



January 2008

**Next Meeting:
46th Annual Awards Banquet**

**January 26, 2008 at
Virginia Crossings Resort**

5:30 pm Cocktail Hour-and-a-half

7:00 pm Dinner

Special four-item raffle!

(Details elsewhere in this issue of the *Angler*)

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BACKLASH

(Commentary from the Board of Directors)

January and February Membership Meetings

The January membership meeting will be the 46th Annual Awards Banquet on January 26, 2008 at the Virginia Crossings Resort. Arrive at 5:30 pm for cocktail hour-and-a-half, and then enjoy a nice dinner starting at 7:00 pm. There is also a special four-tem raffle to ensure an unforgettable evening. See the announcement located elsewhere in this issue of the *Angler* for more details.

The February membership meeting will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at the Skillagalee Restaurant. The February Membership Meeting will feature the Annual Scale Certification.

2008 Leadership Team Voted in as Nominated

The members of the 2008 Leadership Team as noted on the ballot published in the December 2007 *Angler* ran unopposed and will take over the affairs of the club when sworn in at the Annual Awards Banquet.

2008 Membership Dues Were Due December 1, 2007

Membership dues are due and payable on December 1, 2007. As of January 8, 2008, only 27 members have renewed their membership. Have you renewed your membership? Don't forget to send yours dues to the club treasurer. Dues for the year are \$60 for resident and \$40 for non-resident members. Honorary and Life Members pay no dues.

2008 VAC Budget Approved by the BOD

The 2008 Annual Virginia Anglers Club budget was approved by the Directors at the January 8th BOD Meeting. The budget is at the \$14,600 level and estimated income and expenses are nearly equal.

Development Work Starts on the Virginia Anglers Club Website

Member Johnny Wetlaufer has started development work on the Virginia Anglers Club web site:

www.virginiaanglersclub.org

will be the link when the site is turned on. More details appear in the Website News section elsewhere in this newsletter.

“Membership Package” Goes Electronic

Except in a few special cases where members do not have access to e-mail, the “Membership Package” traditionally handed out in hard copy at the Annual Awards Banquet and the first Membership Meetings of the year will go electronic. The Directors present at the January BOD meeting approved this cost cutting change.

The cost of sending packages to members who do not come to the Banquet or Membership Meetings to pick up their package has grown in recent years. Electronic delivery will speed up the receipt of this information over the past practice of mailing the packages. It is especially important to get the Tournament Schedule and the revised Angling Rules promptly.

Members on the e-mail alert list will be sent by e-mail a complete set of electronic files of the same information traditionally part of the Package. The electronic files to be sent are:

- The Tournament Schedule
- The Roster
- The Angling Rules
- The By-Laws
- The Club Record Sheets
- Your Personal Catch Record
- The Award Winners for the 2007 Angling Year

Entry Cards will be available at the Awards Banquet and at

Continued on Page 2...



BACKLASH continued from Page 1.

Membership Meetings and by request via surface mail.

A few hard copies of the above files will be available at the Banquet. Beyond that, if you want a hard copy, you are encouraged to print down what files you need. Also, complete "Membership Packages" will be available upon request at the club's cost of reproduction and postage to get the hard copy package to the requestor.

For the Leadership Team

John Wetlaufer, Sr.,
President

Swap Meet Rescheduled to May

The Swap Meet originally scheduled to be part of the February Membership Meeting has been rescheduled until the May Membership Meeting. The outdoor meeting in May will provide a better venue for the display of your bargain priced tackle than is provided by the meeting room at the Skilligalee. Don't forget too that there is no charge to members to place an ad in *The Angler* for used boats, tackle and other stuff. You can list something for a friend too.



Jim Sheffield with 25-0 on 4 lb Line

*Scale Certification:
February 26 Membership Meeting*

The February Membership Meeting will feature the Annual Scale Certification. Weigh Master Larry Allen and his lovely assistants will also be on hand to certify your scales. The next few weeks are a good time during which to be sure your scales are in working order. Please remember to keep the outside surface of the scales free from any oil, WD-40 or other stuff that would prevent the certification stickers from adhering to the scales.

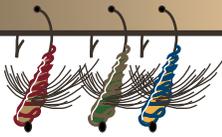


Kathi Sheffield with a 39-0 on 4 lb Line

**46th Anniversary
Banquet**

**Virginia Anglers Club Annual Banquet
January 26, 2008, at 5:30 pm**

See page 6 for details



It's Yellow Perch Time

By Elly Robinson



It will be late January when you receive this newsletter, duck hunting season is over and the tidal rivers are left to the hardy fishermen and ladies looking for yellow perch. This is prime time for one of Virginia's most beautiful and tasty freshwater fish. Yellow perch fishing has been quite good in recent years and the number and size of trophy perch has really been improving. Since the club's yellow perch tournament is going to be on the Chickahominy River some tips might be in order to help you catch some real nice fish before, during and after the tournament.

Historically the largest yellow perch caught in the club have been caught in shallow water in the Chickahominy River and its major creeks. Robbie Robinson caught his 1-13 up on the stump flat below the dam. Rucker Macdonald caught his 1-11 up on the flats in Yarmouth creek between the two deep holes. Lynn Spurlin caught his 1-10 on a flat in front of a gut below the Riverside ramp close to very deep water. John Wycoff and Virgil Hughs caught big perch in the shallows on the big bend hole in Yarmouth Creek. So you see a pattern here don't you. Shallow water yellow perch fishing is done with grubs and real light jig heads. In recent years power bait and gulp grubs have been the ticket. Remember if it is big perch you are after then big (3") grubs and sassy shads work well and the best color is generally chartreuse. 2 inch grubs and sassy shads also work well. When selecting jig heads keep several things in mind: use the lightest jig head that you can while being able to continuously being able to feel the jig when swimming it and when it hits the bottom on the drop, use short shank thin wire hooks and red is ok, use contrasting colored jig heads in relation to the grub color with pink and white working well with chartreuse grubs. Generally spinning tackle is used for this type of fishing. One suggestion is to use the highest quality rod you can afford to buy and try to get titanium guides on the rod. The rod I use is a Fenwick HMG-AV aramid veil design GAVS 6'3" MHM that is designed for 3/16 to 5/8 oz lures and 8 to 17 lb line. Obviously the manufacturers don't know a thing about light tackle fishing as I use 2lb test line when using this rod. I use a Shimano Sustain 2000FB reel but the Stradic reel is very good also. You will be amazed at what you can feel with the high modulus graphite rods and that feel translates into more fish hooked as you recognize more strikes and can "feel" the bottom. The presentation can vary between a slow (real slow) steady retrieve along the bottom to slightly hopping the grub back to just letting the grub sit still for what seems way too long. All techniques work when casting in the shallows and by shallows it can be 8 to 10 feet next to a deep hole all the way up to 2 to 3 feet or even shallower. Generally as February moves into early March the biggest fish move shallower as they get ready to spawn and actually spawn. This holds true except in Yarmouth where the best fishing is in January and early February and yes the fish are shallow when there is ice on the creek.

Most anglers vertical jig in deep water in the holes. In our club this has produced numerous 1-2 to 1-4 lb perch. The best approach is to use plug tackle again with the very best rod you can afford and the quality of the rod may be even more critical with a plug rod as the whole technique is based on feel. The rod I use is a G-Loomis SBR 751 extra fast action designed for 1/4 oz to 3/8 oz and 8 to 12 lb test line and is 6'3" long. I use a Shimano Calcutta 50 loaded with 2# test line – ditto comments about rod design for light tackle. As with spinning, 2 and 4 lb test line work best as they afford the jig and blade bait to work best (no leader). The no leader comment is intended to generate the best perch bite but you might want to use 8 or 12lb leader if you think there is the possibility of also catching a bluecat or bowfin or carp in the deep holes which is quite common especially in Yarmouth. When fishing deep water, a 1/4 oz. silver buddy in either silver or gold will work well when the fish are really turned on. Sometimes you have to explore a bit to find the best concentration of fish and or the biggest fish. The holes in Yarmouth and at the dam are very good locations. The water can be 12 to 15 all the way to 25 feet. However the perch aren't always turned on. When they seem picky as in won't strike a silver buddy or hit short a different lure selection will work. Try a cicada or crazy blade or a gay blade. I like the 1/4 oz. cicada with the chartreuse insert and either silver or gold body over a silver buddy. The vibration is at a higher frequency per inch of vertical movement than a silver buddy and the hooks are 2 pointed upturned hooks that will not hang up as much on the bottom as silver buddy treble hooks do. One other secret, when vertical jigging try to only move the blade bait up 1 to 2 inches and let it back down slowly with a taunt line. This jigging technique will kill them when a 6 to 8 inch rapid jerk up followed by a freefall down produces nothing. You really have to work at only moving the blade bait up 1 to 2 inches and that is why a cicada with the fast vibration works best. Also try moving the blade bait an inch off the bottom and just let it sit still. Another secret when the perch have lock jaw is to downsize a blade or grub. The cicadas and crazy blades come in micro sizes that are also deadly. It just takes total concentration and super sensitivity to fish these micro baits (1/32 and 1/64 oz).

Last year there was some very good fishing on the Chickahominy well into the 2nd week of March so don't give up just because you might have a slow day during the first week. Also good yellow perch fishing occurs in Dragon Run, the creeks off the Rappahannock close to Tappahannock and the Mattaponi and Pumunkey Rivers with the Mattaponi having the best fishing later. Historical records indicate that the Mattaponi is good for several perch over 2lbs each year. And then there is Moomaw which produces jumbo perch into May but that is a different story.



VAC Website Information



VAC WEBSITE NEWS



http://www.virginiaanglersclub.org

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT HAS STARTED

Development of the VAC website has started. The website will have two sections, a general section and a members section. When you log in to the website (www.virginiaanglersclub.org), you will be in the general section. You will be able to view what everyone logging in will see. The general section will have more than one screen giving a good overall view of the club. The site is a work in progress and has not been activated yet, so the link will not work.

When you click on "member's area", members in good standing will have an individual account there that is accessed by a username of their choice and will be secure for their viewing only by use of a pass word that they select. When in the "member's area", you will be able to do such things as view your catch records, the Angling Rules, a copy of the Roster and many other things. Watch this column to follow the development of the VAC Web Site and to learn what the date of activation will be. Don't forget to donate to the Web Site Fund.

THE WEBSITE FUND

The Board of Directors voted to use donations to the Website Fund as the only source of funding for the development and maintenance of the website during 2008. No money from dues will support the cost of the website for 2008. The cost of developing and maintaining the web site for 2008 is estimated to be about \$1800. Donations received by the fund thru January 8th are only \$180. A pledge has been made to fund the development costs. However, \$180 will not take the website very far from the development stage.

WEBSITE FUND PROGRESS:  \$580 (32% complete) ←

Please Support the VAC Website Fund

Please make what ever contribution you can make to the VAC WEBSITE FUND. The success of establishing and maintaining the website depends on your support. Check this Website Fund Progress bar with each issue of the *Angler* to see how your contributions are helping to bring life to the website.



Bob and Rob with Striped Bass



Bruce Henderson and 28-8 on 4 lb



Upcoming Angling Events

Chickahominy River Yellow Perch
 Sat thru Sun, February 23-24, 2008
 (blow date March 1-2)

Calling all perch-jerkers! Come out and show your fellow anglers how well you can jerk the perch. You are likely to see your fellow club members grouped in a few popular spots on the river. This is traditionally one of our largest participation tournaments. It's always a fun event and fishing is usually fairly dependable if weather conditions co-operate. Contact Chairman to confirm event if weather is questionable.

Location: Chickahominy River

Awards: 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 Tournament Angler of the Year competition.

Report in: Parks Rountrey within 5 days: 804-349-6001
 You can not change the entry category once you have registered it with the Chairman.
 You do not need to fill out cards.

Chairman: Parks Rountrey

NOTES: A fish can be entered by weight or points (angler must declare which category) but not both ways for 1 fish.

One angler can win both weight and points divisions by entering 2 different fish.

One angler can win 1st, 2nd and 3rd in both weight and points divisions by entering multiple fish.

Tournament First Place Awards
 for weight and points = Anglers Choice:
 Traditional cup, \$40 Greentop gift certificate or a VAC Banquet ticket **for the January 2009 Banquet.**

DECEMBER TOURNY RESULTS

Virginia-North Carolina Striper

Winners:

Highest Point:
 1st Place **Jim Sheffield**
 50lb. 9oz. 2lb. General 1011pts.

2nd Place: **Fred Cousins**
 28lb. 8oz. 4lb. General 475pts.

Heaviest:
 1st Place **Jim Sheffield** 35lb.



Jim and His World Record Striped Bass



Jim Sheffield with World Record Striper

46th Annual Awards Banquet

January 26, 2008
5:30pm
Virginia Crossings Resort



46th Annual Awards Banquet: Saturday, January 26th 2008, 5:30 pm to 9 pm at the Virginia Crossings Resort
Tickets: \$45 per person, includes buffet-style dinner.

Virginia Crossings Conference Resort
1000 Virginia Center Parkway
Glen Allen (Richmond), Virginia, 23059
Phone: 804.727.1400

Driving Directions

From Washington, DC

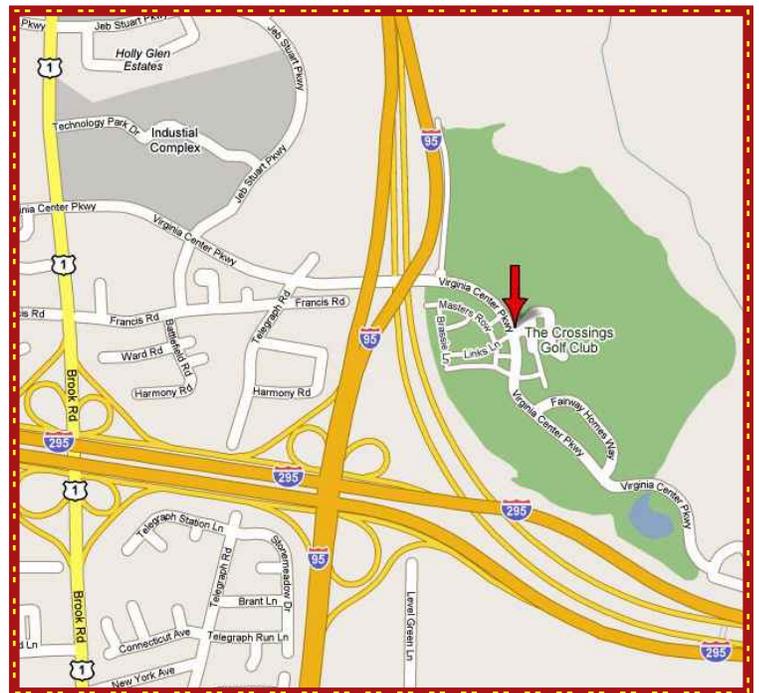
From Washington, DC Take I-95 South. Exit 86B onto Route 656, Elmont West. At second light, turn left onto Route 1 South for one mile. Turn left onto Virginia Center Parkway. Follow Virginia Center Parkway for 9/10 of a mile and turn left into the Resort entrance.

From Charlottesville, Virginia

Take I-64 East to I-295 South. Follow I-295 for 8 miles. Stay in right lane and merge "To Exits 43 D-C-B-A, US 1". Take Exit 43C US 1 North to Ashland. Exit ramp will merge onto US 1 North (Brook Road). Follow US 1 for 3/10 of a mile to first stop light at Virginia Center Parkway, turn right. Follow Virginia Center Parkway for 9/10 of a mile and turn left into the Resort entrance.

From Richmond, Virginia & North Carolina

Take I-95 North to Exit 84 B. Exit ramp will merge on to I-295 North. Remain in right lane. Take Exit 43C to Ashland and US 1. Exit ramp will merge onto US 1 North (Brook Road). Follow US 1 to first stop light at Virginia Center Parkway, turn right. Follow Virginia Center Parkway for 9/10 of a mile and turn left into the Resort entrance.



Map from maps.google.com

From Virginia Beach / Norfolk, Virginia

Take I-64 West to I-295 North. Follow I-295 north for 15 miles. Stay in right lane and merge "To Exit 43 B-C-D toward Richmond/Ashland /US 1". Take Exit 43C to Ashland and US 1 North. Exit ramp will merge onto US 1 North (Brook Road). Follow US 1 to first stop light at Virginia Center Parkway, turn right. Follow Virginia Center Parkway for 9/10 of a mile and turn left into the Resort entrance.

46th Anniversary Banquet

January 26, 2008

Reservation Form

Payment is expected for all reservations

Mail form with check to VAC c/o Eddy Johnston, 3312 Stuart Ave., Richmond, VA 23221.

Member's Name _____ @ \$45.00 = _____

Guest's Name(s) _____ @ \$45.00 = _____

_____ @ \$45.00 = _____

_____ @ \$45.00 = _____

Total Amount due \$ _____

Please include a check made out to VAC. Mail by Friday, January 11th. Must be received by Friday, January 18th. To confirm late reservations, call Eddy at 355-3877 or 586-7012. You may leave a message at either number.



To save postage and additional efforts of VAC officers, please forward a copy of the below form along with your dues payment to:

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



2008 Dues Payment Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership: VA Resident (\$60 Dues) Non-VA Resident (\$40 Dues)

Amount enclosed.....\$ _____

Robert Thomas

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Design and Layout: Michael Havranek

46th Annual Awards Banquet, January 26, 2008
NEXT MEETING:

P.O. BOX 31494
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494

