

December 2013

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Next Membership Meeting:

February 25, 2014 - 7:00 PM

DGIF Richmond Headquarters

4010 West Broad Street -Eastern-Most Building -
Enter at Rear - DGIF BOD Meeting Room



BACKLASH

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

No Membership Meeting in December or January.

Annual Awards Banquet – Saturday, January 25, 2013

**2014 Membership Dues are Due
(\$60 In-State \$40 Out of State)**

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM WAS INFORMATIVE
"TACKLE, TALES AND TIPS"**

The November program was very informative program as eight members shared some "nickel knowledge" with those present. The majority of the speakers commented about catfish or striped techniques, but pan fish and wading were well covered too. For some more brief information about what tips were covered by who, please turn to page 3 of this issue of The Angler.

VAC 2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE DECEMBER 1, 2013

Your annual dues are due as of December 1, 2013. Members living in Virginia owe \$60 and all other paying Members owe \$40. No dues are collected from Life, Honorary and Complimentary Members (receive The Angler but are not VAC members). Dues can be paid by cash or check presented to Treasurer Bobby Broughton. Payment by PayPal can be made in the Member's Area of the VAC website. Payment by mail can be made at:

Virginia Anglers Club
P. O. Box 31494
Richmond, VA 23294-1494

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES PROMPTLY!

FIRST TOURNAMENT OF THE 2014 ANGLING YEAR VIRGINIA / NORTH CAROLINA STRIPED BASS – Dec: 14th Thru 31st

This tournament is a two week long tournament whose duration was chosen to allow the most fishable days during a period of normally nasty weather. Tournament details on page 6 of this issue of The Angler.

2014 VAC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The 2014 VAC Tournament Schedule proposed by Angling Activities Vice President Lee Rothgeb and approved by the Board of Directors is posed on page 9 of this issue of The Angler. Please note that the first tournament is underway as you read this issue of The Angler.



JAMES RIVER VA (CHIPPOKES CREEK) GAR REPORT- NO ENTRIES

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET - JANUARY 25, 2013

We are back at Sam Miller's Restaurant again this year. The price is still \$35 per person. Complete details from Banquet Chairman Gary Green appear on page 5 of this Angler.

YEAR END MEMBERSHIP STANDS AT 121 TOTAL

At the end of the 2013 Angling Year, the Virginia Anglers Club membership stood at a total of 121 members in all classes. For a detailed breakdown of our Membership, please see the summary on page 7 of this issue of The Angler.

IS YOUR FISHING EQUIPMENT INSURED?

It does not take long for a Member of the Virginia Anglers Club or any other angler to gather a collection of rods, reels, baits, sinkers, tackle boxes and related equipment worth a thousand dollars or more. A premium rod and reel combo can set one back a hansom sum. Unless you have an endorsement specifically covering losses of your fishing gear as part of your boat or homeowner's insurance policy, such gear is likely not properly insured as you read these words. Steve Knox, a specialist in marine insurance, passes along the Full Tackle Insurance Monty on page 8 in this issue of The Angler.

A REMINDER - REPORTING TOURNAMENT CATCH WEIGHTS

When you submit an entry for a tournament via e-mail or by phone, please remember to use the weight format found on Entry Cards (IE: "Weight - as "X" Pounds, "Y" Ounces). The decimal equivalent for catch weight (IE: 5.25 lbs.) is only used as a mathematical convenience when computing the equivalent points of a catch.

BONNER BRIDGE OVER OREGON INLET CLOSED

Just to be sure all Members are aware; the NC 12 highway bridge over Oregon Inlet is closed to traffic until further notice. Emergency ferry service is available from Stumpy Point to Rodanthe (emergency and commercial vehicle and island residents served first). Serious loss of sand around some of the pilings at the south end of the bridge was confirmed by divers. A contract for remedial work has been let, but no information is available when the bridge will reopen.

DON'T WORRY HONEY, THE COAST GUARD WILL RESCUE US

Not so fast there, captain. Federal law authorizes but does not impose a duty on the Coast Guard to launch rescue efforts. Fortunately, the Coast Guard works hard to conduct rescues when it can.

The Forth Circuit Court of Appeals (Richmond) ruled against the widow of a man who drowned in Albemarle Sound after the couple left a friend's party on the night of July 4, 2007 in a 20 foot boat that soon encountered rough weather (neither was wearing a PFD). The wife fell over board and lost sight of the boat and her husband. She clung to a crab pot buoy all night and survived and came ashore 12 hours later. The husband's father reported the couple overdue shortly after midnight. The boat was found abandoned and the husband's body washed ashore two day later. The response by the Coast Guard was delayed for 8 hours because the rescue boat crew was involved in another search and rescue operation. In a suit, the woman alleged negligence in the handling of the search by the Coast Guard. The three judge panel ruled "absent evidence of reckless and wanton conduct by the Coast Guard, it (CG) could not be held liable". Once such a rescue effort is initiated, the Coast Guard then picks up liability to complete the effort.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVIENS ON JANUARY 8, 2014

There is a lot of legislative action scheduled this year on issues that may affect you as an outdoor enthusiast. After the Assembly is in session you can view bills related to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries mission that may be of interest to you on a link that will be in the January 2014 issue of The Angler. Remember, the most appropriate way to express your opinion about these bills, or any other legislation, is through your local delegate and/or senator. For more information about your legislators and how to contact them, visit the Virginia General Assembly website. You may also contact the Virginia General Assembly's Constituent Viewpoint Comment line toll-free at 1-800-889-0229 (804) 698-1990 in Richmond.

WISDOM FROM THE TACKLE BOX

"Give a man a fish and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend."

~Zenna Schaffer

For The Leadership Team
John Wetlaufer, Sr., Secretary

**“NICKEL KNOWLEDGE’ FROM THE DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Collected here are brief synopses of the information each of the eight Members shared with those present at the November 26th Membership Meeting. If you want more details, please get up with the speakers noted and they will willingly share more specifics with you.

Jim Sheffield and **Rob Choi** spoke about striper fishing. Jim likes to tie a partially inflated colored party balloon on his line to serve a bobber when he is fishing for stripers. The balloon will slide along the line as it is retrieved vs. a bobber stopping at a bobber stop and maybe preventing a complete retrieve. Jim likes to put out balloons of different colors, each with a different leader length below the balloon, while he sets up his drift. Carrying a pair of binoculars makes easy work of watching other anglers for evidence of a better fishing location than the empty hole you over which you might just be drifting. Long drifts are favored.

Steve Knox spoke of safety while boating and wading. A life jacket is a must doing either as is a kill switch lanyard between the PFD and a motor’s control. Select a PFD with multiple zipper closed pockets. Lures, sinkers, swivels, snelled hooks, etc. can be put in plastic cases and kept in the zippered pockets of the PFD. Put the contents of your pants pockets that are not closed by a zipper in a container and then zip it in a pocket on the PFD. PFDs are comfortable in hot weather because the river water cools you while wading. Attaching sinkers to your line with wire ties may help you retrieve your hook and leader if the sinker becomes trapped in under water debris. Finally, Steve suggests an awareness of river level is important while fishing areas like the Pony Pasture. A river level of four feet should be able to be handled by a beginning wader; five feet is comfortable for an experienced wader. Switching to a boat when the level gets much above 5 feet might be a better angling alternative. Finally, he likes to make up snelled hooks and put them in small zip-lock style bags with line size, hook size and other information written on the outside.

Glenn Carter shared how he likes to fish one of the many wing dams in the James below Richmond. On most dams there is an area of still water at the river end of the upstream side of the dam. Glenn favors dropping anchor so your boat will sit just upstream of such still water where fish like to hang out and wait for you bait to float down to them. Lateral position refinement can be accomplished by turning your motor one way or the other.

David “Sarge” Brayman had some wading advice of his own. He noted he has improved his wading boots by simply buying some ¼” long sheet metal screw, cutting the point off the screws and then screwing them into the sole of his boots. The screw heads grab rocks very well and are far more expensive than commercially available cleated wading footwear. David favors a bobber / bobber stopper sliding bait rig when suspending your bait over a hole in the river bottom. He puts his fishing and personal gear in a dry bag and seals the bag with a good amount of air in it. He then slips the bag into a small back pack, where the dry bag provides enough flotation to keep him floating erect if he gets in deep water. As you float downstream, keeping your feet pointed downstream and together to prevent damage to any of your personal gear.

Mike Ostrander gave a good demo of a couple of tricks to keep your fishing day productive. If you have a lure with a trailing hook that ends up fouled on the leader and puts your lure in an inverted position, give the rod a barrage of sharp taps maybe 18” or so out from the reel. This will usually un-foul the trailing hook. To impart some irresistible action to your bait, wet your thumb with some spit or other dampness that will cause the line to vibrate when you pinch the line at the reel and move your pinched digits out along the line away from the reel. Mike feels that sometimes a catfish, etc. will just lay next your bait. The vibration as you caress your Ande might be what is needed to result in a strike.

Karen Anderson shared her thoughts on what might be called the “soft side” of time spent fishing. A day on the water can be nicely expanded if the angler takes time to look at what is going on around him or her in nature. A river like the James is rich in wildlife like herons, eagles, osprey, geese, ducks, turtles and maybe an occasional mammal. If you see another angler within ear shot, striking up a simple conversation might lead to some shared angling knowledge, an event you are missing that is going on around you or that you know the same person. Give near-by anglers an occasional look to be sure they are not in trouble or to see if they need help. Karen cited occasions where complete strangers extended rods for her to grasp when her inflatable became momentarily independent and when it appeared the bottom mud was giving her some trouble. Maybe Washington Irving was thinking of anglers like Karen when he said, “There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind”.



Fred Cousins gave a brief history of how one lure replaced another as time went on. He ran a commentary as he showed lures of various styles and color combos and noted how some colors may work at various times and be complete bombs at others. Fred knows lures from actual experience and some time talking with him may improve your catch rate. Those present also were the recipients of angling tales of the “Hot Ditch” and the basics of how Dominion Virginia Power matches capacity to expected demand allowing you to have hot showers at home (most of the time).

Art Conway was the final demonstrator and discussed his experience with a wide selection of blade baits fishing the Chickahominy Lake. Again, some time with Art is the best way to learn about this less frequently fished bait and where to use it. Call Art and he can arrange an individual day long demonstration of blade baits if you so desire.

Although Glenn noted some of the information presented was could be called “nickel knowledge” (small tips with big results), all the information presented was experience-based, field tested and had worked for those doing the demos. Thanks to all who took time to freely share their knowledge and thoughts. There is a huge amount of knowledge within the Membership of the Virginia Anglers Club; all one needs to do is ask a question or two to seek it out.

NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD REMINDER FROM THE DGIF

All anglers are reminded to acquaint themselves with a good description of the northern snakehead fish. If you should manage to catch one of these exotic imports, please kill it immediately and report the catch to either the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

View video about the snakehead here... http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_1HmUY5EOo



Good advice to all anglers

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



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET – JANUARY 25, 2014

(By Gary Green)

**VAC ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD AT
SAM MILLER’S RESTAURANT**

1210 East Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23219-4116
(804) 644-5465

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2013
Times: Cash Bar Opens at 5:30 PM
Sit Down Dinner by 7:00 PM
Cost: Thirty-five dollars per person (\$35.00)
(See “How to Pay” below)

Reservation Cut-off: Wednesday, January 22, 2013
[Call Gary Green, 804-955-9290, for last-minute reservation help]

BANQUET MENU

Salad: Mixed green garden salad with house made Dijon dill vinaigrette.

Entrée: Grilled Chicken Caprice
Sundried Tomato Crusted Salmon
Lemongrass and Rosemary marinated London Broil finished a balsamic reduction.*

* Above served with wild rice and green beans

Vegetable: Grilled Zucchini in marinara over ziti with feta cheese.

Desert: Cheesecake

Note: Entrée selection is made by picking up a card at the raffle table.

TWO WAYS TO PAY

For payment by check, please make checks payable to The Virginia Anglers Club and send the check, along with the names of those attending to:

Gary Green
159 Erins Way
Mineral, VA 23117

(Please do not include dues payments with your check to Gary)

For payment by PayPal, please log onto the Virginia Anglers Club website at www.virginiaanglersclub.com, log into the Member’s Area and click on the “SELECT” bar in the “Annual Banquet - \$35” box. Follow the on-screen instructions.

BANQUET RAFFLE ITEMS

Bill Gallasch Fly Shadow Box
Capt. Ronnie Sides Fly Shadow Box
Framed print by Rob Choi
Addition raffle item to be added

Raffle tickets priced at \$1.00 each or six (6) for \$5.00.

Make Your Banquet Reservations Now!



TOURNAMENT NEWS

BY LEE ROTHGEB

JAMES RIVER GAR - NOVEMBER 23-24 - Results

No Entries

TOURNAMENT RESULTS - VIRGINIA SPECKLED TROUT

(October 26th and 27th)

VIRGINIA / NORTH CAROLINA STRIPED BASS - Dec. 14 Thru Dec 31, 2012 (no blow date)

Our tourney will be at peak time for big winter Rockfish. Drifting live baits or conventional trolling are preferred methods for the heaviest fish. For light tackle points - various soft plastic baits are effective on light spinning and plug gear. Fly fishing is also productive when you can find fish near the surface. A number of club members like to fish Cape Charles and CBBT areas this time of year, but you can fish any Virginia or North Carolina salt waters. Remember - this is our first tournament for the new angling year – so be sure to plan on fishing.

Need Crew? Consider introducing a New Member to striper fishing. The offer will be really be appreciated and the offer might even start a new friendship.

Two ways to win! We will recognize three places for heaviest weight fish and three places for highest point fish. First = 3 pts. Second = 2 pts. Third = 1 pt. These points will apply towards the annual Salt Water Tournament Angler of the Year competition. Two fish can be entered per angler. A fish can be entered by weight or points (angler must declare which category) but not both ways for 1 fish.

Call in entries within 24 hours from end of tournament to Angling Activities Chairman Lee Rothgeb 804-314-2990 or email to Garbakk1021@aol.com.

You cannot change the entry category once you have registered it with the Chairman.

In the event of a weight and a point ties between entered fish, the prevailing fish will be decided by time of catch (Angling Rule Change 2014).

VAC 2014 Tournament Schedule on page 9



2013 YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

Here is a quick look at the composition of the Membership of the Virginia Anglers Club as of November 30, 2013.

VOTING - 112

Resident – 97 Non-Resident – 10 Living Life - 5

NON-VOTING - 9

Honorary - 1 Complimentary - 8

TOTAL YEAR END 2013 - 121

GAIN - (LOSS) = (8)

New Members - 6 Resignations - (14)

ALL-TIME LIFE MEMBER SUMMARY

Living: Bill Duval, Mickey Kodroff, Stuart Lee, Elly Robinson, Mark Sosin

Deceased: Max Ailor, Phil Cheatham, Bill Gallasch, Lewis Pendleton, Bill Rewalt

FROM THE CURRENT DGIF ELECTRONIC OUTDOOR REPORT

JAN. – MAR. SPORTSMENS' SHOWS - DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- January 17-19, 7th Annual Bass & Saltwater Fishing Expo* Meadow Event Park, Doswell near King's Dominion
- February 15-16 10th Annual Orange County Sportsman Expo, Orange County High School Hornets Sports Center, Orange
- February 21-23, 27th Western Virginia Sports Show, Augusta Expoland, Fishersville
- March 1, Rapidan Chapter Trout Unlimited Fishing Show Fauquier County Fairgrounds Warrenton. For info Chuck Hoysa 540-222-1728 email: choysa1@comcast.net
- March 15 Augusta County Fishing Expo Augusta Expoland- Fishersville

*Fishing Expo Returning to Meadow Event Park in Caroline January 17-19: The 7th Annual Bass & Saltwater Fishing Expo is returning to the Farm Bureau Center at the new Meadow Event Park in Caroline County January 17-19. Again this year, your admission ticket will allow you to return to the Show another day. For information visit the Show website.

DOES YOUR INSURANCE POLICY COVER YOUR FISHING TACKLE?



Member Steve Knox took time to share some information about insuring your fishing tackle. Here is what Steve offers as a way to check if your fishing tackle is covered. If you have questions about his advice, please contact Steve at sknox@knoxmarine.com.

If you have a boat

Check your boat policy. Is your tackle covered? Look at the Declarations page. Fishing Tackle is considered Personal Effects (as opposed to Boating Equipment). Boating Equipment is everything you use to operate or navigate the boat – anchors, mooring lines, life jackets, electronics, binoculars, etc. Personal Effects are everything else – fishing tackle, foul weather gear, dishes, pots and pans, linens, clothing. Tools can go either way depending on how that underwriter interprets their policy. See what the Declarations page shows as a limit for Personal Effects. That's the total coverage for all Personal Effects.

In my case, I have an “Anglers Bass Boat” policy. My Personal Effects coverage is zero. The Personal Effects coverage is replaced by a Fishing Equipment Endorsement. My other Personal Effects are not covered, but Fishing Equipment is covered up to \$5,000. The Endorsement specifies what is covered under the endorsement.

In my case, \$5,000 is adequate (at least so far). If the value of your tackle exceeds \$5,000 (or whatever your limit is) you could probably get a separate Endorsement to increase the coverage amount. Such Endorsements to increase a coverage limit are usually inexpensive.

If your loss exceeds the coverage amount, check with your homeowner's policy. There may be coverage. See the next section.

If you aren't sure about anything call your agent.

If you don't have a boat

Look at your homeowners or renters policy. Find the section entitled Personal Property. In our homeowners policy, the coverage limit for Personal Property is almost \$200,000. That includes everything in your home – furniture, clothing, dishes, appliances, tools, etc.

See if you have a Scheduled Personal Property Endorsement. If you have any valuable jewelry, fine art, etc. it should be listed there. While Golf Equipment is eligible for a separate listing, I don't see anything about any other type of sporting goods.

Here is an interesting Special Limits of Liability on our homeowners policy.

\$1,000 additional on watercraft, including their trailers, furnishings, equipment, and outboard engines or motors.

[Which apparently would cover my otherwise uninsured kayak. As I read this it would not be a limit on fishing tackle.]

Just FYI, there is an additional limit of “\$3,000 additional for loss by theft, misplacing, or losing of firearms.” That is, the policy only pays up to \$3,000 for those losses.

Your policy has exclusions to coverage. In our homeowners policy, “...sinking, swamping, or stranding of watercraft...” is an excluded cause. So apparently if my boat sinks there is no Personal Property coverage under my homeowners policy.

But it looks like for anything other than sinking, my homeowners policy would provide coverage for my fishing tackle, subject to the deductible. If we have a major fire, though, and a lot of Personal Property damage that includes fishing tackle, we might approach our coverage limit. The fishing tackle would just be part of the total claim.

As with boat policies, almost any of this can be changed by Endorsement.

If you aren't sure about anything call your agent.



VAC 2014 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

VAC Tournaments – 2014

8 Events

(By Lee Rothgeb)

- Virginia / North Carolina Striped Bass: Dec.14- Dec. 31 2013 (no blow date)
- Virginia Yellow Perch: March 8-9 (blow date following weekend)
- Kelly Stafford Memorial Hickory Shad and White Perch: April 5-6 (James River) (blow date following weekend)
- Bernie Skydanek Memorial Eastern Shore VA Surf - Red & Black Drum May 10-11
- Virginia/Carolina Flounder: July 19-20 (blow date following weekend)
- Catfish Tournament (Replaces Small Mouth Tourney. Flatheads and Blues with 4 prizes total (2 Flatties/2 Blues) James River Sep 6-7
- Virginia / North Carolina Speckled Trout: October 25-26 (blow date following weekend)
Note: No fishing inside private hot ditch on Elizabeth River.
- James River VA (Chippokes Creek) Gar: November 22-23 (no blow date)

Anglers take note of rules:

- 1) Time limit to report catches
- 24 hours following end of event
- 2) Only 2 fish of a species may be entered per person.
Fish can be entered in either weight or points category or one fish in each category. A single fish can not be entered both ways.
- 3) There is no minimum weight or minimum points required for a tournament entry.

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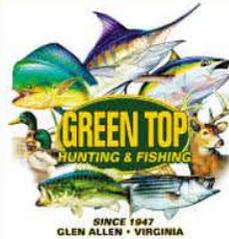
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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at DGI Headquarters**

RICHMOND VA 23294-1494
P.O. BOX 31494

