

# The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

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July/August 2020

## Some Club Activities Moving Forward With Tentative Scheduling Updates

Do you remember when the biggest disruptions to the DRFA schedule were the occasional high water or severe weather event? 2020 has gone a step beyond with a global pandemic that has had a ripple effect on almost every club event scheduled for this year.

See the updates in this newsletter and keep an eye on the DRFA website to make sure you have the latest information as events change from month to month.

**Members are encouraged to pass along updates to club friends who do not have online access. Members without online access can also call the Tournament Hotline for updates.**

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### Treasurer's Report

Although the club meetings for May and June were cancelled, we did receive Treasurer Reports for those two months. The balance as of May 27 was \$9,508.89 and as of June 26 it was \$9,462.80.

### Youth Fishing Derby

Due to low participation and the complexities of trying to schedule a family event like this during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,

the Youth Tournament for this year was cancelled. Thanks to Chick Bay for his organizing efforts in trying to put this event together in spite of the known limitations and all of the unknowns that continued to evolve.

### Tackle Bag Raffle

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Hemlock Rod and Gun Club has cancelled its seminar originally scheduled for March 13. They will still award fishing equipment to youth anglers at some future date but will not have a guest speaker and will not be selling any raffle tickets. As a result, the DRFA will hold the drawing for our club's Tackle Bag Raffle fundraiser at an upcoming meeting or tournament.

### Annual Raft Trip

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and family scheduling issues, Pete Antoniewicz will not be organizing the club's annual trip to the Upper Delaware River. Club members who might be interested in making the trip on their own can contact Kittatinny Canoes at 1-800-FLOAT-KC or visit [www.kittatinny.com](http://www.kittatinny.com) for more information on available dates and rental rates. In the past, we have always floated from Staircase Rapids to the Matamoras Base. If anyone wants a copy of the river map of that stretch that we have used in the past, give Pete a call or text at 609-751-7545.

### New COVID Rule

Due to the ongoing increase in coronavirus cases, the Board of Directors has adopted a rule that – until further notice – all club members must wear facemasks

### Important Dates

**Wednesday, July 29 & August 26, 7 pm, Tentative Monthly Meetings:** As of this newsletter's publication deadline, Rick Mawson is still awaiting final word from the Silver Lake Nature Center on the potential for holding our July and August meetings in the regular indoor location or outdoors under their pavilion. Check the club website for final instructions in the days before each meeting date.

### Tournament Schedule

Because of ongoing scheduling issues, please confirm the following tournament locations on the DRFA website or the **Tournament Hotline** (267) 934-2148 in the days before each tournament:

**Sunday August 9 Bass Tournament:** 6 am at Neshaminy Marina Ramp.

**Sunday August 30 Catfish Tournament:** 6 am at Neshaminy Marina Ramp.

**Sunday September 20 Bass Tournament:** 7 am at Bull's Island State Park (might need to switch to Byram).

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when participating in any club event. This includes both indoor and outdoor club meetings and fishing tournaments.

The rule will apply during tournament registration and weigh-ins when participants are on land and when they approach within 12 feet of any other member.

The Board will revisit the rule once conditions with coronavirus transmission improve.

### “Incredibly Helpful”

Those were the words used by chemistry PhD candidate Anna Roebuck to describe the DRFA members who donated a part of their catch at the recent catfish tournament to support her research on the presence of PFAS concentrations in the lower river.

Roebuck is one of several 2020 winners of the K.C. Donnelly Externship Award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. She is focused on the distribution of new and poorly characterized PFAS chemicals in marine food webs and the water in the Delaware River Estuary. Only a handful of variants in the family of 4,000+ PFAS chemical have been studied in detail.

Her current project is looking at catfish and perch from the tidal Delaware River and its tributaries to determine if a new type of chemical from the PFAS family is accumulating in living creatures. She is looking at a specific class of under-researched PFAS compounds that has recently been identified in the tidal portion of the Delaware River. (*Recent research looking for this new type of PFAS suggests the source is somewhere in the tidal portion of the River.*) The project will figure out if this new chemical can accumulate in fish, and provide

the first evidence of whether or not this chemical is of biological concern.

While the July catfish tournament gave her an ample supply of catfish for her to analyze, she is still hoping to get some white perch and yellow perch samples to round out her research.

“Today’s tournament was incredibly helpful,” Roebuck stated on the day of the tournament. “I received 19 catfish from throughout the tidal River from several members. I’m very thankful to your organization for helping me out today in a big way. I can always use more perch (white or yellow) from throughout the tidal river and tidal tributaries.”

Members who would like to help by contributing white perch or yellow perch samples for her research can contact Rick Mawson, John Pedrick, or Pete Antoniewicz.

### Exceptional Disruption Underscores Need For Permanent Leadership

The lack of a full-time club president is complicating the functioning of the club in many ways, especially related to changes mandated by the coronavirus situation. The club could really benefit from someone stepping forward to provide a consistent point of communication for internal and external contacts to coordinate the scheduling of club activities.

### June Bass Tournament

The June 28 Bass Tournament marked a tough start to the first official tournament of the year, with only six anglers out of 18 competitors weighing a legal fish.



Top honors went to Casey McDonough with this 3.92-lb., 20.50” smallmouth.



George Hoffman earned second place with this 2.49-lb., 16.75” fish.



Despite finishing dead last in the McDonough Family Tournament, Scott McDonough took third place in the club event with this 17” fish weighing in at 2.36-lbs.

Rounding out the list of point-earners in the AOTY competition were Patrick Baranowski, defending Angler of the Year Mike Nucero, and Joe Newton.

Visit [www.drfishermen.com](http://www.drfishermen.com) for more information.

## July Catfish Tournament Results

The July 19 catfish tournament saw 20 anglers bring a legal fish to the scales.



George Hoffman earned top honors with a 12.50-lb. catfish measuring 28.75”.



Scott McDonough managed to stay just two points behind George Hoffman in the AOTY competition with this second-place 9.55-lb., 27.25” catfish.



Rich Hoffman managed a third place finish with this 6.17-lb., 23.50” fish.

## 2020 Angler Of The Year Standings as of July 19

Pos.	Name	Total Points	Total Weight	Total Length
1	George Hoffman .....	199	14.99	45.50
2	Scott McDonough .....	197	11.91	44.25
3	Casey McDonough.....	194	8.27	41.75
4	Patrick Baranowski .....	192	6.64	37.75
5	Joe Newton.....	185	4.73	32.75
6	Richard Hoffman .....	98	6.17	23.50
7	Frank Beck.....	97	5.11	22.75
8	Ron Soto .....	96	4.74	22.25
9	Mike Nucero .....	96	1.88	14.75
10	Charles Bay .....	93	4.33	21.25
11	Michael Brennan.....	92	4.14	23.00
12	Kenneth Brennan .....	91	3.60	21.00
13	Anthony Seliga.....	89	3.53	20.75
14	Pete Marcolina .....	88	3.42	21.50
15	Gregg Southrey .....	87	3.15	21.50
16	Shane Seliga.....	86	3.10	20.50
17	John Pedrick.....	85	3.06	20.00
18	Joshua Jack.....	84	2.89	19.50
19	Devon Seliga.....	83	2.89	20.00
20	Rick Mawson Sr.....	82	2.75	19.50
21	Bob Jack.....	81	1.90	18.00

## 2020 DRFA Tournament Schedule

All DRFA Club tournaments are free and open to dues-paying DRFA members only. (There are no club fees; however, ramp, launch and/or parking fees may apply. There will be a voluntary \$10.00 pool with a 100% payout – 60%, 30% and 10% – to pool participants for the three heaviest pool fish at tournament’s end.) Members accrue points for the Angler of the Year competition based on their top six finishes among the regular club events. New members may register on the morning of an event, before the start time. Weigh-in is six hours later. Late entries will not count. The Youth Derby requires registering in advance.

Always check the DRFA Web site or the Tournament Hotline (267-934-2148) the day before the event to learn about any possible rescheduling or relocation due to water or weather conditions.

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sun, 8/09	Bass	6 am	Neshaminy State Marina, Croydon, PA
Sun, 8/30	Catfish	6 am	Neshaminy State Marina, Croydon, PA
Sun 9/20	Bass	7 am	Bull’s Island State Park, NJ
Sat, 10/24	Bass	7 am	Byram Access Ramp, Byram, NJ

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## **JULY-AUGUST 2020 ISSUE**

- **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**
- **TACKLE BAG RAFFLE**
- **SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS**
- **FISHERIES RESEARCH**

*Also visit our website*  
[www.drfishermen.com](http://www.drfishermen.com)

**THE RIVER NEWS** is the bimonthly newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association. The DRFA typically meets the last Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm, at the Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA. All interested sportsmen and women are invited to attend and join the organization.

### **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

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**Silver Lake Nature Center** • 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA • 235 acres of woods, lakes, marshes & meadows, 4.5 miles of trails  
**Rusty Balls Tackle & Guide Service** • 2440 W Columbia St, Allentown, PA 18104 • @rustyballsguideservice • 484-239-4723  
**Krum Insurance & Financial Services** • 1021 Millcreek Dr., Feasterville, PA 19053 • mgkrum.com • 215-396-2888  
**The Ike Foundation** • 625 N Main Street, Elmer, NJ 08318 • Our mission is to get more kids fishing and in the outdoors,  
**The Fegley Law Firm** • 301 Oxford Valley Rd, Suite 402A, Yardley, PA • Business, Employment & Personal Injury Law • 215-493-8287  
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South Jersey Bass Club Association  
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