

True Blue in the Great Lakes



Captains Denny (left) and Dennis Blue.

With his talk of tuna, marlin and wahoo, Captain Denny Blue conjures up images of salty sea dogs and legendary battles against worthy ocean giants. And while Blue has captained sport fishing yachts from Australia to the Bahamas, he makes port these days in the fresh waters of Lake Michigan, just south of Grand Traverse Bay.

Blue is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain running a successful charter fishing business in Onekama, Mich. A retired Ford Motor Co. executive, Blue traveled the globe. Along the way he joined the "10 to 1 club," landed a 720-pound marlin, and reeled in a record breaking blue fin tuna.

"I've been fishing all my life," says Blue, who grew up on a farm in Flat Rock, Mich., not far from Lake Erie. "And while salt water offers bigger game and greater variety, you make up for that with quantity in Lake Michigan, which has the best salmon fishing in the world."

In the early days downriggers were the primary trolling technique. But zebra mussels have made the Great Lakes' water clearer and the fish more easily spooked. So now, in addition to downriggers, Blue uses lead and braided copper long lines with divers and planar boards. He's trolling deeper, too and dropping line further from his 33 Rampage, True Blue.

"Down riggers work fine at dawn and dusk when the fish can't see. But during the day, we spread our long lines, riggers and divers and start hauling in the fish," says Blue.

Indeed. Blue and his tournament team, which includes son Captain Dennis Blue and father-son duo Captains George and Chris Peplinski, averaged 10 salmon or trout in every outing last summer. Tournament fishing for salmon has gained fans on Lake Michigan with events scheduled throughout the summer. Capt. Blue and his team finished second in the 2006 North Division 333 Championship Series with two wins and three top-10 finishes.

"Captain Blue stays busy," says Jim Mrozinski, owner and president of Onekama Marine and Denny Blue supporter. "He has generations of families come back to fish every year. I guess you could say Captain Blue is a bit of a tradition around here."

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— CAPTAIN DENNY BLUE



The True Blue on Lake Michigan.

Look for Rampage Sport Fishing Yachts at some of this year's best tournaments



Key West Drumbaie Billfish Tournament.

April 17-22	World Sailfish Championship	www.worldsailfish.com	Key West, FL
May 5-6	Hibiscus Children's Center Offshore Big 3 Charity Fishing Tournament	www.offshorebig3.org	Ft. Pierce, FL
May 10-13	Southwest Michigan Steelheaders Summer Challenge	www.tournamenttrail.net	St. Joseph, MI
May 12	Stuart Sailfish Club - Ladies Tournament	www.stuartsailfishclub.com	Ft. Pierce, FL
June 13-16	Barta Camp Woodie Offshore Tournament	www.scwa.org	Georgetown, SC
July 19-21	Barta BAGC Billfish Tournament	www.bartaboysandgirlsclubbillfish.com	Beaufort, SC



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New BARTA TOURNAMENT

Tred Barta is spreading his fundraising Midas touch to the first-ever Barta Camp Woodie Offshore Tournament benefiting South Carolina's Camp Woodie and its conservation outreach program for kids. The tournament is at Georgetown Landing Marina in Georgetown, S.C., June 13-15, 2007.

Teams fishing both Barta's Boys & Girls Club and Camp Woodie tournaments are eligible to win a weekend getaway with the Barta family, a hunting excursion to Manitoba, Canada, an island beach house rental and more.

Like all Barta tournaments, and those sponsored by Rampage Sport Fishing Yachts, Camp Woodie is catch and release and scoring is on the honor system. Learn more at www.tredbarta.com.



Tred Barta at the 2006 Boys & Girls Club tourney.

Fishin' for the Kids

Wishing to fish with Tred Barta? Then don't miss the upcoming online auction at www.boysandgirlsclubbillfish.com for a chance to win a special tournament package that includes competing in the 2007 Barta Boys & Girls Club Billfish Tournament, July 19-21, with Barta on an all new Rampage 41 Express.

A winning bid awards a coveted Barta experience aboard a tournament-equipped Rampage 41, paid entry fees, tickets to all special tournament events, two hotel rooms, sea bags filled with angling goodies, and the chance to learn from a humble world champion fisherman.

The auction is slated to begin in March and close in April. The highest bidder wins the fishing package for four and, more importantly, supports the Barta Boys & Girls Club Billfish Tournament, which has raised more than \$300,000 for the nonprofit organization dedicated to serving at-risk children.

A winning bid awards a coveted Barta experience aboard a tournament-equipped Rampage 41.



Last year's tournament raised \$23,000.

Bosun's Marine joins Rampage Family

Bosun's Marine has joined Rampage's growing lineup of premier dealerships. Located in Mashpee, Cape Cod and Peabody, Mass., Bosun's Marine has provided full sales and service to boat lovers in New England for 22 years. Bosun's recently acquired, and is refitting and expanding, Mashpee Neck Marina on Popponesset Bay in Mashpee. Visit Bosun's Marine at www.bosuns.com.

In addition, Boating Industry magazine recognized Bosun's Marine as one of America's Top 100 Boat Dealers for 2006. A certified full service marine dealership, Bosun's will serve Rampage owners and customers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

To everyone at Bosun's, "welcome aboard."



SPORT FISHING YACHTS