



ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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

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BLASE VICTORIOUS ON CHAMPLAIN

On Saturday evening, Al Dickinson, Frank Polomaine, Blase and myself went to dinner. We all laughed when the waitress asked if ours was the winner's table. At that time it was feeling more like the loser's table but as always with this club, someone will come in with a bag of fish that will make your jaw drop when conditions are at their toughest. That waitress must have known something. Blase Regina came in with a huge limit of largemouths despite the relentless pounding by a renegade group from a tiny state. With a Sunday limit of over 18 pounds, Blase slipped by Bill Swinton Jr. with a two day weight of 25.97 lbs. Blase also had lunker for day 2 with a 5.5 pound largemouth, which happens to be our current lunker of the year. Bill Swinton Jr. also had a fine tournament with 25.28 pounds which was good for second place. Paul Pflieger put in an impressive effort and claimed third with a two day weight of 25.03 lbs. In fourth place we saw no other than Charlie Curcurito with 23.68 lbs.....My God! I think he's getting the hang of this game. Greg "The Web Guy" Allen finished off our top five with 22.3 pounds. This tournament really made the standings tight near the top. With two points tournaments left, alot of ground can be made up. I'm sure we'll see some impressive weights coming up at our Bomoseen tournament. Let's hope Rhode Island doesn't decide to have a fish-off there because they heard the fishing was good.

**The following does not necessarily represent the views of the Albany Area Bassmasters or its members.*

BASS CLASS???

I just can't help but write this. Maybe it's as a result of the second tournament in a row that I've done terrible in but I think it's just because of what I saw on Lake Champlain. I don't have a problem with foreigners fishing our water but I do have a problem when they can't give you a little room when they're running flat-out and you're trying to fish an area. I had more than one clown do this to me the week before the tournament and it continued on Saturday. I also have a problem when they can't give you room....period. There is no need for some @&*%# to come right up next to you when there is hundreds of yards of milfoil in the other direction. I'm thankful that my close encounter didn't happen when I was younger and more intense on the water. If I was sitting better in the standings it might have been different.

After seeing their lack of sportsmanship and respect for our resource, it only makes me feel that we need to enact regulations that limit tournaments to their numbers of competitors and frequency on a body of water. Nobody wants to address it but seeing the amount of dead fish and the size of them on Sunday was sickening and a "black-eye" to our sport. I'm sure there were many on Saturday that we didn't see. It will be alot easier for us to swallow rules that we created than let an agency dictate them to us, if it ever came to that. We need to protect the fisheries not exploit them more. How many of us want to go to the Hudson River now? Remember those big schools of smallies on the Mohawk that used to be in every pool? I think all of us love fishing more than fishing tournaments. If we don't treat the waters with respect, we'll see more fisheries become mere shadows of what they once were. And there is not that many left, even in New York.

A Message From the "Prez"

The job of the Tournament Committee seems to get tougher every year. In a perfect world we could schedule tournaments on bodies of water when the weather and the bite was at its best and, of course, we would be the only boats on the water. In reality that's pretty much how it went 10-15 years ago. The Tournament Committee would wait for the State Federation to announce their schedule, they would meet in February or March and put together a schedule. There were no permits required and rarely any conflicts.

Today the Tournament Committee meets in late January or early February, they have to look at not only at the State Federation Schedule but at the schedule of two or three of the larger local cast-for-cash circuits. It went even further this season as the nationally recognized FLW Tour and the Everstart Tour invaded our waters. Having taken all of that into consideration, you can image the surprise when our Vice President was told he could not get a permit for Ticonderoga on Saturday August 17 because one had already been issued to the Rhode Island Federation.

Rhode Island! You need a pretty good sized map to see any lakes in Rhode Island. Upon doing a little research for these comments, I found that the Rhode Island Federation has 27 member clubs, the largest has 21 members. In total, there are 319 anglers in these 27 clubs. The arithmetic...that's fewer than 12 members per club on the average.

Without knowing the details at the time, our Tournament Committee made the reasonable assumption that the event would not provide much interference with an Albany Area event at the same time. They scheduled the first day of fishing out of Port Henry with day two back at Ticonderoga. It was not until the weekend before the tournaments that we learned that Rhode Island was putting approximately 65 boats on the water and more disconcertingly, that the first day of tournament competition for them was Friday, August 16!

As a result, the fishing conditions were less than ideal, but your performance proved once again the quality of fishing in the Albany Area Bassmasters. It still took nearly 26 pounds to win, the top ten finishers all weighed in 20 pounds or more, and 42% of our anglers bagged limits each day. Great work!

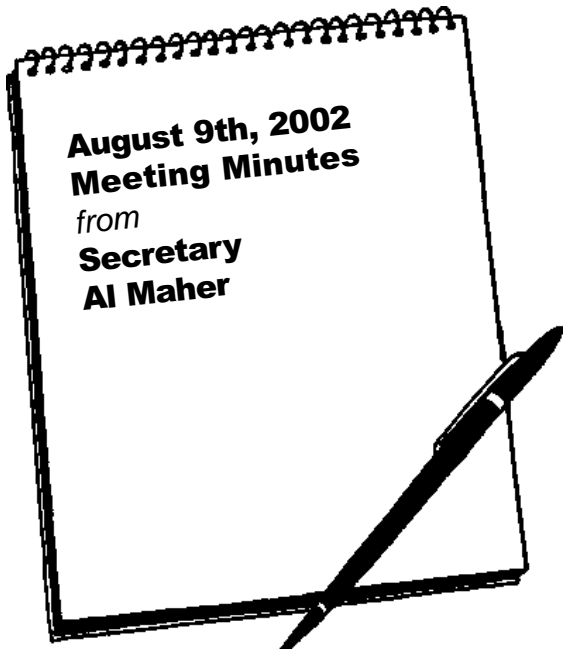
A final note on Rhode Island (their tournament results are not posted on their website), I thought they were incredibly poor sportsman. It seemed to be standard procedure to drive across the area someone else was fishing on your way into or out of the area they fished. On Saturday, my ancient but sage boat partner took us to a weedy point just north of the Ti launch. I haven't rocked and rolled that much since I was 17. It was like picnicking on the median on the Thruway on a Friday afternoon. There were boats passing to the outside and boats passing to the inside. The RI boys seemed to delight and driving across the area you were fishing. We had one %\$^#&(&^ drive across the weedline we were fishing, between us and shore, make a sharp turn to the east and head straight across the lake to fish the opposite shoreline! Un-phased the ancient one fished on. I am still looking in my dictionary of slang for some of the words he uttered that day.

I'm glad that's them and that I'm one of us! Always proud to be an Albany Area Bassmaster.

The lesson learned in all of this is that we should not take anything for granted or make assumptions about things we don't know. We'll do our homework a little better next time to try to avoid a situation like this again. I'm not apologizing, the Tournament Committee did the best they could with the information available to them at the time. If we scheduled around every possible conflict, we'd be looking for lakes in Rhode Island!

Reminder...We will be having the boat draw for the Lake Bomoseen Tournament at the September meeting. If you cannot make the meeting and wish to compete, be sure to phone or email Bill Swinton or one of the Tournament Committee members and let them know of your intention to fish. Even if you do not intend to fish, a phone call or note is appreciated so there is no doubt about your status on meeting night. You should also mail your entry fee to Paul Pflieger before the tournament. Late entries are discouraged. A late entry requires us to change the pairings drawn at the meeting.

See you September 6.



The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by President Mike Ellrott. It was interrupted almost immediately by Charlie Curcurito so he could explain that one of the bathrooms was out of order at the Ti launch.

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

Motion to accept the Minutes from the July 11th meeting by Wayne Price and 2nd by Bob Burns.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported that the Club has a balance of \$6502.89

Membership Report - George Locke

There was one perspective member at the meeting, Don Yarter. He has previous tournament experience and is willing to help out at various club functions.

Conservation Report - Frank Maher

Frank informed the membership that we would not enact release boats for the Ticonderoga tournament. Frank also shared that Vermont is concerned about the dreaded Largemouth Bass Virus. They (VT) may hold certain fish from our weigh-ins so that they can monitor them for the possibility of having the disease. Frank has pledged our full cooperation in their endeavor. Mike also informed us of a sunfish kill on Cossayuna

Safety Report - Paul Pflieger, Jim Underhill

The members were instructed to leave themselves extra time on Saturday for the weigh-in at the Port Henry ramp. A north wind would make the travel to the ramp a little more "tricky" and therefore require more time.

Federation Report - Frank Maher

Mike first informed the membership that the NYS BASS Federation had received the BASS State Federation of the Year Award at the 2002 BASS Masters Classic.

Frank went over the finishes for club members that fished the Oneida Lake State Federation tournament. 116th-Charlie C., 112th-Greg Allen, 83rd-Paul Pflieger, 53rd-Tom Haley. The Albany club is in 15th place in the state.

Club Team Event - Ticonderoga. Frank related to the members present how hard the team worked during the practice days and of course the tournament days. A NEW "Earliest off-the-water, during a Practice Day" record was set by Tim Bantham. The new time to beat is 11AM, which shattered the old record set by Brother Frank & Charlie C. on the Hudson River as they cowardly hid behind "Buoy 69" in an effort to not be seen by Captain George Locke.

Frank also expressed his joy at seeing three club members who did not qualify for the team show up at the event. His joy turned to dismay as he realized these three members were fishing for their "other" clubs. "Benedict" Swinton Jr, "Benedict" Underhill & "Benedict" Pigot were wearing "different colors" that weekend.

The team was down 15 lbs by the end of the first day but not out. Franks battle cry of "The more you eat, the more you catch" seemed to have the team psyc'd-up for day two. He further proved his leadership & belief in his slogan by having four slices of pizza, three scoops of icecream and a diet Pepsi for dinner the night before. He represented the club well and was our "high-man" for the tournament. All team members worked very hard and did a great job under some tough conditions. It was the first time in 12 years that the team has lost a bet to the Adirondack club.

Club News/New Business

Mike went over the results of the Husband Wife Tournament held on Cossayuna Lake.

Results of Oneida Lake club tournament: 1 guy "zipped". 19 out of 31 weighed limits. 125 fish were caught with a combined weight of 270.43 pounds!

Bob Richard gave a brief talk on how he won the Oneida event. By not fishing for smallmouth, he eliminated 90% of the water which enabled him to concentrate on largemouth.

Mike read through out top-ten guys.

- 10-Charlie C. & Bill Swinton Jr.
- 9- Joey Curcurito
- 8- Al Maher & Bobby Simek Jr.
- 7- Brady Moy
- 6- Jim Greeley
- 5- Jim Underhill & Bob Richard
- 4- Paul Pflieger
- 3- Tom Haley & Mike Ellrott
- 2- Al Dickinson
- 1- Frank Maher

Boat draw for the Ticonderoga event.

50/50 won by Jim Underhill - \$32

Motion to adjourn by Bill Pigot and 2nd by Bob Richard.

Meeting Reminder...

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be **Friday, September 6th** at the Watervliet K of C hall at 8:00 PM sharp.

Place
Postage
Here

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

