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# ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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September 2004

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## A NEW MR. ONEIDA

Bill Swinton Jr. pulled some big weight out of his livewell on day 2 to come from behind and take the win and associated glory at Oneida Lake on July 31st and August 1st. Conditions on day 1 were tough and we were greeted almost immediately by Oneida's winds. For most of us the strong south, southwest winds made it impossible to fish the northern shore but as always, in this club, guys persevered and came in with some weight. Bob Richard, the Oneida Lake favorite, led after day 1 with 13.68 pounds. Don Vantassel brought in 13.50 pounds from the back of the boat. Not far behind, we had Charlie Curcurito with 12.73 lbs; Bobby Simek 12.54 and Tom Haley with 12.46 pounds. Lunker for day 1 was split between Bill Swinton Jr. & Bill Pigott, each having a 3.03 pound bass.

On day 2, we had much different weather conditions. Winds were actually calm to light and the whole lake was fishable. Taking advantage of the favorable conditions, Bill Swinton Jr. brought in the heaviest weight of day 2 and the tournament with 15.38 pounds. Again, he had lunker (3.80 lbs.) but this time didn't have to share it with anyone else. His combined weight of 27.36 pounds edged out Charlie Curcurito by over a pound. Charlie also had a strong second day and hoisted 13.44 pounds to the scales. Adding that to his day 1 weight gave him 26.17 lbs and a second place finish. Jim Greeley also brought in big weight the second day. Jim was one of the few that pursued largemouth and he found them. His 13.99 pound bag also had second lunker, a 3.64 pound largemouth. His two day weight went 25.83 pounds and placed him in third. Tom Haley, having another strong season, brought in 13.27 pounds for a two day weight of 25.73 lbs and 4th place. Finishing in 5th was one of our best back of the boat anglers, Bobby Simek. His two day weight of 24.93 pounds kept him up near the top in our Bassman race.

Oneida continued to be good to us. There were no boating mishaps and every competitor caught fish on both days. On day 1 there were 26 out of a possible 31 limits. 143 fish were caught weighing 314.65 pounds. Day 2 was very similar, 28 out of a possible 31 limits. 147 fish were caught, weighing 328.97 pounds.

## LOCKE STILL TOUGH ON SARATOGA

George Locke is still the one to beat when it comes to Saratoga Lake. Struggling in the early hours, he continued to press on and managed to bring 14.16 pounds of largemouth to the scale. His 3.86 pound lunker gave his limit a much needed boost. Ironically, his was not the heaviest limit. The VP, Jim Underhill brought in a mixed bag weighing 14.34 pounds. However he lost a quarter of a pound due to a dead fish and his net weight dropped to 14.09 and landed him in second place. Leo Godin turned in another strong performance and grabbed third place with a mixed bag limit weighing 13.55 pounds. Fourth went to our leading non-boater and Bassman threat, Bobby Simek. Bobby also had a mixed bag that went 13.05 pounds. He had a 3.91 largemouth that helped his overall weight. Bill Swinton had another good tournament weighing 11.85 pounds and giving him a fifth place finish and also the lead in the Bassman of the Year standings.

Our weights showed that Saratoga is still a viable fishery despite all the fishing pressure and weed harvesting that has been going on.

# **A Message From the "Prez"**

The Summer That Wasn't is almost over. Launch times will be pushing back to 6 AM or later, and those summer patterns that Mother Nature has disguised under tons of rain will start changing.

The Albany Area Bassmasters will also experience an earlier than expected change as one of our rising stars sails off into the sunset. Tom and Jen Haley have gone home to Rochester. Tom was nearly Bassman of the Year in 2003 and was well on his way to securing the title this season. For a number of reasons the Haley's decided to move back to the Rochester area. The Albany Area Bassmasters lose a valuable member. Not only can Tom fish, he is a very good angler, but he was always willing to step up and serve the Club. He was our Conservation Committee Chair this season, a natural fit since he presently works for NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and in his past life he worked in commercial aquatic vegetation control. What I liked best about Tom was his attitude when it came to tournament fishing. He does not have that edge you usually find with most competitive people. He was very calm and rational when he was edged out of the Bassman title last year. This year he was dominating, but you would never know it by his demeanor. I always found him willing to share information and to listen to what I had to offer. He is a great representative of the sport and of the Albany Area Bassmasters. He will be missed.

## **ONEIDA LAKE CLUB TEAM**

A great effort was made by our Club Team members on August 21st & 22nd on Oneida Lake at the annual CTE. Unfortunately, fishing was extremely tough and our guys had their work cut out for them. Team captain, George Locke said all six members gave it all they had and never gave up. Dealing with increased fishing pressure and changing weather conditions, our team plugged on but came up short. "Hats off" to George Locke, Tom Haley, Jim Underhill, Greg Allen, Bobby Simek and Al Dickinson for trying their best. The Club Team Event is one of the most expensive tournaments that you could ever fish at the club level that pays out low in money but high in glory.

## **AABM 2004 REMAINING POINTS TOURNAMENTS**

After four tournaments behind us, the race for Bassman of the Year has heated up. With two more to go and one of them on a new body of water, any one of our top five has a good shot at it. Will we have a "Non-Boater" claim the Bassman title along with "Back of the Boat Angler" award? It could happen.

**September 25th & 26 Lk. Champlain @ Port Henry ramp**

**October 16th Schroon Lake @ State Launch**

Keep in mind that if you are staying at the Circle Court that you have a considerable drive to the Port Henry ramp. Word has it that the Ti Ramp will be under renovation/construction after Labor Day.

We are also having our annual "pick you partner" tournament on **October 23rd** on the *Mohawk River, Schoharie Crossing* site.

## **LUNKER OF THE YEAR**

Blase Regina is currently leading this year with a 5.85 pound large-mouth that he brought in during the weigh-in on Saratoga Lake. "Big Fish" Ralph Sommers also brought a pig to the scales weighing 4.2 pounds. Champlain may be our last shot for boating lunker.

## ***THE SEPTEMBER MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE 10TH***

### Schroon Lake

Lee's Corner Motel

(518) 494-7678

### Ticonderoga/Port Henry

Circle Court

(518) 585-7660

Stonehouse

(518) 585-7394

Super 8

(518) 585-2617

Family Fun Cabins

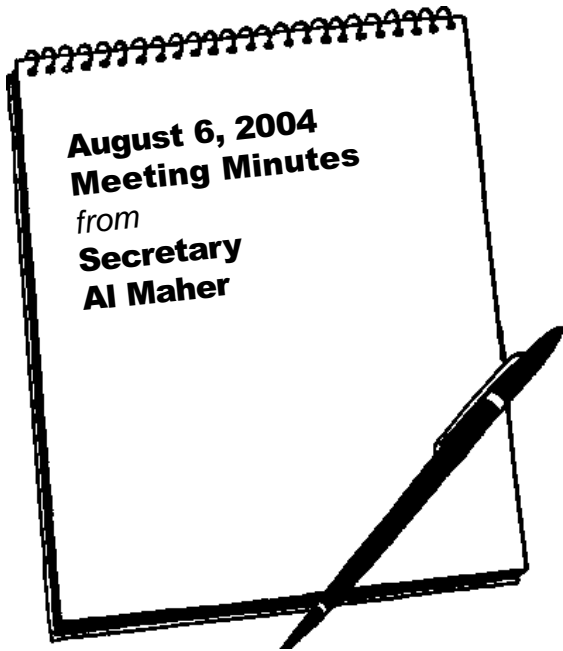
(518) 546-7127





Albany Area Bassmasters  
Bassman of the Year  
2004

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rouses Pt</b>	<b>Sacandaga</b>	<b>Oneida</b>	<b>Saratoga</b>	<b>Port Henry</b>	<b>Schroon</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Standings</b>
Bill Swinton	82	88	100	92			362	1
Bob Simek, Jr.	98	74	92	94			358	2
Jim Underhill	94	72	86	98			350	3
George Locke	96	68	78	100			342	4
Tom Haley	100	92	94	40			326	5
Blasé Regina	92	64	70	90			316	6
Art Grant	86	98	76	50			310	7
Allen Dickinson	58	94	66	86			304	8
Bill Pigott	84	82	60	72			298	9
Mike Ellrott	50	84	82	80			296	10
Bob Richard	56	90	58	82			286	11
Mike Richard	76	66	88	54			284	12
Joey Curcurito	62	70	80	68			280	13
Ch. Curcurito	74	62	98	44			278	14
Bill Swinton Sr.	58	60	84	74			276	15
Greg Allen	88	80	50	56			274	16
Jim Greeley	52	34	96	88			270	17
Tim Bantham	78	52	74	62			266	18
Paul Pflieger	66	54	72	70			262	19
Frank Rossetti	48	86	64	48			246	20
Al Maher	90	0	62	84			236	21
Don VanTassel	0	56	90	58			204	22
Jamie Dickinson	72	78	52				202	23
Ralph Sommers	64	30	42	64			200	24
Leo Godin	0	96	0	96			192	25
Nash Alexander	0	58	54	78			190	26
Terry Fleming	42	50	48	40			180	27
Frank Polomaine	80	32	68				180	27
Geoge Leibach	68	0	56	52			176	28
Brady Moy	0	100	0	76			176	28
A. Curcurito	70	38	0	66			174	29
Gene Lavigne	46	48	44				138	30
Rich Bishop	0	76	0	60			136	31
Bill LaRose	0	44	40	46			130	32
William Backes	54	42	0				96	33
Rob Richard	44	46	0				90	34
Russ Camadine	0	0	46	42			88	35
Brian Dengler	0	40	0				40	36
Bob Simek	0	36	0				36	37
Mike O'Brien	0	28	0				28	38
Frank Maher	0	0	0				0	39
Andy Zema	0	0	0				0	39



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

Officers Present: Mike Ellrott, Jim Underhill, Alan Maher & Paul Pflieger.

Mike's opening remarks. Motion to accept the Minutes from the July 8th meeting by Ralph Sommers, 2nd by Bill Swinton Jr.

#### **Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger**

Checkbook balance is \$7,292.07. There will be slightly less than \$7K after paying for the embroidering on the club team shirts.

#### **Conservation - Tom Haley**

Nothing to report. Looking for volunteers to take over since Tom is moving.

#### **Safety - Tim Bantham**

Saratoga Lake speed limit is 45MPH. Continue to wear & zip your life vest before starting the combustion engine.

#### **Federation Report - Mike Ellrott**

The State Federation had a partners tournament on Oneida Lake. Charlie Curcurito & Woody Henyan came in 22nd with 8 fish and 18.98 pounds.

#### **New Business**

Good luck to our 6 man club team heading off to Oneida Lake on August 21st & 22nd. Our team includes Tom Haley, Jim Underhill, Bobby Simek, Al Dickinson, Greg Allen and George Locke as the Captain.

Brother Frank and Charlie Herzig are continuing their strong showings in the North East Team Bass Trail. They are now currently sitting in 3rd place before going into Lake George.

Don Vantassel is having a good season on the Everstart trail. He finished 24th on the Detroit River and is sitting in 16th overall on the co-angler side. Good luck Don!

Mike received an interesting email regarding the siting of Champ in the vicinity of Isle La Motte and Point Au Fer. Keep your eyes on your depth sounders at Port Henry!

Mike went over the weights brought to the scales at the husband/wife event. He also gave out the weights and stats of the Oneida Lake tournament.

- FISH TALK - Bill Swinton Jr. on his victory at Oneida Lake

Mike gave some interesting facts regarding Saratoga Lake and our tournaments there. We've fished a points tournament there 25 times since 1978. 13.65 pounds won last year (Greg Allen) on free tackle provided by Amy Pollocko. 21 pounds, 3 ounces is the record winning weight caught by Charlie Shaw in 1986 from the back of the boat in Mannings Cove.

#### **Tournament Committee - Jim Underhill**

-Saratoga Lake boat Draw-

Tournament hours are 5:30AM to 1:30PM at the state launch

2 boat-to-boat pairs  
George Locke & Mike Ellrott  
Paul Pflieger & Tim Bantham

Mike then read off the top 15 in the Bassman Standings.

50/50 raffle won by Bill Pigott....\$28

Motion to adjourn by Tim Bantham, 2nd by Charlie Curcurito.

# Meeting Reminder...

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be **Friday, September 10th.** at the Watervliet K of C hall at 8:00 PM sharp.

Place  
Postage  
Here

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

