

**Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2015**

**Guest Speaker: Steve Marone from Mid-State Battery. Steve provided a 30 minute presentation on the batteries he distributes, the differences between each and other products available through his company. Documentation was provided to each club representative to be used to inform their membership.**

- **Roll Call – 8:00PM**
  
- **CLUBS ABSENT: Mohawk Valley**

**Correspondence: Thank you letter received from Sea Research Foundation for the CBN Donation of \$100.00 made in memory of Richard A Thayer.**

**Announcements:**

- **Congratulations to Paul Mueller for coming in 12<sup>th</sup> place in the 2015 Bassmasters Classic!!! Good luck in the 2015 Elite Events!!!**
- **Jan. 28, 2015**

**Dick Cepek Tires & Wheels Signs On As Supporting, Presenting Sponsor**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Known as the original adventure tire brand for more than 50 years, Dick Cepek Tires & Wheels has joined B.A.S.S. as a supporting sponsor of the Bassmaster Elite Series, Opens Series, B.A.S.S. Nation and Bassmaster College Series.

The company has also signed on as the presenting sponsor for the fourth event of the 2015 Elite Series season.

The Bassmaster Elite at Lake Havasu presented by Dick Cepek Tires & Wheels will take place May 7-10 out of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

- **Feb. 2, 2015**

**Allstate Returns As Sponsor Of Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens Series**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — B.A.S.S. is excited to announce the return of Allstate as the presenting sponsor of one of bass fishing's most popular competitive circuits in 2015, the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens Series.

The Opens are comprised of a Northern, Southern and Central division, and each division is comprised of three tournaments. In addition to cash and prizes, the Opens Series offers tournament winners within the three Opens divisions an entry into the Bassmaster Classic, the world championship of bass fishing.

Allstate's sponsorship is set to include the nine Opens events scheduled around the country in 2015. The season kicked off on Lake Tohopekaliga in Kissimmee, Fla., with the Jan. 15-17 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Southern Open presented by Allstate.

Considered a stepping stone for aspiring pro anglers, the Opens Series also allows anglers to earn points for each finish, and at the end of the season, the top anglers are offered a berth in the following year's Elite Series.

"B.A.S.S.'s partnership with Allstate is extremely successful and something we are very proud of," says B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin. "We are eager to continue our relationship with Allstate as they connect not only with all of our Opens anglers, but also with the growing number of bass fishing fans."

"Presenting the Bassmaster Opens Series is a great catch for us," says Allstate's Boat Line Manager Christine Bischoff. "We're excited to be interacting with anglers from all over the country and discussing all of their insurance needs."

At each Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens event, the Allstate Good Hands, Great Day award will be presented to the angler and co-angler climbing the most in points from Day 1 to Day 2. The pro angler wins \$250, and the co-angler wins \$150.

- **Feb. 3, 2015**

#### **Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship Set For Lake Guntersville**

MARSHALL COUNTY, Ala. — Lake Guntersville, site of the 2014 GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by Diet Mountain Dew and GoPro, has been selected to host the 2015 Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship.

Top anglers on participating team tournament trails from across the country will have a chance to win a national team title and a berth in the 2016 Bassmaster Classic berth when they compete in the team championship tournament Dec. 9-12, 2015, at Lake Guntersville.

"Lake Guntersville is a rich part of B.A.S.S. history and a great fishery to host our second annual Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship," said Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. "The Classic on Guntersville last year set several new catch records, and I know the lake will offer up plenty of big bass in this year's team competition."

The Marshall County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) will host the championship at Lake Guntersville, which is one of the lakes on the Alabama Bass Trail. The daily launches and weigh-ins will be held at Guntersville State Park.

"We are thrilled with the opportunity to host this team championship," said Katy Norton, president of the Marshall County CVB. "We have hosted other bass tournaments in the past but this is a team championship that really highlights tournament trails. To be able to hold this team championship just makes sense for us. It gives us a chance to show off our lake to tournament trails across the country."

The unique four-day tournament will qualify one angler for the 2016 Bassmaster Classic. The top two-angler team will also be crowned as the national champion of the event.

Teams across the nation qualify for the championship through various independently operated team trails sanctioned by B.A.S.S. (A list of sanctioned trails is available at [Bassmaster.com](http://Bassmaster.com).)

“Toyota has a proud history of supporting competitions for bass anglers of all levels,” said Jim Baudino, Engagement Marketing Manager for Toyota, the title sponsor of the championship. “We’re especially glad to partner with B.A.S.S. to showcase the fast-growing team tournament segment of the sport and provide America’s outstanding grass-roots anglers a top-level national championship event.”

The team portion of the competition, Dec. 9-10, pits the two-angler teams against one another to determine the national team champion. On Dec. 11-12, the six anglers from the Top 3 teams will compete individually in the Bassmaster Team Championship Classic Fish-Off. The winner of the individual competition earns a bid to fish the Super Bowl of Bass Fishing the following year.

For more information on how a team trail can become sanctioned for the Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship, contact Stewart at [jstewart@bassmaster.com](mailto:jstewart@bassmaster.com).

- **Feb. 10, 2015**

**B.A.S.S. Signs Multiyear Deal With A.R.E. Accessories**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — B.A.S.S. announced a multiyear partnership with A.R.E. Accessories, manufacturer of truck caps and tonneau covers. From 2015 through 2017, the Ohio-based company will be a supporting sponsor for the GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro and other Bassmaster events.

“A.R.E.’s American-made products go hand-in-glove with boats and tow vehicles, and that makes the company a perfect fit for us,” said B.A.S.S. CEO Bruce Akin. “Through this agreement, bass anglers across the country will continue to learn more about its great array of accessories.”

Bryan Baker, A.R.E.’s director of marketing, added, “Partnering with a world-class organization such as B.A.S.S. makes perfect sense for us at A.R.E. Our fiberglass truck caps and tonneau covers are ideal for those who enjoy the outdoors — fishermen in particular. We provide peace-of-mind to anglers that their gear will be safe and dry in the bed of their pickup trucks.”

This year, the 10th anniversary of the Bassmaster Elite Series, B.A.S.S.’s most prestigious trail, A.R.E. also will be a presenting sponsor of an Elite event — the Bassmaster BASSfest at Kentucky Lake presented by A.R.E. Truck Caps. A.R.E. plans to sponsor an Elite tournament in the two following seasons, as well.

“We have enjoyed working with B.A.S.S. and its anglers over the past couple of years and really look forward to growing even more this season,” Baker said. “We strongly believe the best on the water deserve the best on their trucks, so we are happy to partner with B.A.S.S. to achieve this.”

Along with eight Elite Series events annually, A.R.E.’s supporting sponsorship covers nine Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens spread across the country in the Northern, Southern and Central divisions. The first of those was in January at Florida’s Lake Tohopekaliga. The next is set for March 12-14 on Mississippi’s Ross Barnett Reservoir.

A.R.E.'s sponsorship also the Old Milwaukee B.A.S.S. Nation events and the Carhartt Bassmaster College series, as well as BASScamp at the Bassmaster Classic and BASSfest activities and events.

- **Feb. 11, 2015**

**Costa Bassmaster High School Tournament Garners Huge Field**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — What was already shaping up to be a big event Saturday on Alabama's Lake Martin got a major boost today when it was announced that Costa has signed on as the new title sponsor for the Bassmaster High School tournament program.

"We applaud Costa for its support of the Bassmaster High School fishing program," said Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. "High school fishing is exploding in popularity, as we've seen in the tremendous turnout for this weekend's tournament. With companies like Costa and our other sponsors onboard, it is bound to grow even faster."

The Daytona Beach, Fla., company, which has produced some of the most popular sunglasses in the world since its inception in 1983, will sponsor all three Bassmaster High School Open events this year (Southern, Central and Midwest), plus a national championship this summer at a site to be determined.

**GoPro Signs Multi-Year Agreement As Exclusive Camera Of B.A.S.S.**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Following a picture-perfect inaugural association with world championship of bass fishing last year, GoPro, enabler of some of today's most immersive and engaging content, once again will be a presenting sponsor for the GEICO Bassmaster Classic, set for Feb. 20-22 at Lake Hartwell out of Greenville, S.C.

The agreement also makes GoPro the exclusive camera of B.A.S.S., and it provides GoPro premier-level sponsorship of Bassmaster events and circuits, including the Classic, Bassmaster Elite Series, Bassmaster Opens, B.A.S.S. Nation events, Bassmaster Team Championship, Bassmaster College Series and Bassmaster High School events.

"Installing GoPro cameras in the anglers' boats at last year's Classic proved a huge success, and we are excited to introduce creative new ways to use these innovative products to help put B.A.S.S. fans right there in the boat with the pros," said Bruce Akin, CEO of B.A.S.S. "With these versatile, durable and high quality cameras and accessories, our fans will be able to watch America's best anglers from all new angles."

The 2015 GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro is the 45th annual championship of professional bass fishing. GoPro cameras and gear will be used throughout the event to deliver the most compelling bass tournament content ever seen.

**Greetings fellow recreation enthusiast,**

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is pleased to announce a 50% reduction in Fishing and Hunting licenses, permits, tags and stamps for Connecticut's youth, age 16 or 17, beginning in 2015. This targeted fee reduction, which resulted from action by the Connecticut General Assembly (Public Act 14-201), is intended to provide a positive incentive for youth and their families to more easily become involved in fishing and similar outdoor activities. Fishing means many things to many people. It has been described as being relaxing, inspirational, exciting, and challenging. Benefits can include decreased stress levels, increased quality time with family and friends, and a healthy and delicious source of protein for those interested in consuming their catch. Furthermore, fishing can be a conduit - connecting people with our natural resources, nurturing a sense of ownership, responsibility and environmental stewardship.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES AS POSTED – Seconded and Approved**

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

- **Treasurer Report:** Marc Levesque
- **Conservation & FAC Report:** Dean Rustic



For Information Contact:

Dennis Schain, 860-424-3110

February 24, 2015

**P R E S S R E L E A S E**

***Opening Day of 2015 Trout Season to be April 11***

***Moving Opening Day one-week earlier and other changes to inland fisheries regulations approved by Legislature's Regulations Review Committee***

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) today announced that changes to sport fishing regulations have been approved – including moving forward the date of Opening Day of trout season by one week, from the third to the second Saturday in April. This means Opening Day for the 2015 season will now be April 11.

The changes in the date for Opening Day and in other regulations were approved today by the General Assembly's Regulations Review Committee.

"We are excited about the additional fishing opportunities provided to anglers with this change to the date of Opening Day," said Pete Aarrestad, director of DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division. "This change provides an additional week of fishing opportunities for both resident and non-resident anglers targeting trout or fishing for other species such as largemouth and smallmouth bass found in trout waters."

"Most of the state's school-age anglers will also now have the opportunity to fish for trout during their spring breaks, as Opening Day will now come at the beginning of that school vacation for most school systems in Connecticut," said Aarrestad. "Additionally, Connecticut's Opening Day will now be aligned more closely with those of the other states in the region."

The legislature's Regulations Review Committee also approved several other changes in regulations that were recommended by DEEP. Among those of most immediate interest to anglers:

- **Fishing seasons.** Batterson Park Pond (Farmington), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (Mansfield), and the Yantic River below the falls at Indian Leap (Norwich) will now be open year-round, the fishing season will now close at Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott) on the last day of February and the season at East Twin Lake is extended through the end of March.
- **Methods.** Anglers will now be able to use up to three lines (instead of two) at one time when fishing, except in specially designated trout areas (Trout Management Areas, Wild Trout Management Areas, Trout Parks, Sea-run Trout Streams and Trophy Trout Streams) where the limit will remain two lines at one time.
- **Creel & length limits.** The creel limit for Kokanee Salmon is reduced from 8 to 5 fish per day, the special limits at East Twin Lake for Brown Trout are removed, and for American Eel the creel limit is reduced to 25 fish per day and the minimum length is increased to 9 inches.
- **Wild Trout Management Areas (WTMA).** The portions of the Tankerhoosen River in Vernon located in the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area becomes a class I WTMA (open year-round, catch-and-release fishing only) and will be combined with the Belding WTMA to become the Belding-Tankerhoosen Wild Trout Management Area.

DEEP ADVISES ANGLERS THAT ALTHOUGH THESE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED, THEY ARE NOT EFFECTIVE until they are formally posted on the Secretary of the State's website ([www.sots.ct.gov](http://www.sots.ct.gov)). It typically takes a week or so following Regulations Review approval to finalize the regulations and have them posted.

There are a number of other changes to the regulations that are not mentioned above. Anglers can find more information concerning these regulations on the DEEP Fisheries web pages at [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing), on the Fisheries and Wildlife Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife](http://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife), in the in the *2014 Connecticut Angler's Guide*, found online at [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide), and the *2015 Connecticut Angler's Guide* which will be available in late March. Print versions of the guides are available from many Town Clerks and bait & tackle stores, or by contacting DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH).

- **Boating Advisory**: No Meeting this month will have one next month.
- **CLA REPORT**:
  - Mr. Toussaint provided an overview of the one item on the agenda, i.e. authorizing the Executive Director to execute the contract with the CT DEEP for funds to initiate a triploid grass carp program on Candlewood Lake.  
Discussion included a description of the payment schedule. The pending budget cuts by the Governor were raised by Joe Wodarski. With no further discussion George Linkletter made a motion to approve authorization of Laurence J. Marsicano, Executive Director of the Candlewood Lake Authority to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the Candlewood Lake Authority of the Towns of Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford and Sherman, a Personal Service Agreement with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Management for the *Control of Aquatic Species Grant – "Stocking of Triploid Grass Carp at Candlewood Lake for the Control of Eurasian Water Milfoil"*, seconded by Jerry Murphy and voted with all in favor. Motion carried.
  - **2015 State of the Lake March 21<sup>st</sup> Invitation 9:00am to 1:00pm**
    - **We request that you to register for the 2nd annual meeting of all of the lake communities, business and organization leaders.**

This is an informational forum for all Candlewood Lake and Squantz Pond community representatives, where the CLA will discuss:

- 1) CLA's Upcoming Sterile Grass Carp Stocking Efforts to Control Milfoil
- 2) Blue Green Algae Reduction Efforts

3) New Efforts to Reduce Zebra Mussel Threat to Candlewood

4) Marine Patrol Safety Efforts

5) Upcoming Events

6) Answers to Your Questions!

As mentioned, this meeting will provide all of the attending communities an opportunity to ask questions of the CLA and bring important matters to our attention for discussion. Please use write-in section at bottom to request topics or ask questions if possible.

Lastly, this meeting will be an opportunity for lake communities to share valuable information with each other about how each of you operate as a community and pass along some "best practices".

**This is an opportunity for ALL of the Candlewood Lake Communities to be able to learn and share, and then return and pass along that valuable information with their community members so that we can make Candlewood Lake a better place to live and enjoy.**

- **Please Read:**

\* The Candlewood Lake Club has limited capacity - you must submit this registration request and then receive an official confirmation email from the CLA to attend.

\* Due to space and parking limitations we will limit each community to a MAXIMUM of THREE representatives - though communities who are able to limit themselves to 1 or 2 attendees will help with space concerns. NOTE: We request that lake community members from a single community carpool to alleviate parking stresses.

- **CT Yankee Haddam Canal Issue: Norb Heil**

- > Letter was sent by Sylvia Morris on behalf of the Connecticut
- > B.A.S.S. Nation and the 500,000 members of our national organization,
- > asking that Governor Malloy and Commissioner Glee use their legal
- > authority to rescind a CT-DEEP permit granted to the CT Yankee Atomic
- > Power Company (CYAPCO) in October 2013 which allowed the installation of
- > a floating barrier blocking access from the Connecticut River into the Haddam Canal

On 2/18/2015 a letter and copies of petition signatures were delivered to Governor Malloy and CT DEEP Commissioner Klee from a group of concerned citizens protesting the blockage of the one-mile long



waterway, known as the Haddam Canal, along the CT River.

On 02/23/2015

Susan Whalen called Andy Fisk , CWRC Executive Director in response to a message he sent DEEP last week. She indicated that there was a “recent development” in that CY has scheduled a call with Commissioner Klee next week to discuss the barrier. She did not know what they wanted to present/discuss. She initially indicated that she would be happy to talk with Andy by phone or email after this meeting. Andy emphasized very clearly that we have been waiting since Nov 4 for an in-person meeting and that we would look forward to some dates to get together. She agreed and said she would talk to the Commissioner. I indicated at the end of the conversation I would be looking forward to hearing some dates from her.

Andy repeated that we did not want to be brought in and told what the solution was, but that we had very significant concerns that warranted a meeting in order to allow us meaningful participation in an issue regarding the public trust. She understood and agreed. Andy reviewed some of our concerns and asked her to clarify a few points that we had heard about this issue.

More to follow and other initiatives are underway...

- **Tournament Report:** Sal Messena

Tournament applications are available on the CBN web site. One application has been received so far.

- **Sponsorship Report:** Sylvia Morris

**WHIP EM BAITs OFFER TO ALL MEMBERS, Thank you Stan Socha for making this happen!**

**“If You Can’t Beat Em Whip Em”**

**25% Discount Offer**

Just like the B.A.S.S. Nation, we are a grass roots company. We believe in our 100% American Made Products and make baits for all levels of anglers, from beginners to seasoned pros. From an idea developed in our basement four years ago we continue to grow at a rapid pace requiring us to move to a separate building on our property. As our growth continues we are looking to expand that building in 2015. Just like most of you, we also work full time jobs. Even with this limitation, we now have fourteen dealers across the United States, one in Australia, one in Spain, and are bringing on our newest dealer in Nova Scotia.

Our process is one step at a time, one person at a time, and one dealer at a time. We aim to take care of every individual customer the same way, whether you are the beginner or a Bassmaster Classic Winner. We take pride in sustaining our down home family company identity.

Henry, one of the owners of our company, spent over twenty years as President of a B.A.S.S. club in Western Pennsylvania. He also spent several years as President of the West Virginia Federation. Matt, our other owner, provides the creative mind that is helping our company grow.

We would like to extend a **25% discount** on any order purchased from Whip Em Baits for all of the B.A.S.S. Nation. We are asking you to help spread the word to your Federation members. With your help we can continue to grow and compete with much larger companies.

You can use the discount by entering the discount code **BNM2015** at the end of your orders. Check out our products at [www.whipembaits.com](http://www.whipembaits.com). With soft plastics, jigs, spinnerbaits, and buzzbaits, we've got a wide variety of proven bass catching baits!

We thank you for your support and wish you the best of luck this season.

Sincerely,

Matt Marsula                      Henry Likar  
Co-Owners Whip Em Baits

- Whip Em Baits has agreed to come on as a Gold Sponsor with \$850.00 in product by March.

- **Pure Fishing**

Pure fishing has signed a contract and promises a more user-friendly site by January 1, 2015. STILL WAITING!

- **Midstate Battery**

MidState Battery was very pleased with the use of the sponsorship by our members! Members spent \$8,800.00 We earned a check for \$288.00, which was presented at the CBN Banquet last month. At the February 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting there will be a presentation of a new line of Northstar AGM Batteries. MidState will be donating \$600.00 in gift certificates again for the banquet also!

A discount is available to ALL Nation members. They can be reached at:

139C West Dudley Town Rd. Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone 860-243-0646 Fax 860-243-5945

Email: [smerone@midstatebattery.com](mailto:smerone@midstatebattery.com)

- **Reynolds' Garage and Marine**

Qualifying Events...

May 17, 2015 CBN Tournament #1, Candlewood Lake

June 14, 2015 CBN Tournament #2, Connecticut River

July 12, 2015 CBN Tournament #3 Candlewood

October 18, 2015 CBN Classic/Tournament #4, Lilly

#### **Payout...**

- 1. CBN Guaranteed Payout is determined by the number of participants.**
- 2. Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money based on the age of the highest finishing Skeeter Owners boat (only one award per event).**
  - a. \$3,000.00 (2012 model Skeeter boat or newer)**
  - b. \$1,000.00 (2011 model Skeeter boat or older)**
- 3. Skeeter Real Money up to \$3,000.00**

#### **Rules...**

- 1.** 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...2012 model or newer Skeeter boat will qualify for \$3,000.00 per event, 2011 model or older Skeeter boat will qualify for \$1,000.00 per event.
- 2.** 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 2015 CBN Events.
- 3.** 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.
- 4.** There will be no limit to the times an angler can win per calendar year.
- 5.** The four CBN Events outlined above will also be sanctioned for 2015 Skeeter Real Money. Each CBN Event must have a minimum of 30 boats and 60 anglers to qualify for 2015 Skeeter Real Money. To qualify for 2015 Skeeter Real Money, each individual registered Skeeter Owner must register for the 2015 Skeeter Real Money program. Go to [www.skeeterboats.com](http://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](http://www.skeeterboats.com) website homepage.
- 6.** In the event that two or more Skeeter Owners daily catch weight results in a tie, each angler's largest fish of that day (by weight) will be used as a tie breaker to determine the winner of the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money at each CBN Event.
- 7.** The highest finishing Skeeter Owner must catch and weigh-in one legal bass to qualify for the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Contingency Prize Money. In the event that no registered Skeeter Owners catch and weigh-in one legal bass, the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money will not be awarded for that event.
- 8.** The tournament director has final decision in all issues and disputes.

- **Rigid Industries**

There is a 30% off offer to all members. You will need a code. We will get it out to you as soon as we receive it. NO CODE YET, WORKING ON IT!

- **Power Pole** - Power-Pole is still a sponsor of the B.A.S.S Nation in 2015. Effective

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 we will be offering a rebate program to all B.A.S.S Nation members:

- **State Team Members: 30%**
- **State Executives: 20%**
- **Club Executives: 15%**
- **Members: 10%**

The above stated discounts are available via rebate program through [www.Power-Pole.com](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 [www.Power-Pole.com](http://www.Power-Pole.com) located under the "Support" column header then "Product Registration". Once the product has been registered, you will then find the link "Apply for Rebate" to complete the rebate form. Once all the given information is verified we will issue you a check or credit in accordance with the discount you are slated to receive. The discount levels will remain active on accessories and apparel purchased through our rebate department at [rebates@power-pole.com](mailto:rebates@power-pole.com).

- **WAVE AWAY OFFER**

I've been a fellow BASS Nation Member for nearly over 20 years. I'm excited to see how quickly the youth tournament programs are growing and would love my company to be a part of it. I own a product called Wave Away and we offer a Sonar/GPS Screen Cleaning Kit that's endorsed by BASS Nation Champion Brandon Palaniuk. I've put together a fundraiser where BASS Nation Clubs can earn **\$5 per referral** when they send folks to our website to purchase Wave Away. Clubs can also earn **\$20 per referral** when telling potential retailers about our product and they sign up to carry Wave Away.

- Signing up to raise funds is simple. Log onto [www.waveaway.com](http://www.waveaway.com) and sign up now. It takes about 1 minute to register and it can earn your club a ton of money. We also have a few fun prizes for participating clubs. Bassmaster Elite Series Pro **Brandon Palaniuk** will be doing a **private seminar** for the club that makes the most referrals. We will also draw one random participating club and they will receive a **free Hydrowave** mini unit.
- Sincerely, Chris Lambert Wave Away LLC [www.waveaway.com](http://www.waveaway.com)

**CBN Scholarship:** Applications are on the website and every President received the Document to send to their members. Mailing deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>!!! Judging will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00.

- **CBN Scholarship Robert S Malloy Scholarship committee:** No Report
- **Banquet :** Sylvia Morris

The annual CBN Banquet will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2015. A deposit check in the amount of \$200.00 will be mailed out on February 27.

- **Membership Committee- No Report**
- **Website Committee- No Report**
- **Audit Committee**

#### **2014 Audit report**

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the audit committee held its annual review of all CBN financial records and expense reports. The committee members were, Alan Guite, Dan Monroe and Vinny Mucci. Also present were Sylvia Morris and Marc Levesque. With the exception of one addition error, (@ \$10) and one misplaced credit card receipt, (purchased verified by description on cc statement) all records were/are in order.

It is the opinion of this audit committee that all records and reports accurately reflect the financial position of the CBN.

Thank you to the Audit Committee!!!!

Please Note; Going forward, Al Guite and Vinny Mucci will not be able to participate in the annual CBN Audit as they are now members of the CBN Executive Board. We will need NEW volunteers for next January!

- **High school: Ron Frisk**

Potentially 8 new High Schools have shown interest and have the packets. I have been in communication with half of the schools on a regular basis.

- Potentially 8 new juniors as well. We currently have 9 confirmed juniors in our program so could almost double in size.
- The 2 above statements equal one thing...need 15-20 boats per tournament
- Created "CT BASS Lightning" as the code to enter when you purchase a waveaway product. Website is [www.waveaway.com](http://www.waveaway.com) Enter "CT BASS Lightning" in the code field.
- Looking to create a short and long sleeve T-shirt focused on the CBN and sell to anyone and everyone to promote and support the organization. All proceeds will go directly to offset the costs of sending the 2 high school teams to the National Championship
- Did a half hours how on Nutmeg TV..."My kind of Town" It was Noah Winslow, Travis Frisk, and myself. We discussed how high school fishing came about and what we are doing in this state to grow it. Also talked about what we do for the environment and conservation. Elaborated on the scholarships we offer as well.
- Will order the scale that was approved a few meetings ago, early March. Also the table to support it.
- Will be working with some sponsors to support the high school program

- The 2 high school teams are doing all they can to raise all kinds of money...and product to offset the cost to the Nationals.
- The CBN approved up to \$2,000 per high school team, to be reimbursed with original receipts only
- Still working with the corrections department on a sign for our tournaments

Ron Frisk asked for the reimbursement of up to \$2000.00 for each of the two High school Teams going to the Nationals in July, coming out of the High School account. To be reimbursed only with original itemized receipts! The two Teams are doing fund raisers to try and come up with some of the monies on their own and may not need as much from the High school account. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

- **Terry Baksay: No Report**
- **Finance: No Report**
- **State Team 2015 All members have fulfilled their hours at the shows.**

**Dino Moutogiannis has fulfilled his State Team \$250.00 sponsorship from Paul Narducci Outdoors. He gave us a St Croix Rod and a Lews BB1 Reel. Product Retail for \$300.00. Thank you Paul Narducci!!! We will use for the Banquet 2015.**

**Jackets will be provided by Lunker City again this year. Lunker City will purchase the Jackets and the CBN will pay for the embroidery. Thank you Lunker City!**

**Eco Tungsten has come on board as a State Team Sponsor with a discount program for them. Will review and see how it goes and maybe come in for the State next year.**

**Looking into possibly getting some State Team Meals sponsored this year.**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN; Motion made, seconded and approved.**

## **Old Business**

- **Excused absences - Candlewood Bassmasters, Greater Hartford Bassmasters**

## 2015 SHOW UPDATE; Totals

Members	12
Patches	\$4.00
Donations High School	\$103.00
Casting Kids	155
Juniors	8
High Schools	8

Thank you to all who volunteered their time for the Shows!!!

Tackle the Storm's partnership with us in the Casting Kids Competition was a great success! Tackle The Storm sent us a check for \$150.00 to reimburse us the entry fee into the NEHFS. We looked awesome at the shows with the new Pop up banner and the beautiful tablecloth! He has already sent the two checks for \$250.00 to be made out to the winner in each age group on March 28<sup>th</sup>, casting Kids Finals at Cabelas. We purchased three new Navy Blue Tablecloths for \$35.00 so we looked really good! Membership Flyers were awesome. There are some on the Table. Thank you Lee!!!

Approx expenses for the show, rooms (4 nights), food, parking, flyers, picture frame, tablecloths, pens, ink, etc. is \$950.00. Going forward I am thinking of some things that will need updated will bring up at a later date.

- **The NRD Grant**

Sylvia Morris is currently working with Molly Sperduto. Dean Rustic is working on our new proposal and budget to present to First Light & Power and the NRD board as soon as possible.

- **CBN Website**

The CBN Website and Calendar are updated! If you have anything that needs to go on the Calendar or website send it to Sylvia Morris.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Club Challenge By Extreme Bassmasters:**

Extreme donated \$100.00 to the High School Account which was \$10.00 per member and challenged all the other clubs to do the same. Extreme also left an envelope with cash in it at the CBN Banquet. A waiter from the Chowder Pot returned the envelope to Sylvia Morris. When she attempted to return it to its owner he donated it to the High school account. The total in the envelope was \$60.00. Tolland County has donated \$60.00(\$10.00 per member) as well. Silver City Bassmasters has donated \$300.00.

- **Folds of Honor Tournament; The CBN will be holding a Tournament on June 18, 2015 at Candlewood Lake out of Squantz Cove to benefit Folds of Honor. There will be a 50 Boat limit. More information to come next month.**
- **Triton Alliance Leads Program; The CBN connected with 6 boat sales and earned \$2000.00!!!! Checks will be coming. (\$1000.00 from Triton and \$1000.00 from Motorguide)**
- **The CBN has ordered 2 - Gen 3, 7's from Lowrance electronics and one Spotlight Scan for our \$3000.00 in product earned from the Insight Genesis Mapping that Vinny Mucci did! These items will go to the Banquet for 2015. Thank you Vinny!!! In addition the following items have arrived for this year's banquet. A 10 Ft Minn Kota Tallon, a Helix 5, 6 cases of oil, 3 Props and 2 Trolling Motors from Motorguide.**
- **We will be wrapping the Trailer towards the end of March. We are working on a higher Level of Sponsorship. The sides of the Trailer will be the Higher Level Area and will be limited to three Sponsors on each side.**
- **Rich Thayer's Grandfather passed away. He was the founder of Thayer's Marine. We sent a donation in his name to Sea Research Foundation of \$100.00**
- **Noreen Clough has lost her battle with Cancer. A motion was made to donate \$100.00 to the Scholarship Fund being set up in her Name. The motion was made, seconded and approved. Marc will send the check this week.**
- **Livingston Lures has sent a 2015 Contract and is giving the CBN \$1000.00 in cash and \$500.00 in product. The contract has been signed and returned.**
- **The Executive Board has ordered new shirts and had them embroidered. You will see us coming! LOL! Approximately \$400.00 for 8 Shirts.**
- **Upcoming Events**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>, Reynolds Garage and Marine Open House. Guest speaker this year will be Denny Brauer. More info to come.**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> Thayer's Marine Open House. Guest speaker will be Randy Howell at 11:00AM. More info to come.**

**June 6<sup>th</sup> Sporting Chance for Youth Day. More info to come.**

**Guest speaker at March CBN meeting will be William Hyatt from the CT DEEP.**

**Remember to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fishermen rate!! Newbury Inn(best parking), Micro-tel and the Best Western. Information is available on the CBN website!**



## **OPENS FOR 2015**

**CBN/NEBA Team Championship Trail Application**

**Reynolds Customer Appreciation June 6<sup>th</sup> Ct River, Haddam, 7 to 3**

**Thayers Open Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, Candlewood, Squantz, 7 to 3**

**Scholarship Open May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Candlewood Squantz, 7 to 3**

**Folds of Honor Benefit Tournament, June 18<sup>th</sup>, Candlewood, Squantz, 7 to 3**

**Mixed Open May 31st, Candlewood, Squantz, 7 to 2**

**HOC Open April 19<sup>th</sup> Candlewood Squantz, 7 to 3**

**Brian Kerchal, Candlewood, Danbury, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**26 Angels, Candlewood, Danbury, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 3**

**MBB High School Benefit Open, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, Candlewood 7 to 3**

**B.A.S.S. New Regional and National Format for 2016 and beyond was presented by Al Guite.**

**Regional Map and Payouts were passed out.**

**Pros and Cons and Two Day Proposal for 2015 were passed out and discussed.**

**All documentation has been e-mailed to all Club Presidents and at least one other club member.**

**The Two Day proposal for 2015 needs to be discussed by each club and voted on at the March CBN meeting. THIS PROPOSAL IS FOR 2015 ONLY!**

**The Executive Board is working hard on proposals for our 2016 Trail, Mr. Bass, and State Championship. We will present them in the next few months for discussion and voting. Please note this will require amendments to our bylaws and standing rules.**

**Meeting Adjourned – 9:45PM**

**NEXT MEETING March 26<sup>th</sup> 2015**