

# Columbia River BASSMASTERS

[www.columbiariverbassmasters.org](http://www.columbiariverbassmasters.org)

September 2011



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Conservation Director: Don Abbott 360-560-6516  
CRB Newsletter Editor: Jim Miller 503-762-2076

**Remember: You must be present at the meeting for the Tournament Draw, or notify the Tournament Director BEFORE the meeting to fish the monthly tournament.**

\*\*\* **MEETING** \*\*\*

Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7pm  
**Who Song and Larry's**  
**111 SE Columbia Way**  
**Vancouver, Washington**

*Next CRB Tourny*  
*Prineville Reservoir*  
Two day event  
Sat/Sun the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>

## September Meeting Agenda

- Call meeting to order – Tim V/P
- Introduce officers/Board
- Welcome new/prospective member
- Youth report – Zip
- B.A.S.S./FLW report – Ed
- Old business – Board
- New business – Board
- Intro Gary Galovich – Jim
- Swan Island review – Mark
- AOY race – Mark
- Prineville preview – Mark
- Reserved sites at Prineville – Chuck
- Draw for Prineville – Mark
- Close mix/mingle
- Treasury report: Club funds \$2,326

## **CRB August Celilo “CANCELLED” Willamette instead!**

It is never an easy decision to cancel a launch location, and often at the last opportunity due to bad weather, which is normally high wind forecasts. But, our weigh-master made a great, safe, “call” in moving us out of the Celilo pool of the Columbia (with wind gusts to 35mph forecast). Mark Forbes held out as long as possible, knowing that so many looked forward to August on this pool, but had to make the calls and post on line that we were moving to the Willamette, Swan Lake launch. OK, it's like planning on playing in the World Series and ending up at a little league game, so off six boats went to Swan Lake. Fishing in the day time on a full moon will normally translate to tough fishing, and that's how most CRB anglers found the Willamette, as only three boats managed a five bass limit! While I was busy on the back seat of my partner's Ranger trying like heck to get keepers in the boat, Tom and I could not put a limit in the boat. Tom and I both commented in disbelief how tough it was for us, both catching bass, and then NOT keeping them “buttoned”, as Tom lost two keepers and one was in the 3# class, seemingly laughing at us coming undone at the net. Now mind you, some other boats were not having this experience or this kind of luck as CRB V/P, Tim Ihle and his draw partner, Gregor Pierce, fishing his first CRB season, were culling their First Place limit of 9.53 pounds. I received an Email from Tim reminding me that his team's bass on the Willamette were put in the live well via top water and drop-shoting, no deeper than 15'. Taking a ride in that live well was the big fish of our event with 2.72 being this small-mouth's weight at the digital scales, caught by Tim. Don Randolph went from the back seat of Mark Forbes boat in our last CRB event in August to his own bass boat and took a veteran of the Willamette, Rob Allen, in the back seat to a limit of bass at 8.63 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. Worth commenting here that Rob is savoring those 96 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place as this pulls him even closer to Joe in the Angler of the Year point race. Don commented that most of their fish came on drop shot “rigs” as with the first place pattern of success. Because there were only six boats in this event there was no cash to 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, but it's worth mention that Brian Timm and his partner, Rich Lockhart, kept their boat not far from the launch and still managed a 6.11 weight, good enough for the third largest weight of the day in this “tough” tournament on the Willamette!

### **Special Guest Speaker at next CRB Mtg. Gary Galovich**

Ever wonder why all those bass you pre-fished are not jumping on your lure at the tournament? This question and many more, during a “question and answer” session will be addressed in vivid detail by Mr. Galovich, Warm Water Fish Biologist, from the Oregon Dept. of Fish/Wildlife. Gary, will graciously be providing a slide presentation on some of his ODFW's latest programs that I can't wait to view! I am certain I wore out his ear with questions on bass and he somehow understood on the phone my need to know. So, let's pay him respect by a great turn out at this meeting as he said he looks forward to speaking to CRB, and take note, he's a bass fisherman, too! As busy as his schedule is I can assure you we are lucky to have him with us.



**First Place  
Limit:  
9.53LBS.**

**Winners:  
Gregor and  
Tim/Swan  
Island, Aug  
11.**

**Second Place: 8.63LBS.**



**Don and Rob**

**Third Place: 6.11LBS.**



**Brian and Rich**

**Tim with Big Bass: 2.72LBS.**



**Dem Slippery Bass**

## **CRB Tournament Fishing During the Spawn?**

Many CRB anglers have heard me comment on many occasions that after over 40 years of bass tournament fishing that it was past time to give back to our sport all I could for being so generous to me in so many ways I will not go into here. However, something I feel very strongly about is that our club can take a stance in assuring that trophy smallmouth are not being harmed in as little as possible ways during a tournament. If you will, we as a club can contribute in controlling a destiny, and hopefully other organized bass clubs in Oregon and Washington will follow in CRB's attempts with this subject. Here is how I view this. Let me go back to a presentation that Ed Chin gave at a CRB club meeting this past Spring. He brought to light the attempts by a Salem congressman, with a lot of time on his hands, apparently, to place a "zero" limit on bass caught in the Columbia, as small mouth population was effecting the balance of "raiding the spawn" of salmon. I listened to this comment by Ed, and had read of this attempt previous to hearing it from Ed that night, and could not believe what I was hearing from Salem! Fact of the matter is that steel head probably pose more of a challenge of eating possible "trophy" bass spawn eggs than do bass effect the balance of the salmon fishery! Let me very specific with that last comment before I continue. It has scientifically been acknowledged that all small mouth bass do NOT continue growing to trophy size if left alone in their elements. In fact, genetically, like so many other species, only certain select genetic strains of small mouth are of the trophy variety. These are the small-mouth bass that I wish to be involved with and hope all CRB members will join me in this direction. During the spawn of small-mouth, and for purposes of a time line we should call this peak time by definition, April thru June. Imagine, if you will, the stress that is placed on a bass, full of eggs at this time, after being caught in a tournament and jammed in a live well to be bounced around in a bass boat, to say nothing of the fact that (and remember I am speaking of not just any bass, but the possibility of you having in your live well the genetic strain that is a possibly going to spawn on to trophy size) she is not most likely going back to spawn after weigh-in and/or being culled and released miles from where being caught. We often see 15# limits of five bass during April to June. CRB club members weighing in a five fish limit of small mouth over 20#s, as an example in 2008 in a CFC Tournament. Certainly it is not unrealistic to suspect that at least one of these bass in this limit will produce an offspring that will be of the trophy variety. Once again, this is the bass that I would like to see CRB be instrumental in protecting. In California, as an example, a very large trophy fishery (one I have enjoyed for many years) Trinity Lake, with over 180 miles of shoreline, has by Fish and Game state law, placed a two (2) small mouth bass bag limit during the months of April thru June long ago. This lake held the state record for smallmouth at over nine (9) pounds for decades and Tim Brady who caught this bass long ago, had caught two six pounders that day as well. Today, thru trophy small mouth management since May of 1976 many 6# and larger SM and often 30# limits are caught during tournaments other than the Spring months I speak of April thru June. I am certain that we, CRB, should take this small step forward that I spoke of next season (2012) and during scheduled events in April thru June pose a three (3) small mouth bass limit to protect potential trophy smallmouth by simply handling two less SM in your live well on the Columbia and Willamette. I will "lobby" for this to a hopeful change in CRB bylaws next year and welcome comments as soon as possible from you on this subject. Sincerely, Jim Miller, CRB News Editor and dedicated trophy small mouth fisherman.

## CRB Fun Fish Sleepless in Celilo 8-20-11

Four boats participated, and they enjoyed t-shirt temperatures even before the sun rose. The breezes from the east predicted never materialized to provide relief, but a water surface as flat as a skating rink was welcomed. Summer top water was the target for most early. Zip and Tristan Decker had two top water fish get to the well (one was culled out later), and Gregor Pierce on Mark Forbes' back seat got one. Jim Miller was wishing the sun never came up. He reported eight in the 2lb class using a Sammy. Joe Doyle went to plastics early and stayed with them.



Since some boats fished solo and fun fish days are not actual tournaments, creel laws had to be adhered to. Three smallmouths over 15 inches in possession are allowed per angler. Best three in each boat would take the day's honors. Most boats reported fishing down the water column as the sun got higher. Midmorning teams were cranking successfully and then they turned to plastics. Mid depths seemed to be the key.

Every boat reported between 20 and 30 fish caught. Weights at the scale seemed comparatively light. The CRB supports conservation. Fish weighed for release are done quickly using a net bag. Every boat had a corrected weight between 7.5 and 9lbs for the best three. Zip gave credit to his son/backseat Tristan for stepping up his game coming back from a disappointment in his youth championship event. Tristan caught at least half the fish caught in their boat, he chose the right time to switch, the right bait to switch to, and he caught the day's big fish.



# NGJWC Tournament Report

DeGrey Lake, Arkansas, August 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Pairs of anglers from 41 states participated in the 2011 National Guard Junior World Championship (NGJWC). Neither Tristan Decker representing Oregon for 11-14 years old nor Nick Chin representing 15 to 18 year olds were able to win their regions and make the cut for the final day of this annual two day tournament. Tristan could only put a catfish in the boat, and Nick caught a nice 2lb 10oz largemouth. In a few other regions, Nick's one fish would have qualified him for the second day.

DeGrey has a slot limit on largemouth 13 to 16 inches meaning any largemouth caught between these lengths had to be released. It would prove to be a heartbreaker for many of the young anglers. The boats launched at 6:30 under clear skies and high pressure conditions. The day's sunshine brought intense summer heat. Three limits were caught including one bag that weighed over 11lbs. Every competitor walked across the stage with fish or not and they shared their day with the emcee that was none other than Hank Parker. So many stories about fish caught in the slot, break-offs, and other disappointments, and yet Hank found some way to bring a smile to every face.

The tournament was won in the 15 to 18 year old age group by Nick Deering from Maine. He threw Superspooks all day both days. Friday night, severe thunderstorms rolled through central Arkansas leaving behind a cloudy and humid day for the twelve finalists to battle it out on Saturday. Nick Deering's Superspook clinched the 2011 championship with a limit of 12lbs. 4ozs.

We elected to attend the exposition held in conjunction with Forrest Wood Cup in nearby Hot Springs and Nick and Tristan met several pros and they spoke with several representatives from fishing tackle suppliers. Oregon and SW Washington were represented well by these two Young Gunners of bass. TBF conducted a world class event and these state champions were made to feel like family.



## Columbia River Bassmasters Tournament Weigh-In Sheet

Location: Wilamette River

Date: August 13, 2011

PLACE	Boater	Non-boater	Big Fish/Angler	Total Weight	AOY Points*
1	<b>Tim Ihle</b>	Gregor Pierce	<b>2.72</b>	9.53	100
2	Don Randolph	Rob Allen		8.63	96
3	Brian Timm	Rich Lockhart		6.11	92
4	Gary Estes	Jody Cagle		3.79	88
5	Jim Miller	Tom Hartshorn		2.83	84
6	Mark Forbes	Joe Badolato		1.53	80

### Columbia River Bassmasters Angler of the Year, 2011

Best **FOUR** tournaments are scored.  
(**These** tournaments are excluded)

Scoring:

1st	100
2nd	96
3rd	92
4th	88
etc.	less 4
No Weight	20 less than minimum weight

Rank	Current Points	Angler	Cullaby 3/19/2011 Place Pts	CFC 4/2/2011 Place Pts	Celilo 4/23/2011 Place Pts	Swan Island 5/15/2011 Place Pts	Silver Lake 6/4/2011 Place Pts	Stevenson 7/17/2011 Place Pts
1	396	Joe Badolato	88	68	100	100	100	96
2	376	Gary Estes	92		88	100		96
3	364	Zip Decker	56	92	100	84	56	68
4	356	Rob Allen	96	92	76	92	76	
5	348	Don Abbott	84		84	88	92	68
5	348	Randy Abbott	84		84	88	92	68
7	344	Gabe Cheek	100	68	72	80	88	76
8	340	Tim Ihle	100	68	92	80	56	
9	336	Shon Childers	56	68	96	96	88	
10	316	Colby Botts	76		68	96	76	
10	316	Joe Doyle	80		92	60		84
12	312	Michael Parker	56	96	80			80
13	300	Ed Chin	76	68			56	100
14	296	Mark Forbes	56		60	60	84	92
15	284	Chuck Smith	56		96	60		72
15	284	Rich Lockhart	56			60	80	88
17	268	Jim Miller	56	68	76	60	56	64
18	264	George Zelaya			68	60	56	80
19	248	Tom Hartshorn			72	92		84
20	228	Bob Larimer	56		88		84	
21	196	Nick Fitzsimmons	96	100				
22	180	Renaud Pelletier	80				100	
23	176	Jody Cagle	56				56	64
24	152	Ken Ponder					80	72
25	148	Don Randolph	56					92
26	144	Todd Martinez	56	88				
26	144	Rob Simmons	88				56	
28	140	Pat Fall				84	56	
29	64	Jim Massey			64			
30	60	Sherry Lohse			60			