

Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ

Free Issue

November 2026

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

President/ Writer/ Editor
John Toth
tothjohn@verizon.net



1st Vice President
Ralph DeJulia
Newkee22@yahoo.com



2nd Vice President



Membership Secretary.
Art Vrola
Art@ajvrola.com



Treasurer
Jim Galanaugh Jr.
Jgalan4962@aol.com

Assistant Treasurer
Charles Santoro
Boats62@aol.com



Assistant Writer/Editor
Fred Villanova



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John Farrell with his 7.5 lb. Fluke



Don Lohse with a double Seabass



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

For our October 20th meeting, we had Professor Doug Zemeckis from Rutgers University to give us a presentation on summer flounder, the most popular fish that anglers like to catch. Doug covered a lot of the growth of this fish, its habitat and movements to spawn. Additionally, Doug also brought Professor Chase Wunder with him and his presentation focused on tagging fish and their movements in the bays and ocean. This meeting was very educational and interesting as well!

This year is rapidly slipping by and 2027 will be upon us soon. That means we have to have an election of new Board members for 2027 and the proposed slate of officers is in another section of this newsletter for your review. This slate is not final and members can run for any of these positions if desired. If you would like to run for any office, see Don Lohse at our meeting or call him (201) 832-1298.

At our November and December meetings, we will have our turkey and ham raffles and payment of your 2027 membership dues will provide for a free ticket to win a turkey. More on this raffle is in another section of this newsletter.

Nico made Pasta Bolognese along with salad and apple strudel. It was delicious! Thanks Nico!

Don Lohse won our 50/50 and he had a big smile on his face when he left the meeting.

Please don't forget to send me pictures of any fish you catch, they're needed for our newsletter. Email them to me at tothjohn@verizon.net.

Finally, I have moved to Newtown, Connecticut. While I have physically moved, I have not moved away from my dedication to this club. I will always be connected to its future. My reason for moving to Conn is in another column in this newsletter.

I will be receiving a Life Achievement Award at the Jersey Coast Anglers Sportsperson of the Year Dinner on November 14th and information on this dinner is in another section of this newsletter.

November 17th Meeting – Conservation Officer Henderson from the NJ DEP

Officer Henderson's presentation will not only touch on regulations concerning our fisheries, but also on cases he has encountered. Some of these cases will be very interesting to hear about how they try to circumvent the law!

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 enjoy the holiday. If you pay your 2027 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 15th

This party is our December15th 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 dieting! 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 member John Toth what you are bringing to this dinner so that we do not have duplicated food items. He can be reached 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.

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 with a value of $20 (Each book has ten tickets in it at a cost of $1 for each ticket). Members can buy these raffle tickets for their own use to possibly win one of our raffle prizes or sell the tickets and keep the $20 from selling their two raffle books.

This membership policy was adopted by the club's Board to have an ongoing revenue stream to cover the club's expenses relating to insurance fees, hall rentals, speaker fees, postage, refreshments for our meetings and other expenses.

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
33 West Passaic Street
c/o SWABC
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

Ancient "Jaws" in Egypt

According to a study published in the journal Cretaceous Research, a team of scientists led by the Cairo University found that underneath the Egypt's Abu-Tatur Plateau, remains were found of five now-extinct shark species in the remote portion of the Western Desserts, pointing to the conclusion that one of the world's most notoriously dry places were once submerged under a warm tropical sea. One of the sharks may have never been found in Africa before. (New York Post, August, 26, 2026)

Club Charter Trips:

October 11th – Club Charter Trip on the Debra Ann for sea bass – (**This trip was canceled due to Hurricane Isaias that kicked up wind and seas).**
November 21st – Club Charter trip for blackfish on the Debra Ann – Cost $125 (full). This may be the last trip for 2026.
Note: even though these trips may be full, you may want to be added to a standby roster in the event a member has to cancel due to a schedule conflict. Contact Ralph DeJulia to be to be on it.
The trip captain for all of these trips is **Ralph DeJulia** who has done a great job in setting them up! Ralph can be reached at **(201) 206-4506 or at newknee22@yahoo.com**

Election Time - Board Members for 2027

At our November 17th 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 2027. 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- Gene Snyder
Treasurer – Jim Galanaugh Jr.
Assistant Treasurer – Chuck Santoro
Recording Secretary – Don Lohse
Assistant Recording Secretary – Dominic Caizzia
Corresponding Secretary – Sal Crochiola
Membership Secretary – Art Vrola
Assistant Membership Secretary – Fred Villanova
Sergeant at Arms- Don Burns
Assistant Sergeant at Arms- Sal Crochiola
Chaplin – Chuck Santoro
Publicity Officer – John Toth
Assistant Publicity Officer – Fred Villanova
Club Orientation Director – Steve Totten
Assistant Club Orientation Director – Lou Castellano
Club Historians – T.J. Taber & Bobby Jones

At our December 15th meeting, we will have a final vote on these positions. If there are no new nominations, our Club Secretary, Don Lohse, will cast his vote to accept this new slate of officers for 2027.

Club Events for 2026 & 2027

Ralph DeJulia has set up a club charter trip for blackfish on November 21st on the Debra Ann. This may be the last club trip for this year.
December 15th –Christmas Hanukkah Party

2027

February 27th – **Club Flea Market** at the Paramus Elks lodge -200 Route 17 North (behind Raymore and Flanigan)
March 19-21th – **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 16th – Past President's Dinner at the Brownstone, 351 West Broadway, Paterson

JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) hosts an annual dinner to honor a person who has made a significant contribution for the recreational fishing industry. The recipient of this award will be honored at the JCAA dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. on November 14th at the Spring Lake Manor located at 415 Highway 71, Spring Lake NJ..The cost for a table of 10 for this dinner is $850 and our club, as a member of the JCAA, subsidizes this dinner so the cost to attend this dinner is only **$40 per person.** This dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. with appetizers, and 1 complimentary drink for beer, wine, San Gria and unlimited soft drinks. Dinner will be buffet style including Grilled salmon, Sausage & Peppers, Eggplant Rollatini, Chicken Francese, Penne Vodka, and a carving station for Roast Beef & Turkey. Dessert trays will be at each table along with coffee and tea. A cash bar will be available. A huge tricky tray will offer an assortment of tackle along with door prizes. John Toth will receive a Life Time Achievement Award at this dinner. Let John Toth know if you want to attend this dinner and John can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net. John is in charge of this event for the JCAA.

Jeff Crisswell Sr with a large Porgy



Governor's Appointment

to the

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Our Governor has a seat at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and is looking for a candidate to fill it. The ASMFC is very involved in our fishing regulations and we need a person who can best serve our interests on the ASMFC. I wrote the following letter to our Governor recommending an individual who is very well aware of the challenges we face in the recreational fishing industry. This letter was sent to the governor on our club's letterhead.

Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
Honorable Governor Sherrill:

Reference: Appointment of Raymond Bukowski to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission as your Governor Appointee.

The purpose of this letter is to receive your approval of appointing Raymond Bukowski as your delegate to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Ray is very qualified to fill this position for a number of reasons listed below:

A number of party & charter boats have gone out of business due to restrictive regulations imposed by various fishing management organizations. Ray is very familiar with this issue and he will be in a good position to protect the recreational fishing industry from further business losses.

Menhaden is a forage fish that is in decline and crucial to our marine ecosystem and the Ospreys that depend upon them. Ray is very aware of this important issue.

Having known Ray for quite some time, he does not make snap decisions, but looks carefully at both sides of an issue. He strives for consensus building with people that have very different views on a problem. He listens to what people have to say and tries to understand their point of view.

There are many more reasons why Ray should be appointed to this position, but suffice it to say that Ray does not need on the job training and he has a wealth of knowledge and experience to bring to the table on all matters that affect the recreational and commercial fishing industries in our state.

John Toth, President, Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County
Membership Secretary, Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA)
Board Member, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA)
Cc: Ed Potosnak

Move to Connecticut – by John Toth

The main reason I am moving to Connecticut is that my daughter wants us to be with her and her husband. My wife and I are not getting younger and we may need her assistance in later years with our health issues. We are moving to Newtown, which is near Danbury.

In regard to our club, I will always be involved with it and still come to our meetings and events. I have been a member since 1973 when I first joined the club. While I am physically in a different state, my commitment to support our club will remain unchanged. So you can't get rid of me that easily!

Doug Frappier & Blackfish



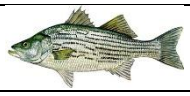
Bill Fish with two nice Flounders



2026 Big Fish Contest

1. Fish must be in season.
2. ***The fish can only be caught in New Jersey & New York waters.***
3. The fish entered must 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 the Dec. meeting of a given year must be received by the January meeting of the following year.

Any member who knowingly submits a false affidavit, faces expulsion from the club.

FISH	SPECIES	MIN. WEIGHT	ENTRY WEIGHT	ANGLER
	**BLACKFISH**	**4**		
	**BLUEFISH**	**12**		
	**COD FISH**	**10**		
	**FLOUNDER**	**1lb.8oz.**	**3.6 lbs.**	**Don Lohse**
	**FLUKE**	**4**	**7.5 lbs.**	**John Farrell**
	**LING**	**2**		
	**POLLOCK**	**10**		
	**PORGY**	**1lb.8oz.**	**3 lbs**	**Jeff Criswell Sr.**
	**SEA BASS**	**2**	**4 lbs.**	**Ray Pharao**
	**STRIPED BASS**	**12**	**38 lbs. 6 oz.**	**Hamza Issa**
	**Trigger Fish**	**1lb. 8 oz.**		
	**WEAKFISH**	**2**		

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**

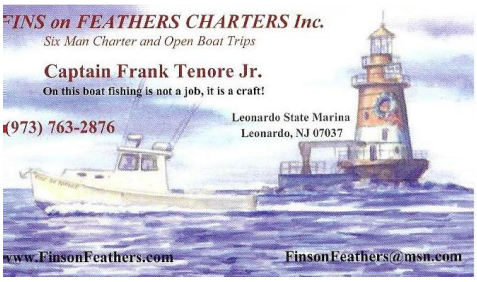
1._____

2._____

3._____







Changes to Charter Fishing Boats over the Years

New Jersey charter fishing boats were first sail boats that took anglers fishing at shore towns like Cape May, Beach Haven and others along the shore. They fished in Delaware Bay, Raritan Bay Little Egg Harbor to name a few.

One of the problems with sail boat fishing was wind or even the lack of it that left captain frustrated in trying to have anglers with a good day of fishing. Not too much fishing could happen with a sailboat that was not moving or a very windy day could make many anglers seasick.

Before people became infatuated with cars, anglers went to shore towns by trains starting around 6:00 a.m. for a day of fun and returning late in the day. Trains starting from Philadelphia to Cape May were very popular after World War 1 and fishing specials ran from April to October. Food and beverages were sold on trains.

A charter boat party for six was only $1 each and $15 on weekends and holidays.

When the day of fishing was over, anglers could go to local restaurants for relaxation and refreshments before their return home by train.

The end of masts came when captains switched over to using automobile engines to power their boats to give them more speed and range to target fish. Many of these engines were used and were covered on the boat with a wooden box that used much of the cockpit floors. However, the switch from sailboats to boats powered by car engines was a game changer that vastly improved charter fishing from the sailboat days.
(Asbury Park Press, June 14, 2026)

(In some ways, taking a train to go fishing by a sailboat, then going to a restaurant after the trip and return home by train was a relaxing way to enjoy a day of fishing)

Dolphins Refuse to Part with Dead Calf

A dolphin carrying the dead calf of her 2 week-old dead calf was seen swimming with a pod of dolphins by Perth, Australia. The pod is familiar with the grieving mother.

Different types of dolphins are known to carry their dead calves for days. Lori Morino, a founder of the Whale Sanctuary Project, said that “that the mother is grieving for her lost child”.

Dolphins have to surface to breathe and hunt and holding on to a corpse makes this difficult and shows a strong motivation on the part of the mother.
(New York Times, August 19, 2026)

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: _____