

Bergen Bassmasters

Support and Honor our Brave Troops with the Lake George Challenge

Our **PREMIER** trooper support event in 2011 was the 3rd Annual Open Bass tournament to benefit the troops. The 1st event, managed by the Bergen Bassmasters, was held on the Hudson in September of 2009, The Plattsburgh Bass Club managed the 2nd event on Lake Champlain in August of last year. In 2011 the **Lake George Challenge** was held on September 18th and an auction was conducted the night before. To channel our trooper donations via many programs, we sent all revenue to both the **USO of Metropolitan New York** and the **Wounded Warrior Project** (national office). A portion of the entry fee and 100% of the auction revenue was sent to each organization, 50/50. With 34 two man teams and some great auction items, the Bergen Bassmasters took in approximately \$5,000 for trooper programs. Although there were many highlights of this event, three organizations need a special thank you. We thank **Robert Cartlidge** of **The Bass Federation** for once again, providing us with the professional TBF weigh in trailer. His staff, consisting of **Donnie Keeton, Lauren Cartlidge and Tonya Cartlidge**, did a magnificent job of running the weigh-in. We also thank the **National Guard** via **Lt. Ben Bullington** and **Michael Symes** for sending six National Guard - FLW pros from the pro event in Plattsburg (Lake Champlain) to the Lake George Challenge on Sunday. Thirdly, we thank **Mike deAvila, LUNKERVILLE** producer, who fished the event with bass pro, **Joe Sancho**. The Lake George Challenge will become a LUNKERVILLE episode and will be broadcast in a few months. We can't wait to see it!

Providing support from the **USO of Metropolitan New York** were **Liberty Bells Renee Freeman & Larissa Klinger**. The ladies assisted at the Saturday FLW weigh-in at Plattsburgh by singing the National Anthem and then traveled to Ticonderoga to assist us at the Lake George Challenge. **Tony Ntellas** and **Jeff Combs**, of the NYC **Wounded Warrior Project** coordinated support via **Wounded Warrior Kevin Ellicott** and his brother John. Kevin, who was involved with 14 separate Improvised Explosive Device (IED) incidents, and John assisted us during the Saturday auction, at the Sunday blast off and at the weigh-in. Kevin Ellicott is also co-founder of the **Semper Fido** organization and is involved with providing service dogs to Wounded Warriors. We thank Kevin for his service to our country and I ask you to check him out via Google or at **www.semperfido.org**. Additionally, multi tour National Guardsmen, **Capt. Sean Combs (NJ) and Sgt. Brian Irwin (NY)** entered the tournament c/o the National Guard and fished with Top FLW pros **Brent Ehrler** and **Michael "Doc" McGhee**.

Despite weeks of above average rainfall, the big lake remained clear and as usual, aquatic vegetation was scarce. With water temps at 70 degrees, the big smallies were still deep (how about 80 feet!) and whoever had a handle on largemouth tactics did well. I concentrated on a few known largemouth hangouts that produced in the past. I looked for any kind of weed growth coupled with rocks and sunken logs. Such an area produced over 20 keepers for me and my partner **Frank Freguletti**. We used spinnerbaits, Pop R's, worms and senkos and culled out a nice Lake George Limit of 11-6. Another successful

largemouth tactic was to target docks. **LGC Champions Bernie Lindo and Ken Plotts** from Hewitt, NJ engaged in yet another largemouth tactic. The duo pre-fished for three days and had a limit within 15 minutes by drop-shotting in 25 to 30 feet of water. They caught mostly largemouth bass and beat the 2nd place team by over two pounds! For a tough Lake George, Bernie and Kenny's weight of 14-03 was quite impressive. Nailing the **Ticonderoga Walmart \$1,000 5-11 pound largemouth** was **Scott Franck II** who fished with his dad, **Scott Franck Sr** (from Hartford, NY). Scotty Jr caught his lunker on his very first cast of the day on a Pop 'R'! Bringing home the **Walmart \$1,000 smallie award** were the Hewitt, NJ team of **Dave Tierney and Nick Runo**. Not far from the ramp, the **BIG BUCKS 3-01 smallie** fell for a Wacko in 8 feet of water. Lunker honorable mention goes out to Bergen Bassmaster members **Kris Lechman and Dave Lipari** who landed a 5-05 lunker largemouth and with a 5th keeper bass, would have taken 2nd place for sure or perhaps finished first!

Complete Results:

1	Lindo and Plotts	5 bass	14-03
2	Franck and Franck	5 bass	11-15
3	Plue and Aldi	5 bass	11-12
4	Lechman and Lipari	4 bass	11-08
5	Albano and Freguletti	5 bass	11-06 (tie)
5	Schneider and Sanson	5 bass	11-06 (tie)
7	Gore and Kurtzner	5 bass	11-04
8	Labelle and McLeod	5 bass	11-03
9	Musto and Greico	5 bass	11-01
10	Ehrler and Combs	5 bass	10-09
11	Hodgkinson and Wojcrechowski	5 bass	10-07
12	Newton and Williams	5 bass	10-06
13	Squires and Ouillette	5 bass	9-08
14	Sancho and deAvila	5 bass	8-09
15	Infurna and Smith	5 bass	8-06
16	Fogg and Keith	5 bass	8-04
17	McGarry and Goldberg	5 bass	8-00
18	Giachino and Murphy	5 bass	7-15 (tie)
18	Tierney and Runo	5 bass	7-15 (tie)
20	Osman and Kern	5 bass	7-12
21	Guyette and Luciano	5 bass	6-13
22	Mitchell and Cahoon	5 bass	6-04
23	Scarano and Hecht	5 bass	5-13
24	Butera and Ryan	5 bass	5-01
25	Falls and Will	5 bass	5-00
26	Zakrzewski and Peacock	2 bass	4-10
27	Montgomery and Maulucci	4 bass	5-08
28	Bella and Williams	2 bass	3-05
29	Delle Ciaie and Bellinger	2 bass	1-15
	Remaining anglers (Lucas, McGhee, Isham, Streeter, Irwin and Gray) DNW		

I would like to list, in alphabetical order, all parties associated with sponsoring, supporting, or volunteering to make the **Lake George Challenge** a big success!

Adirondack-Champlain Guide Service c/o Pete Casemento
American Sportfishing Association
Atlantic Bassmasters, Long Island, NY c/o Ray Scully
Bass Bustin' Lures, Highland Lakes, NJ c/o Bill Vella
The Bass Federation and the FLW c/o Robert Cartlidge and Bill Taylor
The Bass University c/o Pete Gluszek
Bearpaws Hand Poured Baits c/o Johnny Olsen
Joe Benevenia (flyer/application artwork)
Bergen Bassmasters: **Bob Murphy, Frank Freguletti, Doug Giachino, Bill Vella, John Williams, Kris Lechman, Dave Lipari, Scott Mitchell, Lance Cahoon & Nick Albano**
Best Western Plus, Ticonderoga, NY c/o Allison Kaupelis
The Boat Doc, Lake Hopatcong, NJ c/o Steve Leek
Cabela's c/o Mark Biggs
Capital District Marina, Cohoes, NY c/o Allan Weber
Crown Trophy , River Edge, NJ
Daiwa c/o Randy Birchler
Dick's Sporting Goods c/o Jerry Copsinis
www.Fish307.com, Lake George, NY c/o Jeff Goldberg
Dee Framm (Copy Support)
French Creek Marina, Clayton, NY c/o Wilburt Wahl
G•Loomis c/o Bruce Holt
Greenwood Lake Marina, Hewitt, NJ c/o Elena
Michael Iaconelli, Bass Pro
LUNKERVILLE and NY BASS c/o Mike deAvila
Mega Strike – When Every Fish Counts c/o Bobby Urhig
Morris County Marine, Kenvil, NJ c/o Doug
The Musky Squadron c/o Capt Huntzinger
The National Guard c/o Lt. Ben Bullington and Michael Symes
The New Jersey TBF c/o Tony Going and Mike Hart
Norm's Bait and Tackle, Crown Point, NY c/o Norm
North Jersey Marine, Mt. Arlington, NJ c/o Harvey Knight
NY Giants, East Rutherford, NJ c/o Rob Curtis
NY Yankees, Bronx, NY c/o Anthony Odierno
Optima Batteries c/o Shelia Sapetti
Orvis Outlet Retail Store, Lake George, NY c/o Mac Noonan
Outdoorsman Sport Shop, Lake George, NY c/o Garry Nelson
Pepsi Cola, Rye Brook, NY c/o Denise D'Arbonne
Ramsey Outdoors, Succasunna, NJ c/o Bob Murphy
Ranger Boats, Flippin, Arkansas c/o Sherry Wagoner
Renaissance Hotel, Rutherford, NJ c/o Toni Pinto
Reynolds Marine, Lyme, CT c/o Tom Reynolds
River Basin Sport Shop, Catskill, NY c/o Tom Gentalin
Joe Sancho

Saratoga Tackle and Archery, Saratoga Springs, NY c/o Tim and Rose
Snug Harbor Marina, Lake George, NY c/o Marissa Palandrani
The Thayer Hotel, West Point, NY c/o Christine Mazzoli
Hank Timmerman Bass Fishing
Town of Ticonderoga, NY c/o Debra Malaney
Walmart Super Center, Ticonderoga, NY c/o Vera Kugler

And for 2011, in supporting the troops, the **Bergen Bassmasters** were not over. At press time, Bergen Volunteers were scheduled to set up and work a USO-AT&T trooper phone card donation exhibit at **Cabela's** in East Hartford, CT. The event was scheduled for Veteran's Day, Friday November 11, 2011. We thank Cabela's for supporting the Lake George Challenge and for hosting the 11/11/11 Veteran's Day event. **In conclusion, all trooper support events and projects could not have taken place without the many volunteers from the Bergen Bassmasters and I sincerely thank everyone involved!**

Nick Albano
President, Bergen Bassmasters (NJ TBF – FLW)
www.bergenbassmasters.com