

The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

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January-February 2026

2026 Season Opens With Raffle Opportunities; Don't Forget To Submit Your 2026 Dues

This year's fund-raising raffle Grand Prize – a guided fishing trip and a custom-built fishing rod – creates an entirely new opportunity for a memorable fishing experience, far beyond the realm of past-year tackle-bag raffles. By contrast, this year's prize will put the winner and their co-angler(s) in a prime position to catch the fish of a lifetime!

The winner and the fishing partner of their choice will be joining Lake Nockamixon lunger-bass fishing guide Anthony Awgul during the prime Spring season – on Saturday April 25, 2026. Of course, the winner can choose to defer their trip based on Anthony's remaining open dates as of the March 25 drawing date. The drawing will be held as part of the DRFA March monthly meeting.

Anthony has had great success catching lunger largemouth bass on Lake Nockamixon. You can learn more about his tactics and results by viewing the [hour-long seminar](#) he gave at the October DRFA meeting.



In the past 3 years alone, Anthony and his clients have caught:

- **165** bass over **5 lbs.**,
 - **35** bass over **6 lbs.**,
 - **20** bass over **7 lbs.**,
 - And **3** giant bass over **8 lbs.**,
- in addition to thousands of quality bass between 3 and 5 lbs.! His 2025 Nockamixon results include his personal best bass of 8.57 lbs.

...but we need your help to make this raffle a success!

Due to rising operating costs, the Club needs to generate more revenue to cover insurance, web hosting, tournament and Angler-Of-The-Year cash prizes, etc. The nominal \$5 raise in annual dues this year is not quite enough to cover all those costs. We need this raffle to do better than the \$200+ dollars netted from last year's tackle bag drawing.

If you have not already picked up your raffle tickets to buy or sell,

please do so at the January/February meetings, or contact Pete Antoniewicz at 609-751-7545. He can deliver blank tickets to you, or you can mail your check and he will fill out the drawing ticket stubs for you.

If every member sells just nine tickets each, the Club can net over \$1,000 after expenses! That should help us maintain our treasury balance for several years.

Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. (*See the complete description of prizes in the separate article on page 4.*)

Important Dates

Wednesday, January 28, 7 pm. Monthly meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. Ray Miller will speak on his fishing experiences worldwide. (*See article on page 5.*)

Sunday, February 8, 9 am to 2 pm. Help at, or stop by, the DRFA booth at the Palmyra Fire Company Fishing Flea Market at 100 W. Charles St., Palmyra, NJ. (*Early admission at 8 am is \$10 instead of \$5.*)

Wednesday February 25, 7pm. Monthly meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. Guest speaker TBD.

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Don't wait!

Renew your DRFA membership for 2026, today.

Access the 2026 membership form from the DRFA website:

www.drfishermen.com

Benefit from:

Continued Web And Newsletter Access

Shared Fishing Reports

Guest Speakers

Cash Prizes For Tournaments

Angler of the Year Prizes

Minutes Of The November Meeting

Scott McDonough called the November 26 monthly meeting to order at 7:05 pm with 12 members in attendance.

Minutes from the October meeting were read by Secretary Pete Antoniewicz and approved.

Treasury Report: Eileen Kicinski's Treasury Report showed a balance of \$6,525.06 as of November 26. By comparison,

the 2024 balance for that same time period was \$7,071.81 – a difference of \$546.75.

Tournament Report: Scott McDonough reviewed the results for the 2025 season as reported in the November-December newsletter. He commented on how the awarding of 50 points for participating in any tournament helped to clarify the true participation across the year's nine Club tournament events. We had 43 active participants out of a total of 62 members.

Scott introduced the proposed 2026 tournament schedule and opened it up to discussions about low-tide ramp conditions on some tournament dates. *(The currently established tournament listing is available on Page 3 of this newsletter.)*

Youth Activities: Plans for the 2026 Youth Fishing Derby are still to be determined

Old Business: Scott announced that December 6 was the next day for DRFA members to sign up for Silver Lake Nature Center service hours to fulfill our commitment in exchange for our meeting space. Rick Mawson was also going to ask if there were any dedicated projects for the Club to work at on our own schedule.

Members were reminded that we needed volunteers to help man the DRFA booth at the Delaware Valley Surf Anglers Fishing Flea Market.

Scott recapped the discussions held at the Board of Directors meeting held earlier in November. He asked for

members to vote on a \$5.00 increase in individual member dues and family member dues. The membership voted to approve the dues increase.

Eileen Kicinski and Scott discussed what would be required to transfer surplus funds currently held in CDs into our regular checking account or to purchase new CDs.

John Pedrick discussed the concept of a guided fishing trip as a focus for our outdoor show attendance, instead of the Tackle Bag Raffle.

New Business: Tim Lang questioned what we could do to improve meeting participation. He questioned whether an attendance qualification be instituted for tournament qualification.

Members also discussed using social media channels like Facebook and YouTube to attract attention to the Club and to advertise our guest speakers at meetings.

Environmental: There were no Environmental Reports, but members did discuss various facets of fishing creel surveys and the growing presence of blue catfish in the Delaware River.

Fishing Reports: Pete Antoniewicz reported good fishing on the Susquehanna Main stem in early November but a significant drop in water temperature and catch results in the week before the meeting.

Scott and Casey McDonough fished Neshaminy Marina the week before the meeting. Casey had a bass, a crappie, and a yellow perch but could not catch a pickerel to compete a grand slam. They also had some good action on large crappie while fishing the lake on Biles Island.

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The Web

Access additional timely info at www.drfishermen.com

Bryan Malkiewicz reported on catching 11 nice smallmouth in 42 to 44 degree water while fishing above Frenchtown two weeks before the meeting. Swimbait suspended in current on the Core Tackle Tush Jigs were the ticket. Most fish were between 15 and 17.5",

The 50/50 drawing for \$25 was won by Tim Lang. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Recap From The DRFA December Holiday Party

On December 17, more than 30 DRFA members and guests attended the 2025 Club Holiday Party.

The focus of the event was the presentation of Angler of the Year awards.

The \$75 third-place prize went to Casey McDonough who earned 583 out of 600 possible points in the annual competition.

The second-place prize went to Scott McDonough with an impressive 993 points. Even though Scott could not quite catch George Hoffman, he still earned \$100 for his efforts.

The top prize of a \$150 check and a personal plaque went to George Hoffman for his amazing 595-point total. That means that George averaged better than a second-place finish per tournament in the six events that contributed to his winning score. In fact, three of George's six tournament scores were first-place finishes.

VP/Tournament Coordinator Scott McDonough also covered the tentative schedule for the 2026 Tournament Season. (See calendar on Page 3.)

Guest Speaker To Cover A World Of Fishing Experiences At January Meeting

Join us at the January 28 monthly meeting to hear a presentation from Ray Miller, The Wandering Sportsman. He will cover his lifetime experiences from fishing Pennypack Creek as a youth to his more recent experiences fishing from Labrador to Argentina. Ray also covers a wide range of fishing and hunting

topics in his new magazine. DRFA members will be able to sign up for free access to that magazine.

You can learn more about Ray, his fishing experiences, and his new outdoors magazine at www.wanderingsportsman.com

Have You Reserved Your DRFA Raffle Tickets Yet?

Contact Pete Antoniewicz at (609) 751-7545 or an upcoming meeting.

2026 Tournament Schedule

All DRFA Club tournaments are free and open to dues-paying DRFA members, with Club-funded payouts of \$50, \$30, and \$20 awarded to the top three places. Participants also accrue points toward the Angler of the Year competition based on their top six finishes among the nine regular Club events. (There are no tournament entry fees, however, launch ramp and/or parking fees may apply.)

Except for the Shad Tournament, there is also a voluntary \$10.00 luncheon pool with a 100% payout to pool participants at tournament's end for the three heaviest pool fish – 60%, 30%, and 10%.

Except for the Shad Tournament, new members may register on the morning of an event before check-in time. All participants should check in at least 10 minutes before scheduled starting time. Weigh-in is at the time specified. Late entries will not count.

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

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Sat.	3/28	Bass	7 am - 1 pm	Quaker Penn Park (Falls Twp)
Sat.	4/18	Shad	2 pm weigh-in	Yardley Park And Ride Lot
Sun.	5/17	Catfish	6 am - 12 pm	Neshaminy Marina Ramp
Sun.	6/28	Bass	6 am - 12 pm	Neshaminy Marina Ramp
Sat.	7/18	Catfish	7:30 - 1:30 pm	Gloucester City Ramp
Sun.	7/19	Youth Derby	8 - 12	Pennsylvania Yacht Club
Sun.	8/16	Bass	7:30 - 1:30 pm	Gloucester City Ramp
Sat.	9/12	Catfish	6 am - 12 pm	Neshaminy Marina Ramp
Sat.	10/3	Bass	7 am - 1 pm	Byram Ramp
Sat.	10/24	Bass	7 am - 1 pm	Bulls Island Ramp

From A to Z:**What Is The DRFA Worth To You?**

At the November monthly meeting, Club members had a wide-ranging discussion about budget costs, fund raising, guest speakers, meeting attendance, and more.

For years, the Club thrived as a friendly-competition group that kept dues low and occasionally offered unpaid guest speakers for educational talks on fishing tactics or environmental concerns.

Back then – especially when we had 100 or more Club members, and attended the Oaks and Hemlock outdoor shows to sell raffle tickets, and before we had a \$900 liability insurance payment – the Club sort of coasted by with monthly balances pretty much reflecting those of the prior year. That is no longer the case. Today, we pay commercial guest speakers in an attempt to bring more fishing insights to our members. We have reinstituted Club-paid tournament prizes to encourage new memberships and to generate good tournament participation. And we have a \$900 insurance policy to protect our Club and its officers from costly legal liabilities.

The good news is that tournament participation (*as a percentage of total membership*) has improved this year, and the frequency/quality of our guest speakers has improved as well. Unfortunately, our recent fund-raisers have had mixed support and success, and our monthly treasury balance typically trails the previous year's balance by \$500 to \$900.

The average age and the average tenure of our members is constantly rising (*many current members have been around for*

two decades or more), but we have been having trouble attracting the next generation of DRFA members, so the same people are handling the same jobs for years on end. We desperately need an increase in new members who can buy into what the Club has to offer and eventually take over some of the work of running the organization and delivering the same benefits to members.

The two major questions for all of our 60+ members (*not just the same handful of officers and tournament weighmasters year after year*) come down to:

What is the DRFA worth to you?

For me, the value of DRFA membership has helped me improve my fishing experiences, especially on the tidal river. And it has given me a broader range of fishing partners to fish with, share laughs, and learn from. In fact, a large part of my learning curve has come from my work as the newsletter editor, giving me insights I can use to improve my recreational angler enjoyment and my tournament angler success.

What can you do to help us sustain our Treasury and expand our benefits to a larger, stronger membership base?

- 1.) **Support our current fund-raising efforts** by selling and buying tickets for our Guided Fishing Trip and Custom-Rod raffle. Ask non-Club angling friends to buy a ticket (*or three*). Buy one (*or three*) as a gift for a friend or relative. Or pool your ticket purchases with a fishing partner to double your chances of winning – if he wins, he takes you; if you win, you take him.
- 2.) **Help attract more supporting business members.** Any sporting goods

shop, retail business, or online vendor you do business with can be a prospective supporting business member. Just bring a membership form printed from the DRFA website and ask – especially if you are standing at their checkout counter with more than \$50 of merchandise in your hands.

- 3.) **Help to attract more individual and family members.** Tell other anglers you know about our monthly guest speakers and invite them to a meeting – especially when they can hear the fishing reports shared at the end of the meeting. Carry a few blank copies of the membership form in your vehicle and offer it to people you meet at a river launch ramp. Be prepared to point out the financial benefits of tournament cash payouts and unlimited tournament participation without added fees beyond the affordable \$30 annual membership dues. And if you meet a family with younger children, let them know that kids under 16 can fish in the tournaments at no extra charge beyond the \$35 family membership dues, plus have access to our annual Youth Fishing Derby.
- 4.) **Get more involved** in helping us identify and schedule guest speakers. If you have the occasion to meet a fishing influencer (*guide, manufacturer, tournament angler, etc.*) ask about their interest in expanding their social media followers or customer base. We can offer online support to help build their prospect base.

5.) **Share your fishing experiences.** At the end of every monthly meeting, we ask attending members for recent fishing reports. Learning how recent fish behavior is changing according to rising water levels, dropping water temperatures, or seasonal patterns can go a long way toward helping your own fishing success. And if you have some recent experience to share, learn how doing so can help strengthen your relationships with other Club members, which can pay big dividends in reciprocal sharing of info in the future.

Surf Anglers Fisherman's Flea Market Generates Mixed Results

Attendance at this year's Surf Angler's Fisherman's Flea Market at the VE Club in Warminster on January 17 provided some opportunities for the Club, but perhaps not quite as much as previous years.

Club volunteers sold \$185 worth of raffle tickets and two renewal memberships, but no new memberships at the show.

We'll have one more outdoor show opportunity to make our Guided Fishing Trip Raffle a success, and to perhaps grow our membership – [The Palmyra Fire Department's Fishing Tackle Flea Market](#) on February 8.

Attendance at that show over the past two years has been terrible, due to the conflicts arising from the Eagles playing in the Super Bowl on the same dates as the 2023 and 2024 Fishing Tackle Flea Markets. One bright spot of

the Eagles bowing out of the playoffs early is that there will be less of a conflict between show attendance and Super Bowl preparations.

Contact Rick Mawson (215) 809-4098 or ram3811@comcast.net if you can help work at our booth during that show.

2026 Fundraising Raffle Offers BIG Opportunities For The Club And The Winner

This year's fundraising raffle switches gears a bit in an effort to provide a better payoff for the Club treasury. In the process, it also creates a special opportunity for the drawing winner – a chance at a once-in-a-lifetime luncheon bass!

At the cost of \$5.00 per ticket or three tickets for \$10.00, participants will have access to a prime-season fishing trip on April 25, 2026 with Lake Nockamixon Trophy Bass fishing guide Anthony Awgul. *(If the winner cannot make that date, they will be able to reschedule their trip to any open date still available on the [Awgul Fishing Guide Service website](#) as of the March 25 raffle drawing date.)*

- **The Grand Prize** includes a six-hour guided trip on Lake Nockamixon for up to three anglers. All tackle is provided, or anglers can bring their own if they prefer.
- **As a supplement to that Grand Prize, Club member Tim Lang has also donated a custom-built fishing rod** he crafted himself. The 7'2" white MHX Bushido carbon-fiber rod blank features:
 - Medium power, mod-fast action for 8-15 lb. line

weight and 3/8-oz. to 3/4-oz. lures

- American Tackle components
- Black Duralite TiForged casting guides and Black Duralite tiptop
- Black premium graphite reel seat
- Cork split-grip kit

But that's not all, ticketholders will also have additional opportunities to win:

- **One of five 10% discount coupons** redeemable only at www.awgulfishing.com by 6/1/26 for any of Anthony's available remaining trip dates.
- **One of five 20% discount coupons** for purchases from Anthony Awgul's [Menace Baits](#) website.

If you have not yet picked up any tickets to buy or sell, contact Pete Antoniewicz immediately (609) 751-7545 or see him at an upcoming meeting. The drawing will take place at our March meeting. Winners need not be present.

Sell tickets to your fishing buddies, co-workers, and family members. Remember, only 500 total tickets have been printed and there are 11 chances to win.

Use the following QR Code to steer potential ticket buyers to the DRFA webpage that itemizes all of the prizes up for grabs.



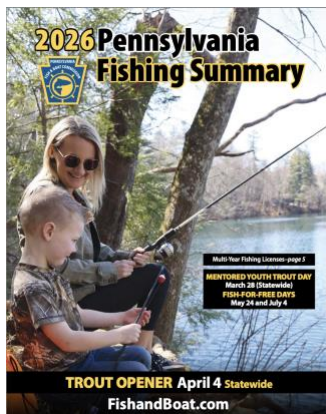
Prepare For the Upcoming Fishing Season With New Apparel To Show Your DRFA Colors

If you need to upgrade your wardrobe for the coming fishing season, visit the [website for purchasing DRFA clothing and hats](#).

That website offers a wide range of shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, hats, etc. that can be imprinted or embroidered with the official DRFA logo. And remember that the Club gets a percentage of every purchase.

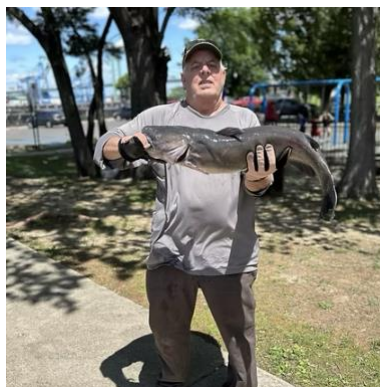
Keep Up To Date With Current Fishing Regulations

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission website offers a link to download the [2026 Pennsylvania Fishing Survey](#), complete with the latest rules and regulations. New entries for this year are highlighted with a red dot.



As of the publication deadline for this newsletter, the NJ Fish and Wildlife website still only had the [2025 Freshwater Fishing Digest](#) displayed there. Check back to that webpage in the near future to see if the 2026 version is posted for download.

2025: A Photo Retrospective





The Delaware River Fishermen's Association
PO Box 21145, Philadelphia, PA 19154

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 our meetings and join the organization.

Don't Forget These Supporting Members Who Help To Keep Our Club Afloat

Remember our supporting business members who provide added financial support, share their fishing knowledge with our Club members, or support our Club and youth fishing efforts with their facilities or products. When we return that financial support by patronizing their businesses, be sure to make specific mention of our appreciation for them helping to fund our guest speakers and our tournament cash prizes. Without their support we would not be able to provide the same opportunities to our current members or to attract potential new members.

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Pennsylvania Yacht Club • 2189 State Road, Bensalem, PA 19020, 215-245-9883

Silver Lake Nature Center • 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA • 235 acres of woods, lakes, marshes & meadows, 4.5 miles of trails

We also recognize our Associate members – the [South Jersey Bass Club Association](#) and [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#) – who both provide relevant information and additional fishing experiences for DRFA members.

KEY CONTACTS: *Tournament Hotline:* 215-809-4098 • *Email Address:* DRFA_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com
 • *President:* (vacant) • *Vice President/Tournament Director:* Scott McDonough, 215-989-0153 • *Treasurer:* John Pedrick, 215-817-3929 • *Recording Secretary/Newsletter Editor:* Pete Antoniewicz, 609-751-7545 • *Membership Secretary/Webmaster:* Rick Mawson, 215-809-4098 • *Youth Activities Director:* Charles Bay, 609-744-8260 • *Raffle Coordinator:* Pete Antoniewicz, 609-751-7545 • *Trustees:* Dave Wermuth, Harry Wirebach, Frank Beck, Gregg Southrey