



THE HARBOUR LIGHT



The Official Newsletter of
 Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc. (VHFC)
 PO Box 1026
 Manahawkin, NJ 08050
 VOLUME # 103 ISSUE # 1 March 2003

Web Site Address: <http://FishermansHeadquarters.com/VHFC>
 E-mail Address: VHFCInfo@aol.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING: 04 APRIL 2003

8 P.M at the Community Center

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 11 APRIL 2003

at the Community Center on Mill Creek Rd.

7:30 PM: Doors open early so come help set up tables

7:45 PM: Meetings will start promptly at 7:45

More details will be in the April Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first message to you as your new President. Our club is undertaking a major effort to accomplish two additional goals for 2003. The first is to have club activities that better reflect the desires of our members. Our second goal is to recruit more members.

We are sending out a survey to all of our present members. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey & mail it back to us. We are providing an addressed & stamped envelope for your convenience.

We have already arranged for several interesting speakers for our meetings & plan to have several well-planned fishing tournaments for this year. In addition, a portion of each meeting will be devoted to open discussion of local fishing action.

Our club had a table at the fishing flea market in February to recruit new members & we will be encouraging each of you to help us find new members. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions you have to make VHFC a better club.

2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We have several new Board Members. Please see the list on the last page of the newsletter. Thanks to the members who have volunteered their time to make VHFC a better club. We are still looking for additional Board Members.

REVISED BYLAWS

A copy of the revised bylaws will be included in the 2003 membership list mailed in June.

TREASURERS 2002 REPORT SUMMARY

The following table shows a breakdown of income & expenses for 2002.

Income	\$3811
Office	\$978
Print/Mail	\$727
Donations	\$425
Fish of Mo./Yr.	\$590
Meetings	\$242
Tournaments	\$557
Total	
Expenses	\$3519

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2003 RENEWAL FORM AND DUES

The VHFC dues for 2003 are \$35.00; the same as in 1999 through 2002. Renewals are due no later than 09 May 2003; the earlier the better.

Please complete all parts of the 2003 membership renewal form, copy attached as page 3 of this newsletter, and return it with your dues as soon as possible.

Extra Application Forms will be available at monthly meetings as well as by downloading from the VHFC website.

VHFC WEBSITE

Dave Sikorski has updated our website with a lot of additional information. Please visit the website and check it out at:

<http://FishermansHeadquarters.com/VHFC>

VHFC TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

For liability reasons, the participants in future VHFC tournaments will be required to sign the following text which will be printed on all tournament applications:

“By signing below, you certify the following has been read and accepted:

- Signed entry forms and related fees can be mailed to VHFC, Tournaments, PO Box 1026, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.
- Each captain is responsible for the safety of his or her boat and all the people aboard.
- Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc. does not inspect the boats or assess the training and experience of the captain or crew.
- Each captain is responsible for all the decisions regarding the safe operation of their vessels, including the decision to leave the dock.

Event dates are scheduled well in advance of any weather forecast. Conditions necessary for safe operation are different for different vessels and captain and crew experience levels. The captain of a participating vessel who signs this entry form agrees to take full responsibility for all decisions affecting the safe operation of his vessel and agrees to indemnify and hold the club harmless from any claims made by anyone affected by the operation of the captain's vessel.

Name: _____ **Signed:** _____”

DONATIONS TO JCAA AND RFA

For years the VHFC has made contributions in order to support those organizations with the charter and initiative to preserve and improve our recreational fishing. Recreational fishing is being threatened by many organized groups, which have deep pockets. During this winter, the VHFC board agreed that we should explain to the membership why VHFC makes annual contributions in the forms of dues, donations, volunteer time, etc. to three organizations; JCAA, RFA and the NJ Artificial Reef Program.

Support to JCAA and RFA is our primary thrust in preserving our fishery. Occasionally, in response to JCAA and RFA requests, VHFC encourages the membership to contact their elected representatives in state and federal government, as well as the people within the fishery management agencies who are shaping the regulations that directly affect us. Sometimes your help is needed to get legislation approved and sometimes to get it voted down. When VHFC's efforts are combined with those efforts coordinated by JCAA and RFA, we have a successful method for influencing the regulations that directly effect us. Our small, united efforts really count.

Jersey Coats Anglers Association (JCAA)

The JCAA is our primary voice concerning saltwater fishing regulations and issues in New Jersey. The JCAA is an association comprised of, many fishing clubs as well as individuals based in New Jersey. JCAA is a large, strong, well-established association that has been representing the interests of New Jersey's recreational anglers and our local fishery for many years. In the past five years they have rallied support and defeated many threats we faced within the State of New Jersey. JCAA has representatives in state and federal commissions. Examples of past successes include the ban on elver harvests, stopping reduction boat operations in state waters and the designation of Striped Bass as a Game Fish by the State of New Jersey. VHFC members continue to serve on the JCAA Board. JCAA's web site is www.jcaa.org.

Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA): The VHFC Board has become even more convinced, of late, that the RFA also deserves our support. The RFA was established to work, primarily, at the federal level. Since many of the species we pursue in New Jersey are migratory, Federal fisheries management decisions are very important to VHFC members. The RFA has an office in D.C. which is a key base for working fisheries management related issues at the federal level; working to protect the interests of “member” recreational anglers in the states.

During the past year, RFA has been working on several issues including the next Magnuson-Stevens Act; one that will have a major long-term influence on our fishery. The RFA, along side JCAA, has fought many successful battles on behalf of recreational anglers which have improved fisheries such as our locally popular Weakfish & Stripers. They also helped to reduce the number of devastating long-liners fishing for highly migratory pelagic species (such as Tuna, Swordfish and Marlin. The RFA web sites are www.savefish.com and www.fishbelly.com.

Support to New Jersey's Artificial Reef Program: is our primary method of significantly improving our fishery. The natural ocean floor off the Jersey coast is like an underwater desert. Undersea fish habitat is always concentrated in the vicinity of underwater structures; natural and manmade. The Artificial Reef Program collects donated funds and structures (old ships, army tanks, etc.) and pays for their cleanup and installation on our ocean floor. Their efforts over the years have created some of the best fishing hot spots in our area. Their web site is www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/artreef.htm.

VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
2003 Form for Member Renewals and New Applications
MAIL DUES (Checks only) FOR \$35.00 PAYABLE TO "VHFC" TO:
VHFC MEMBERSHIP
PO BOX 1026
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050
Dues for renewals are due by May 9, 2003

Name*: _____ Member #: _____ Nickname: _____

Signature*: _____ Date: __/__/____ Note: Both * items must be completed.

Renewals: Please insert any changes from 2002 Membership list.

New Applicants: Please complete all of the following:

Name of Spouse:	
Principle Address:	Shore Address:
City/St/Zip:	City/St/Zip:
Phone:	Phone:
Fax:	Fax:
E-Mail:	E-Mail:

Would you prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail? (circle): Yes No

Boat Owners, please complete the following:

Name of Boat: _____ Length (ft.): _____

Equipment on Boat (circle): VHF CB RADAR GPS LORAN FISH FINDER

VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
Junior Angler Application Form for 2003
MAIL DUES (Checks only) FOR \$10.00 PAYABLE TO "VHFC" TO:
VHFC JUNIOR ANGLER
PO BOX 1026
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050
Dues for renewals are due by May 9, 2003

APPLICANT : Please complete the following each year (one sheet per Junior Angler)

Name*:	Member #:	Nick Name:
Signature:	Junior Angler's E-Mail:	
Home Address:	Home Phone:	

Would you like to receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail? (circle): Yes No

SPONSOR:

SPONSORING MEMBER'S INFORMATION (ALL ARE REQUIRED EACH YEAR)	
By completing the following, the Sponsor takes full responsibility to accompany and supervise the applicant's behavior and ensure the applicant's well being during and en route to and from any club activity or event and further certifies possession of the legal authority to do so. Further, the sponsor affirms that the applicant will reach 18 years of age after May 9, 2003.	
Sponsor's Name*:	Sponsor's Member #:
Signature*:	Date:* __/__/____
	Relation to Applicant*:

Junior Angler Boat Owners, please complete the following: Note: Five * items must be completed.

Name of Boat: _____ Length (ft.): _____

Equipment on Boat (circle): VHF CB RADAR GPS LORAN FISH FINDER

**VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Officers:

President	Ray Williams
1 st Vice President	Open
2 nd Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Ken Hansen
Secretary	Dave Sikorski

Weigh Master/Awards	George Fruh
Library	Jim McGrath
Printing	Bill Logan
Website	Dave Sikorski
Above, are all voting members	

Trustees

Sergeant at Arms	Charlie Kochka
Weigh Master/Awards	George Fruh
Recruiting	Ray Williams
Membership Data Base	John Nonnenmacher
Hands-on Sessions	Steve Cook
Guest Speakers	Bill Dabney
Immediate Past President	Don Longstreet
Newsletter	Dick Vesper

All Past Presidents, not listed above

2003 Tournament Chairmen

Surf Tournament	Steve Cook
Weakfish Tournament	Don Longstreet & Bill Dabney
Reef Day	Basil Dubrosky
South Bay Day	Ray Williams & John Nonnenmacher

Manahawkin, NJ 08050
PO Box 1026
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc.

The following have offered a discount with the presentation of current VHFC Membership Card		
Discounts normally do not apply to items that are fair traded or items on sale		
FISHERMAN'S HEADQUARTERS Causeway, Ship Bottom, NJ 494-5739 10% discount on all bait & tackle	BOBBIES 7 th & Bay Ave., Barnegat Light, NJ 494-1345 10% discount on bait & tackle	TIP'S HARDWARE West Creek, NJ 296-3192 10% on bait, tackle & supplies
AMERICAN SPORTSMAN BAIT & TACKLE Mill Creek Plaza, Manahawkin, NJ 597-4104 10% discount on all bait & tackle	CAUSEWAY BOAT RENTALS On the LBI Causeway 494-1371 10% discount on bait and tackle.	CLARKE'S MARINE SUPPLY Tuckerton, NJ 294-0166 15% off on OMC, etc. parts 10% off on marine supplies & tackle
ISLAND COVE MARINE CENTER 2601 Central Ave., Ship Bottom, NJ 494-8100 10% discount on bait & tackle	THE BOAT SHOPS 756 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin, NJ 597-1271 10% discount on regular prices	BARNEGAT LIGHT BAIT & TACKLE Bay Avenue & 15 th St., Barnegat Lt. 494-4566 10% discount on bait & tackle