

**NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board Meeting  
December 6, 2008  
BASS PRO SHOPS in Auburn, NY**

The Executive Board Meeting was called to order by President Mike Cusano at 11 AM.

**Attendance:** Officers present; President- Mike Cusano, Vice President- Paul Tomeo, Secretary- Ed Flick and Past President- Pam Bliss. Also present were Tournament Director- Jeff Edgerton, Youth Director- Mickey Fortunato, Fishlines Editor/ Public Relations, Marketing- Tom Presnell, Conservation Director- Burnie Haney,

**Club Roll Call:** Adirondack Bass Club, After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Albany Area B/M, Barge Canal B/M, Crown City B/M, Constantia Cove, Erie County B/M, Good Ole Boys B/M, Greylock, Morris Co. B/M, NNYB/M II, Northeast B/M of NJ, Oak Orchard, Southern Tier B/M, State Wide B/M, Washington County, Watershed B/M and Westchester Rod and Reel.

A total of 36 people were present representing 18 clubs.

**Old business:**

1. The old minutes were read. They were amended to show that Westchester Rod and Reel was represented at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
2. Mike gave an overview of the Tournament Trail Participation for the year and highlighted the fact that the number of participants had increased markedly this year. The other tournament trails had shown a decrease in participants during the same time period. He said we should continue what has worked for us and build on our success.
3. Review of the Divisional Team Success and the Youth Team participation. Special note was made of Joe Matt's 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the Divisional and 7<sup>th</sup> overall finish in Kansas.

**New business:**

1. **Mike Cusano-** Talked about the need for a nominating committee to solicit for candidates for the upcoming election. Volunteers are as follows: Chairman- Scott Bliss, Members- Ron Williamson and Joe Matt. Tom Presnell volunteered to handle the mail duties associated with the committee.

There was a drawing for the 2008 Angler Tournament Participation Awards. They are as follows:

- Boaters- \$1,000 Dan Murphy- NONE  
- \$500 Jeff Edgerton- Statewide/Good Ole Boys/Salt City

Non-boaters- \$1,000 Don Quonce – Port City  
- \$500 Anthony Raimo – Rip Van Winkle

The Divisional for 2009 was discussed. It is in Ontario, Canada at Lake Simco from July 20 -24<sup>th</sup>. The junior bass anglers will now be fishing as part of the team on the last day of the event and their weight will help determine the team's overall finish. All anglers attending will need to have valid passports.

The next meeting will be held @ BASS Pro Shops in Auburn. Executive Committee 1/23 @ 6 pm and Executive Board 1/24 @ 10 am.

The Annual Banquet will be held at the Sunset Restaurant in Auburn on 1/24 at 6 pm. It is located at 93 North Division Street. 315-252-9765

The old scales were given to the Youth Organization. Mickey Fortunato accepted them.

**2. Tom Presnell-** He thanked everyone for their feed back regarding the Fish Lines Magazine. He discussed the success that the magazine has seen during the past year and the goal to have the magazine become self sufficient during the 2009 season. He has Certificates of appreciation for the advertisers. He remains open to suggestions for articles and improvements to the magazine.

Tom discussed Marketing ideas for his trip to the Classic.

**3. Burnie Haney-** he reviewed the process for new regulations and indicated that the proposals are actually floated about 2 ½ years prior to actually hitting the street as an actual law. Some of the things that are presently in the works are as follows; Region 6 – A study of the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario- Region 7 Catch and Release proposals for Oneida Lake and the 3 Rivers Boundaries. Region 9 - A Lake Erie minimum length of 20” vs. the current 18”.

He discussed the carrying capacity of Canandaigua Lake and the fact that it has the most utilized launch site in the state.

He talked about the need to develop and maintain relationships with organizations performing conservation work in the state. Examples noted are the Water Chestnut removal with Cornell University, the “I Fish NY” Campaign that has educated over 5600 people in 2008 and the Adirondack Nature Conservancy that is working with Invasive Species Control.

He reviewed the 2008 Federation Club Awards Program.

**4. Mickey Fortunato-** He discussed the need for boaters to assist with the Jr. Tournaments. He discussed the Jr. Tournament Schedule. For 2009 the Club Team Championship will be July 18<sup>th</sup> on Onondaga Lake. The Jr. World Qualifier will be July 19<sup>th</sup> on Oneida Lake and the Jr partners Tournament will be August 8<sup>th</sup> at Oneida Lake.

This will be the last year for BASS Casting Kids Competitions as the program has existed. .

**5. Don Florczyk-** He was not able to make the meeting so Mike briefly discussed the web site.

**6. Jeff Edgerton-**

There was discussion regarding tournament registration when some participants are unable to attend the re-registration period, primarily due to conflicts with another event. Jeff said that he would (and has) worked things out with those fisherman provided they discuss their situation a head of the registration deadline.

There was a change to the Tournament Application to identify the participant's club affiliation and the late fee is going to be increased to \$40. Any refunds or fee transfers once the early registration deadline has passed will be strictly up to the tournament director.

Club representatives were asked to bring back two items for their club's feedback/position.

1. Off limits – did their clubs prefer removing the off limits (like was done for Lake George) or having waters be off limits from Sunday midnight thru safe light on the Thursday before the event? All representatives were asked to discuss this with their clubs and share their feed back at the January Meeting.

2. Additionally there was a discussion regarding the minimum size boat and motor acceptable for use in a NY BASS Federation Tournaments. Current rule states 17' and 90 HP. Jeff wants to know if clubs want to see that modified.

Jeff announced the 2009 Schedule-	June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lake George @ Mossy Point Launch
	July 12 <sup>th</sup>	St. Lawrence River @ Ogdensburg Town Ramp
	Aug 22-23	CTC – TBA
	Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cayuga Lake @ Union Springs

Membership cards will no longer be sent out to clubs – they serve no value as Jeff provides Dom and the NYBCF a valid list of paid members to work from for product rebates.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding membership lists and the BASS Insurance. Mike relayed the information that he had been given by Don Corkran. (NOTE: Following the meeting, Mike provided additional information on NYBCF website, stating that as of now there is no change to this policy from a B.A.S.S. perspective).

**7. Tim Morrison-** He was not able to attend the meeting, but left copies of the financial sheets with Mike to disseminate to the membership. People were happy with the financial performance of the organization. Mike discussed the need for a 5 year plan to address how any potential excess funds should be disbursed (while still maintaining a secure financial position). This item will be discussed more at future meetings.

Motion to adjourn by Ron Williamson and seconded by Joe Matt. Carried  
Adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Flick  
Secretary