



P.O. Box 77
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www.strathmerefishing.org

February 8, 2016

Dear SFEC Members:

As you know, annual dues of \$35.00 are currently due and we encourage all members to renew their membership and pay their dues as soon as possible so that we can continue to support our Club's efforts, meetings and programs, and to provide donations to those organizations that we support.

In 2015, we held a Summer Social celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Club. At the time of its inception, the Club dues were \$20.00 and Club has functions were limited to meetings and several fishing tournaments. Over the past 30 years, our Club has expanded to a membership of approximately 180 members making us the largest fishing and environmental club in the South Jersey. Dues were increased to \$25.00 annually in the 1990's and were only recently raised to \$35.00 a few years ago. However, during that time, the Club has greatly expanded its programs and commitments to local organizations as a result of much effort on behalf of the Board and the membership.

Annual fishing tournaments have expanded and have generated much interest. From the Opening Day Herb Hollinger, Sr., Flounder Tournament through the Last Cast Tournament held Thanksgiving weekend, the Club has organized successful fishing tournaments with great participation. In particular, the Labor Day Weekend Kids Surf Fishing Tournament has grown by leaps and bounds to the point where participation has gotten close to 200 hundred kids annually with t-shirts, hotdogs, soda and wonderful prizes free for all of the participating children. Recognizing that our local youth are the future of our Club, we have now created a separate membership category for children and young adults up to the age of 21 who can join the club for free after being moved by a sponsor.

Environmental programs continue to expand and we have supported the Wetlands Institute, the American Littoral Society, and fish tagging programs with our donations.

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In particular, the Club has always supported the local reef program with the donations of reef balls in memory of Jack Clements. Now that the local reef program will start up again, the Club continues to be committed to supporting that as well as overall fish and environmental conservation.

Dune and beach plantings and the construction and placement of osprey nest platforms have been quite successful. We have also continued to support the Wetlands Institute Turtle Release Program annually at the Schiavo Library and have donated funds towards that effort.

We are also committed to the local community. For instance, after Hurricane Sandy, the Club donated funds to local businesses adversely impacted by the storm. We have raised funds for local food banks. We appreciate Whale Creek Marina hosting a number of our functions and tournaments. We remain committed to supporting the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company for helping our Club throughout its existence and for providing us with a wonderful meeting area at the firehouse where we conduct many of our meetings and events.

While the Club remains a not for profit organization, we do have our annual operating expenses and are obligated to act responsibly and maintain all applicable insurance coverages for our meetings and events. Currently, the annual expense for insurance alone is \$2,500.00. In addition to annual dues, we have conducted a number of fundraising events over the years and of course, our biggest event of the year is the annual Nightmare in Strathmere Boat Parade, shirt sale and ticket raffle.

This Club has continued to grow and thrive due to an active and involved membership and the volunteer efforts of that membership and the Board. We look forward to another year of wonderful events and camaraderie and hope that all of you continue to support your Club.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL J. OLLEY
SFEC President

MJO/tpw