

The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Vol. 33, No. 6

November-December 2021

November Meeting Votes To Resolve Multiple Important Decisions For 2022 Season

Calling all DRFA members! The November 24 meeting will be an important one to set the stage for the 2022 season. Issues regarding open Club officer position(s), a proposed new tournament rule, and decisions on Outdoor Show attendance and fundraising – requiring volunteers to step up to handle key duties – will need to be decided by members.

Members are reminded that the club is bound by the meeting room requirements of the Silver Lake Nature Center, which at this time includes a requirement for all meeting participants to wear masks while in building. No DRFA members will be allowed to attend without a properly worn face mask.

Election Results

The election held at the October meeting resulted in the following individuals filling the following roles for the 2022 season:

Vice President: Bob Jack

Secretary: Pete Antoniewicz

Treasurer: Eileen Kicinski

Membership Secretary: Rick Mawson

Table of Contents

Meeting Minutes	2-4
Guest Speaker	4
DRFA Holiday Party	4
AOTY Results	5
Tournament Results	6-7

Trustees: Scott McDonough, Pete Marcolina, Joe Newton, Chick Bay.

While no individual ran for the position of President, it is important that we have someone to be the primary representative of the Club for key contacts. Members were encouraged to consider taking on that role as we try to raise our Club's profile and rebuild our roster after the pandemic year.

Board of Directors Meeting Raises Multiple Topics For Decisions/Volunteers

After the October election, the officers and trustees who form the Club's Board of Directors met to discuss next steps for the upcoming season. Here is a synopsis of the topics discussed, many of which will require confirmation or decisions by the membership at large:

Officers: Bob Jack expressed a willingness to step up to the role of President for 2022. This will require a nomination and a vote to fill that seat and to determine a replacement for the role of Vice President/Tournament Coordinator.

Tournament Rule Change: The Board resolved the language for a tournament rule change proposed by Scott McDonough. The

following language will be proposed to membership at the November meeting:

"Once a fish is placed in a live well and dies, there is no culling of a dead fish. Any fish brought to the scale dead will not be disqualified but will receive an 8-ounce penalty at the weigh-in. This rule applies to all Bass and Catfish Tournaments, but not the Shad Tournament."

The Board also discussed the value of having a quick review of rules at the beginning of each tournament event.

Important Dates

Wednesday, November 24, 7 pm Monthly Meeting: Silver Lake Nature Center. Please attend, as multiple votes for 2022 plans and volunteers will be needed.

Wednesday, December 15, Annual Holiday Party: Scheduled to be held at 7 pm at Georgine's Restaurant, 1320 Newport Road, Bristol, PA. Reservations and payment are due by December 5. See article in this newsletter for complete details.

Wednesday, January 26, 7 pm Monthly Meeting: Silver Lake Nature Center. We are currently working on a guest speaker.

Outdoor Shows And Tackle

Bag Fundraiser: New information about the possibilities for several outdoor shows returning this winter season raised the question of the Club getting involved. If we decide to do so, we will need a show coordinator and a raffle coordinator.

Meeting Rules: The Board affirmed the need to enforce the mask rule currently mandated by the Silver Lake Nature Center.

Holiday Party: Based on the response to the email survey, the Board decided to make the deposit to cover the minimum headcount of 30 attendees, even though the number of confirmed attendees as of November 10 was just shy of that number.

New Membership Promotions:2 The Board discussed the option of eliminating hard-copy snail-mail newsletters in favor of all electronic emailed PDF newsletters and using the \$900 savings for new membership promotion – such as returning to offering club-paid prizes for each tournament – in addition to the current voluntary luncheon pool, or using the money to fund better speakers to attract new members and educate current members. Additional new member efforts were also discussed.

Minutes Of The September Meeting

Club Secretary Pete Antoniewicz opened the meeting at 7:05 with 12 members in attendance. Minutes from the August meeting were read and approved

Treasury Report: Treasurer Eileen Kicinski reported a balance of \$8,986.46 as of the meeting date. By comparison the August balance for 2020 was \$9,258.53.

Membership: Membership Secretary Rick Mawson reported that membership was still at 71 paid members.

Youth Activities: There was nothing to report.

Tournaments: The September 25 bass tournament was moved to October 3 due to high water conditions. The teams for the SJBCA Bass Bowl needed to be submitted by October 13. The club will nominate three boats with two anglers apiece. The event was to take place on Sunday October 17. Rick and Pete were scheduled to be weighmasters for the October 30 tournament.

Old Business: Members were reminded of the club's new post office box address when sending in new membership applications. John Pedrick reported on his discussions with PA Fisheries contacts regarding the perceived decline in smallmouth bass fishing in the middle Delaware River. The bottom line is that catch per unit effort from periodic sampling at five sites along the river show that populations are still within "average" results over recent years, and that no remedial plans are anticipated from the PFBC at this time.

New Business: Outcomes from a September Board meeting were discussed. A survey showed that most members were open to resuming our traditional Holiday Party at Georgine's in December. Details to follow.

Members discussed possibilities for encouraging increased membership in 2022. Topics included going to electronic newsletters only and using the savings to help fund modest club-sponsored payouts at our regular tournaments; eliminating dues in 2022; increasing the appeal of

family memberships by offering small youth tackle giveaways on tournament days; developing a small brochure to distribute to tackle shops and boat dealers; in addition to promoting monthly meeting speakers through our Facebook page. After the elections the Board of Directors will meet to discuss which proposals to present to the membership at large for an adoption vote. The possibility of a tackle bag raffle for 2022 was discussed but with no Outdoor Shows currently on the schedule, there would be little chance to sell tickets beyond our membership, which has not proved to be profitable in recent years.

Nominations for 2022 officers were opened and the following nominations were made and accepted: No accepted nominations for president at this time. Bob Jack was nominated as Vice President; Pete Antoniewicz as Secretary; Eileen Kicinski as Treasurer, Rick Mawson as Membership Secretary, and the following six members to fill the four Trustee roles — Gregg Southrey, Chick Bay, Pete Marcolina, Scott McDonough, Joe Newton, and John Pedrick.

Scott McDonough raised the issue of penalties for weighing in a dead fish during Club Tournaments and club members were in general agreement. Members were reminded that any proposed changes to Tournament Rules need to be submitted by the October meeting.

Environmental Reports:

Relative to info on the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife website, a discussion on invasive species – flathead catfish and snakeheads — was held.

Fishing Reports: Bob Jack and Rick Mawson had a tough time at

Lake Nockamixon with just several follows from largemouth bass, although they did catch an 8-lb. catfish on a Ned Rig. Joe Newton and Frank Beck were also there and caught two bass.

Scott also fished the Haycock Ramp area of Lake Nockamixon the previous Saturday to catch a half dozen bass, plus a snake on a Ned Rig.

Dave Wermuth spent two weeks in NY fishing Lake George from the shoreline and catching 10-20 largemouth and smallmouth bass per evening.

There was no 50/50 drawing. The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Minutes Of The October Meeting

Club Secretary Pete Antoniewicz opened the meeting at 7:09 pm. 13 members were in attendance. Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Eileen Kicinski reported a balance of \$8,986.46 as of the meeting date. By comparison last year's balance was \$8,977.60 as of the October 2020 meeting.

Membership: As of the October meeting, membership stood at 73 members, and D&S Marina had re-enlisted as a sponsoring business member thanks to DRFA members who helped with their youth-fishing event this summer.

Tournaments: Bob Jack reported on the most recent tournaments, including the Club's participation in the 2021 South Jersey Bass Club Association's Bass Bowl tournament. (*See details in separate article.*) Members were advised that due to high, muddy water, the October 30 tournament would be delayed one week, until November 6.

Environmental Reports: John Pedrick passed along information on low dissolved oxygen levels in the Chester and Camden section of the lower Delaware River this summer, and on the recent "Do Not Eat" advisory in the Neshaminy Creek due to PFAS chemical contamination. John volunteered to arrange for a speaker familiar with the PFAS contamination issue.

Old Business: Being as there were no new nominations for any club officer positions, the election was held and all Club officers and trustees were re-elected.

Scott McDonough formally submitted a request for a tournament rule change to be voted on at the November meeting and implemented in the 2022 season if it passes. The rule has to do with no culling of dead fish from a live well and an 8-oz. penalty for any dead fish weighed in. Specifics of the rule will be discussed and voted upon at the November meeting.

Rick Mawson will send out a survey of members interested in attending the Annual Holiday Party. We need 30 attendees to meet the restaurant's minimum.

New Business: Club members were asked to recommend any fishing-related businesses or experts who might be willing to be guest speakers for our monthly meetings. The Board of Directors will come up with a way to coordinate invitations and scheduling. Members can submit a suggestion to any Board member or at any meeting.

Fishing Reports. Ken Reitz reported catching an 18" smallmouth bass on a nightcrawler in a local pond, after trying every other type of lure he could think of up until switching to the crawler.

Joe Newton and Rick Mawson fished Dredge Harbor a week and a half before the meeting with a dozen or so small bass while hitting all the usual spots. Water temps were still in the high 50s at that point and they assumed that

2022 Tournament Schedule To Be Determined

The proposed schedule for the 2022 tournament season is still to be determined. Current plans are to have the same number of events as in 2021 – including an early Bass Tournament, a Shad Tournament, two Catfish Tournaments, and additional Bass Tournaments on both the tidal and non-Tidal sections of the river.

All DRFA Club tournaments are free and open to dues-paying DRFA members. (There are no entry fees; however, ramp, launch, and/or parking fees may apply. There will be a voluntary \$10.00 luncheon 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. Except for the Shad Tournament, new members may register on the morning of an event before check-in 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 any possible rescheduling or relocation due to water or weather conditions.

the bass had not yet migrated out of the main river into the harbor yet. The two of them also fished the Susquehanna River with fishing guide Chris Gorsuch and had 21 smallmouth bass up to 19" on swimbaits, tubes, and stone cat lures.

Frank fished the Bulls Island area with Joe Newton catching nine smallies up to 19". Frank also fished with Ron Soto one week after that and caught six fat smallies up to 16". Frank also fished Lambertville a few days before the meeting, catching two smallies up to 15+".

The winner of \$30 in the 50/50 drawing was Eileen Kicinski. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Guest Speaker For February Meeting To Address PFAS Contamination In Local Fisheries

Club members who were shocked to learn of the fish consumption advisory on the Neshaminy Creek, or who are simply interested in the health of the fisheries in our tidal section of the river will be glad to learn that Club member John Pedrick has secured a guest speaker to speak at our February 2022 meeting about her research into PFAS contamination of various fish species in the tidal river.

Dr. Anna Robuck will share with the Club the results of her research using Delaware River fish contributed to her by DRFA members.

Dr. Robuck is an environmental chemist studying chemical and plastic pollution as a research fellow at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai in New York City.

She earned a Ph.D. in Chemical

Oceanography in 2020 from the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, during which she studied per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in water and wildlife. Her dissertation was supported by the highly selective NOAA Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship, the ORISE Research Fellowship within the US EPA, and a traineeship in the NIEHS Superfund Research Program.

Dr. Robuck also holds a BS in Marine Biology and Chemistry, and a MSc in Marine Science and GIS, both from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

Annual DRFA Holiday Party Scheduled For December 15

Our club's Holiday Party will be on Wednesday, December 15th, at 7 pm. It will be held at Georgine's Restaurant, 1320 Newport Rd., Bristol, Pa.

The cost is \$20.00 per person, which will include a buffet dinner and dessert, plus coffee, iced tea, and soda. Alcoholic drinks will be available at a cash bar. All money must be paid by December 5th, so that we will be able to provide a head count to the restaurant.

Payment can be made at the November meeting, or money can be sent to our Treasurer, Eileen Kicinski, at 1295 N Providence Rd, G204, Media, PA 19063 to be received by December 5. Checks should be made out to the DRFA. Those with any questions can call Eileen at 484-443-8786.

2021 SJBCA Bass Bowl Results

Three teams representing the DRFA in the SJBCA's 2021 Bass Bowl tournament finished in the middle of the pack – 6th place out of 11 teams – with eight bass and a total weight of 9.91 lbs.

Across all competitors in 33 boats, a total of 81 bass were caught, weighing an average of 1.43 lbs.

The DRFA was represented by the following angler teams: Joe Newton/Rick Mawson in one boat; Pete Antoniewicz/Frank Beck in another; and George Hoffman/Rich Hoffman in a third boat. Complete team results were as follows:

- 1. Kickin' Bass Fishing Club** (14 fish) 24.18 lbs.
- 2. South Jersey Kayak Bass Fishing Club** (15 fish) 22.70 lbs.
- 3. Cumberland County Bassmasters** (10 fish) 14.70 lbs.
- 4. South Jersey Hook This!** (10 fish) 14.37 lbs.
- 5. Beavertail Bass Club** (9 fish) 11.85 lbs.
- 6. Delaware River Fishermen's Association** (8 fish) 9.91 lbs.
- 7. Top Rod Bassmasters** (4 Fish) 4.42 lbs.
- 8. South Jersey Bass Stalkers** (4 fish) 3.98 lbs.
- 9. South Jersey Rod Benders** (2 fish) 3.79 lbs.
- 10. South Jersey Hawg Hunters** (3 fish) 3.17 lbs.
- 11. Barrington Rod & Reel Club** (2 fish) 3.13 lbs.

George Hoffman Regains Top Spot In 2021 Angler Of The Year Competition

Three years after his last Angler of the Year title in 2018, George Hoffman redoubled his effort to climb back into the top slot with an amazing 594 points in his six best tournaments – an average of 99 points per tournament!

(Unlike previous years when every fish weighed in counted toward the cumulative annual point total, this year's competition was based only on the angler's best six finishes. The rule made for much closer competition right through to the final tournament.)

In fact, Scott McDonough came from several spots back to slip into second place at 588 points in the annual competition, based on the strength of his first-place finishes in each of the last two bass tournaments in the non-tidal river. Rich Hoffman captured the final prize-money position in the annual competition with his third-place finish at 582 points.

Gregg Southrey (*fourth place 572 points*) and Pete Antoniewicz (*fifth place, 564 points*) were the only other anglers to weigh in legal fish in six or more tournaments over the course of the year.

George will receive his top prize of \$150 plus a personal plaque and a listing on the permanent Dave Bryant Angler of the Year plaque at the Club's Holiday Party. Scott will receive \$100 for the second prize and Rich Hoffman \$75 for his third-place finish.

The award is named after Dave Bryant, a DRFA founding member and past president.

#	Name	YTD Points	YTD Weight	YTD Length
1	George Hoffman	594	38.06	151.25
2	Scott McDonough	588	18.94	113.00
3	Rich Hoffman	582	30.75	139.25
4	Gregg Southrey	572	21.39	113.25
5	Pete Antoniewicz	564	14.10	105.75
6	Robert T Jack	479	19.75	98.75
7	Joe Newton	476	21.19	115.50
8	Rick Mawson	468	7.34	74.00
9	Frank Beck	462	11.45	87.50
10	Casey McDonough	385	7.07	58.50
11	Ron Soto	377	16.39	86.50
12	Anthony Scholl Sr	293	17.17	71.75
13	Devin Seliga	285	4.78	43.75
14	Mike Nucero	191	4.07	30.75
15	Shane Seliga	190	3.24	29.00
16	Chris Hoffman	189	1.88	25.50
17	John Pedrick	188	9.70	46.25
18	Pete Marcolina	186	9.43	49.25
19	Laura Newton	179	6.17	40.25
20	Patrick Baranowski	100	2.52	16.50
21	Charles Bay	99	2.80	16.75
22	Ryan Podlesney	95	1.21	14.50
23	Dan Wermuth	94	4.79	22.00
24	Bryan Malkiewicz	94	1.20	13.50
25	Dave Wermuth	93	4.14	21.50
26	Jimmy Mawson	90	2.45	20.00
27	Anthony Seliga	89	1.09	12.00
28	Anthony Scholl Jr	87	0.69	13.50

Results From Delayed September Bass Tournament

The eighth tournament of the 2021 schedule was delayed until October 3rd due to high, muddy water and debris.

Scott McDonough kept his Angler of the Year runner-up hopes alive with a 100-point finish thanks to his 16.50", 2.25-lb. smallmouth bass.

Second place went to Pete Antoniewicz at 16.25" and 1.97 lbs.

Third place went to George Hoffman at 15.75" and 1.84 lbs.

In all, eleven anglers brought a legal fish to the scales.

#	Name	Weight	Length	Points
1	Scott Mc Donough	2.25	16.50	100
2	Pete Antoniewicz	1.97	16.25	99
3	George Hoffman	1.84	15.75	98
4	Casey McDonough	1.74	15.25	97
5	Robert T Jack	1.42	14.25	96
6	Ryan Podlesney	1.21	14.50	95
7	Frank Beck	1.17	13.00	94
8	Chris Hoffman	1.10	13.50	93
9	Rick Mawson	1.02	13.50	92
10	Joe Newton	0.91	12.75	91
11	Rich Hoffman	0.89	12.75	90



Scott McDonough
First Place



Pete Antoniewicz
Second Place



George Hoffman
Third Place

2021 Final Bass Tournament Results

Once again, a late-season bass tournament in the tidal river was postponed for a week due to high, muddy waters. The final event of the season took place on November 6 at the Bulls Island State Park ramp. The morning started out with cool temperatures, but Scott McDonough was hot, once again taking the top prize as he did in October, weighing in a 19.75", 3.57-lb. smallmouth to move up into second place in the Anger of the Year competition. The cold water did pose a problem for some anglers as only 5 participants weighed in a legal fish.

Second place went to Pete Antoniewicz with a 16.75", 1.97-lb. smallmouth and Gregg Southrey finished third, just two hundredths of a pound back with his 16.75", 1.95-lb. smallmouth.

#	Name	Weight	Length	Points
1	Scott McDonough	3.58	19.75	100
2	Pete Antoniewicz	1.97	16.75	99
3	Gregg Southrey	1.95	16.75	98
4	Rick Mawson	1.08	13.25	97
5	Chris Hoffman	0.78	12.00	96



Pete Antoniewicz
Second Place



Rick Mawson
Fourth Place



Scott McDonough
First Place



Gregg Southrey
Third Place



Chris Hoffman
Fifth Place

The Delaware River Fishermen's Association

PO Box 21145,

Philadelphia, PA 19114



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE

- NOVEMBER MEETING AGENDA
- HOLIDAY PARTY SIGN-UP
- MEETING MINUTES
- AOTY FINAL STANDINGS
- TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

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!

McKeown's Automotive Services • 2525 Street Road, Bensalem, Pa 19020 • State Inspection, Emissions • 215-639-4887
Gasper Contracting • Where your home ideas become reality • Philadelphia, Montgomery & Bucks Counties • 215-805-7360
The Fegley Law Firm • 301 Oxford Valley Rd, Suite 402A, Yardley, PA • Business, Employment & Personal Injury Law • 215-493-8287
Phila Boat Supply • 8900 State Road, Phila, PA 19136 • Full line of new & used boats, motors & parts • philaboat.com • 215-332-5117
Clayton Hunting & Fishing • 660 Easton Rd, Horsham, PA • For all your hunting, fishing, archery & firearm needs • 215-672-6060
Tow Boat US • 32 Kirkwood Circle, Brigantine, NJ 08203 • Delaware River Service Package Available • 609-517-2822
Big D River Guide, LLC • Dieter Scheel, <https://bigdriverguide.com>, bigdriverguide@comcast.net (610) 574-7519
Reel River Adventures • Chris Gorsuch, <https://www.facebook.com/ReelRiverAdventures/>, (610) 360-5433
Rusty Balls Tackle & Guide Service • 2440 W Columbia St, Allentown, PA 18104 • @rustyballsguideservice • 484-239-4723
White Oak Ice Co. • 350 State Road, Bensalem, PA 19020 • Self-Service Crushed Ice, Blocks of Ice • 215-639-1080.
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

Associate Members:

South Jersey Bass Club Association
Delaware Riverkeeper Network