

February 2002

November Meeting

The February meeting will be held at the *Dept. of Fish & Game Building*, 4010 West Broad Street at **7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 26th**. The entrance and parking are at the rear of the building.

Shad Fishing the James Featured for February Membership Meeting

Ok, boys, dig out those Virginia wildlife calendars and take a look at March 16th. DGIF Fisheries chief and VAC member Gray Martel notes that, "Shad and Herring begin runs up tidal rivers and creeks." Gary said you can't take that to the (river) bank. Will you be ready for these fish? You will have no excuse for not being ready if you come to the February membership meeting.

Capt. Russ Cress,
"The Rebel Fly," will
speak to us about fly-fishing

American shad

for shad in the James River. Russ is an experienced angler and guide. We will get the benefit of his 25 years as an angler and 10 years of that with the fly rod. This will be a great opportunity to get ready for the shad. Russ offers Services for half and full day guided trips, both above the fall line and below. If you want to take a look more in depth at what Russ offers in guide service and instruction or a look at his total experience, take a look at



Remember!! - to bring your scales to the February meeting for annual certification.

New Life Member

In recognition of his Master Angler status, **Stuart Lee** has been granted Life Membership in Virginia Anglers Club. Congratulations Stuart!

40th Annual Club Banquet

Our 40th annual banquet was one of the best ever! Outstanding food! LeRoy Houser produced an entertaining slide show with pictures to credit and discredit our members accomplishments. John Wetlaufer provided a creative club history presentation that is also included in this newsletter. Raffle prizes went to Jim Farrell – Chesterfield Town Center Gift Certificate; Bob Pollard - a Calcutta reel provided by J& W Seafood; Danny Noland got the Ronnie Sides fly box and LeRoy Houser got the Bill Gallasch fly box. Both fly boxes were built by Tony Horsley. Much thanks to Eddy and Julie Johnston for putting together a great event and to all outgoing officers, directors and chairmen for making a great year.

CATCHY COMMENTS by Dennis Cline

For this transplanted Midwesterner, it's still hard to believe that fishing can be so good in the dead of winter. Back home, if you wanted to fish this time of year, you needed an ice auger. Even then, the fish were small and the days were long and cold. Not withstanding the mild winter we're having, Virginians really have it made! And VAC members know how to take advantage of a good situation.

Our striped bass season has been excellent for those who plied the waters of the bay and oceanfront. Five new club records were set, headed by **Reggie White's** 34-0 monster on 4 plug that scored 680 points!!! Reggie also grabbed the 4 general record with a

Virginia Anglers Club

CATCHY COMMENTS (continued)

20-0. **Fred Cousins** upped the 6 plug record with a 26-0 and **Lynn Spurlin** took over the 12 plug record with a 29-0. Last, but not least, a 43-0 monster munched my eel in the eastern shore surf for another new record. With the mild weather, there are still lots of stripers in the bay and along the oceanfront, and some folks are speculating that they may be around the rest of the winter! Some big bluefish were also caught just before Christmas. **Danny and Buddy Noland** and **Bob Brown** each released 300+ point blues on 4 plug.

The usual smorgasbord of wintertime freshwater fishing has also provided some excellent catches. **Bob Shepherd** struck gold in early January with a **potential IGFA record** blue catfish caught on 4 general. Bob's big cat weighed 48-0 on club scales!!! If it passes muster, it will nicely compliment his existing 2 pound record. In addition to the cat, Bob has also entered bowfin and brook trout. Son **Graham Shepherd** entered a 25-0 blue catfish in the youth division.

As nice as Bob's 600 point blue catfish was, it is only second best to **Randy Matthews'** 625 point rainbow trout caught on 2 spin!! Randy's big bow came from Cripple Creek just before Christmas. At 6-4, it is the largest I can remember coming from that creek since the club started fishing there! Some other nice trout were entered by the Noland brothers. Danny landed a 2-10 rainbow on 2 fly that scored 350 points, and Buddy took a 2-9 brookie on 2 fly worth 410 points. **Parks Rountrey** has the best brown trout with his 2-8 on 4 fly.

Perch and crappie are starting to hit jigs now with some collateral damage to carp and other critters in the wrong place at the wrong time. **Robbie Robinson** has the top yellow perch (1-4 on 2 spin) and the top crappie (2-0 on 2 spin). **Elly Robinson** released a 7-4 carp caught on 2 spin. **Scott Johnston** upped the 4 fly record for yellow perch with his 1-2. **Joan Johnston** took a good grip on this year's spouse cup with an outstanding 3-8 chain pickerel caught on 2 spin. Blue cats were also caught by **Fred Murray** (43-8), Robbie Robinson (33-0) and Bob Brown (14-0). Bob's fish set a new record on 4 plug.

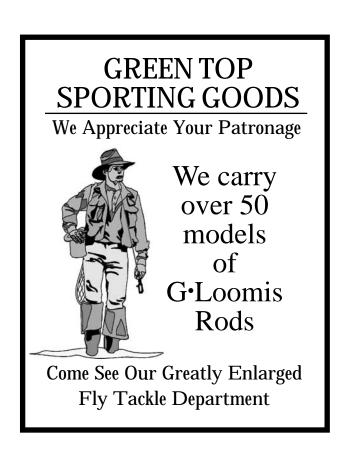
The best thing is that it should get better from here on!! So, get your rods out of the closet, cause this ain't Iowa!!

Angling Rules

Annual membership packages will be available at the February meeting if you didn't get yours at the awards banquet. As usual, they will include all the club info you need for another great angling year. The package includes angling rules, basis weights, club records and info on who caught what last year. When you get your package, take some time to look it over, and be sure to put it in your club notebook so you will always have it handy.

Fred Cousins Earns Expert Awards

Congratulations to **Fred Cousins** for his completion of the requirements for the Plug Division Expert and General Division Expert awards. Fred has several outstanding catches to qualify for each of the awards. His plug entries included a 69-0 black drum on 8, a 26-0 striped bass on 6, a 16-0 flathead catfish on 4 and a 9-0 landlocked striper on 4. His eight fish total was 2674 points!! Fred's general entries included a 16-8 bluefish, a 31-8 barracuda and a 27-12 amberjack, all caught on 8. Also, included were a 41-8 blue catfish on 4, a 21-0 flathead catfish on 4 and a 13-0 gar on 2. Fred's general total was a whopping 2827 points!!



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 2/12/02

SPECIES	ANGLER	WEIGHT	LN	DIV.	DATE	LOCATION	PTS	BAIT
2002 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED BLUEFISH	R.L. WHITE D.N. NOLAND	34-0 12-8	4		01/12/02 12/23/01	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA RUDEE INLET, VA	680 312	BUCKTAIL BUCKTAIL
2002 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
BOWFIN CARP CATFISH, BLUE CRAPPIE PERCH, YELLOW TROUT, BROOK TROUT, BROWN TROUT, RAINBOW	B. SHEPHERD E.S. ROBINSON B. SHEPHERD ROB ROBINSON ROB ROBINSON B.L. NOLAND J.P. ROUNTREY R. MATTHEWS	4-1 7-4 48-0 2-0 1-4 2-9 2-8 6-4	2 2 4 2 2 2 4 2	SPIN GEN SPIN SPIN FLY FLY	01/27/02 01/27/02 01/12/02 01/13/02 01/22/02 12/02/01 12/18/01 12/22/01	YARMOUTH CREEK, VA CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA JAMES RIVER, VA JAMES RIVER, VA CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA MEADOW RUN CREEK, VA SMITH CREEK, VA CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	600 320 333	JIG SILVER BUDDY CUT SHAD TUBE JIG JIG PWR GRUB WOOLYBUGGR NYMPH SPINNER
2002 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BLUEFISH BASS, STRIPED BASS, STRIPED BASS, STRIPED BASS, STRIPED	D.N. NOLAND R.L. WHITE R.L. WHITE D. CLINE D. CLINE	11-8 20-0 34-0 14-0 43-0	6 4 4 6	PLUG SPIN	12/23/01 01/12/02 01/12/02 12/29/01 12/23/01	RUDEE INLET, VA VIRGINIA BEACH, VA VIRGINIA BEACH, VA CBBT HIGHRISE, VA EASTERN SHORE, VA	287 333 680 215 430	CLOUSER BUCKTAIL BUCKTAIL CRIPPL HERING LIVE EEL
2002 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER								
TROUT, BROOK CATFISH, BLUE CATFISH, BLUE TROUT, RAINBOW	B.L. NOLAND B. SHEPHERD R.J. BROWN R. MATTHEWS	2-9 48-0 14-0 6-4	2 4 4 2	PLUG	12/02/01 01/12/02 02/03/02 12/22/01	MEADOW RUN CREEK, VA JAMES RIVER, VA CHICKAHOMINY RIVER,VA CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	600	WOOLYBUGGR CUT SHAD SILVER BUDDY SPINNER
NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED BASS, STRIPED BASS, STRIPED BASS, STRIPED BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE R.L. WHITE F. COUSINS L.J. SPURLIN D. CLINE	20-0 34-0 26-0 29-0 43-0	4 4 6 12	PLUG PLUG PLUG	01/12/02 01/12/02 01/12/02 01/09/02 12/23/01	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA VIRGINIA BEACH, VA VIRGINIA BEACH, VA RUDEE INLET, VA EASTERN SHORE, VA	333 680 400 241 430	BUCKTAIL BUCKTAIL BUCKTAIL BUCKTAIL LIVE EEL
NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER								
CATFISH, BLUE CATFISH, BLUE PERCH, YELLOW TROUT, RAINBOW	B. SHEPHERD R.J. BROWN W.S. JOHNSTON R. MATTHEWS	48-0 14-0 1-2 6-4	4 4 4 2	PLUG FLY	01/12/02 02/03/02 02/06/02 12/22/01	JAMES RIVER, VA CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA DRAGON RUN, VA CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	600 A 311 257 625	CUT SHAD SILVER BUDDY CLOUSER SPINNER
2002 TOP SPOUSE CATCHES - SALTWATER & FRESHWATER (LOCAL)								
PICKEREL, CHAIN	J. JOHNSTON	3-8	2	SPIN	01/29/02	DRAGON RUN, VA	350	SASSY SHAD
2002 TOP YOUTH CATCHES - SALTWATER & FRESHWATER (LOCAL)								
CATFISH, BLUE	G. SHEPHERD	25-0	12	GEN	12/02/01	JAMES RIVER, VA	178	SHAD

Virginia Anglers Club

40th Anniversary Remarks Virginia Anglers Club

I was asked to prepare a few words to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Virginia Anglers Club and present them here tonight. I appreciate the opportunity and I don't mind taking a try at it. I hope you all find the thoughts that came to me to be as enjoyable and interesting to hear as I did setting them down on paper.

A good bit of the work had already been done on these words. I had the honor of being president and presenting some remarks fifteen years ago at the 25th anniversary banquet. Some of my words come from those remarks, some from other sources, which I will mention shortly.

About 44% of our current members have joined after our 25th year. This group of members hears a lot about our history. I hope I help them feel good about our past. I hope I can bring back some memories for those members of longer standing. And finally, I hope the guests who have joined our members here tonight enjoy our trip through the past forty years of the Virginia Anglers Club.

When any organization retains its identity for 40 years, it is rather remarkable. When the same ideals, goals and just plain good times last this long, something must be working right in that group. That's how I believe it is for the Virginia Anglers Club.

In 1984 I was working to arrange speakers for our membership meeting programs. The first president of the club, "Monk" Montague, came forward and said he had some personal data and memories he wanted to share with the club. I signed him up on the spot.

"Monk" kept us spellbound on the night of his presentation with tales of our beginnings. He shared tales of fishing the Outer Banks of North Carolina before bridges and well paved roads cut the journey from Richmond to around four hours, tales of participating in the development of the Off-Shore Sport Fishery in

Virginia and Maryland and tales of angling life in general before Stren. "Monk" came back in a few months and again relived the early days of our angling club and how angling was one then.

But "Monk" did not stop there. During the week of Christmas of 1986 "Monk" sat down and wrote me a three-page letter detailing the early days of our club and who the early members were. It's from the two programs and the letters that "Monk" wrote and from some thoughts and memories of current anglers with whom I spoke that I have taken the content of these 40th anniversary remarks.

If we were a political organization we would have a keynote address at this time. However, since we are an angling organization, we won't have a keynote address. Instead, we will have a tackle box talk. Sure, it's a corny way to cover the history of our club and what it has meant to a large number of anglers over the past 40 years. But maybe I can build the story of our first 40 years around an imaginary tackle box in a way that some of our heritage and history can be visualized.

Now, our tackle box was brand spankin' new and empty on January 5, 1961. On that night, our founding members were invited to the home of Joe Brooks for the Election of Officers. "Monk" Montigue had known Joe since the 1930's. Both men had fished together many times in the Florida Keys. Joe mentioned to "Monk" that he would like to move to Richmond to be nearer to his agent in New York City. Joe and Mary Brooks came to Richmond in 1958 and moved in a house close to "Monk's."

Soon after Joe arrived, "Monk" mentioned to Joe that it would be nice to have an angling club in Richmond. Joe said, "Let's form one." Both men came up with a list of 19 potential founding members. Sixteen men came to Joe's in June, 1960 to discuss the formation of what would become the Virginia Anglers Club.

By January 5, 1961, enough progress was made that the election of officers was appropriate. This being done, the Virginia Anglers Club was established. Everyone kicked in \$5.00 each for dues.

Continued on page 5.

<u>Virginia Anglers Club</u>

Anniversary Remarks (continued)

Those founding members were:

Luis Ballou Charles Bowman
Joe Brooks Bill Bryant
Austin Dodson H.V. Fuani
James Guy George Kenny
Leon Kestelo Robert Massie
Winston Montague
Lewis Pendleton, Jr. John Powell

William Rothert Charles Willis Charles Nelson Charles Morris

Finley Gayle

All but Jim Guy joined. "Monk" was the first president, William Rothert was the first vice president, Lewis Pendleton was the first secretary and Moses Nunnally was the first treasurer.

All of these founding members have pulled lines for the last time. What a wonderful legacy remains.

In March of 1961, membership chairman Moses "Moes" Nunnaly informed the members that dues were going up to \$15 per month and that a membership campaign was going to be launched. Four current members were hooked during that year. They are Floyd Gotwald, Jr. (currently a director of the IFGA), Bill Gallash, Bill Duval, and Tom Geisler.

That night newly elected president "Monk" Montague announced the club was affiliated with the IFGA and the Association of Surf Angling Clubs. In November 1960, the first VAC team had entered the Cape Hatteras Angling Club Invitational Surf Tournament, finishing out 36th out of 39 places. That VAC team set the standard for team performance in the Hatteras AC Surf Tournament for years to come.

In June, 1961, a team from our club went to the first international angling tournament ever held in Bermuda. So much for our short history lesson.

Now, let's get back to our tackle box. Sure, time and use have left it with scratches all over. The box has gotten more than its share of dings and dents over the years.

But, wait a minute. Just think of where that old hingetop has gone. Out on the rocks of the James in Richmond, down the upper James in a jon boat, up the lower James from Dutch Gap to the I-95 bridge, out on the Mattapoini and Pamumkey over to the beaches of Wreck Island, Smith Island, Sandbridge, Nags Head,

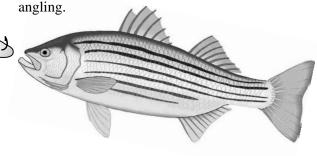
Buxton, Ocracoke, and the Bogue banks. It's been out on Lake Michigan, off key West and on the Banks of the Oak Orchard River. It's been to Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Venezuela, Bermuda, the Grand Caymans and on and on and on.

It has been carried aboard all sizes of boats passing through Rudee, Hatteras and Oregon Inlets to fish the western Atlantic. Among others, the box has ridden on *The Hokie, The Razzmatazz, The Blitz, The Miss Vicki, The Reel Thing, The Bill Chaser, The Bill Quest, The Carolinian, The Wild Card* and oh yes, *The Croaker Choker*. Wherever Anglers of the Virginia Anglers Club have been, that old box has been at their side.

Open the top and look inside. Lots of baits have passed through this box. Cedar plugs, sea witches, Ken Kinnard jigs that still decorate the 70-degree tower, Bill Gallash and Ronnie Sides flies to tempt the most fickle sailfish, tarpon, rainbow and little tunny. Why, there still may be an Old Don Lambert masterbait in there too.

Think of the fine, hand built rods that this old tackle box has shared travelling space with...skyrodder rods won at banquets such as this, rods by Carter and Beauchamp, rods lavished with the patience of many other anglers using angling skills that are not always used by the water's edge. These and other skills were freely shared over the years with anyone in the club who wanted to pick up the rod builder's art.

This old box has always had a special place for angling trips by young anglers. It always went along to some fishable water with a kid and let him or her see and feel and learn the joy of angling. I don't think I could begin to count the many hundreds of hours member dads and their sons and daughters or that member granddads and their grandchildren have spent together as a result of our club's encouragement of youth



I never had any hesitation of including my son Johnny when he was just a squirt kid in any of the club trips unless, of course, I was concerned about being outfished. Tonight the Shephard boys are honored as

Continued on page 6.

<u>Virginia Anglers Club</u>

our salt water and fresh water youth angler award winners. Think back to Take-A-Youth activates on headboats from Virginia Beach, to Jungle cock outings, to the casting contests for kids at our booth at National Hunting and Fishing celebrations and the time club anglers helped with the Special Olympics. Yes, youth activities have taken up a lot of room in our tackle box.

Do these kids stick around and become members when they are 18 years old? Yes they do. In 2001, there were 6-second generation member of the Virginia Anglers club and they already had 56 years of membership between them.

What's this in the center of the old tackle box? Fellowship and friendship have brought anglers into our club and friendships have been formed after joining. Think back to our founding; it was the close friendship of Joe Brooks and "Monk" Montague that first set our club in motion.

Our tackle box has been to the State capitol more than once; carried by members who feel strongly about issues addressing fishing stock declines and environmental harm. It was instrumental in getting House Bill 38 passed that directed a portion of the sales tax spent on fishing tackle, hunting gear and some other select items be directed to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Some of those funds are now in danger of being diverted and now the old tackle box probably has to stand as strong as it ever has stood.

Our articles of incorporation state, "The Virginia Anglers club, A Virginia corporation, is organized to Financially and actively support resource conservation and enhancement and ethical sport angling practices through education and angling competition." Do we stand tall against this yardstick? The answer is "Yes, we do!"

We were a charter member of the Virginia Federation of Anglers. We have always had a wonderful and supportive relationship with the Virginia department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Members have served on the Recreational Fishing Advisory Board of the VMRC and the Director's Advisory council of the DGIF.

Club members formed the founding core of and were among the initial officers in the first cast to form the Coastal Conservation Association of Virginia. Although the first try did not get the adequate professional administrative leadership we thought we had on the hook, members prevailed and today the CCA of Virginia is the respected, the well positioned and the effective voice of the recreational angler in the commonwealth.

Financially, we now direct 20% of our annual income toward enhancement of recreational angling. We financially supported the breaching of impediments to shad migration to the upper James that was led by the lower James River Association. We specifically budget financial support for the James River Keeper, the IFGA, The CCA of Virginia, The Virginia Coastal Preserve of the Nature Conservancy and the Recreational Fishing Alliance. We further budget \$1500 in discretionary funds to be directed, with board approval, to conservation opportunities of which we become aware during the club's fiscal year.

Well, that's how our old tackle box shapes up after forty years of heavy use. No one can measure the fun we have had as a club whose members enjoy fishing in ways that respect conservation of the angling environment. If anyone has any doubt that we have done things right, then somehow, you have missed what we are all about.

And so to you "Monk" and Lewis and George and all those other men who got the club up and running, we all extend our great appreciation for what you all conceived and the strength of the foundation on which it was set. You all founded a great angling club.

I hope I have brought back some great memories for some. I hope I have strengthened the bond of others to the Virginia Anglers Club. And finally, I hope I have shown any guest here why members of the BAC swell up like blow toads when we talk about or fish with friends in the Virginia Anglers Club.

We have a special legacy. We have had a wonderful first forty years. I guarantee many more will come.

John L. Wetlaufer, Secretary Virginia Anglers Club January 26, 2002

For Sale

BOAT: 1995 19' Carolina Skiff, 50hp Honda outboard, and trailor. Approximately 150 hours on boat and engine Garage kept. 55 lb thrust Great White trolling motor. New Garmin 240 depth finder. \$6500. Call Bob Shepherd at 320-8600 (h) or 323-6124 (w).

BOAT: 1999 Mirrocraft 18' aluminum jon boat with 60 hp Johnson, galv. trailer, trolling motor, excellent condition \$7500. Call Eric Houser 276-0380

CAST NET: Fitek 8' cast net with 1/2" mesh and 1.5 pounds of lead per foot. Purchased this fall. \$50. Call Bob Shepherd at 320-8600 (h) or 323-6124 (w).

Tournament Results

by Fred Murray

Catfish Tournament

VAC members kicked off the 2002 angling year with two tournaments. The first was for catfish on January 9 on the James River with seven members fishing. Jim Farrell and I felt sorry for poor Bob Shepherd and Eddie Johnston and gave them enough bait to fish with. Of course, Bob goes out and catches only one Blue Catfish but it was 47lb. 8 oz. on 4 Gen. to win the tournament and add another world record (pending) to his list! Jim Farrell won the Jungle Cup with a 31lber. Scott Davis reported a fish in the upper twenties and I managed a couple decent fish.

Chickahominy Grab Bag

The ever-popular Chickahominy Grab Bag tournament attracted at least ten club members on Feb. 9. Perhaps others fished but were reluctant to admit it because fishing was so tough. Dennis Cline was so bundled up in clothing he was unrecognizable! Even on a tough day there are always some fish caught and Bruce Henderson came through with a great 3 lb.8 oz. chain pickerel on 2# spin and a 10 oz. yellow perch to win top honors for the day with 516 total pts. Glen Carter reported catching a gizzard shad. He claimed it takes great angling skill to hook one in the mouth! Mike Cline reported a 1 lb. 2oz. crappie and a 15 oz. yellow perch. Jim Farrell and I caught a mixed bag of bass, yellow perch, crappie, blue catfish and stripers.

Upcoming Angling Events

Catfish Tournament March 9, 2002

Location: James River

Time: 6am - 4pm

Species: Catfish

Chairman: Leroy Houser (796-2127)

Awards: 1 "Jungle Rules" Cup for the heaviest

catfish on any Tackle.

1 Cup for the highest point catfish.

Report-in: Call chairman within 5 days.

* a complete list of 2002 tournaments included in membership packets

Editor's Newsletter Policy

As most of you know, I have reluctantly agreed to take over the VAC Newsletter. I have attempted to set up a timetable that will resolve past problems with late newsletters. This may be adjusted as we fine tune the process. In order to get out a timely VAC Newsletter, we will use a deadline of midnight Friday following the BOD meeting. Any materials, pictures, stories, address changes etc. will have to be e-mailed to me before the deadline or they will not be included. Anyone that has an add or special item to include, should contact me to make sure we get it right. The newsletter will also be e-mailed in a PDF file format to those who have e-mail addresses on file with the club. We will explore e-mail only for those willing to forgo the snail mail version. This would save the club a lot of money and get the newsletter to you 3 days earlier. Your timely contributions will make the newsletter better for all (and easier for me).



Thanks, Parks











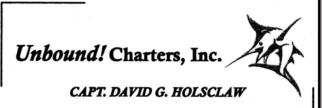


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