

*Columbia River*  
**BASSMASTERS**

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



**March 2012**

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Youth Director: Zip Decker 360-320-4028  
Conservation Director: Don Abbott 360-560-6516  
CRB Newsletter Editor: Jim Miller 503-762-2076

**Remember: CRB club dues of \$50 are due now with current proof of B.A.S.S. membership card. Have you bought your 2012 Fishing license yet?**

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

Tuesday March 6th, 2012 at 7pm  
**Who Song and Larry's**  
**111 SE Columbia Way**  
**Vancouver, Washington**

### March Meeting Agenda

- Call meeting to order ---Tim
- Introduce CRB officers ---Tim
- Introduce guests and/or new or perspective CRB members ---Tim
- CRB youth report ---"Zip" Decker
- Bass/FLW report --- Ed Chin
- Treasurer report --- Chuck S.

#### Old Business

- CFC preparation recap --- Tim
- Intra-club recap --- Jim
- CFC update + assignments --- Mark
- Jerseys --- Mark

#### New Business

- Cullaby lake highlights --- Mark
- Cullaby draw for partners --- Mark
- Alabama Rig --- Zip

#### Fisherman's Corner

- Swim Baits --- Shon C.

### **CRB NEW SEASON FOR 2012...ARE YOU READY ??**

Anticipation grows for that first cast at Cullaby Lake, right? Preparation for a bass tourney is a big part of the end result of a successful outcome. Organization of gear, including lures, line, etc. is a must. Have you taken the time to really clean out all compartments in your boat? Have you started your engine in the drive-way, attaching a water hose to lower unit? Are your batteries ready to go, both electric motor and your starting battery? When was your last tune-up? Do you have your tournament banner for your outboard ready? Non-boaters, particularly new non-boaters, have you pulled up CRB Web Site to read the rules? Do you have a life jacket ready to go? Do you know the formula for paying for your share of fuel to boater? Are you prepared to discuss fuel for vehicle/share, if you are riding to tourney site with your partner? Did you discuss what fishing gear to bring, rods, lures, etc.? Before coming to the scales with your bass, have you determined how many bass go on the records for each angler? Do you have your raingear, and is it up to keeping you dry, or possibly needs replacement? Wind whipping in your eyes at high speed runs is dangerous, do you have goggles or protection for your vision to assist your boater? Have you discussed netting preference, scoop or net in the water? Random questions, but each is important. Now, "Are you ready"?

### **Cullaby Lake, Oregon..Our First CRB Event of the 2012 Season, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

Seems like it took forever to get here, but the first event of our new season is coming up in just two and half weeks on March 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) at Cullaby Lake. There was much discussion to return once again to a lake, to start off our new season, that "spanked" most all of the CRB contestants who fished Cullaby last year in March. When you take into consideration that the stats sheet read as it did, with only eight bass brought to the scales, you would have to wonder why CRB voted in this lake again this season. Here are some positives to fish Cullaby. It definitely has "mule" largemouth bass swimming its shores.

Long time CRB member, Ed Chin leads the list of anglers who have caught big bass there in past years, with a 10lb plus LM coming to his boat. Then last season, in March, CRB Member, Nick Fitzsimmons had a 6.95, which held up for big bass of the 2012 season for CRB, and allowed he and his partner Rob Allen, with two fishing, to take second place honors, with just one fish! Then Gary Estes, fishing with a guest, took a 5.13 LM for a ride in his live well, with that single bass taking 3<sup>rd</sup>. So, there is the proof positive of fishing Cullaby, in the fact of proven large LM bass. Worth mention also that their were a couple 4's and a 3.67 as well, brought to the scales by three individual CRB contestants, fishing "hard"! Tim Ihle could not manage a keeper, but Gabe Cheek caught two for 7.94, in Tim's back seat, in almost successive casts for 1<sup>st</sup> Place. There you have a mini-recap of March 2011.

Should be noted that due to Cullaby's biological make up of rich mineral water content, the lake warms up faster in the early Spring than most lakes do. Because of this fact the bass are normally more active early on. Now then, let's discuss why some CRB members did not wish to return there this season. Needless to say some very talented CRB anglers did not bring a bass to the scales between two fishing in their boats, there were six boats, to be exact with those stats! The lake is small by tournament standards, and in many an opinion, should not have more than ten boats for an event fishing it to be effective for all concerned with the pressure that would be put on the bass, with more than ten boats pounding Cullaby's shore line. Important to note that we had 13 bass boats last year, of which one of them was mine, and I agree that 13 boats was too heavy for this small lake.

Certainly, it does not matter, as the CRB members voted this lake onto the schedule once again. As always is the case, we take a majority club vote to establish our new schedule.

With the CRB Cabin Fever Classic coming up the Saturday after Cullaby, many felt that fishing Portco/Columbia River, would have been a wiser decision, allowing a solid pre-fish for the CFC, since quite a few members would be pre-fishing the CFC, anyway. Perhaps, if Cullaby does not fish strong again for two consecutive seasons, we will consider Portco for a first tournament for the 2013 Season, and then make this a tradition pre-fish tourney before the CFC. Well, we will see if we can make many of those Cullaby bass more willing to take a ride to the scales on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Not sure how you feel, but I am more than ready to bass fish anywhere, even Cullaby, be that as it may. So, put new line on your reels, sharpen your hooks, and we will see you there and hope Cullaby will be good to us this season, as Cullaby Lake is in CRB's debt, of a grand bass catch. J.M.

## **KNOW AND GROW...What this should mean to you for the CRB Season.**

The attempt to establish some “catch words”, Know and Grow, for our new season with CRB leads to the discussion of how we, as tournament anglers, can progress to more success in our ability to put bass on the scales. Obviously to what degree, is up to the individual angler. Luck aside, which lure we use to be successful is the topic worthy of discussion. The how, why, and where of this is as follows. Before going into the “how”, I’d like you to take a moment and pull up a very well established bass clubs web site at scbangers.com, click on newsletters, and see how a bass club, Shasta Cascade Bass Anglers, now in their 40<sup>th</sup> season, tells the detailed stories for the top angler’s day on the water. Needless to say, if you read any of these monthly newsletters from SCBA, I have included a small excerpt from Jan 2012, SCBA below, and were headed to any of the lakes on their schedule, there is in fact some very valuable detailed knowledge to be had. Now take in to account that these stories are then told again, that you just read, at the next SCBA meeting, with the successful angler holding the winning lure in his or her hand to be shown to all who attend at the club meeting, and you can better understand why this club has been around for over 40 years. Put simply they believe in each bass club member’s individual growth. I am proud to say that even in the short seven seasons I have been with CRB, we have made great strides in that individual growth area. More important than the words of the “how”, is the lure in hand as the next meeting’s subject. Unless, as an example, a dedicated tournament CRB angler had a major event coming up on the given water that was just fished, I would solicit again this season, as I have all the past seven, to bring your lures to the next meeting. In this case, CRB would expect that on the Tuesday of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at this meeting at 7PM, with lure in hand, the top three will be ready to show and tell, to KNOW AND GROW, if you will, to the subject of these catch words, of what happened at Cullaby on March 24<sup>th</sup>, and for that matter, the successful CFC/CRB anglers words and specific lure to KNOW AND GROW with CRB! So, you will be reminded of this again at the CRB tournaments thru out our season. Perhaps, you as a successful contestant, would prefer to write your own commentary as you see in the excerpt below to help other CRB members? All will continue to “say easy, do hard”, bring your lures to the meetings, just as it was for me decades ago with SCBA, but I look at where SCBA is today, and feel for certain that CRB will benefit greatly from my “prodding” to: KNOW AND GROW, indeed! Best of at Cullaby and/or the Cabin Fever Classic. J.M.

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### **SHASTA LAKE COLD, WITH RAIN AND SNOW**

#### **Jason Sinclair Masters Shasta And Wins His Second Straight Tournament**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> PLACE with 12.05 lbs: JASON SINCLAIR**

I was unable to fish much before the tournament. I made it to the lake once on Thursday the 19th. I launched at Jones Valley. There was wind, snow, rain, and hail. The rain jacket I wore leaked and I was very cold. I could only manage to stay out for three hours. The weather predicted for Sunday was more of the same, worse even. I knew I would have to stay warm to fish effectively. I acquired a new rain jacket and wore many layers of wool and fleece. I also used hand warmers. Sig, from Humboldt State fished with me on Sunday. It was a pleasure to spend the day fishing with him. He has one more semester before graduating with his bachelor’s degree in fisheries. Sig has a passion for fish and the environment. Sig is also a great angler who is very skilled with a drop shot rig. Even though it was a tough bite and the weather was less than desirable, he actively fished all day. We started the day in the area across from Ski Island where I caught them last month. I know that Spotted Bass roam and my suspicions were correct; I only caught one fish there. After 45 minutes, I decided to move further East to another point that I like. We fished around the point with Senkos and drop shots having no success. I decided to go back through the point with a crank bait (Norman Deep Little- N/Suspend/Splatter Bass). On my next three casts, I caught three nice keepers. On the other side of the point I caught another solid keeper. Next we decided to head up the McCloud Arm. On the way, I stopped to fish the island in front of Allie Cove. Sig caught a nice keeper there. After no more luck there, we continued up the McCloud. I stopped at a rock wall I like to fish just South of Green’s Creek. The wind was blowing 2 to 3 foot rollers into the rock wall. It was tough to fish but I knew the fish would be there. We tried spinner baits, swim baits, rip baits, crank baits and of course Senkos. No luck on the reaction baits, but I caught a solid 2 pounder on the Senko. I was tired of fighting the wind so we headed into Holiday Harbor.

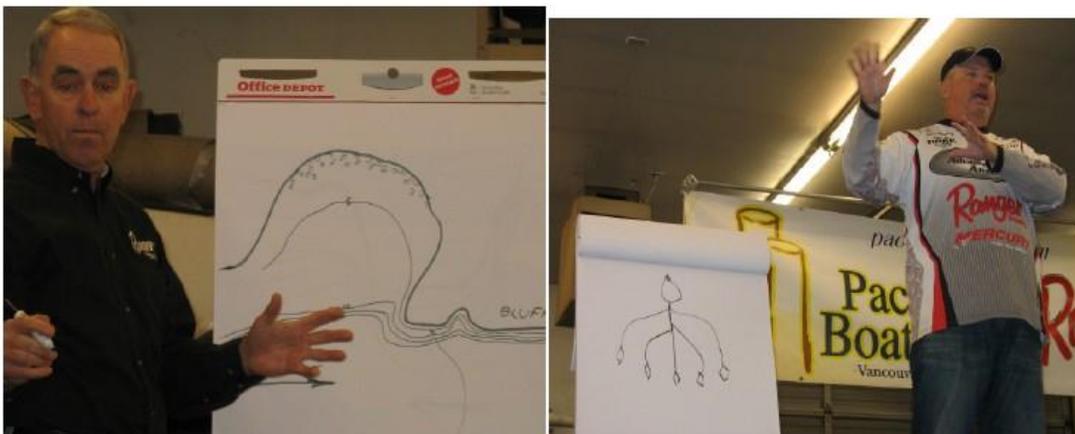
**View the whole article at**  
[http://www.scbangers.com  
/media/scba1211.pdf](http://www.scbangers.com/media/scba1211.pdf)

## Renaud Pelletier and Elite Pro John Murray Speak at Pacific Boatland

Pacific Boatland of Vancouver is a major sponsor of the Columbia River Bassmasters. They hosted a bass fishing seminar February 18<sup>th</sup>. Six time Classic qualifier Ranger Pro John Murray and three time Classic qualifier CRB member Vancouver's own Renaud Pelletier spoke to a crowd that filled up the all of the seating made available inside the shop. Many CRB members were in attendance. A pitching contest was set up allowing anglers to pitch from the deck of a Ranger. A boat that was removed from the trailer and lowered to the floor. Prizes were awarded and the proceeds were donated to Oregon youth. Pacific Boatland matched the funds raised- Thank You Willie and Dave and the staff at PBL!

The crowd was riveted by Renaud's detailed talk on the spawn cycle on the Columbia River. A very technical piece on the movements of river smallmouth, forage, adjustments to conditions, the structure the river offers, and ideal spawning areas. Renaud's comments on Alabama Rigs were "They have changed everything". Then the crowd broke out in laughter when he said "It's like casting a brushpile!" He says multi bait rigs will perform on the river in the prespawn phase and beyond.

John Murray stepped aboard the fully loaded Ranger next. It was used as the stage, and John had a diagram prepared for a talk on the Alabama Rig. He won the first tournament he used it in, but hasn't had a high finish with it since. He feels the Elites banned the rig way too soon. He says it's situational- "It's a glorified spinnerbait." For all bass fishing he said retrieve speed is key- it's the reason anglers using the same bait on the same boat and one angler is catching fish. Best color? The color you have confidence in. John is a major proponent of the Hydrowave and he isn't sponsored by them. Example after example how it turned on the bite for him. When he uses it he says "weird things happen." These speakers were motivating, thought provoking, and presented valuable information. Well worth the price of admission- merely an investment of time on a cool rainy NW afternoon before the season gets underway.



Zip

I would like to thank Randy Decker for his coverage (above) and photos of the fishing seminar at Pacific Boatland on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

-JM