# The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Vol. 35, No. 6 November-December 2023

# **AOTY Gregg Southrey To Be Honored As Part Of DRFA Winter Activities**

The final event of the 2023 DRFA season – our Holiday Party on December 6 – will be used to honor Angler of the Year Gregg Southrey and give Club members one more chance to recap the season and share fishing tips and stories with fellow members. It will also present an excellent opportunity to help us stock up on prizes for this year's Tackle Bag Raffle and to pick up blank raffle tickets to support the fund-raiser that will help us defray costs in the 2024 season.

### November Meeting Is Holiday Party Signup Deadline

This year's Holiday Party will take place at Georgine's Restaurant on Wednesday December 6 at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$24 per person and should be paid by the November meeting. If you cannot attend in person to pay, please contact Eileen Kicinski or another Club Officer ASAP to make arrangements. (Contact info is on page 9.)

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### President's Message

November is the beginning of the Christmas Season. The weather should be much colder. We have to change our approach if we want to be successful on the river. Don't put your gear away because it seems like we catch a mild day now and then. When this happens fish the creeks and the harbors slowly. Just be mindful of the cold water and wear your life jackets to be safe.

I'd like to thank all the members for all your help and support during my time as Club President. We together as a collective group are what makes a successful Club.Thanks again and have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

Bob Jack

# Outdoor Show Participation Opportunities

The Club is scheduled to attend two outdoor shows to renew and recruit members and to sell DRFA merchandise and Tackle Bag Raffle tickets to support our Club activities. They include the Delaware Valley Surf Anglers Fisherman's Flea Market on Saturday, January 20 and the Palmyra Fisherman's Flea Market on Sunday, February 11. Please contact a Board Member if you can help with booth setup or manning a booth for either date.

### Help Needed To Make Tackle Bag Raffle Fundraiser A Success

This year's Tackle Bag Raffle is off to a great start, thanks to Club member Tim Lang's donation of a custom-built fishing rod, but we still have a ways to go to make the effort a success.

We depend on members to donate new, unused lures, tackle, and accessories to fill the bag and make it an enticing prize for potential ticket buyers. The monthly meeting on Novemer 29 and the Club Holiday Party on December 6 are ideal times to get

### **Important Dates**

Wednesday, November 29, 7 pm. Monthly Meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center.

Wednesday, December 6, 7 pm. Club Holiday Party at Georgine's Restaurant, 1320 Newport Rd, Bristol, PA 19007.

Saturday, January 20, 9 am. Delaware Valley Surf Angler's Flea Market at VE Club in Southampton, PA. Help is needed.

Wednesday, January 31, 7 am. Monthly Meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center. Guest speaker TBD.

your donations to Tackle-Bag-Raffle Coordinator Pete Marcolina before our first Outdoor Show of the year in January.

Also, as we did last year, we will be handing out blank raffle tickets at upcoming monthly meetings and the Holiday Party to be sold by Club members. We ask that each member sell a dozen tickets to support this important fundraising effort that helps to pay for meeting speakers and other Club activities.

# **Minutes From September Meeting**

President Bob Jack called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with 13 members in attendance. The minutes from the August meeting were read and approved.

#### Treasury Report: The

Treasurer's report was read and accepted. The report showed a balance of \$8,122.85 as of September 26. By comparison, last year's end-of-September balance was \$7,978.32 – making this year's total \$144.53 better than in September 2022.

#### **Membership Report:**

Membership Secretary Rick Mawson stated that the membership was up by one new member, totaling 56 paid members at the end of September.

#### **Tournament Report:**

Tournament Director Scott
McDonough reported the results
of the September Catfish
Tournament, announced the
upcoming Bass Tournament for
September 30, and read the top
standings in the Angler of the
Year competition. He also noted
that the September 30 event
would be the last time to improve
standings for participation in the
SJBCA Bass Bowl to be held on
October 15. Bob Jack noted that

he needed the final list of participants for the October 11 SJBCA meeting.

Youth Activities: There was no Youth Fishing activity reported other than the upcoming event at the Silver Lake Nature Center.

Old Business: Only 10 members had indicated interest in the 2023 Holiday Party as of September's meeting. The cost is \$24 per person and we would need 30 people in attendance to reserve the room at that cost. The proposed date for the event is December 6.

Rick Mawson reported that 48 children were registered for the October 14 Family Fishing Day at Silver Lake Nature Center. DRFA volunteers were asked to be there at 8 am to prepare the fishing rods for the event, which is scheduled to run from 10 am to 1 pm.

The final version of artwork for DRFA shirts, hats, and jackets was reviewed and approved. Bob Jack also reiterated the need for a Show Coordinator to help us make efficient use of our efforts this winter. Bob asked Frank Beck to check out the details of the Delaware Valley Surf Fishing Flea Market at the VE Club, Rick Mawson to look into the Palmyra Show, and Joe Newton to contact the Oaks Show. We will assess the potential for attending those shows from a cost/income perspective.

New Business: Nominations were opened for 2024 officers. Eileen Kicinski was nominated for the position of Treasurer. Rick Mawson was nominated as Membership Secretary. Pete Antoniewicz was nominated for the role of Recording Secretary. The Vice President/Tournament Director nominee was Scott McDonough. Bob Jack announced that he would not be

able to run for President in 2024. As of the end of the meeting, no individual had accepted a nomination for that role. Trustee nominees included Harry Wirebach, John Pedrick, Gregg Southrey, and Frank Beck.

Bob Jack discussed several potential speakers for future meetings. Members are asked to suggest potential speakers, while we follow up on several leads for Steve Horvath, Batteries and Bulbs, Awgul Fishing (a guide service), and our previously scheduled snakehead fishing speaker.

Scott McDonough recommended that the Board of Directors meet during October to address any issues related to dues, membership, show attendance, or other topics.

**Environmental Report:** Scott McDonough reported that a freshwater drum was caught in the Yardley area of the river.

**Fishing Reports:** Tim Lang reported having a good day fishing with his family around the Stockton area catching seven smallies up to 17". Scott fished Lake Norman catching spotted bass on topwater lures. Pete Antoniewicz reported catching good numbers (4-5 fish per manhour) at the North Branch of the Susquehanna, but relatively few fish between 16" and 18". Bryan Malkiewicz also fished with Chris Gorsuch and another angler on the North Branch, catching 197 smallies up to 16" over two days using Ned Rigs, rattletraps, and a swimbait rigged with a beetle-spin blade.

The 50/50 drawing for \$25.00 was won by Rob Heubner. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

# Minutes Of The October Meeting

President Bob Jack called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm with 16 members in attendance. The minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

Treasury Report: The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$7,971.74 as of October 25. By comparison, last year's end-of-October balance was \$7,873.65 – leaving this year's treasury \$98.09 better than the same time period in 2022.

#### **Tournament Report:**

**Tournament Director Scott** McDonough reported the results of the September Bass Tournament, announced the upcoming Bass Tournament for October 28 that is scheduled to start at safe light, and discussed the updated standings in the Angler of the Year competition. He also conveyed the results of the SJBCA Bass Bowl Tournament on October 15. Our three pairs of DRFA anglers had a rough time on that windy day, weighing in only one legal bass at 2.58 lbs.

Youth Activities: There was no Youth Fishing activity reported other than the potential rescheduling of the Silver Lake Nature Center event postponed from October 14.

Old Business: A call was made to add final nominations to the list of prospective officers and trustees nominated at the September meeting. With no new nominations and no contested positions, the original nominees ran unopposed and were voted in as nominated. **President:** (vacant): Vice-President/

Tournament Coordinator: Scott McDonough; Secretary: Pete Antoniewicz; Treasurer: Eileen

Kicinski; Membership

**Secretary:** Rick Mawson; **Trustees:** Harry Wirebach, John Pedrick, Frank Beck, and Gregg Southrey

Bob Jack noted that we really do need a president to help coordinate the efforts of other members for meetings, speakers, and outdoor shows. Interested members can contact Bob at an upcoming monthly meeting.

Brian Malkiewicz reported that the new hat and clothing vendor is building a website dedicated to DRFA merchandise. He also anticipates having embroidery and silkscreen samples available for review at an upcoming meeting.

Rick Mawson reported that Silver Lake Nature Center wants to reschedule the 2023 Family Fishing Day until early next year.

Only 10 members had indicated interest in the 2023 Holiday Party before the October meeting. The cost is \$24 and we would need 30 people in attendance to reserve the room at that cost per person. As of the October meeting, the number of attendees had risen to 20 members and guests, with several additional traditional attendees anticipated to come. The event will take place on December 6 at Georgine's Restaurant in Bristol. Members are reminded to have their payment in by the date of the November meeting (November 29).

Bob Jack again reiterated the need for a Show Coordinator to help us make efficient use of our efforts this winter. Frank Beck reported that the Delaware Valley Surf Anglers Fisherman's Flea Market at the VE Club in Southampton, PA is January 20, 2024. Members decided not to attend the Oaks Outdoor Show but to keep the Palmyra

Fishermen's Flea Market on the schedule.

The Club will once again sponsor a Tackle Bag Raffle fundraiser for the 2024 season. Members are asked to bring new, unused lures and tackle to the November meeting and December Holiday Party in order to have a full bag for the first outdoor show (January 20). Club member Tim Lang has already donated a custom-built rod as part of the tackle bag prize. Raffle tickets will be made available to members at the monthly meetings and the Holiday Party to save the postage costs of mailing tickets to every member. Members who cannot attend either of those events can request to receive tickets from Pete Marcolina by another method. The planned drawing date is at the DRFA meeting on March 27, 2024.

Zack Burgher from N&B Marine in Bordentown NJ gave a talk on winterizing boats for the offseason. (See separate article on page 5.)

Environmental Report: John Pedrick reported on dredging in the Schuylkill River above the Fairmont Park Dam to provide enough water depth for the Dad Vail Regatta. He commented that the project has already turned up 3,000 discarded tires and continues to find even more.

Fishing Reports: Tim Lang reported catching a bunch of bass on Ned Rigs in Tulleytown Cove the week before the October meeting. Rick Mawson caught eight nice smallmouth bass while fishing alone above the Lambertville ramp on the Thursday before the October meeting.

Scott McDonough reported fishing with Dan Lang on the Sunday before the meeting and

catching 20 bass each among two locations – Neshaminy Marina and Tulleytown Cove. Scott said that the fish in Tulleytown were caught in the front part of the cove as the bass were just starting to transition from the main river into the cove. He says the fish will migrate farther toward the back of the cove as the water cools even more.

Bryan Malkiewicz commented on the New Jersey regulatory change requiring PFDs to be worn in any boat less than 26 feet long <u>during</u> <u>the cold-weather season</u> (See separate article on page 4.)

The comparable Pennsylvania cold-water regulation applies to boats less than 16 feet long. From May through October, boats are required to have one PFD for each passenger.

A standard (non-inflatable) PFD fulfills that requirement whether it is being worn or stored, but an inflatable PFD satisfies that legal requirement only if it is being properly worn by the passenger. Some Club members recommend keeping an extra non-inflatable PFD on board if you plan to remove your inflatable PFD when not running the gas-powered motor.

Members were also reminded of the federal requirement to have the kill switch connected at any time the gas motor is running.

The 50/50 drawing for \$31.00 (along with the role of president for 2024) was won by John Pedrick. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

# **Know The Rules,** Cold Water Kills!

For the hardy souls that brave the winter elements between now and the beginning of May, it is important to your health – and to your wallet – to know and follow the current PFD requirements for winter boating.

This NJ State Police Marine Services Bureau webpage outlines new requirements of New Jersey Administrative Code Title 13:82-1.4(f) relative to winter boating.

"Starting this November, no owner or operator of a recreational vessel less than 26 feet, including rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards shall permit its operation between November 1st and May 1st, unless each person on board such vessel is wearing a securely fastened United States Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device of an appropriate size while such vessel is underway." (i.e., not at anchor, or made fast to the shore, or aground).

"The goal of this regulatory update is to prevent hypothermia deaths, and to decrease the risks placed upon first responders, during winter search and rescue operations, on the waters of New Jersey. In almost every instance of a vessel-related drowning, the victim was not wearing a life vest. In the event you do go into the water during the cold-water months, wearing a USCG approved PFD allows for increased potential for rescue and survival, and worst-case scenario at least a recovery. The repercussions for not wearing a PFD during the cold-water months can potentially be fatal should an accident, mishap, or sudden weather event occur."

According to the NJ website, the rule applies to any boat in NJ waters (i.e., east of the dividing line down the middle of the river), not just those boats launching from or registered in New Jersey.

In Pennsylvania, the November 1 requirement for wearing PFDs on the water applies to boats less than 16 feet in length.

In any case, paying attention to these rules and the guidelines of common sense can save you more than just the cost of a citation. It can literally save your life.

# New Invasive Species Information

Based on some recent reports from DRFA members, here is information on two invasive species – blue catfish and freshwater drum – that have crept into the Delaware River (most likely through the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal).

If you catch either of these fish in the Delaware River or its tributaries, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (*PFBC*) encourages you to harvest them, take photos, and report their capture to the PFBC's online aquatic invasive species by clicking on the "Report AIS" link on this webpage.

NJ Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists can also be reached at 908-236-2118 for northern New Jersey, and at 609-223-6080 for southern New Jersey to report catches of these two invasive species.

### Guest Speaker From N&B Marine Provides Tips On Winterizing Your Boat

As the fishing and boating season is winding down for many DRFA anglers, the October meeting featured a discussion about boat winterization by Zack Burgher from N&B Marine Supply, 63 Route 130 North, Bordentown, NJ 08505 (609) 298-3658.

The first thing Zack mentioned was to check the gear lube in the lower unit to ensure that there is no water in there that can freeze and push the bearing out or crack the housing. Based on problems that Zack's group often sees in their Springtime repair requests, other key areas to address are fuel stabilization and steering lubrication.

Be sure to top off and stabilize any fuel left in the tank if it cannot or will not be drained for the winter. Stabile 360, Star Tron, or a manufacturer-specific treatment is recommended. Also, taking care to clean up old grease and provide fresh lubrication to the steering controls before your boat sits over the cold winter months can prevent headaches when you embark on your first trip of the Spring season.

Batteries are best stored in a warm environment, if possible. But in any case, they should be connected to a trickle charger for the extent of the offseason.

Carbureted engines and their spark plugs can be sprayed with a fogging treatment, but DO NOT spray the carburetor intake of an EFI engine because it can harm sensors in the engine. Instead, a brief shot can be sprayed into each spark plug opening before the plugs are reinstalled and the engine is briefly turned over by

hand or bumped with the ignition key.

To help boat owners go through the appropriate steps on their own, Zach also left an itemized checklist of steps:

- 1. Stabilize fuel tank.
- 2. Complete lube job.
- 3. Fog out motor if applicable.
- 4. Spray block corrosion protection.
- 5. Lube/clean prop shaft.
- 6. Flush motor with fresh water.
- 7. Lubricate steering at the motor.
- 8. Remove the drain plug from the boat.
- 9. Clean/replace the fuel filter.
- 10. Run carburetors dry, if applicable.
- 11. Clean/inspect spark plugs.
- 12. Check/add power trim fluid.
- 13. Boat plumbing (optional).
- 14. Change crankcase oil & filter *(optional)*.
- 15. Test batteries/charge.

#### From A to Z:

# Where Do We Go From Here?

Now that we have had our elections for 2024 Club officers and we are once again without a person to fill the role of President, it brings to mind thoughts about how we might keep our Club viable and maintain, if not increase, membership.

A key concern is overall coordination of volunteers who handle the routine tasks of manning show booths, running the Tackle Bag Raffle, updating our website, publishing the newsletter, running tournaments, etc. Having a single point of contact – even one who does not handle the physical chores

themselves – can help to prevent details from slipping between the cracks.

Encouraging individual Club members to identify guest speakers for our monthly meetings is another area where central coordination is just as important as the legwork done by many different volunteers.

But the bottom line is that we need one person to coordinate such details and be able to present them to Club members at our monthly meetings in an orderly fashion. That is the role that needs to be fulfilled by a Club President. If you have a cell phone and an email account you have all the tools you need for the job. We will provide the monthly agenda list.

Similarly, the role of Outdoor-Show Coordinator is to be the clearinghouse for information about show costs, deadlines, display components, and booth attendant scheduling. That individual doesn't need to man the show booth personally, just coordinate the hands-on personnel who will.

Perhaps one area where we can use the most help is in creating a broader and more consistent online profile for the Club as a means of generating new memberships. I'm not a social media expert and, in fact, when I asked for guidance from my daughter-in-law who is, I was discouraged by her response. But I do know we need to try something new. As Newsletter Editor, I can provide content support for anyone willing to embrace the task of enhancing our online presence.

If you have the inclination to help with any of these roles, contact a board member to see how we can support your efforts.

# **September Bass Tournament Results**

The first bass tournament of the year in the non-tidal river saw three fish exceeding two pounds weighed in and one that came within one hundredth of a pound of that mark. Overall, seven of the eight competing anglers brought a legal fish to the scales.

Pete Antoniewicz took first place with a 2.87-lb, 17.75" smallmouth. Second place went to Casey McDonough with a 2.52-lb., 17.25" smallie. Bryan Malkiewicz edged out Gregg Southrey for third place with a 2.01-lb., 16.50" smallie, but Gregg's 1.99-lb. fourth-place fish enabled him to lock up the Angler of the Year competition with one more tournament to go.

#	ANGLER	WEIGHT	LENGTH	POINTS
1	Pete Antoniewicz	2.87	17.75	100
2	Casey McDonough	2.52	17.25	99
3	Bryan Malkiewicz	2.01	16.50	98
4	Gregg Southrey	1.99	15.25	97
5	Scott McDonough	1.74	15.50	96
6	Charles Bay	0.93	12.50	95
7	George Hoffman	0.88	12.25	94

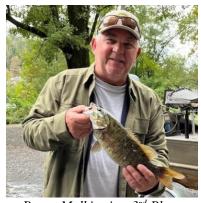


Casey McDonough, 2nd Place





Pete Antoniewicz, 1st Place



Bryan Malkiewicz, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



Chick Bay, 6th Place

Get every single DRFA newsletter plus year-round access to the online forum. It's not too early to renew your DRFA membership or help a friend get involved.

Download a membership form from the <u>DRFA Website</u> today!



Gregg Southrey, 4th Place



George Hoffman, 7th Place

### October Bass Tournament Results

The final tournament of the 2023 season took place on October 28 at the Byram, NJ Access Ramp. Eight of the ten anglers registered for the event brought a legal fish to the scale.

As with the September bass tournament in the non-tidal stretch of the river, three anglers brought a two-plus pound smallmouth to the scales. This time, the weights were much closer, with the top three anglers all within two tenths of a pound of each other. Casey McDonough outpaced his father Scott to take first place honors, while Scott edged out Gregg Southrey who padded his winning AOTY point total with a third-place finish.

#	ANGLER	WEIGHT	LENGTH	POINTS
1	Casey McDonough	2.89	17.00	100
2	Scott McDonough	2.73	17.50	99
3	Gregg Southrey	2.70	17.25	98
4	Pete Antoniewicz	1.53	14.25	97
5	Rich Hoffman	1.30	14.00	96
6	Charles Bay	1.10	13.50	95
7	Rick Mawson Sr	0.81	12.00	94
8	Frank Beck	0.71	12.00	93



Gregg Southrey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



Chick Bay, 6tht Place



Casey McDonough, 1st Place



Pete Antoniewicz, 4th Place



Rick Mawson, 7th Place



Scott McDonough, 2nd Place



Rich Hoffman, 5th Place



Frank Beck, 8th Place

### AOTY Gregg Southrey Captures 2023 Title With A Strong Finish

After leading the AOTY race for much of the summer, Gregg Southrey was not content to rest on his laurels or coast toward the finish line. He competed right until the very end, with third- and fourth-place finishes in the final two non-tidal-river bass tournaments in September and October. That enabled him to keep inching his best-six-fish point totals higher and higher after each event and accumulate an impressive total 590 points for the title.

For his efforts, Gregg will earn a personal plaque and a \$150 check as the top AOTY prize.

Second place went to Pete Antoniewicz who earned 583 points in the year-long competition and will earn a \$100 award.

Perennial AOTY contender George Hoffman took the \$75 third-place prize for his 578-point finish.

All awards will be presented at the Holiday Party on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Georgine's Restaurant.

The change to the six-best-fish scoring rule has proved to keep competition for the top three prizes in the annual event extremely close right through the final tournaments.

Chick Bay rounded out the list of only four anglers who weighed in the maximum of six fish toward the AOTY standings. Five additional anglers weighed in five legal fish over the course of the season, with the competitors for the seventh, eighth, and ninth positions being separated by just two points.

#	ANGLER	POINTS	WEIGHT	LENGTH
1	Gregg Southrey	590	32.44	128.25
2	Pete Antoniewicz	583	18.82	109.50
3	George Hoffman	578	24.09	117.25
4	Charles Bay	576	19.39	102.75
5	Casey McDonough	491	12.61	85.50
6	Rich Hoffman	480	17.50	93.50
7	Bryan Malkiewicz	471	15.93	88.75
8	Ron Soto	470	16.75	80.75
9	Rick Mawson Sr	469	14.18	88.75
10	Scott McDonough	391	9.85	69.00
11	Frank Beck	379	11.16	68.50
12	Anthony Scholl Sr	287	10.06	60.00
13	Dave Wermuth	281	9.04	55.75
14	Dan Wermuth	200	18.00	51.35
15	Joe Newton	192	6.79	38.50
16	Chris Hoffman	100	7.38	25.50
17	Shane Seliga	99	2.79	18.00
18	Bob Kuntz	98	4.49	21.25
19	Pete Marcolina	96	5.42	23.00
20	Patrick Baranowski	96	1.84	15.00
21	Devon Seliga	95	1.64	14.00
22	John Pedrick	94	4.93	23.00
23	Anthony Scholl Jr	94	1.58	14.25
24	Matt Weinhardt	90	0.77	13.00



# 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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We also recognize our Associate members – the <u>South Jersey Bass Club Association</u> and <u>Delaware Riverkeeper Network</u> – who provide relevant information and additional fishing experiences for DRFA members.

KEY CONTACTS: Tournament Hotline: 267-934-2148 • Email Address: DRFA\_TheRiverNews@hotmail.com
• President: (vacant) • Vice President/Tournament Director: Scott McDonough, 215-989-0153 • Treasurer: Eileen Kicinski, 215-713-4951 • Recording Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Pete Antoniewicz, 609-751-7545 • Membership Secretary/Webmaster: Rick Mawson, 267-934-2148 • Youth Activities Director: Charles Bay, 609-744-8260 • Tackle Bag Coordinator: Pete Marcolina, 215-637-4555 • Trustees: Frank Beck, Harry Wirebach, John Pedrick, Gregg Southrey