

Who's up for
Ice Fishing?



February 2021

In This Issue...

Recent Members' Catch Photos
Pages 9-11

Yellow Perch Tournament Info
Page 6

President's Message
Page 2 - 3

Expedition Update
Page 7



FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021
Meeting starts at 7:00pm

This will be a virtual (Zoom) meeting link listed below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83992771197?pwd=U3FzRIkKwng0T1VRSHFCNTRRHZ1UT09>

How to Join a Zoom Meeting

Email link:

1. You will receive an email invitation from the meeting host
2. Click on the link in the email (join via PC, Mac, iOS or Android)
3. You will be directed to the meeting

IMPORTANT!

2021 VAC Scale Certification

Due to the pandemic, the following is in effect for the upcoming year:

All scales certified in 2020 are valid through 2021.

If you have an electronic scale, please change your batteries before weighing fish this year. If you have new scales, or scales that need certifying (not certified in 2020) it is your responsibility to get your scales to a weigh master.

Please contact the following to arrange for your scales to be certified.

Larry Allen: allenhouse75@comcast.net
Ryan Noland: ryan.n.noland@usa.dupont.com
Danny Noland: danny6749@aol.com



President's Message

FEBRUARY 2021

Viruses are like musky. They mutate or learn. I'm not playing down the seriousness of anything, but as an angler I know how hard it is to catch a musky. On some days, it's darn near impossible. Musky see the same lures over and over, and (I know this for fact) they have learned that those beautiful, expensive baits are not eatable and thus, not going to trigger the interest of what all musky anglers seek. A follow or a hook up.

On those days when they are not active, and you've exhausted the water column, a musky fisherman needs to experiment and put on their 'scientist' hat. I've been musky fishing a fair amount over the last couple years and unless you are good enough to be a musky guide ... you gotta figure something out quick!! I'm not a musky guide, but love where it takes me. I recently picked up a 25+ year old Uncle Josh's Pork Rind jar with a 12" giant rind from the back of a shelf in my fishing shed. I looked at it and thought, "Darn, I've had this for a long time! A musky might eat this." The lid was rusted and never going to open so I broke the glass jar with a hammer, removed the pork rind and scraped off a swath of nasty growth along its length and tucked it into a jar of 'GULP' juice. During the musky outing (it was the recent VAC Expedition) my partners and I fished all day without a bite or follow. Nothing! I put on the diseased, but beautifully scraped pork rind onto a jig head and on my fifth cast, I had a follow. I figure-eighted my new favorite lure a couple times and eventually the musky shot up, towards the surface, right next to the side of the jon boat and "SWOOSHED!" across the bait, missing it and the great fish swam off. On the next cast I had another follow. The musky was probably the same one I had just seen, and as neared the boat the great fish snapped my bait and started to run ... peeling line off my 8-pound spin rod. After taking a good 30' of line, it let go. "Ugh!" And for the rest of the evening I played in my head exactly how to rig my new favorite bait for the next trip. I can tell you now, I know precisely how I'm goon do it!

Speaking of musky, this month's speaker, Sam Scott, from Blue Ridge Musky is not only a musky fisherman, but a showman ... and he's probably part scientist too! Sam has many YouTube videos online where he shows the excitement of chasing musky and shares knowledge along the way. Sam guides full time and operates a store where anglers can buy rods, nets, flies and other musky necessities. I hope can make the program.

In case you have not heard, the Virginia Anglers Club is having its first fishing tournament in a loooooong while. For the members who remember the tournaments, I don't have to say a word. But for any member who has not been in the club for at least a decade, let me tell you ... the history of the Virginia Anglers Club Annual Fishing Tournaments rivals any fishing club ... ever! If you go to the VAC Website and click "newsletters" and scroll down to the older newsletters, you'll find a fishing club rich with tournaments. Thinking aloud here ... for the VAC to get back to having competitive fishing tournaments would absolutely be my number one goal as president.



I believe the synergy created from the excitement of the members who want to put on the Yellow Perch tournament coupled with the experienced thoughts from members who used to fish the VAC tournaments have generated a strong first Tournament. Thanks to all who have had input bringing the Yellow Perch tournament to fruition and I hope you get a chance to fish during this historic tournament weekend of February 27 and 28. Take a friend or member of the VAC. If you fish it and catch a decent fish, be sure to submit an ecard so we know you fished it. If you fish it and do not turn in an ecard, reach out to Angling Activities Chairman, Frank Hart and let him know you fished it.

“Synergy” happens and sometimes, twice a month. A couple of weeks ago, the Fly Fishers of Virginia invited the VAC to attend their first online Zoom meeting and listen to, Jeff Currier, present on warm water fly fishing. We had about ten VAC members show up, and it was not only a nice gesture from the FFV, but it has again created synergy. The VAC’s March 23 Program is now a duel program between the VAC and the FFV and will feature fly angler, author and artist, Jeff Currier once again, this time presenting on “Fly Fishing for Carp.” Will this synergy last? I think it will and given we are two large angling clubs in Richmond, collectively our voices can help create changes locally and statewide. One goal to work towards in the future is to be sure Ancarrow’s Landing has funding from the City of Richmond for dredging the boat ramp each and every year. 300 Anglers can have a strong voice.

I hope you are healthy, safe and your family is well, and life includes some fishing. The VAC’s angling opportunities continue to develop each month, so look for good stuff to continue. As always, please call or email if you have any ideas you’d like to see happen in the future.

Mike Ostrander
Virginia Anglers Club President

REMINDER - THE VAC HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE NOW
- GO TAKE A LOOK

You can visit the VAC Facebook page for a look by clicking on:
<https://www.facebook.com/vaanglers/>



PROGRAMS

February 23 General Membership Meeting – The speaker for this meeting via Zoom will be Sam Scott of Blue Ridge Musky. Sam owns a guide service and his shop offers custom made rods, nets, flies and musky baits. He guides throughout the Blue Ridge focusing on the New and James Rivers and nearby lakes seeking musky and smallmouth using either fly or conventional tackle. Sam’s web site is www.blueridgemusky.com. Information to join the meeting at 7 PM, 2/23 on Zoom will be supplied to members just prior to the meeting. “See” you then!

PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

The ZOOM video links from previous membership meetings are located on web page under the Videos tab (Speaker and Educational Videos).

CONSERVATION & LEGISLATION

Hal Herring, outdoor journalist and contributing editor to Field and Stream, is the host of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers “Podcast and Blast.” On this episode, he is joined by Shane Mahoney, scientist, writer, conservationist and CEO of Conservation Visions. They discuss the history of conservation in North America- where we have been, where we are now, and where we are heading. They tie in many aspects of hunting and fishing, but anyone who loves the outdoors will enjoy this podcast and certainly take away something.

<https://backcountryhunters.libsyn.com/shane-mahoney-conservationist>

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**



EXPEDITIONS

February 27 & 28 – Yellow Perch Tournament! Fish the Chickahominy, Mattaponi, or your favorite spot. Locations to launch, Rock-a-Hock Campground 1428 Outpost Rd, Lanexa, VA, or Aylett boat ramp (King William County) at Rt.360 & Rt.600. More details to come!

Trinity Episcopal Fishing Club

Linking the VAC to the fishing club at Trinity Episcopal School

VAC member Lee Huss is a teacher/advisor for the TES Fishing Club, and they have been formally invited to attend our monthly Zoom meeting in February. Our members have a great deal of knowledge that we can share with the next generation of fishermen and ladies.

“Trinity Episcopal School is a co-ed private school located in Richmond, Virginia. The school has 8-12th grade with 8th grade having around 20 students and the rest of the grades have about 120 each. Trinity takes education very seriously and has a variety of different co-curricular activities including the fishing club. The mission of the club is to teach and educate students about the different types of fishing in Virginia and teach about the impact humans have on the environment and the effect that can have on fishing. This is very important to the club because it goes hand and hand with fishing. Fishing relies heavily on well maintained and regulated conditions so that fish do not become overfished or die due to changes in the environment that are not healthy for them. At the moment the Trinity fishing club has around 30 members. And has plans for some future trips in the spring including some trips to fish for flathead catfish in the James River and possibly plan a trip to shore fish in Virginia Beach. Along with fishing ponds in the Richmond area. The club has meetings every two weeks. These meetings are used to educate the members on some of the goals of the club. We will have meetings about the way to help maintain the James River as a fishery along with fishing techniques for different types of fish.”

TES President

VAC Angling Rules Questions?

Do you have a question concerning angling rules? If so, email your questions to Fred Cousins (cousinsf1@verizon.net). Fred will address questions during the next general membership meeting



Virginia Anglers Club Yellow Perch Tournament

The Virginia Anglers Club will be hosting a Yellow Perch Fishing Tournament open to all 2021 VAC Club members in good standing. The tournament dates are Saturday and Sunday February 27th and 28th. You may fish any eligible Virginia waters with consideration to the current VA DWR regulations. Please note, Tidal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay below the fall line no yellow perch below 9 inches may be harvested. We will have two winners determined by the highest point, and the heaviest fish card submitted to the VAC database. Electronic card submissions must be turned in no later than Tuesday March 2nd. A \$25 Green Top gift card will be awarded to the winners. A single person is eligible to win both prizes but it must be done with two separate fish submissions. In the event of a tie, the first fish caught will be the winner. A third prize (\$25 gift card) will be awarded to the highest point fish, non-yellow perch, card submitted that was caught during the tournament dates.

If you have questions contact Frank Hart for additional details, Cell: 859-808-0431 or email: teach2hart@aol.com

Don't forget to save some fish for a fry.

I hope to have you all join us in this club event. It should be a great deal of fun for all.

Tight Lines,
Frank Hart

Fish of the Month (January)

Freshwater (points)

R. Hart

Bass, Largemouth 6lbs 15oz

2 spin 462pts

Saltwater (points)

None Recorded

Freshwater (weight)

R. Hart

Carp

25lbs 4oz

Saltwater (weight)

None Recorded



VAC Expedition Update

The Freshwater Expedition team recently visited the Upper James River (near Lynchburg) in pursuit of a 150 point surface fish, the Muskellunge. To achieve freshwater expert, the angler must catch five of the following fish: Landlocked Striped Bass, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout, Steelhead Trout, White Bass, Coho Salmon, and Pike (Northern or Muskellunge).

The Musky is a beautiful, prehistoric looking, fish of “Ten Thousand Casts”,... it was quickly reduced to the fish of “Three Cast” by Joe Revercomb. Nice Job Joe!

Be on the lookout for more information about future expeditions in the coming months. Currently, the team has planned a Trout in March, a Surf Fishing trip on Virginia’s Barrier Islands in late May, and an American Shad Expedition later this month. For additional information please call or contact Frank Hart.





2021 Select Recreational Fishing Regulations

January 2021



Atlantic Croaker

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: No bag limit



Spot

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: No bag limit



Kingfish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: No bag limit



Grey Trout (Weakfish)

- Minimum Size Limit: 12 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person



Bluefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person from shore or a rented or private vessel
- 5 per person on for-hire or charter vessels



Spanish Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person



King Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 27 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



Cobia (Permit Required)

- Minimum Size Limit: 40 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive. Only 1 fish per vessel may be greater than 50 inches total length.
- Season: June 15 - September 15



Summer Flounder

- Minimum Size Limit: 16.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Striped Bass

Any person fishing striped bass recreationally shall use non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing with bait, live or chunk.

Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

- Size Limit: 20-28 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 20-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: January 1 - March 31, May 16 - December 31

Select species provided for information purposes only. Not all regulated species are included. All regulations are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all current regulations and laws. Check for new regulations before you go fishing. www.mrc.virginia.gov



Spadefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Sheepshead

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



Black Sea Bass

- Minimum Size Limit: 12.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person
- Season: Feb. 1 - Feb. 28 (Permit Required)
- May 15 - Dec. 31*
- *Will change based on Feb. landings



Tautog

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person
- Season: January 1-May 15, July 1- Dec. 31



Speckled Trout

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 5 per person, only 1 greater than 24"



Red Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 18 inches
- Maximum Size Limit: 26 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



Black Drum

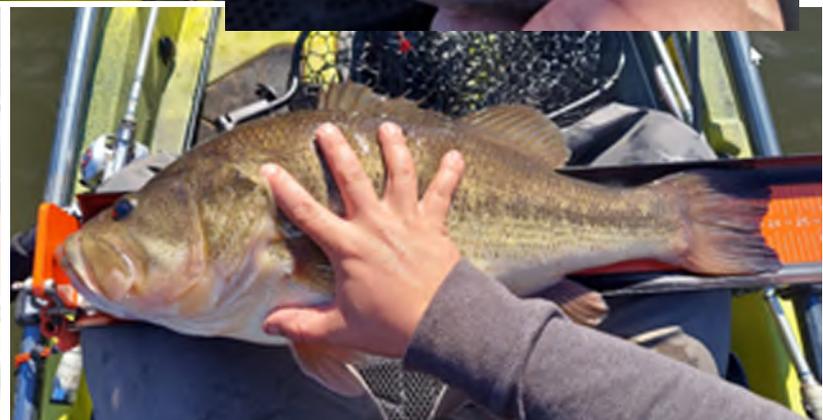
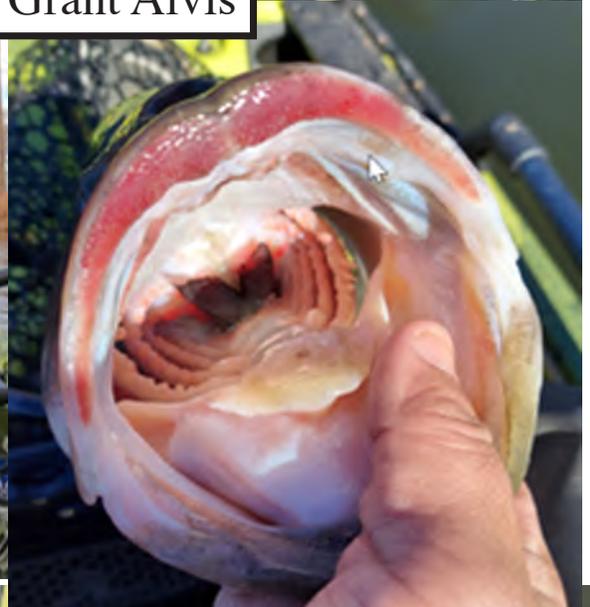
- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person



VAC MEMBER PHOTOS



Grant Alvis





John Page Williams & Carter Clevinger



Mike Ostrander



Lynda Richardson



Dinkus Deane & Frank Hart



Dinkus Deane



ANNUAL AWARDS 2021

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FRESHWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	R HART	6-15	2	SPIN	462	2021-01-24	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait

PRESIDENT'S AWARD SALTWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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DIVISION AWARDS FRESHWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	R HART	6-15	2	SPIN	462	2021-01-24	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
CARP	R HART	25-4	8	PLUG	450	2021-01-29	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	S KNOX	31-0	20BR	GEN	183	2020-12-04	JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VA	Cut Shad
TROUT, RAINBOW	R HART	3-7	6	FLY	153	2020-12-29	CEDAR SPRINGS, VA	San Juan Worm

DIVISION AWARDS SALTWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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"HIGHEST POINT" SPECIES AWARDS FRESHWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	R HART	6-15	2	SPIN	462	2021-01-24	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
CARP	R HART	25-4	8	PLUG	450	2021-01-29	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	S KNOX	31-0	20BR	GEN	183	2020-12-04	JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VA	Cut Shad
CRAPPIE, ALL	GN CARTER	1-2	2	SPIN	178	2021-01-21	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA	Hair Jig
PERCH, WHITE	R HART	0-14	2	SPIN	230	2021-01-24	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
PERCH, YELLOW	RJ BROWN	1-1	2	SPIN	279	2021-01-21	PAMUNKEY RIVER, VA	Gub
PICKEREL, CHAIN	R HART	3-10	4	SPIN	266	2021-01-16	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
TROUT, RAINBOW	A BAGWELL	5-12	4	SPIN	261	2020-12-13	PRIVATE POND, VA	2" Tube

"HIGHEST POINT" SPECIES AWARDS SALTWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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"HEAVIEST" SPECIES AWARDS FRESHWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	R HART	6-15	2	SPIN	462	2021-01-24	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
CARP	R HART	25-4	8	PLUG	450	2021-01-29	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	S KNOX	31-0	20BR	GEN	183	2020-12-04	JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VA	Cut Shad
CRAPPIE, ALL	GN CARTER	1-2	2	SPIN	178	2021-01-21	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA	Hair Jig
PERCH, WHITE	R HART	0-14	2	SPIN	230	2021-01-24	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
PERCH, YELLOW	GN CARTER	1-2	4	SPIN	244	2021-01-21	PISCATAWAY CREEK, VA	Road Runner
PICKEREL, CHAIN	R HART	3-10	4	SPIN	266	2021-01-16	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
TROUT, RAINBOW	A BAGWELL	5-12	4	SPIN	261	2020-12-13	PRIVATE POND, VA	2" Tube

"HEAVIEST" SPECIES AWARDS SALTWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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NEW CLUB RECORDS FRESHWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
CARP	R HART	25-4	8	PLUG	450	2021-01-29	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	Blade Bait
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	S KNOX	31-0	20BR	GEN	183	2020-12-04	JAMES RIVER, RICHMOND, VA	Cut Shad
TROUT, RAINBOW	A BAGWELL	5-12	4	SPIN	261	2020-12-13	PRIVATE POND, VA	2" Tube

NEW CLUB RECORDS SALTWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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PAJCHAK AWARD

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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YOUTH FRESHWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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YOUTH SALTWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
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NON-LOCAL AWARD FRESH OR SALTWATER

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
SNAPPER, OTHER	M MASON	2-1	8	SPIN	52	2021-01-07	MARATHON, FL	Jig

NEW MEMBER AWARD

Species	Name	Weight	Line	Division	Points	Date	Location	Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	C DEANE	4-9	4	SPIN	228	2021-01-29	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	3/16 Ounce Blade Bait
CARP	C DEANE	19-4	8	PLUG	343	2021-01-29	COHOKE MILL POND, VA	1/2 Ounce Blade Bait
TROUT, RAINBOW	C DEANE	5-3	4	SPIN	235	2020-12-19	CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	Panther Martin
Total					806			