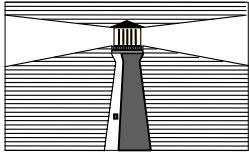


THE HARBOUR LIGHT



The Official Newsletter of
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc.
PO Box 1026
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
VOLUME # 103 ISSUE # 9 November 2003

Web Site Address: <http://FishermansHeadquarters.com/VHFC>
E-mail Address: VHFCInfo@aol.com



UPCOMING MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING: 07 NOVEMBER

7:30 P.M at the Community Center

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 14 NOVEMBER

at the Community Center on Mill Creek Rd.

7:30 PM: Doors open early so come help set up.

7:45 PM: Meeting Starts with Club Business:

- ❖ Results of the Surf Tournament
- ❖ Fishing Discussion-All Present
- ❖ Break
- ❖ Guest Speaker: Jim Hutchinson, Jr. on Fall Stripers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Ray Williams

November is here and the days are growing very short. Fall fishing is starting to occupy the minds of many of our club members. We will be holding a November Meeting this year & will have a very interesting speaker. Jim Hutchinson, Jr., the son of a very popular speaker, Jim Hutchinson, Sr. will be speaking to us about Fall Striper Fishing. Jim works for The Fisherman magazine.

We had 31 people at our October meeting. Our guest speaker, Tom Grothues, gave a very informative talk on tracking Stripers through sonar tags. You will find a recap of his talk elsewhere in this issue.

I want to remind all of our members that our regular meetings will resume in April 2004. The schedule remains the same as this year. We meet the second Friday of each month through October at the Millcreek Community Center. The doors open at 7:30pm & the meetings start promptly at 7:45pm. We are seeking your input for next year. Any member with suggestions can email me at rayflowill@comcast.net, call me at 609-978-1480 or write me at our P.O. Box.

I would like to thank all of the members who supported our club in 2003. It was great to see so many members attending meetings & participating in the Tournaments. I would especially like to thank the

Board Members who do all of the work for the club. We are extremely fortunate to have them.

Last of all, but extremely important to the future of fishing in New Jersey, please keep yourself informed as to issues that will affect each of us. I urge you to educate yourself on these issues & then use email, letter writing & phone calls to let our legislators know your feelings. I hope to see you all at the November Meeting on the 14th.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Ken Hansen

Our balance as of 10/27/03 is \$1639.91.

NOVEMBER MEETING by Ray Williams

At our September meeting our members were asked if there was interest in holding a November Meeting. As a result of the interest shown by the members present, we decided to hold a meeting. The meeting will start at 7:45 pm on Friday November 14th.

2003 FISH OF THE MONTH by George Fruh

This is an interim report since Striped Bass is the Fish of the Month for the October-November time period.

TJ Miller, a VHFC Junior Angler, leads the club for October-November with a 17 pound 4 ounce Striper he caught trolling on 10/28/03.

Henry Desch caught a Striper of note that weighed in at 11 pounds 15 ounces up in Oyster Creek on 10/26/03.

2003 TROPHY FISH OF THE YEAR by George Fruh

The Trophy Fish of the Year standings as of November 1st 2003 remain unchanged from last month:

Blackfish (07/25)	4 lb. 6 oz.	William Power
Bluefish (08/28)	12 lb. 9 oz.	Paul Galasso
Fluke (08/30)	9 lb. 2 oz.	George West
Sea Bass (05/20)	3 lb. 5 oz.	John Barrett
Striped Bass (05/30)	38 lb. 8 oz.	Paul Galasso
Weakfish (05/10)	12 lb. 14 oz.	Ed Cherry
Winter Flounder (04/8)	1 lb. 14 oz.	Paul Turi

OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE MONEY AND BE A LITTLE SMARTER by Dick Vesper

Ed Wetmore has made us an offer we shouldn't refuse. Ed has offered to give an 8 to 10 hour Boating Safety Course to a group of VHFC members; possibly this winter during 1 or 2 weekends in Manahawkin if enough members are interested and contact him.

Students will learn a lot about boating and boat safety. After passing the Final Test, you will be given a certificate that will let you get a yearly discount on Boat Insurance. (I took a similar course, learned some new stuff and am saving \$).

If you are interested, contact Ed at 294-6956. If there are enough interested members, he will coordinate the scheduling of a class during this winter.

REPORT ON THE 2003 SURF TOURNAMENT by Steve Cook

Wind and rain Saturday and rain and wind on Sunday. It all adds up to unpleasant fishing conditions for the 2003 Surf Tournament. They say that when the surf is sudsy the fishing should be great but not this year. Twenty-two (22) members signed up for the tournament this year but I guess when they woke up and looked out the window both mornings they rolled over and went back to sleep. We did have 18 diehards weather the conditions and certainly tried their best to catch a Bluefish or Striper but to no avail. Grass was also a problem and most of us had problems holding the bottom. Some members fished both days and some fished only one of the days. Also, a few tried areas other than 5th St. such as, Ship Bottom, Barnegat Light beach, and Loveladies. I would like to thank those members that helped with the tournament and the members that braved the weather to make it a successful event. The luncheon at Subbogies on Sunday was great. It gave the 12 members that attended a chance to mingle and swap a few stories. There was discussion about next year to expand the species to other fish so someone can win something for their efforts.

Although there were no qualifying fish this year I believe everyone had a enjoyable time.

VHFC LIBRARY REPORT

Jim McGrath, our Club Librarian has purchased some additional books and videos for the Club. At our last meeting, members asked for a list of Videos. Here it is:

- a. LORAN C (1987)
- b. Guide to Fishing/Diving NJ Artificial Reefs (QTY 2)
- c. How to Fish Wrecks, Lumps and Rock Piles
- d. Saltwater Fisherman's Bible (1982)

- e. Modern Saltwater Fishing (1975)
- f. Power Surfcasting (1991)
- g. NJ Saltwater Guide (1985)
- h. Fishing for Bluefish (1984)
- i. Fishing for Fluke
- j. Fishing for Weakfish
- k. Blackfish & Sea Bass
- l. Surf Fishing (1983)
- m. Cast Netting
- n. Fishing Big Four
- o. Striper Surf
- p. Fishing NJ Coast
Barnegat Bay Fisheries

WEIGH IN PICTURES by Ray Williams

Directly below is a picture of Ed Wetmore with his third place Sea Bass in the Reef Tournament



Next, here are 3 from our 2003 weakfish tourney. Don Longstreet's boat & crew



Rick Hawrylo with his 7.5 pound Weakfish,



Dick Vesper with his 5.3 pounder.



Editor's Note: I saved the following two fishing stories since last spring in order to give you something at year end to help bridge the gap 'til SpringFishing 2004

“STEELY FEVER” by Basil Dubrosky

In the “off season” from NJ saltwater fishing, some of our members dabble in other fishing activities such as rod building, fly tying, catalog shopping, ice fishing, cold water river fishing and story telling. I am one of these members and the following is a recount of one experience in April of this year on a recent trip to the Salmon River in Pulaski, NY in search of Steelhead.

Steelhead are hatchery-bred Rainbow Trout that spend much of the time in Lake Ontario feeding and growing to weigh more than 20 pounds. They migrate up the river annually. Unlike Salmon, the Steelhead do not die on their migration but continue to come back. Because of this fact, these fish become very line shy and wary of fishermen making them one of the more difficult fish to catch.

Once you hook a Steelhead, the challenge just begins. They are one of the fiercest fighting fish for their weight. The only way to describe it is that

pound for pound they fight like Bluefish but in an environment with limited space punctuated by rocks, tree limbs and fast white water.

On the day in question, Nick, a long time fishing buddy, and I had started fishing just before 6 AM in a hole below a waterfall where we knew the fish would stack up over night. We each caught one fish on chartreuse egg sacks before things went dead. We then jumped in Nick’s truck and moved to a new place where we had to walk in on tracks over the river on a high train trestle (a train whistle in the distance made me a bit nervous). We then negotiated some thick woods taking care not to tangle our 10 foot noodle rods, net and gear. Even with the 35 degree temperature we were hot in our neoprene waders when we finally arrived at the spot.

The sun was shining when we arrived so we dropped down to 6 pound tippets and changed color to blue egg sacks. After experimenting with various combinations of split shot to avoid snags, I felt a slight tug and immediately set the hook. The Steelhead jumped once out of the water then took what seemed like a 60 MPH run to the other side which was about 200 feet away.

I could see the fish jumping on the other side and, as I wondered how it would ever be landed, I shouted “fish on”. Nick immediately put down his pole and started to negotiate the terrain of boulders and drift wood to get down stream in front of me.

Up ahead, the stream divided into two channels separated by a small island. Nick warned that if the fish went down the far channel we were “cooked”. I was running now, over boulders, white water and driftwood. When you have a fish on, the pole seems to give you a third point of balance that helps you to run faster over difficult objects than if you were doing it fish free. I knew I had to apply pressure but was concerned about breaking the fish off on the 6 pound test.

Luckily, I was able to steer the fish across some shallow white water avoiding the far channel and missing the island. We were now about a quarter mile from where we began and Nick was 250 feet below my position. It seemed like he was taking forever to get to the fish. He swiped once with the net but the fish broke away. He now headed below the fish for another try. I was now applying more and more pressure to hold the fish but I was sure he would break off momentarily. Suddenly, the line snapped as I saw Nick make one more swipe with the net.

I thought we lost the fish but then observed Nick struggling with it’s weight. When I reached Nick he was surprised to hear the fish broke off. We retrieved

my hook and surveyed a beautiful rainbow-colored hen weighing about 10 pounds before we released it. High fives were in order as we quickly walked back to the hole to check on Nick's pole which was left far behind in the quest. As I sat down on a rock still breathing heavily I reflected on those who say that fishing is a sedentary sport.

The entire ordeal we had just been through, including the wake up at 4:30 AM, the walk in over the trestle and the run over the boulders was now all worth it. We would surely be back next year to satisfy our reawakened "Steely Fever".

Fishing Report by Jay Mann –Spring 2003

Well, you missed it yesterday. Unless of course you were hereabouts, in which case you know of what I speak. I would have loved to have broken away from the late-day bluefish and bass blitz in Ship Bottom to alert one and all. Fat chance since I had opted to go to "Cop Shop," the beach that the LBT Police Station is on. There, I thought I was doing something special by jigging and catching a slew of small bass using Wildeye Shad. Then I got back to the farm and found out that all hell had busted loose mid-Island with stories of tired arms from banging blues to 8 pounds and bass to 15 pounds. I have no insights into what the fish were on -- bait-wise -- but I know what many anglers were on: Cloud Nine. "I forgot how much fun fishing can be," noted one caster, who, like myself, had been having a tough spring of it. I am now getting similar rave reports from the north.

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS TO FISH AS WELL AS THE FISH STOCKS WE NEED by Dick Vesper

Inserted below are three "calls for help" we sent out in the last month to the members using e-mail. All three are worth reading and "acting on". If you attend the 11/18/03 hearing in Toms River, it would matter a lot. Also, your letters, emails or phone calls to one or more officials will always help. We will always try to give you as much of the specifics you need as far as name and address and content of the message we need. However, our members live in too many towns and legislative districts for us to list them all in this newsletter.

In general, for finding contacts in the legislature, go to our club site:

[<http://fishermansheadquarters.com/vhfc/>](http://fishermansheadquarters.com/vhfc/). Also, you can contact the NJ's governor by entering a message on at his web site:

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html>

Thanks for anything you do to help us out.

1. Stop the Opening of the EEZ for Striper Fishing

Action: Attend a Hearing

You are asked to attend the Toms River Hearing on November 18th and help us stop another bad amendment from damaging our fishery. They've been stopped before. We need to do it again.

Tuesday, November 18, 2003 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Quality Inn, 815 Route 37, Toms River, NJ 08755

NMFS is conducting the first round of public hearings to decide if it is going to open the EEZ for Striped Bass Fishing. In New Jersey, JCAA has opposed this since 1995. At present JCAA remains strongly opposed and its counterparts (CCA) in other coastal states are similarly opposed. There is potential danger of greatly increasing the commercial catch and especially the commercial bycatch. Every time a new directed fishery happens more bycatch takes place, not less.

It is especially interesting to note that NMFS is considering opening that EEZ at the same time it voted to restrict the recreational catch in NJ, NY, PA and DE under Amendment 6. But NMFS did vote to increase the commercial fishery.

(RV Note: I believe the following 3 sentences from JCAA's Tom Fote refer to a past success when recreational fishermen stopped a plan to open the EEZ for Striped Bass Fishing) "The first one in Ocean County was closed by the Fire Marshall because over 700 anglers were trying to get into a room designed for 125. The hearing in Long Branch had over 900 people show up to voice their opposition. That is the main reason the EEZ stayed closed"

2. Saltwater Fishing Permit for the EEZ

Action: Write/send letters/emails

Ed Cherry told us about this serious problem at VHFC's October Membership Meeting. I volunteered to get the word out to all of you. Here is that email for all to read.

Summary of this call for your help: This is one of those times when you need to trust your VHFC Board & JCAA and sit down and let every politician you can find know that you don't want them to support any Recreational Fishing Permit in the EEZ for Groundfish (also called Multispecies). [I believe the EEZ is Ocean area outside NJ waters (about 3 miles).] Please write and tell your government contacts/representatives you are opposed to the "No Permit Requirement for any recreational vessel possessing regulated multispecies in the EEZ" portion of the NEFMC's "Draft Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan".

Note that the NEFMC's (NOT OUR'S) preferred

option states: "any recreational vessel possessing regulated multispecies in the EEZ required to have a federal permit". <-- THIS IS NOT GOOD

Thanks for anything you do to help us stop this money grubbing proposal.

3. No Fishing Zones

Action: Send one email.

We need your help again.

The need you to send an email addressed to:

Comments@nefmc.org and it should simply state: "I am opposed to any Level-1 Habitat Closures for recreational fishing."

Further, please trust your VHFC Board, JCAA and RFA and sit down and let every politician you can find know that you don't want them to support any **No Fishing Zones** (officially called Marine Protected Areas). Tell your contacts you want them to vote against the adoption of Marine Protected Areas. THIS IS SERIOUS.

If you can, also write to your Federal and State Representatives & Senators, The White House, The NJ Governor, and any other official who can help put the brakes on this unjustified initiative spearheaded by anti-fishing environmentalists.

ENFORCEMENT by Dick Vesper

Some members have complained to me about the many abuses they want corrected. If you observe an emergency or an abuse in our waterways, here are some numbers for you to call and to relay facts they can then use to catch/stop the abusers.

The names and #'s to call for reporting actual violations:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 1. USCG | 494-2661 |
| 2. NJ Marine Police | 296-5807 |
| 3. NJ F&W- Enforcement | 748-2050 |

Call to report. Don't call to complain. These people need facts they can act on. Try to have at least some of the following pieces of information: describe the violation, location of the violation, name of the boat or the owner, NJ license number, boat description, time, date.

Call the Coast Guard to report emergencies as well as violations of Inlet and Inland Waterway speed zones, etc.

Call NJ Marine Police to report violations such as speeding in no wake zones in West Creek.

Call NJ Fish & Wildlife/Bureau of Enforcement to report violations of local fishing/clamming/crabbing regulations.

I called USCG to report a commercial vessel speeding through much of the no-wake zone at Barnegat Light. was no longer operating, as of earlier in the day, pending resolution of other reported violations.

with a solution of baking soda and water. He also gave us some tips on using CRC 56 to protect your engine from rusting and the use of a degreaser such as Spray 9 Grease Off to remove salt corrosion from the engine. In addition, Jim went through a step by step process for winterizing both Inboard/Outboard and outboard engines. Also, he suggested that all boaters carry a toolbox of basic tools and a spare prop & thrust washers in their boats.

BOATING GEAR FOR SALE

1. George Fruh, 609- 597-4588, has the following Set of 14' Mooring Whips Good condition \$125/best offer Three way battery switch \$10
1 new & 2 used bilge pumps \$10 new \$5 used Assorted Anchors, deck lines, & an aerator
Call George at
2. Charlie Kochka is selling a 1984 9.9 HP Suzuki Long Shaft in excellent condition. Low Hours. Was kept in garage for years. Asking \$600 597-4430
3. 25' 1993 Parker with 99 Suzuki 225 HP w/347 hrs. Windlass, washdown, radio, Loran, 2 saddle tanks with 216 gal capacity. Best offer over \$23,000. Call weekends 978-1114 or cell 610-291-1197.
4. Call John Nonnenmacher 597-5383 for a 20' 1990 Sportcraft cuddy cabin, IO, Good Bay Boat, in good running condition. \$4500.
Also a 15" Shakespeare surf rod---new, never used---Pro-touch med action---asking 35 \$
5. Ed Sidell---597 3182 has a 22' '85 Aquasport---sandpiper--235 Evenrude--in water: \$3000 or best offer

FISHING WITH CLUB MEMBERS

1. Jerry, a newly retired club member, is looking for someone to fish with any day of the week. Will share expenses. Call Jerry Papp at 609-812-1432
2. Bill Jann, a member with a great bay boat, is looking to go outside with someone with a bigger boat. He offers to help defray costs. Contact Bill at 856-786-8999 or wjann@voicenet.com
3. John Borick would like to go surf fishing with a member who has some surf fishing know-how. His local number is 597-8572. Home number is 973-235-0930

FREE ADS AVAILABLE

If any member has a fishing related item to sell, contact Dick Vesper 9494-0263. We will publish your ad free!

**VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Officers:

President Ray Williams (978-1480)
 1st Vice President Open
 2nd Vice President Open
 Treasurer Ken Hansen (361-9350)
 Secretary Dave Sikorski (978-0437)

Newsletter Dick Vesper (494-0263)
 Weigh Master/Awards George Fruh (597-4588)
 Library Jim McGrath (597-8395)
 Printing Bill Logan (597-0784)
 Website Dave Sikorski
 Vessel Safety Ed Wetmore (294-6956)
 John Kerstanski (698-6662)

Trustees

Sergeant at Arms Charlie Kochka
 Weigh Master/Awards George Fruh
 Recruiting Ray Williams
 Membership Data Base John Nonnenmacher (597-5383)
 Hands-on Sessions Steve Cook (597-8416)
 Guest Speakers Bill Dabney (978-6893)
 Immediate Past President Don Longstreet (597-3991)

All Past Presidents, not listed above, are non-voting Board members.

2003 Tournament Chairmen

Weakfish Tournament Don Longstreet & Bill Dabney
 South Bay Day Ray Williams & Charlie Kochka
 Reef Fishing Event Basil Dubrosky
 Surf Tournament Steve Cook & John Nonnenmacher

**Manahawkin, NJ 08050
 PO Box 1026
 Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc.**

The following have offered a discount with the presentation of current VHFC Membership Card Discounts normally do not apply to items that are fair traded or items on sale		
FISHERMAN'S HEADQUARTERS Causeway, Ship Bottom, NJ 494-5739 10% discount on bait & tackle	BOBBIES 7 th & Bay Ave., Barnegat Light, NJ 494-1345 10% discount on bait & tackle	TIP'S HARDWARE West Creek, NJ 296-3192 10% on bait, tackle & supplies
THE CHUM BUCKET BAIT & TACKLE 381 Rte. 9, West Creek, NJ 294-2500 10% discount on bait & tackle	CAUSEWAY BOAT RENTALS On the LBI Causeway 494-1371 10% discount on bait and tackle.	CLARKE'S MARINE SUPPLY Tuckerton, NJ 294-0166 15% off on OMC, etc. parts 10% off on marine supplies & tackle
HOOK UP WITH US SHRIMPING TJ will meet you on the Bay 973-931-8346 or use VHF Channel 10 Qts. 1 thru 5 at \$5 each—more Qts. are \$4 each	THE BOAT SHOPS 756 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin, NJ 597-1271 10% discount on regular prices	BARNEGAT LIGHT BAIT & TACKLE Bay Avenue & 15 th St., Barnegat Lt. 494-4566 10% discount on bait & tackle
FIRST BRIDGE MARINA & KAYAKS 500 Great Bay Boulevard, Tuckerton 296-1888 10% discount on bait & tackle	AMERICAN SPORTSMAN BAIT & TACKLE Mill Creek Plaza 597-4104 10% discount on bait & tackle	BOAT U.S. VHFC members only pay \$9.50 for a year of Boat U.S. Forms for members' use will be available at VHFC meetings or call Charlie 597-4430