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Next Membership Meeting:
June 24, 2014 - 7:00 PM
Nick's Roman Terrace Restaurant
Westland Shopping Center
8051 W. Broad Street
(About 3 Blocks East of Parham & Broad)
Dinner from the menu available starting at 5:00 PM
Happy Hour Ends at 7:00 PM
(Appetizers Half Off, Beer and Wine at Reduced Prices)
Beverage and Food Service Available During the Meeting

BACKLASH
Commentary from the Board of Directors
-By John Wetlaufer, Sr.

JUNE PROGRAM – LAND BASED SHARK FISHING

Come join as John Burgner, a new transplant to this area, talks about the ins and outs of tackling large sharks from land. Learn about trip planning, bait acquisition, shark fishing set ups and more! See pictures of very large sharks caught from the planks of piers, off rock jetties or with sand beneath their feet. He will also discuss shark conservation, and try to answer any questions you might have about the exciting sport of LBSF!

REMINDERS – JULY 1ST –
NEW MOTOR BOAT OPERATING “LICENSE” MINIMUM AGE IN EFFECT

Stay Safe on the Water - Boat Smart and Sober
On July 1, 2014, motorboat operators age 45 or younger who operate boats with motors of 10 horsepower and greater must have completed a boating safety education course and carry such proof in their possession while operating the vessel.
• wear your life jacket
• do not mix alcohol and boating
• take a boating safety course

NEXT OUTING – THE PONY PASTURE WADE
JUNE 28TH

Mike Ostrander has put together a Saturday, June 28th morning fun fishing wading trip in the James River. Meet at the Pony Pasture parking lot. Toes in time 6:00 AM; toes out at 11:00 AM. More details from Mike on page 8 of this issue of The Angler.
NORMAL RAFFLE AT THE JUNE MEETING

After two months of multiple raffles, we return to the normal Green Top Monthly $25.00 Gift Certificate (Clipboard Sign Up - 2 Chances for $1.00).

“There’s a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot.”

- Steven Wright

JULY OUTINGS - ANGLER’S CHOICE
BOAT TRIP OR FLOAT TRIP
WEEKEND OF – JULY 19TH AND 20TH

The Virginia Anglers Club is offering a boat trip and/or a float trip during the third weekend in July. The boat trip is a formal VAC tournament and the float trip is a VAC just-for-fun outing. Fish one or fish both, it’s up to you, but try to fish at least one. Here are the options:

VIRGINIA/CAROLINA FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT
JULY 19TH AND 20TH
(Blow date following weekend)

This two-day flounder tournament gives you a chance to fish in two states, Virginia and/or North Carolina. Each state offers some excellent flounder fishing. Please turn to page 8 for details on this tournament. Last year Bob Schepker’s 6-14 took the weight class and Mike Cline’s 4-1 on 4 Plug @ 254 pts was the points winner.

FUN FISHING FLOAT TRIP FOR KAYAKS, CANOES AND JON BOATS JULY 19TH

The VAC is planning a club float fishing trip on Saturday, July 19th. Steve Knox will lead the one day float for kayaks, canoes, and jon boats, along the James somewhere upstream of Richmond. Steve Knox is the trip leader. This trip will be plain old, day long, fun drift fishing thru some of Virginia’s finest smallmouth bass fishing. Launch and take out locations and complete float trip information is found on page 11 of this issue of The Angler. Inclusion of friends, youngsters or other family members is encouraged for this fun fishing trip.

2014 FISH FRY WAS AN ENJOYABLE EVENING

The Annual Fish Fry was a complete success with attendance looking nearly 50 VAC members and guests. The plethora of fresh and salt water fish and trimmings were prepared by an all VAC member cooking crew composed of Buddy, Danny and Ryan Noland, Jeff Doughty, Billy Nicar and Fred Cousins. Thanks to Fred Murray who made arrangements for the venue. Also, many thanks to the Members who helped with the set up and take down of the tables and chairs.

True to his word in 2013, Fred Murray opened the casting contest on the lower lawn before the food was served. The distance casting event was decided by a matter of inches with Parks Rountrey besting Bob Brown by one foot. The rest of the evening belonged to Mike Ostrander who with practiced eye captured first place in both casting accuracy contests. Each winner came home with a $25 gift certificate from Green Top.

LUCKY NOLAN LEGACY IN PERIL – NEW MEMBER WINS STEELHEAD PRINT

New member Jay Blankenship was the lucky winner of the steelhead trout print at the May Fish Fry. The print was made from the original oil painted in 2008 by artist Al Barnes which was titled “Anticipation”. The print was a gift from the CCA.

COUNTRY STORE OPEN FOR JUNE MEETING

The Country Store will move with the rest of us to Nick’s Restaurant. This is a good time to stock up on your needs for the coming summer. New Members don’t forget to redeem you $10 Club Buck.

SCALE CERTIFICATION NOW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

All future scale certifications will be by appointment only. To request an appointment for scale certification, please contact:

Contact Ryan at: ryan.n.noland@usa.dupont.com or (804)-658-1955 (H) (894)-896-4178

Contact Danny at: danny.n.noland-1@usa.dupont.com or (804)-514-0650 (H) 383-3736 (O) for special certification is always appreciated.
DON'T FORGET THE VAC’S YOUTH ANGLER AWARDS

The Virginia Anglers Club offers a number of awards for youth who, while fishing, are accompanied by a VAC member and fish by the VAC’s angling rules. The “youth” fishing does not have to be kin to the member with which he/she is fishing. The awards are divided into Freshwater and Saltwater awards and sub divided into three age divisions, 0 thru 6, 7 thru 12 and 13 thru 17 years of age. Take a kid, any kid, fishing and see if you can make him/her a winner.

In addition to the normal inventory, a special offering will be two copies of John Bryan’s The James River in Richmond, Your Guide to Enjoying America’s Best Urban Waterway. Among chapters on the history of the James, the James River Park System and floating and paddling on the James, twenty five pages are devoted to fishing this section of the James. Featured within these 25 pages is “one of the very few urban fishing gurus, (VAC Member) Fred Murray. Guru Murray “was willing to share some general knowledge for this publication”. Fred shares the “how” but no mention of the “where” is found.

DGIF WADE FISHING WORKSHOPS FOR FLATHEADS OFFERED AGAIN THIS JULY

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will again hold their popular Wade Fishing For Flathead Catfish workshops this coming July. Four of the instructors are members of the Virginia Anglers Club; Mike Ostrander, Lee Rothgeb, David “Sarge” Brayman and Billy Nicar. Please turn to page 9 of this issue of The Angler for more details. Many VAC Members attended a session of this workshop last year. Early registration is important for these popular days of instructional fishing.

THE FLOUNDER BOWL RETURNS ON JUNE 28TH

The “Flounder Bowl” is back. This year’s tournament is scheduled for June 28 with a captains meeting June 27. The tournament will be capped at 120 boats this year. Online registration is available and encouraged at www.flounderbowl.com. More information is in the May issue of The Angler.

For The Leadership Team,
John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Membership Chairman

“Catchy Comments”
By Billy Nicar

The saltwater is open for business ladies and gentlemen. In the past few weeks everything has turned on from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries out to the Gulf Stream. Croaker are abundant in the James, Rappahannock, and the York Rivers. Flounder have been biting well around the CBBT, lower bay wrecks and fish structures. The big red drum bite has slowed a bit, but there are still plenty of puppy drum on flats along the coastline. And, did I mention the huge population of cobia? Sight-casters have been getting plenty of opportunities at some nice cobia, and the chummers have been catching their share as well. Spadefish have shown up at the Chesapeake Light Tower, as well as, nearby wrecks and reefs. Anglers venturing offshore have been rewarded with nice catches of blackfin tuna, yellowfin tuna, dolphin, wahoo, and a growing number of white marlin. Go get ‘em!

Let’s check in on what some of the club’s members have been reeling in this past month. Andrew Campbell will start us off with a 5 pound, 6 ounce largemouth bass that he caught while fishing a popper on 12# fly tackle in Chickahominy Lake on May 23rd. This fine largemouth will earn Andrew 167 points for the catch.
While fishing Virginia’s eastern shore on May 10th, Vic Skakandy hooked into a 19 pound black drum while soaking a piece of cut crab in the surf. Vic’s black drum catch will earn him 158 points, as well as, the “Heaviest” and “Highest Points” for the species. Great catch, Vic! On June 2nd Fred Cousins was fishing a crankbait on 4# spinning tackle in Lake Shenandoah when a 14 pound musky crashed the party. After what I am sure was a great fight, Fred landed the musky earning him 388 points and the title “Heaviest” and “Highest Points” for the species to date. Three days later, on June 5th, Fred was fishing the Chickahominy River. Fred landed an 8 pound, 2 ounce gar on 2# tackle using a live minnow as bait. This catch is worth 236 points and earns Fred the title of “Heaviest” and “Highest Points” for the species. Nice fish, Fred! Next on the list is Bob Shepherd. Bob won the “Angler of the Month” competition at May’s meeting with a striped bass that he caught on 8# fly tackle. Bob landed this 22 pound stripers while fishing Virginia’s eastern shore on May 13th. This 366 point fish earned Bob “Highest Points” for the species to date and will now stand as the current “Saltwater Fly Division” leader. Bob submitted an entry for another striped bass that he caught on May 10th. This fish weighed 23 pounds and was caught using surf tackle baited with cut crab. This will earn Bob 230 points for the catch. Bob’s final entry submitted this month is for a 36 pound red drum that he landed on May 14th while surf fishing on Virginia’s eastern shore. This fine catch, worth 257 points, will now stand as the current “Surf Division Leader”, “Highest Points” and “Heaviest” for the species. Great fishing, Bob! Parks Rountrey submitted an entry for an 11 ounce sunfish that he landed on May 3rd from a private pond on 2# fly tackle. Parks will earn 229 points for the catch and the title of “Heaviest” and “Highest Points” for the species. Nice fish, Parks! Parks’ 7 year old granddaughter, Clair Watkinson, submitted an entry for a 9 ounce sunfish that she caught while casting a Kalin’s grub on 4# spinning tackle in a private pond. Her catch will earn her 122 points. Great job, Claire! Keep those fish coming!

Please let me know if you have any fun, exciting, informational, or scary fish tales from your recent trips out. I would love to include them in future newsletters. Any recent fishing reports or conditions would be greatly appreciated as well. I can be contacted via phone, email, or text. My contact info is listed below. As always, tight lines and best fishes!

Contact Info:

Billy Nicar
1729 Naselle Lane
Henrico, VA 23228
Email – billygreentop@yahoo.com
Work – (804) 550-2188, Ext # 118
Cell – (804) 366-2473

Keeping it reel,

Billy
Jackson Chase - Chain Pickerel 1lb 4 oz on 4 fly  
13-17 Youth Entry

Rob Choi - 32" Bluefish from Rudee Inlet

Rob Choi - 27" Grey Trout from Rudee Inlet

Rob Choi - 40" Striper on 8lb fly Eastern Shore
Gray Snapper
Jack Crevalle
Black Grouper
Tarpon
Tarpon
Lynn Spurlin, Tony Horsley, and Ronnie Sides
Islamorada, FL
Maymont Fish Fry

Casting Contest
WARNING
Increased BUI Enforcement
June 27-29, 2014

Never Boat Under the Influence!
Virginia boaters, take note that June 27th-29th, Conservation Police Officers with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) will be patrolling Virginia’s waterways looking for boat operators with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. Boating Under the Influence (BUI) is dangerous. Penalties may include fines, jail, impoundment of boats, and loss of boating privileges. Curbing the number of alcohol and drug-related accidents and fatalities is key to achieving a safer and more enjoyable environment for recreational boating.
For more information on Operation Dry Water, visit: http://operationdrywater.org.

PONY PASTURE WADE – FUN FISHING OUTING
JUNE 28TH – 6:00 AM -11:00 AM
(Trip Details by Mike Ostrander)

Meet at the Pony Pasture parking lot at 6:00 AM for a morning of wade fishing. Light tackle fishing for sunfish and bass, or fly fishing, or cat fishing. Whatever your passion is. Bring a change of clothes as we could potentially go out for lunch afterwards. Closed toes shoes are best for wading … (old tennis shoes are best). Don’t bring anything that can’t get wet. Pony Pasture offers pretty good fishing early in the morning, but as it gets into the late morning, people start to show up in droves. We’ll get in, get out and possibly to grab a bite to eat afterwards.

Questions: Contact Mike Ostrander, 938-2350 or Mike@DiscovertheJames.com

VIRGINIA/CAROLINA FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT
JULY 19TH AND 20TH
(Blow date following weekend)

At “press time”, the details of this tournament are still being worked out. Since the tournament will happen before the July issue of The Angler will hit the monitors, the details of the tournament will be passed along in special E-Casts.

HELP KEEP ANGLING LEGAL – REPORT VIOLATIONS

Freshwater
If you suspect or witness an angling or hunting violation, report it to VADGIF Wildlife Crimeline at 1-800-237-5712.

Saltwater
If you have a need to report to the VA Marine Resources Commission any emergency, boating accident or other violation, call the Marine Police Dispatch Center toll free at 1-800-541-4646
[FROM THE RECENT ISSUES OF THE VIRGINIA OUTDOOR REPORT]

DETAILS – DGIF FLATHEAD WORKSHOP – JULY 22ND & 31ST
(By Lee Rothgeb)

VA DGIF will be presenting two workshops on how to fish for Flathead Catfish. These workshops teach the fundamentals of wade fishing for Flatheads. This is a great opportunity to get out and learn how to catch this species. The Virginia Anglers Club will have four of our members as guest instructors for the course: Lee Rothgeb, David “Sarge” Brayman, Billy Nicar, and Lead Instructor Mike Ostrander. The class is an all-day event at Pony Pasture Park on the James River. For those interested, please visit the VA DGIF website or contact Chris Dunnavant with the Outdoor Education Program. The classes will be held on July 22 and July 31. Chris can be reached at: Chris.Dunnavant@dgif.virginia.gov.

Several members of the VAC have attended this in the past and I can personally attest to how great this class is because it is what got me hooked on catching Flatheads. Hope to see some familiar faces there.

2014 KIDS FISHING DAYS CALENDAR ON VDGIF WEBSITE

Kids Fishing Day Events Calendar Posted on VDGIF Website... The 2014 Kids Fishing Days event table is now posted on the VDGIF website. View it from the Upcoming Events page and there is a link under Contests and Ongoing Events on the right side. There are 40 events posted currently and new ones will be added as they are submitted. VDGIF Angling Education Coordinator Chris Dunnavant notes, “More and more people are utilizing this web-table and traveling significant distances to experience a Kids Fishing Day.” Send in your photos of family fun to The Outdoor Report. Share this information with family and friends and “Take a Kid Fishing!”

Summer Fishing Series starts in June and it’s time for some fishing fun! Come out for a workshop on “The Floating Fishing School,” our 26 foot Sun Tracker pontoon boat provided by Bass Pro Shops & Tracker Marine for the Summer Fishing Series. We will be fishing for whatever is biting: sunfish, crappie, catfish and bass. This event will be a great opportunity to enjoy a nice day on the water, learn the basics of fishing and fish biology. Workshops are from 8:00 AM -Noon. Bait, tackle, PFD, snacks and drinks are provided. Registration fee is $15 per participant. Take a Kid Fishing; each adult (18 and older) must register with at least one child between 8-17 years of age. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by a registered adult. Freshwater fishing license required for 16 and older. Events are open until filled; to register and pay, email Chris Dunnavant at chris.dunnavant@dgif.virginia.gov, for questions call 804-283-7327.

- June 11 - Sandy River Reservoir
- June 19 – Lake Orange
- June 26 – Lake Anna

DGIF BIOLOGISTS RELEASE 2014 FORECASTS FOR WALLEYE AND LARGEMOUTH BASS FISHING AND FISHING IN INPOUNDMENTS AND RIVERS

VDGIF Fisheries Biologists have released their annual reports to inform anglers on forecasts for Walleye fishing, Impoundments, Largemouth Bass Fishing and River Fishing. Virginia is an angler’s paradise with over 176,000 acres of public lakes, primarily man-made impoundments, and 28,300 miles of fishable streams (1,000 miles tidal) that provide fishing opportunities for more than 600,000 licensed anglers. Virginia has 24 man-made large impoundments over 500 acres that are spread throughout the state and provide the public with over 139,000 acres of quality fishing. These impoundments range in size from 510 to 48,900 acres and were built by various federal, state, or private entities for flood control, water supply, hydroelectric generation, and/or recreation. Additionally, Virginia has over 40,000 miles of streams. To review these four reports, click on these links:

- Walleye Fishing Forecast
- Impoundment Forecast
- Largemouth Bass Lakes Report
- 2014 River Fishing Report
How long has it been since you fished with a beetle spin? If you are like me it is a lure that you used often as a kid, but have since "matured" on to many other baits. Yet, I caught so many fish on that simple little safety pin spinner, but have used it so little since then. However, a recent fishing trip with my wife, where she caught numerous crappie, bluegill and bass has renewed my interest in this little bait. Her little beetle spin out-fished anything I threw!

First, let me reminisce a bit about my first tackle box. It included: 1) An assortment of Mepps spinners, the go-to color was natural squirrel tail of course! 2) Several sizes of floating Rapala minnows in silver or gold with a black back. 3) A frog pattern Hula Popper. 4) Pre-rigged Creme plastic worms with the spinner in front. 5) Beetle spins in assorted sizes and colors; my favorite was light-green with a little orange on the belly and black stripes. These are all great baits and the beetle spin was one I could always count on to catch fish.

Those who follow this column or are regulars of The Outdoor Report will know the name of Stephen Milandric, the fish citation king. Stephen is a trophy fish hunter and during a fishing trip with him last year I could not believe what he had us throwing; beetle spins! In fact, he had a whole box full of them and regularly uses them to catch trophy fish of many different species. Professional bass angler, Gary Klein, who has competed in 30 Bassmaster Classics, is well known for saying the beetle spin is the best bait of all time.

The reasons for using a beetle spin are numerous. It will catch just about any freshwater fish found in Virginia, any type of water and in all conditions. It’s not uncommon to catch 4-5 species per trip on this one bait. It’s inexpensive and lasts forever, relatively weedless and catches lots of fish. Clearly it’s great for all anglers, but it is a go-to bait for someone new to fishing. It is so easy to use, just cast it out and reel it in!

Choose a size appropriate for the species you are targeting. From 1/32 to 1/4 oz., it will catch everything from sunfish to bass to pike. What about color? I have found that everyone has their favorite and the “one color” that works the best. So, I am not sure it matters too much whether you choose black, green, yellow, white, orange or chartreuse. Have several different ones on hand and experiment to determine if they like a particular one better than another that day. I have found a slow, steady retrieve, holding my rod parallel to the water, to be the best overall.

If you have been consumed by the latest and greatest in fishing tackle, but have not picked up a beetle spin in a while, dig deep into the bottom of the tackle box and give them a try. The fish might be disappointed with that decision, but you won’t - it’s an amazing bait!
FUN FISHING FLOAT TRIP JULY 19TH

The Club has organized a float trip for Saturday July 19 on the middle James River. Program Co-Chair Steve Knox is organizing the trip. The float will be from the put-in at the Hardware River WMA to Bremo Bluff, a float of about seven miles. No tournament, no race, just a fun float down a beautiful part of the James.

This is a prime section of the river for smallmouth fishing, so bring your scales! Depending on your fishing speed and the river level, the float should take about eight hours. You are on your own to get your kayak/canoe/jon boat (float tube?) to the launch and arrange for a shuttle partner. If you are having difficulty arranging a shuttle partner let Steve know – sknox@knoxmarine.com or cell 840.9460. The rough plan is to launch about 7:00 AM. The drive from Richmond is an hour plus or minus, depending on where you live. We may be able to provide a “mother ship” to carry coolers etc., but just in case you should plan on carrying your own cooler, gear etc.

Please let Steve know if are planning to make the float. If you need a shuttle partner let him know. Tell Steve what sort of vehicle and boat you have so that he can pair appropriate shuttle vehicles.

Mark your calendar – Steve will provide additional details about the launch and takeout locations etc. as the date approaches. Be sure to let him know if you plan to float.
## 2014 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER

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## 2014 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER

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## 2014 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER

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### Virginia Anglers Club - 6/14/14

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### C.V. Kinnard Award Competition - Thru 5/14

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</table>
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