



# **HARBOUR LIGHT**

**OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023**

*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: 14 April 2023***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello VHFC Members,

Welcome to the 2023 fishing season! Today is April 9th and we are three weeks into spring. As in years past, 2023 has started off quickly with reports of White Perch being caught in the usual early season haunts and Striped Bass reported around the bridges, sod banks and even a few on the surf. Dave Spendiff sent in his first two White Perch on March 24th and has followed up with an even larger one! Weighmaster Pat Presutto caught a Black Drum off the beach and reported Stripers being caught off the beach. Hopefully, the hungry yellow eyed demons aka Bluefish will soon invade our local waters this year once again. Past member reports confirm their late April arrival. Tautog, or if you prefer Blackfish, officially opened on 1 April and can be caught on local wrecks and sod banks. The best bet for near term fishing action will be to try for striped bass as our bays are warming. Schoolie striped bass action will be the main game, but if you are willing to travel out of our area, anglers making the trek to the Raritan are finding fish up to 50 pounds. If the winds and waves give us a break, the reef sites

should be the go-to spots for keeper tautog. If your boat isn't in the water yet, jump on one of our party boats or charters to get in on the action. **Bottom Line - the 2023 season is here!**

Spring can be a busy time trying to get all the things stored in your garage, shed or under the house brought out, cleaned, painted and sometimes thrown out. I'm talking about the picnic table & chairs, plant containers, boat whips & ropes, kayaks, BBQ grill and all the other items needed for a fun time 'down the shore'. This is also prime time to get your boat and fishing equipment all ready to go before the summer rush is underway. My yearly recommendation - unless you have a lot of time and talent, allow our local bait & tackle shops to help out. For a modest fee, they will service your reel, replace the heavy braid with a newer lighter product and fix any damaged guides on your rods. Another idea, buy yourself some new equipment. Who deserves it more than you!

I look forward to another fun year with our club. Phil Simon has done a great job getting an interesting lineup of speakers for our meetings and Dave Spendiff has a good batch of new recruits interested in VHFC. So, please come out to our meetings to enjoy the presentations and meet our new members or catch up with 'the regulars'. Our club events - Fluke Tournament / BBQ, Fall Dinner and our Bottom Fishing Trip, will once again be offered for your participation. Lastly, there are some nice additions to our Fish of the Month (FOM) contests. As per my usual reminder, if you have any suggestions to improve our club, you can email or verbally give them to me or any board member or discuss your idea at a club meeting. We want your input!

Ed

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## **UPCOMING NEAR TERM EVENTS**

**April 14 Friday - VHFC Club Meeting 7:45**

**May 12 Friday - VHFC Club Meeting 7:45**

**APRIL MEETING** - Our kickoff meeting for 2023 should be a lot of fun! Future members recruited at the recent HS Flea Market will attend for a chance to win a free membership or hopefully just sign up. Our guest speaker is John Toth, past president and current VP for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) a non-profit organization that strives to create increased angling opportunities and better public access. JCAA is also involved with issues concerning our marine environment, such as fighting for better fisheries habitat, keeping our waters clean, and protecting our forage species

**CLUB DUES** - VHFC yearly dues are \$40 for adults and \$10 for junior members and worth every penny! Junior members must be 18 or less by the May 13 Meeting. Dues are required by

the May meeting but can be paid ahead at our April meeting or mailed to our PO Box below. **Mailing your dues to our PO Box is highly recommended to minimize chaos and time consuming efforts at the meeting.**

Please fill out the [Membership Form](#) and mail with a check to:

**VHFC MEMBERSHIP  
PO BOX 1026  
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050**

**Remember: Dues must be paid at least 24 hrs ahead of any entry into our contests and there are 11 FOM contests including 1 Young Angler contest already open!.**

**NEW JERSEY SALTWATER RECREATIONAL REGISTRY** - Individual saltwater anglers ages 16 and older **MUST** register with the State of New Jersey. Registrations expire on 31 December. So if you are now age 16+ or you have not yet renewed your registration for 2023, go to [NJ Saltwater Registry](#) and complete the appropriate form. Registration is free and is required if you fish NJ waters. Also, your registration number is needed if you plan to apply for a Striped Bass Bonus Tag.

**NEW JERSEY STRIPED BASS BONUS PROGRAM** - Just announced by NJ F&W, The Striped Bass Bonus Program (SBBP) will reopen on May 15, 2023 for anglers having a 2023 tag. Applications for individuals and party/charter boats are currently being accepted through October 31, 2023 for available tags. Go to [SBBP TAG Application](#) and fill out the form so you receive it before the opening date. This is a great way to bring home a great 'eating size' striper. If you do get a bonus fish, you must report it online and NJ F&W will send you a new tag. I did it twice last year and received the new tags within 4 days.

**GARDEN STATE NORTH REEF BALL DEPLOYMENT by Ed Valitutto** - As most of you may know, Captain John Lewis of the Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association along with club member Bill Figley have been working with the Junior Mates on a multi year campaign to revive and expand our local artificial reefs by working with various private and governmental groups to raise the essential funding. See [Jr Mates Reef Project](#) for more details. I received the following email from Captain Lewis regarding their latest deployment.

*The first of two deployments was completed on Friday 3/10/23 on the NE corner of GSN at 39-37.978 N X 74-00.798 W. and was named "The "New Jersey Maritime Museum" patch reef in recognition of the many years of support the Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association and our Junior Mate program have received from Deb and Jim. We are awaiting word of the date for the deployment of the balance of the reef balls we have on hand along with the tug boat.*

Once I receive the coordinates for the second deployment, I will send them out to all members. VHFC has made several donations to this worthy cause using club dues.

**NEW JERSEY JCAA & FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon** - The 2023 size and bag limits for the recreational fishery are attached to this newsletter. Nothing much has changed from last year, for better or worse. Of major interest to VHFC anglers: Striped Bass season is already open, with lots of reports of schoolies in the back bays, and some legal fish already being taken on the beaches and the inshore grounds. The striper stock is still stressed, being listed as both overfished (low numbers of fish) and with overfishing there are too many dead fish as a result.

Also open is the blackfish (tog) season, at least until the end of April with a 4-fish limit of 15" or more. Blackfish are still listed as overfished. Fluke fishing starts again May 2, again with the 17 to 17.99" 2-fish slot fish limit, plus one fish at 18" or more. Biggest complaint I heard last year about the slot fish approach for fluke is the many big fish that had to be thrown back while trying to find those 17" fish. Black sea bass opens May 17 and runs to June 19, with a limit of 10 fish at 12.5" (down from 13") . After that, it's 1 fish (NOT 2) from July 1 to Aug 31, and then the season reopens for real again Oct 1. Neither summer flounder nor Black Sea Bass are listed as overfished or with overfishing, yet we are seeing the tightest regs ever. Weakfish 13" or more are also there for the taking (1 fish), although the stock is listed as depleted. Go figure. And Bluefish remain at a 3 fish bag limit, no minimum size. Bluefish are still in their "rebuilding" phase under the current fisheries plan, and it is still listed as overfished. Porgies were cut back 10% this year, with a shorter season starting August 1 and a 30 fish, 10" bag and size limit. Again, neither overfished nor with overfishing.

While you are scratching your head about the inconsistencies noted above, keep in mind that each species has its own issues. Black Sea Bass and Scup stocks are doing well, so we catch more, go over our quota, so they cut back the quota again for the next year. Summer flounder and Striped Bass are having recruitment problems, primarily because the estuaries are not supporting the growth and survival of the young of the year fish. Climate change (ocean warming) is moving these 2 stocks more north every year. Bluefish are getting whacked by the fisheries in Florida and Georgia. Weakfish have always been problematic with good cycles and bad, but reports indicate they are being decimated by dolphins out in the Atlantic, probably because the schools of baitfish upon which they normally feed are down.

I missed the March JCAA meeting, so I don't have much to say about their issues. We will hear from them however at the April meeting. The 2023 JCAA fluke tournament has been set for June 17<sup>th</sup>, so for those entering, this means deciding on staying inside or venturing out the inlets. Last year in June, a lot of big fish hung out in the bay, but the really big fish were still to be found in deep water structures miles out, or further north towards Raritan Bay and Sandy

Hook. The good news is that for those of us who enter from “ports” Barnegat Inlet and south, almost any legal fish could win a prize, as the number of entries has been low compared to the “good old days”.

**2023 CLUB EXPECTATIONS by Ed Valitutto** - Here’s a summary of all the great things we - the members of VHFC - will enjoy this year with our membership.

**1. Great Monthly Meetings with Speakers & Fishing Discussions**

- a. **April 14: John Toth** – John’s topic is the “Latest JCAA News”
- b. **May 12: Bob Misak** – Bob’s topic is “Fluke Fishing”
- c. **June 9: Greg Cudnik (Fisherman’s Headquarters)** – Greg’s topic is “*Fluke in the Bay*”
- d. **July 14: Doug Zemeckis (Rutgers Extension)** – Doug’s topic is “*Stock Assessment Surveys*”
- e. **August 11: Steve Palmer (Jingles Bait & Tackle)** – Steve’s topic is “Surf Fishing”
- f. **September 8: John Kalias** – John’s topic is “*Striped Bass Fishing*”
- g. **October 12: Anthony Arcabascio (Tony Maja’s son)** - Topic TBD
- h. **November Meeting** - Moved to December due to Community Center closure in observance of Veteran’s Day
- i. **December 1:** No Speaker planned for our last meeting of 2023, but it is Pizza Night! And following our newest tradition, there will be a presentation of all 2023 photos sent in by our members in their reports for all to see and comment. Come and have a slice of pizza and reminisce about all your great catches.

**2. Wonderful Club Events (Additional details provided as available)**

- a. Battle on the Beach - VHFC judges this local high school fishing contest on the Barnegat Light sands. Date TBD.
- b. Annual Club Fluke Tournament - July 15 /16 (rain date) Great day on the water and fantastic free BBQ for members and families.
- c. Club Dinner - Fun time gathering off the water for members and their families to enjoy a lovely dinner together.
- d. Fall Fishing Trip - Members enjoying a day out on a local party boat fishing and relaxing together.

**3. Fantastic Fishing Contests**

- a. Melanie Boytos Award - The angler with the most points for their best striper, fluke, bluefish & weakfish will have their name engraved on a special plaque.
- b. Fish of the Year (FOY) - The angler with the largest striper, bluefish, fluke, seabass, blackfish & weakfish will receive a lovely engraved personal plaque.
- c. Fish of the Month (FOM) - Thirty (30) contests for multiple species spread out over the entire fishing season. There are five Surf Only contests for those fishing

the rocks and sand instead of by boat and four Young Angler (12 and under) contests. Winners receive \$50 FHQ certificates with \$25 certificates for the Junior Angler contests.

#### **4. Great Fishing Information Dissemination**

- a. Nine (April - December) Monthly Newsletters filled with all the latest local, club & JCAA news as well as any member news.
- b. Fantastic website [VHFC Website](#) with all the latest contest entries and our members' reports.
- c. Member distribution of NJ F&W bulletins, JCAA Newsletters, latest seminars offered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and any local fishing news.

**2023 FOM CONTESTS** - We have made some changes to the FOM contests to provide more opportunity for members to enter their catches and win the \$50 FHQ certificates. Changes for this year include:

1. Expanded start and end dates for the Young Angler contests.
2. Spring Bluefish both Surf Only and by boat will remain open through the summer until the fall contest opens giving anglers a continuous season for blues.
3. Last year, we had an early and late contest for Kingfish and Blowfish. However, no fish were entered during the early contests so 2023 will have one long FOM for each species. The two eliminated contests are defined in #4 and #5.
4. A new contest that runs from 1 April through 31 December for the biggest Red or Black Drum.
5. Last year, Blackfish could only be entered in the fall. This year, we added a new contest to allow anglers to enter Blackfish in the spring and through the summer months. Per NJ regulations, Blackfish are open and can be entered from 1 - 30 April and from 1 August through 30 September.

Please see the following table for all FOM contests and especially note the 11 open contests shaded in blue.

#### **2022 Bill Figley Young Angler FOM Awards (4) (Open contests shaded in blue)**

<b>1</b>	<b>1 April - 30 September</b>	<b>White Perch</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>1 June - 30 September</b>	<b>Blowfish</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>1 June - 30 September</b>	<b>Kingfish</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>2 May - 27 September</b>	<b>Fluke</b>

**2022 Regular FOM Awards (26) (Open contests shaded in blue)**

<b>1</b>	<b>15 March - 30 June</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>15 March - 30 June (Surf Only)</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>15 March - 30 September</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>15 March - 30 September (Surf Only)</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>15 March - 30 June</b>	<b>White Perch</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>1 April - 30 June</b>	<b>Weakfish</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>1 April - 31 October</b>	<b>Blowfish</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>1 April - 31 October</b>	<b>Kingfish</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>1 April - 31 December</b>	<b>Red or Black Drum</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>1 - 30 April &amp; 1 August - 30 September</b>	<b>Blackfish</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>17 May - 19 June</b>	<b>Seabass</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>2 May - 30 June</b>	<b>Fluke</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>2 May - 27 September (Surf Only)</b>	<b>Fluke</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>1 - 31 July</b>	<b>Fluke</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>1 - 31 July</b>	<b>Seabass</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>1 July - 31 October</b>	<b>Weakfish</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>1 July - 31 October</b>	<b>Kingfish</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>1 - 31 August</b>	<b>Fluke</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>1 - 31 August</b>	<b>Seabass</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>1 - XX September</b>	<b>Fluke</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>1 October - 31 December</b>	<b>Blackfish</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>1 October - 31 December</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>1 October - 31 December (Surf Only)</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>1 October - 31 December</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>1 October - 31 December (Surf Only)</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>XX October - 31 December</b>	<b>Seabass</b>



**2023 March / April FOM Entries** - Here's our list of entries to date but the numbers will definitely increase with the arrival of Stripers and Bluefish and the opening of fluke along with warmer weather and calmer seas.

03-24-22	White Perch	13"	Dave Spendiff	BHW Lagoon
03-24-22	White Perch	13.5"	Dave Spendiff	BHW Lagoon
04-05-22	White Perch	14"	Dave Spendiff	BHW Lagoon



That's our smiling Weighmaster Pat Presutto with a nice Black Drum caught on the sands a few days back. When I asked if he entered it into our FOM, Pat said no. AND Pat was the person who suggested adding a Drum FOM this year! Don't worry, Pat will catch another.

**FOM RULES REVIEW by Ed Valitutto** - All FOM entries are made by taking a photo of your fish against a ruler showing the tip of the fish down through its tail. This method is the easiest way to allow anglers to enter a fish and release it if desired. Use a rigid ruler widely available - not a measuring tape which stretches with use. Send your photos to Weighmaster Pat Presutto via text (preferred) at 609 994 8361 or email him at [pat1016pat@aol.com](mailto:pat1016pat@aol.com). Please copy me on your entry, Ed Valitutto via text at 609 994 1311 or email me at [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com). Pat will determine the official length of your fish and it will appear on our website and in future Newsletters. Ties are awarded to the first entry by submittal date.

Now for the technical details in determining length. As you know, fish have different tail structures so the rules vary a bit by species. See the following examples.





**Striped Bass - VHFC measures per NJ F&W**  
“Total length (TL) is the distance from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed to the tip of the longer lobe of the caudal fin (tail), measured with the lobes compressed along the midline (tail squeezed). TL is measured with the fish on top of the ruler, NOT measured over the curve of the body. When the photo is enlarged, you can see the upper tail lobe is at 37  $\frac{7}{8}$ ” earning Bill Figley the fall FOM award.

Except for Kingfish, all other fish are measured to the center of the tail or fork if they have one as shown in the following photos.



This is Bayside Dave's 2022 winning Bluefish. Although hard to tell in this small photo, the fish measured 32  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” to the center of the fork in the tail.



Since Kingfish have a sloping tail, the measurement is based on the bottom tail lobe. This is Gene Geld's 2021 winning 16” Kingfish!



Here's a beautiful 23  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” fluke caught by Larry Leary. Fluke are measured to the center of the tail.





Here's one of Dave Spendiff's many perch entries caught off his dock. This one measures 13" to the center of the tail.



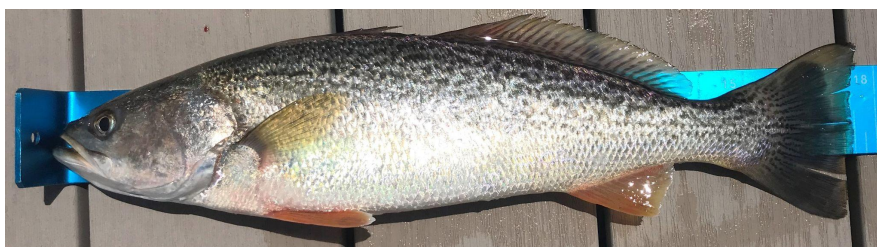
Seabass get help from the extra length of their center tail that stretches out a bit. This fine specimen went 18 1/2".



This was another Bill Figley entry - an 18 1/2" Blackfish or tog.



This was my grandson Vinnie's winning Blowfish at 10 1/4".



Lastly, a weakfish caught by yours truly. This one was 17 1/2" and won nothing!

I think by now everyone gets the idea of how to measure their fish. Any questions, call Pat or me. The rigid ruler makes the job a lot easier for Weighmaster Pat who enlarges the photos and views them from different angles. Pat rounds up the nearest ¼ inch.

**BOARD MEMBERS** - Board members meet monthly from March through December to discuss club business, plan events, pay the bills, etc. Treasurer Jeff Orsoe and Member Joe Filice have resigned to spend more time with family and other responsibilities. Thank you Jeff and Joe and all Board Members for the work you do! If you would like to be a Board Member, please let me or any other member know of your interest.

**BoatUS SPRING COMMISSIONING CHECKLIST** - Have a trouble-free boating season. Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](https://www.boat-usa.org)) offers its Spring Commissioning Checklist to help boaters start the season right. The nation's largest advocacy, service and savings group also offers [BoatUS.com/Spring](https://www.boat-usa.org/Spring), a one-stop-shop for everything you need to know about the yearly ritual of recreational boat commissioning. A PDF copy of the checklist is available to download, print, and take to the boat with you. The checklist appears below. Be sure to follow all manufacturer recommendations for your specific boat, engine and accessories.

### **Before You Launch**

1. Inspect all around the hose clamps for rust and replace as necessary. Double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless steel hose clamps. While not technically required, it's wise to double clamp whenever possible on all hoses — especially those below the waterline.
2. Inspect all hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking, and replace any that are faulty. Make sure they fit snugly.
3. Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure.
4. Grip the prop (on inboard drive systems) and try moving the shaft up and down and side to side. If it's loose and can be wiggled, the cutless bearing may need to be replaced.
5. Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn't been bent. Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly. Check the rudder bearing and steering cable for unusual play or movement.
6. Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.
7. Make sure your engine intake sea strainer (if equipped) is not cracked or bent from ice and is free of corrosion, clean and properly secured.
8. With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for correct adjustment. A stuffing box should leak no more than two or three drops each minute when the prop shaft is turning. Check the shaft log hose for deterioration and rusty hose clamps.

9. Inspect, lubricate and exercise thru-hull valves. It's a good idea to tie a right-sized wooden bung to the valve in case of failure.
10. Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.
11. Inspect and test the bilge pump and float switch to ensure they're both working properly. Also inspect the pump's hose.
12. Check stove and remote LPG tanks for loose fittings, leaking hoses and properly functioning shutoff systems. Use the pressure gauge to conduct a leak down test to check for system leaks.
13. Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafe and wear.
14. If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.
15. After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.

### **Engines and Fuel Systems**

1. Inspect fuel lines, including fuel tank fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.
2. Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Ensure portable tanks and lines are completely drained of stale fuel before filling with fresh fuel. Clean or replace fuel filters and/or fuel-water separators if not done before winterization.
3. Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifolds and risers for corrosion (for inboard-powered and inboard/outboard boats).
4. Charge battery.
5. Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Use a wire brush to clean battery terminals, and top off cells with distilled water (if applicable).
6. Inspect the bilge ventilation intake and blower ducting for damage or leaks and run the blower to confirm correct operation.
7. Test engine warnings and alarms.

### **Engine Outdrives and Outboards**

1. Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds) and replace if suspect.
2. Check power steering and power trim oil levels.
3. Replace anodes/zincs that are more than half wasted.
4. Inspect the outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable must be replaced.
5. Inspect lower unit oil level and top off as necessary.

## Sailboat Rigging

1. Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust (some discoloration is acceptable). Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for “fishhooks” and rust.
2. Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape, and ensure that water is able to freely drain from it.
3. If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.
4. Inspect masthead sheaves and all blocks to make sure they’re running freely.

## Trailers

1. Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure; don’t forget the spare.
2. Inspect wheel bearings and repack as necessary.
3. Test all lights and replace any broken bulbs or lenses.
4. Inspect winch to make sure it’s working properly. Inspect hitch chains.
5. Inspect trailer frame and axle(s) for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.
6. Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.

## Safety

1. A [new law that went into effect in 2021](#) requires a vessel operator to use either a helm or outboard lanyard or wireless engine cutoff switch on certain vessels less than 26 feet when traveling on plane or above displacement speed, so be sure your switch is working properly and the lanyard is in serviceable condition. If you use a wireless cutoff switch, ensure batteries in the fobs and wrist worn devices are refreshed.
2. Flares expire after 42 months so check expiration dates.
3. Inspect fire extinguishers. A [new regulation that goes into effect April 20, 2022](#), requires a 12-year expiration for disposables and has different carriage requirements for older and newer model year vessels.
4. Ensure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders and dissolvable “pill” bobbins in auto-inflating models.
5. Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.
6. Check running lights for operation and spare bulb inventory.
7. [Update chartplotter software](#).
8. Replenish first-aid kit items that may have been used last season or are expired.



9. Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in. ([BoatUS members can obtain a free MMSI number at BoatUS.com/MMSI.](#))
10. Get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. Find out more at [cgaux.org/vsc](#).

### For the Dock

1. In addition to checking its entire length for wear or abrasions, check both ends of the shore power cable connections as well as the shore power receptacle on the boat for burns, which indicate the cable and/or boat's shore power inlet or the dock's receptacle must be replaced.
2. Test ground-fault protection on your boat and private dock, and [know how to prevent Electric Shock Drowning](#).

### The Paperwork

1. Make sure your boat registration is up to date – and dinghy if you have one. Don't forget your boat trailer tags
2. Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. BoatUS provides [free quotes at BoatUS.com/Insurance](#). Provide a copy to your marina or club.
3. Ensure your BoatUS membership is in good standing, and check your [TowBoatUS](#) coverage by logging into [BoatUS.com/Account](#), or join at [BoatUS.com/Membership](#).
4. Download the free BoatUS App ([BoatUS.com/App](#)) to make it easy to summon on-water assistance and speed response times as well to check tide tables, weather, and partner discounts.



**VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS - By Jeff Orsoe** Both the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons have certified vessel examiners who will perform a free Vessel Safety Check ("VSC") at your boat, at a time of mutual convenience. There is no charge and no consequences if your boat doesn't pass. Our goal is simply to help make boating as safe as possible for you, your family and your friends. Personal pleasure craft, only.

I am available to perform a Vessel Safety exam on your vessel. As stated above, there is no charge for the exam and if you do not qualify for the sticker, the results will not be reported to any agency. Contact: Jeff Orsoe Cell / Text: 732-672-5530 or email: [jorsoe786@gmail.com](mailto:jorsoe786@gmail.com).

A fire extinguisher is one of the items that is required. Last year, a new law regarding them went into effect. The extinguisher now has a 12 year qualifying life cycle. If you look at the



bottom, you will see the year it was made. Just add 12 years to that date to figure the expiration date.

Note: Jeff has been down in Sanibel, FL recovering from Hurricane Ian damage to his property. Jeff will be back in our area this week but he is leaving for his son's wedding on April 27 returning May 1 for the remainder of the summer.

**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 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](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) or call 609 994 1311 and I will do a report for you. Please take a moment to provide a report for other members to enjoy and gain some valuable fishing insight.

There were only two reports submitted since the December Newsletter. and both were from members fishing in Florida.



That's me, Ed Valitutto, holding a lovely keeper Redfish and Spotted Seatrout. My wife and I rent a home yearly for three months in Cape Coral, FL. This year, the weather and the fishing were especially hot! I caught several keeper Redfish, Trout & Mangrove Snapper along with several nice SNook that had to be returned.



That's a smiling Basil Dubrosky with a fine Redfish caught near the mangroves by his condo in Sarasota, Fl. Basil said it was his personal best Redfish on a 1/16 ounce jig with a root beer color paddle tail. After a few pictures, he returned this beauty to the water to fight another day.

**VHFC Hats** - Hats are khaki colored and feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front. They are high quality and available at club meetings for \$20. If you would like a hat,, please contact Dave Spendiff for details.





**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](mailto:dnspendiff@netscape.net) for placing an order.

### **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](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) to place your ad.

Member Bill Logan reports he no longer fishes in the Keys and would like to sell his anchor retrieving ball (\$35) and chum net (\$5). Contact Bill at [wlogansr@comcast.net](mailto:wlogansr@comcast.net) or call 609-597-0784.



**2014, 16' Premier Pontoon Boat with 40hp Honda**

This boat has been meticulously cared for with professional mechanical maintenance yearly. It has custom made seat covers, Bimini top and custom helm cover. After yearly professional winterization of the motor, the boat has been professionally power washed, shrink wrapped and stored on blocks in the owner's yard. If you are looking for an incredibly well-maintained boat with extremely low hours, you must see this "like new" boat.

To view this boat, located in Manahawkin, contact Joan at: [jjnj1@verizon.net](mailto:jjnj1@verizon.net).

**\$16,500.00**

**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. With gas prices reaching the sky, helping out with fuel costs is almost a necessity.

**USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS**

See the full list on our website [Links](#)

Wave Information (Height, Period, Direction and Water Temperature) from a Buoy 15 Miles Outside Barnegat Inlet Updated Every 30 minutes: [Buoy #44091](#)

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=lnmDistrict&region=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.

**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**