

Canada 2009

The Crew:

Bob Adamson
Nick Adamson
Tony Adamson
Nathan "Midriff" Adamson

Dave "Hugh" Christensen
Mike "Bigg" Christensen
"Captain" Matt Christensen

Dick "Juice" Adamson
David "Darrell" Adamson

This year Bob, Nick, Tony and Nathan returned after missing last year due to a family cruise. Mike and Joe could not make the trip because they had a wedding on Theresa's side of the family. Scott did not make the trip because Kathryn had given birth to their son, Caelen Terrance Ralston, in February. Luckily they had a boy because we think Kathryn wouldn't like Scott dressing a baby girl in head-to-toe camouflage. Grandpa Dick was super excited and is already counting down the days until Caelen is old enough to go fishing in Canada. We were also missing Craig and Peter because apparently Peter's high school thought it was okay to plan graduation on the same week as the Canada trip. Guess they didn't get the memo. Andy also did not make it this year, but the good news is he and Laura did get engaged shortly after the trip so he will be officially part of the family by next year.

Even though not everyone could make the trip, Dick thought of a way to include them even if they could not be there physically. Dick laminated pictures of Mike, Joe and Peter's faces and put them on sticks. That way we could hold them up like masks and those guys could be "included" in the group pictures. You may ask, "What about Craig's picture?" Well, Dick could not find a good picture of Craig to laminate so we had to improvise. Anytime we needed Craig in a picture we would just put a fake mustache on Peter's picture, hold it in front of our face and get down on our knees. NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!!!!

Friday (May 29)

Thursday night Hugh drove his truck to Omaha and stayed the night at Matt's house. On Friday morning Bigg flew into Omaha from Charlotte, NC. Hugh and Matt picked up Bigg at the airport and drove north to Fargo. Bob and his boys drove their truck from St. Louis to Fargo and arrived at Dick's shortly before Hugh at around 5:00 pm. Dick had brats and pasta salad waiting for us. We were all bummed that we had to eat delicious pasta salad and didn't get to enjoy Kathryn's nasty seafood salad from last year. Dick sold his Escalade and purchased a 2006 Chevy pickup two weeks before the trip. After dinner we loaded the back of the three trucks and two bumper-buddies with gear and food. Even though Mike A. did not make the trip he still sent schnapps. This year we had hazelnut, root beer and cinnamon flavors. We all tried to take some of the loading duties from Hugh because his bad hip had gotten to the point that he needed hip replacement surgery. He had it scheduled for two weeks after he returned from the trip. We all knew he put off the surgery until AFTER the Canada trip so that everyone would feel sorry for him and wait on him hand and foot.

After everything was loaded into the trucks Matt, Bigg and Darrell went out to buy some beer. Along the way they made a detour to Scheels to hit some balls in their indoor video batting cage. They also thought it would be a good investment to buy some sweet, cheap, neon, 80's style sunglasses. For some reason Dick started freaking out and was calling Darrell every 5 minutes asking where they were and when they were coming back. After multiple calls from Dick and a few pit-stops they made it to the liquor store and bought beer and soda for the trip. When they got back to the house Dick finally calmed down. They watched the Lakers beat the Nuggets in the NBA Western Conference Championship game and then, thanks to Christina, had some late night pizza.

Saturday (May 30)

As usual we got an early start and left for camp around 6:30 am. Bigg and Darrell got very upset because they thought it was stupid to get up early and drive to camp just so they could sit around when they got there. You have to admit that makes sense, but you have to remember that Hugh and Dick are grumpy when they get too much sleep.

We stopped at the Pinewood to get gas, licenses and lunch, but were surprised when we saw that they no longer had gas pumps. We still had lunch and got our licenses. Darrell was bummed that of the four blonde waitresses from last year only one remained. While having lunch Dick looked at Nathan's peach fuzz and asked if he forgot to shave. Nathan said that it had been 3 weeks, but he does not shave himself. He said his girlfriend shaves him. Dick quickly asked if Nathan returned the favor. After lunch we stopped at the Shell Station down the road and got gas, milk and some more beer and liquor.

When we got to camp we ran into Jim Koubsky right away and he came down to our cabin. He told us that when he crossed the border the border guard asked him if he had any alcohol and he told him two cases. They never asked him if he had any "booze" so he didn't tell him about the two bottles of whiskey he also had with him.

We got unpacked and relaxed by playing some Blongo Ball (aka Testee Toss) and watched Orlando beat Cleveland in Game 6 of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals. We made lasagna, garlic bread sticks, salad and cheesecake squares for dessert. Hugh thought that the cheesecake squares were the greatest invention in the world. The group, not so gently, reminded Hugh that these were not some great new invention and we had them last year.

Sunday (May 31)

We woke up to a cold and rainy day on Sunday. Duane told us that the walleyes were biting in The Dalles so we started there. We stopped to get bait at Paradise Point and no one was there at 8:00 am. Dick went to find Duane, but he was not around. A short time later Duane arrived and Corey's wife, Mandy, was close behind him. It was a long boat ride to The Dalles with the cold temperature and the rain and when we got there the rapids were rough. It was a slow, cold, rainy morning with very few bites. We only ended up with one keeper walleye and a sucker fish that Dick caught. At around 11:00 am Hugh said that he was thinking about going in because he

was cold. Everyone quickly jumped on this and agreed it was just too miserable to stay out and fish. We made our way back to camp and had peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, Chef Boyardee, and hash browns for lunch. While we were cooking lunch Dick rounded up everyone's wet clothes and took them to the dryer. This was very nice of Dick, but he took the clothes out before they were completely dried so we still had to hang some of the clothes to dry in the cabin. After lunch we watched about 5 hours of Bigg's *Arrested Development* DVDs. The show was very funny especially when the character Tobias wanted to become part of the Blue Man Group so he blue himself. NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!!!!

For dinner we had pork chops, corn, stuffing, garlic toast and cheesecake squares. We broke out the schnapps after dinner. Tony took a drink of the schnapps, cringed and made a bad face. We asked him what was wrong he said that he didn't like anything "straight." NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!!!!

After the weather got better Dick, Tony and Bob went back out fishing for awhile and Dick caught another keeper. That night we watched Pittsburgh play Detroit in game 1 of the NHL Stanley Cup. Matt, Hugh and Bigg played Euchre. Bigg recruited Darrell to be his new partner and just like last year Matt and Hugh had a hard time winning a single game. Matt got frustrated and kicked Hugh off his team. He brought in Nick to replace Hugh....it didn't help.

Monday (June 1)

Monday was a much nicer day with no rain. We made the long trip back to The Dalles and we limited out with a bunch of 14"-17" walleyes. We also caught a couple 19" walleyes that were in the slot so we had to throw them back. We had lunch on what Matt called Pac-man Point. The hill on the point had a rock that looked like Pac-man. We cooked shore lunch at the top of the hill. Darrell found a garbage pile and spent most of the time sifting through it for "treasures". The only treasure he got was a bunch of ticks.

After shore lunch we were catching a bunch more fish and getting close to our limit. Nathan was fishing with Dick and had been skunked all day. Dick, on the other hand, was catching a lot of fish and was trying all day to help Nathan catch a walleye. We only had one fish left before we hit our limit and Nathan finally caught one. Dick and Nathan then realize that Matt had just caught the final fish for our limit. Dick turned to Nathan and said he needed to throw his fish back. Nathan turned to Dick and said "No way, we are going to throw one of YOURS back!!!". Since we were at our limit again we only kept 7 walleye and decided to have some fish for breakfast on Tuesday.

For dinner we had spaghetti, garlic bread, and salad. After dinner we watched some more hockey and Bigg, Darrell, Matt, Hugh and Nick played more Euchre. Darrell made the comment that he and Bigg were like the '72 NFL Dolphins (undefeated) and that Matt and Hugh were like the '08 Lions (winless).

Tuesday (June 2)

We had fish for breakfast, but still had too much to eat so we took 6 fillets out with us for shore lunch. Again we went down to The Dalles. The weather was pretty good with a few sprinkles throughout the day. Matt and Nathan had a double. Shortly after that Darrell and Bob got excited because they also had a double on their hooks. The other boats quickly realized that they did not both have a fish but they had snagged each other's lines under their boat. It was obvious because every time Bob reeled and pulled up we would see Darrell's line run off his reel, and vice-versa.

We caught a lot of walleye again and had to throw back quite a few keepers because we were at our limits. We had lunch at Pac-man Point again and fished for a few more hours before heading back to camp. The water was pretty rough when we hit open water. It got so bad at one point Hugh had to stop his boat to take a break because the rough water was hurting his bad hip.

After we got back to camp Matt, Darrell, Bigg and Nathan went to Kenora to get more beer. Jim and Connie came over to our cabin for dinner. We had pork loin, potatoes in foil, salad, and cheesecake squares. Jim and Connie loved the cheesecake squares. It was the first time they had had themsince last year. It had been 25 years since our family first met Jim and Connie. After dinner we presented Jim and Connie with two framed pictures from mid '80s. One was of Jim and Connie at shore lunch and the other was of them with Gene, Dick, Mike A., Bob and Hugh on the deck of their cabin at Rosie's. Jim and Connie were very touched and we think we even saw a tear in Jim's eye. Then again, it may have just been some beer that had splashed up onto his glasses.

Wednesday (June 3)

We went south again on Wednesday, but this time we went to Adamson Bay. In the morning there was frost on the boat seats. It was a cold day, but it wasn't so bad because the sun was out. We stopped at Throat Narrows and worked the bay just outside of Adamson Bay. Midway through the morning Darrell had to pull the boat up on the shore to go and relieve himself. Instead of going back into the trees to do his business he did it right on the shore, mooning Matt, Tony and Nathan. Later that morning Matt, Nathan and Tony were casting for northern and bass in Adamson Bay and snagged a log. When they were trying to get the snag out they saw that there were turtles all over the place. Nathan is quite the reptile expert so he wanted to take a closer look. He grabbed the net and scooped up one of the turtles. Nathan called him Hermie and made him the boat mascot.

We had lunch at Adamson Bay. We ate a bunch of walleye and two big northern. After we ate we took family pictures and then relaxed on the rocks. Somehow we got Nathan talking about his girlfriend again. He said that he likes it when his girlfriend finds a hair in her food because then she won't eat it and that means that he gets a second meal for free. We have a feeling that most of those hairs are coming off Nathan's head. After shore lunch we went back towards camp and fished near Duane's house and the Railroad Bridge. Bigg picked up a 28.5" northern, but it was too big to keep. We went in shortly after to get cleaned up because we were going

over to Jim and Connie's for dinner. As usual dinner at Jim and Connie's was amazing. We had Cornish Game Hens, stuffing, dumplings, gravy and sauerkraut. For dessert Connie made apple, apricot and blueberry kolaches. After dinner we went back to the cabin and watched a movie.

Thursday (June 4)

Again we went south to The Dalles. We caught a lot of good size walleyes that we had to release because we already had our limit. Bigg caught a 19", Matt caught two 19" and Dick also caught two 19" walleyes. Dick had a huge morning and one of his best trips ever. Darrell even had a good morning. He caught a bass while doing his famous eagle fishing. We saw Jim and Connie at The Dalles and they gave us a small Northern to eat for shore lunch. Even though Dick was having a good fishing day we must have been giving him a harder time than usual because he kept saying we wasn't coming back next year because of the abuse. We know he had to be joking because we all know he loves the abuse.

We had lunch at Pac-man Point and then quickly hit our limit again at 2:30 pm. We went back to camp and packed up. Nathan took a shower and then walked out to the kitchen wearing the same bandana he had on before the shower. Bob asked him if he showered with the bandana on. We were not sure what to be more surprised about. Was it stranger that Nathan might have actually showered without taking off the bandana, or that things like that happen so often that Bob actually had to ask the question?!!!!

For dinner we had polish sausage, sauerkraut, French fries and garlic toast. We watched game 1 of the NBA finals and game 4 of the Stanley cup. Matt finally won two games of Euchre with his new partner Tony.

Friday (June 5)

We got up early and left camp on Friday morning. Dick was going to go home through Winnipeg to see what the miles and time would be, but changed his mind when he looked at the map and he found it was 40 miles longer. He changed his mind.

Next year there will be some changes. Dick is going to be retiring and he and Liz are going to be moving to Custer, SD. Now we are going to have to find a new meeting place. Also, we should have a full crew and there will be a new addition to the family. Bigg's wife Tara is pregnant with their first child and she is due in October.***

***Erik Michael Christensen was born 10/05/2009. Another future Canada fisherman!!

And Hugh yelled "God Damn, it's cold out here!!"

