

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 7:00 PM

Skilligalee Restaurant (Glenside Ave, just north of Broad Street). [Come around 5:30 PM and enjoy good fellowship over dinner from the menu]

BACKLASH (Commentary from the Board of Directors)

February Membership Meeting Program: "Blue Cats on the James - Light and Heavy"

Four blue star panel of club experts will present a panel discussion on how to catch blue catfish on the James River. Tackle types range from light to heavy. <u>See details elsewhere in this issue of the Angler</u>.

March Membership Meeting:

The <u>March Membership Meeting</u> will feature a <u>program</u> <u>fishing for shad with spin and fly tackle</u> on the James <u>presented</u> <u>by Frank Dennis</u>, an angler well versed in how to successfully hook and land shad from this close-by waterway.

John McNeace Returns to Membership in the VAC

John McNeace was voted into membership in the VAC at the February Board of Director's Meeting. John has previously been a Club Member and asked that his membership be reactivated. Please greet John the next time you see him and welcome him back into the VAC.

Final Deadline for Dues: February 29, 2008

By special arrangement, the Board of Directors of the Virginia Anglers Club has arranged for one more day to be added to the period of grace following the actual due date during which regular club memberships can be renewed. As of February 12, 2008, only about half of the dues for club membership renewals have been received. Have you renewed your membership? Remember, no entry cards received after February 29, 2008 will be honored if the submitter's dues are not current. Dues for the year are \$60 for resident and \$40 for non-resident members. Honorary and Life Members pay no dues.

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RICHMOND

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Annual Scale Certification Available During the February 26th Meeting

It's time to check over your scales and get them in order for their annual certification. Weigh master Larry Allen and his crew of talented assistants will be at the February Membership Meeting ready to certify your scales for the 2008 Angling Year. Bring your scales in a Ziploc® style bag with your name on or in the bag. Give the bag and scales to Larry and your scales will be certified by the end of the meeting. Be sure the outside of the barrel is free of oil, WD-40, etc. Brake cleaner or carburetor cleaner is recommended for oil removal.

Development Work Going Well for the Virginia Anglers Club Website

Member Johnny Wetlaufer is well into the development work on the Virginia Anglers Club website. Look for a special activation announcement via e-mail near the end of February. http://www.virginiaanglersclub.org will be the link when the site is turned on. More details appear in the <u>Website News</u> section elsewhere in this newsletter.

Board Supports VMRC Flounder Proposal No. 3

After considerable discussion of the five options opened for public comment by the VMRC that are intended to help increase the population of Summer Flounder, the VAC Board of Directors voted to support Option No. 3. Option No. 3 proposes a 19 inch minimum size, a 3 fish daily creel limit and a closure of the summer flounder fishery from January 1st thru the end of March. All five proposals considered were reported as equivalent in impact on the biomass of summer flounder.

<mark>Virginia Anglers Club</mark>





BACKLASH continued from Page 1.

Sheffield Recommended for Future Openings on VMRC Finfish Committee

Member Jim Sheffield has generously offered to become a member of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's Finfish Advisory Committee, should any future openings for membership come available. The Board of Director's authorized President Vic Skakandy to, on behalf of the Club; write a letter to the VMRC advising them of Jim's offer. In the past, the VAC has had membership on the Committee and wants to expand its commitment to conservation by having a member

Advisory Committee. Jim, having served as a , would bring an excellent background to this

ls Banquet Raffles a Success

al and unexpected items became available for the 2007 VAC Annual Awards Banquet. Vance topping generously donated a 6 pound Chatilon on behalf of Greentop Sporting Goods and Jim Sheffield donated two pair of tickets of the Fish Expo held at the Market Place. Here's how the luck ran during the raffles:

Bill Gallash Fly Shadow Box.....Jim Sheffield \$100 Stony Point Gift Certificate.....Julie Johnston Capt. Ronnie Sides Fly Shadow Box.....John Wetlaufer, Sr. 6 Pound Chatilon Scale.....Buddy Noland Pair of tickets (each) to the Fishing Expo.....Brenda Stuart & Parks Rountrey

Thanks to all who supported our Banquet this year. Next year's banquet will be held January 24th, 2009, again at the Virginia Crossings Resort.

Stay Alert for Unannounced Specials at the Country Store

Keeper of the Country Store, Eddy Johnston, will be announcing unannounced merchandise specials at membership meetings. Be ready for some really great deals. Eddy will be ordering "T" shirts as the year progresses. Please let him know if you would like him to consider any apparel items, etc. Eddy will gladly pass any ideas and requests on to the BOD for consideration.

For the Leadership Team John Wetlaufer, Sr., President

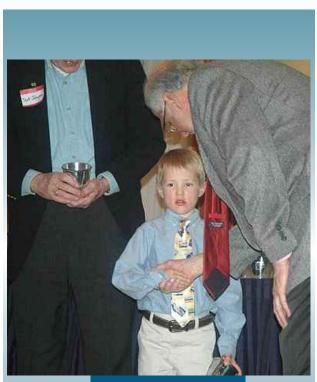


Blue Cats on the James --Light and Heavy Tackle

Imagine a guided blue cat trip on the James River with Leroy Houser, Fred Murray, Gary Martel and Capt. Mike Ostrander as your guides. Is that a piece of angling heaven? The February Virginia Anglers Club Membership Meeting will come close with a panel discussion by these experienced and respected blue cat anglers about methods they use to catch blue cats with everything from light to heavy tackle. Everything from bait, when to fish, terminal tackle, rod selection and presentation techniques will be explained. Be sure to bring something on which to take notes.

Scale Certification at the February 26th Membership Meeting

The February Membership Meeting will feature the Annual Scale Certification. Please make sure your scales are in good working order and that the barrel is free of any oil or other substances that will prevent the certification stickers from adhering. Brake fluid or carburetor cleaner is recommended to clean residue from barrels.



Ethan Farley wins the 2007 Youth Award

<u>Vírgínía Anglers Club</u>



CATCHY COMMENTS

By Buddy Noland

What a tremendous start to a fishing season! On the saltwater front, Jim Sheffield kicks off the year with a 50 lb. 9 oz. Striper on 2# general for a grand total of 1,011 points. A 25 to 1 catch! This is the 4th highest point fish in the history of the club's 10,785 entries and misses 2nd place by only 4 points! Fred Murray still holds 1st at 1200 points. Bruce, Elly, and Jim were fishing the concrete ships area of the bay with eels the previous day without any outstanding catches. Jim was going one more time before the 3 mile territorial limit started January 1st. The NE wind was picking up the next day and no one else wanted to go, so Jim went alone in his flats boat. Jim knew it was a nice fish when he hooked it and hung on for an hour before he started putting pressure on him. A half hour later, Jim grabbed the fish by the gills and lifted it into the boat. After an official weight at the marina and Jim has a "potential" IGFA world record, more than doubling the existing record of 21 lbs. 7 ounces. Great catch! Bruce started off the month with a 28-8 Striper on 4# general worth 475 points before Jim caught a 35 pound Striper on 4 general for 583 points. A lot of quality catches comes off of Bruce's boat every year!

Also in December, **Parks Rountrey** had a notable catch of a 49 pound Blue Catfish on 8# general from the James River for 412 points.

Not to be outdone, the next week, January 6th, **Fred Cousins** is freshwater fishing with guide **Mike Ostrander** and catches

a 64 pound Blue Catfish on 4# general for a "potential" IGFA world record. After a lengthy battle and some tense moments with the fish wrapping the anchor line, Mike nets the fish and Fred has a 682 point entry. By the way, the current Blue Catfish 4 pound line class world record is 47 pounds, 9 ounces, held by fellow VAC member **Bob Shepherd**. Earlier in December, Fred had several other nice catches with several Spotted Seatrout entries with a 5 pound 6 ounce Spotted Seatrout on 2# spin for 358 points being the best. Fred also caught a "twin" to Bruce's Striper with a 28 pound 8 ounce on 4 general for 475 points.

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Fred continued to pound the water fishing a grub in January and topped his Spotted Seatrout with a 6-2 on 2# spin again from the Elizabeth River. Between Jim and Fred, they have a total of thirteen "quality entries".

Fishing the James River with guide Mike Ostrander, **Kathi Sheffield** caught a 39 pound Blue Catfish on 4# general for a total of 415 points. Not bad for Kathi's first entry since becoming a member of the club in December. Jim had several more nice entries including a 11-4 pound Channel Catfish on 2# general for 359 points for a new Club Record and a 25 pound Flathead Catfish on 4# spin for 423 points.

Scott Johnston finally got the fly rod out and landed a 3 pound 4 ounce Channel Catfish on 2# fly on a Clouser for 162 points. Scott leads the Freshwater Fly Division.

Fred and Jim have set the "bar" pretty high and now its time for the rest of the Club to "step up to the plate!" How about it Elly?



Fred Cousins wrestles his 64 lb Blue Catfish caught on 4-GEN, a potential IGFA World Record



<u>Virginia Anglers Club</u>



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 2/14/08

| SPECIES | ANGLER | <u>WEIGHT</u> | <u>LN</u> | <u>DIV</u> . | <u>PTS</u> | DATE | LOCATION | BAIT |
|--|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2008 SPECIES LEAD | ERS - SALTWATER | | | | | | | |
| BASS, STRIPED SEATROUT, SPOTTED | JH Sheffield F Cousins | 50-9 6-2 | 2 2 | Gen Spin | 1011 408 | 12/30/07 1/13/08 | Concrete Ships, Va. Elizabeth River | Eel Grub |
| 2008 SPECIES LEAD | ERS - FRESHWATE | R | | | | | | |
| CATFISH, BLUE CHANNEL CATFISH CATFISH, FLATHEAD GAR, ALL PERCH, YELLOW | F Cousins JH Sheffield JH Sheffield F Cousins F Cousins | 64-0 11-4 25-0 9-8 1-1 | 4 2 4 2 2 | Gen Gen Spin Plug Spin | 682 359 423 174 279 | 1/5/08 1/23/08 1/11/08 12/8/07 12/8/07 | James River, Va. James River, Va. James River, Va. Piankatank River Piankatank River | Cut Gizzard Shad Minnow Jig & Gulp Silver Buddy Grub |
| 2008 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER | | | | | | | | |
| BASS, STRIPED SEATROUT, SPOTTED | JH Sheffield F Cousins | 50-9 6-2 | 2 2 | Gen Spin | 1011 408 | 12/30/07 1/13/08 | Concrete Ships, Va. Elizabeth River | Eel Grub |
| 2008 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER | | | | | | | | |
| CATFISH, BLUE CATFISH, FLATHEAD GAR, ALL CATFISH, CHANNEL | F Cousins JH Sheffield F Cousins WS Johnson | 64-0 25-0 9-8 3-4 | 4 4 2 2 | Gen Spin Plug Fly | 682 423 174 162 | 1/5/08 1/11/08 12/8/07 2/9/08 | James River, Va. James River, Va. Piankatank River James River, Va. | Cut Gizzard Shad Jig & Gulp Silver Buddy Clouser Fly |
| NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER | | | | | | | | |
| BASS, STRIPED | JH Sheffield | 50-9 | 2 | Gen | 1011 | 12/30/07 | Concrete Ships, Va. | Eel |
| NEW CLUB RECORD | DS - FRESHWATER | | | | | | | |
| CATFISH, BLUE CATFISH, CHANNEL CATFISH, FLATHEAD | F Cousins JH Sheffield JH Sheffield | 64-0 11-4 25-0 | 4 2 4 | Gen Gen Spin | 682 359 423 | 1/5/08 1/23/08 1/11/08 | James River, Va. James River, Va. James River, Va. | Cut Gizzard Shad Minnow Jig & Gulp |

2008 HIGHEST POINT NON-LOCAL CATCHES - SALTWATER & FRESHWATER

none submitted yet for 2008

2008 TOP SPOUSE / YOUTH CATCHES - SALTWATER & FRESHWATER (LOCAL)

none submitted yet for 2008

Matt Anderson, Rich McDaniel, and friends had a good day of Rockfish fishing out of Rudee





Upcoming Angling Events

Chickahominy River Yellow Perch Sat thru Sun, February 23-24, 2008 (blow date March 1-2)

Calling all perch-jerkers! Come out and show your fellow anglers how well you can jerk the perch. You are likely to see your fellow club members grouped in a few popular spots on the river. This is traditionally one of our largest participation tournaments. It's always a fun event and fishing is usually fairly dependable if weather conditions co-operate. Contact Chairman to confirm event if weather is questionable.

Location: Chickahominy River

Awards: 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 Tournament Angler of the Year competition.

- Report in: Parks Rountrey within 5 days: 804-349-6001 You can not change the entry category once you have registered it with the Chairman. You do not need to fill out cards.
- Chairman: Parks Rountrey
- NOTES: A fish can be entered by weight or points (angler must declare which category) but not both ways for 1 fish.

One angler can win both weight and points divisions by entering 2 different fish.

One angler can win 1st, 2nd and 3rd in both weight and points divisions by entering multiple fish.

Tournament First Place Awards for weight and points = Anglers Choice: Traditional cup, \$40 Greentop gift certificate or a VAC Banquet ticket for the January 2009 Banquet.

James River Blue Catfish

Sat thru Sun, March 22-23, 2008 (blow date March 29-30)

Catfishing on our own James River is world class. If you have been hearing about this action and want to give it a try, this spring will be a great time to start! The February meeting will feature expert information on how and where to tangle with these monsters in our local freshwater rivers. Plan to attend the meeting and to participate in the tourney. Two ways to win – just like this month's perch tournament!

More details will be in the March Newsletter.

James River Hickory Shad Sat thru Sun, April 12-13, 2008 (blow date April 19-20)

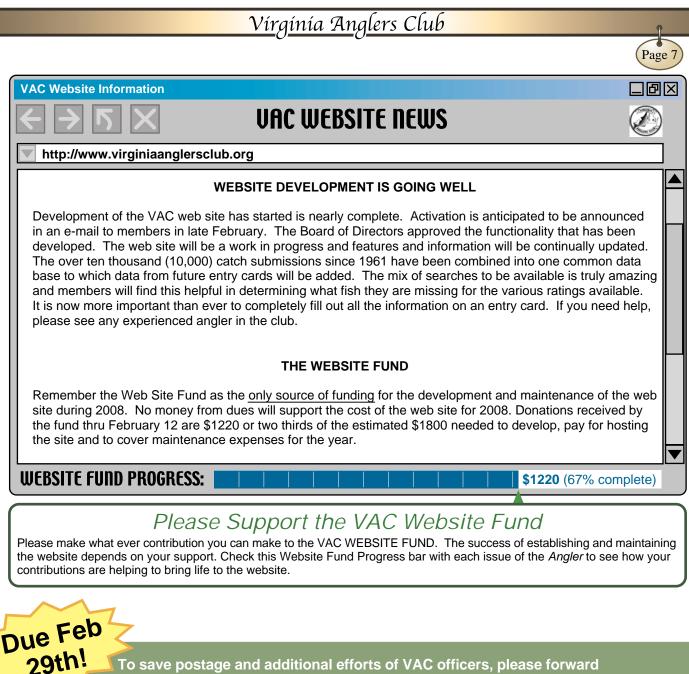
More details will be in future Angler Newsletters.

Check back next month for more Upcoming Angling Events



The Lunker Club (heaviest fish)

| | VAC 2008 Angling Year | ing Year | Club Historical Record | Record | | VAC 2008 Angling Year | ıgling Year | Club Historical Record | Record |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|-------------|--|---------------|
| Species | Angler | <u>Weight</u> | Angler | <u>Weight</u> | Species | Angler | Weight | Angler | <u>Weight</u> |
| BASS. LARGEMOUTH | | | Dr. Mickev Kodroff | 10-12 | GROUPER, GAG | | | Elly Robinson | 9-12 |
| BASS, ROCK & ROANOKE | | | Eric McDuffie | 1-7 | GROUPER, HISTORIC | | | Bill DuVal | 63-8 |
| BASS, SMALLMOUTH | | | Bob Shepherd | 5-8 | GROUPER, OTHER | | | Bruce Henderson | 21-8 |
| BASS, STRIPED HY | | | Bill Ross | 6-10 | JACK, CRAVELLE | | | Ronnie Sides | 34-0 |
| BASS, STRIPED LL | | | Gary Anderson | 23-6 | JACK, ALMACO | | | W.B. Duval | 53-8 |
| BASS, WHITE | | | John Wycoff | 2-12 | LADYFISH | | | Tom Barnett | 3-12 |
| BOWFIN | | | W.H. McCarthy | 12-11 | MACKEREL, CREO | | | Bill DuVal | 8-0 |
| CARP | | | Fred Cousins | 25-8 | MACKEREL, KING | | | Bill DuVal | 62-0 |
| CATFISH, BLUE | Fred Cousins | 64-0 | Steve Luterek | 56-0 | MACKEREL, SPANISH | | | Bill DuVal | 4-0 |
| CATFISH, CHANNEL | JH Sheffield | 11-4 | Fred Murray | 12-4 | MACKEREL, SPANISH (HIST.)* | | | C.O. Mather | 18-3* |
| CATFISH, FLATHEAD | JH Sheffield | 25-0 | Lynn Spurlin | 27-8 | MARLIN, BLACK | | | F.D. Gottwald | 1075-0 |
| CATFISH, HISTORIC | | | D.N. Jones | 22-12 | MARLIN, BLUE ATL & PAC | | | Steve Hutchins | 691-5 |
| CRAPPIE, ALL | | | Gary Donahue | 2-14 | MARLIN, STRIPED | | | C.O. Mather | 266-0 |
| GAR, ALL | F Cousins | 4-8 | Dick Goode | 17-8 | MARLIN, WHITE | | | C.O. Mather | 113-7 |
| MUSKELLUNGE, ALL | | | Bob Shepherd | 28-7 | PERMIT | | | Bill DuVal | 42-0 |
| PERCH, WHITE | | | Eric McDuffie | 1-7 | POMPANO, AFRICAN | | | Elly Robinson | 33-0 |
| PERCH, YELLOW | F Cousins | 1-1 | Robbie Robinson | 1-13 | POMPANO, COMMON | | | Parks Rountrey | 1-8 |
| PICKEREL, CHAIN | | | Reggie White | 7-10 | ROOSTERFISH | | | W.C. Askew | 50-8 |
| PIKE, NORTHERN | | | L. Kesteloo | 17-8 | RUNNER, RAINBOW | | | Pat Quisenberry | 20-5 |
| SALMON, ATLANTIC | | | H.A. Claiborne | 19-0 | SAILFISH, ATLANTIC | | | C.O. Mather | 86-3 |
| SALMON, CHINOOK | | | Scott Johnston | 34-0 | SAILFISH, PACIFIC | | | J.F. McNeace | 140-0 |
| SALMON, COHO | | | P.W. Hughes | 16-8 | SEATROUT, SPOTTED | Fred Cousins | 6-2 | Virgil Hughes | 11-14 |
| SHAD, AMERICAN | | | P. Dasher | 7-4 | SHARK, MAKO | | | C.O. Mather | 486-0 |
| SHAD, HICKORY | | | Dr. Mickey Kodroff | 3-4 | SHARK, OTHER | | | L. Kesteloo | 500-0 |
| SUNFISH, ALL | | | Roy Jones | 2-4 | SHEEPSHEAD | | | Dr. Jim Wright | 14-0 |
| TROUT, BROOK | | | Joe Brooks | 8-0 | SNAPPER, CUBERA | | | Bill DuVal | 48-8 |
| TROUT, BROWN | | | Bill Barnett | 28-0 | SNAPPER, MUTTON | | | Bill DuVal | 17-8 |
| TROUT, CUTTHROAT | | | C.O. Mather | 3-12 | SNAPPER, OTHER | | | Bill DuVal | 32-0 |
| TROUT, LAKE | | | Mark Sosin | 30-0 | SNAPPER, RED | | | Bill Duval | 5-0 |
| TROUT, RAINBOW | | | Fred Cousins | 9-4 | SNOOK | | | Dick Stephenson | 18-0 |
| TROUT, STEELHEAD | | | Stamford Niou | 15-0 | SPADEFISH | | | Elly Robinson | 11-15 |
| WALLEYE | | | Steve Luterek | 9-6 | SPOT | | | Dr. Jim Wright | 1-2 |
| WARMOUTH | | | Lynn Spurlin | 0-14 | SWORDFISH | | | Stuart Lee | 363-0 |
| | | | | | TARPON | | | E. Dunham | 120-0 |
| AMBERJACK, GREATER | | | Bill Rewalt | 91-2 | | | | Dr. JIIII WIIGIII Dr. 100 Henderson | 0-01 |
| BAKKACUDA, GKEAI | | | Keggie wnite | 48-0 | TDIACEDEISU | | | | |
| BASS, BLACK SEA | | | Jim Sheffield | /-4 | | | | | |
| BASS, STRIPED | Jim Sheffield | 6-09 | C.V. Kinnard | 48-0 | | | | | 213-0 |
| BLUEFISH | | | Paul Richie | 22-0 | TUNA, BLACKFIN | | | Konnie Hogge | 38-0 |
| BONEFISH | | | F.W. Lawrence | 13-14 | I UNA, BLUEFIN | | | K.L. GIIIAM | 1080-0 |
| COBIA | | | Bill DuVal | 77-0 | TUNA, SKIPJACK | | | Bill DuVal | 18-0 |
| CROAKER | | | Dr. Jim Wright | 4-0 | TUNA, YELLOWFIN | | | Bill Rewalt | 231-0 |
| DOLPHIN | | | A.M. McCarthy | 0-09 | TUNNY, LITTLE | | | Buddy Noland | 19-8 |
| DRUM, BLACK | | | Robbie Robinson | 82-8 | WAHOO | | | Bill DuVal | 98-0 |
| DRUM, RED | | | Dennis Cline | 62-0 | WEAKFISH | | | Bill Gallasch | 15-6 |
| FLOUNDER, SUMMER | | | Pat Dudley | 10-5 | * Includes Cero and Narrow Barred Mackerels | ed Mackereis | | | |



a copy of the below form along with your dues payment to:

Virginia Anglers Club, P.O. Box 31494, Richmond, VA 23294-1494

2008 Dues Payment Form

| Name: | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Address: | | | |
| Phone: | | _ Email: _ | |
| Membership: | VA Resident | (\$60 Dues) | Non-VA Resident (\$40 Dues) |
| | | | |
| | | Amount enc | losed\$ |



Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlaufer, 647-4042

Design and Layout: Michael Havranek

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 26th at Skilligalee Restaurant

BICHWOND AV 53567-1767 60' BOX 31767

