

# MSSA FREDERICK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Working to Provide a Unified Voice to Preserve and Protect the  
Rights, Tradition and the Future of Recreational Fishing!  
No Unity, No Voice, No Fish



The Official MSSA Frederick Chapter VHF Channel is 71

## President's Message

I'm starting to wonder will old man winter ever go away. It has to be one of the longest, snowiest, coldest and harshest winters in a long time. Doesn't the old man know that opening day is just around the corner? Just a mere six weeks until opening day and we have boats to prepare, trailers to go over and gear to get ready. Safety is of utmost importance on the water or towing your boat, so, everyone, please be thorough. Even though you will be pushed for time to get prepared, please make sure you take an extra few moments to make sure all is 100%.

See Jeff Townsend at the next meeting to sign up for our annual chapter shakedown and poker run the first weekend in April.

Speaking of being prepared, it's time to start preparing for all of our exciting 2014 Chapter tournaments. There will be sheets to sign up for our annual spring rockfish and flounder tournaments at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with early bird sign up specials. Both of these events are truly a "must fish" event, with chapter supplemented cash payouts, meals and thousands of dollars in raffle prizes. We hope to see increased participation, fun to be had by all and some truly memorable moments. Check these tournaments out, ask anyone who participates, these are some dynamite times to fish, a lot of fun and a chance to put some decent Benjamin's in your pocket.

We had our annual dinner Dance on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Frederick Moose with an out of sight band providing some great music. The food was plentiful and tasty. Our apologies for the delay of this event, but, circumstances prevailed. Although attendance was down, those who chose to attend had a great time. Over three thousand dollars of prizes were raffled off, with many happy winners of prizes of their choice and Jodie Ammerman was the lucky winner of \$530.00 in our 50/50 raffle. One thing that was very noticeable throughout the night was, women can dance and their fisherman can't. Hope to see you all at our upcoming tournaments.

Fish Hard!

## Next Meeting

**March 12, 2014**

Food Service begins @ 6:00 pm  
Meeting starts @ 7:15 pm

### **Speaker:**

[Captain Drew Payne – Worm Fishing Charters](#)

Captain Drew Payne of the Worm will be her to go over everything you need to know in reference to Spring Rockfish trolling along with some tips and tricks as well. Drew is a well know Captain and hails from Chesapeake Beach at the Rod & Reel. You can't miss his bright green hull. He will even bring some hats, shirts and visors to sell.

### **Vendor:**

[Keith Fraiser the owner of Alltackle](#)

Keith will have his Bloody Point Baits along with umbrellas, shads, leader and line. His baits have a few tournament wins and the Mylar adds that extra flash. If you have any special needs give him a call so he can bring it with him.

### **Menu:**

Hamburgers/Hot Dogs  
French Fries  
Corn  
Potato Salad  
Pudding

### **February Winners:**

[RDI](#) Spinning Reel – Dave King  
Spankin Strippers Parachute – Rob Pellicott  
Filet Knife– Porter King  
Receiver Hitch – Ed Susa  
MSSA Frederick Hat and Tee- Tom King

### **50/50 Raffle**

\$87.50 – Brady Clouser

### **Attendance at February Meeting:**

39

Frederick Moose Lodge  
828 E. Patrick St.  
Frederick, Md. 21707

## Chapter News

### **Chapter Spring Tournament Information – May 2-4**

We will begin signing up people for the Spring Tournament at this month's meeting. We will be at the Comfort Inn/Beacon Marina in Solomon's again this year.

This year we will be offering an Early Bird Discount for those that register for the tournament by the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The deadline to register for the tournament is April 10, 2014. There will be no registrations accepted after that date.

### **Annual Shake Down Cruise**

It's that time of year again. Time for our annual Shake Down Cruise out of lovely Sandy Point State Park.

When? April 5, the 12<sup>th</sup> if weather is foul. What time? We met at 9:00 A.M. leave the dock at 10:00 A.M.

Come one come all, and put your boat through its paces in a lovely cruise to the eastern shore.

It is a good time to test your boat with others ready to assist in time of need (Just ask Jeff about how that works!).

Sign up at the next meeting, or call Jeff Townsend @ 410-903-9416

### **Chapter Flounder Tournament Chincoteague, Virginia May 16-18, 2014**

The Chapter has secured discounted rooms at the Seahawk Motel. Call Carey or Brenda at 757-336-6527 to make your reservations.

We will also host an you can eat buffet dinner at Maria's Friday night at 7pm.

This should be a great time and the big fish will be there. Expect 3lb + fish

Details and sign up forms will be at the meetings

Any questions see Jody Ammerman

**N.C. King Mackerel Tournament  
October 4-11, 2014**

We will have the details and sign-up sheets starting at the March meeting.

There are a limited number of rooms available so get your crew together and make plans for this now.

We will need a non-refundable \$50 deposit and a credit card number to hold your room and boat slip.

**Fishing Reports**

**Chincoteague Action**

By Charlie Koski

Well the winter doldrums continue with cold and blustery winds and more snow in the forecast this week. Water temps did get up a bit last week with a short warm spell but fell back into the upper 30's again by end of February. The best thing was the news that the flounder regulations are status quo for Delmarva now. This is due to changes from recommendations by the ASMFC to keep them the same. So VA regs will be 16" and 4 PP. Lets hope we have a better season than the past two years in the back bays up and down on the seaside. Our numbers were considerably under the quotas set by the VMRC in 2013.

No fish have been reported lately off the surf and Steve's Bait and Tackle has been closed more than open past two months than in past years. If they are closed you can call the number on the door and they will come by and help you out. Even the commercial guys are struggling with the cold temperatures causing them to have to run further south and out to find fish. The flounder trawler season opens soon so I will be checking out the local seafood buyer to see what their haul looks like.

Offshore wrecks are holding tog but you have to pick your days to head out there and it hasn't been many warm days since December! These are tricky to catch and just about any type of crab will work, green, blue, frozen peelers and even mud crabs.

Some changes around the island are the Chincoteague Inn was torn down making way for a new two story restaurant/meeting area to be built by the Marriott. Historic Main Street is being finished off and if you come to visit before Memorial Day avoid the downtown stretch as there are some rather large bumps in the road! The south end of the beach seems to be getting larger again from what I have been told so maybe the hook will rebuild itself eventually. Also there will be some offshore dredging done to bring sand into Wallops Island to rebuild the

beaches in front of the launch pads so there will some government boat traffic with tugs and pilot boats in and out of the harbor and I suspect some dredge equipment clogging up the Queen Sound entrance like two years ago. And Trip Advisor named us #2 Beach town up from #7 last year! Tight lines.....

**Ocean City Action**

**Chesapeake Bay Action**

**Virginia Beach Action**

By Dr. Julie Ball

28 February 2014

The weather has presented more like a roller coaster ride than a forecast this season. This past week's stretch of temperate conditions pushing to nearly 70-degrees encouraged some anglers to get out on the water.

With a limited selection of species to target right now, the prospect of scoring with tautog is drawing more anglers out to the open water. Most boats are heading for mid-range wrecks such as the Triangle Wreck area, but the reports have been less than spectacular lately. The best luck is coming from structures located further south, where the lower water column water temperatures are holding in a more moderate range right now. A few nice fish have been pulled from these areas recently, with a few tog pushing to around 17-pounds. Prepare to weed through plenty of big seabass and some annoying dogfish to establish your limit of 3 fish per person at 16-inches. The seabass have to be released, since they are out of season. Since bait is hard to come by right now, do your research and call ahead to secure your bait. Clams, mussels, blue crabs, peelers, hermit crabs, green crabs, Jonah crabs, or stone crabs will work. Cod, a fish popular in more northern regions, are also hitting bait intended for tog. Don't throw these fish back, they make great table fare!

Striped bass are still schooled up around 15 to 20 miles off the Virginia coast, well out of reach of boats. Bluefin tuna activity is not happening off Virginia, but boats out of Carolina are finally seeing some activity, with a few catches reported last week. Some blackfin and yellowfin tuna are also reportedly in the mix.

Due to the swing in severe winter temperatures over the past weeks, the speckled population trout has suffered a huge blow, with thousands of fish dying as a result. Tuesday, the Virginia Marine

Resources Commission issued an emergency order closing recreational fishing for speckled trout, other than for catch-and-release. The closure is effective beginning March 1st through July 31st until further notice. For anglers still interested in catch-and release activity, the Elizabeth River is still giving up speckled trout, with some fish topping 30-inches falling for lures this week, especially at night. Captain Brandon Bartlett of Yorktown earned bragging rights with a 10.5-pound gator he pulled from the River using a Mirrolure this week. Anglers sitting in the Cove are finding some decent activity with live bait, with several fish stretching between 24 to 25-inches. Scattered schoolie stripers and puppy drum are also providing entertainment in these same areas.

Boats venturing out to deeper water between blows are still finding decent catches of blueline tilefish along the 50-fathom curve areas, with lots of big seabass as a by-catch. Remember to toss the seabass back since the season is closed. Deeper areas along the Canyon edges are showing more activity with blackbellied rosefish, golden tilefish, and a variety of grouper and barrelfish are also a possibility. Captain Skip Feller reports that his crew aboard the Rudee Angler out of The Virginia Beach Fishing Center had a good catch of big golden tilefish pushing to around 60-pounds, and nice snowy grouper weighing in at over 40-pounds this past week. Dogfish continue to make fishing in deep water a challenge for now, but these pesks will move out once the water warms up.

[www.drjball.com](http://www.drjball.com).

**Delaware Action**

By Eric Burnley Sr.\*

**Updated: February 28, 2014**

**ADVISORY:** Anglers are reminded that the recreational black sea bass season closed in Delaware coastal waters Jan. 1. Federal waters, which begin 3 miles from shore, also closed on Jan. 1. Open season dates, minimum size and harvest limits for 2014 will be announced when finalized.

**DELAWARE BAY** Bay water temperature is hovering close to the freezing point so there is no point in going fishing. I had hoped the moderate temperatures from last weekend would continue, but it was not to be.

**INDIAN RIVER INLET** Perch in the upper Indian River will be the only action likely in the next few weeks. I don't foresee an early run of flounder.

**INSHORE OCEAN** Last weekend saw reasonable temperatures, but no one sailed out of any Delaware ports. I spoke with one

captain who had fished in early February and he had to run close to 30 miles out to find the few tog he did catch. He has put off further trips until mid-or late March.

**SURF FISHING** The Point at Cape Henlopen State Park is closed until September 1. I suspect it will be a while before any birds show up for the nesting season.

## Tips and Tackle

### Getting Your Boat And Fishing Equipment Ready For Spring

By Jim Hammond

It's time to spend a few hours preparing our boats for the new season and here are a few tips on things that you might want to look at, before you put your boat back in the water from the winter sleep.

It is only going to take two or three hours to do all of this. I would rather do this now than have a failure on the water and ruin a fishing day.

I like to start at the front and work my way back. The boat, motor, trailer and reels will probably need some pre-fishing maintenance before we get cranked up for the new season.

I start with the winch on the trailer. Feed out about six feet or so or strap, rope or cable that is attached to the winch. You know what I am talking about, the strap that is attached to the hook that you attach to the eye on the front of the boat. Check this strap for any bad places. If you find frayed or torn places, you will need to cut off the bad area and reattach the hook to the strap. You do not want to have this break at the ramp or while on your way to the ramp.

The next thing is the winch. I like to feed out almost all of the strap on the winch, spray all of the joints and moving parts with some type of penetrating oil or grease, wind the strap back on the winch, making sure that the oil has penetrated all of the moving parts.

Next, on my boat is the trolling motor. I start with the moving parts on the bracket. Spraying oil or white grease in all of the joints and the bearing that separates the two halves of the trolling motor shaft. From there I move to the trolling motor plug. I like to get a good shot of white grease in the holes that the plug goes into. and a good shot on the connections on the plug.

From there it's the trolling motor batteries. Check the fluid levels in the batteries, add some purified water if needed. Take the connections loose from the batteries and squirt a little grease on each of them. If you have any corrosion, you might want to cut off a little cable and replace the connections

with new ones. After you have done this, replace the connections and squirt a little more white grease on them.

The next step for me would be the anchor and rope. Your anchor rope has been attached to the shackles all year, rubbing on the bottom. There must be some places that are worn or frayed on the anchor rope. Cut off a few feet of anchor line and retie to the shackle. Check the shackles to be sure they are still tight.

Next would be the console. I like to check, clean and spray some white grease on all of the connections for the electrical stuff, like running lights, bilge pump and so on. If you have a panel like mine, you can unscrew the panel and have access to all of the wire end connectors. I like to spray a light coat of white grease on the inside of all of the switches and wire connectors. If you see a connector that is corroded, replace it. From the switch panel I move to my electronics, radio, Lowrance recorder and gps. Take all of the connections loose from the back of each unit, clean them with a small brush if needed, spray a little white grease inside the connections and put them back on the units. This will keep any salt air or spray from getting to the connections and ruining your expensive electronics.

Now it is time to check the safety equipment. Check to be sure your whistle or horn still works. I like to get my flares out and check the dates on them or better yet, buy new ones. I buy new ones each year. If you have never set off a flare, you can call the Coast Guard and they will show you how to do this safely using your old ones.

Check your life jackets to be sure they are still there and are not torn or rotten.

I then move to the gas tank, replace the fuel filter and check the fuel lines for worn spots. If you find any bad places or cracks in the fuel line, replace the line. Check the washer on the inside of the gas cap, if you have a cap that has a washer. If this is broken, replace the cap. If you have any hose clamps that are rusted, replace them with stainless steel clamps.

I then move to the stating batteries. Perform the same steps with these as you did with the trolling motor batteries. If you have a battery load tester, you might want to test the batteries and replace any bad ones.

I then move to the ground, where I check the bearings inside of the wheels on the trailer. To do this, I jack up each side of the trailer, one side at a time, grab the tire and see if there is any back and forth play in the wheel. If you can wobble the tire and wheel back and forth, then you have a bearing problem. You might be able to tighten the

nut that holds the hub on the shaft or you might have to replace the bearings and races. To tighten the nut, remove the wheel and grease cap. There will be a nut on the inside of the hub. This nut will probably have a carter key going through the nut and shaft, you must remove the key before tightening the nut. If you can turn the nut by hand, the nut is too loose. Take out the appropriate size wrench and try to tighten it. THIS IS IMPORTANT. Tighten it until it is snug, not as tight as you would tighten a lug nut. If after tightening the nut, you still have play in the hub (wheel), you will need to replace the bearings. If this fixes the play in the wheel, replace the carter key and put all of this back together. You now need to get out the grease gun and pump grease, slowly into the fitting on the hub until it is full. If you pump this too fast, you might blow out the rear seal.

I then head for my Honda 130. I change the engine oil and the oil in the foot. To change the oil in the foot, you will need a large straight slot screw driver, a bucket to catch the old oil and a quart of new oil. Most boats take a 80 to 90 weight gear oil in the lower unit. Check the owners manual, to BE SURE. There will be two screws that need to be backed out to change this oil, one on the bottom of the foot, usually at the front and one about 8 to 10 inches up from the bottom one. These will usually be marked. Also check the owners manual. Unscrew the bottom one and slide your bucket under this hole. Now unscrew the top one and the oil will start to pour out from the bottom one. After the old oil has completely drained, get your new oil container and follow the directions on it. The new oil goes in from the bottom hole. Insert the tapered part of the oil tube into the bottom hole and squeeze or pump if you have a pump filler. When oil starts to come out of the top hole, the unit is full. Pull out the oil filler and quickly get the bottom screw back in the hole. It is okay if a little oil runs out, but only a little. Replace the upper screw and you are ready

Most motors have a few grease fittings on them and they to need a squirt or two. Find these fittings, clean them off and squirt grease in them until it comes out at another location on the motor. There will usually be two fitting where the steering cable goes through the front of the motor, and one or two where the motor turns at the base.

Now that we have made a mess on the drive way, we are almost ready to head to the water and leave the mess for the kids to clean up. But first we need to get out the rods and reels and work on them a little.

Get all of your reels, take them off of the rods and remove all of the old line. An easy

way to remove the old line is to take a 2 liter soda bottle, get a couple of flat washers, a 3 to 4 inch long bolt and a nut that fits the bolt. Drill a hole in the center of the cap of the soda bottle about the same size as the nut. Run the nut through the hole, long end on the outside, washer on each end and tighten down on the nut. Screw the cap back on the bottle, get your drill motor, place the end of the nut in the drill and you have a home made, old line remover, holder. Tie the line to the bottle and you are ready to strip off the old line. I like to back off of the drag completely of put the reel into free spool while removing the line with this method. Now that you have removed all of the old you are ready to wipe the spool down with a light coat of oil before spooling new line on the reel. I also like to squirt some reel oil into all the places that are marked OIL. I also take off the spool, the handle and the cap on the other side of the handle on spinning reels. Clean the shaft, and squirt a little oil on the hole under the cap and where the handle shaft went. There are bearings on each side of the reel under these caps and I like to try to get a few drops on them. You can also put a drop or two on any other moving parts. After you have oiled your reel, wipe it down with one of your wife's nice bath towels that you have hid in the shop. Just don't tell her that I had anything to do with you having this towel. Now you are ready to put the new line on and attach the reel back to the rod. I like to spray a little WD-40 on the guides or rollers on the rod after I have spooled the new line. These parts are also metal and you know what salt water does to metal.

It is probably not a bad idea to get your tackle box out and get it ready. If you are like me, you have some straightening up to be done there as well.

I hope this has helped you get ready for the new season.

Good Fishing  
Capt. Jim Hammond

### DNR in the News

#### **Winners Named in Maryland Volunteer Angler Survey Contest**

Two anglers won \$100 Bass Pro Shop gift cards for providing fishing trip information to the Maryland Volunteer Angler Survey last year. Taking home the prizes were Alisha Duquin of Hagerstown for reporting her observations to the multispecies freshwater portion, and Matt Stahl of Essex for supplying Yellow Perch information from his outing. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources relies on such anglers to provide data to help with fishery monitoring and management efforts.

"The angler survey is an important resource for fisheries science and management," said DNR Recreational Fishing Data Coordinator Dr. Linda Barker. "For some species, this is our only source of information on released fish - an important part of analyzing fish populations and angler trends."

This year's winners were randomly selected from anglers who together submitted more than 800 reports. The contest is ongoing, so anyone who participates this year is automatically entered in the 2014 drawing.

To enter, an angler must simply log in to the survey and fill in their trip information with location, date, hours, number of anglers, method of fishing, and how many fish were kept and/or released. The more submissions, the better the odds.

"With March being the prime time for Yellow Perch fishing, we are calling on anglers to add observations on this species to the survey," said Barker. "We also want to remind participants that reporting an outing with no caught fish is just as important for our studies as sharing days when the fishing was more successful."

DNR revamped Maryland's online Volunteer Angler Survey last year with a new look, more user friendly submission process, added fish species and prize incentives. The survey seeks fishing trip information involving Striped Bass, Summer Flounder, Yellow Perch, Bluefish, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Muskellunge, Blue Crabs, Catfish, Crappie, Bluegill, Pickerel and Northern Snakehead.

The survey is located at [dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/survey/index.asp](http://dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/survey/index.asp).

### Fishing Regulations

#### 2014 Md. Flounder Season

Minimum Size -  
Season -

#### 2014 Va. Flounder Season

Minimum Size -  
Season -

### Classified Ads

**Indoor Boat Storage** - \$150 month in Frederick 14' door  
Call Rob @ 240-586-5201

### Charter Services

**Island Queen Inland Charters**  
Bay and Sound Fishing & Cruises  
Chincoteague Island, VA  
**Captain Charlie Koski - 757-990-2404**  
[www.islandqueeninlandcharters.com](http://www.islandqueeninlandcharters.com)

### Fishing Equipment

### Commercial Supporters



**Highway and Safety Services, Inc.**  
18960 Woodfield Road,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

**Richard Briggs**  
Vice President, Chief of Operations

Office: 301-948-4970 x 103 Cell: 301-252-3496  
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**FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER - 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
www.mssafrederick.com

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>11</b>	- <b>Dinner Dance</b> - Frederick Moose Club
	<b>17</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>18</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds</b>
	25-26	- Kent Island Chapter Flea Market
	23-26	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	1-3	- MSSA Convention, Annapolis, MD
	1	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Free in Deale MD
	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting -</b>
	<b>19</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	15-16	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	22	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
22	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD	
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>5</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	15-16	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	22-23	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>5</b>	- <b>Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch</b> – Sandy Point
	<b>9</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	19	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
<b>MAY</b>	2-4	- 30th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
	<b>7</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>15-18</b>	- <b>Chapter Flounder Tournament</b> – Chincoteague
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>4</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>11</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	20-22	- 21th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
<b>JULY</b>	<b>2</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>9</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>6</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	23	- 4rd Annual MSSA Beach N Boat Flounder Tournament – Ocean City
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>3</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>10</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>13</b>	- <b>Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>1</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	4-11	- <b>Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament</b>
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>5</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	21-23	- 19 <sup>th</sup> Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>3</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>10</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>