

About the Nantucket Anglers' Club

The Nantucket Anglers' Club was conceived in 1968, and was born in April of 1969. The founding members generally agreed that a membership of 75 would be their aim, but the social structure of the Club was not easy to resolve; some desired a coat and tie type of Club while others wanted a family oriented, more casual type of atmosphere. The people in the waders and deck shoes prevailed and today the Club remains a casual, family-oriented Anglers' Club of 525 active and 55 honorary members and their families. Memberships are for individuals only, and only members can vote and/or hold office, but all other aspects of the Club are open to spouses/in-situs and their children while in school or in the military, giving us an effective "membership" of about 2000 individuals. These "members" may participate in our many tournaments, attend lunch or dinners, or just stop by for a cup of coffee during the 361 days a year that the Club is open (closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter).

The General purposes of the Nantucket Anglers' Club are to promote Nantucket fresh and salt water angling from both boats and beach; to foster and conduct fishing tournaments of all kinds; to promote and encourage conservation of marine fisheries and the preservation and maintenance of beaches, marshland, etc.; to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise to own, hold, use, maintain, improve and operate and to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of real and personal property, all for the use and enjoyment of the members of the Club.

A love of fishing is what brought the Anglers' Club into being, and the Tally Board is open year-round for members, spouses/in-situs, eligible children over 16 years old who are registered, and any and all children under 16 years old who wish to weigh in the fish they caught on or around Nantucket. There are 17 species of fish in 22 spinning and 19 fly rod slots for all anglers to compete for on a monthly and yearly basis. Each month of the year, \$10.00 gift certificates are awarded to anglers in each of the slots who have the heaviest fish for the month in the men's division, ladies' division, and the junior (under 16) division. There is a potential for 123 gift certificates each month of the year, and although Swordfish are rare, the 5 species of pond fish are available year-round. The gift certificates are honored at the local tackle shops, Mitchell's Bookstore, and may also be used for payment of the member's annual dues.

The Anglers' Club also sponsors many other tournaments during the year, various pond tournaments, ladies only tournaments, bluefish beach and boat tournaments. Any fish in any of the tournaments, if caught by IGFA rules, is also eligible for the monthly / yearly Tally Board. The Anglers' Club is also a certified weigh station for the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) yearly and world record contests, the Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby, and the Massachusetts Freshwater Fishing Derby, and will weigh in eligible fish for members and non-members, for these purposes. Engraved plaques for all IGFA world record fish and all Massachusetts Fishing Derby winners are located at the bottom of the Tally Board.

The Anglers' Club has year-long tournaments for 5 categories. The Jack Dooley Tournament is for male members or male spouses or in-situs to members. Junior males may also enter with a payment of the annual fee. The overall winner will be the entrant who accumulates the most total points for all the eligible species of fish during the tournament year, January 1 through December 31st. The female counterpart to this tournament is the Esther Barlow Tournament. This is open to all female members, or female spouses or in-situs to a member. Juniors have 3 different age groups for the tournament. Ages 6 and under is called the Pew-Kelliher division, ages 7 to 11 is called the Bachman-Kelliher division, and ages 12 to 15 is called the Smith-Kelliher division. This is run the same as the adult tournaments but juniors do not have to pay a fee. Any child on Nantucket is eligible for this tournament; their parents do not have to be members. All fish must be weighed and registered at the Nantucket Anglers' Club by one of the appointed weigh masters, and must abide by the rules and regulations of the Tournament. Striped Bass are worth 4 pts. per oz., Bluefish are worth 7 per oz., Bonito – 15 per oz., Scup- 50 per oz., Pickerel – 30 per oz., White Perch – 50 per oz., Crappie – 50 per oz., Yellow Perch – 100 per oz., and Sunfish – 150 per oz. Each angler may weigh in two of each of the species during the Tournament year. Heavier fish may bump a smaller fish previously weighed in. All fish must meet legal size minimums. IGFA rules apply. The winners of the Jack Dooley and Esther Barlow Tournament receive their name in ivory at the Club. The winner of the overall Angler of the Year receives their dues paid for the next year. The winners of the junior divisions receive gift certificates of \$200.00.

Nantucket Anglers' Club Ivory Awards

The Anglers' Club owns a collection of Ivory Trophies, all of which were donated to the Club. The winners of the Ivories and each of the men, women and junior anglers on the Tally Board receive a mounted and engraved Anglers' Club plaque each year at appropriate award ceremonies.

The term member / registered angler refers to any paid-up member of the Nantucket Anglers' Club and any spouse or in-situ. The members' tournament fees are included in the yearly dues payment. The term junior angler refers to any youngster on Nantucket who has not yet reached his / her 16th birthday. The term tournament registered angler refers to any participant in the Inshore Classic who is a registered angler according to the official records of the committee. The term guest refers to a guest of a member of the Nantucket Anglers' Club who has signed up as an angler in a particular tournament.

Junior anglers may compete with members / registered anglers for those trophies that do not have a junior angler trophy (heaviest swordfish)/ while junior anglers are not eligible to compete with member / registered anglers for those trophies that are duplicated (heaviest beach bass). Junior anglers do not have to pay fees for participating, except for the special tournament trophies – Billfish, Ladies, and Ladies Pond.

The member / registered angler awards, and Junior are on a January through December basis, and the special tournament awards are limited to the time frame of the tournament each year.

The Club offers a variety of other Tournaments throughout the year some of which are the Vern Hilts Pond Cleanup Tournament. This is held early in May as one of the first pond tournaments for the year. The first day is for clean up. Volunteers go to the island's ponds and give them a good cleaning. Over the winter a lot of debris is left around the ponds and it is a good way to get the fishing season going. The next day is an all-specie blind draw pond tournament. The Bottom Feeders Tournament is another one-day tournament offered in the summer. This is a saltwater event that focuses on Scup, Sea Robins, Flounder, & Black Sea Bass. The bi-monthly blitz events are either weight (weigh fish at the Club) and length (catch, take a picture with ruler and release).

The Club's Social Aspects

The Nantucket Anglers' Club sponsors many dinners and social functions during the year. Besides fishing and the Tally Board, events for the whole family include lunches and dinners and the Children's Christmas Party in December. The Anglers' Club is also the "mother hen" to 3 scholarships awarded to college bound high school graduates each year.

As stated earlier, the Club is open 361 days a year. The hours of operation vary depending on the season. In the winter season (12/15 to 4/30), Monday – Friday, the Club opens at 3:00 p.m. and has an 8:00 p.m. minimum closing time. Weekends, the Club opens at 9:00 a.m. and has a 9:00 p.m. minimum closing. In the summer season (5/1 – 12/ 14), The Club opens at 9:00 a.m. every day and has a 9:00 p.m. minimum closing weeknights, and a 10:00 p.m. closing minimum. The term "closing minimum" refers to the Club rule of member minimum requirement. If there is 1 or more members present after the minimum closing hour, the bartender must remain open. If there is less, they may close.

When enjoying the Club facilities, it is up to the member to clean up after oneself. All glasses are to be cleared from one's table and brought to the bar, and trash is to be disposed of and any dishes used are to be washed and put away in the kitchen. The only exception to this is during lunch and dinner. You do not have to clean up but it is always appreciated. Guests must **always** be signed in the guest book, which is kept by the bar. This is our only way of monitoring how many times guests are brought to the Club and most importantly, our liquor license requires all guests be signed in before they may be served.

The Club has instilled a spending minimum for members. Anything purchased at the Club counts toward one's minimums. Food, drink, tournament fees, merchandise, etc... all count. Please make sure your server has your name and number correct so that credit will be given. This has been instituted not only to gain more participation, but to also track what members are spending their money on at the Club. This is a great tool to gauge what the membership wants. Participation is always encouraged. Once again, welcome to the Anglers' Club.

