



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER July 2026

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 6:00; Meeting begins at 6:30 PM

Next meeting: 10 July 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

In my message last month, I mentioned that we had passed the first of the three major summer holidays. Well today, we have now passed the second summer holiday made especially enjoyable since it celebrates our country's 250th year. I certainly hope you enjoyed it. But that also means we are officially into the summer season which started two weeks ago on June 21st. So now, the days are slowly getting shorter, the kids are out of school, roads, waterways and restaurants are more crowded and everyone wants to be 'down the shore'! So try to have a little more patience - sage advice from someone who has none.

Last month, I also waxed eloquently - whatever that means - on our weird fishing season this year. Well, I am sticking to that story again this month. The great catch of Striped Bass and Black Drum as predicted have migrated on to their summer haunts. There are still some Stripers in the bay and the inlet rocks but the torrid fishing is slowing down. Black Sea Bass never got going strong with larger keeper sized fish on our local wrecks. The 10 - 25 mile wrecks did yield

some nicer catches but that's a long haul for bigger boats and good weather. Now it's a one fish limit until September 23rd when the limit returns to ten fish. Bluefish have remained scarce with a few fish here and there and Weakfish, dubbed 'unicorns' for a reason, are living up to their reputation. Now for the elephant in the room - Fluke! Everyone said the water was too cold but water temperatures and now in the 60's and 70's and the Fluke are still not present in anywhere near the numbers of previous years. It does seem to be improving but there's a long way to go yet. Maybe Captain Brett Taylor, our July speaker, will have some thoughts to share. In the meantime, the secondary species should be arriving in our area. I am referring to Porgy, Kingfish, Blowfish, Triggerfish and whatever else comes our way. We have FOMs for all of them.

Lastly, be sure to take a photo of your catch for our FOM / FOY awards and submit a report of your success for others to enjoy.

Ed

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UPCOMING VHFC 2026 EVENTS - For your long term planning and participation.

- Bottom Party Boat Trip Wednesday June 10th
- July 10 Next Meeting
- July 11 VHFC Fluke Tournament & BBQ (July 12 rain date)
- August 1 Tri Club Fluke Tournament & BBQ (August 2)
- VHFC Open August 24 - 30
- Ocean Fluke Party Boat Trip Thursday September 17
- Club Dinner October TBD
- Bottom Party Boat Trip Wednesday November 4
- Surf Tournament Saturday November 21

JULY MEETING - Our next meeting will be at the Community Center on Friday July 10th. Remember, we have a new earlier start time of 6:30 with doors opening at 6:00. Our speaker for the meeting is Captain Brett Taylor who will discuss **Tournament Fluke Fishing – Barnegat inlet & Outside; plus Drift and Trolling Motor Etiquette**. Brett is a seasoned fishing enthusiast and professional writer with a deep passion for the sport. He has been involved in fishing for over 17 years, with a focus on trophy summer flounder/fluke and striped bass. Taylor's expertise extends to various fisheries, including fluking, trolling, and offshore fishing. He is also a charter boat captain and the owner of **Reel Reaction Sportsfishing** LLC. His work also includes writing for **On The Water** and **The Fisherman** magazines.



That's our June speaker Jim Hutchinson Jr presenting Marty Friedrich with the Melanie Boytos Award - Congratulations to Marty.

Jim made an excellent presentation on the status of our Striped Bass, some new locales for back bay fishing and discussed some oft forgotten but very effective plugs for Stripes. Thank you Jim!

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RESPONSE FROM GEMINI (Google AI) by Phil Simon - I asked the question, why is the term "bass" applied to so many different species of fish. Here's what I got:

"The reason "bass" is applied to so many unrelated fish comes down to **etymology** and the tendency of early anglers and colonists to name new things based on what they already knew. Here is the breakdown of why the name is so ubiquitous across the fishing world:

1. The Root Meaning of "Bass"

The word "bass" derives from the Middle English word *bars*, which translates to "**perch.**" Going back even further to Old English and Proto-Germanic roots, the word essentially meant "**bristle**" or "**sharp,**" referring to the spiny, prickly dorsal fins characteristic of these fish. Because many distinct fish families share the trait of a prominent, spiny dorsal fin, they were historically lumped under the same descriptive umbrella.

2. Colonial "Looks-Like" Naming

When European settlers arrived in North America and other parts of the world, they encountered hundreds of unfamiliar fish species. Instead of inventing entirely new names, they simply applied familiar terms to fish that vaguely resembled what they knew back home.

- **The "True" Bass:** The European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) belongs to the family **Moronidae** (temperate basses). This family includes North American species like the **Striped Bass** and **White Bass**.
- **The Imposters:** When settlers encountered the **Largemouth** and **Smallmouth Bass**, they noticed they looked and fought similarly to the European bass. However, biologically, black basses are actually members of the **Centrarchidae** (sunfish) family. They are giant sunfish, not true basses at all.

3. Biological Diversity vs. Common Names

In taxonomy, fish are classified by structural and genetic traits. In common speech, they are named for convenience. Because "bass" became synonymous with a predatory, spiny-finned fish with a wide mouth and an aggressive strike, the name stuck across several entirely separate families:

Fish Group	Common Examples	True Family
Temperate Basses	Striped Bass, White Bass, European Seabass	<i>Moronidae</i> (The anatomically "true" basses)
Black Basses	Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted Bass	<i>Centrarchidae</i> (Actually part of the sunfish family)
Sea Basses & Groupers	Black Sea Bass, Kelp Bass, Goliath Grouper	<i>Serranidae</i> (A massive family of marine predators)

4. Marketing and Culinary Rebranding

In the commercial seafood industry, names are often shifted to make fish sound more appetizing to consumers. A classic example is the **Chilean Seabass**, which sounds elegant and delicious. Its actual biological name is the **Patagonian Toothfish** (family *Nototheniidae*), an incredibly oily, prehistoric-looking deep-sea fish that has absolutely zero biological relation to any bass. Rebranding it as a "seabass" single-handedly created a massive global market for it.

Ultimately, "bass" is less of a biological classification and more of a job description for a fish: if it has a spiny back, a big mouth, and eats smaller fish, humans have probably called it a bass at some point in history."



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JULY ROD N' REEL RAFFLE by John Stuebing - Hold on! You will not believe the next Rod & Reel Raffle. During the July meeting, we will be selling raffle tickets and holding the drawing for a fabulous outfit designed for both Bay and Ocean Fluke. Donated by Knot Easy Bait & Tackle, this outfit consists of Skinner – Dark Matter rod paired with a Quantum accurist reel. The outfit is rated for 10-20lb. line. The outfit can easily handle a 2-oz bucktail or Jig head. Perfect outfit for the upcoming VHFC Fluke Tournament!



The full retail value of this outfit is over \$370 (with tax). The rod alone is over \$220. Don't miss out on this outfit. If you cannot make the meeting, contact Bill Bond or John Stuebing to make arrangements to buy your tickets.

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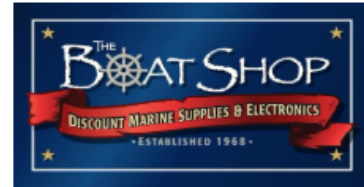
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SOCIAL MEDIA by Bayside Dave Etelman - Our VHFC sites are [VHFC FB](#) and [VHFC Instagram](#) The FB site has 275 followers with each post reaching thousands of people; our Instagram account has 628 followers. Dave shares Members Reports, club activities, tournaments, monthly meetings as well as tips for fishing and boating on both social media networks. VHFC also has a YouTube channel at [VHFC YouTube](#) where you can send in your videos on anything related to fishing: tying rigs, how you set up your boat or car for surf fishing, tackle tricks or days on the water catching fish. **It's important to Like and Comment on each post to help boost distribution.** Here's a recent post:



That's Larry Leary and grandson Tyler Leary with a nice Striper caught at the inlet. Tyler was last year's MBA winner.

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FISH CUTS CAN BE DANGEROUS by Ed Valitutto This is not intended to be an end all discussion on the subject but rather an anecdotal discussion about the dangers from handling fish. 'Fish Handlers' disease is caused by bacteria found in aquariums, tropical fish, coral, and both fresh and saltwater environments. The disease is usually associated with fishermen or lobstermen, hobbyists (tropical fish keepers or pet shop workers), and water sports like boating and swimming pool use. Here are 6 instances of infections that all but one required medical help

1. Bill Figley had a friend of his who nearly died after developing an infection from being punctured while crabbing and required some serious medical attention,
2. Member and long time personal friend Alan Goracy and I were fishing on a party boat many years ago. Those were the days when big Bluefish were put in burlap bags tied to the railing. While fishing, Alan leaned against the burlap and was cut probably by a fin. Several days later, he noticed a dark red line running along the back of his leg. Diagnosis - blood poisoning. His doctor said, "It's good you came in for treatment."
3. Dave Spendiff was fishing on a pier in Florida several years back and caught a saltwater Catfish. He tried using his foot to sweep it back into the water but unfortunately the side fin barb broke off and remained in his foot. Dave said the pain was so intense he had to be brought to the emergency room for treatment and removal of the barbed fin.
4. Last year on Sanibel, I caught one of many catfish and was removing the hook while using a towel (compliments of Marriott) to steady the fish. I got a miniscule nick from a fin that barely showed any blood but within seconds, it felt like someone was holding a lit cigarette against my finger. Fortunately, it only lasted a few minutes.
5. Several years back, again with pal Alan, we returned to my dock with two Stripers. We had bled the fish and held them up for a picture. I put my hand inside the gills and when I put the fish down, I noticed a small cut near my ring. Thinking nothing of it, I cleaned the fish and when done I noticed my finger had swollen so much, removing my ring was not



possible. I called my daughter (she's an RN) who said to go to a walk-in clinic. Amazingly, I listened and within a few minutes of showing my hand to the doctor, she was opening a package of instruments to cut off my wedding ring. When I balked, she said, "Either the ring comes off now or your finger will later." I still have both the ring and finger!

6. Last one! All fish have spines that can break your skin but Sea Bass are especially bad because you typically handle many of them. The big ones are easy - grab the jaw, remove the hook, cut their gills and toss on ice. The small ones have to be laid out flat on your ruler and in the process you get stuck.



Those are my fingers from two years back after a day fishing for Sea Bass. I had at least 6 or more dings that all showed signs of infection. A trip to the walk-in and a prescription of antibiotics did the trick.

BTW, Bill Figley handles black sea bass with a small length of PVC pipe with a spiral nail through one end to avoid the sharp spines.

Now I don't expect all the he-men to be wearing gloves when you're out fishing. Just be aware that any cuts that don't heal or look infected, may require medical treatment.

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SUBMITTING MEMBER REPORTS VIA SMART PHONE by John Stuebing

At the last meeting, several people mentioned that they could not submit a Members Report from their phones. I looked into the issue and this is what I found.

- I tested submitting a Members Report from my Android both with and without photos. It worked every time.
- I talked to individuals having issues and with our Web Designer, and determined the issue is mostly due to the attached photos.
- The website has limitations on what it accepts in terms of photo format and size.
- All photos should be in JPEG format. If you are using an iPhone switch the format from HEIC to JPEG. The website will not accept HEIC format.
- Photos should not exceed 12MP or 3000X4000 resolution. The file size should not exceed 2.75MB. In some cases, you may have to lower the resolution settings on your phone.

- If you continue to have problems, try sending the report without any photos. Then send the photos to either Ed V or myself and we will get them into the report.

There will always be some issues but, submitting a report from a phone should work most of the time. I have found that it is much easier to submit a report from a PC than from a phone. If you are running Windows 11 and have an Android phone, you can pair your phone to the PC and basically your phone is just another drive on the PC. It makes getting the pictures from the phone very easy.

Try the suggestions and see if it works for you. If you continue to have issues, give me a call and I will try to help you out.



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VHFC ANNUAL FLUKE TOURNAMENT by John Stuebing Saturday July 11th



Once again, VHFC will hold our annual fluke tournament for members, family and their friends. Following the tournament, the club will sponsor a BBQ for tournament entrants and guests at the Beach Haven West Pavilion located on Mill Creek Rd. 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 fees will be paid out as prize money.**

TOURNAMENT RULES

- o Entry Fee – \$20.00 per person
- o Date – Saturday July 11, 2026 (Rain date - Sunday July 12)
- o Time – 12:01 AM to 5:00 PM

- o Where – From the surf or boat within Club Boundaries. See Website for details of our boundaries
- o Weigh In – BHW Pavilion from 4:30 – 5:00 PM. One entry per person.
- o Prizes – 1st Place = 50% of prize money 2nd Place = 30% 3rd Place = 20%

The signup sheet will be available at the July meeting but we need to know how many participants we have so that we can buy the BBQ supplies earlier in the week. Please contact John Stuebing or Jim Healy to get signed up (stuebs@comcast.net , bkupmstr@yahoo.co). **You can pay at the meeting but let us know beforehand!**

This tournament is a lot of fun. We all compete for the top honors and then have a great time with friends at the BBQ. What a great way to spend a Saturday!

NOTE: Besides fishing from surf or boat, you can also fish on a local party boat or even on a local charter. Just be within the club boundaries Go To [VHFC Contest Rules](#)



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TRI CLUB FLUKE CHALLENGE by John Stuebing

As discussed at the last meeting, VHFC will host the Tri-Club Fluke Challenge on Saturday August 1st followed by the Awards Picnic on Sunday August 2nd at the Forked River Tuna Club facility. The Tournament is Village Harbour versus Fish Hawks versus Forked River Tuna Club.. Here are some more details:

- This year, VHFC is hosting the event. That means we will be doing the preparation, cooking and clean up after the Awards Picnic. We will also be running the 50/50 raffle. Currently there are 8 of us that have volunteered to

help but we could use more help. If you are willing to lend a hand contact either; Jerry Nichols, Chuck Dishian or John Stuebing.

- There is no entry fee for this Tournament but only active Members of each Club are eligible. The Tournament is sponsored by Creekside Outfitters.
- Anglers can bring Family and/or Friends to the Picnic. The Picnic will be held at the Forked River Tuna Club facility. There is both indoor and outdoor seating available and there will be a cash bar. The cost of the Picnic is \$5.00 per person. Kids under 12 are free. The Picnic gets started at 1:00PM.
- All Fluke must be weighed in at Creekside Outfitters in Waretown. The top **10** Fluke for each Fishing Club will be counted toward the Club Championship. There will also be individual awards (Gift Certificates to Creek Side Outfitters) for the Largest Fluke: \$100, 2nd Place: \$50, 3rd - 6th Place: \$25.
- I started a sign-up sheet at the last meeting and will have it available again at the July Meeting. You can also send me or Jim Healy an e-mail (stuebs@comcast.net , bkupmstr@yahoo.co) if you would like to sign up for the Tournament and/or Picnic. I also need to know the number of people you will be bringing to the Picnic. We will continue collecting the \$5.00 for the Picnic at the July Meeting.
- The winning Club will be presented a Trophy at the Picnic!

This event can be a lot of fun and offers an opportunity to meet new people with a common interest. I am confident that Village Harbour will have Bragging Rights and bring home the Trophy in 2026!



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FOM ENTRIES - Here's our list of entries for the month of June. Go to [2026 FOM Standings](#) for the complete list of entries.

Angler	Species	Class	Date	Size "	MBA	Location	
Pat Presutto	Black Drum	Surf	June	1	38.5	N/A	Brant Beach
Dave Etelman	Black Drum	Surf	June	3	40.5	N/A	LBI Surf
Bill Bond	Striped Bass	Surf	June	4	39	5	LBI Surf
Bill Bond	Black Drum	Surf	June	4	40.5	N/A	LBI Surf
Paul Pintinalli	Sea Bass	Boat	June	4	18	4	Deep Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Sea Bass	Boat	June	6	16	3	Deep Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Ling	Boat	June	6	16.75	N/A	Deep Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Sea Bass	Boat	June	13	19.25	4	Deep Wreck
Tom Godfrey	Sea Bass	Boat	June	13	13.25	1	GSN Reef
Bryson Wyatt	Striped Bass	Boat	June	13	29	2	BL Rocks
Phil Simon	Fluke	Boat	June	14	21.5	2	Near Lighthouse
Jim Healy	Striped Bass	Boat	June	16	30.75	2	BL Rocks
Ed Valitutto	Sea Bass	Boat	June	16	19.50	4	Deep Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Ling	Boat	June	18	17.25	N/A	Deep Wreck
Tom Godfrey	Fluke	Boat	June	19	23	4	Barnegat Bay
Marty Friedrich	Fluke	Boat	June	17	20.75	2	Little Egg Reef
Glen Minor	Fluke	Boat	June	17	18.75	1	Fish Factory
Luis Salgado	Fluke	Boat	June	20	18.75	1	Waretown Flats

Jim Witzcak	Fluke	Boat	June	25	25.75	6	Tuckerton Creek
Dave Etelman	Bluefish	Boat	June	26	21	2	Great Bay
Paul Pintinalli	Kingfish	Boat	June	28	12.75	N/A	Offshore
John Stuebing	Fluke	Boat	June	29	23	4	Great Bay
Tim Naples	Yellowfin Tuna	Boat	June	29	43.5	N/A	Offshore
Mike Woodrow	Bluefish	Boat	June	30	24.5	4	Barnegat Inlet



Some recent FOM entries:

That's Jim Witzcak's 25.75" Fluke. Great catch!



That's Ed V's 19.5" Sea Bass! Weighed 3.43 lbs at the Elks



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2026 CONTESTS by Ed Valitutto - VHFC has three year-long contests: Melanie Boytos Award, Fish of the Year and Fish of the Month. Go to [VHFC Contest Rules](#) for full details.

At last month's meeting, it was announced that the MBA winner would also receive a \$200 Visa gift card name plus the name engraved trophy; FOY winners will each receive a \$100 Visa gift card plus an engraved plaque.

Melanie Boytos Award (MBA) - Here are the top 5 Leaders

Angler	MBA Points
Glen Minor	18
Pat Presutto	14
Dave Etelman	12
Rocky Vendetta	11
Tom Godfrey	9

Fish of the Year (FOY) Leaders

Species	Angler	Size Inches
Bluefish	Glen Minor	32
Fluke	Jim Witczak	25.75
Sea Bass	Ed Valitutto	19.5
Striped Bass	Glen Minor	42.25
Weakfish	No Entry	
Blackfish	Rocky Vendetta	19.25

FOM CONTESTS - There are 7 Junior & 20 Adult FOMs open - 4 Surf, 9 Boat, 4 Boat / Surf and 3 Offshore. 5 FOM contests closed in June (2 Surf & 3 Boat) and 5 FOM contests opened in July - 2 Surf & 3 Boat. Here are the June FOM closures and winners:

Surf	Bluefish	Glen Minor	32"
Surf	Fluke	No Entry	
Boat	Bluefish	Doug O'Brien	28.75"
Boat	Sea Bass	Ed Valitutto	19.5"
Boat	Fluke	Jim Wiczak	25.75"

Congratulations to the June FOM winners

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Open FOM Contests shaded Green; Closed Contests shaded Red

Junior Angler FOM Leaders					
Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
White Perch	1/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Bluefish	1/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Kingfish	3/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open

Blowfish	3/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Fluke	5/4/26	9/25/26	No Entry		Open
Sea Bass	5/15/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Striped Bass	1/1/26	12/31/26	Bryson Wyatt	29	Open
Spring Blackfish	1/1/26	4/30/26	Gaige Grant	16.75	Closed
Fall Blackfish	8/1/26	12/31/26			Not Open

Surf FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
Striper	1/1/26	7/31/26	Dave Etelman Leads	31	Open
Striper	8/1/26	12/31/26			Not Open
Striper No Size Limit	1/1/26	12/31/26	Glen Minor Leads	42.25	Open
Bluefish	1/1/26	6/30/26	Glen Minor	32	Closed
Bluefish	7/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Fluke	5/4/26	6/30/26	No Entry		Closed

Fluke	7/1/26	9/25/26	No Entry		Open
Blackfish	1/1/26	4/30/26	No Winner		Closed
Blackfish	8/1/26	12/31/26			Not Open

2026 Boat FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
Striper	1/1/26	7/31/26	Jim Healy Leads	30.75	Open
Striper	8/1/26	12/31/26			Not Open
Striper No Size Limit	1/1/26	12/31/26	Rocky Vendetta Leads	40	Open
Bluefish	1/1/26	6/30/26	Doug O'Brien	28.75	Closed
Bluefish	7/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Blackfish	1/1/26	4/30/26	Rocky Vendetta	19.25	Closed
Blackfish	8/1/26	12/31/26			Not Open
Weakfish	1/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Ling	1/1/26	12/31/26	Marty Friedrich Leads	17.25	Open
Triggerfish	5/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open

Porgy	5/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Sea Bass	5/15/26	6/21/26	Ed Valitutto	19.5	Closed
Sea Bass	6/22/26	9/22/26	No Entry		Open
Sea Bass	9/23/26	12/31/26			Not Open
Fluke	5/4/26	6/30/26	Jim Witczak	25.75	Closed
Fluke	7/1/26	7/31/26	No Entry		Open
Fluke	8/1/26	8/31/26			Not Open
Fluke	9/1/26	9/25/26			Not Open

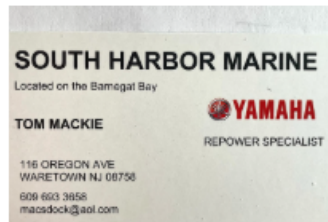
2026 Boat or Surf FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
White Perch	1/1/26	12/31/26	Dave Spendiff Leads	13.75	Open
Blowfish	3/1/26	11/30/26	No Entry		Open
Kingfish	3/1/26	11/30/26	Paul Pintinalli Leads	12.75	Open
Black Drum	1/1/26	12/31/26	Dave Etelman Tied with Bill Bond Leads	40.5	Open

2026 Offshore FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
Bluefin	4/1/26	11/30/26	No Entry		Open
Yellowfin	5/1/26	11/30/26	No Entry		Open
Mahi Mahi	5/1/26	11/30/26	No Entry		Open
False Albacore	9/1/26	11/30/26			Not Open

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JULY 50 - 50 RAFFLE CONSOLATION PRIZES by Jerry Nichols



Check out the July prizes!

1 SP Minnow, 1 Chuggin Surface Plug from Broad Creek Lures, 2 007, 1 27 & 1 37 Ava jigs with tails, and 2 packs of 6 in Gulp in White Glow & Pink Shine

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JCAA REPORT by Chuck Dishian - The **Lake Juliana Event** on August 22nd is a day of fishing for disabled kids and veterans. I repped the club last year and can honestly say I was deeply moved to see kids with a variety of challenges as well as vets of our armed services enjoying a day of fishing on Lake Juliana in Millstone Township. The JCAA is seeking volunteers for this event. They need help with baiting hooks, releasing fish, fishing technique instruction and something as simple as helping participants with parking. A flyer will be forthcoming.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning proposals to reconfigure the regulations surrounding a variety of species. Of particular note is a proposal to impose a 40% reduction in the **Blackfish** harvest. Again, this is just a proposal at this point. I'll keep everyone informed as events unfold and what we as fishermen can do about it.

Bunker Bill: New Jersey lawmakers are actively reviewing bills that impact Menhaden harvesting. The key pending legislation focuses on commercial fishing gear efficiency and quota rules. These bills would allow the commercial bait industry to use vacuum "fish pumps" to remove Menhaden from purse seines which is currently restricted. Proponents state it increases efficiency, while conservationists worry it would increase the catch volume exponentially thereby further reducing an already threatened population of this vital forage fish.

Fluke Tournament: The JCAA has a fluke tournament from 30 July - 1 August. Prizes include:

1st Place: 25 HP Yamaha outboard

2nd Place: \$1,500.00

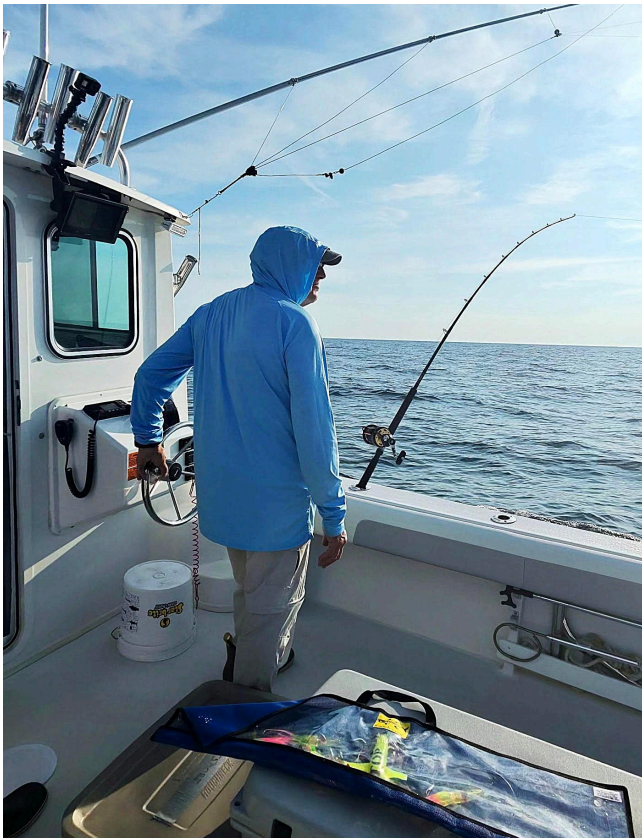
3rd Place: \$750.00

4th Place: \$300.00 gift card

5th Place: \$200.00 gift card

More details later

PICTURE OF THE MONTH by Phil Simon & Jerry Nichols - Here's the June winner



That's John Stuebing running his boat during a recent Tuna foray!

The banner on the right shows the upcoming Play Hook-E event that JCAA sponsors each year at Lake Julianna.

Chuck Dishian will provide more info at our club meeting but volunteers are needed.

CARDINALE ENTERPRISES Developers • Construction • Leasing

"10th Anniversary "PLAY HOOK- e"
Veterans, Children with Disabilities and
Active-Duty Military Fishing Day
Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026
9:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.

FREE BBQ **Door Prizes**

AMERICAN WARRIOR OUTDOORS **VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA HOOK** **JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSN.**

Food Trucks Register Here>> Rods & Reels
LOCATION: LAKE JULIANNA
PONDEROSA ESTATES FARM, MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ
For more information contact
Don Marantz - Paul Hewitt - Rob Felicito
908-347-1434 609-408-7443 732-948-7467

SODA, PIZZA, HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
ICE CREAM & MORE

Logos for American Warrior Outdoors, Vietnam Veterans of America, Jersey Coast Anglers Assn., and other sponsors.

FAVORITE STRIPED BASS RECIPE by Ed Valitutto - I saw this recipe and immediately liked it because it is simple, easy and comes together in one pan with very little work. Substitute Cod, Fluke or any thicker white fish filet.



Ingredients

- 2 shallots, minced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced small
- 12 ounces cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup capers
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) dry white wine
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) low-sodium vegetable, chicken or fish stock
- A few thyme sprigs or 1.4 tsp dried
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided
- 4 6- to 8- ounce striped bass fillets
- 2 tablespoons butter, diced
- Optional - I would add a few hot peppers or hot sauce

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°F with a rack in the center
2. Into a large, heavy pan with a lid place the shallots, bell pepper, tomatoes, garlic, capers, wine, stock, thyme, half the salt, and half the pepper.
3. Bake, covered, for 20 minutes and then remove from oven.
4. Pat fillets dry with paper towels and arrange filets on top of sauce, nestling them in a bit. Sprinkle fish with remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and dot with butter.
5. Return pan to oven, uncovered. Bake until the fish is just cooked through, about 15 to 20 minutes depending on thickness. Sprinkle with the basil.
6. To serve, place a piece of fish in shallow bowls and top with veggies and plenty of sauce.

Special Discounts to VHFC

Sign Up Sheets Available



Sign up Required

at Club Meetings

VHFC APPAREL by Chuck Dishian - As previously reported, we now have an online store for an assortment of apparel including knitted beanie style hats. However, we still have our 'baseball' hats with a khaki cap, dark blue brim and a mesh back. Hats are available at all meetings. Hats have our logo on them and cost \$25. If you would like a hat, purchase one at our meeting. But for a huge selection of club apparel purchased directly from the supplier that you can either pick up at their store in Barnegat or have shipped directly to your home, visit [Artist Tees](#). You also have the option to customize your apparel with either club logos or your name.

11 E Main St Tuckerton

640 281 9433



**BOGIN'S
BAIT & TACKLE**
KEEPING LINES TIGHT
640-281-9433

Keeping Lines Tight

boginbassman@aol.com

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 or call 609 994 1311 and provide me with the details so I can 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 have been 10 reports since the last Newsletter.



Bill Bond and Pat P had a phenomenal year with Black Drum off the sands!



Bob Dodds, Boston Bob, Bert Hern, friend Bill and Ed V had a great trip on the Kev n'Ash. Final tally was 55 Sea Bass, 5 Ling and one Porgy.



For all your Bait & Tackle needs, visit
Knot Easy Bait & Tackle
945 Radio Rd, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087

Formerly [Scott's](#)



That's Marty Friedrich with a beautiful 19.25" Sea Bass caught in 100' water. Marty, Rick and Perry caught their 30 fish limit and some Ling and a Cod.



Sara's Salon
220 Ocean Gate Dr. Bayville, NJ
732 269-2522 4.8 Stars | 58 reviews
Barber Shop, Beauty Salon, Manicure



Great day at the inlet for the Leary Clan catching Strippers and just having fun!



On The Water Towing

Family Owned & Operated

\$50 Off Yearly Membership

Use Promo Code VHFC50 & Show your Membership Card



Visit [Join Sea Tow](#)



Ed V caught an impressive 19.5" Sea Bass while out fishing with John Stuebing, Bayside Dave and Pat in 80' water. They ended up with 31 Sea Bass and 6 Ling.



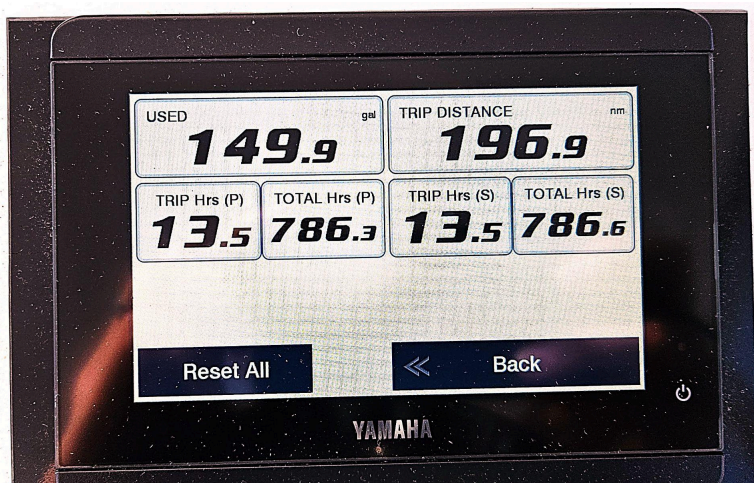
**New Scent Emitting Soft Product
Most Effective Bait Available
Use Code *VHFC15* for 15% off**



**Who says Fluke are scarce
this year? Marty's catching
them two at a time!**



Bob Dodds, friend Bill and Chuck Dishian had a fun bay trip with Capt Brett Taylor. They caught over 50 Fluke with 5 keepers!



That's Tim Naples display after an epic Tuna trip - 150 gallons of gas and 197 NM which is 236 miles! The fish IS on the next page.



Despite fog for the entire 80 mile ride out, water temps 69-70 and clean, clear blue water, they only had one knockdown late morning, but the fish didn't get hooked. They finally managed one Yellowfin around 1pm.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS By Jeff Orsoe - Give me a call in the spring for your vessel safety check. Contact: Jeff Orsoe Cell / Text: 732-672-5530 or email: jorsoe786@gmail.com.

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.

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=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.

[Allen's Dock](#) (10% discount on bait & tackle w/ VHFC card)

5698 US-9, New Gretna, NJ 08224

609-296-5660

[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.

[Bogin's Bait & Tackle](#) (10% discount w/ VHFC card)

11 E Main St Tuckerton, NJ 08087

640-281-9433

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

Great Bay Outfitters (5% off Kayaks and 10% off Accessories with VHFC Card)
955 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087
609-848-3657

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

Knot Easy Bait & Tackle (10% discount w/ VHFC card)
945 Radio Rd, Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08087
609 294 1300

Martek Marine Electronics Specialists (10% discount w/ VHFC card)
701 Old Avalon Blvd, Unit 4, Avalon, NJ 08202
609 390 3355

Pietro's Pizza
712 E Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ
609 597 6708

Q8 Super Baits
30540 SR 44 Eustis, FL. 32736
352 357-0902 Members use Code VHFC15 for 15% off

Sara's Salon Barber Shop, Beauty Salon, Manicure
220 Ocean Gate Dr. Bayville, NJ
732 269-2522

Sea Tow (\$50 off yearly membership)
Call your local Sea Tow provider, use promotion code VHFC50 along with your membership card

South Harbor Marine A FULL SERVICE MARINA Located on Barnegat Bay
116 Oregon Ave, Waretown, NJ 08758
609 693 3658 FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1968

[Surf City Bait & Tackle](#) (10% discount w/ VHFC card excluding worms)

317 Long Beach Boulevard Surf City, NJ 08008

609 494-2333

[The Boat Shop](#) 10% discount with VHFC card

756 E. Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

609-597-1271

[West Marine Pro Team](#) (Varied Discount by Product Purchased) You must sign up to be part of the West Marine Pro Team. Sign Up Sheets will be available at our Meetings. You can also contact John Stuebing (stuebs@comcast.net) to sign up and get access to our West Marine Account.