



ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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BASSMAN 2003

In an incredible effort, George Locke proved once again why it is no accident that he has won the coveted Bassman of the Year title an unprecedented 7 times. He was off to his usual great start with a 2nd place finish on Rouses Point, followed by 6th place at Sacandaga. Our third tournament on Oneida Lake was shaping up to be an equally impressive finish for him until motor trouble put and end to his second day weight. He failed to make the weigh-in on day 2 and finished Oneida in 25th place with a dismal 52 points. Unlike most people who might lay down and give up, it appeared to only motivate him more. He bounced back with a 2nd place finish on Saratoga. He buried us with 34.34 pounds and a victory on Ticonderoga and finished a respectable 6th place on Bomoseen to over take Tom Haley and claim another Bassman crown. He is the most talented fisherman I know and unlike alot of these "hot-shots" in other organizations that dominate on one body of water, he can do it any where and at any time of the year.

Our "runner-up" for 2003 is Tom Haley. Tom had a great season. He cashed in 4 out of our 6 events. He finished 3rd at Rouses, 10th on Sacandaga, 6th at Oneida, 6th at Saratoga, a 5th place finish at Ticonderoga and only stumbled at Bomoseen. Tom is definitely a fine angler and will get the Bassman award soon.

Third place saw a familiar face. Al Dickinson is always near the top. He had a few disappointing tournaments but he also had a few very good ones. His best finishes were Rouses Point, 5th; he finished 4th at Ticonderoga and a very important win in our season finale on Bomoseen allowed him to jump ahead in the standings and grab the final slot as a boater in next seasons' 2004 club team.

I've never seen this before. We actually had a three-way tie for fourth place (I'm glad we went to hundredths of a pound to eliminate ties). Greg Allen, Jim Underhill & Bobby Simek all had 496 points after Bomoseen. Greg Allen managed to hang in there. A third on Sacandaga, a win on Saratoga and respectable finishes on Rouses & Ticonderoga allowed him to take 4th overall with final weight being the tie-breaker.

Jim Underhill had a respectable season, also. He started off with a 6th place finish on Rouses, 4th at Sacandaga, 5th on Oneida and a 10th place finish on Saratoga. He stumbled on Ticonderoga but managed to come back on Bomoseen and finished 7th. His final weight of 93.23 pounds edged out Bobby Simek for 5th place over all.

Congratulations to our 2003 Back-of-the-Boat Angler, Bobby Simek. Bobby turned in respectable finishes on Sacandaga, Saratoga, Ticonderoga and Bomoseen allowing him to finish 6th overall and fill our last position on the club team.

This was the first in many years that I can remember such a tight race going on through out the year for Bassman and with a surprise ending. Great job by all our competitors and congratulations on the many successes that were not mentioned such as; individual lunker wins, calcuttas, etc.

LUNKER OF THE YEAR

For the second time in three years, the lunker of the year came from a little blue Ranger on Lake Bomoseen. Art Grant informed me that we went into Bomoseen for big fish only and he connected.

LUNKER OF THE YEAR CONTINUED.....

His lone largemouth weighed a whopping 6.75 pounds and knocked out Bob Richard and his 5.58 largemouth into second place but Bomoseen wasn't done yet. Fishing with a broken heel, Frank Polomaine hoisted a 6.67 pound largemouth to the scale that eliminated Bob's fish and gave Frank the second place lunker of the year and the cash to go along with it. Bomoseen again lived up to its reputation as a lunker fall fishery. The cash awards will be paid at the annual banquet.

NOMINATIONS

Give some consideration as to who you would like to see as next year's tournament committee and officers. We will be accepting the nominations for the positions of Timekeeper, Measurer, Weighmaster, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President & President. Nominees must have attended 50% of our meetings and fished in at least 3 of our points tournaments. Please speak with the guy before nominating him to ensure that he really wants to or has the time to serve the club.

Also, thank you to Bill Swinton for doing the thankless job as Vice President for many years. He is one of the reasons our tournaments have gone so smoothly and has done a great job.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Payment is due at the November meeting for those members that are bringing guests to our annual banquet. If you can't make the November meeting and would like to attend the banquet, then please mail a check to either Tony Curcurito or Paul Pflieger for \$25 per guest, **payable to the Albany Area Bassmasters. Members are free.** Cost is being paid for by the club.

WHEN: Saturday, November 15th
6PM-7PM Cocktail hour.

WHERE: Best Western on 1228
Western Ave in Albany, NY
(518) 489-2981

Rooms are available. Call to make reservations and be sure to tell them that you are with the club.

ANNUAL DUES

For all you guys that been fortunate enough to have cashed in tournaments this past year, set aside \$45 for club dues. This also includes BASS dues. We need to have this by the December meeting so we can keep our roster current with National BASS.

TOP TEN FINISHERS FOR 2003

1.	George Locke	528 points
2.	Tom Haley	510 points
3.	Al Dickinson	504 points
4.	Greg Allen	496 points
5.	Jim Underhill	496 points
6.	Bob Simek Jr.	496 points
7.	Frank Maher	494 points
8.	Mike Ellrott	488 points
9.	Al Maher	468 points
10.	Bob Richard	466 points

MOHAWK PARTNER TOURNAMENT

The club had its annual partner event on the Mohawk River, Sunday, October 26th out of the Fort Hunter launch and it looked like the Mohawk was its old self. The team of Heavy "F" & the Prez brought in a 6 fish limit weighing 20.65 pounds giving them a first place finish. In second, we saw Greg Allen & Gene Lavigne bring in 18.23 pounds. Included in their bag was the tournament lunker weighing 4.04 lbs. Finishing close in third was the team of Jim Underhill & Bill Pigott weighing in at 18.13 pounds. The event is open to past members and also guests of current members.

A Message From the “Prez”

As I reflect on the season that just ended and the winter ahead a lot of things cross my mind.

First, we need to congratulate those members who had successful 2003 season. I sensed George was a driven man after he lost a day on Oneida Lake due to boat problems and our “cell phone emergency response system” that did not work for various reasons. George is tough enough to beat when he is just fishing, but give him extra motivation and it takes a superlative effort to beat him. Congratulations to our Bassman of the Year.

Congratulations to Tom Haley and Al Dickinson who gave George all the heat he could handle. We’re still learning about Tom, but I recently reviewed some old records to settle a bet between Al and Charlie, and it was in reviewing those records that I gained a new respect for Al the Angler. Mostly unnoticed, Al Dickinson is almost always a member of the Club Team, a top six finisher. He is consistently very near the top of the standings. The only thing that separates Al from the guys we always talk about is that ultimate prize, the Bassman of the Year title. I now have a new appreciation for how good he is.

And congratulations to Bobby Simek on another BOBA title and spot on the Club Team. Bobby added consistency to those many stellar performances, got near the top and stayed there throughout the season.

And if you look carefully at the statistics, you realize that from top to bottom there is not a member of this Club you can take lightly. Everyone is capable of putting together a good tournament and challenging for a plaque and cash.

Second, we need to thank those officers, Tournament Committee members, special committee members and fellow Club members who make that special effort to assure our tournaments go off well. If you have been at a launch when another club is competing, you can not help but notice we do things a little better than most. It comes from hard work and extra effort. We really do have an organization of which you should be proud to be a member.

Third, we now need to begin thinking about other things. At our November meeting we will nominate candidates for our Club officers and Tournament Committee. You need to reflect and consider if you want to make that additional commitment.

As I reflect on the season past I am also struck by a sense of humility. This is not a humility based on success or failure, but rooted in the fact that we can do this at all. I think about our boats, our tow vehicles and the time and money we invest enjoying this pastime and I realize how fortunate we are. At the same time I can’t help but think of people who can not do what we do because of their circumstances. Friends, family members and acquaintances who have employment, financial, family or health problems that preclude them from enjoying such an expensive, time consuming pastime. We really are very fortunate.

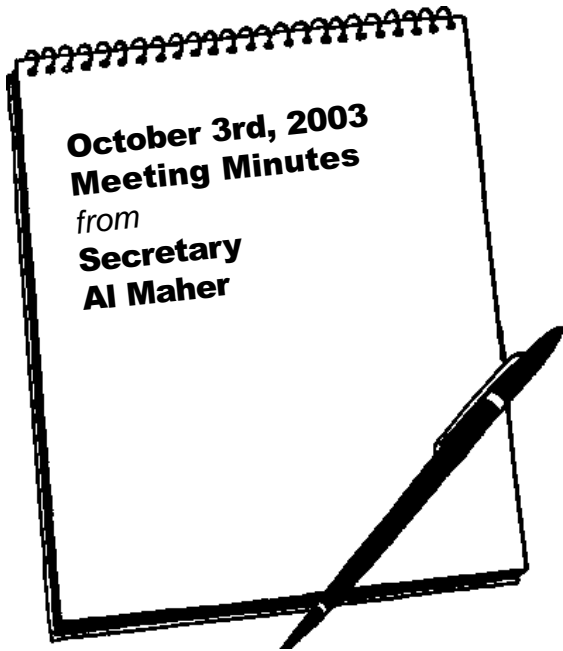
This is also a time to re-focus on our families. I know the list of chores I didn’t get done this summer is longer than the list of tackle I just had to have this year. Now is the time to make up for those days and weekends stolen away to prepare for and compete in Club tournaments. It’s time to build up “points” because next season will be here before you know it.

So enjoy memories of the season just past and keep in mind how fortunate we truly are.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIAN & MICHELLE DENGLER ON THE NEW ADDITION TO THEIR FAMILY. MOLLY RAE WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 25TH AND WEIGHED 8 lbs 10 oz!

**2003 Standings
Albany Area Bassmasters**

Name	Rouses Pt		Sacandaga		Oneida Lake		Saratoga		Port Henry		Bomoseen		Total	Total	Pos.
	Wgt	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt	Pts.	
George Locke	26.25	98	10.24	90	12.75	52	12.67	98	34.34	100	10.09	90	106.34	528	1
Tom Haley	26.07	96	9.89	82	25.45	90	9.94	90	26.55	92	4.53	60	102.43	510	2
Allen Dickinson	25.37	92	9.76	76	19.83	68	7.36	74	26.68	94	13.98	100	102.98	504	3
Gregg Allen	22.92	84	10.48	96	20.81	70	13.65	100	23.10	84	4.63	62	95.59	496	4
Jim Underhill	23.08	90	10.41	94	25.51	92	9.03	82	15.18	50	10.02	88	93.23	496	5
Bob Simek, Jr.	18.62	70	10.41	94	20.87	72	10.61	92	22.67	82	8.56	86	91.74	496	6
Frank Maher	19.45	72	9.52	74	28.07	98	11.25	96	21.25	76	7.52	78	97.06	494	7
Mike Ellrott	25.84	94	9.42	72	15.99	56	9.37	86	27.65	96	8.27	84	96.54	488	8
Al Maher	22.65	80	10.48	96	15.82	54	6.88	68	21.62	78	10.29	92	87.74	468	9
Bob Richard	16.69	62	9.83	80	31.03	100	7.33	72	24.98	88	4.95	64	94.81	466	10
Brady Moy	20.00	78	10.09	86	27.57	96	8.74	80	18.98	66	4.45	58	89.83	464	11
Paul Pflieger	22.99	86	9.16	68	27.54	94	4.34	56	26.16	90	5.25	66	95.44	460	12
Ch. Curcurito	27.02	100	5.49	38	23.14	78	11.17	94	28.87	98	2.08	46	97.77	454	13
Don VanTassel	15.58	52	9.80	78	23.57	86	9.76	88	22.31	80	6.13	70	87.15	454	14
Bill Swinton	19.78	76	11.41	100	19.03	62	5.89	62	15.79	56	7.01	76	78.91	432	15
Frank Polomaine	16.55	60	8.07	56	23.52	84	6.94	70	7.57	36	10.73	94	73.38	400	16
Bill Pigott	23.04	88	10.17	88	23.44	80	1.32	36	15.42	52	0.00	42	73.39	386	17
Joey Curcurito	10.31	44	10.30	92	23.46	82	2.36	46	17.49	60	3.02	48	66.94	372	18
Bob Simek	0.00	0	8.69	64	19.32	66	9.23	84	24.54	86	5.60	68	67.38	368	19
Jim Greeley	16.26	54	7.87	52	22.77	74	8.18	78	16.79	58	0.00	42	71.87	358	20
Mike Richard	19.57	74	3.14	32	24.00	88	1.49	40	17.59	62	4.14	54	69.93	350	21
Geoge Leibach	9.49	38	7.05	48	23.04	76	1.99	44	14.76	48	7.57	80	63.90	334	22
Gene Lavigne	17.51	64	5.84	40	0.00	0	4.62	60	19.44	74	6.29	72	53.70	310	23
Arthur Grant	0.00	0	11.07	98	0.00	0	4.44	58	19.40	72	6.75	74	41.66	302	24
Rob Richard	22.92	82	6.36	44	5.13	46	3.45	50	19.08	68	0.00	0	56.94	290	25
Bill Swinton Sr.	13.61	48	8.06	54	18.77	60	2.63	48	4.30	34	0.00	42	47.37	286	26
Terry Fleming	18.14	66	4.18	36	11.05	50	4.22	54	9.49	38	0.00	42	47.08	286	27
Frank Rossetti	16.54	58	9.42	72	19.13	64	7.75	76	0.00	0	3.62	52	56.46	270	28
Nash Alexander	4.97	36	5.87	42	16.74	58	0.00	32	10.26	42	3.33	50	41.17	260	29
William Backes	16.55	60	8.50	60	0.00	0	6.66	66	17.74	64	0.00	0	49.45	250	30
A. Curcurito	9.64	40	6.82	46	0.00	0	6.66	66	0.00	0	11.16	96	34.28	248	31
Tim Bantham	14.37	50	8.34	58	0.00	0	1.90	42	13.07	46	1.22	44	38.90	240	32
Blasé Regina	0.00	0	8.86	66	0.00	0	0.00	0	19.23	70	11.48	98	39.57	234	33
Don Yarter	9.82	42	2.30	28	1.73	44	0.89	34	0.00	0	2.08	28	16.82	176	34
Leo Godin	0.00	0	7.06	50	0.00	0	0.00	32	0.00	0	7.93	82	14.99	164	35
Brian Dengler	18.35	68	8.64	62	0.00	0	0.00	32	12.97	44	0.00	0	39.96	162	36
Ralph Sommers	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	6.42	64	10.07	40	4.36	56	20.85	160	37
Russ Camadine	16.30	56	4.10	34	9.94	48	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	30.34	138	38
Richard Bishop	0.00	0	3.05	30	0.00	0	3.54	52	15.77	54	0.00	0	22.36	136	39
Mike O'Brian	0.00	0	10.02	84	0.00	0	1.36	38	0.00	0	0.00	0	11.38	122	40
Jamie Dickinson	11.67	46	9.40	70	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	21.07	116	41



The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by President Mike Ellrott.

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

Mike gave opening remarks.

Motion to accept the Minutes from the September 5th meeting by Ralph Sommers and 2nd by Bill Pigott.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Checkbook balance is \$8,408.92

Membership - George Locke

No prospective members applying for membership.

Conservation - Frank Maher

There will be no need for release boats at Bomoseen. May of 2004 will be the start of the ban on sale of lead sinkers weighing 1/2 ounce or less in the great state of New York.

Safety - Tim Bantham

For everyone launching at the state ramp on Bomoseen and navigating by GPS in the dark to the Edgewater, Tim reminded them that a GPS plots a navigation route in a "straight line" and it would not be in your best interest to follow it "blindly". Also watch out for vehicular traffic on the road that the Edgewater is located on.

Banquet Committee - Tony Curcurito

November 15th at the Best Western on Western Ave. in Albany. Cocktail hour will be from 6PM to 7PM. TONY NEEDS A HEAD COUNT AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING! Cost will be \$25 per guest, club members will be paid for by the club.

Tournament Committee - Bill Swinton Jr.

In addition to the Bomoseen event, there will be a partners tournament on the Mohawk River out of the Schoharie Crossing Ramp in Ft. Hunter on Sunday, October 26th, 7:00AM - 3:00PM. \$60 per boat will cover the entry fee & luncheon.

Mike: Brought attention to the fact that we need a new traveling trophy for the Bassman award. The club agreed to order a new one.

State Federation - Frank Maher

The last federation tournament was on Lake Erie and won by Scott Bliss. Frank also has boat raffle tickets available.

LUNKER POOL - Charlie Curcurito

The last report by Charlie: Bob Richard is leading the pool with a 5.58 pound largemouth.

New Business:

Thanks from the Maher family for the movie tapes from the club for our dad, Frank.

Mike offered our condolences to Frank Rosetti whose brother in-law passed away recently.

Frank Polomaine expressed his thanks for all the help he has received from the guys since his foot injury.

We will be accepting nominations for tournament committee members and club officers. Please talk to them in advance before nominating them to ensure that they really want to take part. Bill Swinton will be stepping down as V.P.

The Canal System is going to their fall schedule. The locks open at 7AM and close at 5Pm. The canal will close for the season on November 2nd.

Jim Greeley thanked everyone that helped him out Saturday on the way back to the motel after the first day's weigh-in at Ticonderoga. He had a major scare involving brakes that failed and thankfully did not result in a major accident.

-Fish Talk-

Greg Allen spoke of his victory on Saratoga.

George Locke told of his major win on Lake Champlain out of Ticonderoga.

Mike went over some stats for the Ticonderoga tournament. 34 anglers weighed in 641 pounds of bass.

Mike went over the Bassman of the Year standings.

-10 minute break-

50/50 won by Tony Curcurito, \$31.

Boat raffle ticket won by Leo Godin.

Tournament draw (17 boats) for Lake Bomoseen, VT. October 18th, 7AM - 3PM at the Edgewater Inn.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Pigott, 2nd by Tony Curcurito.

Meeting Reminder...

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be **Friday, November 7th** at the Watervliet K of C hall at 8:00 PM sharp.

Place
Postage
Here

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

