

ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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New York State B.A.S.S. State Federation

March, 2001

A.A.B.M. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2001

May 5th

Saratoga Lake @ South Shore Marine
Pike/Pickerel/Walleye

May 19th

Saratoga Lake @ South Shore Marine
Kids Tournament

June 9th & 10th

Lake Champlain @ Rouses Point
Bass (Points)

***June 24th(23rd-Practice)**

Sacandaga Lake @ Launch TBA
Bass (Points)

July 7th & 8th

Lake Champlain @ Ticonderoga
Bass (Points)

July 28th

Cossayuna Lake @ State Ramp
He/She (No Points)

August 4th

Mohawk River @ Schoharie Crossing
Bass (Points)

September 8th

Lake Champlain @ South Bay
Bass (Points)

October 20th

Lake Bomoseen @ Edgewater
Bass (Points)

October 27th

TBA
Partners

*The week before this tournament will still be closed for practice.

State Federation's 2001 Tournament Schedule

6-3-01

Partners - Candlewood Lake

6-17-01

Seneca Lake, Geneva, NY

7-22-01

Lake Champlain, Ticonderoga, NY

8-18&19-01

Club Team Event - Chautauqua Lake

9-16-01

Niagara River, Small Boat Harbor

10-14-01

Lake George, Silver Bay

DEC Visit Brings Anglers From Several Area Clubs to February Meeting

Doug Stange and Ed Woltman paid our club a visit in February. There was a solid turnout of Albany members as well as members from other area bass clubs.

Both Doug and Ed are serious anglers which made their information and insight on environmental issues and DEC projects even more interesting. They had such a wealth of information and knowledge we can only hope they would be interested in speaking at another meeting in the future.

Wilton Mall Shuts Down the Casting Kids

At the last minute Wilton Mall management informed our club that it could no longer provide the space it had promised us for the Casting Kids event.

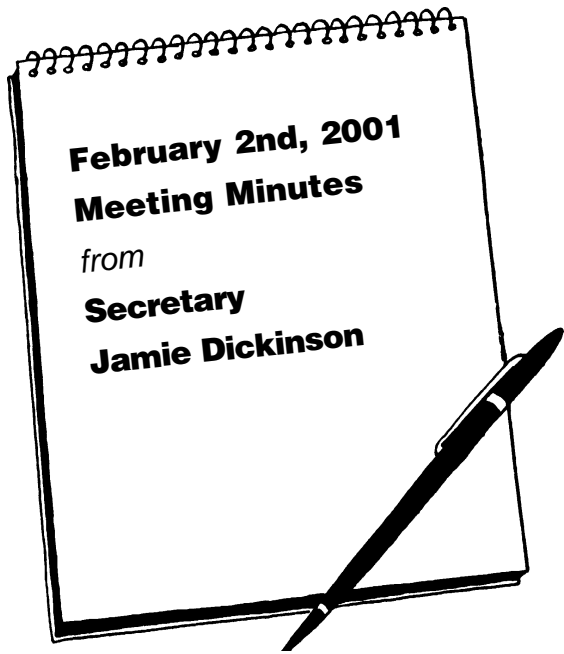
Tim Bantham and Rich Bishop scrambled to put together a contingency plan but ran out of time. There were no locations available that could generate the kind of traffic needed to make this event a success.

Despite this setback the club still plans on participating in this very successful and rewarding B.A.S.S. program in the coming years.

Pizza Night to be Held at the March Meeting

Our annual pizza night will take place at the March meeting. It was pushed back a month to make more time available for the gentlemen from the DEC to make their presentation and answer questions.

We will have our pizza as always during the break in our meeting.



The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by President Tim Bantham

Officers Present: Tim Bantham, Bill Swinton Jr., Paul Pflieger and Jamie Dickinson

Minutes from the January meeting were accepted as written by George Leibach 2nd by Al Maher.

Guest in attendance: Doug Stange and Ed Woltman both from the DEC. There were also several members of other area bass club on hand to listen to our guest from the DEC.

Tim Bantham introduced Warrior Rods as a sponsor for the NYS Federation this year. Tim also announced that he is on Warrior Rods pro staff.

Club News

Frank Maher presented the club with a plaque we earned by being voted the **NYS Bass Club of the Year for 2000**.

Tim announced that George Locke finished in 7th place overall this past year in the State Federation. Tim also presented George with his trophy that he picked up for George at the State Federation's year end banquet. With that 7th place finish George qualified (for the 10th time) to fish the Divisional Tournament in September on Lake Kerr as part of the New York State Team.

Guest Speakers - Doug Stange and Ed Woltman of the NYS DEC

Doug started off by introducing himself and Ed Woltman and informing the club that both he and Ed are both avid fishermen. The following is an outline of the topics discussed:

- 1) Doug informed the club that there will be no adverse fish or wildlife issues as a result of the Athens Power facility on the Hudson.
- 2) Doug discussed the effort being made by the State to have fishing regulations in New York coincide with Vermont's on Lake Champlain. Doug and Ed are both in favor of this but, he did tell us that the best way to get results for any fishing regulation change is to work on the Region 5 Manager (but Doug informed us he probably would not be as interested in change as they were). He mentioned that there will be some upcoming retirements in the DEC that might start a positive change in perspective. Doug also mentioned that the Western Finger Lakes will have a catch and release season starting the first Saturday in May and going until opening day of bass season (Thanks in part to the Rochester Bassmaster working on the Regional Manager in that area). Doug did tell the club not to hold their breath waiting for a Statewide catch and release season because of the studies from Ontario Canada that the State has looked at that show early seasons on small bodies of water to be detrimental to fish populations.
- 3) Ed outlined the ground breaking efforts being made by the Connecticut DEC to study the seasonal habits of the warm water species in their state. Ed pointed out that as a result of these studies there will be several new regulations when fishing in Conn. this coming year (zoned seasons and slot limits to name a few). Ed also told the club that the New York DEC is very interested in the Connecticut studies and may be changing some regulations in New York as a result of Connecticut's findings.
- 4) Doug discussed fall concentrations of fish and how targeting these fish may be harmful to following year's fishing. He also told the club that the State is studying the wintering areas of large and smallmouth bass on the Hudson River. These studies may cause the state to reconsider the closing date of bass season. Doug also discussed some historical information about the dates of opening and closing day of fishing...It seems that many of our seasonal dates began as arbitrary dates picked by residents of Lake George.
- 5) Ed and Doug discussed the Commorant problem on Lake Ontario. The research is now showing that the Commorant is eating much larger fish than previously thought. Instead of the 2-3 inch fish the DEC thought they were eating they are primarily eating 8-9 inch fish. This is having a serious impact on the fishery so the practice of egg spraying is going to continue

this year. The DEC is also instituting harassment tactics which cause the Commorant to move on instead of staying with their eggs. The Commorant problem is now a world wide problem and New York is leading the way with the research it has already completed.

6) Doug and Ed were both asked by the members and guest how they felt about the Hudson Dredging Issue. They both felt they didn't have the expertise to comment on the topic. But they did say that the types of pcp spikes that would take place during dredging are happening anyway every time that the water rises on the river.

7) Ed presented the findings of the Bass study on the Hudson River (copies of this will be available at the next meeting) and promised that it will be ongoing study. He also stated that the smallmouth study will be intensified in the coming year.

8) Both Doug and Ed were asked but they did not have a current data on the use of Sonar on Saratoga Lake. They did know however that Lake associations everywhere are filing for permits to use the chemical. Ed felt that the cost of the chemical will prohibit widespread use of it on any body of water.

9) Doug informed the club that the DEC has been very successful in their liming programs of the Adirondack Lake and have had fish populations booming in previously dead lakes. The Army has been helping in this endeavor by loaning the use of it helicopters and pilots to do the liming.

Break

Tournament Committee - *Bill Swinton Jr.*

Bill announced that the Tournament Committee has decided to open up the Saturday before the Sacandaga Tournament to allow members that are fishing the State tournaments to get some practice time in before our club event. The launch site for this tournament is still to be announced.

Bill also announced that South Shore Marina will only be charging us \$10 per car for our events instead of the \$12 they normally charge.

Treasurer's Report - *Paul Pflieger*

Paul reported that the Club has a balance of \$4290.73.

More Club News...

Tim recapped the decision on the purchase of a new scale he had to make before he had the opportunity to bring it to the floor for a vote. As reported in the last newsletter Tim made the decision based on a straw poll taken at the last meeting and to avoid a substantial price increase.

A motion was passed to have the Casting Kids event on March 4th at Wilton Mall. The club also voted to have a raffle with the proceeds to go to the Kids Tournament. The club also voted to purchase a tackle box for the raffle and to bag worms for the kids at the March meeting.

Banquet Committee - *Tony Curcurito*

Tony informed the club that deposits have been made and contracts have been signed for 2001 Banquet.

Membership Report - *Joey Curcurito*

Joey introduced a new perspective member Frank Rossetti and returning perspective member Bill Pigott. Bill is attending his 2nd club function.

50/50 was won by Bill Pigott earning him \$26.

There was an announcement that club shirts may be ordered at the April meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Al Maher and seconded by Charlie Curcurito.

Meeting Reminder...

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be **Friday**, March 2nd at the Watervliet K of C hall at 8:00 PM sharp.

Place
Postage
Here

**ALBANY AREA
B.A.S.T.M.E.S.**

