

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...

It has been a busy month since we last met and there will be plenty of information to share at our meeting Friday night.

I have been corresponding extensively with DEC as I try to sort through the proposed VHS regulations and the existing emergency regulations. The regulations significantly limit our ability to have a pike tournament on Lake Champlain in May. With the help of Gregory Kozlowski from DEC and Mike Cusano from the State Federation, we were able to work out some guidelines that will allow us to fish and comply with the State and Federal VHS regulations. It is important that everyone planning to fish the pike tournament attend this meeting to hear the rules that we had to put in place specifically for this tournament.

I am also very happy to report that as a result of this correspondence I was able to get Gregory Kozlowski to agree to attend our meeting. Gregory will discuss VHS and other relevant issues and will field your questions. I am grateful to Gregory for sharing his "off-time" with us. It has been some time since we had DEC representatives attend one of our meetings. Please remember that Gregory is our guest and has been very helpful to us. He and the staff at DEC are doing their best to put State regulations in effect that are favorable to tournament fishing.

I also received a call from Tom Hall, Regional Permit Administrator, DEC Region 5. A year ago we sent a letter to Tom expressing our concern about the proposed Saratoga Lake weed eradication proposal. Tom phoned me to say that the public comment period for a permit request to apply Sonar in Saratoga Lake had closed and he was concerned he had not heard from us or any other bass fishing organizations. DEC was approving a permit to apply Sonar to 800 acres in the southern end of Saratoga Lake. He shared information about the revised proposal, a three-year application proposal that includes evaluations of the effect on vegetation and the fishery between applications. I will share what information I have with you on Friday.

I also attended the New York Bass Federation meeting in Syracuse and will report on that meeting as well.

I hope to see everyone at this very important meeting.

Mike

2007 Pike Tournament

Saturday May 12th will be the annual pike tournament. There is an off limit period starting Monday prior to the event. \$60 is the entry fee per team which includes luncheon. There is a \$10 fee for the Calcutta. Note: Please let Al Maher know if you still do not have a partner. There are members still looking for someone to fish with. Additionally make sure you have a copy of your boater's insurance and license at the meeting.

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

2007 AABM Tournament Trail

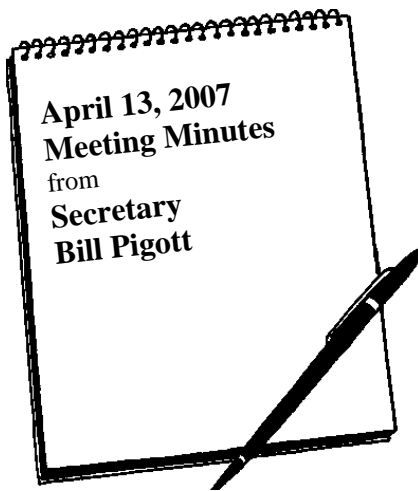
June 9, 10	Lake Champlain Rouses Point	5:30-1:30 PM
June 23	Sacandoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
July 14	Saratoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
Aug 11, 12	Oneida Lake	6:00 -2:00 PM
Sept 15, 16	Lake Champlain Ti Bay	6:00 - 2:00 PM
Oct 13	Lake Bomoseen	6:30-2:30 PM

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



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

Officers present: Mike Ellrott, Al Maher, Paul Pflieger and Bill Pigott.

Mike's opening remarks

Mike welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting then asked who has been out on open taking advantage of New York's new catch and release season. Mike then mentioned that our Massachusetts friends have a tournament on Sunday April 15th and have already been out fishing. Mike then asked for a motion to accept the March 9th minutes. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Blasé Regina and seconded by Jim Underhill.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported a checkbook balance of \$3027.53.

Membership Report - Gene Lavigne

Gene Lavigne reported that prospective member Sgt. Will Perdieu was making his 4th function.

Fund Raising — George Leibach

As always, thanks to George for taking care of the 50/50 raffle.

Conservation Committee — Chair is still open!

Mike Ellrott reported Pete Grannis was confirmed as Commissioner of DEC. Also a new VHS emergency regulation was put in place until the new regulation is approved. Mike said DEC's new proposed regulations are available for review and comment on the DEC's website. The comment period ends April 27th. Mike contacted DEC to determine if any progress was made with regard to the issue of border waters. Mike was told the federal regulations have not changed but was assured by DEC that "We plan to make it clear in our regs what can and cannot be done on Lake Champlain before the bass tournament season begins." When asked about pike season they did not have an answer. Mike will keep the club informed as information is made available.

Also effective January 1, 2007, it will be illegal to use a lead sinker 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 fly line, lead-core fishing line, downrigger cannonballs, weighted flies, lures, spoons, or jig heads.

Safety Committee - Paul Pflieger

Paul Pflieger recommended that everyone make sure their safety equipment is up to date and in working order. Life vest, flash lights, flares, etc.

Banquet Committee—Tony Curcurito

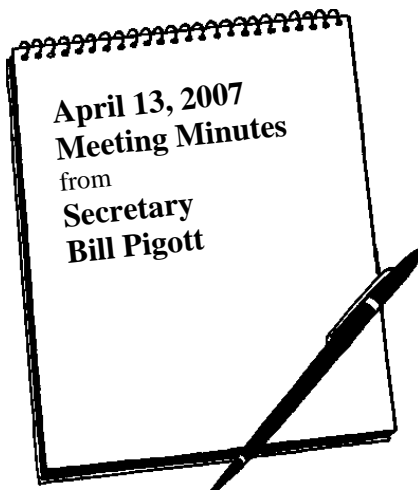
The 2007 Albany Area Bassmasters Banquet will be November 10, 2007 at the Best Western Sovereign 6:00 PM-1:00 AM.

Tournament Committee Report - Al Maher

Al reported the 2007 Pike Tournament is right around the corner. There is an eight fish limit which can be any combination of pickerel, pike, and walleyes.

If you have not shown Al your 2007 fishing license for New York and Vermont please do so at the next meeting. If you intend on using your boat Al needs a copy of your boater's insurance at the next meeting also.

Al also mentioned that Nash Alexander, Joey Curcurito, and Will Perdieu are looking for rides, if you need a partner. We additionally talked about the boater to BOBA ratio.



Federation Report—Mike Ellrott

Mike reported the Albany Area Bassmasters has been invited to participate in the Bass Club World Championships. We have decided to decline. Also the next Federation meeting will be held April 22nd.

Old Business

Lunker Pool—Charlie Curcurito

Al Dickinson is collecting tonight as Charlie Curcurito was unable to attend. Thanks for filling in, Al.

Club hats—Gene Lavinge

Club hats are available for \$10.00 They are tan and feature the club logo. See Gene if you would like to purchase one.

New Business

Mike received an email from Rose Dickinson regarding the relay for life fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. From Rose's email:

"I want to invite you to show your support in the ongoing fight against cancer by joining us for this year's event. Please click on the link below for more information, including details on the inspirational Survivors' Lap and the moving Lumina Ceremony. We hope to see you there! If you can't join us, will you please visit the site and make a donation to support our efforts? Either way, you will make a real difference in the lives of people facing cancer – and in the lives of the people who love them. Thank you!"

For state fundraising notices and the American Cancer Society's Privacy Policy, please visit:

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/SU/su_0.asp

The 19th annual Cayuga Lake Bass Tournament will be held June 16th, 2007 from 6:30-2:30 this is a team event. \$120.00 per boat, optional \$10.00 lunker per boat.

Fish Talk

Bill Swinton talked about he and Al's technique that won last year's pike tournament. Bill said they found grass in 2 to 3 feet of water and also in 8 to 10 feet water. They were throwing spinner baits and slow rolling just ticking the grass. Jim Underhill and Bill Pigott also added that they were doing the same thing but had success with smaller baits.

50-50 Raffle

50-50 won by Paul Pflieger. Paul took home \$30.00.

Motion to Adjourn

Mike then asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Brady Moy and seconded by Art Grant.

Guest Speaker at May Meeting

We will have a guest speaker from the Department of Environmental Conservation at our meeting Friday, May 4th. Gregory Kozlowski from the Fisheries Department will be joining us to talk about VHS and other issues effecting fishing in New York State. Gregory has been very helpful as we try to understand the new VHS regulations and the process for putting these regulations in place. Gregory will make a presentation and answer your questions at 7:30. Please plan to arrive on time so that we may begin promptly at 7:30.

Important Club Info & Reminders

Boat Draw / Pike Tourney

We will be having the boat draw for the pike tourney at the next meeting. The following members are still looking for partners for the tournament:

**Nash Alexander
Joey Curcurito
Will Perdieu**

Important: We are having a guest speaker at the beginning of the meeting this week. Please be sure to arrive promptly as he will be beginning his talk at 7:30.

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be

Friday May 4th

At the
American Legion Melvin Rd Post

7:30 PM

200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush

Place
Stamp
Here

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