

Merry Fishes and
a Happy New Year!



December 2017

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© Rob Choi

NO DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Board of Directors will meet next January and The Angler will publish in January. If you have an item for the BOD to consider during this meeting, please bring it to the attention of any VAC Director or Officer.



BACKLASH

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

NEXT-UP ANGLING ACTIVITY ALERT

Awards Banquet:
Saturday Evening, February 3, 2018

Membership Meeting: February 27, 2018.
Scale Certification Available At Meeting

VAC ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE – PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY

Annual Dues for the Virginia Anglers Club are now due. Payment can be made by PayPal as follows:

To pay Resident Member Dues (\$60) now, click here:
<http://tinyurl.com/vacdues>

To pay non-Resident Dues (\$40) dues now, click here:
<http://tinyurl.com/vacdues-nl>

(Why not pay now while these links are now open in front of you??)

Cash and Checks made out to The Virginia Anglers Club will also be accepted. Mail to:

Virginia Anglers Club
POB 70520
Richmond, Virginia 23255



VAC annual banquet will be held at:

Cesare's Ristorante Italiano
13301 Rivers Bend Blvd.
Chester, VA 23836
804-530-1047
<http://cesaresrestaurant.com/>

(On Route 10 Between I-95 and I-295)

Cesare's is a longtime favorite of many of our members and may become a favorite of everyone who attends. They are a family owned and operated business and strive to have everyone enjoy their food and dining experience.

We will be dining buffet style with several entrees to allow everyone to try the verity and expertise of Cesar's extensive menu. Dinner will be served at 7:00 pm.

Members and guest can begin arriving around 6:00 PM to review the raffle items and door prizes available. There will be a full cash bar available for your enjoyment that opens at 6:00 pm..

Come and enjoy a relaxing and fun evening with old, and new friends.

Tickets will be \$40 each for members and guests.

MENU

Smoked Rock Fish During Cocktail Hour
(Thanks, Stuart)

Entrees: Ziti Marinara and Fettuccine Alfredo w/Shrimp.
Salad
Bread
Dessert : Sheet Cake and Cheesecake Sampler

RAFFLE ITEMS

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

- Bill Gallasch Fly Shadow Box
- Framed Gytaku Print by Rob Choi (Species To Be Announced)
- Carved and Painted Wooden Fish
- (4th Item Being Selected – To Be Announced)

BANQUET RESERVATIONS – TWO WAYS TO PAY

For payment by PayPal, please enter Member's Area of the VAC Website www.virginiaanglersclub.org, scroll down to bottom of first page and click on "Annual Banquet" - \$40" PayPal Payment Box.

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 Banquet check to Gary)



SCALE CERTIFICATION REMINDER

SCALE CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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

Contact Danny at: (804) 514-0650 ©
or danny6749@aol.com

Please remember to be sure your scales are in working order and the barrels are oil free so the certification stickers will adhere.

TROPHY BLUE CATFISH IN THE JAMES FACE POPULATION REDUCTION

eyes to activities and attitudes that are, right now, putting population reduction pressure on trophy size blue catfish in the James River. Please turn to page 6 to read Mike's very informative commentary on this issue and see a way that you can take a stand against this population reduction initiative that will reduce the number of blue catfish available for catching by recreational anglers. Thanks, Mike, for bringing this issue to the attention of the Membership of the VAC.

VAC ENDS FISCAL YEAR WITH INCOME NEARLY MATCHING EXPENSES

VAC Treasurer Bill Butler presented the year-end budget report at the December VAC Board of Directors' Meeting. Both income and expenses for the fiscal year 2017 were about 11% over the 2017 budgeted amounts. The net was a loss for 2017 of \$65.

The VAC's cash-on-hand balance is roughly \$14,650. About 35% of this amount is in an interest bearing CD, another 62% of this amount is in our checking account and the balance of 3% is funds yet to be transferred out of PayPal.

TOTAL 2017 YEAR END VAC MEMBERSHIP STANDS AT 110

The total membership in the VAC at the end of November was 110 Members. The membership divided among classes is: Resident = 80, Non-Resident = 10, Complimentary = 7, Life (active living) = 3 and Honorary = 3.

Eight New Members joined the VAC in 2017 while 1 Member resigned. The 2017 net gain was 7 members vs. a net loss of 7 members in 2016.

New Memberships keep the VAC a viable angling club. Please look among your angling buddies and friends for potential new memberships and bring them to a Membership Meeting. The VAC welcomes men and women equally and young members who have shown promise as interested anglers.

HUMOR FROM THE TACKLE BOX



For the Leadership Team,

John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Membership Chairman



“Catchy Comments”

By *Stuart Lee*

If you did not attend the November membership meeting held at the Bass Pro Shop, you missed an interesting program on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Master Angler Program. While I had heard of this program, I did not understand what it was. **Megan Rothgab**, Fish Citation Coordinator at DGIF, explained that the state recognizes 25 freshwater species in their citation program. If an angler registers citations for 5 different species in his lifetime, he becomes a Level 1 Master Angler; 10 species, a Level 2 Master Angler, and so on. The Level 5 Master Angler, which is the Holy Grail, for catching citations for all 25 of the eligible species has yet to be achieved by anyone.

Following Megan Rothgab’s explanation of the program, members **Grant Alvis** and **Josh Dolan** talked about their quest for the Level 5 Master Angler. Both are roughly two-thirds of the way toward their goal and both have added a self-imposed obstacle of catching all of their fish without the aid of a motor, either fishing from a kayak or from the shore. I know nothing about fishing from a kayak, but I know this constraint greatly complicates an otherwise very difficult goal.

Their talk was very interesting. They touched on how they acquired the information to pinpoint location, technique, and timing for each targeted species. A couple of the takeaways that I remember were - Josh said that he could learn something from everyone that he encountered during this pursuit. They also noted that they had seen places and sights during this process that they would not have seen otherwise. Their enthusiasm was most apparent. While some of their remaining species are akin to hunting unicorns, I would not bet on them slowing down anytime soon. The DGIF Master Angler program is a very worthy goal for any freshwater angler.

Because I have seen all entries in the club over the past few years, it has become apparent to me that the pursuit of our club’s angler ratings has fallen out of favor, particularly with newer members. I want to briefly explain my perception of the Virginia Anglers Club Angler ratings. I was not around when the club was founded, but I will speculate on how these ratings were established. First, most anglers prefer either fresh or salt water so they established requirements for expert ratings in both fresh and saltwater. Most anglers prefer one tackle division over the others (spin, fly, surf, etc.). The founders of our club set up these expert ratings in such a way to force the member out of his comfort zone. They wanted the member to prove a proficiency in all of the tackle classes and over a spectrum of different species. They also wanted to force the member to use lines and tippets that were lighter than they were accustomed to using. They did not intend to force a member to necessarily become a light-tackle fanatic, but using lighter lines than he is accustomed to using makes one a better angler.

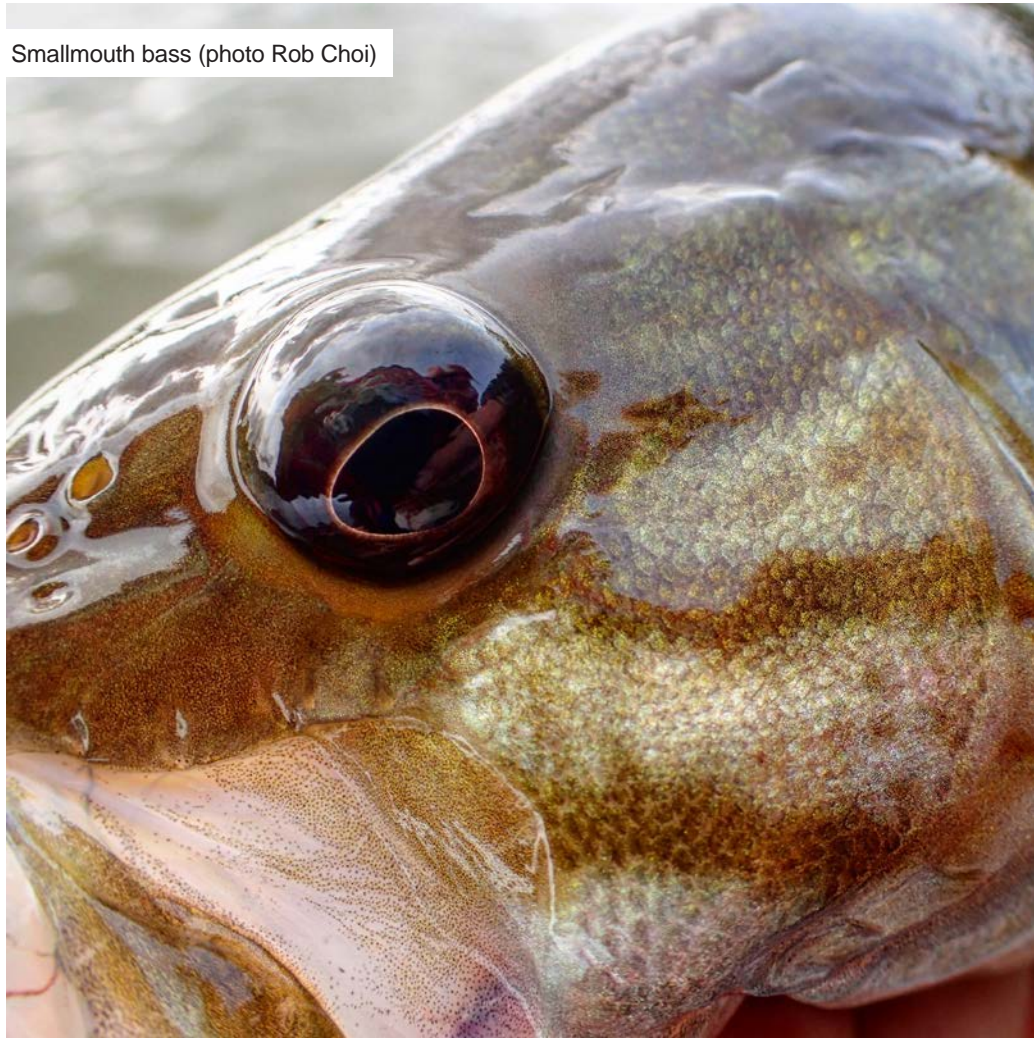
If members have achieved fresh or saltwater expert, one can assume that they are reasonably proficient with all of the tackle divisions and most were forced to learn to use tackle that they were not comfortable with across a variety of species. Lastly, I would speculate that when they established the requirements for master angler, they wanted the anglers to prove they were proficient in both fresh and salt water and in all tackle divisions and across an ever wider spectrum of species. I will speculate that they wanted a master angler to feel equally at home catching bream in a farm pond as in the cockpit of a sportfisherman in the Gulf Stream trying to hook a billfish.

I am in no way trying to imply that I think the Virginia Anglers Club ratings are more or less difficult or important than the DGIF Master Angler program. Goals, and more importantly goals that are pursued passionately, are always worthy, and I wish both Josh and Grant the best of luck on their quest of their Master Angler 5 designation, as I do Glenn Carter on capturing that billfish on 8 General for his VAC Mater Angler.

Merry Christmas to all - Stuart

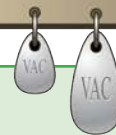


Smallmouth bass (photo Rob Choi)



Musky release (photo Rob Choi)





PETITION FOR TROPHY BLUE CATFISH ON THE JAMES RIVER

By Capt. Mike Ostrander

For many years the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has been studying the biomass of blue catfish, in particular the large, trophy sized blue catfish over 32". About a decade ago, a noticeable decline in large catfish was being recorded and explained as the natural curve of introduced species began. Their biomass peaked and now blue catfish are on the decline. Blue catfish are also experiencing a slower growth rate, meaning, the large fish are taking much longer to get to 32" and the biomass of fish over 32" in the James River is roughly 50% less than what it was back in the early 2000's.

In 2012, a number of organizations including NOAA, VCU, VIMS, VMRC, and ASMFSC among others representing the Chesapeake Bay states got together and decided blue catfish were invasive and needed to be eradicated. Almost immediately the "Invasive Catfish Task Force" backed off the idea of eradication, but their goal was to greatly reduce the amount of blue catfish.

The idea of electro fishing (shocking) blue catfish for commercial purposes was developed and currently there is only one man with a permit to do this, but he often has a number of 'assist' boats and often works with five to eight people. These catfish are being harvested for consumption and sold to restaurants (many in DC), Whole Foods Grocery, Elwood Thompson and other food store chains.

Initially, catfish under eight pounds were the target. Thinning the smaller fish population was perfect for helping with the trophy fishery. This was not the case and from the beginning, the electro fishing team kept every fish up to 32" while also keeping one blue catfish over 32" for every man working on the boats.

Being a guide and one who appreciates the science side as well as the angling side of this world-class fishery, and seeing the decline of trophy blue catfish I felt the need to take some action. The natural decline coupled with the commercial electro fishing harvest does not bode well for the future of blue catfish on the James River.

I recently took part in a two-day symposium on blue catfish. VDGIF seems to be fully supportive of protecting the trophy blue catfish population, but with science based information to back that decision. Every other organization in the Invasive Catfish Task Force are full-on against blue catfish and have no idea of the impact the world class blue catfish fishery has on local business or on the anglers who travel to the James River to fish for them. In my opinion the groups against blue catfish are not basing their decisions on good science but rather perceived science, which is more propaganda than good science to fit an agenda.

Being the only person at the symposium representing anglers I started a petition to show the Invasive Catfish Task Force the angling/tourism side of things. It's a petition on Change.org and if you agree with it, please sign and share with anyone you think might be interested in what is going on out there.

On the petition, there is a 30" size suggested as the max size for commercial harvest. The seafood processors that take blue catfish only want catfish of 30" and smaller, hence the decision to offer that size as the maximum allowed.

Click the link below, or type it into your web browser and check it out.

<https://www.change.org/p/concerned-recreational-anglers-of-the-james-river-james-river-blue-catfish-need-your-support>

Thanks,

Mike Ostrander



The Elusive Citation Fish Taco



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 2017

President's Award Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
GAR, ALL	ES JOHNSTON	16lb-0oz	2	SPIN	581	2017-07-12	JAMES RIVER, VA	Gulp 6 inch while shad

President's Award Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	36lb-0oz		SURF	257	2017-05-27	SMITH ISLAND, VA	Peeler

Division Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
CARP	J NIXON	14lb-2oz	8	FLY	315	2017-10-20	JAMES RIVER, VA	Fly
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	GN CARTER	23lb-8oz	4	GEN	318	2017-08-25	JAMES RIVER, VA	Live Bream
GAR, ALL	F COUSINS	15lb-4oz	2	PLUG	554	2016-12-26	JAMES RIVER, VA	Grub
GAR, ALL	ES JOHNSTON	16lb-0oz	2	SPIN	581	2017-07-12	JAMES RIVER, VA	Gulp 6 inch while shad

Division Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, STRIPED	R CHOI	41lb-0oz	50BR	GEN	136	2016-12-20	YORK RIVER, VA	Eel
BLUEFISH	SC LEE	11lb-8oz	12	PLUG	127	2017-04-28	OFF OREGON INLET , NC	Kinnard Popper
BLUEFISH	SC LEE	12lb-8oz	6	SPIN	250	2017-08-12	PAMLICO SOUND, NC	Green Grub
DOLPHIN	SC LEE	11lb-8oz	12	FLY	143	2017-06-17	OFF OREGON INLET, NC	Deceiver
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	36lb-0oz		SURF	257	2017-05-27	SMITH ISLAND, VA	Peeler

"Highest Point" Species Awards Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	F COUSINS	4lb-4oz	2	SPIN	283	2017-01-25	CHICKAHOMONY RIVER, VA	Grub
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	GN CARTER	4lb-1oz	4	PLUG	294	2017-02-13	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	Bomber Model A
BOWFIN	RL WHITE	2lb-15oz	4	SPIN	111	2017-03-30	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	crappie jig
CARP	J NIXON	14lb-2oz	8	FLY	315	2017-10-20	JAMES RIVER, VA	Fly
CATFISH, BLUE	S KNOX	59lb-0oz	20BR	GEN	304	2017-10-26	LAKE GASTON , VA	white perch
CATFISH, CHANNEL	W SHANDS	5lb-2oz	2	SPIN	205	2017-10-08	WYNDHAM LAKE, VA	2" grubz
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	GN CARTER	23lb-8oz	4	GEN	318	2017-08-25	JAMES RIVER, VA	Live Bream
CRAPPIE, ALL	W MOSLEY	1lb-8oz	2	SPIN	238	2017-03-19	LITTLE CREEK RESERVOIR, VA	TRD
GAR, ALL	ES JOHNSTON	16lb-0oz	2	SPIN	581	2017-07-12	JAMES RIVER, VA	Gulp 6 inch while shad
PERCH, WHITE	GN CARTER	0lb-14oz	2	PLUG	230	2017-04-01	JAMES RIVER, VA	Blade Bait
PERCH, YELLOW	ROB ROBINSON	1lb-1oz	2	PLUG	279	2017-02-17	MATTAPONI RIVER, VA	Blade Bait
PICKEREL, CHAIN	A CONWAY	2lb-12oz	4	SPIN	202	2017-02-03	CHICKAHOMINY LAKE, VA	Bobby Garland Baby Shad Swimr
SHAD, AMERICAN	F COUSINS	3lb-13oz	2	SPIN	305	2017-03-09	ROANOKE RIVER, NC	shad dart
SHAD, HICKORY	G ALVIS	1lb-14oz	2	FLY	267	2017-04-03	JAMES RIVER, VA	Shad Fly
SUNFISH	SC LEE	1lb-0oz	4	SPIN	217	2017-03-28	POND, VA	Z Man
TROUT, RAINBOW	DL NOBLES	3lb-4oz	2	FLY	253	2017-03-09	SPRING CREEK, VA	nymph

"Highest Point" Species Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, STRIPED	R CHOI	41lb-0oz	50BR	GEN	136	2016-12-20	YORK RIVER, VA	Eel
BLUEFISH	SC LEE	12lb-8oz	6	SPIN	250	2017-08-12	PAMLICO SOUND, NC	Green Grub
COBIA	W MOSLEY	50lb-0oz	50BR	GEN	121	2017-09-04	CAPE HENRY, VA	Eel
DOLPHIN	GN CARTER	10lb-4oz	6	SPIN	227	2017-06-17	OREGON INLET, NC	Bucktail Jig
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	36lb-0oz		SURF	257	2017-05-27	SMITH ISLAND, VA	Peeler
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	LR ALLEN	3lb-7oz	4	SPIN	171	2017-10-28	PIANKATANK RIVER, VA	fin-s
SPOT	GN CARTER	0lb-6oz	2	GEN	113	2017-10-27	YORK RIVER, VA	Blood Worm

**"Heaviest" Species Awards Freshwater**

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	G ALVIS	8lb-4oz	12	PLUG	206	2017-01-27	KENT LAKE, VA	Suspending Jerkbait
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	GN CARTER	4lb-1oz	4	PLUG	294	2017-02-13	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	Bomber Model A
BOWFIN	RL WHITE	2lb-15oz	4	SPIN	111	2017-03-30	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	crappie jig
CARP	J NIXON	14lb-2oz	8	FLY	315	2017-10-20	JAMES RIVER, VA	Fly
CATFISH, BLUE	S KNOX	59lb-0oz	20BR	GEN	304	2017-10-26	LAKE GASTON, VA	white perch
CATFISH, CHANNEL	W SHANDS	5lb-2oz	2	SPIN	205	2017-10-08	WYNDHAM LAKE, VA	2" grubz
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	S KNOX	30lb-0oz	16	GEN	206	2017-09-22	JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VA	Live bluegill
CRAPPIE, ALL	SC LEE	1lb-8oz	4	SPIN	187	2017-02-13	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	Tube
GAR, ALL	ES JOHNSTON	16lb-0oz	2	SPIN	581	2017-07-12	JAMES RIVER, VA	Gulp 6 inch while shad
PERCH, WHITE	GN CARTER	0lb-14oz	2	PLUG	230	2017-04-01	JAMES RIVER, VA	Blade Bait
PERCH, YELLOW	ROB ROBINSON	1lb-1oz	2	PLUG	279	2017-02-17	MATTAPONI RIVER, VA	Blade Bait
PICKEREL, CHAIN	A CONWAY	2lb-12oz	4	SPIN	202	2017-02-03	CHICKAHOMINY LAKE, VA	Bobby Garland Baby Shad Swimr
SHAD, AMERICAN	F COUSINS	3lb-13oz	2	SPIN	305	2017-03-09	ROANOKE RIVER, NC	shad dart
SHAD, HICKORY	SC LEE	2lb-3oz	8	FLY	193	2017-04-03	JAMES RIVER, VA	Fred's Shad Fly
SUNFISH	SC LEE	1lb-0oz	4	SPIN	217	2017-03-28	POND, VA	Z Man
TROUT, RAINBOW	DL NOBLES	3lb-4oz	2	FLY	253	2017-03-09	SPRING CREEK, VA	nymph
WARMOUTH	B BROUGHTON	0lb-5oz	4	SPIN	67	2017-03-04	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	Blade Bait

"Heaviest" Species Awards Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, STRIPED	R CHOI	41lb-0oz	50BR	GEN	136	2016-12-20	YORK RIVER, VA	Eel
BLUEFISH	SC LEE	12lb-8oz	6	SPIN	250	2017-08-12	PAMLICO SOUND, NC	Green Grub
COBIA	W MOSLEY	50lb-0oz	50BR	GEN	121	2017-09-04	CAPE HENRY, VA	Eel
DOLPHIN	SC LEE	11lb-8oz	12	FLY	143	2017-06-17	OFF OREGON INLET, NC	Deceiver
DRUM, RED	B SHEPHERD	36lb-0oz		SURF	257	2017-05-27	SMITH ISLAND, VA	Peeler
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	WC NOBLES	5lb-14oz	12	SPIN	146	2017-10-27	PIANKATANK RIVER, VA	bass assassin
SPOT	GN CARTER	0lb-6oz	2	GEN	113	2017-10-27	YORK RIVER, VA	Blood Worm

New Club Records Freshwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	G ALVIS	8lb-4oz	12	PLUG	206	2017-01-27	KENT LAKE, VA	Suspending Jerkbait
CARP	J NIXON	14lb-2oz	8	FLY	315	2017-10-20	JAMES RIVER, VA	Fly
CATFISH, BLUE	S KNOX	59lb-0oz	20BR	GEN	304	2017-10-26	LAKE GASTON, VA	white perch
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	S KNOX	30lb-0oz	16	GEN	206	2017-09-22	JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VA	Live bluegill
PERCH, WHITE	GN CARTER	0lb-14oz	2	PLUG	230	2017-04-01	JAMES RIVER, VA	Blade Bait
SUNFISH	JL WETLAUFER, JR	0lb-9oz	2	GEN	119	2017-06-04	PRIVATE POND, POWHATAN, VA	Live Worm

New Club Records Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
COBIA	W MOSLEY	50lb-0oz	50BR	GEN	121	2017-09-04	CAPE HENRY, VA	Eel

Pajchak Award

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
MARLIN, WHITE	BW STRUM	0lb-0oz	20	GEN	189	2017-08-16	OREGON INLET, NC	Ballyhoo

Non-Local Award Fresh or Saltwater

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	RL WHITE	4lb-4oz	4	FLY	386	2017-06-02	LAKE ST CLAIR, MI	Sexy Shad Clouser Minnow

New Member Award

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	G ALVIS	8lb-4oz	12	PLUG	206	2017-01-27	KENT LAKE, VA	Suspending Jerkbait
SHAD, HICKORY	G ALVIS	1lb-14oz	2	FLY	267	2017-04-03	JAMES RIVER, VA	Shad Fly

Total **473**

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

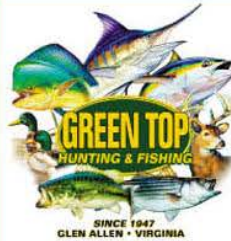
rtphotography@comcast.net

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Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlaufer, 647-4042



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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

Awards Banquet at Cesare's Ristorante Italiano - February 3, 2018

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