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# The River News

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The Official Newsletter Of The Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Volume 14, No. 9

September, 2002

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## **“Remainder of 2002 DRFA Tournament Season Cancelled; Angler-Of-The-Year Competition Suspended”**

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*“Due to a lack of volunteers, the final two events of the 2002 DRFA tournament schedule have been cancelled. The club has also been forced to put a hold on accepting new memberships and has suspended the Angler of the Year competition (sorry Curt), because of a lack of volunteers to perform the necessary bookkeeping. Members who wish to receive a newsletter in October will have to pick one up at the club meeting, since no one is available to print out mailing labels. In addition, nearly \$3,000 has been lost from the club treasury due to the failure to sustain the Big Cat Shootout tournaments.”*

No, things are not quite that desperate...yet! But without new volunteers stepping forward to handle the various behind-the-scenes work of recordkeeping and bookkeeping, DRFA members can expect to see some cutbacks in the information and services we have all come to take for granted in recent years.

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As one club member put it at the August 29 meeting, “We’re in dire straits here. This should be a wake-up call to club members.”

There are a number of ways that members can help. If each person would only take on one small task, it won’t be hard. You do not need a computer. All tasks can be handled on a paper and pencil basis.

At the August meeting, Secretary Pete Antoniewicz asked members to elect him to only two positions – any two positions they choose – and to fill the remaining tasks themselves. The club will have the opportunity to do so at the September meeting. What happens from then on is up to the DRFA membership.

Unlike some other hunting or fishing clubs, the DRFA has traditionally not demanded much in the way of time or fundraising efforts from its members, beyond the \$10 or \$15 in dues. Fortunately, *(or unfortunately as it now turns out)*, many of the routine tasks of maintaining a 250- to 400-member club have been handled by just a few club officers. As a result of recent events, however, some of the routine tasks that have “automatically” been taken care of for the past five to seven years are now in need of new stewards.

To date, the club has served more than 250 members with Web site and newsletter fishing reports and informative articles on stripers,

catfish, and bass this year. We have provided fishing competition for more than 70 tournament participants, and paid out \$1,325 dollars in total prize money to 16 different anglers in the six tournaments held to date.

What happens in the near future is up to you. You can say, “It’s only a \$10-\$15 membership, I don’t care.” Or you can say, “It’s ONLY \$10-\$15 for a membership, and I don’t want to lose that!”

Either way, the DRFA will carry on. Whether that is in a diminished capacity, or with the full financial, social, and information-exchange benefits, is up to its members. You can make this club whatever you want it to be.

### **Important Dates**

#### **Thursday September 26:**

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

#### **Sunday, September 29:**

Club smallmouth tournament at  
Byram Access Ramp. Check-in  
before 7:00 am start. Weigh-in  
at 1:00 pm sharp. *(See flier on  
page 6 for map and directions.)*

#### **Sunday, October 13:**

The final club event of the year  
will be a Catfish Tournament  
held at the Frankford Arsenal  
Ramp. Check in before the 7:00  
am start. Weigh-in is at 1:00 pm  
sharp. *(See tournament flier on  
page 7 for map and directions.)*



The top three finishers in the September Largemouth tournament pose with their winning entries. From left are Curt Kirby, third place (2.54 lbs.), Pete Antoniewicz, first place (3.74 lbs.) and Dave Milburn, second place, (3.09 lbs.).

## Pete Antoniewicz Takes Largemouth Tournament; Curt Kirby Moves Into AOTY Lead

While only eight anglers managed to bring a legal fish to the scales at the September 8 largemouth tournament, the overall average size of the winning entries was better than it has been in years. A total of 31 anglers registered for the event. The average size of all entries was 15.75" and 2.58 lbs.

The top prize went to Pete Antoniewicz who entered a 19", 3.74-lb. largemouth. Dave Milburn finished second with a 3.09-lb. 18.75" fish. And Curt Kirby used his third-place 16", 2.54-lb bass to earn enough points to vault to the top of the Angler of the Year rankings, with just two events left.

Thank you, to Ron Soto and Tom Zerumski who helped with angler registrations on the morning of the tournament and to Matt and Eileen Kicinski who helped with the weigh-in and Ron Soto and Jim Pocetti who helped with the photography.

## Big Cat Shootout II A Growing Success

Based on a nearly 15% increase in registrations, the 2002 Big Cat Shootout II was a greater success than last year.

Club members should not underestimate the value of the two club-sponsored Big Cat events. The funds raised from this September's event alone netted the club as much money as seventy \$10-memberships, or as much as one hundred \$15 memberships would have yielded, and we all know how hard it is to raise membership by that many people.

Thanks to Tom "Coffee Man" Zerumski, Ken "Early Bird" Reitz, Ron Soto, Chet Hoffman, Bud Faux, Horace Anderson, and Pete Antoniewicz for helping to organize the captain's meeting on Friday evening and the boat inspections on Saturday morning. They were also joined on Saturday afternoon at the weigh-in by Bob Bonczyk, Eileen Kicinski, and Matt Kicinski.

The entire group pitched in willingly to handle the many behind-the-scenes jobs that made the tournament run smoothly. And they are available to offer guidance to our new Big Cat Shootout coordinator for the 2003 season.

The top four prize-winning teams were as follows:

1. Jack Marter took top honors with a total catch of 29 lbs. 4 oz. Jack also won the lunger pool with an 11-lb. 9-oz. channel cat.
2. William Tillett and Jim Tillett, Jr. took second place with a combined weight of 19 lbs. 1 oz.
3. Walt Szmodis and Erick Black captured third with 16 lbs. 5 oz. of catfish.

4. Todd Hall and Russ Hall took fourth place with a total weight of 14 lbs. 8 oz.

In all, 40 boats were entered in the event. 30 boats brought 89 fish to the scales, weighing a total of 326 lbs. 13 oz. That computes to an average weight of 3.67 lbs. per fish.

## Minutes Of The August Meeting

The August 29, 2002 meeting of the DRFA was called to order by club secretary Pete Antoniewicz at 7:08 pm with 14 members in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Matt Kicinski reported a balance of \$5,837.57 in the club account.

**Environmental:** After discussing recent fishing experiences, members reported that the property formerly known as Ebel's Marina has been reopened as Paradise Marina and continues to offer its launching ramp facilities for \$10 a day.

**Old Business:** Checks and trophies for the August catfish tournament were awarded.

Thanks to Ron Soto and Tom Zerumski for handling the August newsletter mailing.

**New Business:** Frank Beck volunteered to help with registrations for the September 8 largemouth tournament and Matt Kicinski volunteered to help with the weigh-in.

A number of club members also volunteered to help with the Big Cat Shootout II tournament. Tom Zerumski, Chet Hoffman, and Ron Soto volunteered to help Pete Antoniewicz at the Captains' Meeting. Ron and Tom volunteered to help with the Saturday morning

**DRFA Contacts: President** – To be elected; **Vice-President/Tournament Coordinator** – Michael Hall, 215-945-0126; **Treasurer** – Matt Kicinski, 215-426-5086; **Membership Secretary** – To be elected; **Recording Secretary** – Pete Antoniewicz, 609-466-7719; **Editor of The River News** – Pete Antoniewicz, 609-466-7719

**DRFA The River News Club Website: Tournament II-4th- 215-945-0005**

boat checks. And Chet, Horace Anderson, Bud Faux, Eileen Kicinski, and Matt Kicinski signed up to help with the weigh-in. Club members helped Pete Antoniewicz draw up a "to do" list of items and tasks to prepare for the tournament.

Members also discussed ways to get more club members involved in the day-to-day activities of the club. One suggestion was to send printed newsletters to all club members to make sure they were made aware of what is going on with the club.

The winner of the \$11 prize for the 50/50 was Bud Faux. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

### Supporting Business Member Updates

In our new supporting business member feature published last issue, we inadvertently forgot to mention Ron Meszaros as the second partner in Snug Harbor Marina. We apologize for the mistake and remind DRFA members that they can see either Ron or his partner Roland Reuther to take advantage of their DRFA member "Get Acquainted" offers. As an introductory offer they are giving DRFA members 10% off of any Mercury outboard, or \$200 off any new boat currently in stock on their lot.

Snug Harbor Marina, is located on the Neshaminy Creek, at 400 Main Avenue, Croydon, PA 19021. The phone number is 215.788.9155, fax number is 215.788.8784, and Web site is [www.snugharborpa.com](http://www.snugharborpa.com)

Apologies also to Ron Ernst of Trigger and Reel in Ewing Township, New Jersey. We failed to post Ron's business information on the cover of the newsletter the past few months: Ron's Trigger and Reel, 60 Arctic Parkway, Ewing, NJ. Hunting and fishing

supplies and live bait. 609-695-2818. Please accept our apology for the oversight, Ron.

### Fishing Reports

*The following reports were gathered on the weekend of September 14th and 15th. The consensus seems to be that we're in a transition phase between the summer and fall seasons, as cool nighttime temperatures have cooled down the water in spurts.*

#### Tidal River:

The following fishing report was posted by Bill Brinkman on Friday, September 13th on the Web site of **Brinkman's Bait and Tackle** in Northeast Philly (215-632-0674) <<http://members.aol.com/wormpeople/>> A more detailed report is available on that site.

"Well the weather is going to effect this fishing report again this week. With the big storm off shore on Tuesday and Wednesday the fishing down the shore was little to none. And the drought is really starting to show it signs on the rivers and streams around here. Also 9/11 sure shut business down this past Wednesday. But fishing still goes on.

"I wasn't able to get out this past week myself with Bruce up the mountains for the week. He fished the upper Delaware River around Narrowsburg and had a fair day on

smallies. He boated 9 fish and lost 6, all on artificials. Grubs and rebel crayfish were his best two lures. Trolling the crayfish up river and fishing the grubs on the drift back down is how he fished all day. He had four fish over 14 inches and the rest down to 9 inches.

"In the New Hope section, the river has been very good for bass. One customer was up on Monday and waded and landed over 40 bass from 8 to 15 inches. His best bait was minnows. He did pick a few fish up on grubs and spinners but the minnows seemed to be the ticket. And that holds true all over for smallies. A couple of people did the drift from the canoe rental

### Angler of the Year Top Ten Standings

*Here are the leaders in the race for the 2002 Dave Bryant Angler of the Year award. Standings are current as of the September 8th largemouth tournament.*

#	Name	Points
1.	Curt Kirby	414
2.	George Hoffman	364
3.	Anthony Scholl	362
4.	Bill Marshall	358
5.	Bill Ettl	279
6.	Scott Ferral	277
7.	Ed Ott	268
8.	Bob Bonczyk	267
9.	Mike Geppert	250
10.	Mike Zimba	196

### Remaining 2002 Tournament Schedule

Mark your calendar with this list of DRFA club tournaments scheduled for the remainder of this season. All events are open to registered DRFA members only – with no additional entry fee. **Be sure to check your newsletters, the DRFA Web site, or the new Tournament Hotline (215-945-3635) in the weeks before each tournament to confirm any changes.**

Day	Date	Event	Hours	Location
Sun.	Sept. 29	Smallmouth	7 am - 1 pm	Byram, NJ
Sun.	Oct. 13	Catfish	7 am - 1 pm	Frankford Arsenal

this week and both groups had days over 75 fish per boat all on minnows. One guy had a fish over 18 inches and plenty of catfish also. One other customer fished out of Stockton and boated 40 fish with one 20" and another 18" fish. On the Delaware these are great size fish.

"In the lower river around us the catfish have turned on real good this past week. I think the cooler weather has something to do with it. John was out for largemouth bass on Tuesday and boated 5 largemouth and 4 catfish all on firetiger bomber flat a's. A customer was in yesterday and had a great night for cats Wednesday boating over 25 fish with his son and all the fish were 2 to 5 pounds. He was using chicken livers, nightcrawlers and beef chunks. Another customer was up Station Ave. yesterday and caught 4 cats and 2 small stripers on bloodworms. The stripers in the lower river have seemed to shrink even more the past few weeks. Several guys have been catching plenty of fish but nothing over 14 inches. There have been some bigger fish taken in the upper river around the Water Gap and down river around Salem. Here the fish have been hitting eels, herring, and bloodworms in live baits, and poppers and large crankbaits for artificials. Big twister tails and sassy shads are also great baits to use this time of the year. Regards, Bill"

**Trenton/Yardley/Lambertville:**

Dan Leach at ***HL Bait & Tackle*** in Morrisville, Pennsylvania (215-295-1400) says that river reports and activity have been the "same" around his shop with shiners and leeches being the choice for smallmouth fishermen in the Yardley area. He has not had any recent weigh-ins from the river, although he says some of the local lakes are providing reports of

fishing activity.

Ron Ernst at ***Ron's Trigger and Reel*** in Ewing, New Jersey (609-695-2818), says that we seem to have "lucked out" without the river getting too high or muddy yet from the recent rains. Smallmouth bass fishing remains a good bet depending on the temperature fluctuations, with some surface activity, and action still available on minnow plugs as well as on shiners.

Ron reports that 3" or 3-1/2" grubs seem to be a favorite between Yardley and Lambertville while tubes and Rapala Countdowns or Yo-Zuri minnow plugs seem to be favored by anglers fishing north of Lambertville.

**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/>> says that a number of factors have combined to reduce fishing activity in his stretch of the Delaware River. The opening of bow season and goose season, plus cooling nighttime temperatures have flattened out the smallmouth fishing a bit, but he has still had a number of decent weigh-ins from his area of the river over this month, including: channel cats of 9lb. 8oz., 8lb. 9oz., and 7lb. 3oz.; striped bass of 21lb. 9oz. and 14lb; plus a walleye weighing 4lb. 10oz.

**Lackawaxen Area:**

Charlie at ***The Angler's Roost*** (570-685-2010) in Lackawaxen, PA reports that the smallmouths are "not quite" into their autumn mode yet. Up until this past weekend's rains, the water had been low and clear. Fishing pressure has lessened with the tourists gone after Labor Day, with low water conditions for trout fishermen, and with hunting seasons opening up. However, Charlie looks for things to pick up

as water temperatures stabilize and early October trout stockings take hold in the Lackawaxen River.

## From A to Z

by Pete Antoniewicz

With the relatively limited amount of time I have to get out on the water, I have recently been concentrating most of my efforts on the Delaware River, with most of that time spent in pursuit of keeper-size smallmouth bass. *(Although, I must confess to a family-related side-trip out to the Susquehanna River.)* The past month has been very rewarding to me, in a number of ways.

One was the opportunity to fish the upper reaches of the Delaware – from Narrowsburg New York down to the Lackawaxen River and Barryville, New York – during a three-day trip at the beginning of what would normally have been a work week. I told my wife that if I could only go fishing once a year, that would be the place. I say that because of the beauty and the solitude as much as because of the fishing success I had there.

Another great by-product of the trip was the opportunity to meet and spend time with Charlie and Dimitri at the Angler's Roost in Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania. These two gentlemen have been so generous with their time and information over the past few years that I have been gathering these fishing reports, that I wanted to thank them personally for their consideration. In the process, I was treated to another helping of their hospitality.

As is my normal habit when visiting a new area, I inquired about the local preferences for smallmouth lures. Dimitri indicated that the Phillips' Crippled Killer *(a small pointed-torpedo-like lure with propellers at both*

October Tide Predictions, NOAA National Ocean Service

Readings taken at Municipal Pier 11, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. All listings are prevailing time (Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday October 27.)

Day	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.
1 Tu	441am L	0.7	1001am H	5.2	443pm L	0.6	1020pm H	6.4
2 W	538am L	0.7	1057am H	5.6	545pm L	0.6	1117pm H	6.7
3 Th	633am L	0.6	1151am H	6.1	645pm L	0.6		
4 F	1210am H	7.1	726am L	0.5	1243pm H	6.6	743pm L	0.5
5 Sa	101am H	7.3	818am L	0.4	132pm H	7.1	839pm L	0.4
6 Su	152am H	7.5	907am L	0.3	221pm H	7.4	933pm L	0.3
7 M	241am H	7.4	956am L	0.2	310pm H	7.6	1026pm L	0.2
8 Tu	331am H	7.2	1045am L	0.1	400pm H	7.6	1119pm L	0.2
9 W	423am H	6.9	1134am L	0.1	451pm H	7.5		
10 Th	1211am L	0.1	517am H	6.5	1223pm L	0.1	544pm H	7.2
11 F	104am L	0.2	613am H	6.1	114pm L	0.2	640pm H	6.9
12 Sa	158am L	0.2	713am H	5.8	206pm L	0.3	739pm H	6.6
13 Su	252am L	0.3	814am H	5.6	300pm L	0.4	839pm H	6.5
14 M	347am L	0.4	914am H	5.6	355pm L	0.5	938pm H	6.4
15 Tu	442am L	0.5	1012am H	5.7	451pm L	0.6	1034pm H	6.5
16 W	535am L	0.5	1107am H	5.9	545pm L	0.7	1126pm H	6.6
17 Th	626am L	0.6	1157am H	6.2	638pm L	0.8		
18 F	1215am H	6.7	714am L	0.7	1245pm H	6.4	729pm L	0.8
19 Sa	102am H	6.8	759am L	0.7	130pm H	6.6	817pm L	0.8
20 Su	146am H	6.7	841am L	0.8	212pm H	6.7	903pm L	0.8
21 M	229am H	6.6	922am L	0.8	252pm H	6.7	948pm L	0.7
22 Tu	310am H	6.3	1002am L	0.8	329pm H	6.6	1032pm L	0.7
23 W	349am H	6.0	1040am L	0.8	404pm H	6.5	1116pm L	0.6
24 Th	428am H	5.7	1119am L	0.7	437pm H	6.3		
25 F	1200am L	0.6	505am H	5.3	1158am L	0.6	509pm H	6.2
26 Sa	1246am L	0.6	543am H	5.1	1240pm L	0.6	545pm H	6.1
Standard Time begins at 0200								
27 Su	133am L	0.6	528am H	5.0	1227pm L	0.5	534pm H	6.1
28 M	123am L	0.6	624am H	4.9	119pm L	0.5	635pm H	6.1
29 Tu	216am L	0.6	727am H	5.1	218pm L	0.6	743pm H	6.2
30 W	311am L	0.6	829am H	5.4	320pm L	0.6	848pm H	6.4
31 Th	407am L	0.6	929am H	5.8	422pm L	0.6	947pm H	6.6

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				
Tincum 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	*0.94	*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.

ends) was one of his favorites. When I asked about color patterns, thinking that a silver minnow-type pattern might be best at that time of year when the baby shad are moving down river, Dimitri gave me his two best recommendations: "Dark ... and darker," he said. Making a concession to local tastes, and not wanting to offend my host, I promptly took the next-to-last Midnight Black Crippled Killer off the selection card hanging from the fishing lure rack. Before sundown that evening, I had a photograph of a 16" smallmouth bass with that very same black lure still dangling from his lip.

In two early morning trips and two relatively short evening trips, I had 40 fish and eight keepers, with at least one fish of 14" or better on each trip. Not necessarily earth-shattering, but a consistently rewarding result, magnified by the beauty and serenity of fishing crystal clear water over a mixture of SUV-sized boulders interspersed among brilliant green weed beds undulating in the current. And the majestic bald eagle I spotted flying slowly silently upriver was just icing on the cake.

Don't ever let someone tell you that New Jersey or our Northeastern states are just one big truckstop with oil refineries at every exit. There is still plenty of beauty right here in our own backyard. All we have to do is take the time to discover it.

If you do decide to head up to the Lackawaxen area, be sure to stop in at the Angler's Roost at the Two Rivers Junction. And if any of you ever want to explore there or anywhere else on the river, and are looking for company, just give me a call. I'd be glad to join you.

See you on the river.

# DRFA Autumn Club Smallmouth Tournament

Sunday September 29, 2002

7:00 am until 1:00 pm

Byram New Jersey Access Ramp

## RULES:

- All participants must check in between 6:00 AM & 7:00 AM before fishing.
- Only paid members of the D.R.F.A., and qualifying family members \*, may participate and weigh-in fish. (*The most recent membership list will be present at weigh-in.*) There is no separate entry fee.
- Only one (1) smallmouth bass per person will be weighed. The heaviest fish will determine the winner.
- In the event of a tie in weight, the longest fish will determine the winner.
- The fish must have been caught on that day, during the hours of the tournament.
- The fishing area will be limited to the part of the Delaware River and tributaries that can be reached by boat from the Byram Access Ramp. Shore fishing is permitted.
- Weigh-in is at 1:00 pm sharp. Those arriving after 1:00 pm, will not be permitted to weigh-in fish for prizes or points.
- Only legal fishing methods, of the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania may be used. Live bait is permitted
- The smallmouth bass must be alive and of legal size (*minimum 12"*) to be weighed. All fish will be released after weighing.
- The tournament judge will have final say in all disputes.

## PRIZES:

1st Place-\$125

2nd Place-\$75

3rd Place- \$50

Tournament Hotline: 215-945-3635

Tournament Coordinator: Mike Hall 215-945-0126

All anglers weighing in fish, no matter where they place, will accumulate points towards the "Dave Bryant Memorial Angler of the Year" contest.

\*Qualifying family members can only participate if a Family Membership has been purchased. Qualifying family members include any member of the immediate family residing at that home and any immediate children, up to the age of 16, no matter where they live. Grandchildren up to the age of 16 also qualify, no matter where they live.



