

Northern Neck Anglers Club

January 2019 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com).

The 2018 fishing season is history and the club's officers and directors are now planning for the 2019 fishing season.

We have 106 members as we enter 2019. With the arrival of 2019 comes the renewal of annual membership dues by March 31, still \$30 per adult member with no charge for youth (under age 18) members.

The club's annual election of officers and directors for the upcoming year was held in December. The Board of Directors recommended a slate of officers and directors with two changes for 2019. All election ballots received recorded votes for the recommended slate with no write-in votes received. The following officers and directors were elected for 2019: President – John O'Connor, Vice President – Mark Roy, Treasurer – Lee Pulling, Secretary – Tom Hedgpeth, Directors (3) – Jan Jamrog, Stuart McKenzie and Leroy Bussells. Club founder and former long-time President Dave Compton was previously named as a lifetime Director Emeritus and will continue to serve on the Board as a non-voting advisor and consultant.

Unfortunately, elected Director and long-time member Leroy Bussells went missing on Sunday, December 23. Leroy was fishing alone and apparently fell overboard while trolling for rockfish on autopilot in his 27 foot Grady White. He was believed to have been fishing near the mouth of the Rappahannock River and/or the lower Cut Channel. The U.S. Coast Guard and Smith Point Sea Rescue initiated a search and rescue effort upon notification that he had not returned that day from fishing. The boat was located the following day, aground at Bloodsworth Island in Maryland waters, with fishing gear deployed and no one aboard. The search effort has ended and the body has not yet been recovered. Please keep his family in your prayers.

I would like to thank Bob Reed and Ed Fortunato for their leadership and contributions to the club while a Board member and Secretary, respectively and welcome Tom Hedgpeth to the Board. I would also like to thank the 2018 officers and directors who have volunteered to continue to serve in their leadership positions during 2019. A Director will be appointed in the near future to fulfill the vacancy created by Leroy's apparent accidental death.

In Leroy's memory, the Board of Directors has authorized a \$250 donation from the club to Smith Point Sea Rescue in Leroy's memory, approved honorary membership for Leroy in the Club and Board of Directors during 2019 and named the November member fishing tournament the "Leroy Bussells Memorial Tournament". Leroy won the November 2018 Bonus Rockfish Tournament.

Member meetings during 2019 have been scheduled on Saturdays April 27, June 29, July 27 and September 28. We anticipate holding all member meetings at the Wicomico Parish Church in Wicomico Church VA, the location of our 2018 member meetings. Guests are welcome and the meetings are open to the public. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Once again remember to thank and patronize those businesses that sponsor club tournaments and awards and the marinas and weigh-in locations. These businesses play an important role in the continuing success of our club.

On behalf of your officers and directors and personally, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year and a successful and enjoyable 2019 fishing season.

Tight lines !!

John O'Connor