

Spring is here!!!



April 2013

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Next Membership Meeting: April 23, 2013 - 7:00 PM

Skilligalee Restaurant
Glenside Ave. just North of Broad Street
Come ~ 5:30 PM and enjoy good
company over dinner from the menu



BACKLASH

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

APRIL PROGRAM **THE RISE AND FALL OF BLUE CATFISH IN** **VIRGINIA'S TIDAL RIVERS**

Our speaker for the April Membership Meeting is Robert Greenlee. Bob is a District Fisheries Biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in Williamsburg. Bob received a Master's degree in Aquatic Ecology from Virginia Commonwealth University and has worked for VDGIF since 1996. Bob's fisheries man-

agement activities focused on the tidal Chickahominy, James, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, and Rappahannock Rivers. His other projects include a largemouth bass monitoring study on the Chickahominy and James River systems and a catfish electrofishing survey on the James, York, and Rappahannock River systems. The blue catfish is a fish that you love or hate. No matter on which side of the catfish conflict you stand, come and learn some very interesting blue cat facts during Bob's illustrated presentation.





**TOURNAMENT ENTRIES
CLARIFIED**

There has been some confusion in reporting of entries for recent tournaments. It is the angler's responsibility to report entries to the tournament chairman within 24 hours of the conclusion of the tournament and **ANGLER MUST SPECIFY IF ENTRY IS FOR WEIGHT OR POINTS.**

**Wisdom from the
Tackle Box**

Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught.

(author unknown)

DUES FOR 2013 ARE DUE NOW !

Past due Dues notices have been sent out to those members who have not paid their 2013 dues. Please bring your dues current or let John Wetlaufer (jlwsr@rcn.com), Membership Chairman, if you are not going to renew your membership. This will cut down the time that the all-volunteer VAC Leadership Team has to worry over those who have not renewed.

For payment by PayPal, go the Member's Area of the VAC website, www.virginiaanglersclub.org and follow the instructions at the PayPal boxes (resident or non-resident)

For payment by check, please make out a check to "The Virginia Anglers Club", write "2013 Dues" on the Memo line and mail the check to:

The Virginia Anglers Club
PO Box 31494
Richmond, VA 23294-1494

Remember: If you have not paid your 2013 dues any Entry Card submitted after that date will automatically be disqualified and not put into the VAC data base or be eligible for monthly, tournament or annual awards. When your dues in arrears are paid, credit for entries will be resuming.

**AT-MEETING SCALE CERTIFICATION
ENDS IN APRIL**

The scale certification team will hold the last at-meeting scale certification during a Membership Meeting at the April Meeting, April 23rd. After that day, please contact Danny Noland at danny.n.noland-1@usa.dupont.com O (804) 383-3736 or C (804) 514-0650 for individual certifications of scales. Danny will work out a mutual time and place at which you can meet with Danny and/or Ryan to have your scales certified. Remember, the weights of catches submitted on an Entry Card will be accepted for entry if weighted on yet-to-be certified scales that pass certification within 10 days of the catch.

Remember the following scale preparation pointers:

- PLEASE REMOVE YOUR OLD CERTIFICATION STICKER.
- Be sure your scales are operating freely and free of rust.
- 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.



MAY PROGRAM – FISH FRY AT MAYMONT NATURE CENTER

The Virginia Anglers Club annual fish fry will be held at the Maymont Nature Center on the evening of May 28th. Details will follow in the May Angler and will mostly be business as usual. If you have frozen fish in your freezer or keep any fish you might catch between now and the 28th, please bring them thawed out and ready for the cooks.

KELLY STAFFORD MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The annual shad tournament is in the books. A cold Saturday and a warmer Sunday greeted anglers who went out on the water to chase hickory shad and white perch. Here are the results of the tournament for winning catches by points and winning catches by weight as reported by Tournament Chairman Lee Rothgeb:

Shad - Weight

1. Stuart Lee 2lbs - called in on Saturday 2. Fred Murray 2lbs - called in on Sunday 3. Bob Shepherd 1' 14"

Shad - Points

1. Mike Cline 1' 11" 2 fly 241 pts 2. Parks Rountrey 1' 11" 2 spin 191 pts 3. Fred Murray 1' 11" 6 fly 170 pts
(Fred and Vic Skakandy tied on points but Fred's entry was received first)

Perch - Points

1. Robbie Robinson 10 oz 2 fly 89 pts (only entry)

Perch - Weight

1. Robbie Robinson 8 oz 2. Stuart Lee 3 oz

**NEXT TOURNAMENT - BERNIE SKYDANEK MEMORIAL EASTERN SHORE VA
SURF RED & BLACK DRUM* MAY 11-12**

This tournament is our annual trek to the eastern shore of Virginia's Barrier Islands. This is the one tournament that Members all fish in the same area. Members fishing both tournament days spend Saturday night at a motel on the mainland of the Eastern Shore. Participants take their boats over to one of the Barrier Islands western banks and then walk across the island to the beach for two days of surf fishing off by ourselves and in a very pristine setting. Tournament Chairman Bob Shepherd presents the details on page 9 of this Angler about the fishing arrangements and awards for this unique tournament offering by the VAC.

**NEW MEMBER BILL BUTLER, RETURNING MEMBER BILL AKIEN
VOTED INTO MEMBERSHIP**

Former member Bill Aiken and new member candidate Bill Butler were voted into membership in the Virginia Anglers Club at the April Board of Directors Meeting. For some brief bios on the Bills, please take a look at page 7 of this issue of The Angler.

EDDY JOHNSTON RETIRES – ANNUAL BANQUET GOES GREEN

Eddy Johnston (and wife Julie) has retired after 20 (!) years of producing memorable Annual Awards Banquets. The entire membership of the Virginia Anglers Club owes Eddy a huge expression of thanks for tirelessly sweating out last minute head count changes, dutifully finding new venues for the banquet when needed and training many new banquet managers that have been appointed by various restaurants during the middle of Eddy's negotiations for our upcoming banquets. Eddy was always attentive to feedback from members about the various venues at which we have dined. Eddy worked very hard to be sure the next meal was up to the expectations and fit comfortably with the budgets of members.



Member Gary Green promptly stepped forward to answer Eddy's recent request for retirement and now is the new Banquet Chairman of the Virginia Anglers Club. Gary will work thru a seamless transition with Eddy. Gary will take over managing the arrangements already in place for the 2013 Awards Banquet coming next year on the last Saturday of January.

Gary's volunteering for the Banquet Chairmanship of the VAC is a true example of what keeps the Virginia Anglers Club moving along as the enjoyable and respected angling club it is....interested and talented members agreeing to dedicate some of their personal time as needed to the betterment of the VAC. Our club's Leadership Team is all volunteer and members realize that they have obligated themselves, in most cases to a second VAC meeting each month and have to make this time available from other activities they also enjoy or have. All members owe Gary a large thank you for offering to devote some personal time to be sure we have continued enjoyable Annual Banquets. Gary will likely be joined by his wife and VAC member Karen at the reception table at the next banquet.

For The Leadership Team

John Wetlaufer, Sr., Secretary



"Catchy Comments"

By Buddy Noland

The current late March to early April time frame has provided some of the best Shad fishing of the season. While fishing with fly tackle, Stuart Lee and Glenn Carter caught around 250 shad. The team of Fred Murray and Bob Shepherd had a catch of 360 shad. I guess you can say that April 6 was one fantastic day on the James River for these anglers. The river was very cooperative with lots of current and an outgoing tide.

There were no Saltwater entries this period but that season is starting to pick up.

Bob Shepherd also had a great month of freshwater fishing on the lakes and ponds. Bob turned in a 2 pound, 12 ounce, Chain Pickerel on 2# spin for 275 points from a private pond. From the same pond, he also landed a 3 pound, 10 ounce Largemouth Bass also on 2# spin with a grub for 241 points. Bob's best catch was for only 165 points but, one of the more difficult catch requirements of the Masters Angler rating. A Largemouth Bass must be entered on 16# Plug tackle and be worth at least 150 points which computes to a catch heavier than 7 ½ pounds. Bob's catch was an 8 pound, 4 ounce Largemouth on 14# tackle and entered in 16# Plug on Lake Hastings. The catch will be the leader of the "heaviest" category.

Fishing the Roanoke River on March 15th, Fred Cousins had several nice entries. Fred turned in a 1 pound, 9 ounce, Hickory Shad on 2# fly for 223 points. He also caught the "heaviest" category leader which is a 2 pound, 3 ounce Hickory on 2# spin worth 248 points.

5-3 American Shad by David Goode





Dr. Mickey Kodroff has entered the only American Shad of the season from the Tar River in North Carolina. Mickey and Jim Sheffield were fishing together when Mickey landed a 3 pound, 12 ounce American on 4# spin worth 224 points. The fish leads the “species” and “heaviest” categories.

While fishing the James River, Sal Peluso caught his first Hickory Shad of the year. Sal caught a 1 pound, 8 ounce Shad on 8 spin for 106 points.

Fishing from his kayak, Rob Choi, landed a 2 pound, 2 ounce Hickory Shad on 4# fly. Rob’s catch was worth 252 points and leads the “species” category.

Glenn Carter's first cast as a retiree



16lb Blue Catfish by Lee Huss

Bob Brown was fishing Taylor’s Pond to land a 2 pound, 3 ounce Chain Pickerel on a spoon for 218 points on 2# spin. His best entry was a 43 pound Blue Catfish from the James River on 8# general. The Catfish was caught on cut bait and leads both “species” and “heaviest” categories with 361 points.



38" Blue Catfish by Rob Choi

It’s time to get on the river for some great Shad fishing; also, soon to come into the mix will be White Perch and Stripers!

Keeping it reel,

Buddy



18" Tautog



19.5" Smallmouth bass



26lb Flathead catfish by Lee Rothgeb



**NEW MEMBER BILLY BUTLER, RETURNING MEMBER BILL AKIEN
VOTED INTO MEMBERSHIP**

Billy is a Richmond native who divides his angling time between salt and fresh water. Billy joins the ranks of retired VAC members, having retired from the insurance business and spent some time in it in Roanoke and Stanton, VA. His favorite fishing areas are the Chickahominy River and Lake, Cape Hatteras and the Florida Keys. His favorite species to pursue are bass of all mouth sizes and catfish. Billy has a jon boat and puts the heat on the local fish from that craft. Sal Peluso was Billy's 1st. Sponsor.

WILL THE REAL JOE LOVASZ PLEASE STAND UP?

In the March issue of The Angler, the wrong picture of new member Joe Lovasz was included with his biro. Here is a picture of the real Joe Lovasz, standing (up) with a very nice speck. Joe graciously forgave the error.



Joe with an excellent Striper

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**



BROTHERHOOD OF THE JUNGLE COCK EXPLAINED

In a recent E-Cast, mention was made of a Camp Fire and a James River Special Raffle related to the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock. Some of the newer members of the VAC may not be familiar with the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock.

The Brotherhood was established in 1938 and is in its 73rd year. From an earlier article about the history of the Brotherhood what was written in conjunction with the 60th anniversary celebration of the BOJC and found at

<http://bojcmd.wordpress.com/the-annual-campfire/history/>

Here is the first paragraph: “Sixty-two years ago the idea of The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock began to form when, in 1938, Joseph W. Brooks, Jr., J. Hammond Brown and Frank Burt Smoot launched a publication entitled “The Junior Outdoorsman”. Published by The Maryland State Game and Fish Protective Association, the effort was directed specifically at young boys. The concept of teaching youngsters about fishing and conservation of our natural resources was the ground work for the formation of the Brotherhood.”

Joe Brooks was the outdoor writer who conceived the idea of an angling club in the Richmond area that became the Virginia Anglers Club. The VAC has always supported the Brotherhood and many of the second generation members of the VAC have attended at least one campfire during their early angling days. If you have kids or grandchildren in your family, the Camp Fire would be a great time for both of you to enjoy a day fishing together.

THE VAC NEEDS A NEW CONTRY STORE KEEPER (NO RETAIL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY OR EXPECTED)

The Virginia Anglers Club needs someone to make Eddy Johnston's other retirement wish to come true. Eddy's business responsibilities have grown to the point that he has to relinquish his 20 year custodianship of the VAC Country Store (CC). Eddy has kept the inventory up over the years and has, by so doing, established contracts with the companies that produce the various items of VAC "gear" you find in stock at the CC at each membership meeting. All pricing is up to date and the inventory is up to standard. Eddy's need retire is real and present and, if the store is to continue to offer VAC hats, T shirts, beverage cuffs and the like, a member has to assume Eddy's stewardship of the store. Remember, members are the only source from which the leadership of the club comes. If any member is infested in helping Eddy personally and the VAC membership in its entirety, please talk with Eddy or President Glenn Carter.

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TOURNAMENT NEWS

BY BOB SHEPHERD

BERNIE SKYDANEK MEMORIAL EASTERN SHORE VA RED DRUM MAY 11 and 12, 2013

(TIDES HIGH @ 9:49 AM) (BLOW DATE MAY 25 & 26TH – 2 WEEKS LATER)

Back by popular demand! This was a huge hit last year. Don't miss this one! Our tourney date is near peak of the spring drum migration. You should have waders, a fairly shallow draft boat (or ride with a fellow member) and be prepared for a long hike after anchoring your boat in shallow water behind a barrier island. Contact event leader Bob Shepherd or Parks Rountrey to confirm your participation and also to check event dates if weather or surf conditions are questionable.

Times: Sun-up Saturday to Sundown Sunday

Location: Barrier Islands of Virginia Eastern Shore

For those who may be unfamiliar with the Eastern Shore, but still would like to fish, please contact Bob Shepherd. Bob will be glad to lead people to the fishing grounds (keeping in mind that different sized boats may have to take different paths to access the islands).

Tips: Peeler crabs and fresh cut bait (such as spot, croakers, whiting, bluefish, menhaden, etc.) are all good red drum baits. Black drum are frequently caught from the surf this time of year as well, so fishing with peeler crabs opens the opportunity to catch those as well. A half dozen peeler crabs can get an angler through the day when things are slow, but on a good bite, or when bait stealers are prevalent, it's not uncommon to burn through 1.5 dozen peelers per angler per day.

Bob's contact info:

email: bshepherd@medivisuals.com

cell: 804-241-0870 (sometimes inaccessible at Bob's Eastern Shore cottage) Bob's Eastern Shore land line: 757-678-7847

You can register your catches by calling or e-mail entries to Angling Activities Chairman Lee Rothgeb at 804-314-2990 (Garbakk1021@aol.com).

Special Rules for this event: Since there are no line classes in surf division - all red drum will be entered in the weight division (largest fish wins). Any other species of fish caught in the surf will be entered based on points calculated by surf basic weights. One angler can win both weight and points divisions by entering 2 different fish. One angler can only enter two fish. Call in entries within 24 hours from the end of tournament to Angling Activities Chairman Lee Rothgeb at 804-314-2990 (Garbakk1021@aol.com)... You cannot change an entry once you have registered it with the Chairman. You do not need to fill out cards to turn in for the tournament, but do need a card if you want it to be registered as a club entry. Tournament First Place Awards for both weight and points = Anglers Choice: Traditional pewter cup, \$40 Green Top gift certificate or a VAC Banquet ticket.



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 4/13/13

SPECIES	ANGLER	WEIGHTLN	DIV.	PTS	DATE	LOCATION	BAIT
2013 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER							
BASS, STRIPED	F. Cousins	45-0	4	Gen	750	12/17/12 Chesapeak Bay, VA	Live Eel
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. Cousins	4-2	2	Spin	275	12/28/12 Elizabeth River, VA	Mirrolure

2013 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER

BASS, LARGEMOUTH	B Shepherd	3-10	2	Spin	241	3/11/13 Private Pond, VA	Grub
CATFISH, BLUE	RJ Brown	43-0	8	Gen	361	4/3/13 James River, VA	Cut Bait
CRAPPIE, ALL	M Cline	1-11	2	Plug	267	1/12/13 Chickahominy River, VA	Blade Bait
PERCH, YELLOW	RJ Brown	1-1	2	Spin	279	1/22/13 Chickahominy River, VA	Grub Tail
PICKERAL, CHAIN	M Cline	4-10	2	Plug	462	2/2/13 Chickahominy River, VA	Blade Bait
SHAD, AMERICAN	M Kodroff	3-12	4	Spin	224	3/21/13 Tar River, NC	Dart
SHAD, HICKORY	R Choi	2-2	4	Fly	252	3/24/13 James River, VA	Shad Fly

2013 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER

SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. Cousins	4-2	2	Spin	275	12/28/12 Elizabeth River, VA	Mirrolure
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	S. Lee	4-12	8	Plug	158	12/4/12 James River, VA	Zoom Cluke
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	S. Lee	5-0	8	Fly	208	12/24/12 James River, VA	Half and Half
BASS, STRIPED	F. Cousins	45-0	4	Gen	750	12/17/12 Chesapeak Bay, VA	Live Eel

2013 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER

PERCH, YELLOW	RJ Brown	1-1	2	Spin	279	1/22/13 Chickahominy River, VA	Grub Tail
PICKERAL, CHAIN	M Cline	4-10	2	Plug	462	2/2/13 Chickahominy River, VA	Blade Bait
SHAD, HICKORY	R Choi	2-2	4	Fly	252	3/24/13 James River, VA	Shad Fly
PERCH, YELLOW	JP Rountrey	1-3	2	Gen	252	1/20/13 Chickahominy River, VA	Live Minnow

2013 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED	F. Cousins	45-0
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	S. Lee	5-0

2013 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER

BASS, LARGEMOUTH	B Shepherd	8-4
CATFISH, BLUE	RJ Brown	43-0
CRAPPIE, ALL	M Cline	1-11
PERCH, YELLOW	JP Rountrey	1-3
PICKERAL, CHAIN	M Cline	4-10
SHAD, AMERICAN	M Kodroff	3-12
SHAD, HICKORY	F Cousins	2-3



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 4/13/13

SPECIES ANGLER WEIGHTLN DIV. PTS DATE LOCATION BAIT

NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER

SEATROUT, SPOTTED	S. Lee	4-12	8	Plug	158	12/4/12	James River, VA	Zoom Cluke
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	S. Lee	5-0	8	Fly	208	12/24/12	James River, VA	Half and Half
BASS, STRIPED	F. Cousins	45-0	4	Gen	750	12/17/12	Chesapeake Bay, VA	Live Eel
MACKEREL, CERO	JP Rountrey	9-0	20	Gen	120	1/15/13	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Live Bait

NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER

PICKERAL, CHAIN	M Cline	4-10	2	Plug	462	2/2/13	Chickahominy River, VA	Blade Bait
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	A Campbell	7-8	12	Fly	234	2/9/13	Private Lake, VA	Half & Half Clouser

HIGHEST POINT NON-LOCAL CATCHES - SALTWATER

MACKEREL, CERO	JP Rountrey	9-0	20	Gen	120	1/15/13	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Live Bait
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2013 C.V. KINNARD AWARD COMPETITION - THRU 4/13/13

<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>FIRSTS</u>	<u>SECONDS</u>	<u>THIRDS</u>	<u>PLACES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>
Bob Shepherd	1	0	1	2	516	258
Bob Brown	1	0	0	1	279	279
Parks Rountrey	0	1	0	1	252	252
Andrew Campbell	1	0	1	1	234	234
Fred Cousins	0	1	0	1	248	248

Robert Thomas

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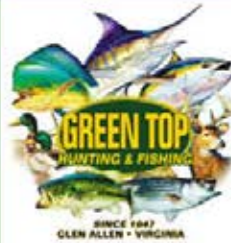
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Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlaufer, 647-4042



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NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, April 23rd at Skilligalee Restaurant

