

CT B.A.S.S Nation
Meeting Minutes
December 19th, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the CT B.A.S.S Nation was called to order on December 19, 2013 at approximately 7:32p by Sylvia Morris.

ROLL CALL: Clubs absent – Bass Busters and Thayers Marauders

CORRESPONDENCE: Evan Williams has sent in the reimbursement check of \$250.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **#1 Power-Pole Chooses Bassmaster — Again**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Building on their partnership of three consecutive years, JL Marine Systems and B.A.S.S. LLC have signed an agreement for JL Marine to continue as an official Supporting Sponsor through 2015.

The new deal will keep JL Marine's Power-Pole brand in its highly visible position as a sponsor of B.A.S.S.-owned competition trails. They include the top-level professional Bassmaster Elite Series, the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens Series, the grass-roots B.A.S.S. Nation events and the growing Carhartt College B.A.S.S. Series.

Power-Pole products also will continue to receive exposure through B.A.S.S. media properties, including in *Bassmaster* and *B.A.S.S. Times* magazines and on Bassmaster.com.

"JL Marine Systems, manufacturer of the world-famous Power-Pole shallow-water anchor, is proud to continue its sponsorship with B.A.S.S. The combination of tournaments, television shows, magazines and website, together with the best anglers in the world, provides a fantastic platform for us to showcase our products," said Robert Shamblin, vice president of JL Marine Systems, which is based in Tampa, Fla.

JL Marine introduced the first Power-Pole to the bass fishing market in 2006. Since then, the shallow-water anchoring system has won over professional and recreational anglers alike. Owning a bass boat equipped with one or even two Power-Pole units has become a mark of the serious devotee of the sport.

"B.A.S.S. is proud to be part of a success story like Power-Pole's," said B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin. "We feel we can help JL Marine Systems introduce even more anglers to the Power-Pole — one of the true recent inventions for bass anglers." Power-Pole again will offer its Captain's Cash bonuses in the Opens Series and in the Elite Series to anglers registered for the program and with boats equipped with a Power-Pole unit. At Elite events, the highest-finishing qualifying pro will earn an extra \$1,000. At each Opens event, the highest-finishing qualifying angler will receive a \$500 bonus.

The Power-Pole system, which holds a bass boat in place against current and wind, is available in several models: the Blade Series, Signature Series, Pro Series II and Sportsman II.

"We are looking forward to showcasing our newest product, the Power-Pole Micro designed for smaller boats, at the Bassmaster Classic in Guntersville (Ala.) this February," Shamblin said.

For more information, visit www.power-pole.com.

- **#2 -GEICO Secures Title Rights To 2014 Bassmaster Classic**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — GEICO has become the title sponsor of the 2014 Bassmaster Classic, the world championship of bass fishing. The GEICO Bassmaster Classic will be held Feb. 21-23 in Alabama with competition on Lake Guntersville. The daily weigh-ins and other activities will be in Birmingham, home base of B.A.S.S. LLC, owner of the Classic.

"It's a pleasure for us to play a larger role in the Bassmaster Classic," said Ted Ward, vice president of GEICO marketing.

"Bass fishing and the Classic in particular, is a wonderful way to enjoy what's become an enormously popular sport. Entire industries have developed around bass fishing and we're delighted to be part of it."

"This is our premier annual event, eagerly anticipated by hundreds of thousands of fans," said Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. "As title sponsor, GEICO will enjoy the market inroads available only with the wide and deep reach the Classic achieves, not only

over the three competition days, but in the weeks leading up to the event and in the months afterward.”

Based in Chevy Chase, Md., GEICO is the third-largest private-passenger auto insurer in the United States. GEICO — Government Employees Insurance Co. — was founded in 1936 for members of the military and federal employees searching for affordable coverage for their vehicles. Today GEICO serves all drivers with a wide array of insurance services. As the title sponsor of the Classic, GEICO will receive prime positioning in Classic-related marketing efforts and activities. Tens of thousands of fans are expected to attend the free admission GEICO Bassmaster Classic at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) in downtown Birmingham. GEICO will receive branding of the Livewell seating area in the arena, and the lucky fans selected for that front-of-stage view will be given “GEICO for Your Boat” T-shirts. Marshals, the official observers who ride with competitors in their boats, will wear GEICO-branded shirts.

The GEICO Everyday Leader Award, a bonus of \$1,000 to the leader on the first and second days of competition, adds another element to the event marketing package. The company will have an exhibit at the Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo, the popular consumer show produced by B.A.S.S., at the BJCC. At Lake Guntersville, the GEICO “Moneyman” from the company’s popular television commercials will lead the daily takeoffs.

GEICO also will be featured in Classic-related advertising, promotion and editorial coverage in *Bassmaster Magazine*, received by the more than 500,000 B.A.S.S. members, and on Bassmaster.com. The digital exposure alone is expected to meet or exceed that of the 2013 “Classic week,” which had 25 million page views. The three competition days of the 2013 Classic garnered 17.5 million page views.

On *The Bassmasters* TV shows centered on the Classic, GEICO will have ownership of an in-show feature. The Classic-themed shows will air March 1-2 and March 9, March 15 and March 23 on ESPN2 — a total of 12 hours of programming. Repairs are scheduled for The Outdoor Channel.

- **About GEICO**

[GEICO](#) (Government Employees Insurance Co.) is a member of the Berkshire Hathaway family of companies and is the third-largest private passenger auto insurance company in the United States. GEICO provides millions of [auto insurance quotes](#) to U.S. drivers annually. The company is pleased to serve more than 12 million private passenger customers and insures more than 19 million vehicles (auto and cycle). GEICO’s [online service center](#) helps policyholders take care of policy sales, policy changes, claims reporting and to print insurance ID cards. GEICO also provides insurance quotes on motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), travel trailers and motorhomes (RVs). Coverage for boats, life, homes and apartments is written by non-affiliated insurance companies and is secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. Commercial auto insurance and personal umbrella protection are also available. For more information, go to [www.geico.com](#).

- **#3 College Anglers Compete to Win Over \$100,000 in Lowrance Prizes**

Tulsa, Okla. – Lowrance, a world-leading brand in marine electronics since 1957 and GPS navigational systems since 1992 — announced today its new Insight Genesis™ College Cup 2014 competition. Kicking off January 1 and running through December 31, 2014, college anglers registered with the Bassmaster Collegiate Series or FLW College Fishing are eligible to participate in the College Cup and will receive a free subscription to Insight Genesis for 2014 — the revolutionary personal map-generation tool.

Participants who upload the most acres of sonar log recordings to Insight Genesis from a compatible* Lowrance chartplotter can win up to \$1,000 in prizes per month and \$16,000 annually for team awards. In addition, an HDS-12, HDS-9 and HDS-7 Gen2 Touch will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place individual monthly winners, respectively. The year’s overall award individual winner will be named Lowrance Prostaff at the 2015 Bassmaster Classic or FLW Cup** and receive a free trip to the championship of their choice.

Lowrance’s first competition exclusively for college anglers, the Insight Genesis College Cup will offer awards for two team divisions: Large-team awards for groups of more than 10 members, and small-team awards for those with 4 to 10 members. For an added advantage, fans can create a free Insight Genesis account and upload sonar logs that count toward annual or monthly totals for their favorite college fishing team. Sonar logs must be submitted in the Lowrance (.slg or .sl2) format to be eligible and only data not marked as “Private” in Insight Genesis will qualify toward totals.

Live Insight Genesis training webinars are now scheduled throughout the month of December on the Insight Genesis

College Cup website (www.collegecup.lowrance.com). As an added advantage, competitors who sign up early in December, can get a head-start to begin accumulating totals for the 2014 competition, before the College Cup official starts January 1. Registration for the Insight Genesis College Cup is free and open from December 10, 2013 through December 31, 2014. To enter, contestants can visit www.collegecup.lowrance.com and submit their name, email and school name. Anglers should register with their name and email on file with BASS and/or FLW college fishing registration. For more information on the Insight Genesis College Cup, please visit www.collegecup.lowrance.com, or email questions to collegecup@navico.com. For more information on Insight Genesis or Lowrance, please visit insightstore.navico.com/insightgenesis or www.lowrance.com.

- **#4 -Allstate Insurance to Sponsor Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens Series**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — B.A.S.S. LLC, the recognized authority on bass fishing, today announced Allstate Insurance Company as the presenting sponsor of one of B.A.S.S.'s most popular competitive fishing circuits. The Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens Series presented by Allstate is a three-division package of high-stakes tournaments.

The Opens Series offers qualified event winners an entry in the annual world championship of bass fishing, the Bassmaster Classic, in addition to cash and prizes. The Opens Series is a stepping stone for aspiring pros to advance to the highest level of competition, the Bassmaster Elite Series.

“Our involvement with the Bassmaster Opens Series gives Allstate the opportunity to connect fishing enthusiasts with Allstate agents in each of the local event markets to talk about their boat insurance and other insurance protection needs,” said David Foster, director, Allstate marketing.

Allstate’s sponsorship includes nine Opens events scheduled for 2014 on famed lakes such as Champlain and Norman, and on bass-rich rivers such as the Red and Arkansas. The 2014 season will kick off on Lake Tohopekaliga in Kissimmee, Fla., with the Jan. 23-25 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Southern Open presented by Allstate. In addition to the Opens, Allstate will have a presence at the 2014 Bassmaster Classic Outdoor Expo, Feb. 21-23, with competition on Lake Guntersville, Ala. Classic weigh-ins, the Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo and other activities will be in Birmingham, the home base of B.A.S.S.

“We are proud to join forces with the Allstate organization,” said Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. “B.A.S.S. is a new road for Allstate, one that we feel will lead to potential customers through our powerful digital, print and TV media platforms; event marketing; and other methods of enhancing Allstate’s existing relationship with Bass Pro Shops.”

“With pro and co-angler divisions in each event, anglers of all skill levels can participate in the Opens,” said Chris Bowes, B.A.S.S. senior tournament manager and Opens Series director. “We are eager to welcome Allstate on site as they connect not only with all those Opens anglers, but also with the growing number of fans who turn out to each event.”

MOTION TO ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES AS POSTED

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Treasurer Report: Marc Levesque

Conservation Report: Dean Rustic

- CAC Meeting – December meeting canceled due to weather
 - Mike Ose – Presided of the CAC sent out the following reminders:
 - Magazine registration has a deadline of January 1, 2014. Make your own decision, but you could end up with a felony charge later in life
 - Sunday hunting will be put in again. Bob Cook will submit the bill as it was last year to the House side. But this year it will be on the Senate side using that support.
- Fishing Advisory Council
 - Discussion on current budget issues at the DEEP and specifically the fish hatcheries

- A coalition to protect the fish hatcheries was discussed after a presentation from Sally Harold of the Friends of the CT State Parks.
- A committee was formed to start the investigation of a Friends of Fish Hatcheries
- CT BASS Nation CARES
 - Specific training day set for February 8th at Cabela's
 - Applications are due on January 24th and may be filled out electronically but must be printed and signed in ink per requirements for state police background checks. DEEP will send out new instructor training packets to all applicants. Packets will contain a DVD to preview, an agenda for training session and directions to the training
 - CARE Instructors once certified are committed to participate in at least one CARE class or event every year. They have certified over 650 instructors since 1986.
 - Also included is a "Family Fishing Class" agenda. These are the subjects that are taught to our students. You will notice that these are the very basics.
 - Fishing day at Cabela's – looking at either March 29, 2014 or April 12, 2014 as a way to thank Cabela's as a sponsor.

Boating Advisory: Dean Rustic

- Discussion with Eleanor about the number of swim areas that seem to be popping up has led her to provide us with a spreadsheet listing all of the new permits approved since 2003 on various lakes in CT. In 2013 there were only 4 new permits issued (1 on Candlewood, 2 on Columbia and 1 Pachaug).
- As for Handicap access on Candlewood, here is what Eleanor had to say – "We are looking into any modifications we can make to Lattin's Cove to facilitate handicapped accessibility – discussing transfer benches and lifts. If we put in a lift, would your organization be willing to purchase a sling? We are afraid it would get removed. We are also concerned that the lift would be removed for scrap metal. We will continue to pursue ideas. Any thoughts your members may have, please let us know."
- Lastly – the email to the Governor for the change to the state regulations about online education for boating certificates – thanks to all who took the time to write in favor of the change.

C.L.A Report: Chris Bielert

- Senator Clark Chapin and Representative Cecilia Buck-Taylor attended this meeting to learn about the efforts and see if there are opportunities to assist.
- Candlewood Lake level is 423 feet – shallow drawdown this year
- Late drawdown because of license requirements for First Light
- Zebra Mussel number to continue to grow rapidly in both Lake Zoar and Lake Lilinonah
- No Evidence of Zebra Mussels in Candlewood Lake
- DNA testing of Zebra Mussels continues at WCSU
- State of CT DEEP changes regulation to further the possibility of using sterile grass carp in Candlewood to control Milfoil
- Drawdown on Candlewood last season cut acreage of Milfoil by approximately 50%

Tournament Report: Paul Dingee

- Tom Reynolds has agreed to store the trailer for us again this year. Thank you Tom!

- Sal Messina has taken the following items to store for the CBN: 8 Batteries, 4 Flashlights, 2 Lanterns, 2 Gas tanks for the grill and 1 Backup scale.

Sponsorship Report: Robert Nelson

- **Reynolds Garage & Marine** – Reynolds & Skeeter Highest Finishing Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money
 - Qualifying Events:
 - May 18th, CBN Tournament #1
 - June 22nd, CBN Tournament #2
 - July 13th, CBN Tournament #3
 - October 19th, CBN Classic/Tournament #4
 - Payout:
 - Reynolds & Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money based on the year of the highest finishing Skeeter Owner's boat (only one award per event)
 - \$3,000.00 (2011 model Skeeter or newer)
 - \$1,000.00 (2010 model Skeeter or older)
 - Skeeter Real Money up to \$3,000.00
 - Rules:
 - 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...2011 model or newer Skeeter boat will qualify for \$3,000.00 per event, 2010 model or older Skeeter boat will qualify for \$1,000.00 per event.
 - 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 2014 CBN Events.
 - 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.
 - There will be no limit to the times an angler can win per calendar year.
 - The four CBN Events outlined above will also be sanctioned for 2014 Skeeter Real Money. Each CBN Event must have a minimum of 30 boats and 60 anglers to qualify for 2014 Skeeter Real Money. To qualify for 2014 Skeeter Real Money, each individual registered Skeeter Owner must register for the 2014 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.
- **Rigid Industries** - There is a 30% off offer to all members. Members should follow the instructions and using the order forms and links on the CBN website.
- **Home Depot in Danbury, CT** will be giving the CBN Tournament Committee (6) new two-way radios. These radios are used, by committee members, to communicate prior to the tournaments.
- **BASSGold** – Another Benefit to your B.A.S.S Nation membership and the discount code show has to be closely guarded. It is to be used by your members for their one-year free membership to BASSGold and **cannot be shared with anyone else**. Will still have to use a credit card to enroll in BASSGold but the discount code should trigger the system to not charge for enrollment. As in anything, there could be mistakes made and will be handled on a one-on-one basis should the member be charged.
 - Use BASSGold and give them feedback on it
 - Enter 6 patters, which do NOT have to be tournament patterns; that's basically only one every 2 months.

- With a database of thousands of fishing patters from bass tournaments over the years, the program provides fishing recommendations (where, how and with what) for any body of water in the US.
 - A Web-based app that runs on any web connected device has predicted with remarkable accuracy the winning patters and weights for recent Bassmaster Classics, Bassmaster Elite Series events and many other tournaments. It has also helped anglers catch more fish quickly on fun fishing days as well.
- **Power-Pole** sponsorship is open to all CBN members – to receive the discount you have to complete the Pro-Staff application on the website www.power-pole.com
- **Midstate Battery** – A discount is available to ALL Nation members and the Nation will receive a Volume Rebate
 - They can be reached at 139C West Dudley Town Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002
 - Phone 860.243.0646 Fax 860.243.5945 or email at smerone@midstatebattery.com
 - Notify Sylvia about all purchases so she can keep track of what the CBN rebate should be.
- **Buff USA** is now a State, Trail and State Team Sponsor. You may see their products at: www.buffusa.com
Buff USA has a line of buffs and gloves made exclusively for anglers. They have some with bass on them as well. Some of their products were on the prize table at our first tournament.
- **Powell Rods** – “Nation” Special Promotion
 - Offering a discount on rods to the Nation members for 30% off & 20% off retail on Diesel Rods
 - Purchase 6 Diesel Rods (mix & match) and pick an Endurance Rod (from specially marked rods) as yours free
 - Please see www.powellco.com to order
- **Bassmaster And ScoutLook**
Free Fishing Weather App for iPhone And Android. To download the app visit: <http://www.scoutlookweather.com>

CBN Scholarship: Finalized scholarship application is up on forum and will be on the website. April 1st deadline

Robert S. Malloy Scholarship: Dave Santos – Should have recipient picked in January and will report at February meeting

Banquet Report: Sylvia Morris

- Banquet booked for next year on November 8th

Membership Committee: Paul Dingee

- Lee Housley will be doing our membership flyers again for us this year. Thank you to Lee!!
- BASS Renewal Envelopes available – CBN gets \$5 for every one mailed in to B.A.S.S

Website Committee: None

Audit Committee: Vinny Mucci – None

Youth Report: Terry Baksay & Ron Frisk

- 2014 High School Fishing trail in the works
- Some High School fishing challenges
 - Difficulty finding partners
 - Getting teams registered
- One official High School team – Max Morris and Sam Flinn from Suffield High School.
- Working on multiple teams from Berlin High School
- First tournament will be in late March – working on a date now

- High School Fishing will breed new Nation members

Finance Committee: Ray Bessette – New budget passed out and reviewed

State Team Report: Sylvia Morris

- 2014 State Team
 - Next meeting in March – Maybe earlier to get a lot of information out to the team & paperwork to get completed. Will keep you posted.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN

OLD BUSINESS:

- Excused absences: None
- Secretary cast 1 vote for existing Treasurer (Marc Levesque) and Secretary (Rachel Rose) to hold office in 2014
- CBN Rosters: A few not listed in the online roster. **Must update online before December 30th.**
- Bylaw proposals voting ballots were passed out, one to each Club Rep. Ballots were collected and counted by Ray Bessette. Results were:
 - CBN Bylaw change proposal 2014 -1
 - **Institute a new section to the bylaw as Article XII, B, 3, d.** Note: each lettered paragraph including the current Article XII, B, 3, d which will follow this addition will be re lettered accordingly in an ascending manor. (I.e. if adopted the current Article XII, B, 3, d will become Article XII, B, 3, e and so on)
 - **Proposed Addition:** d. Linked Entries: Boaters, entering the Two Day State Championship, who identify a linked non-boater on their tournament application, will guarantee use of their boat during both days of competition provided that their linked non-boater is physically present during both days of the event. In the event that a boater's linked non-boater fails to show up on a competition day the Tournament Director and their designated committee will adjust the pairings accordingly and if at all possible the linked boater will be paired with a non-linked boater. In the event that a non-boaters linked boater fails to show up on a competition day the linked non-boater will be ineligible to participate in that days competition. Entry fees for linked anglers (boater/non-boater) must accompany the tournament application.
 - **PROPOSAL PASSED** – YES (20) NO(2)
 - CBN Bylaw change proposal 2014 -2
 - Revision to Article XII, B, 3, c: Current wording – c. A properly completed and signed application fee must be postmarked by a mailing deadline determined by the Tournament Director
 - **Proposed Change:** Application process - A properly completed and signed application, along with any additional documentation that is required by the CBN and/or State Agencies, plus the full entry fee must be sent in one complete package and postmarked by a mailing deadline determined by the Tournament Director. Failure to provide all required documentation by the mailing deadline may deem the individual or individuals ineligible to participate. It is encouraged that each CBN club, send all application documentation and fees in one combined package for all of their members who will be participating in this event.
 - **PROPOSAL PASSED** – YES (22) NO (0)
- Livingston Lures has been in contact again and needs more time, will get back to Sylvia
- Shows are coming up – please call Sylvia if you are interested in working. The State Team will work 4 hours at each show.

- January 23rd – 26th and February 14th – 16th
- New Lowrance program – Details Below:
 - New Lowrance program for 2014: Quarterly postings of pictures of Lowrance products being used or events featuring Lowrance products gives us 1 point for each, videos of the product or event featuring Lowrance gives us 2 points, pictures or videos with a new idea using the Lowrance gives us 3 points and finally a unique event or idea gives us an extra point for each. Points will be added and prizes awarded in each quarter. 3 prizes for each: 1st place highest point state gets a touch 12, 2nd place a touch 9, and 3rd place gets a touch 7. A state can win in multiple quarters. You must notify Sylvia when you post anything to the Lowrance Facebook page or any other form of social media. Let's try to win all four...starts January 1st, 2014!!
- New Team Championship – All club Presidents have the info and Sylvia asked you to bring it back to your clubs to see what interest there is. Not much interest from clubs present, maybe 6. Still working on this and will have more info at the next meeting.
- Toys for Tots – Great success, thank you to Mohawk Valley Bassmasters club members for all their time and bringing two boats to collect the toys in. Wallingford Walmart for the \$1,000.00 donation, CBN for the \$450.00 donation and Ron Frisk for getting a donation of 1000 books and all who came and helped with the shopping.
- Paul Mueller reimbursed for Nationals & Practice - \$1,805.44 (\$1,044.75 practice & \$760.69 Nationals)

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

- Captain's Weekend is going to be March 1st and 2nd for Cabela's Spring Great Outdoor Days. Volunteers needed.
- Dean Rustic has been invited to the Classic for Conservation Summit
- 2014 Meeting Schedule:
 - January- no monthly meeting (Executive Board only at Sylvia's January 18th, 1:00)
 - February-27th
 - March-27th
 - April-24th (Scholarship judging at 5:00 in small meeting room)
 - May-22nd(Executive Board and Directors meeting at 5:00 small meeting room)
 - June-26th
 - July-24th
 - August-28th (August 30th Executive Board only my house 1:00)
 - Sept-25th
 - Oct- 23rd
 - Nov-20th-(Executive Board and Directors meeting at 5:00 small meeting room)
 - Dec-18th
- **Next meeting is in February – NO January meeting.**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:54 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 27th, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Rose, CBN Secretary