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# The River News

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The Official Newsletter Of The Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Volume 14, No. 10

October, 2002

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## Impressive Catches Highlight End of Tournament Season; Curt Kirby Captures Angler Of The Year Title

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*Scott Ferral displays his outstanding 8.61-lb., 27.75" entry that captured first place in the year's final tournament.*

The 2002 DRFA tournament season ended with some impressive winning catches in the final smallmouth and catfish events, while Curt Kirby and Bill Marshall took the Angler of the Year competition right down to the final weigh-in.

Club members competing in the September 29 smallmouth

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*Richard Callahan's 6.08-lb. catfish tied with George Hoffman's entry for weight but took second place by 1/2" with a 26.75" length.*

tournament were greeted with typically tough smallmouth fishing conditions as only 8 of the 35 anglers competing were able to



*The 2002 DRFA Angler of the Year, Curt Kirby, is all smiles after his entry in the 10/13 catfish tourney locked up the top spot in the final point standings.*



*George Hoffman tries stretching his 6.08-lb. catfish but had to settle for third place on the basis of its 26.25" length.*

bring a legal-size fish to the scales. But the winning anglers in that tournament made it look easy by bringing several nice smallies to the scale. Winner Bob Bonczyk

### Important Dates

**Thursday October 31:**

7:00 pm. Monthly meeting. Back upstairs meeting room of The Sportsmen's Center, Route 130 North, Bordentown, NJ.

**Thursday, November 21:**

7:00 pm. This special date for the monthly meeting is one week before Thanksgiving Day. Back upstairs meeting room of The Sportsmen's Center, Route 130 North, Bordentown, NJ. Nominations and elections for 2003 officers must be completed so that we can keep the club running strong in the coming year.

lead the way with a 2.47-lb. smallmouth bass that measured 18.125. His fishing partner Curt Kirby was just two hundredths of a pound behind, with a 2.45-lb. entry. Even third place finisher Bill Marshall had a 1.78-lb entry that would have won in a number of past smallmouth tournaments.

The winners in the October 13 catfish tournament did even better than that. First-place finisher Scott Ferral took the \$125 top prize with a hefty 8.61-lb catfish. The next two heaviest catfish were tied at 6.08-lbs., so second and third place had to be decided on the basis of length. Richard Callahan earned the second-place \$75 prize with his 26.75" fish, while third place finisher George Hoffman took the \$50 prize with his 26.25" fish.

At that same event, Curt Kirby locked up the top prize in the Angler of the Year competition by scoring in his seventh tournament of the year. Runner-up Bill Marshall entered fish in six tournaments to finish well ahead of the rest of the competitors who entered five fish or less.

But an interesting statistic was how close the competition was in terms of points scored by each of the top contestants in the tournaments in which they entered fish. Kirby averaged 86 points per tournament for his seven tournaments. Marshall averaged 92 points per tournament for the six in which he placed. George Hoffman averaged 92 points per tournament, Bill Etzl averaged 90 points, Bob Bonczyk averaged 88 points, and Anthony Scholl Sr. averaged 88 points for each of the five tournaments in which they entered fish. Congratulations to these top finishers and to all DRFA anglers who competed in this year's



*Bob Bonczyk edged out his fishing partner, Curt Kirby, to take top spot in the September 29 tournament with this 2.47-lb smallmouth.*



*Curt Kirby finished just 0.02-lb. behind with an equally magnificent fish weighing 2.45 lbs. and measuring 17.5" long.*



*Third place in the September smallmouth tournament went to Bill Marshall for this 1.78-lb. fish that measured 17.25".*

events. (A complete listing of the final standings is included on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.)

The Angler of the Year award will be presented at the December meeting/Holiday Party to be held on Thursday, December 19, 2002.

## Minutes of the September Meeting

The September meeting of the DRFA was called to order by club secretary Pete Antoniewicz at 7:05 pm with 21 members attending.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Matt Kicinski reported a balance of \$6,469.97 in the club account.

**Environmental:** Members discussed their recent fishing experiences, but there were no specific environmental reports.

**Old Business:** Checks and trophies for the September largemouth tournament were awarded.

Pete Antoniewicz reported on the success of the 2002 Big Cat Shootout II and thanked those club members who worked to make the event a successful fundraiser for the club. He also thanked Ron Soto and Tom Zerumski for handling the September newsletter mailing.

**New Business:** Dave Wermuth, Michael Hall, and Frank Beck volunteered to help with registrations and weigh-ins for the September 29 smallmouth tournament. Curt Kirby, Bob Bonczyk, and Joe Newton volunteered to help with the October 13 catfish tournament.

Members in attendance continued their discussions on ways to fill different responsibilities for club activities for the coming year. They also discussed possible new

activities to try. Joe Newton volunteered to look into the possibility of using the Burlington City boat ramp for a tournament next year. Steve Raulfs volunteered to help with setting up the January outdoor show if Terry Trexler is unable to do so. Pete Antoniewicz discussed possible options for a youth fishing tournament next season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm right after Eileen Kicinski won \$16 in the 50/50 drawing.

## DRFA Anglers Take 6th Place In SJBCA Bass Bowl

A team of six DRFA anglers represented the club in the October 20 "Bass Bowl" held by the South Jersey Bass Club Association at Union Lake in Millville, New Jersey.

The SJBCA is an association of 23 fishing clubs in the South Jersey area. Its purpose is to minimize tournament scheduling conflicts among local fishing clubs, particularly for open fishing tournaments. At the end of every season, the SJBCA runs the "Bass Bowl" tournament as a friendly competition among the various member clubs. The DRFA has a reciprocal associate membership in that association as they do in our association.

Participation on this year's team was offered to the top point winners in this year's DRFA largemouth bass tournaments. The team consisted of Bill Marshall, Bruce Galinat, Dave Milburn, Pete Antoniewicz, and the father/son tandem of Anthony Scholl Sr. and Anthony Scholl Jr.

Fishing was tough for most of the 12 clubs competing on the blustery day with a weather front moving through, with only three of the 12

clubs recording double-digit weights. The DRFA team placed sixth among the 12 teams on the basis of three fish weighed in by Bill, Bruce, and Dave, totalling 5 lbs., 7 oz..

DRFA club members will be eligible to compete in next year's Bass Bowl provided we can attend the required number of SJBCA monthly meetings.

## Know How To Spot An Intruder

With the increased signs of flathead catfish in the Delaware River drainage, fisheries biologists are asking recreational anglers to keep an eye out for those fish and to remove them from the water permanently if they should catch one. *(For more information, or to report the location and size of a flathead catch, you can contact Mark Boriek of NJ Fish and Wildlife at (908) 236-2118, or Ann Faulds of Pennsylvania Sea Grant at (215) 471-2216.)*

The key characteristic distinguishing the flathead catfish from other catfish is that the lower jaw projects beyond the upper jaw.

Other characteristics include:

1. A broadly flattened head
2. The tail is only slightly indented, appearing more rounded or square
3. The body is yellowish brown to dark brown with black or brown mottling on lighter brown sides.
4. Young fish may be very dark, almost black in appearance.



Flathead Catfish



Channel Catfish



Brown Bullhead



White Catfish

## Angler of the Year Top Ten Standings

*Here are the final top-ten finishers in the race for the 2002 Dave Bryant Angler of the Year award. Congratulations to all anglers who competed in this year's events. The complete final standings are included on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.*

#	Name	Points
1.	Curt Kirby	605
2.	Bill Marshall	550
3.	George Hoffman	462
4.	Bill Etzl	454
5.	Bob Bonczyk	443
6.	Anthony Scholl	439
7.	Scott Ferral	377
8.	Ed Ott	365
9.	Ed Evans	364
10.	Pete Antoniewicz	339

Final Standings For The DR

Fishing Reports

The following reports were gathered on October 19th. At this point, it remains to be seen how well fishing will bounce back from the mid-October high and muddy conditions. If you have any fishing success to report, contact Pete Antoniewicz by phone or E-mail at the contact points listed on the back cover of this newsletter so we can include updates on our Web site fishing reports.

Tidal River:

The following fishing report was posted by Bill Brinkman on October 17th on the Web site of **Brinkman's Bait and Tackle** in Northeast Philly (215-632-0674) <<http://members.aol.com/wormpeople/>>

“Well with the weather we had this week you should know how many reports came back to us. And as for me, well another week without seeing water. But hell I'm starting to get used to it by now.

The best word for the week is that the stripers are starting to show up better each day now. The big weekend tournament at Wildwood last weekend several stripers were taken. The main fish picked up over the weekend in the tournament was bluefish but it was good to see the amount of stripers that were picked up. Also up the Delaware Bay around the horseshoe some bigger stripers were also picked up. I talked to one customer that was out trolling white and chartreuse Sassy Shad and picked up four stripers between 15 and 21 pounds. The Cape May rips have shown plenty of stripers but most under 25 inches. But up north from Montauk to Island State Park plenty of stripers are being picked up off the beaches and off shore to boot. These fish have ranged from 20 inches to 40 pounds. The beach fishing has still been mostly blues

Position	Name	Points	Weight	Length
1	Curt Kirby	605	14.52	117.75
2	Bill Marshall	550	15.70	109.75
3	George Hoffman	462	16.50	97.88
4	Bill Ettl	454	12.55	91.50
5	Bob Bonczyk	443	13.11	93.38
6	Anthony Scholl Sr.	439	12.58	94.00
7	Scott Ferral	377	18.74	85.75
8	Ed Ott	365	13.67	81.50
9	Ed Evans	364	11.94	77.75
10	Pete Antoniewicz	339	8.02	65.75
11	Michael Zimba	283	12.99	65.00
12	Richard Callahan	273	12.29	70.50
13	Hollis Laing	262	9.97	62.00
14	Phil Bakanowsky	261	7.02	52.50
15	Mike Geppert	250	5.31	51.00
16	Steve Schumacher	248	6.57	54.50
17	Jim Wood	238	7.72	57.25
18	Russell Hall	193	10.61	47.75
19	John Turgyan	193	8.84	39.50
20	William Cox	191	2.98	28.25
21	Ron Soto	189	8.36	40.63
22	Joseph Newton	184	7.39	43.75
23	Joel Foster	183	8.75	47.25
24	Dale Cooley	178	7.25	42.00
25	Todd Hall	176	7.38	44.88
26	Harry Bareuther	175	3.98	34.00
27	Laura Newton	173	6.15	39.50
28	Anthony Scholl Jr.	169	3.74	34.75
29	Jose Rodriguez	166	3.54	32.00
30	Rich Hoffman	165	6.50	42.63
31	Rick Mawson	165	5.57	37.75
32	Joe Pocetti	164	5.57	39.00
33	Bob Napoli	162	6.54	41.00
34	J.R. Ferral	152	4.92	36.50
35	Thomas Zerumski	150	5.25	37.50
36	Ken Reitz	143	3.85	35.25

## 12 Angler Of The Year Award

Position	Name	Points	Weight	Length
37	Michael Havens	100	2.44	17.25
38	Dave Milburn	99	3.09	18.75
39	Bruce Galinat	99	2.13	16.25
40	Scott Morgan	97	2.12	15.25
41	Chris Hoffman	95	1.56	15.50
42	Marty Marshall	95	0.90	12.75
43	Patrick Merrill	93	3.26	20.50
44	Steve Stackhouse	92	3.16	19.75
45	David Wermuth	89	3.43	22.00
46	Paul Bary Jr.	89	3.03	18.25
47	Paul Bary	88	3.01	17.00
48	Ronald Kall	85	3.20	21.25
49	Richard Schroeder	84	2.61	19.50
50	Matt Ott	83	3.14	20.38
51	Dave Bingel	83	2.59	18.50
52	Nicole Feldman	81	2.72	20.50
53	Luke Stackhouse	81	2.44	17.75
54	Matt Siems	78	2.35	18.25
55	Jim Pocetti	77	2.40	18.75
56	Linda Ott	74	2.63	19.75
57	Mike Brakonieccki	74	2.24	18.00
58	Frank Beck	73	2.62	20.75
59	Neil Skolnik	73	1.76	16.75
60	Aaron Skolnik	70	1.51	15.75
61	Joe Farry	69	1.87	17.50
62	Dan Watkins	68	1.84	17.50
63	Sonny Pappalardo	67	1.80	17.75
64	Mark Fittery	66	1.76	17.75
65	Raymond Kitson	65	1.73	16.75
66	Jeremy Pasternak	63	1.72	17.75
67	??????	62	1.70	16.50
68	Dan Schroeder	61	1.66	16.50
69	Mark Schroeder	60	1.54	17.00
70	Linda Siems	59	1.54	15.75
71	Michael Hall	57	1.42	15.25
72	Mark Bower	56	1.38	15.25
73	Dave Schroeder	55	1.26	15.00

all up and down the coast, kingfish and croakers mixed in from the central to southern part of Jersey. And some really big croakers are being picked up in the Delaware Bay. The weakfishing slowed a bit this week but some of the bigger fish are still in the area. No tuna fishing was done this week with the big storms off shore. The sea bass fishing is still one of the best things off shore but the winds keep most of these trips down also. And blackfishing will open soon and these fish are just waiting to be caught.

“The Delaware River smallies were picked up here and there but the river level went up 3 feet and got very muddy from the rain over the weekend. Some guys went up on Tuesday before the second rain storm and only picked up a few fish right on the shore lines. They all told me the river was high, off color and pretty much un-fishable. No better news from the Susquehanna River. The river sat at 4 feet on Friday before the rain and was over 6 feet by Monday. Then the river started to drop back into the 4-foot range then the river started to rise from the rain we had on Wednesday. It was also not just high but very off color. So several guys went out last weekend but no one got back to me which I think meant they did not do very well.

“The trout fishing in Core Creek, Levittown Lake and the Wissahickon Creek has been one of the better things to do up this way the past few weeks. All these places were stocked two weeks ago and have produced some really nice size trout. Now I'm not talking wall hangers but some 12 to 14 inch trout have been taken. Mealworms, wax worms, power baits, earthworms, spoons and spinners have been the best things to use to fill your creel.

The bass fishing in Rohm Haas has picked up a bit this past few

weeks. I talked to one customer that was up on Tuesday and had a great day with 7-inch pumpkinseed power worms just off the edges of the lily pads. He landed 6 fish, 4 under 12 inches, one 3 pounds, and the other around 4 1/2 pounds. He told me the fish were chasing the herring all over the lake that day. He used RattleTraps but the fish were out too far for him to work the schools. Another lake that has been real good is the shopping center lake off Route 13. This lake has been good for crappies, bluegills, bass, and catfish. I did not hear a word from Churchville or Nockamixon this week.

Some of the rivers and lakes are starting to come alive in South Jersey for crappies, pickerel, and bass. I know as the water cools this is always the best fall fishing around. Minnows are always one of your best baits to use but worms, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, spinners and twister tails are always a great second choice.

Well I know this is short but things are slowing for us and the reports are coming in less each week. I really need your help now, so if you do anything please e-mail me and let me know what is hot. Also still if you want to be put on the mailing list just e-mail me and let me know and I can update you on anything new. Take care and good luck this coming week." Bill

#### Trenton/Yardley/Lambertville:

Dan Leach at **HL Bait & Tackle** in Morrisville, Pennsylvania (215-295-1400) says that fishing was good earlier this month and he has just heard of smallmouth fishing starting to bounce back since the mid-October rains, with several fish approaching 3 lbs. being weighed in from Yardley on north. Water temperatures have steadily decreased into the mid- to upper-50s. Shiners have been the most popular baits he has been selling for the smallies. In other action,

Dan has also heard reports of a few walleyes being taken on nightcrawlers.

At **Ron's Trigger and Reel** in Ewing, New Jersey (609-695-2818), owner Ron Ernst reports that within the past week he had only heard about a few channel cats being taken from the river. but there was plenty of activity before the rains came. In the non-tidal portion of the river, smallmouth bass were attacking hard minnow plugs, and grubs like the "Fat Alberts" in watermelon and green/pepper colors. Ron reported on several early October trips where they caught lots of smallies, with the largest up to 16.5" taken near the Yardley railroad bridge. They also noticed lots of channel cats in the 2 to 3-lb. range tucked in behind obstructions in the clear shallow waters. He says that they also took a few small stripers and saw "lots" of stripers in the 8" to 12" range feeding on schools of baby shad coming down the river.

#### Easton/Phillipsburg Area:

Farther north, around Phillipsburg, Bill Pierce at **Bill's Bait and Tackle** (908-859-5729) Phillipsburg, NJ <<http://community-2.webtv.net/BILLSBAIT/FISHINGREPO RT/>> has heard of little about the Delaware River since the mid-month high waters, but says that fishing action was really turning on in the week or so before the cooling evening temperatures and rains put a damper on things. He reported seeing several decent walleyes and several smallmouth bass in the 4-lb. range before the river came up. He also says that customers were reporting seeing large schools of young shad moving down river and really turning on the fishery.

#### Belvidere Area:

Guide **Gene Neiderlander** of **Fish Assured** guide service (908-475-5493) concluded his guided trips for smallmouth bass on October

4th, and reported that they had a good season with more fish over 16" than he has seen in a long time. "We weren't catching 16-inchers every day," he says, "but we might see one or two on average maybe every three to five days throughout the season." Water temps were still in the mid to upper 60s in early October and they were catching 35 to 40 fish per five-hour trip, many of them smallmouths, as the guided season wound down.

#### Lackawaxen Area:

Charlie at **The Angler's Roost** (570-685-2010) in Lackawaxen, PA says that hunting has been taking a lot of potential anglers off the water, but those who are still chasing smallmouth bass are having success with live bait, spinning lures, and streamers. Despite the recent rains, the water up north is running fairly clear, even though it has risen from drought conditions to near normal levels. Pennsylvania has cut back on the fall stocking of the Lackawaxen River, putting in only 1,500 fish instead of the normal 6,000. But brown trout are making their annual run into the tributary streams emptying into the Delaware up north. In other action, Charlie's son Dimitri says that muskies were feeding during a recent trip to the 10 Mile River access area north of Lackawaxen.

## Classified Ads

*As we go through the winter months without tournament fliers and extensive fishing reports to take up space in the newsletter, we will have room once again for member classified ads. If you are interested in buying or selling a fishing boat or other gear, submit your ad to The River News Editor, Pete Antoniewicz at the contact address or phone number listed on the back cover of this newsletter.*

November Tide Predictions, NOAA National Ocean Service

Readings taken at Municipal Pier 11, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

All listings are prevailing time.

Day	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.
1 F	502am L	0.5	1025am H	6.4	524pm L	0.5	1044pm H	6.9
2 Sa	556am L	0.4	1118am H	6.9	623pm L	0.4	1137pm H	7.0
3 Su	649am L	0.2	1209pm H	7.3	720pm L	0.3		
4 M	1229am H	7.0	740am L	0.1	1259pm H	7.6	814pm L	0.1
5 Tu	120am H	7.0	830am L	0.1	148pm H	7.7	908pm L	0.0
6 W	211am H	6.7	920am L	0.1	237pm H	7.6	1000pm L	0.0
7 Th	303am H	6.5	1009am L	0.1	327pm H	7.4	1051pm L	0.0
8 F	356am H	6.1	1058am L	0.1	419pm H	7.1	1142pm L	0.1
9 Sa	451am H	5.8	1148am L	0.2	513pm H	6.7		
10 Su	1233am L	0.1	548am H	5.6	1238pm L	0.4	609pm H	6.5
11 M	124am L	0.3	647am H	5.4	130pm L	0.5	707pm H	6.3
12 Tu	215am L	0.4	746am H	5.5	224pm L	0.6	805pm H	6.2
13 W	307am L	0.4	843am H	5.6	318pm L	0.7	901pm H	6.2
14 Th	358am L	0.5	937am H	5.8	413pm L	0.7	955pm H	6.3
15 F	447am L	0.5	1028am H	6.1	507pm L	0.7	1045pm H	6.3
16 Sa	536am L	0.5	1116am H	6.3	559pm L	0.6	1134pm H	6.3
17 Su	622am L	0.5	1202pm H	6.5	650pm L	0.5		
18 M	1220am H	6.2	706am L	0.5	1245pm H	6.5	738pm L	0.4
19 Tu	104am H	6.0	750am L	0.5	125pm H	6.5	825pm L	0.4
20 W	146am H	5.8	832am L	0.5	203pm H	6.4	911pm L	0.3
21 Th	226am H	5.5	913am L	0.5	238pm H	6.3	955pm L	0.3
22 F	305am H	5.2	955am L	0.4	312pm H	6.3	1040pm L	0.3
23 Sa	342am H	5.0	1037am L	0.4	345pm H	6.2	1125pm L	0.3
24 Su	420am H	4.9	1121am L	0.3	424pm H	6.2		
25 M	1212am L	0.3	505am H	4.9	1209pm L	0.3	512pm H	6.2
26 Tu	100am L	0.3	559am H	5.0	102pm L	0.4	611pm H	6.1
27 W	150am L	0.3	700am H	5.2	159pm L	0.4	716pm H	6.2
28 Th	243am L	0.3	803am H	5.6	300pm L	0.4	820pm H	6.2
29 F	338am L	0.2	903am H	6.0	403pm L	0.4	922pm H	6.3
30 Sa	433am L	0.1	1000am H	6.4	504pm L	0.3	1020pm H	6.4

Station	Time Differential		Height Differential	
	High	Low	High	Low
Marcus Hook, Pa.	-1 29	-1 16	*0.90	*0.90
Bridgeport, Raccoon Creek, N.J.	-1 13	-0 55	*0.87	*0.87
Darby Creek, Pennsylvania				
Tinicum National Wildlife Refuge	-0 26	+0 18	*0.71	*0.71
Paulsboro, Mantua Creek, N.J.	-0 25	-0 28	*0.90	*0.90
Woodbury Creek, N.J.	-0 19	-0 23	*0.93	*0.93
Schuylkill River, Phila., Market Street Bridge	-0 26	-0 09	*0.97	*0.97
Westville, Rt 47 bridge, Big Timber Creek, NJ-0 04	-0 06	-0 06	*0.94	*0.94
PHILADELPHIA, Municipal Pier 11	+0 00	+0 00	+0.00	+0.00
Bridesburg, Philadelphia, Pa.	+0 11	+0 13	*1.04	*1.04
Palmyra, Pennsauken Cr., Rt 73 bridge, N.J.	+0 49	+0 57	*0.84	*0.84
Pompeston Creek, N.J.	+0 19	+0 37	*1.02	*1.02
Bridgeboro, Rancocas Creek, N.J.	+1 09	+1 09	*1.03	*1.03
Cornwells Heights, Pa.	+0 40	+0 49	*1.14	*1.14
Burlington, N.J.	+0 41	+0 58	*1.17	*1.17
Edgely, Pa.	+1 02	+1 19	*1.24	*1.24
Fieldsboro, N.J.	+1 01	+1 30	*1.26	*1.16
Trenton, N.J.	+1 12	+1 48	*1.30	*1.05

Height Differences: For most stations, use of a predicted height difference would give unsatisfactory predictions. In such cases they have been omitted and one or two ratios, indicated by an asterisk (\*), are given. To obtain the height of tide at the subordinate station in these cases, multiply the height of tide at the reference station by the ratio listed. The result is normally rounded to the nearest .1 foot.

**For sale, 12' aluminum Grumman semi-vee/9.9hp/flat floors/rod holders/electronics/2 swivel seats/galvanized trailer/etc. \$1500.00 Call Ron @215-969-4727 or weekdays @215-920-3040 Or E-mail rkskidding@aol.com**

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**1992 Sea Nymph FM161 40 HP Johnson w/ power trim. Deluxe Fishing package. Galvanized trailer. Fully equipped. Asking \$4,000.00. Call Roy Olsen, 732-901-1073**

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**From A to Z**

by Pete Antoniewicz

Over the next few months, we will be making decisions on a lot of topics that will affect the running of this club over the next season and beyond. It would be great to have the input and cooperation of as many members as possible in deciding on tournament options, elections, and whether to continue the Big Cat Shootouts – with two, one, or no tournaments next year!

I hope that enough people enjoy enough of what the club has to offer so that we will have the interest and manpower needed to carry on. We have had some very good discussions at the past few meetings and it will be important to start making some specific decisions soon. If at all possible, try to make one or more of the upcoming meetings, especially our December holiday party and elections.

And if you can't make it, give one of our officers or another club member a call to make sure your thoughts are represented at these crucial decision-making meetings. With various people starting to step up in John Strada's absence, we have the momentum. We just have to keep it going.