

10th Annual Michiana Steelheaders Buffalo Bill Memorial Lake Tournament April 16th, 2011

Registration

*5:00am - 5:30am Michigan City Yacht Club: All times Central Daylight Time
(Michigan City Time)*

Dates and Hours

- The tournament will be held Saturday, April 16th, 2011. Blow date Sunday, April 17th, 2011.
- The tournament schedule will be as follows (all times are Central Daylight Time).
- Registration 5:00am - 5:30am CDT
- Captains Meeting 5:30am CDT
- Fishing Period starts with a Shotgun Start 6:30am and runs until 1:00pm CDT
- You must be **signed in** at the Weigh-In Station by 1:45pm
- Weigh-In starts 12:30pm - 1:45pm CDT
- The contest will be considered official if a total of two (2) hours are fished. Prizes will be awarded based on total points accumulated during the fishing time that was available.

Entry Fees

- \$75.00 per boat. \$100.00 after April 10th, 2011.
- \$25.00 Captain Membership Dues (Captain must be a member of the Michiana Steelheaders). All Captains must sign the entry form and waiver. Failure to sign will be cause for elimination from the tournament and all winnings and fees will be forfeit.
- In case of emergency, which prevents an entrant from participating in the tournament, said entrant may apply to the Tournament Committee for a refund of their entry fee. The decision to refund shall be made by the Tournament Committee and its decision shall be final. No refunds will be given after April 15th, 2011.
- In the event of cancellation of the tournament due to weather or other reasons beyond the control of the Tournament Committee, said committee reserves the right to retain up to 10% of the entry fees paid in order to cover costs incurred. All entry fees not retained will be returned to the entrants. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in this regard.
- \$25.00 Big Fish Pot (Optional) will be split 3 ways (50/30/20 percent) to the top 3 heaviest fish weighed in among the competing boats.

Prizes

- Cash prizes will be based on 50 boats.
- 1st \$1,200; 2nd \$700; 3rd \$400; 4th \$200; 5th \$150; 6th \$125. We will pay down more if there are enough entries.
- In the event of a tie, prize money will be divided equally between the winning participants.

Scoring

- The Tournament Committee will determine the winners and their decision shall be final.
- Winner will be determined on the total accumulation of points based on the following:
 - Ten fish at ten (10) points per fish. Bring only 10 fish to the Weigh-In.
 - One (1) point per pound carried to the full resolution of the official scale. (i.e. 45.47 lbs = 45.47 points).
- The following species shall be eligible: Maximum number allowed of each species as follows:
 - 10 Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Atlantic Salmon
 - 6 Brown Trout, 6 Steelhead/Rainbow Trout
 - 4 Lake Trout
- Any coolers with more than the allowed number of fish will be subject to the discretion of the Weigh-In Committee taking out the largest of the fish to comply with the rules.
- **All fish except Lake Trout** have to be over 14 inches for this tournament. Lake Trout must be over 20" for this tournament.

Boat Identification

The Tournament Committee will furnish each contestant with an identification number, tournament flag to be displayed on your boat, and a fish log to be returned with the fish at Weigh-In.

Start and Finish

- Count down start in front of pier heads at 6:30am.
- No lines allowed in the water until 6:30am.
- Fishing time 6:30am – 1:00pm. Good luck.
- The official clock for the contest will be kept aboard the Tournament Committee boat.
- The Tournament Committee boat shall issue a call 15 minutes prior to the end of a fishing period and again at the end of the period (**VHF Channel 68**). Only fish aboard the boat at the end of the fishing period may be entered.
- **Each boat must have their catch at the Weigh-In Station and signed in before 1:45pm or they will be disqualified. No exceptions!**

Fishing Rules

- There are no distance limits set on where a tournament boat may fish.
- Once fishing period has begun, no tournament boat may be transported outside of the Michigan City limits by trailer until that period has ended.
- Each team member must possess an Indiana Fishing License and Trout Stamp as required by law. When fishing in other state waters the regulations and creel limits of each state's DNR apply.
- All fish entered must be fairly caught on hook and line in accordance with the conservation laws. No meat lines or other similar devices may be attached to any part of a boat or downriggers.
- There will be a maximum of 9 rods in the water at any one time, with no more than two (2) lures per line in use. Dodger, attractors, or similar hook less devices do not qualify as a lure.
- From the start of a fishing period, until the catch is deposited at the Weigh-In Station, a boat entered in the contest may not run gunnel to gunnel with any other boat, nor may any object of any kind be passed between any participants in the contest and any other person. Violation of this rule is automatic disqualification.
- All DNR rules apply, so catch and release is allowed.

Weigh-In

- The Weigh-In Station will be open at 12:30pm.
- At the close of the contest period a crewmember is to proceed immediately to the assigned Weigh-In Station. There, they will deposit the catch, and one crewmember will stay with the catch.
- The crewmember must remain with the catch until it has been officially scored and the score sheet has been signed.
- Each boat must proceed directly to the Weigh-In Station or their slip and walk their fish to the Weigh-In Station.
- You have 45 minutes from the end of the fishing period to be at the Weigh-In Station.
- Weigh in your ten (10) heaviest fish.
- Bring only ten (10) fish to the Weigh-In, the following species shall be eligible and the maximum number allowed of each species is as follows:
 - 10 Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Atlantic Salmon; (over 14 inches)
 - 6 Brown Trout, 6 Steelhead/Rainbow Trout; (over 14 inches)
 - 4 Lake Trout; (over 20 inches)
- Big Fish will be determined by weight.
- Failure of a boat to proceed directly to the Weigh-In Station (whether or not any have been caught) may be subject to disqualification. All fish caught become the property of the Tournament Committee who may at their discretion, return said fish to the entrants.

Disqualification or Penalty

Any participant who violates any of the rules of the contest or acts uncooperative or in a disorderly manner shall be judged disqualified or penalized at the discretion of the judges. The judges may also at their discretion, deduct any number of earned points from any contestant for violation of the tournament rules or improper conduct. All tournament participants shall be duly bound to report any and all violations of the rules they observe on the boat.

Cancellations

- The tournament judges may cancel the tournament at any time when in their opinion they feel fishing conditions could be dangerous to persons or property. The committee will announce by radio one half hour before the start of the tournament as to whether or not the contest will be run, on **VHF Channel 68**.
- The tournament judges may decide to delay the start of the tournament or to shorten the tournament due to deteriorating weather conditions. A delay in the starting time will be announced on **VHF Channel 68**. The shortening of the tournament will be announced by radio and there will be at least a fifteen-minute warning by the committee boat before the shortened period's end on **VHF Channel 68**.
- If the tournament is shortened all boats must proceed in the same manner as they would have at the end of the normal tournament.
- All Captains must decide for themselves whether conditions are safe for their boat and crew to participate in the tournament and are ultimately responsible for their own safety and the safety of the boat and crew.

Protest

- Any and all protests must be made to the tournament judges before 2:00pm on the day of the alleged infraction, which is being reported.
- A panel of three judges appointed by the Tournament Committee will resolve all disputes. Their decision shall be final and binding.

Rule Changes

The committee may change or modify any of these rules. Any changes will be announced at registration.

Liability

- Every reasonable precaution will be taken by the Tournament Committee to protect persons and property during the contest. However, neither the Michiana Steelheaders Club, nor the tournament committee, judges, officers, directors, nor employees of the same are responsible for the safety of persons or property of participants as regards to accident, theft, and damage by fire, vandalism, or any other cause.
- All participants further understand and agree to hold harmless the aforementioned groups and individuals for damages incurred as a result of participation in the tournament in whatever form or manner said liabilities or damage might be incurred.

Good Luck!!! Don't forget to Monitor VHF Channel 68