



ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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

November 2004

BASSMAN OF '04

Bill Swinton Jr. turned in a solid performance at the final tournament of the season held on Schroon Lake October 16th to capture the Albany Area Bassmaster's Angler of the Year title. The majority of guys found the cool temperatures, cloudy skies and a south breeze blowing up the lake a hindrance rather than help. However, Bill managed to scrape up five fish weighing 11.13 pounds for a fourth place finish pushing him ahead of Bobby Simek in the Bassman race. Bill was super consistent throughout the year. He placed in the top ten in all of the points tournaments. His best finish was 1st place on Oneida Lake. His other finishes were: 10th at Rouses, 7th at Sacandaga, 5th at Saratoga and 8th at Port Henry. Total points: 542.

Bobby Simek made things exciting. From the back of the boat he managed to get his fair share of fish and then some. After the Port Henry tournament, he was leading by 2 points. He had a fantastic year and only stumbled once, at Sacandaga, with a 14th place finish. His best was a 2nd place at Rouses, followed by 5th at Oneida, 4th at Saratoga, 5th at Port Henry and a 10th at Schroon. All that done from the back of the boat, which makes Bobby our 2004 Back of the Boat Angler. Total points: 532.

Here are the rest of the top ten finishers of 2004:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
3	George Locke	514*
4	Jim Underhill	514
5	Al Dickinson	504
6	Blase Regina	452
7	Bill Pigott	450
8	Bob Richard	442
9	Mike Ellrott	440
10	Tim Bantham	438

* Overall weight used as the tie breaker.

AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, November 20th is the date for this years awards banquet. It will be held at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel located on 1228 Western Ave in Albany, NY. Cocktail hour will be from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. For room reservations, call (518) 489-2981. Tell them you are with the club and that Carol Halmiton is holding a block of rooms for us. If you have not done so, you must tell Tony Curcurito if you plan on attending. Even though the club is paying for the members, we still need a head count so that the facility can make the necessary preparations. The cost is only \$25 per guest.

AL DICKINSON IS HUGE ON CHAMPLAIN!

Our Lake Champlain tournament out of the Ti/Port Henry area on September 25th & 26th, once again proved to be a fish catching event. We were greeted with decent weather conditions compared to what we're used to, with the wind only blowing moderately on Saturday. Even so, 21 out of 32 possible limits were brought to the scales on Saturday and 22 limits were brought to the scales on Sunday. The calm winds on Sunday appeared to be the factor in allowing some of the biggest weights all year to be brought to the scales.

On Saturday, Al Dickinson was able to bring in a solid limit of largemouths that weighed in at 15.10 pounds. The winds made it difficult to control the boat and fish as second and third place were filled by non-boaters Don VanTassel and Nash Alexander with 12.50 pounds and 12.40 pounds respectively. Blase Regina put up 11.91 pounds for fourth and Tim Bantham had a nice limit going 11.75 pounds. On Sunday, big surprises were in store. The winds died out of the south and shifted from the north but unlike Saturday, it was a slight breeze at the most. Big bags were brought in. There were 19 limits of ten pounds or more and twelve of those were over 12 pounds. Al Dickinson was able to see the weeds with the lack of wind and slammed 20.17 pounds of largemouth hiding amongst the slime. With his first day weight of +15lbs, he buried the next closest competitor with a total two day weight of 35.27 pounds. He also shattered the 2-day weight record set in 1991 by George Locke (30 lbs, 8 oz). Paul Pflieger must have been feeling good too. He had 17.67 pounds of largemouth swimming in his livewell. He posted 28.78 pounds to give him a second place finish. Nash was again up to the challenge. From the back of the boat, he weighed in 16.21 pounds for a total weight of 28.61lbs and a third place finish. Tim Bantham brought in a bigger limit Sunday also. 15.5 pounds added to his first day bag got him into 4th with a total of 27.25 pounds. Bobby Simek's second day weight of 14.24 pounds brought some excitement into the Bassman race. He had 25.9 pounds for the two days which put him into 5th for the event and also ahead of Bill Swinton in the overall points standings by 2 points. Don VanTassel, Bill Swinton Jr. & Gene Lavigne all had limits over 13 pounds. Brady Moy & Bill Pigott had limits that topped 15 pounds. Nash Alexander had 1st day lunger of 4.27 pounds, worth \$48 and Don Vantassel had second with 4.10 pounds, worth \$32 to him. It was the boat owner's turn on Sunday. Bob Richard took 1st with a 5.58 pound largemouth which also is the second biggest fish of this year and will be worth more than just the \$48 he picked up on Sunday. Al Dickinson had a 4.89 pound largemouth mixed in his 20 pound limit for second & \$32. He also picked up \$180 for 1st place calcutta money. Paul Pflieger grabbed \$120 for his second place finish.

The Albany Area Bassmasters brought in a total of 589.78 pounds of bass to the scale in the two days. 268.4 lbs were caught on Saturday, while Sunday having the most favorable fishing conditions saw 321.38 lbs being weighed in.

THE BIG FINALE

Schroon Lake was the scene for our final tournament with Bobby Simek leading the Bassman race over Bill Swinton Jr. by a mere 2 points. Bobby is also a back of the boat angler and in most cases that puts oneself at a severe disadvantage when it comes to catching fish.

Schroon Lake, by nature, is not the best place to be for catching alot of fish. 20 anglers out of 30 caught 1 fish. 13 of those 20 blanked for the day. On the bright side, because of all the "goose eggs", 17th place was the lowest anyone finished and they at least received 70 points for their suffering. Just like any other tournament, someone put it together and won it with respectable weight. Who else but George Locke could crack such a tough place? I imagine past experience played a big part. Just knowing how brutal the place can be is an edge. George brought in a mixed bag of 3 smallmouths and 2 largemouths weighing 13.35 pounds. The combo also got him \$156 for 1st place calcutta. On top of that he also had tournament lunger weighing 3.99 lbs. & worth \$51. Second went to Al "We should fish Schroon" Dickinson with a nice bag of 4 smallies and one largemouth weighing 13.24. He also grabbed \$104 for second calcutta. Third went to George Leibach fishing from the back of the boat. His limit of largemouths went 11.80 pounds. He had second lunger also. A 3.91 lb largemouth put \$33 in his pocket. Bill Swinton pulled through with a limit of smallmouth. 11.13 pounds gave him the needed weight to distance himself from Bobby Simek and claim his first Bassman of the Year title with the Albany club. Rounding out the top five was Al Maher with a four fish bag weighing 10.20 pounds.

THE BIG FINALE, continued

After that, the weights dropped considerably. Tony Curcurito was last to cash in 7th place with 4.61 pounds. Gene Lavigne landed in 6th with 4.82. If some day I should ever feel that fishing is easy and I need a challenge, I will know where to go. At least it's relatively close to home.

A Message From the "Prez"

As always this is a difficult time of year for me. The pleasant Fall weather we have had recently makes it difficult to let go of another season. The camp is closed and the boats need to get winterized and wrapped up for the six months that lie ahead. Outside chores undone will be added to the To Do List for next Spring, when they won't get done again. It's also the time to reflect on the summer and the season that are now part of history. Perspective is a personal thing, it is in the eye of the beholder. But as I look back from my perch as Club President I see a very interesting Chapter in our Club's history.

First there was the total dominance of Tom Haley who looked to be making a shamble of any idea of a race for Bassman of the Year. With a win and two top five finishes in our first three tournaments, Tom was a runaway. Then came the decision to move back to the Rochester area and a season of promise ended abruptly. We ended up with another one of those Albany Area races that was not decided until the last tournament of the season.

It was a very interesting and refreshing season in that the names near the top of the leader board were not the names we are used to seeing there. Frank Maher took the season off to take care of family responsibilities, so he was not a contender. Though winning two tournaments, George Locke did not have his usual consistent season and never really challenged for the lead. Bill Swinton and Bobby Simek were left to battle it out in the end. With a lead going into Screwn Lake, Bobby nearly became the first BOBA to win the Bassman of the Year Title as well.

It was also a refreshing and entertaining season in that there will be many different faces accepting plaques at the banquet. Try this for a teaser, Leo Godin fished only three tournaments this year, but will collect two plaques and a fistful of cash.

We also put to rest the myth that Screwn Lake was a good place to hold a Club tournament. I have a skinning knife that has not been used in a long time, that will make a re-appearance if Screwn is suggested at any Tournament Committee meeting that I am a part of!

This was a season we fielded a Club Team that appeared to be "Can't Miss" on a familiar body of water. The results were not what were expected, though the effort was.

Perhaps the roller coaster season is best put into perspective by reflecting on the last two tournaments. On Lake Champlain we recorded record catches with most of the field catching limits; on Screwn Lake there were only four limits and nearly half the field caught nothing.

The best and most consistent thing about the 2004 season was that you, the Albany Area Bassmasters, remain a great group of anglers and more importantly a great group of guys. Anyone who did not have a lot of fun and a fulfilling experience this season missed the entire point of what we do and who we are. Thank you and congratulations on another great year.

NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS & DUES

These next couple of meetings are very important. We will be taking nominations for officers and committee positions in November and again in December before the elections actually take place. Offices are President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer. The committee positions include: Time Keeper, Measurer & Weigh Master. The November meeting is Friday, the 5th at 8PM at the usual place.

Keep in mind that your dues of \$45 is needed by December. This will enable us to keep you on our roster which is forwarded to National BASS. It goes much smoother if you are on the initial roster mailing. Also, keep in mind that you need to be a BASS member. If you let your BASS membership lapse, then you will not receive BASS Times and it will require divine intervention to get you back on the mailing list.

Albany Area Bassmasters
Points and Weight Summary
2004

Name	Rouses Pt		Sacandaga		Oneida Lake		Saratoga		Port Henry		Schroon		Total	Total	Pos.
	Wgt	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt.	Pts.	Wgt	Pts.	
Bill Swinton	23.27	82	10.10	88	27.36	100	11.85	92	25.25	86	11.13	94	108.96	542	1
Bob Simek, Jr.	26.63	98	8.84	74	24.93	92	13.05	94	25.9	92	3.45	82	102.80	532	2
George Locke	26.48	96	8.50	68	23.02	78	14.16	100	20.46	72	13.35	100	105.97	514	3
Jim Underhill	24.62	94	8.66	72	23.28	86	14.09	98	20.91	78	4.50	86	96.06	514	4
Allen Dickinson	17.08	60	10.38	94	20.70	66	9.94	86	35.27	100	13.24	98	106.61	504	5
Blasé Regina	24.35	92	8.30	64	21.48	70	11.83	90	17.93	66	0.00	70	83.89	452	6
Bill Pigott	23.41	84	9.58	82	19.41	60	8.12	72	22.29	80	1.34	72	84.15	450	7
Bob Richard	16.72	56	10.26	90	18.78	58	8.99	82	20.51	74	3.45	82	78.71	442	8
Mike Ellrott	12.93	50	9.75	84	23.19	82	8.88	80	18.37	68	2.47	76	75.59	440	9
Tim Bantham	21.95	78	5.44	52	22.54	74	6.96	62	27.25	94	2.51	78	86.65	438	10
Paul Pflieger	18.25	66	6.29	54	22.13	72	7.98	70	28.78	98	0.00	70	83.43	430	11
Art Grant	23.58	86	10.97	98	22.85	76	3.72	50	6.88	46	0.00	70	68.00	426	12
Ch. Curcurito	20.28	74	8.23	62	26.17	98	1.26	44	20.83	76	0.00	70	76.77	424	13
Mike Richard	20.87	76	8.34	66	24.08	88	4.40	54	16.33	62	1.73	74	75.75	420	14
Greg Allen	23.61	88	9.30	80	16.26	50	4.82	56	18.96	70	0.00	70	72.95	414	15
Al Maher	23.88	90	0.00	0	19.52	62	9.50	84	23.51	84	10.20	92	86.61	412	16
Jim Greeley	13.26	52	2.88	34	25.83	96	10.16	88	16.33	62	0.00	70	68.46	402	17
Bill Swinton Sr.	16.79	58	8.11	60	23.25	84	8.36	74	7.63	48	0.00	70	64.14	394	18
Don VanTassel	0.00	0	6.31	56	24.52	90	5.08	58	25.64	88	0.00	70	61.55	362	19
Frank Rossetti	12.58	48	10.01	86	20.21	64	2.58	48	1.49	42	0.00	70	46.87	358	20
Nash Alexander	0.00	0	6.73	58	17.59	54	8.61	78	28.61	96	0.00	70	61.54	356	21
Joey Curcurito	17.76	62	8.64	70	23.10	80	7.75	68	9.84	54		0	67.09	334	22
Tom Haley	29.16	100	10.33	92	25.73	94	0.00	40	0	0		0	65.22	326	23
A.Curcurito	18.88	70	3.19	38	0.00	0	7.31	66	17.01	64	4.61	88	51.00	326	24
Frank Polomaine	23.10	80	2.76	32	21.19	68	0.00	0	16.14	60	3.61	84	66.80	324	25
Geoge Leibach	18.66	68	0.00	0	17.68	56	4.02	52	7.71	50	11.80	96	59.87	322	26
Gene Lavigne	12.34	46	4.68	48	13.80	44	0.00	0	22.98	82	4.82	90	58.62	310	27
Terry Fleming	8.86	42	5.00	50	16.12	48	0.00	40	13.22	56	0.00	70	43.20	306	28
Ralph Sommers	18.08	64	1.67	30	12.78	42	7.06	64	0	0	3.07	80	42.66	280	29
Brady Moy	0.00	0	11.10	100	0.00	0	8.53	76	25.71	90		0	45.34	266	30
Leo Godin	0.00	0	10.39	96	0.00	0	13.30	96	13.24	58		0	36.93	250	31
Jamie Dickinson	19.57	72	9.14	78	16.37	52	0.00	0	3.75	44		0	48.83	246	32
Bill LaRose	0.00	0	4.61	44	11.95	40	1.27	46	0	0	0.00	70	17.83	200	33
Rich Bishop	0.00	0	8.89	76	0.00	0	6.85	60	8.69	52		0	24.43	188	34
William Backes	13.34	54	4.51	42	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	3.45	82	21.30	178	35
Bob Simek	0.00	0	3.16	36	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	70	3.16	106	36
Rob Richard	9.70	44	4.66	46	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0		0	14.36	90	37
Russ Camadine	0.00	0	0.00	0	15.12	46	0.95	42	0	0		0	16.07	88	38
Brian Dengler	0.00	0	4.40	40	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0		0	4.40	40	39
Mike O'Brien	0.00	0	0.00	28	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0		0	0.00	28	40
Frank Maher	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0		0	0.00	0	41
Andy Zema	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0		0	0.00	0	41

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 September 10th meeting by Bill Pigott, 2nd by George Leibach.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Checkbook balance is \$8,370.77.

Conservation - No Report

Safety - Tim Bantham

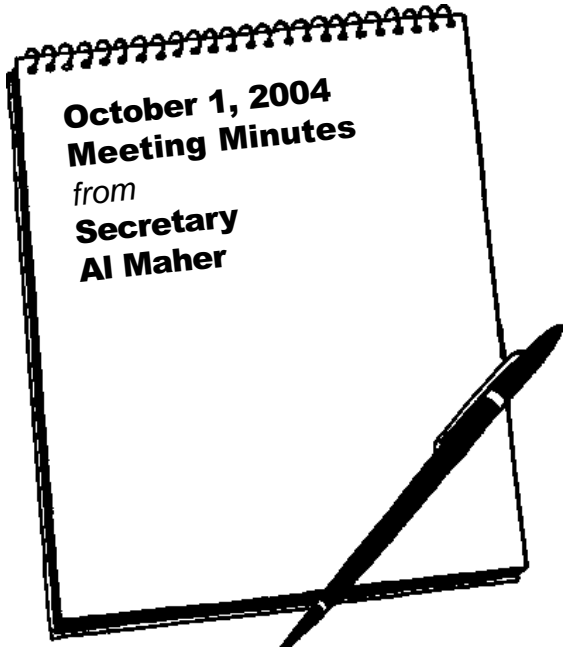
Tim, in an emailed report to Mike, stressed caution when running on Schroon Lake. There are various shoals, especially in the Narrows that are not well marked.

Banquet Committee - Tony Curcurito

Tony not present. Sandy is collecting for the banquet. Although the club is paying for members, we still need to know a head count of who is coming.

Tournament Committee - Jim Underhill

You must show Jim your 2004-2005 NY State fishing license before you can fish Schroon Lake. October 23rd is the partners tournament on the Mohawk R.



State Federation - Mike Ellrott

The State Federation is doing another raffle ticket event. We have 100, \$20 raffle tickets. Grand prize is a Skeeter SX with a Yami 115. \$2 goes back to the club for every ticket sold. If you sell 100 tickets, you will be rewarded with paid State dues, free admission to the State banquet & \$100. Drawing is at the State Federation awards Banquet on January 15, 2005.

New Business

November is a big month. We will start nominations for club officers and tournament committee members.

An Oneida Lake partners event is coming up. Also, an American Bass Anglers event (ABA) will be hosted out of South Bay (Champlain) on October 2nd & October 9th on Saratoga Lake. The weigh in will be at Bev's Place. Both events guarantee if you bring your boat, you will use your boat.

- FISH TALK -

-North East Team Bass is holding their Tournament of Champions on Saturday on Lake Champlain & Sunday on Lake George. Brother Frank & Charlie Herzig finished 3rd overall in the point standings. This one is for all the marbles.

-Don Vantassel gave us an Everstart Tournament update. His last event was out of Mooney Bay on Champlain. He ended up 16th overall in the co-angler field and qualified for the championship event in Kentucky.

-Gene Lavigne fished a BASS event on the Hudson River back in August. The water was high & muddy, however he did manage 47th place and he got his entry fee of \$400 back.

-We had 32 guys fish our Port Henry event on Lake Champlain September 25th & 26th. We had 21 out of a possible 32 guys catch limits on Saturday. 127 fish, only 4 of which were smallmouth for a total weight of 268 pounds.

Sunday we had 31 guys fish that brought in 22 limits. 8 fish weighed over 4 pounds. A total of 130 fish were caught for a combined weight of 321.38 pounds. 16 guys brought in limits both days and the 2 day weight record was broken.

-Al Dickinson told of his good fortune on Champlain.

-Lunker of the year is still holding with Blase Regina's 5.85 lbs. largemouth. Bob Richard jumped into 2nd lunker with a 5.58 pound largemouth.

-Schroon Lake boat draw. 15 boats. 7AM - 3PM

50/50 raffle won by Mike Ellrott....\$33

Motion to adjourn by Bob Richard, 2nd by Bill Swinton Jr.

Meeting Reminder...

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be **Friday, November 5th.** at the Watervliet K of C hall at 8:00 PM sharp.

Place
Postage
Here

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

