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Next Membership Meeting:  
May 27, 2014 - 7:00 PM

Annual Fish Fry at Maymont Nature Center  
2201 Shields Lake Drive  
Gates open at 5:30 and Dinner served around 6:30-7:00pm.  Page 6 for more details

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

SET-UP / CLEAN UP HELP IS NEEDED
If you can, please arrive around 5:00 PM to help set-up tables and chairs and please hang around after the Fish Fry to help clean up and put away the tables and chairs. The VAC saves on rental cost by doing our own set-up and clean-up work.

Finally, please bring any fish you can, THAWED AND READY TO COOK.

SPEAKER CONTACTS MADE FOR  
JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

Program Co-Chairs Art Conway and Steve Knox are awaiting confirmations from three speakers they have contacted for the next three Membership Meetings. As soon as confirmations are received, the speakers and their program subjects will be announced.

SKAKANDY WINS SKYDANEK MEMORIAL
The beaches of the Virginia Eastern Shore were far from crowded on May 10th and 11th during the Bernie Skydanek Memorial Surf Tournament.
Vic Skakandy won with a 19 lb. black drum weight entry, the only entry received

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 6 of this issue of The Angler.
VIRGINIA/CAROLINA FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT
JULY 19TH AND 20TH
(Blow date following weekend)
(Details will appear in the June Angler)

WISDOM FROM THE TACKLE BOX
“If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there’d be a shortage of fishing poles.” ~Doug Larson

ANGLER’S CHOICE - BOAT TRIP OR FLOAT TRIP
WEEKEND – 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:

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.

Steve Knox will have maps of the James upstream from Richmond at the Maymont Fish Fry. Please help Steve pick the official put-in and take-out landings and times.

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)

Ryan or Danny will work out a mutually agreeable date, time and location to meet you to certify your scales. Grouping a number of members’ scales for special certification is always appreciated.

COUNTRY STORE CLOSED FOR MAY MEETING
SPECIAL ORDERS HONORED IF PLACED IN ADVANCE

The VAC Country Store will be closed at the May Membership Meeting / Fish Fry. If you need a specific item, contact Joe Lovasz, Jr. and he will bring the item to the Fish Fry. You can reach Joe, Jr. at: jlovasz96@gmail.com, 379-7757 (H) or 241-7763 (O).

DISCOUNT REMINDER - CAPT. GARY DUBIEL FISHING FOR DRUM WITH LIGHT TACKLE

Captain Gary Dubiel presented a very interesting slant on how to fish for red drum with light tackle. If you are considering chartering Gary or one of his associates, please note Gary’s offer of a $50.00 discount for his red drum trips from July thru October. You can contact Gary at (252)-249-1520 or www.specfever.com.

DAVE ROBINSON AND CLAUDE COLEMAN VOTED INTO MEMBERSHIP

The VAC Board of Directors has voted Dave Robinson and Claude Coleman into Membership in the Virginia Anglers Club. Dave was a guest of Member Tyson Clary at the March Meeting and Claude joined us in April. Both attended their Orientation Meeting together on May 6th. Meet Dave and Claude on page 7 in this issue of The Angler.
TWO RAFFLES AT THE FISH FRY

There will be two raffles at the Fish Fry as explained below:

1. Regular Green Top Monthly $25.00 Gift Certificate
   (Clipboard Sign Up – 2 Chances for $1.00)

2. Special CCA Steelhead Trout Print*
   (Tickets - 1 for $1.00 / 6 for $5.00)

   (Final Ticket Sales and Print winner drawing
   At the May Fish Fry)

“Anticipation”
The original painting was done by Al Barnes in 2008. The anglers in the drift boat are fly casting to the steelhead. The title of the print is “Anticipation”. The print is 31” wide and 25.5 inches high and is very suitable for framing.

TWO MEMBERS LUCKY WINNERS IN TWO MAY RAFFLES

Vance Hopkins, President of Hopkins Gun and Tackle drew Gary Green’s name in the first bi-monthly raffle sponsored by HG&T. Gary received a $50 gift certificate good for any item available at Hopkins Gun and Tackle, Mechanicsville, Virginia. The May-June bi-monthly raffle is now active. Don’t forget to let the person checking you out know that you are a member of the VAC.

Talk about your total mismatch of angler and raffle prize, John Wetlaufer, Sr. won the fly assortment donated by the South River Fly Shop (Waynesboro, VA). Groans of disbelief were heard as far away as Oregon Hill. An opinion expressed by one of the disappointed members present indicated that John will give true meaning to the term “dry flies”. As soon as John figures out how to open the box, one of the flies might just be put into action.

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 8 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.

MEETING PLACE SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED

The Leadership Team is very aware that the membership would be best served by again meeting at a venue where meal and beverage service is available to all. A search is already active to that end. Location is among the features being considered to be sure the venues discussed are located in a place reasonably accessible to Members.

Please let Director Fred Cousins know of any suggested meeting place that you know that has a sufficiently large meeting room and food and beverage service, preferably from a menu. Contact Fred at (804)-740-3238 [H] or cousinsf1@verizon.net.

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.

Flounder Bowl proceeds have been used to make donations to the Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters, the CCA, the RFA and to support the free Youth Fishing Clinic. Sponsor donations were used to contribute to the medical fund for a young lady who required multi-organ transplants. Please turn to page 9 of this issue of The Angler to see the details. Entry of a boat representing the Virginia Anglers Club would be a good way to get the Club some recognition.

For The Leadership Team,
John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Membership Chairman
“Canny Comments”

By Billy Nicar

The water temps are up and the pollen count is down. Even the river levels are nearly back to normal after the recent deluges. It is time to get out there and get some stank on your hands. Mother Nature can only hold us down for so long. Recent data shows that the water temps near and around the CBBT are between 66 and 70 degrees. I have heard reports of some large red drum being caught on the Eastern Shore with a few nice stripers in the mix. The flounder action is starting to develop and it is only a matter of time before someone hooks into the first cobia of the season. Summertime freshwater fishing patterns will soon start to develop over the coming weeks as well. So, let that grass grow. It’ll be there when you are done fishing.

If entry cards are any indication of time spent on the water, Bobby Broughton has been keeping his line wet. Bobby’s first entry is for a 1 pound, 8 ounce hickory shad that he caught on April 5th from the James River. This catch on 6# spinning tackle is worth 121 points. His second entry is also for a hickory shad caught from the James River. Bobby landed this fish worth 132 points on April 6th using a spoon tied to 6# spinning tackle. But, Bobby trumped them all with his catch made from a private pond on April 20th. Bobby was casting a tube bait on 4# spinning tackle when a 20 pound, 8 ounce carp sucked up his lure. This catch earns Bobby 512 points, the “Heaviest” and “Highest Points” for the species, the title of “Freshwater Spin Division” leader, and a first place finish for “Angler of the Month” at April’s meeting. Congrats Bobby! Stuart Lee was fishing the James River on April 14th with his 8# fly tackle when he landed a beauty of a white perch that weighed in at 14 ounces. This catch will earn Stuart 171 points and will stand as the current “Heaviest” and “Highest Points” catch for the species. Nice fish, Stuart! The only entries submitted to date for american shad have been made by Mickey Kodroff. Mickey was fishing North Carolina’s Tar River on April 24th when he landed a 3 pound, 8 ounce american shad worth 240 points on 2# spinning tackle. This fish will stand as the “Highest Points” for the species. Great fish, Mickey! Fred Cousins submitted the only saltwater entry for the month. Fred’s entry for a 4 pound, 0 ounce flounder that he caught on May 9th from Rudee Inlet using a grub tied to 2# spinning tackle earns Fred 333 points, as well as, the “Heaviest” and “Highest Points” for the species. Great catch, Fred! David Nobles submitted the year’s first entry for rainbow trout. David’s 209 point trout was caught from Spring Creek.
on May 4th using a Golden Retriever Fly on 4# tippet. This fish will stand as the “Heaviest” and “Highest Points” catch for the species to date. On May 6th David found himself, once again, with fly rod in hand. But, this time on the James River. On this day David was fishing a shad fly tied onto 2# tippet to catch a 1 pound, 3 ounce hickory shad worth 169 points. Nice fish, David!

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

**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
MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MOVES TO MAYMONT

The Virginia Anglers Club’s May Membership Meeting will again move to The Maymont Nature Center for the Annual Fish Fry. Member-caught fish will be featured and will be lovingly prepared by Buddy, Danny and Ryan Noland, Billy Nicar, Jeff (the king of hush puppies) and Angie Doughty.

Menu: Fried fish, French fries, slaw, and hush puppies (from Jeff Doughty’s secret, down home Dinwiddie recipe), soft drinks, water and beer.

Start lining up (or catching) some of your fish to bring along (thawed out, please). Thanks again to Fred Murray for making arrangements for us to meet at this very attractive and weather tolerant venue. This year we AGAIN meet under a brand new tent.

A (fish) head count is needed to help with the planning for beer and food purchases. If you are bring some fish or planning to attend, please let Buddy or Danny know how much fish and how may family members or guests will be attending with you.

Buddy: noland47@aol.com  H (804) 530-3668  C (804) 691-0615

Danny: noland47@aol.com  H (804) 530-3668  C (804) 691-0615

Set up and take down help is welcome. If you can arrive a little early and stay a few minutes after the Fry ends, that would be great. We avoid the set up and take down fee from Maymont by doing this work ourselves. The kitchen crew will clean up the kitchen themselves.

*** PLEASE NOTE: PEANUT OIL IS USED FOR ALL FRYING ***

This is a great meeting to which to bring family and friends that may or may not be interested in becoming a member. The Annual Casting Contest returns for the amusement of all.

A donation of $10 per attendee is suggested to cover the cost of the food, beverages and rent.

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 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. Look for more details to follow in the June Angler.

Questions: Contact Mike Ostrander, 938-2350 or Mike@DiscovertheJames.com
MEET VAC’S NEWEST MEMBERS
DAVE ROBINSON AND CLAUDE COLEMAN

DAVE ROBINSON
Dave came to know the VAC thru Member Tyson Clary, his first sponsor. Dave Robinson lives in North Chesterfield and prefers freshwater fishing over salt water fishing, but not by much. Dave was born and raised in Richmond, graduated from JMU in 2010 and is a financial advisor. Away from the office and his tackle, Dave is active with a children’s group in Richmond called CONNOR’S HEROS that helps with the needs of kids who have cancer. Dave enjoys the camaraderie found in angling, so he has come to the right Club for that. He reports his “notable fishing accomplishments” as breaking three rods (who doesn’t?), loosing two tackle boxes and tipping a canoe. Dave is boat-less at the moment, so if you are looking for crew, please check with Dave.

CLAUDIE COLEMAN
Claude found out about the Virginia Anglers Club in a unique way. Claude was visiting D.O.A. Lures in Stuart, Florida on business. He saw a list of activities that included Capt. Gary Dubiel’s presentation to the VAC at the April Membership Meeting (Gary is a field testing rep for D.O.A. Lures). Claude came to Gary’s presentation, liked what he saw and applied for membership. Claude lives in Henrico County. He started fishing in freshwater ponds near Charlottesville and bottom fishing on the York River. While in 5th grade, Claude went bone fishing in the FL Keys and took a try at marlin fishing off Ocean City, MD. Claude has fished the Jackson River above and below Covington. He also likes fishing the saltwater flats and ponds with ultra-light tackle. There must be a story behind the pucker in the picture, but he has not shared the story yet.
RESULTS - BERNIE SKYDANEK MEMORIAL
EASTERN SHORE VA SURF RED & BLACK DRUM

Vic Skakandy won with a 19 lb. black drum weight entry, the only entry received.

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.

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
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. As this is being written, 35 spots have already been taken.

This event is a two-day party with a fishing tournament on the side. The Flounder Bowl is hosted by the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman’s Association but it is the many businesses that sponsor this event which make it such a great time. These businesses are providing a guaranteed First Place award of $5,000. They also make it possible to provide food, drink and music for participants at both the captains meeting and at the weigh-in. The sponsors provide for team buckets given out at the captains meeting and they are also providing various prizes which will be given away at the weigh-in. Each team will find door-prize tickets in their team buckets which will give them chances to win these prizes.

The Flounder Bowl will be held out of Dare Marina and Yacht Sales (www.daremarina.com). Boats will be allowed to fish from any port but the fish must be brought to Dare Marina for weigh-in.

This is a team tournament with an entry fee of $200 per boat with up to 4 anglers ($125 early entry). Additional anglers will cost $25 each. Winners will be determined by the combined weight of the team’s top three fish. Cash prizes will be paid through six places.

To give everyone a chance to win, teams not placing in the top six will be entered in a “Lucky Dog” drawing. The team drawn will win an additional cash prize.

There will be a prize for the heaviest flounder caught by a child and a prize for the heaviest flounder caught by a woman in the tournament. There will also be a prize for the heaviest flounder weighed in by a member of the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman’s Association.

Teams will be given the option of entering a “Big Fish Calcutta” for an additional $100 entry fee. This is a 100% payout to the team that has entered the Calcutta, which weighs in the single heaviest fish.

There will be a second optional “Stringer Calcutta” with a $100 entry fee. This is a 100% payout to the team that has entered this Calcutta, which has the heaviest stringer weight.

There is a special Sponsors’ Challenge Division where teams entered by the tournament sponsors will compete with each other for the special Sponsors’ Trophy. The winning sponsor will get to keep this trophy until next year’s tournament. Currently, the Sponsors’ Trophy is in the possession of Just Plumbing.

The 2013 Flounder Bowl had a total cash payout of $16,750 plus sponsor donated merchandise prizes. The winnings are expected to be larger this year. This is your chance to fish with and against some of the best flounder anglers in the state. There will be food, drink, music, and multiple chances to win. Come on out and join the fun!

You can find the Flounder Bowl on Facebook and visit www.pswsfa.com and www.flounderbowl.com.

Sponsor support for this event is nothing short of fantastic! These businesses are going out of their way to make sure that the local fishing community has a good time. We encourage Flounder Bowl participants to support the sponsors who make this event possible.
Catching Largemouth Bass in the Spawning Season (Part 2)
(By Chris Dunnavant, VDGIF Angling Education Coordinator)

Check out the April 9 edition of The Outdoor Report for Part 1.

With our late pre-spawn areas identified, let’s look at my top lure picks for this phase.
Crankbait – A shallow square bill crankbait like the Strike King KVD 1.5 or the Lucky Craft 1.5 are my go-to cranks. You can cover a lot of shallow water efficiently around a variety of cover types and water clarities. Experiment with a variety of colors, but my favorite hues have chartreuse, oranges and reds.

Jerkbait – If the weather is warm, I pull out a floating Rattling Rogue in gold with an orange belly. This is a great search bait, meaning you can cover a lot of water with it. Bass are moving around quite a bit at this time and a technique that can intercept them as they cruise is a plus. If the weather turns cold I will pull out a suspending jerkbait like a Lucky Craft Flash Pointer 100 or 115.
**Spinnerbait** – This is the ultimate spring search bait because it is virtually weedless and can slide over logs and limbs and spin through aquatic vegetation. I typically go with a 3/8 oz model with Colorado and Indiana blades, but have found downsizing to a ¼ oz. bait or smaller can have great results as well. Something about a small spinnerbait this time of year really works.

**Chatterbait/Bladed Jig** – When first introduced less than a decade ago this bait was the rage and fish were really attacking it. However, the chatterbait has proven that it is not a fad, but a valuable tool in a bass angler’s arsenal. The best colors are green pumpkin or black/blue flake, but the spinnerbait standard chartreuse and white can also be effective. Reel it through and around cover, much like a spinnerbait retrieve.

**Jig** – A 3/8 oz model in black and blue or green pumpkin/natural hues, depending on water clarity, are your best choices. Match it with a plastic chunk or craw trailer and swim it through cover for a stealthier, subtle approach than a spinnerbait or bladed jig. When the bass are sluggish or the weather turns cool, fish it slowly along the bottom around docks, laydowns and grass lines.

**Spawn**

Once fish are committed to the spawn, soft plastics dominate. Fast moving baits like spinnerbaits, crankbaits and jerkbaits may work well in the early morning hours or on cloudy days, but experience and tournament results reveal that a soft plastic lure is the top choice. I recall a day in early May on Lake Chesdin, prime spawning time, where a friend and I were both on the lake in separate boats. It was bright and sunny and the wind was blowing. He fished windy banks with a crankbait and had limited success. I fished calmer pockets and grass edges with a watermelonseed trick worm on a flick-shake head and caught a nice limit of bass weighing almost 20 pounds with several fish between 4-5 pounds.

Largemouth bass primarily spawn in very shallow water, just a couple of feet deep, but this can vary depending on water clarity. The clearer the water, the better the light penetration to incubate the eggs, the deeper the bass will make their nests.

Blind casting to spawning areas can be very effective if fish are aggressive, but more times than not it requires patience and repeated casts to a bed in order to entice the bass to bite. Bass will likely build their nests near some type of cover: a stump, a corner of a dock, a laydown tree, or a hole in some vegetation.

A variety of soft plastics will work fished weightless or on the bottom. Visit the upcoming Fishing Spot for Part 3 in the next edition of The Outdoor Report where we will cover my favorite spawning baits: Senkos, Trick Worms, creature baits and tubes and also; catching bass in the post spawn phase.
### 2013 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER

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### 2013 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER

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**NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER**

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**C.V. KINNARD AWARD COMPETITION - THRU 4/14**

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NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, May 27 at DGIF Headquarters