

Connecticut BASS Nation

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2016

Roll Call – 7:30PM

CLUBS ABSENT: Connecticut Black Bass Anglers & Pachaug Area Bassmasters

Correspondence: None

Announcements:

- Lunker City is in a new location -
640 Chamberlin Highway
Meriden, CT 06450
Next door to Suburban Marine
- B.A.S.S. Raises Maximum Rod Length To 10 Feet In 2017

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The 40-year-old rule that has limited Bassmaster tournament competitors to rods that were 8 feet or shorter will be changed for 2017, allowing competitors to use rods as long as 10 feet.

The new rule will apply to all B.A.S.S. trails, including the Bassmaster Elite Series, the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens and all B.A.S.S. Nation and youth events.

“This is something that the anglers wanted,” said B.A.S.S. Tournament Director Trip Weldon. “After discussing it during our annual rules committee meeting, we saw no reason not to expand to 10 feet.”

The rule in question is tournament rule C8, which currently reads in part: “Only one casting, spin casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time.”

- Registration Dates Set For 2017 Bassmaster Opens

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Bass anglers hoping for a spot in the 2017 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens tournaments will soon be able to apply, B.A.S.S. announced today. Registration opens for members of the B.A.S.S. Nation and Lifetime members of B.A.S.S. beginning on November 8.

New this year in registration for the Opens is the ability of pro anglers to “link” with co-

anglers during online signup. Like other pro-am events, Opens participation is limited to an equal number of anglers and co-anglers. By “linking” or ensuring the participation of a co-angler, anglers can improve their odds of getting into the tournaments.

“This new registration linking option will allow B.A.S.S. to better serve the anglers and allow interested competitors to secure coveted spots into the 2017 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens earlier,” said Chris Bowes, Opens tournament director. “With this improvement to our system, anglers can register, confirm entry and plan their tournament schedules.”

Anglers not linking with co-anglers will be permitted to register at later dates. (See the schedule below.)

The Opens Series consists of nine events, including three in each of three divisions: Southern, Central and Northern. Opens are the primary pathways into the prestigious Bassmaster Elite Series. Invitations are extended to the Top 5 anglers in each division, based on performance points through the season, who are not already qualified for the Elites.

In addition, the winner of any Open tournament earns a berth in the next year’s GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro, provided he or she competes in all three tournaments of that division.

The tournaments include fields of 150 to 200 pros and the same number of co-anglers trying to catch the heaviest limits of bass — five for the pros and three for the co-anglers — for two days. The field is cut to the Top 12 in each division for the final day, with weigh-ins usually held at a nearby Bass Pro Shops.

Following are registration times for eligible anglers. Early entries are available only for those submitting deposits for all three events in one or more divisions. Online and call-in registration begins at 9 a.m. CT on these dates. Check <http://www.bassmaster.com/file/497426/download?token=rEHW6V2H> for more information.

Linking B.A.S.S. Nation and Lifetime Members (online) — Nov. 8, 2016

Linking B.A.S.S. Members (online) — Nov. 10, 2016

B.A.S.S. Nation and Lifetime members (online) — Nov. 15, 2016

B.A.S.S. Nation and Lifetime members (call-in) — Nov. 17, 2016

B.A.S.S. Members (online) — Nov. 29, 2016

B.A.S.S. Members (call-in) — Dec. 1, 2016

Single Event (online) — Dec. 6, 2016

Single Event (call-in) — Dec. 8, 2016

- Power-Pole Becomes Premier-Level Sponsor Of B.A.S.S.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — JL Marine Systems Inc., maker of the popular Power-Pole shallow water anchoring system, has signed on to become a premier-level sponsor for all Bassmaster tournament circuits, B.A.S.S. announced today.

The sponsorship includes the GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro, the Bassmaster Elite Series, all Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens, all Academy Sports + Outdoors B.A.S.S. Nation events presented by Magellan outdoors, the Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship, the Carhartt Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops and the Costa Bassmaster High School Series presented by Dick's Sporting Goods.

The two-year contract will begin with the Southern Open on Florida's Harris Chain of Lakes, Jan. 19-21, 2017, and continue through the end of the 2018 season.

- DICK'S Sporting Goods Signs On As Presenting Sponsor For Outdoors Expo And B.A.S.S. High School

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — DICK'S Sporting Goods has signed a three-year partnership with B.A.S.S. that includes sponsorship of both the Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo and the fast-growing Bassmaster High School program.

- T-H Marine Signs Supporting Sponsorship Deal With B.A.S.S.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — T-H Marine Supplies Inc., a leading manufacturer of high-performance boat products since 1975, has signed a multiyear deal to become a supporting level sponsor of select Bassmaster tournament circuits.

Under the agreement with B.A.S.S., T-H Marine will sponsor the Bassmaster Elite Series, Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens, Academy Sports + Outdoors B.A.S.S. Nation events and Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship through the 2019 season. The sponsorship will begin with the Southern Open on Florida's Harris Chain of Lakes, Jan. 19-21, 2017.

A motion to accept the previous months minutes was made, seconded and approved

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

- **Treasurer Report:** Provided by Marc Levesque
- **Conservation & FAC Report:** Provided by 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. Held meeting at 79 Elm Street
 - b. Had 2 attendees from “Friends of Animals” in attendance
 - c. Discussed funding shortage for 2017
 - d. Discussed the CARP tournament
 - e. Discussed other uses of the ponds at Burlington Fish hatchery.
- 2. Fisheries Advisory Council**
 - a. No meeting
 - b. Had discussion on Boating Access based on ADA
- 3. DEEP Items**
 - a. Boating division will be holding 2 Public Informational Meetings on proposed ADA improvements for Beach Pond and Winchester Lake state boat launches.
 - i. Beach Pond will be on November 2nd from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Voluntown Volunteer Fire Department, 205 Preston City Road, Voluntown, CT
 - ii. Winchester Lake will be November 3rd from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Winchester Town Hall, Hicks room, 338 Main Street, Winsted, CT
 - b. DEEP held a CARE Training Update class on Saturday October 15th. I represented CBN at this event. It was held at the Burlington Hatchery and then at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, Burlington
 - c. Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Day was held on Saturday, September 24th, 2016 at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, Burlington
- 4. NRD Grant**
 - a. Based on the new design of the Moss Back fish structures I was able to design a device that will fit in the front of a boat and allow for the structure to slide off to one side of the boat. We will be using this device this weekend on Lake Winniemaug as a test.

Dean Rustic
Conservation Director

- **Boating Advisory:** There was little pertaining to us. There will be new forms to register new boats as all 2017 and newer boats will be titled in CT. I attached a breakdown of all the ramp work going on too.
- **CLA REPORT:**
The CLA is beginning the process of removing the approximately 80 hazard, speed and navigation buoys from the lake for the winter. If you still plan to be out on the water, please take any necessary extra precautions.
- **TOURNAMENT REPORT:** Scholarship Tournament: We had 9 Boats, it was just pitiful!!!! We made \$490.00 to be split into the two Scholarship Accounts, \$245.00 in each.
- 2017 Opens, CBN Tournament Trail, High School/Juniors & CBN/NEBA TCT

April 22nd, Candlewood, Reynolds Northern Bass Open Danbury 7 to 3
 April 23rd, HOC, Candlewood, Squantz 7:00
 April 29th, 26 Angels, Candlewood & Latins 8:00 to 3
 April 30th, Sunday, Candlewood, (Kerchal out of Danbury)

CBN Trail, Classic, Mr. Bass & Two Day

May 7th, Sunday, Candlewood, Squantz & Latins Launch, 75 boats, 8 to 4 T#1
 June 4th, Sunday, Ct River, Haddam & Salmon, 70 boats, 7 to 3 #2
 July 9th, Sunday, Candlewood, Squantz & Latins, 70 boats, 8 to 4 T#3
 July 30th, Sunday, Mr. Bass, TBD 18 boats
 August 27th, Sunday, Classic, Lilly, Steel Bridge & Pond Brook, 25 boats, 7 to 3
 Sept. 9th & 10th, Sat Sunday Two Day, Candlewood, Squantz, 50 boats, 7 to 3?
 Oct 1st CBN Scholarship, Candlewood, Squantz, 50 boats, 7 to 3?

HIGH SCHOOL

5/13 Lilly
 6/17 river shooting for Hartford
 7/22 Zoar
 8/12 candlewood

2017 NEBA/CBN TCT TRAIL

MAY 21st CANDLEWOOD, Squantz
 June 25th Lilly Steel Bridge
 July Champlain 16th or 23rd? Date to be picked in January.
 August 20th Lake Zoar
 Sept 24th CANDLEWOOD Squantz
 Oct 15 Ct. River, Haddam

YOU MUST ABIDE ALL NO WAKES AND SPEED LIMITS ON ALL BODIES OF WATERS IN OUR CBN RUN EVENTS!!!!!!

- **CBN Sponsorship Report:** No report
Full Sponsorship Report can be found on Sponsor Page of the ctbass.com Forum Sponsor Section.
- **CBN Scholarship-** No report
- **CBN Scholarship - Robert S. Malloy:** Dave Santos asked Marc our Treasurer to send a check for \$1053.00 to UConn for this year's Robert S Malloy Scholarship recipient and Jason Bacunus, from UConn will have last years & this year's winners for us by the next meeting.
- **Banquet Report:** Banquet for 2016 has been booked for Nov 12th,2016. Invitations are on the Table and on CTbass.com Home page. Please make your reservations by Nov 2nd!!! Get the Invite out to your club members, I sent it in and e-mail last week to all presidents and a few members!!! I now have a list of non-members that are interested in attending and I will let them in on Nov 2nd if there is room. We can accommodate 260. I am roughly at 205. I anticipate an influx at the last minute as always! Plaques have been ordered for CBN and High School Juniors. Total cost is \$2122.00. High School/Juniors cost will come out of their account and placed into the general fund to cover their share (\$300.00). Mr Kerchal sent Kerchal collector Cards that he personally signed and numbered when they first came out, he asks that we give them to all the High School/Juniors that attend the Banquet and that I give some to Heart of Ct for the Kerchal Open participants, one each. I received 7 boxes of 18. The rest he would like us to get into the hands of people as to not forget Bryan!
- NEW AWARDS PROCEDURE, if you have anything the deadline is tomorrow!
- **Membership Committee:** Paul Dingee has a New Number 860-929-1713
- **Website Committee:** No report
- **Audit Committee:** No Report
- **High School & Juniors:** Provided by Ron Frisk
I don't have much to report other than interested teams have been contacting me. I put the 2017 schedule on the website in the high school section if anyone wants to peek and email me to be a boat captain for one or some of the events.

We are still looking to see if anyone in the nation wants to take over the high school program. Everything is basically set and ready to go. Permits set as well.

- **Finance:** We need a Financial Advisor!
- **State Team:** We now have our 2017 State Team! Doree Jeffrey and myself went scouting and I have secured three houses for us. Deposit has been paid on all three. We will be going to Upper Chesapeake Bay, North East MD, June 12th to the 16th are the tournament dates. I am setting up a schedule for meetings, 1st one on Dec 4th my house, 1:00 and working on the

Contract. We will be appointing Jim Morris as the designee to be 2nd Alternate to help Sylvia take care of the Team. All State Team members will be at the Banquet to receive their awards and get their pictures taken. Nick Papotto and Kevin Noel will be at the B.A.S.S. Nation Nationals in Texas and will be excused from the Banquet. Let's wish them good luck!!! MarK Condron will also be excused because of work.

A motion to accept all reports as given was made, seconded and approved

Old Business

- Excused Absences: Connecticut Valley Bassmasters
- As of September 1, 2016 the B.A.S.S. Nation on line roster was cleared for 2017. 2017 Dues are \$30.00 a person as usual.
- 2017 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!!!! Club Name on the check please!!!
- By Law proposals were due in at the last meeting, they were reviewed, copied and are being handed out tonight. Bring them back to the clubs, discuss and we will discuss at the November meeting, changes applied if any and will vote on them at the December meeting.
- This is our Nominating Committee, Nominations for, President, a 2-year term, Vice President, 2-year term, Secretary, 1-year term and Treasurer, 1-year term. Nominations will begin in September, turned in, in writing, at the November meeting and voted on at the Dec. meeting. You can contact any of these three people with your nominations: Bryan Mc Cleary, 203-592-1007, Dan Monroe ,203-415-0770 or David Santos, 860-869-7722
- We will also be looking for anyone interested in any of the appointed positions High School Director, Sponsorship Chairperson, someone to help with Tournament Trail Computer duties, Etc. and someone to do a Power point for the Banquet and the Shows. Still need a Financial Advisor also!
- 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 17 leads already for 2016! We have already made \$4000.00. Need 4 more for \$5000.00! He is also working on a Fundraiser boat for us again this year.
- Simons Open was a success!! 29 Boats, Monetary donations, 1st place giving back the money, Noah & Keith Winslow and Lunker Winners, Kevin & Todd Rose giving back the money we made \$6,140.00 for the family!!! Thank you to all who helped with this event! Thank you to Don Barone for writing a beautiful story and getting it on B.A.S.S. website, doubling the amount in two days on the Go Fund me page.

- Website and Calendar are being updated! If you have anything that needs to go on the Calendar or website, get it to me so I can get it up.
- Sylvia has been in contact with Lillinonah Lake Authority, Zoar Lake Authority and Housatonic Lake Authority about possible use of a barge or Pontoon boat for our Mossback Fish Attractors. Have heard back from The Lilly Lake Authority, Rebekah White and they are willing to help us in the spring as they have everything put away for the season. I have told her we will need their help in April to deploy the Moss Back Fish Attractors. I suggest we have a date ready to send to her so we can set this up ahead of time.
- This year we were unable to find an appropriate time to schedule a Tournament to Benefit Folds of Honor. We would like to ask each club to donate something to the Folds of Honor. Milford Black Bass is kicking it off with, we have increased it to \$100.00. Please try to match that or whatever you can give!!!! Individual donations would be great also! We should have it collected by Oct 30th to be sent in in time for the Nationals in Nov. Please make checks to the CBN and write Folds of Honor in the memo. ANY CLUBS TONIGHT???? We have received another 100.00 from Alex Scharvtsman!!! Total of \$400.00 has been collected. Anymore this evening?
- NEBA/CBN Team Championship Trail has held its final Tournament last Sunday and the Team moving on to the TCT On Kentucky Lake Nov 30th to Dec 3rd is Marc Condron and Jess Caraballo, congratulations and good luck!

New Business

- B.A.S.S.) are going to be putting a small story in every issue of Bassmaster Magazine highlighting the B.A.S.S. Nation. The idea is to showcase a club or state, doing what they do, and then in the story tell folks how to become a B.A.S.S. Nation member in their own area. I think where we have missed the boat, and I will take the blame for this, is we do stories online or in B.A.S.S. Times, but we have told folks how to become a part of the B.A.S.S. Nation if they are interested in what they are reading. We are going to start doing this online, in B.A.S.S. Times and now in Bassmaster Magazine.

What they need from us.....

Your best club or state that has a good “feel good story”. It can be conservation event, charity event, tournament where something special happened, youth event, etc.... I need a good contact person, with email and phone number. Any Club Interested please see me after.

- It's that time once again! November 6 on Highland Lake. 8 AM to 3 PM with a \$85 team entry fee. 20% of all proceeds will benefit the CT BASS NATION youth programs. A 3-ft. lake drawdown will begin on Nov. 1 but launching should not be an issue.

- I will be rescheduling the November Executive & Committee meeting to 5:00pm on Dec 15th prior to the CBN Meeting as I will have info from the Nationals then. Will keep you posted as to where.
- Sylvia and Doree Jeffrey went to North East MD, scouting for State Team housing. I put the majority of expenses on the credit card. I have submitted an expense form & receipt for Tolls (EZ Pass) for Marc to pay Doree Jeffrey, \$51.86. Total expenses were \$238.81. This should come out of State Team Fund.
- Toys for Tots will be held on Dec 10th, Wallingford Walmart. Hosted by Mohawk Valley Basscasters. I would like to see the CBN purchase \$400.00 worth of Toys for the drive again? Motion, second and passed.
- We would like to see the CBN donate to the folds of honor also, we have 400.00 right now, maybe the CBN can match it and we can then send \$800.00. Just a little less than last year. Motion made, second and passed.
- WE NEED ALL E-MAILS FOR ALL MEMBERS! Please get them to us ASAP. Please e-mail them to myself, wefish2@att.net or Vinny Mucci, vinnymucci@sbcglobal.net
- Steve Marone, Midstate Battery will be at the Feb 23rd 2017 CBN Meeting to give a presentation on his batteries. Be sure to let your members know! It is an informational presentation!
- New for the 2017 Eastern Regionals & going forward if a State does not send a full 20 man Team to the Eastern Regional they will only be allowed to send their Top Boater and Top Non Boater to day three along with anyone that made the money cut line (Top 33 to 35 on each side depends on number of Anglers fishing) Last year this occurred and they feel this is not fair to the States who send a full Team.

Bylaw Proposals for 2017

By-Law Proposal 2017-1 – Article VIII, section J – (New Section)

J. Service Requirement

- a. Each member of the Connecticut Bass Nation (CBN) is required to serve (*specified amount*) service hours annually.

- b. Each CBN member is strongly encouraged to serve, however individual exemptions will be granted by the Board of Directors if the members club also grants an exemption. Requests for exemptions from serving the minimum hours as specified annually for CBN members must be submitted in writing to the CBN Executive Board by the individual members club President. All requested exemptions will be handled on a case by case basis. All requested exemptions will be reviewed by the CBN Board of Directors and voted on. If approved by the CBN Board of Directors, the remaining members of that individuals club must satisfy the exempted member's service hour requirement.
- c. By January 1 of each calendar year the CBN Executive Board will issue a schedule of events which are eligible for service hours. The annual schedule may be amended by the Board at any time due to the cancelation or the addition of events requiring service.
- d. The process for scheduling service hours shall be depicted in the CBN Standing Rules.
- e. The duration of this service is subject to change on an annual basis. The number of service hours required of each member will be determined in December by the CBN Board of Directors taking into account the number of active members and the events scheduled for the following calendar year. Required service hours should be kept to the minimum amount necessary to adequately cover all planned events.
- f. CBN members who fail to satisfy this service requirement will be considered members in poor standing. The CBN Board of Directors will determine the penalty for lack of compliance.
- g. Volunteer hours required by each State Team member, as specified in the annual State Team Contract, will not count towards service hours.

Submitted by the CBN Executive Board

New CBN Tournament Rule for 2017

I would like to make the following proposal to the 2017 CBN tournament rules:

There are 19 clubs supporting the CBN at this time, 9 of them actively participate in CBN functions. As it would not be fair to make clubs that do not have members participating in CBN functions, but do support the CBN, I propose the following:

Any CBN club (including paper clubs) who has a member that fishes any of the CBN trail will be obligated to help with the tournament activities for the day of the tournament. There is to be a minimum of one person per club to perform one of the duties at each tournament. A club that has more than one contestant may be required to have more than one person to perform the duties at hand. A club that has only one person who participates at each tournament will only have to help once, until all the other clubs with more than one member have had all their participating members have a turn in helping at each tournament. The tournament committee will keep a record of each club's workers, whether they fish the tournament or not. The following jobs will be assigned to any contestant or volunteer before the tournament day:

1. Morning set up of the tents, tanks, and other equipment used at the tournament.

2. Trailer runners in the morning and at the end of the tournament.
3. Break down and put away of all equipment and banners into the CBN trailer at the end of the day.

Any contestant who does not perform his or her assigned duty will be disqualified for the day and their entry fees will not be refunded.

Thomas LaPorta

Naugatuck Valley Bassmasters

- 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 (No Longer owned by Rosaria)

OPENS & EVENTS FOR 2016

All other Open Tournaments Applications are on the Table that are available and on CTBASS.com, on the Calendar.

Snowball Open, Nov 6th 8 to 3 Highland Lake

CBN Annual Banquet, Nov. 12th 5:00 to 10:00 Invite on Ctbass.com Home Page

Toys for Tots Dec 10th, Wallingford Walmart 9 to 2

Reynolds Fall Open House, November 13th, 2016 9 to 3 Greg Hackney Guest Speaker

Northeast Hunting & Fishing Show March 31st to April 2nd

| 2017 RBNB SCHEDULE | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| DATE | LAKE | |
| 4/22/2017 | Candlewood | |
| 5/13/2017 | Winni | |
| 7/22/2017 | Champlain-Plattsburg | |
| 8/26/2017 | Champlain-Ticonderoga | |

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 9/16 & 9/17/17 | Sebago | |
| 10/6 & 10/7/17 | TOC-Champlain - Ticonderoga | Friday/Saturday |
| 10/7 & 10/8/17 | TOC-Champlain - Ticonderoga | Saturday/Sunday |
| 6/10/2017 | Reynolds Cust. App | |

Snag Proof Winner - Ryan Glover

Whip Em Baits Winner- Sal Messina

Keitech- Steve Robenge

Meeting adjourned – 8:15PM

NEXT MEETING IS - **November 17, 2016 - A WEEK EARLY!!!!**