

Valley Basscasters to try another community service project.

Last summer, the club started a food drive to help the needy, and the project was so successful that the Basscasters decided to make it an annual activity.

"We figured everyone tries to collect food around the holidays and the food banks get low during the summer, so we worked with a group to do it then," said Armand Fortier, who coordinated the project for the club.

The recipient of the food drive was the Christian Fellowship Center of Bristol, which provides free groceries, hot meals, clothing and household items to needy families.

Club members solicited non-perishable foods from fellow workers and family, and the Basscasters also had a one-day collection similar to the setup they arrange at Wal-Mart for the Toys for Tots drive.

"We got in touch with the local Stop and Shop supermarket and asked to set up our boat outside so we could collect food from people as they were coming in and out of the store," said Fortier.

The Basscasters collected items for eight hours. Afterward, the Christian Fellowship Center met the club members at the store to load the collection into a van. "We filled about half of a van from top to bottom," said Fortier. ■



Members of the Mohawk Valley Basscasters collected food for the needy during the holidays and over the summer break. Photo courtesy of Armand Fortier

## 24-hour open tourney

**SUMMERVILLE, S.C.** — South Carolina anglers buck tradition with a tournament that lasts 24 hours and allows them to fish where they want.

Since the club was established in 1972, the Summerville Bassmasters have hosted an open tournament that allows anglers a wide range of fishing spots. "You are allowed to go to any public waters in the state that will allow anyone

to fish," said Sam Dorr, the club's secretary.

The tournament is set up on an honor system. "We meet at a designated place on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock [usually at a store parking lot] and then we go out until the final weigh-in at 2 o'clock the next afternoon. We also have a courtesy weigh-in on Saturday night [around 9 o'clock] at a designated spot to help save some of the fish."

The weigh-ins are usually held at a spot close to where the majority of the anglers are fishing. The tournament pays the Top 3 individual finishers and awards trophies to the Top 3 singles and teams. The rest of the tournament proceeds funds the club's expenses for its six-man team and annual banquet.

The club's most recent 24-hour tournament, in August 2009, drew 30 competitors. Several club members fished the event because it was a points tournament for the club.

"We really have some good turnout with guests too because we spread the word," said Dorr. ■

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