
The River News

The Official Newsletter Of The Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Volume 16, No. 10

October, 2004

Angler Of The Year Race Tightens As Make-Up Tournament Schedule Plays Out

The Angler of the Year standings tightened up as the results from two successive weekends of tournaments were compiled on October 10 (*largemouth*) and October 17 (*catfish*). Five anglers are now within 40 points of each other and several other anglers are just one good fish away from the top spot. (*The top 10 standings as of the October 17 catfish tournament are listed on page 3.*)

The final standings will be decided by the outcome of tournaments on the final two weekends of October – a smallmouth tournament on 10/24 and the final catfish tournament on 10/31.

Chris Hoffman (*384 points*) retains his slim lead on his dad, George (*377 points*). Rick Mawson (*367 points*) has moved into third place on the strength of his placements in both early October tournaments.

Antoniewicz Takes Top Catfish Prize

Twenty-one brave DRFA anglers battled high winds to compete in the October 17 catfish tournament. And while many anglers had trouble pinpointing their regular



Pete Antoniewicz topped the field with a 4.86-lb. catfish.



Rick Mawson moved into the top three in the Angler of the Year standings with this 3.97-lb. fish.



Bill Marshall captured third with his 3.95-lb. fish.

fishing holes in the wind, 18 of them managed to weigh in fish.

Top prize went to Pete Antoniewicz for his 4.86-lb., 22" channel cat. Rick Mawson took second place with a 3.97-lb. fish measuring 23.25". And Bill Marshall captured third place with a 3.95-lb., 22.75" fish.

Top Four Positions Crowded In Bass Tournament

The top four positions in the October 10 make-up bass tournament were extremely crowded as the top two finishers tied with the exact same weight and length, and the next two finishers had to go to the tie-breaker of length after they both registered identical weights.

The first place tie was between Pete Antoniewicz and Jack Wright

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Important Dates

Thursday, October 28: 7:00 pm. Monthly meeting in the back upstairs meeting room of The Sportsmen's Center, Route 130 North, Bordentown, NJ.

Sunday, October 31 Final DRFA club tournament of the year (*catfish*) will be held at the Frankford Arsenal Ramp. Starting time is 7:00 am Eastern Standard Time. (*That means you get an extra hour of sleep the night before the event.*)



Tied for first place in the October 10 largemouth tournament were Pete Antoniewicz (left) and Jack Wright (center) with identical fish (1.79-lbs. 14.75"). Third place went to Jeff Antoniewicz Sr. (right).

who registered identical fish at 1.79 lbs. and 14.75". Third place went to Jeff Antoniewicz Sr. whose 1.67-lb. fish was one-half inch longer than Dave Milburn's 1.67-lb. 14.25" fish.

A total of seven of the 20 anglers competing in the tournament weighed in legal fish. The other catches were:

- 5. Steve Raulfs - 1.57, 13.75
- 6. Jeff Antoniewicz Jr. 1.32, 13"
- 7. Rick Mawson 1.08, 13"

President's Message

"Fall is a time of change."

Fall is a beautiful time of the year to go fishing. The big fish come shallow to put the feed bag on before the winter chill slows down the fish world. It's my favorite time of year. The dog days of summer are over and the temps can be absolutely perfect. A sweater or light jacket might be the only extra gear you'll need. When you find the fish you can have a great day. Oh yeah. You don't have to get up at the crack of dawn to beat the crowds and the heat. The fish

actually bite a little better after the water warms a little.

Fall also brings some changes for our club. First, a lot more people attend the meetings, which is great for fresh input. It's also when we elect officers. Every position on the Board of Directors is up for nominees. Nominations are set to open at the October 28th. meeting with elections at the December 16 meeting. I hope to see everyone at these meetings. Remember all positions are open.

Oh, and if you do decide to take advantage of that Fall fishing, remember to "Check your drag and set the hook."

– Steve Raulfs

Minutes of the September Meeting

The September 30th meeting of the DRFA was called to order by club president Steve Raulfs at 7:10 pm with 16 members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Matt Kicinski reported a balance of \$7,166.72 in the club treasury.

Environmental: Because of the heavy flooding in September, the Byram ramp was under water. Also Rt. 29 was flooded due to the rain and Bulls Island was closed. Other than Sam Shiels' interesting and funny fish stories there were no other specific reports.

Old Business: The South Jersey Bass Club Association is sponsoring its "Bass Bowl" Tournament on Sunday October 17th. Anyone interested should contact Pete Antoniewicz.

Moving the meeting place to another location is still not resolved. President Steve Raulfs is going to check out some different places.

Officer Alan Moyer from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will speak at our October meeting. He is going to discuss fishing in general on the Delaware River.

Bob Murray from Delaware Valley Outdoors will speak at our November meeting. Bob's topic will be on fishing for largemouth bass in the Delaware River.

If the October 3rd smallmouth tournament is cancelled due to high water, it will be held on October 24th.

Club members Matt Kicinski and Ron Soto went over to the Villa Mannino restaurant to check out about having our Christmas Party there, but the person that they needed to talk to wasn't available. Matt is going to call the restaurant and hopes to have a report about it at the October meeting.

New Business: Bob Bonczyk brought up the idea of having chances for prizes at the Fort Washington Show. This might

DRFA Contacts: * * * **Tournament Hotline: (215) 945-3635** * * *

President – Steve Raulfs, (215) 969-1010; **Tournament Coordinators** – Bob Bonczyk (215) 945-4297 and Curt Kirby (215) 946-0176; **Treasurer** – Matt Kicinski, (215) 426-5086; **Membership Secretary** – Karen/Hollis Laing, (215) 612-2814; **Recording Secretary** – Eileen Kicinski, (215) 426-5086; **Editor of The River News** – Pete Antoniewicz, (609) 466-7719 <DRFA_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com>; **Webmaster** – Chris Hoffman (609) 695-5832 <webmaster@drfishermen.com>

help draw more people to the booth to talk about the club.

Club President Steve Raulfs will try to have the tickets for the Fort Washington Show in time for the November 18 meeting. Volunteers are needed for the Fort Washington Show. Club members who are interested in helping out should contact club president Steve Raulfs.

Nominations for the year 2005 officers will be held at the October meeting. All positions are open.

The winner of \$15.00 in the 50-50 drawing was Dan Lanetti. The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

October Meeting At Sportsmen’s Center

The October 28 meeting of the DRFA will be held at its regular location, The Sportsmen’s Center in Bordentown, NJ.

Our scheduled guest speaker is Alan Moyer from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, who is going to speak on fishing in general on the Delaware River.

Remember that the November meeting will be held a week early, on Thursday, November 18. Check your November newsletter which should arrive in the week before the meeting, to confirm the time and location of that meeting. We are hoping to hear Bob Murray give a talk on largemouth bass fishing on the Delaware River.

DRFA Anglers Blown Away In “Bass Bowl” Event

Six DRFA anglers braved some brutal weather conditions to represent the club at the annual “Bass Bowl” tournament held by the South Jersey Bass Club Association. The 3-foot waves breaking on the main body of the Potomac River kept many anglers

in the Mattawoman Creek cove where the tournament launched from Smallwood State Park. Dave Milburn was the only DRFA angler to bring a legal size fish to the scales (1.70-lb. bass).

Other participants included Bruce Galinat, Rich Bryan, Walt Goodlin, Phil Bakanowsky, Tom Zerumski.

HELP WANTED

A number of members are needed to help with some of the routine tasks of keeping the club running in the coming year.

- Newsletter Editor or Contributor
- SJBCA Representative
- Trophy Coordinator (including 2004 Angler of the Year plaque)
- Youth Tournament Director

If you can help with any of these tasks, contact club president, Steve Raulfs, at 215-969-1010.

Fishing Reports

Tidal River:

This listing is abridged from a report posted on Friday, Oct. 15 on the Web site of Brinkman's Bait and Tackle in Northeast Philly (215-632-0674). For complete report go to Brinkman's Web site <http://members.aol.com/wormpeople/>

“The upper Delaware is showing signs of improvement. Smallies have been hitting off the Byram ramp along the PA side. The fish are holding in deeper water along the shore line, hitting minnows, nightcrawlers, and leeches for live bait, and Zoom grubs, tubes and spinners for artificials. One gang was fishing minnows on Monday and picked up 22 fish between three guys and had several fish 12 to 15 inches. Other guys were up to the same spot and fished all day Wednesday and really did better as the afternoon came in. They only picked up 4 fish by 2:00, then the fishing really turned on. By dark, they had landed 35 fish between

the two of them. They were using all different baits but minnows, grubs and tubes seemed to work best. Another guy was up around Upper Black Eddy and waded for several hours. He told me that the water was quite strong but he was able to pick up some fish in some of the eddies around the shoreline using minnows on a 1/8 oz. jig head. Now the lower Delaware has not changed at all with some small stripers still around, and with plenty of catfish hitting herring, nightcrawlers, shrimp, chicken livers and clams. The few stripers have been hitting bloodworms, herring, chicken livers, smaller grubs, and Rattle Traps.

Trenton/Yardley/Lambertville Area:

Dan Leach at **HL Bait & Tackle** in Morrisville, PA (215-295-1400) has just reopened after a brief vacation but says that earlier in October there was the “normal” catfish activity, and the smallies were hitting shiners and crayfish in the Yardley area. He did not have any notable weigh-ins and did not remember any walleye reports as had been received in September.

Angler Of The Year Top Ten Standings

The following standings are up to date as of the October 17 catfish tournament.

#	Name	Points
1.	Chris Hoffman.....	384
2.	George Hoffman	377
3.	Rick Mawson.....	367
4.	Rich Hoffman	358
5.	Steve Raulfs.....	346
6.	Bill Marshall	294
7.	Pete Antoniewicz.....	292
8.	Ed Evans	277
9.	Frank Beck	260
10.	Dick Schroeder	260

THE DELAWARE RIVER FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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OCTOBER 2004 ISSUE:

- RESCHEDULED TOURNAMENT RESULTS
- ANGLER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS
- MEETING SCHEDULES AND SPEAKERS
- 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 typically 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 to 101 Weldon Way, Pennington, NJ 08534.

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The South Jersey Bass Club Association