

Happy New Year!



January 2012

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**No January Membership Meeting
Next Membership Meeting Feb. 28, 2012**

**2011 Virginia Anglers Club
Awards Banquet**

Saturday, January 28, 2012

Sam Miller's Cafe-

1210 E. Cary Street-Richmond, VA

More info on page 5

VAC Webmaster Johnny Wetlaufer worked up this new and easy way to vote for VAC leaders. Members who do not receive e-mail will be sent individual hard copies of the ballot so all members eligible to vote can make their choices known.

FOUR MEMBERS RETIRING FROM LEADERSHIP TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

The Virginia Anglers Club extends a big thank you for a job well done to the members of the Leadership Team who are leaving their current positions on the Team. Bill Duval, Eddy Johnston and Parks Rountrey have completed their three year term as members of the Directors Class of 2011. Fred Murray steps aside as president after a year of successfully keeping a rowdy bunch of anglers in line twice a month. Glenn Carter completes a multiple year tenure as Membership Chairman and Orientation Co-Chairman, a time during which many new members were introduced the VAC and became members. Lynn Spurlin leaves the beach after being Surf Team Captain for many years. Lynn leaves with the satisfaction of leading the team that brought home one year the coveted Light House Trophy awarded to the team that wins the annual Cape Hatteras Anglers Club Invitational Surf Tournament. Finally, Mike Cline completes his one year chairmanship of the Angling Rules Committee, the committee charged with managing the VAC's Angling Rules and extensive catch record system.

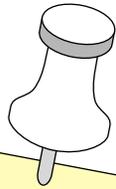


BACKLASH
Commentary from the Board of Directors
-By John Wetlaufer, Sr.

ELECTRONIC BALLOTING TRIAL RUN A SUCCESS

Thanks to all voting members who took time to use the electronic ballot released on January 11th for use in voting for candidates for the 2012 Leadership Team. In less than 24 hours after the ballot was sent, 18% of members eligible to vote returned ballots. The electronic ballot is the result of the Leadership Team's desire to improve VAC communications, both to and from the Membership.

BACKLASH continued from Page 1.



**SCALE CERTIFICATION
COMING UP AT FEBRUARY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The annual certification of your fish scales, required for use when submitting an entry into the VAC records system, will start at the February Membership Meeting, February 28, 2012. Reminders of how to prep our scales for certification are found on page 6 of this issue of *The Angler*.

**LICENSE FEES CUT FOR LONGER
PERIOD LICENSES**

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries introduced on January 1, 2012, options for reduced pricing for resident annual hunting, trapping and freshwater fishing licenses valid for two, three and four year periods. See page 7 of this issue of *The Angler* for details (under "From The January 11, 2012 VADGIF Electronic Outdoor Report).

**DON'T FORGET – FORTY-TWO NEW FRESHWATER
RECORD SLOTS JUST OPENED**

Approval of the new Fresh Water species SUNFISH AND SUNFISH RED EAR and their basic weights has opened forty-two new opportunities for VAC Members to become club record holders. As you plan your angling activities for 2012, you may want to do a little tactical angling and become the "Owner" of one of these club records. Ownership of one of these records is not guaranteed to be permanent. The equipment needed is not complicated and the related angling techniques are not to master.

The revised Freshwater and Saltwater Basic Weights are now posted in the Member's Area of the VAC Website, www.virginiaanglersclub.org. Enter the Member's Area and click on "Basic Weights, Freshwater or Basic Weights, Saltwater. If you want to print down the Basic Weight Sheets, use the print Icon that is at the bottom of the screen.

**DUES FOR 2012 ARE DUE NOW –
CLICK. SCRATCH OR DIG TO PAY**

Paying your VAC Membership Dues for 2012 is easy. Click on the Pay Pal option in the Member's Area of the web-site, scratch out a check and send it to the VAC Post Box or dig in your pocket and come up the correct change to hand to VAC Treasurer Clif Williams.

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. In-state dues are only \$60.00 and out-of-state dues are a bargain at \$40.00.

Note: Please do not combine dues payments and banquet payments on one check. Please pay each separately

**VAC SPONSORED BOATING EDUCATION SAFETY
COURSE NEARLY FULL**

Mike Ostrander has advised that about forty (40) members of the Virginia Anglers Club and The Fly Fishers of Virginia have reserved places in the special DGIF Boating Education Safety Course to be offered on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Green Top Sporting Goods. Start time is 10:00 AM and the class will be over by 4:00 PM. The size of the class has been extended by 10 openings to a total of 50 students. The class is free, but free time spent wandering the aisles of Green Top might prove otherwise.

Contact Mike Ostrander, to register for this course by phone at O (804) 938-2350, C (804) 938-2350 or by e-mail mike@jamesriverfishing.com

**ALL 2011 CATCHES SUBMITTED FOR CREDIT ARE
NOW IN THE RECORD SHEETS**

All catches submitted in the 2011 Angling Year (12/1/10 - 11/31/11) now appear in the VAC Club Record sheets. If you want a hard copy of the records as they stood at the end of the 2011 Angling Year, consider opening the records and use the print icon on the pages that come up on your monitor. These record sheets and basic weight sheets may also be downloaded to your computer.

Note: VAC Club Records sheets are not up dated as each card is received or as each Record is recognized. Updates are made in batches to make the task fit the time the record keepers have available for this work. If you want to know the date of the last update, please contact Member Danny Noland or Johnny Wetlaufer.



CHECK GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTIONS IMPACTING ANGLERS

The General Assembly is in Session now and will be considering many bills that will affect sportsmen and women in some way or another. There are three links found on page 6 of this issue of The Angler that you might want to check out. The links take you to information about bills of interest to sportsmen (content, sponsors, movement of the bills, thru the General Assembly, etc.).

One link lets you find out who your Delegate or Senator is and how to reach that person by phone, mail or e-mail.

A blank e-mail addressed to the Delegate or Senator selected will come up if you click the words "more about" that are at the bottom of the first column of information about the person selected. An e-mail is a very quick and effective way to get your opinions and advice to your Delegate or Senator.

HYPOTHERMIA IS LURKING DURING WINTER ANGLING

No one angling during cold weather is totally safe from hypothermia, a potential life threatening condition if you do not protect yourself from the cold or situations that could get you into a hypothermic state. Good advice about how to dress properly in cold weather and how to treat hypothermia can be found on page 8 of this issue of The Angler.

MISSED-CASTs – CORRECTIONS TO THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE ANGLER

- Apologies are sent to Member Larry Allen who was unintentionally left of the list of Committee Chairmen in the recently published list of nominated members of the 2012 Leadership Team. Larry Allen and Ryan Noland are Co-Captains of the Scale Certification Team. Only Ryan was shown on the lists published.

- In the summary of Angling Rules Changes, the notation that appeared as "WAHOO - Lowered basic weights in all categories" was unintentionally included. No changes were made to any Wahoo Basic Weights.

For The Leadership Team

John Wetlaufer, Sr., Secretary



CATCHY COMMENTS

by Buddy Noland

The 2012 saltwater fishing has started off with a phenomenal Striper season. The warm winter weather has kept the bay water temperatures higher than in past years and thus has helped to create a great Striper season. The fish are still around the bridge tunnel and off Rudee Inlet. A total of four saltwater Club Records have been set to date. This number of club records has surpassed previous years for the month of January.

Dr. Mickey Kodroff has started off the new club year with several entries. While fishing South Lake in North Carolina, **Mickey** submitted a 10.5 pound Crappie on 2# spin and a 1 pound, 4 ounce White Perch on jigs. The Perch is worth 328 points, leads the spin division, and will be tough to beat this year. Another worthwhile catch was submitted in the middle of December when **Mickey** was fishing off Oregon Inlet and landed an 11 pound Bluefish on 12# plug. This entry will probably hold up well this year since there were no Bluefish entries for last year!

Charlie Fasano had a variety of entries fishing the Chesapeake Bay on December 11th. He first landed a 30 pound Striper on 20# line for 157 points. Later, he caught a Tautog on crab for his "angler rating"; and in the afternoon using jerk bait, **Charlie** landed a 2 pound, 8 ounce, Spotted Seatrout on 6# line for an even 100 points. It's a great day of fishing when you can get three entries!

Fred Cousins is again making a run for all the "pewter" and "silver" this year. He has upped his earlier Chain Pickerel entry with a 3 pound, 1 ounce, fish on 2# spin for 306 points. **Fred** also entered a 3 pound, 6 ounce, Largemouth Bass on spinner bait worth 225 points for his freshwater catches. While fishing with **Victor Skakandy**, **Fred** had a saltwater entry for a 21 pound, 12 ounce, Striper on 4# general fishing for 362 points. But, the nicest catch so far this year for **Fred** is his 8 pound, 6 ounce, Spotted Seatrout on 2# spin from the Elizabeth River. This 558 point entry leads the "spin division" and is the new Club Record for 2# spin. Not a bad start.

Striped Bass catches will complete the remainder of the entries for this newsletter. **Leroy Houser** will again lead the "heaviest category" for Striped Bass this year. Several days before Christmas, while fishing with **Gary Martel**, **Leroy** landed a 45 pound fish in the Chesapeake Bay using an eel for bait. The 48" Striper is a new Club Record for 16# line.

Parks Rountrey, **Bruce Henderson**, and **Fred Cousins** had chartered **Toney Horsley** and landed several nice Striped Bass on December 20th. **Parks** landed a 33 pound, 8 ounce, fish on 8# general worth 372 points off Kiptopeke Beach and **Bruce**, using 6# line, landed a 30 pound Striper worth 400 points. Both were using eels for bait that day.

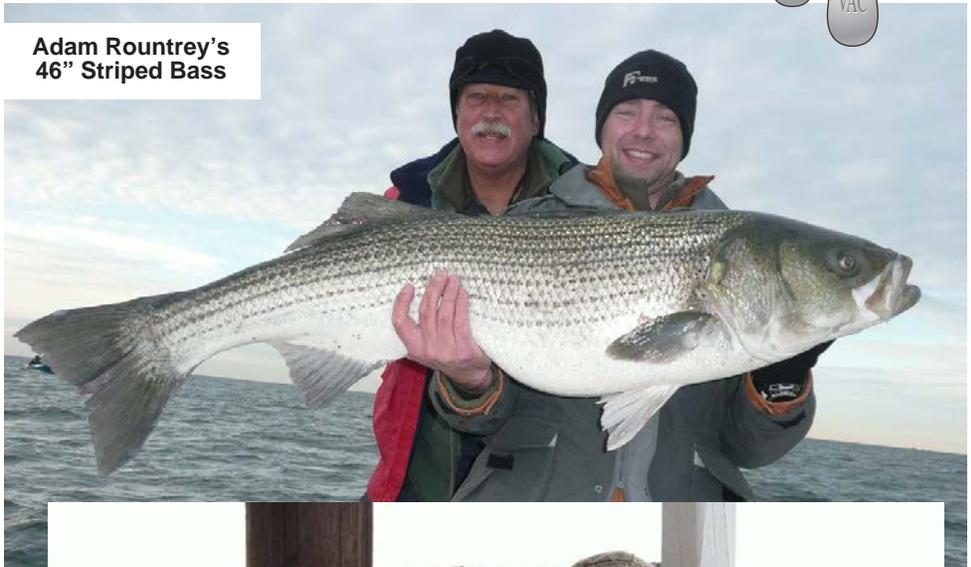


New member, **Andy Campbell**, entered the first “fly” entry for the year. **Andy** was fishing the York River using a “half & half” fly and landed a 26 pound, 8 ounce, Striper on 12# tippet. The fish will lead the “fly division” and will also be a new Club Record. The Striper is worth 331 points.

Last, but not least, **Jim Sheffield** was fishing the Eastern Shore on the last day of the inshore season and caught a 42 pound Striper on 6# general for the Club Record. The catch is worth 560 points and leads the “general division”. The most significant part about the newest record is that **Jim** currently holds the 2#, 4#, 6#, and 8# general category Club Records. The 2 and 4 pound catches are also line class IGFA World Records. That adds up to a lot of “cold and wet days” on the Chesapeake Bay!

Keeping it *reel*,
Buddy

Adam Rountrey's
46" Striped Bass



Fred Cousins and his
21-12 Striper on 4 General



Mike Ostrander with a nice
6 3/4 lb Largemouth Bass



Vic Skakandy with a 37"er.



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

1210 East Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23219-4116
(804) 644-5465

Date: Saturday, January 28, 2012

Times: Cash Bar Starts Serving at 5:30 PM
Sit Down Dinner by 6:45 PM

Cost: Thirty dollars per person (\$30.00)
(See "How to Pay" below)

Parking: Free at the parking deck on 12th St.,
just down the hill from The Tobacco
Company. Get ticket validation at
Sam Miller's

Reservation Cut-off: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 [call Eddy Johnston (586-7012) for last minute reservation help]

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 by PayPal 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

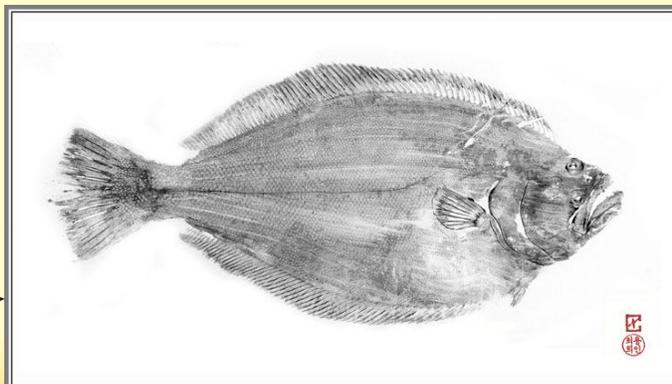
(Please do not include dues payments with your check to Eddy)

For payment by PayPal, please log onto the Virginia Anglers Club website at www.virginiaanglersclub.org, log into the Member's Area and click on the "SELECT" bar in the "Annual Banquet - \$30" box. Follow the on-screen instructions.

BANQUET RAFFLE ITEMS

Raffle items* have been secured
and are as follows:

Bill Gallasch Fly Shadow Box
Capt. Ronnie Sides Fly Shadow Box
A Gyotaku Print by Member Rob Choi →
A Mystery Item to Be
Unveiled at The Banquet



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

LINKS OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS

Sign up for the electronic version of the Outdoor Report.
<http://enews.vi.virginia.gov/dgif/eoptinform.cfm>

Track bills passing thru the General Assembly of interest to outdoorsmen.
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/legislation/>

Find your Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly
<http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>

View bills related to the DGIF's mission or that may affect the DGIF's operations and be of interest to anglers.
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/legislation/>

SCALE CERTIFICATION COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

The first meeting in 2012 at which scale certification will be offered will be the February 28, 2012 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.

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

FROM THE JANUARY 11, 2012 VADGIF ELECTRONIC OUTDOOR REPORT

GOVERNOR MCDONNELL ANNOUNCES DMV AND DGIF PARTNERSHIP

Joint Venture to improve One-Stop Shopping Options for Customers

Governor Bob McDonnell has announced a partnership between the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) that supports his government reform initiative to streamline services. Beginning in late-January, citizens can register boats and boat trailers in one trip to either DGIF or DMV. They will also be able to purchase hunting and fishing licenses from both agencies.

Speaking about the partnership, Governor McDonnell commented, "This partnership will simplify the citizens' interaction with state agencies. Boat-owners can choose where they go to register boats and boat trailers. Previously, boat-owners had to go to DGIF to register their boats and to DMV to register their trailers. Now, it's one-stop shopping. They can conduct both transactions at either agency."

Governor McDonnell continued, "The 74 local DMV customer service centers and two mobile offices will join the more than 700 DGIF license agents across the state so customers will not have to travel far to obtain these products if they desire a face-to-face experience."

DMV and DGIF are working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to determine how the DMV 2 Go mobile offices can assist with the sales of hunting and fishing licenses during peak seasons and events such as the highly-anticipated opening day for trout at Douthat State Park in early April.

Increased Options and Decreased Costs Available For Hunting, Trapping and Freshwater Fishing Licenses

Multi-year license discount goes into effect January 1, 2012

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) will introduce reduced pricing for resident annual hunting, trapping and freshwater fishing licenses for two-, three- and four-year periods beginning January 1, 2012. Purchasers will save \$2 for each additional year over the first since the license price is reduced \$1 and the associated \$1 license agent fee will be saved.

Multi-year licenses will only apply to three RESIDENT licenses (the annual Basic Hunting, Trapping and Freshwater Fishing Licenses) during this pilot program. VDGIF Chief Operating Officer Matt Koch said, "We are excited to offer this new option to our customers who have told us that this will be a convenience for them and save them money. Once the success of this pilot program is proven, the Department will consider expanding the multi-year offer to more licenses." Cost for one year of an annual resident basic hunting or freshwater fishing license is \$23; two years will be \$44; three years will be \$65; and four years will be \$86. Cost for the resident trapping license for one year is \$46; two years will be \$90; three years will be \$134; and four years will be \$178.

Licenses can be purchased at , by calling 1-866-721-6911 during business hours, or at any . VDGIF has a network of more than 700 license agents statewide at most sporting goods stores and bait shops.

*FROM THE JANUARY 11, 2012 VADGIF
ELECTRONIC OUTDOOR REPORT*

PREVENTING FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA

Prolonged exposure to low temperatures, wind or moisture—whether it be) on a ski slope or in a stranded car—can result in cold-related illnesses such as frostbite and hypothermia. The National Safety Council offers this information to help you spot and put a halt to these winter hazards.

Frostbite is the most common injury resulting from exposure to severe cold. Superficial frostbite is characterized by white, waxy, or grayish-yellow patches on the affected areas. The skin feels cold and numb. The skin surface feels stiff but underlying tissue feels soft and pliable when depressed. Treat superficial frostbite by taking the victim inside immediately. Remove any constrictive clothing items that could impair circulation. If you notice signs of frostbite, immediately seek medical attention. Re-warming usually takes 20 to 40 minutes or until tissues soften.

Hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms of this condition include change in mental status, uncontrollable shivering, cool abdomen and a low core body temperature. Severe hypothermia may produce rigid muscles, dark and puffy skin, irregular heart and respiratory rates, and unconsciousness.

Treat hypothermia by protecting the victim from further heat loss and calling for immediate medical attention. Get the victim out of the cold. Add insulation such as blankets, pillows, towels or newspapers beneath and around the victim. Be sure to cover the victim's head. Replace wet clothing with dry clothing. Handle the victim gently because rough handling can cause cardiac arrest. Keep the victim in a horizontal (flat) position. Give artificial respiration or CPR (if you are trained) as necessary.

How to prevent cold-related illnesses

Avoid frostbite and hypothermia when you are exposed to cold temperatures by wearing layered clothing, eating a well-balanced diet, and drinking warm, non-alcoholic, caffeine-free liquids to maintain fluid levels. Avoid becoming wet, as wet clothing loses 90 percent of its insulating value.

Permission to reprint granted by the National Safety Council, a membership organization dedicated to protecting life and promoting health.

Tournament News

2012 Angling Year Schedule of Events:

Virginia Yellow Perch: March 3-4 (blow date following weekend) (full moon Mar. 8)

Kelly Stafford Memorial Hickory Shad and White Perch*:
March 31 - April 1 (James River) (blow date April 14-15) (Easter April 8)

Virginia Croaker: May 5-6 (blow date following weekend)

Bernie Skydanek Memorial Eastern Shore VA Surf - Red Drum*
May 19-20 (tides high @ 7:49 am) (blow date June 2-3) (2 wks)

Virginia/Carolina Flounder: July 21-22 (blow date following weekend)

Virginia Speckled Trout: November 3-4 (blow date following weekend)

Note: No fishing inside private hot ditch on Elizabeth River.

James River (Chippokes Creek) Gar: November 17-18 (blow date following weekend) (Thanksgiving Nov 22)

* Social gathering tentatively planned

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 1/13/12

<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>
2012 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	42-0	6	Gen	560	12/31/11	Eastern Shore, VA	Eel
BLUEFISH	M Kodroff	11-0	12	Plug	122	12/15/11	Oregon Inlet, NC	Jig
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	8-6	2	Spin	558	12/27/11	Elizabeth River, VA	Mirrolure

2012 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	F Cousins	3-6	2	Spin	225	12/9/11	Lake Cohoon, VA	Spinner Bait
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	RJ Brown	27-0	4	Gen	365	12/2/11	James River, VA	Cut Bait
CRAPPIE, ALL	M Kodroff	0-12	2	Spin	119	12/3/11	South Lake, NC	Jig
PERCH, WHITE	M Kodroff	1-4	2	Spin	328	1/2/12	South Lake, NC	Jig
PICKERAL, CHAIN	F Cousins	3-1	2	Gen	306	12/9/11	Lake Cohoon, VA	Art. Worm

2012 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER								
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	8-6	2	Spin	558	12/27/11	Elizabeth River, VA	Mirrolure
BLUEFISH	M Kodroff	11-0	12	Plug	122	12/15/11	Oregon Inlet, NC	Jig
BASS, STRIPED	A Campbell	26-8	12	Fly	331	12/29/11	York River, VA	Half & Half Fly
BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	42-0	6	Gen	560	12/31/11	Eastern Shore, VA	Eel

2012 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
PERCH, WHITE	M Kodroff	1-4	2	Spin	328	1/2/12	South Lake, NC	Jig
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	RJ Brown	27-0	4	Gen	365	12/2/11	James River, VA	Cut Bait

2012 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED	L Houser	45-0
BLUEFISH	M Kodroff	11-0
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	8-6

2012 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER

BASS, LARGEMOUTH	F Cousins	3-6
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	RJ Brown	27-0
CRAPPIE, ALL	M Kodroff	0-12
PERCH, WHITE	M Kodroff	1-4
PICKERAL, CHAIN	F Cousins	3-1

NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER

SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	8-6	2	Spin	558	12/27/11	Elizabeth River, VA	Mirrolure
BASS, STRIPED	L Houser	45-0	16	Gen	281	12/23/11	Chesapeake Bay, VA	Eel
BASS, STRIPED	A Campbell	26-8	12	Fly	331	12/29/11	York River, VA	Half & Half Fly
BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	42-0	6	Gen	560	12/31/11	Eastern Shore, VA	Eel





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Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

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

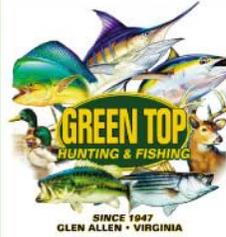
MattyJ Saltwater Flies

(804) 266-5458

rtphotography@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 28th at Sam Miller's**



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RICHMOND VA 23294-1494