

50th
ANNIVERSARY



The Virginia Angler

RICHMOND VIRGINIA

50th
ANNIVERSARY

February 2011

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Next Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2011 - 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)

THE VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

You may have let the date January 5, 2011 pass without remembering, on that date in 1961, the first called meeting of the Virginia Anglers Club was held at the home of world renowned angler Joe Brooks in Richmond, Virginia. The following officers were elected: "Monk" Montague – President; Bill Rothert – Vice President; Lewis Pendleton – Secretary and Moses Nunnaly, Jr. – Treasurer. Over this entire half century of being an organized angling club, we have been able to be a leader in responsible angling while

keeping it enjoyable. For a complete history of the Virginia Anglers Club, go to the VAC website and click on "Club History".

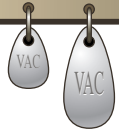
ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE RIGHT NOW

Membership Dues for 2011 are due right now. Annual dues for Members residing in Virginia are \$60.00 and are \$40.00 for members residing outside of Virginia. No dues are collected from complimentary, honorary or life members. Dues may be paid by check by making the check out to "Virginia Anglers Club" and making the notation 2011 Dues on the memo line of the check. Send the dues to the

THE VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB
P.O. BOX 31494
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494

Dues are also payable on line via Pay Pal by connecting to the VAC Web Site. Go to (www.virginiaanglersclub.org) and click on "member's area". Then just click on the bar for in-state or out-of-state dues and provide the information requested. Anyone may make a donation to the club in the "member's area" also.

BACKLASH continued on Page 2...



BACKLASH continued from Page 1.

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM FEATURES
A VERY SUCCESSFUL ANGLER**

Active angler Stephen Miklandric will review his amazing accomplishment in 2010 of landing 103 citation fish spread among 18 different species.

**MAJOR FISH KILL ON CAPITAL HILL (!) –
MEHADEN BILLS DIE IN COMMITTEE**

All of the major “Menhaden Bills” introduced in the 2011 General Assembly washed up dead on the beaches of the Committees on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources in both the House of Delegates and the Senate. See details elsewhere in this issue of *The Angler*.

IGFA NOW “HAS AN APP FOR THAT”

The November-December IGFA *International Angler* announced the introduction of the IGFA Mobile App. This new iPhone app from the IGFA puts world record species and a fishing photo log in the palm of your hand. A brief description of the features of the app appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Angler*.

**SCALE CERTIFICATION COMING UP AT
FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The annual certification of your fishing scales will start at the February Membership Meeting, February 22, 2011. A properly certified scale (yours or one certified by a government agency) is needed to weigh any catch submitted for points or weight credit. Reminders of how to prep our scales for certification are found elsewhere in this issue of *The Angler*. Thanks to Larry Allen and Ryan and Danny Noland for providing this service to the club.

**2010 ANGLING YEAR AWARDS BANQUET A
TOTAL SUCCESS**

Banquet Chairman Eddy Johnston landed a keeper with the 2010 Angling Year Award Banquet. Fifty-six (56) members and their guests enjoyed a lively evening at Sam Miller’s Restaurant in Shockoe Slip. A complete wrap up of the raffle winners and major award winners is found elsewhere in this *Angler*.

**NEW OFFICERS FOR 2011 TO BE SWORN IN
AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET**

The slate of officers and directors that will manage the affairs of the Virginia Anglers club were unanimously elected as they appeared on the ballot in the December edition of *The Angler*. Thanks to all nominees who stepped forward to serve as leadership of the VAC in 2011.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2011 (1 Year Term)**

- President - Fred Murray
- 1st Vice President/Programs - Mike Ostrander
- 2nd Vice President / Angling Activities - Parks Rountrey*
- 3rd Vice President / Conservation and Legislation Matt Balazik*
- Newsletter & Web Site Secretary - Johnny Wetlaufer*
- Recording Secretary - John Wetlaufer, Sr.
- Treasurer - Clif Williams*

* Returning to serve another one-year term.

CLASS OF 2013 DIRECTORS – (3 Year Term)

- Matt Balazik
- Bob Brown
- Mike Ostrander

For the Leadership Team
John Wetlaufer, Sr., Secretary



CATCHY COMMENTS

by Buddy Noland

Since the past month, only a few entry cards have been submitted. The cold weather has kept most anglers from fishing their favorite early spring fishing spots, except for a few hardy anglers.

Rob Choi and **Fred Cousins** have been back to the Elizabeth River for several more nice Spotted Seatrout catches. **Rob Choi** fished at the end of December and caught a 4 pound, 4 ounce trout, using a Mirrolure on 2# spin worth 283 points. Several weeks later on January 16th, **Fred** landed a 6 pound, 12 ounce Spotted Seatrout on 2# spin for a total of 450 points. The Speck takes the “species”, “heaviest”, and “spin division” leads. That’s going to be hard to beat! **Larry Allen** still holds the club record of 6 pounds, 13 ounces, for 2# spin.

Parks Rountrey and **Bob Brown** were fishing the James River the same day, the 16th, for Gar. **Parks** turned in a card for a 9 pound fish on 2 # plug worth 327 points. The fish was caught on a “soft plastic bait” and is the current leader in the “species”, “heaviest”, and “plug division”.

Bob Brown and his son **Rob**, went to the Chickahominy River at the end of January for some Yellow Perch. **Bob** landed a nice Perch on 2# fly for 375 points. The fish weighed in at 1 pound, 2 ounces, and ties the current club record **Scott Johnston** currently holds. It also ties the freshwater fly division lead with **Fred Cousin’s** White Perch. Just **Bob’s** luck though, the VAC accepts no ties and the “early entry” will still maintain the record and the division lead. Sorry about that **Bob**!

Mike Cline and **Robbie Robinson** have been fishing the Chick lately and said that the dam repairs are keeping the water dirty at the upper end. Also, the male Yellow Perch were full of milk several weeks ago. Time is running out on the spawning females. Hopefully, a break in the weather will give us a few good fishing days before they are gone.

Good luck,

Buddy



Rob Choi's 4lb4oz Speck on 2 Spin



Mike Ostrander - dreaming again. 78 lb Blue Cat caught by a recent charter. Newboat record! Nice work Mike!



VAC ANNUAL BANQUET A TOTAL SUCCESS

On Saturday evening, January 22, 2011, the Virginia Anglers Club held its Annual Awards Banquet at Sam Miller's Restaurant in the Historic Shockoe Slip. Fifty-six (56) VAC members and their guests were in attendance. Our guests were long time friends of the VAC Vance and Susan Hopkins (representing GreenTop Sporting Goods) and Miss Claire Watkinson, 2010 Youth Award winner and granddaughter of Member Parks Rountrey. Banquet Chairman Eddy Johnston worked closely with the staff of the restaurant, designed and assembled the displays of flies within the shadow boxes and has pulled off a very enjoyable Banquet this year. Eddy reports he has heard your voices and will schedule dinner to start at 7:00 PM next year.

LEIGON OF THE LUCKY – THE BANQUET RAFFLE WINNERS

Bill Gallash Fly Shadow Box – Member Bob Brown
Capt. Ronnie Sides Fly Shadow Box – Kathy Fisher (guest of Ricky Dale)
Gyotaku Print by Member Rob Choi – Member Scott Johnston
\$100 Gift Certificate to Stony Point Shopping Center – Jane Wetlaufer (wife and mother, respectively, of Members John Sr. and Johnny)

THE HOT RODS –SOME NOTABLE 2010 ANGLING AWARD WINNERS

President's Award/FW Bob Shephard Blue Catfish - 592 Points
President's Award/SW Fred Cousins Red Drum – 592 Points
Angler of the Year Award/FW Parks Rountrey – 2150 Total Points
Angler of the Year Award/SW Bob Shephard – 1201 Total Points
Overall Angler of the Year Parks Rountrey – 2150 Total Points
C.V. Kinnard Annual Award – Parks Rountrey – 3456 Points
Youth Angler of the Year (0-6 Yrs.) Claire Wilkerson – White Perch 164 Pts

IGFA NOW "HAS AN APP FOR THAT"

The IGFA has introduced the IGFA Mobile App. This app can be downloaded to your mobile phone and give you almost any standing piece of IGFA information by which you can identify, photograph (iPhone 3GS or 4), record, compare and verify you catch on the spot where you boat or beach our fishes.

Here, briefly, are some of the features. Now a huge amount of IGFA information is right in the palm of your hand, in your pocket, in your tackle box and can be viewed most places where you fish. For complete details and to learn more go to: <http://www.igfa.org/fish/IGFAMobile.aspx>.

Some Handy App Features

World Record Database - This database gives you latest world record information. It is likely more current than any hard copy you might have brought with you.

IGFA Species ID - Here you can find color pictures of world record game species, their anatomy and geographic distribution.

My Catches - A photographic and typed-in record of your catches including the GPS coordinates of where you catch was made (some special features require the proper mobile equipment needed). Stick it in your buddy's face by sending him a picture of the catch via FaceBook or a description via an e-mail while the catch is still thrashing in the fish box.

Quest List - Track your progress toward your next Weight Club or IGFA Slam Club. Data will not smear when splashed but may disappear if you loose your mobile phone overboard. Keep the phone secured on a tether or in a pocket with a secure closure.

IGFA Weigh Stations - If you are caught without your Virginia Anglers Club certified scales, you can find the nearest official IGFA weigh station.

IGFA Rules - Helps you keep your catch legit for record consideration by the IGFA or the Virginia Anglers Club (we fish by IGFA rules).



Phone



Mail



Web



iPod



PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS NEEDED FOR 2011

Although 1st. Vice President / Program Chairman Mike Ostrander has locked in a couple of speaker for early 2011 Membership Meetings, Mike is collecting ideas for 2011 programs and seeks your help. Suggestions for programs during 2011 are needed. Don't worry if your suggestion is off the wall or a repeat of a special program we have had in the past. All ideas are welcome. Please let Mike know what your thoughts are.

MAJOR FISH KILL ON CAPITAL HILL (!) – MENHADEN BILLS DIE

House and Senate Bills introduced in the 2011 Session of the Virginia General Assembly championing proper management of and reasonable closing of specific waters to taking, to harvesting or fishing for menhaden in waters of the Commonwealth were killed in the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committees in both Houses of the General Assembly. Here are synopses and official dispositions of some of the major menhaden related bills which got no further than consideration of these Committees. Perhaps politics still trumps science. Total information about these Senate and House Bills and any other bill being considered by the General Assembly can be found at <http://leg1.state.va.us>.

SB 756:

Directs the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to adopt regulations to implement the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The bill also requires that any moratorium on the fishery be subject to legislative review and repeals the Governor's authority to implement menhaden management measures by proclamation.

HB 1656:

Prohibits fishing for menhaden within one mile of the low mean water mark in waters adjacent to the Cities of Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach. If someone fishes in these waters, he is subject to a penalty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

02/08/11 House: Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

HB 2369

Provides that, beginning on January 1, 2012, the cap on the harvesting of menhaden will be reduced 20 percent annually until the harvesting of menhaden is prohibited. The bill would become effective on January 1, 2012.

02/08/11 House: Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

HB 1913:

Prohibits the taking or catching of menhaden with purse nets in the Rappahannock River and its tributaries. Currently, such fishing is prohibited in the Rappahannock above and west of the R.O. Norris, Jr., Bridge.

02/08/11 House: Left in Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

HELP KEEP ANGLING LEGAL – REPORT VIOLATIONS
If you suspect or witness an angling violation, report it to the Wildlife Crimeline at
1-800-237-5712.



Legislation and Conservation

By Matt Balazik

Local News:

Flounder: The new flounder regulations are likely going to be 17.5" and four per person/day, no closed season. This is one inch lower than the current regulation of 18.5"; the minimum size limit was 19" 2 years ago. I just worry that the continued practice of lowering the minimum size may lead to trouble in the future.

Bluecrab: The bluecrabs in the Chesapeake Bay have "rebounded" and in large part to the closing of the winter dredge season. There is a cry from the commercial industry that this is the natural rebound they predicted and it had nothing to do with the closing of the dredge season. There is talk of reopening the season. I highly doubt the ban on the dredge season will be lifted for at least a few more years... '85 but I also thought the Menhaden Bill was a no brainer.

River Herring: As many of you know, the bluebacks and alewives will be running soon. For all intents and purposes there should be a moratorium on both species this year. However, due to lack of data collections management cannot put one in place until 2012. I've talked with several people in management and it is a very safe bet there will be a moratorium in place in 2012. If we are a conservation fishing club we should manage ourselves and spread the word to not remove river herring this year.

Rice Donation: I would like to thank Scott Johnston for his recent donation to sturgeon research at the VCU Rice Center. First on the list, I guess he wanted to make sure he got a fish to adopt this year.

Global News:

NMFS: NOAA Will Work With Six Identified Nations to Address Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing NOAA submitted a report to Congress identifying six nations – Colombia, Ecuador, Italy, Panama, Portugal, and Venezuela – whose fishing vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2009 and/or 2010. This is hopefully the beginning of the end for these large scale poaching industries that have no regard for management protocols or the resource.

Shell: Shell announced that they've cancelled their plans to drill exploratory wells in the Arctic in 2011 due to lack of confidence that they would meet the standards to get the required permits. It was pointed out that there is not effective way to handle an oil spill in a frozen environment of the Arctic.

Tournament News

Remaining 2011 Angling Year Schedule of Events:

- Kelly Stafford Memorial
Hickory Shad and White Perch*:
April 9-10 (blow date April 16-17)

- Bernie Skydanek Memorial
Eastern Shore VA Surf- Red Drum
May 14-15 (blow date May 21-22)

- Virginia Flounder:
July 23-24 (blow date July 30- 31)

- James River VA Flathead Catfish:
August 13-14 * (blow date Aug 20-21)

- James River VA (Chippokes Creek) Gar:
November 5-6 (blow date Nov12-13)

* Social gathering tentatively planned



Captain's Corner

By Fred Murray

The VAC is Alive and Well

The recent banquet reminded me once again what a great club we have and it is now in its 51st. year! That's pretty special. Not only does the club offer opportunities to learn new fishing techniques from some of the best anglers around, we have competition for those that like that sort of thing, but more importantly it brings fishermen together to share the sport we all love. From all of this life long friendships develop and along the way we have a lot of fun. At the banquet we celebrated the many great catches from this past year and I am sure this year will be even better.

The club has certainly evolved over the years and it will no doubt change more in the next 50 years. However, we all need to remember the fun aspect of fishing and keeping it that way. Sometimes it's easy for all of us to forget this important fact.

I certainly look forward to the coming year and the many angling opportunities it offers. No doubt some club members will be testing the waters in many worldwide locations this season and others will stay closer to home. Nearby fishing has already started (or really never stopped). February means yellow perch, crappie fishing, the chance to catch the biggest largemouth of the year, stripers will be moving back into the bay, James River bluecats are biting and the list goes on and on.

For myself and the rest of the leadership team we all want to make the club better for the membership so please get involved. It could be as simple as sharing a fishing adventure with the group or some fishing method that you have used. We always are in need of new ideas and help. I hope to see all of you at the meetings or on the water.

Fred Murray
President

FEBRUARY WEB SITE HOW – FIND A MEMBER’S PHONE/ADDRESS

The Web Site How for February is a reminder how to find a member’s information in the VAC Membership Rosters without paging down thru all one hundred plus names until you hit pay dirt. Enter the “Member’s Area, log in and select either the Current Member’s Roster or the New Member’s Roster. In the upper right hand corner of your monitor will appear an empty box next to the word “Search”. Type in the first, last, complete name or any part of a name you remember and click on search. Any current member’s name (voting, honorary or complimentary) matching what you type or containing the name part you typed in will come up. For instance, say you remember some member’s name is John or his/her last name was John-something-or-else, type in John. You will get all of the Johnsons, Johnstons and Johns listed in the roster. The New Member Roster contains only the names of new members. The names of New Members are entered within one day of their being voted into membership. The New Member Roster is essentially current, unless the webmaster is not notified of a change in the information.

Please let Johnny or John Wetlaufer know if there is a specific “How” subject you would like covered in a future edition of *The Angler*. All requests will be honored.

KEEPING UP WITH BEACH ACCESS – CAPE HATTERAS NSP

Now that the weather will soon be breaking and surf fishing may be less of a challenge weather wise, keep up to date on beach access / closure information by checking in at . This link will take you to the Island Free Press website on which is posted all manner of information concerning the beach issues and availability of beaches for off-road vehicles in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park. Access, as you are likely aware, is somewhat fluid depending on who is on the nest, crawled ashore to lay eggs,

SCALE CERTIFICATION COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

The first meeting at which scale certification will be offered will be the February 22, 2011 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 two Zip Lock type bags.
- Write your name on the outside of the bag.
- Leave your bagged scales on the certification team’s table. Your scales will be delivered to you when the certification process is complete.

COUNTRY STORE KEEPER NEEDS IDEAS FOR ITEMS TO STOCK

Country Storekeeper Eddy Johnston needs input from members about items they would like to see stocked in the Country Store. Eddy will base the restocking on what your wants and needs are. He has wonderful contacts for all of our “gear” and just needs to know what the preferences of the membership is for what to stock. Consider, also, if you have an idea for a specific 50th Anniversary item to stock (engraved cup, pen, special hat or garment, etc.). Eddy needs to order the first batch of VAC “gear” for 2011 and he wants to know what merchandise is “hot” and in demand.

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 2/9/11

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LN</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>BAIT</u>
2010 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	F Cousins	5-0	2	Fly	166	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Clouser
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	6-12	2	Spin	450	1/16/11	Elizabeth River, VA	Jig w/Grub
2010 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
GAR, ALL	JP Rountrey	9-0	2	Plug	327	1/16/11	James River, VA	Soft Plastic Shad
PERCH, WHITE	F Cousins	1-2	2	Fly	375	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, VA	Clouser
PERCH, YELLOW	RJ Brown	1-2	2	Fly	375	1/30/11	Chickahominy River, VA	Wooly Bugger
2010 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	F Cousins	5-0	2	Fly	166	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Clouser
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	6-12	2	Spin	450	1/16/11	Elizabeth River, VA	Jig w/Grub
2010 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
PERCH, WHITE	F Cousins	1-4	2	Spin	328	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Grub
PERCH, WHITE	F Cousins	1-2	2	Fly	375	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Clouser
GAR, ALL	JP Rountrey	9-0	2	Plug	327	1/16/11	James River, VA	Soft Plastic Shad
2009 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER				2009 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER				
BASS, STRIPED	F Cousins	5-0						5-10
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	6-12						9-0
								1-4
								1-2



Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

Fly Casting & Fly Tying Instruction
Equipment: Rods, Reels, Lines, etc.
Fly Tying Materials & Tools
Hosted Trips

MattyJ Saltwater Flies

(804) 266-5458

rtphotography@comcast.net

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20% OFF First Order
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Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlauffer, 647-4042



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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, February 22nd at Skilligalee Restaurant**

P.O. BOX 31494
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494

