



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER July 2020

Editor: Ed Valitutto VHFC Website: <http://www.vhfishingclub.com>

VHFC meets the second Friday of each month April through November

Location: Manahawkin Community Center

775 East Bay Ave Manahawkin, NJ

Doors open at 7:30; Meeting begins at 7:45 PM

Next meeting (Online via Zoom): 10 July

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,,

Can you believe we are already past the July 4th weekend! If there ever was a time when the USA needed folks to show their solidarity behind their country, this was that time. So I hope you waved your flags, sang *God Bless America* and enjoyed a wonderful patriotic Fourth of July with your friends and family.

Now for the fishing scene - it is definitely happening now. We had a fantastic sea bass early season and fluke fishing has been pretty decent so far. Just about everything our waters have to offer is in play from the surf, in the bay, in the near ocean and far offshore. If you do not have boat access, jump on one of our party boats or book one of the many charters available either locally or even out of state.

As far as the Stafford Community Center, nothing has been said about reopening. Therefore, our July 10th general membership meeting will once again be held via Zoom. Details for the meeting appear later in the Newsletter. Try to join us and our guest speaker Jim Hutchinson Sr.

In the meantime, stay safe - things are definitely getting better. Once again, I look forward to 'seeing' everyone at our next online Zoom meeting on Friday July 10th.

Ed

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3 - Online Board Meeting via Zoom

July 10 - Online VHFC Club Meeting via Zoom. See details below.

Zoom Membership Meeting - Friday July 10 07:45 PM Eastern Time

Use this Link to Join the Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83620613256>

Meeting ID: 836 2061 3256

If Dialing by Phone: +1 646 558 8656

Any questions, call Phil Simon @ 908 656 4086 or Ed Valitutto @ 609 994 1311

July SPEAKER - Jim Hutchinson Sr Jim is a local fishing professional and writer for many newspapers. His talk will be a presentation on "50 Tips for Anglers" - a combo of informative ideas, a little humor, and some thoughts for members to consider.

Note: Jim usually presents the "Captain Melanie Boytos" award at this meeting. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the award will be made once we resume in-person meetings.

NEW JERSEY REGULATORY & EXCERPTS from JCAA MEETING by Phil Simon

1. JCAA will be running what they are calling the "Heavy Hitter" fluke tournament the weekend of Aug 7 – 9. The format is that you pick one of the three days to fish (texting

in the night before), and the winners will be based on the combined weights of 3 fish. Up to four anglers per boat, the entry fee is \$125 before Aug 1, \$150 after. First prize is \$5000, with 5 places paid out plus \$1000 for the single largest fluke. Various calcuttas are also planned but not yet announced. 1000 entry forms were sent out by mail, but if you did not get one, the JCAA website will soon have everything posted on their website including entry forms so standby. (<https://www.jcaa.org/>).

2. Tickets for the High Roller Raffle, to be held August 13th, are available from the JCAA office: \$2 each, 3 for \$5, or a book of 7 for \$10. Mail a check to JCAA, 1594 Lakewood Road, Unit 13, Toms River, NJ 08755, or call the office at 732-506-6565 and leave a message with your name, address and phone number and they will mail you what you want. First prize is an \$850 fishing charter with Jersey Nutz, with six other prizes of various fishing items.
3. The Annual Fluke Tournament (not to be confused with the Heavy Hitter tournament) has been cancelled for 2020. The Beefsteak Dinner has also been cancelled.
4. Tom Fote reports that the ASMFC/MAMFC are going forward with their rebuilding program for bluefish, despite the fact that no one really believes that the stock is in that bad shape nor is fishing pressure an issue. But the new numbers from the computer models are showing the stock is overfished and with overfishing occurring, they are mandated to “do something”. This means we should not expect any relief from the harsh restrictions currently in place any time soon.
5. Paul Eidman reports that there are signs that the Omega bunker reduction boats are likely to reappear in our waters soon, which will impact the bunker schools off our coast.

Fluke Tournament - Unfortunately with all the restrictions due to COVID-19, VHFC will not hold our annual fluke tournament and barbecue picnic. Sorry folks, but it is just too risky!

2020 FOM - The largest fish by length caught during the time periods stated in the table below will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate to Fisherman’s Headquarters (no expiration). There are 22 awards for 2020. Just a reminder, if no entry is made for a species for a specific period, the award will be added to the award when the species is again offered in 2020 as often as required. Note: bluefish must be at least 22” for award consideration.

Caesar Pesarini won the White Perch for the 1 Apr - 30 June award and Marty Friedrich took both the sea bass and fluke May - June awards. Congratulations Caesar and Marty!

There are 5 contests presently open through July. See FOM Table below for all 2020 awards.

Month	Species	Name	Length	Date
1 MAR – 30 APR	Striped Bass	No Entry		
1 MAR – 30 APR	Bluefish	No Entry		
1 MAR – 30 NOV	Winter Flounder	In Process		
1 APR – 30 JUN	White Perch	Caesar Pesarini	12 1/2	4/16
1 APR – 31 OCT	Weakfish	In Process		
1 - 31 MAY	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto	36 1/2	5/20
1 - 31 MAY	Bluefish	No Entry		
15 MAY - 22 JUN	Seabass	Marty Friedrich	18 1/2	5/17
22 MAY - 30 JUN	Fluke	Marty Friedrich	23	6/21
1 - 31 JUL	Seabass			
1 - 31 JUL	Fluke			
1 JUL - 30 SEP	Sheepshead			
1 - 31 AUG	Seabass			
1 - 31 AUG	Fluke			
1 - 19 SEP	Fluke			
1 - 31 OCT	Blackfish			
1 - 31 OCT	Striped Bass			
1 - 31 OCT	Bluefish			
8 OCT - 30 NOV	Seabass			
1 - 30 NOV	Blackfish			
1 - 30 NOV	Striped Bass			
1 - 30 NOV	Bluefish			

June Entries:

Sea Bass	Nick Salamone	16 1/2	5/17
Fluke	Bill Figley	19 3/4	6/04
	Marty Friedrich	20	6/06
	John Spano	22	6/07
	Joe Filice	19	6/13
	Marty Friedrich	23	6/21
Bluefish	Carmine Tocci	21	6/15 Does not meet 22" minimum

For a complete list of all fish entered for 2020 , go to the VHFC Web Site:

<http://www.vhfishingclub.com/conteststournaments/vhfc-standings/>

RECIPE by Ed Valitutto - Stuffed Rolled Fluke Fillets This is a family favorite that I have made several times as an alternative to fried fillets - not that there's anything wrong with fried fillets!

Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil
 2 tablespoons butter
 1 small or 1/2 large onion, chopped fine
 1 garlic clove, minced (optional)
 2 stalks celery, chopped fine
 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped fine
 Old Bay Seasoning, to taste
 S & P to taste
 2 tablespoons Sambuca (Optional but very nice) or white wine
 ~ 8 ounces crabmeat
 Crushed Ritz crackers ~ half to a full sleeve
 Fluke fillets

Saute the veggies, S & P and Old Bay in the butter and oil until slightly softened. Add Sambuca and carefully flame. Let cool then add the crab meat and crumbs.

This should be enough for 6 - 8 white side fillets. Butter, spray or oil a baking pan. Set the oven to 400 degrees. Spread mixture on fillets and gently roll. Place on a baking tray and by hand add any filling that fell out to the sides of rolls. Note: If using dark (thicker) fillets then just place

them flat on the tray and spread the filling on top. Drizzle some melted butter on fillets then squeeze some lemon on top. Add S & P and paprika. Bake for 20 - 25 minutes until filling is hot and fish is cooked. I almost always need the full 25 but it varies depending on fish thickness and temperature before baking. Flat fillets will take less time ~ 12-15 minutes. Serve with lemon wedges and tartar sauce. I mix mayo with a good amount of sweet pickle relish and a few drops of hot sauce just to give a hint of color. It's much better than store bought.



This is a recipe that I vary all the time. Substitute scallions for onion, add parsley or other garden herbs to stuffing, add some chopped tomatoes or substitute finely diced shrimp for crab. If raw, cook briefly with veggies. You could even omit the seafood and add chopped drained spinach with some boursin cream cheese to the mix. I also use the basic recipe for stuffed clams. I cook 24 - 30 top necks either by steaming or on the grill until just opened. Remove the meat and chop by hand. I'll use a little more crumbs and add some clam broth if not too salty. Add to shells and bake until hot. Enjoy!

FISHING REPORTS - Please go to the VHFC website at <http://www.vhfishingclub.com> to read fishing reports submitted by fellow club members. Please submit your own reports using the simple form on the pull down menu. If you do not feel comfortable using the form, please email Ed Valitutto @ edvalitutto@gmail.com or call / text 609 994 1311 and I will submit a report for you. There were nine reports for the month of June.



That's Marty Friedrich's first keeper of the season - a nice fat 20" fish. Needless to say, there were more to follow!



That's a nice 22" fluke by John Spano!



Marty Friedrich and buddy Wil fished some wrecks and had 13 keeper sea bass along with a lot of shorts. On the way back, they stopped in the bay and Wil got a keeper fluke. Some days things just work out!



That;s a beautiful spotted sea trout caught in Sarasota Bay FL by Basil Dubrosky on a gold Johnson pike spoon.



That's Marty Friedrich's 23" FOM winner for the 23 May - 30 June period.
Congratulations Marty!



I booked a charter with Brett Taylor of Reel Reaction for some skinny water fishing with my grandsons Nick and Vinnie and son in law Larry Rossi. Brett totally delivered! We fished a favorite cut of his adjacent to Double Creek in water 3 – 6 feet deep on his new shallow water skiff.

Over 30 shorts with 8 keepers up to 20". Brett knows these waters and provides a great quality charter. Give him a call and book a fun trip.



Caesar Pesarini and I fished south of the BI buoy where the combination of tide and wind pushed us on a nice long drift along Oyster Creek in 7 - 9 feet of water. We probably hooked 20 more nice shorts and two nice keepers: Caesar got a 20" fluke and I got a 22" one. Best of all - no dogfish or skates and surprisingly no crabs!



Left Photo - A forecasted rough day instead turned out to be a great day for the crew of the Jen-Jen fishing team. The five members almost limited out with 12 keepers and a bunch of shorts drifting the Garden State South reef. These guys know how to catch fish!



Right Photo - Two days later, the Jen Jen crew was now grandson Tyler, his friend and fellow member Ryan Mollicone (high hook for the day) and friend Kevin. We kept 7 nice fish up to 22" and caught a bunch of shorts and some sea robins. GSS reef was again the hot spot!

VHFC T Shirts - VHFC T Shirts are available for purchase. Our supplier requires a minimum order of 12 shirts and we have had requests for 6 shirts for quite a while.

VHFC has decided to purchase the additional 6 shirts and offer them for sale. Our thanks to the folks who placed the original order for their patience!

Sizes range from XS (Extra Small) to 6XL. All sizes are available in nine colors. Shirts have long sleeves and feature UPF 50 Sun Protection. These are quality shirts to be worn proudly. White is shown below with the ordering info.

Sizes/Cost: XS, S, M, L & XL @ \$31, 2XL @ \$32, 3XL @ \$33 4XL @ \$34, 5XL @ \$35 & 6XL @ \$36

Colors: White, Pale Green, Sand, Pale Orange, Pale Yellow, Pale Teal, Aqua, Lime & Medium Blue

For a slightly loose fit, order your normal shirt size. For a tight fit, order one size smaller than your normal shirt size. Order yours and help us complete this order! Contact Dave Spendiff at dnspeidiff@netscape.net for placing an order.



VHFC Hats - Hats are also available for purchase. Hats are khaki colored, feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front, a velcro size adjustment and sell for \$20. These are quality hats at a fair price and advertise our club. Dave will personally deliver hats or shirts to your home (less than 100 mi radius). Okay, let's restrict it to local delivery only! Contact Dave at dnspeidiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

Boat/US: <http://www.boatus.com/>

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary: <http://www.cgaux.org/>

Notice to Mariners (District 5):

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=InmDistrict®ion=5>

Fisherman's Headquarters: <http://www.fishermansheadquarters.com/>

The Boat Shop: <http://theboatshoponline.com/>

The Bass Barn: <http://www.thebassbarn.com>

Barnegat Fishing Hole: <http://www.barnegatfishinghole.com/ubbthreads/ubbthreads.php>

Animated Knots: <http://www.animatedknots.com/>

Long Beach Island Water Temperature & Winds:

<https://seatemperature.info/long-beach-island-water-temperature.html>

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS: Call Jeff Orsoe @ 732-672-5530 and leave a message or email him at jorsoe786@comcast.net

SPONSORS / (WEIGH IN STATIONS) : (Until NJG lifts the closure due to COVID-19, all sponsors and weigh in stations remain closed.)

The following sponsors / Weigh In Stations (shown in red) offer a discount with the presentation of your current VHFC Membership Card. Discounts normally do not apply to items that are fair traded or items on sale.

BHW Marine Center (Weigh In Station) 10% discount with VHFC card
857 Mill Creek Rd Manahawkin, NJ 08050
609-709-5424

Boat U.S.

Special membership price call Jeff Orsoe. Forms for members' use will be at VHFC meetings or call Jeff Orsoe 732-672-5530. Also, VHFC members only pay \$9.50 for a year of Boat U.S.

Causeway Boat Rentals 10% discount on bait & tackle with VHFC card
2200 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin, NJ
609-494-1371

Creekside Outfitters (Weigh In Station) 10% discount with VHFC card
403 Rt. 9 Waretown, NJ 08758
609-242-1812

D & S Marine Service 10% discount on parts with VHFC card
460 Dock Rd, West Creek NJ 08092
609-296-0309

Fisherman's Headquarters (Weigh In Station) 10% discount with VHFC card
280 West 9th St, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008
609-494-5739

JB Awards 10% discount on engraving and trophies with VHFC card
609-290-5851

Jingles Bait & Tackle (Weigh In Station) - 10% discount with VHFC card
1214 N Bay Ave, Beach Haven, NJ 08008
609-492-2795

The Boat Shop 10% discount with VHFC card
756 E. Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
609-597-1271

Viking Outfitters 10% discount with VHFC card
W.19th and Bayview in Viking Village, Barnegat Light, NJ **609-361-9111**

West Creek Bait and Tackle (Weigh In Station) - 10% discount with VHFC card
387 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092 **609-857-3516**

West Creek Kayak and Canoe (Weigh In Station) 10% discount only on accessories with
VHFC card
224 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092 **609-296-8030**