

Hello Fellow LCAA Members and Derby Anglers,

Welcome to the 27th Annual Big One Derby.

With last years fish being some of the heaviest fish weighed in 15 years, many anglers are excited to see what this years "Big One" Derby brings. We have endured yet another crazy spring/early summer of high water levels. We can only pray that Mother Nature holds some of our 1 and 2 year old chinook, so that we keep a steady age balance in our fishery. Unfortunately, the young fish love the current and often travel into the Spokane River and beyond by instinct. This has always been the case with our fishery, but some years are harder on the age classes than others. Keep your fingers crossed.

I would like to personally thank the Idaho Fish & Game for reducing the daily possession limit to 2 chinook over 20inches, per person, per day. As a club, we have been in a 4-day "Big One" derby format for 3 years. We shortened the 9 day tournament to 4 days in order to help do our part as a club, to retain fish and boost the fish size by killing fewer spawner's. There is no doubt that we are part of the reason that last years "Big One" fish were some of the largest fish in many years. Our 26 inch minimum length derby entry, is also a way we are trying to achieve the goal of having larger fish in our fishery again. There is no doubt that when the big fish return to the scales, more anglers of all ages will be out in search of the "Big One".

<<<NEW>>> In effort to bring the most current derby info to everyone, our web site, www.lcaaidaho.com, will be posting current derby information and statistics as fish hit the scales. We did a test run during this years Member Derby and it seems to be a hit. This will give anglers another option to check derby standings if they miss a derby report over the VHF or a derby update on radio station, K-102. This years Derby Headquarters is Black Sheep Sporting Goods. Stop in and see the "Big One" leader board and top derby fish on display.

This year's "Big One" raffle has a "new twist." The "Big One" Raffle winner will get to spend the \$1000.00 shopping spree at any combination of one or two Corporate Sponsors listed on the back of the raffle tickets. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$10.00. You can support the derby by purchasing a ticket or two. **Hats off to our Corporate Sponsors for making this happen.** Make sure to support all the businesses in this newsletter. Without their support, this derby wouldn't be possible.

I may sound repetitive when I say we need current and new member support behind the scenes. The kind of devotion and dedication it takes to keep the LCAA running is often over looked. We have an open Vice Chairman seat at the present time, and we are looking for a candidate to fill it. We meet once a month at Hot Rod Café in Post Falls. If you have ideas, new sponsors, or just want to come get to know your club leaders better, feel free to contact me personally.

We had a nice turn out for the Members Derby lunch and awards. (Go to www.lcaaidaho.com to see the Winners!) I want to thank everyone that came out for lunch. It was a beautiful day in the sunshine at Carlin Bay. The Members Derby is for all of you, and great times were had by all. Last year about this time club member, Pat Benson, was the only angler to weigh a fish in at the Members derby. Six weeks later, we were weighing some of the largest fish in 15 years during the "Big One Derby". Don't get discouraged folks, there is a "Big One" lurking out there for everyone. I wish all of you the best of luck in this years "Big One" Derby.

See you on the Water,

Roger A Blackstone

Fish Whisperer