

CT B.A.S.S. Nation Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2015

Called to order at 7:30pm

- **CLUBS ABSENT; Bass Busters, Greater Hartford, Team Skeeter, Tolland County, Mohawk Valley**

Correspondence: Sylvia Morris

- Thank you note received from the Winslow's for all that the CBN has done for Noah.
- Thank you note received from Donald Gage for his CBN Scholarship.

Announcements: Sylvia Morris

The B.A.S.S. Nation department is excited to announce we have added a new member to the team. Lee Ann Ponstein joined us a little over a week ago as B.A.S.S. Nation Assistant and has hit the ground running. Lee Ann will be responsible for data entry for our fast growing club affiliations including Adult, College, HS, Junior clubs and the Bassmaster Team Championship trails. She will also help with tournament entries; assist with customer service and support.

Lee Ann is still training, but I wanted you to have her email address and phone number just in case you need to reach Emily, Hank or myself and we are out of the office. She will not travel (might see if she wants to come to the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship) so she should be in the office when we are not. Lee Ann is part time (5-6 hours a day) but will work more hours on the weeks when we are all on the road, so someone should be available in our department nearly all the time. This should be a great help. She will help if she can or contact one of us, if she cannot.

Lee Ann is new to the fishing industry and is excited to learn the business. She is married with three kids (Becca 16, Aaron 14, Matt 10,) she enjoys reading, cooking and spending time with her family.

Please join me in welcoming her to the B.A.S.S. Nation family! We are so happy to have her!

A motion to accept the previous month's meeting minutes was proposed, seconded and approved by the board.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Treasurer Report: For June & July was provide by Mark Lavesque

Conservation & FAC Report: No report provided

Boating Advisory: No report provided

CLA Report: Green Algae Bloom closing down beaches! Dragon Boat Races were held and was a great success.

CT Yankee Haddam Canal Issue: Nob Heil has been in touch with DEEP and has been told that cameras are being installed around the area and the boom should be removed within another week or so.

Tournament Report: Sal Messina

- MR B.A.S.S. was held on Aug 1st. 16 Clubs participated! Winner was Nick Popatto, his first time on the CBN State Team!
- Go over Two Day App, Criteria, & Rules are up on the Forum, Calendar & under Tournaments!!
- Vinny Mucci brought up a good question; you are to split your time on the boat in the Two Day equally, four hours each on the front of the boat on the Trolling Motor, what if the non-boater does not have a Boaters Certificate? ANSWER: Then he cannot run the trolling Motor!!!! He can stay up front for his four hours with the Boater running the trolling motor!
- Be sure to have a signed Zebra Mussel letter with your completed app!!! If linked have the signed App (by both) both checks and both Zebra Mussel forms in one envelope please!!! One zebra Mussel Form per two day, dated Oct 3 & 4.
- The Classic Invite & App will be up by September 19th. The top 40 Anglers and co Anglers will be invited. Nothing is being mailed out. You must go to the website to download the app and read all instructions!!! The Classic is Oct 18th on Lilly!

Sponsorship Report: Sylvia Morris

There is nothing new to report. If you know of anyone who might be interested in sponsoring the CBN please let Bob know. We do have a few spots on the nose of the Trailer available and two spots on the sides. We will be redoing the nose, (adding and taking away Logos if necessary) at the end of the year or early spring.

- Livingston Lures has come on as a Gold Sponsor for the CBN this year. In addition to all that they have done for us they provided us with a code to give to all members to use ONCE per Member. It is for your use only!!!! Do not give to anyone who is not a CBN member please!

You must get the code from your Club President or any Executive Board member the code cannot be put into the minutes. It is for 15% off of your one time order, Guys, please utilize this so we can continue this great sponsorship!

Berkley Discount

- The Berkley discount for B.A.S.S. Nation members has changed in how it will be processed. It is 25% off all Berkley Products for B.A.S.S. Nation members. What has changed is that it is now available 24/7 365 days a year! Also what has changed is the way you receive the discount. Members **must** follow these steps in order to receive the discount.
 1. Go to Bassmaster.com – Join B.A.S.S.- Benefits or go to this Link. <https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/pcd/apps/index.cfm?iMagId=57000&iPage=BASSBENEFITLOGIN&iXz=A05CF3B4374EA0549ED41FBFF6A7F39F>
 2. Log into the benefits page with B.A.S.S. Number and last name
 3. Click on Berkley Nation Discount
 4. Order
- “If You Can’t Beat Em Whip Em”

25% Discount Offer

Just like the B.A.S.S. Nation, we are a grass roots company. We believe in our 100% American Made Products and make baits for all levels of anglers, from beginners to seasoned pros. From an idea developed in our basement four years ago we continue to grow at a rapid pace requiring us to move to a separate building on our property. As our growth continues we are looking to expand that building in 2015. Just like most of you, we also work full time jobs. Even with this limitation, we now have fourteen dealers across the United States, one in Australia, one in Spain, and are bringing on our newest dealer in Nova Scotia.

Our process is one step at a time, one person at a time, and one dealer at a time. We aim to take care of every individual customer the same way, whether you are the beginner or a Bassmaster Classic Winner. We take pride in sustaining our down home family company identity.

Henry, one of the owners of our company, spent over twenty years as President of a B.A.S.S. club in Western Pennsylvania. He also spent several years as President of the West Virginia Federation. Matt, our other owner, provides the creative mind that is helping our company grow.

We would like to extend a **25% discount** on any order purchased from Whip Em Baits for all of the B.A.S.S. Nation. We are asking you to help spread the word to your Federation members. With your help we can continue to grow and compete with much larger companies. You can use the discount by entering the discount code **BNM2015** at the end of your orders. Check out our products at www.whipembaits.com. With soft plastics, jigs, spinnerbaits, and buzzbaits, we've got a wide variety of proven bass catching baits! We thank you for your support and wish you the best of luck this season.

Sincerely,

Matt Marsula Henry Likar
Co-Owners Whip Em Baits

- Midstate Battery

A discount is available to ALL Nation members.

Every club Rep received a packet with all the discounts available to us at the Feb 26th Meeting. We have it posted on the Forum also. Please let Sylvia Know when you order & the amount. They can be reached at:

139C West Dudley Town Rd. Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone 860-243-0646 Fax 860-243-5945

Email: smerone@midstatebattery.com

- Reynolds' Garage and Marine Contingency Program 2015 Qualifying Events...

May 17, 2015 CBN Tournament #1, Candlewood Lake

June 14, 2015 CBN Tournament #2, Connecticut River

July 12, 2015 CBN Tournament #3 Candlewood

October 18, 2015 CBN Classic/Tournament #4, Lilly

Payout...

1. CBN Guaranteed Payout???
2. Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money based on the age of the highest finishing Skeeter Owners boat (only one award per event).
 - a. \$3,000.00 (2012 model Skeeter boat or newer)
 - b. \$1,000.00 (2011 model Skeeter boat or older)
3. Skeeter Real Money up to \$3,000.00

Rules...

1. The Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money will be paid to the highest finishing Skeeter Owner in each of the four CBN Tournaments outlined above. Only one prize per event will be awarded. Dollar amount of the award will be determined by the age of the highest finishing Skeeter Owners boat...2012 model or newer Skeeter boat will qualify for \$3,000.00 per event, 2011 model or older Skeeter boat will qualify for \$1,000.00 per event.

2. The highest finishing registered Skeeter Owner must have verifiable proof that he or she is fishing from his or her Skeeter boat to qualify for the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money. Proof of ownership and insurance must be produced and verified by the CBN Tournament Director at weigh-in at each of the four 2015 CBN Events.
3. In the event that the highest finishing Skeeter Owner cannot provide verifiable proof that he or she is the registered owner of the Skeeter boat that he or she used in the event, the second highest finishing Skeeter Owner will become the winner of the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money.
4. There will be no limit to the times an angler can win per calendar year.
5. The four CBN Events outlined above will also be sanctioned for 2015 Skeeter Real Money. Each CBN Event must have a minimum of 30 boats and 60 anglers to qualify for 2015 Skeeter Real Money. To qualify for 2015 Skeeter Real Money, each individual registered Skeeter Owner must register for the 2015 Skeeter Real Money program. Go to www.skeeterboats.com and download an application. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year. Skeeter Real Money rules are available by clicking on the Skeeter Real Money logo on the www.skeeterboats.com website homepage.
6. In the event that two or more Skeeter Owners daily catch weight results in a tie, each angler's largest fish of that day (by weight) will be used as a tie breaker to determine the winner of the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money at each CBN Event.
7. The highest finishing Skeeter Owner must catch and weigh-in one legal bass to qualify for the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Contingency Prize Money. In the event that no registered Skeeter Owners catch and weigh-in one legal bass, the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money will not be awarded for that event.
8. The tournament director has final decision in all issues and disputes.

- Rigid Industries

There is a 30% off offer to all members. You will need a code. We will get it out to you as soon as we receive it. NO CODE YET, WORKING ON IT!

- Effective March 1st

Power-Pole B.A.S.S. Nation Rebate Program

Dear Presidents,

Power-Pole is a proud sponsor of the B.A.S.S. Nation in 2015. We will continue to offer a rebate program to B.A.S.S. Nation Members. The new rebate structure will be effective March 1st 2015. The new discounts will be as follows:

- Sportsman 2 Model: \$75
- Pro 2 Model: \$100
- Signature Series 2 Model: \$125
- Blade Model: \$150

The above stated discounts are available via rebate program through our website. In order to receive your rebate, you will need to register the Power-Pole at www.Power-Pole.com located under the "Support" column header then "Product Registration".

Once the product has been registered, you will then find the link "Apply for Rebate" to complete the rebate form. Once all the given information is verified we will issue you a check or credit in accordance with the discount you are slated to receive. You will need to provide a copy of your purchase receipt and membership card.

For the State Team Members, we want to invite you to apply for our Pro-Staff program. The program is geared towards your status within the fishing community. The application can be completed at www.power-pole.com under "Pro's" then "Join Our Pro-Staff". With this program you will receive your discount at the time of purchase. For more information about our prostaff program please contact our pro-staff manager Casey Carpenter at Casey@power-pole.com. This rebate is not valid on any boat where the Power-Pole anchor is standard equipment. This program is subject to change or be terminated at any time. The rebate program is only valid towards one purchase per person per year and does not include accessories, installation or any other additional expense.

Sincerely,

Curt Hill,

Advertising Manager

9010 Palm River Road. Tampa, FL 33619 phone 813.689.9932 fax 813.689.8883 power-pole.com

- WAVE AWAY OFFER

I've been a fellow BASS Nation Member for nearly over 20 years. I'm excited to see how quickly the youth tournament programs are growing and would love my company to be a part of it. I own a product called Wave Away and we offer a Sonar/GPS Screen Cleaning Kit that's endorsed by BASS Nation Champion Brandon Palaniuk. I've put together a fundraiser where BASS Nation Clubs can earn \$5 per referral when they send folks to our website to purchase Wave Away. Clubs can also earn \$20 per referral when telling potential retailers about our product and they sign up to carry Wave Away.

- Signing up to raise funds is simple. Log onto www.waveaway.com and sign up now. It takes about 1 minute to register and it can earn your club a ton of money. We also have a few fun prizes for participating clubs. Bassmaster Elite Series Pro Brandon Palaniuk will be doing a private seminar for the club that makes the most referrals. We will also draw one random participating club and they will receive a free Hydrowave mini unit.
- Sincerely, Chris Lambert Wave Away LLC www.waveaway.com

CBN Scholarship:- No report provided

CBN Scholarship Robert S Malloy Scholarship committee: No report provided

CBN Awards Banquet : To be held on November 14, 2015

Membership Committee: No report provided

Website Committee: No report provided

Audit Committee: Dan Monroe has volunteered to chair the Audit Committee. Two more volunteers are needed. The audit will be held in January 2016.

High School & Juniors: Provided by Ron Frisk

The National Championship was quite impressive. Participation included 134 teams in the High School Championship and 36 in the Junior Championship.

- I was not happy they launched us on day 2 with active lightning. BASS was not there early enough so the local volunteers at the ramp just started launching people.
- Travis unfortunately fished alone due to a tragic incident in CT and I asked if I could net his fish and hope on the TM if he broke off, just to hold the spot. They said no without hesitation. I just felt that put him at his 3rd disadvantage of the tournament. He fished alone, had to net his own fish, and had no one to hop on TM for whatever reason came up. I figured they would of realized he was at enough of a disadvantage just having to fish alone. I do appreciate them allowing Travis to fish without a partner but felt they could of made an exception to at least let me net his fish.
- We crowned the 2 State Champions that will fish the 2016 BASS HS National Championship.
 - Nonnewaug High School...Noah Winslow and Shane Powers
 - Berlin High School...Travis Frisk and Jake McCarthy
- Top 2 JR finishers who we hope to have the opportunity to fish a junior championship are...
 - Lorin Valenti – 1st place
 - Jake Schiavi – 2nd place

We have our fun tournament on Candlewood Lake on 9/19 from 7-2pm out of Lattins Cove launch. I am currently set with Boat Captains

- The 2016 HS trial has been submitted and approved by the DEEP...

- 5/7 – Candlewood Lake – Lattins Cove from 8am-4pm
- 6/4 – Ct. Rive – Haddam Meadows from 7am-2pm
- 7/16 – Lake Lillinonah – Steel Bridge launch from 7am-2pm
- 8/13 – Lake Zoar – State Boat Launch from 7am-2pm
- 9/24 – Candlewood Lake – Squantz Cove launch from 7am-2pm

We hope to be able to grow the program by coming up with ways to get clubs to commit a few guys each for these tournaments. I am bringing John Piscionnere on board as my assistant. We are currently at full capacity on the junior side and look to have the 15 teams we set as the cut off (for now) on the high school side.

Thanks to all the clubs and individuals who stepped up and supported this program and allowed these kids to follow their dreams. I need the same and more of this type of support for next year! The kids also appreciate all the new and used gear donated by clubs and individuals.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron

Finance Committee: No Report provided. We currently need a financial advisor.

State Team 2015

- Meeting was held on Aug 23rd my house, all paperwork is in, Sponsorships have been completed.
- We paired up for practice Monday & Tuesday of Divisional. We will meet as a Team on Monday Sept 14th. At 7:00 am.
- All have received Shirts and Jackets. Tom Reynolds passed out Lowrance Hats at the meeting for all.
- Norb Heil has given his 250.00 in sponsorship.
- Reed Johnson has given his 250.00 sponsorship/
- High School Team was present also.
- Team members took cases of beverages and snacks for me so Jim and I will not have that much to bring up on Sunday evening.
- Went over Rules, Team Contract and expected behavior.
- We will have 10 Boats with us and access to 2 more if necessary!
- We would like to see a big crowd at the weigh in's please!!! Come and support our Team!!!
- Thank you to Lunker City again for supplying the Jackets for the State Team!!! They buy the Jackets and the CBN pays for the Embroidery. We are awaiting the bill at this time.

A Motion to accept all reports as given was proposed, seconded and approved

OLD BUSINESS

- Excused Absences: Pachaug & Silver City Bassmasters
- The 2 High School teams have been reimbursed for their travels and participation in the 2015 High School Championship in Tennessee. All receipts have been received. They well exceeded the \$1500.00 allotted per Team from the High School account. Each Team had sold spots on their Team jerseys and made an additional 500.00 per team bringing their total allotment to 2000.00 a team Cost for both High School teams, boat captains (This year it was a Parent) and one parent was \$3878.00. They also have raised approx. 900.00 in profit from the sale of the CBN T-shirts. Therefore they were reimbursed 100% of their cost. More T-shirts to be sold and more profit to be made. Help them out, buy a T-shirt!!!
- CBN/NEBA TCT held T#4 on CT River 20 Teams attended. So far Reed Johnson & Justin Mesick are leading the CBN/NEBA TCT.

- The NRD Grant: We are on the last step and money should be in account in two weeks. We now need to plan to get out there this fall and GPS & Chart locations to put the Mossback Fish Attractors in. Please let Dean or myself know
- Folds of Honor have sent us 20 Raffle tickets for a 17 1/2 Aluminum Triton, 10.00 each. See Vinny Mucci to purchase one (only a few left) Drawing will be held at the Nationals in November.
- Triton Alliance Leads Program please let me know as soon as possible if anyone in your club is considering purchasing a Triton so we can connect and get credit for the sale. We have 15 already which is \$2000.00. Need 5 more to hit 5000.00
- Website and Calendar updated! If you have anything that needs to go on the Calendar or website get it to me so I can get it up.
Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington Sat. Sept 26th 2015.
- Anyone interested in attending, helping and or manning a membership booth or Casting Kids Event at either one of the above events please see me after. So far I have Kevin Lavender and sons, Ron Frisk & Logan for September 26th event.

NEW BUSINESS

- September 1st the B.A.S.S. Nation on line roster will clear all info and be worked on to be set up for the new format. A club will pay one set amount of B.A.S.S. Nation dues, \$360.00 a club, no matter how many members they have.

2016 B.A.S.S. Nation on line roster dues are due by Nov 1st, beginning mid-September.

2016 CBN Dues & Roster are due, starting in Sept to be in by Nov 1st also. YOU MUST USE THE ROSTER FORM PROVIDED FOR YOU ON CTBASS.COM, fill out completely, turn in with ONE check per club!!!!

- By Law proposals are due in at the September meeting in writing to the President; they will be reviewed, copied and handed out at the Oct meeting. Brought back to the clubs, discussed at the November meeting, changes applied if any and voted on at the December meeting.
- Nominations for Tournament Director should have been brought up at the last meeting, however we did not. So I am opening up nominations now. Please let the Executive Board know if you have a nomination for Tournament Director for 2016. Sal Messina has agreed to do it for another year. If we have no other nominations by the next meeting Sal will be voted in by the Secretary casting one vote for Sal.

Nomination committee: Sylvia asked for volunteers for the nomination committee. Nominations will open up at the September meeting for Secretary & Treasurer, All nominations will be turned in at the November meeting and voted on in the December meeting.

The following members have volunteered - Dave Gilbert-860-428-7130, Ron Frisk-860-940-5553 & Bryan McCleary-203-592-1007

BASS Nationals: The National Invitation has been received for the President and Youth Director. Sylvia purchased tickets for herself and Al Guite to attend on the CBN's behalf. This year's Nationals are November 4th-8th in Monroe, LA on the Ouachita River.

Executive Board Meeting August 23rd Report

Meeting was held at Sylvia's house, started at 5:30pm

- Treasurer report was given for June & July, Marc was given all receipts for the charges.
- Conservation: Discussed the NRD Grant and what we need to do, we need to get a group together, chart the coordinates of where we will put the Mossback Fish Attractors and have it ready for Spring. This when we will build them and put them in place. We need a list of names of people interested in helping to Chart and helping to build. See Dean or the Executive Board to get on the list.
- We will be creating Two Fellowships for College Students who are working a Degree in Environmental studies with this Grant also.
- Discussed Haddam Issues and are waiting for the Deep to have a meeting with the Park Administrator and get back to us.
- CY Boom should be down in another week. Norb has been in contact with them and they are in the process of putting up new Cameras and then take the Boom down.
- Discussed Tournament Trail, Rules, Two Day Rules and Two Day Criteria. It was suggested to put into the Rules that any reimbursements from the Trail Events will be made only after the Trail has completed and prior to the end of the year. These reimbursements should be included in the Tournament Directors Monthly report at each CBN meeting. It should include Tournament #, Persons name and amount. This way there is an accurate record per the CBN minutes! Will make changes & add to be conducive with the new 2016 Format, both B.A.S.S. & CBN and will have them ready for the November meeting. This will include Standing Rule 18.
- Discussed Divisional going forward, we do not know when we will have our Divisional for 2016 or where yet. Things could really flip around. Looking like an earlier Divisional. Should know by the end of the River Divisional.

- Folds of Honor Tournament was discussed, looking at next year's dates and not knowing when the Divisional or Nationals will be, we decided to do a 50/50 Raffle(Starting in December) at each meeting and at the Banquet. We will certainly hit more members this way and hopefully raise more money for the cause!!! We will revisit for 2017.
- We have updated the Sponsorship Letter and Prorated the Levels of Sponsorship Three Year, Platinum Level. We have one spot on each side available it will be \$1700.00 cash or \$2000.00 cash & Product for the next two Years for One spot on one side. Please let us know if you have one interested.
- The Gold Level stays the same as it is a yearly Sponsorship. We have at this time, three spots available at \$600.00 cash or \$800.00 product.
- Silver and CBN Tournament Trail Sponsorship stays the same also.
- Bass Pro Shops has requested a meeting with Sylvia & Vinnie to discuss possible sponsorship of the High School Program and other things. We will meet with them on Sept. 10th.
- Discussed the High School program and capping it at 15 Boats. PLEASE take the dates back to your clubs and get a Boat Captains to step up for AT least one of them. If each club got one boat per Tournament we could open up the program to a few more High School Teams!!! Right now it is full, unless you know a Team that has a Boat Captain to bring in also. Let Ron or John know!!! Same applies to the junior's program.
- We will redo the Trailer nose each year, the sides in 2018 again.
- Discussed State Team cost for this year, I am estimating about \$8000.00. This will leave a little to roll over to next year's Team!
- 2016 State Team Contract will be updated by the Executive Board to be conducive to what is needed. You will be required to bring in Sponsorship in cash only!!! We do not know how much yet. We will cover Lodging, food & Gas (See exception). Exception: Co-Anglers, Your Travel to and from the event will be reimbursed as, long as you ride with a Boater. If you ride on your own or fly you will not be reimbursed. There are 11 Boaters and 11 Non Boaters, you must Team up to Travel!!!! We will no longer cover Oil or Licenses.
Any families wishing to attend the event will be on their own for Lodging meals and travel. They will not stay with the Team as the Team will be much larger going forward.

Meeting was adjourned 8:30PM
8:30PM

Attended by:

Sylvia Morris
Vinny Mucci
Al Guite
Marc Levesque

- Fred Bloom, President of the NY B.A.S.S. Nation is asking for some help for the family of a 12 year old boy Joey Eisch, whose father is a Marine wounded in battle. Joey was killed while riding his bike a few weeks ago.
- Don Barone wrote an article about this and Edwin Evers had the honor of taking out Brian Eisch in a Wounded Warriors Tournament the very next day!

I would like to have the CBN donate money to this family. They are extremely in debt!!! I would need a motion, I was thinking \$100.00?

Motion was made, seconded and passed. Marc will send a check from the CBN for \$100.00.

- **You can do this two ways: To help Joey's family with funeral and medical expenses you can go here to make a donation: <http://www.gofundme.com/4v7fadmq5w> OR**

**Make the checks payable to
Brian and Maria Eisch
959 County Route 15
Lacona, New York 13083**

This way, we avoid the surcharges that the gofundme charges and all donations go directly to them. Please include a letter explaining who you are and who is represented so they know. They have had donations coming in from all over BASS Nation.

Thank you,
Fred

- Vinny Mucci has put forth a club Challenge, Heart of CT sent a check for 100.00 and would like to see the other clubs do the same.
- Remember to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fishermen rate!! Newbury, (best parking) Micro-tel & Best Western. All on website!

OPENS FOR 2015

All Applications are on the Table that are available and also on CTBASS.com, on the Calendar.

- Thayer's Open Sept 20th, Candlewood, Squantz, 7 to 3
- MBB High School Benefit Open, Nov 1st, Candlewood 7 to 3
- Veteran's tournament Tuesday, Sept 15th, Riverfront, 8 to 1. Please see Al Guite for volunteering.

- A Memorial Golf Tournament in Memory of Katie Dobroczyński will be held on Oct. 2nd 2015 at Hawks Landing in Southington, CT. Please contact Christina Dobroczyński at dob716@yahoo.com for information.

LIVINGSTON LURE & WHIP EM BAITES DRAWING!

Whip Em Baits winner- Dan Bielert

Livingston Lure Winner- Bryan Mc Cleary

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM

NEXT MEETING: September 24, 2015