

CT B.A.S.S. Nation
Meeting Minutes
September 25th 2014

ROLL CALL: Clubs absent – Mohawk Valley Basscaters, Naugatuck Valley Bassmasters, Team Skeeter & Tobacco Valley Bass Anglers

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

MOTION TO ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES AS POSTED

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Treasurer Report: Marc Levesque

Conservation Report: Dean Rustic

- **Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting**
 - Discussion on upcoming elections and what it will mean to gun laws and Sunday Hunting
- **Fisheries Advisory Council meeting** – Attended by another CBN Member
- **Fishing Advocacy – Working directly with CT DEEP to promote Fishing with these initiatives.**
 - Shimano Youth Conservation Initiative
 - Crescent Lake, Southington – September 21st
 - 1 members of Silver City Bassmaster (Ron Frisk), 1 member of Mohawk Valley BassCasters (Dean Rustic)
 - 2 members of the Ellington High School Fishing
 - 1 Member of the CBN (CT B.A.S.S. Nation) Juniors Club - The Bass Lightning (Lorin Valenti) along with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Valenti and Stephanie.
 - Newspaper story in Hartford Courant and in the Record-Journal
 - Remaining Community Waters:
 - Bridge Pond, Bristol - Edward Swicklas
 - Hubbard Park Pond, Meriden - Michael Roberts
 - Butternut Park Pond, Middletown - William Russo and Debbie Stanley
 - Stanley Quarter Park Pond, New Britain - Bill Demaio
- **Nationwide Insurance Conservation Challenge.** –
 - Currently B.A.S.S. is in third place, up from fifth.
 - Post on Face book – Vote every day.
- **Moss Back Grant coming in October.**

Boating Advisory: New ramp for Bashan Lake. Introduction of New Deputy Bureau Chief for Boating and Parks.

CLA Report:

- Larry Marsciano has notified us that the CLA has applied for a Grant through the DEEP Grant Program, headed by Nancy Belcom, to get funding for putting Grass Carp into Candlewood. He promised to keep us in the loop as to when the public hearings will take place on this topic. They have to hold these hearings prior to agreeing to

and giving the Grant to the CLA. Spoke with the DEEP and they too have agreed to inform us of the hearings as soon as they are setup.

- Phyllis Schaer is trying to attend our October Meeting and answer any questions or concerns we have regarding Grass Carp.

CT Haddam Canal Issue:

- Norb Heil – Connecticut River – CY Station: Pete Aarrestad reported on the access situation at the former Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Plant in Haddam. The plant's former discharge canal, which enters the Connecticut River, is a popular fishing area for both boating and shore-based anglers. The Division has been getting calls from anglers unhappy about a boom that was put into place last August, which precludes entry into the canal. Local residents are also unhappy about the appearance of the boom. This issue recently received press coverage in the *Haddam Bulletin*. The issue was also brought to Commissioner Klee's attention. A meeting was held among personnel from DEEP, Town of Haddam, and CY on July 23 without any immediate resolution. An online petition is being prepared to bring pressure to bear to remove the barrier. Norb Heil mentioned that he attended a meeting in May where the federal government noted concern only for the 5 acres or so that contained the spent fuel storage and that the other 500 acres or so making up the CY site was available for other purposes. It appears that CY has established a larger security radius around the spent fuel site than perhaps is required. BASS will do an article about this issue and CT Fishermen is also getting involved in publicizing this matter. Publicity by these organizations should result in many more people signing onto the online petition. No one has yet approached the CT state legislative representatives in the affected area about access concerns. Eric Schultz asked how the FAC can help in this issue. Greg Sharp replied that the issue could be placed on the December agenda or further discussion after more facts come out. This includes shoreline access, which was noted by Scott Bushee.
- There is no excuse of any Ct Bass Nation member to not have already signed the petition - Sylvia has the information posted to our website and here it is (www.uglyorangebarrier.weebly.com). We can get this removed but it will not happen unless we continue to get the Public to stand up and protest. Without constant pressure and DEEP and CY knowing we are not going away and will continue to apply pressure as well as make it a political issue we risk losing this stretch of public navigable water or a more long and costly fight to have the barrier removed.
- Robert Montgomery, Senior Writer for B.A.S.S. is preparing an article on the matter that will be distributed to B.A.S.S.'s 500,000 members that will be published in an upcoming addition of B.A.S.S. times or B.A.S.S. Magazine.

Tournament Report: Paul Dingee

- The new 2-Day application mailing deadline was the 20th. Pairings will be posted on the website by Tuesday morning September 30th. Remember you must call your partners. If the retainer checks, workers names, numbers and day they will work are not received prior to the pairings those club members will not fish the Two Day!
- Classic application mailing deadline is October 4th and everything is on the website.

Sponsorship Report: Robert Nelson

- **Kistler Rods** – Gold Level sponsor for 2015. They have given us 6 rods for the awards banquet. Visit their website at www.kistlerrods.com
- **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.
- **Thayer's Marine** – Thayer's Marine has become a Gold Sponsor!!

- **Midstate Battery** – A discount is available to ALL Nation members and the Nation will receive a Volume Rebate
 - MidState Battery was very pleased with the use of the sponsorship by our members! Members spent a total of \$4,400.00!! We earned a check of approx. \$88.00!! At the April meeting there will be a presentation of the new line of Northstar AGM Batteries, MidState will be donating \$600.00 in gift certificates again for the banquet also!
 - 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.
- **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.
- **Lowrance Insight Genesis B.A.S.S Nation Challenge**
 - In addition to the current Lowrance Social Media challenge, Lowrance has issued another, please see below. PLEASE send to all your club members!
 - The program is split into two groups, large and small B.A.S.S Nations. The contest will award \$20,000 in Lowrance product to the large state that ends up on top, and \$12,000 in Lowrance product to the top state in the small division. They didn't want to lump you all together and give the states with larger member numbers too much of an advantage.
 - Clubs can earn \$3,000 of Lowrance product awarded monthly
 - Individuals that take part have the opportunity to win and HDS12, HDS9 or HDS7 in the monthly awards for the top three people respectively, and if they are the top person for the entire year, they will earn and all-expense paid fishing trip with one of the Lowrance Tour Pros (I was told it would be an Elite Pro).
- **Power Pole**

- Power-Pole is now a sponsor of the B.A.S.S Nation for 2014. Effective January 1st, they will be offering a discount to all B.A.S.S Nation members. They will match your officers listed with the B.A.S.S Nation against the rebates applied for and will match members names with current B.A.S.S Nation rosters. You must be a CBN Member to be eligible.
- The discounts are available via a rebate program through <http://www.power-pole.com> The product will be purchased at the retail value of the Power-Pole (limit 2 per year per boat). In order to receive your rebate you will need to register the Power-Pole at <http://www.power-pole.com> located under the “Support” column header, then “Product Registration” Once the product has been registered you will then be prompted to fill out the rebate form, with this the discount will be issued in accordance with the discount you are entitled to receive. The discount levels will remain active on accessories and apparel purchased through the website for a period of 12 months. Should you have any questions, contact Casey Carpenter @ 813-689-9932 ext. 2021 or email casey@power-pole.com
- **Livingston Lures**
 - New sponsor for the CBN, check for \$1500 received, product coming for banquets, tournaments etc.

CBN Scholarship: Nothing New

Robert S Malloy Scholarship: Nothing New

Banquet Report: Sylvia Morris

- Change of Date: Due to the nationals being held on our original date of November 8th, we will now be holding in on November 22nd. Please be sure to notify all club members of the change. Getting prizes for the youth that will attend, right now that is about 24!
- Make reservations – Over \$18,000.00 in prizes!!
- Sponsor invites will also go out next week.

Membership Committee: Paul Dingee – Nothing New

Website Committee: Nothing New

Audit Committee: Nothing to report

Youth Report: Ron Frisk

- Winding down 2015 qualifying trail to qualify 2 kids for 2015 Divisional and send top 2 high school teams to HS National Championship – Last Tournament 10/11 at Lake Zoar
- Will crown 1st & 2nd place HS teams that qualify for the 2015 HS National Championship.
- 1st place HS team will also represent CT on the 2015 Divisional Team
- Will crown 1st-3rd place in the Junior Division
- Big thanks to the boat captains that stepped up to fill in for my regular guys!!
- The Banquet is looking fantastic for the kids. Thank you to those individual clubs who have donated items for the kids.

Finance Committee: Ray Bessett – Nothing to report

State Team Report: Sylvia Morris

- CT State team currently in 2nd place. Team doing well.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN

OLD BUSINESS:

- Excused Absences: Bass Busters & CT Bassmen
- The article on the NRD Grants ran Monday, September 1st. Working on this with Molly Sperduto. Will have an update at the next meeting.
 - Bridgewater: For boaters piloting Lake Lillinonah, floating debris such as downed trees and limbs is something to avoid. In the past, the state has conducted skimming operations to rid the lake of the hazard.
Yet the same debris, after it becomes waterlogged and sinks, becomes what's known as coarse woody habitat. It's a great hangout for fish, especially bass.
Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation proposed building artificial coarse woody habitat, and to submerge and anchor it in the lake. A \$46,050 grant was approved. Little progress has been made, though, because of confusion over the funding.
"We never got the money," said Sylvia Morris, who took over as president two years ago after her predecessor died unexpectedly.
"We did all the forms. I thought we had done it right," said David Santos, the group's former environmental director.
The NRD money, though, isn't released until work has been done, said Molly Sperduto of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
"The money is still there that was designated for the project," she said. "We need to reach out and let them know."
 - In one case, the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation waited years for funds for its habitat restoration project in Lake Lillinonah, then lost hope when the money never materialized.
Only when recently contacted by a reporter did the conservation group realize that the work must be done first before the money is released.
"The burden is probably on both sides for not getting back to each other as quickly as they should," said Molly Sperduto, a biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Concord, N.H., which administers the grants.
"There are personnel changes in some cases, and we've had staffing issues ourselves," she said. "We are now a three-person office and we used to be five."
The good news for B.A.S.S. Nation is that the money, even for projects that have lagged, is still available. While some of them face deadlines for completion in 2015, extensions can be given, Sperduto said.
- 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. You must begin each post with **#Lowrance BNCT or we will not get credit for it!!! 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!!!**
 - **UPDATE:** We are not in 1st place!!! Post Pictures...deadline is September 30th!!!
- New CBN/NEBA Team Championship Trail has been started. Next tournament October 26th, CT River. Standings are in the Forum under CBN Tournaments.
- Remember to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fisherman rate!! Newbury (best parking), Micro-tel and Best Western.
- Triton Alliance Leads Program, we already have some sales pending for this year. Please let Sylvia know as soon as someone THINKS they are going to buy a Triton. She will email all the info (name, email, phone number and what boat he is interested in if possible) to put the lead in.
- Disabled Military Veteran's Tournament & First Responders Tournament – 19 Veterans & 22 Boats. Fox News crew came to do interviews. It was a great turnout and lots of fun.

- Effective September 1, 2014, the new renewal date for all clubs, adult, junior, HS and College will begin September 1st of each year. In other words, the roster systems will reset all members to “pending” and allow renewals to begin on September 1st. The roster will still show a B.A.S.S Nation expiration of December 31. For example, all members/clubs that pay before September 1st will expire December 31 of that same year and all that renews September 1st or after will expire December 31 of the following year. November 1st is still the deadline for renewals.
 - This gets all club types on the same renewal schedule and should help with everyone’s membership tracking. Please make every effort to spread this work to the clubs. It really shouldn’t change much in the way you manage rosters, but wanted to make sure you knew what was going on, should you get questions about the member status changing to “pending”
 - They should not experience any lapse in Bass Times deliver. This is just allowing us to start the renewal process earlier. The Nation expire dates will stay the same and the BASS Times will continue on the normal schedule until 2015.
- BASS Renewal Envelopes available – CBN gets \$5 for everyone mailed in to BASS.
- Thayer’s Open was a great success!! 37 Boats – Abe Kalechman won!!

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

- Squantz Launch repaved 9/15-9/16
- Nominations will open up in September for Pres., VP, Sec, & Treasurer. I will need a nominating committee. I need three people to be on the committee, they are:
 - Sal Messina – 860.883.3116
 - Kevin Rose – 860.978.3987
 - Bob Nelson – 914.588.1999
 - You will receive calls with nominations and all three of you will get together prior to the November meeting and compile your list of nominees into one and turn in the nominees (written) to the President to read. Members will then take back these nominees to their clubs and be prepared to vote at the Dec meeting.
- By Law Proposals - None
- Milford Black Bass 2nd Annual High School Benefit Open, Oct 12th Candlewood Lake, 7a-3p.
- Livingston Lure Drawing – Larry Barnes

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:16 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 23rd, 2014

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Rose, CBN Secretary**