

The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Vol. 32, No. 2

March/April 2020

March Meeting Cancelled; Follow DRFA Website/Forum For Updates

Editor's Note: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, my work on a charity event has consumed all my time. We will only have a four-page newsletter this month. Please use the DRFA website and web forum to stay on top of the latest DRFA news. Thanks. Pete Antoniewicz

COVID-19 Situation Hangs Over Planned DRFA Activities

At the time this newsletter was being drafted (March 15) the COVID-19 situation was changing rapidly.

The CDC had just trimmed the acceptable crowd size from 250 people to 10 people, an indication of the rapid change of events.

The Hemlock Rod and Gun Club had just postponed their March 13 event, so the DRFA Tackle Bag Raffle drawing scheduled to be held there did not occur. At this point, we are waiting for the Hemlock Club to determine whether they will hold the event later in the year, or cancel it altogether. Once we have that information, we will schedule the drawing. If it is not at the Hemlock event, it will probably

take place at a DRFA event (meeting or tournament). Members should keep an eye on the DRFA website for updates on this situation.

The club was also notified by the Silver Lake Nature Center that all evening activities were cancelled at least through the end of March. This means that the regularly scheduled March meeting of the club will be cancelled. At this point, the April meeting schedule will still be planned, but confirming that event will have to be done on the DRFA website relative to the situation on the ground at that point in time.

One thing that we can do is to explore the planned topic for the March meeting – shad fishing – as an online discussion. The goal would be to share relative preferences and past experiences in more general terms, to spawn new ideas among club members. That could be done as a forum thread, or a survey. Look to the web forum or for an email from the DRFA The River News email address.

Club members with web and email access are asked to pass along any updates to friends who you know do not have online access. Members without access can ask a friend to be their contact point, or can call the Tournament Hotline to ask for updates at key points in time.

Minutes From January Meeting

The January 29 meeting of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association was called to order by Trustee Scott McDonough at 7:04 pm with 22 members in attendance. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasury: The balance in the

Important Dates

Wednesday, March 25, 7 pm, Monthly Meeting:
CANCELLED!

Hemlock Rod & Gun Club Fishing Seminar with DRFA Raffle Drawing: *Potentially being rescheduled. TBD*

Saturday March 28 DRFA Bass Tournament: Currently scheduled for 7 am at Curtin's Marina. Check with DRFA website in the days before the tournament for any potential changes.

Saturday April 11, Family Fishing Day at Silver Lake Nature Center. *Look for updated information on DRFA website.*

Wednesday, April 29, Potential Monthly Meeting: Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA. *(Meeting will be pending changes in Silver Lake and government guidelines.)*

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Treasury as of the January 9 meeting date was \$9,661.94.

Show Event: Joe Newton reported on the results from the January 18 Delaware Valley Surf Angler's Fishing Flea Market. Attendance was down compared to previous years, due to the threat of snowy weather that day. Raffle bag ticket sales were also a bit lower because there was not an exclusive saltwater tackle bag. The club took in \$55 in club membership dues, \$65 in clothing sales, and \$139 in raffle ticket sales.

Tournaments: All but the two non-tidal river tournaments are established as listed in the January newsletter. Some wrinkles in the latter half of the tournament schedule were discussed as the New Jersey State Park that manages the Byram and Bulls Island boat ramps raised the club's costs for holding tournaments there. Alternatives were discussed, including the possibility of having participants pay the equivalent of a ramp fee (as we pay on the tidal river) to help offset the club's cost for the tournament event fee.

Members were reminded that the ramp fee for Curtin's Marina is \$10 for the first tournament of the year on Saturday, March 28.

Bob Jack announced that the Awards Ceremony for the SJBCA 2019 Bass Bowl event was scheduled for February 19 for members of the first place DRFA team who wished to attend.

Youth Activity: The final date for the Youth Fishing Derby at the Pennsylvania Yacht Club was still up in the air until we get confirmation from that organization.

New Business: Waterways Conservation Officer Mike Blair was in attendance and reported

that a new class of WCOs will graduate in July to fill vacancies around the state. He will return to the February DRFA meeting to update members on new fishing regulations. A representative from Muskies Inc. is willing to speak at a future DRFA meeting for a \$150 fee. A fisheries biologist in training is also interested in speaking to the club at the March or April meeting.

Fishing Reports: Joe Newton and Frank Beck reported catching a dozen bass in Tullytown Cove two weeks prior to the meeting. The hot bait was...you guessed it, a yoga-pants colored TRD Finesse Ned Rig. Scott McDonough reported a very active fishing day in January catching dozens of perch, largemouth, and crappie on a silver buddy lure about two to three hours before high tide in the lake on Biles Island, opposite the Trenton Ramp.

The 50/50 drawing prize of \$55 was awarded to Phil Kamienicki. After the business portion of the meeting, members remained to re-rig the fishing poles used to supply youth anglers at DRFA and SJBCA youth activities. The club provided pizza and sodas to the members who stayed to help.

Minutes From February Meeting

The February 26 meeting of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association was called to order by Board Member Rick Mawson at 7:05 pm. The minutes from January meeting were read and corrected to reflect Phil Kamienicki as the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

Bucks County Waterways Conservation Officer Mike Blair gave club members a preview of 2020 trout stocking and the new striper regulations for the

Delaware River. He also promoted the state's voluntary Habitat/Waterways Conservation Permits (\$11.90) that provide dedicated funding to a series of projects of one type or another. (<https://www.fishandboat.com/FishingLicense/Documents/VoluntaryPermits-funding20192020.pdf>)

New Delaware River striper regulations include the mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks starting on January 1, 2021. To decrease mortality, the bag limits will be reduce 18% by establishing slot limits of one fish at 28" to <35" in the non-tidal river year round, as well as in the tidal river outside of the April/May spawning season. At that time the slot limit will be 2 fish between 21" and 24".

Anglers can see the trout-stocking schedule online. The state will be stocking 3.2-million trout including 40% more golden rainbow trout and up to 60,000 two- to three-year-old fish in the 14" to 24" range. These include in-season stockings. Private groups will stock another 1-million trout.

The Mentored Youth Trout Day will be April 11 one week before the statewide opening day of trout season on April 18. For more info search "Mentored Youth Program 2020" on the PFBC website.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Eileen Kicinski reported a balance of \$9,765.18 as of February 26.

Membership: Membership Secretary Rick Mawson reported a total of 62 registered members as of the meeting date.

Youth Activities: The club was scheduled to work at Silver Lakes Family Fishing Day on April 11. The hours spent help to defray the cost of the club's meeting space.

The club will meet at 8 am to prepare the fishing rods; the event will run from 10 am until 2 pm. Keep an eye on the DRFA website to see if that date holds up under COVID-19 restrictions. Members can also work the first Saturday of any month at the Nature Center to help accrue the hours needed to pay for the meeting space.

Old Business: The club asked for help to man the booth and sell raffle tickets at the Hemlock Rod and Gun Club event on March 13.

Tournaments: Volunteers were requested to act as weigh masters for the club’s 2020 tournament schedule. Weigh masters for the upcoming events should arrange to get the scales and table from the weigh masters at the previous tournament. Schedule is as follows: March 28 – Scott and Casey McDonough; April 18 – Ron Soto and Frank Beck; May 17 – John Pedrick and Pete Marcolina; June 28 – Gregg Southery and Chick Bay; July 19 – Gregg Southery and Chick Bay.

Weigh masters for the later tournaments will be requested at a subsequent meeting.

The 2020 SJBCA Bass Bowl will be held on the Northeast River in October.

Trustees: Nothing new to report.

Environmental: No reports.

Fishing Reports: Rick Mawson and Joe Newton did not have much to report from their April 24 trip up to Bulls Island.

Old Business: Fish biologist Anna Roebuck was hoping to meet club members at the March 25 meeting to collect some samples for her research. She is looking for resident fish from the tidal river to conduct tests on PFAS chemical buildup in fish tissues. They must be year-round

resident fish, not anadromous fish like stripers, shad, or herring.

Scott McDonough promised to email Deiter, a Delaware River guide, to see if he would be available to speak at the March meeting.

The winner of the \$45 price in the 50/50 was Rick Mawson. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

March Tournament Still On The Schedule ... For Now

And we thought that rain, high water, and potential lightning storms were our biggest worries for the 2019 tournament schedule. As of March 15, the inaugural

event of the 2020 season – a bass tournament scheduled to launch from Curtin’s Marina at 7 am on Saturday, March 28 was still on the schedule. Because the event is outdoors, and members can maintain good physical distancing, it is possible to obey current guidelines.

If public health guidelines become much more restrictive, it is possible that the event schedule could change. Visit the DRFA website and forum frequently during the days before the scheduled event to indicate interest in attending or not, based on the latest circumstances.

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 to pool participants for the three heaviest pool fish {60%, 30% and 10%} at tournament’s end.) Members accrue points for the Angler of the Year competition based on their top six finishes among the nine regular club events. New members may register on the morning of an event, before check-in time (except for the Shad Tournament). Weigh-in is at the time specified. Late entries will not count.

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

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sat, 3/28	Bass	7 am	Curtin’s Marina, Burlington, NJ
Sat, 4/18	Shad	2 pm	Weigh in at Yardley Park & Ride
Sun, 5/17	Catfish	6 am	Neshaminy State Marina, Croydon, PA
Sun, 6/28	Bass	6 am	Gloucester City Marina, NJ
Sun, 7/19	Catfish	6 am,	Gloucester City Marina, NJ
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
7/11 or 18	Youth Derby	8 am	PA Yacht Club, Bensalem, PA

The Delaware River Fishermen's Association
P.O. Box 4739
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MARCH-APRIL 2020 ISSUE

- **MARCH MEETING CANCELLED**
- **TACKLE BAG RAFFLE DELAYED**
- **NEW STRIPER RULES ANNOUNCED**
- **MARCH 28 TOURNAMENT PENDING**

Also visit our website
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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