

February 2010

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Next Membership Meeting:

February 23, 2010 - 7:00 PM

Skilligalee Restaurant

Glenside Ave, just North of Broad Street
Come ~ 5:30 PM and enjoy good company
over dinner from the menu

BACKLASH

(Commentary from the Board of Directors)

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VIRGINIA BOAT OPERATOR'S LICENSE

Statewide Coordinator, Boating Safety Education at VA Dept of Game and Inland Fisheries, Tom Guess, will be the guest speaker at the February 23rd Membership Meeting of the Virginia Anglers Club. Tom will describe the DGIF's new Education Compliance Requirements for all Virginia boat operators. As of July 1, 2010, all PWC operators 20 years old and younger must complete a boating safety course. This is the beginning of the phase-in of the Education Compliance Requirement for all Virginia boaters. We all need to be ready to satisfy this requirement as it is phased in by age group over the coming years. Tom will be ready to answer all questions you might have. He will also join us as a guest of the Club for dinner prior to the meeting.

TWO RAFFLES FEATURED AT THE FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Two items will be raffled off at the February Membership Meeting. Green Top Sporting Goods has again generously provided the VAC with a \$25 Gift Certificate to raffle off at each of the 10 Membership Meetings in 2010. A special raffle item will also be offered. A copy of the 2010 Dr. Julie Ball Sport Fishing calendar will be raffled for the second year straight. The calendar features 12 photographs of catches made by Julie in the coastal waters of Virginia. Be sure to sign up on the raffle sheets (early) as Special Activities Chairman Don West passes the sheets around.

SCALE CERTIFICATION OFFERED AT FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Weigh Master Larry Allen and his crew will be set up at the February Membership Meeting to certify member's scales. Please put your scale(s) in a Zip Loc style plastic bag with your name on the outside and leave the bag at the far left corner of the meeting room. You bagged scales will be returned after they are certified. Please be sure the outside of the barrel of Chatillon scales is clean and free of any oil so the certification sticker will adhere.



BACKLASH continued from Page 1.

DEADLINE FOR DUES PAYMENT IS MARCH 1, 2010

The three-month grace period over which late VAC membership dues are forgiven will end on February 28, 2010. After that date, if a members renewal dues for the current year (2010) have not been received, catch entries made by such members will not be accepted for credit. Only after the dues in arrears are received, will entry cards be again accepted and credit given for the catches noted on the card. Remember, dues can be conveniently paid by Credit Card on the VAC website. Dues payment by check and cash are both welcome too.

**VAC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS
DAVE GOODE AND RON ROCK**

Dave Good and Ron Rock were voted into membership in the Virginia Anglers Club at the February Membership Meeting. Dave and Ron's picture can be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Angler*.

**ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET HELD
JANUARY 23rd AT THE SKILLIGALEE**

The Annual Virginia Anglers Club Awards Banquet for 2009 awards was held Saturday evening, January 23rd, 2010. Fifty-eight (58) members and guests were in attendance and enjoyed the banquet. This was the first time that the Skilligalee was the venue for the Banquet. Attendees will be asked to critique the Banquet at the February Membership Meeting. The hard work of Banquet Chairman Eddy Johnston made this event an enjoyable and filling experience. Thanks to Eddy for all of the time and effort he put in to set up this Club function.

**NEW "T" SHIRTS AND GASOHOL TESTERS ADDED
COUNTRY STORE INVENTORY**

Two new items will be introduced and available for purchase at the Country Store for the first time at the February membership meeting. One item is the new short and long sleeved "T" shirts with pockets in assorted sizes and colors that sport the new VAC logo. The other item is the Shindiawa gasohol testers. These testers make testing the alcohol content and quality of ethanol containing gasoline an easy and informative process. All "T" shirts, no matter what size, color or style are priced at \$10.00 each and the gasohol testers are available at \$5.00 each. All sales are payable by cash or check. Other VAC gear will also be available such as hats in multiple styles, de-hookers, VAC decals and the coveted drink mugs.

**FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
POSTPONED**

The February VAC Board of Directors' Meeting was postponed from February 9th to the 16th. The Skilligalee was closed due to the snow and the normal meeting place was not available. Since February 16th falls after the deadline for submitting content for *The Angler*, any significant actions of the BOD will be communicated at the February Membership Meeting and by a special informational e-mail. Other news of Board actions will be found in the March *Angler* in this column.

For the Leadership Team
John Wetlaufer, Sr., Director

OFFICERS FOR 2010 SWORN IN AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET

The following officers were sworn in at the VAC Annual Banquet on January 23, 2010.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS ELECT FOR 2010

President	Mike Ostrander
1 st Vice President – Programs	Fred Murray
2 nd Vice President – Tournaments	Parks Rountrey*
3 rd Vice President – Conservation & Legislation	Matt Balazik*
Treasurer	Clif Williams*
Recording Secretary	Greg Cramer
Newsletter / Website Secretary	Johnny Wetlaufer*

Directors – Class of 2012
Vic Skakandy
Fred Murray
Lynn Spurlin

* Held same office in 2009



CATCHY COMMENTS

by Buddy Noland

January started off “huge” for **Bob Shepherd** fishing New Year’s Day with Fred Murray. Bob landed a 63-0 pound Blue

Catfish fishing on the James River with cut bait. Bob was using 6# line and the fish is worth 592 points. The Catfish is now the new *species*, *general division*, and *heaviest* leader and will be difficult to beat. Bob doesn’t turn in many entry cards, but when he does, it usually scores a lot of points. Another interesting point, is that he’s usually fishing with Fred Murray when catching big Blue Catfish!

George Atkinson and **Scott Johnston** were fishing Dragon Run the 13th of January. Scott ended the day with a Chain Pickerel weighing 1-11 pounds and worth 123 points. He was fly fishing using 6# tippet and a Clouser. The Pickerel will also take the lead for *species*, *heaviest*, and *fly division*.

Parks Rountrey and **Matt Balazik** were pre-fishing the Elizabeth River to get ready for the Spotted Seatrout Tournament. A few trout and plenty of Red Drum were caught. Matt entered a 4-12 Red Drum on 2# spin using a jig. The fish scored 118 points and is the *species* and *heaviest* leader.

Fred Cousins had several nice entries before the snow put a damper on the fishing. He was also on the Elizabeth River and landed a 3-3 Spotted Seatrout on 2# spin for 212 points which is the *species* and *heaviest* leader. Several days later, Fred was fishing the James River and landed a nice 52-0 Blue Catfish. The fish is worth 308 points and was caught on 16# general.

Hopefully, the coming snow storm will not delay the Trout tournament again and we’ll hear about some Red Drum and Speckled Trout caught at the February membership meeting.

fishing,

Good luck

Buddy



Bob Shepherd with his monster 63lb. Blue Catfish on 6# Gen



Matt Balazik with his 4-12 Red Drum on 2# spin



Snow at the ditch on Saturday



Fun at the VAC tourney social



Parks and Vic with some nice puppy drum



Pictures from the Speckled Trout & Puppy Drum tournament at the Hot Ditch held February 13-14.

MANY VAC MEMBERS HOLD CURRENT IGFA WORLD RECORDS

The annual *2010 World Record Game Fishes* book was recently delivered to members of the IGFA. Listed among the current world record holders as of the October 31, 2009 were a respectable number of Members of the Virginia Anglers Club. In an attempt to identify the names of VAC Members listed in the book and the type and number of World Record each held, the records section of the book was scanned twice to develop the below list. If there are any omissions or errors noted, please contact the editor of *The Angler*.

Category	VAC Member	No. Of Records
Salt Water Line Class	Gene DuVal*	30
	Bill DuVal	11
	Jim Sheffield	2
	Ricky Dale	1
	Buddy Noland	1
	Parks Rountrey	1
Fresh Water Line Class	Bob Shepherd	2
Salt Water Fly Class	Gene DuVal	23
	Bill DuVal	7
	Ricky Dale	1
	Buddy Noland	1
	Danny Noland	1

* Listed to honor the memory of Gene, the first woman member of the VAC and an IGFA Representative for Virginia.

**FEBRUARY ANGLER'S QUIZ
VAC's Most Popular Line Classes**

The Virginia Anglers Club has a long history of being a light tackle angling club. This month the Angler's Quiz asks you to identify, in order, the 10 most popular line classes found on entry cards submitted by current active members. The ranking will truly show that we are a light tackle club in terms of catch submissions.

FEBRUARY QUIZ		
<u>VAC Entry Card Submissions By Line Class</u> (TOP TEN CURRENT MEMBERS)		
<u>Line Class</u>		<u>Submission Rank</u> (Most to Least)
2		
4		
6		
8		
12		
16		
20		
30		
50		
80		

**SCALE CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE
AT FEBRUARY MEETING**

Annual scale certification will be offered will be the February 23, 2010 Membership Meeting. Now is a good time to clean up your scales and to get them in top working order. Remember the following points:

- Clean the outside of the barrel so certification stickers will adhere
- Gather your scales together in one or more Zip Lock type bags.
- Write your name on the outside of the bag.

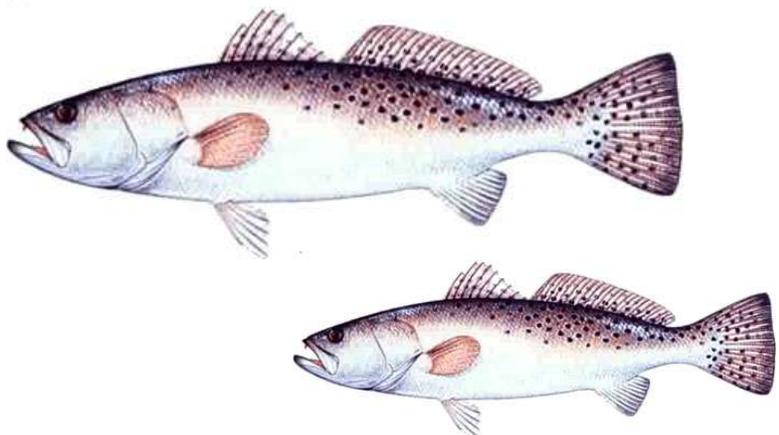
**ATTENDANCE UP FOR
VAC AWARDS BANQUET**

Attendance was up for this year's VAC Awards Banquet held January 23, 2010. Fifty-eight (58) members and guests, the largest number of attendees in recent years, filled the lower banquet room of the Skilligalee. Lucky winners of the items offered for raffle and the items won are listed below.

- Set of Assorted Custom Decorated Beverage Glasses - **Glenn Carter**
(Donated by Green Top Sporting Goods)
 - Bill Gallash Fly Assortment in a Shadow Box - **Will Mosley**
 - Ronnie Sides Fly Assortment in a Shadow Box (*) - **Bob Brown**
(Boxes a creative collaboration by the fly's donor, Tony Horsley and Eddie Johnston)
 - A Framed Original Japanese Gyotaku Fish Print - **Anna Noland**
(Custom created for the raffle by Rob Choi)
- (*) Included \$50 / 100 discount for a Capt. Ronnie Sides guided shad / little tunny trip.

PROGRAM IDEAS REQUESTED

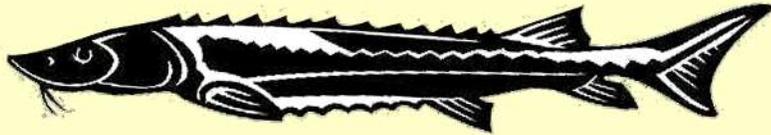
First Vice President – Programs Elect Fred Murray is interested an any and all ideas for programs for 2010. If you can help Fred with some suggestions for programs, please let him know (itieuglyflies@yahoo.com). Off the wall, well founded, personal interest or what ever...don't hold back, send 'em all to Fred.





Legislation and Conservation

By Matt Balazik



Local News:

Atlantic Sturgeon Spawning Reef

With a VERY generous gift from Luckstone (~\$45,000 worth of gravel) and a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the James River Association, the first artificial spawning reef for Atlantic sturgeon has been placed in the James River. The reef location is located directly across from Shirley plantation beside Presquile (Turkey Island). The reef is currently marked with four large floats but permanent staff buoys will be in place soon.

I would also like to send a special thank you to Mr. Parks Rountrey and Mr. Floyd Gottwald Jr. for recent donations to Atlantic sturgeon research at the VCU Rice Center.

Summer Flounder

Due to improved population numbers the VMRC voted to lower the size limit of summer flounder. The limit is currently at 19" with a five per day creel limit. Alternatives:

18.5" with a four or five per day creel limit

18" limit with five per day creel and season closure from June 7th to July 11th

National News:

Marine Clean Up

NOAA and Hawaii have teamed up for a major marine debris clean up attempt. The focus of this clean up is plastic trash and derelict fishing gear, both commercial and recreational. This is the first attempt of such a cleanup.

I'm sure most of you are aware of this but there is a pile of trash estimated to be twice the size of Texas in the Pacific. I hope you get mad and disappointed as I do when I go fishing and see plastic and other trash items around. Let's all do our part.

South East Coral Reef Protected

With a huge push from Oceana 23,000 square miles of deep sea coral reef is now protected from destructing fishing techniques. The reef starts in North Carolina waters and extends down into Florida waters. This is a huge victory for fishes and conservation fishermen.

Tournament News

RESULTS: Elizabeth River Speck Trout & Redfish Tourney February 13-14

Snow pushed the tournament back a week and we even had a bit of snow during the delayed tournament. Some of the power turbines were out at Dominion's plant and that lowered water temps in the River and probably hurt the fishing. But 12 members came out and searched for the elusive winter trout and redfish. Two members fished on kayaks. Following the fishing we had a tailgate social at the ramp. That was probably the best part of the event as we enjoyed hot homemade rockfish chowder and beverages that warmed all the way to your toes. A few anglers did manage to catch fish. Results as follows:

Redfish Weight:

Fred Cousins – 7-0 (wins Green Top giftcard)

Vic Skakandy – 5-0

Vic Skakandy – 1-11

Redfish Points:

Fred Cousins 6-0 on 2 spin for 150 points (wins Green Top giftcard)

Parks Rountrey 3-14 on 2# gen. for 77 points

Parks Rountrey 1-12 on 2# gen. for 35 points

Speck Trout Weight:

No entries

Speck Trout Points:

Fred Cousins 4-5 on 2 spin for 287 points (wins Green Top giftcard)

DAVE GOODE AND RON ROCK NEWEST VAC MEMBERS



Left to right: Mike Ostrander, Dave Good, Ron Rock and John Wetlaufer, Sr.

Mike is Dave's first sponsor and John is Ron's first sponsor. Glenn Carter was second sponsor of both new members. The picture was taken just after Glenn and John presented the VAC Orientation to Dave and Ron. Dave had attended a couple of VAC meetings in the past, but his work commitments at that time prevented him from continuing attendance. When his schedule changed and he found he had Tuesday evenings free, Dave advised Mike he was ready to apply for membership. Ron and John just happened to walk into a Christmas dinner together for another non-angling club in which they are members. John happened to mention the VAC. Ron commented he liked to fish and was well equipped to do so. John immediately pitched the VAC to Ron and Ron was hooked. Be sure to look up Dave and Ron at the February Membership Meeting and let yourself be known to them.



Captain's Corner

By Mike Ostrander

I wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate a short note I made during the VAC Banquet just after becoming installed as the Virginia Angler's Clubs new President.

It goes back to that old adage of 'you only get out of something what you put into it.' And that is oh, so true for my nine years in the Virginia Anglers Club. After two years of sporadically coming to meetings, I wasn't sure the club was for me. I didn't fish with anyone, and would have surely faded away. BUT, in early 2003, new President, Fred Murray, called and asked me if I would like to become the Publicity Chairman. That brought me into the Board of Directors fold.

It was there that I started forming a few friendships and saw how the club functioned behind the scenes. I even learned a few club rules. Most importantly I ended up fishing with some members ... Elly Robinson, Bob Brown, Fred Murray, Tony Horsley and a number of others. It was on these fishing trips where I realized what the VAC was truly about ... the opportunity for fellowship and to fish with guys who are truly great fishermen.

I am quite thankful for that call from Fred. It is my hope that as the club moves forward, any new member that ever feels like they aren't fitting in to step forward and get involved. There is always something to do, and ways to get involved beyond the monthly meetings. Call me anytime, or talk with a Director. For now, I wish you warm air temps to melt the ice off your favorite pond and see you at the Skilligalee or on the water.

Mike Ostrander
President



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 1/11/09

SPECIES ANGLER WEIGHT LN DIV. PTS DATE LOCATION BAIT

2010 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED JP Rountrey 35-8 8 Gen 394 12/30/09 Kiptopeke, Va. Eel
 DRUM, RED M Balazik 4-12 2 Spin 118 1/14/10 Elizabeth River, Va. Jig
 SEATROUT, SPOTTED F Cousins 3-3 2 Spin 212 1/13/10 Elizabeth River, Va. Grub

2010 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER

CATFISH, BLUE B Shepherd 63-0 6 Gen 592 1/1/10 James River, Va. Cut Bait
 PERCH, WHITE F Cousins 1-9 2 Spin 411 12/30/09 Elizabeth River, Va. Grub
 PICKERAL, CHAIN WS Johnston 1-11 6 Fly 123 1/13/10 Dragon Run River, Va. Clouser

2010 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED JP Rountrey 35-8 8 Gen 394 12/30/09 Kiptopeke, Va. Eel
 SEATROUT, SPOTTED F Cousins 3-3 2 Spin 212 1/13/10 Elizabeth River, Va. Grub

2010 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER

PERCH, WHITE F Cousins 1-9 2 Spin 411 12/30/09 Elizabeth River, Va. Grub
 CATFISH, BLUE B Shepherd 63-0 6 Gen 592 1/1/10 James River, Va. Cut Bait
 PICKERAL, CHAIN WS Johnston 1-11 6 Fly 123 1/13/10 Dragon Run River, Va. Clouser

2009 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED L Houser 44-5
 DRUM, RED M Balazik 4-12
 SEATROUT, SPOTTED F Cousins 3-3

2009 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER

CATFISH, BLUE B Shepherd 63-0
 PERCH, WHITE F Cousins 1-9
 PICKERAL, CHAIN WS Johnston 1-11

NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED L Houser 44-5 16 Gen 276 12/7/09 Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Eel
 BASS, STRIPED R Choi 36-0 50 Braid 120 12/18/09 Kiptopeke, Va. Eel

NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER

PERCH, WHITE F Cousins 1-9 2 Spin 411 12/30/09 Elizabeth River, Va. Grub

Quiz Answers (from page 6)

ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY QUIZ		
VAC Entry Card Submissions By Line Class (TOP TEN CURRENT MEMBERS)		
ANSWERS		
Line Class	Rank	% Of Catches Submitted*
2	1	34
4	2	20
8	3	12
12	4	10
6	5	10
16	6	5
20	7	5
30	8	2
50	9	1
80	10	<1

*Based on 5760 Submitted Cards



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Robert Thomas

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Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlauffer, 647-4042



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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, February 23rd at Skilligalee's**

P.O. BOX 31494
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