

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...

Well, let's try this again. Only this time we'll drive further north to a larger part of the lake. We **will** fish next weekend! Think positive!

I do think the Tournament Committee made the right decision canceling the pike event. I know it was not easy for them and some had to set their personal feelings aside. But no boats were damaged and no one got hurt.

I will do my best to keep Friday's meeting brief. As much fun as last month was, I know some of you will be heading to Rouses this weekend and we'll get you out as quickly as possible. We do have the partner draw. You also have to remember this is your last chance to get in the lunker of the year pool. You also need a Vermont license for this tournament, so if you haven't shown the VP now is the time.

If you leave things to the last minute, does that make you the "world's best or the world's worst procrastinator"? Whatever my title, I'm writing this message when I should be tackling-up my boat for a trip north.

I hope to see you all Friday night. If you can't make the meeting, it's up to you to make sure someone on the Tournament Committee (preferably Al Maher) knows if you plan to fish and that you have paid your tournament entry fee. Paying at the tournament is strongly discouraged and should only be a rare exception for an unavoidable circumstance. Remember the Tournament Committee is also trying to focus on fishing.

Friday,

Mike

Pike Tournament Cancelled Due to High Winds and Unsafe Conditions

Although we were unable to fish the pike tournament, an enormous amount of time and effort was spent by club president Mike Ellrott trying to get the event off the ground. Mike worked with Mike Cusano, Conservation Director NYBCF as well as Doug Stange, Greg Kozlowski and Rich Preall from DEC and through their efforts it was arranged for the club to fish Ticonderoga as we did last year. Rich Preall had issued the club a stocking permit that would have enabled us to release back to Lake Champlain the fish we caught there. Many thanks to Mike Ellrott and everyone who worked so hard to get the tournament off the dock, even though it never did.

2007 AABM Tournament Trail

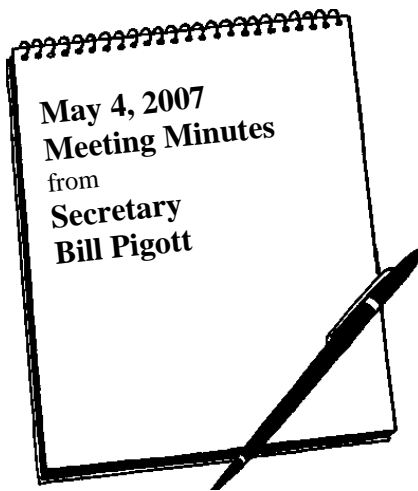
June 9, 10	Lake Champlain Rouses Point	5:30-1:30 PM
June 23	Sacandoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
July 14	Saratoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
Aug 11, 12	Oneida Lake	6:00 -2:00 PM
Sept 15, 16	Lake Champlain Ti Bay	6:00 - 2:00 PM
Oct 13	Lake Bomoseen	6:30-2:30 PM

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 7:30 PM by President Mike Ellrott.

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

Mike's opening remarks

Mike started the meeting by welcoming everyone to tonight's meeting. He then introduced our guest speakers of the night Greg Kozlowski from DEC's Fisheries Bureau and Jeff Loukmas who is responsible for warm water fisheries which include bass. Greg was then introduced to the club and spoke to us about the new federal regulation order regarding the VHS regulations that were put into place recently. Greg explained the reasons for writing the regs and what they mean to anglers. He also made it very clear that the current emergency regs will be revised by the time the take season opens. But for the pike tournament we would not be allowed to transport fish from Vermont waters to NY waters as the regulations are written. There was a question and answer

period that took place which raised more questions than answers. Mike then thanked Greg and Jeff for their time. The tournament committee then met to discuss the pike tournament while there was a 10 minute break. After it was discussed it was decided to put it to a vote if we should cancel the tournament or have the tournament and just fish the NY side. The vote was 12 in favor of fishing, 9 to cancel the tournament. Mike then announced to the club we will hold the tournament and only fish NY waters. We then resumed our regular meeting.

Mike asked for a motion to accept the April 13th meeting minutes. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Ralph Sommers, seconded by Bob Richard. Minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported a checkbook balance of \$4,207.53.

Membership Report - Gene Lavigne

Gene Lavigne reported that Sgt. Will Perdieu was making his 5th function and the club will be voting on Will's membership tonight.

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 that DEC has approved a Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District permit application to use Sonar on 800 acres in the southern end of the lake. This is the first year of a three-year plan to use sonar in the lake. Mike said discussing the plan with Tom Hall, region 5 DEC, it sounded as if many of the concerns we expressed in our March letter have been addressed in the new plan. There will be an evaluation of the effect of the chemical on both the vegetation and the fish population before subsequent permits are approved.

Safety Committee - Paul Pflieger

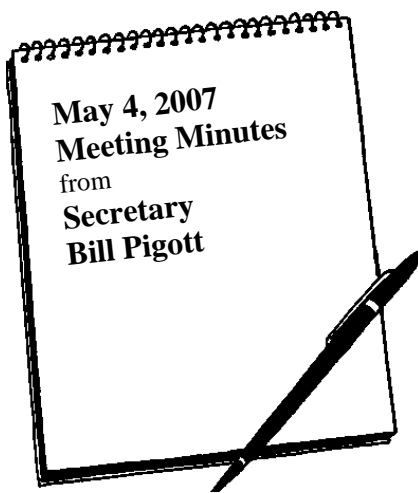
Paul handed out copies of the NY Boater's Guide and reviewed some of the regulations.

Banquet Committee—Tony Curcurito

AABM 2007 Banquet will be held November 10, 2007 at the Best Western Sovereign 6:00 PM—1:00 AM.

Tournament Committee Report - Al Maher

Al spoke about the Pike Tournament. He reminded us we will only be fishing the NY side of Lake Champlain. The tournament will be 6:30-2:30. We will be fishing for Pickerel, Pike and Walleye with an eight fish limit.



Federation Report—Mike Ellrott

Mike distributed membership cards. He then reported on the meeting he attended April 22nd. See Mike's summary of the meeting on the following page.

Old Business

Lunker Pool—Charlie Curcurito

Charlie reported there are 22 paid and read the names of who is paid. The next meeting is your last chance to get in the pool if you haven't already. It's \$15.00 to enter - it's money well spent.

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.

Mike also addressed some issues club members have with new rules. Thanks guys for expressing your opinions in a professional manner.

10 minute break

New Business

The club held a membership vote. We welcome Sgt. Will "Joseph" Perdieu as Albany Area Bass Masters' newest member.

Mike received a letter from Champion Tackle which included a sample of their hottest bait for 2007, the GOBI soft plastic lure. If you would like to give them a try, their website is www.buyvalueproducts.com/fishing.htm.

The boat draw for the pike tournament was then held. As always very entertaining. Thanks Charlie.

50-50 Raffle

50-50 won by Blasé Regina. Blasé took home \$30.00.

Motion to Adjourn

Mike then asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Leo Godin and seconded by Bob Richard. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Our most sincere condolences to Paul Pflieger for the loss of his Brother, Kenneth.

The Club would like to welcome our newest member, Sgt. Will "Joseph" Perdieu.
Will was voted in at the last meeting.

Boat Draw Reminder

Just a reminder there will be two boat draws at the June meeting. If you cannot attend and will be fishing the tournaments, please be sure to contact one of the tournament committee members.

NYSBCF Report – Mike Elliott

I attended the April 22 meeting in Cicero. Eleven Clubs (out of 45) were represented.

A number of different issues were discussed.

Only 7 Casting Kids Events have been scheduled in New York this year. August 31 is the cutoff date for the State Finals. The State finals will be held September 15 at BPS in Auburn, NY.

The Northeastern NY Club (24 members) sponsored a three day event in Ogdensburg that drew 441 kids. They divided the event into 7 different contests. They attributed their success to the fact they gave away \$20,000 worth of tackle at the event. A description of the event will appear in the next Fishlines and in Bass Times.

There was a discussion of the proposed VHS regulations.

Issues surrounding the Club Team Championship were resolved. The voting went pretty much as we voted.

Clubs will be limited to one team.

Payout will be at a rate of 1 position per 6 entries;

2 positions on the State team will be filled at the CTC;

These positions will be funded in part from the Club Team Championship. To accomplish that the \$10 lunger fee was made mandatory and added to the entry fee. \$5 of the \$10 will go to funding the state team members, \$5 to the lunger pool.

Too much time was spent discussing what could be done to increase participation in the Tournament Trail. A new Tournament Participation Award was approved.

\$2000 - 1st Prize

Minn Kota Trolling Motor - 2nd Prize

Lowrance Electronics - 3rd Prize

To be eligible for this award, you must fish all four NYBCF points tournaments and not be eligible for the Divisional Team. The award winners will be drawn (at random) at the banquet in January 2008 and you must be present to win.

Other suggestions ranged from adopting a regional format to going to a single tournament.

I suggested that the Tournament Trail was insignificant. There are too many other options available now. Since there are 18,000 anglers in New York State who subscribe to Bassmaster Magazine and only 575 members of the Federation I suggest the challenge was to find a way to make the Federation relevant to those 18,000 people. The Federation needs to become to Bass anglers what the NRA is to hunters and shooters. Some discussion followed.

Important Club Info & Reminders

Boat Draw / Rouses & Sacandoga

We will be having the boat draw for the next two tournaments at the next meeting.

Please be sure to bring your proof of insurance and fishing licenses to the next meeting.

Important: if you are unable to attend the meeting but intend on fishing, please contact a tournament committee member and let them know.

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be

Friday June 1st

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**