

# The River News

**The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association**

**Vol. 37, No. 4**

**July-August 2025**

## Summer Activities: Tournaments, Fundraising, And Fishing Trips

### Check Out These Chances To Participate In DRFA Club Support And Fishing Fun

The month of August offers multiple opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular and Club activities that can provide more value for your DRFA membership.

**Tournaments:** For starters, we have two regular Club Tournaments in August – an August 10 Bass Tournament on the tidal river (*at Gloucester City Marina*) and an August 24 Catfish Tournament (*Falls Township Quaker Penn Park Boat Ramp*, 300 Pennsbury Memorial Road, Morrisville, PA).

Each tournament offers chances to win cash prizes for the top three finishers at no added cost, because tournament participation is already covered by your annual dues. Of course, if you would like to sweeten the pot, you can also participate in the voluntary \$10 lunker pool at each tournament.

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*(Remember, if you do not already have an annual permit, the Falls Township Ramp requires a daily permit to be purchased online, in advance. Save time the morning of the tournament by visiting [the Falls Township website form](#) to complete that form and pay the fee the day before the event.*

**Socialize:** Invite all your friends and family to join you and your fellow DRFA members at the Texas Roadhouse at 1545 Street Road in Bensalem for our 2025 Fundraising Dinner. Individuals can eat any time they choose between 4 pm and 10 pm on the day of the event, and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of their food purchases back to the Club.



*(Remember, diners must bring a hard copy or a digital copy of the official Texas Roadhouse flyer – available on page 8 of this newsletter or downloaded from the [link on the home page](#) of the DRFA website – to qualify for the 10% donation.)*

**Bonus Fishing Opportunities:** Beyond our regular fishing tournaments, DRFA members have two chances to gather with other members for a day on the waters beyond our traditional fishing locations.

**Opportunity #1** – A raft float-fishing trip for smallmouth bass on the upper Delaware River will take place in early August – date to be based on water and weather

### Important Dates

**Wednesday, July 30, 7 pm.**  
Monthly meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center.

**Sunday, August 10, 6 am to 12 pm.** Bass Tournament at Gloucester City Marina.

**Wednesday August 20, 4 pm to 10 pm.** [DRFA Fundraiser](#) at the [Texas Roadhouse Restaurant](#), 1545 Street Road, Bensalem, PA.

**Sunday, August 24, 6 am to 12 pm.** Catfish Tournament at Falls Township Ramp.

**Wednesday August 27, 7pm.**  
Monthly meeting at Silver Lake Nature Center.

**Saturday, September 13, 7 am to 1 pm.** Non-tidal river Bass Tournament, Bulls Island Ramp.

conditions. The cost is around \$60 per person, with raft and shuttle provided. Participants will carpool up to the Kittatinny Canoes base camp in Matamoras PA and catch a bus north to float from Staircase Rapids back to Matamoras. Contact Pete Antoniewicz at 609-751-7545 or [petea2z@mac.com](mailto:petea2z@mac.com) to indicate your interest, ask questions, and get on the list for further updates.

**Opportunity #2** – Want to try something a bit different? A saltwater fluke-fishing trip being organized by DRFA member Bob Slobodian will be held on Friday August 22. Bob will advise us of how many openings he still has available for our group around August 10 and DRFA anglers can fill those openings on a first-come, first-served basis. *(Bob is limiting the trip to 35 people so the boat will not be too crowded.)*

The boat is the Mi-Jo out of Atlantic Highlands, NJ. The trip will run from 7 am until 2pm. The cost is \$80 per person, rod included. Free coffee is available and other food will be for sale *(Bob says the pork roll, egg, and cheese sandwiches are good.)*

Register your interest and your place in line with Pete Antoniewicz at 609-751-7545 or [petea2z@mac.com](mailto:petea2z@mac.com) and he will notify you of openings once we hear back from Bob.

## Minutes Of The May Meeting

Rick Mawson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with 22 members in attendance.

**Treasury Report:** Eileen Kicinski's Treasury Report showed a balance of \$7,198.99 as of the May meeting date.

**Membership Report:** Rick Mawson reported a total of 57 members – 30 individual

members, 18 family members, and 9 supporting business members.

**Tournament Report:** Results from the May Catfish Tournament were reviewed along with the Angler of the Year standings at the conclusion of that Tournament. Members were reminded of the next Tournament, a Bass Tournament on June 15 at Neshaminy Marina.

**Youth Activities:** The annual Youth Fishing Derby was scheduled for Saturday July 19. The registration deadline was July 1, 2025. Members were advised to contact Chick Bay (609) 744-8260 with any questions.

**Old Business:** No date for our proposed fundraising event at the Texas Roadhouse on Street Road had been established yet. Learn more at our June meeting.

We still have open dates for guest speakers at our September and November meetings. If any member has a contact, or a suggestion or topic to recommend, please bring it to a Club Officer or Trustee.

Saturday June 7 was the next scheduled day for volunteer service hours at Silver Lake nature Center. Anyone who volunteers is reminded to register under the DRFA name so we get credit for service hours that count toward defraying the cost of our monthly meeting space.

**Environmental Report:** There were no Environmental Reports.

**Guest Speaker:** After the business meeting, Lee Taylor of Bait Crafters spoke about a variety of baits in his company's lineup of brands – including Fitt Lures swimbaits and river darters, Stinky Balls scent balls, and the

Neko Craw from his Third Eye brand.

The 50/50 drawing for \$43 was won by John Pedrick. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

## Minutes Of The June Meeting

Secretary Pete Antoniewicz called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The minutes from the May meeting were read and approved.

**Treasury Report:** Eileen Kicinski's Treasury report showed a balance of \$7,417.98 as of June 24. The June 2024 balance was \$8,355.12, a difference of \$937.14.

**Membership Report:** As of the June meeting, we had 30 individual members, 18 family members and 10 supporting business members, for a total of 58 members – up one family membership from the previous month.

**Tournament Report:** Pete Antoniewicz recapped the results from the June Bass Tournament and the Angler of the Year standings as of June. He also reminded members of the upcoming Catfish Tournament at Neshaminy Marina on Saturday July 12. Rick Gasper volunteered to be the weighmaster for the August 10 Bass Tournament at Gloucester City.

**Youth Activities:** Members were reminded that registration for the July 19 Youth Fishing Derby at the Pennsylvania Yacht Club was due on July 1. Rick Mawson was to send an email reminder to all members asking for participants and volunteers.

**Old Business:** John Pedrick will approach the Texas Roadhouse with potential fundraiser dates of August 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Pete Antoniewicz will contact Bob Slobodian about openings for his Atlantic Highlands charter boat trip and post the opportunities in the July newsletter.

Rich Mawson has not had any feedback about specific projects or dates for Silver Lake Nature Center volunteer service activities.

**New Business:** There were no new business topics raised.

**Environmental Reports:** There were no new environmental reports.

**Fishing Reports:** Rick Mawson reported some nice success at Falls Township Lake, with 9- to 15-fish days including many bass between 1.5 and 2.5 lbs. The best was a 4-lb. 12-oz. fish caught by Rick's grandson.

Jason Johnson reported success at a number of venues – bass in Falls Township Lake, stripers and smallmouth in the river, and bass in Silver Lake, mostly on paddle-tail swimbaits. He also reported catching catfish in the river.

Rick Gasper reported a 5-lb., 7-oz. smallmouth on his first cast during a trip to the St. Lawrence River. Fortunately, it did not jinx him from catching a bunch of other fish while there.

Frank Beck and Joe Newton fished Falls Township Lake, catching 10 bass. On the way in, Joe tossed out a jerkbait and caught a 14" crappie.

Dave Wermuth reported on a group of guys getting chased off the Upper Delaware River during a trout outing due to poor water conditions. But they salvaged the trip by moving to the Beaverkill, where they all did well on the trout there. Dave said that all the reservoirs in upstate NY were over 100% capacity at that point.

Pete Antoniewicz reported on getting skunked while fishing for snakeheads in the Salem River, but another angler in his party did manage a 16" and a 17" largemouth.

The 50/50 drawing for \$33 was won by Dave Wermuth. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

### **Bait Crafters Representative Highlights Differences In Popular Bait Styles**

At the May meeting, Lee Taylor from Bait Crafters presented some of the new and different features of baits from several of his brand lines – Fitt Lures, Stinky Balls, Third Eye, and No Live Bait Needed.

A key feature across several of his bait lines is the water-

activated release of encapsulated live-bait scents, initially developed for his Stinky Balls products. Another is UV reflectivity being incorporated into both the Stinky Ball and swimbait products as a result of manufacturing development expertise gained from the scent-ball production. That UV reflectivity is designed to help in stained water.

Water-activated scent balls, containing actual ground-down worms, crawfish, or baitfish – depending on the application or scent formulation – are part of the Stinky Balls product line. Each water-soluble, biodegradable ball is designed to release scent for 20-25 minutes. The same scent technology is incorporated into his No Live Bait Needed line for saltwater and now in his Fitt Lures swimbaits for freshwater.

## **2025 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 for 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, ramp, launch, and/or parking fees may apply.)*

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

*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 (267-809-4098) the night before the event to learn about potential rescheduling or relocation due to weather or water conditions.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sun. . .	8/10 .....	Bass .....	6 am – 12 pm ....	Gloucester City Ramp
Sun. . .	8/24 .....	Catfish .....	6 am - 12 pm .....	Falls Township Ramp
Sat. . .	9/13 .....	Bass .....	7 am - 1 pm .....	Bulls Island Ramp
Sun. . .	10/12 ...	Bass .....	7 am - 1 pm .....	Byram Ramp

In a related note, Lee described how stringing a smaller crappie-sized Stinky Ball up to the head of a Ned Rig hook, before installing the plastic bait, can create the illusion of an “eyeball” on the bait, thanks to the UV reflectivity.

Anticipated future developments for the scent-based product line includes a gel-based product that can be applied to an individual lure and what Lee described as ‘trigger dust’ – a dehydrated powder version that can be sprinkled into a bag of soft plastics and shaken to distribute the scent across the individual lures.

Another unique product Lee displayed was his Neko Craw which enables the imitation crawfish to swim backwards, as this video available on the bottom of the product page shows, just like a real crawfish trying to escape.

When discussion turned to swimbaits, Lee handed out samples of his flexible, yet durable swimbait and jerkbait material designed to compete with the average angler’s experiences with other flexible, but less durable popular brands. Also, the Fitt Lures paddle tail swimbait has a very tight tail action which some fishermen swear by as a productive technique. Lee also demonstrated his ‘color-shift’ technology available in the “Reign” color version of his *NOTTAFLUKE* soft jerkbait (familiar to former Winco Lure customers as the *River Darter*). The surface appears to have a different sheen – e.g., grayish, purplish, greenish – when viewed from different angles.

## Classified Ad



**Lund Boat at NEW Reduced Price Of \$8,500:** Former DRFA member selling 2001 Lund 17' V-Hull aluminum fishing boat with 90-HP Honda 4-stroke engine. Serviced and winterized by factory-authorized mechanic annually. Walk-thru windshield. Optional front/rear pedestal seats for fishing. Seats 7 passengers. Front/rear live wells, Bimini canopy (used only 2 times), anchor with 100' rope, long-shaft Minn Kota 55-lb. TM, and full boat cover. Load-Rite trailer with rollers. Good mechanical condition, only deck carpeting needs work. Contact Jeff Antoniewicz at 609-744-5511.

## Catfish Photos (cont. from pg. 6)



John Pedrick, 10<sup>th</sup> Place



Rob Heubner, 11<sup>th</sup> Place



Matt Weinhardt, 13<sup>th</sup> Place



Rick Mawson, 14<sup>th</sup> Place



Frank Beck 15<sup>th</sup> Place

## June Bass Tournament Sees Decent Numbers And Good Size

The rainy June Bass Tournament showed better than average size, with the largest fish at nearly three pounds and the smallest fish weighing in at more than a pound and a half. Of the 15 anglers registered for the event, 11 brought a fish to the scales, which is also decent productivity for a tidal river bass tournament.

Pos	Name	Weight	Length	Points
1	George Hoffman	2.91	18.00	100
2	Scott McDonough	2.86	19.00	99
3	Chris Hoffman	2.76	17.50	98
4	Pete Antoniewicz	2.46	17.25	97
5	Casey McDonough	2.05	16.25	96
6	Dan Wermuth	1.84	15.00	95
7	Jos. Scannapieco Jr.	1.71	15.75	94
8	Chick Bay	1.69	14.50	93
9	Joe Newton	1.63	14.75	92
10	Jos. Scannapieco	1.61	15.50	91
11	Dave Wermuth	1.55	15.50	90



George Hoffman, 1<sup>st</sup> Place



Pete Antoniewicz 4<sup>th</sup> Place



Joseph Scannapieco, Jr. 7<sup>th</sup> Place



Scott McDonough, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Casey McDonough, 5<sup>th</sup> Place



Chick Bay 8<sup>th</sup> Place



Chris Hoffman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



Dan Wermuth, 6<sup>th</sup> Place



Joe Newton, 9<sup>th</sup> Place

## July Catfish Tournament Provides 100% Success, But Highly Variable Size

The summer Catfish Tournament saw a good catch rate but a wide distribution of weights for the fish brought to the scales. All 15 registered anglers for the event weighed in fish, but those weights varied from a high of 9.15 lbs. to a low of 0.49 lbs.

(Additional photos on page 4.)

Pos.	Name	Weight	Length	Points
1	Bennett Warman	9.15	26.00	100
2	George Hoffman	6.45	25.00	99
3	Ron Soto	5.85	23.25	98
4	Rich Hoffman	5.58	24.00	97
5	Dave Wermuth	5.05	23.50	96
6	Joe Scannapieco, Jr.	4.24	22.75	95
7	Pete Antoniewicz	4.18	21.00	94
8	Bryan Malkiewicz	3.76	21.25	93
9	Gregg Southrey	3.28	20.50	92
10	John Pedrick	2.72	19.50	91
11	Rob Heubner	2.70	20.00	90
12	Pete Marcolina	2.42	19.50	89
13	Matt Weinhardt	1.58	17.00	88
14	Rick Mawson	1.25	15.75	87
15	Frank Beck	0.49	12.00	86



Bennett Warman 1<sup>st</sup> Place



Rich Hoffman, 4<sup>th</sup> Place



Pete Antoniewicz, 7<sup>th</sup> Place



George Hoffman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Dave Wermuth 5<sup>th</sup> Place



Bryan Malkiewicz, 8<sup>th</sup> Place



Ron Soto, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



Joe Scannapieco, Jr., 6<sup>th</sup> Place



Gregg Southery, 9<sup>th</sup> Place

## Angler Of The Year

### Competition Holds Lots Of Potential Volatility For Future Standings

At the half-way mark of the 2025 Dave Bryant Angler of the Year competition, both the 50-point participation bonus and the variability of angler finishes in tournament by tournament results has created a high potential for reshuffling the standings over the last four tournaments.

The top ten places feature a lot of familiar names, but the point totals are all over the lot based on missed tournaments, poor results, or even an occasional skunking. The key to the finish will be catching as many fish as possible in hopes of dropping the lowest scores to date. (*Remember, only the top six scores count toward an angler's final totals.*)

**Keep 'Em Honest!**  
*With four events left, you still have plenty of chances to impact the final standings – simply by participating in those remaining tournaments!*

Even anglers with currently low standings can impact the top finishers when they all participate and some of them weigh in high-scoring fish – enough to whittle a few points off the scores of anglers in the top of the standings who might weigh in smaller fish.

In past years, some AOTY contestants (*not winners*) have coasted to the finish with small fish because lack of participation allowed them to score 90+ points even with low-ranking entries in poorly attended tournaments.

Currently, George Hoffman holds a solid lead with high finishes in most of the tournaments to date.

Pos.	Name	Points	Weight	Length
1	George Hoffman	487	24.58	107.75
2	Dave Wermuth	460	16.11	97.75
3	Gregg Southrey	422	20.01	85.00
4	Scott McDonough	395	17.04	85.25
5	Pete Antoniewicz	375	13.24	78.25
6	Rich Hoffman	368	14.42	78.50
7	Rick Mawson	364	11.21	74.50
8	Casey McDonough	284	8.64	53.25
9	Chick Bay	283	12.84	54.25
10	Frank Beck	274	4.34	33.50
11	Pat Baranowski	240	9.29	44.25
12	Dan Wermuth	240	8.24	39.25
13	Tony Seliga	238	9.94	45.25
14	Joe Scannapieco Jr.	236	5.85	38.25
15	Chris Hoffman	194	4.56	33.25
16	Joe Newton	192	1.68	14.75
17	Matt Weinhardt	181	5.42	39.00
18	Devan Seliga	146	4.00	21.50
19	John Pedrick	141	2.72	19.50
20	Rob Huebner	140	2.70	20.00
21	Pete Marcolina	139	2.42	19.50
22	Bennett Warman	100	9.15	26.00
23	Bob Kuntz	100	4.14	22.00
24	Ron Soto	98	5.85	23.25
25	Jason Johnson	96	6.74	24.25
26	Rick Fedele Sr	95	3.97	21.75
27	Joe Scannapieco	94	1.71	15.75
28	Bryan Malkiewicz	93	3.76	21.25
29	Bob Slobodian	92	3.82	20.25
30	Tom Ferrante	92	1.07	12.50
31	Richard Fedele Jr	90	3.40	21.25
32	Joe Tropea	50	0.00	0.00
32	Jase Tropea	50	0.00	0.00
32	Tom Ferrante III	50	0.00	0.00
32	Shane Seliga	50	0.00	0.00
32	Adan Schneck	50	0.00	0.00

But second-place holder Dave Wermuth will need to watch over his shoulder as people with only three or four fish weighed-in to date could surpass him if he falters in any one event or if they more than six fish.

Another example is how defending Angler of the Year

Scott McDonough sits in fourth place but can easily overtake the lead once he gets his sixth fish, providing he finishes close to George Hoffman in the remaining events. Even the race for third place easily extends all the way down to at least the current top ten spots.

**TEXAS ROADHOUSE®**

## DINE TO DONATE! FUNDRAISING NIGHT

 DELAWARE RIVER FISHERMEN'S ASSN.  
PA NJ  
UNITED FOR THE RIVER

**10% DONATION NIGHT**

Support Delaware River Fishermen's Assn. by presenting this flyer to the Bensalem, PA location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases to Delaware River Fishermen's Assn.!

To-Go sales and Gift Card purchases also apply. Come in for Legendary food, fun and a chance to win a prize!

 BXZBFR7

**Support  
DELAWARE RIVER  
FISHERMEN'S  
ASSN.**

**WED., AUGUST 20  
4 - 10PM**

**(215) 639-7427  
1545 STREET ROAD  
BENSALEM, PA**



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### Bass Photos (continued from pg. 5)



*Joseph Scannapieco, 10<sup>th</sup> Place*

Print Fundraiser Flyer at 133% size to ensure that barcode is readable.



*Dave Wermuth 11<sup>th</sup> Place*

**Have An Idea For  
A Guest Speaker?**

*With two more openings  
for guest speakers in 2025,  
do you have a potential  
speaker or topic you would  
like to see covered?*

**From A to Z:**  
**You Don't Need Guest  
Speakers To Learn  
From DRFA Meetings**

Yes, we do need suggestions for new guest speakers for September and November. But even though we traditionally do not have guest speakers at our summertime meetings, that doesn't mean there's nothing to be gained from our July and August meetings.

The fishing reports we share at the end of each meeting can have value in terms of giving you new ideas on where, when, and how to fish in the coming weeks.

You can also help yourself and fellow members by raising a question or two about something that has you stumped – e.g., tracking water levels in response to this summer's crazy rain patterns or adjusting to sharp drops in temperature or water levels resulting from those rains.

If you have a boat, offer an open seat for a specific upcoming trip or just an open seat in general for future trips, to learn from other Club members. And if you don't have a boat, offer to pay for gas and ramp fees for a boating angler who would otherwise be fishing and footing the bill alone.

**Remember to check the  
Tournament Hotline 267-809-  
4098 or website for changes  
before each DRFA Tournament.**



**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.

**McKeown's Automotive Services** • 2525 Street Road, Bensalem, PA 19020 • State Inspection, Emissions • 215-639-4887

**Timothy Lang** • Custom-Crafted Fishing Rods and Rod Repairs • [achieftim@gmail.com](mailto:achieftim@gmail.com) • 609-548-8844

**The Fegley Law Firm** • 301 Oxford Valley Rd, Suite 402A, Yardley, PA • Business, Employment & Personal Injury Law • 215-493-8287

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**Shadillac Custom Fishing Lures** • Mustad hooks, hand painted, DRFSA endorsed • [shadillac@aol.com](mailto:shadillac@aol.com) • 267-251-5806

**Rusty Balls Tackle & Guide Service** • 2440 W Columbia St, Allentown, PA 18104 • [@rustyballsguideservice](mailto:@rustyballsguideservice) • 484-239-4723

**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](mailto: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, 215-809-4098 • **Youth Activities Director:** Charles Bay, 609-744-8260 • **Tackle Bag Coordinator:** Pete Marcolina, 215-637-4555 • **Trustees:** Dave Wermuth, Harry Wirebach, John Pedrick, Gregg Southrey