



# ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S. TIMES

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Message 1

Tournament Schedule 2

Meeting Minutes 3-5

### 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

## Message from the Prez...

Damn, my bio-rhythms, psyche, call it whatever you want are really messed up. The first week in April I was fishing every day in Florida and it was hot. I'm talking burn a hole in the top of your head hot! Mid-eighties and pushing ninety. When I got home it was cool and wet for a couple of days. Then we got treated to an early spring. I just put my snow blower away and my neighbors have already mowed their lawns a couple of times. I have enough trouble getting the yard work and those spring chores done without temperatures in the seventies and eighties. I was harassed into going fishing last Friday, April 25, and there we were on Saratoga Lake catching bass by the bucket full while wearing shorts and t-shirts.

When I think about our pike tournament, I think about cold, raw mornings. I think about wearing gloves and a wool hat on that morning run. Here we are with our pike tournament in two weeks and I'm power washing my house wearing shorts and a t-shirt again. If this is global warming, I'll take it.

Our meeting on Friday is one you won't want to miss. Our Tournament Director, Al Maher is going to review our tournament rules. No, there are no changes and there should be no controversies. We decided it would be a good idea to refresh everyone's memory. We have some relatively new members, and we have some guys who fish different circuits, so it is probably a good idea to make sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to what you can do and can not do during our tournaments.

You will not want to miss George Locke's presentation during our "Fish Talk" session. I asked George if he would make a presentation to the Club and he agreed to. I am not sure what his topic is going to be, but I can assure you, you won't want to miss it.

Hopefully we will be able to put the finishing touches on our upcoming pike tournament.

I hope to see everyone there.

Mike

### 2008 AABM Tournament Trail

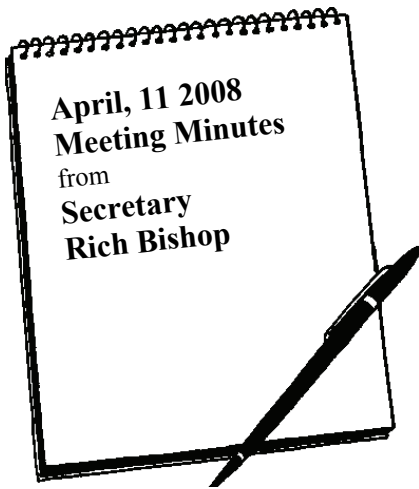
June 14, 15	Lake Champlain Rouses Point	5:30-1:30 PM
June 28	Saratoga Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
July 19,20	Oneida Lake	5:30 - 1:30 PM
Aug 16, 17	Lake Champlain Ti Bay	6:00 -2:00 PM
Sept 20,	Saratoga lake	6:00 - 2:00 PM
Oct 18	Mohawk (Schoharie)	6:30-2:30 PM

### 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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Launch</b>
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 7:30PM by club president Mike Ellrott

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

**Motion to accept minutes from last meeting-Bill Pigott-Brady Moy**

**Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger**

Paul reported we have a checkbook balance of \$1832.57

**Membership Report - Gene Lavigne**

Ted Underhill was making his third function.

**Fund Raising — George Leibach**

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

**Conservation Committee — Mike Ellrott**

#### BOATERS MAY GET CAUGHT UP IN RULING.

Unless congress passes legislation, every boat in this country will need an EPA discharge permit to legally operate after 9-30-08. Because of a lawsuit targeting ocean-going vessels carrying ballast water and invasive species, the US EPA is required to implement an "operational discharge permit" for all vessels-big and small. Under this permit system, you may be required to pay for a permit for each of your boats, in each state where you boat, and you can be sued by other citizens for permit violations. EPA will be potentially monitoring your deck runoff, grey water, bilge water, engine cooling water, and the use of copper bottom paints. Help is needed to pass NEW federal legislation that can provide a permanent exemption for recreational boats from this upcoming requirement. Last year two identical bills were introduced in congress, house #2550 and Senate #2067, both called "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007". A new Senate Bill #2766 "The Clean Boating Act of 2008" is most likely to gain widespread support, be passed into law, and eliminate the permit requirement.

#### HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

Phone or e-mail your two federal senators to sponsor and vote YES for Senate Bill #2766. Tell them about your boating.

We need huge numbers of boaters to make contact so the senators know it's important and the Bill keeps moving.

To quickly send an e-mail to your senator: [www.boatblue.org/takeaction.aspx](http://www.boatblue.org/takeaction.aspx).

---

New hours of operation for canal locks-May1 to May 22: 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, May 23 to September 3: 7:00 am to 10:pm, September 4 to November 15: 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. (Canal fee's have been reinstated this year)

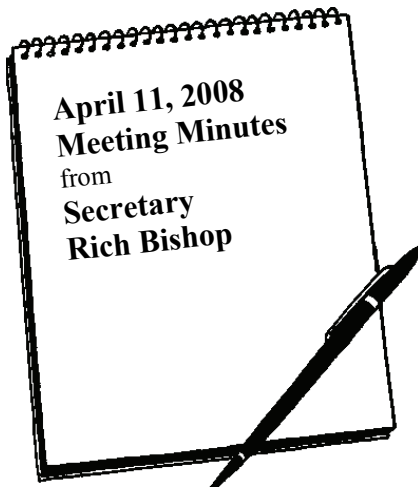
#### POLLUTANTS STILL FLOWING INTO LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Pollutants are continuing to flow into parts of Lake Champlain despite years of efforts. Tests from 2005 and 2006 found that phosphorous concentrations in Missisquoi Bay were more than double the desirable level while St. Albans Bay was about 50 percent above target. The Vermont House is considering a bill that would remove a cap on phosphorus in sewage treatment plants effluent in the Champlain Basin. The bill would focus state efforts on reducing polluted runoff from rural, suburban and urban land, the source of more than 90 percent of the pollution. Over the next 5 years the Federal government is scheduled to spend \$44 million to help farmers build manure pits, fence cows out of streams. Install riverbank buffers and take other steps to reduce the amount of manure and fertilizers that reaches the streams.

#### DEC FOCUSES ON THE DECLINE OF HUDSON RIVER SHAD POPULATIONS:

The Hudson River American shad population is at historic lows, prompting the DEC to implement fishing restrictions and study other opportunities to further protect this important species and its habitat. Effective immediately, emergency regulations have been adopted to help reduce the amount of adult shad taken by fishing. This means implementing a catch and release only season for recreational fishing. For commercial fishing, the actions include a limit on certain types of fishing gear, restrictions on times and places where fishing is allowed, and other changes. The population of Hudson River American shad has declined significantly since the early 1990s. Of particular concern is that the shad comprising the spawning stock(adult fish) have become smaller and younger, and mortality has increased to excessive and unacceptable levels.

Meanwhile, juvenile production dropped to an all time low in 2002 and has not recovered. This current level is 70 percent lower than the long term average measured since 1980. The primary cause of the changes to the shad population has been over fishing.



### **Banquet Committee—Tony Curcurito**

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

### **Tournament Committee Report - Al Maher**

Al discussed the upcoming Pike Tournament . It will be May 10th out of Ticonderoga. The cost is 60\$ which includes luncheon and a 20\$ Calcutta. 8 fish Limit.

Pike-20”

Pickrel 15”

Walleye-15”

6:30-2:30

### **Federation report**

Mike, Paul and Frank Polomaine attended the meeting on March 16th. The highlights of the meeting was a good lunch, Frank won the 50/50 and Mike won a 25\$ gift card. The low points were Frank and Mike spent more than they won. There were no “controversial” or “critical” issues discussed. The meeting was essentially a business

meeting.

One item of note is that Ramada is a corporate sponsor and Federation Members may receive a 10% discount off the best available rate. You will need a Federation ID to receive the discount. Burnie Haney gave a comprehensive conservation report. Revised tournament rules will be available on the federation website and will be published in the next issue of fishlines. Advertisers are being sought for fishlines.

The Federation budget was presented. The Federation will be operating at a projected \$12,000 deficit this year, primarily due to the loss of the deal with Skeeter. No program cuts are anticipated.

New York is the second largest Federation in the Nation. National sponsors now include Optima batteries offering Fed members a \$20 rebate.

Skeeter will give \$300 to the Federation and a 2 year warranty extension to any Fed. Member purchasing a Skeeter/Yamaha package.

### **Safety Committee - Paul Pflieger**

Paul reminded everyone that this is the time to make sure all your safety gear is in shape and ready for the season. Make sure flares are not expired, life jackets are not torn as well as your throw able pfd. Also those that have inflatable type PFDS that there are expiration dates on the arming kits. And as always “be careful out there”

### **Lunker Pool—Charlie Curcurito**

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

### **Club hats—Gene Lavigne**

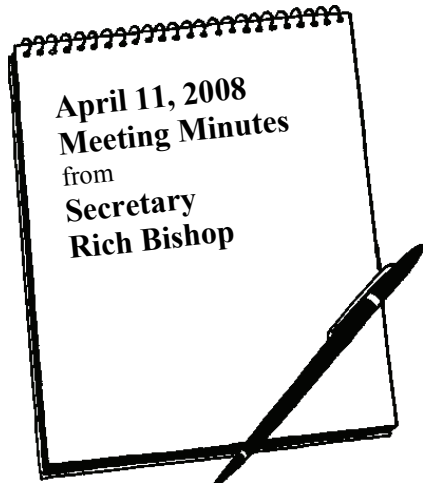
Club hats are available for \$10.00 They are tan and feature the club logo. The club is looking to purchase new hats for the coming season

### **New Business**

The club will be taking orders for windbreakers that has the club logo on them.

Frank Rosetti is trying to work out the details on getting the website back up and running.

Tony C. gave a nice presentation on what the effects of Ethanol gas could have on our outboards, cars etc. Tony has asked if anyone did not get the handouts he would be happy to e-mail the information to anyone who is interested.



**50/50 RAFFLE**-won by Frank Polomaine (\$20 something)

**Motion To Adjourn**- Gene L. seconded by Tony C.

**THE JOY'S OF RETIREMENT!!!**



# Important Club Info & Reminders

Congratulations, we have a Club Team for the 2008 season. The Team Captain is Paul Pflieger. Gene Lavigne and Rich Bishop will join Paul as boaters. Non-boaters on the team will be Frank Rossetti, Terry Fleming and Don VanTassell.

The next meeting of the Albany Area Bassmasters will be

**May 2, 2008**

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**