



ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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

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**AABM 2006
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

Message from the Prez...

Here is the postcard Mike sent us from Sunny Florida (not really.) Mike is off fishing with Bob Simek and will fill us all in on the details at the February meeting.



Albany Area Bassmasters 2006 Tentative Tournament Schedule

Partner's Pike Tournament Lake Champlain Ti-Bay State Ramp	<i>Sat. May 13</i> 6:30 AM-2:30 PM
Rouses Pt (Points Tournament) Lake Champlain	<i>Sat & Sun June 10 & 11</i> 5:30AM-1:30PM
Saratoga Lake (Points Tournament) State Ramp	<i>Sat. June 24</i> 5:30AM-1:30PM
Kid's Tournament Cossayuna Lake State Ramp	<i>Sat. July 8</i> 7:00AM-1:00PM
Rouses Pt (Points Tournament) Lake Champlain	<i>Sat. & Sun. July 22 & 23</i> 5:30AM-1:30PM
He/She Tournament Cossayuna Lake State Ramp	<i>Sat. Aug 5</i> 6:00AM-1:00PM
Partner's Tournament Saratoga Lake State Ramp	<i>Saturday Aug 19</i> 6:00AM-2:00PM
Mohawk River (Points Tournament) Schoharie Crossing State Ramp	<i>Sat. Sept 9</i> 6:00AM-2:00PM
Lake Bomoseen (Points Tournament) Edgewater	<i>Sat Sept 23</i> 6:30AM-2:30PM
Lake Champlain-Ti-bay (Points Tournament) State Ramp	<i>Sat. & Sun Oct. 14 & 15</i> 7:00AM-3:00PM
Scott James Memorial Partners Tournament Mohawk River Schoharie Crossing State Ramp	<i>Sat. Oct. 28</i> 7:00AM-3:00PM

Proposed By-Law Change on Slate for February Meeting

As stated in the Treasurer's Report of the December meeting minutes, it was proposed that the 2007 Club Dues be increased by \$5 per member per year to cover the recent increase in BASS Federation dues. For 2006, it is proposed that AABM cover the \$5 difference for all members who have paid their dues on time. Members who did not get their dues in on time will be responsible for paying the \$5.

At the February meeting, members will be voting to change the current By-laws so that effective 2007, membership dues shall be \$50 annually, with a \$20 initiation fee for new members upon being voted in as an active club member.

2006 NY State B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Tournament Schedule (Tentative)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
June 18, 2006	Chautauqua Lake
July 16, 2006	Sackets Harbor
July 30, 2006	Lake Champlain Plattsburg
August 13, 2006	St. Lawrence Ogdensburg
August 26-27, 2006	St. Lawrence Ogdensburg
September 10, 2006	Lake George

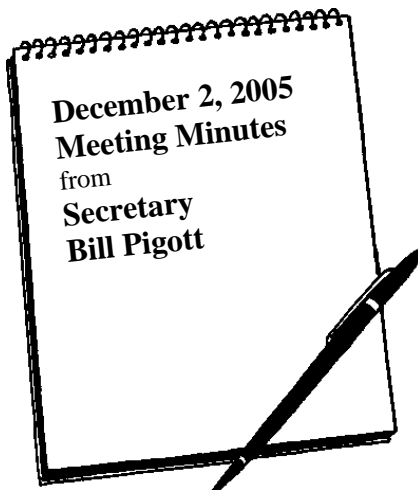
Congratulations to George Leibach who won \$400.00 in the State Federation Raffle!

Places To Stay

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

Emergency Numbers

NY STATE POLICE (518) 563-3761
VT STATE POLICE (802) 655-3435
COAST GAURD (802) 864-6791



The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Mike Ellrott.

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

Mike's opening remarks

Mike congratulated Al Dickinson on his first place finish to win the 2005 Bassman of the Year, Will Backes who was the Back of Boat Angler of the year, Albany Area top money winner Al Maher and the top new-comer Mike Waitekus. Great job guys! Mike then asked for acceptance of the November 4th minutes. Motion was accepted by Ralph Sommers and seconded by George Leibach.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported a checkbook balance of \$3,164.28. Paul then discussed the \$5 a year increase for BASS membership starting in 2006. It was decided that the

club would cover the increase for 2006. A motion was then put forward to increase the membership dues from \$45 to \$50 a year starting in 2007. Motion was accepted by Paul Pflieger and seconded by Frank Polomaine. The club will vote on this by-law change at the next meeting.

Membership Report - Jamie Dickinson

Jamie was unable to attend the meeting. Mike discussed contacting the members who have been inactive in order to see if they have intentions on fishing the 2006 trail, as we have interest from potential members who would like to join AABM.

Conservation Committee—Greg Allen

Greg Discussed his views and concerns regarding the future treatment and management of Saratoga Lake, as did Tim Batham, Bill Swinton, and Nash Alexander. Concern such as the use of sonar as a weed treatment and Saratoga Lake becoming a water source, which could impact the use of outboard motors. After much discussion it was decided that a majority of the club doesn't feel we should support the Lake Group financially at this time. It was then proposed that a watch committee could be formed to keep the club informed regarding this issue which could effect us all. Tim Batham and Art Grant have volunteered to be the Club's "Saratoga Lake Watch Committee."

Safety Committee - Tim Bantham

Tim had nothing to report at this time.

Federation Report—Mike Ellrott

Mike talked about the recent development between BASS and the federations. (Secretary Bill Pigott received some information with the chapter roster, which will be included with this newsletter. The first letter is from Don Rucks, the General Manager of BASS. The second letter is from Robert Cartidge, one of the Federation Divisional Representatives involved in the issue. These letters are being presented to you verbatim, from the way they were received.)

Tournament Committee Report - Bill Swinton

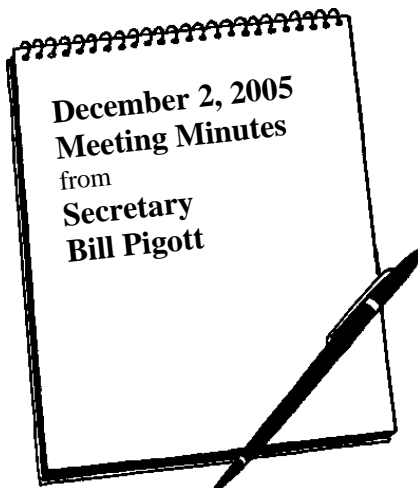
Bill had nothing to report at this time.

Old Business

Mike reminded everyone that the club and Federation Dues need to be paid that night. We also discussed the Saratoga Lake Improvement District proposed letter writing campaign and request for financial support as stated in the Conservation Report. Tim Batham and Art Grant will keep us informed on any developments. As for now, the club will not give any financial support.

Albany Area Bassmasters received thank you notes from Ralph Sommers and Greg and Pam Allen.

Al Dickinson was talking to Hanaford about a matching gift to the James Family. Unfortunately Al was told that com-



pany policy prevents the store from doing anything at this time. Al did receive a \$100 donation from Byrons IGA Supermarket for the James Family.

The floor was the opened for new nominations of officers and tournament committee members. However, no new nominations were made so the floor was closed and elections commenced after a ten minute break.

The election results are as follows:

President: Mike Elrott
Vice President: Bill Swinton, Jr.
Treasurer: Paul Pflieger
Secretary: Bill Pigott

Tournament Committee:

Weighmaster: Charlie Curcurito
Measurer: Al Dickinson
Timekeeper: Frank Polomaine

New Business

****There will be no January meeting. The next meeting will be Feb 3, 2006. ****

We will be looking to fill these committee chairs at the February meeting:

Membership
 Fund Raising
 Conservation
 Safety
 Banquet
 Federation Representative
 Saratoga Watch Committee will be Tim Batham and Art Grant

Fish Talk

We discussed the past year's tournament trail and what we all liked and disliked about 2005, as well as what we would like to see in 2006. There was quite a bit of discussion about waters some of us would like to see on the schedule and concerns about costs. Everyone's input is appreciated and will be taken into consideration as the tournament committee meets later in December to put together the tournament trail.

Additional Business

The James Family Christmas gift was \$515.00 with another \$120.00 from the banquet and \$20.00 collected from the "Cheap Shot Pool" for a total of \$655.00. Great Job Guys! The Albany Area Bassmasters with the assistance of Byron's Market in Schuylerville has also established an in-store account for the James family. Anyone wishing to contribute to the account should contact Byron Peregrim.

50-50 Raffle

The raffle was won by Al Maher. Al took home \$36.00.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 10:15 pm. Motion was accepted by Gene Lavigne, seconded by Frank Polomaine.

The regulations which are proposed to become effective concurrent with the 2006-2007 license year are as follows:

Create a statewide year round season for black bass (largemouth bass and smallmouth bass) by establishing a catch and release season from December 1 thru the day preceeding the third Saturday in June to provide additional bass angling opportunities throughout the state while still protecting spawning stock. The existing 3rd Saturday in June through November 30 season (with a 12 inch minimum length and daily limit of 5 fish) would remain the same.

Change the current early bass season regulation for Lake Erie from a 15" minimum size to 20" minimum size. The special early season runs from the 1st. Saturday in May to the day before the 3rd. Saturday in June. Statewide regulation would apply the remainder of the year. This regulation will keep the extremely popular special early season bass season for Lake Erie and allow for early tournaments to continue, but will greatly reduce the relocation of bass during early season tournaments.

Clarify the partitioning of the black bass regs for Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River to ensure that new statwide regs do not apply to the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River.

Increase size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass to 15 inches in Hudson River and Hudson River tributaries upstream to the first barrier (Ulster, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester, Albany, Columbia, Greene and Rensselaer Counties). Keep the open season limited to the third Saturday in June to November 30, even if a new statewide catch and release season is implemented for 2006/08. This regulation would increase survival of black bass between 12" and 15" and enhance population recruitment.

Create a catch and release black bass season for the Delaware River and West Branch Delaware River (BORDER WATERS PORTION: Delaware, Sullivan and Orange Counties), to be consistent with the black bass angling regulation change being instituted by the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In concert with NJ and PA, the actual dates for the catch and release season on the Delaware would be driven by the state of Pennsylvania's season setting framework. In PA, the harvest of black bass (in other waters) is closed at the same time the trout season opens (1st Sat. after April 11). This same formula would be used for the beginning of the 2 month catch and release black bass season on the Delaware (ending on the Friday preceeding the 1st Saturday after June 11). The current year round season on the Border Waters section of the Delaware, with a creel limit of 5 and minimum size limit of 12", would stay in place for the balance of the year.

Add in the new open season portion of Statewide Black Bass regulation in Ulster, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, Sullivan and Westchester Counties, but keep the 10" size limit for rivers and streams except the Hudson River from the Troy Dam downstream and all tributaries in this section to the first barrier impassable by fish or the Delaware River to increase fishing opportunity commensurate with black bass population size structure and growth.

Eliminate special regulation for black bass (10" - 5/d) on the Unadilla River, Otsego County, and revert to statewide regulations to simplify the regulations book and provide the same level of protection for this population of bass as others around the state.

Add catch and release bass season to existing special regulation for Normans Kill, Albany County, from mouth to Watervliet Reservoir to increase opportunities to fish for bass during the late winter and early spring.

Proposed 2006-2007 Regulation Changes, Cont.

Add catch and release bass season to existing special regulation for Schoharie Creek from Rt 20 bridge downstream (Schoharie, Schenectady and Mountgomery Counties) to increase opportunities to fish for bass during the late winter and early spring.

Add catch and release bass season to existing special regulation for Schoharie Creek from Schoharie Reservoir downstream to Rt 20 bridge (Schoharie and Schenectady Counties) to increase opportunities to fish for bass during the late winter and early spring.

Clarify the special regulations on panfish in Saratoga Lake, Saratoga County, to provide the angling public greater insight as to how the regulation is actually being enforced to improve compliance with the regulation.

Delete the special Hudson River bass fishing regulation in the Essex County Special Regulations section of the Fishing Guide to simplify the regulations and increase compliance with the regulations.

Removal of special bass fishing regulations on the Hudson River in Warren County in anticipation of passage of new statewide catch and release fishing during normal closed season because new statewide regulations will accomplish the goal of increased angling opportunity. This proposal will simplify the regulations.

Delete the special bass fishing regulation for the Schroon River in Warren County in favor of new statewide bass fishing regulations to reduce the number of special regulations for the Schroon River.

Delete the special bass fishing regulation for the Hudson River and Sacandaga River in Saratoga County in favor of new statewide bass fishing regulations to reduce the number of special regulations in Saratoga County.

Keep current statewide regulations for black bass in Hamilton County because survey data indicates that increased fishing pressure could have longterm negative impacts on these developing fisheries.

Keep current regulations for black bass in Lake Champlain and add a C&R season between Dec 1 and the Friday before the 2nd Saturday in June to increase bass fishing opportunities.

Delete the no kill black bass regulation on Nicks Lake, Herkimer County, to allow harvest of bass according to the general regulations at this popular Adirondack DEC campground. Clarify the section of the Black River in Jefferson County (BLACK RIVER FROM DEXTER DAM UPSTREAM) where special regulations for black bass and statewide regulations for Walleye apply to increase compliance with the regulations.

Add in the new open season portion of Statewide Black Bass regulation for the Black River (Lewis and Oneida Counties) and the Deer River, West Branch Deer River, and Beaver River (Lewis County) but keep the 10" size limit in to increase angling opportunities for black bass. For Jefferson County, retain current special regulations for black bass in the Black River and Indian River. For all other waters in the county, implement a 3rd Sat in June to Nov 30 season with a 12" minimum size limit, 5 fish per day regulation (No Catch and Release Season) to maintain the current status of existing fisheries.

For St. Lawrence County, retain current special regulations for black bass in all rivers and

Proposed 2006-2007 Regulation Changes, Cont.

streams except the Raquette River impoundments and those covered by the Great lakes regulations, Black Lake including the Indian River from falls in Rossie downstream to the confluence with the Oswegatchie River, and Tooley Pond. For all other waters in the county implement a 3rd Sat in June to Nov 30 season with a 12" minimum' size limit, 5 fish per day regulation (No Catch and Release Season) to maintain the current status of existing fisheries.

Eliminate special regulation for black bass (10" - 5/d) and revert to statewide regulations on the Unadilla River (Chenango and Madison Counties) and the Madison County portion of the Chenango River to simplify regulations guide and provide the same level of protection for this bass population as others around the state are afforded.

Change Owasco Lake black bass open season to the 3rd Saturday in June - November 30 to simplify Finger Lakes regulations.

Change Skaneateles Lake black bass minimum length from 10" to 12" to simplify Finger Lakes regulations.

Add a catch and release season (Dec 1 - Mar 31) to the existing regular season for Fall Creek above Ithaca Falls (Tompkins County) to provide additional black bass fishing opportunities. Expand the existing season for black bass on the Otselic River, Tioughnioga River, East Branch Tioughnioga River and West Branch Tioughnioga River in Cortland County to include a catch and release season from Dec 1 - Friday before 3rd Saturday in June to provide additional black bass fishing opportunities.

Delete Region 8's Finger Lakes early season catch and release bass season because the new state regulation offers the same fishing opportunity and the guide will be less confusing. Change black bass regulations for the Chemung River, Steuben County, to allow for catch and release angling after the regular season to provide additional fishing opportunity for black bass.

Manage the Cassadaga Lakes, Chautauqua County, under the current slot limit regulation (no harvest of black bass from 12" to 15") but modify the regulation by permitting catch and release (artificial only) angling during the traditional closed season (December 1 to third Friday in June) expand fishing opportunities for black bass while still pursuing the objective of the slot limit.

Manage Allen Lake, Allegany County, under the current black bass regulation (15 inch/3 fish creel limit) but modify the regulation by permitting catch and release (artificial only) angling during the traditional closed season (December 1 to third Friday in June) to expand fishing opportunities while continuing to pursue restoration efforts.

The following is information received in its entirety in regards to the BASS Federation rates increase situation:

An Open Letter to BASS Federation Members

In response to attempts by the so-called "divisional representatives" of the BASS Federation to undermine BASS and the BASS Federation, and for conduct detrimental to BASS, its members and the sport of bass fishing, BASS has determined that for the benefit of BASS and the BASS Federation, it will no longer communicate with the Federations through the divisional representatives. In addition BASS is revoking the seven BASS memberships of the following individuals: Robert Cartlidge, Roger Fitchett, Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Gary Bradford, Joe McKinnon, Mike Dunkerly and Charles Mitchell.

BASS will no longer communicate with these individuals in any capacity, nor will these individuals be welcome at any BASS-sanctioned event now or in the future. BASS will communicate only with the State BASS Federations and with individual members in good standing.

Further, since BASS Federation bylaws require that an individual be a "member in good standing" to hold office, any Federation or club offices they may have held will be impacted. Those states affected by these dismissals should contact BASS immediately to make the necessary changes.

How The Situation Started

To clarify any possible misunderstandings associated with this decision, we want all members of BASS to understand its origin. On Nov. 1, BASS announced a \$5 increase in annual membership dues to \$20 for 2006. Previously, Federation members were paying \$15 annually for the benefits of Federation membership.

In response, presuming they were "representing" the interests of all 50,000 Federation members, these individuals issued a proclamation stating that membership dues for the upcoming year should be withheld from BASS and sent to the state Federations directly. The reps were attempting to take on duties and responsibilities that were never in the scope and spirit of their role.

It's important to note the individuals issued this directive independent of the membership, and their actions run counter to the principles on which Ray Scott founded the BASS Federation. Equally important to note is the fact that this \$5 membership increase — equal to the cost of one crankbait, to put the entire debate in its proper perspective — is necessary and warranted.

Your BASS Benefits

Over the past five years the costs of benefits provided to Federation members have increased substantially. Consider BASS Times, for example, the national publication and platform of the BASS Federation. Members receive this publication as part of their annual membership dues, yet a basic subscription, if they were paying full price, would by itself exceed the \$20 dues.

BASS Times is just one example. Other benefits of Federation membership include — but are not limited to — 24/7 AD&D insurance coverage, event liability coverage, conservation programs, Junior World Championship berths at the Bassmaster Classic, early entries, preferred tournament slots for boaters and non-boaters, six reserved Classic slots for Federation members, divisional tournament expertise, worldwide coverage on the Internet, the Alliance program, Family Fest, Casting Kids kits and international Federation administration.

Costs for all these benefits far exceed annual dues, and they are continually rising. Yet the basic Federation membership fee has not increased in six years.

Continued on Next Page

BASS Federation rates increase situation, continued:

Crossing The Line

By instructing State Federation Presidents to withhold 2006 club/member dues, which must be received by BASS by Dec. 31, 2005, the seven "divisional representatives" have crossed the line. We are compelled to act, and to act decisively. To do otherwise would be detrimental to the sport of bass fishing.

Threatening to illegally withhold annual BASS membership dues is a deliberate attempt to jeopardize the business of BASS and operations of the BASS Federation. By authority granted BASS in the BASS Federation Divisional Representatives Group Operating Policies and Procedures, BASS has decided to dismiss the Federation Presidents Advisory members and to terminate this Board indefinitely.

Next Steps

To circumvent the actions of these seven individuals in the affected State Federations, we encourage every member of good standing to work diligently and quickly to collect the dues and send them at your earliest opportunity to BASS by Dec. 31, 2005. Only those who comply will be eligible to enter a contender in the 2006 BASS Federation National Championship to be held January 11 -13, 2006. States that do not submit their rosters and dues of \$20 per member to BASS headquarters by Dec. 31 will not be allowed to participate in the Championship, which qualifies six Federation anglers for the 2006 CITGO Bassmaster Classic.

For those impacted State Federations, you have new officers to elect. We hope to work closely with all of you as we strive to take our sport and the BASS Federation into an exciting new era without these seven individuals who have attempted to put themselves ahead of the greater good. All of this over a \$5 increase in membership dues, an increase that is absolutely necessary and warranted!

This is a very unfortunate episode, I'll admit. But we have discussed this with Ray Scott, founder of BASS and the BASS Federation, and he agrees that we have no alternative.

Ray pointed out that, early in BASS history, a group within the Federation tried to break away and form their own organization. Ray acted decisively, expelling those Federation leaders and then rebuilding even stronger Federations in those few states.

"It was painful for a short while, but the BASS Federation overall was better off after the malcontents left. That's the way it will be after we regroup this time," said Scott.

For whatever reasons, these former "divisional representatives" have not been representing your best interests.

I urge you to join BASS in helping build a stronger, more responsive, more vibrant BASS Federation — for the good of our sport.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact BASS immediately.

Respectfully,

Don B. Rucks
General Manager

Additional Information on Next Page

BASS Federation rates increase situation, continued:**Letter from Robert Cartlidge**

Gary, et el,

After MUCH feedback today from the Presidents\states today,
We do not know where to start. I thought we agreed NOT to blindside each other with information?

Just to make it clear to all, we the Reps had NO conversations, or communications with BASS about this proposed dues increase. Nor do we support it in this fashion.

The federation dues have always been there to benefit the member. A break down of the dues has been published many times, in Bassmaster and Bass Times, Chapter handbooks, and mailed out with chapter updates. It is well documented. It is, 6 dollars to insurance, 6 to the divisional prize purse and 3 to the Federation National Championship expense. While it is true that dues have not been raised in many years. The last time it was raised from 12 to 15 dollars, it was plainly communicated that the extra 3 dollars would go toward making a bigger better Federation National Championship. That's the same championship that still pays out 50K total prize money with 15K to first place as it did then.

Even still the increase was proposed, discussed, planned and VOTED into place BY the Federation Presidents. It's their decision to make. Where does BASS find the nerve to MANDATE to the states that they are raising the dues on STATE'S federation members?? And the arrogance to raise dues on an organization you don't even own!

Many states and MANY more clubs have the \$15 dollar dues outlined in their constitution and bylaws. That cannot just be changed on a whim by BASS. This change CANNOT take place this year in our opinion.

Next BASS has put it in writing, plainly and widely publicized, that there would be NO mandates to the federations. Yet here it is.

We do not know how to make it any more clear than the presidents did at the Classic. The rank and file members and most state federations DO NOT SEE THE VALUE compared to the "cost" of being a federation member now, under current circumstances, much less with a dues increase designed to do nothing more than make BASS some money to offset their costs. What about the states costs??

We were VERY candid with you in our last Reps meeting about the issues and concerns over BASS's handling of the federation dues money, insurance and other items. We laid out a plan to fix it and YOU agreed to meet with us again to resolve those issues. We have a meeting scheduled for Nov. 18th that we JUST set up on Monday October 31st! ! Robert talked to you (Gary Jones) on the phone for nearly an hour, over several federation issues needing attention just last Friday yet you NEVER mentioned anything about a dues increase.

It is our position as the Federation Representatives and as the officers of TBF, Inc. that we have been very open and honest with BASS about all plans and objectives. We wish we could say the same for BASS.

It is also our position as those who the presidents have elected to represent them, that it is the State Presidents that are the ultimate decision-makers concerning items of the federation business. It is further, our suggestion and request to the State Presidents as of now, to REFUSE to pay any increase in dues at this time. Please contact each of your clubs in your state and have them ignore the notice of increase from BASS and mail their rosters and the 15 dollars dues money to the state federation. NOT to BASS. Then the Presidents can decide at our meeting in January a final path forward for the federation as a whole.

In Unity,

The Federation Representatives and Officers of TBF, Inc.

Club Reminders

Meeting Reminder....

There will be NO January Meeting

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be

Friday February 3, 2006

at the American Legion Melvin Rd Post at 7:30 PM.

200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush



**ALBANY AREA
B.A.S.S.TIMES**

Place
Stamp
Here