

# CBN MEETING MINUTES

## December 17, 2015

Called to order at 7:30PM

Roll Call – Al Guite

- **Clubs Absent:** None
- **Correspondence:** Evan Williams sent the reimbursement check for the Evan Williams purchase from the Banquet, \$250.00.
- **Announcements:**

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 3, 2015

### **Huk Performance Apparel Increases Support As Premier B.A.S.S. Sponsor**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Huk, a performance apparel company offering quality, technical fishing clothing to anglers, has upgraded its sponsorship and signed a three-year agreement with B.A.S.S. to become a Premier Sponsor of all Bassmaster tournament circuits.

Huk signed on as a supporting sponsor shortly after it was launched in 2014. Headquartered in Charleston, S.C., Huk aims to serve all anglers, especially bass anglers, with clothing designed for their sport. As part of their Premier Sponsorship, Huk has entered into an apparel licensing agreement with B.A.S.S. and will also become the official merchandise vendor at B.A.S.S. events.

“We’re very pleased to continue our partnership with a brand as strong as B.A.S.S. and to support the growing sport of bass fishing,” said Ben Verner, president of Huk. “We are a company that shares their passion for fishing and the sport.”

Under the deal announced today, Huk will be a premier-level sponsor of the 2016 GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro, Bassmaster Elite Series, Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens Series, B.A.S.S. Nation, Toyota Bonus Bucks Bassmaster Team Championship, Carhartt Bassmaster College Series and Costa Bassmaster High School Series.

“By becoming a Premier Sponsor, we are honored to support some of the very best anglers in the world by providing them with the most technically advanced and innovative performance apparel on the water today,” Verner said.

Bassmaster Elite Series pros including Kevin VanDam, Skeet Reese, Gerald Swindle and Brandon Palaniuk are members of the Huk pro team. Testimonials and tips from the pros can be found on its website, [www.hukgear.com](http://www.hukgear.com).

Huk will also share its performance apparel lines with the fishing public at the Bassmaster Classic Outdoor Expo presented by Dick's Sporting Goods. The apparel company will also be activating at the Bassmaster Classic takeoff at Wolf Creek Park and the Classic weigh-in at the BOK Center. The 2016 GEICO Bassmaster Classic will be held in Tulsa, Okla., March 4-6.

"B.A.S.S. is proud to have Huk as a member of our sponsor family," said Bruce Akin, CEO of B.A.S.S. "Bass anglers and fans are Huk customers, and the company's commitment brings a strong presence to the ever-expanding sport of bass fishing. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts in growing our sport."

**A motion to accept the previous month's minutes as posted was seconded and approved by the Board of Directors**

## **REPORTS**

- **Treasurer Report**: Was provided by Marc Levesque
- **Conservation & FAC Report**: Provided by Dean Rustic

CBN Conservation objectives for the 2015

1. Work closely with CT DEEP Officials to create a C.A.R.E. Bass Class
2. Conservation Projects for Housatonic Watershed Organizations
3. Create a Youth/School based Conservation initiative
4. Leverage our position as number 1 for fishing revenue to get funding for CBN endorsed projects

Information from this past Month –

1. Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting
  - a. Discussion on the Budget battle. Hatcheries were saved for this round. Will be on the block again.
  - b. Had a lively discussion with Bob Crook as he was under the impression that "Trout is King" for fishing.
  - c. Discussion on Hatchery closing.

2. Fisheries Advisory Council
  - a. Guest Speaker from the ECON Police to discuss joining Wildlife Crime stoppers as a way to keep the TIP (Turn in Poachers) program going. They will need to get a Committee together to start a Non-profit entity to get donations.
  - b. Presentation on the CARP tournament on the River
  - c. Discussion on the removal of the Orange Barrier
  - d. Presentation on the Largemouth Bass UCONN/DEEP Study.
    - i. Higher Metabolic Rate found in LMB in unfished Water
    - ii. Test in Burlington Hatchery reveled that LMB become accustomed to fishing pressure and become tougher to catch
    - iii. Theory is that Catch and Release with its delayed mortality is to blame.
3. The Moss Back Fish attractors for the Shimano/Bass Youth Grant have arrived. Earmarked for three lakes, one each in the towns of Watertown, Farmington and Southington.
4. Attended CT DEEP CARE updated class in Derby. The instructors have put together and great new program that has a CT Specific booklet, A Trainers Guide with talking points and a Power Point slide show. They did an awesome job.
5. Started discussions to create our top list of New/Improved boat ramps.
  - a. Candlewood – Squantz Cove
  - b. Candlewood – Lattins Cove
  - c. Bantam Lake
  - d. Quaddick
  - e. Amos Lake
  - f. West Hill
  - g. Twin Lakes
  - h. Waramaug

Dean Rustic  
Conservation Director

- **Boating Advisory:** Was provided by Tom Reynolds

DEEP went out to bid for engineering plans to renovate Brantford Boat launch. Cheapest \$1.1 million, which is more that what's available. DEEP looking into making a smaller, less expensive project.

Finished Bashan Lake in Haddam (didn't cost Boating Division money) DEEP owned dam replaced; as remediation for extreme drawdown and environmental impacts, DEEP Dam Safety Unit paid for a new ramp to be designed and constructed with input from Boating Division.

DEEP planning 4 projects (program that will make improvements to highly used but smaller boat launches for ADA, e.g. compliant docks):

Winchester Lake (Winchester)

Bantam Lake (Morris)

Mansfield Hollow (Mansfield)

Beach Pond (Voluntown) – 3 – November 23, 2015

All designs were bid at approximately \$90K do design per launch. Too much money, so DEEP provided plates to standardize projects which show how it wants project for ADA compliance. Bid for designs down to around \$64K each.

Squantz Cove -no place to put ADA compliant dock (too much wetland therefore cannot get permits and Parks did not want to cut trees

Working on Lattins cove ADA compliant –(DEEP working on a prototype on how to get wheelchair to water from dock.)

- **CLA Report:** None
- **CT Yankee Haddam Canal Issue:** Currently working on the Permit wording. No update as of yet.
- **Tournament Report:** Provided by Sal Messina

#### Revised 2016 Tournament Trail

May 15th Candlewood, Squantz & Latins 8 to 3- CBN T # 1

June 12th CT River Haddam. 7 to 3- CBN T #2

July 10th Candlewood, Squantz & Latins 8 to 3- CBN T#3

July 31st 7 to 3 MR BASS TBD

Aug 21st Lillinonah, Steelbridge 7 to 3 -TOP 25 /Classic

Sept 17th & 18th Candlewood, Squantz Two Day 7 to 3- (If over 50 boats will be 8 to 3, utilizing Latins also)

Oct 2nd Candlewood, Squantz 7 to 3 Scholarship

We will be holding a Trailer Clean up at Sal Messina's house, we need help! We will do it early Spring. Anyone interested in helping please come see me after or call me. We are in the process of choosing a date.

- **Sponsorship Report:** None
- **CBN Scholarship Report;** None

- **CBN Robert S Malloy Scholarship;** David Santos asked Marc to send a check to UConn from the Robert S Malloy Scholarship fund for \$1053.00. David said there will be a winner by December.
- **Banquet:** Banquet for 2016 has been booked for Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. Ticket Sales from the 2015 Banquet were \$6605.00 and the HS /Junior account received \$1321.00. After all expenses our Profit is \$2680.00 with the Evan Williams reimbursement. This goes into General fund.
- **Membership Committee:** Will be looking for help with the shows, please come up and sign up before leaving this evening.
- **Website Committee:** No Report
- **Audit Committee:** We need one more person to be on the audit committee to be held in January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 pm at Sylvia's house, Dan Monroe is chairperson. Please contact Sylvia if interested.
- **High School/Junior Report:** Provided by Ron Frisk

Not much going on.

Kids have been emailed consent forms and who still owes dues. They are fully aware of the upcoming volunteer events for the CMTA and the Hunt/Fish show. Many have already contacted Sylvia.

Will hold an informational/seminar style meeting at Bass Pro Shops in January. Date and time is TBD

We have a few potential sponsors for the High School Nat Championship shirts. John Piscionerre is kicking butt!

Will be working hard and heavy with Dean Rustic and the kids to continue the work with the back to back Shimano grants. Also will help with the NRD grant work,

As always, please reach out to me and let me know if you can help out and Boat captain.

Respectfully!

Ron Frisk

- **Finance:** The 2016 Proposed Budget, developed by Ray Bassette, was presented to the Board of Directors and reviewed. The proposal was approved.

- **State Team 2016**

Working on the 2016 State Team already as we are pressed for time, we are traveling in April to be there for May 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 6th to Douglas Lake Tennessee.

Meeting was held at my home on Sat Nov 21<sup>st</sup>. All paid their Regional entry fee. I am mailing it in this week to B.A.S.S.

State Team Captain was chosen; Paul Mayo was nominated and accepted. He will help Sylvia with the Team meetings and anything else she may need.

Jackets have been ordered.

Will be ordering Jerseys in Feb.

John Knowles, Kevin Noel, & Steve Deguzis paid their \$250.00 Sponsorship.

We went over the Contract line by line, discussed at length, made sure all understood what is expected of them and that they had no issues with it. All signed the contract.

We also went over the new format.

Some paperwork was turned in; more will be turned in at the Feb meeting.

We will be having our next meeting on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00, either my house or Bass Pro Shops, still working on that.

**A motion to accept all reports as given was seconded and approved by the Board of Directors.**

## **Old Business**

- **Excused Absences:** Extreme, Team Skeeter, Ct Bassmen, Housatonic
- **BN Team Championship:** John Knowles and Mike Rezendes went to Guntersville for the Toyota Bucks Team Championship representing CT. Thank you for representing us!!!

- **Nomination for Officers:** The open positions of Treasurer and Secretary.

## **Results**

2016 Secretary: Al Guite

2016 Treasurer: Marc Levesque

- **Bylaw and Standing Rule Change Proposals:**

The following change proposals passed unanimously.

**Bylaws – Article XII**

## **ARTICLE XII TOURNAMENTS**

### **A. Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Trail**

#### **1. Description, Location(s) and Dates**

The annual tournament trail shall consist of (3) regular season tournaments and (3) qualifier events. The qualifier events are as follows; the CBN Classic, the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (Mr. Bass) and the State Championship. The top qualifiers in these three events will participate on the State Team. Refer to Standing Rule #18 for qualification criteria and positioning. Tournament dates and locations shall be selected by the tournament director and approved by the board of directors.

#### **2. Eligibility**

a. It shall be required that all of the Chapters in the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation must have fulfilled their Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation obligations; such as not missing more than two (2) CBN meetings within the twelve months preceding the scheduled event. All dues and rosters must be current. If a chapter does not comply with this rule, said chapter shall not be eligible to participate in the Annual Tournament Trail.

b. Chapters and members who are in good standing with B.A.S.S., the B.A.S.S. National Nation and the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation.

#### **3. Rules and Regulations**

The Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation official tournament rules shall govern the Tournament Trail. The official tournament rules shall be established by the Tournament Director and are subject to approval by the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation Board of Directors.

**Standing Rules – 8 and 18**

## **Rule 8 - CBN Team Expenses**

C.B.N. team members who qualify for the Eastern Divisional Tournament shall be provided an official state team expense report. This expense report, along with all receipts, must be returned to the state team Administrator(s) by the date specified in the state team contract. Allowable expenses are those which cover gasoline (vehicle and boat), personal expenses for food not provided by the CBN or B.A.S.S and tolls. Team members are required to share rooms. Required clothing shall be provided at no cost to the team members, team alternates and the CBN President or his/her designee when finances allow.

## **Standing Rule #18 – State Team Qualification**

Positioning for Pro/Am State Team is as follows:

### Boaters Positions – (Pro)

**3** – Top 3 from the CBN Tournament Trail Qualifying event, Boater division – CBN Classic Tournament – See CBN Tournament rules for qualification criteria

**1** – Winner of the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (Mr. Bass) Boater division

**6** – Top 6 finishers from the CBN State Championship – Boater division

Total - **10**

### Non-Boater Positions – (Am)

**3** – Top 3 from the CBN Tournament Trail Qualifying event, Non Boater division – CBN Classic Tournament – See CBN Tournament rules for qualification criteria

**1** – Winner of the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (Mr. Bass) Non-boater Division

**6** – Top 6 finishers from the CBN State Championship – Non-boater division

Total – **10**

### Alternate Positions

**1<sup>st</sup>** alternate – 7<sup>th</sup> place finisher from the CBN State Championship, Boater division

**2<sup>nd</sup>** alternate – Appointed by the CBN Executive Board

Total - **2**

Note: Alternates will be utilized as needed and will not have a designated division. Spare boats will be managed by the State Team Administrators

## **• 2016 CBN Tournament Rules**

The proposed 2016 CBN Tournament Rules were presented to the Board of Directors at the November CBN meeting and were taken back to the club level for voting. A Board of Director



vote took place at this meeting and the proposed 2016 Tournament Rules were unanimously approved. These rules have been posted on the CBN website and will accompany each 2016 tournament application.

- **CBN Executive Board Meeting – November 17, 2015**

Discussed Finances and needing a Financial Advisor. Went over the budget with Ray. Asked him to prepare a Budget for the Dec meeting.

Looked at our Membership numbers and talked about getting all involved in bringing in new members!

Talked about the State Team for 2016, how much we thought it will cost and what we believe we will be taking in from the Tournament Trail and Sponsorships. We believe it will be enough for this year.

We will hold three more State Team Meetings before going. One in Feb, March and then April.

Talked about the Conservation projects ahead of us for 2016 and the monies we have in the Grant account. (We need to start spending it) Dean has elaborated on this in his reports and will keep us posted on times and places. **WE NEED PARTICIPATION FROM ALL CLUBS!!!**

We discussed the HS/Junior account and what we should cover for teams going to the championship. Agreed upon \$1500.00 each team. (3 x 1500= \$4500.00)

We also think that all kids should benefit from the monies in the account so we will pay their way to the Banquet again next year and give out gift cards at as part of the Awards for them (\$25.00 each). We also want to promote them to fund raise to help with the cost of their trip. They are currently seeking Sponsorship by selling their own sponsor spots on their Alliance Jerseys! We are purchasing the shirts for the Junior Team and Boat Captain out of the HS/Junior account.

Discussed bringing in new Sponsors and keeping the ones we have. Bob Nelson could not attend the meeting. We will be sending a Membership

Letter to Jon Stewart for him to e-mail blast all B.A.S.S. Members in Ct that are not CBN members. That could help. Copies of that letter are on the table and will be e-mail blasted to the Presidents

Discussed signing the 2016 Alliance Contract and we decided yes and it has been signed and sent to Jon Stewart, he has acknowledged receiving it.

Discussed and set up the Audit, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:00pm my house. Dan Monroe, Rob Germain and need one more!!! Volunteers please!

Discussed the low income from the Banquet, maybe time to raise the Ticket prices? I am thinking 35 a person and 65 a couple? Will keep you posted on the Executive Board decision at the Jan meeting.

Looking into updating the website, give it a new look. This will be a discussion we will have at the Jan executive Board meeting also. Any ideas please e-mail Sylvia or Vinny before the Jan meeting.

Discussed Trailer and selling the Big Generator and purchasing a smaller one, 2500. Waiting on pricing from Yamaha.

Looking into the computer and maybe a TV to use instead of the Projector and screen, which are not easy to transport to and from the Shows. Ron is looking into this for us.

We will update all sponsors on the Nose of the Trailer early spring, hopefully March (weather permitting).

Respectfully submitted by,

Sylvia Morris

- Note; The CBN website had a virus, Armand worked on it. It is up and running. The Executive Board will meet in January and discuss more updates to the website.
- The NRD Grant: We are on the last step and money is ready to be used. We now need to plan to get out early spring and GPS & Chart locations to put the Mossback Fish Attractors in. Please let Dean or Sylvia know.
- Triton Alliance Leads Program, please let Sylvia know as soon as possible if anyone in your club is considering purchasing a Triton so we can connect and get credit for the sale. We have 24 leads already turned in, let's hope they match with the sales and we should have 5000.00!!! Still do not know. Waiting for an answer! Will know after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Website and Calendar updated! If you have anything that needs to go on the Calendar or website get it to me so I can get it up.

## **New Business**

- B.A.S.S. has sent us our number of new members required in 2016 that we must have in order to qualify Two Boaters and Two Non Boaters from the Regionals to the Nationals, we need 100 new members, includes HS, Juniors and College. We were at 310 so we need to be at 410 by Oct. We will be working hard to get new members this year and ask that all of you

push for at least 4 new members per club. That would give us 80 new members. We are in need of non-boaters to fish the Tournaments especially the Two Day. They must be signed up 120 days prior to the Two Day in order to be eligible to fish!!! That would be by May 17<sup>th</sup> 2016!

- We may have a College Team we are working on it for CCSU. The Two Gentlemen that have contacted me are currently working with HOC to join their club and go from there. They also said they may have two more interested. It is a start! Any club interested in mentoring a College Team please let the Executive Board know.
- We are currently selling Sponsorship on the State Team Jerseys. We have a few Sponsor letters on the Table; if you know of anyone that may be interested please let us know ASAP. Spots are limited.
- Sylvia will be booking a room for the two shows, two nights each and getting electricity for both shows. The total cost will be approximately \$800.00.
- **2016 Meeting Dates**

Jan- No Meeting (Executive Board Meeting Sylvia's House)

Feb- 25<sup>th</sup> (Room available at 7:30)

March- 24<sup>th</sup> (Room available at 7:30)

April 21<sup>st</sup> CBN Meeting (Room available at 7:30) & Need small meeting room for Scholarship Judging from 5 to 7

May 26<sup>th</sup> CBN & Need small meeting room for Executive Board & Committee Chairs 5 to 7

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

July 28<sup>th</sup>

August 25<sup>th</sup> CBN (Executive Board Meeting Sylvia's House)

Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> CBN & Need small meeting room for Executive Board & Committee Chairs 5 to 7

Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

- Dean Rustic brought to our attention that for the Classic, B.A.S.S. will only cover two nights stay. He asked that we be responsible for the other two nights along with his Airfare and the cost of a new Conservation Directors Shirt. Sylvia asked pricing (\$100 a night for the room, \$100.00 for the Shirt and approx. \$500.00 Airfare) It was determined that it is within the \$1000.00 allotted for his Classic Expenses.
- Dean is checking into Grants that are being offered to B.A.S.S. Nations to see if he can get one that would be used toward getting Wheelchair access availability at Candlewood (Squantz) and other Lakes.

- **There will be no CBN meeting in January**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2016**

### **Fishing/Boat Shows**

- NEHFS Feb 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>
- CMTA Show Jan 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Open House**

- Reynolds Open House March 19th
- Thayer's Open House April 2nd

**Whip em baits winner-Rome Wisniewski**

**Livingston Lure winner- John Hatfield**

**Whip em Baits T-shirt & Product- Paul Dingee**

**A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved by the Board of Directors**

- **Meeting adjourned – 8:45PM**
- **NEXT MEETING - February 25, 2016**