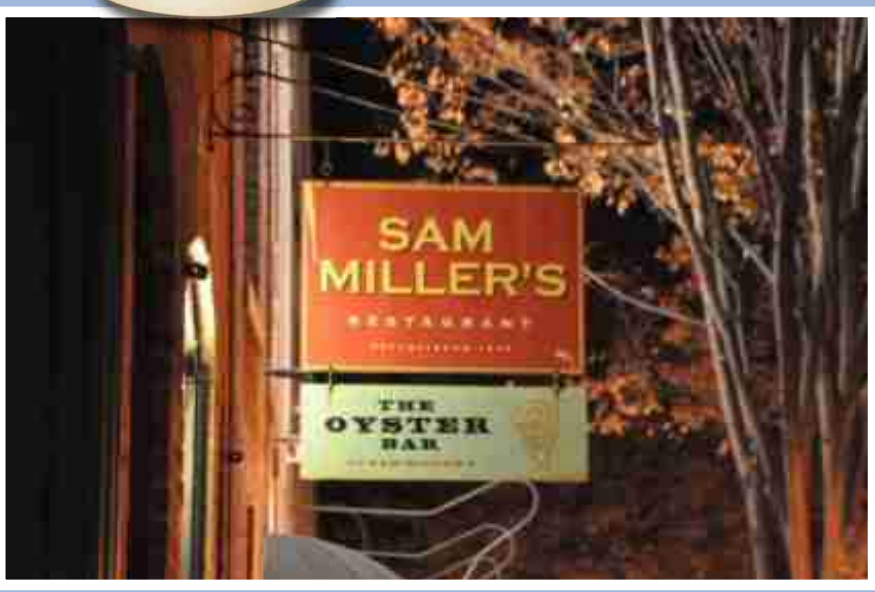


January 2011

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No January Membership Meeting
Next Membership Meeting Feb. 22, 2011

2010 Virginia Anglers Club
Awards Banquet
Saturday, January 22, 2011
Sam Miller's Cafe-2010 E. Cary Street-
Richmond, VA

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE RIGHT NOW

Dues for 2010 were due on December 1, 2010. Annual dues for Members residing in Virginia are \$60.00 and are \$40.00 for members residing outside of Virginia. No dues are collected from complimentary, honorary or life members. Dues may be paid by check by making the check out to "Virginia Anglers Club" and making the notation 2011 Dues on the memo line of the check. Send the dues to the

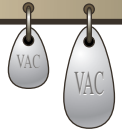
THE VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB
P.O. BOX 31494
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494

Dues are also payable on line via Pay Pal by connecting to the VAC Web Site. Go to (www.virginiaanglersclub.org) and click on "member's area". Then just click on the bar for in-state or out-of-state dues and provide the information requested. Anyone may make a donation to the club in the "member's area" also.

BACKLASH (Commentary from the Board of Directors)

SCALE CERTIFICATION COMING UP AT FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual certification of your fish scales, required to use them when submitting an entry into the VAC records system, will start at the February Membership Meeting, February 22, 2011. Reminders of how to prep our scales for certification are found elsewhere in this issue of *The Angler*



BACKLASH continued from Page 1.

NEW OFFICERS FOR 2011 TO BE SWORN IN AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET

The slate of officers and directors that will manage the affairs of the Virginia Anglers club were unanimously elected as they appeared on the ballot in the December edition of *The Angler*. Thanks to all nominees who stepped forward to serve as leadership of the VAC in 2011.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2011 (1 Year Term)

President - Fred Murray
1st Vice President/Programs - Mike Ostrander
2nd Vice President / Angling Activities - Parks Rountrey*
3rd Vice President / Conservation and Legislation Matt Balazik*
Newsletter & Web Site Secretary - Johnny Wetlaufer*
Recording Secretary - John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Treasurer - Clif Williams*

* Returning to serve another one-year term.

CLASS OF 2013 DIRECTORS – (3 Year Term)

Matt Balazik
Bob Brown
Mike Ostrander

THANKS TO THE RETIRING OFFICERS

Special thanks from the Membership to the Directors and Officers who faithfully kept the affairs of the club in order in 2010. Without their leadership and commitment, the Virginia Anglers Club would not be moving ahead as it is.

For the Leadership Team
John Wetlaufer, Sr., Director



CATCHY COMMENTS

by Buddy Noland

The new 2011 fishing year began the same as did last year, a cold December! The early cold spell the water temperature to drop rapidly in the bay and the Stripers to leave our waters heading either outside the 3-mile limit or south to North Carolina. We are left wondering what the Striper season could have been. Only a few VAC members got a chance to enjoy catching the larger fish. Best fishing tale I heard was of **Fred Murray** fishing with **Stuart Lee** off eastern shore early in the month. They broke ice at the ramp to get the boat in the water, but found fish and stayed on top of Stripers most of the day. They had the luxury of catching them on fly rods with little other pressure from other boat traffic. Great day!

Scott Johnson started the season off by fly fishing at Rudee Inlet in early December. **Scott's** best catch was a 2 pound, 9 ounce, Spotted Seatrout on 6# fly for 128 points. Of course, **Scott** was leading all the categories since this was the first entry of the year. Then, **Fred Cousins** started fishing his favorite place during the winter months, the Hot Ditch off the Elizabeth River.

Fred's first entries from the Elizabeth River are dated December 18th. This is about the time the Chesapeake Bay temperature was falling and very few fish were being caught north of the bay bridge tunnel. The first entries were White Perch. **Fred** had a 1 pound, 4 ounce, on 2# spin for 328 points and 45 minutes later he caught a 1 pound, 2 ounce, Perch on 2# fly for 375 points. Both of these fish are "division" and "species" leaders. The 1-4 pound fish will also take the "heaviest" lead. On the same trip, **Fred** caught a 5 pound Striped Bass on 2# fly worth 166 points. This 5 pound fish will take all the leads for Striper. Last year at this time, **Parks Rountrey** had a 35-8 pound Striper for all the leads which was typical of the quality of fish usually caught in December.

Several days later, **Fred** took **Reggie White** with him to the Hot Ditch. **Reggie** must have lost the "horseshoe", because there were no entry cards from him! **Fred** did manage another "species", "heaviest", and "division" leader with a 4 pound, 7 ounce, Spotted Seatrout that he caught on 2# spin. The trout was worth 295 points.

Reggie and **Fred** were again fishing together on Lake Anna a week later. I believe it was here that **Fred** earned the nickname "**Fernpod**" by **Reggie**. **Fred** did enter a landlocked Striped Bass on 2# spin using a Mirrolure for bait. The fish weighed 5 pounds, 10 ounces. Again, no entry cards from **Reggie**!

Rob Choi braved the cold and was fishing his kayak on the Elizabeth River at the end of December. Even with the rumors of the river being overfished, **Rob** did manage a nice 4 pound, 4 ounce, Spotted Seatrout on 2# spin. **Rob's** fish is worth 283 points; a good beginning for the fishing season.

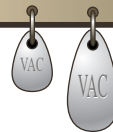
The cold weather should break in a few weeks; hopefully, the fishing will pick up! So far, it is the **Fred Cousin's** fishing show!

Happy New Year,

Buddy



Rob Choi's 4lb4oz Speck on 2 Spin



2010 Virginia Anglers Club Awards Banquet Saturday, January 22, 2011

Sam Miller's Café
2010 E. Cary Street – Richmond, VA

***** PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW *****

HOW TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

BY CHECK

The cost to Virginia Anglers Club members and their individual Guests is \$30.00 each and can be paid with a check or on line at the VAC Website. 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:

Eddy Johnston
3312 Stuart Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221-2329

(Please do not include dues payments with your reservation check to Eddy)

BY CREDIT CARD / PAY PAL

Payment for reservations is almost identical to buying an item on the internet from Amazon, etc. Go to the VAC Website and enter the Member's Area. Click on the words "Pay Now" in the box marked "Annual Banquet - \$30". Follow the steps on the screen and your reservations will be charged to the credit card you designate. The name of the member and guest(s) will be forwarded to Eddy Johnston so he will include your reservation in his list for Sam Miller's.

VAC ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD AT SAM MILLER'S RESTAURANT

On Saturday evening, January 22, 2011, the Virginia Anglers Club will hold its Annual Awards Banquet at Sam Miller's Restaurant in the Historic Shockoe Slip. Sam Miller's opened in 1973 and is one of the many "go to" eateries in the Richmond Area.

The cost will be \$30.00 per person and **free parking** is only 1/2 block away at the parking deck on 12th Street behind Tobacco Company. Festivities start at 5:30 PM and end about 9 PM. Over the past few years, diligent work by Banquet Chairman Eddy Johnston has reduced the per person banquet cost from \$45.00 to \$30.00 for this banquet.

Dinner will be a sit down dinner with table service vs. the buffet format of previous years. Upon arriving at Sam Miller's, Attendees will make their entree choice and a cash bar will be available.

BANQUET MENU:

- Salad - Mixed Green with House made Dijon Dill Vinaigrette
- Entrees - Prime Rib of Beef au jus or Apricot Glazed Atlantic Salmon or
Marinated Breast of Chicken with Wild Mushroom Port Reduction
- Desserts - Cheesecake

HOW TO PAY

The cost to Virginia Anglers Club members and their individual Guests is \$30.00 each and can be paid with a check or on line at the VAC Website. 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:

Eddy Johnston
3312 Stuart Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221-2329

(Please do not include dues payments with your check to Eddy)

BANQUET RAFFLE ITEMS

Raffle items* have been secured and are as follows:

- Bill Gallash Fly Shadow Box
- Capt. Ronnie Sides Fly Shadow Box
- A Gyotaku Print by Member Rob Choi
- Gift Certificate to Stony Point Shopping Center

Raffle tickets will be offered at the historic price of \$1.00 each or six (6) for \$5.00.

*VAC Members Rob Choi, Bill Gallash, Tony Horsley and Eddie Johnston and former long time member Ronnie Sides generously shared their skills by making three of the four items offered for raffle. Tony builds the fly boxes in which Eddy arranges the flies tied by Bill and Ronnie. Rob is again providing one of his amazing Gyotaku fish prints. The members of the VAC applaud these four men for providing these special one-of-a-kind raffle prizes.

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS NEEDED FOR 2011

Mike Ostrander is collecting ideas for 2011 programs and seeks your help. Suggestions for programs during 2011 are needed. Don't worry if your suggestion is off the wall or a repeat of a special program we have had in the past. All ideas are welcome. Please let Mike know what your thoughts are.

ANCHOR LINE STORAGE – A NEAT SOLUTION

You pull up to a “honey hole” you often fish and need to anchor up. Out comes the hank of anchor line which drops in a totally entangled pile on the deck. You waste valuable fishing time messing with the tangled mess and getting the line straight and ready to go over the side with the anchor.

A recent issue of *Woodenboat Magazine's* supplement “Getting Started in Boats” was devoted to anchors and anchoring. Within the supplement was the suggestion to use a plastic “milk crate” for anchor line storage.

When stowing the anchor line, coil the line into the crate and stow the crate. When you next need to anchor, pull out the milk crate and set it on the deck. The line will uncoil neatly from the crate and the customary tangle will be eliminated.

The milk crates normally have an external grid that gives the crate good rigidity. If the crate must be cut down to fit into an in-deck or other shallow storage area, the grid will maintain the integrity of the crate. If the resulting edge is sharp, then split a piece of garden hose and cover the rough edges with the slit hose. A little silicon or epoxy can be added to hold the protective edging in place.

JANUARY WEB SITE HOW – FIND A MEMBER PHONE/ADDRESS

The VAC Website, has a two roster of all current members of The Virginia Anglers Club. The rosters have an easily used feature to locate a specific member by first name, last name or both.

Go to the Member's Area and sign in. Under the heading Membership, click on “Roster – Current Members” or “Roster – New Members”. When the roster selected comes up on your monitor, enter the first, last or both names of the member whose address, phone or e-mail address you are seeking in the empty box next to the boxed word “Search”.. Then click on “Search”. The member(s) with the name(s) you have entered will show up. If you enter a first name or a last name only, then all the roster entry for members' whose first or last names that are the same as the name you entered will appear.

HELP KEEP ANGLING LEGAL – REPORT VIOLATIONS

If you suspect or witness an angling violation, report it to the Wildlife Crimeline at 1-800-237-5712.



Legislation and Conservation

By Matt Balazik

Local News:

Striped bass: I'm sure everyone is aware that there is stop to commercial harvest of striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) during the month of January, but we also know that not everyone follows the rules. I am happy to say that the U.S. Coast Guard busted a commercial vessel off of North Carolina that had 58 illegal striper on board. However; watermen will continue to engage in illegal activities as long as the penalties are too lax and vendors continue to purchase illegal goods. I believe these are major areas enforcement must address.

Menhaden: Great news from the Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) front, several government officials are taking strides towards fixing this management nightmare. I would like to note Del. Knight's plan of reducing the quota by 20% a year starting in 2012. The current cap is 109,020 metric tons, for those of you who don't like metric that is over 240 million pounds. It is astounding that people think that amount of biomass can be harvested from a confined area and not be hindering the area.

I would also like to acknowledge Sen. Northam and Del. Cosgrove for addressing the obvious. They are pushing for menhaden management to be handled by the VMRC. This would be a huge step in fixing the menhaden fishery problem.

National News:

Oceana's ban on shark finning recently had a big victory. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the Senate version of the Shark Conservation Act, clearing the final hurdle to ending shark finning in U.S. waters. The Shark Conservation Act improves the existing law originally intended to prevent shark finning. It also allows the U.S. to take action against countries whose shark finning restrictions are not as strenuous, labelling the U.S. as a continued leader in shark conservation.

Global News:

The Belizean government announced that all forms of trawling were banned in the country's waters. Oceana in Belize collaborated with Belizean Prime Minister Dean Barrow's administration to negotiate the buy-out of the two shrimp trawlers. With this ban, which went into effect December 31st, Belize became one of the first countries in the world to institute a complete and permanent ban on trawling in all its waters. Trawling is an extremely destructive fishery practice that indiscriminately catches and kills non-target species.

Tournament News

Elizabeth River VA Speckled Trout & Red Drum January 8-9 - RESULTS

Note: No fishing inside private hot ditch.

Snow early Sat. AM caused a few people to pass on this one. But at least 8 members and one guest came out Saturday and searched for the elusive winter trout and redfish. We had two brief hard flurries of snow during the tournament. Otherwise conditions were fine and water temps were in the 50's in the ditch area. There were plenty of 12"-14" trout, but no decent sized fish and no drum. Following the fishing we had a tailgate social at the ramp. That was probably the best part of the event as we enjoyed hot homemade Brunswick stew, ham biscuits and coffee. A few anglers were not ashamed to turn in their spike trout catches. Results as follows:

Speck Trout Points:

Fred Cousins 1-0 on 2 spin for 66 points (wins Greentop giftcard)

Parks Rountrey 0-12 on 2# fly for 62 points

Speck Trout Weight:

Fred Cousins 1-0

Eddy Johnston 0-13

Scott Johnston 0-12

Redfish Weight:

Vic Skakandy – 27" "striped drum" = honorable mention.

No redfish caught.



Captain's Corner

By Mike Ostrander

It's been a pleasure to serve as the Virginia Anglers Club president over the last year. A quick overview of the 2010-year yields some wonderful results in the Virginia Anglers Club. One of my favorite results is seeing some of the new members taking strong interest in the club, the rules, as well as leadership roles. It's going to take more and more of this type of action for the club to not only survive, but thrive in the years to come. I believe the difference has been the strong mentorship between current members and new members that helped make the difference. This is something we need to take to heart as we invite new members into our fold.

Not only do we have a strong class of newer members, but the continued leadership of the club by a number of long standing members makes this club really enjoyable, and keeps us running. You guys know who you are so please acknowledge this recognition.

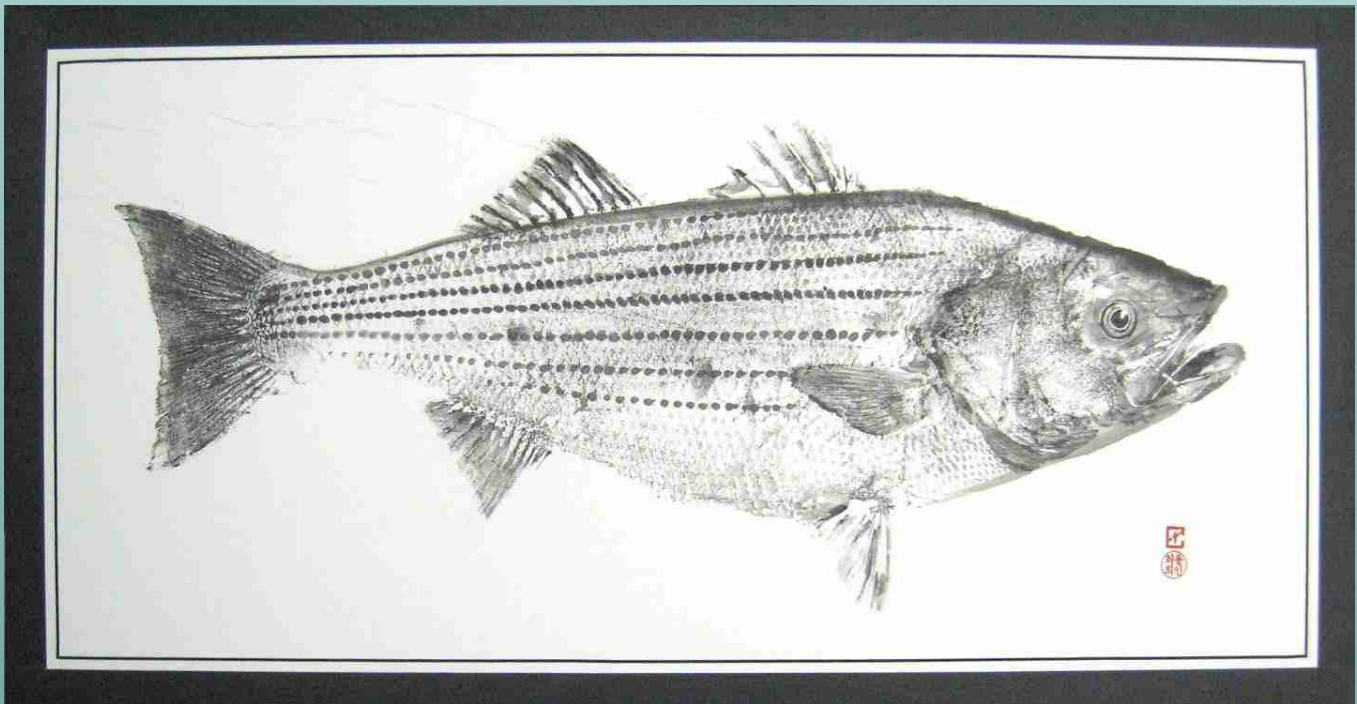
We enjoyed another successful tournament season, an awesome fish fry at Maymont, great speakers, fishing trips with friends, but most of all, I believe anyone who counts being a member of the Anglers Club became a better fisherman over the last year.

I look forward to the future of the Virginia Anglers Club as we continue our tradition of being one of the finest angling clubs in the state of Virginia as well as starting new traditions. Take care and Happy Fishing!

Capt. Mike Ostrander

Mike Ostrander
President

Gyotaku fish print to be raffled off at the Annual Banquet



***Gyotaku** (Japanese, from gyo "fish" + taku "rubbing") is a traditional form of Japanese fish printing, dating from the mid 1800s, a form of nature printing used by fishermen to record their catches. In order to make a gyotaku print, one places the subject (e.g. fish, crab, scallop shell) on a wooden bench and paints one side with sumi ink. Modern gyotaku artists often substitute acrylic or other painting material for the traditional sumi. (Source - From

SCALE CERTIFICATION COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

The first meeting at which scale certification will be offered will be the February 22, 2011 Membership Meeting. Now is a good time to clean up your scales and to get them in top working order. Remember the following points:

- Clean the outside of the barrel so certification stickers will adhere
- Gather your scales together in one or two Zip Lock type bags.
- Write your name on the outside of the bag.
- Leave your bagged scales on the certification team's table. Your scales will be delivered to you when the certification process is complete.

COUNTRY STORE KEEPER NEEDS IDEAS FOR ITEMS TO STOCK

Country Storekeeper Eddy Johnston needs input from members about items they would like to see stocked in the Country Store. Eddy's year-end inventory found that there is a need to restock some specific items, namely shirts and hats. Let Eddy know what type of shirt you would like to see...."T" shirts (long/short sleeve?), golf shirts, embroidered button front shirts (long/short sleeve?), hoodies, colors? Also, please give Eddy some guidance about what style of hat that should be stocked... long bill, full brim with chin strap, mesh or solid, color preference? Eddy will base the restocking to be made on your wants and needs. He has wonderful contacts to all of our "gear" and just needs to know what the preferences of the membership is for what to stock.

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 1/15/11

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LN</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>BAIT</u>
2010 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	F Cousins	5-0	2	Fly	166	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Clouser
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	4-7	2	Spin	295	12/21/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Grub

2010 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
BASS, STRIPED LL	F Cousins	5-10	2	Spin	187	12/29/10	Lake Anna, Va.	Mirrorlure
PERCH, WHITE	F Cousins	1-2	2	Fly	375	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Clouser

2010 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	F Cousins	5-0	2	Fly	166	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Clouser
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	4-7	2	Spin	295	12/21/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Grub

2010 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
PERCH, WHITE	F Cousins	1-4	2	Spin	328	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Grub
PERCH, WHITE	F Cousins	1-2	2	Fly	375	12/18/10	Elizabeth River, Va.	Clouser

2009 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER			
BASS, STRIPED	F Cousins	5-0	
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	4-7	

2009 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER		
BASS, STRIPED LL	F Cousins	5-10
PERCH, WHITE	F Cousins	1-4



Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

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MattyJ Saltwater Flies

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NEXT MEETING:
Annual Awards Banquet
Saturday, January 22nd at Sam Miller's



P.O. BOX 31494
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