



Fish Hawks Celebrates 47 years.

MARCH 2024 FISH HAWKS NEWSLETTER

FISH HAWKS OFFICIAL WEB SITE www.fishhawksnj.com



FISH HAWKS OFFICERS & All BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT: Karl Dahl 609-693-4674
VICE PRESIDENT: David Bye 908-892-1385
C.F.O.: Tony Guadagnino 609-242-9471
TRESURER: Mickey Sherry 732-421-6668
SECRETARY: George Royston 908-456-3132

Bob Dunlap 609-242-3745
Rich Leahy 201-206-8317
Ken Rylak 609-575-7477
Paul Schell 609-440-0907

SHORE CASTS

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO PATRONIZE ALL OF OUR SPONSORS.

Our Club radio channel is 19. We ask our members to please monitor it at all times.

If you have changed your mailing address, phone number, e-mail address, or you do not receive or miss an issue of the newsletter, please contact Membership Chairwoman, Sandi Roy. Sandi's cell phone is 609-618-6211 or an email can be sent to robandsandi@yahoo.com. Please do not leave a message on her home phone.

Please call Good & Welfare Chairwoman Marilyn Dahl if you know of any member who is ill or has been hospitalized. Marilyn can be reached on her cell phone at 201-232-6896 or home phone at 609-693-4674. You may also email her at marilynjd@comcast.net.

Yearly membership cards for those current in dues are available at the meeting. If you have paid your dues and have not received a current dues card, please see Mickey Sherry Treasurer, at the meeting. If you have or want a speaker on a specific subject, please contact our Guest Speaker Chairman Ken Kawalek at 609-575-1230

“SEA TOW offers 13 months for the price of 12 and an additional \$20.00 off for a yearly membership for Fish Hawk members!”

Boat US membership discount code is **GA83831B**. Ask for new member applications.

Recreational Fishing Alliance Membership discount code is **FISHHAWK**

Presidents Message

Hi Everyone

Hoping all of you are staying nice and warm and cozy. It won't be long before we start opening our boats and polishing our rods, reels and getting our tackle ready. I for one can't wait... If you missed our Feb. meeting, you missed a great presentation by Professor Dana Christensen from Stockton University, who is trying to bridge the gap between saltwater anglers and the scientific community using surveys from we recreational anglers. Hopefully by now you all have filled out and submitted her survey. Perhaps by sending her all this data, she might be able to change the way the "so called science" decides the amounts and size limits of our catch. Professor Christensen impressed all of us so much that we voted to make her an honorary member. If you haven't done the survey yet, you can find the survey at [Saltwater Angler Survey: Innovation Preferences](#). This month, Fish Hawk member, Captain Walt Bohn from Central NJ Sea Tow, will take questions about our boat insurance, difference between salvage and rescue, and the conditions on Barnegat Bay. Looking forward to Walt's presentation. At our February board meeting we discussed the list of organizations that ask for donations from us, and after a long discussion, we decided to donate to the following: JCAA, Vet Works, Lacey Food Bank, LTHS fishing club, Lacey Dive Team, Lacey Lunch Program, Wreaths across America, Mullikin Troop mailing, Marine Mammal Stranding Center, Junior Mates Program, and Beach Haven Charter Association reef balls, also our own Youth Fishing Seminar, and of course our Veteran's blow fish trip. We try and budget 10% of our assets to help these organizations. Not sure if this will come out beforehand, but our annual Flea Market is March 2. If it does come out after, I hope you attended. Whitey and Bob have been busy planning five trips on Charter boats this year. They have contracted the Miss Michelle for Sea Bass & bottom fish in Point Pleasant Beach for our first trip on Tuesday, May 21. I believe she used to be named Capt. Cal, and looking at pictures, she is a beauty and looks like a great boat to fish from. Can't forget about all our birthdays this month, Kenn Seefelt 7th, John Perri 10th, Rich Greger 11th, Dawn Itjen 12th, Richard Newmark 15th, Bill Grochowicz 18th and Michael Knoblock 18th. Happy birthday all. Just remember that when you go on one of our charter trips, "You have to hook em to cook em"

Karl.

"THE HAWK" (MARCH 2024)

THE BIRD: Here we are at the end of February with some warm but windy weather. As March arrives so does many of our club activities. **FISH HAWKS Flea Market**, Saturday, March 2nd. and Thursday the 7th our monthly members meeting,

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME March 10th & the first day of **SPRING**, March 19th and soon thereafter the beginning of our fishing season.

MONTHLY FISHING CONTESTS & BONUS: We drew the \$25 Bonus winner for **DECEMBER** at our **FEBRUARY** meeting There were 5 first place entries in the drawing. **TOM KOWITSKI** won the bonus with 13.01 lb. Striped Bass. Doug Itjen a .52 lb. Ling & 2.2lb Sea Bass, John Howell 11.75 lb. Blackfish; Tom Kowitski, 13.27 lb. Bluefish.

The Winners for the "LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR" (2023) Final,

BLACKFISH: 11.75 lbs. JOHN HOWELL
SEA BASS: 2.90 lbs. DAWN ITJEN
FLUKE: 9.15 lbs. CHUCK LANZEROTTI

BLUEFISH: 13.85 lbs. PAUL PIESCHI
STRIPED BASS: 15.25 lbs. PAUL PIESCHI
WEAKFISH: 4.08 lbs. ROBERT MAURO

REMINDER: Up-dated Monthly Contest & Tournament forms & entry fees are due **NO LATER THAN OUR MEETING ON THURSDAY APRIL 4th**
OUR MONTHLY CONTESTS WILL BEGIN THE NEXT DAY FRIDAY APRIL 5th.

You can buy-in 100 contest days for \$100 or you can select individual months at \$2 a box. There is a \$30 buy-in for up to 16 tournament days for 6 fish species & it also makes you eligible for **THE LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR**. Up-dated entry forms & rules will be available at our monthly meeting & also on our website. “NEW MEMBERS CAN ENTER THE ABOVE AT ANY TIME AFTER BECOMING A MEMBER. Valerie & Kenn Seefelt will be collecting the forms with full payment. “REMINDER” Especially for our New Members, when weighing in your catch make sure the species meets the minimum length requirements & when you initial the “log-in sheet” that the info is accurate. Another important note is our “CLUB RULE” of only weighing in the fish “YOU CATCH”! As a suggestion, you can use tie wraps, cut off a fin (it’s what I do with my grandchildren). Our club is a group of friends & family & we expect everyone to abide by these rules.

FISH BITES: It’s time to update your Saltwater registration for 2024 at:
WWW.SALTWATERREGISTRY.NJ.GOV

STRIPED BASS: OPENS IN THE BAY MARCH 1st. 2024 Regs. 1 fish @ 28” to 31” & 1 fish 24” to less than 28” if you have a “BONUS TAG”.

WINTER FLOUNDER: 2 FISH @ 12”.

Here again I have to apologize for ending a positive communication with a negative note. Bottom line we are looking at a 10% decrease in the PORGY Recreational Fishery. We’re expecting a 28% reduction in the Recreational Fluke quota & again a possible slot fish fishery. “GOOD NEWS” IT’S STATUS QUO for the SEA BASS fishery.

“Remember WE FISH WE VOTE”
“BEAUTY FADES, BUT DUMB IS FOREVER”
“BE SAFE OUT THERE”
“THE HAWK”

*******LACEY FOOD BANK*******
MARCH 2024

Looking For Food & Monetary Donations: The Lacey Food Bank is providing food items to over 220 families that are in need of any and all food items that you can spare from your pantries. We often forget those less fortunate who are in need of grocery items during the months of March and April. As I said in last month’s newsletter, striving for 100% participation from our membership is always our goal each month. Your food and monetary donations are always appreciated more than you can imagine. Let’s make our March meeting donations the best one yet.

Again, as we start this new year, here is a list of items that are always in need at the Food Bank:

Peanut butter, Jelly	Macaroni and cheese
Juice boxes, Apple juice	Pasta and Spaghetti sauce
Cereals	Chicken noodle soup
Spaghetti O’s	Applesauce
Snacks like pretzels, peanut butter crackers, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, cookies, etc	

Should you forget to bring some food items to our March meeting, there is a jar by the bin where you can place both checks made out to the Lacey Food Bank or money into. Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,
Ken Rylak

FISH HAWKS

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January	XXX	XXX	NO GENERAL MEETING **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 1/25
February	1st	Thursday	GENERAL MEETING **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 2/29
March	2nd	Saturday	F.H. FLEA MARKET LACEY ELKS CLUB
	7th	Thursday	GENERAL MEETING **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 3/28
April	4th	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 4/25
	20th	Saturday	Tournament Day #1
May	2nd	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 5/30
	10th	Friday	Tournament Day #2
	19th	SUNDAY	ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET (Captains Inn)
	25th	Saturday	Tournament Day #3
June	6th	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 6/27
	7 & 8th	Fri & Sat.	LADIES 2 Day Fluke Tournament
	15th	Friday	Tournament Day #4
	24th	Monday	Tournament Day # 5
July	10th	Wednesday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 7/25
	12th	Friday	Tournament Day #6
	20th	Saturday	FISH HAWKS YOUTH SEMINAR
	27/28th	Sat/Sun	Sat TD-7/Bi Club T. Sun Awards Picnic Tuna Club
August	1st	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 8/29
	5th	Monday	Tournament Day#8
	17th	Saturday	MA 22 VETS FISHING TRIP (rain day Sun. 18th)
	30th	Friday	Tournament Day # 9
September	5th	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 9/26
	7th	Saturday	Tournament Day #10
	14th	SATURDAY	ANNUAL PICNIC (Gille Park) 1 PM TO ????
	20th	Friday	Tournament Day #11
October	3rd	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 10/31
	5th/14th	Sat & Mon	Tournament Days #12 & #13
November	7th	Thursday	General Mtg/Nom. Of Off. **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 11/21
	1st/18th	Fri/Mon	Tournament Day #14 & #15
December	2nd	Monday	Tournament Day #16
	5th	Thursday	PIZZA & BEER Night / Election of Officers
NOTE: BOD meets the Thursday PRIOR to General Meeting			
1/15/24	(Tony G)		NO BOD Mtg. in Dec, **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 1/30/25

Monthly Contest and Tournament Day Entry Form

PLEASE NOTE: MONTHLY CONTEST BEGINS THE
FRIDAY AFTER APRIL'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Date _____
Name _____

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	# Of Months	Totals Dollars
Blackfish *****	X				X	X	X	X	X		
Bluefish *****	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Fluke *****		X	X	X	X	X					
Sea Bass *****		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Striped Bass *****	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Weakfish *****	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Blowfish		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Cod	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Flounder	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Kingfish		X	X	X	X	X	X				
Ling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Porgy											
Triggerfish			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Place a circle around the X in the box for the species and months that you wish to enter the monthly contest for a cost of \$2 per month.

Or you can **go all in** for all species denoted by an X for \$100.

Additionally, the cost for up to 16 scheduled tournament days is \$30

Entries and all money must be received by first Thursday in April at monthly meeting.

Make Checks payable to the Fish Hawks.

Monthly Contest Total at \$2 per Circled X Box

OR

Buy All X Boxes For \$100

\$ 30 Tournament Day Buy In

Total Amount

Contest Chairman Signature

Give the completed form to Kenn or Val Seefelt at the monthly meeting or mail it to address below.

Mail: Kenn and Val Seefelt
510 Middle Branch Drive
Forked River 08731
Cell: 609-423-8982

***** Only 6 Species eligible for Tournament Days and Largest Fish of The Year *****

Only fish caught in New Jersey waters are eligible for Monthly Contests, Tournament Days and Largest Fish of The Year Entry into Tournament Day also enters you into "Largest Fish of Year" contest.

New Members can participate at any time once after becoming a new member.

Note: To view all contest rules please go to <http://www.fishhawksnj.com> and select contest form and rules

ALL FISHING CONTEST RULES: AND CHANGES

1-Monthly Fishing Contest:

You must enter the contest by submitting this form and paying the entrance fee of **\$2.00 per fish per month or you can go all-in for all species for all months that are denoted by an X for a \$100 buy-in. The Monthly Contest Form must be submitted no later than our April Members Club meeting. The Monthly Contest begins on the Friday after the April Club Meeting.** Phone-ins are no longer accepted, (Hard Copy Only). Example: \$20.00 is received for a specific fish i.e., Bluefish, 3 blues were caught and entered (weighed in). The total money in this category is \$20.00. 1st place 50% or \$10.00, 2nd place 30% or \$6.00, 3rd place 20% or \$4.00. **NOTE: For the Monthly Fishing Contest and Tournament Days, Bluefish MUST WEIGH a minimum of 2 lbs.** **NOW:** If only one fish is weighed in, **ALL** the money collected (100%) goes to the 1st place fish. If there is only a 1st and 2nd place fish entered, the split is 60-40. Winners for both the Monthly Fishing contest and Tournament Days can only win one place in each category.

2-Each month our Chairperson or Designee for the Fishing Contest will inform the club members of the winners for the monthly contest and tournament days.

3-Bonus Money: For the 9 contest months (April-December), an additional \$25.00 (cash bonus) will be awarded each month to just **ONE** of the 1st place monthly contest winners for that month. **All 13 species are eligible.** The 1st place winner that is drawn at the meeting will receive \$25.00 (cash). **NOTE: All fish species listed on the front side of this form that are entered in the monthly contest for that month are eligible for a chance to win the \$25 cash bonus.**

4-Tournament Days have a \$30 ENTRY FEE: This fee enters you into 1 - 16 Tournament days and makes you eligible for the **LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR** for the six species listed on front with an asterisk (*****). **The Contest Days Form for Tournament Days must be submitted no later than our April Members Club Meeting.** Cash payouts are as follows 1st (\$25), 2nd (\$15), and 3rd (\$10) **NOTE: For Tournament Days and the Monthly Fishing Contest, Bluefish MUST WEIGH a minimum of 2 lbs.**

5 – Club Fishing Trips Tournament Days:

All club organized Fishing Trips held on a Head Boat for club Members will be considered a **FREE TOURNAMENT DAY.** Only members who participate in these club trips will be eligible for the **FREE TOURNAMENT DAY PAYOUTS.** There are 6 species eligible for tournament day payouts, as noted on the front side by an asterisk (*****). All fish will be weighed in while on board the boat and the tournament winners will be announced at that time. **Note: If you are also entered in the monthly contest and want your fish to qualify for the monthly contest, you must weigh in your fish at one of the club's official weigh stations.**

6-THE LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR for the following six species, **WEAKFISH, BLUEFISH, STRIPED BASS, FLUKE, SEA BASS and BLACKFISH,** winners will receive \$75 (cash) at our annual AWARDS BANQUET.

Note: You must be entered in the Tournament Days contest to be eligible for the largest fish of the year.

Weigh-in Station Procedures The official club weigh-in stations are *Creek Side Outfitters, Grizz's Forked River Bait & Tackle, Grumpy's, Lacey Marine & Fisherman's Den in Belmar.* It is the Angler's responsibility, when weighing in a fish, to verify that all of the information on the weigh-in sheet is accurate i.e., NAME, DATE, SPECIES and WEIGHT. The angler will initial the weigh-in sheet verifying that all of the information is correct. If you are weighing a fish in for another angler, the same rules apply. **ONCE INITIALED, THE WEIGH-IN IS FINAL! All fish caught from Ports & Beaches in New Jersey Waters must be weighed in at one of the above stations.** **CAUGHT FISH, ONLY IN NEW JERSEY WATERS, ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MONTHLY CONTEST, TOURNAMENT DAYS AND LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR.**

Club Record

A fish submitted for a club record may be taken from any location, there are no geographical limitations. For fish caught out of state you must submit a weigh-in slip including species name, length and weight on letterhead, or business card or invoice from that station signed by the weigh master, tournament chairman, or Captain of the vessel. A Club Record Form must be submitted to Ken Rylak and attached to the weigh-in slip from one of our official stations or other documentation as described above. The BOD shall approve all records before becoming official. Here are the guidelines for all "Catch & Release" Club Record submissions. Measurement formula for (ALL SPECIES) as follows: Length X Girth squared divided by 800. Example: Length 60" X 25" Girth squared = 37,500 Divided by 800 = 46.875 Lbs. Please Note: LENGTH is measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail and GIRTH is measured (circumference) at the widest part of the fish, usually behind the gill plate.

One final note: Perhaps this rule has not been properly communicated in the past, but **you personally** have to catch the fish you enter in all of these contests/tournaments and not enter a fish caught by someone else on your boat. This is an **individual** contest and besides we are all friends and family, and we expect **GOOD SPORTSMENSHIP.** Thank you, Good Fishing and be Safe out there.



Saltwater Angler's Club's 20th Annual Fisherman's Indoor Fishing Flea Market

Sponsored in part by **Fisherman**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024
8:30am to 1:30pm**

Lacey Elk's Lodge #2518
900 Beach Blvd. Forked River, NJ 08731

8' TABLES \$30 - ADMISSION \$5
Children under 12 FREE with paid adult.
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call Richard 201-206-8317 or
richardleahy@gmail.com or visit our website,
www.fishhawksnj.com



FISH HAWKS SALTWATER ANGLER'S CLUB

28th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Sunday May 19th, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Location: CAPTAIN'S INN, 304 East Lacey Rd. Forked River, N.J. 08731

AGENDA

The Fish Hawks Annual Awards Banquet is a **casual** evening of socializing, dining, telling fish stories, and extended truths. The purpose of this event is to present Trophies, Gift Cards, and Monetary Awards to the winners of our various fishing events held during the year such as, Ladies Day Fluke Tournament, Bay Tournament, Largest Fish of the Year, Monthly Fishing Contest and Tournament Days. We will have a "Gift Auction", and 50/50 raffle. Tickets will be available throughout the event.

This is always a fun evening! We hope to see many members and guests in attendance.

EVENT

Doors Open: **6:00 pm**

Program Start: **6:30 pm**

Use Rear Entrance for Check-In Purposes!!!!

Our Buffet Dinner Includes:

- Carved Prime Rib
- Shrimp and Scallop Scampi
- Grilled Tequila Lime Chicken
- Mushroom Ravioli with Vodka Sauce
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Mixed Vegetables
- Asian and Caesar salads
- Dessert: Mini-Pastries and Tartufo
- Coffee, Tea and Soda are included.

Cash Bar

*Cost is **\$50.00** per person for Members and Guests. Tax and Gratuity included!*

TABLES OF EIGHT (8) WILL BE SET UP. IF YOU HAVE **EIGHT** IN YOUR PARTY, PLEASE ARRIVE BY 6:00 PM TO RESERVE A TABLE. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE EIGHT (8) PEOPLE IN YOUR PARTY TO FILL THE ENTIRE TABLE.

Detach and Return This Section

Make checks payable to "Fish Hawks" and mail to: David Bye, 1413 Tamiami Rd. Forked River, N.J. 08731. **Deadline is May 11, 2024.** Dave will also take money or checks, along with the form at meetings.

Member Name _____ Fee _____

Member Name _____ Fee _____

Guest Name _____ Fee _____

Guest Name _____ Fee _____

Guest Name _____ Fee _____ **TOTAL** _____



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Fish Hawks was founded in 1977 as a non-profit fishing club whose objectives are to foster and promote:

The development of the coastal and estuaries of Barnegat Bay and to improve the aquatic environment for the general public; To promote fish stocks in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Game and Wildlife of the state of New Jersey; To provide social and recreational activities to its members. Meetings 1st Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm, at Lacey Elks Lodge, 900 Beach Blvd., Forked River, NJ 08731.

Visit our Website at:

*<http://www.fishhawksnj.com>
for a list of our monthly speakers.*

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