

Summer time
Fun time!



July 2014

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NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JULY

There will be no Virginia Anglers Club Board of Director's Meeting or Membership Meeting in July. Monthly Membership Meetings will again resume in August.

If you need something to come to the attention of the Leadership Team or the BOD during July, please let Bob Brown know (mrbbrownjr@comcast.net). Bob will handle what is needed with the BOD or Leadership Team via E-Mail.

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING –
August 26, 2014 7:00 pm
(Location Will Be Announced)**



BACKLASH

*Commentary from the
Board of Directors*

-By John Wetlaufer, Sr.

AUGUST PROGRAM – UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Art and Steve have a long list of potential speakers for coming VAC Membership Meetings. They are working to coordinate availability and our date requirements with the persons on their list. Please look in the August issue of The Angler for details of the coming Membership Meeting

JULY 19th AND 20th - ANGLER'S CHOICE BOAT TRIP OR FLOAT TRIP

The Virginia Anglers Club is offering a boat trip and / or a float trip during the third weekend in July. The boat trip is a formal VAC tournament and the float trip is a VAC just-for-fun outing. Fish one or fish both, it's up to you, but try to fish at least one. Here are the options:

VIRGINIA/CAROLINA FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT JULY 19TH AND 20TH (Blow date following weekend)

This two-day flounder tournament gives you a chance to fish in two states, Virginia and/or North Carolina. Each state offers some excellent flounder fishing. Please turn to page 7 for details on this tournament. Last year Bob Schepker's 6-14 took the weight class and Mike Cline's 4-1 on 4 Plug @ 254 pts was the points winner.

NEXT COUNTRY STORE OPENING – AUGUST 26TH

If you need any items from the Country Store before the August 26th Membership Meeting, please contact Joe Lovasz, Jr. via E-Mail (jlovaszjr@gmail.com) and he will arrange to get the item to you.



FUN FISHING FLOAT TRIP FOR KAYAKS, CANOES AND JON BOATS JULY 19TH

The VAC is planning a club float fishing trip on Saturday, July 19th. Steve Knox will lead the one day float for kayaks, canoes, and jon boats, along the James upstream from Richmond. This trip will be plain old, day long, fun drift fishing thru some of Virginia's finest smallmouth bass fishing. Launch and take out locations and complete float trip information is found on page 3 of this issue of The Angler. Inclusion of friends, youngsters or other family members is encouraged for this fun fishing trip.

FORMER VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB MEMBER DON LAMBERT PASSES

Former Virginia Anglers Club Member, Donald Stephen "Don" Lambert, pulled lines for the last time on Wednesday, July 2, 2014. Don will be remembered by Club Members of long standing as an avid fisherman in his day as a member and was often quoted in Max Ailors's outdoor column in the Richmond Times Dispatch. Don's legacy in the VAC is reflected in his Club Records that still stand after more than thirty years of being achieved (American Shad on 8# Fly, Crappie, All on 4# and 6# Spin and Land Locked Striper on 12# Spin). Don was Glenn Carter's sponsor when Glenn joined the VAC in September 1976. Don applied his talents as a calligrapher and hand lettered the VAC angling award's certificates. After giving up fishing and leaving the VAC, Don devoted his time and talents to hang gliding, and then went into bowling. Those members who knew Don will remember him as an optimistic person and very much his own man.

DGIF WADE FISHING WORKSHOPS FOR FLATHEADS TUESDAY JULY 22ND AND THURSDAY, JULY 31ST

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will again hold their popular Wade Fishing For Flathead Catfish workshops on Tuesday, July 22 and Thursday, July 31. Four of the instructors are members of the Virginia Anglers Club; Mike Ostrander, Lee Rothgeb, David "Sarge" Brayman and Billy Nicar. Many VAC Members attended this workshop last year. Early registration is important for these popular days of instructional fishing. The class is an all day event at Pony Pasture Park on the James River. For those interested, please visit the VA DGIF website or contact Chris Dunnivant with the Outdoor Education Program (Chris.Dunnivant@dgif.virginia.gov.).

WISDOM FROM THE TACKLE BOX

"Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn." ~Chuck Clark

For The Leadership Team,
John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Membership Chairman

FUN FISHING FLOAT TRIP SATURDAY JULY 19TH

PUT IN HARDWARE RIVER WMA – TAKE OUT BREMO BLUFF

River Chart Showing Float Area Available As .pdf File
(Contact Steve Knox at sknox@knoxmarine.com)

The Virginia Anglers Club has organized a float trip for Saturday July 19 on the middle James River. Program Co-Chair Steve Knox is organizing the trip. The float will be from the put-in at the Hardware River WMA to BreMO Bluff, a float of about seven miles. No tournament, no race, just a fun float down a beautiful part of the James.

This is a prime section of the river for smallmouth fishing, so bring your scales! Depending on your fishing speed and the river level, the float should take about eight hours. You are on your own to get your kayak/canoe/jon boat (float tube?) to the launch and arrange for a shuttle partner. If you are having difficulty arranging a shuttle partner let Steve know – sknox@knoxmarine.com or cell 840.9460. The rough plan is to launch about 7:00 AM. The drive from Richmond is an hour plus or minus, depending on where you live. We may be able to provide a “mother ship” to carry coolers etc., but just in case you should plan on carrying your own cooler, gear etc.

Please let Steve know if are planning to make the float. If you need a shuttle partner let him know. Tell Steve what sort of vehicle and boat you have so that he can pair appropriate shuttle vehicles.

He can also probably find a loaner kayak for anyone who wants to try the float trip but doesn't have a boat.

Mark your calendar – Steve will provide additional details about the launch and takeout locations etc. as the date approaches. Be sure to let him know if you plan to float.

Steve and Bob Brown did a “trial float” on June 19. The water level at Scottsville was 4.0', at BreMO's Bluff 8.5'. We launched at 0800 and took out at 1315. We paddled a little but mostly just drifted and fished. We never anchored. Anyone who routinely paddles Pony Pasture in the summer can make this run at these river levels.

From the time we met at BreMO's Bluff to launch (i.e. the shuttle time) was ~45 minutes.

Bruce Ingram's guide book recommended river right around Big Island. We missed that turn and went river left. That direction was ok. Another map I have since bought recommends river right. Take your pick.

There is a long stretch from the end of Big Island to the take-out. About half way down this stretch there's a private concrete ramp on the right. Just past that is another concrete ramp at a campground. Either place would be a good stop for lunch and a stretch. There are no other good stopping places on that stretch.





THE IGFA IS SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD THIS YEAR

(Based on the "IGFA President's Message"

International Angler, Vol. 77, Issue 3)

The fact that the International Game Fish Association is celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year may have slipped up on many of the members of the Virginia Anglers Club. We also likely are not aware that the American Museum of Natural History in New York had a significant impact the formation of the IGFA. We use the IGFA Rules as the basis of our angling record and award systems, but may not think much about the scientific activities of the IGFA, the basis for its initial establishment.

Early rules for "gentlemanly and sporting conduct in marine game fish angling" were in effect in a few fishing clubs. In the late 1930s, some members of the British Tunny Club hoped to establish a center in England to "formulate rules for ethical angling". However, the onset of WW II brought this activity to a halt.

Michael Lerner provided funding and leadership for American fishing expeditions to many countries. When Michael went on a fishing expedition to Australia he met one the country's finest anglers, Clive Frith. During conversations with Clive, Clive suggested that Americans should "devise and administer" international angling rules.

Dr. William King Gregory, head of the department of ichthyology and comparative anatomy at the Museum, heard about Clive's suggestion. Dr. Gregory thought such an organization was a natural to affiliate with his department at the Museum and could provide scientific data for the use of the Museum.

On June 7, 1939, the IGFA was founded at a meeting at the American Museum of Natural History. Those present at the meeting were Dr. Gregory (became the first president of the IGFA, Michael Lerner, writer Van Campen Heilner and Francesca LaMonte, associate curator of fishes for the Museum and science leader of many of Mr. Lerner's expeditions.

In conclusion of his IGFA President's Message noted above, Rob Kramer states "Seventy-five years later, the IGFA is still diligently maintaining the world's angling rules and records. Additionally, now more than ever, we continue to connect anglers with scientists in an effort to gain much needed information to protect the world's game fish species."

As a Member Club of the IGFA, with many individual VAC members who are also members of the IGFA, the Virginia Anglers Club benefits from the scientific and archival services the IGFA provides for all anglers. We all know that many VAC Members have or currently hold IGFA World Angling Records and the angling rules of the IGFA are the foundation for participation in the VAC system of club records and catch entry.

(FROM THE RECENT ISSUES OF THE VIRGINIA OUTDOOR REPORT)
TROUT POND WORK COMPLETE AND PONDS STOCKED
AT WILLIAM P. HARRIS PARK, BUCHANAN COUNTY

Trout ponds have been completed at William P. Harris Park in Buchanan County and are open for fishing. Five fish ponds at the Park at Council are now stocked and ready for trout fishing. Harris said, "The project was allowable by digging the ponds into the rock of the natural waterway; adding to its natural beauty instead of interfering with the ecosystem."

31ST ANNUAL VIRGINIA OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN'S SHOW
AUGUST 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH (FRI THRU SUN)

The 31st Annual Virginia Outdoor Sportsman's Show features many new, exciting exhibits and demonstrations this year. The location is the Richmond Raceway Complex! The show has expanded into a third building which will include a new air gun shooting range sponsored by Crossman, an archery range sponsored by Parker Bows, decoy exhibit and contest, VDGIF K9 teams, casting range for kids and much more. Experienced and novice sportsmen and sportswomen can try the latest in new equipment and learn about new places and techniques to enjoy Virginia's great outdoors. Hunter Education Instructors will have exhibits and demonstrations on safe firearms handling, tree stand use and safety reminders for both experienced and novice hunters. This is your chance to see the biggest bucks harvested in Virginia. Deer hunters throughout Virginia will bring their mounts to this prestigious contest, organized by the Virginia Deer Hunters Association (VDHA). Celebrity guests R.J. Molinere and Jay Paul Molinere - Swamp People on the History Channel, Kip Campbell, Host of Red Arrow TV

DMV Direct van will be on-site so you can conveniently purchase your hunting and fishing licenses, or the new 2015 Virginia Wildlife Calendar, even title a boat or other DMV business. Pick up your free copy of the new 2014-2015 Hunting Regulations & Information booklet that features descriptions of new regulations and opportunities to enhance your hunting experience this season. The Wildlife K 9 Team will be there to demonstrate their unique skills assisting officers in wildlife investigations and search and rescue.



THE PONY PASTURE WADE

By Mike Ostrander



When I decided to put this wade trip together I thought, “The Virginia Anglers Club needs a fishing trip for members with no competition. Just a fun, get out and fish with members trip. I was wrong when I initiated the “no competition” idea with this trip. Why? Competition is the basis of the Virginia Anglers Club. It’s the history and reason the club exists in many ways. I’m not talking about tournament competition, but competition with ourselves.” One of the great aspects of the Virginia Anglers Club is the levels for individual anglers to achieve.

Everyone comes into the VAC as a novice, it is just a starting point, a way for all to start with a clean slate. The first step of progression is to become an angler. All that is needed to achieve this rating is to catch 10 different species of fish. Just a released fish. Not a big fish, just a catch and release.

The next level of accomplishment is to earn your Expert Rating. And you can do this in either fresh or salt water. All entries for this level must be at least 100 points but it gets a little more involved. You must also have entries in each of the divisions; Fly, Spin, Plug, and General and also Surf on the salt water side. Check out your rule book for all the nitty gritty details.

Then there is the Master Angler rating but let’s save that for later. And all the above is competition between you and your quarry, just you and the fish.

With that said, five members of the Virginia Anglers Club and a guest, 13 year old John Jones took to the James River by foot from Pony Pasture. David Nobles, Eric Webster, Steve Knox, Mike Ostrander and George Atkinson geared up and headed out for a five hour wade fishing trip. It was a beautiful morning and the river was flowing at a height for wade fishing. After all the rock hopping and miles of river fished, the group caught and released about two dozen fish. The largest fish of the day was a smallmouth bass about 14”, but the best tale of the day was given by Eric, one of the three who fly fished. Eric landed a few fish, but it was the one that got away that raised our eyebrows. Eric said, “I was stripping a size 8 olive Woolly Bugger pattern across a riffle when the fly snagged on the bottom. Then the bottom moved. I set the hook and my 8-weight rod bent double. I fought what felt like a nice fish for a couple of seconds. The fish turned downstream, got into the main current seam and broke the fly off cleanly from my 6 lb. tippet.” Six pound smallie? Striped bass? Catfish?

As for me, my highlight was watching an osprey fishing early in the morning ... flying around and hovering at times. I was fishing a buzz bait and the osprey took an interest in it as he paused for a moment, hovered in place and quickly began to drop towards it. Noticing this I began to reel my line in as fast as I could and that faster movement just got the osprey more excited and focused as he dove in even closer. The osprey was about 5 ‘ above the lure and well less than 20’ in front of me when it finally saw me and made a quick aerial move away. It’s amazing how focused they can be when fishing... if only I was too.



TOURNAMENT NEWS



BY LEE ROTHGEB

VIRGINIA/CAROLINA FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT JULY 19TH AND 20TH (BLOW DATE FOLLOWING WEEKEND)

“DOOR MAT” FLOUNDER ACTION WILL PEAK IN MID-SUMMER AND WE HAVE A TOURNAMENT RIGHT ON TIME. THE TOURNAMENT IS OPEN TO ALL VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA WATERS. POPULAR SPOTS FOR LARGE FLOUNDER THIS TIME OF YEAR INCLUDE THE BUOY 36 AREA AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE TUNNEL IN VA. INLETS AND WRECKS ARE MOST POPULAR IN NC.

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 SALTWATER 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 ENTER ONLY TWO FISH. IT IS POSSIBLE TO WIN BOTH WEIGHT AND POINTS DIVISIONS BY ENTERING 2 DIFFERENT FISH.

CALL IN ENTRIES WITHIN 24 HOURS FROM END OF TOURNAMENT TO ANGLING ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LEE ROTHGEB 804-314-2990 OR EMAIL TO GARBAKK1021@AOL.COM. YOU CANNOT CHANGE THE ENTRY CATEGORY ONCE YOU HAVE REGISTERED IT WITH THE CHAIRMAN.

NOTE:

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.

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**



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 6/14/14

SPECIES	ANGLER	WEIGHT/LN	DIV.	PTS	DATE	LOCATION	BAIT
2014 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER							
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. Cousins	8-4	2	SPIN	550	12/20/13 ELIZABETH RIVER, VA	FLUKE
BASS, STRIPED	B Shepherd	22-0	8	FLY	366	05/13/14 EASTERN SHORE, VA	HALF-N-HALF
DRUM, BLACK	V Skykandy	19-0	17	SURF	158	05/10/14 EASTERN SHORE, VA	CRAB
DRUM, RED	B Shepherd	36-0	30	SURF	257	05/14/14 EASTERN SHORE, VA	CRAB
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	F Cousins	4-0	2	SPIN	333	05/09/14 RUDEE INLET, VA	GRUB
2014 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER							
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	GN Carter	5-4	4	PLUG	262	04/01/14 PRIVATE POND, VA	SPINNER BAIT
CARP	B Broughton	20-8	4	SPIN	512	04/20/14 PRIVATE POND, VA	TUBE BAIT
CRAPPIE, ALL	GN Carter	1-2	2	SPIN	178	02/23/14 CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	JIG-N-MINNOW
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	8-2	2	GEN	236	06/05/14 CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	MINNOW
MUSKELLUNGE	F Cousins	14-0	4	SPIN	388	06/02/14 LAKE SHANANDOAH, VA	CRANKBAIT
PERCH, WHITE	S. Lee	0-14	8	FLY	171	04/14/14 JAMES RIVER, VA	SHAD FLY
PERCH, YELLOW	F Cousins	1-3	2	PLUG	312	03/11/14 CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	BLADE BAIT
PICKERAL, CHAIN	ES Johnston	2-13	2	SPIN	281	03/08/14 CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	JIG
SHAD, AMERICAN	M Kodroff	3-0	2	SPIN	240	04/24/14 TAR RIVER, NC	DART
SHAD, HICKORY	F Cousins	2-4	2	FLY	321	03/27/14 JAMES RIVER, VA	FLY
SUNFISH, ALL	JP Rountrey	0-11	2	FLY	229	05/03/14 PRIVATE POND, VA	FLY
TROUT, RAINBOW	D Nobles	3-11	4	FLY	209	05/04/14 SPRING CREEK, VA	GOLDEN RETRIEVER FLY

2014 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER							
BASS, STRIPED	B Shepherd	22-0	8	FLY	366	05/13/14 EASTERN SHORE, VA	HALF-N-HALF
DRUM, RED	F Cousins	6-6	2	PLUG	159	02/09/14 ELIZABETH RIVER, VA	GRUB
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. Cousins	8-4	2	SPIN	550	12/20/13 ELIZABETH RIVER, VA	FLUKE
DRUM, RED	B Shepherd	36-0	30	SURF	257	05/14/14 EASTERN SHORE, VA	CRAB

2014 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER							
SHAD, HICKORY	F Cousins	2-4	2	FLY	321	03/27/14 JAMES RIVER, VA	FLY
CATFISH, BLUE	Robbie Robinson	22-0	2	PLUG	338	02/22/14 CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	BLADE BAIT
CARP	B Broughton	20-8	4	SPIN	512	04/20/14 PRIVATE POND, VA	TUBE BAIT
CATFISH, BLUE	B Shepherd	46-0	4	GEN	490	02/23/14 JAMES RIVER, VA	CUT SHAD

2014 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED	A Campbell	34-7
DRUM, BLACK	V Skykandy	19-0
DRUM, RED	B Shepherd	36-0
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	L Allen	8-12
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	F Cousins	4-0

2014 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER

BASS, LARGEMOUTH	GN Carter	6-8
CARP	B Broughton	20-8
CATFISH, BLUE	B Shepherd	46-0
CRAPPIE, ALL	GN Carter	1-2
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	8-2
MUSKELLUNGE	F Cousins	14-0
PERCH, WHITE	S. Lee	0-14
PERCH, YELLOW	F Cousins	1-3
PICKERAL, CHAIN	K Anderson	2-13
SHAD, AMERICAN	M Kodroff	3-8
SHAD, HICKORY	A Campbell	2-12
SUNFISH, ALL	JP Rountrey	0-11
TROUT, RAINBOW	D Nobles	3-11



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 6/14/14

SPECIES	ANGLER	WEIGHT	LN	DIV.	PTS	DATE	LOCATION	BAIT
NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	A Campbell	34-7	20	FLY	286	12/18/13	YORK RIVER, VA	HALF-N-HALF
DOLPHIN	S. Lee	25	20	FLY	147	03/13/14	IZPATA, GUATEMLA	POPPER

C.V. KINNARD AWARD COMPETITION - THRU 5/14

ANGLER	FIRSTS	SECONDS	THIRDS	PLACES	POINTS	AVERAGE
FRED COUSINS	2	2		4	1183	379
BOB SHEPHERD	1	1	1	3	1113	371
GARY GREEN			1	1	319	319
EDDY JOHNSTON		1		1	281	281
ANDREW CAMPBELL			1	1	277	277
BOBBY BROUGHTON	1			1	512	512
GLENN CARTER			1	1	262	262

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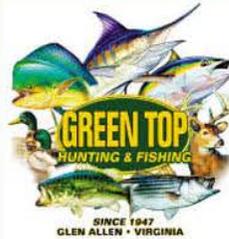
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**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, August 26th**

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