



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER November 2020

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

HFC 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): 13 November

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Can you believe 2020 is almost over? And what a year it has been with the most contentious election I can remember and the worldwide COVID 19 pandemic impacting everyone in some way. I think there will be a lot of toasts on New Year's Eve saying 'good riddance' to 2020 and welcoming better times ahead in 2021.

Since the clocks went back one hour last weekend, we are now on Daylight Savings Time and officially into fall fishing! Finally, the weather started to cooperate late this past week with a lot less wind and waves to allow folks the opportunity to do some striper fishing. Unfortunately, we are in a losing battle against the clock with less than 8 weeks until the 'ball drops'. Add in the Thanksgiving & December holidays, readying your home for winter and winterizing your boat, those 8 weeks will disappear quickly. So make the most of any opportunity to fish! For the surf fishing folks, fall is a great time to fish since you can put up with more wind & waves on the

sands than you can in a boat. For the wreck fishermen, both sea bass and blackfish remain open through 31 December. Sea bass is now 15 fish at 13" and blackfish will increase from 1 keeper to 5 on November 16th.

Speaking of the surf, if you haven't entered the 66th Annual Fall Surf Fishing Classic yet, consider doing it now. There are still 5 weeks of fishing on Long Beach Island until the December 13 conclusion of the tournament. For \$30 per adult / \$15 for 17 & under, you get a hat (no T shirt this year) and many remaining opportunities to win money for a bass, bluefish, kingfish or red drum. Go to <https://www.lbisfc.com/lbi-fall-classic-surf-fishing-tournament> for full details.

Another option is to jump onboard a 3 or 4 man charter or one of the party boats still operating for tog or stripers. So make the most of the remaining days and enjoy the last chances to fish in 2020 before things wind down for the year and ol' man winter arrives!

Once again, I look forward to 'seeing' everyone at our final 2020 online Zoom meeting on Friday November 13th. Let's hope the 2021 meetings return back to in-person sessions at the Manahawkin Community Center.

Ed

ZOOM Membership Meeting - Friday November 13 07:45 PM Eastern Time

Use this Link to Join the Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86846896974>

Meeting ID: 868 4689 6974

Dial-in: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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

November SPEAKER - Phil Simon - Phil is a retired research scientist who worked in the pharmaceutical industry and is an avid fisherman. As a VHFC board member, Phil reports out on all JCAA/regulatory matters and also does the difficult job of lining up our guest speakers. Phil has put together a very interesting presentation entitled 'Striper Wars Part II' which examines the factors behind the decline of stripers following the amazing rebuilding of the stock from the late 1990's through 2004. Please join us for this very interesting presentation.

NEW JERSEY REGULATORY & EXCERPTS from JCAA MEETING by Phil Simon - The Atlantic States Marine Fishery Council (ASMFC) and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MAFAC) held their separate and combined annual meetings in October via Zoom. In the JCAA newsletter attached to the email for the VHFC newsletter, Tom Fote summarized the main items of interest to the NJ fishing community, which you should read. We can expect over the next months several proposals for new or changed regulations on striped bass and bluefish. One notable change is that menhaden quotas will be reduced by 10%, good news for the stripers and other fish that need to eat. However, this might impact the amount of bait available for recreational use, unless the rules are amended to place the burden primarily onto Omega Protein, which harvests more than 85% of the bunker. Stay tuned on that one.

JCAA is still looking for additional entries for the Blackfish Tournament which starts November 16. For details and entry information check out the JCAA web site at www.jcaa.org Info and entry forms can also be found in the JCAA newsletter attached to this email.

For those of you shore fisherman who may fish at Sandy hook, please be advised that the Army Corps of Engineers has closed the beaches along the false hook to allow for dredging of the adjacent channel. Just in time for the fall run!. More details in the JCAA newsletter. Hopefully we can fix this for future remediation efforts.

If you ever get that feeling that you're wasting your time and not accomplishing anything, just remember the guy in the photo! Thanks Vince for the photo!



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. Note: bluefish must be at least 22" for award consideration.

Larry Leary took the October Blackfish FOM with a nice 18" fish and Cherie Hebert won the Weakfish FOM that started back in April with a 19" beauty. Congratulations to Larry and Cherie! There are 5 contests open during November to conclude the 2020 FOM: Winter Flounder, Seabass, Blackfish, Striped Bass & Bluefish.

See the Table below for all 2020 FOM awards.

Month	Species	Name	Length	Date
1 MAR – 30 APR	Striped Bass	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
1 MAR – 30 APR	Bluefish	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
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	Cherie Hebert	19	7/03
1 - 31 MAY	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto	36 1/2	5/20
1 - 31 MAY	Bluefish	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
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	Bob Dodds	19	7/23
1 - 31 JUL	Fluke	Ryan Mollicone	27	7/17
1 JUL - 30 SEP	Sheepshead	No Entry - Closed		
1 - 31 AUG	Seabass	Brian Leary	16 1/2	8/22
1 - 31 AUG	Fluke	Bob Dodds	25	8/15
1 - 19 SEP	Fluke	Larry Leary	22 3/4	9/17
1 - 31 OCT	Blackfish	Larry Leary	18	10/18
1 - 31 OCT	Striped Bass	No Entry / Rolled Forward		

1 - 31 OCT	Bluefish	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
8 OCT - 30 NOV	Seabass	Marty Friedrich Leads	18	
1 - 30 NOV	Blackfish			
1 - 30 NOV	Striped Bass			
1 - 30 NOV	Bluefish			

October Entries:

Blackfish	Carminé Tocci	15 1/2	10/7
Fluke	Marty Friedrich	18	10/9
Blackfish	Marty Friedrich	16 /12	10/10
Blackfish	Larry Leary	18	10/18

Email your FOM entries to Carmine at dianatocci@verizon.net and copy me please at edvalitutto@gmail.com

Remaining 2020 FOM Contests

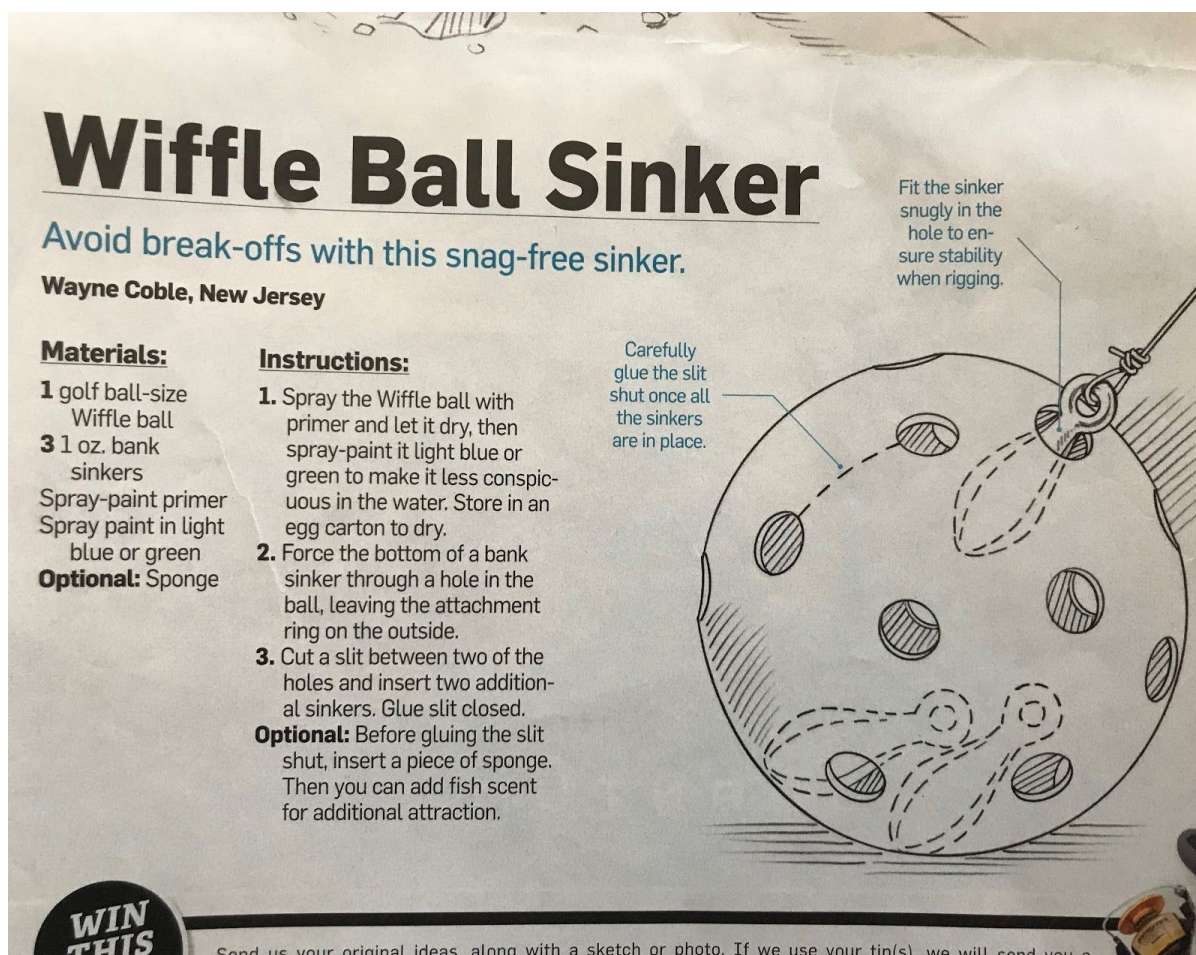
1 MAR - 30 NOV	Winter Flounder	Tom Siciliano leads with 13 1/2"
8 OCT - 30 NOV	Seabass	Marty Friedrich leads with 18"
1 - 30 NOV	Blackfish	
1 - 30 NOV	Striped Bass (\$100)	
1 - 30 NOV	Bluefish (\$200)	

Things That Have Fallen Off My Boat by Ed Valitutto - At the risk of looking like an idiot, I cautiously offer this article in the hope that it will prevent someone else from making the same mistakes. I have owned two boats since 2008 and in those 12 years, the following items have been deposited in Barnegat Bay. Needless to say, there's a finder's fee for their return.

1	6/12	Rod and Reel - I was fluke fishing alone in the Middle Grounds and had installed a rod holder on the bow rail. I decided to fish two rods and put one in the holder. Unfortunately, I hadn't fully tightened the clamps and the rod snagged bottom - I refuse to even consider that I had hooked a decent fish! Before I could react, the holder lowered and over the side went the rod. Luckily, it wasn't an expensive outfit. Remember to tighten the bolts!	\$50
2	6/14	Landing Net - Once again fishing solo, I placed my landing net on the back near the engine when I first came onboard. When I got to the channel and came up on plane, I turned to see my net going over the transom!	\$50
3	5/15	Anchor - I was blowfishing with member Alan Goracy down from Hochstrasser's Marina and brought along a 15 lb button anchor to keep the boat from swaying. I tossed the anchor and watched it and the rope disappear from sight! Don't laugh - the instructions didn't mention anything about securing the rope to a clamp!	\$25
4	7/20	Chum Pot - Fishing with my grandson's for blowfish this summer near the 42 tripod buoy, I reloaded the chum pot and attached the clip thinking that it wasn't very secure but tossed it over anyway. My second shake of the pot resulted in a rope with just a clip attached. Fortunately, enough chum must have been able to escape because we still caught plenty of blowfish.	\$20
5	8 '20	Bait Cleaning Table - I bought one of those bait tables that mount into a rod holder on the side of your boat from Tony's B&T. I really didn't like it since no matter how tight I made the clamp over the ball joint, once you applied some pressure, the table would abruptly become uneven. Black tape applied over the ball also was to no avail. Anyway, earlier this summer, I guess I hadn't twisted and locked it in place and I heard a clunk after hitting a sizable wake. Anyone recommend a good bait table to me?	\$100

All totaled, that's \$245 into the bay. But there is a bright side. Blowfishing this past September with Dave Spendiff and Caesar Pesarini, Dave was pulling in the anchor rope when he yelled for me to grab the line that was wrapped on the anchor. I then pulled up a Shimano Trevala rod with a Shimano Cardini reel that couldn't have been lost for more than a few weeks. Dave restored it with minimal effort and insisted I take it. Even the braid was in great shape. Total value: \$260 and you don't believe in Karma! BTW, unless your name is etched under the reel, don't even bother claiming it's yours!

Interesting Article from *Saltwater Sportsman* - I found this in my archive basket and thought it might be of interest to some of our anglers especially the jetty jockeys. The worst thing about fishing the rocks is the non-stop loss of sinkers and rigs. The wiffle ball's shape lends itself to not becoming wedged in the rocks. Any size ball will work and if you can force a heavy enough sinker into it, there's no need to add any additional weight. Give it a try!



RECIPE by Ed Valitutto - This month's recipe was a simple dish I saw in an article provided by James Beard - truly one of the great chefs. It was one of his favorite ways to cook striped bass - pan-seared and topped with a lemony butter sauce - But it would work equally well with tog, fluke or seabass. Just adjust the cooking time for thinner fillets.

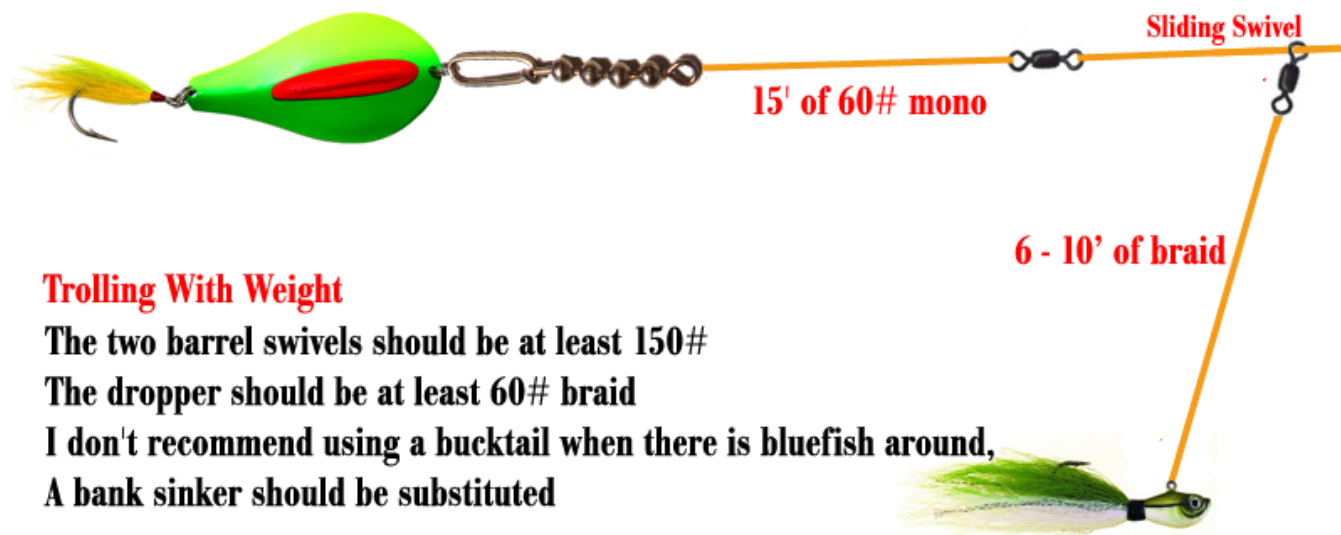
- Ingredients:
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp black pepper

- 1 tsp white pepper
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 tbsp kosher salt or 1 tbsp regular salt
- 4 eight-ounce striped bass fillets with or without skins
- 6 tbsp butter, divided
- 1/4 cup capers
- Juice of 1 lemon, plus additional lemon slices for garnish
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley for garnish

Combine the flour, peppers, and salt. Dredge the fish fillets in the flour mixture and shake off any excess. Melt 2 tablespoons of the butter in a heavy saucepan and heat until the butter is nut brown and foaming. Be careful not to burn. Place the fish fillets in the pan, skin side down, and sauté until cooked on that side, about 3–4 minutes. Carefully flip the fillets over and sauté on the other side for another three minutes or so. Remove the fillets and place in a warm oven.

Drain off the excess butter and add the capers, lemon juice, and wine. Cook for about 5 minutes to reduce slightly, then enrich the sauce with the remaining 4 tablespoons butter. Pour the sauce over the fish, and garnish with the chopped parsley and lemon slices.

Oldie from a Past Newsletter by Ed Valitutto - I'm sure everyone knows how to rig up for stripers with a three way swivel but there is an alternative as shown in the figure below.



Trolling With Weight

The two barrel swivels should be at least 150#

The dropper should be at least 60# braid

I don't recommend using a bucktail when there is bluefish around,

A bank sinker should be substituted

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 3 reports for the month of October.



That is one nice 18" seabass and a great photo by Marty Friedfrich!



That's a great catch of blackfish for the Larry Leary crew and also good enough for the October Tog FOM. Congratulations!



If you thought White Perch were only caught in the spring then think again. Donna Harris had a great time fishing off her dock using a gold phoebe lure to put together a nice catch of tasty fillets.

Just in Time for the Holidays - Consider a VHFC T Shirt or hat as a stocking stuffer for someone on your list for the holidays. We have three extra shirts that are available for purchase at \$31 each. They are: **White, XL - 1 and Aqua, L -1, XL - 2**. You can still order from the full range of colors and sizes below but we will need 12 minimum to place a new order. 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. 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. Contact Dave at dnspeidiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

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

Sea Tow News - As reported in the *Barnegat Fishin' Hole*, the Sea Tow franchise at Holiday Harbor marina was taken away in February. No one has taken over the Waretown area but Sea Tow Manasquan is answering all calls in Barnegat Light. If you want to switch, give our office a call and we'll save you some money from the online price for a new membership. We've done quite a few jobs for them this year so you won't be left out there if something happens but beware they are making you pay us first and get reimbursed....just an FYI

Captain Chuck Tharp
TowBoat U.S.
Barnegat Light & Beach Haven Jersey Shore Boat Towing & Salvage, Inc.
609-276-3237
Jerseyshoreboattowing@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/TowBoatU.S.BarnegatLight

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>

SPONSORS / : The following sponsors 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 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 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 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 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 - 10% discount with VHFC card
387 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092 **609-857-3516**