



Virginia Beach Bluewater Fishing Club "VBBFC"

2019 Spring Newsletter

The Club would like to welcome our new and existing members for 2019! Our time of year is upon us as we get ready for a new fishing season and to kick off a full list of activities within the VBBFC. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate what we have planned for this year and how you can best participate in all the Club has to offer.

The Board of Directors feels our list of 2019 events and activities fully support the Virginia Beach Bluewater Fishing Club's primary mission and goals. The key points being:

- Community service
- Marine conservation
- Saltwater fishing/ boating fellowship

Club Website

I encourage all members to regularly visit our club website at www.VBBFC.org. The website has a lot of information you will find useful during the year.

A partial listing of information found on the site includes:

- Calendar of events
- Key contact info for Board members and Committee directors
- Club's Fishing Frenzy Tournament including:
 - online entry forms for your catches and leaderboard to see up to date tournament standings
- Annual Youth Fishing Events
 - HOFNOD and the Red White and Blue Youth Fishing Experience
- Online dues payment system where you can join the Club or renew your membership
- Club history and much more

2019 Membership Fees

The Club Board voted to keep membership fees the same as 2018 to continue to encourage new membership. This is despite rising costs and the quality of the venues we contract for

various events. All members must understand that if we want to expand the number of events or the food and drink provided, an increase in membership fees will be required. We are trying to find that balance of quality social events that meet our member's expectations and stay within our budget. We know in the past a few of our events have not run as smoothly as we would have liked. Since our goal is quality food, drink, and fellowship for our events, for 2019 we will rely more on vendors (caterers, food trucks, established venues) to provide food and service. These may cost more, but we feel we can deliver a better product to our members. You can [Join/Renew Membership](#).



Event RSVPs

RSVP's are essential for all events as we move forward so we can ensure we have the proper amount of food for attendees and we maximize our membership dollars. We welcome input and recommendations from our members on how we can make our events better. This year the club has five social events planned for its members. RSVPs can be done online,

by phone, or at www.VBBFC.org.

Combining Events

This year, the Club is trying something new by combining our **Awards Banquet** with the **Spring Membership Meeting**. You may remember in the recent past we had a Christmas party and Awards Banquet as a separate event. The last of these was a nice affair, but attracted only 35 attendees. Several folks who won Fishing Frenzy Awards were unable to attend. The Board elected to try moving the Awards to the Spring Membership meeting to attract more members (and potential members!) and create some new excitement. Since this removed an event from our calendar, the Board elected to schedule another Dock Party to continue providing value for your dues dollars. We hope this new idea will be a success and look forward to recognizing all our Fishing Frenzy winners in May to kick off the new season!!!!

2019 Events Tentative Schedule

Each event will have drinks and hors d'oeuvres or dinner provided. Here is our tentative schedule for the year:

May 2, 2019 (Thursday)

Spring Membership Meeting at The Shack
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

If you have an item to donate for the auction, please call contact numbers below. **RSVP** by April 26 @

www.VBBFC.org



June

Dock Party #1.

We will finalize location within a few weeks.

Maybe Fisherman's Wharf or Ballyhoos. Details to be announced

July

Dock Party #2.

Outside at Southside Marina with open bar like the old days.

September

Dock party #3. Details to be announced

October

Dock Party #4. Details to be announced

If you need more information or have comments about any of the social events please contact

- Linda Nolasco at 481-7231
- Joe Wilmouth at 435-0506

Volunteers Needed

We still need volunteers for each event to assist:

- registering attendees
- helping with raffles
- setting up and taking down equipment (especially for the Southside), etc.

Please let Linda or Joe know if you are willing to assist. As you know, a few people do most of the work in civic organizations, and the Board and Committee directors would appreciate some additional volunteers throughout the year.



Youth Events

The VBBFC has sponsored two major Youth events for over 20 years. The purpose of these two events is to educate and provide a fishing experience primarily for less fortunate, at-risk and military youth between the ages of 9 and 13. The morning sessions are educational and are held at the Law Enforcement Training Facility (the Old Seatack School) on Birdneck Road.

Topics include:

- Marine Conservation
- Knot Tying
- Species ID
- Tackle Handling and Rigging
- Marine Safety



We provide lunch and then take an average of 150 participants for each event (300 + combined) on a fishing trip on three head boats out of Rudee Inlet. We conduct a catch and release tournament for the youth and end the day with a cookout and awards ceremony. There are a lot of moving parts to this event as you might appreciate. We can always use volunteers for half day of educational seminars or the full day including the fishing trip, as well as donations and sponsors to help support the events as these are not funded by our membership fees. If you would like more information on the events, please contact our **Youth Event Director, Mac**

This year's events are:

- Tuesday, June 25th, 2019 - HOFNOD (Kids Hooked On Fishing Not on Drugs)
- Tuesday, July 23rd, 2019 - Red, White and Blue Youth Fishing Experience



Annual Oyster Roast

The VBBFC Annual Oyster Roast is held each year in early November to raise monies to fund our youth events described above. The event is held at the Holiday Trav-L-Park off of General Booth Blvd and has both a covered and open area.

This event is not included in your membership fee but a great value and

event. Tickets will go on sale in the fall, and the price of admission includes open bar, live music, Clams, Oysters, Chowder, Fish, Pork Barbeque, Fried Turkey, Vegetables, Desserts, Raffles, Live and Silent Auction, Corn Hole and more. In the past, the club has tried to cater this event ourselves with volunteers only. Let's face it; this has not always gone well. We've not been as organized as we would like and have not always presented the product our guests deserve. Based on the number of people and work involved, for 2019 we are planning to subcontract the cooking to best meet the growing number of attendees and exceed their expectations of a great party. We will still need many volunteers to help set up and tear down for the event and to handle other tasks. A few hours of your support can go a long way. The Director for this year's Oyster Roast is **Joe Wilmouth at 435-0506**. Please give him a call and ask what you can do to help or to donate an item to the event for auction.

Fishing Frenzy

The Fishing Frenzy is a Club sponsored annual Member's tournament where the Club gives winners trophies for both offshore and inshore species as well as release points for billfish. There are multiple categories for various boat sizes as well as male, female and youth entries. These awards are extremely nice as you will see at the Spring Membership meeting in May. You may read all the rules and register your catches online at www.VBBFC.org.



Some of the keys rules are:

- You must be a paid member at time of catch.
- You must register your catch within 30 days.
- Fish caught or released in either Virginia or North Carolina waters can be entered.
- Youth entries must be for member's immediate children or grandchildren.

The Fishing Frenzy has been a hidden gem of the Club which has not been utilized to its' full potential in recent years. **The key is to register your fish!!** Years ago, our Club was

recognized by the Billfish Foundation as the top release club for marlin on the East coast. You guys are catching the fish. It's very important that you register them!! I know of several members who would have won Club trophies if they had just taken literally a couple of minutes to register their catches online! It is a really simple process. Our director for the Fishing Frenzy is **Ron Teegarden at 576-7649**. Call Ron if you have any questions about the program or entering your catch. Let's make this a stellar year of catches recorded!



Technology

The club has tried to embrace technology to assist our members. Currently, we rely on email, Facebook and Instagram but understand there are other options. As Director of Marketing, I welcome your input at any time.

The board and I hope to see you at the May 2nd membership party at the Shack. If you have not renewed your membership for 2019 or you are a new member and would like to join the club you can do all this effortlessly online at www.VBBFC.org or [RSVP here](#).

I hope this letter has been helpful to our membership and that a blessed, safe and exciting 2019 season awaits us all!

Frank Willson
VBBFC Marketing Director
478-2222

