



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

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

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## Message from the Prez...

I have to keep checking the local newspapers, given the number of bassboats on the waters it's hard to believe a law wasn't passed making bass fishing legal. Today (Tuesday 4/26) the wind had three of us back at the Saratoga launch at the same time. There was an Encon officer in the upper parking lot, but he never came near any of us.

It is good to get out. The world is such a better place when viewed from the deck of a boat.

The Pike Tournament is fast approaching for us. Entry fees are due at the May meeting. We need to know who is partnered and if anyone still needs a ride. We hope to have the jackets and shirts at the May meeting as well, so bring your checkbook. Timmy Bantham will be giving us some tips on how to get through the boat inspection at the Pike Tournament as well.

As is usual at this time of the year we have a lot of business to take care of so I hope everyone can make the meeting. If some catastrophe keeps you from attending be sure to mail your entry fees to Paul before the meeting or send them to the meeting with someone.

See you at the meeting.

## Message from the Secretary....

Sometimes at tournaments (and in life) stuff happens. Sometimes you're lucky, and there are no witnesses. Other times, you aren't so lucky. My goal, not to "rat" anyone out, but to start a little column called "**I don't want to mention any names, but....**" So, if anyone has information or humorous stories from this year's tournament trail to share about other members or themselves (without names!!) please contact me and we'll get them in print!

Mike would also like you all to take a look at the article I've included from the Times Union on page 5, which was submitted by George Leibach in regards to speed limits on the Erie Canal System.

### Shirts and Jackets are in!

Paul reports that the shirts and jackets have started coming in and that he will be handing them out at the May meeting. You may want to arrive a little early to pick up. Please be sure to bring your payment. Paul also reports: The jacket cost is \$67.00, except 2xl is \$70.00. Short Sleeve Shirts will be \$26.00, and long sleeved \$27.00.

### AABM 2005 Tournament Committee & Officers

**President**  
Mike Ellrott

**Vice President**  
Bill Swinton

**Treasurer**  
Paul Pflieger

**Secretary**  
Bill Pigott

**Weighmaster**  
Charlie Curcurito

**Timekeeper**  
Frank Polomaine

**Measurer**  
Al Dickinson

## 2005 Pike Tournament

Saturday May 21st, 6AM-2PM will be the annual pike tournament. There is an off limit period starting the Saturday prior to the event. \$60 is the entry fee per team which includes luncheon. There is a \$10 fee for the Calcutta. Also, don't forget to pay your parking fee before you leave. Note: Please let Bill Swinton know if you still do not have a partner. Additionally make sure you have a copy of your boater's insurance and license at the meeting. Tim Bantham has organized a volunteer boat safety inspection to take place after the event.

***Boat draw for the Pike Tournament will be held at the May Meeting***



## 2005 Albany Area Bassmaster's Tournament Schedule

May 21	Saratoga—State Ramp	Pike Tournament	6:00 AM-2:00 PM
June 11-12	Rouses Point—Chazey	Points Tournament	5:30 AM-1:30 PM
June 25	Sacandage-Sunset Day Campground	Points Tournament	5:30 AM-1:30 PM
July 2	Cossayuna—State Ramp	Kid's Tournament	7:00 AM-1:00 PM
July 9	Saratoga Lake—State Ramp	Partner's Tournament	5:30AM-1:30PM
July 23-24	Oneida Lake—Oneida Shores Park	Points Tournament	5:30AM-1:30 PM
August 6	Cossayuna—State Ramp	He/She Tournament	6:00AM-1:00 PM
August 20	AlCathy's-Mohawk River- State Ramp	Points Tournament	6:00AM-2:00 PM
Sept. 24	Lake Bomoseen-Edgewater	Points Tournament	6:30AM-2:30PM
Oct. 15-16	Ti Bay-State Ramp	Points Tournament	7:00AM-3:00 PM

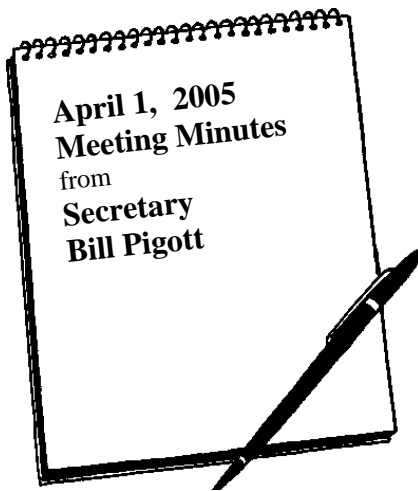
*The Schedule is now Official.*

## 2005 NY State B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Tournament Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sun, June 19	Seneca Lake—Susan Johnson Opener <b>Points Tournament</b>	Stivers Seneca Marine, Inc. Bloody's Hill Road, Waterloo, NY
Sun, July 17	Lake Champlain <b>Points Tournament</b>	Plattsburg Boat Basin 5 Dock Street, Plattsburg, NY
Sun, July 31	Oneida Lake <b>Points Tournament</b>	Oneida Shores County Park Bartell Rd., Brewerton, NY
Sun, Aug 14	Cayuga Lake <b>Partner's Tournament</b>	Frontenac Park Village Launch Union Springs, NY
Aug 27 & 28	Cayuga Lake Rosemary Murphy Memorial <b>Club Team Championship</b>	Frontenac Park Village Launch Union Springs, NY
Sun, Sept. 11	Lake Champlain <b>Points Tournament</b>	Fort Ticonderoga Boat Launch, Rt 71 East at Ft Ticonderoga Road, Ticonderoga, NY

### Places To Stay

<b>Rouses Pt.</b>		<b>Oneida Lake</b>	
The Anchorage	(518) 297-4211	Belair Motel	(315) 699-5991
<b>Ticonderoga</b>		<b>Bomoseen</b>	
Circle Court	(518) 585-7660	Edgewater Inn	(802) 468-5251
Stonehouse	(518) 585-7394		
Super 8	(518) 585-2617		



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

Officers Present: Mike Ellrott, Bill Swinton, Bill Pigott & Paul Pflieger.

### **Mike's opening remarks**

Mike noticed a mistake in the newsletter—the checking account balance read \$659.69, when the correct balance was \$3659.69. Motion was then made to accept the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was accepted by Tony Curcurito and seconded by Charlie Curcurito.

Mike also made mention of the club's membership, which has reached 43. With the two prospective members, this will put us at 45. Under the chapter constitution and bylaws this puts us at our limit of membership. Therefore at this time Albany Area Bassmasters will not be accepting any new prospective members.

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

Paul reported a checkbook balance of \$4,387.15. Paul also mentioned that he purchased an easel and pad for \$82.00, and that the club had received a check from NYSBCE for \$32.00 for selling 16 raffle tickets.

### **Membership Report - Jamie Dickinson**

Jim Turngren made his second function.

Mike Waitehus made his fourth function.

Anthony Curcurito and Nick Fantasia were voted in as our newest members.

Congratulations Anthony and Nick!

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

Tim has organized a boating safety check. This voluntary inspection will be following the weigh-in at the Pike Tournament on May 21.

### **Tournament Committee Report - Bill Swinton**

Bill reported that he has received all the permits back. The 2005 Tournament Schedule is now official. Bill also reminded everyone that the boat draw for the Pike Tournament will be held at the May meeting. If you haven't shown Bill a copy of your NY fishing license and boater's insurance yet, you will need to do this at the draw. Please remember that Saratoga is off limits one week before the Pike Tournament.

**\*\*Keep in mind that there will be three boat draws at the June meeting. If you cannot attend, please be sure to notify the club of your intentions for those tournaments. If you're going to fish but cannot make the meeting, be sure that your money does.**

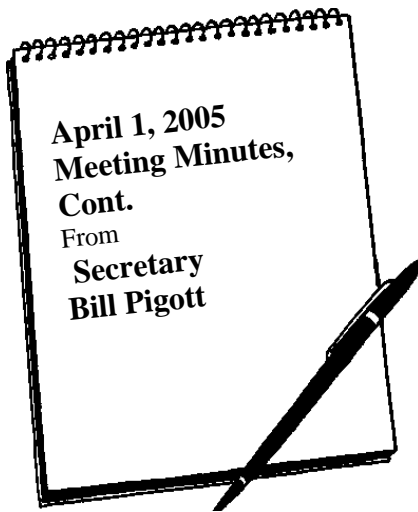
### **10 Minute Break**

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

Mike reported that the entry fee for fishing the Federation Trail is now \$75.00 per Tournament or \$290.00 if you sign up for all four Tournaments.

Also, the NY Federation will be holding it's first annual Junior Partner's Tournament on Sunday July 10th from 6-1 on Oneida Lake. \$60.00 per boat includes Luncker. Lunch site will be Brewerton Boat Yard. If anyone would like more information see Bill Pigott.

If anyone is looking to purchase a Lowrance product or a MinnKota product, call Dom Maio (315) 623-7588, or you can contact him by email [dom@nybassfed.com](mailto:dom@nybassfed.com) for your NYSBCF discounted price.



### **Conservation Committee—Greg Allen**

Greg reported on the Michigan Study of Catch and Release. Also if anyone is interested in helping with the webpage, please see Greg.

### **Banquet Committee-Tony Curcurito**

Tony reported that everything is all set for the 2005 Banquet.

### **Also Worth Noting**

Jamie Dickinson filled the club in on his sister's situation. She is currently stationed in Iraq, and is serving there as a riverboat captain and doing well.

### **Items For Sale**

Tim Bantham is selling his boat: 18'6" 1997 Champion Tournament Model, 150 HP Johnson Fict with many extras. Tim is asking \$11,000. You may also visit [www.goodvision.com/aabm/champion186dc.htm](http://www.goodvision.com/aabm/champion186dc.htm) to see pictures and get more info.

Rich Bishop is selling his camp—Mead's Cottages on Brant Lake in Cheshiretown, NY. If anyone is interested they may call Rich at 518-966-8663.

If anyone is looking to buy a club hat, Terry Flemming is the new "Mad Hatter". Hats are \$8.00 each.

**All Members: Please update your copies of the roster that the club handed out. Changes are as follows: Rich Bishop phone: (518) 966-8663. Brady Moy's info email: [hardcorebasser@yahoo.com](mailto:hardcorebasser@yahoo.com), phone 788-3553.**

**\*\*Please make sure that your Boater's Insurance is at the \$300,000 minimum from the \$100,000 that was previously required.**

### **Lunker Pool - Charlie Curcurito**

Charlie Curcurito has 23 members paid for the Lunker pool. For anyone still interested in participating, you may still enter by paying your \$15 before the first Tournament.

### **50-50 Raffle**

The raffle was won by Tony Curcurito. Tony took home \$34.00

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Motion was accepted by Charlie Curcurito, seconded by Brady Moy.

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## Boaters, slow your engines

*State canal system to open for season with speed limits prompted by public concerns*

By **KATE GURNETT**, Staff writer  
First published: Saturday, April 30, 2005

Boaters used to zipping along the Mohawk and Hudson rivers will have to slow down this summer. For the first time, they've got a speed limit.

The state Canal Corp. announced new speed limits this week in lakes, rivers and canals along the 524-mile Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The corridor includes the Mohawk River and a stretch of Hudson River from Troy to Waterford, as well as the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals and Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca lakes.

Top speeds are now set at 10 mph in canals and 5 mph within 100 feet of a dock or a moored vessel. River travel is limited for the first time to 45 mph outside of the 100-foot boundary. The penalty for speeding is a \$100 fine.

Sunday marks the opening of the state canal season, which runs through Nov. 15.

Residents and boaters complained for years about reckless watercraft and shore damage caused by large wakes.

Any new limits are a welcome change, said Bud Halsey, a paddling instructor and owner of The Boat House on Aqueduct Road near the Rexford Bridge in Niskayuna. Speeding watercraft are fairly common near his boat launch, where speeders thread between the kayaks that dot the Mohawk on weekends.

"You see some of the bass boats going real fast. Jet Skis, they go 40 miles per hour. It's dangerous."

While paddlers can hug the shoreline, the situation can get scary for crew teams, which come to the area from Niskayuna, Shenendehowa, Burnt Hills and other high schools, Halsey said. Rowers are advised to use the center channel, but must share it with motorboats, said Halsey, who rents 20 kayaks or canoes on a busy weekend.

"I don't see much enforcement," he said.

In 2000, Saratoga Lake rowers called for a crackdown on speeding powerboats after a sheriff's patrol boat smashed into a Saratoga Racing Association crew shell near the Route 9P bridge, cracking it in two and throwing nine girls into the water. A 13-year-old girl suffered a fractured pelvis, two broken ribs and a punctured lung.

State Police Marine Patrol will enforce the new speeds along the Mohawk and Hudson rivers in the Capital Region, said John Callaghan, Canal Corp.'s director of canal policy implementation and planning.

Fliers detailing the new speeds will be handed out, and old speed signs will be replaced later this year, Callaghan said.

State officials admitted at a recent boaters meeting in Little Falls that the State Police Troop T Marine Patrol is stretched fairly thin along the statewide Erie Canal corridor. They plan to educate boaters through waterway instruction courses, which are required for users of personal watercraft.

Imposing new limits will improve boater safety and "maximize the economic impact and recreational benefits of the canal system," Canal Corp. Executive Director Michael Fleischer said in a prepared statement.

Many boaters don't realize how easily the waves they create can swamp smaller boats or docks, Callaghan said. "Wakes can have an extremely damaging effect." All pilots are responsible for the effects of their wake, he said.

Boaters asked for the speed limit changes at a series of public boating forums held by the Canal Recreationway Commission back in 1998. Because the Erie Canal winds through rivers and lakes as well as man-made land cuts, speed limits have long confused users.

Before now, boaters on canal-run rivers could set their own speed based on traffic conditions, Callaghan said. "That was just not adequate. You had river sections of the canal where a guy with a motorboat and 225-horsepower twin outboards could go 100 miles per hour. And a lot of people thought that was unsafe."

# Club Reminders

## Meeting Reminder....

The next meeting of the Albany Area  
Bassmasters will be

**Friday May 6, 2005**

at the Watervliet K of C hall at 8:00  
PM sharp.

Remember that you can pre-pay for the points  
tournaments—\$180.00 pays for the year, and if  
you do not fish some of the tournaments, you will  
get that money refunded.

Also, be sure to have your Vermont and New  
York licenses and proof of boater's insurance be-  
fore the first tournament.



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