find an ATM," I said, "Really" she said. Wow what a way to keep a customer, trust a rare commodity these days. Needless to say, we gave them an extra big tip.

In the end we didn't catch any fish, but we had a great day, enjoying the out-of-doors and each other's company.

Now back to why I remember Schara's last visit to the club. I went ice fishing on Eagle Lake the weekend before Schara last spoke at one of our meetings. The lake is about a mile from my house in Plymouth. I parked and decided not to take the portable icehouse off the truck, but instead I grabbed a bucket and walked out on the lake to scope things out. I stopped at a few holes and caught a few sunfish, so I decided to go back and get the portable. As I walked off the lake, I noticed the truck that I parked next to was leaving. It wasn't a strange scene, but it gave me a strange feeling, like an "invisible hand" grabbing something that was yours. When I got to my truck, the house was gone. Needless to say I was ticked, disappointed in my fellow "outdoorsmen" and even more pissed at myself for not securing it better. The Clam icehouse was a birthday gift I gave my wife, which never got used. She asked me to buy it for her birthday so we could take the kids out ice fishing. Never the less, I was pretty put off by the ice fishing crowd on Eagle Lake that year.

Why do I tell these two stories? Because I think the club is represented by the first story. There's a spirit of fellowship, fun and willingness to help each other and other fishermen. I hope we continue to openly share knowledge and information through the friendly completion we all enjoy.

Good Fishing, Helen



Dues are Due

The clubs annual dues are \$75, and the Lake of the Woods deposit is \$175 for those that are going. Don't chance the ridicule of being the last to pay!

Banana Keeps 7-Pounder

Jen and Branden Happel are proud to announce the birth of their second child, a boy named Rylan Hugh Happel. He joins 2-year older brother Aidan into a life that will be filled with outdoor adventures with Mom and Dad.



With Visions of Cowgirls...

Juan Finds the Honey Hole

Laun and Ruth Sanderson moved into their dream home on the shores of Schmidt Lake, which is situated between Medicine and Bass Lake in Plymouth. The Sanderson's updated the home over the fall and winter and moved in January. Juan has already caught northerns and bass in the lake, and invites Dogs to come and help him get to know every fish in the lake personally.



Juan's New Backyard

Kid's Clinic Long on Dogs, Short of Kids

The Schara Kid's Clinic at the St. Paul Sportshow was well attended by club members on both days, but the number of kids that showed up was much less than in previous years. Maybe it's the economy or the location of the clinic at the show that discourages attendance. Ron will likely talk about it at this month's meeting.



Fluffee and Friend watch a Cast go Airborne at the Kids Clinic

Check www.waterdogsmn.org for the latest in club news, information and entertainment. It's changing all the time!

2009 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Mark Your Home and Work Calendars Now!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
Saturday, March 21 (March 28 Backup)	Trout	Pierce and Rush Counties, WI	Janitor, Nasty, Shatner
Saturday, April 25	Crappie	Washington Lake	Mama's Boy, Griz
Sat-Sun, May 30-31	Walleyes	Big Stone Lake	Duper, Analist, Perp
Friday, June 19	Bass	Clearwater Lake	Helen, Buick
Saturday, August 22	Bass	Chisago Lakes	Chips, Farm B, Fluffy
Saturday, Sep 19	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Greenstick, Shorty, Kirk