

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

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After completion of the season opening Team Tournament and the first three point events of the 2015 New Jersey Bass Federation's tournament schedule, one thing is clear . . . a sleeping giant has been awakened and is once again going to be a force to be reckoned with. Another thing that is clear is that the race to the top five in the overall standings will not be decided until the very last event of the year, with numerous anglers clustered near the top of the standings. For the current event, held on July 26, 2015 at New Jersey's largest lake, Lake Hopatcong, dominant performances took both the Boater and Co-Angler Divisions and the day was noteworthy for solid sized bass being weighed in across the board.

Boater Division

The Boater Division was taken by the Federation's all-time most decorated angler, Rich Schneidereit. Schneidereit, from Medford, New Jersey and a member of the Clearwater Bassmasters has won innumerable Federation tournaments and Angler of the Year awards, and has been a member of over 20 State Teams; yet, even he would probably admit that the 2014 season was not among his finest. However, with a solid 2ND place performance at this season's Team Tournament, Schneidereit signaled his intention to once again be the hunted and not the hunter. In this event, Schneidereit kept the pedal to the metal and was absolutely untouchable, posting a five fish limit of 16.30 pounds, winning the event by a full 3.50 pounds. Schneidereit anchored his catch with the Boater Division's lunger winning fish, a 4.38 pound largemouth. For the Boater Division victory, Schneidereit received \$810 and an additional \$135 for the Boater Division lunger.

Second place in the Boater Division was taken by John Campos with a solid five fish limit weighing 12.80 pounds. Campos, a member of the Essex County Bassmasters from Fairfield, New Jersey was nearly 1.75 pounds ahead of his nearest competitor in the Boater Division. Campos received \$594 for his second place finish. Third place in the Boater Division went to Ralph Campitiello, Campitiello, who resides in Kinnelon, New Jersey and is a member of the North Jersey Bass Anglers also posted a five fish limit, totaling 11.35 pounds, just enough to stay ahead of his nearest pursuer who was just ounces behind. For his third place Boater Division finish, Campitiello received \$405.

Co-Angler Division

The Co-Angler Division was marked by both good numbers and very good weights being brought to the scales. Similar to the Boater Division, the winner of the Co-Angler Division brought a big limit in and easily outdistanced his nearest rival. The Co-Angler Division victory went to Federation Vice President Doug Peabody. Peabody, from Brick, New Jersey and a member of the Limiters, who fished as a Co-Angler due to lingering injury issues, had an impressive 13.73 pounds of bass, nearly three pounds more than the second place Co-Angler. Peabody also weighed in the largest fish of the event, a 4.58 pound largemouth. According to Peabody, it was his first check ever at a Federation Hopatcong event in

his nearly 20 years of competing on the lake. For his victory, Peabody received the Co-Angler Division first prize check worth \$540 and an additional \$100 for the Co-Angler Division lunker.

Following up his victory at last month's Susquehanna Flats event was the Federation's trailer puller, Terry Stevens, who finished in second place in the Co-Angler Division. Stevens, from Teaneck, New Jersey and a member of the United Bass Anglers weighed in four fish totaling 10.98 pounds. For his second place finish, Stevens received \$396.

Similar to Stevens, the third place Co-Angler Division finisher kept up his hot streak. In this regard, third place was taken by Larry Kantrowitz, who finished in second place at last month's event. Kantrowitz, from Mays Landing, New Jersey and a member of the South Jersey Hawg Hunters brought three very solid fish to the scales, totaling 9.33 pounds. Kantrowitz received \$270 for his third place finish.

Miscellaneous Notes

1. Fourteen anglers (28%) brought five-fish limits to the scales and 136 fish totaling 277 pounds were weighed in. All but one fish were released alive.
2. Hutchinson Cabinets has once again graciously sponsored this season's points tournaments where in each event, the Boater and Co-Angler not in the top three with the next highest weights in their Division who **are present at the awards presentation at the end of the weigh-in**, each will receive \$50. In this event, the \$50 was awarded to Darren Pincus in the Boater Division and Cody Barry in the Co-Angler Division.
3. By virtue of being the highest placing eligible Ranger Boat owner in the event, Rich Schneidereit will receive \$120 in Ranger Cup bonus money. The second highest placing eligible Ranger Boat owner, Darren Pincus, will receive \$100 in Ranger Cup bonus money.