

ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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

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Message from the Prez...

It seems like it was a long time coming, but in about a month we will be on the water fishing again. I'm sure some of you will be out well before that, but our annual pike tournament is scheduled for May 10. Now is the time to line up your partner so that we can see if anyone needs a ride. Please let Al Maher know who you will be fishing with as soon as you can. I also urge you to give him your proof of insurance if your policy was renewed since our last tournament.

Anthony Curcurito has been researching what impact the new E-10 fuels may have on our outboards and other small engines. I have asked him to give us a brief summary of what he learned.

I will be back in Florida next week continuing my efforts to recruit Janet Parker and any of her friends to join us. I also hope to catch another photo-worthy fish while there.

I want to thank everyone who turned out last month and encourage everyone to be there Friday April 11. See you there.

LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP

There was a lengthy discussion on what it means to be a Life Time Member. Life members enjoy the rights of active members. No dues will be assessed and the minimum attendance rules are waived. Life members are responsible for any tournament entry fees. The issue had to do with a competitor drawn to fish alone inviting someone not participating in the tournament to fish with him.

The person in question's status as a life member had nothing to do with him being allowed to fish as a non participant. The question at the time was whether someone who was not participating would be covered by insurance. It was concluded that life members who wish to participate in tournaments, pay their annual B.A.S.S. membership dues to assure insurance coverage. And that if a life member wants to participate in a tournament, that person should let the club know so they can be placed in the tournament draw prior to the tournament.

**AABM 2008
Tournament Committee
& Officers**

President
Mike Ellrott

Vice President
Al Maher

Treasurer
Paul Pflieger

Secretary
Rich Bishop

Weighmaster
Charlie Curcurito

Timekeeper
Bill Pigott

Measurer
Al Dickinson

2008 AABM Tournament Trail

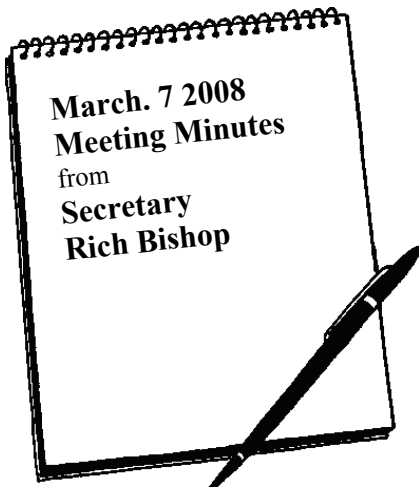
June 14, 15	Lake Champlain Rouses Point	5:30-1:30 PM
June 28	Saratoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
July 19,20	Oneida Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
Aug 16, 17	Lake Champlain Ti Bay	6:00 -2:00 PM
Sept 20,	Saratoga lake	6:00 - 2:00 PM
Oct 18	Mohawk (Schoharie)	6:30-2:30 PM

Non-points Tournaments

May 10	Pike Tournament—Lake Champlain Ti Bay
Aug 30	Partner's Tournament—Saratoga Lake
July 26	He/She Tournament—Cossayuna Lake

NY Federation 2008 Tournament Trail

Date	Event	Launch
Jun 22	Lake George	mossy point
Aug 3	Henderson Harbor	Town Ramp
Aug 23 & 24	Chautauqua Lake-CTE	Oneida Shores
Sept 7	Oneida Lake	Oneida Shore Park



Meeting called to order at 7:40PM by club president Mike Ellrott

Officers present: Mike Ellrott, Al Maher, Paul Pflieger and Rich Bishop.

Mike's opening remarks-

Mike Started by wishing everyone a happy new year and welcome back as we get the 2008 season underway. He asked everyone to look around and introduce yourself to anyone who looks familiar to you since it has been awhile. He also hoped everyone has seen the upcoming schedule. Mike also reminded everyone of this years officers and tournament committee. Mike asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 7th. Accepted by Charlie C. and seconded by Brady Moy.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger

Paul reported we have a checkbook balance of \$1887.57

Membership Report - Gene Lavigne

No new or prospective members present.

Fund Raising — George Leibach

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

Conservation Committee — Mike Ellrott

Fish kill reveals scope of infestation

January 12, 2008

BURLINGTON, Vt.—Vermont Fish and Wildlife biologists have discovered tens of thousands of dead alewives in Lake Champlain, revealing the scale of the infestation of the nonnative fish.

The fish were found north of the Sandbar to Maquam Shore, in what is called the Inland Sea section of the lake.

Biologists, who were notified of the fish die-off by anglers, believe it is temperature-related.

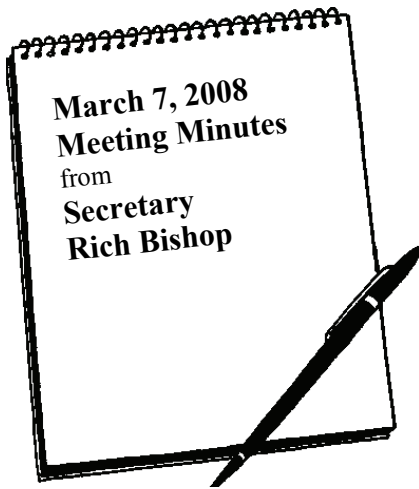
Alewives were first found in the lake in 2005.

Biologists say the bait fish that is a member of the herring family native to the Atlantic Ocean threaten to change the lake's ecosystem.

Alewives could displace smelt as the primary forage fish in the lake and reduce the populations of other lake fish, such as perch.

Lake trout and salmon that feed on alewives also are prone to a disease called early mortality syndrome.

Information from: The Burlington Free Press,



Banquet Committee—Tony Curcurito

2008 Banquet– November 8, 2008 Best Western Sovereign 6PM-12PM

Tournament Committee Report - Al Maher

Al went over the locations and dates for this years tournaments. And reminded everyone that they need to show their NY and Vermont licenses. And boaters need to show proof of insurance.

Federation Report—Mike Ellrott

Mike reported that the federation will only be having 3 points tournaments this year. The 2008 officer nominations were discussed and it was noted that each position had only one nominee. Since no other nominations were received during the 10 day waiting period the slate was closed. The slate consisted of President-Mike Cusano, Vice President-Paul Tomeo, Treasurer-Tim Morrison, and Secretary- Ed Flick. Pam cast a single vote and formalized the election of the new officers. Pam introduced Mike Cusano and turned the meeting over to him. Mike Cusano went on to intro-

duce his appointed Committee Members. Conservation Director-Burnie Haney, Tournament Director-Jeff Edgerton, Youth Director-Mickey Fortunato, Web Master-Don Florczyk, Fishlines Executive Editor, PR and Marketing Director-Tom Presnell, Fishlines Managing Editor-John Siejak, Sponsored Product Coordinator-Dominic Maio, New Club Cooridinator-Ed Flick, Scholarship-Kathy Bonnano. The divisional dates for 2008 were discussed. The tournament is September 14-19, 2008 on Lake Winnepesaukee and the host state is the NH Federation. Paul Tomeo will be coordinating the divisional team. **The following are the format changes for the 2008 tournament season.**

Boater and Non-Boater Divisions: For 2008 there will be separate divisions for boaters and non-boaters. There will be a separate pool for boaters and non-boaters. Boaters will pay an increased entry fee of \$125 (includes luner), the non-boaters entry fee will remain at \$75 (includes luner). There will be separate points and prizes allocated for each division. Under this format, the boaters will choose the fishing locations and will fish from the front of the boat. Non-boaters will fish from the back of the boat. Participants will be allowed to share information including fishing spots under this format.

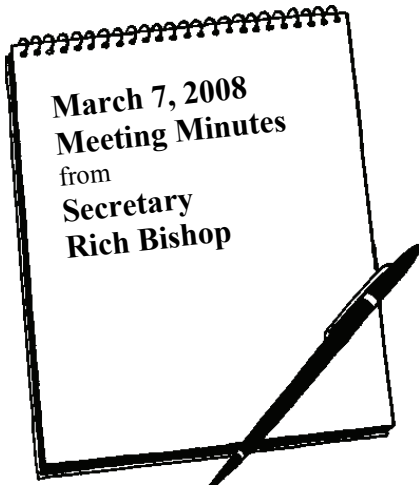
Increasing Boaters Fee: The boater fee will be increased to \$125; any increased entry fees will be allocated directly to payout for 2008.

State Team: The team will be made up of 8 boaters and 2 non-boaters from the points trail. The other two spots will continue to come from the CTC.

CTC: The CTC format and off-limits will remain the same as years past. The CTC will continue to qualify anglers for the NYBCF Divisional Team. The top angler from both the first and second place teams will qualify for the 6th and 12th positions on the state team respectively.

Guaranteed Entry: We will have a “guaranteed to fish” process, which will ensure that any boaters and non-boaters who are linked - sign up listing each other on their entry form and fish an event, will be guaranteed entry into the appropriate division.

Off-Limits: Will change in the following manner for 2008. For the Susan Johnson Opener on Lake George, June 22, 2008, there will be NO OFF-LIMITS, which means anglers will be allowed to practice until the re-registration deadline on Saturday, June 21, 2008. **For the remaining points tournaments** the off-limits have been expanded to allow anglers the opportunity to practice Thursday at safe light, (all day Friday), and until the Saturday re-registration deadline. The official off-limits for the remaining points events will be the midnight of the **Sunday** prior to safe light of the **Thursday** prior. In the case of a holiday weekend preceding a tournament, the off-limits will begin at midnight on the Monday of the holiday. For 2008, you and your clubs will have the opportunity to test two off-limit scenarios, and at season’s end we plan to revisit off-limits with the membership.



Safety Committee - Paul Pflieger

Paul had no report at this time.

Lunker Pool—Charlie Curcurito

Once again Charlie is collecting for the Lunker Pool. Cost to get in is \$15.00.

Club hats—Gene Lavigne

Club hats are available for \$10.00 They are tan and feature the club logo. The club is looking to purchase new hats for the coming season

Dominic Wade –

Mike read a letter From Dominic, He hopes to be able to be back fishing this year.

Fish Talk –Mike talked about his Florida fishing trip where he was able to land a beautiful 7-3 Largemouth. And was also able to attend the FLW division tournament won by J.T. Kenney.

Membership Status- We currently Have 33 Members, 19 boaters and 14 non boaters .

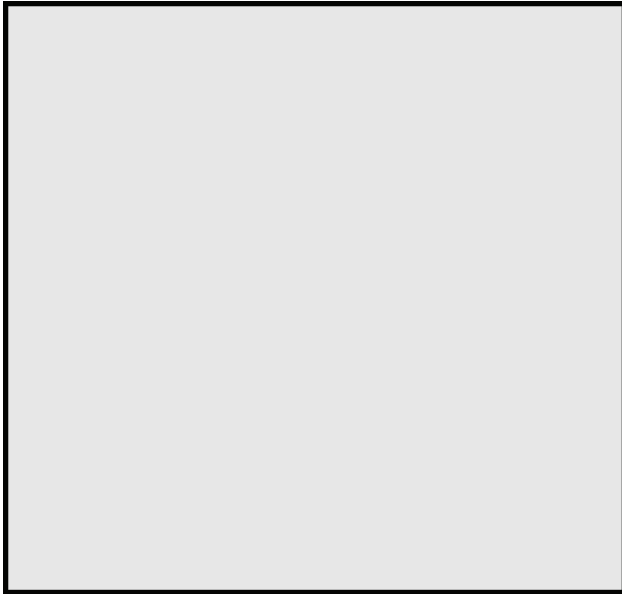
50-50 Raffle

\$29.00 won by Bob Richards.

Motion to Adjourn

Mike then asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Leo Godin and seconded by Bob Richard. Motion was accepted and meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Important Club Info & Reminders



The next meeting of the Albany Area
Bassmasters will be

April 11th 2008

At the
American Legion Melvin Rd Post

7:30 PM

200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush

Place
Stamp
Here

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