

ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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

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Message from the Prez...

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I was going to tell you all about how hard we have been working putting together a nice schedule for next season. Every year the guys struggle and debate and really try to be creative, but it seems every year next year's schedule looks a lot like the year before. We talked about that too. It is getting harder every year to just to put together a schedule, never mind putting together one that is different. The Committee found themselves working around the State Federation Schedule, Northeast Bass and now the national tours. FLW, BASS Elite series and now the American Bass Association has eight tournaments in New York. Even New Jersey is a problem since they bring 50 boats to our waters including Saratoga. In spite of all that, we decided there is no reason to apologize for the fact that the schedule is not that different from other years. We still fishing the best waters in New York and Vermont and fishing them at a time when they should be at or near their peak. If anyone is bored with that, I certainly can't help. The Committee worked hard and did the best they could given all the constraints.

But I decided not to talk about the Tournament Committee meeting. I just want to wish all of you a **Very Merry Christmas** and the **Happiest of New Years!**

**AABM 2007
Tournament Committee
& Officers**

President
Mike Ellrott

Vice President
Al Maher

Treasurer
Paul Pflieger

Secretary
Bill Pigott

Weighmaster
Charlie Curcurito

Timekeeper
Frank Polomaine

Measurer
Al Dickinson

Federation news....

The Federation met in December and a number of issues were sent back to the Chapters for discussion.

First, the way you renew your membership this year is different. Everyone needs to complete the Membership Form and return it to me with your Federation dues. If you are paying by check, make the check payable to the Albany Area Bassmasters. The Federation wants a single check for the Club. Please do not wait until our February meeting to join. Renewals were actually due December 31.

I am going to try to scan and mail to you a couple of documents for your review. They are self explanatory and the information will be discussed at the Federation's January meeting. I would like your input before I go to the meeting. Feel free to send me email or phone me.

—Mike Ellrott

2007 Tentative Tournament Trail

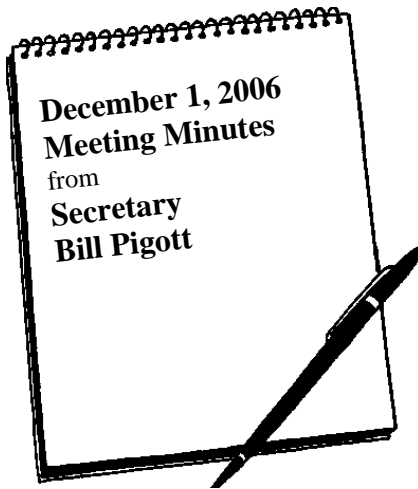
June 9, 10	Lake Champlain Rouses Point	5:30-1:30 PM
June 23	Sacandoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
July 14	Saratoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
Aug 11, 12	Oneida Lake	6:00 -2:00 PM
Sept 15, 16	Lake Champlain Ti Bay	6:00 - 2:00 PM
Oct 13	Lake Bomoseen	6:30-2:30 PM

Non-points Tournaments

May 12	Pike Tournament—Lake Champlain Ti Bay
July 15	Kid's Tournament — Cosseyuna Lake
July 28	Partner's Tournament—Saratoga Lake
Aug 18	He/She Tournament—Cosseyuna Lake

NY Federation 2007 Tournament Trail

Date	Event	Launch
Jun 17	Susan Johnson Opener	TBA
July 29	TBA	TBA
Aug 12	TBA	TBA
Aug 25 & 26	Rosemary Murphy Memorial Club Team Championship	TBA
Sept 9	TBA	TBA



The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by President Mike Ellrott.

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

Mike's opening remarks

Mike thanked everyone for the good turnout to the meeting. He then told a funny story about Bobby Simek turning into a smurf a week earlier — something about blue dye in some new clothes being the reason for the metamorphosis. Mike then read a request from the post asking for a donation to help our troops overseas. The club will donate \$50.00 to help out. Mike then asked for acceptance of the Nov 3rd minutes. Motion was accepted by Leo Godin and seconded by Brady Moy.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported a checkbook balance of \$1,869.98

Membership Report - Jamie Dickinson

Prospective member Sgt. Will Perdieu is making his second function. Mike also mentioned an email he received from Tim Batham. Tim will not be fishing with the club next year. We wish Tim all the best.

Fund Raising—George Leibach

George was unable to attend the meeting, so Bobby Simek filled in for George. Thanks Bob.

Conservation Committee—Greg Allen

Please see page 5 in regards to a meeting taking place on January 9th. The topic is freshwater fish virus—details on pg 5.

Safety Committee - Tim Bantham

Tim was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.

Banquet Committee—Tony Curcurito

Mike thanked Tony for all his hard work to make the banquet a success. Also next year's banquet will be held Nov. 10th 2007 starting at 6:00 PM at the Best Western.

Tournament Committee Report - Bill Swinton

Bill had no report at this time but thanked the officers and tournament committee members for all their hard work.

Federation Report—Mike Ellrott

Mike reported there will be a federation meeting Dec 2, 2006. Albany Area will not be in attendance. Mike will check the website and keep us informed.

Old Business

Club dues are \$50.00 which are due at tonight's meeting. Federation dues are \$20.00 also due tonight.

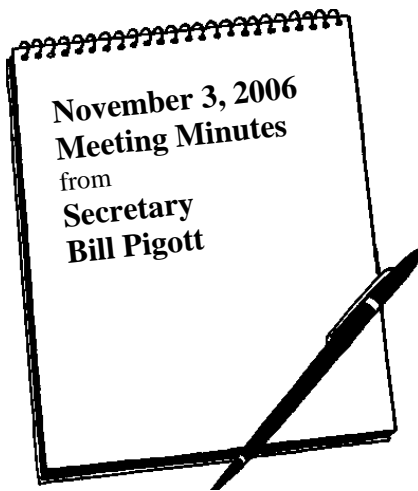
Lunker Pool—Charlie Curcurito

Charlie is collecting for the lunker pool 2007 tournament trail.

Club hats are available for \$10.00 each. See Gene Lavigne if would like one.

To date the club has collected \$922.00 for the James Family Trust.

Roster Update—please add your date of birth and make sure Bill Pigott gets your information.



New Business

Nominations for officers and tournament committee members for the 2007 season were followed by the elections.

December nominees

Vice President—Brady Moy declined nomination, Al Maher was nominated and accepted.

Secretary — Bob Richard declined nomination.

Time Keeper — Gene Lavigne declined nomination.

Measurer — Frank Rosetti was nominated and accepted.

Elections were held. Results as follows:

President—Mike Ellrott
 Vice President—Al Maher
 Secretary —Bill Pigott
 Treasurer — Paul Pflieger

Results for Tournament Committee were as follows:

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

10 Minute Break

Fish Talk

The club reviewed the 2006 tournament trail. We discussed pros and cons which the tournament committee will take in to consideration when putting together the 2007 tournament trail.

50-50 Raffle

The \$24 raffle was won by Paul Pflieger.

Motion to Adjourn

10:00 PM accepted by Bob Simek, seconded by Frank Rosetti.

The club wishes to thank all members that donated towards the James Family Trust. AABM rounded off the donation to \$1000 and sent a check to the grandparents of the James Children. Your kind thoughts of this family at Christmas are greatly appreciated.

Tom White

Rod & Reel Restoration

Rod & Reel Repair—Rod Refinishing — Custom Built Rods

1024 New Scotland Road—Albany New York 12208—518-448-9094

Twhite10@nycap.rr.com

DEC ANNOUNCES INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON FRESHWATER FISH VIRUS -VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation today announced the dates and sites for public informational meetings to be held about Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). The virus is a pathogen of fish and does not pose any threat to public health.

Relatively common in continental Europe and Japan, prior to 2003 the disease was limited in North America to marine species in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In freshwater, VHS had been associated primarily with trout and salmon. In 2005, a new strain of VHS was determined to be the cause of a kill of freshwater drum and round goby in Lake Ontario's Bay of Quinte (Ontario, Canada) and muskellunge in Michigan waters of Lake St. Clair. This same strain of VHS has now been confirmed in a number of non-salmonid species in Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, the Niagara River, Lake Erie and Conesus Lake in New York State. It has been linked to kills of round goby in Lake Ontario and muskellunge, burbot and round goby in the St. Lawrence River. It has also been linked to a die-off of walleye in Conesus Lake.

At the public informational meetings, DEC staff will provide information on VHS, describe the federal and New York State actions taken in response to confirming the presence of VHS in New York waters and others in the Great Lakes system, and answer questions. Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to offer their thoughts, perspectives and viewpoints.

Due to the potential adverse effects of this disease to fish populations and the desire to prevent or delay its spread to other states, in October 2006, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a federal order prohibiting the importation of certain species of live fish from Ontario and Quebec and interstate movement of the same species from eight states bordering the Great Lakes. On November 14, 2006, APHIS issued an amended federal order which allowed for movement of live fish under specific circumstances. Subsequent to those federal actions, on November 21, 2006, DEC filed emergency regulations to help prevent the spread of VHS to additional waters within New York State which:

1. Prohibits the commercial collection of bait fish from waters of the State where VHS has been detected. The rule amends State regulations by removing certain waters impacted by VHS from the list of specially designated waters that allow bait fish to be taken for commercial purposes.
2. Limits the personal possession and use of bait fish. The rule limits the number of bait fish that may be possessed to a total of 100, as well as restricts the use of bait fish for personal use to the specific water from which it was collected. This rule does not pertain to the possession of bait fish in the Marine District; and
3. Requires live fish destined for release into the waters of the State to be inspected by certified professionals and be certified to be free of VHS and other serious fish diseases. The rule prohibits the placement of live fish into the waters of the State (including possessing, importing and transporting live fish for purposes of placing them into the waters of the State) unless accompanied by a fish health inspection report issued within the previous 12 months. For all species of freshwater fish, a fish health inspection report shall certify that the fish are free of VHS, Furunculosis, Enteric Red Mouth, Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus, Spring Viremia of Carp Virus, and Heterosporis. For salmon and trout, the fish health reports must also certify that the fish are free of Whirling Disease, Bacterial Kidney Disease, and Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHN). The fish health reports must be issued by an independent, qualified inspector, as well as conform with specific testing methods and procedures.

In addition to enacting emergency regulatory measures, DEC has proposed a permanent rulemaking that is available for public comment until January 22, 2007. Formal public comments on the draft regulation will not be accepted during the informational meetings. The informational sessions (schedule attached) are not part of the formal rulemaking process nor for the purposes of formally receiving public comment on the proposed rulemaking.

The draft rulemaking is available at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/propregs/> on the DEC website. Public comments can be submitted to DEC by writing to: Shaun Keeler, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4750; or by calling DEC at (518) 402-8920.

Important Club Info & Reminders

**Please Note:
There is no meeting in
January**

The next meeting of the Albany Area
Bassmasters will be

Friday February 2nd

At the
American Legion Melvin Rd Post

7:30 PM

200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush

Place
Stamp
Here

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