



January 2003

From the Editor's Desk...

The 2003 angling year has gotten off to a great start! Just wanted to remind members that we have added a new 2# Plug Division. Basic weights will be included in membership packages. So if you are in the mood to make some purchases for the new angling year, you may want to consider this as an option when looking at the new reels on the market.

Also, I encourage all members to send in photos of recent catches for the newsletter. Don't have a scanner? No problem. Just send the photo to VAC, PO Box 31494, Richmond, VA23294-1494 and I will scan the picture and return it. That simple. Now get out there and catchem up!

CATCHY COMMENTS

by Dennis Cline



Despite some nasty cold weather with plenty of wind, a few of our members have been busy the past few weeks, and with great success.

A half dozen hardy souls have entered striped bass this winter, with four new club records to show for it! **Scott Davis** leads the way with an 18-4 on 4-spin that scored 365 points. **Scott Johnston** held a 16-tippet record for eleven days before **Stuart Lee** beat it with an 18-8. Stuart also grabbed the 20-tippet

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CCA Opposes Unfair Recreational License Fee Increases

Coastal Conservation Association Virginia has reviewed the Governor's VMRC budget proposal. We object to the blatant unfairness of the proposal and cannot support it. This budget proposal raises \$1,100,000 from increased recreational fees while only tapping the commercial fishermen for a paltry \$80,000. Recreational fees are proposed at \$12.50 per individual license and \$50.00 for a boat license, generating over a million dollars in "new" money, a 66% increase. Commercial fees are only going up 16%! This is clearly unfair!

The planned increases are especially unfair because commercial fishermen catch 82% of seafood landed in Virginia, yet commercial fishermen's license fees only generate 25% of the amount recreational anglers pay in license fees. These monies go into dedicated funds and are used for improvements, enforcement, education, research, and management; but the commercial sector is only paying for their own catch reporting system, contributing almost nothing to the other needs. This existing disparity will only be amplified by implementing the Governor's lopsided fee increases.

We understand the Governor's need to fund VMRC during these lean times. We challenge his staff to resolve the inequity between commercial and recreational revenues. CCA Virginia is willing to work with the administration towards a balanced solution that will solve the immediate problem and set the stage for long-term equity in VMRC funding by the respective user groups.

We urge Virginia's 500,000 recreational fishermen and other concerned parties to contact their legislators and object to this unfair fee (tax?) increase. The easiest way to be heard is to call 800-889-0229 (698-1990 in Richmond). Just say you are opposed to the Governor's proposed increase in recreational saltwater fishing license fees because they unfairly tax you and will just subsidize the commercial fishermen even more, at your expense.

CCA will post updates on this issue on the CCA web site at www.ccavirginia.org beginning January 11, 2003. Also watch your mailbox for a postcard asking for your help in putting a stop to implementation of this unfair proposal. Please share this message with your circle of contacts and ask them to call the 800 number; adding their voice to our message. We can just complain or invest a few minutes to make something constructive happen. Let's make something happen!

CATCHY COMMENTS

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record with a nice 24-12. **LeRoy Houser** upped the 8-plug record to a hefty 28-8!

Our world record catfisherman, **Bob Shepherd**, has now set his sights on the 6 pound line class record for Blue Catfish. Bob released a nice 50-0 in early December. That was a nice warm-up. Now where is that 59 pounder hanging out?

Matt Bruington found the mother lode of chain pickerel on Swift Creek Reservoir. Over a four-day stretch, Matt caught five between 4 and 4-12 and another nine between 3 and 4 pounds!! His best fish was a 4-12 on 6 general that scored 211 points. Minnows rule!

Eddy Johnston, aka "trashman", has extended his gar tactics into the winter. His latest conquest netted a 12-0 on 4-plug! **Fred Cousins** made a run out to Cripple Creek and landed a 3-2 rainbow on 2-spin. **Jim Farrell** set a club record with a nice 16-4 carp on 4-plug on a mid-December day on the James.

As if we needed an encore! Really! Wasn't **Fred Murray's** 1200 point blue cat last November enough excitement for a while? Well, it wasn't for Fred. His late December catches include a nice carp and three new club record flatheads. Topping the list is a 24-8 flathead on 2-spin that scored an incredible 816 points!! Fred also set flathead records with a 13-0 on 4-tippet and a 19-8 on 6-spin. The carp went 13-4 on 4-spin, if you're interested.

Tournament Results

By Fred Murray

North Carolina Surf Tournament Dec. 14 and 15, 2002

Quentin Corbett once again proved that you don't necessarily have to catch a monster fish around to win one of our VAC tournaments... you just have to catch one bigger than any of your competitors. His 4 lb. puppy drum on 8 lb. spin took top honors!

IGFA Scale Certification

The International Game Fish Association will now accept the Virginia Anglers Club scale certification program for "world record entries". This means that members of the Virginia Anglers Club can now use your approved personal scale to weigh a fish and submit an application for a potential World Record. We still recommend that VAC members use normal, official weigh stations, such as marinas, tackle shops, etc., as in the past but, when inconvenient or not accessible, you would have the option of using your own personal "certified" scale for weighing.

Larry Allen will still "certify" your personal scales at VAC membership meetings. Larry will be required to take more scale readings to certify a members scale for IGFA use in submitting catches to the VAC. If you think you will use your scale for IGFA applications, Larry will issue a Scale Certification Sheet for each scale. You must retain the original copy of the Scale Certification Sheet. A photo copy of your current Scale Certification Sheet will need to accompany each application you submit to IGFA. The IGFA will still reserve the right to "re-inspect any scale used to weigh a record if, for any reason, they feel it is desirable". All other IGFA rules still apply. Some suggestions are as follows:

- You must weigh the fish on a stationary object (sometimes difficult if you want to release the fish and different from our rules).
- Take several photographs of the scale and the fish hanging on the scale (keep your scale clean to see the graduations better and sometimes it helps to hang a "white" towel behind the scale for a better photograph).
- Attach a photo copy of your current Scale Certification Sheet for the scale used to weigh your entry to your IGFA application.

Larry Allen will need additional time at the membership meetings to approve your personal scale by the "new" certification process. Please tell him if you intend to use any of your scales for an IGFA application and need a certificate for each. He will only be issuing "certificates" to anglers that ask for it. You can still get your scale certified after the catch, but you may be taking a chance on the scale failing the certification and will need to keep the fish for weighting on another scale. Contact Larry Allen or myself if you have any questions.

Buddy Noland



Virginia Anglers Club

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 1/15/03

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LN</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>BAIT</u>
<u>2003 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER</u>								
BASS, STRIPED	S. DAVIS	18-4	4	SPIN	12/07/02	CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA	365	BUCKTAIL
<u>2003 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER</u>								
CARP	J. FARRELL	16-4	4	PLUG	12/15/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	464	BLADE BAIT
CATFISH, BLUE	B. SHEPHERD	50-0	6	GEN	12/08/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	487	CUT SHAD
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	24-8	2	SPIN	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	816	GRUB
GAR	E.S. JOHNSTON	12-0	4	PLUG	12/29/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	342	SILVER BUDDY
PICKEREL, CHAIN	H.O. BRUINGTON	4-12	6	GEN	01/02/03	SWIFT CREEK, VA	211	MINNOW
TROUT, RAINBOW	F. COUSINS	3-2	2	SPIN	12/23/02	CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	312	SPINNER
<u>2003 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER</u>								
BASS, STRIPED	S.C. LEE	24-12	20	FLY	01/05/03	OFF RUDEE INLET, VA	206	HALF & HALF
BASS, STRIPED	L. HOUSER	28-8	8	PLUG	12/30/02	ATLANTIC OCEAN, VA	356	JIG
BASS, STRIPED	S. DAVIS	18-4	4	SPIN	12/07/02	CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA	365	BUCKTAIL
<u>2002 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER</u>								
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	13-0	4	FLY	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	400	HALF & HALF
CATFISH, BLUE	B. SHEPHERD	50-0	6	GEN	12/08/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	487	CUT SHAD
CARP	J. FARRELL	16-4	4	PLUG	12/15/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	464	BLADE BAIT
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	24-8	2	SPIN	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	816	GRUB
<u>NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER</u>								
BASS, STRIPED	S.C. LEE	18-8	16	FLY	12/18/02	CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA	185	BUNKER FLY
BASS, STRIPED	S.C. LEE	24-12	20	FLY	01/05/03	OFF RUDEE INLET, VA	206	HALF & HALF
BASS, STRIPED	L. HOUSER	28-8	8	PLUG	12/30/02	ATLANTIC OCEAN, VA	356	JIG
<u>NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER</u>								
CARP	J. FARRELL	16-4	4	PLUG	12/15/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	464	BLADE BAIT
CATFISH, BLUE	B. SHEPHERD	50-0	6	GEN	12/08/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	487	CUT SHAD
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	13-0	4	FLY	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	400	HALF & HALF
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	24-8	2	SPIN	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	816	GRUB
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	19-8	6	SPIN	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	390	SILVER BUDDY


Web Links....

New Virginia Boating Safety Regulations effective on January 1, 2003 can be checked out at the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries by logging on to www.dgif.state.va.us

Log on to www.odu.edu/fish and learn about some of the fish species that we all enjoy catching in our home waters.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Club members can run a business card ad in our newsletter for \$5 per month. Non-members pay \$10 per month. Other deals are negotiable. Contact Parks Rountrey if interested. (H) 730-2875 or (O) 672-1368




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NEXT MEETING:

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