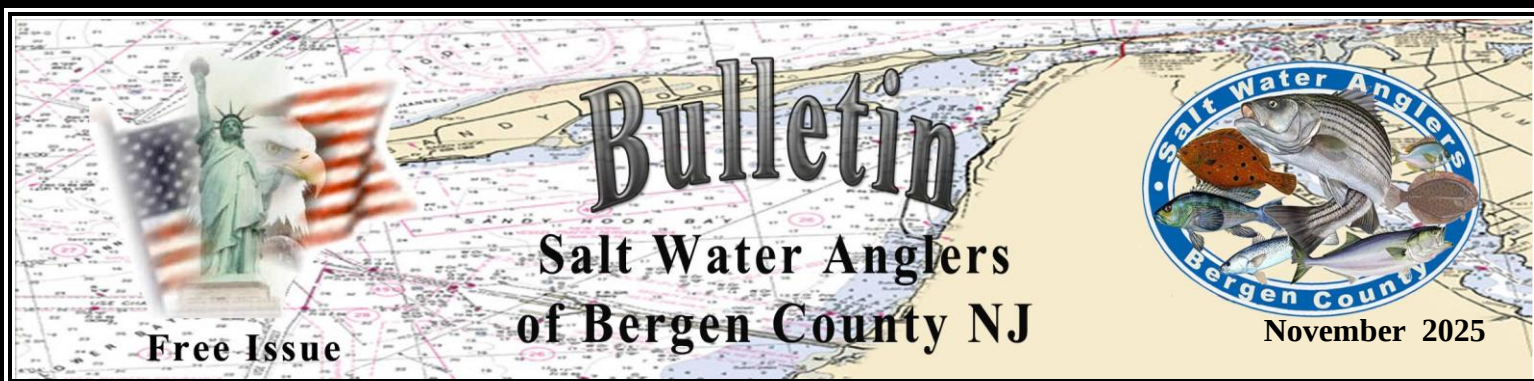




At The American Legion Hall, Post # 170, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, N. J.

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Don Lohse



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Assistant Treasurer

Charles Santoro

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Assistant Writer/Editor

Fred Villanova



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Goldstein
with his 9
Lb. 8 oz.
Tautog.

Now the
current
leader of
Tog in the
Big Fish
Contest**

Stories & Events

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Good fishing, good friends.

That's what SWABC is all about

The Best Fishing Club in NJ

The regular meetings will be held every third Tuesday of the month, (except March) at 7:30 PM at the Legion Hall. A \$5 fee is required, for non-members. This entitles you to refreshments, snacks, and some new tricks about fishing plus participation if you choose in our dark horse drawings. Welcome all; we hope you enjoy the evening.

President's Corner

At our October 21st meeting, we had Pedro Ildefonso as our guest speaker and he wowed us with his presentation on how to catch blackfish! **Pedro is only 14 years old!** I have never seen a youth possess such knowledge and poise as Pedro had in doing his presentation that was so informative and interesting. He covered the bait to use, tackle and special techniques to land blackfish. He has a promising future in the recreational fishing community and you will see more of him at various trade shows and in the media. Pedro, as our guest speaker, will give the same presentation on blackfish at our club's Flea Market on February 1st at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton.

Nico fed us well with a beef dinner, French fries, salad and apple strudel for dessert. Thanks Nico!

David Griep, was lucky again and won our 50/50 prize of **\$190**

I announced at this meeting our Board's decision at its October 14th meeting to revise the rules of our Big Fish Derby to include entries of fish caught only in the New Jersey/New York waters. More information on this rule change is in another section of this newsletter.

Please keep sending me pictures of the fish you catch so I can place them in our newsletters. Send them to me at: tothjohn@verizon.net

Also, I schedule speakers for our club and if you know of a person who you think may be a good speaker at one of our club's meeting, please let me know. I will follow up on your lead and take it from there.

Breaking news- I just learned on 10/30 that we will have **no season closures** for striped bass during 2026. See my column on this in another section of the newsletter.

November 18th Meeting –

Dennis Kuntz

Dennis Kuntz (2nd Chance Tackle) will give a presentation on how to maintain reels so that they are in good working order for the 2026 fishing season. Dennis will also repair reels that you give him at this meeting. If you want reels repaired, place your reels in a plastic bag and write your name, contact information so Dennis can call you and what repair work you want done to them such as cleaning.

Also at this meeting, we will again have our traditional turkey and ham raffle so that you can prepare for your holiday meal by winning a nice turkey or ham. Our club will have cards on hand and you can simply write your name in a numbered box for \$1 dollar a chance. At the end of the meeting, we will draw a number for each card and if you have the winning number you get to take home a turkey or a ham to start the holiday.

Also, if you pay your 2026 dues at this meeting, you will receive a ticket for a special raffle to receive either a turkey or a ham.

Christmas & Hanukkah Party-

December 16th

This party is our December 16th meeting and no speakers are scheduled. We will do a little club business and then have a good time with our fishing friends and enjoy eating a lot of good food and forget about any diet! Members can also bring their favorite food items to this meeting and we will eat very well because that is what we are supposed to do for the holidays! Our club will also have some food items catered. Please tell John Toth what you are bringing to this dinner so that we do not have duplicate food items. He can be reached at (732) 656-0139 and also at email **tothjohn@verizon.net**.

We will also have an exchange of gifts and Santa Claus will hand them out. If you want to participate in this exchange of gifts, please bring an item (preferably a fishing-related one) that is approximately **\$10 or more** in value.

Also at this meeting, we will again have our traditional turkey and ham raffle again. We will have cards on hand and you can write your name in a numbered box for \$1 dollar a chance. At the end of the meeting, we will draw a number for each card and if you have the winning number you get to take home a turkey or a ham for the holiday.

Again, if you pay your **2026** dues at this meeting you will also receive a numbered ticket to win a turkey or a ham. At the end of the meeting, we will have a special raffle just for those anglers who pay their 2026 dues.

Club Dues Policy & Purchase of Club's Raffle Tickets

Our club membership dues are **\$55 for an individual and \$60 for family membership**. Included in the dues are two club raffle books - value \$20 (20 tickets at \$1 each). Members can complete the tickets and enter the raffle or sell the tickets and keep any proceeds. This membership policy was adopted by the club's Board. Dues help cover the club's expenses: i.e. insurance fees, hall rentals, speaker fees, postage, refreshments at meetings and other expenses. In regard to refreshments, our club puts out quite a spread each meeting. Courtesy of our Grand Chef, Nico, along with free beer and soda. Members have an opportunity while eating to sit and chat with other members, developing new friendships. This is what our club is all about!

If you wish to pay your club dues by mail, please send a check payable to **SWABC** and mail it to:

The American Legion Post # 170

c/o SWABC

33 West Passaic Street

Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

Club Charter trips for 2025

November 16th – Club Charter for Blackfish on the Debra Ann – Belmar.

Trip Captain for this trip is Ralph DeJulia and he can be reached at (201) 206-4506 or at: newknee22@yahoo.com.

This charter trip may be the last for 2025, but Ralph wants to schedule more of them for 2026, possibly for each month, since they fill up so fast by our members. Ralph has done a fantastic job in setting up these club charters and a big **Thank You** goes to **Ralph** for a job well done!

Election Time - Board Members for 2026

At our November 18th meeting, the current slate of officers will be read and club members will be asked if they want to run for any of these positions. The following is the slate of our club's Board members for 2026. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please see member Don Lohse at our November meeting so that he can include your name to run for one of these offices. Don can also be reached at (201) 832-1298. The current positions and the members who occupy them follow:

President – John Toth

1st Vice President – Ralph DeJulia

2nd Vice President- Gary Gusterson

Treasurer – Jim Galanaugh Jr.

Assistant Treasurer – Chuck Santoro

Recording Secretary – Chuck Santoro

-Assistant Recording Secretary – Don Lohse

Corresponding Secretary – Fred Villanova

Assistant Corresponding Secretary – Gary Gusterson

Membership Secretary – Art Vrola

Assistant Membership Secretary – Fred Villanova

Sergeant at Arms- Gary Gusterson

Assistant Sergeant at Arms- Rick Swarthe

Chaplin – Rick Swarthe

Publicity Officer – John Toth

Assistant Publicity Officer – Fred Villanova

Club Orientation Director – Steve Totten

Assistant Club Orientation Director – Lou Castellano

At our December 16th meeting, we will have a final vote on these positions. If there are no new nominations, our Secretary, Chuck Santoro, will cast his vote to accept this new slate of

Club Events for 2026

February 1st – Club Flea Market at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton

February 12- 16th – New Jersey Boat Show at the NJ Convention Center. Our club has a booth at this show and we will need volunteers to staff it

March 13-16th – Salt Water Expo at the NJ Convention Center. Our club has a booth at this show and we will need volunteers to staff it

March 24th – Past President's Dinner at the Mountainside Inn, Clifton, NJ. (**Note:** Normally, we would have this dinner on the 3rd Tuesday of the month like all of our meetings. However, the 3rd Tuesday falls on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, and too many of our members attend events on that day and would not be able to attend our Past Presidents Dinner. So, this dinner has been moved to the **March 24th date** to have better club member attendance.

SWABC Lou Castellano receiving the Interclub Fishing Trophy from HRFA president Joe Albanese



Fishy Quotes

“The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive, but obtainable, a perpetual series of occasions of hope” – John Buchan

“Fishing consists of a series of misadventures interspersed by occasional moments of glory” – Howard Marshall

Club Shirts

Ralph DeJulia is working with a vendor (Mark Mueller) to develop a new shirt for our club that is similar to the white ones we sold in the past with SWABC on the sleeves and a striped bass on the back. This new shirt would be blue and have a fluke on the back. Ralph will bring a prototype of this shirt to possibly our next meeting for us to review. If we are OK with it, Ralph will take orders for it and ask members for their sizes. The more shirts we order, the cheaper the price.

We also have a limited number of red T-shirts with a pocket that will be on sale for only \$10, a shirt of good quality and a great price. They will be on sale at our November meeting.

Status Quo for striped bass fishing during 2026

by John Toth

There has been a lot of discussion about closing the season for striped bass during two months of 2026 since the stocks are not up to where they should be. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council discussed this issue at their meeting on October 29th in Dewey, Delaware and voted for Status Quo-meaning no closures of striped bass seasons during 2026. This decision by these counsels is good news for the party/charter boat industry and tackle shops that depend on the business generated by anglers fishing for striped bass.

As I learn more about this developing issue, I will give it more coverage in our next club newsletter.

Diver Spears Record Winter Flounder

Jared Smith went diving on July 21st with the intention of spearing some fluke and lobster. He dove 125 feet to a wreck, R.P. Resorwreck, a 435 - foot oil tanker sunk by a German submarine during WWII. He saw a patch of big winter flounder by the tanker and shot a dart in to a snowshoe that turned out to be **3.82 lbs.!**

He had it officially weighed at two locations and submitted it to NJ's DEP. It is now recognized as NJ's new state record in the diving category, beating the previous record holder by 1.2 ounces set in 2018.

(Asbury Park Press, October 3, 2025)

Sick Call

We have a number of members on the mend and they include **Steve Totten** who has been having health issues. Hope you get better soon Steve!

Dennis Bowman has been feeling better and we may see Dennis at more of our meetings. His wife Joan, who used to attend many of our meetings, has been having health issues and has been recently admitted to a nursing home.

New Rule for our Big Fish of the Year Derby

Currently, entries for the Big Fish of the Year Derby allows for fish caught anywhere, not just New Jersey, to be entered into this Derby. A number of members who fish mostly in the local New Jersey/New York waters find this to be unfair since a lot of the big fish entered into the Derby are caught in other states that have better fishing opportunities. In reviewing this issue, our Board at its October 14th meeting voted to restrict entries into the Big Fish Derby to fish only caught in New Jersey/ New York waters and that will be **in effect during 2026**. At the end of 2026, the Board will review this rule again to determine if it still makes sense to continue this rule and make revisions to it if deemed necessary.

Captain Ralph Leyrer of Last Lady retires

By John Toth

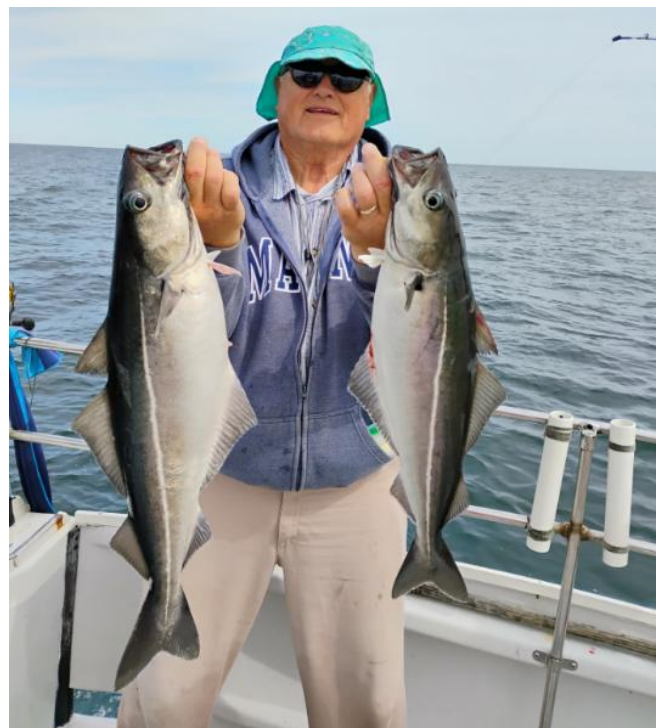
After many years of running the Last Lady, Captain Ralph Leyrer has retired and ended his fishing business. I, and I think many of us, have enjoyed fishing with him. Ralph always tried hard to catch fish for us and it was a pleasure to be with him.

His Last Lady comfortably took about 15 anglers and that is why our club used his boat for a number of charters, especially for our interclub fishing trips with the HRFA. We had 7 members from our club and 7 from the HRFA for this interclub trip and that worked out so well with him.

Captain Ralph and I talked a lot about our lousy fishing regulations and I will miss him.

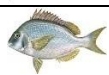
After so many years of fishing, I hope he enjoys his retirement since he deserves it!

Arnie Ulrich with 2 nice Pollocks



2025 BIG FISH OF THE YEAR DERBY Rules

1. Fish have to be in season to be entered.
2. The fish can be caught anywhere, not in just New Jersey's waters.
3. The fish entered has to be verified by the boat captain or another club member or at an official weigh station. A picture of the fish is a much-preferred way to verify an entry into the Big Fish contest done by a cell phone or a regular camera. A club member can win more than one Big Fish contest prize.
4. Affidavits must be received within 30 days after the fish is caught. Entries for fish caught after 12/15 of a given year must be received by January 15th of the following year.

FISH	SPECIES	MIN. WEIGHT	ENTRY WEIGHT	ANGLER
	BLACKFISH	4	9 lbs. 8 oz.	Bob Goldstein
	BLUEFISH	12		
	COD FISH	10		
	FLOUNDER	1.5 lbs.	2.62 lbs.	Chuck Santoro & Don Lohse
	FLUKE	4	10 lbs.	Carmen Bufardeci
	LING	2	2 lbs. 4 oz.	Lou Castellano
	POLLOCK	10		
	PORGY	1.5 lbs.		
	SEA BASS	2	2.5 lbs.	T.J. Taber
	STRIPED BASS	12	30	Nick Casamassimo
	WEAKFISH	2		

Any member submitting a false affidavit will be disqualified from entering the contest during the year. If disqualified twice, the member will be expelled from the club.



SALT WATER ANGLERS OF BERGEN COUNTY FISHING CONTEST AFFIDAVIT



ANGLERS NAME: _____

I certify that the following statements are true and that all contest rules were complied with and the witness actually witnessed the weighing and the measuring of the fish.

Signature of Angler _____

Witnessed by: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Date submitted with picture: _____

Caught from: ___ Boat ___ Surf - Date: _____

Name of Boat: _____

Port: _____

Where caught: _____

SPECIES

LBS.

OZS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



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A few other notable Togs caught this month

Mark Capalbo



T J Taber



Rick Reitano



Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County #1 Salt Water Fishing Club

Enclose a check in the amount of \$55 for a one-year membership, into New Jersey's #1 Salt Water Fishing Club

Mail To: **American Legion Hall Post # 170, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, N.J. 07622**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____