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ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

JULY 2017

KALPIN WINS AT THE ISLANDS



**ROOKIE NATE KALPIN
WINS HIS FIRST CLUB
TOURNAMENT,
THE GENESEE BEER
1000 ISLANDS AOYS
WITH 19.17 LBS**

PHOTOS BY: MARK HAROLD, EDITED BY: LAUREN BRUAN



1000 ISLANDS

KEEWAYDIN STATE PARK, ALEXANDRIA BAY, NY
ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - JUNE 24, 2017



MARK HAROLD
 2nd Place - 18.72 lbs.

The first two tournaments of the 2017 season are in the books and the St. Lawrence River was a mix of weather and varieties of bass. Friday, June 23, in the 1000 Islands, saw rain, rain, some drizzle and then some more rain. This gave way to Saturday and Sunday providing partly cloudy skies and afternoon WIND (and WAVES)!

At any rate, the rookie newcomer to the club this year proved he has what it takes to rise to the top. In his first ever RBM tournament, **Nate Kalpin** brought 19.17 lbs of smallies to the scales to reign champ, beating **Mark Harold** by just under half a pound. Lunker went to yours truly with a 4.76 smallie. Oh, and **Steve Levine** rounded out the top 3 with 17.45 lbs. (I know the rest of us couldn't believe it either.) Maybe the relaxed state of not being tourney director this year will prove to be his "ticket." (Although he did yell at me a couple times!).

On day two **Mark Harold** (who is now known as "The Legend", much like of Chuck Norris notoriety) would not be outdone. He came to the scales with 20.15 lbs. Second best (his non-boater for the day) **Jacob Zarmeski** had 14.27 lbs and a 5.20 behemoth for lunker! In third with 14.17 was Dave Livingston. I hope you all enjoyed the tournament. See you

at the next meeting.

~ **Tige Noni** - Rochester Bassmasters 2017 Tournament Director.

Rookie **Nate Kalpin** won The 1000 Islands tournament on Day one with 19.17 lbs. Nate boated over 25 fish throughout the day.

Nate said "It was probably the tournament I was looking forward to the most this season. The 1000 islands has always been my favorite place to fish. Although I do not frequent the river as much as I like, I am always amazed at the scenery and the fishing the St. Lawrence has to offer.

To discuss my first place finish and my tournament day, I must first talk about practice and my game plan going into the weekend. Knowing I only had 1 day of practice (due to lack of vacation time at work) I wanted to explore new water. I have been to the islands multiple times, but never this early in the season. I figured the usual places I fish were not the areas where I needed to be. I knew there would be multiple ways to catch them, however, I wanted to target the bedding fish.

Practice started out slow, bouncing from island to island up river looking for flats and protected areas. I was unsuccessful for most of the day (not to mention we were battling the pouring rain, wind, and exhaustion from leaving Brockport at 3:00 AM). The weather finally broke for 45 minutes or so, and the day started to turn around. I pulled up on an area where my non-boater, **Kyle Sweets**, started catching fish, throwing around a goby colored drop-shot (he had already boated 3 others before this - I had boated zero). I began to move shallower and shallower, throwing a ghost colored swimbait around, and got some short strikes of darting smallmouth. I explored a little longer and landed a couple 3 pound fish. I immediately knew that we were around some bedding fish. I put the rod down and started slowly working around the shallow flat and marked 10-15 beds with females on them. I knew then that this was without a doubt my first stop come game time! Being boat number 1 on Day One, I knew I would have first dibs at the spot, not knowing if anyone else had come across it (Although somehow by the time we launched out of idle I was 4th boat back?). Anyhow—fast forward to fishing beds on tournament day, the sun

was high, the water was calm, I downed my typical morning 5 Hour Energy and I was ready to catch some smallies. I mainly used three types of baits: Texas Craw, Senko, and small 3" bright pink Contact Baits - Zipper on a dropshot with a 4" leader and a PowerTeam Lures 3/8 oz. Lean Drop weight (if anyone cares), and a key scent, PowerTeam Lures Hog Tonic, the most disgusting smelling bass catching scents in the market (ask Kyle, poor kid was downwind from it all day).

There was one fish in particular that I had to spend a little over an hour on, and about 7 other baits to try to land her in the boat (The Pink Zipper was the ultimate champion here). That being said, I still had an "easy" limit of 17 or so pounds by 8:00 AM. The rest of the day was spent trying to get my non boater his limit, where I would only cull a few times and catch a ton of fish throwing that same swimbait from practice, where I would have estimated my weight of 18.50 lbs by the time weigh-in came. I knew I had a decent bag when I culled out my 3-2 smallest fish.

To say Saturday, June 24th 2017, was a fun day of fishing would be a total understatement. I honestly did not think it was enough to place 1st. In my experience, if I

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STEVE LEVINE
 3rd Place - 17.45 lbs.



FRED BLOM
 4th Place - 16.13 lbs.

am really catching them then other well-seasoned folks are definitely on them as well, given the great “sticks” that are in the club. I am more than happy with the outcome, and even happier with the bragging rights I get over Tige and his outstanding performance(s). He will spend the next few weekends “Licking his wounds” as he put it. In all seriousness though, I will say I am happy to be a part of the club. This being my first tournament with RBM, I had a very positive experience; everyone is friendly, fun, and inviting. I am looking forward to the rest of the season with you all.”

Mark Harold's 18.72 lbs. gave him the



TOM HALEY
 6th Place - 13.37 lbs.

2nd place spot.

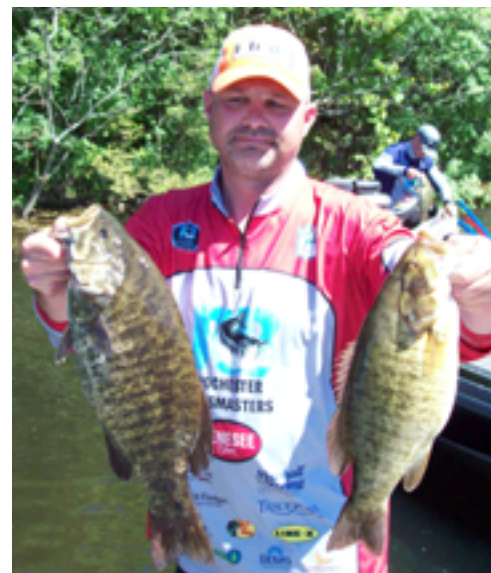
Mark said, “As I prepared my equipment on the Tuesday before the tournament I was thinking about areas I would try and what techniques I’d use when I got up to the 1000 Islands. For some reason an idea came to me that I should try something I had never tried before with a lure I didn’t even have. So I went to work making a few of these lures and preparing a special rod and reel setup to handle the technique. I honestly didn’t have a lot of confidence that I would even catch a single bass on these new lures, but sometimes you have to just go with those hunches.

Fast forward to my first practice day on Thursday. When I arrived at my first area I fished through it and caught four smallmouths and a largemouth using a more traditional lure. The fish were a good size, topping out with one three pounder. I moved to another area and again threw a traditional lure but had limited success. It was then that I looked on my deck and saw what we’ll call “the secret lure” and decided to make a few casts with it. Believe it or not, I caught a smallmouth that was pushing five pounds on my first cast!!! Of course my initial thought was that it was a fluke and I’d probably not catch another bass on it. I was wrong. About ten minutes later I caught another nearly five pounder and on the next cast one about three. I was now convinced that the new secret lure would work and catch big smallies. I then looked around to find additional areas I could fish in the tourney.

On Friday, I went out searching for some largemouths, just in case. I found an area loaded with them and they were easy to catch. I decided to go for these largemouth first to hopefully get a quick limit on tournament day so I could then concentrate on the less abundant smallies and not worry if the bite was slow.

On tournament morning I headed to the largemouth and the bite was slow at first. I moved around a little and soon found some aggressive ones willing to eat my texas rigged stik-o. I quickly got a 10 pound limit and culled a couple times, but it had taken longer than I had hoped. It was about 8:00 and it was time to try for the big smallies with the secret lure.

The secret lure came through as I slowly culled out the much smaller largemouths. I also caught one on a swimbait. With



TIGE NONI
 5th Place - 14.03 lbs.
 & 4.76 lb. Lunker

time running out and with one 2.4 pound largemouth still in the livewell I started to have a little bad luck. A few really good ones jumped off, one broke off and a couple followed up to the boat without biting. These were the only ones I had lost on the secret lure. I finally hooked a big smallmouth that stayed hooked while it jumped. I culled out the last largemouth and without making another cast headed in to the weigh in with 18.72 pounds of smallmouths.

Some may be wondering just what the secret lure was, but I’ll just leave it at “The Secret Lure”. One thing I will say is that it was a moving lure and I wasn’t bed fishing. If I actually revealed what it was most, if not all of you would think I was being less than honest, and I wouldn’t want you to think that. I still have a hard time believing that it was as effective as it was in the weather conditions we encountered. Sometimes you just have to go with your hunches.”

Catching 10 fish on the day, *Steve Levine* rounded out the Top Three with 17.45 lbs.

Steve said, “Thursday night, after a day of practice, we were backing up the boat for the night and the trailers break caliper broke not allowing me to back up. Not

Story and stats cont’d on page 4



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sure if I was going to be able to fish as a boater...it helps to be able to back the boat into water. The plan for the VERY rainy Friday was get the caliper fixed. Friday morning roles around and I start the day off with Dave and Kevin asking me why my power poles were down... maybe I was trying to hold the boat in place. At first I thought they were kidding but upon inspection they had been running all night trying to go down. Dave and I cut the power and decided to worry about them later. With luck, I found a garage that got right onto my trailer problem and was able to fix it. I now know I am going as a boater.

Saturday morning started out with an exciting start while we all raced off at 5 mph to our first spots. Luckily after the river opened we were able to pick up the speed...I know I drive like a little old lady on Sunday or Saturday in this case. My first morning fish came flipping a Texas rigged Senko with a 7 foot medium heavy St. Croix Legend Extreme into a thick weed mat. My co-angler Dom and I took our time trying to pick apart the weed bed and it produced. It really didn't matter what color we used but they did like the larger size! The fish seem to weigh a ton due to how many weeds came up along

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Place	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Weighed	Weight	Lunker	Penalties	Total Weight
1	Nate Kalpin	5	5	19.17	4.26		19.17
2	Mark Harold	5	5	18.72	4.43		18.72
3	Steve Levine	5	5	17.45	3.79		17.45
4	Fred Blom	5	5	16.13			16.13
5	Tige Noni	5	4	14.28	4.76	0.25	14.03
6	Tom Haley	5	5	13.37			13.37
7	Jon Skirment	5	5	13.07	4.01		13.07
8	Kyle Sweers	5	5	12.59	4.00		12.59
9	Paul Caldwell	5	5	12.16			12.16
10	Kevin Kinnear	5	5	11.84			11.84
11	Terry Gartz	5	5	11.67			11.67
12	Bob Manley	5	5	11.52			11.52
13	Tyler Austin	5	5	11.13			11.13
14	Chris Burns	5	5	10.71			10.71
15	Kurt Keller	5	5	10.32	4.04		10.32
16	Dylan Mackaravitz	5	5	9.81			9.81
17	Matt Ferrante	5	5	9.69			9.69
18	Matt James	5	5	9.05			9.05
19	Fred Ratcliffe	4	4	8.91			8.91
20	Dave Livingston	5	5	8.69			8.69
20	Will Rogers	5	5	8.69			8.69
21	Merritt Diamond	5	5	8.35			8.35
22	Drew Demtoft	5	5	8.29			8.29
23	Bill Wittman	4	4	7.67			7.67
24	Aidan Blake	4	4	6.53			6.53
25	Lock Holmes	2	2	6.14			6.14
26	Dalton Forte	3	3	5.79			5.79
27	Sean Brown	3	3	5.78			5.78
28	Jacob Zarmeski	3	3	5.77			5.77
29	Dom Cerasuolo	3	3	4.62			4.62
30	Todd Keller	3	3	4.45			4.45
31	Rich Calabrese	0	0	0.00			0
33	Ray Law	0	0	0.00			0
32	Harvey Rhody	0	0	0.00			0
	Kevin Larrison	0	0	0.00			DNF
	Non-Boater						
	Boater						
	Amatuer						

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with them. One was over 3 pounds and the rest 2 pounders. Once that bite seemed to slow down and the wind picked up we headed out to try for some smallmouth. At this time I switched to a drop shop on a 6'8" Medium Extra Fast and a ned rig on a 7'6" Medium Fast; both also on St. Croix Legend Extreme. We were fishing the shallows around the Islands...more specific they seemed to be holding on the shore under rock ledges and occasionally under trees where Dom slammed a nice smallmouth. My first smallie was only 2.08 lbs. and then the fun started with each of the following being over 3 and 4 pounds. I was able to cull out 4 out of 5 of my 2 pounders...I was never able to cull my last 2.8 pounder as time just ran out. My co-angler Dom Cerasuolo was a tremendous help motivating and encouraging me ahead all day...I didn't even need to yell "Get The Net." Lastly my Tradewins Financial sponsored Ranger preformed flawless and made sure my first trip to the islands was successful and safe."

Bringing 16.18 lbs. to the scales **Fred Blom** finished in 4th place.

Fred said, "Day one I fished the morning in Goose Bay. The cloud cover helped the largemouth bite. At 9:00 AM we left for Chippewa as the DEC was spraying herbicides in Goose Bay. I was able to cull out one largemouth with a good smallmouth in Chippewa Bay. My co-angler Dylan Mackaravitz also got a limit and culled in Goose Bay. He actually discovered the winning presentation, which was weightless Senko up against the cattails.

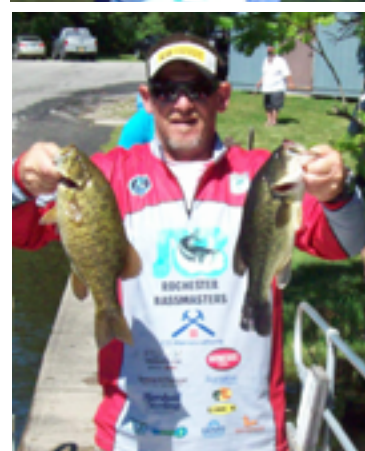
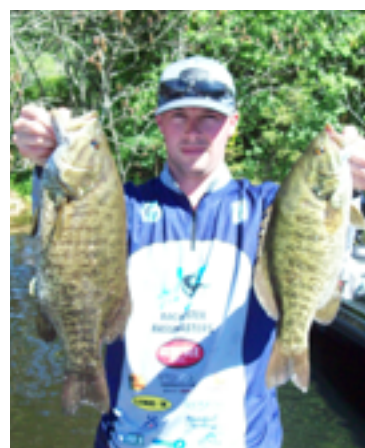
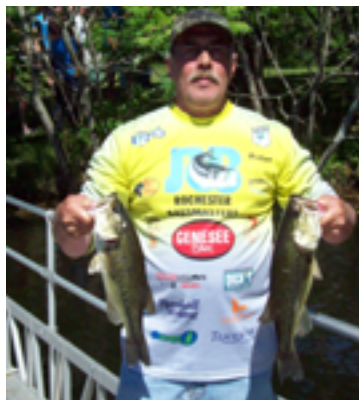
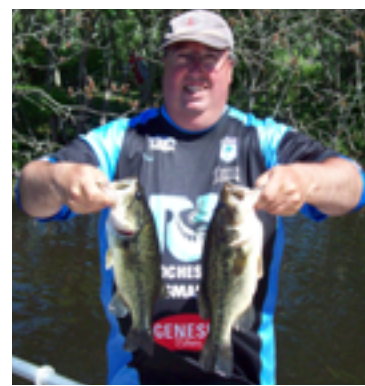
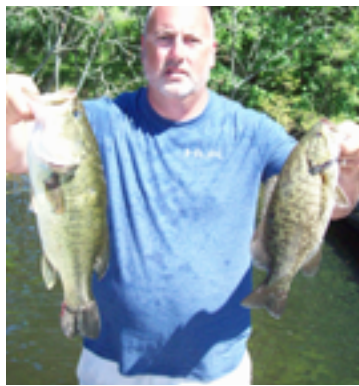
Day two, I fished alone. Went for a hunch on visiting several "proven" areas of Chippewa Bay. It was clear skies and calm and the bite was definitely off. I did manage one largemouth and two small smallmouth. At 10:45, I saw a cloud bank rolling in and headed back to Goose Bay. Clouds came in, I got to my prime area and had it to myself. First cast I landed a largemouth and had a limit in about 5 minutes. I spent until 1:45 working that area hard. Strong winds made it a challenge to make a proper presentation. I used my "purple weenie" bait and caught and culled up to my weight.

Two day total left me in fifth place overall. The wind made afternoon on both days navigation a challenge along with strong currents. Sunday, I was in the main channel at Boldt Castle doing 6 MPH but running the motor at 3000 RPM's just to make headway."

6th place went to **Tige Noni** with 14.28 lbs and the lunker on the day, a 4.76 lb. smallie.

Tige said, "I had a great day fishing with non-boater Aiden Blake. We fished a variety of areas that I have a history of fishing. I had marked one bedded bass on Friday, but when I got there, she was gone. So all of the fish that I caught were (I believe) post spawn. The majority of the fish we caught were between one and fifteen feet of water. Between the two of us, we probably caught around 20 smallmouth. Most of my fish were caught on a green Venom tube with a 3/8 ounce Zona tube weight, a green rapala crankbait (4-6'

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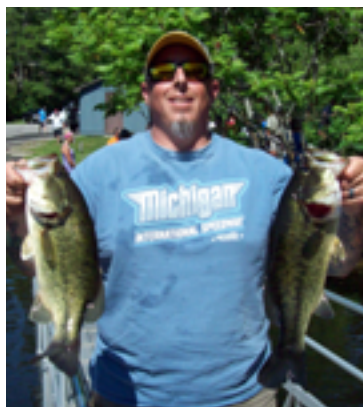
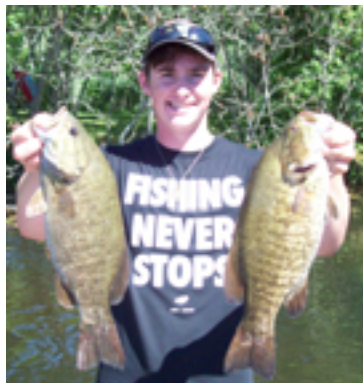
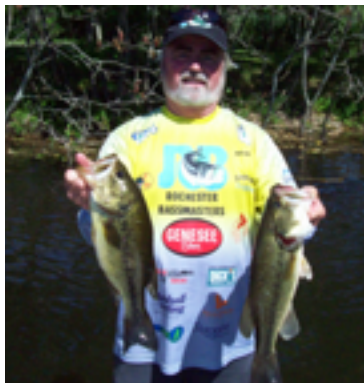
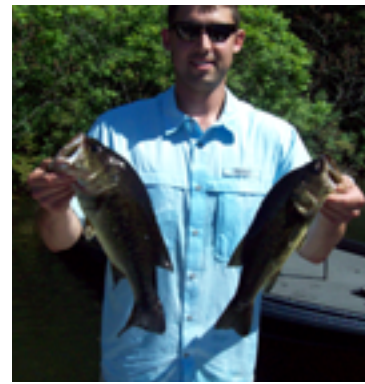
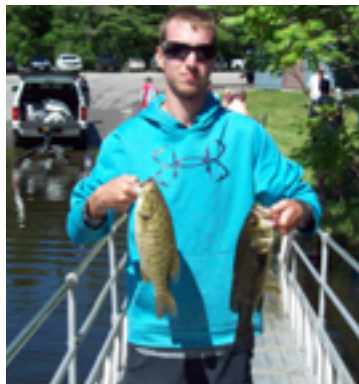
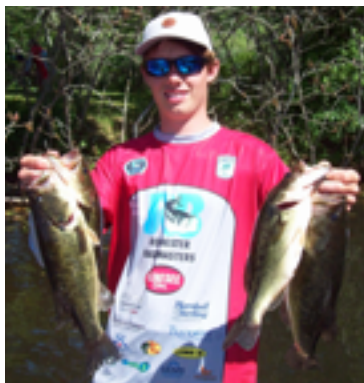
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diver), and a dropshot. The 4.76 lb. limit for Saturday ate the tube in about 12' of water. It was a fun day of fishing and I was hoping that the pattern would hold up for the next day, but it did not."

Rounding out the Top Seven was **Tom Haley** with 13.37 lbs.

Tom said, "I failed to find a reliable smallmouth pattern in practice on Thursday or Friday so I reluctantly decided to target largemouth, at least until I had a limit. Todd Keller and I spent about a half the day targeting largemouth in practice just in case I failed to find smallmouth. Though most fish were caught pitching soft plastics in practice later in the day I thought the area looked perfect for a popping frog. Started out on a Saturday with a good bite and had

a 12.5 lb. limit by 6:30 and my final 13.37 lb. bag by 9:00.

I spent the rest of the day trying to find big smallmouth but like practice, I failed to find them or upgrade my bag. I was pretty disappointed that I still couldn't figure out the smallmouth, but was surprised I wasn't the only one come weigh-in time.

I caught approximately 15-20 keeper largemouth and 2 smallmouth on day 1. Bulk of fish caught on a Spro popping frog or beaver (3/4 ounce) on 40-50lb Seaguar Smackdown braid."



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