

# Columbia River BASSMASTERS

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



**November 2011**

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 Vice-president/Sec'y: Tim Ihle 503-504-2000  
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 Youth Director: Zip Decker 360-320-4028  
 Conservation Director: Don Abbott 360-560-6516  
 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 November 1, 2011 7pm  
**Who Song and Larry's  
 111 SE Columbia Way  
 Vancouver, Washington**

**CRB Christmas Party!**  
 Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Who Song and Larry's

## November Meeting Agenda

- Call meeting to order – Tim V/P
- Introduce Officers/Board
- Welcome New/Prospective Members
- Youth report – Zip
- B.A.S.S./FLW report – Ed
- Old business – Board
  - CFC
- New business – Board
  - Christmas Party
  - 2012 Tournament Schedule
  - Club "Bling/Flare"

## **CRB Last Event at The Dalles - Winners: Randolph/Pierce**

With the the CRB Angler of the Year on the line for Joe Badolato, Gary Estes had to come up with a 1<sup>st</sup> Place finish to take AOY status away from Joe. The pressure was on Gary to come up big in The Dalles. Unfortunately for him, he did not fare well in this event, missing his goal to win and Joe won the crown of CRB AOY 2011. A huge congrats to Joe, achieving this goal as a non-boater for CRB 2011! With his first win with CRB, Don Randolph took Gregor Pierce (his second first place finish in the last three events) to the scales with a limit of smallmouth that weighed in at 12.59 with an impressive 3#+ kicker. They fished lipless cranks and drop shots for their victory. Just about as close as you can get for second place was the weight of their limit of 12.30 from Tim Ihle's Ranger's live well, with a boater fishing from Tim's back seat, Tom Hartshorn. An impressive 4.55 SM was included in their catch from the rock piles near the launch site, caught on a swim bait, with most of their other keepers on drop shots. This SM, at 4.55, seems to be a familiar weight, as Ed Chin and Gary Estes each caught this weight smallmouth in our CRB Stevenson event in July this year. Then in the TOC a few weeks later on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Don Randolph cleared up the tie for biggest SM with a 4.59 SM, wow!! Tim and Jim Miller had an impressive pre-fish on The Dalles pool as both Jim and Tim had limits that were in the 19# class in their preparation for this event. Like Tim, he made it pay, for Jim took new CRB member, Louis Smith, for a ride in his Ranger for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at 10.47. Jim commented that it was a joy to see Louis catch his first 3# smallie in this event with him. Jim was fishing his plastic spinnerbaits again (ala Prineville) to nail down his second largest pre-fish limit (19+lbs), at The Dalles and Louis tied one on for one of the limit of five. Louis used a lipless crank in the to assist the limit with Jim's "hot" plastic blades that saw The Dalles pool with more unusually super clear water, like Prineville, to put these plastic blades in their best element to catch those big smallies in pre-fish, only this time at The Dalles the bass took a liking to these special blades in the tournament!

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - 12.59**



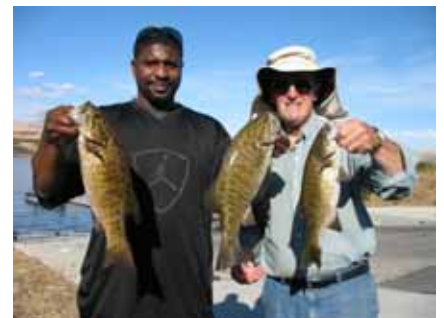
Gregor holds two of five!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 12.30**



Tim has a big SM @ 4.55!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 10.47**



Louis + Jim with three of limit!

## The Dalles Results, October 8, 2011

Place	Boater/ # of fish	Non-Boater/ # of fish	Big Fish/Angler	Total Weight	AOY Points
1	Don Randolph	Gregor Pierce		12.59	100
2	Tim Ihle	Tom Hartshorn	4.55 Tim	12.30	94
3	Jim Miller	Louis Smith		10.47	92
4	Don Abbott	Randy Abbott		9.55	88
5	Gary Estes	Gabe Cheek		8.61	84
6	Zip Decker	Tristan Decker		5.25	80
7	Mark Forbes	Andrew Lee		4.90	76
8	Ken Ponder	Chuck Smith		3.92	72



I give my personal “congrats” to Joe for his triumph from the back seat of eight different Bass boats during our 2011 CRB season. He really “sets the bar” for all new and current CRB members. I talked Joe into giving us all a summary of his season, shown below. Again, Joe... Super Job!! **-Jim Miller**

### **CRB 2011 ANGLER OF THE YEAR JOE BADOLATO**

I approached this season same as the last two--to have fun, learn a few things and above all, "fish the moment" as Mike "Ike" Iaconelli likes to say. What does fishing the moment mean to me? It means rising above the material world, in a somewhat detached, yet highly focused, zen-like state where bass behavior becomes a metaphor for my every action and reaction on the boat. In essence, I become oblivious to everything around me as I think the bass appreciate that state of mind and tend to bite better.

The season for me started out rough as Shon Childers and I were racing downriver to Cascade Locks in the CFC in the kind of weather that only a polar bear or flightless seabird could appreciate, and would make a billy goat puke. As we were being pounded by the 5-7 foot rollers and driving wind and rain I only had one thought going through my mind: I picked a bad day to go "commando"; I knew there would be an ugly mess to clean up later. But Shon is one of the best behind the wheel of a bass boat in rough water so we both survived and I didn't have to change my clothes after all. The engine on Shon's boat wasn't so fortunate, however: she sank beneath the waves twice and eventually crapped out on us. We limped back to Wyeth on the trolling motor disgusted and humiliated, but in one piece. It may not have been the best decision to "poke the python" but we did and thus ended our day. All that was left was the cryin'— and a few beers.

The remaining tournaments are somewhat of a blur to me. I do remember having some great days with Zip, Gary and Renaud. I recall lots of casting, many snags with lost baits, going through several cans of Grizzly, frequent dehydration and probably consuming just enough calories throughout the day to barely keep an amoeba on life support. There were several good fish I hooked that come to mind and I have fleeting mental glimpses of some great ones my partners contributed to the bag as well. But part of the consequence of fishing the moment is that one only focuses (*without actually focusing*) on the task at hand, thus all moments immediately before and after hooking a fish become irrelevant. You might think that this would make it difficult to remember where on the river or lake the fish was hooked or even the body of water one was fishing that day--and you'd be right. Quite often I'd return home from tournaments and when my wife would ask me where I fished, I'd say, "I have no idea but I'm quite certain I hooked some fish."

So overall, I think I had a pretty good season, probably hooked a few fish and had a good time with my boating partners. But just remember in the future, when you ask me about the details of my day fishing and I look at you with a stare that could only be described as "sadly vacant", just know that I'm not trying to be a first-class D-bag.

I was simply fishing the moment — Joe

# Tournament of Champions Riffe Lake 10-22-11

Don Randolph Mr. October!

The location of 2011 TOC remained a mystery until noon the day prior to the event. Tournament director Mark Forbes promised it was one of 11 ramps within two hours driving distance of Vancouver. Riffe Lake was drawn out of the hat. This was a fairly neutral site having never been on the club's schedule. To qualify for the season's final event members merely had to fish in four of the nine regular season tournaments. The 16 qualifiers entered a draw at The Dalles tournament two weeks prior. All they could do was guess where they were going to fish.

With the jetstream moving right over Washington, the off and on rain occurred with a mild morning temperature. The reservoir was drawn down 27 feet, and surface temperatures started the day at 59 degrees. Some members talked about throwing top water. By day's end however, only one fish was caught on reaction of any kind. Most teams started their day in the east end of the lake. Mid-morning Don drove down to a flat with several creeks. Water clarity approximately 15 ft, partner Zip Decker got their first bite at 10:30. It spit his plastic just out of reach of the net.

Thirty minutes later Zip set his rod down with a plastic dragging behind the boat as the breezes pushed them along. He was removing the reaction from another outfit when he looked up and saw his rod bent over and surging! A solid 3lb smallmouth had set him and the battle ensued.

At noon Don and Zip decided to find steep banks and points. They found them and they also found stained water where waves were washing against mud banks. They let the wind blow them along the bank while watching the graph. When an underwater feature was detected they stopped and pinpointed the location with soft plastics. Three fish came to the net all between 2.5 and 3lbs including a largemouth. Then Don set up on another fish and said "She doesn't know she's hooked". Soon she figured it out and Don's drag burned while the line ripped down under the boat. A beautiful fall smallmouth 4.59lbs — big fish of the tournament. Locked into this pattern eventually the largemouth was culled by another 2.65lb smallie. Don and Zip finished the day with a limit of 14.81lbs. The Abbotts were 2<sup>nd</sup> place with three fish.



Don with big fish of the TOC: 4.59 lbs

## Tournament of Champions 2011 Results

Place	Payout	Fish	Weight	Boater	Non-Boater
1.	\$400	5	14.89	Don Randolph	Zip Decker
2.	\$250	3	6.38	Don Abbott	Randy Abbott
3.	\$150	5	6.23	Tom Hartshorn	Jody Cagle
4.	\$100	3	5.01	Tim Ihle	Jim Miller
5.	0	2	2.72	Gary Estes	Mark Forbes
6.	0	1	1.70	Chuck Smith	Joe Badolato
7.	0	0	0	Ed Chin	Gabe Cheek
8.	0	0	0	Colby Botts	Rich Lockhart



## Nick Fitzsimmons Has CRB 2011 Big Fish; Will Represent at Federation National Nov 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

States sent their best teams to Bassmaster Federation Nation Divisional, where the top competitor for each state has earned an invitation to fish in the 2011 Bassmaster Federation Nation Championship presented by Yamaha Outboards and Skeeter Boats. Nov. 3-5 on the Ouachita River in Monroe, La., these 54 anglers will compete to be the best in their division. The Columbia River Bassmaster's own Nick Fitzsimmons will represent Oregon. Nick finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Divisional in New Mexico in May. Winner Jim Brinkerhoff handed over the reins to Nick. At the national the best angler from each of the six regions will battle reigning champ Kevin Vandam and other top anglers for the Bassmaster Classic trophy in Shreveport-Bossier City, La., in February 2012. Nick is leaving October 30<sup>th</sup> arriving in time for two 8 hour prefish days prior to the event. Good luck to you Nick! — Zip

**In addition, Nick caught the CRB's BIG FISH of 2011...a whopping 6.08 pound largemouth at Cullaby Lake in the season's first tournament of the year. Congratulations to Nick!**



**Nick holds big CRB 2011 Big Bass: 6.08 Pounds**

### WHAT DID YA CATCH 'EM ON???

If you fish for fun or at tournament level and you see someone else catching big bass when you did not or what you caught was not even close to theirs you can either ask the question above (and few ever do) or you can come to a CRB Meeting and see for yourself. Next season we as a club will do a much better job at making that happen. The top three finishers in every CRB event will be asked (and if Jim M. has his way, "Demands", LOL) to bring the lures that caught the bass that day that placed them in the top three places and tell their success stories in detail for all club members to appreciate and grow from in knowledge. and walk away saying. "Maybe next time"!!!

### Columbia River Bassmasters, Year 2011, in Review

This year was a very special season for our bass club with many a "twist and turn" to get thru to the winning weights and some beautiful big fish brought to the scales from some old names and many new anglers, the life blood of our organization. So let's take a look at some of those numbers below and names just to see what made it a great season.

WHERE	WHEN	BOATS	TOURNEY WEIGHT	WINNING WT.	WINNERS	BIG FISH	WHO
Cullaby	March 19	3	35.54	7.94	Ihle/Cheek	<b>6.08</b>	<b>Fitzsimmons</b>
CFC	April 2	18	107.49	15.38	Hakes/Kieth (NM)	4.20	Simmons NM
Celilo	April 23	11	120.13	16.53	Decker/Badolato	4.44	G. Estes
Swan Island	May 15	9	57.11	13.11	Estes/Badolato	3.39	Badolato
Silver Lake	June 4	12	47.11	11.95	Pelletier/Badolato	4.17	Childers
Stevenson	July 11	10	131.57	17.58	Chin/Chin	4.55	Tie Chin/Estes
Willamette	Aug. 13	6	32.42	9.53	Ihle/Pierce	2.72	T. Ihle
Prineville	Sep 17/18	7	79.48	22.38	Estes/Miller	4.30	G. Estes
The Dalles	Oct. 8	8	67.59	12.59	Randolph/Pierce	4.55	T. Ihle
Riffe Lake	Oct. 22	8	36.93	14.81	Randolph/Decker	4.68	Randolph

**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	Points Current	Angler	Cullaby Place Pts 3/19/2011	CFC Place Pts 4/2/2011	Celilo Place Pts 4/23/2011	Swan Island Place Pts 5/15/2011	Silver Lake Place Pts 6/4/2011	Stevenson Place Pts 7/17/2011	Swan Islan Place Pts 8/13/2011	Prineville, OR Place Pts 9/17-18/2011	The Dalles, OR 10/8/2011
1	396	Joe Badolato	88	68	100	100	100	96	80	92	
2	388	Gary Estes	92		88	100		96	88	100	84
3	382	Tim Ihle	100	68	92	80	56		100	88	94
4	376	Rob Allen	96	92	76	92	76		96		
5	372	Zip Decker	56	92	100	84	56	88		92	80
6	364	Don Abbott	84		84	88	92	68		96	88
6	364	Randy Abbott	84		84	88	92	68		96	88
8	360	Gabe Cheek	100	68	72	80	88	76		88	84
9	354	Tom Hartshorn			72	92		84	84		94
10	352	Jim Miller	56	68	76	60	56	64	84	100	92
11	344	Don Randolph	56					92	96		100
12	336	Shon Childers	56	68	96	96	88				
12	336	Mark Forbes	56		60	60	84	92	80		76
14	328	Ed Chin	76	68			56	100		84	
15	320	Rich Lockhart	56			60	80	88	92		
15	320	Chuck Smith	56		96	60		72		80	72
17	316	Colby Botts	76		68	96	76				
17	316	Joe Doyle	80		92	60		84			
19	312	Michael Parker	56	96	80			80			
20	296	Gregor Pierce					96		100		100
21	264	George Zelaya			68	60	56	80			
22	264	Jody Cagle	56				56	64	88		
23	228	Bob Larimer	56		88		84				
24	224	Ken Ponder					80	72			72
25	196	Nick Fitzsimmons	96	100							
26	180	Renaud Pelletier	80				100				
27	144	Todd Martinez	56	88							
28	144	Rob Simmons	88				56				
29	140	Pat Rall				84	56				
30	64	Jim Massey			64						
31	60	Sherry Lohse			60						

