

## **Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**July 22, 2010**

The regular monthly meeting of the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation was called to order July 22, 2010 at approximately 7:30 by Sylvia Morris. She requested that when an individual addresses the room that they speak up so that everyone can hear them.

**Roll Call:** The following club was absent: Thayers Bass Marauders

#### **Announcements:**

- Sylvia requested a moment of silence for Art Rife, a CBFN member who was killed in an auto accident the day after our last meeting. A \$100 donation in his memory was made to his family by the CBFN.
- Mark Carlin was featured in the BASS Times regarding his E-Bay sales and donation to the CBFN. This generous donation will be divided among the Youth and both scholarship funds.
- Chris Horton the BASS National Conservation Officer is leaving BASS for a position with the Congressional Sportsman Foundation.
- Power Poles has come on board as an Elite Series Sponsor.

#### **Correspondence:**

- The CBFN received a card and check from Sylvia Malloy with a donation to the Robert S. Malloy scholarship fund in memory of two years of his passing.
- The CBFN also received a thank you letter from the CLA with a thank-you for helping with the lake cleanup and two T-shirts. The shirts will go to Dave Gilbert, our CLA representative and Ken Dzurenka.

**A motion was made and passed to accept the previous month's minutes.**

#### **Report of Officers**

**Treasurers Report:** Sue Weeks

**Conservation Report:** Dave Santos

- Wounded Warriors – Riverside Park, Hartford, CT – Joe Kowalski is still in need of two boaters for Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact him or Dave Santos if you can help out.
- A reminder to those that have already volunteered: Make sure you bring your back seat, an extra PFD, Fishing Pole(s) and lures. Joe would like boaters to be in the water by 8am.

- Dave is also organizing volunteers to help Saturday, September 25 at the CT DEP Hunting Fishing Appreciation Day (Handout on table). It is being held at Session Woods in Burlington, CT. He will need 3-4 volunteers and next month will have more information as to what they will be doing. Sylvia suggested he get the CBFN banner to display. **\*\* Please see attached flyer.**

**Fishing Advisory:** – No report

**Boating Advisory:** Sue Weeks – No Report – Next meeting is in September.

**C.L.A. Report:** Dave Gilbert

- General meeting was held and then a long discussion was held regarding the liability issues regarding officers carrying handguns. Nothing was resolved. The general meeting ended at 9:30pm when the Board went into executive session.

**Tournament Report:** Harry Gordon

- Tournament #3 was held on July 18<sup>th</sup> at Candlewood Lake out of Squantz and Latins. There were 67 boaters and 48 non-boaters.
- Harry gave a special thanks to Marc Levesque and Mike Zadroga for coordinating the launch at 7am from Latins. He also thanked Robert Timms for helping on shore all day and to all of the juniors and their parents that helped. As always a big thank-you to the tournament committee for another job well done.
- He noted that even though the limit was dropped to 3 fish from 5 we still had 20 dead fish. He apologized that the scoreboard was not functioning but unfortunately the power pack blew and we are in the process of replacing it with a new one and will also get a backup. The DEP was pleased that the CBFN was concerned about the fish and happy with the decision to lower the limit.
- The Juniors collected \$231 in donations for cooking and this will also be given to the Michael Greenhill Fund. Approximately another \$9 has been collected from the recycling of the bottles and cans at the event and that will also be contributed.
- **Mr. BASS** – the deadline for applications to be postmarked is today. The pairings will be posted Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. **Registration begins at 5:30 am and all boats must be in the water by 6:30am. The last boat will be the checkout boat and there will be NO check-in boat. Sylvia Morris will be on shore by the launch and you must show your number and be acknowledged by her by 3pm.**
- **Currently it is a 5 fish limit. A final decision will be made by Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup> regarding any changes.**
- **2011 Proposed Trail**

**May 1, 2011 – Scholarship Tournament – Danbury Town Park 7am to 3pm**

**May 15, 2011 – T#1 Candlewood Lake – Danbury Town Park 7am to 3pm**

**June 19, 2011 – T#2 – CT River – Haddam Meadows State Park 7am to 3pm**

**July 17, 2011 – T#3 – Candlewood Lake – Squantz & Latins 8am to 3pm**

**August 21, 2011 – T#4 CT River – Riverside Park – Hartford 7am to 3pm**

**August 7, 2011 – Mr. BASS – TBA 7am to 3pm**

**October 1 & 2, 2011 - Two Day Championship - Candlewood Danbury Town Park 7am to 3pm**

**October 16, 2011 – Classic – Lilly 7am to 3pm**

Sylvia thanked Harry for his report and went on to say that she had spoken with Bill Foreman and was informed that a CBFN club was in violation of their DEP permit. They did not follow the rules and their behavior was not acceptable and was witnessed by a DEP official. This club is not in good standing with the DEP and will no longer be issued a permit to fish Candlewood Lake.

Sylvia stressed how important it is for the members and Clubs of the CBFN to follow the rules and guidelines for fishing on state waters. We have worked too hard for many years to develop a good relationship with the DEP and state. This kind of behavior does not reflect well on our organization and cannot happen.

**Sponsorship Report:** Bob Nelson

- Tom Reynolds spoke with a contact at Johnson Outdoors/Minn Kota. Someone from Minn Kota will be in contact with the CBFN.

- Kistler Rods currently has a promotion to save \$100 off select Helium LTA rods. Regular price is \$229.99. They are now on sale for \$119.99. Use the Coupon Code "HELIUMCLOSEOUT" at checkout, when ordering on their website. (While quantities last)

- If you buy something from a CBFN sponsor, please let them know that you are a member of the CBFN. Doing this lets the sponsor know that their support of the CBFN is paying off for them.

- We are looking to add to our list of sponsors. If any member knows of any potential sponsors of the CBFN, please give their contact information to Bob Nelson.

**C.B.F.N. Scholarship Committee:** No report

**Bob Malloy Scholarship Committee:** No report

**Banquet Committee:** Sylvia Morris - Banquet is November 6, 2010 at the Chowder Pot in Hartford. Paperwork has been completed and will be mailed along with a deposit check.

**Membership Committee:** No report

**Raffle Committee:** No report

**Website Committee:**

- More updates to the site are on the way, if you would like anything special put on the site, contact Armand Fortier
- If you are having trouble getting on the forum, you may also contact Armand at [cbfnmember@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbfnmember@sbcglobal.net)

**Audit Committee:** No report

**Youth Report:**

- Terry needs boat captains for his next two events on Candlewood August 2 & August 12.
- Anyone interested should contact Terry Baksay for details.

**Finance Committee:** No report

**State Team Report:** Sylvia Morris

- Stor's It Rod covers were handed out. Each state team member was given 6 rod covers that were specifically designed for them. Abe Kalechman picked them up and delivered them to the team.
- Boat Insurance and BASS/CBFN cards were collected for BASS
- Next team meeting will be August 15, following the next tournament.

**2010 BASS Eastern Divisionals:** Sylvia Morris

- Stop & Shop has come on board and is sponsoring the event with a \$500 donation in gift cards.
- There are still T-Shirts available for purchase.

**Motion made and seconded to accept reports as given**

**Old Business**

- The case for the new scoreboard has arrived.
- The new ramp signs made up by Armand Fortier have been used at our tournaments. They have been noticed and have been favorably remarked about.
- Sylvia spoke with Don Meissner about the US Reel back orders. He is now saying it will be the second week of August. You do have the option to call and cancel your order if you are not happy. Some of those waiting on a back order have already received a complimentary reel as an apology for the inconvenience.
- Both US Reel and Fish-e-Grip are looking for feedback. Visit their websites and email them your input. US Reel has a special form on their website that you can fill out.

- CMTA Show – Sylvia has submitted paperwork to sign us up for this annual January event.
- Applications for both the Mike Greenhill Benefit and the CBFN 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Tournaments are available on the website. Feel free to copy and share with others that are interested.
- Evan Williams has not sent us a check for winning their commercial contest yet.
- Raffle Plan A – Raffle a boat – Sylvia spoke with Joe Horvath who has no news yet and also said that their national meeting was postponed until the end of August. He will notify her immediately of the status of the boat. We will have to wait until then to find out the status of receiving a boat. Another idea was to have the raffle boat and other prizes.
- Raffle Plan B – Ideas were suggested by the Board of Directors i.e.: Cruise, trip, travel money, and other prizes. Bob Nelson is also looking into trips and other items that we could possibly use for the raffle. Please take this back to your club so we can talk about it at the next meeting.
- Raffle Plan C - was also suggested. In place of a raffle we just raise the dues of each CBFN member. It would be less than the cost of purchasing the required amount that is currently due and would eliminate all of the extra work that goes into running the raffle.
- The executive board will review and give their opinion at the next meeting.
- **David Pierson of Northeast Bassmasters presented a club challenge.** Northeast Bassmasters donated \$100 from their club to the Mike Greenhill Fund and their club is asking all other clubs to match it. Both he and his wife have dealt with this firsthand and are very appreciative of the generosity of others that came forward to help them during a tough time. As a way of paying it forward, his club is making this donation and asking other CBFN clubs to make a donation as well.
- Mr. BASS – Jon Puhalski – Jon asked how many clubs had sent in applications so far. Harry said that there are currently 14. It was noted that more could still be arriving in the mail in the next few days.
- EXCUSED ABSENSES from the previous month: None were requested.

#### New Business

- Nominations are open for Tournament Director and will be accepted until the August Meeting when a vote will be taken. Dave Santos nominated Harry Gordon. A motion was made, seconded, and approved. Harry indicated he would consider the nomination and let us know.
- Sue Weeks contacted Pembroke regarding renting portolets for the Mike Greenhill Benefit Tournament. She inquired about sponsorship for this event and was given a discount on the rental amount. It would be \$50 instead of \$80 per unit. The total cost would be \$100 plus tax. A motion was made to pay for them for this event. Seconded and approved.
- Sylvia asked on behalf of Marcie Baksay for a \$50 donation to Team Lucas for the Alzheimer's Memory walk in her father's memory. A motion was made to donate \$50 to this, seconded and approved.
- By-Law Proposals are due at the September meeting if anyone wants to submit any bylaw proposals. .

- **Tom Reynolds and Sylvia Morris came up with the following Tournament Trail Format Proposal which was handed out and read by Sylvia Morris to the Board of Directors. This is to be brought back to your clubs and it will be voted on at the August 26th meeting.**

### **2011 Tournament Trail Format Proposal**

Reformat the Trail with four (4) main events with the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) one being Tournament #4/Classic.

The Angler entry fee would increase from \$50 to \$75 for each event. This would result in an overall increase of \$25 over what is currently being paid for participating in the Trail. The total cost, if you fished all 3 events would be \$225 for Anglers. This would increase the payouts by 50%. For example, an \$800 payout currently being paid would increase to \$1,200.

The Co-Angler entry fee would increase from \$25 to \$35 for each event. This would result in an overall increase of \$5 over what is currently being paid for participating in the Trail. The total cost, if you fished all 3 events would be \$105 for Co-Anglers. This would increase the payouts by 40%. For example, a \$250 payout currently being paid would increase to \$350.

The Classic would still be a free event as 20% of the entry fees would be held out of the three prior tournaments to make payouts for it and you would receive points as it would be the 4<sup>th</sup> tournament also.

Events would be held May, June and July and eliminate the one in August when it is usually the hottest out. Mr. BASS could be held in August. There would be no Tournaments in September. The Labor Day Holiday weekend and the Divisionals make it difficult to schedule other events during that month. We would continue to hold the Two Day the first weekend in October.

Instead of the top 30 Anglers, we would now have the top forty (40) Anglers and top forty (40) Co-Anglers qualify for the Classic which would be held in October after the Two Day. This also qualifies the top forty (40) Anglers and top forty (40) Co-Anglers to fish the two day therefore we are possibly increasing the participation. We could also utilize other bodies of water that we are currently unable to fish due to the size of the regular tournaments at that time i.e. Lilly and Zoar.

The payouts would increase by half with only a small overall increase in entry fees. With the current economic situation, just dropping one event would help save the following:

1. This would benefit the fish and reduce their mortality rate. (Conservation)
2. Time - in terms of practice and one more tournament to add to individual's schedules
3. Gas/fuel
4. Volunteers to run the tournaments
5. Eliminate the hottest month
6. Avoid boat traffic
7. This would open up a weekend which could be used to schedule club events, give the fish a rest or allow Anglers more time to be with their families.

8. More anglers could qualify for the Classic, as many indicated that that is what they work towards. When it was proposed that the Classic be eliminated, the majority voted to keep it in place. This proposal would still allow for this event to be held but in the meantime cut back on one tournament.

If this proposal is accepted a Bylaw proposal would be submitted in September to change wording in the Bylaws under Article XII Tournaments to:

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

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

The annual tournament trail shall consist of (4) qualifying events **including** the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Classic. Tournament dates and locations shall be selected by the Tournament Director and approved by the Board of Directors.

Ray Bessette also questioned whether there is a Bylaw that currently states the top "30" would fish the Two day and Classic which would also have to be changed. This will be researched and if applicable will be added to the proposal. *(After the meeting, research showed that this was in Tournament Rule #21 and it will be changed if necessary)*

Tom Reynolds noted that this proposal mimics BASS to a certain extent. It provides for the Anglers that are looking for higher payouts but keeps the cost within reason and also keeps the Classic which many work towards attaining as well as increasing the amount of anglers that will qualify for it.

The Proposal is to be taken back to the individual clubs for review and discussion and will be voted on at the August Meeting. If accepted this new trail schedule would just require the removal of the August 21, 2011 Tournament.

A question came up about the Scholarship tournament being part of the trail. It is not and the hope is to hold it in the spring. The reason for this change is to increase participation and allow us to feed the Robert S. Malloy scholarship as well as the CBFN General Scholarship by splitting the income between the two. Hopefully, we can secure this date and make this an annual spring event. This would replace the current October tournament.

A motion was made to accept the 2011 Tournament Trail Schedule. It was seconded and approved.

There was not further new business. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and approved.

**Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: August 26, 2010**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Susan Weeks for**

**Carl Pedersen, CBFN Secretary**