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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:
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for a list of our monthly speakers.

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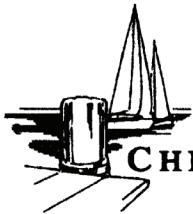
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JULY 2026 FISH HAWKS NEWSLETTER

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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 Now offers 12 months and an additional \$50.00 off the yearly membership for Fish Hawk members!”

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

Presidents Message

JULY 2026

Fellow Fish Hawks,

July is here, and you know what that means—long days, warm water, and plenty of excuses to tell your family, *“I’ll be back after just one more drift.”* The summer fishing season is in full swing, and whether you’re chasing fluke in the ocean, hunting stripers in the early morning, or filling the freezer with sea bass (within the legal limit, of course), this is what we wait all year for. Additionally, the next couple of months are very busy for our club. Our activities and events are in full swing. Read on as I highlight our upcoming events.

✓ **Club Updates and Highlights**

After our first fishing trip of the season was canceled due to weather. We had 28 members on board to go, a record for us! Unfortunately, the fish did not cooperate. Even so, everyone had a great time and enjoyed the lunch and snacks provided. Thanks again to **Whitey and Bob Merkle** for organizing everything!

I want to take a moment and mention that **Joe Regatts** is doing an excellent job as our Lacey Food Bank Chairman. He requests that since the children are out of school for the summer, there is a need for **Tuna, Peanut Butter, Spam, and Cookies**. Please do your part and contribute what you can to his drop off box that he brings to the meetings.

I hope all our Ladies got out for the **Gail Matuska Memorial Ladies Fluke Tournament** on June 12, & 13th

✓ **Upcoming Events**

Our next meeting is on **July 2, 2026**. Our speaker is **Nicole Fox** from Rutgers. She will be joined by **Doug Zemekis**, a club favorite. They will give a presentation about the feeding habits of Summer Flounder. See Nicole Fox’s bio here: <https://borsettilab.rutgers.edu/people/nicole-fox/>

One of the highlights this month is our **Youth Fishing Seminar on July 11th**. We are proud to host Military children from the Joint Bases McGurie, Dix, Lakehurst for fun day learning about different aspects of fishing and the marine environment. This is our chance to pass along knowledge, skills, and most importantly, the passion we all share for being out on the water. If you’re able to volunteer, lend a hand, or even just show up to support the event, it would go a long way.

Presidents Message Continued

Please contact our **Youth Fishing Seminar Chairman Kevin O'Rourke** for more information. These kids might not remember every rig or technique we teach them, but they'll remember the experience—and the people who took the time to share it.

Coming up on **August 1st and 2nd** is the **Joe Matuska Memorial Tri-Club Fluke Tournament, Fish Hawks vs. Tuna Club vs. Village Harbor Fishing Club**. The top 6 fish entered receive an individual prize and the club with the heaviest total weight of the club's 10 largest fish determine the winner of the **Joe Matuska Trophy**. So, get out there and catch some nice Fluke so we can win back the Trophy! Fishing occurs on **August 1st** and the awards picnic is on **August 2nd**. See the flyer in your newsletter for all the details.

On **August 22** we are having our **Annual Veterans Fishing Trip**. This remains one of the most meaningful events we conduct each year. We partner with MA-22, <https://ma22.org/> a Veterans service organization for Veterans struggling with PTSD and Gold Star Mothers Department of N.J. <https://goldstarmothersnj.org/>

We have the opportunity to spend a day on the water with veterans and give back to those who have served our country and reflects the values that make Fish Hawks such a special organization. Thank you to all the captains, mates, volunteers, and supporters who help make this event possible.

✓ Season Highlights

Fishing-wise, July offers some of the best variety of the season. Fluke are spread out, the inshore bite is heating up, and there's always the chance of a surprise catch to shake things up at the weigh-in! New Members, don't forget to get entered the monthly fishing contest. See committee chairmen **Kenn or Val Seefelt** to get signed up—remember, a contender in the cooler beats the “one that got away” story every time.

As always, thank you to everyone who continues to support the club, volunteer their time, and keep things running smoothly. Enjoy the season, stay safe out there, and I'll see you at the next meeting—or better yet, at the dock with a good fish story.

Fair winds and following seas.... see you out on the water

Dave

FISH HAWKS BOAT TRIPS

Don't miss out! on our great club fishing trips.
We still have 3 boat trips cost \$100.00 per person.

All bait included for targeted fish

MONEY FOR AUGUST 17th BOAT TRIP HAS TO BE IN BY AUGUST 7TH

Please, only one check or cash for each trip, checks for multiple trips will be returned.

2026 Special Tournament Day Boat Fishing Trips*

All Boat trips leave the dock at 6:30 sharp

Monday Aug. 17, Fluke / Bottom fish, Miss Michelle III - Point Pleasant

Thursday September 10, Fluke / Bottom fish, Miss Michelle III - Point Pleasant

Thursday Oct. 15, Sea Bass & all Bottom fish, Miss Michelle III - Point Pleasant

*A reminder every club boat trip has its own Tournament Day Prizes w/no buy-in's,
There is a cash prize for 1st, 2nd & 3rd size fish. *See Club Trip Tournament Days.

Whitey and the Club provide all the sandwiches, condiments, soft drinks & snacks and
It's nice to include a generous tip for the mate(s)

TRADERS CORNER

Notice: All ads run for three (3) months and will be deleted for 4th month's issue unless you renew them. To place an ad or renewal of a current ad(s) No later than 15th of the month before the next Fish Hawks meeting.

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“THE HAWK”

JULY 2026

THE BIRD: You probably tired of hearing it's WINDY! One more time (I hope), **IT'S WINDY!** Sound familiar? Exact words said for past **4** years. A few of us have been able to get out a couple of “Blue Bird” days. Those that did, had some decent Bay fishing especially for fluke in the shallows along the drop offs. Those in the know had bent rods mostly on the out-going tides. The word on the ocean fluking (the water is ICE COLD). Sea bass reports so far, again the water temps are quite low but if you were in the right place, East (80' to 100') you were able to put together a decent catch.

Our Annual **AWARDS BANQUET:** On Sunday May 17th. Nearly \$5,000 was awarded this year, another **RECORD**. And many of our members said it was an **Enormous Success!!!** **“Thanks to our Banquet Committee”** **Dave Bye** our President, **Paul Schell** our V.P. & **Tony Guadagnino**; committee organizer. **Laurie Jankowski** & **Lori Sherry** greeted all of our members & their guests. The Club provided Cheese & Crackers at each table & we also reduced the cost of dinner for members. **NOTE:** We had 14 **GREAT** auction items, the “**BAZILLION \$\$\$\$**” **COOLER** was loaded with “**STUFF**”, 50/50 tickets were also available with huge payoffs. We recognized the winners of our Monthly Contests, Tournament Days, Club Fishing Trips, Bay Blowfish tournament & our Ladies Day Fluke Tournament. And during the evening our comedy team **Abbott & Castello** (Dave & Paul) tried to keep us laughing. Last year Dave & Karl made our evening most enjoyable!!!! **“Thanks to all the committee members who put in the effort to make our night FIRST CLASS”**.

MONTHLY CONTESTS: We had **2** first place entries for **APRIL**;
***DOUG ITJEN: TOG 3.43 lbs. DOUG ITJEN: STRIPED BASS: 11.96 lbs.**
***\$25.00 Bonus.** We had **4** first place winners in **MAY**; **CHUCK LANZEROTTI; FLUKE: 3.87 lbs. GENE MAKITRA; LING: 1.6 lbs. DOUG ITJEN; SEABASS 2.14 lbs. ROBERT MAURO *BLUEFISH: 2.91 lbs. *\$25.00 Bonus.**

TOURNAMENT DAYS:

APRIL 18th T-D #1 **BLACKFISH: 1.94 lbs. GENE MAKITRA; STRIPED BASS: 11.44 lbs. TOM KOWITSKI;**

APRIL 27th T-D #2 **BLACKFISH: 3.12 lbs. VALERIE SEEFELT & KENN SEEFELT 2.73 lbs.**

MAY 8th; **BLUEFISH: 2.91 lbs. ROBERT MAURO; FLUKE: 1.8 lbs. TOM KOWITSKI**

HAWK CONTINUED

THE GAIL MATUKA MEMORIAL LADIES 2 DAY FLUKE TOURNAMENT:

Was Friday & Saturday JUNE 12TH & 13TH; 1st Place: BETTY HORNUNG 2.24 lbs. 2nd Pl. RENEE HORNUNG 1.90 lbs. (no entry for 3rd place)

WINNERS JUNE 11TH CLUB BOAT FISHING TRIP:

1st Harry Vogt; 2nd Al Carruth; 3rd Tom Porpora

The June 21st trip was cancelled & re-scheduled for September 10th.

YOUTH SEMINAR: Is Saturday July 11th 2026 See Kevin O'Rourke - committee chair, if you're interested in helping call him (908)-300-2427 we need help serving Breakfast & Lunch.

JOE MATUSKA MEMORIAL TRI-CLUB FLUKE CHALLENGE: Will be held on Saturday August 1st, the TUNA CLUB WILL HOST the AWARDS PICNIC on Sunday the 2nd at the Tuna Clubs facility Eric Engard (609)313- 2281 is the contact. The VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB will be joining us again this year. There is NO ENTRY FEE for participating in the Tournament, there is however a \$5 charge for the picnic. (see flyer) Any questions contact Val/Kenn Seefelt (committee chairs) @ (609)423-8982. We will be collecting the \$5 for the picnic. (the flyer has been posted on our website & available at the meeting)

FISH BITES: Fluke, opened on May 4th & goes thru September 25th (3 fish @18") Seabass, opened on Tuesday May 15th thru June 21st (10 fish @12 1/2 ") June 22 to September 22nd 1 fish, September 23rd to October 31st. 10 fish & November 1st to December 31st 15 fish. All fish minimum size is 12 1/2"

IMPORTANT NOTE: STRIPED BASS FISHERY: YOU WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO TAKE ONE SLOT FISH BETWEEN 28 & 31" THAT'S A 3" SLOT. The BONUS FISH program is still in effect, allows ONE fish from 24" to less than 28". (NO CLOSED SEASON)

**PLUMBER: "DON'T SLEEP WITH A DRIP" "CALL ME!"
"BE SAFE OUT THERE"
"THE HAWK"**

*****LACEY FOOD BANK*****

JUNE 2026



While the Lacey Food Bank primarily assists our township residents, it has at times also been of assistance to families throughout Southern Ocean County.

Our schools are closed for the summer, No lunch programs available to the children. So, they will rely on donations of items such as Tuna Fish, Spam, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cookies, and Chips would now be greatly appreciated.

I am pictured here from left to right, with Charlene, Arlene, and Kathy, who are all volunteers giving generously of their time to the Lacey Food Bank. The smiles on their faces clearly demonstrate their gratitude for The Fish Hawks continuing support of the Food Bank's efforts.

Giving what you can, when you can, is always a blessing to those in need.

Sincerely **Joe Regatts**



HOOK IT

In case you are wondering about that “**Green Box**” that’s at all our meetings. It’s a reminder of those who stepped up to keep us safe from harm. Now it’s our time to keep them safe from harm. We Fish Hawks are planning another one-day fishing trip for those veterans on Saturday August 22nd rain date August 23rd.

Your donations can offset our costs and the costs of the Gold Star Mothers that provide Food & Refreshments.

PLEASE DONATE WHAT YOU CAN, JUST ONE DOLLAR A MONTH HELPS TO TAKE MANY VETS FISHING.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Larry Hannawacker

2026 Fishing Contest Rules

Monthly Fishing Contest

- Entry: \$2 per species, per month, **or** \$100 all-in (all species, all months marked “X”).
- Deadline: Submit entry form and payment **by the April Club Meeting**.
- Contest Period: Begins the Friday after the April meeting and ends **December 15** (close of final weigh-in station).
- **No phone-ins** — hard copy weigh-ins only.

Payouts (Monthly Contest prize payout per species per month):

- 1st: 50%
- 2nd: 30%
- 3rd: 20%
- If only 1 fish: 100% to 1st
- If 2 fish: 60% / 40% split
- **One win per angler per category**

Rules:

- Bluefish must weigh **minimum 2 lbs.**
- Commercial license holders are **ineligible** for listed species
- Winners announced monthly by Contest Chair

Monthly Bonus

- Each month (April–December), **one** 1st-place winner (random draw from all species) receives a **\$25 cash bonus**

Tournament Days

- **Entry Fee: \$30** (covers 20 days + **eligibility for Largest Fish of the Year**)
- Deadline: Submit form by April Club Meeting

Payouts (per species per month)

- 1st: \$25
- 2nd: \$15
- 3rd: \$10

Club Trip Tournament Days

- All club head boat trips = **FREE Tournament Day**
- Open only to trip participants
- Weigh-ins and winners determined **onboard**
- **To qualify for Monthly Contest, fish must also be weighed at an official station**

2026 Fishing Contest Rules continued

Largest Fish of the Year

- Eligible Species: Weakfish, Bluefish, Striped Bass, Fluke, Sea Bass, Blackfish
- Prize: **\$75 cash per species** (awarded at Annual Banquet)
- **Must be entered in Tournament Days to qualify**

Official Weigh-In Stations

- Creekside Outfitters (Waretown)
- Grizz's Bait & Tackle (Forked River)
- Grumpy's Tackle (Seaside Park)

Procedures

- Angler must verify: **Name, Date, Species, Weight**
- Initial sheet — **once signed, it is final**
- Fish must be caught in **New Jersey waters** for contests

Club Records

- No location restrictions
- Out-of-state fish require certified weigh slip
- Submit Club Record Form with documentation
- Subject to Board of Directors approval

Catch & Release Formula (all species):

Weight = (Length × Girth²) ÷ 800

- Length: tip of lower jaw to fork of tail
- Girth: widest point

Sportsmanship Rule

- **You must personally catch the fish you enter**
- No entering fish caught by others

Good luck, fish hard, and stay safe!

2026 JOE MATUSKA MEMORIAL **TRI-CLUB FLUKE TOURNAMENT**

**FISH HAWKS SALTWATER ANGLERS CLUB, FORKED RIVER TUNA CLUB &
VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB**

TOURNAMENT DATE: SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST

AWARDS PICNIC: SUNDAY AUGUST 2ND (1 pm till 4 pm) at the TUNA CLUB

**NO ENTRY FEE TO FISH: \$5.00 CHARGE FOR ATTENDING PICNIC
JUST CATCH FLUKE AND WEIGH THEM ALL IN ON OUR CLUB'S SHEET.
ALL FLUKE WEIGHED IN WILL BE COUNTED AS A FREE FH TOURNAMENT DAY
CATCH!**

**JOE MATUSKA TROPHY: AWARDED TO THE CLUB WITH THE HEAVIEST
TOTAL WEIGHT OF CLUB'S 10 LARGEST FLUKE**

**INDIVIDUAL PRIZES: THE HEAVIEST 6 FLUKE WILL BE AWARDED THE
FOLLOWING:**

1st place : \$100, 2nd place : \$50, 3rd thru 6TH place: \$25 each

**WEIGH STATION: ALL FLUKE MUST BE WEIGHED AT CREEKSIDE OUTFITTERS
IN WARETOWN. THEY ARE OUR TOURNAMENT SPONSER.
WEIGH-IN ENDS AT CLOSING TIME OF CREEKSIDE OUTFITTERS.**

**MISC. INFO: THIS YEAR'S PICNIC WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB. THE HOSTING CLUB WILL HOLD THE 50/50
& THE RECEIPTS WILL BE THEIRS. THE HOSTING CLUB IS RESPONSIBLE TO
PICK UP THE WEIGH IN SHEETS & GIFT CARDS FROM CREEKSIDE.**

**THE CLUBS TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO COLLECT
THE \$ 5.00 FOR THE PICNIC FROM THEIR CLUB MEMBERS & COMMUNICATE
THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING (COMMITMENT) ONE WEEK PRIOR TO
THE PICNIC. A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE PICNIC WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE
JUNE FISH HAWKS MEETING. YOU MAY ALSO CALL OR TEXT KENN SEEFELT
PRIOR TO THE WEEK BEFORE THE PICNIC.**

**THE 3 CLUBS TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS WILL MEET ON THE SUNDAY OF THE
PICNIC AT 11:30 AM TO COMPUTE THE WINNERS.**

THIS YEAR'S CONTACTS ARE:

TUNA CLUB: ERIC ENGARD (609) 313-2281

FISH HAWKS CLUB: KENN & VAL SEEFELT (609) 423-8982

VILLAGE HARBOUR CLUB: JOHN STUEBING (610) 212-8419

Kenn S. 5/11/2026