

The Dogumentary

27th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

May 2009

May Meeting at Hopkins VFW

The May 7 meeting will be held back at the Hopkins VFW at the usual time of 6pm for dinner and pre-meetings and 7pm for the regular meeting. A variety of pies are on the menu at the VFW. Our speaker will be Pete 'Rosie' Geier, former Waterdog, who grew up in Ortonville, MN on Big Stone Lake. Pete will outline the best strategies for catching walleyes on Big Stone for our upcoming tournament. It should be a good seminar.

2009 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

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 2009 Tourney Details

**Only 11 Weeks until the LOTW
Trip!**

Organize Your Secret Baits

From the Desk of the President, Helen Tom Keller



The May meeting is back at the Hopkins VFW with dinner at 6:00 pm and the meeting at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker this month is Pete Geier, a former Waterdog. He'll speak about walleye fishing on Big Stone Lake. Bring your questions and a note pad. I hope our Big Stone outing proves to be more successful than our experience on Washington Lake!

The opener is a week away and I feel totally unprepared. I typically don't fish the opening weekend, so I guess I need to get my butt in gear. I usually avoid the crowds and go golfing. I think the opening Saturday and Mothers Day are the two best day to go golfing all year. You can get your choice of tee times on any course in the cities. For self-preservation purposes, I've stopped golfing on Mother Day.

This year's opening weekend is different than most. Several dogs (Juan, Chainsaw, Perp, Chips, Mama's Boy, Mark Sewald, a friend and I) are giving up their Saturday of opening weekend to volunteer at the Governor's

Fishing Opener. The group will be acting as "fishing guides" on White Bear Lake. We'll work on pontoon boats with 4 kids from a local Boys and Girls Club. Our job is to help the group catch fish, but the real goal is to get the kids caught on fishing. Getting a kid fishing is a pretty tall order these days. They don't get exposed to the outdoors anymore, so we'll have to fight their need for instant gratification. So wish your follow Dogs well, you never know, but one of those kids could become a future Waterdog.

One other thing; The Star Tribune is asking the club to participate and contribute to their new Outdoor Hunting and Fishing Blog. We've briefly discussed as a club and several of you expressed interest. Like any large organization, the Star has a few hoops to jump through, such a waivers, need for photos, rules of conduct, etc., but they all seem pretty minor. If you'd like to participate just let me know and I'll get you the information. The Blog kicks off on Monday, May 4th.

I am going to keep it short this month. I wish you all a successful opener or a great time golfing.

Dog Day Afternoon Crappie Tournament

Cold and Colder describes the weather at Waterdogs tournament number two for crappies on Lake Washington. A cold front put the fish down, and probably way down, where few jigs dared to go, but a couple of Dogs managed to scrape a few fish off the bottom to keep the day from becoming a total bust. It was probably a few weeks early to expect the crappies to be in shallow water, and maybe too early for the fish to be biting at all. For the field of 25 Waterdogs fishing, only three measurable crappies were caught; Two by team Shatner and Perp, and one by team Janitor and Father Bertha. The rest of the club enjoyed the close fishing quarters that tend to happen during crappie tournaments, along with a slew of other species caught, including perch, sunnies, largemouth, walleyes, northerns, and an old boot.



OF Caught the Biggest Fish at 23"
Sorry, It Doesn't Count!

The only mishap was a flat truck tire by Chainsaw and Juan that delayed their start time by about two hours. Poor guys missed all the early action.

Let's hope the walleyes bite better than the crappies, but remember...they're walleyes. Meanwhile, the crappie winners have some important safety tips:

Crappie fishing on Lake Washington.

By Perp

Not sure who picked this lake, and it is probably best left that way, but once again, the crappie tournament was pretty crappy when it comes to catching fish. And to think that we changed the limit from 10 fish to 20 fish after the last meeting to provide separation in the score cards. Oh well, at least it didn't rain Saturday.

Captain Kirk and the Perp decided to visit the lake on Friday since neither had fished it before. We got there around noon and had a nice sandwich on the deck of the marina and began soaking up the sun. It was short sleeve weather with clear skies overhead although we could see the front moving in from the west. We began by exploring Baker's Bay (first bay to the left when leaving the landing). We found water temperatures running about 59 degrees in the main part of the lake, and up to 62 degrees in the north end. There were a couple of local boats anchored in 2 feet of water but they both said that nothing had moved in shallow yet. We caught bass, perch,

sheepshead and sunfish, and saw lots of carp, but no crappies. We then explored the bay to the east and the south with the warmest water being 65 degrees. Again we caught bass and perch, but no crappies. Before we left, we talked to a gentleman fishing from the docks at the marina and he indicated that some were catching fish in the "hole" in Baker's Bay, so we went up and found the hole, but didn't spend any time there. The front had come thru by this time. The temperatures dropped, the wind had picked up and the waves were rolling in from the north.

On the way home, we debated strategy for Saturday and both felt that unless something changed drastically, we should expect nothing and if we got a crappie, to consider ourselves very lucky.

On the way down on Saturday with the skies looking cold and the wind blowing, we decided to begin in the shallow warmer water in the north end. We found that one of the boats from the day before had been anchored over a 4 foot hole. We started there and again, sheepshead, walleye, perch and large mouth bass were the fish to be caught. We moved into a little deeper water with a good looking cabbage patch, but again no crappies.

Kirk had found a comment on the web the night before that indicated the fish were still deep, so we headed for the 32 foot hole and spent the rest of the day going back and forth across it.

"Airfish" seemed to be the most common species being caught on Saturday. The Analist went to great lengths to convince us that he had caught something other than an airfish. Helen and Fluffee even photographed their pretend catch. Being veteran and experienced pranksters ourselves (at least Captain Kirk) we did not fall for their deceptive tactics.

About 11:00 AM with the Analist and Shorty nearby strategizing on their next move, Perp caught a 10.5 inch crappie just off the bottom in 32 feet of water. The bite on the ice fishing jig with a minnow tail hooked was very soft. With one fish in the boat and no other reports of crappies, the plan for lunch was to avoid answering any direct questions about how we were doing (a technique perfected by the

Griz.). After lunch we returned to the same hole and about 1:00 PM with Juan and Chainsaw anchored 10 yards away, Captain Kirk landed a 10.5 inch crappie. He was using a white jig with a Powerbait white micro tail and a minnow lip hooked and again fishing just off the bottom. Other than a 22 inch walleye caught by Kirk just before quitting time, that was all there was.



Big Brown 22" Imposter Crappie

Did fishing on Friday pay off? Maybe in that we didn't spend a lot of time trying all the warm shallow spots, but it certainly didn't help identify a pattern or location. The payoff was just being able to spend a nice sunny afternoon on a lake fishing with a fellow Waterdog. This is a picture of one of the 10.5 inch crappies.



Keep This Photo as Your Crappie ID Guide

The Hunt for Troutzilla Continues

Several Dogs have been wandering new streams of southern MN, just south of town, and have found some decent brown trout up to 18 inches. One creek that has put out fish OK is Belle Creek by Welch Village ski area, along with Mazeppa and a few others. Many trout

streams are within an hour of your house and with a little bit of homework, you can have a good time wading some streams and catching some trout without making a long drive. More of these areas will be checked out by club members over the next several weeks. If you go, let others know how you did.

2009 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
√ Saturday, March 21	Trout	WI Rivers	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