



Lilly and Jake Debellis, brother and sister, the look on their faces says it all!

INSPIRING CHILDREN THRU FISHING

by John H. Vargo, Publisher

Of all the striped bass derby's and catfish contests that the Hudson River Fisherman's Association and I have been involved in, none had the dramatic influence on kids and adults that the April 15th, 2017 catfish derby

Had on so many children and adults that this one did.

Call it luck; call it skill, whatever the reasons everyone who had a hand it putting this one together should get a round of applause.

FISHING

To begin with the location, the deck of Billy Joe's Rib Works is a perfect venue. The railing that surrounds the deck makes it just about as safe a location as you could wish for when 2 year old and up children are running around, impatient to do something.

Not to be diminished is Joe Maleck the General Manager of Billy Joe's Rib Works and his enthusiasm for these events. By



front row L-R Marius Behr, Tony Dimogduno, Mike Cargill, Wayne Guider, Joe Mallie, and Kevin Morgan. Back row L-R Gil Hawkins, Dan Harrison, Andrew Ward, Al Miller, and Scott Havner.



the time the HRFA volunteers arrived at 9 AM, Joe had the tables and chairs arranged for the event.

Then there is Jim Williams, volunteer coordinator of many of the events that take place at Riverfront Marina and the deck of Billie Joe's Rib Works. When Jim was asked to come up with a group of children to participate he suggested the "Hooks Elite Boxing Club".

Nothing happens on the waterfront at Newburgh without Steve Kaufman, General Manager giving his approval. As usual, Steve was as enthused as everyone else regarding the event.

Leonard Lee, manager of the Hooks Elite Boxing Club, Jim Williams in center, and Steve Kaufman, general manager of Riverfront Marina.



Jalen with his grandparents being helped by Wayne Guider.

One of the first to arrive as an individual group was this grandfather and grandmother, Samantha and Maxwell with their two grand children Jalen and Faiina Morton. These folks were the first to catch a catfish.



Trent Wager caught one of the largest of the morning - A 19 incher.



The Head Coach Shawn Crowley with Daughter Kaci Crowley



the "Hooks Elite Boxing Club" (The young lady in pink is Samantha Ryan a rising star in the fishing world)



The Head Coach, Shawn Crowley of the Enre Boxing Club with his assistant Craeg Cotheland and a large catfish that Shawn had just caught.



Scott Havner, HRFA volunteer with Jordan Schoonmaker and Alexa Magnifico.

While there were many individuals that came out on their own it was not until the "Hooks Elite Boxing Club" arrived and to everyone's surprise a boxing club from Ireland that by happenstance was having a "meet" at the same time.

Being as good natured a people as the Irish are, they came along and I am sure have some explaining to the folks back home how they managed to go fishing while at a boxing tournament in the "States"

If you have been around as long as I have and seen these events grow in stature and influence you would be as satisfied as I am as to what has been accomplished in a few years.