

The PSWSFA is a family-oriented fishing club established in 1957. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (March-Dec.) at 7:00pm. Unfortunately. we are currently on hold for meetings due to Covid 19. But when we finally get back to normal the meetings are free and open to the public and are a great place to swap stories with other local fishermen, find new fishing partners and plan trips together. We have raffles with nice giveaways-donated by local businesses plus prizes we buy ourselves. Each month we have speakers sharing their experience on one of the local fisheries. Come join us and get to know some of the other fishermen in your local area.

Greetings and Welcome to May. Luckily fishing has been pretty good this past month. Just ask Stan or Keith Nuttall they have been killing them. I even managed a few nice specks with Stan in late April.

Unfortunately, we didn't make arrangements for a May meeting. We will be having a meeting in Poquoson in June. Info on pg 13.

The picture below shows a new ship berthed with the James River Reserve fleet. It's black and white and looks like a RORO. Anyone know when it arrived or anything about it? Let me know.

Besides doing really well with catching specks and puppy drum Stan has also been getting back a few of his tags, both old and new

- 1. Tautog 15"- tagged 17 Mar 2018 Morgan wreck Recaptured 2 May 21 Triangle wreck 22" Days Out 1142
- 2. Tautog 14" 22 Apr 2018 South of Bouy 4A Recaptured: 24 Apr 2021 Kitty Hawk NC 19.5" DO 1098
- 3. Red Drum 15.5" 7 Apr 2021
 Mill Creek
 Recaptured: 17.5" 29 Apr 2021
 Mill Creek DO 22
 Rereleased with same tag.
 That was one hell of a growth spurt

Don't forget to honor our fallen military this month who died protecting our country and those that continue the fight.

Mike the Editor



Remember, blue text within an article represents a link.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings all. The 2021 fishing season is well under way. There have been many reports of large red and black drum being caught. Puppy drum and speckled trout fishing has been good. Anglers that managed to get out and get some tog fishing in have been successful this year as well. Tog fishing closed May 15th and will remain closed until June 30th. Some anglers have started to travel to deeper waters for tilefish and the other usual suspects with decent results. Don't forget to obtain your free tilefish/grouper permit from VMRC if you plan on participating in these fisheries. I expect fishing to continue to get better as local waters warm up. Get yourselves out on the water and enjoy some time away from it all.

There is some news regarding the general membership meetings. I am happy to report a couple different opportunities have presented themselves to

Continued on bottom right of Pg 9

2020 Club Officers

Danny Forehand

President

Milton Hudgins

Vice President

Wally Veal

Secretary

Christina Grice

Treasurer

Charles Southall

Corresponding Secretary

Stan Simmerman

Past President

Board of Directors

Bill Tice
John Hunt Jr.
Ronnie Wilson
Gary Donaldson
Dave Boyce
Rick Wineman

Daily Vandergriff

Wally Veal

Johnny Boyd
David Agee
Steve Martin
Jerald Abraham
Wes Blow
Don Lancaster
Mike Frielingsdorf



ttention all members: This is a reminder that all memberships will now expire on the last day of February of each year. Forms are available from Johnny Boyd (membership committee). At the December 2019 board meeting the board voted to increase the dues by \$10. As before, the \$40 is per individual or family. We haven't had a dues increase in pretty much forever and this will help the club pay for the increased cost of our meeting space as well as supporting events like the picnic, awards banquet, and fishing related events, organizations, and tournaments.

PSWSFA 2020 MEMBERSHIP

Dues: \$40 per year for entire family*
(March through February - not prorated throughout the year)

Name:	Spouse:			
	Dependents N	ames and a	ges	
1)	4) _			
2)	5) _			
3)	6)_			
	*Family most b	e living with you	1	
Address:				
			Home Phone	
E-Mail:			Cell Phone:	
Boat Name/Call Sign:				
Total number in your membershi				
Send this form with a check (payable to PSWSFA) to:		Please ch	Please check one of the following:	
PSWSFA P.O. Box 5194 Newport News, VA 23605		Yes, please add my name to the club membership book No, please do not publish my information		

Virginia Beach Fishing

8 May 2021

The water temp along the Virginia Beach ocean front is up to 62 degrees. In May, look for the best bite to come from black drum, bluefish, flounder, grey trout, red drum, sea bass, speckled trout, striped bass and tautog. The offshore, boats will be targeting tilefish, sea bass and maybe the first tuna.

Black drum like squid, crab, fresh cut fish, clam, shrimp and metal jigs like diamond jigs. They're bottom feeders and usually located near and over underwater obstructions like wrecks, reefs, rocks and rough bottom areas. Look for their numbers to increase inside the Bay around the CBBT, the Concrete Ships and the Cabbage patch.

Bluefish are caught by trolling and jigging around schools with spoons, tube eels, metal squids or surface plugs. They are also caught on the bottom using fresh cut baits, like menhaden, mullet or spot.

Flounder love live baits, like spot or small mullet. They will also go for frozen minnows, fresh strip baits, cut bluefish, shark belly, squid, a minnow/strip combination and artificial bucktails. They are caught drifting rigs along the bottom from a boat, or casting from beaches and piers. The best early catches usually come from seaside inlets on the Eastern Shore. A favorite spot and methods is trolling small bucktails dressed with strip baits along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

Grey trout are caught on artificial lures like bucktails, lead jigs with plastic tails, metal jigs, live baits like spot and small mullet, peeler crab, and squid. Anglers Jig or cast artificial lures to schools of fish on the bottom or suspended just above the bottom. Look for them near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel in deep water near the island rocks, especially the 4th Island and along the channel edge. Occasionally you can find them in the Eastern Shore seaside inlets. Along with puppy drum and speckled trout Captain Todd Beck, Knot Wish'n Charters caught a few grey trout at Rudee Inlet this week.

Sea bass season reopens May 15 and runs through May 31 and again June 16 through December 31. They are caught using squid, crab, cut fish, clam, shrimp, diamond jigs fished over wrecks, reefs, rocks and on rough bottom areas. VBSF sponsors Rudee Tours and Aquaman Charters will be running sea bass trips.

The head boats at Rudee Tours are now running, Half-Day trips: primarily for croaker, flounder, occasional small shark. 3/4 Day trips for tautog, smooth/spiny dogfish sharks and black sea bass. Full Day trips for bluefish, flounder and black sea bass. And 17-Hour Deep Drops for black sea bass, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, snowy grouper, blackbelly rosefish, and dogfish sharks

Last Month's Mystery Fish: The Spotted Ratfish



The spotted ratfish has a very distinct appearance compared to unrelated fish species. The female is up to 97 cm (38 in) long, much bigger than the male. These fish have a smooth and scaleless skin that is a silvery-bronze color, often with sparkling shades of gold, blue, and green. The speckled white spots along their backs contribute to their name. Dark edges outline both the caudal and dorsal fins, whereas the pectoral fins have a transparent outline.

Their pectoral fins are large and triangular, and extend straight out from the sides of their bodies like airplane wings. They have a venomous spine located at the leading edge of their dorsal fin, which is used in defense. It does not present a serious danger to humans, but can cause painful wounds and has been known to kill harbor seals that ate spotted ratfish (caused by the spine penetrating vital tissue in the stomach or esophagus after the ratfish was swallowed). The tail of the ratfish constitutes almost half of its overall length and closely resembles a pointed, rat-like tail. One of their most mesmerizing features is their large, emerald green eyes, which are able to reflect light, similar to the eyes of a cat.

The spotted ratfish swims slowly above the seafloor in search of food. Location of food is done by smell.



BAY GRASSES DECLINE, LOWER BAY HIT HARDEST

July 10, 2020

After six years of increases in underwater grasses baywide, the Chesapeake Bay Program's latest data shows discouraging results.

This week, the partnership released its annual Baywide survey of underwater grasses (submerged aquatic vegetation, or SAV), showing a reduction from a total of 108,761 acres in 2018 to 66,387 acres in 2019. In the six years prior, Bay grasses rose to finally exceed 100,000 acres in 2017 for the first time since the survey began in 1984. The ultimate goal for SAV restoration is 185,000 acres.

The 2019 number is certainly disappointing, but as usual, the Chesapeake doesn't give us simple answers. Much of the blame goes to the record-



breaking rainfall the Bay watershed received in 2018 and the first half of 2019, which created multiple stresses on grass beds from the Susquehanna Flats to the Virginia Capes. The diverse beds in the upper Bay and rivers actually weathered the high river flows well, but the beds of eelgrass and widgeongrass in the saltier lower Bay declined dramatically, especially around Smith and Tangier Islands.

"Underwater grasses are flowering plants that need more light than any other plants on Earth," says Dr. Robert "JJ" Orth, the longtime grasses scientist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). As they do in the rest of Earth's shallow waters, the fifteen or so species in the Chesapeake form underwater prairies that provide essential habitat for many Bay critters, from blue crabs, rockfish, and wintering tundra swans to the tiny crustaceans that supply the lower levels of their food webs.

But for more than a century, these plants have had to deal with reduced light from nutrient-pollution-fueled algae blooms and sediment runoff from human activities. Now, rapidly oscillating salinities and turbidity from "pulse events" (unusually intense storms), and rising water temperatures are adding extra stress. "Climate change is real," says Dr. Orth. High salinity creates challenges for most underwater grasses species. Thus it's no surprise that beds in the lower Bay grow only two species, eelgrass and widgeongrass, while the Susquehanna Flats and the Potomac River around Washington, DC have a dozen or more, and an intermediate river like the Severn above Annapolis has six or seven. The diverse communities are more stable, as different species peak under varying conditions.

In the lower Bay, widgeongrass is a boom-and-bust species that has a history of exploding and then declining, so it may well rebound in this year's more normal circumstances. Though it lives well in a broad range of salinities, it does not handle the stress of rapid fluctuations well, notes Brooke Landry, Natural Resource Biologist at Maryland's Department of Natural Resources and Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program's SAV Workgroup.

Meanwhile, eelgrass is near the southern limit of its range in the Chesapeake, so rising temperatures in summer cause extra stress, as do pulses of fresher water. "As long as eelgrass has light, it can deal with increasing temperature," says JJ Orth, as he has found in a remarkable restoration project in Virginia's shallow seaside Eastern Shore coastal bays.

But turbidity from sediments and nutrients make its life difficult in the Chesapeake. Orth and Landry both see the strength of the upper Bay and river beds as a sign that the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint's long-term reductions of nutrients and sediment are making a real difference in restoring the system. The challenge will be to keep the effort going through our changing climate.

-John Page Williams



STRIPED BASS FISHERY MANAGERS ZERO IN ON CONSERVATION AT MAY MEETING

May 11, 2021

Atlantic coast rockfish fishery managers are in the midst of shaping their management plan for the Bay's most popular fish. So all eyes were on the *Striped Bass Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission* (ASMFC) at its May meeting.

The board narrowed the changes that may come in Amendment 7 of its Striped Bass Management Plan down to three critical parts: Management Triggers (when declare overfishing), Conservation Equivalency (use of alternative fishery restrictions), and Recreational Release Mortality (the fish that die after being caught and released—alarmingly high in recent years).

Notably, the Board voted clearly not to change current conservative levels on stock rebuilding and biological reference points. The Board's clear intent was to reduce fishing mortality and allow these valuable fish to rebound.

It was apparent to anyone who attended the meeting (held via webinar) that both the Commission's staff and the Board members had paid attention to the 3,063 written testimonies and attendance by hundreds from the fishing community during the March/April online hearings and written comment period.



"I am encouraged," declared John Bello, Chair of Government Affairs for the *Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association*. "I think they heard us loud and clear. That is borne out by the fact that the Board is carrying those three critical issues forward, while it firmly voted down all changes to the fundamental goals of robust stock size and diverse age structure established in Amendment 6. Up and down the coast, the message is clear: We want to conserve these iconic fish and rebuild the stock as quickly as possible. Note we are currently committed to a 10-year rebuilding schedule that was triggered in 2018, meaning the stock has to be rebuilt by 2028. We're prepared to reduce our harvest significantly for those few years to accomplish this goal. Our first priorities are the fish."

What happens now? Regulations are already set for 2021 fishing, but at the Striped Bass Board's direction, an ASMFC plan development team will develop a draft Amendment 7 over the summer, including multiple alternatives for each of the issues: Management Triggers, Conservation Equivalency, and Recreational Release Mortality. At its October meeting, the Board will review the draft plan. If its members vote to approve, it will come out for public comment at hearings and in written form in the late fall and early winter. Next February, the Board will set the measures to reduce fishing mortality along the Atlantic coast in 2022 and succeeding years. After Board approval, ASMFC's Policy Committee must vote on Amendment 7, and then the full Commission must ratify it. Each state would then develop its regulations for the 2022 fishing season and beyond, all in compliance with the Amendment.

This amendment development schedule is ambitious, requiring each stage to function smoothly, which is by no means automatic for a fish that means so much to so many. One thing is certain, though: the strong voice from the fishing community for conserving striped bass made this first stage of the process run relatively smoothly. That's a strong clue for how the next stages could run.

-John Page Williams

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Angling Category Fishery: Recreational Daily Retention Limit Adjustment

Summary

NOAA Fisheries is adjusting Atlantic bluefin tuna daily retention limits for recreational fishermen. The adjusted limits go into effect on May 2, 2021, and extend through December 31, 2021, unless modified by later action.

What is changing?

The table below summarizes the changes to the bluefin tuna retention limits

Vessel/Permit Type	Default Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip	Adjusted Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip
Private vessels with a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling category permit	1 school, large school, or small medium (27 to <73")	 2 school bluefin tuna (27 to <47") 1 large school/small medium (47 to <73")
Charter boats with an HMS Charter/Headboat permit fishing recreationally	1 school, large school, or small medium	3 school 1 large school/small medium
Headboats with an HMS Charter/Headboat permit fishing recreationally	1 school, large school, or small medium	6 school 2 large school/small medium

Who is affected?

The changes apply to HMS Angling category permitted vessels and HMS Charter/Headboat permitted vessels when fishing recreationally. The daily retention limits are effective for all areas except for the Gulf of Mexico, where NOAA Fisheries does not allow targeted fishing for bluefin tuna.

Anglers may still catch and release or tag and release bluefin tuna of all sizes, subject to the requirements of HMS catch-and-release and tag-and-release programs. All released bluefin tuna must be handled in a manner that will maximize survivability and without removing the fish from the water.

Catch Reporting

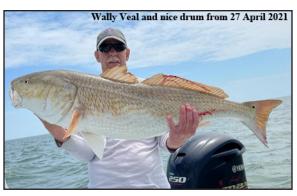
HMS Angling category and HMS Charter/Headboat permitted vessel owners are required to report the catch of all bluefin retained or discarded dead within 24 hours of landing or the end of each trip by:

- Accessing the HMS Permit shop
- Using the HMS Catch Reporting app.
- Calling 888-872-8862 (M-F from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

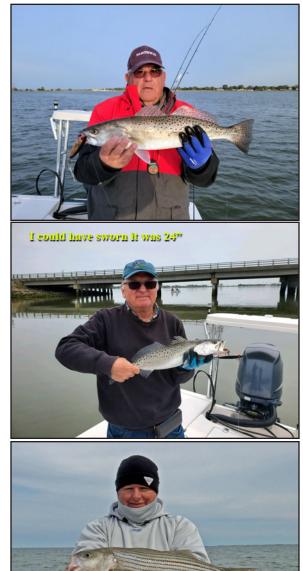
This notice is a courtesy to fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. Link to article: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/atlantic-bluefin-tuna-angling-category-fishery-recreational-daily-retention-limit-adjustment

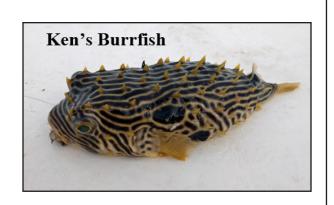












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Yellowfin Tuna 35"	lagoon, Da Big Island, Hawaii		Yellowfin Tuna	35"

Since we haven't been holding regular meetings during the pandemic please send your entries to Milton by the 3rd Tuesday of the month by 7:00pm either as an email or snail mail to the address' on the left (Yellow Box). Please direct any questions to Milton.

MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO:
MR. MILTON HUDGINS
1894 KATIE LANE
HAYES, VA 23072
(e-mail: judygee03@gmail.com)

Deadline for turning in your 2021 entry forms:						
Month of Entry	Deadline (RegMtg)	Month	Deadline (Reg Mtg)			
January	16 Feb	July	17 Aug			
February	16 Mar	August	21 Sep			
March	20 Apr	September	19 Oct			
April	18 May	October	16 Nov			
May	15 Jun	November	21 Dec			
June	20 Jul	December	by Brd Mtg 14 Jan 2022			

2021 PSWSFA Tournaments Rules

ALL Club Tournaments (Except as noted on previous page):

- Entry Fees: \$20 for member & \$30 for non-member. Youth and Ladies croaker/flounder tourney is free.
- You must register before fishing by e-mailing Rick Wineman: rick@getanetsportfishing.com or call 757-268-1539.
- Leaving a message will be sufficient to register, give all anglers names (specify club members and club guest), and also give a phone number.
- Guest(s) must fish with at least one member on boat/shore/pier/kayak
- Use a club "Official Entry Form" and weigh in fish at any Va. Saltwater Tournament official weigh station.
 Record the weight of fish, date and time caught and have the weigh master sign the form to verify catch. If
 two identical fish are caught on the same day, the earlier fish wins. That is why time is so important. Triple
 Threat entries require witness or photo since this is a length total tourney.
- All pertinent PSWSFA bylaws apply

To register or ask questions, e-mail Rick Wineman, Tournament Director at rick@getanetsportfishing.com or call Rick @ 757-268-1539

MEASURING INSTRUCTIONS: With the fish lying on a flat surface, measure in quarter inch increments, from the tip of the mouth to the tip of the tail with the fish in a natural position and the mouth closed. Please note the flounder is an example only.



Tournament Results

The Tautog tournament winner for March-April 2021 - Wally Veal - 23.75in 9lbs 7oz.

Charles and Hunter Southall ran SpecialKate out of Oregon Inlet for some Mother's Day weekend Cobia fishing. They found the fish on the north edge of Diamond Soals, quickly landing a limit of nice fish up to 55 pounds. After the cobia, they spent a few hours catching schooling Black Drum off Avon before running back to Oregon Inlet for dinner.



Cont. from Pg 1 Presidents message

the club for meeting location. As you all know the IBEW hall is no longer available and we have been on a search for over a year now for a new meeting location. The board is currently looking into two different locations. The availability of locations along with changing Covid-19 mandates means we will start having meetings again in June. They will continue to be held on the third Tuesday of each month. The meeting in June will be held at the J.O.U.A.M. Yorktown Council #66 Meeting Hall in Poquoson (please see more regarding the location in this month's Chumline). We will have at least one or two meetings at this location and also look at a different location in Hampton. Please stay tuned for more information regarding the meeting in June.

I am really looking forward to seeing you all again. It has been far too long since we have been able to get together for fellowship and fun. There will be plenty of PSWSFA merchandise available including light jackets and long sleeve moisture wicking fishing shirts. As usual, door-prizes will be given away and there will be raffle prizes. The membership committee will be present to sign everyone up for the 2021 season. I hope to see you all there!

Tight lines,

Danny Forehand, President PSWSFA

ൂ Fishing Around the World **ൂ**

Cook Islands

With translucent waters, tropical temperatures and pristine reefs dropping sharply into the Pacific Ocean, our little paradise is an angler's paradise. From tossing a line in the shallows or venturing into the deep blue, all year round is a good time to try your luck. Fly fishing, lagoon fishing and spear fishing and all types of boat fishing are popular, from dropping a line from a kayak to going beyond the reef on a deep sea charter to chase yellow fin tuna, mahi mahi and wahoo.

Sport fishing

Rarotonga and Aitutaki have a large number of giant trevally on their reefs. The giant trevally or 'GT' is a great sport fish with light tackle and many an angler experiences the thrill of this catch-and-release species. Fishing on Rarotonga is unique as the island only has a 36 km circumference around the reef, meaning fishing locations in nearly all weather conditions. For the ultimate land-based fishing challenge, no angler can go past the fast-running, hard-fighting bonefish. These lie on the beautiful sand flats of Aitutaki and are every fly fisherman's dream.

Fishing clubs

The Cook Islands are not crowded with fisherman, and the "Ra'ui" (protected areas) within the lagoon conserve the marine life and ensure fishing will remain a popular sport for generations to come. Fishing clubs on Rarotonga and Aitutaki welcome non-members and guided reef fishing can be arranged on Atiu.





The Cook Islands is a nation in the South Pacific, with political links to New Zealand. Its 15 islands are scattered over a vast area. The largest island, Rarotonga, is home to rugged mountains and Avarua, the national capital. To the north, about 100 miles, Aitutaki Island has a vast lagoon encircled by coral reefs and small, sandy islets. The country is renowned for its many snorkeling and scubadiving sites.

Because of Covid it is still difficult to visit due to needing a 2 week quarantine in New Zealand before arriving on the islands plus meeting other restrictions. Plus the extreme cost of getting there. (Google maps this country, it is beyond remote, zoom way in)

So you think you know your Fish

Name this Fish? Answer next month











NEWS FROM VIMS

New photo monitoring tool tracks environmental change

by David Malmquist | April 28, 2021

"Chronolog" allows park visitors to use their cellphones to serve as community scientists

Have you ever gazed out across a Chesapeake Bay scene and wondered what it looked like in the past, or might look like in the future? Thanks to educators at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, you can now do exactly that using a new photo monitoring tool at York River State Park between Williamsburg and Richmond.



designed to hold cellphones so that sequential visitors to a particular

Sarah Nuss, education coordinator for the Chesapeake YRSP Chronolog The Chronolog platform features a rigid bracket Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia, led locality capture a consistent scene through their phone's camera lens the effort to install a "Chronolog" at a popular vantage point @ Sarah M. Nuss. within the 2,500-acre park. The physical Chronolog platform

features a rigid bracket designed to hold cellphones so that sequential visitors to a particular locality can capture a consistent scene through their phone's camera lens. Once shared with the chronolog.io website via email, software stitches the images into a time-lapse photo series that illustrates the changing environment—in this case, the changing landscape of Taskinas Creek and adjacent woodlands. The meandering, marsh-lined waterway, which lies within York River State Park, is one component of CBNERR-VA's four-unit reserve site.

"We love the fact that the Chronolog system stitches all of the photos together for a time series automatically—both for us and the photographer," says Nuss. "The photographer can see changes in the marsh over time immediately after submitting their own photo, while we can use the photos to monitor for vegetation change, sea-level rise, seasonal changes, and even invasive species."

"Our hope is that park visitors will contribute to an ever-growing photo collection," says Nuss. "We'd seen that several other NERRS sites are using this type of tool for research and monitoring purposes; now we can contribute to a robust collection of photos taken in estuaries all over the country." Together with Taskinas Creek, CBNERR-VA's other reserve components—Catlett Island, Goodwin Islands, and Sweet Hall Marsh—provide a pristine natural laboratory along the salinity gradient of the York River. CBNERR-VA is one of 29 coastal sites in **NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System** (NERRS), a network designated to protect and study the vital ecosystems where salt and freshwaters mix—and the communities that depend on them.

Nuss and other CBNERR-VA staff are now considering installing Chronologs at some of their other protected sites, "even if it's just to standardize photographs of our reserves when our own staff visit," she says. Her team also hopes to propose placing one at the new *Machicomoco State Park* in Gloucester County, which lies on the shore of the York River opposite its eponymous state park.

CBNERR-VA's Taskinas Creek Chronolog—designated as CBV-101—joins similar units at 173 other sites across the U.S., as well as in Canada and the United Kingdom. To access time-lapse footage from the York River State Park Chronolog, visit https://www.chronolog.io and either click on the appropriate icon or filter by project "Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Virginia."



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Directions to PSWSFA Meeting IN JUNE

JOUAM Lodge - 10 Lodge Rd, Poquoson

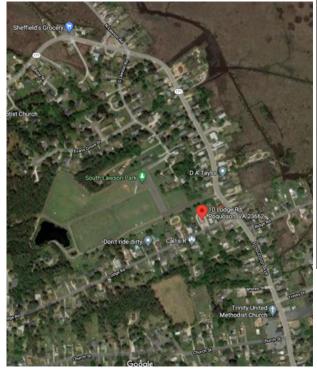
From Rt 64 or Rt 17 in Yorktown turn East on Victory Blvd (Rt 171) towards Poquoson (Turns into Little Florida Rd when you cross over Wythe Creek Rd. it later turns into Poquoson Ave.(slight turn to the right).

DO NOT turn left onto Poquoson Ave you are going the wrong way.

From Wythe Creek Rd it is 2.78 miles. Turn right onto Lodge Rd. Hall is 3rd lot in on the right.

If you reach the Trinity United Methodist Church turn around and go back a block.





WHAT'S UP NEXT & BEYOND



May Meeting IS CANCELED



We will be holding the June meeting at the J.O.U.A.M. Yorktown Council #66 at 10 Lodge Rd in Poquoson. Back River market *USED* to be on the corner. If you reach Trinity United Methodist church turn around and go back a block. GPS Coord: 37.12843, -76.34711 (google map coords)



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