

The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Vol. 33, No. 5

September-October 2021

Final Tournaments To Impact AOTY Results; Striper Bonus Program Closing Soon

AOTY Last Chance!

At the time this newsletter went to press, the last two tournaments of the year – both to be held in the non-tidal river – still had the potential to impact the final 2021 Angler of the Year standings.

A key factor that can keep the final standings in suspense is the fact that only the top six scores for each angler will be counted toward the final point total. With that in mind, 5 anglers are still in potential striking distance for the second spot and 12 anglers have the potential to climb into third place, with 5 of those 12 being within less than 100 points of each other for the third position in the final standings. That is all the more reason not to miss the final two tournaments of the season.

Striped Bass Bonus Program Sign-Ups Open Until 10/31/21

Applications for the 2021 Striped Bass Bonus Program are currently being accepted by the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2021. Further

information and a link to the application form are available at https://www.njfishandwildlife.org/bonusbas.htm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Participants will need to attach their bonus fish permit to the harvested fish immediately and report to NJF&W within 24 hours. Participants can also submit a 2021 fishing log to remain eligible for the program in 2022.

The following rules and requirements are spelled out on the New Jersey Fish & Wildlife bonus-program page (*which also includes links to additional info*):

"New Jersey's 2021 recreational striped bass regulations allow for one fish from 28" to less than 38". With a bonus permit, anglers can keep one fish at 24 inches to less than 28 inches from May 15 through December 31, 2021. Reporting bonus harvest within 24 hours is mandatory. Please note the order of fish harvested does not matter (Bonus fish can be the 1st or 2nd fish). Visit the [Marine section of the Regulations page](#) to check current Federal and State possession and season regulations for striped bass fishing in your area.

"The ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Plan for striped bass now requires using inline (non-offset) circle hooks when fishing for striped bass with bait.

"SBBP participants can receive immediate notification of regulation updates, emergency closures, special notices, etc., by subscribing to the free NJ Marine Fishing E-mail List."

Minutes Of The July Meeting

Vice President Bob Jack opened the meeting at 7:05 with 15 members in attendance.

Treasury Report: The balance as of the July meeting date was \$9,487.84. By comparison the July balance for 2020 was \$9,297.23.

Important Dates

Saturday, September 25,
Bass Tournament: Byram Access Ramp. 7:00 am to 1 pm.

**Wednesday, September 29,
7 pm Monthly Meeting:** Silver Lake Nature Center. Nominations for 2022 officers will be opened.

**Wednesday, October 27,
7pm, Monthly Meeting:** Silver Lake Nature Center. Final nominations and elections for 2022 officers.

Saturday, October 30, Bass Tournament: Bulls Island Access Ramp. 7:30 am to 1:30 pm.

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Membership: Membership Secretary Rick Mawson reported that membership was still at 70 paid members as of the July meeting date.

Youth Activities: Chick Bay reported that there were only four youth participants and not a lot of fish at this year's Youth Derby at the Pennsylvania Yacht Club.

Tournaments: Bob Jack reported on the results of the July 10 bass tournament, where 13 of 19 anglers weighed a legal fish. He reminded members that the next tournament would be a catfish tournament on August 8 at the Neshaminy boat ramp.

Fishing Reports: Pete Antoniewicz reported on smallmouth bass activity in the Lehigh River around Slatington the week before the meeting. The bite was a bit sluggish because of colder water, but the average catch was around 15 smallies for a half-dozen kayakers.

Rick Mawson and Joe Newton spent the previous Monday at Lake Luxembourg and caught five bass, two catfish, and white perch in slow action.

Frank Beck and Bob Jack fished a muddy Delaware River at Byram and had three smallmouth. Joe Newton has a 22" striped and a 12" and 18" smallmouth.

Dave Russel reported catching 22 sunfish with his grandson at a pond in Penndel. Dave Wermuth reported slow fishing at Chambers Lake. Scott

McDonough reported catching seven or eight bass in the river from Neshaminy up to Bordentown. Chick Bay and Gregg Southrey had a dozen bass at the DOD lake in South Jersey.

Scott McDonough was going to call John Pedrick to discuss if the PFBC was planning to do anything about studying the

apparent drop-off of smallmouth bass in the Delaware River.

New Business: Bob Jack asked members to give consideration to filling the roll of President in 2022, starting with nominations that will be opened at the September meeting.

The members in attendance watched a video on fishing Lake Nockamixon. The 50/50 drawing of \$28.00 went to Bob Jack.

Minutes Of The August Meeting

The August meeting of the DRFA was held in the tent behind the Silver Lake Nature Center with 12 members in attendance.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Eileen Kicinski reported a balance of \$9,305.35 as of the meeting date. By comparison last year's balance was \$9,369.66 as of the August 2020 meeting.

Membership: As of the August meeting, membership stood at 71 members, with D&S Marina expected to sign on as a supporting business member as a result of the club providing support for their recent family fishing event.

Tournaments: Bob Jack announced the results of the August 8 catfish tournament. Members were advised that the August 29 bass tournament would not start until 6:30 due to safe light conditions being pushed back by the later sunrise at this time of the season.

Fishing Reports: Joe Newton was fishing the day before the meeting and caught two bass – one on a Senko along the shoreline and one on a Biffle Bug in deeper water.

Scott McDonough fished the tidal section on the previous Saturday and caught a few off the grass

edge and one on a popper while fishing around a point.

Mike Nucero fished the previous Thursday at the Penn-Warner Club and boated 10 bass up to 3.46 lbs. Rick Gasper reported hooking a large smallie on a Ned Rig in the Byrum section of the river.

Environmental Reports: Based on recent discussions about the drop-off in smallmouth fishing in the non-tidal section of the river, John Pedrick is going to identify contacts at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to see if it has any plans to investigate and address the situation. Chick Bay suggested that a NJ fisheries biologist he had met also be asked about the situation. Bob Jack thought that Chris Smith, a fisheries employee from South Jersey, might also be a potential resource.

New Business: Rick Mawson reported that the Club's official P.O. Box address will change at the end of August. The new address is now:

**PO Box 21145,
Philadelphia, PA 19114.**

Members are reminded that all Club leadership positions are open for nominations, starting at the September Club meeting and culminating at the October meeting when the election will take place. The Board of Directors will meet before then to identify additional agenda items for the Club to address in preparation for next season.

One important position that really needs to be filled is the role of president – someone who can coordinate the Club activities of other officers and serve as a central point of communication with outside contacts.

The 50/50 drawing for \$28 went to Rick Gasper.

In Memoriam**Former DRFA President Bob Lippincott, 1957-2021**

The River News is sad to share news received from former Club President John Strada that one of his predecessors, Bob Lippincott, passed away on August 9th in Hudson, Florida.

Lippincott was an avid bass fisherman who served as President in the early years of the Club and later generously shared his insights on bass fishing in his favorite stretch of the tidal Delaware River for an educational series written for *The River News* in the late 1990s.

After moving to Florida, and fishing the inland lakes there, Bob also became an avid saltwater angler who fished the flats along the western shore of Florida in the Tampa and Clearwater areas. DRFA members can read his entire obituary on the funeral home web page at:

<https://prevattfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/1602/Robert-Lippincott-Jr/obituary.html>

Nominations For 2022 Club Officers Open At September Meeting; Elections To Be Held In October

Attendance at the September and October meetings of the DRFA will be crucial for the future of the Club.

After trying to fill the role of the President by a ‘committee’ approach, it is evident that we would be much better off to get one person to step up to fill that position. As Club activities have a greater chance of getting back to normal after two years of

COVID-induced disruptions, it is critical that we have a single point of contact for both external contacts as well as for those other officers and trustees who handle various aspects of Club activities.

One challenge we will face over the next few years is generating some new membership to keep our club viable and to add new energy to our tournaments, our youth fishing activities, and our leadership. For a long time, we have relied on the same people year in and year out to handle our meeting speakers, our outdoor show activities, our youth events, website, newsletter, etc. It would be great to give those individuals some help and to gain some new perspectives within the Club for growth and for improving activities without losing the friendly/competitive balance of our Club tournaments.

If you have an hour or two to devote to club activities each month and are interested in being a part of our future direction, consider running for one of our club officer or trustee positions. Nominations will be open at both our September and October meetings, with elections at the October meeting. Even members

who will not be part of the leadership team this year can help the Club by voting in our October election and taking part in our discussions over the winter as we plan for a stronger program of Club activities in 2022.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the [NJ Fish & Wildlife website](#) says that, “*Snakeheads and flathead catfish are top level predators and may negatively impact the structure of indigenous and established fish populations...Anglers must destroy these species if encountered while fishing and are asked to submit specimen(s) to Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries personnel for verification. Fish and Wildlife's fisheries biologists can be reached at 908-236-2118 for northern New Jersey, and at 609-259-6964 for southern New Jersey.*”

Could the proliferation of these species be having an impact on the deteriorating quality of smallmouth bass fishing in the non-tidal river as discussed at recent Club meetings. Hopefully we can look into this as part of our inquiries to NJ and PA officials.

Current 2021 Tournament Schedule

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 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.

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sat, 10/30	Bass	7:30 am	Bulls Island State Park, Stockton, NJ

Angler Of The Year Competition Starting To Heat Up

Don't let the scoresheet deceive you. Thanks to the updated Angler of the Year scorekeeping, the top three spots in the competition are still up for grabs. While George Hoffman has locked up the top spot, Joe Newton, Gregg Southrey, Scott McDonough, and Bob Jack can still conceivably catch Rich Hoffman for the second spot.

Because only the top six tournament finishes count toward the year-end totals, the scorekeeping spreadsheet will need to be recalculated to drop off the seventh, eighth, and ninth lowest point finishes for any anglers who entered legal fish in more than six tournaments. With two tournament wins in the remaining tournaments, here are the top 13 anglers who are still in contention for second and third place and the maximum scores they can achieve if the people above them score lower in the remaining tournament results or fail to weigh in a legal fish:

George Hoffman	598
Rich Hoffman	593
Scott McDonough.....	588
Gregg Southrey.....	586
Joe Newton	585
Bob Jack.....	583
Ron Soto	577
Frank Beck.....	576
Pete Antoniewicz	566
Anthony Scholl	493
Casey McDonough	488
Devin Seliga.....	485
Rick Mawson	479

Best of luck to all involved. Fish hard and don't be misled into thinking that your current ranking can't drop even if you keep pace with the people around you in the standings.

#	Name	YTD Points	YTD Weight	YTD Length
1	George Hoffman	594	36.22	135.50
2	Rich Hoffman	582	29.86	126.50
3	Joe Newton	476	20.28	102.75
4	Gregg Southrey	474	19.44	96.50
5	Scott McDonough	388	13.11	76.75
6	Robert T Jack	383	18.33	84.50
7	Ron Soto	377	16.39	86.50
8	Frank Beck	368	10.28	74.50
9	Pete Antoniewicz	366	10.16	72.75
10	Anthony Scholl Sr	293	17.17	71.75
11	Casey McDonough	288	5.33	43.25
12	Devin Seliga	285	4.78	43.75
13	Rick Mawson	279	5.24	47.25
14	Mike Nucero	191	4.07	30.75
15	Shane Seliga	190	3.24	29.00
16	John Pedrick	188	9.70	46.25
17	Pete Marcolina	186	9.43	49.25
18	Laura Newton	179	6.17	40.25
19	Patrick Baranowski	100	2.52	16.50
20	Charles Bay	99	2.80	16.75
21	Dan Wermuth	94	4.79	22.00
22	Bryan Malkiewicz	94	1.20	13.50
23	Dave Wermuth	93	4.14	21.50
24	Jimmy Mawson	90	2.45	20.00
25	Anthony Seliga	89	1.09	12.00
26	Anthony Scholl Jr	87	0.69	13.50

Just entering a fish in each tournament will not necessarily protect you from someone who is 90 or 100 points behind you, so take nothing for granted. If their future finishes enable them to drop a lower score from a previous tournament, they might be able to rise in the rankings even if you keep pace with them in the remaining tournaments.

Also remember that, for whatever reason, the bass tournaments on the non-tidal river have gotten tougher in recent years.

Will There Be A Holiday Party This Year?

With the changing landscape in terms of COVID vaccinations, is it possible that we might be able to bring back the Holiday Party this year?

Join us at the upcoming monthly Club meetings to discuss your preferences for presenting our Angler of the Year award at a regular December meeting at the Silver Lake Nature Center or at a Holiday Party at the SLNC or at Georgine's.

Results From August Catfish Tournament

While summer catfish tournaments usually show smaller fish than the earlier tournaments, the top three finishers stood out with fish weighing from 6 lbs. to 8 lbs.

George Hoffman's winning entry kept him at the top of the Angler of the Year standings. His 8.01-lb., 26" catfish topped his brother Rich's second-place entry by more than a pound and a half. Bob Jack took the third-place money slot with an entry just shy of the 6-lb. mark. Overall, 14 of the 15 registered anglers brought a fish to the scale.

#	Name	Weight	Length	Points
1	George Hoffman	8.01	26.00	100
2	Rich Hoffman	6.37	25.50	99
3	Robert T Jack	5.99	24.50	98
4	Gregg Southrey	5.44	23.50	97
5	John Pedrick	4.89	23.50	96
6	Anthony Scholl Sr	4.85	24.50	95
7	Ron Soto	4.77	23.50	94
8	Pete Marcolina	4.35	25.50	93
9	Joe Newton	3.86	22.00	92
10	Frank Beck	3.53	21.75	91
11	Jimmy Mawson	2.45	20.00	90
12	Rick Mawson	1.54	17.00	89
13	Pete Antoniewicz	1.04	16.00	88
14	Anthony Scholl Jr	0.69	13.50	87



George Hoffman
First Place



Rich Hoffman
Second Place



Bob Jack
Third Place



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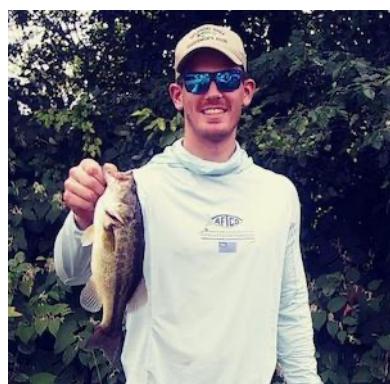
August Bass Tournament Results

Two anglers far outdistanced the competition in the August bass tournament, finishing just seven hundredths of a pound apart and topping the remaining anglers by about a pound. Overall, only 9 of the 17 anglers registered for the event were able to bring a legal fish to the scales.

#	Name	Weight	Length	Points
1	Mike Nucero	2.87	17.25	100
2	Chick Bay	2.80	16.75	99
3	Scott McDonough	1.87	16.00	98
4	Devin Seliga	1.57	13.75	97
5	Shane Seliga	1.43	13.50	96
6	Gregg Southrey	1.39	14.25	95
7	Rich Hoffman	1.31	13.75	94
8	Pete Antoniewicz	0.96	12.25	93
9	Casey McDonough	0.92	12.50	92



Mike Nucero
First Place



Devin Seliga
Fourth Place



Rich Hoffman
Seventh Place



Chick Bay
Second Place



Shane Seliga
Fifth Place



Pete Antoniewicz
Eighth Place



Scott McDonough
Third Place



Gregg Southrey
Sixth Place



Casey McDonough
Ninth Place

From A to Z**Where Do We Go
From Here?**

More 25 years ago, shortly after purchasing my first boat, I followed up on an item from the Sunday fishing column in my local paper. It advertised the monthly DRFA meeting at The Sportsman's Center in Bordentown, NJ.

To say that the world has changed since then is an understatement. The Sportsman's Center is now history, as was the Sunday fishing column well before that. And the river has gone through droughts, floods, and ice scouring that have changed some of the non-tidal terrain and weed beds up and down the river.

Our Club membership and certain operating procedures have changed as well. While the Club's financial status is still in good shape despite the lack of Outdoor Show fundraising opportunities over the past year, membership has been slowly dropping from our high of 400 members in the early 2000's down to just over 100 in the past few years and now down to just over 70 members.

While tournament participation has been relatively steady between 15 and 25 members in recent years, it has been hard to bring in new competition. While our Facebook postings and public-access webinars earlier this year attracted an extended audience, not many converted to full time membership.

Hopefully, in 2022 we will be able to capitalize on the reported increase in outdoor hobbies and fishing license sales to expand both our membership and our tournament participation. Join our discussions at our winter meetings as we brainstorm new ideas. Our survival as a club depends on it.

Pete A2Z

**Bass Bowl
Qualifications**

The September 25 bass tournament is the final even to score qualifier points for the SJBCA Bass Bowl tournament. The six highest point earners in the bass tournaments from last October through this September will qualify as the first invitees for the DRFA team.



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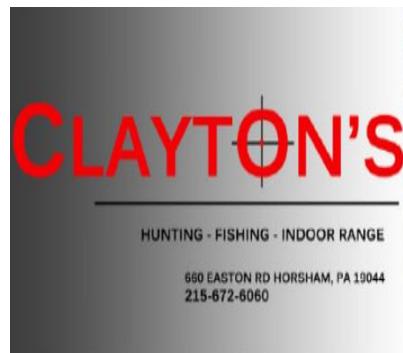


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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE

- **MEETING MINUTES**
- **STRIPER BONUS PERMIT**
- **TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**
- **ELECTIONS**
- **IN MEMORIAM**

*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.

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