

CT B.A.S.S. Nation
Meeting Minutes
December 18th 2014

ROLL CALL: Clubs absent – Candlewood Bassmasters & Greater Hartford Bassmasters

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Gary H Reynolds family has designated the Scholarship Fund of the CT BASS Nation to be the recipient of the Ambassador Grant in honor and in memory of Leland H Reynolds. Gary H Reynolds chose to honor the memory of his father Leland H Reynolds, with an Ambassadorship in the National Automobile Dealers Charitable Foundation. As owner of Reynolds Garage & Marine Inc, in Lyme, Conn. Gary was well known for his career in the automotive retail business. He served on the board of directors of the national Automotive Dealers Association, representing the franchised new car & truck dealers of Connecticut until his untimely passing last year. Gary's work and dedication to the community will be recognized in perpetuity through Ambassador Grants presented in memory of his Father, Leland H Reynolds. Therefore it is our pleasure to enclose a contribution of \$2000.00 in honor and memory of Leland H Reynolds, a National Automobile Dealers Charitable foundation Ambassador of distinction. This contribution will be given to the CBN Scholarship Funds. \$1000.00 will go into the CBN Scholarship Fund and \$1000.00 will go into the Robert s Malloy scholarship Fund! Thank you Tom and the entire Reynolds Family!
- Great Article in BassTimes about Bryan Kerchal. Great job done by Tyler Wade.
- Evan Williams is back for 2015.

- **Humminbird's "Family Values" Fishing Video Contest:**

EUFAULA, AL (December 10, 2014) - American fishing manufacturer Humminbird is not only investing in the future of fishing technologies, but the future of fishing itself. With core values that center around on-the-water family fun we have a passion for making great products that help make even greater memories From engineering to customer service, Humminbird employees and their families love to fish ... just like you, our family of loyal Humminbird customers! So, we want to take the opportunity to recognize anglers across the U.S. who may never walk the stage of the Bassmaster Classic, but are champions in their own right for introducing the next generation of anglers to the sport of fishing. Simply share a favorite fishing video you've created that captures moments with kids that will last a lifetime, and your family could win a trip to meet legendary anglers and participate in fishing's biggest event! To [enter](#), visit our entry page and upload your video with a brief description, and your family could win four airline tickets, hotel stay, meals, and VIP All-Access passes to the [2015 Bassmaster Classic](#) in Greenville, South Carolina! Share away...you'll receive 5 extra entries for sharing the contest with your friends. Humminbird Fans can vote once per day. Winners must live within the continental United States. Contest valid Dec. 8, 2014 - Jan. 30, 2015. The Winner will be announced on Tuesday, February 3, 2015

MOTION TO ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES AS POSTED

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Treasurer Report: Marc Levesque

Conservation Report: Dean Rustic

- **Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting**
 - There was to be a combined CAC and FAC meeting. It was postponed until January.
- Shimano/Bass Youth Grant has been extended to January 15th, 2015.
- Will be working with the DEEP for the structures to be placed on Lilionah for the NRD Grant.

Boating Advisory:

- The CT Marine Laws and Regulations handbook was passed out

- Reviewed the differences between Laws and Regulations
- Were asked to review the Regulations and make comment back to Eleanor to be passed along to the Governor to adjust regulations that we feel are outdated or could be simplified.

CLA Report:

- Larry Marsciano has notified us that the CLA has been approved for a \$50,000 Grant through the DEEP Grant Program for stocking grass carp in Candlewood Lake. Public Hearings will be held on this matter. No hearings yet. We will be notified so we can have the opportunity to attend. Spruce up on information about grass carp.
- Phyllis Schaer is going to attend a spring meeting and answer any questions or concerns we may have about Grass Carp.

CT Haddam Canal Issue:

- Norb Heil – Connecticut River – CY Station:

Received a letter from Alan: As I mentioned, we may be gaining ground in this 'take down the boom' campaign. Andrew Fisk, the head of CT River Watershed Council is working with Commissioner Klee. Fisk is a powerful ally and he has suggested that we get the 'protesters' behind the petition to send Klee a formal letter (also to the Governor and newspapers) along with the 1,400 petition signatures. He recommends we target this for Friday 1/9/15. To maximize his negotiating position, he also suggested that I get every important organization involved in this crusade to write a formal (meaning on organization letterhead) letter to Commissioner Klee before 1/9/15 expressing that this barrier is wrong and should be removed In the case of CT B.A.S.S. Nation (and hopefully also your national parent organization) the barrier prevents licensed boaters and fisherman from accessing a public trust waterway with some of the finest bass fishing in the state and that this 1-mile canal has always been fishable (on the shore before 2007 and on the water since 2007. Thanks so much Silvia...We are going to win this battle. Have a wonderful Xmas and great 2015. All the best,Alan

- DEEP considering revocation of the permit that put up the barrier. A few weeks after the holidays to wait for decisions, if none made we will again begin to ramp up social media efforts, phone calls, etc.

Tournament Report: Sal Messina

- Tournament applications will be up in January 2015.

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. We will get the code out to you as soon as we receive it.
- **Thayer's Marine** – Thayer's Marine has become a Gold Sponsor!!
- **Pure Fishing** – Pure Fishing has signed a contract and promises a more user-friendly site by January 1, 2015.
- **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 \$8,800.00!! We earned a check of approx. \$288.00!! At the February 26th, 2015 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 17th, CBN Tournament #1, Candlewood Lake
 - June 14th, CBN Tournament #2, Connecticut River
 - July 12th, CBN Tournament #3, Candlewood Lake
 - October 18th, CBN Classic/Tournament #4, Lillinah
 - 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.
 - State Team Members: 30%
 - State Executives: 20%
 - Club Executives: 15%
 - Members: 10%
 - 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

- **B.A.S.S**

Dear B.A.S.S. member,

Your auto insurance is supposed to guard you every mile you drive ... every day of the year. But what if you're paying too much for protection that stops short if you're in an accident?

As a B.A.S.S. member, it's easy to find out. Get your Savings & Security Custom Quote now

Imagine paying less for every auto insurance bill with a special B.A.S.S. discount ...

What if you could cut those bills while at the same time locking in more security for your loved ones whenever they're on the road?

Picture saving up to \$500.00 if you were ever in an accident ... just by taking \$100.00 off your deductible for every year of safe driving when you add Vanishing Deductible® *.

As a valued B.A.S.S. member, you're now authorized for special savings with lower group rates that can help you do just that.

Thanks to a new partnership between B.A.S.S. and Nationwide Insurance®, you can lower your auto insurance bills – while you set up even higher peace of mind whenever you're on the road.

And what if you're in an accident? Just one accident could cost a safe driver like you as much as \$500.00 – but it doesn't have to.

Lower rates. Better protection. Extra-mile privileges if you're in an accident. See how low your auto insurance bills could go ... thanks to this special program recently finalized for B.A.S.S. members.

Sincerely,

Mitch Frank

Membership Director

B.A.S.S.

P.S. If you act fast, you could even qualify for a refund on your current coverage. Your current auto insurance company is required to issue you a prompt refund check for the majority of the premium that hasn't been used under your current policy.

That means if you find that you can save significant money under this special program for B.A.S.S. members, you could switch right away and your refund check may be bigger. In fact, Nationwide can even help you with that if you'd like. It's just another privilege we're happy to extend to valued members of B.A.S.S..

So why wait? See how much you could save as a B.A.S.S. member today

CBN Scholarship: Nothing New

Robert S Malloy Scholarship: Interviewed 2 candidates. Received email from Sara McClellan with a thank you note for the CBN Support.

Banquet Report: Sylvia Morris

- Banquet was a big success!! 223 people and we were done at 9:50!! Raffles income was wonderful and a record!! 20% went to the High School Account!!
- Thank you to all that helped with setup, prizes, transporting, collecting money, selling tickets, counting money, pictures, slideshow presentation and clean up.
- Rebooked for November 14th, 2015.
- Some plaques had to be corrected, they were at the meeting. Kevin Lavender, Paul Mueller, Neil Gordon (2), Dan Michaud, and Joe Mahood.

Membership Committee: Paul Dingee

- Will have a booth at both shows, Feb 6th-8th and Feb 14th – 16th. Sign up with Sylvia to help out.
- Lee Housley will be doing the membership flyers again this year. Thank you Lee!

Website Committee: Nothing New

Audit Committee: Audit set for January 24th at 11:00a at Sylvia's house. Vinny Mucci (audit chairperson), Dan Monroe and Al Guite.

Youth Report: Ron Frisk

- Not much going on as a whole.
- Will be holding a High School/Junior meeting by the end of January. Will pick the best date and reserve the room at NU.
- Still hoping to add a few new high schools. I will invite those potential schools to the meeting.
- Still waiting on finalized report from BASS and the Nationals.

Finance Committee: Ray Bessett – Budget presented and reviewed

State Team Report: Sylvia Morris

- **2015:** All members will be working both shows, four hours each
- Rooms have been booked at Farmington Extended Stay Suites. Working on Jackets and contract has been signed between BASS and Riverfront. Thank you to Reynolds Garage & Marine for their donation of \$1000.00 and Thayer's Marine for their donation of \$1000.00 to help cover the events fee for Riverfront. The Chamber has also donated \$1000.00 to the cause. RI has donated \$500.00 also.
- There will be a launch fee for \$10.00 a day per boat, per state we will have to pay at the registration meeting on Tuesday, September 15th. Should be \$210.00 each State.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN

OLD BUSINESS:

- Excused Absences: Milford Black Bass
- By-Law Proposals: Ballots handed out and voted on. One vote per club! Ray Bessette and Jeff Janusonis collected them and counted. Both proposals were voted Yes, unanimously.
 - Standing Rule Change Proposal – 1-2015
 - Existing rule - Rule 6- Trip Reimbursement. Representation at B.A.S.S. Sponsored Events
 - It shall be Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation policy that representation to the Bassmasters Classic, the Nation Nationals and/or President's Conference shall be reimbursed for the costs of the trip, i.e. commercial transportation costs or personal owned vehicle mileage (at the current GSA guideline) or gas reimbursement with receipt both ways plus food and lodging costs en route and during return. The president or his/her designee shall attend the functions stated above. The Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation representative to the B.A.S.S. Nation Nationals shall also be entitled to the same reimbursement privileges. All lodging and food costs shall be substantiated by a voucher/receipt and exclude costs for spouses or any other person accompanying. All other individuals attending B.A.S.S. sponsored events expecting reimbursement must be approved prior to the trip by the Board of Directors. Advanced payment of travel costs may be disbursed to defray costs of the trip and such advance payment shall require full accounting upon completion of the trip.
 - Proposed change - Rule 6- Trip Reimbursement. Representation at B.A.S.S. Sponsored Events

- National Expenses for Sylvia & Terry: \$1325.00
- Folds of Honor Info available at the meeting. We are exploring and event to do as an organization in 2015.
- Working with Don Barone and Tackle the Storm on partnership with casting kids. We will move forward with it as partners. They will do the following:
 - 6 Spinning Rods and Reels (Open face, not push button) to use for the casting kids competitions.
 - One pop-up banner with the BASS, CBN & Tackle the Storm logos on it. (Will have proofs sent to review and approve).
 - We would also like to have it say: “The CT BASS Nation & Tackle the Storm Casting Kids Competition”
 - We would need a picture or two for the background of the pop up banner.
 - We would have 12 children move on to our finals at Cabelas on March 28th, 2015. We would need a rod & reel for all of them.
 - There is 1 winner in each age group. They would receive a check for \$250.00 each, and would need this provided by Tackle the Storm.
 - We do 2 shows a year, one is a free entry fee, the other is \$150.00 we would need this paid for by Tackle the Storm. Both shows are in February.
 - We have a 6 foot table for the Casting Kids that would need a form fitted table cloth with all 3 logos and the name of the event on it in royal blue with white letters provided by Tackle the Storm.
- Officer for 2015 Voting, Nominations are:
 - President: Sylvia Morris – unopposed
 - Treasurer: Marc Levesque – unopposed
 - Secretary: Al Guite – unopposed
 - Vice President: Bob Nelson & Vinny Mucci
 - Secretary cast one vote for President, Secretary & Treasurer.
 - Ballots passed out for the VP, one vote per club! Ray Bessett & Jeff Janusonis collected and counted them: 13-7 Vinny Mucci won and is the new CBN Vice President. Congratulations Vinny!
 - Thank you Bob Nelson for four years volunteering his time for the CBN as Vice President. Hopefully he will remain as the Sponsorship Chairperson.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

- Jan Newman from Newtown Bait & Tackle and her husband Rich are in need of our prayers. Jan has pancreatic cancer, has for a while, but now has it in the liver too. Rich has been diagnosed with dementia.
- Andre Fraiser a CBN member is also in need of our prayers. He has suffered a couple strokes and also has cancer.
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- Will have website and calendar updated by the 1st week of the year.
- New Product to check out: Wave Away! Can be used on GPS, Crystal type screens.
 - Offer to use as a fundraiser for the CBN clubs and especially the High School Teams. Ron will be signing the High School program up and will pass along all pertinent info and get it on the website asap. The CBN and or High School program will receive \$5.00 for every kit purchased, using the code we will provide. The kits are \$14.95 and the product is a cleaning one that can be used on all electronics, phones, computer screens, etc. There is also the ability to earn \$20.00 if you refer a retailer to them that does not carry the product currently but sign up to do so.
- Ron Frisk announced that Castlebaits has come on as a sponsor for the High School program. I will be working out the details with Scott Garrison. David Mairano set this up for us.
- Ron Frisk requested a motion to spend up to \$650 for a new scale. “I have researched 4 brands. They range in price from \$350, without a case to well over \$1,000. I have found one that is perfect for the High School/Junior program. It is a Protournament Model, the same brand we use for the CBN events. It has 2 power sources and is \$524.99 with a durable case. My goal is to either get a discount or possible one donated. If I do get an offer from another company, and the board and I agree, we will go with another brand. I will update everyone on how I do for a discount/freebie.” – Approved

- Ron Frisk requested a motion to spend up to \$200 for a sign and a stand to display at our tournaments, the shows, casting kids finals, etc. “The corrections department will be handling this for us. It is a great way to help out those inmates who are trying to turn their lives around. I am working with Dave Dilillo who has a son in our junior program. I will have an updated quote soon.” – Approved
- David Santos requested a motion to pay \$80.00 for the State and National dues for the Robert S. Malloy scholarship winner. Motion Approved
- March 21st – Reynolds Open House
- March 28th – Thayer’s Open House – 9a-5p, Randy Howell to speak at 11a.
- Launch fees are going up this year, may have to charge \$25.00. Will discuss and vote.
- Executive Board meeting, Jan 24th at 3pm after the Audit.
- Proposed dates for the 2015 meetings (still need to be verified):
 - January – None
 - February 26th
 - March 26th
 - April 23rd (Scholarship judging at 5p)
 - May 28th (Exec. Board & Committee Chairs at 5p)
 - June 25th
 - July 23rd
 - August 27th
 - September 24th
 - October 22nd
 - November 19th (Exec. Board & Committee Chairs at 5p)
 - December 17th
- Livingston Lure– 2 winners

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:39 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 26th, 2015 (Check website calendar)

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

***It was a pleasure to volunteer as secretary for the past 2 years 😊**