
The River News

The Official Newsletter Of The Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Volume 15, No. 10

October 2003

DRFA Concludes 2003 Season With Flurry Of Tournaments; Steve Raulfs Captures Angler Of The Year Title

The last month of the 2003 season saw DRFA anglers participating in four different events – two club events, a youth tournament, and the South Jersey Bass Club Association “Bass Bowl.”

The DRFA's 2003 Dave Bryant Angler of the Year award winner, Steve Raulfs captured the top spot in the September 28 smallmouth tournament to lock up the top point total for the year. His 16.5” smallmouth weighing 1.82 lbs. was



A happy Steve Raulfs shows the fish that helped him earn first place in the September smallmouth tournament as well as lock up Angler of the Year honors.

Contents

Tournament Results (<i>continued</i>)	2
September Meeting Minutes . . .	2
Angler Of the Year Standings . . .	3
Fishing Reports	4
Classified Ads	6
President's Message	6
Tide Tables	7

one of only two entries on a wet, rainy day with high, muddy water conditions. Dennis Boyle was the only other angler to weigh in a legal-sized fish on that day.

Water conditions improved somewhat for the following week's Youth Tournament held at the Byram ramp, but cold water temperatures put a crimp in the action. (*See separate story on results on page 3.*)



Dennis Boyle displays his 12.25”, .65-lb. fish that captured second place in the September smallmouth bass tournament.



Scott Ferral holds his 5.13-lb top-prize winning catfish caught in the last tournament of the 2003 DRFA season.



Karen Laing took second place in the October catfish tournament with this 21.75”, 3.76-lb. fish.

Important Dates

Thursday, October 30:

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

Thursday November 20:

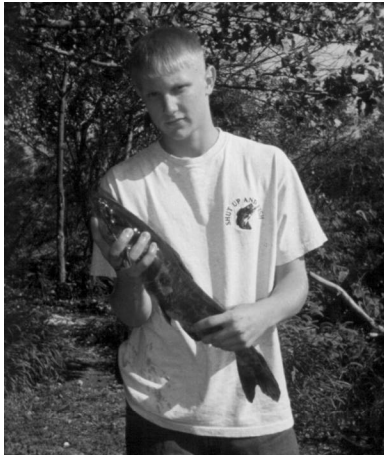
The regular November meeting will be held one week early because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Nominations for the 2004 officers will be open. Meet in the back upstairs meeting room of The Sportsmen's Center, Route 130 North, Bordentown, NJ.

Thursday, December 18:

Our December meeting and holiday party will be held one week before the Christmas holiday. Election of 2004 officers and the 2003 Dave Bryant Angler of the Year presentation will be featured.

Tournament Results (cont.)

Weather conditions and water conditions rebounded somewhat in time for the October 12 catfish tournament as 18 of 22 anglers brought fish to the scales. The average size of all entries was 3.00 lbs. and 20.40”.



J.R. Ferral is shown here with his third-place fish in the October catfish tournament, one measuring 22.75” and weighing 3.69-lbs.

Six DRFA anglers also made a good showing in the South Jersey Bass Club Association “Bass Bowl” held on October 19 at the Susquehanna Flats in upper Chesapeake Bay. (See separate story on page 6 for greater details.)

Minutes of the September Meeting

The September 25th meeting of the DRFA was called to order by club president Pete Antoniewicz at 7:10 pm with 14 members in attendance.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Matt Kicinski reported a balance of \$7,215.25 in the club's treasury.

Environmental: Members reported that the Delaware River was still high and muddy. The water temperature was reported to be 68 degrees.

Old Business: Volunteers are still needed for the September 28th Smallmouth tournament. Frank Beck said that he could help out in the morning. Bob Bonczyk and Curt Kirby will also help out. If anyone else can lend a hand it would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are still needed for the October 12th Catfish tournament. Helping out so far are Joe and Laura Newton, Ron Soto and Tom Zerumski.

The Youth tournament has been rescheduled. It will be held on Saturday, October 4th from 8am to 12:30pm The rain date is Sunday, October 5th Helping out at this tournament will be Joe and Laura Newton, and Tom Zerumski.

Pete brought some stay cool shirts to the meeting for members to try on for size.

Prizes were awarded to the winners of the September 14th Largemouth tournament.

The tournament hotline is down, so for the next two tournaments members should contact Pete Antoniewicz for any changes due to weather or water conditions.

New Business: The South Jersey Bass Club Association is having its "Bass Bowl" tournament on Sunday October 19th. It is only for bragging rights. It will be at the Susquehanna Flats in North East Maryland. Pete will contact members of our club to send to the SJBCA tournament.

Club members discussed tagging catfish as another club tournament for next year, and maybe making it a public tournament for the following year. Any members input for this tournament would be greatly appreciated.

Pete reported that the New Jersey fishing biologists are talking about increasing the legal size for smallmouth in the Delaware River to 15 inches.

All elected and volunteer positions will be open for nominations in October and November for election in December. Pete is going to step down as President due to personal obligations, but Pete will still do the newsletter. The club will need a new President or a Committee of people to run the club.

The winner of the \$10 prize in the 50-50 drawing was Matt Kicinski.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Angler of the Year Top Ten Standings

Here are the final top-ten standings in the race for the 2003 Dave Bryant Angler of the Year award. Complete final results will be posted in a future issue of The River News.

#	Name	Points
1	Steve Raulfs	574
2	Bill Ettl	450
3	Ed Evans	375
4	Chris Hoffman	372
5	Rick Mawson	369
6	J.R. Ferral	358
7	Jim Wood	352
8	Scott Ferral	286
9	Pete Antoniewicz	276
10	Bob Bonczyk	269

Young Anglers Treated To DRFA Tournament Fishing Experience

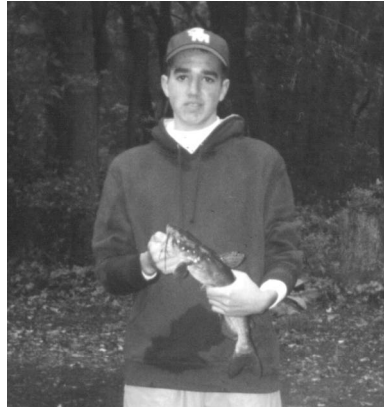
A handful of hardy young anglers were given a crash course in DRFA tournament fishing weather as the sky opened up just as the DRFA Youth Tournament started. Fortunately, the rains let up in time for the weigh-in and refreshments at the end of the tournament.

The event was held on Saturday October 4 at the Byram New Jersey Access Ramp. Six young anglers showed up with their DRFA member relatives to start the event.

While several short fish were landed and several legal fish got away, one of the youth anglers was able to bring an entry to the scales. Jeff Antoniewicz won the Senior Division catfish competition with a 1.89-lb. channel cat.

Each participant received a DRFA fishing cap, a trophy, and a personalized certificate for their efforts. All participants and their fishing partners were treated to refreshments of grilled hot dogs, sodas, and snacks at the end of the day. Despite the less than favorable weather and water conditions, all participants at the post-tournament celebration were in good spirits.

During the post-tournament event some options for next year's tournament were discussed. We will try to avoid conflicts with baseball and soccer seasons, summer vacations, high water conditions, and the hottest days of the summer. This probably means a June tournament on the lower river. Keep an eye on future issues of *The River News* for information on next year's event.



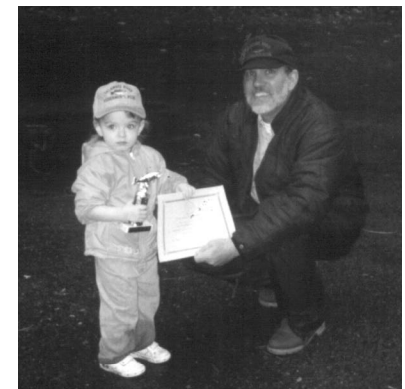
Jeff Antoniewicz displays his 1.89-lb. catfish that earned him top honors in the Senior Division of the DRFA Youth Tournament.



Jeff Antoniewicz receives his trophy and certificate from his uncle, Pete Antoniewicz, with whom he fished on the morning of the tournament.



Andrew Peters joined his cousin Kayla Laing and his uncle Hollis Laing at the DRFA Youth Tournament, to earn his trophy and certificate of participation.



Kayla Laing receives her trophy and certificate after fishing with her dad Hollis and her cousin Andrew Peters.



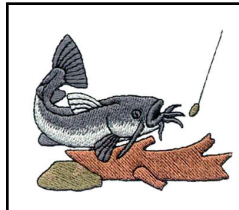
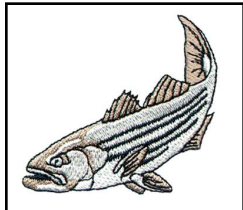
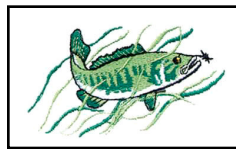
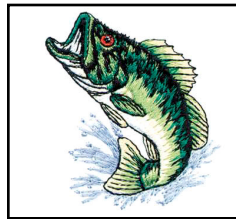
Frank Hess hoists his trophy after fishing the morning with his grandfather Bill Cox.



Ricky May, who fished with his uncle Paul Lyons, receives his trophy and certificate from club president Pete Antoniewicz.

Last Chance for DRFA Club Members To Order New Embroidered Club Shirts

A local vendor has offered personalized embroidered high-tech fishing shirts, complete with your name, club name, and artwork of your favorite fish (largemouth, smallmouth, striper, or catfish). Additional information is available on the Web site and at upcoming meetings. The last chance to order in time for Christmas delivery is at the October meeting. Costs are about \$55.00 to \$60 (depending upon artwork) for fully embroidered shirt and \$40.00 for pants of matching fabric. Contact Pete Antoniewicz at 609-466-7719 for more info.



Fishing Reports

Unless otherwise noted, these fishing reports were gathered on October 21/22.

Tidal River:

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

"Boy this is the second week in a row that I was able to get out and do some fishing. That is more than I have done in two months. We

headed out to the Susquehanna River this past Tuesday and had one hell of a half a day. We got on the river about 8 in the morning and started with a 18 inch and a 17 inch smallie. And by 2 in the afternoon we had close to 80 fish from 10 inches to 18 inches. Then the wind started which made it very hard to control the boat but we were still able to catch 20 or more fish. Then the rain started and the wind picked up to over 30 mile an hour and after a bit we made our minds up to quit and head home. We still had 1/4 of the trip to go but it was not worth the abuse we were taking. The fish were hitting one thing.

MINNOWS. I tried grubs, spinners, tubes and a half a dozen other things. I was able to catch 3 fish on a white grub but that was it. And two of those fish came back to back. So if you are heading out this way make sure you take minnows. And that will be it for me for a couple of weeks with Bruce hunting this coming week and I'm taking my son up hunting the following week. So I hope to see the Susquehanna River one more time before the times change. I talked to John when I was out there and he told me that even the fly fisherman have been doing very well on bigger smallies. They have been using Clouser minnows and woolly buggers to catch the most fish. The mouth of the Juniata has been a great place to wade and they have also been doing well up the Juniata. The river was 4'2" when we were there but went up to 4'8" the next day. Still better than it has been all summer.

"Now the Delaware was really good up to Tuesday. Plenty of smallies and catfish were picked up from Yardley to Frenchtown. Nothing of size but the numbers were really good. The river was around 4'6" and the fish were anywhere from the fast water to the deeper holes. Again minnows and leeches have been the best baits but here they were hitting grubs and tubes well also. White, smoke and watermelon seed have been the better colors. But again after the rains on Tuesday night the river came up to 6'8". So I hope by the weekend it will be back to a normal level. The lower river the bass fishing in the harbors and marina's has been the best all season. I have talked to several guys that have been out from the weekend and all week catching bass up to 3 pounds with numbers of 20 bass per boat. The bass have been hitting lures the best with rattle traps, bomber model a's,

slider worms, pig and jigs. The fish are both outside the harbors and have moved into the coves. So if you don't find fish inside just move outside into the river and keep fishing.

"Trout fishing has still been very good at the Wissahickon, Core Creek and Levittown Lake. Plenty of fish are being caught on mealworms, wax worms, earthworms, power baits, spinners and spoons. Now just for trout the Wissahickon has been the best but if you want bass and trout I would head to Levittown Lake. They have picked up several largemouth bass up to 3 pounds. And with Core Creek they are catching plenty of all kinds of fish. One customer was just here had several good days on largemouth bass using spinner bait's along the dam. He has caught 2 and 3 fish a day up to 3 pounds. They are also catching plenty of crappies and bluegills using bait and small jigs.

"The shopping center lake has still been very good for bass, crappies, bluegills and catfish. Worms and minnows are still your best bet up here. Rohm Haas is showing some really nice bass on rattle traps and plastic worms. Now you don't catch big numbers here but some of the bass that have been caught have weighed up to 6 pounds. They also catch some really good size crappies in this lake but you have to spend some time in finding these fish. Small minnows are one of your best baits. Churchville has turned on for smaller crappies, bluegills and perch. The fish have moved under the bridge that separates the two lakes. Small minnows, mealworms and jigs are your best baits here. They are also picking up a few bass with spinner bait's and plastic worms off the roadway. Most of these bass have been hitting better later in the day after the sun has warmed the rocks

and the water around them. Fairless Hill lake was slow this week with only one customer going up and coming back with a report. He only caught 2 bass and both were under 8 inches.

"Saltwater action during the week was slow with the 60 mile per hour wind that was blowing since Tuesday. But last weekend was very nice and they did well on kingfish and croakers off the beach and piers with bloodworms. I saw a picture this week of a kingfish that was taken 21 inches. The beaches up north stripers have been starting to hit better each week but they have done very well on some bigger flounder. Now you don't think of flounder being picked up off the beaches up off Montauk and Island State Park there were several fish caught up to 6 pounds. These fish were caught on cut bait. The stripers have been hitting clams, eels and bloodworms the best. And way up in New York the porgies have been hitting well with big fish and great numbers. Clams and bloodworms have been the best two baits. In the Cape May area there have been a few stripers in the rips and inlets, kingfish and croakers off the beaches and up the bays and some good flounder fishing off the reefs. The sea bass fishing off shore is still one of the best bets for catching a freezer full of fish. The blackfishing has also been very good off the jetties. But with the limit still being one not many guys have been going out for these fish yet. And down south in the Chesapeake the spots and croakers are still hitting in great numbers and good size fish. Bloodworms are you best bet here.

"Again that is all I have time for this week. Good luck and let us know if you do well."

Bill

Trenton/Yardley/Lambertville Area:

Dan Leach at **HL Bait & Tackle** in Morrisville, Pennsylvania (215-295-1400) is returning after a brief vacation and says that the only recent report has been on three keeper size stripers hooked around the Lambertville Wing Dam. One 32" fish was landed. Eels seemed to be the hot bait.

In the weeks before his leave, Dan says that smallies and walleye were still being taken, but he has not heard anything recently. The most activity in his area has been in the local trout-stocked lakes and at the Penn Warner Club.

Ron Ernst at **Ron's Trigger and Reel** in Ewing, New Jersey (609-695-2818) says that river fishing has been disappointingly "s-l-o-w" based on several recent trips. Water levels have been running high and temps are in the middle 50s. His hope is that the early cool-down will yield some good walleye fishing on live bait before the worst of the winter weather sets in.

Easton/Phillipsburg Area:

Bill Pierce at **Bill's Bait and Tackle** (908-859-5729) Phillipsburg, NJ <<http://community-2.webtv.net/BILLSBAIT/FISHINGREPO RT/>> answered "Nothing" when asked about any signs of life in his area of the river. According to Bill, the whole year has been slow, with the exception of channel cat fishing. "Our striper run was terrible this year," he says. "I only weighed in three stripers over 20 lbs. And the smallmouth action in the river was almost non-existent. But we weighed in more big channel cats this year, including a recent one over 12-lbs."

Belvidere Area:

Guide **Gene Neiderlander** of the **Fish Assured** Guide Service (908-475-5493) ended his guided trips for the year during the first week of September. "Water conditions

were so bad this summer that I was able to keep only 25 of my 76 scheduled trips,” says Gene. “The rest had to be cancelled.”

The heavy rains had a multiple effect on the river, first with muddy water, and later with high water as the upstate reservoirs had to release some of their capacity in order to leave room for flood control later in the year. While Gene has not had any recent first-hand experience on the river, he says that things have been tough for local bait and tackle shops since not very many anglers have been fishing the river.

Lackawaxen Area:

Dimitri at *The Angler’s Roost* (570-685-2010) in Lackawaxen, PA reports that there is not much happening on the Delaware River in his area, although there are still some trout anglers having success on the Lackawaxen and upper Delaware River. “Except for a very brief stretch during the summer, our water levels have been high all year,” he reports.

While Dimitri notes that walleye have been taken all summer as a by-catch by smallmouth anglers, he has not seen any great flurry of walleye action in recent weeks.

Classified Ads

Over the next few months, due to a dearth of fishing reports and tournament fliers, we will have plenty of space for club 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. Classified ad listings are also included in the Member Services section of the DRFA Web site.

DRFA Team Takes Sixth Place In SJBCA “Bass Bowl”

Six DRFA anglers teamed up to capture sixth place out of 14 teams in the recently concluded South Jersey Bass Club Association “Bass Bowl” tournament held at Anchor Marina on the North East River in Maryland.

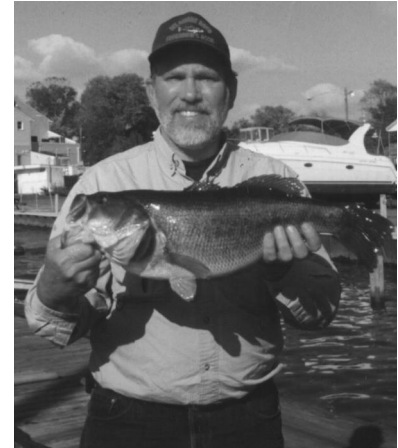
The teams were composed of six anglers from each club, paired up in three boats. The limit was 10 fish per boat. The top team’s score was 21 fish and an amazing 48.95 lbs. The DRFA team weighed in 12 fish totaling 26.80 lbs. to capture sixth place, but was less than two pounds behind the fourth place team.

Bruce Galinat and Tom Zerumski joined in one boat to bring in seven fish weighing 14.30 lbs. The boat pairing of Dave Milburn and Ed Evans brought in 4 fish weighing 5.90 lbs. and the pair of Steve Raulfs and Pete Antoniewicz brought in one fish weighing 6.60 lbs. to earn lunger honors.

The day started cold and blustery, but most of the DRFA fish came in the early going. A variety of lures, including tubes, jigs, spinner baits and crankbaits, combined to take the DRFA entries.



The DRFA contingent at the SJBCA “Bass Bowl” tournament included, from left to right, Dave Milburn, Ed Evans, Steve Raulfs, Pete Antoniewicz, Tom Zerumski, and Bruce Galinat.



Pete Antoniewicz weighed in this 6.60-lb largemouth to capture honors for the top lunger in the SJBCA “Bass Bowl” competition.

President’s Message

While I’m not yet ready to concede that the fishing season is over, I do know that it is certainly on its way to winding down. I still have hopes of getting out on the river at least a few more times.

But the coming offseason should give us all a chance to catch our breath and start getting organized for next year’s season. That means elections, manning the outdoor show, preparing for the Big Cat Shootout, lining up guest speakers for winter meetings, etc.

We need a number of individuals to step forward and fill a variety of roles – everything from president down to Outdoor Show workers, and Big Cat Tournament workers, and much more. The club is in excellent shape financially, but we need more bodies to share in the work required to put on our tournament slate and to maintain the normal club membership.

No one should have to do it all, so let’s each carry a small piece of the load. Come to the next few monthly meetings to see how you can help.

See you on the river, and at the meetings.

Pete Antoniewicz

November Tide Predictions, NOAA National Ocean Service

Readings taken at Municipal Pier 11, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

All listings are Eastern Standard Time. **Weekends are indicated by bold**

Day	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.
11/01	1:56AM	0.2 L	7:17AM	5.5 H	2:04PM	0.4 L	7:40PM	6.4 H
11/02	2:52AM	0.3 L	8:19AM	5.6 H	3:03PM	0.5 L	8:41PM	6.4 H
11/03	3:47AM	0.4 L	9:19AM	5.8 H	4:01PM	0.7 L	9:38PM	6.4 H
11/04	4:40AM	0.5 L	10:13AM	6.1 H	4:57PM	0.7 L	10:31PM	6.5 H
11/05	5:31AM	0.5 L	11:04AM	6.4 H	5:51PM	0.7 L	11:21PM	6.5 H
11/06	6:19AM	0.6 L	11:51AM	6.6 H	6:43PM	0.7 L		
11/07	12:08AM	6.5 H	7:04AM	0.7 L	12:35PM	6.7 H	7:31PM	0.7 L
11/08	12:53AM	6.4 H	7:47AM	0.7 L	1:17PM	6.8 H	8:17PM	0.7 L
11/09	1:36AM	6.2 H	8:27AM	0.7 L	1:57PM	6.7 H	9:01PM	0.6 L
11/10	2:18AM	5.9 H	9:07AM	0.7 L	2:36PM	6.6 H	9:44PM	0.5 L
11/11	3:00AM	5.6 H	9:45AM	0.7 L	3:13PM	6.4 H	10:27PM	0.5 L
11/12	3:41AM	5.3 H	10:24AM	0.6 L	3:50PM	6.2 H	11:09PM	0.5 L
11/13	4:23AM	5.1 H	11:03AM	0.5 L	4:28PM	6.1 H	11:53PM	0.4 L
11/14	5:06AM	4.9 H	11:45AM	0.5 L	5:09PM	6.0 H		
11/15	12:39AM	0.5 L	5:53AM	4.8 H	12:32PM	0.5 L	5:57PM	5.9 H
11/16	1:26AM	0.5 L	6:45AM	4.9 H	1:24PM	0.5 L	6:53PM	5.9 H
11/17	2:16AM	0.5 L	7:41AM	5.1 H	2:22PM	0.6 L	7:54PM	6.0 H
11/18	3:08AM	0.5 L	8:37AM	5.4 H	3:23PM	0.6 L	8:52PM	6.1 H
11/19	4:01AM	0.5 L	9:32AM	5.9 H	4:24PM	0.6 L	9:49PM	6.3 H
11/20	4:55AM	0.4 L	10:24AM	6.4 H	5:25PM	0.5 L	10:42PM	6.4 H
11/21	5:48AM	0.3 L	11:14AM	6.8 H	6:24PM	0.4 L	11:35PM	6.4 H
11/22	6:41AM	0.2 L	12:04PM	7.2 H	7:21PM	0.2 L		
11/23	12:26AM	6.4 H	7:33AM	0.1 L	12:53PM	7.4 H	8:15PM	0.0 L
11/24	1:17AM	6.3 H	8:24AM	0.0 L	1:42PM	7.5 H	9:09PM	-0.1 L
11/25	2:09AM	6.2 H	9:16AM	-0.1 L	2:32PM	7.4 H	10:01PM	-0.2 L
11/26	3:01AM	6.0 H	10:07AM	-0.1 L	3:24PM	7.2 H	10:53PM	-0.2 L
11/27	3:56AM	5.8 H	10:59AM	0.0 L	4:18PM	6.9 H	11:45PM	-0.1 L
11/28	4:53AM	5.6 H	11:51AM	0.1 L	5:15PM	6.7 H		
11/29	12:37AM	-0.1 L	5:53AM	5.5 H	12:45PM	0.2 L	6:14PM	6.4 H
11/30	1:29AM	0.1 L	6:54AM	5.5 H	1:40PM	0.4 L	7:13PM	6.2 H

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	*0.94	*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.

THE DELAWARE RIVER FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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Langhorne, PA 19047-0025
DRFA Web Site: <http://www.drfishermen.com>



OCTOBER 2003 ISSUE:

- SMALLMOUTH/CATFISH TOURNAMENT RESULTS
- YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT RESULTS
- EMBROIDERED CLUB SHIRTS
- NEW CLASSIFIED ADS REQUEST
- ANGLER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS
- FISHING REPORTS

*Also visit our Web site www.drfishermen.com
for news, fishing reports, and more!*

THE RIVER NEWS is the monthly newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association. The DRFA meets the last Thursday of each month, at 7:00 pm, in the back upstairs meeting room at The Sportsmen's Center, Route 130, Bordentown, New Jersey. All interested sportsmen and women are invited to attend and join the organization. New members may join at any time, while yearly renewal memberships are to be paid between January 1st and the last Thursday in February, each year. To submit information for the newsletter, contact Pete Antoniewicz via e-mail <DRFA_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com>, by phone, (609) 466-7719, or mail it to 101 Weldon Way, Pennington, NJ 08534.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS!

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