

## FROM THE FRONT DECK

Greetings Utah BASS Nation Anglers—Just wanted to get a newsletter out before we head into a new year and tournament season. First off thanks to everyone for staying with the organization, obviously it has been an unprecedented year with the COVID-19 pandemic and the multitude of changes impacting the entire country, economy, businesses, and families.

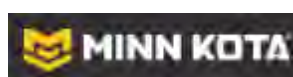
- ♦ For 2021 there will be a small change to the leadership group. Rusty Bennett has opted to turn-over the Secretary/Treasurer duties. Special thanks to Rusty for all his hard work, dedication and support for the past several years, he has been an instrumental piece of why we are the smoothest running tournament organization in the region. Welcome aboard Trevor Tippetts who graciously volunteered to take over the vacated position, Trevor has been assisting and operating as our Tournament Director for the past several years and will continue the tradition of having rock solid performers in the leadership positions of the UTBN.
- ♦ As we look forward to the 2021 season, we are happy to announce that there are no changes to the costs required to be a member of the UTBN. For the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row the membership costs will be \$50 total. \$20 goes to the Utah BASS Nation and \$30 goes to BASS HQ. The dues collected is used to off-set the costs to hold tournament(s), purchasing of tournament permits, and payments to anglers competing at the western divisional and national events. Dues can be directly paid to the UTBN via VENMO the account is @UT-BassNation
- ♦ Tournament dates for 2021 are set, please give them a review on the [www.utbfn.net](http://www.utbfn.net) website so you can set your fishing schedule. There are no changes expected and we will continue to use the same format as we have for the past several years.
  - ♦ Each tournament will be treated as a separate stand-alone qualification event.
  - ♦ Each tournament will qualify 10 anglers towards the 2022 state team (6 boaters and 4 non-boaters).
- ♦ We are pleased to announce that we have locked in sponsor commitments from Dobyns Rods, Keelguard, Hobie Sunglasses, Flambeau Tackle Boxes, KAOS Tackle, Minn Kota, Humminbird, Ben Byrd Construction, Omni Logistics, A-Core, Multi-serve Insurance and San Juan Marine.

### BOATERS COMING TO FISH IN UTAH, PLEASE BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

There will be a [mandatory \\$20 fee](#) for all motorized boats not registered in Utah that are used anywhere in Utah. In order to pay the fee, owners of boats not registered in Utah will first be required to complete an [online education course](#) about preventing the spread of quagga mussels. A link to that online course and the payment portal will be available on the [STD of the Sea website](#) and the DWR website.

<https://wildlife.utah.gov/news/utah-wildlife-news/960-new-boat-laws-fees-july-2020.html>

[https://stdofthesea.utah.gov/ais\\_nonresident\\_faq.php](https://stdofthesea.utah.gov/ais_nonresident_faq.php)





## TOURNAMENT NEWS



Fall time rolled in with a full plate of things to get underway, BASS was able to finally obtain approval to hold the 2020 BASS Nation Western Divisional at the always challenging Lake Mead NV September 30 - October 2, 2020.

UTBN anglers looked to pull off a repeat performance and win the overall in the same fashion as we did in 2016. Justin Hicks set the tone for the quality of fish he had located by weighing in 4 fish for a Day 1 weight of 10-4 which also had him in the overall tournament lead. Second place for Utah was followed up by Mike Lavallee with 5 fish for 8-2 and Bill Brown with a 7-7 limit. For the non-boaters, the legend Greg Pink was looking to repeat and return to the national championship, weighing in a full 3 fish limit for 4-14, with Terry Peterson next at 4-8 and KC Simbro displayed his big fish skills by bringing in a 4-2 largemouth (easily held up for tournament big fish honors and earning him \$500).

Day 2 finished out with Justin Hicks bringing 6-2 to the scales and retaining his lock on first place both for the UTBN team and entire tournament. Bill Brown added another 7-6 to his total and moved into second place with Mike Lavallee sliding down to third place with 3-11. Greg Pink and Terry Peterson were battling for the number one co-angler spot for Utah; Greg had things continuing in the right direction with 4-0 with Terry nipping at his heels with 3-12. Great job for all 5 of these anglers, to grind through the tough conditions and advance to Day 3.

Day 3 finished out with Justin Hicks adding 6-8 for a total of 22-15, earning him the title of 2020 Western Divisional Champion, a coveted BASS Nation trophy and a check for \$5000. Terry Peterson managed to get past Greg Pink and win the Utah non-boater side of things. Both Justin and Terry earned berths to the BASS National Championship back at Pickwick Lake AL.

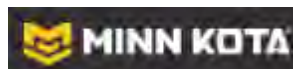


### *National Championship, Pickwick Lake AL 12-14 November*

Justin Hicks and Terry Peterson did not get much of a break after closing out the western divisional on Lake Mead and headed off to Pickwick Lake, Alabama to represent Utah and compete for an opportunity to fish the BASSMASTER CLASSIC.

At the conclusion of day one Justin Hicks was in the middle of the pack in 16<sup>th</sup> place on the boater side of things with 11-6, but Terry Peterson was standing tall and leading the non-boater division with 14-10. High winds destroyed Justin's primary fishing area, forcing him to change up and adjust to the conditions with limited success. Terry worked his magic once again on Day two weighing in 6-13, winning the co-angler division, \$10,000 and paid entry into the BASSMASTER Open series of his choice plus moving on to compete on day 3 for an opportunity to win a boat and compete in the BASSMASTER Classic. BASS provided Terry a fully rigged boat to use on day 3 as he competed against the 11 remaining anglers for the three coveted spots in the 2021 BASSMASTER Classic, as the day progressed the fish didn't cooperate enough and Terry managed to bring three fish to the scales and finish in 12<sup>th</sup> place overall.

Congratulations and Thank-you to both Justin and Terry, they are both true professionals that represented themselves, their families and the Utah BASS Nation to perfection.





## TOURNAMENT NEWS (continued)

### November State Team Qualifier 5-7 November 2020

Just to stay with the unique 2020 year and constant requirement to stay flexible due to the covid-19 protocols; for this tournament to transpire and receive approval we had to submit a social distancing plan and rules of operation to the Utah DNR for approval. The guidelines prevented us from having a pretournament meeting, sponsor row, raffle and free dinner.

The UTBN team streamlined the tournament operation and got things lined up for a field of 27 boaters and 24 non-boaters. Day 1 had boater Don Allphin leading the pack with 14.95, Josh Worth with 13.97, Bill Brown at 13.26 and Ben Byrd with 13.06, for the non-boater side of things Rusty Bennett was sitting on top with 9.75, Tate Brown in second with 8.88, Shaun Lepper at 8.18 and Jason Metcalf with 8.13.

The weather forecast for Day 2 had a major cold front moving through bringing crazy 47 mph winds with a temperature drop, so for the first time in over twelve years the UTBN cancelled a tournament day due to the extremely unsafe conditions.

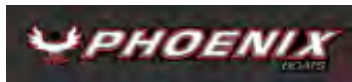
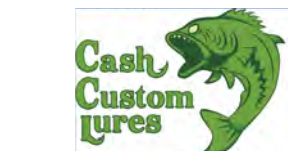
Day 3 dawned and the winds had settled, but a change was still on the way with a shuffle on the leaderboards for both sides. Ben Byrd vaulted into 1st place with a total of 26.68, Tyler Ivie jumped into second with 25.27, Eric Inman anchored third place with 24.77, Bill Brown with 23.83 in fourth, Don Allphin slid to fifth place with 23.10 and Josh Worth closed out the top six with 23.03. The non-boater field experienced a shuffle as well with Tate Brown taking the overall lead with 17.92, Dan Cisneros climbing up to second with 17.75, Mark Shepard moved into third with 16.31 and Rusty Bennett filing out the final four with 15.41.

Congratulations to all the contenders on earning spots on the state team for 2021. Thank-You to everyone for enduring the adjustments to our normal operations due to covid-19 and the weather. This tournament not only rewarded anglers with positions on the 2021 Utah BASS Nation State Team but also paid out \$8165 in prize and option pot money. The spring qualifier paid out \$9405. Bringing the total money paid back for 2 events exceeding \$17,000.

The 2021 Western Divisional will be held at Lake Havasu AZ, 31-Jan thru 5 Feb 2021, host hotels and the tournament information sheet will be sent to all the contestants once it is finalized by BASS. Current Team is composed of the following anglers.

Boater: Ben Byrd, Bill Brown, Justin Hicks, Marc Caldwell, Don Allphin, Tyler Ivie, Jason Warren, Billy Ricker, Eric Inman, Josh Worth

NonBoater: Rick Culver, Rusty Bennett, Tate Brown, Dan Cisneros, Dan Gumber, Hunter Loveless, Josh Thalman, Ed Marlow, Randy Pierson, Mark Shepard





**UTAH B.A.S.S. NATION STATE TEAM QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT #1**  
***Bullfrog Marina, Lake Powell March 19-21, 2021***

- ☐ Boater Entry Fee \$250.00  
☐ Big Fish Option \$30.00  
☐ All American Option \$20.00  
☐ Big Creel Option \$30.00

TOTAL PAID \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY FEE'S AND ENTRY FORMS  
MUST BE SENT IN TOGETHER.**

Option pots may be paid at the pre-tournament meeting. (it is each individuals responsibility to confirm what option pots they are signed up for)

- ☐ Non-Boater Entry Fee \$150.00  
☐ Big Fish Option \$30.00  
☐ All American Option \$20.00  
☐ Big Creel Option \$30.00

TOTAL PAID \_\_\_\_\_

Boater Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 B.A.S.S. # \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boat Insurance Carrier and Policy # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name and # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Utah DNR Quagga Mussel Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boat Hull ID/ Registration number \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Boater Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 B.A.S.S. # \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name and # \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE ON THIS PAGE CONSITUTES THE FOLLOWING**

1. That you have read, understand and agree to abide by the 2021 UTBN Tournament Rules as posted at [www.UTBFN.net](http://www.UTBFN.net)
2. As a participant in this tournament that you expressly assume all the risks associated with this tournament and hereby release BASS, the Utah BASS Nation, it's officers, the host, all participants and all tournament officials from all claims of injury or damage incurred with this event.
3. All boaters in the event must complete the Utah DNR on-line quagga mussel awareness training and have a copy of the certificate displayed on the dash of there tow vehicle and present a copy to the Utah DNR when requested. Training can be completed at the following web address <https://dweapps.Utah.gov/wex/dbconnection.jsp?examnbr=510608>

Sign up with a non-boater to guarantee the use of your boat. Entry Forms must be received no later than 10 March 2021, otherwise a \$25 late fee will be accessed. Make checks payable to the Utah BASS Nation. Returned checks are subject to a \$25 return fee.

**ENTRY FORMS can be mailed to Billy Ricker, 1449 North 1825 West, Clinton UT 84015 (801-499-0080) or email at [utahbassnation@gmail.com](mailto:utahbassnation@gmail.com). PAYPAL is accepted for payment of dues, entry fees and option pots. PAYPAL address is [UTBN@outlook.com](mailto:UTBN@outlook.com) please send as a gift. Or you can use VENMO and the account is @UT-BassNation**

Due to COVID-19 protocol, there will be no pre-tournament meeting, all contestants must register on-line or prior to event. Partner pairings, boat check and blast-off information will be distributed electronically in text message, email and social media.

All state, federal and CDC guidelines for COVID -19 prevention will be adhered to. Weigh-in procedures will be limited to no more than 1 person at the tanks, and face coverings are mandatory. Social distancing must be practiced to maximum extent possible This event is a random draw tournament. Guests may fish this event if there are open spots at an additional cost of \$15.

To be eligible for the 2022 Utah B.A.S.S. Nation State Team you must be a current member of the following : BASS, Utah BASS na-

