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ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

JULY 2018

RAY LAW WINS AT LAKE ERIE



**FROM THE BACK OF
THE BOAT, RAY LAW
WINS HIS FIRST CLUB
TOURNAMENT AT
THE GENESEE BEER
LAKE ERIE AOYS
WITH 24.29 LBS.**

PHOTOS BY: MARK HAROLD AND JAKE ZAREMSKI. EDITED BY: LAUREN ROGERS.



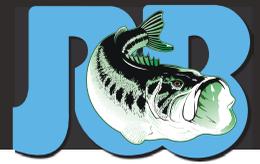
LAKE ERIE

SMALL BOAT HARBOR, BUFFALO NY
ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - JUNE 24, 2018



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WILL ROGER (with his wife Lauren)
2nd Place - 23.72 lbs. & 5.14 lb. Lunker

The 2018 Rochester Bassmasters Angler of the Year Series kicked off at Lake Erie. **Ray Law** weighed in 24.29 lbs. for his first tournament win at the Genesee Beer AOY Series on Lake Erie.

Ray said, "Sunday, June 24 marked the first 2018 Rochester Bassmasters tournament, on Lake Erie. The weather channel stated to expect rain storms and cloudy skies. I had rigged up two drop shot spin rods and paired them both with green pumpkin goby plastics a 3.25 inch and a 4 inch. That's all I brought. At launch we traveled towards the windmills, fishing rocky bottoms. I was using the drop shot to elicit a reaction strike by hopping the bait back. We fished anywhere from 20-30 feet deep. We fished that spot for about an hour and I had caught 3 decent size fish. Disguised under the cover of the fog we sped to the main lake. The sound of churning water, the resonance of a 4- stroke echoing through the misty air put my mind at ease. Arriving to our first stop, the motor is cut and we are surrounded by silence. At that moment, the lake belonged to us. Fishing deep 30-40 ft. of water meant more line in the water, and more patience, but I did not change my technique. I felt that being consistent with what I throw and how I retrieve it was the key to that day to catch fish. I knew I was catching decent size fish

with the drop shot with the goby, why change it. We caught about 35 big fish out on the main lake. I had caught my limit and started culling by 7:30 AM. I couldn't have done it without my boater **Jim Schamp**. Let me tell you, he did his homework. We doubled up several times, laughing, and fist bumping. Most importantly we worked as a team, checking on the fish in both live wells and sharing knowledge. I couldn't ask for a better day to fish even with the rain."

In 2nd Place was **Will Rogers**, Will caught 23.72 lbs.

Will said, "My day started out meeting one of our new members, **Zach Imm**. I had a pleasure sharing my boat with you all day man. I made a journey out into Lake Erie on an eerily calm day running a few miles out which is where I found out I would spend the rest of the day. I was the first and only boat on this spot for the first portion of the morning. There was a boat around 1/2 mile or so away. I was able to boat 5 fish for around 18.00 lbs. within the first hour or so of the event. From there I was able to cull 3 times to get my total bag of 23.72 lbs. My biggest 5 fish limit, to date, weighed in a tournament! At 9:00 AM I boated my biggest fish of the event a 5.14 lb. smallie which ended up as the biggest of the tournament.

All of the fish I boated were on a T.R.D with a 1/5 shroomz head in around 35-42 feet of water. paired with a 744 Douglas LRS spinning rod, a 4000 Daiwa Tatula spinning reel, spooled with 15 lb Power Pro braid tipped with an 8' 10 lb. Seaguar Inviz X leader. I changed colors periodically throughout the day but the number 1 color was the Coppertruse. GP goby was a close second. Drop shot rig produced some fish, but few and fair between. In practice I was able to get them on a number of baits from tubes to spy baits. What a great way to start the season off! Can't wait to see everyone at

Chaumont. If you haven't tried any of the Douglas Rods, do yourself a favor and give them a shot. Great rods at a great price with an exceptional warranty! I want to thank my number one supporter, my wife **Lauren Rogers**. You're amazing and thank you for letting me be away almost every weekend doing what I love. I also want to thank Douglas rods. I switched over this year to this rod company and the guys there made it extremely easy and fun. Not only do they sponsor our club but they make a great product as well. I would also like to thank Woo Tungsten for their awesome products!"

Taking 3rd Place with 23.71 lbs. was **Jim Bianchi**.

Jim said, "There are couple of noteworthy things to comment on related to this event. First, once again, I applaud the tournament committee for selecting this World Class fishery. Lake Erie obviously can present weather challenges but not visiting this venue from time to time would be a shame. Secondly, man did I draw a great partner in Tom Saile. Tom is a student at RIT and this was his first ever partner-draw tournament and I can't say enough how well he approached this event both related to fishing, but more importantly mentally and by asking great

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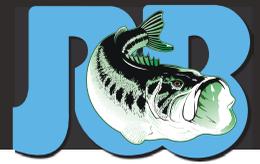


JIM BIANCHI
3rd Place - 23.71 lbs.



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DAVE LIVINGSTON
4th Place - 23.21 lbs.

questions all the while being extremely courteous. It made for such a fun and relaxing day. I fished a drop shot and tube for my fish and honestly was a little disappointed with not getting a true kicker fish or two. Congrats to Ray on his win.”

Finishing 4th was **Dave Livingston**, Dave weighed in a 5 fish limit of 23.21 lbs.

5th Place went to **Scott Killenbeck**. Scott said, “First off I’d like to thank Rod Brown for putting us on a big area that contained many fish and big ones to boot! I was happy to hear when Rod told me where we would be fishing for the day because I had practiced the same area with **Jim Bianchi** about a week prior, so



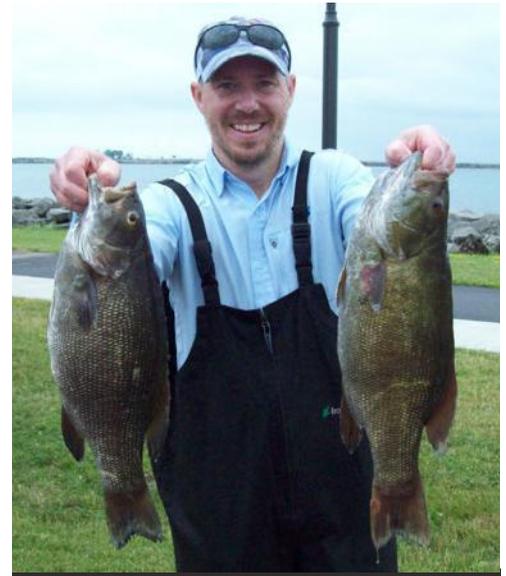
STEVE LEVINE
6th Place - 22.45 lbs.

I already had an idea how I’d be fishing. The day got off to a slow first 20 mins but then the bite turned on shortly after. I would have had a really decent limit by 6:45 if I didn’t have a couple fish come unbuttoned as they came flying out of the water as so many Smallmouth do and spit the hook saying “not today.” There seemed to be a preferred color choice in the swimbait I was throwing because Rod was also throwing one and I was definitely getting more bites on mine. I attempted a few other baits throughout the day but every fish I put in the live well came off of the swimbait. I would say the best bite times of the day for me were in the early morning before the skies opened up and rained pretty hard on us and then the bite periodically picked up randomly the rest of the day coming in short bursts. You know it’s an amazing day of fishing when you get towards the end and a 4 lb. fish doesn’t help you anymore! I have always enjoyed fishing Erie and any other Smallmouth waters because in most cases the guy in the back of the boat usually has similar odds to the boater since it’s more about a larger area than just a particular spot that one person has more access to in the front. Again a big thank you to **Rod Brown** for making the day a lot of fun, we have fished together on several tournaments and it’s always been a lot of laughs and great fishing...Just glad I edged him out slightly, haha.”

Club President **Steve Levine** took 6th Place. Steve caught 40-50 fish that day, with his best 5 fish weighing 22.45 lbs.

Steve said, “Erie being an intimidating lake, I tried in practice to find spots both on the lake and in protected areas in case the wind kicked up too much. In practice several days before Orlando and I tried one of these spots. While hitting this spot we were both hooking fish every other cast. We were doubling up and having a blast. At first I didn’t mind hitting it hard because they were smaller fish there. What we found out was after we caught a bunch of smaller ones the bigger ones started to come out and play. This is when we finally moved off and left it alone.

For the tournament, I was boat 26... ughhh would this spot still be open when I arrived, Yes I slowed down early as not to spook the fish when Verrrrrom **Bill Wittman** comes zipping by and my heart



SCOTT KILENBECK
5th Place - 23.14 lbs.

sunk...did I stop too soon? Luckily Bill went past my spot and stopped nearby... Phewww. I dropped my power poles at 5:45 and took my first cast, smack fish on. It jumps and fish off! Crap, but they are still here so no worries. I catch my next fish and it’s a two pounder. Next one comes off...crap not a good start. I proceed to catch my limit by a few min after 6! Now to upgrade, I check my line and it has a nick in it I tell my self make sure I retie before my next cast as the lure hits the water. I feel the bite and pull it’s a



ROD BROWN
7th Place - 21.80 lbs.

Story and stats cont’d on page 4



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good one and snap. Maybe I should have changed the line before the cast, Dahhhh. I retie and calm myself down and luckily that was my last operator error for the day. By 6:30 I had all 3.5 pounders in the well. Still working the same 60-foot area I upgrade all my fish to over 4 pounds and my catching slowed down to a trickle and nothing was upgrading me, it was now 11ish and I decided to move on. I had only caught 35-40 fish out of this spot. I went out to a shoal where some 4.5 lived and found out the lake was rough and proceeded to catch two Drum but no bass so I went over to the windmills with everyone else. One of my spots had boats on it, one had small fish but my 3rd spot helped me up grade 3 of my smaller 4 pounders...I cant believe I just said that. I also cant believe I am culling out 4 pounders. Now it was time to head in and yes I was on cloud 9...in-fact even though I only placed 6th I am still on cloud 9 catching 22.45, a 4.5 average and close to 50 fish for the day...Thank you Lake Erie."

Rounding out the Top Seven was **Rod Brown**. Rod caught 20-30 fish that day and weighed in a 21.80 lb. limit.

Rod said, "Great time with my non-boater **Scott Killinbeck**. We caught them throughout the day on a drop shot rig, tubes, Ned rig & swimbaits in 38' of water."



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Place	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Weighed	Weight	Lunker	Penalties	Total Weight
1	Ray Law	5	4	24.54	4.91	0.25	24.29
2	Will Rogers	5	5	23.72	5.14		23.72
3	Jim Bianchi	5	5	23.71	4.72		23.71
4	Dave Livingston	5	5	23.21	4.87		23.21
5	Scott Kilenbeck	5	4	23.39		0.25	23.14
6	Steve Levine	5	5	22.45	4.93		22.45
7	Rod Brown	5	4	22.05		0.25	21.80
8	Jim Schamp	5	4	21.86		0.25	21.61
9	Pat Carr	5	5	21.26			21.26
10	Jon Skirent	5	5	20.53	4.43		20.53
11	Bill Wittman	5	4	19.99		0.25	19.74
12	Jake Zarneski	5	5	19.68	4.39		19.68
13	Rich Bush	5	5	19.48			19.48
14	Orlando Roman	5	5	19.21			19.21
15	Dom Cerasuolo	5	5	18.91			18.91
16	Mark Harold	5	5	18.77	4.10		18.77
17	Dave Fenlon	5	5	18.68	4.70		18.68
18	Vlad Kasha	5	5	18.65			18.65
19	TJ Valle	5	5	18.58			18.58
20	Terry Gartz	5	2	19.32	5.13	0.75	18.57
21	Zach Imm	5	3	18.76	4.31	0.5	18.26
22	Nate Kalpin	5	5	18.21	3.75		18.21
23	Merritt Diamond	5	5	18.11			18.11
24	Dylan Mack	5	5	18.08			18.08
25	Kurt Keller	5	4	18.28		0.25	18.03
26	Matt Ferrante	5	2	18.35		0.75	17.60
27	Tige Noni	5	5	17.58			17.58
28	Todd Keller	5	5	17.51			17.51
29	Tyler Muhs	5	4	17.39	4.18	0.25	17.14
30	Tom Haley	5	5	16.64			16.64
31	Tyler Austin	5	5	16.45			16.45
32	Sean Brown	5	4	16.63		0.25	16.38
33	Matt James	5	5	15.85			15.85
34	Bob Manly	5	3	16.12		0.5	15.62
35	Kevin Kinear	5	5	15.58			15.58
36	Brent Russell	5	5	15.38			15.38
37	Tom Saile	5	5	14.87			14.87
38	Fred Ratcliffe	5	5	14.71			14.71
39	Drew Demtoft	5	5	13.48	4.41		13.48
40	Dalton Forte	5	4	13.31		0.25	13.06
41	Kyle Sweers	5	2	13.36		0.75	12.61
42	Craig Carr	3	3	10.70			10.70
43	Wes Dutch	4	4	9.72			9.72
44	Dennis O'Brien	3	3	7.67	3.45		7.67
45	Rich Zajac	3	3	6.83			6.83
46	Chric Burns	3	3	6.17			6.17
47	Don Goerlich	1	1	2.84			2.84



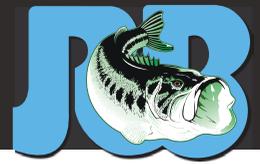
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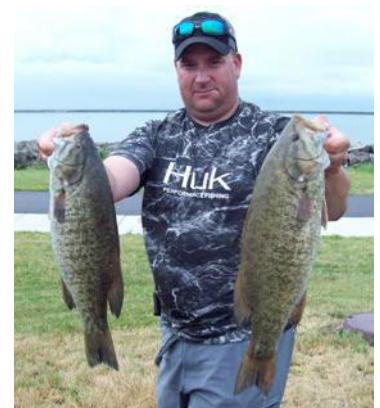
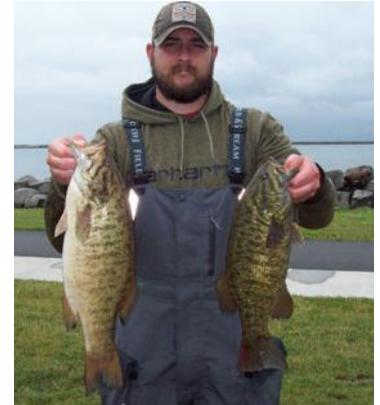


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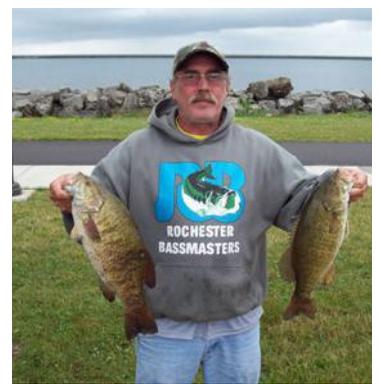
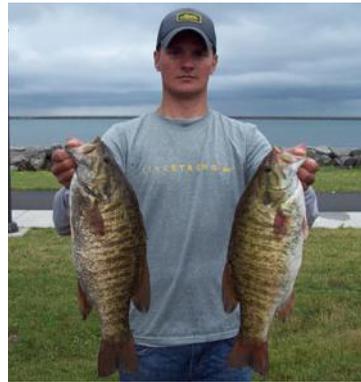
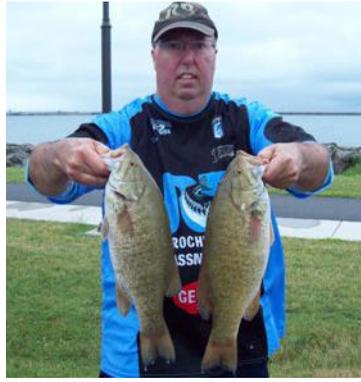
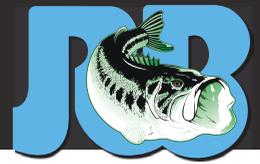


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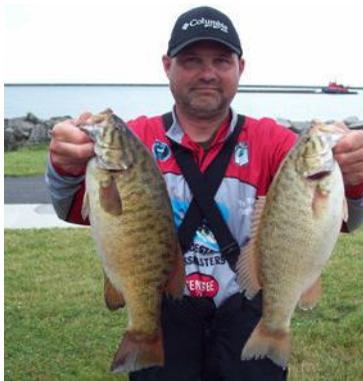
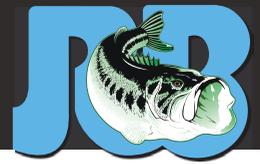
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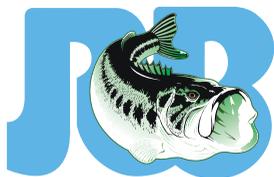
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