

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

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**Carmen  
Bufardeci**

**With  
another  
entry  
(4 Lb.  
Sea Bass)  
in the  
Clubs  
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

The speaker for our November 18th meeting was **Dennis Kuntz** with 2nd Chance Tackle who gave us tips on keeping our reels in great shape so that they are ready for the 2026 fishing season. A number of our members gave Dennis their reels for repair and cleaning. Dennis is a member of our club and does a great job in servicing our reels and at very reasonable prices. At this meeting, we held our traditional turkey and ham raffles for members to take home for the holidays. Club members who paid their 2026 dues at this meeting, received a ticket to be in a special raffle to win a turkey. We will do these raffles again at our December 16th Christmas/Chanukah party. There were many happy faces of members leaving our meeting with turkeys and a ham to take home in preparation for the holidays. A special thanks goes to **Steve Totten** who prepared the boards used by members to place their names in the numerical boxes to win the turkeys and ham.

Nico made delicious lasagna, sausage & peppers, salad and dessert. Thanks so much **Nico**!

**T.J. Taber** not only won a turkey for paying his dues, but he also won our 50/50. T.J. is one lucky guy!

Hamza, who works at Tackle World, did a great job in setting up new prizes at the table for our Dark Horse raffle. Thanks Hamza!

**Kyle Lordi**, grandson of Chuck Santoro and a new club member, handled the raffle boards and money for the turkeys and ham raffle. Thanks Kyle!

**Ralph DeJulia** mentioned that he had to cancel our November 16th club charter trip on the Debra Ann because of strong winds making fishing too dangerous.

I read a list of officers for 2026 and this list is in another section of this newsletter.

Details of our upcoming Christmas/Chanukah party are also in another section of this newsletter.

Finally, remember to send me the pictures of the fish you catch so I can place them in our newsletter. Send them to my email address at [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net)

## January 20, 2026 – First Club Meeting of the Year – John Fatuzzo

Over 23 million years ago, a monstrous shark existed that was about 60 feet long and terrorized other sea animals. This huge creature was called Megalodon. John Fatuzzo, a member of our club, is fascinated by this shark and he has volunteered to give us a power point presentation about Megalodon and how it roamed the seas many years ago. The size of its teeth was about 7 inches. Megalodon is probably the biggest creature that ever existed on our planet.

## Christmas & Chanukkah 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! 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 duplicate food items. He can be reached at (732) 656-0139 and also at email [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto: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 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.

These raffle books are expected to be available by January.

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

c/o **SWABC**

33 West Passaic Street

Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

## Club Charter trips for 2026

As mentioned earlier, we had to cancel our November 16th club charter trip; along with the other club charter trips because of windy conditions that have prevailed so much during our 2025 fishing season. At this time, we do not have any more club charter trips scheduled for this year. **Hopefully, we won't have the same windy conditions during 2026!**

Ralph DeJulia, who does a great job in setting up our club charter trips, is looking to set up fishing trips as soon as the 2026 fishing season begins. We will be going for black sea bass, fluke etc., and Ralph is looking to set up trips on a monthly basis since our trips fill up fast and at reasonable prices.

## 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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ralph DeJulia**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Gary Gusterson**

**Treasurer – Jim Galanaugh Jr.**

**Assistant Treasurer – Chuck Santoro**

**Recording Secretary – Don Lohse**

**Assistant Recording Secretary – Chuck Santoro**

**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.

Club Members who volunteer to staff our booth at these shows do **NOT** pay an entrance fee. Our booth will be staffed with at least 2 club members to provide for restroom breaks and the opportunity to see the show.

The **first show for 2026 is the NJ Boat Sale & Expo** and the staffing schedule for this show will be listed in our **January 2026** newsletter

**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. Winners of the club's Big Fish Derby will be recognized at this dinner.

**John Toth with our Oct. meeting speaker Pedro Llidenfonso (right), his father and sister**





### February 1st SWABC Flea Market at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton

Our club is doing a Flea Market at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton and Andrew Basso is our Chairman for this 2026 flea market. Our club members helped to make our last flea market successful and Andrew Basso will need your help in making our 2026 flea market even more successful! We will need volunteers to take entry fees at the door selling Dark Horse tickets, 50/50 tickets, security, and selling our club's raffle tickets. We also need club members to promote our raffle by telling Andrew of vendors you know that would be interested in being a vendor at our February 1st Flea Market. The cost is **\$40 for the first table and \$30 each additional table**. The entry fee is **\$5 for adults and kids under 10 years free**. The flea market will start at **8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m.**

If you know of vendors that would be interested in our flea market, direct them to Andrew Basso at (973) 600-0376 or at [ajbasso1@gmail.com](mailto:ajbasso1@gmail.com).

Andrew would much appreciate any help that you can provide to him and ultimately make our new flea market a fun and successful event!

Also, at this flea market we sell fishing tackle that our members do not use anymore. Please bring your unused fishing tackle to our **January 20th club meeting** so that we have them to sell at our February 1st flea market. Our club made a few hundred dollars on selling fishing tackle that our members do not use

### John Campbell with his 12 lb. 1 oz. Cod



### 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 again review this rule again to determine if it still makes sense to continue this rule and make revisions to it if deemed necessary.

**Note:** affidavits for the Big Fish Derby will still be accepted at our **January 20th meeting**. After this meeting, no more affidavits for the Big Fish Derby will be accepted.

### 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 white 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.

### Bill Fish with another nice Cod



# 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	12 lbs. 1 oz.	Jon Campbell
	PORGY	1.5 lbs.		
	SEA BASS	2	4 lbs.	Carmen Bufardeci
	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: \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted with picture: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Caught from: \_\_\_Boat \_\_\_Surf - Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Boat: \_\_\_\_\_

Port: \_\_\_\_\_

Where caught: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Angler \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIES**

**LBS.**

**OZS**

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

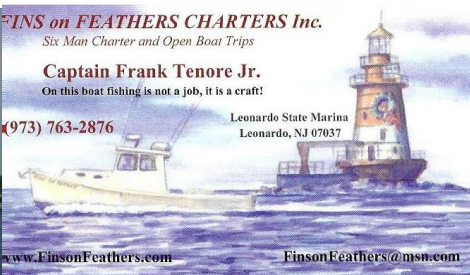
1. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



## Coast Guard Suspends Plan to Remove Navigational Buoys

By John Toth

In any activity such as fishing, hunting, horseback riding, sailing and a host of other activities that we enjoy, safety is the number one priority that needs to be considered. When the wind is blowing at 30-40 knots, going on a planned fishing trip should be canceled due to anglers falling and receiving injuries that can be severe and even sometimes fatal. The Coast Guard has many responsibilities, but safety of boaters on our waterways is paramount. However, a recent decision by the Coast Guard to remove many buoys as navigational tools compromises boating safety and this decision has been met with alarm by the boating public.

The Coast Guard maintains 5,600 buoys in the Northeast region. In March 2025, the Coast Guard announced that it was removing 350 of them primarily in the Nantucket area, but a number of them also in our local waters. The buoys considered for removal in our waters include the Ambrose Channel, Scotland Light at the entrance to the Sandy Hook Channel, Shrewsbury Rocks and others at critical navigational locations. These areas often have high vessel traffic that depend on these buoys to navigate in these busy waterways that include recreational boaters, commercial marine traffic and large ocean going ships raising the likelihood of collisions. The Coast Guard contends that having these buoys is unnecessary since boaters can use GPS as a navigational tool to navigate their destinations.

The response from the public to the Coast Guard's proposal to remove these buoys has been overwhelmingly negative. Over 3,200 letters/telephone calls to the Coast Guard were generated and they were all were against the removal of any buoys. They expressed concern that removal of buoys would result in more vessel collisions and groundings causing dangerous and life-threatening situations. A number of boaters do not have GPS. Even those boaters with GPS depend upon Coast Guard buoys for visual reference to reinforce that they are making the right navigational decisions. Also, GPS can be negatively affected by weather and atmospheric conditions and buoys become critical navigational tools during these conditions. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association, which our club is a member and I as its Membership Secretary, also wrote a letter to the Coast Guard that expressed concerns over the removal of these buoys. Even some Coast Guard staff voiced alarm over the removal of these buoys. Sheila Lucey, a Nantucket Harbor Master and a former Coast Guard Master Chief and charter boat captain, indicated that the buoys should not be removed. She sent a formal letter to the Coast Guard that expressed her concerns that removal of the buoys would compromise boater safety. Her letter also indicated that many boaters do not have GPS, especially operators of smaller boats, and they need buoys for safe navigation.

Given such public opposition to their proposal to remove 350 buoys, the Coast Guard has suspended the removal of these buoys for now and will conduct a further analysis to determine if it should go forward with their proposal to remove them. Maybe this analysis will show that good old fashion buoys cannot be replaced by high tech solutions. I will keep you updated on the Coast Guard's decision to remove buoys in our waters.

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_