

Empire State Lake Ontario Promotions

LOC Derby
PO Box 472
Ontario, NY 14519

Phone 315-333-5213 Fax 315-333-5295
email - locderby@aol.com website - www.loc.org



LOC DERBY NEWS

Win Your Share of \$150,125 In Guaranteed CASH!



Dan Williams with Fall Winning King

Last Minute Heroics Wins 2022 Fall LOC Derby on Final Day
By Bill Hilts, Jr.

“It ain’t over till it’s over.”

Whether it’s the baseball great Yogi Berra’s quote or the Lenny Kravitz hit song, the adage was most appropriate for this year’s Fall Lake Ontario Counties Trout and Salmon Derby held August 19 through Sept. 5.

On the final day of the derby, Labor Day, Daniel Williams of Groton and Brandon Nielsen of Locke, assumed the position that they had taken up all 18 days during the popular fall contest – trolling salmon baits in front of Selkirk Shores State Park in Oswego County where they camp every year. They were in Williams’ 21-foot Regal boat named “Expectations” (named by Williams’ father when he first purchased it) in 80 to 100 feet of water when the rod went off at 8:30 a.m. The lure was an A-Tom-Mik green UV fly behind a Pro Troll flasher and rigged to a diver 150 feet back on a No. 3 setting.

Forty-five minutes later, they netted the king salmon at the back of the boat. They knew it was a good one, so they headed into Woody’s Tackle and General Store in Pulaski. The official weight was 29 pounds, 9 ounces – just 2 ounces better than the leader at the time reeled in by Wayne Culverwell of Ransomville. It was heavy enough to win the \$25,000 Grand Prize.

“This is past comprehension,” said Williams at the awards ceremony at Riley’s Bar and Grill in Sodus. “I have never won anything like this in my life. We fish hard – from sunrise to sunset – and we’ve been fishing together for 4-5 years. We didn’t force it. It all clicked. It might take me a month to comprehend that I’ve even won.”

Culverwell missed out on the top prize, but he still earned \$6,000 for his big fish, as well as an additional \$500 from the Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association for the largest salmon caught by a member in the

Fall Derby Continued on page 6



Joshua Blackford with Spring Winner

Friday the 13th Proves Lucky for Ohio Anglers as Spring LOC Concludes
By Bill Hilts, Jr.

Joshua Blackford of Westerville, Ohio took home the Grand Prize in the Spring Lake Ontario Counties (LOC) Trout, Salmon, and Walleye Derby May 6-15 when he reeled in a 27-1/2-pound king salmon while fishing out of Olcott in Niagara County to earn a check for \$15,000. It was the biggest spring salmon he had ever caught, and it came at a great time.

Blackford, who was fishing with his father-in-law Tom Huth of Mogadore, Ohio and Tom’s friend Larry Mudd of Mogadore, OH aboard Mudd’s 26-foot Pursuit named “Lisa K,” treated Friday the 13th like any other day in the derby. They ran out of Olcott early and headed west to Wilson, six miles away. Before they left, though, they stopped into the Boat Doctors in Olcott and bought a couple Moonshine Raspberry Carbon 14 spoons from Karen Evarts.

“We were straight out of Wilson, and we started to put our lines in at 84 feet of water,” said Blackford at Riley’s Bar and Grill in Wayne County across from Sodus Bay. “We hit some salmon immediately as Tom and Larry both reeled in fish. Josh was next and he had a screamer on. It took out 700 feet of line on the No. 1 dipsy diver that was on a No. 3 setting, 233 feet back.

An hour later, they netted the fish at the back of the boat. The trio knew they had a good fish when they had a difficult time bringing in the net with the fish in it. The salmon made a huge “thud” as it hit the floor. The team decided to make the 6-mile run back to Olcott to weigh the fish at the Boat Doctors and they are glad they did. There was another 27-pound-plus king getting weighed in at Wilson.

The team is splitting up the prize money three ways, after Josh takes his wife out to dinner. Huth wanted some new appliances and Mudd was

Spring Derby Continued on page 5

2023 Derby Dates

Spring - May 5th - 14th Summer - July 1st - July 30th

Fall - August 18th - September 4th

REGISTRATION OUTLETS You can also register online at www.loc.org

Niagara County

Lake Ontario Motel*
3330 Lockport-Olcott Rd.
Newfane, NY 14108
716-778-5004

Niagara Outdoors
223 Witmer Rd.
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120
716-695-5873

Creek Road Bait & Tackle
4419 Creek Road
Lewiston, NY 14092
716-754-2949

The Boat Doctor*^
Lake & Jackson St.
Olcott, NY 14126
716-778-8592

Wilson Boatyard Marina
57 Harbor
Wilson, NY 14126
716-751-9202

Bootleggers Cove
60 O'Connell Island
Wilson NY 14126
716-751-6466

Orleans County

Captain's Cove Resort ^*
14339 Rt. 18
Waterport, NY 14571
585-682-3316

**Narby's Superette
& Tackle ^***
1292 Oak Orchard Rd
Kent, NY 14477
585-682-4624

**Oak Orchard
Tackle & Lodge ***
1764 Oak Orchard Rd.
Albion, NY 14411
585-682-4546

Monroe County

Port of Rochester Marina
1000 N. River St
Rochester, NY 14612
585-428-7432

Bay Bridge Sport Shop ^*
9555 Ridge Rd.
North Rose, NY 14516
315-587-9508

**Davenport & Son
Boat Livery & Marina ^***
Resort Rd
(East End of Bay Bridge)
North Rose, NY 14516
315-587-4434

Monroe County

Port of Rochester Marina
1000 N. River St
Rochester, NY 14612
585-428-7432

Wayne County

Bay Bridge Sport Shop ^*
9555 Ridge Rd.
North Rose, NY 14516
315-587-9508

**Davenport & Son
Boat Livery & Marina ^***
Resort Rd
(East End of Bay Bridge)
North Rose, NY 14516
315-587-4434

Hughes Marina
5003 East Lake Rd.
Williamson, NY 14589
315-589-2752

Cayuga County

Screwy Louie's ^*
596 Main Street
Fair Haven, NY 13064
315-947-6348

Oswego County

All Seasons Sports *
3733 State Route 13
Pulaski, NY 13142
315-298-6433

Fat Nancy's Tackle Shop
3750 State Route 13
Pulaski, NY 13142
Phone: 315.298.6357
Toll free: 877.801.FISH

K&G Lodge *
1917 County Rt. 1
Oswego, NY 13126
315-343-8171

**Salmon County
Marina Inc.**
58 Mexico Pt Drive West
Mexico, NY 13114
315-963-8049

**Woody's Tackle
& General Store ^***
7402 NYS Rt. 3
Pulaski, NY 13142
315-298-2378

Jefferson County

Henchen Marina Inc. ^*
13442 Cnty Rt. 123
PO Box 36
Henderson Harbor, NY 13651
888-848-3821

**^ Denotes open
before 7am
* Denotes sells
NYS Fishing
Licenses**

Weigh-In Stations

Niagara County

Creek Road Bait & Tackle
4419 Creek Road
Lewiston, NY 14092
716-754-2949

Bootleggers Cove
60 O'Connell Island
Wilson NY 14126
716-751-6466

Wilson Boatyard Marina
57 Harbor
Wilson, NY 14126
716-751-9202

The Boat Doctor*^
Lake & Jackson St.
Olcott, NY 14126
716-778-8592

Orleans County

Captain's Cove Resort ^*
14339 Rt. 18
Waterport, NY 14571
585-682-3316

**Narby's Superette
& Tackle ^***
1292 Oak Orchard Rd
Kent, NY 14477
585-682-4624

Wayne County

Hughes Marina
5003 East Lake Rd.
Williamson, NY 14589
315-589-2752

Cayuga County

Screwy Louie's ^*
596 Main Street Box 28
Fair Haven, NY 13064
315-947-6348

Oswego County

K&G Lodge *
1917 County Rt. 1
Oswego, NY 13126
315-343-8171

**Woody's Tackle
& General Store ^***
7402 NYS Rt. 3
Pulaski, NY 13142
315-298-2378

All Seasons Sports *
3733 State Route 13
Pulaski, NY 13142
315-298-6433

Jefferson County

Henchen Marina Inc. ^*
13442 Cnty Rt. 123
PO Box 36
Henderson Harbor, NY 13651
888-848-3821

**^ Denotes open
before 7am
* Denotes sells
NYS Fishing
Licenses**

**CHECK WITH YOUR WEIGH IN STATION FOR HOURS!
NOT ALL WEIGH IN STATIONS STAY OPEN UNTIL 8PM
CHECK OUT WWW.LOC.ORG FOR LATEST UPDATES**



Rules and Regulations

EACH PARTICIPANT IN THE DERBY:

1. May enter fish caught in the U.S. and Canadian waters of Lake Ontario by hook and line and retrieved and brought to net by rod and reel in a legal manner as designated by New York State DEC or Province of Ontario MNR. Derby waters are limited to those where lake regulations are in effect. Niagara River boundaries are the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge for shore anglers and Devils Hole for boat Anglers. Tributary and special regulation waters are excluded.
2. Must officially register by 7:00 A.M. on the day you wish to fish and **prior to fishing** and be in possession of proof of registration at all times and present it to any official Derby personnel upon request.
3. **Anyone 10 through 15 at the time of registration will be registered as a youth. Minimum age for entry into any LOC Derby is 10. Anyone 16 or older must register as an adult. All registrants compete for the same divisional prizes.**
4. Agrees to abide by the LOC Official Rules and Regulations and agrees that failure to comply with any of the rules will result in automatic disqualification, forfeiture of all prizes, recognition as a prize winner and the right to enter any future LOC Derby. LOC Derby reserves the right to deny participation in a LOC Derby to anyone.
5. Anyone disqualified in another Lake Ontario fishing Derby or tournament will be ineligible for any prize consideration in any LOC Derby.
6. Agrees that all persons aboard the same boat (private or charter) must be registered in the Derby, including captain and mate. In the event that there are any persons on board the boat who are not registered (whether they are fishing or not), all fish caught during that particular outing may not be offered or considered for any prizes. A supporting affidavit may be required by all registered contestants aboard the same boat, affirming the integrity of the catch and also that no unregistered person was aboard the boat. **EXCEPTION: Youths under the age of 10 are allowed on the boat or charter as observers only! Numbers of rods and fish limits are based solely on the number of registered participants.**
7. Must be fishing with at least (1) other LOC Derby registered participant (minimum of two (2) persons per boat). In the case of stream, pier, shore fishing, etc. the witness must be in the immediate company of the person who caught the fish. When entering their fish, must be accompanied by their witness who signs an affidavit which corroborates the method, time and location of the catch, which will not be official until signed by the Weigh Master. The minimum age of a witness is 10 years old.
8. Official weigh-in will not take place until the entrant and their accompanying witnesses present their official registration to the Weigh Master in charge.
9. Agrees that each contestant who offers a prize winning fish and all registered affirming witnesses will be subject to a polygraph (lie detector) or voice stress test if so specified by the Derby Rules Committee. And further agrees that failure to pass the test will result in disqualification. Disqualification will result if an entrant refuses a polygraph or is determined to be unfit for a polygraph due to drug or alcohol consumption. The official LOC polygraphist shall make this determination.
10. Agrees that the Weigh Master must weigh in all fish entered in the LOC Derby at an official LOC Weigh Station on the day caught. Derby hours vary by station, but must fall between 9:00 am and 8:00 pm. **CHECK YOUR STATION FOR HOURS.** Spring Derby Ends at 1:00 PM May 14th. Summer Derby ends at 1:00 pm on July 30th and Fall Derby ends a 1:00 pm September 4th.
11. **Must enter the fish whole, not gaffed, gutted or snagged and winners will be determined by the weight of the fish only. Any fish containing any foreign materials (including but not limited to water, ice, and weights) will disqualify that fish from consideration for any prize. Black salmon will not be eligible for entry in this Derby. Fish will be examined for gill net marks, bleached or slimy gills, hook and/or gaff marks, fin rot or fungus, freezer burn, clouded eyes, unresponsive flesh – any of which can disqualify the fish.**
12. Agrees that the Weigh Master prior to weighing will remove all bait fish or ice visible in the mouth of any fish.
13. Agrees that fish weight is determined by full ounce only. No fractions of an ounce will be recorded. Partial ounce weights will be rounded down in all instances.
14. Agrees to submit, if required by a Derby official, their fish for microscopic tissue examination, internal examination, entering the cavity through an incision or through the use of a probe and not limited to temperature probes.
15. Agrees that LOC entrant who enters the prize winning fish will be the sole recipient of cash or merchandise awards. Dividing of prizes will be handled by entrant, NOT the LOC Derby Committee.
16. Agrees that all trout must weigh a minimum of ten (10) pounds and salmon must weigh a minimum of twenty (20) pounds for entry in the Spring and Summer Derbies. Minimum weight for Walleye in the Spring and Summer Derby is (8) eight pounds. Lake Trout must be at least 30 inches long. Only initial measurement by Weigh Master is valid due to imminent shrinkage. For the Fall Derby trout must weigh a minimum of ten (10) pounds and Salmon twenty-five (25) pounds.
17. Agrees that all fish in contention, as determined by the sole discretion of Derby officials, are property of the Derby until released by a Derby official. All weighed fish must be gill punched by the Weigh master. **It is the sole responsibility of the entrant to retain any fish submitted for prize consideration until the Derby results are declared official.**
18. Is entitled to only one division cash prize. No participant may win more than one of the division prizes, although contestants may enter more than one fish. If the succeeding fish is larger, the smaller of the fish with least weight will be withdrawn.
19. Agrees to submit all disputes to a designated Derby official within eight hours after the fish is entered, and agrees that all disputes will be submitted to the Derby Rules Committee, whose decision will be final. The Derby Rules Committee shall consist of Derby Organizers.
20. Agrees that the decision of the judges will be final and not reviewable in any form. In the event of a tie, the person who enters the first fish according to the date and time recorded on the fish entry form will be the winner. The second or subsequent fish, entered at the same weight, will assume the next lowest division position, and so on until all positions are filled. If two or more fish of identical weight should be entered on the same date and time, a toss of the coin will determine the winner and the loser will assume the next lower position in the division.
21. Agrees that award recipients are responsible for payment of all taxes on prizes \$600 and more. **Refusal to submit proper Social Security information will result in disqualification.**
22. Agrees that the LOC Derby Employees and their families may enter and fish in the Derby, but **are not eligible for prizes.**
23. Agrees to hold the Derby officials, sponsors, their agents, servants and/or employees, harmless from any liability of any nature and kind for injuries and/or damages suffered by the entrant during the period that the Derby is held.
24. Agrees to use good judgment in regard to existing and projected weather conditions. Listen to and heed the warnings of the U.S. Coast Guard and local weather reports, before and during each day's fishing and, not to place in jeopardy themselves or others on the boat during the Derby. To have personal floatation devices aboard and to operate under Coast Guard regulations.
25. Agrees that steelhead and rainbow trout are considered the same species in the Derby for purposes of awarding prizes. Chinook, Coho & Atlantic are all considered salmon. Grand Prize money will be awarded for the largest Salmon in each event.
26. Agrees that all **Grand Prize, First and Second** place division winners and witness along with their winning fish must attend the Awards Ceremony. The Spring awards ceremony is May 14th, Summer July 30th and Fall Sept 4th at Rileys Bar & Grill, 9660 Ridge Road, North Rose. You must arrive by 3 pm, ceremony to commence at 4:30 pm. Derby results will be certified as official by the LOC Derby Officials immediately prior to the Awards Ceremony
27. Must possess a valid New York State or Canadian fishing license unless exempted by law.

LOC FAQ



All 2023 Awards Ceremonies will be held at Riley's Bar & Grill, 9660 Ridge Road, North Rose. Grand Prize, First and Second place division winners must arrive by 3:00pm on the last day of the Derby.

Check out current and past leaderboards at www.loc.org!

Please go to our LOC Derby Facebook page for pictures of the leaders and winners throughout the derbies.

**Making Plans for next year?
LOC 2024 Derby Dates
May 3rd - May 12th
June 29th July 28th
August 17th - Sept 2nd**

NYS Record Fish

Atlantic Salmon	24 lb 15 oz	Mike Dandino	Lake Ontario
Brown Trout	33 lb 2 oz	Tony Brown	Lake Ontario
Chinook Salmon	47 lb 13 oz	Kurtis Killian	Salmon River
Coho Salmon	33 lb 7 oz	Stephen Sheets	Lake Ontario
Carp	50 lb 6 oz	Charles Primeau	Tomhannock Res.
Lake Trout	41 lb 8 oz	Jesse Wykstra	Lake Erie
Rainbow Trout	31 lb 3 oz	Robert Wilson	Lake Ontario
Walleye	18 lb 2 oz	Brian Hartman	St. Lawrence

LAKE ONTARIO TROUT & SALMON FISHERMEN

FEBRUARY 15-18, 2024

"IF YOU ENJOY FISHING THE GREAT LAKES YOU'LL LOVE THIS EVENT."

GREATER NIAGARA FISHING & OUTDOOR EXPO
THE TEACHING FISHING SHOW



2024 SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

- The Premier Trout & Salmon Show on the Great Lakes
- Four Packed Days of Open Lake Salmon & Trout fishing education continuing with the "teaching fishing" theme of the show
- Beginners Open Water Trout & Salmon School offering
- The Top Manufacturers Displaying their Latest Gear
- Retailers Selling the Latest Gear at "Show Prices"
- LOTSA Salmon School (the Best on the Great Lakes)



For a full listing of educational offerings along with additional show information visit: www.NiagaraFishingExpo.com

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK
GREATER NIAGARA FISHING & OUTDOOR EXPO

Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo
Niagara Falls Convention Center
101 Old Falls Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Signing up for the Derby- There are two ways, online at www.loc.org and at the Weigh-in and Registration outlets listed on page 2. You must register prior to 7AM the day you are fishing and EVERYONE on the boat MUST be registered.

Youths – 10 to 15 years old at time of entry. There is no separate youth division, all entrants compete for the same prizes but the Youth entry is half price. There is an additional youth award (Trophy) for the largest fish entered in each division. Youth winners are not required to attend the Awards Ceremony UNLESS they are Grand Prize, first or second placed division winners. If youths do not attend the awards ceremony, they can pick up their trophy at the weigh station they weighed their fish. Youths under the age of 10 can be on the boat but the number of rods fished can only be fished for the number of registered entrants on the boat.

Weigh In – Weigh in must happen the day the fish is caught, there is NO WEIGH IN THE FOLLOWING DAY. Maximum weigh in station hours are 9am to 8pm but weigh in stations have different closing times and they can vary throughout the week. **CHECK THE WEIGH IN STATION YOU PLAN ON USING FOR CLOSING HOURS!!! EVERY WEIGH IN STATION IS NOT OPEN UNTIL 8PM EVERY DAY.**

When you arrive at the weigh in station, keep your fish in the cooler, please don't drag it through the store. If you see the scale hanging you can place your cooler underneath the scale but do NOT place your fish on the scale until told to do so. Do not place live fish on the scale, it can damage the scale. You must have your LOC Registration/Invoice on your person to present to the weigh master. This includes everyone that was on the boat.

Problems during weigh in - If there is a problem at weigh-in, make sure you KEEP YOUR FISH. Cutting up/destroying your fish will result in immediate disqualification. The weigh in station will record the weight and a Derby Representative will check the fish ASAP.

Pictures of your catch – We love great pictures of your catch and we post them on Facebook and our website. The sooner you take pictures the better the fish looks. Please try and hold your fish sideways and a little in front of your body, but not too far out in front, both need to be in focus.

Leaderboard – The leaderboard for the derby is located at <http://loc.org/Leaderboard.html>. The leaderboard is updated in real time so if you don't see your entry after a few hours or if any of your information is incorrect please check with your weigh in station or call the office at 315-333-5213.

Fish Weigh in Form. Please print legibly! Make sure you write down current address, phone number etc. We utilize information from this form to issue checks and incomplete/incorrect information can delay payment.

You won, now what? – Congratulations, if you are Grand Prize, first or second place you and/or your witness and fish MUST be at the awards ceremony.

The 2023 Awards Ceremonies will be held at Rileys Bar & Grill, 9660 Ridge Road, North Rose. On the final day of each derby, fishing ends at 1:00 pm. You need to be at the awards ceremony by 3:00 pm for pictures and interviews. The awards ceremony will commence immediately following.

You will get paid and receive your trophy. Tax information will be secured and you will get photographed and submit your story to the media. We will feed you pizza and wings. It's a good time!

If you aren't required to attend you will receive your check in the mail. If you won \$600 or more you need to submit an IRS form W-9 prior to getting paid. You can download the form at our website at www.loc.org and you can fax it to 315-333-5295, email it to locderby@aol.com or send regular mail to LOC Derby, PO Box 472, Ontario NY 14519. **You MUST submit this W-9 form in the year you win or you forfeit your prize.**

These checks are usually mailed the second week after the close of the event. We need to go around to all the weigh in stations and registration outlets and collect all the registrations and check them, so it takes a little while. After you get your check PLEASE CASH IT. If you don't receive your check within a month from the end of the derby, please call the office at 315-333-5213.

Have fun and good luck in the Derby!

Win Big With Pro-Troll



Six New E-Plug Scent Dispensers

30 New 8 inch and 11 inch flashers



New E-Pocket EChip Bait Heads



See the full line of Pro-Troll Products
www.Protroll.com & Mail @ Protroll.com

Spring Derby Continued from Page 1

talking about sharing some of the winnings with the kids. This is their third year of fishing the LOC Derby and have never won anything before.

Weigh stations open at 9 a.m. and at the Wilson Boatyard Marina at the Gas Shack, Toby Betzer of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania was weighing in a 27-pound, 1-ounce king salmon with his girlfriend Lisha Feaster of Selinsgrove ... on Friday the 13th. They were fishing with Capt. Andy Krall of Dundee, NY and his wife Donna aboard his "Gone Coastal," a 38-foot Wellcraft.

They were trolling over 100 feet of water out of Wilson with a GRC green Cow Glow Squid with Sonny's Slammin' Pig meat behind one of Krall's custom paddles. The diver was back 150 feet on a No. 3 setting when the fish hit early in the morning. Speed was 2.3 mph at the ball. The salmon, the biggest ever for Betzer, took out over 1,000 feet of line before it stopped. It was just 15 minutes later that they were netting the 43-inch-long king at the back of the boat. First place in the Salmon Division earned a check for \$2,000.

Second place in the Salmon Division was Brent Burgess of Portland, NY with a 25-pound, 11-ounce king he caught on May 12 while fishing out of Wilson. He was fishing with Chris Truitt of Waterford, PA and Jacob Campaign of Northeast, PA on board his 24-foot Celebrity boat named "Lucky Penny." It turned out to be a lucky Moonshine spoon in green and white that enticed the salmon to hit.

The trio was trolling west of the harbor in 125 feet of water, heading east, using a wire mag diver back 180 feet on a No. 1 setting to get the spoon into the fish zone. It was his biggest spring king ever, and it took him 20 minutes to get him to the back of the boat. It was 8 a.m.

Youth winner in the Salmon Division was Jovie Scott of Erie, PA with a 21-pound, 5-ounce Chinook weighed in at the Wilson Boatyard. The special \$1,000 prize for the largest king salmon reeled in by a Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association (www.lotsa1.org) was Roy Leising of East Amherst with a 24-pound, 4-ounce salmon he caught out of Wilson – on Friday the 13th.

Spring Derby Continued on Page 6

Fall Derby Continued from Page 1

second half of the derby. The first half LOTSA winner was Walter Smith of Danville, Vermont with a 28-1/2-pound king.

Culverwell was fishing on Sept. 1 with Albert Bodolus of Athens, Penn. in the afternoon on the Niagara Bar. "We never fish in the afternoon," said Culverwell. "It was a spontaneous trip."

Trolling in Bodolus' 25-foot Wellcraft named "Big Fatty," they had a green froggy glow meat head with a herring strip behind an old school Pro Troll Big Eye when the downrigger down 81 feet over 136 feet of water went off. Forty minutes later, they had their big salmon. It wasn't big enough.

It's interesting to note that Bodolus was the guide for his sister last year, Terri Stofko, and the same thing happened to them – they lost out on the Grand Prize by a couple ounces right at the end of the fall derby. In the 2020 summer derby, Culverwell's wife Cindy won the Grand Prize.

Second place salmon in the division was Matthew Riley of Williamsville with a 29-pound Niagara Bar king salmon. He was fishing with Capt. Matt Yablonsky of Wet Net Charters. On Sept. 4, the group of friends (who all share adult beverages at Al-E-Oops bar in Lancaster) were following through on a commitment they made to go derby fishing.

"We drew cards to see what order we would be in for reeling in fish," said Riley. "This is the first derby that I have ever fished in. I was number three in the order, and it turned out to be the biggest salmon that I have ever caught in my life."

According to Yablonsky, they caught the fish on a different kind of bar – the Niagara Bar – around 8 a.m. "At that time the wind was howling 17-20 knots out of the northeast and the waves were easily 4-6 feet. We were in 75 feet of water working the ledge when the salmon hit a 150-foot diver pulling an A-Tom-Mik '41 fly' behind a flasher." Riley won \$2,500 for second place.

Youth winner for the Salmon Division was Brandon Cherry of Williamsville with a 28-pound, 2-ounce king salmon he caught out of Wilson. He ended up in ninth place overall.

In the Rainbow/Steelhead Division, Daryl Jenkins of Factoryville, Penn. was fishing with his buddies Matt Milne, Matt Forsythe, and Charlie Simone, all from Tafton, Penn. They had scheduled a trip the same time in late August in 2021, but it didn't work out for them weather-wise. They rescheduled during the same time in 2022, what they called the Salmon Redemption 2022 trip out of Olcott with Capt. Nick Glosser of Newfane aboard the Viking Sportfisherman, Thrillseeker II.

"We had caught a decent size salmon right off the bat in the morning," said Jenkins. "Trolling a Dreamweaver Green Alewife spoon, behind a Ninja board and a 200-foot section of copper over 400 feet of water, the fish hit around 9 a.m. It took less than 10 minutes to reel in. At first, I was a little disappointed because it was nowhere near the size of the salmon, but when I found out it was a derby fish, we all got excited." It was the biggest steelhead of his life at 13 pounds, six ounces and it earned them \$2,750. They will be back the same weekend again.

Second place in the division was a 12-pound, 8-ounce steelhead reeled in by Jayden Hubert of Newfane. At just 10 years old, the youngster had been fishing out of Olcott on the first day of the derby with his uncle Eric Bickel of Newfane aboard his 23-foot Sea Ox named "Kim's Destiny." Also on board was Dylan Hubert of Newfane, Jayden's cousin.

They were trolling out deep, over 500 feet of water with a Northern King 28 spoon 50 feet down on the rigger when the fish hit. It turned out to be a personal best for Jayden, fishing in his first LOC derby. However, he is a regular in the local Greater Niagara Fish Odyssey Derby every year in the Youth Division. Jayden also won the Youth Award for the Fall LOC this year.

As luck would have it, a second rod went off that same morning and Jayden reeled that fish in, too, because his cousin was sleeping. It turned out to be an 11-pound fish that would have made the top 20 had Dylan been awake.

In the Brown Trout Division, Kathryn Covin of Howard, Penn. decided to fish in the Fall LOC Derby at the insistence of her husband Douglas. The last time she went fishing out of Wilson where they keep their 26-foot Hewescraft named "Thinktank," she caught a big brown trout, and she wasn't in the derby.

After trolling in deeper water for salmon on August 27, they decided to come in closer for brown trout. They left one meat rig in the set, 62 feet down over 70 feet of water. At 11 a.m., the rod went off and Kathryn grabbed it. It was a 16-pound brown trout that took the top prize and big fish of the day award for a total of \$2,750. The lucky lure was an A-Tom-Mik meat rig named UV 190.

Second place brown trout was reeled in by Zachary Decker of Weedsport. He was fishing with Capt. Joe Pastore of Palmyra aboard his 29-foot Baha named "Set-N-Ready." Also on board were Cody Middleton of Sodus and Matt Sedore of Tully.

They were fishing on August 23 out of Pulneyville in 100 feet of water using a diver set on No. 3, 225 feet back and rigged with a Stinger Carbon-14 spoon. That was the rod the 15-pound, 6-ounce brown hit. It took him 20 minutes to bring in.

Oddly enough, three days before they caught a 20-pound brown trout ... but they weren't in the derby. You must be in it to win it.

Spring Derby Continued from Page 5

In the Brown Trout Division, Dean Pysher of Easton, Pennsylvania agreed to spend some quality time with his three sons Michael, Jarret, and Ryan by going fishing with Capt. Kenneth Krott of Lancaster, PA aboard Lip Ripper, a 30-foot Sportcraft. Fishing straight out of the Port of Oswego in 130 feet of water on May 14, they ran a downrigger down 32 feet. To get another lure out there and up higher, Krott threw on a slider that was running a custom spoon – UV with green dots and it also had some purple colorations. It proved to be irresistible to a 16-pound, 4-ounce brown trout that placed first overall for a \$1,000 check.

Krott was so excited when he saw the size of the fish that he threw it right in the cooler. Pysher, not realizing what he had, just wanted to take a picture of it. It was his first trip on Lake Ontario and his first derby ever. What a way to spend quality time with family.

Second place brown trout was a 14-pound, 2-ounce fish reeled in by John Mullen of Mountain Top, PA while fishing with his wife Bernice. Trolling out of the Little Salmon River in Oswego County on May 14 in their 26-foot Thompson named "Buddha," they were fishing in 30 feet of water. The lure of choice was a Stinger glow frog, and the method was a planer board. However, he likes to run a small Big Jon dippy, and this was 70 feet back behind the board. Fifteen minutes after the fish hit at 10 a.m., he had the fish in the boat after his wife netted it. They ran into Woody's right away to weigh their catch.

In the Lake Trout Division, Silas Amlaw of New Lebanon, NY had to learn the hard way. After catching a 31-pound lake trout in 2021 when he was NOT in the derby, he made no mistake this year when he reeled in a 22-pound, 15-ounce laker – on Friday the 13th no less – to win the category and the \$1,000 check. Yes, he was in the derby.

Fishing out of Guffins Bay Marina in Chaumont, his crew consisting of his father Francis Amlaw of Canaan and Ken Altarac of Troy, headed out about 20 miles near the Canadian border in their 26-foot Maycraft Pilot House named "Ah Shore Thing." Placing a spin-n-glow rig with cowbells on the bottom in 175 feet of water, they doubled up. The first fish was an 18 pounder and the second was the winner at 22 pounds, 15 ounces. Amlaw will be in all the derbies now.

Second place lake trout was a 22-pound, 5-ounce fish reeled in by 12-year-old Krystyna Chybinski of Mexico. She was fishing with her dad Mark, grandfather Jan, as well as Pete Hunkele aboard a custom-made 26-foot Stanley named "Old No. 7." She was also the Youth winner for the division.

Fishing on May 14, they ran out to 150 feet of water and started fishing a spin-n-glow with cowbells on the bottom. About 7:30 a.m. she caught her personal best lake trout, taking 20 minutes to bring it in. She attends Liverpool/Chestnut Middle School as a 7th grader and loves to fish the derbies.

The Walleye Division winner was Brandon Myers of Vestal with a 10-pound, 15-ounce Chaumont Bay fish he caught May 11 at 7:30 a.m. He was fishing with his dad, Greg Myers, also of Vestal. The duo was trolling out of their 21-foot Ranger Fisherman (named Magic Eyes) using a blue and silver Bomber 150 feet behind planer boards over 24 to 30 feet of water.

"I knew it was a good fish for this derby and we ran right into Henchen's Marina to weigh it in," said Myers.

Second place walleye was 10 pounds, 13 ounces, weighed in by Paul Farmer of Dexter on lucky Friday the 13th. He was fishing with his brother Richard Farmer of Dexter out of their 19-foot Lund Pro-V. They were working the waters around Point Peninsula and hit the fish in 20 feet of water. They were trolling a blue Rapala 125 feet back behind planer boards and the fish hit around 9 a.m. They, too, weighed their fish in right away at Henchen's Marina.



12 Year old David Baker of Corinth, NY with his 25lb 8 oz Summer Youth Award winning King weighed in at K&G lodge in Oswego.



Joe Snook with Summer Winning King

Snook holds on to win 2022 Summer Derby

By Bill Hilts, Jr.

Twenty-seven-year-old Joe Snook of Sterling, NY overcame a brief lapse of memory to win the 2022 Summer Lake Ontario Counties (LOC) Derby held July 2-31 when his 31-pound, 3-ounce Fair Haven fish held up for the last 16 days of the contest. He won the \$10,000 Grand Prize plus an extra \$1,000 for big fish of the week in the Salmon Division.

“We were fishing Big Fish Friday for the Sodus Pro-Am Tournament and I was letting out a spin doctor with an A-Tom-Mik meat rig behind 400 feet of copper off our planer board,” recounted Snook at the awards ceremony held at Riley’s Bar and Grill in North Rose July 31. “I turned around to do something else and then I remembered the line was still going out. I panicked when I saw the spool was almost empty! As I grabbed the rod, the release on the planer board line went off and I needed to reel as fast as I could to gain as much line as possible.”

Fishing with his father William Snook of Sterling and Rod Fortune of Saratoga Springs on their 29-foot Tiara named “Silver Rush,” the younger Snook battled the fish for a half-hour before they netted the king salmon at the back of the boat. What a relief!

They caught the fish at 6:40 a.m. and they won big fish for the day in the Sodus event. As far as the prize money, Snook said that they were going to make some upgrades on their boat, which was new to them. First place in the Salmon Division was Terry Wilson of Pine Plains, NY with a 29-pound, 9-ounce king salmon while fishing out of Sodus Bay with Capt. Ryan Williamson of Fishin’ Magician and his 12-year-old son Parker. Also, on board sharing in the excitement was Wilson’s husband George.

Fishing straight out of Sodus with a homemade cut bait rig behind a Spin Doctor, they used a downrigger to place their offering 72 feet down over 350 feet of water. The fish hit at 8:30 a.m. and 20 minutes later she had her biggest king ever – in her first-ever derby.

“We come up three times a year to fish with Ryan and Parker with our family,” said Wilson. “We always have such a great time. This one was special.”

Second place salmon was John Williams of Helena, Montana who came into town to fish with the Cold Steel Fishing Team led by Capt. Tom Burke of Pulaski in the Sodus Pro-Am event. Also part of the team were Capt. Andy Bliss of Oswego, Rob Ripka and Mark Ledden of Pulaski. They were fishing out of Burke’s 38-foot Egg Harbor named Cold Steel.

“We had a 350-foot copper with a Stinger flasher (Scumline Pattern) pulling an A-Tom-Mik Prime time meat rig with Pautzke-brined bait and the fish hit around noon,” said Williams. “Twenty-five minutes later I had my 29-pound, 5-ounce salmon in the boat. We also won big fish for the day in the Pro-Am.”

Winner of the Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association \$750 prize for largest salmon caught by a LOTSA member was Jason Hayes of Grosse Ile, Michigan with a 27-pound king salmon he caught out of Wilson the second day of the derby.

In the Youth Division for the salmon category, the Dream Team of Derek Baker of Corinth, and his twin 12-year-old sons David and Alex, produced the top salmon catch among junior anglers with a 25-1/2-pound king salmon out of Oswego.

“It truly was a team catch,” said young David at the awards gathering. “One of us handles the boat and one does the netting while someone fights the fish.” David reeled in this one.

Fishing between Fair Haven and 9-mile Point, they had a Fat Nancy’s Custom Paddle paired with a Custom Flash Diabolical Meat Rig in Black Magic 100 feet down on the rigger over 500 feet of water. It took 45 minutes to bring the fish in. They were fishing out of the family’s 23-foot Warrior, aptly named “Fishing Twins II.”

In the Brown Trout Division, Craig O’Brien of Rochester caught the fish of his life to win the category with an 18-pound, 5-ounce Rochester lunker. He was fishing with Kevin Eletto of Irondequoit aboard O’Brien’s “Unreel” boat, a 25-foot Pursuit.

Fishing out of Irondequoit Bay and targeting 70 feet of water with their trusty black-white-silver Northern King 28 spoon behind a wire diver set back 144 feet on a 1-1/2 setting, the big brown hit at 10:30 a.m. It took him 15 minutes to bring in.

“I couldn’t see the fish in the water because it stayed down,” said O’Brien. “When Kevin netted it and pulled it into the boat, he shouted ‘this is the biggest brown we’ve ever caught.’” Yes, it was.

Second place brown trout was reeled in by Ron DeGraff of Oak Ridge, NJ. It weighed 17-1/2 pounds and it was another personal best. He was fishing in the Oswego Pro-Am tournament with Mike Conry of Milford, NJ, Paul Daviet of Bloomsbury, NJ, and Jim Long of Sandy Pond aboard Conry’s 19-1/2-foot Starcraft named “Live Wire.”

“The first day of the tournament there was a delay due to a Small Craft Advisory,” said DeGraff. “Fishing was from noon to 6 p.m. We were just trying to target browns in 50 feet of water out front and we were trolling a Stinger spoon in an alewife pattern behind 5 colors of lead core off an Offshore board. The fish hit at 5 p.m. and it took about 10 minutes to bring in.”

Had the tournament not been delayed, that fish would still be swimming out there.

The top youth catch in the brown trout category was Raylee Peterson of Hone, PA with a 15-pound, 4-ounce fishing she caught on a Moonshine spoon out of Olcott. She placed eighth overall in the division. Some big lake trout were caught in the summer contest, too. Leading the way was Capt. Jason Smola of North Syracuse with a 29-pound, 3-ounce fish he caught out of Henderson Harbor the first day of the derby fishing with his friend Capt. Mike Grimshaw of Henderson. It was a personal best for Smola aboard his Salmon Hunter, a 28-foot Aqua Sport.

“We ran about 15 miles out and it was near the end of our trip,” said Smola. “We were fishing the bottom in 164 feet of water with a watermelon spin-n-glo behind cow bells when I was in the process of dropping the lure back down. It went off in my hand.” It took him 20 minutes to bring into the boat.

Second place lake trout went to Allan Kessler of Central Square, NY with another personal best fish – a 27-pound, 4-ounce laker. Fishing with Rick Carson of Ballston Spa, NY, they were about a half-mile north of Sandy Pond looking for salmon in 144 feet of water. Using a downrigger down 110 feet, the fish hit a Moonshine Green Glow Alewife spoon at 11 a.m. while they fished out of their 21-foot Steiger Craft named “Dark Cloud.”

“I couldn’t move the fish,” said Kessler. “It took me 35 minutes to bring that lake trout in.” They have been fishing the Lake Ontario derbies since 1979.

Youth winner was James Nahtila of Holbrook, MA with an 18-pound, 13-ounce laker he caught out of Henderson Harbor. He placed 14th overall in the division with the fish, caught on a spin-n-glo.

In the battle for top steelhead, Tom Christen of Depew earned top honors with a 15-1/2-pound silver bullet he caught while fishing out of Wilson with Tom Martek of Depew. Yes, it was a personal best as well.

Fishing out of a 24-foot Sea Swirl named “Catch and Release,” they were running a white and black Moonshine spoon that they stumbled across a few days before. Fishing in shallower water earlier in the week, they somehow snagged the lure and brought it in. On the fateful day of catching the winner, they threw it on a wire diver set back 180 feet on a No. 2 setting over 400 feet of water.

Bam! The diver went off at 11 a.m. and they had their winning fish in the boat 10 minutes later.

Second place steelhead went to Marty Polovick of Lockport with a 13-pound, 6-ounce fish he caught off Olcott on a Mixed Veggies Michigan Stinger spoon, 55-feet down on a rigger over 500 feet of water. It was probably a little heavier than that, but the circumstances didn’t allow for them to run in and weigh the fish right away. He caught the fish at 7 a.m. aboard the “Reel Lucky,” a 21-foot Parker owned by Bill Crouse of Pittsburgh, PA. Also on board were Nick Sheldon of Horseheads, NY, and Merle Seville of PA. And the weigh station didn’t open until 9 a.m.

“We had a fantastic day on the water,” said Polovick at the awards ceremony. “We caught over 40 fish, including numerous 12-to-15-pound Coho salmon. Unfortunately, the steelhead was in the bottom of the cooler. Overall, it was a team effort and everyone on the boat deserves some credit.”

In the competitive Walleye Division, Capt. Wally Blake of Niagara Falls managed to overtake the leader of the division with an impressive fish caught on the Niagara Bar – a 12-pound, 15-ounce walleye caught on a homemade jig during the final week of the contest. There’s more to the story.

The previous leader was an 11-pound, 10-ounce Niagara River fish weighed in by Capt. Arnie Jonathan of Lockport. He caught his fish on a homemade jig early in the morning while fishing with Capt. Joe Srouji of Ransomville. They had to work through heavy moss earlier in the month to get the jigs to work properly.

Getting back to Blake’s fish, he was fishing out of his 20-foot Sea Ark named Fowl Waters (his fishing and hunting service) with his girlfriend, Samantha Rew of Sanborn ... and Capt. Arnie Jonathan. Yes, they are close friends.

“I even netted the fish for him at the back of the boat, and I couldn’t have been happier for him,” said Jonathan. There is no truth to the rumor that he tried to knock Blake’s fish off with the net (although there was a hold-your-breath moment as it sat precariously on the hoop of the net before it fell into the mesh).



\$150,125 Cash Payout!



LOC Spring Derby May 5 – May 14, 2023 \$44,350 Cash	LOC Summer Derby July 1 – July 30, 2023 \$38,375 Cash	LOC Fall Derby Aug 18 - Sept 4, 2023 \$67,400 Cash
<p>\$15,000 Grand Prize <i>For the largest Salmon</i> Four Divisions Salmon, Lake Trout, Brown Trout & Walleye</p> <p>Cash Prizes for Salmon Division First Place \$2000 Second Place \$1000 Third Place \$800 Fourth Place \$575 Fifth Place \$400 Sixth Thru 10th Place \$200 11th Thru 15th \$150 16th thru 20th \$100</p> <p>\$1000 cash award from LOTSA for the largest valid LOC salmon. Both entrant and witness must be LOTSA members.</p> <p>Cash Prizes for Lake, Brown and Walleye Divisions First Place \$1000 Second Place \$525 Third Place \$400 Fourth Place \$300 Fifth Place \$200 Sixth Thru 10th Place \$100 11th Thru 15th \$75 16th thru 20th \$50</p> <p>\$1100 IN DAILY AWARDS! \$500 for the largest salmon and \$200 a day for Lake, Brown and Walleye starting May 5th and running through May 13th. There is no daily award for May 14th. If no fish is entered that meets the Derby minimums, that amount will carry over until it is won.</p>	<p>\$10,000 Grand Prize <i>For the largest Salmon</i> Five Divisions Salmon, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Walleye & Rainbow/Steelhead</p> <p>Cash Prizes for each Division First Place \$1000 Second Place \$600 Third Place \$300 Fourth Place \$200 Fifth Place \$100 Sixth Thru 10th Place \$75 11th Thru 20th \$50</p> <p>\$750 cash award from LOTSA for the largest valid LOC salmon. Both entrant and witness must be LOTSA members.</p> <p>\$3000 WEEKLY during the Summer Derby starting July 1st and running through July 30th \$1000 for the largest Salmon and \$500 each for Lake, Brown, Rainbow & Walleye.</p> <p>WEEKLY DATES 7/1-7/8, 7/9-7/15, 7/16-7/22, 7/23-7/30</p> <p>Youth entries and Youth Awards To clear up any confusion some may have, young fishermen that are at least 10 years old and have not reached their 16th birthday, register for a half price rate. Single Derby passes are \$20 instead of \$40 for a adult pass and \$10 versus \$20 for a single day pass. Youths are eligible for all division prizes PLUS a trophy for entering the largest fish in each division.</p>	<p>\$25,000 Grand Prize <i>For the largest Salmon</i> Three Divisions Salmon, Rainbow/Steelhead Brown Trout</p> <p>Cash Prizes for Salmon Division First Place \$5000 Second Place \$2000 Third Place \$1100 Fourth Place \$900 Fifth Place \$700 Sixth Thru 10th Place \$400 11th Thru 15th \$200 16th thru 20th \$100</p> <p>\$1000 from LOTSA for the largest salmon. \$500 for 8/18-8/26 and \$500 for 8/27-9/4. Both entrant and witness must be LOTSA members.</p> <p>Cash Prizes for Brown and Rainbow/Steelhead Divisions First Place \$2500 Second Place \$1000 Third Place \$550 Fourth Place \$450 Fifth Place \$350 Sixth Thru 10th Place \$200 11th Thru 15th \$100 16th thru 20th \$50</p> <p>\$1000 IN DAILY AWARDS! \$500 for the largest salmon and \$250 a day for Steelhead and Brown starting Aug 18th and running through Sept 3rd. There is no daily award for Sept 4th. If no fish is entered that meets the Derby minimums, that amount will carry over until it is won.</p>

Save \$10 on a Seasons Pass for all three events \$110 - Youth \$50
Single Derby Entry Fee \$40 - Youth \$20
One Day Pass \$20 - Youth \$10
 Online registration will incur a 4% service charge