

# Connecticut B.A.S.S. Meeting Minutes

## May 26, 2016

**Roll Call – 7:30PM**

**CLUBS ABSENT:** Statewide Bassmasters

### **Correspondence:**

- Thank you Letter from Major Steven Roy Andrews Foundation (Joe Kowalski) for the CBN's \$500.00 donation.
- Thank you letter from Olivia Rustic, she has graduated College this past week and thanked the CBN for all of our help as she had been the recipient of our CBN Scholarship Program in the past.

### **Announcements:**

- Thayers Marine is now a Ranger Dealer in addition to Stratos and Triton! Thayers will deal in Evinrude and Mercury.
- Phoenix Boats Signs Deal To Become B.A.S.S. Supporting Sponsor  
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Phoenix Boats, a young, fast-growing bass boat company based in Winchester, Tenn., has signed a multi-year deal to be a supporting level sponsor of 2016 Bassmaster tournament circuits.

Under the agreement with B.A.S.S., Phoenix will sponsor the Bassmaster Elite Series, Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens Series, Academy Sports + Outdoors B.A.S.S. Nation events, Carhartt Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops, Costa Bassmaster High School Series and Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship through the 2018 season.

“B.A.S.S. has been a part of my life and career for over 40 years,” said Gary Clouse, president of Phoenix Boats. “Having been a B.A.S.S. member and tournament angler since I was 14 years old, it is very exciting to be partnered with them.”

“Phoenix has risen to become one of the premier bass boats in the nation, and we are excited to partner with B.A.S.S. moving forward,” added Teresa Johnson, COO of Phoenix. “It is a natural fit.” “Members of B.A.S.S. and other fans of our Bassmaster tournaments are known to be some of the most knowledgeable and discriminating bass boat buyers in the country,” noted Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. “We’re glad that Phoenix has decided to use our media

and events to reach these consumers, and we welcome them to our family of sponsors as we strive to grow the sport of bass fishing.”

The sponsorship agreement entitles Phoenix to exhibit space at the Classic Outdoor Expo to be held in conjunction with the GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro in Houston next March, as well as expos at Elite Series and other B.A.S.S. events.

Phoenix will also provide three fully rigged boat/motor packages for the B.A.S.S. Nation’s Best program, which offers a truck, boat and motor for each of the Top 3 finishers in the Academy Sports + Outdoors B.A.S.S. Nation Championship.

In addition, Phoenix will be the title sponsor of tournament big-bass competitions, beginning with the Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Elite at Wheeler Lake, which gets under way Thursday. The Phoenix Boats Big Bass prize will be \$1,500 for the heaviest bass weighed in during each regular Elite Series event for the remainder of the year, plus the Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship in September.

**A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes as posted was seconded and approved.**

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**Treasurer Report:** Marc Levesque

**Conservation & FAC Report:** Dean Rustic

CBN Conservation objectives for the 2016

1. Work closely with CT DEEP Officials to create a C.A.R.E. Bass Class
2. Conservation Projects for Housatonic Watershed Organizations
3. Create a Youth/School based Conservation initiative
4. Leverage our position as number 1 for fishing revenue to get funding for CBN endorsed projects

Information from this past Month –

1. Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting
  - a. No Meeting
2. Fisheries Advisory Council
  - a. Discussion on Trout Stamp. (The Trout Stamp bill has passed and was signed by the Governor )
3. Shimano/B.A.S.S. Youth Grant
  - a. Moss Back has shipped the last batch of structures. Will be working with the Watertown Fishing Club, The Town of Watertown and a Boy Scout doing his Eagle Scout Project we install the structures in Lake Winnemaug.

4. BASS Class
  - a. May 15<sup>th</sup> at Winding Trails. We had 42 attendees with folks from as far away as Wilton and Montville to attend.
5. NRD Grant
  - a. Received Data from Moss Back about the South Dakota study on their Fish City Designs.
  - b. Need Volunteers for the Project Team to work with me.

Dean Rustic  
Conservation Director

**Boating Advisory:** There was and very little that applied to us. The Branford River boat launch is scheduled to be closed for a complete redo soon. Bashan Lake ramp project is done but lake still filling. Bantam, Beach, Mansfield, and Winchester all are having ADA (American with Disabilities Act) upgrades done.

**CLA REPORT:** No report

**TOURNAMENT REPORT:** Sal Messina

**CBN Sponsorship Report:**

#### NEW SPONSORS THIS MONTH

#### **Tackle Supply Depot**

- Tackle Supply Depot; formally Northern Bass Supply would like to offer all BASS Nation members a 10% Discount Code on a 1 time order through our website:
- [www.tacklesupplydepot.com](http://www.tacklesupplydepot.com)
- We are a rapidly growing Tackle Company in the Northeast and would love the chance to earn your business and provide members with the best possible prices, products and services.
- Please feel free to distribute this letter to all members and / or post it on your website:
- Coupon Code: 922CT2016
- Upon Checkout please enter your provided coupon code at which point your total will adjust accordingly. If there are any questions please contact our offices prior to submission.

- Please check out our site, sign up for our email list and like us on Facebook and Instagram to receive up to date information on New Products, Deals and Discounts.
- Future promotion in 2017 will include a higher discount for all qualifying state team members. Please email for additional information to:
- [info@tacklesupplydepot.com](mailto:info@tacklesupplydepot.com) with Subject Line: 2017 State Team – Connecticut.

## **Eurotackle**

- Benoit Vnh has offered a discount program to all CBN Members!
- You will receive 20% off your orders by using this code:
- Here is the code for your members : CTBASSNATION
- This code gives 20% off the totality of the website and is unlimited for 2016. Of course the goal is to bring my "Eurotackle Bass Collection" in people minds.

**CBN Scholarship**- Awards were handed out at the start of the Meeting.

**CBN Scholarship Robert S Malloy Scholarship**: No report

**Banquet**: Banquet for 2016 has been booked for Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership Committee**: No report

**Website Committee**: Working with Armand on updating, we added a Sponsorship Section in the Members Only Forum. This is where the Sponsorship Report and any Sponsorship news will be posted from now on.

**Social Media**: We are looking for Social Media person, please check with your clubs and see if there is anyone who would be interested in this.

**High school & Juniors**: No report

**Finance**: The CBN is in need of a financial advisor. Please ask your club members if there is someone willing to volunteer

## **State Team 2016**

- The 2016 Eastern Regionals was held on Douglas lake, Dandridge Tenn. I would like to say Thank You to the The CBN 2016 State Team who worked very hard to try to figure out the fish as the conditions were tough & not what they should be at this time of year. We also had a cold front move through for the Tournament. Very proud of the Team for their efforts. We came in 13<sup>th</sup> as a Team. Congratulations to Nick Pappotto (Boater) and Kevin Noel (Non Boater) they are going to the Nationals on Lake Conroe, Texas in Nov. to represent CT. Dates to be determined yet.
- Accommodations were outstanding! The Lodge was a good find for sure. A bit of a mountain to climb to get there but we worked it out.
- Approximate cost of the 2016 State Team is 13,154.10, crazy good considering the distance we had to Travel. That includes all Gas, Lodging, Jackets, Meeting meals, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner for 6 Days for 22 people and some Parking at the Shows. We were very fortunate to find such affordable Lodging and Gas pricing was in our favor for sure!
- The Expense forms are all in and I have given Marc the list of amounts to reimburse each person. He will get those checks out next week.

**A motion to accept the reports as given was seconded and approved.**

## **Old Business**

Excused Absences: CT Valley & Sweetwater

- Motion was made to put Major Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program on the Nose of the CBN Trailer in March, was discussed in April and a decision was made to wait for a Logo. The Executive Board will discuss also. Joe supplied a Logo, we will discuss at the May 26<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting as far as where to put it & waiting to hear if it is of a usable quality.
- Nominations are open for Tournament Director for 2017. They will be turned in at the July meeting and voted on in August. Please call with your nominations Rachel Rose, 860-212-5598 or Kevin Rose, 860-978-3987
- Remember Sure Life is 11.00 a bottle now, will be sold at each Tournament. Please try to have the right change.
- Need Volunteers for Sporting Chance for Youth, June 4<sup>th</sup> Riverfront, 9AM to 1:00PM. NO ONE has volunteered as of the meeting date.
- Triton Alliance Leads Program; please let Sylvia 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 7 leads already for 2016! We have already made \$2000.00.

- Website and Calendar updated! If you have anything that needs to go on the Calendar or website submit it to Sylvia

## **New Business**

- We received \$150.00 Target Gift Card for the CBN Banquet through the help of Allison Thayer who works for them. Thank you Allison!!
- Dear Sportsmen and Sportswomen:  
We are happy to announce that DEEP will be hosting two Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Day events this year in celebration of Connecticut's 150 years of natural resource conservation. The first event will be held at Franklin Wildlife Management Area in Franklin on Saturday, September 10, 2016 and the second at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Both events will run from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.. We have had as many as 1,500 people, attending in past years. The two events will offer activities for all ages, including target shooting, 3-D archery, casting pools, field dog demonstrations, and interesting programs and workshops about hunting and fishing. Attendees have the opportunity to speak face-to-face with DEEP staff from the Divisions of Wildlife, Inland and Marine Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Boating, and Forestry, as well as with representatives from many conservation, hunting, and fishing organizations.

This is a great opportunity for your organization to promote your activities and share your passion for Connecticut's natural resources. Space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis for organizations to set up exhibits. If you are interested in having your organization set up an exhibit at the event, please contact Laurie Fortin at 860-424-3963 or at [laurie.fortin@ct.gov](mailto:laurie.fortin@ct.gov). Laurie will send you an application and confirm that space for your club is available.

Whether your organization exhibits at the event or not, please mark the date and come with your family and friends. We would appreciate it if you informed the members of your organization about this fun and FREE event. Please check the DEEP website ([www.ct.gov/deep/HuntFishDay](http://www.ct.gov/deep/HuntFishDay)) as September 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> approaches to find out more details, including a list of activities and participating groups, directions, parking and more. Included in this letter is a poster that you can hang up in your facility or use to make copies for your members. I look forward to seeing you at one or both of our events this September!

Regards,

Peter Picone & Andrew LaBonte

- Bill Hyatt has requested our help with the Bio Blast again this year, as we did in 2005. We need two Boaters to volunteer themselves and boats to transport Scientist back and forth on June 4<sup>th</sup> from Great River Park, Hartford to collection sites on the river. Breakfast, lunch and

gas money is provided by UCONN. 8AM to 1PM. Bryan McCleary and Al Guite volunteered.

- Vinny spoke for Ron Frisk, who could not make the meeting. He asked for the ability to use \$250.00 out of the HS/Junior account to be a Sponsor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament held in Memory of Tyler Cop. Tyler was a friend of Ron's son and was killed in a tragic accident last year. Motion was made, seconded and passed. Marc will send the \$250.00 donation in the CBN High School's name to the Golf Tournament.
- CLA has requested Sponsorship again for the Dragon Boat Races and Lake Clean up, we usually give them \$250.00. What does everyone think? Motion was made to donate \$250.00, seconded and passed. Marc will send a check for \$250.00 to the CLA.

**The Executive Board has put a Proposal together for the Top 25/ Classic Tournament. This is a precautionary measure in case we do not have enough non boaters interested in participating. This proposal was sent back to the clubs and will be voted on at the next CBN meeting on June 23, 2016.**

### **2016 CBN Classic Proposal**

We have only 29 Non-boaters/Co-anglers participating in the 2016 CBN Tournament Trail. The Executive Board is submitting the following proposal to the Board of Directors in order to satisfy the number of Non-boaters/Co-anglers needed to ensure all Boaters are paired with a Non-boater/Co-angler as depicted in BASS rules regarding State Team Qualification.

#### **Proposal;**

For the 2016 CBN Classic, if the number of Non-Boaters/Co-anglers needed to satisfy the BASS requirement for State Team qualification where all State Team qualifiers must be paired during a qualifying event, the CBN Tournament Director will offer Non-Boater/Co-angler positions in the 2016 Classic Tournament to boaters who participated in 2016 CBN Tournament Trail beginning with finishing position 26 in the final standings and continue in ascending order until the pairing requirement is met.

Submitted by the CBN Executive Board

**Remember to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fishermen rate!! Newbury, (best parking) Micro-tel & Best Western. All on website! They have contacted me this past week to remind us to ask for the Fisherman Rate!**

- Best Western Danbury/Bethel, 11 Stony Hill Road, Bethel CT, 203-744-3200
- Microtel Inn & Suites Bethel, 10 Benedict Road, Bethel CT, 203-748-8308
- Newbury Inn, 1030 Federal Road, Brookfield CT, 203-775-0220

### **OPENS & EVENTS FOR 2016**

All Open Tournaments Applications are available on CTBASS.com, on the Calendar.

Reynolds Garage & Marine Customer Appreciation, June 11<sup>th</sup> Ct River, Haddam

GFB, Candlewood, Lattins Cove, June 4<sup>th</sup>

Mixed Open, Candlewood, June 5<sup>th</sup>

CBN/NEBA TEAM TRAIL

Reynolds Boats Northern Bass Tournaments Trail & Opens, many dates

CBN Scholarship Open, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, Candlewood, Squantz

**Meeting Adjourned – 8:45PM**

**Next meeting – June 23, 2016**