

The River News

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association

Vol. 32, No. 1

January/February 2019

An Interview with the AOTY Winner

New Sponsor Phila Boat Supply 8900 State Road Phila, PA 19136 215-332-5117

At Philadelphia Boat Supply, our mission is to offer you the latest in parts and products at the best prices, and with unparalleled service. We pledge to use our best efforts to make your experience both beneficial and enjoyable. Once you give us a try, we're sure you'll be back for more! So, whether you are looking for parts, service or storage, we have what you need!

Whether you decide on a brand-new vessel or a pre-loved vessel from our current inventory, we can help you find your perfect match. We carry a full line of new boats, used boats and Motors.

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We are conveniently located just off I-95 and only a quarter mile from the Delaware River!

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A Note from Our President

Over the years, during winter, I try to read a book or two. Inevitably I wind up reading a book on fish or fishing. Founding Fish by John McPhee, Eels by James Prosek, Cod by Mark Kulansky, are all pretty good reads for cold winter evenings. Four Fish by Paul Greenburg and Blues by John Hersey are novels that you can relate to when you fish salt water. Every idiot that wrote a book on fly fishing, I probably read half of them. Yeah you can trick a fish with a feather I get it

Your Inner Fish by Neil Shubin tells the story of a fish almost 4 million years old that had fins similar to human hands. Interesting.

Each and every read whether fiction or non-fiction taught me a little something about fish or fishing. Some books will mention the return of runs of fish to the spawning waters of where they came from. In about 90 days a lot of fish will start showing up in the Delaware River. How many and what kind is yet unknown but there will be fish. It's been that way for hundreds of years. Just like not all fish migrations are great years, not all the books are great reads. So, this year should be no different. The Shad and Herring will make a run for New York headwaters, along with the lowly Eel. Striped Bass will show up to quickly spawn

and leave before the water turns hot in late spring

Sturgeon will move in through the bay and up to fresh water and lay the eggs that were so coveted it nearly made them extinct.

Like the fish and fishing, I read about, I will migrate back from the winter weather and get out on the water to fish in the spring. Not a coincidence?

Yeah someone probably wrote a book on the subject, and I will probably read it one of these winters.

John Pedrick

Important Dates

Wednesday, January 30, 7 PM, Monthly Meeting: Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA

Friday, February 22 thru Sunday, February 24, Philadelphia Fishing Show: Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave, Oaks, PA

Wednesday, February 27, 7 PM, Monthly Meeting: Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA

Friday, March 8, 6 pm, Hemlock Free Fishing Seminar, Westaby Hall, 425 Hood Blvd, Fairless Hills, PA

Wednesday, March 27, 7 PM, Monthly Meeting: Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA

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November Meeting Minutes

The November meeting of the DRFA was held on 11/28/18 at the Silver Lake Nature Center, with 24 members in attendance. President John Pedrick called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Minutes from the previous month's meeting were read and approved.

John reported a balance of \$7,001.26 in the treasury. That compared favorably to last year's balance of \$6,203 at the end of November.

Membership:

As of the end of November, we had 15 signups for 2019. Members can renew by mail using a form printed from the club website, or can sign up at the January meeting.

Youth Activities:

There was nothing new to report.

General Business

The proposed 2019 tournament schedule was discussed. Members agreed to move the early Spring bass tournament to March 30, the shad tournament to April 27 and the June 15 bass tournament to June 22 at Gloucester City. All other dates and locations were approved.

Members were reminded that the club's Christmas Party would be held on December 19 at Georgine's in Bristol. The \$20 payment needed to be in to Treasure Eileen Kicinski by December 5 to make the reservations.

Trustees: No report.

Outdoor Shows:

The club announced the need for helpers to set-up, work during, and break down the club booth at three events: The Garden State show in Edison and the flea market in Warminster during January, and the Hemlock Rod and Gun club event in Fairless Hills in March. (Since

that time, the new Oaks Fishing Show scheduled for February 22-24 has also been added to the schedule.)

The tackle bag raffle contributions were lagging. \$160 from the Dick's Sporting Goods donation was used to stock the two bags with \$80 allocated to each bag. The club also authorized Pete Marcolina to spend \$500 of club funds to supplement the contents of the two bags.

Environmental Reports:

The only environmental report was on the abundance of rain over the past year. Every county in New Jersey recorded from 38% to 50% above average rainfall in the past year—ranging from 16.4" above normal in the "driest" county to 23.2" above normal in the "wettest" county.

Fishing Reports:

Brian and Pete reported catching 15 bass and 4 perch during a late November fishing trip to Tullytown Cove. Joe and Frank had 9 fishing the other side of the Cove on the same day.

The 50/50 drawing was won by "Mrs. Pedrick." The \$48 in winnings was given to John to take home to her.

December Meeting Minutes

The December meeting and Christmas Party was held at Georgine's restaurant on December 19. President John Pedrick briefly addressed the gathering before the meal.

John asked members to help Joe Newton with setup, breakdown, and manning of the booth for the club's upcoming outdoor shows in January. The club will also need help at the Philadelphia Fishing Show on February 22-24 and at the Hemlock event on March 8. The saltwater and freshwater tackle bags for the shows were looking better after some added

contributions and a shopping trip to Cabelas in Delaware.

John also reminded all that the club would be having a fundraising event at the Texas Roadhouse on Street Road in Bensalem on April 17. The club will be holding two basket raffles during that evening.

John announced a new club sponsor for 2019, Philadelphia Boat, conveniently located at 8900 State Road, which will offer a 5% discount for DRFA club members.

Dave Bryant Angler of the Year Award:

Vice President/Tournament Coordinator Mike Nucero presented the awards to the top three competitors in the Angler of the Year competition. Third place and a \$75 award went to Rich Hoffman. Second place and \$100 went to Gregg Southrey. The first-place winner of \$150 and another entry on the Angler of the Year plaque was (wait for it, wait for it)... George Hoffman. The 50/50 drawing was won by Wynette Goodnow for \$98

Edison Outdoor Show

The Edison Outdoor show was a great success in our endeavor to sell chances for the Tackle Bags bringing in over \$900.00.



Joe Newton (Show Coordinator), Ron Soto and Dave Russell tending the booth on Friday.

There were many other members who volunteered to help tend to the booth on the others three days.

An Interview with Angler of the Year, George Hoffman

Ever since the DRFA started the Dave Bryant Angler of the Year Award in 1999, the name George Hoffman has consistently appeared high in the final standings, if not at the top of the list. Lately, however, George has been evening the score for the many second place finishes he racked up in the early years. This past month, *The River News* sat down with George to pick his brain on what has made the difference in his recent string of top finishes (*something like 6 of the last 7 years*).

When asked about what it takes to be an Angler of the Year, George hesitated only slightly before replying, "A good net man." (*For those who do not already know, that's because George consistently fishes with his brother Rich.*)

When asked what the challenges were for his most recent AOTY victory, George mentioned the weather and the fact that some of his favorite spots did not produce like they have in past years. Despite those challenges, both he and his brother did quite well in 2018. Confidence gained from years of tournament and recreational fishing helped to pull him through.

George relayed a story from one tournament where he picked a certain spot where he was convinced the fish would be, based on the river conditions and past experience. Even though he and Rich struggled for a long stretch of time, the fish eventually became more active as the tide changed to the right conditions, resulting in a second-place finish that cemented his hold on the AOTY standings. Since I sometimes struggle with second-guessing that same question

of 'Stay? Or go?', I asked him how he and Rich decide where to fish, tournament by tournament. The two of them typically plan ahead based on past history and pre-fishing the stretch of river where the tournament will be held. Then they put together a list of spots to fish. When one spot isn't working, they'll try another based on their prior plan. While he admits to having some doubts if the original strategy isn't working out exactly as planned, he says you have to "stick to your guns." It has obviously worked well enough for the two of them. When asked what he does if he and Rich ever disagree on where to fish next, he simply replied with a slight chuckle, "The captain rules."

For those who have watched George eat their lunch tournament after tournament, there is hope. He

was not always the all-around river angler he is today. His Delaware River experiences were limited to fishing for catfish and eels around Trenton in the early years, with some smallmouth fishing using Rapalas up around Lambertville. He gives the DRFA credit for making him a better largemouth bass angler on the tidal river. After being introduced to the club by an old friend, he started competing in tournaments, listening to conversations after the tournaments and applying those tidbits of information with the experience gained from practice fishing before the tournaments on the lower river, where he learned that "the tide means a lot."

While he has used tubes in the past, his favorite/most productive lures today are spinnerbaits, Senkos, and rattling SPRO lipless crankbaits.

2019 DRFA Tournament Schedule

All DRFA Club tournaments are free (There are no club 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) and open to dues paying DRFA members only. Members accrue points for the Angler of the Year competition based on their finish in the nine regular club events. New members may register on the morning of an event, before check-in time (except for the Shad Tournament). Weigh-in is at the time specified. Late entries will not count.

Always check the DRFA Web site 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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
3/30	Bass	Curtin's Marina, NJ	7 am to 1pm
4/27	Shad	Yardley Park & Ride	2 pm Weigh -in
5/04	Bank Tourn	Neshaminy Marina, PA	6 am to 12 pm
5/18	Catfish	Frankford Arsenal, PA	6 am to 1 pm
6/22	Bass	Gloucester City, NJ	6 am to 12 pm
7/13	Youth Derby	Pennsylvania Yacht Club	8 am to 1 pm
7/20	Catfish	Gloucester City, NJ	6 am to 12 pm
8/03	Bass	Neshaminy Marina, PA,	6 am to 12 pm
8/17	Catfish	Curtin's Marina, NJ	6 am to 12 pm
9/14	Bass	Byram Access, NJ	7 am to 1 pm
10/12	Bass	Bull's Island, NJ	7 am to 1 pm

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He cites confidence in those baits he throws as a big factor in his success, but he has not been afraid to try some of the newer lures as well. For example, he has now adopted the Ned Rig, Neko Rig, and Whopper Plopper into his arsenal. For catfish tournaments, he adds in chunks of chicken breast marinated in a gallon ziplock bag with crushed garlic.

When asked how he feels about all the ribbing he takes as a result of winning so many tournaments and AOTY awards, George says he enjoys the good-natured banter. He didn't even let it bother him when a couple of competitors put a banana in his boat for one tournament.

So, there you have it, everything you need to be an Angler of the Year – some winning baits, a pre-planned strategy for each tournament, and confidence gained from practice... practice... practice!

From A to Z: Hey, What's YOUR Problem?

The good news/bad news of having some degree of fishing success is that you can become a slave to past tactics, even when they no longer work. I can't tell you how many times I have insisted on throwing a high-confidence bait even after it has stopped working.

But that's not my only problem. While I will regularly leave fish to find fish during recreational fishing, I conversely struggle with sometimes staying on a favorite fishing hole too long under the pressure of a six-hour tournament. Then I don't even wait for the tournament to be over before I start second-guessing myself.

How many of my problems do you share? Or what new problems can you bring to the table? Either way,

it's a good topic for discussion after a meeting or in the parking lot during a tournament weigh-in. In the interest of full disclosure, here is just a short list of my shortcomings:

Overconfidence. Having confidence in a favorite bait or two can be a double-edge sword. It worked yesterday, (or last week, or last year at the same point in the season), so why shouldn't it work today? On the non-tidal river, that's usually a tube/Ned rig/spider jig of some sort or a soft minnow bait like a Case Sinkin' Salty Minnow or a swimbait. When those baits fail me, I most often find that the baits I'm forgetting to throw are crankbaits or rattletaps. Resorting to a crankbait or rattletap when I thought another bait should have produced occasionally opens my eyes, but for some reason I still tend to leave those baits at the bottom of my tackle bag.

Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda ...

Didn't. While I tend to have more different baits tied on a half-dozen rods at any one time, and I force myself to throw them throughout the day way more than my fishing partners switch it up, I can still find myself second-guessing my choices after a tough day on the water.

Usually it amounts to a failure to mix up colors or weights because I hate wasting time to re-tie on the water. Or it's because I "forgot" to throw a crankbait or rattletap again.

Paralysis by Analysis. I usually analyze more than a dozen factors in my fishing experiences – water temperature, turbidity, time of year, depth, current breaks, incoming or outgoing tide, steady, rising or falling levels in non-tidal water, etc. – as a way of building my strategy. Of course, the more variables you consider, the more permutations of each you have to go through before finding the right

answer. In the end, however, I do think that most of my missed opportunities come from being at the wrong depth in the water column or from not being able to find the right combination of structure-on-structure.

Are They Here? Or Are They Just Not Biting Yet? This is a classic tournament-day dilemma – especially if water conditions have changed since I last practice-fished the same spot. Whether I choose to stay or leave, it invariably seems like the wrong choice. As I have gotten away from largemouth fishing on the lower river in recent years, in favor of non-tidal river smallie fishing, this seems to be my biggest conundrum in tidal water.

Leaving Fish to Find Fish. I have mixed feelings on this one. I do it intentionally on non-tournament days because I want to see if I can duplicate my success at other spots that mimic the water characteristics/structure of the first spot. This has helped me learn plenty of new spots over the years. But when it comes to tournament days, the pressure of the weigh-in makes it a tougher choice. I have to say that leaving fish to find bigger fish has failed at least as much as it has succeeded.

So, What's the Secret? On the flip side of the second-guessing struggle in my head is the fact that much of what I have learned over the past two decades of river fishing has come from fishing with new people. It's how I discovered how to fish hair jigs, blade baits, tubes, swim baits, Ned rigs, spider jigs, and white flukes. I guess the answer is I just need more practice fishing time with new anglers to pick their brains and to see how they've learned to deal with dilemmas like mine.

What are you doing next weekend?

Pete A2Z

DVSWA Flea Market

The Delaware Valley Salt Water Anglers Annual Flea market at the V E German club was a success. Although the attendance was less than last year everything went well. Pete Marcolina, Frank Beck, Joe Newton & Ron Soto sold raffle tickets and tended the table. The Winner of last year's salt water tackle bag, Steve Quigley & his wife, stopped by our table and purchased tickets for this year. The flea market was the second event for the club this year. Our next event will be The Philadelphia Fishing Show at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA from February 22 thru February 24. There has not been a show at the Expo Center in a number of years. This is a new event and hopefully it will be a success. We are setting up at booth at this event. Volunteers are needed to help with this show. Call Joe Newton to volunteer or volunteer at our next meeting on January 30. Volunteers are also needed for our last event at the Hemlock Rod & Gun Club Free Fishing Seminar at Westaby Hall in Fairless Hills, PA. on March 8 at 6 pm. Raffle tickets are still available for purchase. If you received tickets in the mail please sell them or purchase them to support our youth programs. Should you need addition tickets contact Eileen Kicinski at 215-426-5086.



Reviving the River

In the fall of 2018 five members of the Delaware River Fishermen's Association participated with WHYY in their initiative to produce an online series titled Reviving the River. Reviving the River will be soft-launching on Monday, January 14th. This 3-part series takes a look at how one giant piece of regulation, the Clean Water Act, helped transform the Delaware River from a "stinky ugly mess" into a year-round attraction...and what the future could hold given the current political climate.



Experience the whole story and explore the interactive maps at <https://whyy.org/articles/the-death-of-the-delaware-river/>. Key story elements will include: • Part 1: The Death of the Delaware River (A River You Could Smell from the Sky) • Part 2: How the Delaware River's Pollution Problem Got Fixed (Getting the Poop Out of the River) • Part 3: Invisible threats to the future of the Delaware River (What We Can't See). You can see this podcast by coming to our next DRFA Monthly meeting on January 30 when we show part 1 of this series. Parts 2 & 3 will be shown at later meetings. This is a great opportunity to learn some history of the Delaware River. Attend the meeting on Wednesday, January 30 and see the interviews with fellow club members and watch the video of them.

Please Patronize our Supporting Businesses

The Ike Foundation
625 N Main St
Elmer, NJ 08318

D & S Boat Sales Inc
110 Main St.
Tullytown, PA.
215-949-2100

Claytons Hunting & Fishing
660 Easton Rd
Horsham, Pa 19044
215-672-6060

The Fegley Law Firm
301 Oxford Valley Road
Suite 402A, Yardley, PA 19067
215-493-8287

H L's Live Bait and Tackle
78 E. Bridge St.
Morrisville, Pa 19067
215-295-1400

Philadelphia Boat Supply
8900 State Road
Philadelphia, PA 19136
215-332-5117

The Continental Tavern
2 North Main Street
Yardley, PA 19067
215-493-9191

Tow Boat Us
32 Kirkwood Circle
Brigantine, NJ 08203
609-517-2822

White Oak Ice Co.
350 State Road
Bensalem, Pa. 19020
(215) 639-1080

Rick Gasper
General Contractor
215-805-7360

McKeown Automotive
2525 Street Rd
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-639-4887

Complete Computer Services
Serving Phila &
Surrounding Area
267-235-8144

DRFA Bass Tournament

Saturday, March 30 – 7 am to 1 pm

Curtin's Marina, 501 E Pearl St, Burlington, NJ

Rte 130 N to High St, Turn Left, 130 S to high St Turn right

Proceed to Pearl St turn right cross creek to Marina on left

All participants Must wear a PFD while the Gas engine is running.

Failure to wear a PFD will result in a warning on the 1st offense and disqualification on subsequent offenses

RULES:

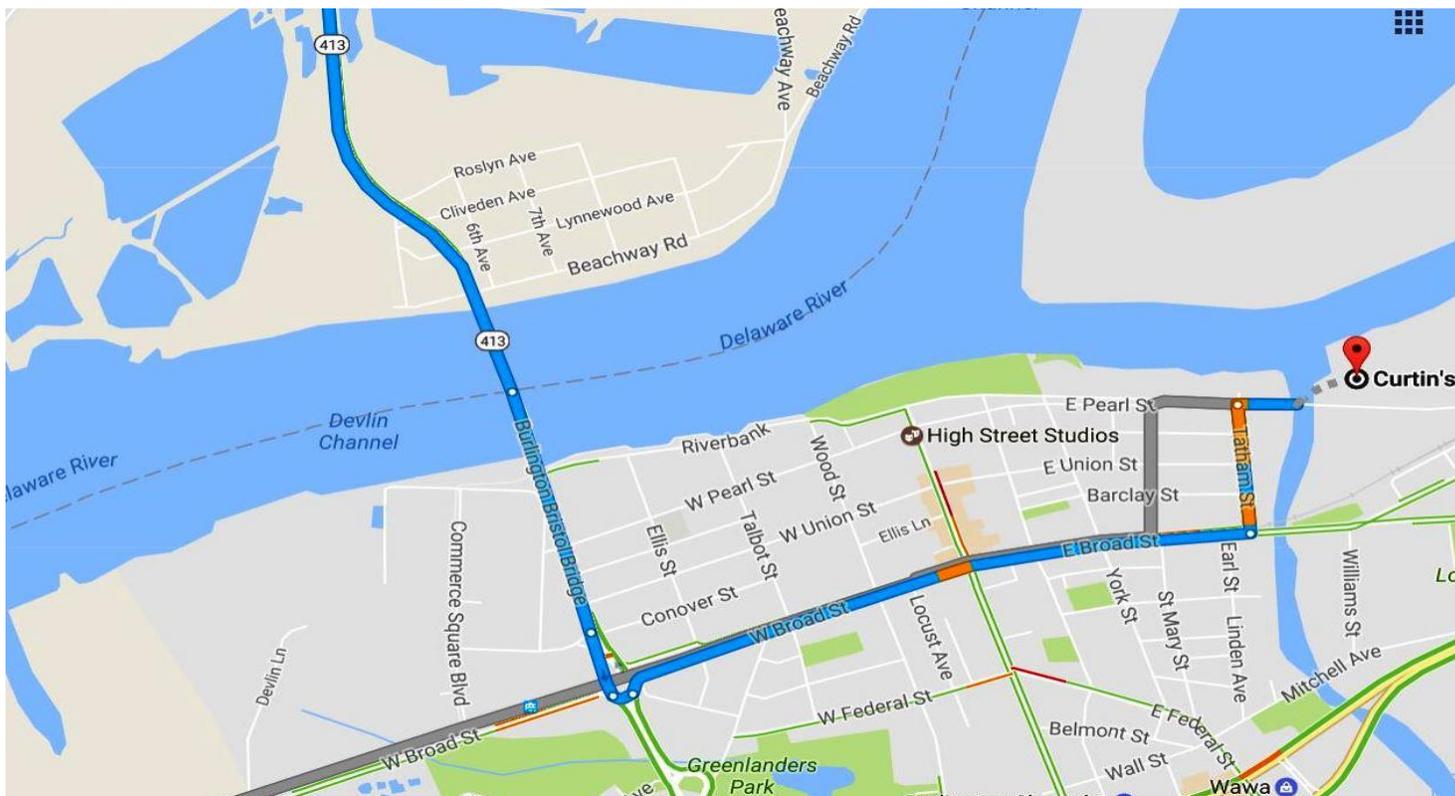
- All participants must check in during the hour preceding start time.
- There is no entry fee: however, ramp, launch and/or parking fees may apply. There is a voluntary \$10.00 Pool.
- Only paid members of the D.R.F.A., and qualifying family members *, may participate and weigh-in fish. (The most recent membership list will be present at weigh-in.)
- Only (1) legal fish of the specified species per person will be weighed. The heaviest fish will determine the winner.
- All fish must be alive at weigh-in. All fish will be released after weigh-in.
- In the event of a tie in weight, the longest fish will determine the winner.
- The fish must have been caught on that day during the hours of the tournament.
- The fishing area will be limited to the part of the Delaware River and its tributaries that can be reached by boat from the Starting Access Ramp. Shore fishing is permitted.
- Weigh-in is at scheduled end time. Those arriving late for weigh-in will not be permitted to weigh-in fish.
- Only legal fishing methods of the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania may be used.
- Live Bait is permitted.
- The tournament judge will have final say in all disputes.

Tournament Hotline: 267-934-2148 Tournament Coordinator: Mike Nucero – 267-357-1799

PRIZES: 100% payout on day of tournament.

All anglers weighing in fish, no matter where they place, will accumulate points towards the
“*Dave Bryant Memorial Angler of the Year Contest*”

*Qualifying family members can only participate if a Family Membership has been purchased. Qualifying family members include any member of the immediate family residing at that home and any immediate children or Grandchildren up to the age of 16 also qualify no matter where they live.



The Delaware River Fishermen's Association 2019 Membership Application



Indicate type of membership and dues amount enclosed:

___ Individual Membership: **\$25.00**

___ Family Membership*: **\$30.00**

___ Supporting Business Membership: **\$50.00**

Every membership includes:

- Access to the password protected Member Services section of the DRFA website
- Access to our member forum for posting fishing reports, announcements, events, sale items and more.
- 6 Issues of the DRFA Bimonthly newsletter (**The River News**) – Select one: Hardcopy - Electronic Copy
- Eligibility in all 10 DRFA club tournaments (100% payout day of tournament)
- Eligibility for the annual Dave Bryant Angler of the Year Award (1st Place - plaque & \$150 cash, 2nd - \$100 & 3rd - \$75)

Mail completed form with check made payable to:

The Delaware River Fishermen's Association
Membership Secretary
PO Box 4739
Philadelphia, PA 19134

For more information, contact our Membership Secretary at www.drfishermen.com

Primary Member Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Additional individuals qualifying under a Family Membership* to fish in DRFA club tournaments (list full names):

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address**: _____

(Please add us to your address book so you can receive our emails (drfa_therivernews@hotmail.com))

Home Phone: _____ **Circle One: Renewing Member - New Member**

Do you own a boat? _____ Favorite fish? _____ How many days a month do you fish? _____

Check and sign either or both conditions that apply in this area:

- I give my permission for the DRFA to publish my primary member information in its directory, for use in club matters.
- I also give my permission to allow DRFA and supporting businesses to use my address or E-mail to provide promotional offers.

Or check and sign below to be excluded from both the member directory and any promotions by supporting businesses or DRFA business members:

- I DO NOT give permission for the DRFA to publish the above information in its member directory.

By signing this application, I do hereby declare that I will indemnify and hold harmless The Delaware River Fishermen's Association, its officers, members and sponsors, from any and all claims for injury and/or damage that may occur, or may be incurred in conjunction with any and all club activities.

Primary Member's Signature: _____

* For tournament participation, family memberships include the primary member and an adult spouse/partner residing at that address, plus any related children and grandchildren up to the age of 16, no matter where those children or grandchildren live.

** Email Address must be included so you can register on our Member Services area of the DRFA Web Site and the DRFA Member Forum.

The Delaware River Fishermen's Association
P.O. Box 4739
Philadelphia, PA 19134



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE

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- TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Also Visit our Web site
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!

Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol, PA, 235 acres of woods, lakes, marshes & meadows, 4.5 miles of trails
The Ike Foundation, 625 N Main Street, Elmer, NJ 08318 - Our mission is to get more kids fishing and in the outdoors,
Phila Boat Supply, 8900 State Road, Phila, PA 19136 – 215-332-5117-We carry a full line of new & used boats, motors & parts
The Fegley Law Firm, 301 Oxford Valley Rd, Suite 402A, Yardley, PA – 215-493-8287, Business, Employment & Personal Injury law.
The Continental Tavern, 2 North Main St, Yardley, PA – 215-493-9191, Family Dining & Catering, 9 draught beers.
Complete Computer Services, PC Sales and Service, Repairs, in your home or office. 267-235-8144
H & L Live Bait and Tackle, 78 East Bridge St, Morrisville, PA. 215-295-1400, a large variety of fresh, live bait
Tow Boat US, 32 Kirkwood Circle, Brigantine, NJ 08203, Delaware River Service Package Available. 609-517-2822.
White Oak Ice Co., 350 State Road, Bensalem, PA 19020. Self Service Crushed Ice, Blocks of Ice - 215-639-1080.
Gasper Contracting, Where your home ideas become reality, Philadelphia, Montgomery & Bucks Counties - 215-805-7360
Mc Keown's Automotive Services, 2525 Street Road, Bensalem, Pa 19020 (215) 639-4887 – State Inspection, Emissions.
Clayton Hunting & Fishing, 660 Easton Rd, Horsham, PA, 215-672-6060 – for all your hunting, fishing, archery & firearm needs
D & S Boat Sales Inc, 100 Main St, Tullytown, PA, 215-949-2100, family owned marina located in a beautiful cove in Tullytown, Pa

Associate Members

South Jersey Bass Club Association
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers Outdoors Program