



August 2008

**August Membership Meeting:
“Sturgeon on the James River”**

Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 7:00 PM

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

In This Issue...

Speaker Lineup
Backlash, Page 1.

Tournament Reminder
Tournaments, Page 2.

New Club Record
Catchy Comments, Page 3.

Website Enhancements
Multiple articles, Page 7.



BACKLASH

(Commentary from the Board of Directors)

August Membership Meeting: Sturgeon on the James River

Some may consider that the Atlantic sturgeon as being an extremely rare inhabitant of the James River. Some members of this ancient specie of fish are still in the river and the subject of research of Matt Balazik, a doctoral candidate at VCU. Matt will make a presentation identifying the programs active in the James to document the fish and the times and places at which these studies are taking place. If you get a minute, Google sturgeon. The sturgeon is interesting specie about which to learn. The sturgeon was instrumental in sustaining the settlers of Jamestown, donated its air bladders for isinglass and, at one time, carried the moniker of “James River bacon”. Sturgeon, once a major export of the earlier settlers back to England eventually was overtaken by tobacco, a commodity that would not spoil in transit. Matt’s bio appears elsewhere in this issue of the *Angler*.

September Speaker: Carl Herrin -- “All You Need to Know About Specks”

Program Chairman Mike Ostrander has knowledgeable speakers lined up for September and October. Carl Herrin will present a fact filled program about how to catch Speckled Trout. This program is an excellent lead-in to the Speckled Trout Tournament taking place on October 11th and 12th. Carl visited us in March, 2007 and shared his secrets about crappie fishing.

October Speaker: Dr. Julie Ball -- “Snaggin’ Taugs”

Dr. Julie Ball lined up for the October Membership Meeting. She will talk about fishing for Tautogs and give us an update about what is happening with the IGFA. Julie is one of Virginia’s IGFA representatives and a well known and easily recognized reporter on saltwater fishing off the coast of Virginia and issues a weekly fishing report.

How About Short Sleeved Special VAC Columbia Bonehead™ Shirts ?

Eddy Johnston has reopened the opportunity to buy the special edition official Virginia Anglers Club embroidered Columbia Bonehead™ brand fishing shirts. Eddy is investigating the possibility of obtaining short sleeved versions of this fine shirt. Just see, call or e-mail Eddy and place an order. The shirts are \$50 each and have two embroidery options. Shirt details are elsewhere in this edition of the *Angler*. Payment will be needed at time of delivery.

“@#&5xxx!” Filter in Place on the Website’s Forum

Colorful language and other sundry expletives are now automatically being blocked in the Forums Section of the VAC web site. Webmaster Johnny Wetlaufer has installed a filter that will convert potentially offensive words to a series of asterisks. If you truly want to add the “color” back in, count the number of asterisks and match that number to the letter count of “colorful” words you know. The Board is interested in keeping the Web Site non-offensive to our wide range of readers. Anyone world wide with access to the internet can post a comment on the Web Site. The filter now will keep the VAC Website at the level of respectability at which the Board feels it should be presented.

Website Enhancements Announced

Webmaster Johnny Wetlaufer has added a handy feature to the Members section of the web site. Also, Danny Noland and Johnny are working to get catch records polished up. Look elsewhere in this issue of the *Angler* for details.

DGIF Calendar Sale Starts Now -- \$8.00/Copy

Don West, VAC’s Director of DGIF Calendar Sales, has purchased and has on hand 300 copies of the 2009 DGIF Outdoor Calendar. He will have them at the August

Continued on Page 2...



BACKLASH continued from Page 1.

Membership Meeting. If you would like some before then, please contact Don at 371-6748 (O) during working hours and at 897-8723 (H) during non-working hours. Line up your “regular customers” and get them on the hook for a purchase of a calendar. As a reminder, the DGIF calendars now run January thru December.

Photos and Text Needed for VAC Website and the Angler

Help! Your pictures of your catches and the catches of others (can be friends with whom you fished) are needed for each edition of the Angler and for the web site. Copies of articles of interest (please include source), original text and the like are also welcome and needed.

2009 Annual Awards Banquet Reminder

The 2008 Annual Awards banquet will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at the Virginia Crossings Resort, starting at 5:30 PM. The contract has been completed with The Virginia Crossings Resort and the meal price per person will be \$48. Eddy Johnston would like to have suggestions for items to add or changes to be made in the banquet format. He can be reached easily on his cell phone (804) 586-7012.

For the Leadership Team
John Wetlaufer, Sr., Director

TOURNAMENTS

Tournament Reminder

Our final club tournament for this angling year will be the **Virginia Speckled Trout Tournament** on October 11-12 (blow date October 18-19) Keep the dates open if you plan to fish.

Tournament Review Committee

With the blessing of our BOD, Parks Rountrey will be organizing a small ad hoc committee to review our existing tournament program, consider its good and bad points and make recommendations for improvements in next year's tournament formats. If you have comments to offer or would like to participate, call or email Parks (prountrey@comcast.net).

SPEAKERS

Fredericksburg Fishing Opportunities: July Meeting Subject

Outdoor writer and VAC member “Tee” Clarkson presented an information filled program about fishing opportunities in the Fredericksburg, VA area. There is plenty of fishing on the Rappahannock River, a river that is “in the Richmond neighborhood” and a productive one at that. With a little looking, you can find local folks that will shuttle your vehicle and trailer from a put-in to a take-out spot.



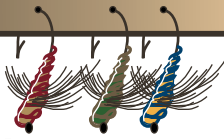
Tee Clarkson speaking on Fredericksburg Fishing

Meet Mike Balazik -- August Speaker on Atlantic Sturgeon

Mike is no stranger to the James River. He grew up in Prince George on Jordan Point and fished almost everyday. Mike did his Masters dissertation on Age and Growth of Atlantic Sturgeon in the James River. In pursuing his Doctorate, his work is going to be interpreting the life history and aiding population recovery of James River Atlantic sturgeon doing mark-recapture, passive and active tracking studies, plus physiological aspects of the fish.

September's Carl Herrin and October Specks Go Together

The Virginia Anglers Club continues to present “how to” information linked to an upcoming tournament. Carl Herrin's presentation on fishing for speckled trout is tied to the October Speckled Trout Tournament, being held on October 11th and 12th. Be sure to hear Carl talk about catching specks on September 23rd. There will be ample time to ask questions and examine the tackle Carl will be bringing along with him that night. Come early and have dinner with Carl. We are fortunate to have a good friend of the club who is knowledgeable on so many angling techniques and willing to come up and share them with us.



CATCHY COMMENTS

By Staurt Lee



This past month has produced quite a few notable catches by members – many within the city limits of Richmond. As you have probably guessed the fish in the spotlight is the Flathead Catfish, and it appears that some club members figured out what **Fred Murray** already knew – these fish can be caught on something other than live bait.

Thirteen club record Flathead Catfish were entered. All were caught on artificial bait, including two potential fly rod World

Records. As you may know **Fred Murray** currently holds the fly rod World Records in the 2, 4, 6 and 8-pound class. **Bob Brown** caught a 31-pound fish on 6 fly for 565 points, and **Glenn Carter** caught a 28½-pound fish on 8 fly for 456 points. Both have been submitted to the IGFA for approval. **Bob Brown** also had eight additional club records on fly, spin and plug. **Parks Rountrey** entered three club records including a 29-pound fish on 4 fly for 614 points and a 37-pounder on 4 plug for 627 points.



Parks Rountrey and his 29 Lb Flathead on 4 Fly - New Club Record



Glenn Carter and his 28-8 Flathead on 8 Fly - Pending WR - 456 points



Bob Brown and his 31 Lb Flathead on 6 Fly - Pending WR - 565 points



There has been other action besides the urban catfishing. New club member **George Atkinson**, wife **Robin** and **Fred Cousins** fished offshore in Ocracoke, NC with Captain Norman Miller for two days with good results. Their catches included African Pompano, Amberjack, Almaco Jack, Barracuda, Grouper, Sea Bass, Red Snapper, Cobia, Triggerfish and Shark. Robin's 40-pound African Pompano is the largest that I can remember being caught in local waters.

Fred Cousins and his 30 Lb Baracuda



Robin Atkinson and her 40 Lb African Pompano



George Atkinson and his 22 Lb African Pompano



Fred Cousins and his Cobia



CATCHY COMMENTS continued from Page 2.

Bruce Henderson got **Elly Robinson** out of the garden and off the computer to go offshore in Hatteras where Elly scored with a 14½-pound African Pompano on 8 plug and a 20-pound Almaco Jack on 6 spin.

LeRoy Houser and **Glenn Carter** flounder fished in the mouth of the bay with Captain Neil Renouf, our speaker at the April membership meeting. They brought home 13 flounder, five of which were over five pounds, including Leroy's 7-pound fish and Glenn's 6½ -pounder and 30 pounds of filets.



Bruce Henderson and his 28 Lb Baracuda



Glenn Carter and LeRoy Houser and their Flounder caught with Capt Neil Renouf



Elly Robinson and his 14-8 Pompano on 8 Plug



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 7/9/08

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LN</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>BAIT</u>
----------------	---------------	---------------	-----------	-------------	------------	-------------	-----------------	-------------

2008 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	50-9	2	Gen	1011	12/30/07	Concrete Ships, Va.	Eel
BLUEFISH	ES Johnston	8-4	2	Spin	275	5/1/08	Rudee Inlet	Grub
COBIA	GN Carter	32-0	8	Plug	355	6/6/08	Oregon Inlet, NC	Bucktail Jig
CROAKER	ES Johnston	1-10	2	Spin	216	6/6/08	Gwinn's Island	Jig
DOLPHIN	GN Carter	4-12	4	Spin	135	6/6/08	The "Point", NC	Bucktail Jig
DRUM BLACK	J Pitts	65-0	20	Gen	185	5/22/08	CBBT, Va.	Clam
DRUM, RED	J Pitts	45-0	20-0	Gen	236	6/8/08	CBBT, Va.	Crab
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	W Mosley	3-4	2	Plug	270	6/14/08	HRBT, Va	Grub
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	6-2	2	Spin	408	1/13/08	Elizabeth River	Grub

2008 SPECIES LEADERS - FRESHWATER

BASS, LARGEMOUTH	L Allen	6-8	2	Spin	433	3/22/08	Private Pond Caroline	In-line Spinner Bait
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	DN Noland	3-0	2	Fly	375	3/6/08	Nottoway River	Dan's Peach Shad Jig
BOWFIN	JP Rountrey	6-8	4	Gen	198	5/2/08	Chickahominy River	Cut Bait
CARP	F Cousins	22-0	2	Spin	687	2/3/08	Private Lake, Va.	Rattle Trap
CATFISH, BLUE	F Cousins	64-0	6	Gen	602	1/5/08	James River, Va.	Cut Gizzard Shad
CHANNEL CATFISH	JH Sheffield	11-4	2	Gen	359	1/23/08	James River, Va.	Minnow
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F Murray	22-0	4	Fly	466	2/17/08	James River	Streamer
CRAPPIE, ALL	M Kodroff	1-2	2	Spin	178	2/5/08	East Lake, NC	Spinnerbait
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	11-0	2	Plug	400	4/26/08	James River	Fin S Grub
PERCH, WHITE	BL Noland	1-0	2	Fly	333	4/13/08	Nottoway River	Road Runner
PERCH, YELLOW	F Cousins	1-1	2	Spin	279	12/8/07	Piankatank River	Grub
PICKERAL, CHAIN	M Kodroff	2-12	4	Spin	202	2/5/08	East Lake, NC	Plastic Tail & Jig
SHAD, AMERICAN	J Doughty	3-8	2	Spin	280	3/31/08	Nottoway River	Shad Dart
SHAD, HICKORY	F Cousins	2-0	2	Fly	285	3/27/08	James River	Shad Fly
SUNFISH, ALL	Rob Robinson	1-2	2	Fly	375	5/4/08	Elly's Pond, Va.	Popper

2008 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	50-9	2	Gen	1011	12/30/07	Concrete Ships, Va.	Eel
COBIA	SC Lee	19-4	16	Fly	120	6/14/08	Oregon Inlet, NC	Half & Half
COBIA	GN Carter	32-0	8	Plug	355	6/6/08	Oregon Inlet, NC	Bucktail Jig
SEATROUT, SPOTTED	F Cousins	6-2	2	Spin	408	1/13/08	Elizabeth River	Grub

2008 DIVISION LEADERS - FRESHWATER

CATFISH, BLUE	F Cousins	64-0	4	Gen	682	1/5/08	James River, Va.	Cut Gizzard Shad
CARP	F Cousins	22-0	2	Spin	687	2/3/08	Private Lake, Va.	Rattle Trap
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	11-0	2	Plug	400	4/26/08	James River	Fin S Grub
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F Murray	22-0	4	Fly	466	2/17/08	James River	Streamer

2008 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER

BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	50-9
BLUEFISH	ES Johnston	8-4
COBIA	GN Carter	37-0
CROAKER	ES Johnston	1-10
DRUM, BLACK	J Pitts	65-0
DOLPHIN	GN Carter	4-12
DRUM, RED	J Pitts	45-0
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	J Pitts	3-8
Seatrout, Spotted	SC Lee	7-0

2008 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - FRESHWATER

BASS, LARGEMOUTH	L Allen	6-8
BASS, SMALLMOUTH	DN Noland	3-0
BOWFIN	JP Rountrey	6-8
CARP	F Cousins	22-0
CATFISH, BLUE	F Cousins	64-0
CATFISH, CHANNEL	JH Sheffield	11-4
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F Murray	27-8
CRAPPIE, ALL	M Kodroff	1-2
GAR, ALL	F Cousins	13-0
PERCH, WHITE	BL Noland	1-0
PERCH, YELLOW	F Cousins	1-1
PICKEREL, CHAIN	M Kodroff	2-12
SHAD, AMERICAN	M Kodroff	3-10
SHAD, HICKORY	M Kodroff	2-8
SUNFISH, ALL	R Robinson	1-2

C.V. KINNARD AWARD COMPETITION - thru 7/3/08

ANGLER	FIRSTS	SECONDS	THIRDS	PLACES	POINTS	AVERAGE
Fred Cousins	1	2	1	4	1975	493
Jim Sheffield	2	0	0	2	1303	651
Will Mosley	1	1	0	2	470	235
Parks Rountrey	0	1	1	2	451	225
Larry Allen	1	0	0	1	433	433
Eddy Johnston	0	1	0	1	275	275
Scott Johnston	0	0	1	1	250	250
TOTALS	5	5	3	13	5157	397



VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 7/9/08 (continued)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ANGLER</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>LN</u>	<u>DIV.</u>	<u>PTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>BAIT</u>
<u>NEW CLUB RECORDS - SALTWATER</u>								
BASS, STRIPED	JH Sheffield	50-9	2	Gen	1011	12/30/07	Concrete Ships, Va.	Eel
DRUM, RED	M Cline	6-10	2	Plug	165	6/7/08	Mobjack Bay, Va	Jig
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	W Mosley	3-4	2	Plug	270	6/14/08	HRBT, Va	Grub
COBIA	SC Lee	19-4	16	FLY	120	6/14/08	Oregon Inlet, NC	Half & Half

<u>NEW CLUB RECORDS - FRESHWATER</u>								
CATFISH, BLUE	F Cousins	64-0	6	Gen	602	1/5/08	James River, Va.	Cut Gizzard Shad
CATFISH, CHANNEL	JH Sheffield	11-4	2	Gen	359	1/23/08	James River, Va.	Minnow
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	JH Sheffield	25-0	4	Spin	423	1/11/08	James River, Va.	Jig & Gulp
CARP	F Cousins	22-0	2	Spin	687	2/3/08	Private Lake, Va.	Rattle Trap
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F Murray	22-0	4	Fly	466	2/17/08	James River	Streamer
CARP	F Murray	20-0	4	Spin	500	2/17/08	James River, Va.	Silver Buddy
CATFISH, FLATHEAD	F Murray	27-8	4	Spin	466	2/17/08	James River	Jig
CATFISH, BLUE	RJ Brown	47-0	12	Gen	326	3/3/08	James River, Va.	Cut Bait
SHAD, AMERICAN	M Kodroff	3-0	6	Fly	179	3/13/09	Weldon, N.C.	Shad Fly
CATFISH, BLUE	WS Johnson	8-14	2	Fly	170	4/17/08	Piankatank River	Clouser Fly
TROUT, BROWN	RL White	21-0	16	Fly	452	3/20/08	Tierra del fuego. Argentina	Fly
TROUT, BROWN	RL White	20-0	20	Fly	357	3/21/08	Tierra del fuego. Argentina	Fly
CATFISH, BLUE								

<u>2008 HIGHEST POINT NON-LOCAL CATCHES - FRESHWATER</u>								
TROUT, BROWN	RL White	22-0	12	Fly	597	3/21/08	Tierra del fuego. Argentina	Fly

<u>2008 HIGHEST POINT NON-LOCAL CATCHES - SALTWATER</u>								
COBIA	Q Corbett	17-0	8	Gen	154	2/18/08	Islamorda, FI	Pilchard

2008 TOP SPOUSE CATCHES - (LOCAL, NON-MEMBER, FRESH or SALTWATER) (none submitted yet for 2008)

<u>2008 TOP YOUTH CATCHES - FRESHWATER (LOCAL)</u>								
SHAD, HICKORY	0-6yr R Farley	0-14	2	Spin	100	4/16/08	James River	Shad Fly

<u>2008 TOP YOUTH CATCHES - SALTWATER (LOCAL)</u>								
Bass, Striped	7-12yr Justin Pitts	18-0	8	Gen	231	5/23/08	CBBT, Va.	Live Bait



Rich McDaniel and Son with their Idaho Trout

OTHER NEWS

Website Fund Goal Exceeded

The raffle of the Glenn Carter rod has brought the Website Fund to the \$1800 goal plus an extra \$95.00. Thanks to all who have supported this fund by individual or matching donation and for all of those who took a chance on a few lines in the Website Rod Raffle. All money in the Fund will be directed only to the expenses of maintaining and up grading the VAC Website. Any money in the Fund will be rolled over into the 2009 fiscal year budget.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!*Ordering Available Again for VAC Columbia Bonehead™ Shirts*

Eddy Johnston will continue to take orders in August for the special "Virginia Anglers Club Edition" of the famous Columbia Bonehead™ long-sleeve 100% cotton fishing shirts. Eddy is going to investigate the availability of the short-sleeved version of these comfortable and stylish shirts. These are high quality and very comfortable shirts @ \$50.00 each. Shirts will be available in the standard Columbia rainbow of colors. Embroidery options now are either "Virginia Anglers Club / Richmond, VA" or the Bill Galash popping bug that is on the VAC "flats style" hat custom embroidered above one pocket. The Columbia website (www.columbia.com) contains pictures of this shirt which can be shown in any color available. Columbia's description of the shirts notes:

"You'll appreciate the exceptional comfort and extra features this shirt provides when it's time to pursue your fishing passion and the summer sun is baking down. There's no shortage of storage space because the Bonehead™ long-sleeve shirt has two large hook-and-loop-close pockets, a tippet-dispenser pocket and three compartments for other accessories.

They're made of breathable 100% cotton with a cape-covered polyester mesh back for welcome cooling ventilation when both the weather and fishing action are hot. Imported. Sizes (neck): S(14 to 14-1/2), M(15 to 15-1/2), L(16 to 16-1/2), XL(17 to 17-1/2), 2XL(18 to 18-1/2), 3XL(19 to 19-1/2), 4XL(20 to 20-1/2), 5XL(21 to 21-1/2). Colors: Sea Oats, White Cap, White, Sage, Gulfstream, Fossil"



Be sure to see Eddy to place your order. Payment (cash or check) due when the shirts are delivered.

Johnny Wetlaufer Wins Custom Made Website Raffle Rod

Special thanks to all members and friends of the club that took a chance on the finely crafted rod built by Glenn Carter and donated to the Club for raffle for the Virginia Anglers Club Website. Johnny Wetlaufer was the lucky winner of the rod in the drawing that was held at the July meeting. Rod builder Carter customized the rod by adding Johnny's name and his own to the rod. The Website Fund is now fully funded. A final big thanks to Glenn for the sharing of his talents and time so that the VAC can maintain its quality and informative website.

Historic Catch Entry Database Being Cleaned Up

The historic data base of catch entries is being upgraded by Danny Noland and Johnny Wetlaufer. Two catch data bases were merged into the "official" data base on which all 11,000 catch entries are now combined. In some cases, a number of variations of the Angler's name submitting the entry have been used. For instance, entries submitted by "Bob Katchem" may have been posted as "Robert Katchem", "R. Katchem" or "Bobby Katchem". Danny and Johnny are doing an extensive amount of housekeeping to get Member's catches identified by a consistent name. It will help the Angling Rules Committee post new catches if you take a moment and check out what format of your name is being used and try to use that same name format on future entry cards. Where there is a Bop Katchem, Sr. and a Bob Katchem, Jr, it is especially important to differentiate between which Katchem caught 'em.

Catch Database Now Has "Look Up by Month of Catch"

You can now do a search of catches in the VAC Catch data base by the month of catch as well as by all of the other search features already in place. This means if you are interested in all catches of catfish in August, you will get a list of such catches. This listing can also be embellished by adding look up by date, location etc. You cannot hurt anything if you screw up while rummaging around in the catch data base. If you have not used it, try it out. The search possibilities are endless.

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

rtphotography@comcast.net

Virginia Anglers Club Special

20% OFF First Order

10% Off other orders

Bulletin Editor: Johnny Wetlauffer, 647-4042

STREN

The Most Dependable Fishing Lines in the World!



Available at:

GREEN TOP SPORTING GOODS

Located Just North of Virginia Center Commons on U.S. Route 1
(Exit 86 off I-95, Exit 43C off I-295)

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

Monday - Friday 8AM 'til 9PM,

Saturday 8AM 'til 6PM, Sunday 9AM 'til 5PM

Phone: 804 • 550 • 2188 Fax: 804 • 550 • 2693

Email: info@greentophuntfish.com www.greentophuntfish.com

WE HAVE GIFT CARDS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Design and Layout: Michael Havranek

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

P.O. BOX 31494
RICHMOND VA 23294-1494

