

**Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation was called to order February 26, 2009 at approximately 7:33 p.m. by acting Vice President.

Roll Call: The following clubs were absent: Litchfield County

Excused Absences from the previous month: None

The minutes of previous month's minutes where accepted.

Correspondence

None.

Reports of Officers

Presidents Report: Paul Carter

Reviewed concern and status of those clubs who are delinquent in paying their annual BASS dues, roster issues will be addressed to individual clubs.

The following was presented by John Stewart and Stacy Twiggs during the 2009 Classic President's Meeting;

Sponsors:

- Toyota: Same as last year plus the state that signs up the most new members to the Toyota program will receive \$2500.00@ the Nationals. No charge to join program. We are asking to provide a link on our web site to the local Toyota dealers. It was suggested that we contact our local dealership, Truck Champion, and get local sponsorship programs going with them. Most dealerships are not aware of the relationship between BASS and Toyota, so we need to educate them on this program.
- Berkley is back on board. Details are forthcoming on how this will be handled.
- Skeeter/Yamaha: This program is still a little confusing but I will tell you how I think that it was presented to us and we are to get the final details at a later date. For 2009, on top of any incentive rebate programs, Federation Nation members that purchase a new upper class boat package will also receive an additional \$1000.00 discount from the manufacturer. In addition, we will receive \$400.00 to the CBFN for any purchase after April 3rd. The web site will have the final program benefits soon. Any tournament that is used to qualify members to the Divisional Championship is eligible for Reel Money.
- Optima Battery: Optima is back on board with new discounts for us, but only if you purchase the battery direct from them. No rebates will be given for mail in receipts.
- Triton Alliance is still very much committed to the BFN
- Lowrance: Contract was signed Friday, February 20, 2009 for the 2009 season. Updated product and price list will be coming to us by early March.
- Booyah baits and Advanced Auto Parts are still listed as BFN sponsors but they offered nothing to us at this time.

- Evan Williams is still on board but they were unable to tell us what may be provided to us at this time. They felt that the rebate program would still be offered. Shirts and hats were unknown at this time.
- Longhorn and Mustang are not onboard.
- BASS & Bass Pro Shops:

The companies will launch a co-branded Bass Pro Shops rewards program in the spring of 2009 that will provide BASS members an opportunity to earn bonus points for purchasing select products associated with the Bassmaster Elite Series throughout the season.

The relationship will kick off on Feb. 27 at the Bass Pro Shops Spring Fishing Classics with The *Bassmaster* GearUp Giveaway presented by Bass Pro Shops. It is an opportunity that allows fans to win some of the newest 2009 products by registering at www.Bassmaster.com/gearup. The promotion will run through March 16, with the winner being awarded the grand prize of fishing gear and tackle with a retail value of approximately \$4,200. For the complete sweepstakes rules and prizes [click here](#).

All Bass Pro Shops Spring Fishing Classic attendees will have an opportunity to get their picture on a souvenir cover of *Bassmaster* Magazine, held at Bass Pro Shops retail outlets. For the Bass Pro Shops Spring Classic schedule visit www.basspro.com.

The Springfield, Mo.-based company is also the official apparel of the Bassmaster Elite Series Marshal program, and will include a \$25 gift card for all participants. The Marshal program provides BASS members the opportunity to ride along with Elite Series pros for a full-day of tournament fishing from the best seat in the house.

“Aligning two industry-leading organizations will only serve to benefit fishing fans and the outdoors industry as a whole,” said Tom Ricks, vice president and general manager, BASS. “We are pleased to offer BASS members bonus reward points and augment the Bass Pro Shops experience for fans. We are excited to work with Bass Pro Shops and will continue to collaborate on innovative programs that provide long-term growth in the industry.”

- Culprit is on the website, click on the icon for program information.

President's Meeting:

We were all introduced and a general get to know you chat was held outlining the reason for BASS and how and what it was founded for, Youth and Conservation. Anyone who thinks that we are only about tournament fishing is missing the boat.

The membership incentive for the most new members in 2009 has been dropped.

- Insurance: AD&D is no longer part of our insurance. We have only 3rd party insurance. This means if someone sues us as an organization, our FN and its directors, officers and clubs are protected under this plan. No coverage for boater liability. Boaters responsibility
- Kasting Kids programs will be ending with the 2009 season. We were addressed by Doug Jeanneret from the U.S Sportsmen's Alliance and he briefed us on the new program that he and BASS have entered into which will replace the Kasting Kids program. The idea of the new program is to educate the youth more than we have done through the Kasting Kids efforts. They have many states involved in this program and they are targeting Boy Scouts of America first as they are organized and easily accessible, (one is scheduled for East Hartford in June). There are no rewards, (scholarships) for participating in this program.

It is felt that education is the better way to reach more youth and educate them on the art of fishing. Each Chapter can format their presentation as they see fit or they may contact USSA for guidance.

- A great deal of time was spent on the financial state of the BFN and what is needed to continue with present programs. Many hours of volatile discussion was had as we hassled out what we feel is an acceptable solution to the financial defect that the BFN is experiencing. With the support of many sponsors drying up and no new sponsors willing to come on board, BASS, BFN was faced with some very real financial problems. Of course they felt that they could just pass this problem on to the FN's and their problems would be over. It wasn't just that easy. Mutiny was a real possibility for a while, but I think that what we accomplished is something that we all can live with.

- There will be a boat package for first place at the Divisionals but there will be NO CASH Payout.

- We will still have the BASS stage trailer, release boat and 360 live video at all Divisionals. BASS will only provide three workers to all Divisionals, so the host state will be required to provide workers as necessary. Each state will be required to negotiate their own Divisionals and inform BASS as to what we have for them.

- Kasting Kids program in its present format has been eliminated and will be replaced with an educational program

2010: There will be a dues increase, unknown at this time, but I don't think that it will be over \$10.00. They wanted to increase our dues \$5.00 this year and \$5.00 next year but we let them know that would not be a good thing to do at this late date. BFN membership has dropped to 18,000 members as of 2008.

The next issue was how to cut down on Divisional and National expenses. Bass wants to do away with the Divisionals and have each state qualify their top person from each state to the Nationals. My thoughts, (any many others) on this matter was that if you do away with the Divisionals you will take away one of the primary reason that many members belong to BASS. Going to the Divisionals is our Classic. After some discussion, I suggested that we combine the two tournaments and have them on the same body of water. The next thought was to do way with any payout at the Nationals. The next thought by BASS was that every state would be expected to pay their way to these events, (Travel, Hotel and Food). Another thought was to access each state a Chapter Dues and that was not an acceptable option to us. Many other unrealistic ideas surfaced during this meeting but I think that the President's sent a message to them that we are not going to be the financial sponsor for BASS. Every time they come up with a financial problem that they cannot come to us for the solution.

Summary: I think that considering the state of our economy that we did alright with these negotiations with BASS. However, we must always be prepared to stand our ground as BASS would be lost without our presence.

Jamie Wilkinson agreed that the BASS Roster System should be modified to not charge multiple Federation Nation (\$20) dues for each club an individual member joins. This means one member can join multiple clubs without having to pay multiple BASS Federation Nation dues. Jamie asked Jon Stewart to get that resolved. (Jon noted: no refunds for dues paid will be issued but it will be corrected).

Into the General fund account, A check for \$900.00 that was received from Skeeter for the Federation Nation member sales at Reynold's Marine.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Weeks
Presented and accepted.

Conservation/FAC/CAC Report: Dave Santos

- Members were asked if they would support partnering with Riverfront Recapture to take inner city kids out for a day of fishing on the CT River. Many hands were raised to support this. I will take this back to Craig Mergins and work on dates for this outing. My plan is to select 3-4 dates to bring back to the membership, and select the one date convenient for all.

- I spoke with Carol Malloy to ask her if she and Ryan, Kelly, and Katie would like to attend the UCONN Scholarship banquet. She indicated she would like to attend and will check with kids as to their availability. Date of the banquet is Wednesday March 18, 2009 at 6:00 pm.

3. Legislative Bills - Please refer to the January 2009 minutes for active bills. Of note is the Governor's bill HB 6371. It is still in the Environment Committee and is expected to receive "joint favorable" and move to the Finance Committee. Please continue to write, call, and email your legislator. Also of note, is that Eileen Daly has proposed that the increase in fees only increase by 25% as opposed to the doubling in the original bill.

B.A.S.S. Federation Nation 2009 Conservation Workshops

FishAmerica Foundation www.fishamerica.org - Johanna Laderman

The FishAmerica Foundation is the conservation and research foundation of the American Sportfishing Association—keeping our nation's fish and waters healthy. FishAmerica provides grants to non-profits, conservation minded groups to enhance fish populations, restore fisheries habitat, improve water quality and advance fisheries research to improve sportfishing opportunities and success.

National Assembly of Sportsman Caucuses www.sportsmenslink.org - Jennifer Lundy

The National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC) serves as the umbrella organization for launching and working with state legislative sportsmen's caucuses in state legislatures.

Providing a communications network and interaction among state legislators, sportsmen's groups, industry and media, NASC and state sportsmen's caucuses are the core of the legislative front protecting and promoting hunting, fishing and wildlife management in state legislatures.

Together, CSF and NASC provide the ultimate protection against legislative attacks on hunting and fishing and deliver results for the advancement of sportsmen's interests in the political arena.

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership www.trcp.org - Dr. Terry Riley

The TRCP is a 501c3 non-profit corporation that works to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing. By building consensus among our individual and organizational partners we work to advance policy solutions on natural resource management issues of common concern. By speaking in a single voice on these key issues the TRCP represents a unique voice in the conservation debate. The positive results of our efforts are many and growing. From identifying a new major funding source for fish and wildlife stewardship in the federal highway bill to more closely reintegrating recreational anglers into the Magnuson-Stevens debate, the TRCP continues to find new ways to guarantee you a place to hunt and fish.

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership – Mike Armstrong

In this presentation factors affecting freshwater habitat was discussed. It was noted that anglers and hunters agree with the impact of the following

Causes in climate changes (global warming)

- Rising air temperatures
- Precipitation – increase in droughts
- Rising sea level
- Melting glaciers

Climate changes are impacting plant dynamics, spawning, and invasive species.

What this means on the water

- Fishing spots change
- Fish relocate
- Public water rights conflict with private interests
- Limits and management practices will change

Tournament Fish Care – Oklahoma Conservation Director Gene Gilliland

B.A.S.S. is coming out with a new Keeping Bass Alive publication. It will be a shorten version of the current booklet. However, B.A.S.S. will continue post on the Bassmaster website the full-blown book. In addition, B.A.S.S. has created a top 10 tournament fish care tips (I have copies I will distribute at the next CBFN meeting). This top 10 fish care tips is credit card size so members can easily carry them in their wallet.

Fizzing – Ontario Conservation Director Wil Wegman

Wil in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is conducting a study of the effects of fizzing on bass. The results of this study will be shared with BFN Conservation Directors.

Working the Political Angle – Texas Conservation Director Tim Cook

Tim discussed the importance of being involved politically and shared ideas that have proved successful for Texas. Some of these ideas I will try to implement

Tournament Committee: Al Guite

Tournament Trail: We have made location changes to the 2009 trail in order to create a more attractive trail to our members. The updated trail is shown below.

2009 CBFN TOURNAMENT TRAIL (UPDATED)

May 17, 2009 – Candlewood, Danbury Park
June 28, 2009 – CT. River, Riverside Park
August 16, 2009 – CT. River, Haddam
September 13, 2009 – Candlewood, Danbury Park

August 29, 2009 – Mr. Bass – TBA
September 26 & 27, 2009 – State Championship – Candlewood, Danbury Park
October 17, 2009 – CBFN Classic – Candlewood, Squantz

Tournament applications and the 2009 tournament rules are available on the web site.

All insurance certificates have been received. I have applied for two special use permits which are required for Tournament #3 and the CBFN Classic. These permits will allow us to promote our sponsors within the state parks. The cost is \$25 each.

I have negotiated \$900 launching fees, with the City of Danbury, for each of the following tournaments: Tournaments #1, #4 and the State Championship. The fee is to be paid prior to each event. In order to offset the launching fees the following proposals were made.

Motion - We charge \$10 for each boat during the regular trail events at Danbury Park. Unanimously **Approved**

Motion - We add \$10 to each entry fee for the State Championship tournament. Unanimously **Approved**

The initial fees will be funded from the CBFN General account. The account will be reimbursed following each tournament. If a shortfall exists at the end of the season due to lack of participation the additional funds required to break even will be deducted from the trail payouts.

Federation Banners: **Motion** was made to purchase three new CBFN banners which will be used at all functions. One of the three will be dedicated to the youth program. The purchase is not to exceed a total of \$1000. Unanimously **Approved**

Scholarship Report:

- Applications are due April 1, 2009.

Youth Report: Terry Baksay

- Invitations sent out to the division.
- Kasting Kids will continue at the state level in some form using supplies currently on hand.
- May 2009 championship information is yet to follow.
- Youth tournament dates (4) are all set.
- Youth will be working two club tournaments April 11, 2009 & April 18, 2009 cooking for the anglers.
- This year the youth have 20 members.
- Javier will be fishing with the youth this year

Banquet Committee: Sylvia Morris

- Chowder Pot Hartford, November 7, 2009. Menu will follow when Sylvia makes the final decision on the selections.

Raffle Report: Armand Fortier

- Tickets are due at the April Meeting.

Boating Advisory Report: Ed Weeks

- No February meeting, next meeting to be held March 11, 2009.

CLA Report: Lou Schaller

- Awaiting follow-up information.

Financial Committee: No Report

Audit Committee: No Report

Sponsors Committee: Bob Nelson

Current Sponsorships:

Newtown Bait and Tackle- 12 gift cards were picked up.

Tournament Force- Mike Kane made a proposal of giving back 10% of the money spent at Tournament Force by the members of the CBFN. 5% would be cash and 5% would be in merchandise for the banquet. Members should receive their receipt's turn in to CBFN who will in turn submit them.

The Tackle Hut- Online tackle shop that offers baits made in the USA has offered a sponsorship. They would like to give the CBFN 4 Ardent Culling systems. Owner is a CBFN member. The owner would like us to give them out early in the season, so that members will go out and buy the system. It is proposed that we give them out to the boater and non-boater lunker at the first two tournaments.

Proposed Sponsorships:

Yakima/Wordens Lures- is currently reviewing the proposal made to the CBFN. A decision should be made by the time of the February meeting.

L.S.D. Designs (Lee Sisson) - promised their support as soon as their bass boat alarms are completed.

If you have any potential sponsors/ideas, please contact Bob Nelson.

Dodge Hunting & Fishing Show Report: Sylvia Morris

The Dodge Hunting and Fishing Show took place February 13 – 15 2009.

We sold 317 raffle tickets and had 120 kids go through the Casting Kids Booth. Those numbers are down from last year (425 tickets and 200 kids).

The efforts of Carl Pedersen , Clemente Rodriguez, and Dave Gilbert have paid off once again!!! They ran the Membership Booth and ended up with 43 names and contact info of people interested in joining the CBFN. They had 39 from the CMTA Show.

Our grand totals from two shows are 756 tickets, 254 Casting Kids, and 82 possible new members!!!!

Once again we have done a fantastic job. Thanks to the following volunteers:

Jim Morris	Alan Guite	Dean Beckstein	Chris Blanc
Al Gambardella	Dave Gilbert	Jeff Janusonis	Joe Rodrigues
Dave Dziob	Bob Antonio	Matt Desimone	Greg Carabillo
Mike Ciammella	Chris Simons	Gianni Roman	Dave Mathieu
Carl Pedersen	Clemente Rodriguez	Dave Santos	Lou Schaller
Scott Janus	Dave Maiorano	Zack Zino	Paul Dingee
Joe Kowalski	Garrett Kruger	Armand Fortier	Greg Paholski
Mike Iovino	Jason Boileau	Adam Swirzewski	Sue Deguzis
Steve Deguzis	Vinny Mucci	Bob Jeffery	Ed Weeks
Sue Weeks	Harry Gordon	Jon Puhalski	Johnathan Puhalski
Bob Nelson	Terry Baksay	Chris Baksay	Matt White
Matt Cipriano			

All of you should be very proud of yourselves! I also want to thank all the people who called to volunteer after the shifts were full. This is the first year I have had that happen. Isn't that wonderful!!!
Thank You to all again.

Membership Report: Carl Pederson

- Changes are being made to the identifiers for clubs from president name to city where club is located.

State Team Report: Sylvia Morris

- Team members met the commitment for the shows.
- The next State Team meeting following the tournament May 17, 2009.

All reports accepted as given.

Old Business

- Website research conducted by Armand was found to provide a couple of options. Options were presented to the board of directors.
- **Motion** made for Armand to move forward on the Triton Group website proposal of \$299 per year provided we are not under contract with present provider. **Approved**

New Business

- **Motion** made to make purchase of electronic scoreboard. Scoreboard is a wireless unit RF to 500' from laptop, 24" tall by 27" wide, displays 5 names at a time, glare proof, water resistant, runs on 110 power. **Approved**
- Pachaug annual "Ice breaker" tournament entry fee dropped to \$20

A check for \$900.00 was received from Skeeter for the Federation Nation sales at Reynold's Marine and was deposited into the general fund

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Announcements

Heart of Connecticut 11th Annual Team Open – Saturday April 11th. Applications are on the ctbass.com website.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2009

Jamie Vinyard
CBFN Secretary