



ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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

Submitted by the Prez: "Your Toolbox" From USA Bassin

The fishing season is just around the corner. Now is the time to get your boat ready for a season of serious U.S.A. BASSIN competition. Your toolbox is part of that preparation.

Every boat should have a toolbox onboard for emergencies and minor repairs. We have all encountered circumstances on the water when things break unexpectedly, come apart or otherwise fail. A few simple tools can often correct these problems and turn what is a day ending problem into nothing more serious than a minor inconvenience.

Electrical problems can be disabling but many can be easily and quickly fixed with a few simple tools. Battery cables and connections should be taken apart at least twice a year, cleaned with a wire brush and greased before being put back together. Loose or damaged connectors should be replaced. Check and add water to your batteries as necessary. It's a lot easier to do this in the garage than on the water.

Despite proper maintenance, however, problems do arise. You're in a marine environment so expect corrosion.

Make sure your toolbox inventory includes emery cloth, water resistant grease, a wire brush, file and the proper size wrenches for the nuts on your connectors. These same tools will suffice for other electrical connections on your boat such as instruments, spotlights and the like.

Next, take a few minutes to look over your fuse or circuit breaker panel. Make a list of the sizes your boat uses and go to your local marine dealer, auto parts supply or discount store. Purchase a complete set of replacements and keep them in your boat. Remember to check for any major inline fuses or breakers placed in starting systems, charging systems, coolers, live wells or trolling motors.

Do the same thing with your lighting system. Go through the boat and purchase a replacement bulb for every light on the boat. Buy a couple of extras for your bow and stern lights. They are important safety features. And don't forget your trailer lights.

Mechanical problems are part of fishing, even in the best maintained rigs. A few tools will help you deal with them. Start with a couple sets of Vice Grips, both standard and needle-nose. Next, add several sizes and types of screwdrivers. Round out your selection with a good multi-tool, a knife or two, a pair of side-cutters and a couple of adjustable wrenches.

After considering your boat needs move on to your trailer. Make sure you carry basic tire repair equipment. A simple flat can be a problem on a Sunday afternoon.

Make sure your jack is in working order. Check to see what you need to release your spare from the trailer. Some trailers require short sockets, or a universal joint, when the boat is on the trailer. Check the size of your lug nuts. Don't assume they are the same as your tow vehicle. If your spare has a locking lug nut make sure you have the adapter.

Throw in a flashlight, some sunscreen and a medical first aid kit. First aid kits can be purchased very reasonably and will help with the usual cuts, nicks and bruises that seem to be a part of boating and fishing.

Add, just in case, a towrope and a good set of jumper cables. Hopefully you will never need them but you never know.

Last, do not forget Duct Tape; buy the good stuff, not the cheap grade. It's strong, waterproof and will tolerate a surprising amount of abuse.

This is a starting place. Every rig is different. You'll need to modify these suggestions to suit your specific needs. This should, however, give you a place to start. Depending upon what you purchase, and the quality of tools you buy, these items will cost anywhere from \$150 to \$250. Sounds high but it will be well worth it if problems develop.

Don't forget to purchase a good, solid plastic toolbox. Find a place for it in the boat and make sure it never – not ever for any reason – leaves the boat.

Finally, if you have questions about what you need, consult your Owner's Manual. (Sure, this is a radical concept but it works.) If that fails get with your dealer. He or she is an expert in the make and model of boat you purchased and can make specific recommendations.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meeting Minutes	2-3
Federation Tournament Schedule	3
AABM Tournament Schedule	4
Important Reminders	5

AABM 2005 Tournament Committee & Officers

President
Mike Ellrott

Vice President
Bill Swinton

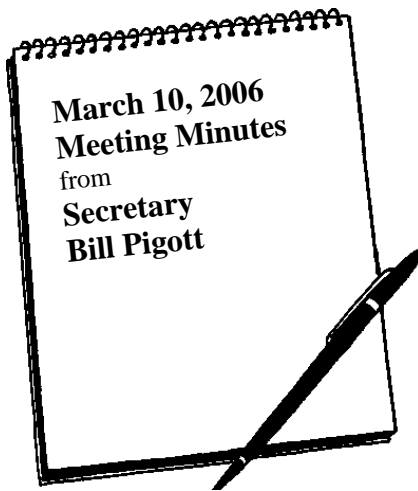
Treasurer
Paul Pflieger

Secretary
Bill Pigott

Weighmaster
Charlie Curcurito

Timekeeper
Frank Polomaine

Measurer
Al Dickinson



The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Mike Ellrott.

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

Mike's opening remarks

Mike welcomed our prospective members, then apologized for rescheduling the meeting on short notice. He thanked everyone for understanding.

Mike stated that there was a lot of important information presented last month—the Federation Affiliation question, the new schedule, an entrée fee increase and a rule change. Shortly after the last meeting, Mike learned that there was considerable confusion among the members about the new rule and its impact. Mike asked the tournament committee to discuss the new rule with the club and have an open discussions of its implications. Mike also thanked Brady Moy who has graciously volunteered to be our first presenter of “Fish Talk”. Mike then asked for acceptance of our March 10 minutes. Motion was

accepted by Bill LaRose and seconded by Leo Godin.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported a checkbook balance of \$3,628.28.

Membership Report - Jamie Dickinson

Jamie reported the club has four prospective members making their second function. Prospective members present were Robby Swinton, Trista Hughes, Dominic Wade, and Rick Marten.

Conservation Committee—Greg Allen

Greg reported in regards to Saratoga Lake, which is essentially home water to AABM. There are two very important proposals that may have significant impacts on the Lake and its fishery: First, there is a proposal to use the lake as a source of drinking water for the city of Saratoga and several surrounding communities. This issue is mostly political and our club's potential to impact the decision is minimal at best. The second issue is of the greatest concern: it is a proposal for aquatic vegetation control. The proposed management plan includes whole lake herbicide treatment with the intent to eradicate all Eurasian milfoil. Mike shared a letter which was sent to Thomas Hall, the Regional Permit Administrator for Region 5, DEC, that expressed the club's concern about the proposal.

Safety Committee - Tim Bantham

Tim had nothing to report at this time.

Banquet Committee—Tony Curcurito

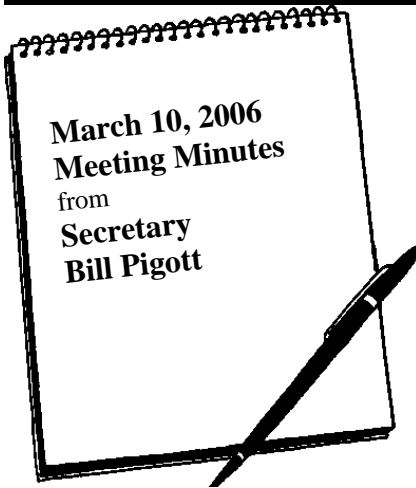
Tony has nothing to report at this time.

Tournament Committee Report - Bill Swinton

Bill reviewed the rule change put into place by the tournament committee. The rule as stated is that if a member misses 2 tournaments and that member's next tournament entry causes a boat to boat draw the member will be put on the non boater side of the boat draw. The club then discussed the rule's pros and cons. The tournament committee agreed to review the rule and take another vote.

Bill then reminded everyone we have a Pike Tournament on Lake Champlain, so members need to have their fishing licenses and boat insurance up to date.

10-Minute Break



Federation Report—Mike Elrott

Mike reported the New York Bass Club Federation voted to continue its affiliation with BASS. Mike will also attend a Federation meeting to be held March 12 as there are a number of important issues to be discussed including the impact of the discussion to continue the affiliation with BASS, the impact of BASS Nation Program, a proposal to adopt a Pro-Am format for Federation Tournaments. Mike also suggested that federation members who have internet access read the President's message which appears on the federation website. Also Mike mentioned that clubs can now get proof of Insurance online.

Old Business -

Mike reviewed the new pay-back for tournaments as a result of the entry fee increase, and also reminded everyone that the club dues for 2006 are \$50.00 and the Federation dues for 2006 are \$20.00.

New Business

The club discussed holding a casting kids contest.

Fish Talk—Brady Moy

Brady gave an interesting talk about his experiences growing up around bass fishing. He also discussed fishing from the back of the boat compared to fishing from the front of the boat. He doesn't view fishing from the back of the boat as a disadvantage but likes to figure out how to turn fishing from the back of the boat to his advantage. And if you follow the standings you'll see he's pretty good at it.

50-50 Raffle

The raffle was won by Joey Curcurito. Joey took home \$32.00.

Items For Sale

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Motion was accepted by Bill LaRose and seconded by Leo Godin.

2006 NY State B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Tournament Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
<i>June 18, 2006</i>	Chautauqua Lake Long Pt. State Park/Marina
<i>July 16, 2006</i>	Sackets Harbor Town Launch
<i>July 30, 2006</i>	Lake Champlain Plattsburg Boat Basin Marina
<i>August 13, 2006</i>	St. Lawrence Ogdensburg Ogdensburg City Boat Launch
<i>August 26-27, 2006</i>	St. Lawrence Ogdensburg Ogdensburg City Boat Launch
<i>September 10, 2006</i>	Lake George Town Launch
<i>State Divisional Championship Sept 18-24, 2006</i>	Lake Champlain, Plattsburg Boat Basin Marina

Albany Area Bassmasters 2006 Official 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. 7 & 8</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

Places To Stay

Rouses Pt. The Anchorage (518) 297-4211	Oneida Lake Belair Motel (315) 699-5991
Ticonderoga Circle Court (518) 585-7660	Bomoseen 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

Important Club Info & Reminders

Boat to Boat Rule

The tournament committee has discussed the new rule and it has been decided to keep the rule as stated. Thanks to everyone for their feedback.

Pike Tourney Partners

The following members are looking for partners for the upcoming Pike Tournament:

Bill LaRose
Rick Martens
Frank Polomaine
Frank Rosetti

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be

Friday April 7th

American Legion Melvin Rd Post
7:30 PM

200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush

Please be sure to bring your proof of insurance and fishing license to the meeting



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

Place
Stamp
Here