

Spring is here!!!



March 2013

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Next Membership Meeting: March 26, 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.*

MARCH PROGRAM - CAPT. CHRIS NEWSOME

“The Art of Shallow Water Chumming Using Live Bait as Fish Finders”

Our speaker for the March Membership Meeting is going to be Capt. Chris Newsome, operator of Bay Fishing LLC. Chris is a degreed biologist, a Virginia native and guides fly and light tackle and eco-tour / sightseeing trips on the Chesapeake Bay. As the title of Chris' talk suggests, he present an illustrated program on chumming techniques

for shallow water angling. Capt. Chris will allow charters to bring their own tackle with them on his charters. For more information, please check out his website, www.bayflyfishing.com.

APRIL PROGRAM PREVIEW

“The Rise and Fall of Blue Catfish in Virginia’s Tidal Rivers”

Bob Greenlee, a fisheries biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will be our speaker. Bob also is the Chair of the Catfish Management Technical Committee of the American Fisheries Society – Southern Division.

JOE LOVASZ VOTED INTO MEMBERSHIP

Joe Lovasz was voted into Membership in the Virginia Anglers Club at the February Board of Directors Meeting. Joe discovered the Virginia Anglers Club via our website and came as a guest to the February Meeting. He discovered he already knows Member Eric Webster. A brief bio about Joe appears on page 5 of this issue.



2012 YEAR END VAC FINANCIALS IN GOOD SHAPE

For the VAC Accounting Year 2012, actual expenses came in under actual income. Both categories were below budget. The BOD approved a budget for 2013 that will remain at about the \$13,000 level.

13th VA Flyfishing Festival

Waynesboro, April 20-21
&

Celebrate Trout Heritage Day with the Kids

Madison, April 6

Check page 9 for more info

DUES FOR 2013 ARE DUE NOW !

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

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 database. Once the dues in arrears are paid, credit for future entries will be resumed.

SCALE CERTIFICATION COMING UP AT MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual certification of your fishing scales, required for use when submitting an entry into the VAC records and awards system, will continue at the March Membership Meeting.

Remember the following scale preparation pointers:

- PLEASE REMOVE YOUR OLD CERTIFICATION STICKERS
- 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.



KELLY STAFFORD MEMORIAL HICKORY SHAD AND WHITE PERCH TOURNEY: APR 6-7

Are the shad in the James yet? That is likely the most asked question around this time of year. The Annual Kelly Stafford Memorial Hickory Shad and White Perch Tournament gives you an excellent opportunity to see just how plentiful these predictable returners are to the waters just below the City of Richmond. This is likely the tournament in which the most members of the Virginia Anglers Club participate. When getting your crew together to fish, don't forget the opportunity to bring along a new member and introduce him/her to this great annual fishing opportunity right in our back yard. For a complete write-up about the Kelly Stafford Memorial, please turn to page 10 of this issue of The Angler and get the rest of the story from Angling Activities Chairman Lee Rothgeb.

Note: A reminder about the moratorium on possession of "River Herring" and some illustrations of such fish follows the tournament details.

VAC FEATURED IN DGIF MARCH 13TH OUTDOOR REPORT

The Virginia Angler's Club is featured in "The Fishing Spot" section written by Chris Dunnivant, VDGIF Angling Education Coordinator. Chris has written some very supportive commentary about the VAC and includes a link to our website as well as the VAC logo. The article goes on to mention a number of the other angling clubs in the area. The entire article can be found on page 6 of this issue of The Angler. Thanks to Chris and Outdoor Report Editor David Coffman for including the VAC in the current issue of the Outdoor Report.

THE FLOUNDER BOWL IS BACK – JUNE 29

Dr. Ken Neill, III, Virginia IGFA Representative and President, Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association, Inc. sends word that the Flounder Bowl is back this June 29th. The Flounder Bowl is sponsored by the PSWFA. This is a team tournament with an entry fee of \$125 per boat with up to 4 anglers (\$100 early entry). Additional anglers will cost \$25 each. Winners will be determined by the combined weight of the team's top three fish. Cash prizes will be paid through six places. For complete Bowl details, check out the Flounder Bowl on Facebook or visit www.pswsfa.com.

A CLEVER ANSWER TO ROD STORAGE THAT TAKES LITTLE ROOM.

Are you looking for a more convenient place to store that giant collection of fishing rods that are always too high or too far away to get to confidently when you are loading the boat or the SUV for a day of fishing? There is a flexible rod holder that mounts on the back of an overhead garage door on the market that might just be the solution for convenient rod storage for which you are looking. Check out page 7 of this issue of The Angler.

For The Leadership Team
John Wetlaufer, Sr., Secretary



“Catchy Comments”

By Buddy Noland

It appears Spring-type weather is trying to chase away our winter blues! The recent warm weather has provided some of our anglers the opportunity to fish the Roanoke River. This is a good indication that the Shad are preparing for their run up the James River.

While fly fishing on a private lake in Powhatan Andrew Campbell landed a huge 7 pound, 8 ounce, Largemouth Bass on 12# tippet. Andrew was using a half & half Clouser to fool the 234 point fish. Besides taking all the category leads, the Largemouth is also the 12# fly Club Record. Andy has also been targeting and releasing some nice 20 pound range Stripers on 12# fly in the York River. These catches cannot be counted as club entries since the Stripers are not in season during their spawning run up the rivers.

The months of January and February are always a good time of the year for fishing the Chickahominy River. Many of the club’s early entries have been landed from here. Lee Rothberg and Fred Cousins have been fishing the Chick and caught several different species using Cicada Blade jigs. Lee entered a 7 ounce Yellow Perch on 4# spin and a 15 ounce Crappie on spin. The Crappie is worth 117 points.

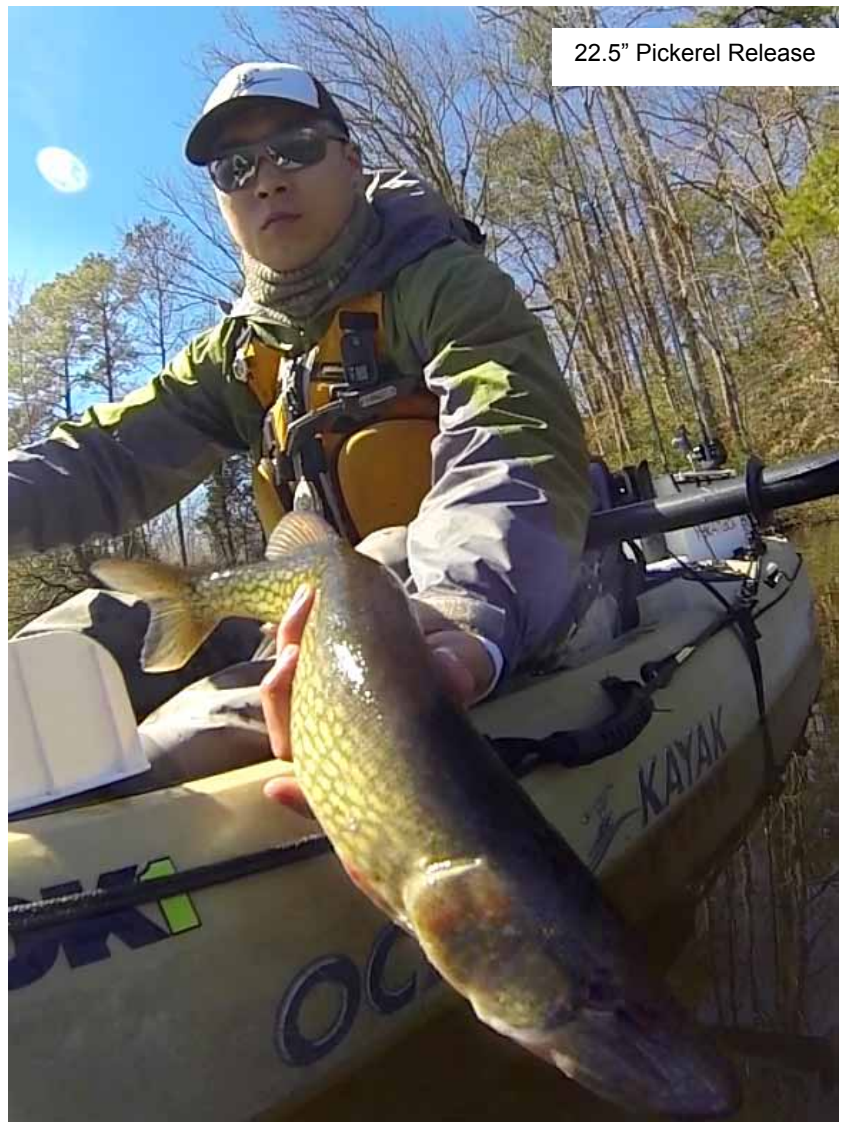
Other anglers fishing the Chickahominy River were Bob Schepker and Vic Skakandy. Bob had two catches which landed him several 100 point entries. Bob had an 11 ounce Yellow Perch on 4# spin on a Silver Buddy for 149 points and then, using a live minnow he caught a 2 pound, 4 ounce, Largemouth worth 112 points.

And the good news is...the first Hickory Shad entry has been received! Bob Brown was using 2# spinning tackle to land a 1 pound, 7 ounce, Shad from the Roanoke River for 163 points. Bob’s fish will of course lead both the “species” and “heaviest” categories.

The parting news from the last Board Meeting was that “the Shad will be at the Rt. 95 Bridge by the 3rd week of March”!

Keeping it reel,

Buddy





MEET VAC'S MOST RESCNET MEMBER - JOE LOVASZ

Joe grew up in Louisiana, fishing the productive waters of the Gulf of Mexico. He has resided in Richmond for the past 24 years. Joe's main interest is saltwater angling, primarily in the Virginia Beach Area. He does report a nice balance of both saltwater and freshwater species in his angling history. Joe is one of the ubiquitous Hokies and works at Capital One. Joe is married and has sons aged 7 and 10. Joe's most frequent fishing partners are his dad and brother-in-law. We encourage Joe to bring them along to a Membership Meeting.



Joe with an excellent Speckled Trout



**(News from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
March 13th Outdoor Report)**

VAC FEATURED IN MARCH 13TH OUTDOOR REPORT

**The Fishing Spot – Join a Fishing Club
by Chris Dunnivant, VDGIF Angling Education Coordinator**

I recently attended a Virginia Angler's Club meeting as a guest. I was greeted warmly by many of the members and quickly found myself engaged in conversation about a variety of fishing topics. The purpose of my visit was multi-purpose, but I quickly became intrigued by what I was seeing and knew I needed to share the benefits of a fishing club membership.

The Virginia Anglers Club was founded in 1961 in Richmond, Virginia by a group of pioneering big game anglers. The club offers tournament competition through multiple venues in both fresh and saltwater. Club membership is not just about tournaments, but an opportunity for anglers to learn and share knowledge about fishing. The club has monthly meetings featuring guest speakers, time to share what's biting and talk with other anglers about fishing techniques. To learn more about the club, visit the website.

The VAC is not the only fishing club around. In fact, I joined a BASS Federation Club at the age of 16. My club membership provided opportunities to fish in bass tournaments at the local level with chances to compete at regional and national levels. I learned so much during my time in the club, it was a great venue to develop and hone my fishing skills as well as make new friends. Tournament competition is what I thrived on which led to a victory in the Federation's state championship, the Mr. Bass Tournament. At 19 years of age I became the youngest angler in the Virginia BASS Federation to win the championship and hold the title of Mr. Bass; certainly a highlight of my fishing career!

Now there are two bass club organizations to consider: The Bass Federation and The Federation Nation. Local, regional and national tournament competition is a major component with plenty of opportunities for conservation, community service and youth outreach. Each of these organizations has high school and college level fishing trails for the youth to get involved. Check out their websites and consider joining a local club.

If fly fishing is your preference there are several organizations in that category. Trout Unlimited is a national organization with a local chapter near you. Chapters are involved in conservation efforts, fly fishing and education. The Fly Fishers of Virginia focus on a wide range of fly fishing in Virginia and have many events and opportunities to learn and get involved. FFV is affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers.

There are also independent clubs in your area such as the Bass-Jon's in Hampton Roads or the Augusta County Bass Jon's. Most clubs have their own website and a little internet research can pay dividends. Joining a club can provide you with opportunities to learn and improve your fishing skills, serve in the community and develop friendships that can last a lifetime.





BACK OF OVERHEAD GARAGE ROD STORAGE

The Loop-Hold is a clever, space-saving solution for keeping your fishing rods stored. The innovative rack system fastens to the interior hinges of overhead garage doors without the use of tools. As the door opens and closes, the rods remain in place. It can hold up to 6 rods. Alternatively the system can be used as a wall- or ceiling-mounted system that can be installed on nails, hooks or screws, holding up to 10 rods. The durable, water-resistant polypropylene construction holds up for years of service, no matter how you deploy it. More details and pricing at:

<http://www.kotulas.com/deals/loophold-flexible-fishing-rod-rack>



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**



VMRC RIVER HERRING MORATORIUM REMINDER

Remember the VMRC has established a moratorium on the possession of “River Herring”. The formal description of “River Herring” is any fish of the species *Alosa aestivalis* (Blue Back Herring) or *Alosa pseudoharengus* (Alewife) (see pictures below). Any person possessing “River Shad” shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and a second or subsequent by the same person, within 12 months of a prior violation, is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. If you want to read the entire 173 page text of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring, here is the link:
http://www.jcaa.org/news/amendment2_RiverHerring.pdf

SOME COMMON SHAD AND HERRING



Alewife

Alewife Aliases

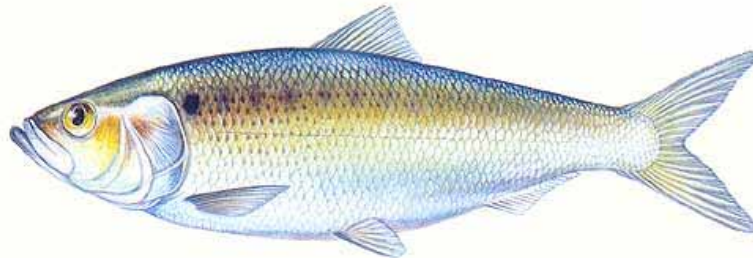
(Also: Anadromous alewives; Bigeye herring; Branch herring; Clipped roefish; Corned alewives; Freshwater herring; Gray herring; Grayback; Greyback; Kyack; River herring; Sawbelly; White herring; kyack)



Blueback Herring



Gizzard Shad



Hickory Shad



American Shad



13TH VIRGINIA FLY FISHING FESTIVAL CELEBRATED **WAYNESBORO APRIL 20-21**

Fly anglers from across the country will celebrate the 13th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing Festival on April 20-21, 2013. Held on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro, the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival is the largest outdoor fly fishing event in the country that offers on-stream instruction. Only here can you learn all the latest techniques from the experts and then walk right over to the river and try them for yourself. The festival features small-group casting classes with fly fishing and fly tying experts from across the Mid-Atlantic. Festival volunteers will help children catch native brook trout from on-site Children's Catch and Release Trout Pool and then release them into the South River (with the help of their parents). Members of the Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders Club, the largest FFF Club in Virginia, will also provide paid fly casting classes and offer basic fly tying tips to beginners.

A variety of classes will be offered which includes fly casting and fly tying for beginners. There will be raffles, live music and fun for the entire family. The Virginia Fly Fishing Festival is a one-of-a-kind event: Monies received from sponsors, vendors, ticket sales, and raffles are used to cover the cost of next year's festival with the remainder going to the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival Foundation, which promotes conservation and stream restoration projects. Daily admission to the festival is \$20 per person, and the festival runs from 9 AM-5 PM on Saturday and Sunday. The cost of admission includes free wine tastings for those 21 and older.

The Virginia Fly Fishing Festival will kick off its event with a showing of "Where the Yellowstone Flows" in coordination with Trout Headwaters Inc, and the City of Harrisonburg on Friday April 19th at Courts Theater.

Admission for the movie is \$10 and all proceeds raised will be donated to the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival Foundation. For more information about the festival, visit www.vaflyfishingfestival.org.

CELEBRATE TROUT HERITAGE DAY **WITH THE KIDS** **MADISON APRIL 6**

The Rapidan Chapter of Trout Unlimited and VDGIF partner with Graves Mountain Lodge the first Saturday in April for Trout Heritage Day and Kid's Fishing Day. Several hundred trout are stocked along a private section of the Rose River, solely for children under the age of 12 to experience the joy of fishing. This popular event is just Saturday again this year. Come join us on April 6 to support Kid's Day and Trout Heritage Day at Graves Mountain Lodge in Madison County adjacent to Shenandoah National Park. Check the VDGIF website for details.



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TOURNAMENT NEWS



BY LEE ROTHGEB

KELLY STAFFORD MEMORIAL HICKORY SHAD AND WHITE PERCH TOURNEY: APR 6-7

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THE LATEST VAC TOURNAMENT IS UPON US. PRIME FISHING IS FROM ROCKETTS TO UP ABOVE THE 14TH STREET BRIDGE. THE ONLY POTENTIAL PROBLEM IS HIGH MUDDY FLOODWATERS THAT CAN SOMETIMES MAKE THE JAMES UN-FISHABLE FOR A FEW DAYS IN THE SPRING. SMALL SPOONS, SHAD DARTS AND CRAPPIE JIGS CAN BE EFFECTIVE ON ULTRA-LIGHT SPINNING AND PLUG GEAR. FLY FISHING IS OFTEN MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN THE SPINNING OUTFITS. VARIOUS FLIES WORK WELL, MOSTLY WITH SINKING LINES, AND JUST ENOUGH ROD TO THROW THE SINKING LINE. PERCH ARE OFTEN CAUGHT WHILE TARGETING SHAD ON THE SAME LURES. IN DEEPER WATER SILVER BUDDIES OR ANY BLADE BAITS ARE VERY EFFECTIVE ON WHITE PERCH. CONTACT CHAIRMAN TO CONFIRM EVENT DATES IF WEATHER OR RIVER CONDITIONS ARE QUESTIONABLE.

YOU CAN REGISTER YOUR CATCHES BY CALLING OR SENDING E-MAIL ENTRIES TO ANGLING ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LEE ROTHGEB AT 804-314-2990 (GARBAKK1021@AOL.COM).

THIS IS ESSENTIALLY 2 TOURNAMENTS ON THE SAME WEEKEND. 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 ONLY ENTER TWO FISH OF EACH SPECIES (4 TOTAL).

CALL IN OR EMAIL ENTRIES WITHIN 24 HOURS FROM THE END OF TOURNAMENT TO ANGLING ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LEE ROTHGEB. YOU CANNOT CHANGE THE ENTRY CATEGORY 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 SPECIES BY WEIGHT AND POINTS = ANGLERS CHOICE: TRADITIONAL PEWTER CUP, \$40 GREEN TOP GIFT CERTIFICATE OR A VAC BANQUET TICKET.

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 3/12/13

SPECIES	ANGLER	WEIGHT	LN	DIV.	PTS	DATE	LOCATION	BAIT
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2013 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED	F. Cousins	45-0	4	Gen	750	12/17/12	Chesapeake 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	A Campbell	7-8	12	Fly	234	2/9/13	Private Lake, VA	Half & Half Clouser
CATFISH, BLUE	A. Conway	10-0	4	Spin	133	12/14/12	Chickahominy Lake, VA	Bass Pro Blade 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, HICKORY	RJ Brown	1-7	2	Spin	163	3/10/13	Roanoke River, NC	Jig

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	Chesapeake 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	
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	A Campbell	7-8	12	Fly	234	2/9/13	Private Lake, VA	Half & Half Clouser
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	A Campbell	7-8
CATFISH, BLUE	A. Conway	10-0
CRAPPIE, ALL	M Cline	1-11
PERCH, YELLOW	JP Rountrey	1-3
PICKERAL, CHAIN	M Cline	4-10
SHAD, HICKORY	RJ Brown	1-7

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 3/11/13

ANGLER	FIRSTS	SECONDS	THIRDS	PLACES	POINTS	AVERAGE
Bob Brown	1	0	0	1	279	279
Parks Rountrey	0	1	0	1	252	252
Andrew Campbell	1	0	1	1	234	234

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

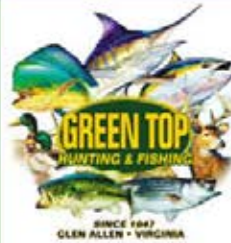
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Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlaufer, 647-4042



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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, March 26th at Skilligalee Restaurant**



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RICHMOND VA 23294-1494