

# 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**



**FREDERICK - CHAPTER 22**  
[www.mssafrederick.com](http://www.mssafrederick.com)

The Official MSSA Frederick Chapter VHF Channel is 71

## President's Message

And just like that, another year is coming to a close. It is amazing how fast time goes by. This has been another good year for our Chapter. We have had a pretty good year for fishing, and the Fall Striper run looks like it is really gaining speed. There are reports all over the Bay of some upper 40, and even a couple 50" fish being caught. As for the Chapter, we have a couple of our big events coming up. We have the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual MSSA Frederick Chapter Expo coming up on January 13<sup>th</sup>, and the Chapters Dinner Dance February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**I will get back to the events in a moment, but I want to share with everyone a decision that the Board made at the last meeting that is very important. The Board has decided to reverse the decision to make the Dinner Dance, and Crab Feast participation dependent on raffle ticket sales. You still must sell your 5 tickets or donate \$100 to the Chapter to be a Captain in any/ or all of our tournaments, but the Dinner Dance and Crab Feast are no longer subject to these conditions.**

We will be looking for volunteers to help with parking, and many other duties for the Expo. Anyone that can spend the day, or even just a part of the day helping with the Expo, your help will be greatly appreciated. See Rob, Ed, or Jim at the meeting to sign up to help.

The Dance this year will feature 1 of the area's top bands, "Til September" will be the band, and as always we will feature thousands of dollars in raffle prizes, and great food. Make sure you mark your calendars, as you don't want to miss these events.

Merry Christmas, and as always,

Tight Lines,  
 Jim

## Next Meeting

**Date: December 13, 2017**

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Speaker:** Michael Malpezzi is the Artificial Reefs coordinator with MD DNR and will be providing a 45 min presentation with video and film on the current and future of the artificial reef systems in the bay.

**Vendor:** Matt Badden is the owner of Jigthebay.com and will have all sorts of light tackle, gear and instructional books for sale

### **Dinner Menu:**

Fried Chicken  
 French Fries  
 Mac N Cheese  
 Salad  
 Dessert

**Attendance at November Meeting: 47**

### **Raffle Winners:**

**VHF Radio- Walt Shaw**  
**Stainless Tool Box- Porter King**  
**Tackle Bag- Brian Jenkins**  
**Painted Crab- Rob Pellicot**  
**Trolling Rigs- Neal Ammerman**

**50/50 Raffle: Charlie Appleby- \$72**

### **Directions To Meeting at the Frederick**

**Moose Lodge:** - [Map](#)  
 From Frederick, take **I-70** east to **exit 56** (Rt. 144W). Turn slight right onto MD-144. Go 0.8 miles to 828 E. Patrick St. on the left

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**9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SALTWATER FISHING EXPO**  
 January 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 • 8am - 4pm

**Frederick County Fairgrounds**  
 797 E Patrick St. • Building #9 • Frederick, MD 21701  
*One Of The Best Shows Of The Year!*

<b>Schedule</b>	9:00AM Bay Rockfishing	Capt. Charlie Sission - Backdraft Charters
	10:15AM Cobie & Red Drum	Lenny Rudow - FishTalk Magazine
	11:30AM Offshore	Capt. Jeremy Blunt - Wrecker Sportfishing OCMD
	12:45PM Rod Selection & Maintenance	Shore Tackle & Custom Rods - Bill O'Brien
	2:00PM Light Tackle	Capt. Walleye Pete - Four Seasons Guide Service

• Inshore/Offshore Tackle Vendors • Charter Captains • Boating Supplies  
• Fishing Supplies • Marine & Wildlife Artists • Custom Rod Builders  
• Rod & Reel Vendors/Repair • Reel Repair • Used Fishing & Boating Supplies  
• Boat Vendors & Marine Techs • Terminal Tackle Suppliers  
• Boat/Fishing Licenses • Crabbing Supplies & Vendors

**For More Information Contact:**  
**Rob Pellicot 301-606-0392 • Ed Susa 301-252-0233**

Sponsored by:

## Fishing Reports

### Maryland DNR Fishing Report

#### **Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview**

November 29, 2017  
 Water temperatures in Maryland continue to drop as the weather turns colder. In many areas, fish are seeking out warmer temperatures found in deeper waters. The tidal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay are seeing surface water temperatures in the mid-40s while the bay itself is around 50 degrees.

The upper bay region has been providing good fishing for a larger

grade of striped bass, primarily by trolling along deep channel edges in the bay and lower sections of the region's tidal rivers.

Heavy inline weights are being used to get a mix of swimshads, bucktails, red surge tubes and spoons down close to the bottom. Jigging has also been a good option when fish can be found suspended along channel edges. Anglers continue to encounter breaking fish, often smaller striped bass, but at times there are some real bruiser-sized fish. As water temperatures drop, the smaller striped bass (those under 20 inches in length) are feeding less.

Casting diving crankbaits that resemble shad in several of the tidal rivers has been a good tactic for striped bass. Often there is a high throwback ratio, but some nice larger fish are being caught. A mix of juvenile hickory shad and gizzard shad are moving out of the major tidal rivers and into the bay. The lower Susquehanna, Patapsco and Chester rivers have been good places to jig or cast crankbaits this week.

Fishing for white perch and channel catfish has been very good in the lower sections of the major tidal rivers, in deeper water. The white perch in particular are holding in deep water and can be caught on bottom rigs baited with bloodworms. The catfish can be caught on cut bait, nightcrawlers or chicken livers. Yellow perch are also starting to be caught in the tidal rivers.

There continues to be a lot of action around the deeper parts of the Bay Bridge piers and rock piles this week. Deep jigging has been a great way to catch large white perch and striped bass. A fair percentage of the striped bass are measuring under 20 inches in length but some larger fish are also being caught.

In the middle bay region most of the striped bass action for larger fish is taking place along the western edge of the shipping channel, from Chesapeake Beach down past Parkers Creek. Trolling with inline weights is the name of the game here to get lures down close to the bottom. Umbrella rigs have been popular with swimshads as a trailer but a mix of bucktails, spoons,

red surge tubes and diving crankbaits have also been good items to have in a trolling spread.

Anglers are finding breaking fish and slicks, along with suspended fish on depth finders, and these all call for some light-tackle jigging with soft plastic jigs or metal. Some of the larger striped bass are being caught on soft plastic jigs in the 6-inch to 8-inch range. White perch tend to be holding in very deep water now, often about 40 feet deep, above oyster bottom. It will take a bottom rig to get down to them, and pieces of bloodworm are a good way to catch them. A sinker with two dropper flies that can be tipped with a piece of bloodworm will also work well. All of the tidal rivers in the middle bay region have populations of white perch holding in tight schools, and this tends to be a good time of the year to stock up on some nice ones for the freezer.

There is good fishing for some impressively large striped bass in the lower bay region this week. The lower Potomac River along the steep channel edge from Piney Point down to Point Lookout has been a great place to troll or jig. A very nice grade of striped bass can be found suspended along the 40-foot edge there. Out in the bay there has been some action on the 35-foot edge in front of Cove Point and along the eastern edge of the shipping channel from Buoy 76 south to Buoy 72A. The larger striped bass tend to be holding close to the bottom, so you'll need inline weights when trolling and fair-sized soft plastic jigs in the 8-inch range when fishing in this deep water.

Fishing for white perch has been very good in the lower regions of the Patuxent, Nanticoke and Wicomico rivers. Most are holding in about 40 feet of water, most often over solid oyster bottom. Pieces of bloodworm on a bottom rig or dropper flies on a fair-sized sinker will get down to where the white perch are holding, close to the bottom.

The upper Potomac River, although a bit low, has been fishing well for a mix of walleye and smallmouth bass. The colder water is much to the liking of the walleye but the smallmouth bass are not as aggressive. Working light jigs

along the bottom in some of the deeper holes with submerged ledges is a good tactic and anglers will find that the pickups will be subtle, more like a light tap when a smallmouth bass picks up a jig.

Farther down the Potomac River, in the tidal areas south of the District of Columbia line, fishing for largemouth bass has been good along channel edge drop-offs and deeper structure. The bass are holding close to the bottom, waiting for crayfish or small baitfish that are looking for deeper winter cover. Hair jigs, small crankbaits and soft plastic craws are good choices to fish right on the bottom, expect subtle light pickups. Crappie fishing has been excellent around bridge piers, marina docks and fallen treetops. It is hard to beat a minnow under a bobber, but crappie jigs under a bobber can work well also. Fishing for blue catfish continues to be excellent in the deeper holes along the channels.

The reservoirs that serve Baltimore City are offering great opportunities this week for a mix of largemouth bass, landlocked striped bass, chain pickerel, crappie, landlocked white perch and channel catfish. Now that grass beds have diminished fishing can be easier.

Many other tidal rivers and creeks on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay offer great fishing for largemouth bass this week. The Eastern Shore rivers offer great fishing and plenty of solitude. In many areas of the middle and lower Eastern Shore there is still plenty of beautiful foliage and the recent mild weather is hard to pass up.

The waters around Ocean City continue to get chillier, approaching 50 degrees near the inlet. That cooler water has brought in some nice large tautog to the area, and many anglers got their licks in on some beautiful fish before the season closed November 26. It will reopen on New Year's Day. Striped bass are being caught in and around the inlet and in the back bay areas all the way to the Route 90 bridge. Most are being caught on jigs and swimbaits in deeper waters and on topwater lures in the shallower back bay waters. Most are short of the 28 inch minimum but offer a lot of fun fishing.

The fall migration of large striped bass from the New England waters is well underway and most seem to be far offshore, beyond Maryland's three-mile legal boundary. There are always some that are bound to hug the coast and surfcasters will be soaking large baits for the next couple of weeks in hopes of tangling with one. There have been boats clearing the inlet and trolling a mix of parachutes and large crankbaits near the various shoal areas up to the Delaware state line, without much to show for their efforts so far — but that could change any day.

The boats headed out to the nearshore and offshore wreck and reef sites will be focusing their fishing efforts on sea bass now, since the tautog season is closed. Limit catches are being reported and some of the sea bass are reported to be big "hump heads." Additionally, there is a mix of large flounder, along with some triggerfish and sheepshead being reported.

## Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown -  
Halloween Report  
28 October 2017

We are now well into the fall fishing season, with plenty of good opportunities for anglers in most any venue along the Mid-Atlantic.

The speckled trout scene continues to develop, and the size of the fish continue to grow. Most backwater locations are hosting responsive and respectable fish, with jigs, plastics and Mirrolures attracting plenty of strikes. Rudee, Little Creek, and Lynnhaven Inlets, as well as the Poquoson flats are productive speck areas this week, presenting a surprisingly nice class of trout. This could be a good sign of a recovering fishery after the fish kills of recent years. Rudee Inlet's action is steady, with fish averaging around 20 to 22-inches. The biggest fish continue to come from Long Creek, with several citation fish pushing to over 5-pounds reported this week. Folks on the Eastern Shore are also experiencing an increase in speck activity lately. Good numbers of nice puppy drum are also

hitting in most of the same locations, along with school-sized rockfish.

Folks are still finding some decent spot activity this week, with bloodworms the bait of choice, especially in Lynnhaven Inlet. Some croaker are still around, especially at the HRBT, off Ocean View, and within Lynnhaven Inlet.

Tautog action is also evolving with the dropping water temperatures. Most any lower Bay structure is giving up keeper-sized fish averaging around 3 to 5-pounds. Fiddler crabs are becoming harder to come by, but blue crabs or clams can also do the trick. A few triggerfish are also in the mix, and smaller sheepshead are still a possibility in the same vicinities. Inshore and offshore wrecks are showing more tog activity, along with some flounder, nice seabass, and big triggers. Chopper bluefish should also be available around many offshore structures.

The early striped bass action will continue to evolve in the lower Bay, with mostly schoolies keeping anglers busy right now. Lower Bay inlets are providing plenty of opportunities for casters along bulkheads and docks, especially at night. Nicer rockfish, pushing to around 32-inches are also responding for anglers in the tributary rivers, with the bigger fish still heading this way. Remember to review the regulations.

Surf anglers are still hauling in big red drum from the surflines along the Eastern Shore, and down to the Virginia Beach Wildlife Refuge. Nice bulls and puppy drum are still responding around the artificial islands of the CBBT on cut bait recently, but these fish are on the move southward, where the North Carolina fall red drum surf fishing trend is heating up.

The flounder scene is slow inside the Bay, so deeper wrecks are the best bet for flatfish now. But some flatties are still available along the channel edges and the CBBT structure. Scattered keepers are also coming from within Lynnhaven and Rudee Inlets.

The deep dropping scene will draw more interest as more species leave the

area. Decent catches of blueline tilefish, grouper, and black bellied rosefish are available along the walls of the Norfolk Canyon.

The offshore scene is mostly dominated by wahoo this time of year when folks can get out. Mahi, longfin, and blackfin tuna are also a possibility, and schools of bluefin tuna could also make a showing at any time. Boats targeting swordfish are having a decent season, with the best to come as the waters cool.

<http://www.drjball.com>

## Delaware Fishing Report

**Updated: Nov. 30, 2017**

**DELAWARE BAY** Tog action continues to produce keepers along with lots of shorts. The Inner and Outer walls, the jetty at Brandywine Light and the Ice Breakers have all seen good numbers of fish. Sand fleas and green crabs make the best baits.

A very few keeper rockfish were caught over bay reef sites and fishing piers. Cut bunker and bloodworms are the prime baits. White perch and short rockfish have been caught in the same locations on the same baits. There are many more perch and short rock than keeper rockfish. The tidal rivers and creeks have seen pretty much the same action as the fishing piers. Short rock and white perch along with the occasional keeper rock are eating bunker and bloodworms. Have not heard much about catfish, but I expect a few are being caught along with the rock and perch.

I had a few reports of small rock and flounder caught from the fishing pier at Cape Henlopen State Park. The pier is not seeing a lot of activity, making reports difficult to come by.

- **ADVISORY: Summer Flounder Regulations:** As of April 1, the minimum size for summer flounder in Delaware is 17 inches. The bag limit remains at four fish per

day and the season runs for 365 days.

**INSHORE OCEAN** Good weather days produce good numbers of sea bass caught from the ocean. The Del-Jersey-Land Artificial Reef is producing keeper sea bass, but you will catch a lot of shorts before finding enough keepers to make the trip worthwhile. Clams, squid and crab all produce sea bass.

Tog fishing was also pretty good with a few boats scoring on both tog and sea bass. Here too, shorts outnumber keepers. Green and white legger crabs along with sand fleas have been the most productive baits.

**OFFSHORE OCEAN** Another week with no offshore reports. If none come in this week we will call it a season.

**INDIAN RIVER INLET** Tog fishermen are catching good number of fish, but keepers remain rare. If these shorts become keepers next year it will be one for the record books.

There was a good number of short rockfish caught from Bubblegum Beach around to the entrance to Indian River Marina early last week, but their numbers dwindled as the week went on. White bucktails and white swim shads were the hot lures. Keeper rockfish have been caught at night from the rocks on live eels. Short rockfish have developed a craving for live spot making for some expensive fishing. There was a good run of hickory shad on Tuesday and some folks kept more than their 10-fish limit. Fortunately, a couple of DNREC Natural Resources Police Park Rangers were there to make those who broke the law pay a fine.

**SURF FISHING** Very few folks fishing the beach and spiny dogfish have been the primary catch. Still hoping for a run of big rock, but hopes are dimming.

**FRESHWATER** The ponds should produce bass, crappie and pickerel. I still like live shiners or minnows, but crankbaits and jigs will also work.

The upper reaches of the tidal rivers and creeks will also hold bass, crappie and pickerel. In addition, there will be white perch and catfish on bloodworms or cut bunker.

**ROCKFISH** As of Wednesday there have been no reported rockfish catches out of Delaware ports. We still get the occasional report of keepers caught in Delaware Bay and at Indian River Inlet, but these are resident fish, not the migratory stock.

My New Jersey reporters are seeing lots of stripers and head boats are coming back with two-fish limits for up to 80 customers. Naturally, the weather and movement of bait plays a part in all fishing success, but when conditions are good the fish are there.

So when will the rockfish arrive off the Delaware Coast? I wish I knew. In recent years the rock have moved past us and out to sea where they are protected. This year things may be different. We are not having any severe cold weather and there is none in the 10-day forecast. Bait is available and the water is clean. In other words, conditions are right for a rockfish run.

If they are coming, I believe they will arrive over the next few days. Let's hope my report next week is loaded with great rockfish catches.

By Eric Burnley Sr.\*

## DNR in the News

*A Watershed Year for the Chesapeake Bay*

When this year began, I knew it held great promise for the future of our most precious natural resource and treasure, the Chesapeake Bay. Maryland is committed to protecting and restoring the nation's largest estuary, and I'm pleased to say this year we've seen strong signs of progress.

Earlier this year, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science experts gave the bay a "C" grade (54 percent) in their annual report card, which uses Maryland Department of Natural Resources data. That's one of the highest scores calculated since this respected index on bay health began. In the same report, fish populations greatly improved to an "A" (90 percent). Importantly, the habitats for these species is also improving, according to key reports also released in 2017.

Dissolved oxygen in the water is an important indicator for crabs, fish, oysters and other aquatic organisms that are bellwethers of overall water quality. Our monitoring of the bay and its tributaries show that 2017 had the second-smallest Chesapeake Bay hypoxic volume (dissolved oxygen concentrations below two milligrams per liter) since we began gathering this data in 1985.

Underwater grass abundance – another key indicator of improving water clarity and quality – increased for the fourth straight year in our portion of the Chesapeake Bay, reaching a record of 59,277 acres. This represents a 10 percent increase year-over-year and exceeds our restoration goals a year ahead of schedule.

These are positive signs, but more work needs to be done.

With help from our watershed partners, we are pursuing the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. In fact, Governor Larry Hogan hosted the 2017 annual meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council of the Chesapeake Bay Program, where he was elected chair. During the meeting, the council signed a resolution reasserting its support for the innovative regional partnership and supporting continued federal funding to enhance, preserve and restore the bay.

We're making such great strides in our environment and natural resources here in Maryland because we have citizens and communities that are engaged and passionate. Many of us

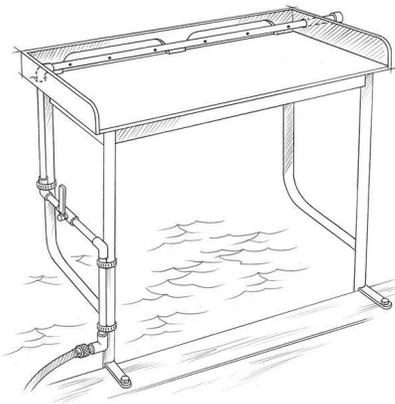
have acted, advocated and sacrificed to protect our bay, and we're finally seeing signs that those collective and unified efforts are reaping benefits.

As we enter 2018, it's clear we are changing the bay for the better.

**Tips and Tricks**

**Self-Cleaning Fillet Table**

Wash away blood and slime while you clean fish with this simple addition to any fillet table.



For proper drainage, make sure your fillet table slants slightly toward the rear.

*Illustration by Steve Sanford*

This enhancement to your fillet table will make cleaning the fish less messy.

**Materials to Build**

- 10-foot length of 1-inch PVC pipe
- Three 90-degree PVC elbows, 1-inch 90-degree PVC hose
- Elbow, threaded female end to accept a hose PVC ball valve (nonthreaded)
- End cap, 1-inch for the same pipe
- PVC cement
- Three 3- to 5-inch-diameter stainless hose clamps

**Assembly Steps**

Measure the height of the fillet table,

cut PVC pipe the same length, cut it in half, and cement an elbow to one end of both pieces.

Cement PVC hose elbow to the other end of one of the pipe pieces, offset 90 degrees to the elbow already in place.

Cut a section of pipe 1 inch shorter than the depth of the table, cut it in half, and cement the ball valve between the two halves.

Lay all three sections flat on the ground, and assemble and cement so piping will run up from the hose connector back through the valve to the rear of the table, then up to the top.

Line up the PVC structure with the table legs and cut a hole in the tabletop for the feeder pipe to pass through. Fasten the PVC to the table legs with hose clamps.

Cut a pipe 2 or 3 inches wider than the tabletop. Drill 1/4-inch holes, spaced 3 or 4 inches apart, along the length of the pipe and cap one end.

Lay the pipe across the table to line up with the feeder pipe to locate a 11/8-inch hole on the left side.

Pass the long pipe through the side hole and cement it to the feeder pipe with the remaining elbow, with the seep holes facing down and across the tabletop.

Run a garden hose to the connector and get to filleting.

**Note:** Most fillet tables have a raised lip along three sides. If yours doesn't, make one by cutting 3-inch-wide strips of marine-grade polymer (aka Starboard) to frame the left, right and back table edges. Before installing, cut sizable slots for rear drainage on the back strip.

**\*\*From Saltwater Sportsman Magazine\*\***

**2017 Chapter Officers**

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## FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>11</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds</b>
	<b>18</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	26-29	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
	28-29	- Kent Island Chapter Fishing Flea Market
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	11	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale Md
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	17-18	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	18	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Cambridge, MD
	25	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
<b>25</b>	- <b>Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club</b>	
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	18-19	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
<b>APRIL</b>	1-2	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Shakedown Cruise/ Catch &amp; Release Tournament</b>
	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	15	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	<b>19</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>5-7</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament- Solomons</b>
	5-7	- 33rd Annual MSSA Spring Tournament
	<b>10</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>17</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>19-21</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>21</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	16-18	- 27th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
<b>JULY</b>	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>19</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>9</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>16</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>9</b>	- <b>Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic</b>
	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	16-18	- 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament – OC, Chincoteague, DE
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>7-14</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament</b>
	<b>11</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>18</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	17-19	- 24 <sup>th</sup> Annual MSSA Fall Tournament - Fish 2 of 3
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>

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