

ALBANY AREA B.A.S.S TIMES

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Here we are with another newsletter and still no snow. I know it's coming, but "Old Man Winter" is slowly running out of time. You have to think that March could be an interesting month.

I've been doing quite a bit of ice fishing on Ballston Lake. I've caught a bunch of nice bass and a few perch. Some days, of course, are better than others, but it is good to be out in the fresh air. I took my 13-year old nephew during school break, and he pulled his first bass through the ice, which was a heavy 4-pounder.

I want to thank all you guys for the excellent attendance at last month's meeting. You've put this Club in position to have a strong season with some good fun and some good fishing. What a job Al Maher did last month with is "fish talk". You needed to pay attention to that!

Our March meeting will give us a chance to shore up Pike partners, start taking names, etc. After our club business I'd like to open the floor to talk about anything "fishing", whether it be an answer to a question or just an open discussion on a lure, technique, reading water, etc.

We'll see how this goes. I know some of you are harder to open up than a week-old zebra mussel!

Anyway, Spring is getting a little closer each day, so sharpen your hooks! See you at the meeting.

George



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George and Bev's Nephew putting in work on the Ballston Lake hardwater!



ALBANY AREA BASSMASTERS TOURNAMENT AND COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Vice President

Frank Rossetti

Treasurer

Paul Pflieger

Secretary

Danny Harrington

President

George Locke

Weighmaster

Al Dickenson

Timekeeper

Joe Curcurito

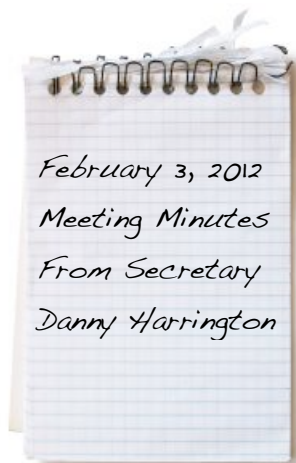
Measurer

Frank Polomaine

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by club President George Locke.

Officers present: George Locke, Frank Rossetti, Paul Pflieger, Danny Harrington, Frank Polomaine

Motion to accept previous minutes: 1st Ted Underhill - 2nd Bill Pigot



Tournament Committee - Frank Rossetti: DEC - Parks & Recreation - VT confirmed all of our launch locations and days. We're still waiting for contact on Sacandaga launch, but Frank doesn't think it will be an issue. The Mohawk River MAY be unavailable due to debris in the Schoharie Creek mouth and possibly the docks will not be installed. Make sure you partner up for the pike tournament and let someone know if you don't have a partner!

Treasurer's Report - Paul Pflieger: Paul reported that we have a check book balance of \$831.84. All dues are paid for 29 Members. Pizza at the meeting made \$60 for the club.

Membership Report - Keith Adams: Don Barnhart attended his second function. No other news to report.

Safety Committee - Russ Camadine: Not present. Russ had shoulder surgery and is reporting good results. He says he'll be good to go for the season!

Banquet Committee - Keith Repscher: Keith stepped up to the plate this year! He and his wife are going to organize our banquet this year. It will NOT be at the Best Western on Western Ave in Albany.

Conservation Report - Al Maher: Al Maher will be our conservation officer this year. I'm sure he'll keep his ear to the tracks and let us know what's coming for the sport and the environment. We talked briefly about cormorant control on Lake Champlain. There was a \$100,000 grant to get the control program kicked off. Also mentioned was hybrid pike/pickrel fish. They're having an increasing presence, and if caught WILL be allowed at our pike tournament.



NYSBCF - Paul Pflieger: Paul and Danny attended the January 21st meeting. New officers were in their positions for the first time.

Chuck Rowley - President

Fred Bloom - Vice President

Peter Knight - Tournament Director

Burnie Haney - Conservation and Products

The federation has plenty of money, and the structure of their tournaments will once again offer 100% payouts! They are once again working with Humminbird and MinnKota on some seriously deep discounts, but as in the past, they are for MEMBERS ONLY AND NOT TO BE BRAGGED ABOUT. The Junior World Championship will be held at Oneida Lake on June 30, 2012. There will also be a partners tournament the day after on July 1, 2012 also on Oneida Lake. Take a soldier fishing will be on April 28, 2012. They're still looking for boaters and it's guaranteed to be a great event. The Federation announced their tournament schedule for the year:

June 17 - Cayuga Lake

July 22 - St. Lawrence Seaway Massena, NY

August 25 - Club Team Tournament - Lake Champlain Ticonderoga, NY

September 30 - Oneida Lake

Lunker Pool - Charlie Curcurito: For only \$15 you can get in for the season. 5 members have their money in so far and Charlie expects 100% involvement!

Fish Talk - Al Maher: Al took us through a wonderful discussion on locating smallmouth during different times of the season, and using fluorocarbon line on spinning gear. If you missed the meeting you really missed out! More great information from a long time member and angler! A couple of quick notes from the talk:

Fluorocarbon line on spinning reels:

- Fluorocarbon is a great line, it sinks and does not stretch as much as mono
- You can use a cheaper line as a backer for the more expensive and finicky fluorocarbon
- Use a clinch knot to tie the two lines end to end
- Keep the clinch knot low on the reel to aid line coming off the spool during casts
- As you load the fluorocarbon onto the reel, watch the line coming off the spool, as it twists, you flip the spool over, and continue loading the line.
- Its good advice to change the line often after heavy use

Locating fish:

- Al discussed the the 9 calendar periods fish go through and how he zeros in on fish during those different times of year.
- When he's on the water he's looking for bait, wind and waves
- Search for fish with baits that cover a lot of water and then zero in on the school
- Slow down and make sure you've worked the whole school

THANKS SO MUCH AL! Incredible information and insight!

SPECIAL NOTE - Charlie Herzog is getting out of the rod building business. He is interested in selling his equipment and supplies. Contact Bill Pigot for his contact information.



NEXT MEETING:

Friday March 2, 2012

at the
AMERICAN LEGION MELVIN ROAD POST

7:30 PM

200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush

Calendar

March 2, 2012
Monthly Meeting

April 28, 2012
NYSBCF Take-A-Soldier fishing
Oneida Lake

MAY 5, 2012
Pike Tournament - Ticonderoga, NY

D. Harrington
23 Homestead Ave
Albany, NY
12203