

ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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

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**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

Message from the Prez...

I am really confused. In January when we were experiencing 60 and even 70 degree days here, I was anticipating an early Spring. I brought my fishing tackle home from Florida because I thought there was a chance I would get out with the boat before I went back down in the end of March.

Now I am sitting at my computer looking at more than a foot of snow in my backyard and watching the weather channel to track the next two winter storms expected to hit the area. I still may get around to re-organizing my tackle before it is time to put it back in the boat.

The snow also brought on a good dose of cabin fever. Beware this is when the urge to purchase tackle is at its greatest. The Springfield and Rockland County shows will be over before we meet. If you see anything you just have to have, buy one for me too.

The tournament schedule is set, we actually got people to read and talk about the rules. And the pike tournament is only nine weeks away. If you haven't found a partner, now is the time. Let's try to make sure all of our non-boaters have an opportunity to fish.

Now is also time to take care of entering the lunker of the year pool. I would like to also encourage anyone who can, to prepay your tournament entry fees. The cost for the points tournaments is \$225. Your entry fee will be refunded if you can't fish a tournament.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March 9th meeting, especially the twenty of you who did not make the February meeting.

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be

Friday March 9th

At the
American Legion Melvin Rd Post
7:30 PM

200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush

2007 AABM Tournament Trail

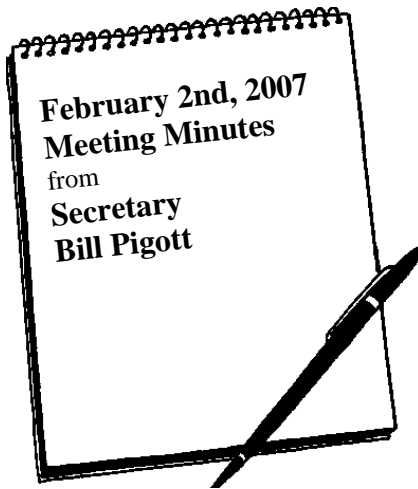
June 9, 10	Lake Champlain Rouses Point	5:30-1:30 PM
June 23 PM	Sacandoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30
July 14	Saratoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
Aug 11, 12	Oneida Lake	6:00 -2:00 PM
Sept 15, 16	Lake Champlain Ti Bay	6:00 - 2:00 PM
Oct 13	Lake Bomoseen	6:30-2:30 PM

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	Oneida Shores
July 29	Mohawk River	Schoharie Crossing
Aug 12 Aug 25 & 26	Upper Niagara River Rosemary Murphy Memorial	TBA Ticonderoga, NY
	Club Team Championship	
Sept 9	Lake George	Hague, NY



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

Mike's opening remarks

Motion to accept the minutes from the December 1, 2006 meeting by Greg Allen and Gene Lavigne

Mike reminded everyone who was elected as officers and to the tournament committee

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported a checkbook balance of \$2136.53

Membership Report - Gene Lavigne

Gene Lavigne is the new membership committee chairman.

Conservation Committee

Greg Allen will no longer be our conservation person. No one has volunteered to fill the vacancy. Mike spoke in detail about "VHS" disease that is becoming fairly widespread through out New York. Please see the DEC website for all the details www.dec.state.ny.us.

Paul spoke about the "lead" ban in Vermont. As reported in the 2007 Vermont Digest, Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws, page 35, "Effective January 1, 2007 it will be illegal to use a lead sinker, as defined above, for the taking of fish in Vermont." "Sinker means any device which weighs one half ounce or less and is attached to a fishing line for the purpose of sinking the line, and does not include other lead fishing-related items such as weighted fishing line, downrigger cannonballs, weighted flies, lures, spoons, or jig heads." Possession is not prohibited, i.e., you can have them in your boat.

Safety Committee - Paul Pflieger

Paul Pflieger volunteered to Chair the Safety Committee.

Tournament Committee Report - Bill Swinton

Al Maher stated that all permits are in place.

The Sacandaga Tourney will be fished out of Sunset Bay.

Federation Report—Mike Ellrott

Mike and Frank P. attended the federation meeting, Mike mentioned the low attendance at last years tourneys and felt the federation might be in need of improvements. Also mentioned that no officers have accepted nominations for office as of yet.

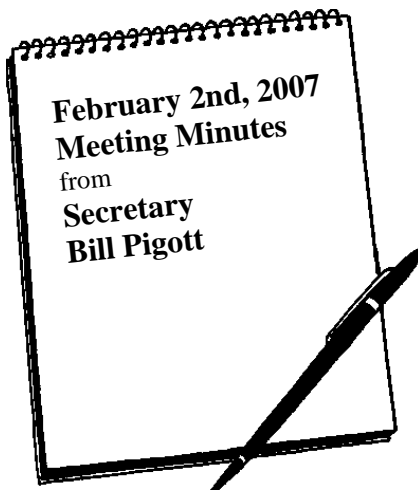
Mike took a vote from the floor in Reference to the club team event.

- 1) Should the club team event field the last two spots on the State team** YES
- 2) Should some funds from the event help the team on the next level**YES

Please See the Federation Update included in the newsletter.

Lunker Pool—Charlie Curcurito

Charlie is collecting for the lunker pool 2007 tournament trail.



New Business

Mike spoke of the following rule changes.

Summary:

Rule # 5 Life vest must be on and secured when combustion engine is running and "boat is in gear"

Rule #11 changed the minimum amount from the non boater to \$20

Rule #16 Six fish to the scales you lose biggest fish "plus one pound" (if you bring more than 6 do not ever pick up a rod again)

Rule #17 Responsibility of angler to dispose of his or her deceased fish.

Rule #22 Boat to boat draws will now result in both anglers fishing alone.

Note: Please see current rule changes attached.

Fish Talk

Mike spoke about his trip to Florida*No water*.few fish*

50-50 Raffle

50-50 won by Paul P. 20\$

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn Tony C and Rich B.

Thanks to Rich Bishop for filling in for Secretary Bill Pigott and taking the minutes at the meeting.

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

New York Bass Club Federation Update

The AAB has 18 Federation Members for 2007. That is a less than 50% participation rate and I think unacceptable. Take the Federation Trail out of the picture and you still need to recognize that the Federation is our primary link to National BASS and to NYDEC. If for no other reason than those, I think it is important that as bass fishermen and particularly members of a bass club, we should support the federation.

On January 28th Frank Polomaine and I attended the Federation's Executive Board meeting in Cicero, NY. Frank agreed the meeting was less than painful, but did say he thought he was working the day of the March meeting! I appreciated his company and his input.

I won't go into the details of the 5 hour meeting but I'll try to summarize some of the most relevant discussions.

1. All of the officer positions are up for election at the end of the year. None of the present slate have accepted a nomination to run for re-election. The lone potential nominee to-date is Mike Cusano, for President. Mike is presently the Conservation Director. He was nominated and accepted the nomination with the understanding he needed to examine the responsibilities further.
2. The Federation needs a strong marketing person to promote the Federation. Only 70% of the anglers who belong to BASS are Federation members. The Federation needs to

- do a better job of publicizing what it does. Money has been budgeted to hire a college intern for one semester to provide marketing assistance with the expectation that engagement will be extended.
3. The Lowrance sponsorship contract is now in place and products are once again available. A federation may purchase up to 2 mount units, 1 handheld and 1 car unit per year with the Federation discount. MinnKota is also a Federation sponsor and products may be purchased through the Federation.
 4. 2007 Tournaments – payout changed from 1 for every 6 entries to 1 for every 8 entries. There will be no pro/am format. Bringing a non-boater will no longer assure the boater use of his boat. Boat-to-boat draws will be flagged. There will not be a wildcard tournament. (?) Off-limits will remain the same. An angler must be a member of BASS to fish. Lake George, September 9th was the final piece to the schedule.
 5. Through Skeeters' sponsorship program the Federation has ordered a fully rigged 2007 Skeeter ST180 with a 115 hp Yamaha (carbureted) engine that it will sell by auction. The boat is "valued at" \$19,200. Only Federation members are eligible to purchase the boat and the minimal accepted bid will be \$12,000. Bidding will end April 28th. If the minimal bid is not received, the auction will be opened to the public.
 6. There was a great deal of discussion of the Bass Club World Championships. The inaugural 2007 CTWC Northeast Regional will be held on the Great Sacandaga Reservoir July 18-21. The Federation will send a minimum of six teams at the Club's own expense. If a state chooses to send fewer than six teams their slots may be filled by teams from other states. Our club team must decide if they want to participate, we are second in-line for an invite. Entry fee is \$1,500.
 7. There was also considerable discussion of New York's Club Team Event as it relates to the CTWC. It was decided that Club's will self-fund entry to the CTWC, i.e., CTE winnings will not be held back to fund entry fees. Entry fees for the CTE were raised from \$210 to \$300 per team and a sixth place will be paid. There will no longer be cash payouts to the top three individual finishers, plaques will be awarded.
 8. There was also considerable discussion of the use of the Club Team Event to fill positions on the State Divisional Team. Presently the top man from the 1st and 2nd place teams are added to the Divisional Team. In March there will be a vote to decide if those two anglers should be added to the Divisional Team. Our Vote ? A second question which we are asked to consider is should money be held back from the Club Team Event to help fund the Divisional Team? Our Vote?
 9. The Federation National Tournament has been moved to the end of October or early November to allow more time before the Classic.
 10. Divisional payouts have been standardized across all Federations. 1st place will be a boat, no cash. Second place and down will be cash prizes.

BASS has said they will have a full 36 6 Man Teams at each regional tournament. If one state can't field a six man team then another will be offered those slots. If the region can't field a full 36 teams then adjacent Regions will be offered those remaining slots. This whole process is going to be quite complicated. Pam is contacting NYSBCF Clubs to see which clubs would be willing to field a team. The basis of that contact is the list(standings) from 2006's Club Team Event. Pam has a deadline date to which she has to respond to B.A.S.S.

Federation Nation on how many Teams we're fielding and the names for those teams.

Once this list is compiled by B.A.S.S. they will come back to the states and ask for additional teams if needed. This is my understanding of the whole process and if not correct I'm sure someone will jump in and set us right.

Albany Area Bassmasters Official Tournament Rules and Regulations

Revised 2/2007

1. **Rule Changes:** Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as he deems appropriate, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.
2. **Participants and Eligibility:** This tournament is open only to members of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society who are 16 years of age or older and who are active members of B.A.S.S. affiliated chapters. *Club tournaments are open only to Club members and prospective members.* **During the competition days of any Bass Anglers Sportsman Society tournament no contestant may operate a boat unless that contestant has submitted documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 boating liability insurance to the B.A.S.S. Federation Department. This documented proof must show an effective date and expiration date and must be received by us on or before the application deadline date.** Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his partner or himself shall not be eligible.
3. *Licenses: All members are required to have a valid fishing license for the state that has jurisdiction over the tournament waters. Licenses will be checked at registration. Tournaments held on bodies of water governed by more than one state, will require the competitor to have valid fishing licenses from both states. Any member who does not have a valid fishing license will be disqualified.*
4. **Pre-tournament Practice:** *The lakes and rivers chosen for Club tournaments will be off limits at Sunday midnight prior to the tournament date unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Committee.* During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine band weather information. **Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules.** The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification.
5. **Safety:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.
6. **Sportsmanship:** Competitors in B.A.S.S. tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting

principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future B. A.S.S. tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the competition days. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

7. Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (8 foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and **must be verified** by your partner before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited

8. Horsepower Regulations: **Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in the tournament competition will be 250 hp**, not to exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of November 1, 1972. When required, each boat MUST have a U. S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard motor must NOT exceed the rating specified on this rating plate or the 250 horsepower maximum set by B.A.S.S.. Any boat manufactured prior to November 1, 1972 must adhere to the ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to **increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden**, and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor also would be cause for immediate disqualification from Bass Angler Sportsman Society tournaments.

9. Boat and Motor: For the safety of all contestants, **all boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch**. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet or more in length. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks

that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. **No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted to be used during the official practice or during the tournament by any competitor.** The definition of "stick steering" shall be made by the Tournament Director. A competitor answering affirmatively the question, "will you bring a boat and motor?" will be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so requested by tournament officials. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat and motor available and will be paired with one who does when possible. It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on whose boat to use and a basis for sharing operational expenses. If partners are unable to agree, the Tournament Director shall make such determination, which shall be binding upon the partners.

The operation of kill switches will be checked at the start of each tournament day.

10. **Basic Boat Equipment:** Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment *and the boat operator have knowledge of the laws regarding safe conduct.* In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and **livewell space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both fishermen using the boat.** Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate". *Failure to meet these regulations will be the responsibility of the boat operator and not the Club. Livewell operation will be checked at the start of each tournament day.*

11. **Boat Operation and Expense:** It is mandatory that the non-boater share the expense of operating the boat with the boat operator; such as gas, oil and launch fees. The minimum share shall be \$20. **A full discussion MUST be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations.** This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor, so as to afford each partner the opportunity to fish his selected waters an equal number of hours. Distance traveled to fishing locations must be considered in order not to deprive either partner fishing time while traveling to and from fishing waters. If a contestant waives the above rights, he shall retain the right to select the fishing waters for one-half the tournament day. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified.

12. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. *When a tournament takes place on a body of water with a system of locks competitors are free to pass through these locks unless there are special rules adapted for the tournament by the Tournament Committee.* Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: Within 50 yards of any marina gas pump or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of the water. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within these boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be **Off-Limits**. Also, the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Director will be **off-limits** and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to **ALL** public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations.

13. Competitors must remain in boat: During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director. In such an emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat to either A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT DESIGNATED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break, contestants are allowed to leave the boat upon which all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

(v) COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.

14. Official Checkpoint: There shall be only one official point for check-out in the morning, and check-in in the afternoon. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director.

15. *Weigh-in Chain of Command: The "Chain of Command" for handling fish will be as follows: Each competitor will present his catch to the Measurer at the weigh-in site in the same order as the boat draw. Competitors will be notified when to retrieve their fish. The Measurer will inspect all fish for legal length and to determine if the fish is alive. His decision at this point is final, regardless of whether the fish is able to swim away later. Any fish deemed short by the Measurer will result in a penalty of that fish plus one pound from his total weight. No fish will be brought to the Weighmaster without the approval of the Measurer. The transportation of fish from the boat to the weigh-in area is the competitor's responsibility. No competitor may weigh his own fish. There will be a Weighmaster present. The weight call of the Weighmaster is final.*

16. Scoring: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth and Smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit, shall be the

tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above described limits to possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. A one pound penalty will be assessed for each fish exceeding the limit; the penalty to be deducted from the total weight for the competitor. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the **longest** state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After a competitor checks-in at the official checkpoint he **must** present all **legal** fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. It has been determined that stringering decreases the chances of a bass's survival, and bass thus handled may be disqualified. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

17. Don't Kill Your Catch: Each competitor is expected to keep his bass alive by use of a properly aerated livewell. It is the responsibility of the angler to properly dispose of any dead bass he presents to the measurer.

18. Penalty Points: For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized four ounces of weight, to be deducted from his daily score. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points.

19. Late Penalty: Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in Rule 14 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "lunker award", for each 1 minute he is late. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

20. Ties: *In the event of a tie, equal Bassman and Money points will be awarded. There will be no attempt to break the tie.*

21. Pairing of Contestants: Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. No two competitors may fish together more than one day in a multi-day event. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check-out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point. When two contestants check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day until the weigh-in is

completed except in the case of dire emergency. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

22. **Boat-to-Boat Draws:** When the number of boaters exceeds the number of non-boaters and it is evident that there will be a boat-to-boat situation; prior to the announcement of the pairings, boater pairs will be selected. The "paired boaters" will each fish alone, using their own boats. Their names will then be placed back in the container holding the boaters' names for the tournament draw to determine launch order. Any boater who fishes alone as the result of a boat-to-boat situation may do so only once during the season unless all potential boats have been drawn once in a boat-to-boat. If drawn in a subsequent boat-to-boat his name will be returned to the draw to be paired with a non-boater and another boater selected. Any boater who is allowed to sign up to fish a tournament after the Draw, will be allowed to fish as a non-boater and will be paired with the first drawn lone boater. The late entry will not fish alone.

23. *Late Start: Any competitor who arrives late for a tournament must be checked-in by one of the officers or a Tournament Committee member and locate his partner prior to fishing in the tournament. If the competitor is not in the launch area when the boats leave, he will be considered late and be penalized 10 percent of the total weight of his catch for that tournament day. If a late competitor does not check-in with an officer or Tournament Committee member prior to fishing, he will be disqualified.*

24. None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the official practice period or the official competition days.

25. *Protests: At least one of the Tournament Committee members will be fishing along with the contestants. If any complaints should arise while fishing, contact one of the Tournament Committee members or forever hold your peace. Please do so before the weigh-in begins.*

Northeast Outdoors Show

**March 16-18, 2007
The Empire State Plaza**

Friday 4:00PM—9:00PM, Saturday 9:00AM—6:00PM, Sunday 9:00AM—5:00PM

Stop by and see Paul and the new BassCats!

Important Club Info & Reminders

Please look over the roster information provided with your newsletter. If there are any errors or omissions, contact **Bill Pigott** with the correct information so that it can be updated. Thank you!

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be

Friday March 9th

At the
American Legion Melvin Rd Post

Important Reminders 7:30 PM

200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush

Place
Stamp
Here

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