## The Incredible Hospitality of the Croton Yacht Club



By John H. Vargo, Publisher

## August 14th, 2021 proved to be a very hot day for fishing on the Hudson River.

Never the less, Dennis Kooney, host at the Croton Yacht Club Wounded Warrior Catfish Derby and Nancy Beastra, Event Coordinator for Wounded Warrior were at Their usual outstanding best in providing an interesting an comfortable experience as possible on Saturday August 13th as part of the HRFA Catfish Chaos River wide fishing derby. Tied to it was a private special Wounded Warrior fishing contest. (A contest within a contest)!

Arguably the largest catfish derby on the Hudson River in terms of territory covered, the HRFA Catfish Chaos Catfish Derby had weigh stations at Piermont Pier in Piermont, Westerly Marina in Ossining, NY to Coeymans Landing Marina in Coeymans, NY. (14 miles south of Albany). The idea is to provide as much opportunity as possible to anyone who wished to fish.

The Croton Yacht Club in Croton, NY is an ideal location to fish and have children fishing from because of its physical layout. The bulkhead railing stretching the length of the clubhouse is designed for resting fishing rods against and is the perfect height to keep children safe. There is nothing guite like it on the Hudson River. Couple that with a beautiful clubhouse, manicured grounds and a marina and you have the ideal place to host fishing events.

Note the young lady and

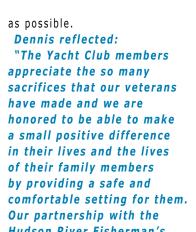
the height of the railing.

A perfect fit!

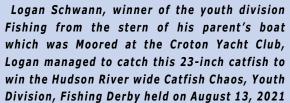
Then there is the wonderful, knowledgeable Dennis Kooney. Dennis, an avid Hudson River fisherman, is always one jump ahead of everyone in what is required to make visitors to the Croton Yacht Club as comfortable

Pollinated Tathways

"The Yacht Club members appreciate the so many sacrifices that our veterans have made and we are honored to be able to make a small positive difference in their lives and the lives of their family members by providing a safe and Our partnership with the Hudson River Fisherman's Association and Wounded









Jesse Brody, overall winner with this magnificent 31-inch catfish.

## Warriors organization has allowed us to expanded our outreach programs and we look forward to continuing that relationship into the future."

Approximately 35 Wounded Warriors, many past visitors to the location from other events, were cared for in every way possible. As the morning progressed and the sun came out, Dennis would quietly be moving tables and umbrellas around so that the children and adults fishing were covered. This was fully appreciated by everyone, as the sun was brutal.

On top of that service the clubhouse itself has a very efficient air conditioning system that offered not only a comfortable place to sit and rest but also coffee and bagels

When I arrived at the Croton Yacht Club at 8am there was one man already at the railing, putting fishing rods together. His name was Jeff Christie, and he represented the HRFA volunteer who was in charge of providing each Wounded Warrior with a fishing Rod and bait

for the event. With one Wounded Warrior waiting for his rod sitting at the table, Jeff kept up a cheerful dialogue about the days fishing while at the same time putting a rod together and baiting the hooks.

As the morning progressed Jeff did an outstanding job of repeating that mission for each of the families that arrived. He was the first one on the scene and almost the last to leave at the end of the day. He did



and outstanding job as a representative of the HRFA. Gill Hawkins, of the HRFA also assisted during the morning fishing.

The fishing was spotty all over the Hudson River. Most serious fisherman with experience on the river suggested that the water temperature was just too warm.

The largest fish, a 31" channel catfish, almost did not

make it to the weigh station in time, but Jesse Brody, by cell phone kept calling the weigh station by cell phone at Westerly Marina in Ossining, NY and was guided in with only minutes lasting to the closing bell.

Everyone who signed up for the Catfish Chaos Contest, including the Wounded Warrior folks, had a chance at winning a trip on the unique Solar Boat called Solaris berthed at the Hudson River Maritime Museum on

## **Top 20**

- 1. Jesse Brody
- 2. Gordon Winn
- 3. Kevin Peter
- 4. Chris Walter
- 5. Jeff Winn
- 6. Stan Drezek
- 7. Cody Shutter
- 8. Daniel Narzymski
- 9. Bill Klippel
- 10. Winston James

- 11. Kevin Whelan
- 12. Charley Spindelman
- 13. Pat Murray
- 14. Bill Walsh
- 15. Edwin Sanabria
- 16. Wayne Geider
- 17. Anthony Dell
- 18. Bill Hazen
- 19. Alex Spindelman
- 20. Greg Van Wormer

Top 3 Youth 1 Logan Schwan

2. Jayden Hilland 3.Liam Robinson



The winner of the drawing, Peter Musse, has the opportunity to invite 18 of his friends on the only commercially U. S. Coast Guard certi ied solar boat operated in the United States.







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