

## SUSKIE BASSMASTERS WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES – WEEK 3

Good morning everyone!

Week 3 of the 2026 Suskie Bassmasters Wednesday Night Series is officially in the books, and Mother Nature certainly made everyone earn this one. Anglers battled a scorching **93-degree** evening, high humidity, blazing sunshine, and an **83-degree** river that felt more like bath water than the Susquehanna. Add in a river level of just **1.20 feet** at the Wilkes-Barre gauge, and it made for a long, hot night on the water.

The good news? The fish are finally starting to show signs of recovering from the spawn. While they're still not quite the footballs we all know the Susquehanna can produce, they're definitely getting healthier. Week 3 saw several quality fish come to the scales, including **five bass over the 1½-pound mark**, giving everyone hope that the summer bite is finally starting to come alive.

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### Week 3 Tournament Sponsor

This week's tournament sponsor is **Mean River Tackle**, owned by longtime club member **Ron Russo**. Based inside **570 Tattooing Co.**, located at **390 Pierce Street, Kingston, PA**, Mean River Tackle specializes in **custom baits** and also offers hats, shirts, and other merchandise for anglers who want to represent the brand both on and off the water. The shop can be reached at **(570) 852-5900**, and you can check out the latest baits, apparel, and updates on the Mean River Tackle Facebook page.

Ron has been a **longtime supporter and sponsor** of the Suskie Bassmasters through several of his businesses, and we sincerely appreciate everything he continues to do for our club. This week, he not only sponsored the trophies but also generously included **two bags of Mean River Tackle baits with every trophy winner's prize package!** If you're looking to add some locally made custom tackle to your arsenal or pick up some Mean River Tackle apparel, be sure to stop in, look him up on Facebook, and support one of the businesses that continue to support our club.

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### WEEK 3 TOURNAMENT STATS


- **44 anglers** competed aboard **22 boats**
- **17 fish** were brought to the scales
- **21.78 lbs** total weight
- **1.28 lb** average fish weight
- Fish ranged from **12½" / 0.85 lbs** to **16¼" / 1.99 lbs**

### Season Totals

- **49 fish** weighed
- **61.95 lbs** total weight
- **1.26 lb** season average

 River Level: **1.20 feet** (*Wilkes-Barre Gauge*)

 Water Temperature: **83°**

 Sunny

 Air Temperature: **93°**

 Very Humid

 Barometric Pressure: **29.98**

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### **NOW FOR THE RESULTS...**

Week 3 proved once again that quantity was hard to come by. While **44 anglers** hit the river, only **17 fish** found their way to the scales. The bite continues to be a challenge, but those who managed to connect found fish that are slowly starting to put some weight back on after the spawn. With the summer pattern beginning to develop, it feels like we're getting closer to seeing the Susquehanna really turn on.

As if the fish weren't enough of a challenge, a couple teams spent as much time working on their boats as they did fishing. **Team Miller** found themselves bailing water by hand for much of the evening, while **Team Aufiero** was battling boat issues of their own. Some nights the bass are the easy part.

Now...let's see who managed to survive the heat, the boats, and the bass.

### **On the Bubble**

Just one spot away from hearing their name called...

**Team John Centak** claimed this week's membership in the **Bubble Club**, finishing 5th with a **1.50 lb** smallmouth. They were close enough to smell the cash, but not quite close enough to spend it. Better luck next Wednesday!

### **Wildcard Winner (8th Place)**

Some teams just seem to have a knack for finding the payout table...even if it's through the side door.

This week's Wildcard cash goes to **Team Orloski**, who brought a **13½" smallmouth weighing 1.15 lbs** to the scales. It wasn't enough to crack the Top 4, but it was enough to put a little gas money in the tank. Team Orloski seems to have found a permanent residence in the Wildcard spot, and if that's where the cash is, who's to argue?

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### **4th Place**

After finding themselves in the money for the **second straight week**, **Team Kane** is quietly becoming one of the hottest teams on the river.

Team Kane weighed a beautiful **16½" smallmouth tipping the scales at 1.73 lbs**, earning another 4th place finish. No flashy headlines, no giant fish...just steady, consistent fishing. Championship races aren't always won with victories—they're often won by showing up every week and cashing in. Team Kane is proving exactly that.

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### **3rd Place**

It didn't take long for **Team Saypack** to remind everyone why they're always a threat on Wednesday nights.

Team Saypack brought a **16 $\frac{3}{8}$ " smallmouth weighing 1.86 lbs** to the scales to earn 3rd place. After narrowly missing the money in the opening weeks, they've officially found their rhythm. If this is the start of a hot streak, the rest of the field may want to start paying attention.

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## 2nd Place

You can never count out the defending champions.

**Team Matty Centak** reminded everyone exactly why they're always in the championship conversation by bringing a **17" smallmouth weighing 1.95 lbs** to the scales. It wasn't quite enough to catch Team Hamm this week, but it was enough to move them within striking distance in the Team of the Year race.

The defending champs have quietly worked their way into the top three overall. They may not be making a lot of noise...yet...but don't take your eyes off them.

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## 1st Place – WEEK 3 WINNERS

### Still Your Lunker of the Year Leaders

### Still Your Team of the Year Leaders

For the second week in a row, congratulations go to **Team Hamm!**

...and believe it or not...

### **They did it without Jace!**

After **two weeks of Jace carrying the entire operation**, Corey and the crew finally proved they could get it done on their own. We still have our suspicions, but we'll give them this one.

Team Hamm brought a beautiful **16 $\frac{1}{4}$ " smallmouth weighing 1.99 lbs** to the scales. It wasn't quite enough to beat their own Lunker of the Year mark, but it was plenty to secure another Wednesday night victory and strengthen their grip on the Team of the Year standings.

### **Two wins in a row...**

The rest of the field has officially been put on notice.

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## Small Fish of the Year Update

We have a **new** Small Fish of the Year leader!

After one week at the top of the "little fish leaderboard," **Team Saypack** has officially surrendered the title to **Team Geist**, whose **12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " smallmouth weighing 0.85 lbs** edged out last week's leader by the slimmest of margins.

Congratulations...we think? It may not be the award everyone is chasing, but somebody has to keep the Small Fish of the Year competition interesting!

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## 50/50 Winner

Congratulations to **Team Shaffer** for taking home this week's **\$33 50/50!**

Team Shaffer has officially entered the investment phase of the 50/50. Financial advisors remain cautiously optimistic. At this point, we're beginning to wonder if they buy fishing tackle...or just invest directly into the Suskie Bassmasters 50/50 fund every Wednesday. Whatever the strategy is, it seems to be working. Congratulations on once again getting some of your own money back!

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## Club Apparel Update

The first round of **Suskie Bassmasters apparel** has officially been handed out!

If you ordered shirts and haven't received them yet, please stop by the weigh-in table and see Mike.

Missed the first order? Don't worry! We'll be placing **another apparel order in August**, giving everyone another opportunity to pick up shirts and hoodies.

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Congratulations to all of this week's winners!

Despite the brutal heat, another great evening was spent on the Susquehanna. The fish may still be making everyone work for them, but they're definitely getting healthier. If this trend continues, it shouldn't be long before we start seeing those big, thick summer smallmouth hitting the scales.

The championship race is beginning to tighten up. **Team Hamm** has now won **back-to-back tournaments**, but **Team Kane** continues to cash in, the defending champions are quietly climbing the standings, and several teams are within striking distance. Three weeks down...and there's still a lot of fishing left.

Can Team Hamm make it three in a row?

Will the defending champions continue their climb?

Who's going to knock off the Lunker of the Year?

And...will those post-spawn footballs finally start showing up?

There's only one way to find out...


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## SUSKIE BASSMASTERS WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES – WEEK #4

The next tournament will be held **Wednesday, July 8th**.

 **Registration:** Approximately **4:30 PM**

 **Launch:** **5:30 PM**

 **Weigh-In:** **9:00 PM** (*All boats must be between the bridges by 9:00 PM.*)

**Tournament results, season standings, and weekly recaps are also posted on our website at [www.suskiebass.org](http://www.suskiebass.org). If you notice any mistakes, omissions, or discrepancies in this week's results or recap, please don't hesitate to let us know. We do our best to ensure everything is accurate and appreciate your help in keeping our records correct.**

Another Wednesday night is in the books. Some teams are heading home with cash, trophies, and bragging rights. Others are already thinking about the one that got away. That's tournament fishing.

**From all of us on the board at the Suskie Bassmasters, have a happy, fun, and safe Fourth of July weekend!**

**Let's do it all again next Wednesday.**

**Good luck, tight lines, and heavy bags!** 