



February 2003

February Meeting

The February meeting will be held at the *Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries Building*, 4010 West Broad Street at **7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 25th**. The entrance and parking are at the rear of the building.

February Speaker: Claude Bain

Our 2003 Program series begins with Claude Bain, the Director of the Virginia Salt Water Fishing Tournament. Claude is a long time friend and honorary member of the Club. He will give an update on the tournament and summarize the previous angling year. A skilled angler, Claude brings to the table a wealth of information on the Chesapeake Bay and Mid-Atlantic waters. Write your questions down and bring them to the meeting. Claude will join those who come to Byrum's for dinner before the meeting. We usually gather between 5:15 and 5:30 PM. Byrum's is located on West Broad Street about a half block from the Channel 6 Tower.

Backlash (Commentary from the President)

Scale Certification 2003

Scale Certification Chairman Larry Allen will be very busy at the February Membership meeting working to certify members' weigh scales for the regular VAC entry program. He will also, upon request and as time permits, certify scales for weighing entries for the IGFA Annual Tournament or the IGFA World Record Program. Thanks to the good work of Buddy Noland, we now can have our scales recognized for these entries if a copy of the proper certificate accompanies the IGFA entry form. If you are active in the IGFA entry programs or have a serious intent to participate, fine. However, please do not request IGFA certification to have it "just in case". Larry's time checks show it takes at least 10 minutes to an IGFA certification for each individual scale because multiple accuracy checks must be made across the entire range of the scale to verify linearity.

We are going to make the certification work as stress free for Larry as we can. Plastic "Zip-Lock" bags will be available in the entry hall into which your group of scales for certification needs to be put before the meeting. Magic Markers will also be available with which to mark

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CATCHY COMMENTS

by Dennis Cline



It's still cold, but not cold enough to keep some of our guys down! The tail end of the winter saltwater entries are in, and several more excellent catches have been made, including several club records.

Reggie White has done it again! The hog of the year just may be his 38-3 striper on 4-plug that scored 763 points!! Obviously, that's a club record! Also, Reggie set a 6-tippet record with a 24-2 striper that scored 482 points. **Bruce Henderson's** 29-0 striper set a new 6-plug record. On the same trip, Bruce also set a 6-plug record with a nice 4-9 black sea bass. Other striper entries came from **Parks Rountrey** and **Rob Brown**. **Fred Cousins** has the year's first speckled trout, a nice 4-0 on 2-spin.

Away from home, **Bill Rewalt** recorded 7 striped marlin releases over two days fishing out of San Cristobal, Galapagos Islands. Bill's fish were estimated at 140 to 180 pounds and were all caught using 16-pound test on a flat line. Sounds a lot like paradise to me!

Scott Johnston, who I thought had memorized every world record in the IGFA book, had shots at several newly included records during a stay at Jupiter, Florida. Scott released 1-12 ladyfish on both 6 and 8 tippet for new club records. Trouble is, the 8-tippet fish might have been a line-class record, several other current records were barely over a pound and the 2 and 4 tippet

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CATCHY COMMENTS

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records were vacant! Next time, I'll bet he takes the book with him!

Eddy Johnston became the first member to set a club record in our new 2-plug class, with a 3-1 largemouth. **Bob Brown** got in on the 2-plug action also. His 6-8 bowfin and 10-8 carp are both new records. **Robinson & Son** caught smaller, but un-noteworthy bowfin and carp. **Mike Cline** has the season's first crappie and yellow perch. His crappie was a 1-4 on 2-spin and the perch was a 1-1 on 2-spin.

The real scoop in freshwater is the continued success of **Fred Murray** and **Jim Farrell** with catfish. Jim released a blue cat that weighed 32-0 on 4-plug, scoring 426 points! He also had a 21-0 club record flathead on 4-plug that scored 525 points! Fred has now captured the 6-spin and 4-fly flathead records with 19-8 and 21-0 fish!! So, who needs stinky bait, anyway?!!



Backlash

Continued from page 1.

your name on the bag and any special certification instructions. Leave the bagged scales on the table in the hall. Larry and his lovely assistant will be able to push on with the work of certification with minimum distraction. Bagged, certified scales will be ready for you at the break or the end of the meeting.

Requests for regular VAC entry program certifications will be given precedence for attention. Then IGFA certification requests will be attended to as time and demand for regular certifications permit. If you do the math, Larry would only be able to do 10 or so IGFA certifications per meeting. The BOD agreed with Larry and I that during the normal certification request rush at the February and March membership meetings, it was better to give precedence to the regular VAC certifications so the most certifications could be completed. If you have a special certification need, please talk with Larry. He might be agreeable to work in special certification requests at times other than the meeting times.



41st Annual Club Banquet

Our 41st annual Banquet was another success in celebration of the 2002 angling year! Once again, Leroy Houser produced a slide show that was entertaining and reminiscent of last years fishing missions. Food was great and we all enjoyed the fellowship. Raffle prizes went to lucky ticket holders Glen Sides – Chesterfield Towne Center Gift Certificate; Eddy Johnston – Greentop and Flyfish The World Gift Certificates; Bruce Henderson won the Ronnie Sides and Bill Galasch fly boxes. Many thanks to Eddy and Julie Johnston for putting this event together. Thanks also to Dennis Cline for another superb awards presentation and highlights of the angling year. Special thanks to all outgoing officers, directors and chairmen for a great year. Mark your Calenders for January 24th, 2004 !

Virginia Anglers Club

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 2/12/03

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LN</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>BAIT</u>
<u>2003 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER</u>								
BASS, BLACK SEA	B. HENDERSON	4-9	6	PLUG	01/13/03	102 TOWER, NC	243	STINGSILVER
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	38-3	4	PLUG	01/11/03	VA. BEACH, VA	763	BUCKTAIL
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F. COUSINS	4-0	2	SPIN	01/26/03	ELIZABETH RIVER, VA	266	FIN-S
<u>2003 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER</u>								
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	E.S. JOHNSTON	3-1	2	PLUG	02/05/03	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	204	SILVER BUDDY
BOWFIN	R.J. BROWN	6-8	2	PLUG	02/08/03	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	325	SILVER BUDDY
CARP	J. FARRELL	16-4	4	PLUG	12/15/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	464	BLADE BAIT
CATFISH, BLUE	B. SHEPHERD	50-0	6	GEN	12/08/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	487	CUT SHAD
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	24-8	2	SPIN	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	816	GRUB
CRAPPIE	M. CLINE	1-4	2	SPIN	02/09/03	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	200	GRUB
GAR	E.S. JOHNSTON	12-0	4	PLUG	12/29/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	342	SILVER BUDDY
PERCH, YELLOW	M. CLINE	1-1	2	SPIN	02/09/03	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	283	GRUB
PICKEREL, CHAIN	H.O. BRUINGTON	4-12	6	GEN	01/02/03	SWIFT CREEK, VA	211	MINNOW
TROUT, RAINBOW	F. COUSINS	3-2	2	SPIN	12/23/02	CRIPPLE CREEK, VA	312	SPINNER
<u>2003 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER</u>								
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	24-2	6	FLY	01/11/03	VA. BEACH, VA	482	MEGACLOUSER
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	38-3	4	PLUG	01/11/03	VA. BEACH, VA	763	BUCKTAIL
BASS, STRIPED	S. DAVIS	18-4	4	SPIN	12/07/02	CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA	365	BUCKTAIL
<u>2002 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER</u>								
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	21-0	4	FLY	02/03/03	JAMES RIVER, VA	646	HALF & HALF
CATFISH, BLUE	B. SHEPHERD	50-0	6	GEN	12/08/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	487	CUT SHAD
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	J. FARRELL	21-0	4	PLUG	02/02/03	JAMES RIVER, VA	525	SASSY SHAD
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	24-8	2	SPIN	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	816	GRUB
<u>NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER</u>								
BASS, BLACK SEA	B. HENDERSON	4-9	6	PLUG	01/13/03	102 TOWER, NC	243	STINGSILVER
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	24-2	6	FLY	01/11/03	VA. BEACH, VA	482	MEGACLOUSER
BASS, STRIPED	S.C. LEE	18-8	16	FLY	12/18/02	CHESAPEAKE BAY, VA	185	BUNKER FLY
BASS, STRIPED	S.C. LEE	24-12	20	FLY	01/05/03	OFF RUDEE INLET, VA	206	HALF & HALF
BASS, STRIPED	R.L. WHITE	38-3	4	PLUG	01/11/03	VA. BEACH, VA	763	BUCKTAIL
BASS, STRIPED	B. HENDERSON	29-0	6	PLUG	01/13/03	OREGON INLET, NC	446	MANN-A-LURE
BASS, STRIPED	L. HOUSER	28-8	8	PLUG	12/30/02	ATLANTIC OCEAN, VA	356	JIG
LADYFISH	W.S. JOHNSTON	1-12	6	FLY	01/22/03	JUPITER, FL	175	CLOUSER
LADYFISH	W.S. JOHNSTON	1-12	8	FLY	01/29/03	JUPITER, FL	140	CLOUSER
<u>NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER</u>								
BASS, LARGEMOUTH	E.S. JOHNSTON	3-1	2	PLUG	02/05/03	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	204	SILVER BUDDY
BOWFIN	R.J. BROWN	6-8	2	PLUG	02/08/03	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	325	SILVER BUDDY
CARP	R.J. BROWN	10-8	2	PLUG	02/08/03	CHICKAHOMINY RIVER, VA	350	SILVER BUDDY
CARP	J. FARRELL	16-4	4	PLUG	12/15/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	464	BLADE BAIT
CATFISH, BLUE	B. SHEPHERD	50-0	6	GEN	12/08/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	487	CUT SHAD
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	21-0	4	FLY	02/03/03	JAMES RIVER, VA	646	HALF & HALF
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	J. FARRELL	21-0	4	PLUG	02/02/03	JAMES RIVER, VA	525	SASSY SHAD
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	24-8	2	SPIN	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	816	GRUB
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F. MURRAY	19-8	6	SPIN	12/31/02	JAMES RIVER, VA	390	SILVER BUDDY
<u>2003 HIGHEST POINT NON-LOCAL CATCHES - SALTWATER</u>								
LADYFISH	W.S. JOHNSTON	1-12	6	FLY	01/22/03	JUPITER, FL	175	CLOUSER
MARLIN, STRIPED	J.W. REWALT	REL.	16	GEN	12/06/02	SAN CRISTOBAL, GAL. ISL.	400	MACKEREL

Upcoming Angling Events

James River "Jungle Rules" Catfish

March 8, 2003

Location: James River

Time: Sunrise to Sunset

Awards: 1 Cup for the largest Catfish – "Jungle Rules"
Fish may be taken with any hook and line tackle used in a sportsman like manner. Any line material and breaking strength is acceptable.
Call Chairman within 5 days

Chairman: Leroy Houser (796-2127)

Trout Tournament

March 22 & 23, 2003

Location: Dunlap Creek Escatawba Farms – Covington, VA

Awards: 1 Cup for heaviest trout ("Jungle Rules")
1 Cup for highest point trout
1 Cup for best trout fisherman (combined points for best Brown, Rainbow, and Brook Trout)

Comments: Limited to the first 8 anglers.
FLY FISHING ONLY!

Cost: \$75.00 per rod per day
Check out the "Old Earlehurst" Bed and Breakfast for accommodations for Saturday night: www.earlehurst.com
Call Ronnie Sides within 5 days (276-5985)

Chairman: Ronnie Sides

VAC Leadership 2003

Officers

President – John Wetlaufer, Sr
1st Vice President (Programs) – Fred Murray
2nd Vice President (Tournaments) – Bob Brown
3rd Vice President (Conservation & Legislation) – Mike Cline

Treasurer – Lynn Spurlin
Recording Secretary – Quentin Corbett
News Letter Secretary – Scott Davis

Directors

Class of 2003 – Mike Cline

Danny Noland
Buddy Noland

Class of 2004 – Dennis Cline

Scott Johnston
Eddy Johnston

Class of 2005 – Bruce Henderson

Bob Shepherd
Elly Robinson

Committee Chairmen

Angling Rules – Dennis Cline
Angling Activities – Bob Brown
Banquet – Eddy Johnston
Conservation & Legislation – Mike Cline
Country store – Eddy Johnston
Membership – Glenn Sides
Orientation – Ronnie Sides
Programs – Fred Murray
Publicity – TBA
Scale Certification – Larry Allen
Special Activities – TBA
Surf Team – Lynn Spurlin
Freshwater Report – Scott Johnston
Saltwater Report - TBA

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Club members can run a business card ad in our newsletter for \$5 per month. Non-members pay \$10 per month. Other deals are negotiable.

Contact Scott Davis if interested.
(H) 285-4305 or (W) 520-3346

Fly Rod Raffle

During the Months of February and March, Eddy Johnston will sell raffle tickets for a very nice G. Loomis "Cross Current Series" 9'-0 6wt. 3 piece fly rod complete with case. This rod was graciously donated by G. Loomis Representative Randy Hamilton through Vance Hopkins with Green Top Sporting Goods. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 4 for \$30.00 to be sold during the membership meetings in Feb. and March with winner announced at the March meeting. Thanks to Randy and Vance for this great donation. Check out the latest rod technology at www.gloomis.com and you will understand why G. Loomis is at the top of there game!

The President's Cup

Here is a little information on one of our most coveted awards, the Presidents Cup. Since our archives are not complete prior to 1979, some of the following may be in error, but I'll through it out anyway.

Who has won them? We have records showing 29 freshwater winners and 26 saltwater winners. (About fourteen years of records are missing) Our all-time leader is John Wycoff, with 8 (7 FW & 1 SW). Bill DuVal has 5 (all SW). Elly Robinson has 4 (all SW). Robbie Robinson has 4 (3 FW & 1 SW). Virgil Hughes, Glenn Carter, Jim Sheffield, Fred Cousins, Reggie White and Stuart Lee each have two. Nineteen other members have won it one time. So, at least 29 different members have won a Presidents Cup in our 42-year history!

Just what does it take to win one? Lots of points! Prior to 1992, there had never been a 600-point freshwater entry. There were only 3 in saltwater. In 1992, Robbie Robinson broke the 600-point barrier by stalking carp in local ponds. From 1992 forward, there have been 26 in freshwater and 14 in saltwater. Of those 26 best ever freshwater fish, 17 were blue catfish, 4 were carp, 2 were chain pickerel and there was one each of flathead catfish, brook trout and rainbow trout. In the last eleven years, only two freshwater cups were won with less than 600 points. Basic weights have been raised three times for blue catfish, but the potential is still there for a 600-point entry. Fred Murray's 1200-point blue catfish caught last year was the highest scoring local entry ever caught! Using current basic weights, the fish would still score 720 points!

The 17 best ever saltwater entries included 6 black drum, 4 red drum, 2 barracuda, 2 striped bass and one each of cobia, African pompano and black sea bass. Stuart Lee's 864-point red drum tops the saltwater list. Only three of the past eleven saltwater cups were won with less than

600 points. The hot black drum fishing cycled out a few years ago, but could be back any year. It also takes good luck to win these cups. For example, the last three freshwater cups were won with unintended catches! Lastly, you must have the skill and equipment to do the job. That equates to time on the water and commitment to use light tackle.

So, what tackle do I use? About twenty years ago, we introduced 2-pound test. In those 20 years, 16 freshwater presidents cups were won with 2-pound test against only 4 with 4-pound test. Freshwater success has been best with spin tackle (11 cups), followed by 5 on general, 3 on fly and 1 on plug. The saltwater presidents cup is another matter. Only 2 have been won using 2-pound test. The leader is 8-pound test with 10 cups, followed by 5 on 4-pound test, 2 on 6-pound test and one on 12-pound test. Saltwater success has been best with plug tackle (8 cups), followed by 6 on spin, 5 on general and one on fly.

We are getting better every year. Just because there are already three 600-plus point catches entered this year doesn't mean they can't be beat by someone!


Web Links....

Oceana is a non-profit international advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the world's oceans through policy advocacy, science, law and public education. Check out the site at

<http://www.oceana.org/index.cfm>

SB 917 Update




The House of Delagates voted on 2/12/03. By a vote of 31-yes and 64-no it appears this bill is dead for now. Politicians swayed by overwhelming objections from anglers to this unfair fishing license fee increase. Now the General Assembly will have to find the general funds needed to restore the funding which Governor Warner's proposed budget had stripped from VMRC. CCA calls for support of VMRC and restoration of general funds to maintain VMRC functions.

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NEXT MEETING:
February 25th, 2003

P.O. BOX 31494
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