

Update

4/14/08

Don't forget to log onto www.flta.net for this year's FLTA tournament schedule. We encourage you to join the club and become active in our tournaments. Membership is only \$20.00 I assure you that you will enjoy the tournaments along with the camaraderie and friendships. Each tournament is only \$25.00 per boat to enter plus the club puts in money raised by club functions to be paid out at each tournament. For complete rules and membership information check out our web site at www.flta.com The first FLTA tournament is 4/20/08 on Canandaigua.

My next scheduled charter is Monday 4/21 thus check back for the latest Keuka Lake fishing report.

Update

4/1/08

Thank you everyone that stop over to the Flea Market. I do not have a final tally but at last count we had over 1100 people go (does not include kids) through the sale. The FLTA had to make a run for 30# more sausage thus I am sure the food met or surpassed everyone's expectations

The Avon Anglers will be holding tournaments each Saturday in April. The first tournament will be on Canandaigua 4/5 then to Keuka 4/12. Check out the complete schedule at <http://www.avonanglers.com/>

The FLTA has announced our tournament schedule for 2008. For those interested in fishing tournaments this is your chance to do so inexpensively as far as entries are concerned. We travel to Canandaigua, Keuka, Seneca, Cayuga and Owasco. For complete details, club information, and more check us out at <http://www.flta.net/>

Update

3/1/08

Fore all of you outdoors people don't for get to stop by the Finger Lakes Trollers Annual Flea Market and Sale Sunday 3/30/08 at 9:00 am at the Clute Park Arena in Watkins Glen. As many are aware it is a great chance to see old friends, talk shop, and find deals to stock up your boat, tackle box, hunting cabinet etc.

Update

2/03/08

I have been asked by Jim Fehrman with the Henrietta Gander Mountain to put on a presentation about fishing in the Finger Lakes. The show will be Thursday 2/28/08 at 7:00 pm. The presentation is open to all and asks that everyone come to the presentation. Gander Mountain will be handing out discount coupons to all the attendees. For those that cannot make the event I can e-mail the Power Point presentation – just e-mail your request and I will forward all of my secrets!

Update

1/13/08

Talk about an early start. I got a phone call from a client out Pennsylvania call that wanted to have two of his college buddies try their luck. The weather cooperated and we had a chilly start but it warmed up nicely with the temperature reaching the mid 50's and very little wind until later in the day.

The fish were also in the mood for a bite or two. The first rod off was the dipsy rigged with my winter set up and it continued to be the moneymaker. The riggers were active 55' to 85' most of the day. We did find bait on the graph and stayed near the clouds most of the morning. They ended up the day with 26 fish boated and they took 11 Lakers to the fish fry. I hope every trip was as good as this one for the coming year. Trips like this even put a smile on the captain's face!

Update

1/01/08

Well we got through another year of fishing on the Finger Lakes. We had many repeat customers along with meeting many new clients. We look forward to seeing you all again this year.

**Update
3/21/07**

**** Don't forget 3/25 is the annual Fishing Flea Market at the Clute Park Arena in Watkins Glen. ****

This event is sponsored by the FLTA and has many vendors present selling new and used fishing equipment, poles, reels, lures, and more. Capt. Mick Clark will put on a seminar about fishing Lake Ontario. Food beverages, and raffles will be available. Doors open at 9:00 am. There is a 2.00 donation at the door. Come and support the Finger Lakes Trollers Association.....or better yet join the club and enter our tournaments for some fun times and great camaraderie.

1/1/07 Charter! Yes you read right, charter. I had on board the Martin's Construction guys (Wesley, John Ray, Irvin, Allan, & Lester) that built our new house. Many thanks to these guys as well as to Vernon for such a fine job they did for us. Many days and nights are spent just looking at the view and the lake waiting and wonder what it will bring next.

Now back to the real news. The charter was filled with action as these guys took turns on the rods. The weather was sunny and by mid-day the mercury rose to around 50 degrees. We found the action near the Glenwood Club and across to Pochahonas. The fish that were active were suspended although we did mark a lot on the bottom but no takers. We brought the riggers up and things happened all day long. The dipsy's were hot along with the riggers. We pulled boards as well but did not take any fish from the top 30 feet. We even had a lead core demo. I say demo because again the top was dead.

**Update
October**

10/22/06 We were in full battle for the last tournament of the year on Canandaigua. The club does not allow Lakers to the scales since they are spawning and we want to leave them alone so nature can do it's thing for this species. Well that makes the fishing tough and so did the weather. Wind was blowing, snow was coming down then the sun was out and then it disappeared. Waves were big and made it more difficult when trying to run the boards but we managed.....poorly. We caught many rainbows and browns but all were the too small to bring to the scales except for one that weighed in at 3 lb. 3 oz. Four guys came to the scales empty handed and Tom Randall finished in first place. We ended up in 3rd place for the year behind Russ MacDowall in second and Jerry Perrin as the new FLTA Champion for 2006. Congrats to Jerry and all the other teams that fished the FLTA in 2006.

10/08/06 FLTA action on Seneca. Seneca. Ooh Seneca. I do not know what it is but I just can't seem to put it all together on this lake. Hampster was with me and we pounded the salt plant for several hours and caught the off fish (browns, landlocks, rainbows) you need when going to the scales to be competitive. I do not remember the numbers but we caught at least 5 Browns and 15 Landlock with an occasional laker mixed in. With 2 hours left we picked up and headed north to a spot on the west side we like to fish for Lakers. We no more than set up when we took our largest fish for the day that added to our total (Thanks Tom). We finished a disappointing 4th and slid back to 4th for the year in the standings with one tourney left.

10/2/06 Today we had on board Nathan Martin and his girlfriend from West Virginia. They stuck to the fishing all day and when it was all over they boated 29 fish. We stayed in near the port most of the day but did slide up to two mile and finished near Gold Seal. – On a personal note thanks N8HAN (did I remember) for your text message and making it home safely. I hope to see you next year with the misses.

Update September

9/24/06 We were fishing the FLTA tournament on Keuka. We spent most of the morning near the bluff and had great action but were limited on the size so we made a move back towards Branchport. We fished the hole near the Knotty Pine and began to get quality but not the quantity as earlier. The move paid out and we finished in 3rd place.

9/10/06 A little FLTA action was in order on Cayuga. We launched at Dean's Cove and headed south in the darkness. We set up off of Shedrake Point and were ready for action at first light. It didn't take long and we had a rip on the port dippy with the usual spin-doctor fly setup. We had an average day for Cayuga and finished 4th for the day with 18lb.6 oz. in 3 Lakers, which put us into second place for the season.

9/8/06 Charters on Keuka both Friday and Saturday. Nothing different to report on the Y pond as things were normal. Speaking of normal the bunch Pat Perry brought were all but normal! Just kidding, we had a great time and lots to talk about. Hope to see you all back next season.

Update 8/8/06

On **8/5/06** The Tim Foster family from Rochester were on board with a 3-generation crew. I truly enjoy seeing these family trips. Everyone did a great job on the rod. Sure we lost some but we certainly caught our limit, which makes everyone happy including the Captain.

8/6/06 was the day of the honeymooners. On board from Delaware were Jacqui and Herman Cook who celebrated their wedding vows on the Ketchum Fish boat (my kind of lady – great job Herman). We only had 2-3 poles set when the first rod fired. After resetting the dippy we had another rod fire on the downrigger. After about 40 minutes I finally had all six rods in the water for the first time of the day. Things were quite for a while then they started to feed again. When all said and done they had a hefty bag of filets headed back to the farm in Delaware.

8/8/06 brought an interesting group to the boat. Frank McKee, Tom Weaver and Bob Hamm all hailing from the New Columbia, PA area were up for a six-hour charter. Although these guys were middle-aged men – all successful businessmen in various careers - they were like kids on this trip. They had a blast. They wanted to bet on everything and would do anything to win the bet. I had to step in and net the fish since I was afraid they would purposely knock the fish off just to win a bet.

We lost several fish on the dippy – the wire line is not the most forgiving stuff – thus had to remind them tip up 101. Well Bob was the least experienced fisherman but was the quickest leaner but slowest reeler thus caught the [biggest fish of the day](#), which really bothered Tom. Tom however lost the biggest fish of the day - probably the biggest fish ever to be caught in Keuka since a: we never saw it so we can say this and b: I have never lost a little one. And Frank; well I can't say anything bad about Frank since he booked the charter.

Update 7/19/06

Two boats required for this trip. The Wagner / Brownlow families were in town to sample a fish dinner by the fire. Although fishing was slower than normal everyone had a turn on the rod. The fish had a case of lockjaw but not every fish thus they went home with Lakers on the menu. The fish that have been holding at the south end have moved. We have had some heavy rains and brown/muddy water was the culprit. Clean, clear, blue water is the norm for Lakers but the best time to go fishing is when you can!

Update

7/5/06

Back in the charter mode we go. On 7/2 I had Trish Mike and her husband on board for a morning charter. We limited out before their 4 hours were up. The dipsy bait rigs were the answer for today. The Mike's have several dinners for the freezer when they return to Pennsylvania.

7/4/06 started very early for the Frank's. Fred Frank and his son Kyle we up to keep the family tradition of fishing on or about fathers day alive in memory of Willy Frank who has past away. Having lost my father as well it is very special to see families come together and take time out of busy schedules to spend time with our loved ones, as nobody knows what the future may bring.

The morning started at 5:30 with a quick hit off the bat. We had a steady pick but we also marked a lot of fish holding in close to shore and to the head.

7/5/06 another repeat customer as well as a family trip. This time it was the Hopkins family having their turn on the rods. All went well and they too went home with a limit of Lakers that are headed for the fry pan.

Update

6/25/06

Cayuga was our next stop with FLTA. We manage to muster a 2nd place finish with 24lb 9 oz catch that included a 4lb -14oz Rainbow in the mix. The fleas are increasing and so are the weed pods on top of the water. We headed straight for our usual spot at Sheldrake and work quite awhile in the general area. We then headed northeast towards Longpoint but soon ran out of action. After moving around we ended up back at Sheldrake to pick off the rainbow to call it a day.

Update

6/11/06

The FLTA tournament trail took us to Owasco Lake where we launched at the South End Marina. The fishing on Owasco has tailed off from our previous trips but still produced some fine fishing. The state has introduced Walleye to the lake, which may be part of the reason the catches are getting smaller, but I do know this lake has been fished hard past several years. Word has been out on the size of the fish as well as there are several large tournaments on this lake that contribute to the smaller fish coming to the scales.

We managed to take a 4th place finish with 17lb 6oz. with 3 lakers. The dipsy's were the hot item again with the usual set up.

Update

5/7/06

The FLTA (<http://www.flta.net/>) was back in action on Keuka for our second tournament of 2006. What a difference from our first showing. We had our usual Keuka Lake operation in full swing and the captain had things happening from the start. Our first fish in was a 6+ pound laker. We were running four - four leader rigs plus two Dipsy's and two downriggers. Two rigs high (20'-60') off the outriggers and two rigs deeper (70' to 130') at the boat. The downriggers were rigged with a sawbelly rig with a stinger that was down 150' to 175'. The dipsy's had their usual implements and were out 165' on the wire. We fished the Branchport arm down to the Waterfront. The better marks were back in the arm so we turned around and stayed on them all day. Then it happened, the dipsy fired and line was stripping from the reel as Doug Buckley grabbed the rod. We slowed the boat down and got lines out of the way knowing what can happen if things aren't perfect. [12lb. 15oz. Laker!](#) Just what the captain needed. Bill VanHusen, Chad VanHusen, Doug Buckley and I finished the day with 30 fish on the counter, kept 7 and lost 0. We won the tournament with 22 lbs. 12 ozs. and had the lunker for the day as well. This now puts the boat in a three-way tie for second place and some renewed breathing room.

Update

5/3/06

We made the haul from Hammondspport to try our luck on the big pond – Lake Ontario. We launched at the Point Breeze facility and headed west to 170' FOW. The cores are out 7 & 8 colors with orange dodger w/ blue Howie in tow. The other core has chartreuse dodger with an NK watermelon. Dipsy's were firing 130' and 150' with #2 setting and had the usual spin doctor fly combo. Only three hits off of the riggers but the one was a beauty but broke the line. As of 12:00 we had 2 bows ([7 & 8 pounds](#)), and a mixed bag of juvenile-kings & coho's. As we took this picture the Dipsy fired and Jerry's hands were full – sorry rod hog! We ended the day in 250' FOW and 5 miles west of the launch. It was lonely out there, we only saw two other boats and heard no radio traffic. The final numbers were: 16 boated, kept 11 and lost 1 king in the high teens. I need to thank Capt. Ron Penna - Buckaroo Charters for some insight as to location, colors, and other details. Another great source for information is www.attheoak.com This site provides up to date information and is updated 2-3 times a day for very accurate reports.

Update

4/24/06

The Finger Lakes Trollers Association (www.flta.net) started the 2006 season on Canandaigua 4/23. We had 15 boats competing for the top spots. Sean Morris hauled a 13lb. 8oz. laker to the scales to take first place with a total weight of 20lb. 11oz. Second place went to Dick Allington and Tom Randall who were the only team to bring in 5 fish to the scales. Their total weight was 19lb.7ozs. Ketchum Fish finished a disappointing 9th place. No excuses here, just never made it happen. We fished at the south end and found good marks but no takers.

Update

3/19/06

Nick Yanniello made the trip up from Allentown, PA to fish Keuka Lake. Nick and his family rent a place on Keuka each year and wanted to get the inside scoop on the weapons required to knock off a few trout. The water was green due to recent rains and run off thus fishing was slower than normal. We did manage to pick the pace up and produced fish off of dipsy's and downriggers. Nick also wanted to gain experience with the Seth Green rigs so we deployed them as well for a little while. By the end of the tour we did limit out and Nick is on his way to Dick's Sporting goods for more supplies. Once you're bit...you're hooked! I'm sure Nick will recover but until then good luck this summer at the cottage.

Update

2/25/06

Sorry for the long delay in updating this webpage but the winter cold has kept the fishing to a minimum. During February I did fish Keuka when we had a bright weekend. The usual tools of the trade were in the water with the downriggers banging bottom to stir up the mud and wake up the lakere. Dipsy's were firing with 210' wire on #2 setting with a spin doctor followed by a green Howie. Got to have old faithful in the water if you want to catch fish.

Update

1/13/06

Who ever said Friday the 13th was a bad luck? Not when your captain was born on a Friday the 13th! With the weather hitting a high of 66 and the water temp at 42 who could not resist wetting a line or wash a few lures to start the New Year. Well Fred Buckley, Doug Buckley, and Tom Randall couldn't so we went to Keuka. We launched in Hammondspport at 10:15 and fished the East Lake road side down to the Gateway then went over to the West Lake road side near Two Mile and Pocahontas when the biting began. I told Fred the major was 12:05 and was a 4 alarmer (tidal charts / moon phase) thus fishing should be really hot. We had one triple and several doubles. The riggers were firing near bottom however the biggest fish came off the dipsy. Little different set up for the dipsy this trip since the normal dipsy-spin doctor-fly went unscathed. The lure of choice for the riggers this time of year is the Rainbow Rattlin'Thin Fin (why did they discontinued this series). We ended the day at 1:15 with the final tally at 19 caught and kept 10.

We took most of the fish to Tootie at the Office Bar in Bath as she has perfected my [Fish Dip Recipe](#). For those who have not tried this simple yet tasty recipe you're in for a treat when you do. Thanks Toot!

For those who have contemplated a charter on Keuka Lake, this time of year is great time to fish. The lake rarely freezes over to prohibit fishing but may freeze around the launch area if the wind quits long enough. The boat is a hard top so you can get out of the weather plus we also have a heater on board to keep warm as well. **All of the weekends in April are already booked**, but the rest of January and February are mostly open. I can also accommodate a weekday should you choose. Give me a call at 607-857-0187 (cell) or 607-569-2325 (home).

Update 11/6/05

The final FLTA tournament was held on Canandaigua Lake and no Lake Trout are allowed in your catch. Thus we set up at the north end of the lake and fished the shallower parts of the lake with stick baits and brighter colored spoons. We also stepped up our speed trying to catch the off fish (Browns, Rainbows, & Landlocked Salmon). We caught many smaller ones but none that we over 16" to be club legal for weigh in. The wind picked up big and we where in 3 footers and more from time to time. The wind was out of the south and we were getting pounded at the north. The guys fishing in Woodville did the best and were also out of the weather. Only seven fish came to the scales with the biggest only a 3 lb. 11 oz. Brown. Not a very good showing for what Canandaigua has to offer.

The FLTA tournament trail is over and we finished in fourth place. Not bad considering we had two tournaments we did not fish (one due to an engine failure and the other due to a schedule conflict). Our worst finish was a ninth place however we did win two tournaments (Keuka twice) and also finished two times in second place on Cayuga & Owasco. We also managed to get two lunker prizes from Cayuga and Keuka.

Congratulations to Matt Bryant, Mike Burt, and Dave Dimmick (the **Iron Duke** boat) on winning the FLTA Club Championship. Second place went to Joe Matwiejow followed by Russ MacDowall in third. The club had 20 different entrants for the season, which was also a great to see.

Update 10/23/05

The FLTA tournament trail took us to Seneca Lake for the next to the last tournament of the year. Carson, Chad and Bill were along and our hopes were high to remain club champions for the second year in a row. This tournament would most likely determine the [FLTA](#) club championship for 2005. Well disappointment set in right at the launch. The serpentine belt came off when the boat started. We put it back on and re-fired the engine without any more difficulties. Once the boat was up to temperature we were ready to launch however alarms started going off as the water temperature began to rise. Done for the day! The lake water pump that pumps water to the engine pump failed. The belt came off due to the impeller debris be lodged inside the pump. Our day was done faster than it started. Our championship repeat was over due to a \$23.00 impeller failure. With only one more tournament left in the season we still have the possibility to finish in second or third place. Lets hope for the best.

Update 9/28/05

We were on the run again with the FLTA for more action on Owasco Lake. The water level was extremely low making it difficult to launch at the South End Marina. Being an inboard I had to have 4-5 guys stand on the bow to get the prop and rudder out of the mud just to launch. This seems to happen often in the fall on Owasco. Thankfully it is a muddy silt and not hard and rocky. Once we launched we began to fish the south end and stayed there all day. The Old Foggy boat was near us and we did our usual dance in a circular motion trying not to interfere with each other. Well Russ (Old Foggy) finished in first and we took second. This put us in a tie for overall points with Iron Duke (Mike Burt, Matt Bryant and Dave Dimmick) and just one point ahead of the

Dipsy Diver team (Joe Matwiejow). Our second place catch was 17 lb- 13oz consisting 3 lakers and 1 rainbow while Russ had 18 lb- 8 oz with only 3 lakers.

Update
9/11/05

We were off to Cayuga for a FLTA tournament with great expectations. We launched at Dean's Cove and headed for Sheldrake Point. Fishing was slow but we managed to pick some here and there. Boats that fished the south end did really well. Anyone who fished further north than Sheldrake and Long Point did the worst. We finished 9th for the day and it moved us back in the hunt for the club championship. Scott Bodine posted the heaviest weight of 30 lb-14oz with 3 lakers and 1 landlock. Scott won lunger with an 11 lb-6 oz laker.

Update
09/03/05

I had a charter on Keuka Lake today with Dave VanAmburg from Bath. It was a family outing and the kids did a great job on the rod. Once the action started we were into them for several hours then the bite would quit. It wouldn't take long and then they were on the bite again. The downriggers were firing in the 49' to 78' in the morning. By afternoon riggers were in the 85' to 110'. Dipsy's were hot all day on the #2 setting with 115' to 150' of wire using the normal dipsy-spin doctor-fly combo. Leader length seemed to be longer than the normal 18"-24" but once we got them back there @ 30" the fish turned on.

Update
08/12/05

Back to Irondequoit for some more king action! Well that was what we were hoping. Today I had Fred Buckley, Mike Burt and Cliff Davis on board. Fred has been bitten by the fish bug and of coarse Mr. Burt would never pass up a fishing trip and Cliff has never been on Lake Ontario so way not try it again. Fred caught a king early that weighed 17-18 pounds on the NK Kevorkian. After that fish we had several hits but did not hook up. We caught several little ones that we released but never really had much action. We did get a big rip from a steelhead on the dipsy. The dipsy was at 290' on #2 with a 12' leader then an NK spoon when it hit. By the time I got to the rod the beast was out of the water doing some acrobats with my spoon in it's mouth never to be seen again. Fred was really impressed with this display and we all hoped for more action. We picked up and ran out north to the 24 - 25 bar after reading a fishing report on the web but still no takers. The wind was picking up and so were the waves so we decided to pack it in. On the way in we passed a fellow charter boat captain and he too was having a bad day so we didn't feel lonely.

Update
08/11/05

Had a last minute charter thanks to Expediter (Mick Clarke). We fished the west side of Keuka from two mile to the head and caught several on each run. The rain came for a brief stint but the fish continued to bite for the most part. The action was 80'-120' FOW with #44 bubblegum, #50 lime green and silver, frog, and frog glows. This crew put many back and kept enough for dinner. It was a great time had by all and was especially nice to see three generations enjoying the day together.

Update
08/08/05

We took the boat up to Irondequoit and fished Lake Ontario. Aboard with me was my good friend Chuck Mason his wife Gail and son Alex. We set up in 80-90 FOW out front of the bay in the dark. The first king hit shortly thereafter. We messed around for a couple of hours in this general area and had three in the box when we decided to head out into the deeper water and join the Anaconda and Expediter. This turned out to be a good move. After setting up again we had several hits right away. We were in 160- 200' FOW and the NK Kevorkian (burgundy center with black edges and silver back) was our best producer. Frogs, dipsy-spin doctor-fly were

also working. At the end of the day we had six kings between 18-24 pounds, released 3 kings and 1 laker. Over the weekend I smoked 42 pounds of salmon fillet from this trip.

Update
08/07/05

The Bath Elks Lodge #1547 had their 14th annual Leon F. Murphy Memorial Fishing Derby on Keuka. The Ketchum Fish boat had a couple of regulars and a couple of newbies. On board were Danny Crowe, Doug Buckley, Fred Buckley, Bill VanHusen and Bob Wheeler. We fished around the head most of the morning but motored up to the bluff for the afternoon. We finished the day with 22 on the counter but did not produce the big ones but enough for second place. Keuka Big Foot was in the derby and finished in first place with a great catch. Big Foot had a 6, 8 and 10 pound laker (hoping to have pictures soon). Congratulations to Keuka Big Foot - Dick Roller and his crew Tom Beers, Toby Beers, Scott Sprague and Herb Higgins. I have had a standing bet with Tom Beers (Bobber) my boat against his boat for this tournament since the first one. Well I paid Bobber under protest since he was on Big Foot's boat and not on his own boat – he better split that ten dollars with Big Foot! (I hope to have this picture soon also).

Update
08/05/05

The Ketchum Fish boat was in action for an evening charter along with the Keuka Big Foot boat. In all we had eight guys fishing. It was the New Jersey folks on the Keuka Big Toot against the World on Ketchum Fish (one fisherman was from Chile, 2 from Florida, and 1 New Yorker). The first fish caught was on Ketchum Fish as well as most fish caught and lost. The Keuka Big Foot had the biggest, which was caught by the youngest on board. The hot weapon of choice again was the dipsy- spin doctor- bait rig. The fish were all over in the water column so several riggers were firing along with the dipsy's. The hot lure for Keuka Big Foot was and has been stick baits.

07/05/05
Update

Dave Hopkins and his boys Carter, Alex, Jarred and their friend Neil Foley were out for a charter today. We left the dock @ 6:15 and began to catch fish right off the bat. We kept the boat on a loop from the marina across the head and back. Carter the youngest and Alex were superior on the rods than was the oldest bro Jarred. Jarred made me work extra hard but finally he managed to boat a fish after loosing a record 6 fish! Intermitting rain moved in but did not put a damper on the bite. We had a big rip on the dipsy-spin doctor-bait rig in front of the marina where several big browns have been taken lately. At the time we had a fish going on the starboard dipsy when he hit and Jarred was on the rod. The fish crossed over the entire spread of lines and continued to strip line. Jarred had his hands full as I was clearing some lines and getting the starboard dipsy fish taken care of. You guessed it, make that #7 that he lost. Oh well, we all had fun picking on him and I am sure that next time he will be much better. We finished the day at 11:00 with 12 in the box, 10 lost and released 4. Carter even helped the captain [fillet the catch](#).

06/19/05
Update

Well the FLTA was back in action for our first trip to Cayuga this year. Aboard the Ketchum Fish boat were Doug Buckley, Dan Crow, Carson Godwin and Bill VanHusen. We launched at Dean's Cove and motored south to Sheldrake on the west side of the lake. We ran two downriggers with bait at 27' and 37', two four leader rigs on the surface and 2 four leader rigs off the outriggers at 15' and 30' and finished the spread with 2 dipsy's. The dipsy's never fired once during the morning so we switched tactics mid morning. By 10:30 we had three lakers headed for the scales. Our biggest laker was 8 lb. 8oz. which took lunger money for the day. Carson commented that you know you are having a great day when you are releasing 5& 6 pounders. The hottest weapon was the [42 second spoon](#) which is an NK28 with ladder back tape. Two of the lakers we weighed came on this spoon and the other laker came on bait off the ball at 42'. We also boated a 2½ pound landlock salmon to finish our catch. Our total weight was 25 lb.-9 oz. which put us in second place. First place went to Iron

Duke - Mike Burt, Matt Bryant and Dave Dimmick with a total weight of 26 lb. 12oz. Mike and crew had 3 lakers and 2 browns. Third place went to Joe Matwiejow with 23 lb. 3 oz. Joe had three lakers and 1 rainbow. The FLTA allows one mans legal limit thus the key is to boat some the off fish (browns, bows and landlocks) to fill the creel. Iron Duke was the only boat to have 2 off fish on the scales and won by just over 1 pound. The final numbers for the boat were 21C-11K-1L.

The next FLTA event is the Seneca Challenge July 23 & 24 on Seneca. This event is the biggest money tournament that the club puts on and consists of two days total weight per captain. Prize money is also available to the lunger of each day.

06/11/05

Update

Today I had a charter on Keuka Lake with three generations of the Frank family. Grandfather Willy Frank, son Fred Frank and grandson Kyle Frank were on board for a little fishing. For those not familiar with the area the Frank's are descendants of Dr. Konstantin Frank founder of Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars. Founded in 1962, Vinifera Wine Cellars was the First Finger Lakes winery to produce truly world-class wines <http://www.drfrankwines.com/>.

We launched in Hammondsport and began trolling around the head of the lake with good results. The dipsy fired almost immediately with an average Laker brought in by Kyle. Willy not wanting to be out done took the next dipsy, spin doctor, fly set at 90' and hauled in an impressive 7 ¾ lb lunger. Willy was impressed with the fight it put up. Being on the wire and a 10' dipsy rod you can feel every movement of the fish. Willy stated it is the biggest Laker her ever caught and was truly pleased. Our numbers for the 4-hour charter were 16 caught, kept 7, and lost 2. Willy was back at the dock @ 10:30 and was off to the vineyards to spray (at 80 yrs old)!

6/05/05

Update

The Finger Lakes Trollers Association (www.flta.net) had our fourth tournament on Owasco. We had our largest turnout, which was no surprise for the club members. Many went over on Saturday to spend the day scouting, preparing, and coarse some camaraderie. What was a surprise was the size of the fish caught. The largest being a Laker weighing in at only 5lb 12 oz. by Junior Oakes. This is very unusual for Owasco and appeared to have many captains second-guessing what was going on. Going to fast, to slow, wrong colors, spoon to big, to small, run bait, try a fly, run deeper, etc. But once everyone weighed in we all had similar days and now asked what is up with the lake itself. Owasco does have a lot of tournaments thus too much pressure or is it because the DEC is stocking walleye or not enough bait to go around? Who knows?

At the end of the day we (Carson Godwin, Doug Buckley, Chad and Bill VanHusen) finished in fourth place with 3 Lakers weighing in at 14lb. 4oz. Our numbers were 24 caught, kept 7 and lost 2. We did gain points over the current leaders (Joe Matwiejow, Russ MacDowall and Matt Bryant) for the overall club championship. Jim Stewart finished first with 19lb 3oz aboard his new boat (new to him) a 232 Sportcraft Fishmaster. Way to go Jimmy! The dipsy's were firing the most followed by the bait off riggers and the rigs were very slow so we will be sure to bring the logbook when we return September 25th. For more information about the FLTA check out our website at www.flta.net. We are always looking for new members as well as more boats in our tournaments.

5/19/05

Update

I was invited to fish Lake Ontario aboard the Sea Cin out of Wilson, NY on 5/19/05. Captain Dan Dietzman was at the helm and Dave Caloren his mate. The weather was very calm with a slight wind out of the west. By mid afternoon the wind changed direction and was blowing 10-15 from the northeast. Waves 1-3 started to build and the fish turned off. Lead core (10) colors off the boards seemed to fire the most. Cpt. Dan was running his Niagara (NK-28 Silver w/ Purple & Chartreuse ladder back) spoon for all of the spoon action. We did have some dipsy action w/ 90' wire out. We had a couple of short strikes and did manage to drag a skip for a while

and we released a 29" laker to be caught again. At the end of the day the captain had nine silvers to file. Some have already made it to the smoker! For those who have not fished the Big O lately you need to do so. The fishing to catch ratio is very high however the size is not there just yet and is only a matter of time. The DEC is reporting record catches last year and have also reported the same should hold true for 2005 as well.

5/16/05

Update

Sorry! I have been very busy and have been neglecting my duties to update the web page. The Finger Lakes Trollers Association (www.flta.net) began the 2005 season on Seneca Lake 4/3/05. Turnout was very low due to poor weather for most, I was in Pinehurst, NC enjoying several rounds of golf...my priorities are mixed up!

The second FLTA tournament was 4/24/05 on Canandaigua. Joe Matweijow had 4 browns and a laker for a total weight of 30lb. 4oz. Joes biggest brown tipped the scales over 11 pounds. Then along came Charlie Zwanka with a 12-14oz brown. What a pair of [trout!](#) Joe finished first and Ketchum Fish team finished 6th.

We fished the third FLTA tournament on Keuka Lake 5/15/05. Carson Godwin, Chad VanHusen and his Dad Bill were on board and we boated 23 trout. The dipsy, spin doctor, fly combination w/ 140' wire was the producer again. Chad went to net a **big** laker on this combination and got the net caught on the fly and needless to say we lost the fish. Well the captain was not very happy and immediately gave Chad the netting 101 lecture along with a brief demonstration followed by hands on training and a practice session. For those that have not had this lesson:

- 1) never put the net in the water until ready to net the fish
- 2) never reach to net a fish
- 3) always stab the net into the water under the fish and lift.
- 4) if you do catch the lure and the fish is still not in the net, turn the net inside out, thus what was outside of the net is now inside of the net.

Well Chad redeemed himself and we went on to **win the tournament!** Just had to bust on you Chad like I said I would. The next FLTA tournament is June 5th on Owasco Lake. For those that have not fished Owasco I would strongly recommend doing so. The fishing can be slow but if they are hitting the size will surprise you. It is not uncommon to see several fish in the double digits come to the scales. Don't be afraid to mix up your lure selection with little tear drop lures on this lake.

4/01/05

Update

Chuck Mason and his family came up from Delaware to fish and had a day of fun. The dipsy, spin doctor, fly was the weapon of choice followed by bait rigs on the riggers. The boards never fired once however the water temp was a bit cold for the top water action. Fishing was slow for the most part however we manage to produce some action all day long.

2/06/05

Update

Super Bowl Sunday! I was charged with getting some fresh fish for the Tailgate Party at the Office Bar in Bath. Tom Geukes, Doug Buckley, Bill Van Husen, Chuck (Rickshaw Chowie) Rumsey and I left the port at 8:30. It was a cool 26 degrees however the sun was doing its job and warming things up very nicely. We set up 2 Dipsy's first (150' wire w/ #2 setting) followed up with a Spin Doctor and fly. Bill said something isn't right here, it keeps taking line outFish On Bill. The first fish was the biggest Laker of the day weighing in at 4lb 7 oz. We set up 4 downriggers plus the two wires. The Lakers continued to be on the bite and we finished the day 14-8-3 (Boated-Kept-Lost) however I do believe the 3 lost were just those that "Rickshaw" claimed and the other must have never lost any. The sun kept burning away and when we picked up at 11:30 it was over 50 degrees, another beautiful day on Keuka Lake. Once "Rickshaw" gets back to Japan (leaves the 15th) he said he would e-mail the pictures and I will post them here.

Complements to the cook at the Tailgate Party... Dave Remchuk. He put fish on the grill with two different toppings, one being a Hawaiian marinade. Very Tasty. I also made my [Fish Dip Recipe](#) to go with the festivities. The Fish Dip is always a big hit at any party and is very easy to make.

12/30/04

Update

We (Keuka and I) have shifted from fishing to duck hunting. The weather has been very windy and cold which is good news for water fowlers. On 12/27 duck season opened again here in the southwestern zone and the mercury seemed to freeze as well. It was 14 degrees in the morning and warmed up to 17 by the afternoon. Ice has started to form in the shallows of Keuka. Several fishermen have been boring holes on Waneta and Lamoka Lakes however I have not heard of the outcome or the thickness of the ice. Several other area waters (Loon Lake, Silver Lake, Cuba Lake, Bradford Pond, and Smiths Pond) have been targeted for the panfish as well. Get your mousie grubs, spikes and wax worms ready however be sure to check the ice for thickness!

11/29/04

Update

My dog Keuka (black Lab) and I went fishing Monday 11/22/04 on Keuka Lake. Fishing was slow but was running only two poles and two lures (I wish Keuka would get a license...we could run two more rods). I ran downriggers and planer boards which the latter proved to be the most productive. We boated several small LLS (landlocked salmon) as well as some lakers. All the fish came in 5' to 40' feet down over 75' to 140' of water.

11/09/2004

2004 Summary

The tournaments are over for 2004, however I still will be doing charters on Keuka Lake all year round. Fishing in January and February is usually outstanding if the weather cooperates. It has been an exceptional year on Keuka as well as on the other area Finger Lakes. The number of fish boated this year is way up however the size is a bit smaller which translates to even better fishing to come in 2005. The most rememberable charter I had this year when Jeff Martin from Mechanicsburg, Pa. brought his Brother, 2 Sons, and his Mother (80 years old)! She was a riot and we all had fun limiting out on scenic Keuka Lake.

Finger Lakes - As you may know I belong to the Finger Lakes Trollers Association (www.flta.net). The FLTA Tournament schedule has us fishing on Canandaigua, Keuka, Seneca, Cayuga and Owasco two (2) times each year. The Members fish for prize money each tournament and get points as to where you place. At the end of the year you take your 8 best tournaments to find the club champion. The club puts on a great party each year for participating members and pays out the end of the year prize money as well. This year was good to the Ketchum Fish team... we won the FLTA Club Championship! I would like to first like to thank my various crewmen: Carson Godwin, Danny Crowe, Doug Buckley, Mike Bishop, Duane Hicks, Chad and Bill Van Husen. Each helped out throughout the season (if and when he could get up...Dan or didn't let the banty rooster get you ...Duane). We had a lot of fun and still won the Club Championship, which is what is all about. Joe Matwiejow put up a great fight but faded the last two tournaments. Please visit the FLTA web site for updates, rules, standing, and of course the tournament schedule so you too come join the fun and comradely.

The Ketchum Fish boat fished several Avon Anglers (www.avonanglers.com) again this year with some success. On 4/10 we fished the Keuka Tournament and finished 3rd. The following week Bill Van Husen, Doug Buckley, Danny Crowe and myself fished the Canandaigua tournament and took 1st Place, 2nd Place and won Lunker with a 9.8lb Laker ([Photo of the Winning Team and Fish](#)). What a great memorable day.... Doug (Len) still has cramps! For those who have not fished any of the Avon Anglers Tournaments I suggest you do. The money is good and the club does a professional job at each one.

Len also fished the 13th Annual Leon Murphy Memorial Fishing Derby this year with me and continued my winning streak for this tournament to 4 straight years. We need some more Elk members to participate, which is open to any Elk member. For more information please contact me via e-mail at brianketchum@etcnpt.com On a side note of a side bet, Tom Beers (Bobber), was excited that I personally was out of town and could not fish the Elk's fall tournament however I let my crew take the boat out for this one on their own. They had good intensions but came up short at the scales. Who pays who is still being discussed in Bobbers mind but not in mine?

Lake Ontario - Fantastic this year. I made several trips up in August and September for some explosive king action. We launched out of Irondequoit mostly however the sharks were everywhere. We did the usual mix of Browns and Steelies with an occasional Laker in the mix. On 8/13 we had 22 kings on and boated 15 of them, the biggest being 22+lb. The action was fast and furious each trip. Again the numbers were high but the quality was not there. During LOC Derby it usually takes a 39-42lb shark to win the grand prize however it was only 33lb this year. I read some data this year that stated the fish count is up 45% over last year with fewer trips taken. Charter Captain Mick Clark (Expediter) had an outstanding year again reporting the same findings. I am saddened to report that on 8/22 while fishing with friends Tom Guikes, Tom Muller and Dan Walker I caught a 23lb 13oz Lake Trout.....and no we were not entered in any tournament! Mr. Muller was sleeping in the cuddy so once he woke up we said we caught and kept a laker, its in the live well check it out. Well we thought he was going to faint. The fish is bigger than he is ...trust me. Some other memorable moments on the big pond was when my stepson [Steve \(Buck\) Dickerson](#) boated a 24-4 king, my Uncle [Richard Rice](#) boated a 23-3lb king and co-worker [Ed White](#) boated a 23lb king all on different trips. The best site for up to date fishing on Lake Ontario is <http://www.attheoak.com/>

Lake Erie - We made the annual trek out to Lake Erie for the Lake Trout gig again this year in late June. This has been an ongoing tradition for around seven years. Mike Burt (Iron Duke), Tom Randall (Five To One) and I went to Westfield, NY and launched out of Barcelona to do some laker action back in 1998. Well it didn't take long and we were hooked. Each year more and more boats join us for three days of fishing. Several other club members have hauled out to Lake Erie with us, Russ MacDowall (Olde Foggie), Joe Matwiejow (Dipsy Diver), Bob and Freal Ames (Team Ames), and Ed Bonicave (Cornbinder) to name a few. Others that came for the experience were Pete McClure, Sam Ruocco, Matt Bryant, Dale Bryant, Mark Dildine, Cliff Davis and Dad – Jan Ketchum.

The list below is what some of the guys boated: Russ had mounted 23+ LT, Pete had a 23+ LT mounted, Sam released 22+LT, Matt released a 24+ LT, and Cliff released several @ 20lb, Joe released several 18-21lb and the boat record to date 25lb 4oz that was boated by myself. Ironically we had 3 hits within 3 minutes. One we never hooked up, Cliff boated a 17lb 13oz LT the same time I boated the 25-4 LT.... thank you Joe for the netting!

In 2003 Ketchum Fish hooked up with Jim Hanley - Northeast Outdoors <http://www.northeastoutdoors.com/> and did a TV show on Lake Erie that has aired on Empire Sports Channel as well as Fox Sports. We had to wait for the sun to rise before we could do any filming. Once we put the lines in the action began. The wind did pick up along with the waves, 3-4 footers that were tough on the cameraman by midday. We had caught enough fish for the program and ended the day with a lunker laker weighing in at 18+ lbs. Two weeks after we did the TV shoot, Jesse Wykstra fishing near Dunkirk caught the new, New York State record Lake Trout weighing in at 41 lb 8 oz!

Lake Erie is a quiet little secret for trout fisherman. Lakers (Lake Erie Captains call them Mud Chickens) are plentiful and average in the teens with 20+ lb not unusual at all. Steelies are also prevalent. Cornbinder and his wife released over 90 Steelies in one week in 2003. I have caught some juvenile kings as well as some 10+lb browns while targeting the mudders. When all else fails run a worm harness behind the dipsy for some walleye.

