



ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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June, 2002

ALLEN & SIMEK VICTORS ON SARATOGA

There was a lot of unburned fogging oil at the launch on May 4th with most of us contributing to the greenhouse effect. 18 boats and motors were warmed up and ready to do some serious fishing. Even though the winning weight was over 33lbs, I think it's safe to say that it wasn't easy for them. Fishing was tough, with the water cold and the wind blowing pretty steadily most of the day. 113 Pickerel, 10 Pike and two Walleyes were weighed in. With 33.20 pounds, Greg Allen and Bobby Simek buried their closest competition by over 7 pounds. They brought the only two Walleyes to the scale with their biggest weighing in at 3.82 pounds (lunker). They also had a Pike that went 6.01 pounds. 2nd place went to the team of Al Maher & Leo Godin. Thanks to a lunker Pike of 9.04 lbs that accompanied several Pickerel, it was enough to vault them into the money with 25.82 pounds. 3rd place found the team of Frank Maher & Mike Ellrott with 24.51 pounds. They also had a big Pike that weighed 8.24 lbs. Rounding out the top five were the prospective member team of Bob Simek Sr & Terry Flemming, 4th place with 23.71 and in 5th, the always consistent George Locke & Brady Moy with 21.77 pounds. If it wasn't for those big Pike, 2nd & 3rd places would have been filled by other teams. It's hard to cash when your Pickerel look like they've been working out to the "Abs of Steel" video all winter.

KID'S TOURNAMENT

The Kid's Tournament was canceled due to some nasty weather that only the northeast can dish out. I'm very impressed that our VP has not lost his common sense due to years of tournament fishing. I was worried that someone would steal Charlie's shorts so they could get a fire started back on shore .

WHINING PROHIBITED!!

OK, this is it! The June meeting (May 31st) is your last chance to get into the lunker pool. There's some good waters coming up that hold some big bass in them. If you land a monster and you're not in the pool, be prepared for some serious heckling from probably everyone, not just Charlie. Also, don't forget the bounty that Mike has enacted against members trying to smuggle short fish to the scale! I hear our measurer is saving for next years college tuition and costs have gone up. So make sure those fish measure!

BOAT CHECK

After the weigh-in of our opening day Pike tournament, members of our club had the convenience of a boat inspection performed by the local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. For the most part we all passed except for those of us whose flares had expired.

ROUSES POINT & SARATOGA

June 8th & 9th will find us on the unpredictable waters of northern Lake Champlain where the meteorologist's term "breezy" means you'll be jumping 4 footers trying to get back to the launch. Heaven help us if they actually say it's going to be windy! Maybe we can luck-out two years in a row and have nice conditions and heavy live wells. Contact the Anchorage Motel for rooms @ (518) 297-4211. On Saturday, June 29th, we'll be on Saratoga Lake. This used to be a favorite place for us that still holds the heaviest five fish limit of all time caught back in 1986 by former member Charlie Shaw with a weight of 23lbs 3oz. That was back in the day when we didn't split hairs & atoms with our scale. That was also when the Lake Association couldn't afford multiple weed harvesters and you could actually find unmolested weed beds that actually held feeding fish. Even though the lake gets a lot of intelligent fishing pressure, I think we're hitting it early enough so that all the fish haven't been "educated" and relocated.

A Message From the "Prez"

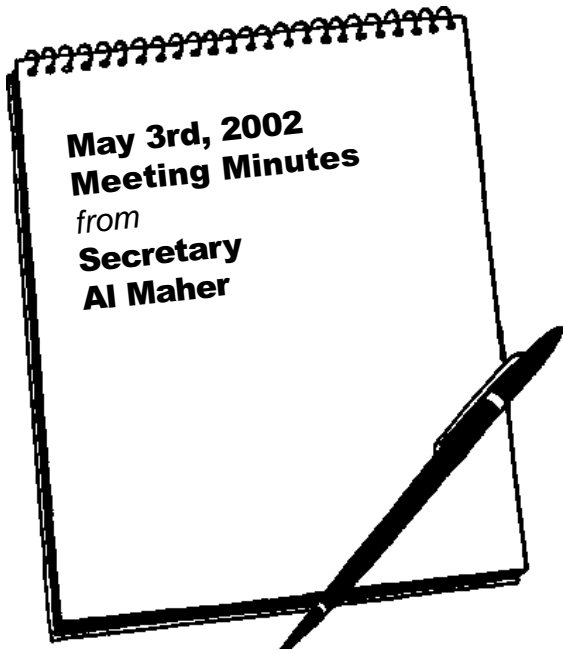
First, I want to congratulate Greg Allen and Bobby Simek on their great job in the pike tournament. They blew away the field with a nice mixed bag with two good Northerns, the only two Walleyes brought to the scales (and they were beauties) and 6 pickerel. Greg and Bobby have agreed to discuss how they put together such a nice sack at our next meeting.

The next six teams all scaled bags weighing 20 plus pounds. Only four teams chose not to weigh what they caught, so all in all it was a very successful tournament.

The second thing I need to do is congratulate the boaters in this club for the results of the boat safety inspection conducted by the Lake George Coast Guard Auxiliary. The inspection team had nothing but compliments for our boaters. "Your Club is light years ahead of most inspections we conduct." All but a couple of boats passed the inspection and those that failed, failed for minor infractions. You made a great impression on them and gained their respect.

I also want to acknowledge the wisdom of Vice President Swinton in canceling the Kids Tournament. I was headed for Cossayuna Saturday morning in my mind picturing: bass boats bobbing around on Saratoga Lake in the snow and rain with little kids crying because they were freezing and wet and want to go home. Hardened tournament anglers on the front deck scolding them to stop their whining and make another cast. I was so troubled by the image that I hung a left in Stillwater and headed for Saratoga. Alone in the parking lot of South Shore Marina with not one truck or trailer in sight I was pleased that common sense had ruled the day.

Finally, when we agreed to reschedule the June meeting for May 31 I/we never thought about the fact that some of you might want to drive up to Rouses Friday night for the last weekend of pre-fishing. I will understand if you are not at the meeting and I won't be writing any letters in reaction. I do ask that you be sure to let one of the Tournament Committee members know if you are entering the Rouses and/or Saratoga tournaments. You should also mail your entry fees to Bill Swinton. Entry fees are due the meeting of the tournament draw.



The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by President Mike Ellrott. There was a delay in getting into the hall, plus there was little beer in the cooler.

Officers Present: Mike Ellrott, Bill Swinton Jr., Alan Maher, and Paul Pflieger.

Motion to accept the Minutes from the April meeting by Leo Godin and 2nd by Wayne Price.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported that the Club has a balance of \$4,880.67

Membership Report - George Locke

George announced that there were 3 prospective members in attendance. Bob Simek Sr. and Terry Flemming were making their 4th function. Bob Burns was making his 5th and would be voted on later in the evening.

Conservation Report - Frank Maher

No report.

Lunker Pool - Charlie Curcurito

Charlie read the names of the members that have payed into the lunker of the year pool. 27 guys have payed to date.

Federation Report - Frank Maher

Frank still has tickets for the federation boat raffle.

The first State tournament of the year will be at Chautauqua Lake in western NY. Your entry fee must be in two weeks before the tournament.

Frank also presented Charlie Curcurito with a Mickey Mouse bobber. Apparently Charlie is taking up finesse fishing with spin cast gear.

Club News

Will Backus came across legislation that would ban the sale of lead sinkers of one half ounce or less in the state of NY. The ban on the sale would occur two years after the effective date of the legislation but the bill does not prohibit the use of the sinkers.

The June meeting will be on Friday, May 31st. We will conduct two boat draws at this meeting. You must contact someone before the meeting if you can't make it and are interested in fishing one or both events.

Mike read Don Spain's resignation letter to the club and Mike's reply to Don. Don has been out due to his hip replacement surgery and stopped fishing due to the "beating" that you sometimes take being in the passenger seat.

Safety Report - Bob Simek

Bob reported that there would be a "courtesy" boat safety check after the tournament on Saratoga Lake.

Kids Tournament - Bill Swinton

Bill discussed the upcoming kids tournament. Saturday, May 18th 7AM-1PM at the Fish Creek Marina on Saratoga Lake. There will be a \$5 launch fee. Limits will consist of 5 Pike, 5 Pickerel, 5 Walleye and 15 panfish. Bill would take care of the trophies for the kids. Guys volunteered to provide hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, rolls, paper goods, etc. Bill also asked for everyone to bring a new lure for a grab bag gift at the end of the day.

Vote on Bob Burns for membership.

15 minute break. The cooler was finally stocked.

Bob Burns was voted into membership

Tournament Committee Report - Bill Swinton

Bill informed us of another tournament going out of Fish Creek and be alert to some people potentially disregarding the no wake zones. He also reminded us to show some class out there. Since this was our first time launching out of the state ramp on Saratoga, we would park down at the end lot in a group so that our weigh-in could be conducted in the same area. Tournament time - 6AM (or safe light) to 2PM. 10 fish limit, 18" Pike, 15" for Pickerel & Walleye. 18 boats were entered. The boat draw was conducted and Charlie found himself sending them out again.

50/50 - \$35 won by Bill Swinton Sr.

Motion to adjourn by Charlie Curcurito 2nd by Leo Godin.

Meeting Reminder...

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be **Friday**, May 31st at the Watervliet K of C hall at 8:00 PM sharp.

Place
Postage
Here

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

