



January 2009

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No January Membership Meeting
Next Meeting - 47th Annual Awards Banquet
January 24, 2008 - Virginia Crossings Resort
(1st Right Off of US 1 - I95 Exit)
5:30 PM Cocktail Hour and a Half
7:00 PM Dinner
Outstanding Menu Selection
Special Four-Item Raffle!
 (Details Elsewhere in this Issue of the Angler)

BACKLASH
(Commentary from the Board of Directors)

Banquet Menu a Culinary Triple Header

Banquet Chairman Eddy Johnston proudly announces the following entrees for the Virginia Anglers Club Annual Awards Banquet:

- Bar-b-cue Pork Loin with Roasted Apple and Rose Mary**
- Roasted Salmon with Grilled Fennel Crème**
- New York Strip with Cabernet Franc Reduction**

Of course, there will be the Crossing's famous soup, assorted salad and vegetable offerings, bread and deserts.

2009 Membership Dues Were Due December 1, 2008

Membership dues for the 2009 Angling Year are due and payable on December 1, 2008. There has been no increase in dues for 2009. Active Members residing in-state pay \$60.00 per year and active members residing out-of-state pay \$40.00 per year. Life and Honorary Members pay no dues. Dues may be paid by check made out to The Virginia Anglers Club and mailed to or handed to Treasurer, Clif Williams, or sent to the Club PO Box. Cash works very well also. Please remit your dues promptly and separately from your reservation payment for the Annual Awards Banquet. Checks for payment of the 2009 Angling Year Dues can be sent to:

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB
P.O. BOX 31494
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494
ATTN: CLIF WILLIAMS, TREASURER



First Two Speakers Set for 2009 Membership Meetings



FEBRUARY 24TH, 2009 - VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE WITH BARRY TRUITT

The first guest speaker for the year will be Barry Truitt, long time friend of the VAC and the Director of Science and Stewardship for the Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve. Barry will present a program on eel grass restoration, oyster recovery programs and the like going on in this unique and important part of Virginia's outdoors. More information on Barry and his presentation will appear in the February Angler.

MARCH 24TH, 2009 CATCHING SHAD ON THE JAMES WITH RUSS KRESS

Local angling guide Russ Kress will present sure fire methods for catching shad in the James during their eagerly awaited run up to and thru Richmond. More details in the March Angler.

New Leadership Team Members Voted into Office

The members presented in the December Angler to the membership for election to the VAC Leadership Team for 2009 were voted into office. The new Leadership Team will be sworn into office at the Annual Banquet and will officially take over or continue leadership of the club.

Website Fund has Slight Balance - Y.E. Site Activity Encouraging

One of the major new offerings of the Virginia Anglers Club for 2008 was the VAC Web Site. Webmaster Johnny Wetlaufer led development of and implementation of the new web site. Maintenance and developmental expenses were covered by generous donations of club members to a special Web Site Fund to cover these first year expenses. The \$1700 goal of the Fund was met and the fund showed a balance of \$231 at year end. November and December visits (visit = any connection to the site) were 1200 and 1000 respectively and represented the strongest activity for the year. Many search engines visit the site. A Google advanced inquiry of Virginia Anglers Club lists the link to the VAC site at the beginning of the list of links presented. Additional features will come in 2009. Members are encouraged to send pictures or articles for the web site and make posts of interest in the Forums section. For questions about the web site, please contact Johnny at johnny@wetlaufer.com.

Virginia Anglers Club 2008 Fiscal Year Closes in Good Shape

VAC Treasurer Clif Williams presented his year-end financial report at the January 13th Board of Directors Meeting. The

Club ended this year with actual income exceeding actual expenses by a slight amount. The cash position of the VAC was good with slightly less than \$3600 in the checking account and \$5000 in a CD with interest compounding at 3.7%. Details of the 2009 budget are about set and the final budget will be set and adopted at the February BOD Meeting.

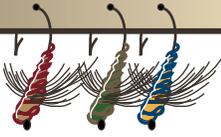
Annual Information Package to be Issued Again as Electronic Files

For the first time, The Virginia Anglers Club issued rosters, tournament schedules and other information to members as a set of electronic files. A substantial savings in the cost of printing and postage and a reduction of the volunteer effort of preparation was made with the change to electronic from the previous set of multiple hard copy sheets contained in a Tyvek® envelope and given out at each banquet. Details of what information will be sent appear in other parts of this Angler.

* Please note that hard copies of this package will be made available to members who get hard copy Anglers or who want hard copy packages of this information. The procedure by which request a hard copy will be announced in the February Angler.

For the Leadership Team

John Wetlaufer, Sr., Director



Catfish Fun

By Fred Murray

On Saturday 1/10 Bob Shepherd wanted to try out his new Evinrude E TEC so we decided a January cat trip was in order.

After an uneventful launch of the boat.... I mention this only because it's not unusual for us to have either a flat tire(or two), drop the boat off the trailer on the ramp, have a fitting break and fill the boat with water or some other exciting trip ruining event. However, the motor did start, ran great and we were off. Pretty soon we started marking good numbers of bait in shallow water. After some cast netting we had a good supply of gizzard shad. Since the bait was shallow and the water temperature was in the mid forties we decided to do our first set-up in only 12 feet of water to see if any cats might be around. We anchored up in a pretty stiff breeze that was going against the tide flow, not your ideal set-up.

Well it turned out to be one of those special days. We never had to move the boat more than 50 yards all day! After a very short wait with four baits in the water we had our first fish on and it turned out to be good 48lber. The hook-ups kept coming and our tally for the day included four more fish in the 40's, a couple in the 30's and three over 50 plus a couple in the low 20's that we did not weigh! Some of these fish gave incredible fights. Our most notable fish (Bob's) came on 4# test. And just to set the record straight, I need to provide details of the "epic" battle.

The fish picked up Bob's bait and he tightened up on the fish... at least as much as you can with 4lb.test. The fish started moving toward the boat and gave no indication of it's size. Suddenly it came to the surface and I yelled out something about it being another really big fish. Bob tells me in a soft voice and I quote "be quiet.... I don't want you to WAKE him up!" So I stayed quiet, the fish kept swimming toward the boat, and just like that I had him in the net. Elapsed time from hook-up to netting.... maybe three minutes tops! The fish weighed 51# and will be submitted as a new IGFA World Record... So the secret to light tackle is out DO NOT WAKE THEM UP! That's my story and I am sticking to it! Needless to say we had a great day.

Fred



Bob Shepherd with his potential world record 51 lb. Blue catfish caught on 4lb test.



47th Annual Awards Banquet

January 24, 2009
5:30 pm
Virginia Crossings Resort

Menu

Bar-b-cue Pork Loin
with Roasted Apple
and Rosemary

Roasted Salmon
with Grilled Fennel Crème

New York Strip
with Cabernet Franc
Reduction

Crossing's Famous Soup,
Assorted Salad
and Vegetable Offerings,
Bread & Desert

47th Annual Awards Banquet: Saturday, January 24th 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

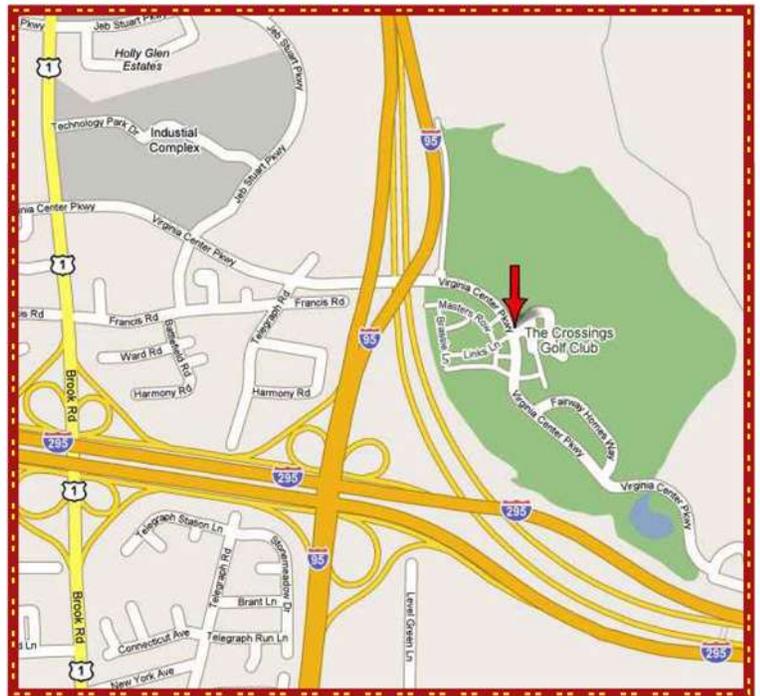
From Washington, DC Take I-95 South. Exit 86B onto Route 656, Elmont West. At second light, turn left onto Route 1 South for one mile. Turn left onto Virginia Center Parkway. Follow Virginia Center Parkway for 9/10 of a mile and turn left into the Resort entrance.

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.



**VAC AWARDS BANQUET FEATURES
FOUR RAFFLE PRIZES**

A Portrait Sitting including a 20" x 24" portrait, compliments of Robert Thomas Photography (\$500 Value)

A custom built, stiff fishing rod, suitable for deep drop and normal jigging, built from a Muskie Blank by VAC Member Glenn Carter (the blank was originally in the stock of Kelly Stafford's angling supply business)

Rounding out the Awards Banquet Raffle offerings will be two popular shadow boxes featuring flies tied by VAC Members Bill Gallash and Capt. Ronnie Sides (boxes crafted by Tony Horsley and filled by Eddy Johnston.

**BUDDY NOLAND NEEDS PICTURES
FOR THE SLIDE SHOW**

One of the most popular parts of the Awards Banquet is viewing the slide show put together by Buddy Noland from digital pictures taken over the year. Please send Buddy any pictures you might have. His preferred e-mail address to use is *noland47@aol.com*. Pictures can be of members, friends, relatives or any other people you know and some angling related activity is preferred. He can also have hard copy pictures scanned into digital format.

**THE AWARDS BANQUET – A GOOD
DEAL FOR A GOOD MEAL**

The Annual Awards Banquet is being held on January 24, 2009 at the Virginia Crossings Resort. The cost of banquet is \$45 per member or guest (includes the complete cost of the use of the facility, meal, gratuity and tax). For newer members, this banquet is a great opportunity to get acquainted with other club members and their significant others and vice versa. Please make every effort to attend. The Banquet makes for a great and enjoyable evening out. Please send banquet reservations and checks, made out to the Virginia Anglers Club directly to:

Eddy Johnston
3312 Stuart Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221-2329

Note: Please do not send 2009 VAC dues to Eddy.

**SCALE CERTIFICATION - FEB. 24, 2009
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Now is the time to do your annual scale maintenance. Weigh Master Larry Allen will offer the annual certification of member's scales at the February Membership meeting. Remember, please be sure the outside of the scale you submit for certification are free of all oil, WD-40 so the certification stickers will adhere.

**2008 YEAR-END VAC MEMBERSHIP
STOOD AT 121 MEMBERS**

The total membership of the VAC at the end of the 2008 angling and fiscal years (11-30-08) was 121 members divided among our five categories. The first three listed are voting memberships and the last three are non-voting members who, like life members, pay no dues. Here is how the groupings fell out:

Resident Members = 94 Non-resident Members = 11
Life Members = 7 Complimentary Members = 7
Honorary Member = 1

**2009 INFORMATION PACKAGE
COMING OUT IN FEBRUARY**

The yearly VAC information package will be transmitted in February via the internet to members getting electronic copies of the Angler. The needs for packages of members who get the Angler in hard copy form will also be considered. Electronic files that are slated to be issued via the Internet include the following. Some of this information will also be posted on the Web Site.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Membership Roster | Club Records Sheets |
| SW Basic Weights | Rating Requirements |
| FW Basic Weights | Ratings by Member |
| Leadership Directory | Tournament Schedule |
| Angling Rules | |
| 2009 Individual Catch Record Sheet | |

Note: There were no revisions to the By-Laws this year, so please keep your electronic By-Law files issued last year.

Upcoming Tournament

Chickahominy River Yellow Perch February 21-22 (blow date Feb 28 - March 1)

Got Cabin Fever? Its kick-off time for spring fishing. Dress warm – and come out and meet your fellow anglers for some friendly “perch jerkin”. You are likely to see fellow club members grouped in a few popular spots on the river. If you are not an expert – hitch a ride with someone who is – or just observe and you will learn quickly. Also you may catch about a dozen other species in the process. This is traditionally one of our largest participation tournaments. It’s always a fun event and the Chick is almost always fishable. Contact Chairman to confirm event if weather is questionable.

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.

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 only turn in two fish total.

Call in entries within 24 hours from the end of tournament to Angling Activities Chairman Parks Rountrey 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.

Tournament First Place Awards for weight and points = Anglers Choice:
Traditional pewter cup, \$40 Green Top gift certificate or a VAC Banquet ticket.

FOUR VAC MEMBERS FEATURED IN *TIMES DISPATCH* ARTICLE

In case you missed the article written by Columnist Andy Thompson in the December 26th *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that chronicled a memorable cat fishing trip with Andy being hosted by VAC members Capt. Mike Ostrander, Glenn Carter, Parks Rountrey and Rob Choi, the article is reprinted in this month’s issue of the Angler. Thanks to Andy for letting us all enjoy the trip even though we did not wet a line or even get close to the James River.

ANDY THOMPSON TIMES-DISPATCH COLUMNIST

Published: December 26, 2008

The old fishermen's maxim says a bad day fishing beats a good day working. Last week, I joined three fishermen intent on testing that axiom, though I suspect each already knew it to be true.

Rob Choi, an illustrator; Glenn Carter, an accountant; and Parks Rountrey a commercial real estate appraiser -- all members of the Virginia Anglers Club -- decided a day on the tidal James River in search of big blue catfish would be preferable to just about anything else they could think of and easily worth spending a vacation day.

I tagged along as they met up with Capt. Mike Ostrander, proprietor of the James River Fishing School, on his roomy pontoon boat. Ostrander has plied the James below Richmond for years, showing clients how and where to find giant catfish. He's one of the lucky few, like myself, for whom a good day working and a bad day fishing -- and vice versa -- are one and the same.

Continued on next page...



Last year about this time, I went out with Ostrander on my first catfishing trip. Within 10 minutes of anchoring, I had hauled in a 66-pound blue cat. It was a thrill that was hard to put into words. I held the writhing beast while the lifelong fishermen on the boat snapped pictures and told me I might as well quit because I'd never catch another one that big.

Of course, that was the first thing that came to mind when events nearly repeated themselves last week. We anchored in the Jones Neck area; Ostrander baited the hooks with cut shad; the first rod bent down with the weight of a hooked fish; and I was summoned to battle. Maybe 10 minutes later, I found myself covered in slime from a 54-pound cat while three lifelong fishermen shook their heads, laughed and told me I surely had the greatest luck they'd ever seen.

It was then that I decided to change the subject of this piece. I had intended to write about blue catfish and how and why the river record -- a 95-pound, 11-ounce cat caught in the summer of 2006 -- has yet to be broken. But for some reason, as I held that fish for pictures, my thoughts drifted in a different direction.



Glenn Carter with a nice 49lb. Blue Catfish on 8lb test

I was reminded of something Ostrander said when I asked him about the catfishing business in a slumping economy. He said he'd just gotten his first trip cancellation from a guy who had been laid off. The guy had intended to take his son out on the water that day. Then, I thought about guys like Choi, Carter and Rountrey, willing to spend precious leave during very uncertain economic times on fishing.

What is the true value, I wondered, of a day like this one?

Soon after I landed the 54-pounder, Choi wrestled in a 25-pound fish and Carter hooked a 49-pounder (on 8-pound test). Rountrey got into the act with a 32-pound blue.

We ended up catching 250 pounds of catfish that day, a very good haul, but we could have gotten skunked and it wouldn't have changed the value much of the experience.

As we motored along the sweeping oxbows in the river, Ostrander pointed out bald eagles sitting in sycamores on the riverbanks. We anchored for lunch with hooks in the water, but the homemade venison barbecue was so good we all agreed it was better that the fish weren't biting right then. Topics of discussion ranged from hunting, to light-line fishing, to which style of barbecue is best: age-old topics of true import.

Economic slumps come and go, but it seems there'll be no end to the best-barbecue debate.

Far be it from me to judge how someone spends or doesn't spend their hard-earned money, but it seemed this is exactly the kind of experience we shouldn't be cutting back on during tough times. My boat mates knew that instinctually, I think.

Can you put a price on holding a 54-pound, thrashing hunk of nature in your arms? Or on the sight of an eagle emerging from its nest? Or on watching the sun slant its first morning rays through a hole in a cloud bank?

How does a plastic toy or a flat-screen TV compare to these experiences? Yet so often, its experiences like these that get cut when we have to tighten our belts.

Is it possible that while the price of a fishing trip with a son or daughter has stayed the same, its real value actually has grown? Maybe this is exactly how we should be spending our money in tough times.

As Carter said, "That's where I should be today -- work. But this is a whole lot more fun."

Contact Andy Thompson at (804) 649-6579 or outdoors@timesdispatch.com.



George Atkinson with a nice 51lb Blue Catfish on 12lb test.

Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

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Equipment: Rods, Reels, Lines, etc.
Fly Tying Materials & Tools
Hosted Trips

MattyJ Saltwater Flies

(804) 266-5458

rtp photography@comcast.net

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Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlauffer, 647-4042



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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

NEXT MEETING:
Annual Awards Banquet
Saturday, January 24th at Virginia Crossings Resort

P.O. BOX 31494
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494

