



2025

YEARBOOK



2025 SUNSET BAY WALLEYE SHOOT OUT - "The Premier Walleye Tournament of The Great Lakes"



Hello Tournament Anglers,

We would like to thank you for participating in the 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out.

This years tournament was our 15th Anniversary tournament and we were very pleased with the growth and value our anglers experienced throughout all phases of the tournament.

The weather had a signifanct impact, not so much on the fishing but certainly on the venue; my hats of to all of our volunteers that worked 'double-duty' in preparation and in the rebuilding of our venue from the Thursday wind storm.

This publication is a new addition that we are going to provide annually as our "Tournament Yearbook" to provide a summary of highlights of this years event.

Thank you to all of our partnering sponsors as they are the key to our success and allow us to grow every year; and provide a world class tournament for all of our anglers. We are already building out an even bigger and better 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shootout with some incredible advancements already underway. Our first of 5 tournment publications for the 2026 Tournament will be sent out November 1st. Stay tuned for continuous updates and advancements throughout the year.

Registration for the 2026 tournament is currently open; along with the Big Wave Calcutta. Entry forms are included in this year book for your convenience; get registered today and take advantage of the expanded early bird prize opportunities.

Should you have any questions or comments on any of the enclosed information, please feel free to contact me directly at anytime. I look forward to hearing from you.

Tight Lines!

Capt. Don Ruppert

Capt. Don Ruppert - Direct – 716.435.4137 / Email – donaldjruppert1970@outlook.com

2025 Tournament Champions



Knee Deep Sportfishing – Don Skellie and his team with back to back championships



The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!

2025 Official Results – Top 15 Main Event

Division: SSBWS

	Total	Big Fish	Team	Team#
1	36.80	6.31	DON SKELLIE-* KNEE DEEP	168
2	36.46		ASHTON LAIRD-* LIME LAKE MARINA	198
3	35.73	6.69	DAN HANLEY-* DRAG'N'LURES	35
4	35.73	6.59	COLTON KNEER-* LIMIT TAKERS	134
5	35.18	6.52	CRAIG KAWSKI-* REEL PARADISE	161
6	35.09	6.64	FRANK SIMONICK-* PRINCE OTTO	81
7	35.00	8.58	GARRY OLSEN JR.-* REEL HARD SPORTFISHI	129
8	34.99	6.22	COLIN GAWRONSKI-* SWEET LIFE	4
9	34.49		JESSE NUSSBAUM-* 5 ALIVE	42
10	34.43	9.62	ADAM DIANTE-* VALLEY OUTDOORS	193
11	34.37	8.02	CHUCK POHLMAN-* CATCH THE BEST	85
12	34.31	6.47	JOE PAPALIA-* CRS	92
13	34.13	8.84	WAYNE FORSTER-* TEAM SHIP FACED	114
14	33.96	6.34	PETE SZKLANKA-* TRIPLE THREAT	12
15	33.91	6.75	NICK SCHMIDT-* UNDERDOG	87

Congratulations to Don Skellie and Knee Deep Sportfishing on their back to back Championship victories. As we have had teams win the event more than once; this was the first time to have a team win it consecutively.

Great job to 2nd Place (Ashton Laird – Lime Lake Marine) and 3rd Place (Dan Hanley – Dragin Lures) on their respectable finishes.

Another honorable mention was the tie for 3rd and 4th place in the main event; the biggest fish of the teams box was utilized to determine the winner. It was only 0.10 lbs between them. Nice work to Colton Kneer and his team for their 4th place finish

Complete fleet standing are available on our website at www.walleyeshootout.com

Largest Walleye – Main Event



Adam Diante – Valley Outdoors (Center) with John Studley (right) and Brad Sischo (left)

TOP TEN LARGEST WALLEYES OF MAIN EVENT

Big Fish	Team	Boat#
9.62	ADAM DIANTE-* VALLEY OUTDOORS	193
8.84	WAYNE FORSTER-* TEAM SHIP FACED	114
8.58	GARRY OLSEN JR.-* REEL HARD SPORTFISHI	129
8.40	TYLER HALE-* WALLEYE REAPERS 1	99
8.34	TODD DOTY-* HER EYE DIA	108
8.17	NATE GERNATT-* CRANK YANKERS	32
8.02	CHUCK POHLMAN-* CATCH THE BEST	85
7.67	JUAN DELAROSA-* MAGIC JAUN	61
7.66	BRIAN RANKEN-* PEARL JACK	8
7.59	DAVID PETERS-* HEAVY HOOKERS	13

Big Fish Friday Winners



1st Place – Rob Oram / Eye-Con Fishing Team (Kevin Holobicky & Matt Moscicki)

TOP TEN WALLEYES OF BIG FISH FRIDAY

	Total	Big Fish	Team	Team#
1	9.31	9.31	ROB ORAM-* EYE-CON	80
2	8.30	8.30	RALPH EADES-* ROCK N REEL	27
3	8.04	8.04	THOMAS MIRANDA-* POLE DANCER	58
4	7.97	7.97	RICHARD BALIVA-* CRAZY IVAN	191
4	7.97	7.97	RON MORCIO-* WHO'S YOUR UNCLE	127
6	7.94	7.94	CHUCK SABATOSE-* MUDDY CREEK TACKLE	28
7	7.91	7.91	CRAIG SLEEMAN-* MIDNIGHT EXPRESS	50
8	7.51	7.51	WYATT SHAFFER-* PREQ ISLE FISH & FAR	14
9	7.47	7.47	VINCENT MANCUSO-* ANDIAMO OUTDOORS	173
10	7.40	7.40	DAVID LEWANDOWSKI-* BOTTOM BOUNCERS	68






YAMAHA

Pre Fish Pot Thursday (Fish Donkey)



The Thursday pre fish pot was the second year we offered this and we seen significant interest and growth with this addition. We had over 25% growth, going from 30 teams last year to 38 boats the 2025 tournament. Registration is now open for the 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out (Fish Donkey) and is capped at 100 boats for 2026.

Largest Walleye

	1. Chris Logan 27.75 VERIFIED
	2. Jon Jones 27.50 VERIFIED
	3. Michael Fox 27 VERIFIED

Download the Fish Donkey App, its free and register today !





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Calcutta Highlights

Calcutta Option	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Captains Calcutta	Don Skellie Knee Deep Sportfishing	Ashton Laird Lime Lake Marine	Dan Hanley Dragin Lures
Main Calcutta	Don Skellie Knee Deep Sportfishing	Ashton Laird Lime Lake Marine	Dan Hanley Dragin Lures
Rookie Calcuatta	Don Skellie Knee Deep Sportfishing	Ashton Laird Lime Lake Marine	Dan Hanley Dragin Lures
Big Eeye Calcutta	Adam Diate Valley Outdoors	Wayne Forster Ship Faced	Gary Olsen Reel Hard Fishing

Veterans Calcutta

We were exdtremely proud to offer our new veterans calacutta for the 2025; and it will be a standard for the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out. The 1st year for this clacutta was won by William Sam and Team Fishin' Crew.



Ella Monaco performing the National Anthem on stage Thank you to all those who have served!



The Big Wave Calcutta Highlights



The Big Wave Calcutta has grown to be an extremely popular part of the tournament. Congratulations to this years Big Wave winners.

2025	Green Fleet	Main Event	Blue Fleet	Main Event
1 st Place (\$10,000.00)	Dan Hanley (Draggin Lures)	3 rd Place	Don Skellie (Knee Deep)	1 st Place
2 nd Place (\$6,000.00)	Colin Gawronski (Sweet Life)	8 th Place	Jesse Nussbaum (5 Alive)	9 th Place
3 rd Place (\$4,000.00)	Joe Kramer (Team Kra-Mar)	16 th Place	Ron Morcio (Whos Ur Uncle)	18 th Place

We have opened the 2026 Big Wave Calcutta registration. This is open to the 1st 40 boats registered for this segment. Please find the registration form at the back of this yearbook. Register today and secure your spot for the 2026 tournament.

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Thank you to Mark McQuown and everyone at Garmin for their continuous support of our tournament. Their involvement and partnership is greatly appreciated by our staff and tournament anglers alike. Their commitment to our event is truly second to none.



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Thank you to Eliska and the entire team Runnings. The advancement of our partnership has truly accelerated the growth of our tournament. Their contributions every year are tremendous and very much appreciated.



Partnering Sponsorship / Excellence Award


Last but certainly not least; another incredible partnership that has evolved from our beginning is Mr. Sal Lima and our friends at Camping Wolrd. Their generosity, support and innovative ideas have truly help us provide unmatched value to our fleet.




CAMPING WORLD. | **goodsam.**



Irving Location

 1-800-421-2464

 11099 Route 5 Irving, NY 14081



Motor Madness Winners

Thank you to all our local marinas and their tremendous support and contributions



Mark Dixon & Gary Pudlewski of Olson Marine



Mr. & Mrs. Tom Means & Curtis Loveless
of Bow & Stern Marine



Mr. John Zimdahl of Collins Marine &
Team Reel Nutz

The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!



TACTICAL FISHING GEAR

TAKE THE BATTLE
TO THE WATER!



The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!

Community Appreciation

We take great pride in supporting the local communities within the Western New York region. I would like to thank all the anglers who's generosity this summer made for such a positive impact for those less fortunate. Raising over \$6,000.00 in contributions to several great organizations.

Your efforts generated \$2,420.00 in cash doantion and a modest amount of non perishable food donations for the Silver Creek Food Pantry. We were proud to present this at the Sunday morning Breakfast of Champions.



The 50/50 drawing generated \$2,100.00 in cash donations for the Sunset Bay Volunteer Fire Company. Other donations collected, organized and provided to



Thank You Again, as the 2025 tournament set new records in fund-raising for them.

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The logo for Collins Marine features the brand name in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The text is framed by a stylized, swooping graphic element that resembles a wake or a pair of wings, with a small bird silhouette integrated into the upper right portion of the design.

COLLINS MARINE

The Warrior Boats logo consists of the word "WARRIOR" in a large, bold, italicized, sans-serif font, with "BOATS" in a smaller, similar font directly beneath it. The text is centered within a thick, black, oval-shaped swoosh that has a slight 3D effect.

WARRIOR
BOATS

The Robalo logo features the brand name in a clean, bold, sans-serif font. The text is partially enclosed on the left side by a thick, black, curved swoosh that tapers off to the right.

ROBALO

Tournament Photos



Thank you to all our teams/anglers

The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!



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FEBRUARY 2026

Thurs. 19: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Fri. 20: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Sat. 21: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sun. 22: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



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WXR2260

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Our Home Town Team

My team and I cant thank our Sunset Bay volunteers enough, they are simply amazing. Over 40 great friends stepped up on so many levels to assist our visiting anglers to ensure that our tournament is the most successful event possible. We couldn't do it without them.



Early Bird Prize Winner

It pays to secure your spot within the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out early. On behalf of LakeShore Hardware, we would like to congratulate Mr. Ken Rodland of Northeast, PA who won the 2025 Early Bird Prize package.

Lakeshore Hardware generously donated a complete turn-key Ariens Snowblower package. The efforts and generosity of Randy and his staff are truly something special.

Please visit them often for all your equipment needs !





16th

2026

Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out - Professional Walleye Tournament

Team Name :	
Boat Information:	(Make/Model/Length/HP) -

ANGLER INFORMATION: (2-6 anglers per team)

Please fill each angler's information completely and clearly

Team Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

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Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Teammate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Tournament Entry Fees	Amount	X Selected
Main Event Saturday	\$500.00	
The following are all optional parts of the tournament.		
Big Fish Friday	\$100.00	
BFF - Must be paid at time of main entry to fish this portion.		
Calcutta's		
The following four (4) Calcutta options can be paid at the time of main registration, or they can be paid at the captains meeting		
1.] Captains Choice	\$250.00	
2.] Main	\$100.00	
3.] Rookie	\$50.00	
4.] Big Eye	\$100.00	
Total Enclosed	-	

Due Date is May 1st, 2026

2026 Expansion/New Teams

Position secured on first registration received

Registrations are to be paid in US Funds to:

Donald J. Ruppert
P.O. Box 359
Hamburg, New York 14075

Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The premier walleye tournament of the Great Lakes!

2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out - Professional Walleye Tournament



16th Year TEAM WAIVER

Team Name :		Address:	
Team Master:		Cell Phone:	

In consideration of acceptance of this entry, to participate in the 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out.

I, (print) _____ for myself, as well as for my participating team members, my heirs, my executors, sponsors, administrators, support groups, fans and any other associates waive, and release absolutely and unconditionally any and all claims that we, we as defined but not limited to the above, may become entitled to for injury or damage, and release the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out (SBWSO) it's ownership, officers, directors, all organizing groups, and any other organizers, sponsors, and their active members, servants, agents or employees, from any claims, demands, damages, suits, obligations, actions or causes of actions arising out of any loss, injury or damage to my property incurred while attending at or participating in this tournament, notwithstanding any such loss, injury, or damages which may arise by reason of negligence of any other organizers, sponsors and their respective members, servants, agents, or employees.

In addition, I, individually and for my participating team members also declare that all are aware of the 2026 rules and regulations of the forthcoming tournament. This also includes that I, individually and all participating teammates receiving payments, winnings, prizes from the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out are responsible for any/all required state and federal taxes. The Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out is not accountable for any taxes of any kind paid to recipients.

In addition, by signing this waiver, I also declare that I, individually, have made aware and explained in detail and confirmed with my participating teammates, and with their approval, that they understand the waiver, its contents and the ability of the Teams Master (myself) to sign on their behalf applicable to the forthcoming 2026 Sunset Bay walleye Shoot Out.

Myself and my teammates also fully release and approve, for the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out to utilize any/all video, photography and/or audio collected by the SBWSO, as we see fit.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I further release any recourse which I and my participating team may now or hereafter have resulting from any decisions of the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out and/or organizers, sponsors, and their respective members, servants, agents, or employees.

I confirm I have read this waiver and release and understand its contents, intentions and effect on my legal & equitable rights. I am signing it voluntarily for myself, individually as well as for all members of my participating team; fully releasing the Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out from any claims.

Team Master Name (Please Print)

Team Number (if assigned)

Team Master Signature

Date Of Signature

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16th

2026

Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out - Professional Walleye Tournament

BIG WAVE CALCUTTA REGISTRATION FORM

Team Name :	
Boat Information:	(Make/Model/Length/Hp) -

ANGLER/TEAM INFORMATION:

Please fill each angler's information completely and clearly

Team Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Tournament Option	Amount	Paid
2026 Big Wave Calcutta	\$1,000.00	
Total Enclosed	-	

Mail Form/Payment To:

Donald J. Ruppert
P.O. Box 359
Hamburg, New York 14075

We are excited to again offer the very popular Big Wave Calcutta for the 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out. This High-Value Calcutta is open to the first forty (40) teams registered. Two (2) Fleets of 20 boats will be drawn randomly to determine the Green and the Blue Fleets. Each fleet will have 100% payout and pay the top three (3) positions for each fleet.

\$1,000.00 PER BOAT

Position	GREEN FLEET	BLUE FLEET
1 st Place	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
2 nd Place	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
3 rd Place	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00

Bonus: Highest weight between the two fleets will win an entry into the 2027 Tournament (\$500.00)

This will sell out fast, don't miss out, get registered today!

Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The premier walleye tournament of the Great Lakes!



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Congratulations to all of winners and thank you to all of our anglers, sponsors and volunteers for an incredible 2025 – 15th annual Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out. Thank you for being here and we look forward to 2026. Stay tuned for some incredible announcements.

GARMIN®

The 2025 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out – The Premier Walleye Tournament of the Great Lakes!



SAVE THE DATE

The 2026 Sunset Bay Walleye Shoot Out is proud to again return on our annual 3rd Saturday of July for next year. The success of this year's 15th anniversary was tremendous, and we are already building out an even bigger event for 2026.

OFFICIAL 2026 DATES (Main Event – Saturday, July 18th – 2026)

Captains Meeting 7-16 / Big Fish Friday 7-17 / Breakfast of Champions 7-19

- The 2026 tournament registration is now open, the team registration form and waiver is available online @ www.walleyeshootout.com. Take advantage of the enormous early bird prizes
- The registration for the Big Wave Calcutta is also open. This form is also available online and open to the first 40 teams registered. For more information/details text 716.435.4137 or 716.912.5180



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