



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER June 2021

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

***VHFC meets the second Friday of each month from
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: 11 June In Person!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Finally, we will be able to hold an in-person meeting at the Community Center (CC) on June 11th. and I definitely look forward to seeing everyone. Zoom was a workable solution but I am glad that it is no longer required. As an added treat, the CC stated that *"masks are no longer required if you have been fully vaccinated. If you are not, masks are recommended."*

Temperature checks and daily covid forms are no longer required. Only one group is allowed in the building at a time and the limit is 50." Please come out and say hello to your fellow club members. In addition, we have a great speaker and lots of club news to cover.

Now let's talk about fishing. This is the start of NJ 'summer' fishing at its finest. Technically, summer starts June 20th but almost every species is happening now both in the bay and ocean from the sand or by boat. Stripers and drum have a few weeks before they leave our area, fluke and seabass are in their prime, blowfish and kingfish are increasing daily, weakfish

and bluefish are scarce but may show up in better numbers at any time and crabs and clams are there for the taking! The only species closed are blackfish and seabass closes on the 22nd. As our waters continue to warm up, sharks, tuna, cobia, mahi, sheepshead, triggerfish etc, will all start to arrive for the catching.

One precaution for all the boaters out there. This has been a banner year for both used and new boat sales. That means our already crowded waterways will have additional first time boat owners on them especially on the weekends. Take your time and have a little patience!

Ed

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 11 - VHFC Club Meeting

July 09 - VHFC Club Meeting

July 10 - VHFC Fluke Tournament

JUNE SPEAKER - GREG CUDNIK - Captain Greg Cudnik is a passionate saltwater angler with vast knowledge of our local fishery and saltwater fishing tackle. Greg is the general manager of Fisherman's Headquarters and also runs Fish Head Charters – a Light Tackle & Fly Guide Service. He is also the Editor of FishingLBI.com a fishing report blog focused on the waters of Long Beach Island. Greg will share information about light tackle striped bass fishing in the area. His presentation will detail topics like rod/reel choices, line/leader and best knots as well as his top lures. Greg will also discuss fishing techniques and gear appropriate for other species in our area. Greg will be answering your questions to point you towards your next successful fishing trip.

NEW JERSEY FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon - This month's JCAA newsletter is a little thin, as is the news from JCAA. But if you are interested in the Menhaden die-offs that have been occurring along the coast, there are three pages of information on the cause and the impacts on fishing. BTW, JCAA is hurting for funds, and if you are feeling generous you can provide support as a sponsor. Details are on the inside cover of the JCAA newsletter.

The Mid Atlantic Marine Fishery Council June meeting public webinar begins Tuesday June 8 and runs through Thursday. You can find the agenda and briefing materials on their website here: [Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council — June 2021 Council Meeting \(Webinar\) \(mafmcc.org\)](https://mafmcc.org). Many items on the agenda of interest to the recreational community, including an update on MRIP (the new fishing effort estimation system which caused so many changes to

our quotas), updates on the wind turbines, updates on the recreational reform initiative, bluefish stock rebuilding, and more.

NJ DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE - This month's newsletter highlights a few of last May's events as well as upcoming events. See what's in season, read staff highlights, fun facts, and test your cooking skills with a bivalve recipe that is sure to ignite your taste buds (or oven) too! **The June Newsletter can be found [HERE](#)**

NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - [Granite Monuments Added to Barnegat Light Reef](#) Check out the link for all the information including the coordinates.

YOUR PRESIDENT BROKE THE LAW - Relax, I'm not talking about the 'big guy in DC', FOX News covers that. I'm talking about yours truly. Let me explain. On Sunday May 23rd, I was fishing in my boat with Caesar Pesarini and Phil Kaplan in a very crowded and narrow section of High Bar Harbor. I paid no attention to the approaching police boat until their lights were flashing. The two officers announced they were NJ F&W and asked if they could come aboard. Once aboard, they asked about the fishing and I said we had caught several shorts and I had one keeper. They looked at my fish and quickly said it was ok but measured it anyway. As they were about to leave, one of them pointed to my rod and asked what was on my jig. I said it was fluke belly and quickly thought 'Oh S**t'. Of course I didn't have the carcass but showed them the baggie with the salted and almost still frozen remaining strips in my cooler.

Long story short, the officers could have written tickets for every piece of belly but wrote only one for \$54. They said it was like a parking ticket and would not be on my record if mailed in promptly. These guys were courteous and professional throughout. Honestly, I'm glad to see them on the water doing their job. I knew the law but chose to ignore it.

Now, what do I do in the future? Options are:

1. Discontinue using fluke bellies - **No way!**
2. Continue disregarding the law assuming lightning never strikes twice - **Dumb idea!**
3. Be on the lookout for an approaching NJ F&W boat. Worst case, cut your line and enjoy the salty sashimi snack in your cooler - **Too dumb to even comment!**
4. Fillet your fish. Cut and salt the bellies as usual. Fold the carcass in three and place in a shoprite bag. Freeze with the bellies for your next trip - **Smart and legal! But remember, the carcass counts as your third fish. Once you have two fish, discard the bellies and carcass to continue fishing. Otherwise, revert to number 3 above!**

As the officers were leaving, I asked why of all the boats, they chose to board me. They said my boat looked really nice, I had on a Striper shirt and Caesar had on a sun blocking shirt. I said, "So you profiled us as good fishermen." We all had a laugh and I learned my lesson!

2021 MAY FOM ENTRIES - There were seven entries for May and one very nice Kingfish for June as shown below:

5/02/21	Bluefish	Mallory Figley	22-3/4"
5/11/21	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto	35-1/4"
5/16/21	Sea Bass	Marty Friedrich	16-1/4"
5/17/21	Sea Bass	Ed Valitutto	17-1/4"
5/19/21	Sea Bass	Bob Dodds	17-1/4"
5/18/21	Sea Bass	Nathan Figley	18"
5/27/21	Fluke	Bob Dodds	22-3/4"
6/03/21	Kingfish	Joe Filice	14-1/4"

2021 FISH of the MONTH (FOM) - This is the full list of the 17 FOM Awards for 2021. Currently, with the addition of fluke and seabass, 8 awards are open (in Bold.)

2021 FOM Categories (17 Awards)

Time Period	Species	Angler
1 March - 30 June	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto leads 35 3/4"
1 March - 30 June	Bluefish	Mallory Figley leads 22 3/4"
1 April - 31 October	Weakfish	No Entry to date
1 April - 31 October	White Perch	Dave Spendiff leads 14 1/4"
1 May - 31 October	Blowfish	No Entry to date
1 May - 31 October	Kingfish	Joe Filice leads 14 1/4"
15 May - 22 June	Seabass	Nathan Figley leads 18"
22 May - 30 June	Fluke	Bob Dodds leads 22 3/4"
1 -31 July	Fluke & Seabass	
1 -31 August	Fluke & Seabass	
1 - 19 September	Fluke	
1 October - 30 November	Blackfish, Bluefish & Striped Bass	
8 October - 30 November	Seabass	

For contest entry, **take a photo of your catch with a ruler visible from the nose to the end of the tail for all species entered.** Send your picture to our Weighmaster Pat Presutto at pat1016pat@aol.com with a copy to me at edvalitutto@gmail.com for backup.

Per Weighmaster Pat Presutto: *For fish with forked tails, I am going by the inside at the 'v'; for fish with rounded tails I am going to the end. All fish are rounded up to the next 1/4"* With our first Kingfish entry, we realized Kingfish have neither a "v" nor a rounded tail. Their tails slope from top to bottom. Therefore, length will be measured to the bottom (longer side) of the tail. See Joe Filice's beautiful 14 1/4" Kingfish photo below.



All fish must be caught off land / surf in Ocean County NJ or from a boat departing and returning to Ocean County NJ. **Fish caught on Brielle party boats do not qualify for entry.**

Bluefish must be 20" minimum for entry. Bonus tag bass can be entered for awards but the photo must show the tag. Bass over 38" can be entered but please take your photo and release it quickly. If no entry is made for a species for a specific award period, the award will be added to the next period that species is offered.

BATTLE ON THE BEACH - Due to the threat of thunderstorms at 5:00 PM this past Friday, the event was rescheduled for Tuesday June 8th. The contest runs from 4:00 to 7:00 PM between 8th and 11th streets in Barnegat Light. Feel free to stop by and enjoy watching some really great kids have a blast on the beach. Who knows - you may learn something!

VHFC 2021 FLUKE TOURNAMENT - The fifth annual fluke tournament will be on Saturday July 10th with a rain date on Sunday the 11th. The details are on the next page. Please complete the form and send it in with your check to VHFC PO Box 1026 Manahawkin, NJ 08050 ASAP. **Better yet, sign up and pay at our June meeting.** All entrance fees will be awarded as prizes. VHFC will provide the BBQ (burgers, dogs, soft drinks) at Mill Creek park but we need to get a decent headcount so we can buy the food!

VHFC 2021 FLUKE TOURNAMENT

In an effort to bring club members together in a fishing activity and enjoy time together after this long period of Covid 19 isolation, VHFC will hold our 5th fluke tournament for members, family and their friends. Following the tournament, the club will sponsor a BBQ to be held at the Beach Haven West Pavilion located on Mill Creek Rd. The VHFC will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, sides, soda and water. Please feel free to bring your favorite side dish to share.

The tournament entry fee is \$20.00 per person, which includes the BBQ for the member and their spouse and non-member fishing participants. Members and non-member participants may invite a guest(s) to attend the BBQ, but each guest, 13 years old or older, must pay \$10.00. All tournament entry fee money will be paid out as prize money.

TOURNAMENT RULES

- **Entry Fee** – \$20.00 per person
- **Date** – Saturday July 10, 2021 (Rain date - Sunday July 11, 2021)
- **Time** – 12:01 AM to 5:00 PM **BBQ** - 3:00 - 7:00 PM
- **Where** – From the surf or boat leaving / returning to an Ocean County port.
- **Weigh In** – BHW Pavilion from 3 – 5:00 PM. Only one entry per person.
- **Prizes** – 1st Place = 50% of prize money 2nd Place = 30% 3rd Place = 20%

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SIGN UP SHEET

Name: _____ Phone: _____

VHFC Member Circle Y N Will spouse attend BBQ? Circle Y N 1 X \$20.00 = _____

Non - VHFC participant Y N Will attend BBQ? Y N 1 X \$20.00 = _____

Non Fishing Guest(s) attending BBQ # _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Names of guests: _____ **TOTAL =** _____

TROLLING MOTOR INSTALLATION BY ED VALITUTTO - I've been thinking about getting a trolling motor and finally decided to do it. I immediately started reading articles on the internet and there are many to read. A good site is [Trolling Motor Technical Resources, Guides and How-to's – TrollingMotors.net](http://TrollingMotorTechnicalResources.Guides.andHow-to's-TrollingMotors.net) If you scroll down the page, there are 33 articles to jump to for additional information.

The most important calculations are how big a motor (24 or 36 volt) and how long a shaft length is needed. I have a Sea Pro 239 center console and from speaking with other users, I needed a 36 volt motor. My measurement from the gunnel to the water at the bow was 41" so I felt a 72" shaft was right. Since access to the unit wasn't an issue, I wanted a manual deployable unit. There are two major motor manufacturers - Minn Kota and Rhodan - and I could not decide one over the other. BTW, both are busy backfilling orders so you will wait on delivery.. Probably the most important decision is the installation.- DIY or getting someone who knows what they are doing. That was easy - no way was I doing it myself but who could do it?

That problem was solved when a neighbor said "Matt over at Tony's B&T does them". I'd known Matt for a few years and always found him to be pleasant and very knowledgeable. I was very impressed to learn that Matt Mottershead had started [Beachview Marine Services](http://BeachviewMarineServices.com), a business serving the LBI area with all their boating needs. Matt concurred with my 36 volt requirement and after stopping by to measure the drop to the water, he also concurred with a 72" shaft. Matt recommended Minn Kota and that decision was made. The best part - he had several motors of various styles and lengths already on back order. He also would take care of everything else - batteries, cables, charger, breaker, etc. I offered to pay for the material upfront but he said not until the job is completed!



It took a few weeks for my motor to arrive and Matt brought it over to do another series of checks for the mounting. What is shown in the photos was done in one long day last week.

The motor is shown mounted on the port side and does not interfere with my bow cleat, lines, hand railing or anchor locker.

The motor is not mounted directly to the deck. Matt supplied a thick aluminum base plate that is mounted securely to the deck and the motor is mounted through the plate. It is very solid.



The left photo shows the battery charger / regulator mounted inside my console and the right photo shows the breaker and ON/OFF switch mounted just inside the hatch to the console. What's missing? The three batteries will be in a battery box mounted in a forward center hold. The ledge for the box was done and the void under the box will be filled with foam - not available until next Tuesday. I'll show the finished battery compartment in the July Newsletter. Give Matt a call at 609 573 1918 or check out his website. He's licensed, insured and has done over 20 motor installations. He arrives as promised and is very meticulous with his work.

ROD & REEL RAFFLE -, We will start the sale of tickets for combo #1 at the June club meeting and continue at the July meeting. The raffle will be held at the fluke BBQ. The second combo will be offered starting in August and be raffled at our October meeting. Our raffle items for this year are:

1. Shimano 7' Medium power / Fast action GLF spinning rod with a Penn Pursuit III 2500 reel
2. Tsunami 5 Star 6' 6" Medium heavy power spinning rod with a Penn Pursuit III 3000 reel

RECIPE BY BILL DABNEY - Sauteed Flounder with Lemon Caper Pan Sauce

Ingredients:

- 2 8 oz flounder fillets
- 1 tablespoon capers, chopped
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon shallots minced

- 1 sprig thyme
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 2 tablespoons butter, cubed
- 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- flour seasoned with your choice of spices
- salt & pepper

Directions: Dust the fillets with the seasoned flour. Heat the oil and 1 tablespoon butter in a large saute pan. Once the butter tops foaming, add the fish and cook 3 - 4 minutes per side until golden. Remove the fillets and deglaze with the white wine. Add capers, shallots, thyme and remaining butter. Finish with lemon juice to help emulsify the sauce. Season with salt & pepper and pour the sauce over the fish and serve. Enjoy with a nice chilled white wine.

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 609 994 1311 and I will submit a report for you. There were 6 reports submitted in May .



That's Bob Dodds and friend Bob Long after a bay charter with Captain Brett Taylor. Brett knew the right shallow water spots to get a boat limit of 9 with the biggest @ 5 pounds. They ranged from 18 – 22 3/4"



After a great day on the water with Caesar Pesarini and Phil Kaplan, we caught a lot of shorts and only had one keeper. I thought I had a FOM winner for sure but it turned out to be two shorts - a 16" and 17".



When Bil Figley asks you to join him on the *Red Herring* for a seabass trip, the correct answer is *what time should I be there?*

Joining us were Dave Spendiff and Bill's son Nathan. By 9:00 we were 9 shy of our 40 fish limit and all were decent sized. These two were over 17".



Quite a catch of 30 seabass and 2 ling by Marty Friedrich, Bill Dabney and friend Wil.



That's Larry Leary with a beautiful 30" drum he caught fishing with son Brian on a mid May evening.



That's my grandson, VHFC Junior member Nick Rossi with a new personal best carp that went 29" and was 13 1/2 lbs! My daughter said bystanders were cheering and clapping when he finally landed the fish. No small task on light freshwater tackle!

BoatUS / BOATING SAFETY by Jeff Orsoe - VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS - No cost, no penalty vessel safety checks (VSC) at launch ramps, boat clubs and marinas are back. Contact your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons to see if there is a VSC event scheduled at a marina, boat club or launch ramp. VHFC Jeff Orsoe can also perform the VSC. Call Jeff at 732 672 5530. Leave a message if he doesn't pick up or email him at jorsoe786@gmail.com

VHFC Shirts - VHFC T-Shirts are available for purchase but we need to order a 12



lot minimum. Sizes range from XS (Extra Small) to 6XL and are available in nine colors. Shirts have long sleeves and feature UPF 50 Sun Protection. Let us know your size and color preference. 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 dnspendiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

VHFC Hats - Hats are khaki colored and feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front. They are available at club meetings and sell for \$20.



CLASSIFIED ADS

BUY, SELL or TRADE

Classified ads may be placed free of charge by any club member for non-commercial fishing related items. Please contact Ed Valitutto via email at edvalitutto@gmail.com to place your ad.

Club member Cheri Hebert is looking for a small center console with a T Top no larger than 20ft. If you or someone you know have a boat for sale, contact Cheri directly at 856-968-2201 or by email at cmhebert@drpa.org

FISHING WITH CLUB MEMBERS - Members may place free ads in this section if you wish to find someone to fish with. Maybe you need to find someone with a boat or you are interested in finding someone to share expenses on your boat.

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 - 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.

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**

West Creek Kayak and Canoe 10% discount only on accessories with VHFC card

224 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092 **609-296-8030**