

21st Annual Lake Trout Classic

By Rose E Riveter, Ontonagon Herald

Fifty-four teams competed in this year's Annual Lake Trout Classic. The tournament was held on Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19, 2024 with all vessels launching from and returning to the Ontonagon Village Marina with their days' catch.

Trident Maritime Systems located on Lake Superior in Ontonagon is a new major sponsor and promoter of this event. Larry Greig is the founder of the Lake Trout Classic. Twenty-one years later, Greg continues to acquire sponsors, organize, and manage this event. All the proceeds go to the Ontonagon County Cancer Association (OCCA). For 21 years, every year, all the proceeds go to the benefit of the OCCA.

Saturday evening of tournament weekend the VFW hosts a fish fry. Volunteer staff the VFW and the anglers participating in the tournament donate lake trout caught that day. All the proceeds from the fish fry benefit the OCCA. When the financials are calculated, this reporter will update you on the amount of the check for this year's donation from Greig to the OCCA. As well as an article about the important services the OCCA provides to Ontonagon County.

Larry Greig and the participants in the Annual Lake Trout Classic welcome Porcupine Mountains CBD as a new sponsor and promoter of this event and appreciate their support and support of OCCA.

To the heart of this weekend. There could not have been better weather or more perfect conditions on the Lake. All would agree that never has there been a day where so many anglers brought in monster fish. It was an incredibly awesome tournament. I cannot write a better story than the pictures that tell all.

Captain Chris Ross on team 33 with Larry Ross and Kory Ross crushed the weekend winning in several categories. They won Sunday catch and the tournament catch. They also won the largest laker and second brown. Overall the teams caught many healthy sized species. That was the norm for the day than just one super monster there were many monsters in all species. The kings were king, the browns were browner, the lakers were large. The average size lakers were good looking fish (and good eating).

Winners of the two day tournament are determined by the combined weight of the three largest lake trout from Saturday's catch and the combined weight of the three largest lake trout from Sunday's catch for each team. There are eight placements with cash prizes, first place prize was \$2,000 the second place received \$1,000 and the third place received \$400. While this is a lake trout tournament there are cash prizes for other species. First place of other species received cash prizes of \$200 and \$50 to second placements.

21st Annual

Lake Trout Classic Results

(Place, Weight lbs, Team, Captain)

Saturday Best Catch, 32.80#, 35, John Myllylahti

Sunday Best Catch, 42.40#, 33, Chris Ross

Tournament, Two-Day Total

1st, 61.60#, 33, Chris Ross

2nd, 60.00#, 02, Jared Coffey

3rd, 52.40#, 46, Zach Arneson

4th, 48.40#, 18, Dean Wascher

5th, 47.92#, 35, John Myllylahti

6th, 45.80#, 52, Dave Egeler

7th, 44.92#, 04, John Casanova

8th, 43.40#, 08, Bob Madigan

Best Catch All Species

Largest Brown, 15.00#, 36, Bobby Clements

2nd Brown, 11.40#, 33, Chris Ross

Largest Salmon, 21.40#, 47, Jesse Stites

2nd Salmon, 17.80#, 19, Dale Karttunen

Largest Coho, 05.30#, 03, Damian Coffey

2nd Coho, 05.00#, 26, Brian Keith Yaklyvich

Largest Steelhead, 09.80#, 51, Richard Wardynski

2nd Steelhead, 09.00#, 48, John Schade

Largest Laker, 25.40#, 33, Chris Ross

2nd Laker, 22.20#, 02, Ben Kemppainen

Lady's Laker, 15.40#, 46, Susie Line

Lady's 2nd Laker, 14.40#, 29, Ann Colgin