



February 2015

In This Issue...

VAC Expeditions

Page 6

Early Scale Certification Info

Page 3

Catchy Comments

Page 4

Banquet Recap

Page 2

Striped Bass Harvest Reduction

Page 7



**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING –
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015 7:00 pm**
(Scale Certification)

**Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA
(Eastern-Most Building – Enter At Rear –
DGIF BOD Meeting Room)**



BACKLASH

*Commentary from the
Board of Directors
-By John Wetlaufer, Sr.*

DUES FOR THE 2015 ANGLING YEAR ARE NOW DUE

LAST CALL FOR DUES RENEWAL - PLEASE RENEW NOW.

As of March 1, 2015, all Members who have not paid their dues for 2015 will be considered in arrears. E-Cards (electronic entry cards) or post card entry cards will not be accepted after February 28, 2015 if your dues are not current.

To pay In-State dues (\$60), click here: <http://tinyurl.com/vacdues>

To pay Out-of-State dues (\$40), click here: <http://tinyurl.com/vacdues-nl>

Payment by check may be made by sending a check, made out to the "Virginia Angler Club" and mailing it to:

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

If by some chance you are not going to renew, please let the VAC know by doing a "reply" to this copy of The Angler. Thanks.

SPECIES AWARD CERTIFICATES TO BE AWARDED AT FEB. MEETING

All of the award certificate in the four species categories (FW and SW points and FW and SW weight) will be awarded at the February Membership Meeting.

Note:

If you cannot be present at the February Membership Meeting to receive your award, please arrange for someone to pick it up for you.



AWARDS BANQUET – A PLEASANT EVENING IN THE SLIP

The Awards Banquet was a pleasant evening at Sam Miller’s Restaurant in the Shockoe Slip. Over thirty Members and guests were present as only the major awards were presented. Unfortunately, three of the major award winners were preparing for or recovering from surgery and two winners were out of town, so their awards could not be presented in person.

Major awards recipients and the awards for the 2014 Angling Year were VAC Members:

Bob Shepherd: OAY, FW Gen, SW Fly, SW Braid & SW Surf Div.

Bobby Broughton: FW President’s, FW Spin Div.

Fred Cousins: SW President’s, SW Spin Div., Kinnard Award

Jay Blankenship: FW Fly Div., New Member

Rob Robinson: FW Plug Div.

Ryan Noland: SW Gen. Div.

Buddy Noland: Pajchak Award

Floyd Gottwald: Non-local FW/SW

The VAC Youth Award winners were:

Nara Watkinson - 0-6 Age Group Clara Watkinson - 7-12 Age Group Jason Chase - 13-17 Age Group

Not all of the luck was at the awards table either. The raffle winners are listed below. Thanks to all who participated in the raffles. The club took in \$417 in raffle proceeds.

Ben Hebner: Won the Rob Choi Fish Print Rob Choi: Won the Bill Gallasch Fly Box

Tami Noland: Tommy Matioli Fly Box (Ryan’s wife drawing for uncle-in-law Buddy Noland. The lucky Nolan’s legacy continues.)

Bill Butler: Twenty-five Dollar Green Top Gift Certificate

The new and returning members of the Executive Team and the 2017 Class of Directors were sworn by John Wetlaufer, Sr. The complete listing of the new VAC Leadership Team can be found in the public area of the VAC website.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT VOTE TO BE HELD AT THE FEBRUARY 24TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Due to a lack of a quorum (20) of Members present at the November Membership Meeting, the vote by the membership on the two proposed amendments to the By-Laws of the Virginia Anglers Club will be held at the February 24, 2015 Membership Meeting. For details of the proposed amendments, please see the November 2014 edition of The Angler. All changes bring the By-Laws into agreement with current practice.

ASMFC ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS BOARD APPROVES STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS TO REDUCE HARVEST

Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum IV implementation plans and conservation equivalency proposals for all the states and jurisdictions. Details of the plans are found on page 7 of this issue of The Angler.

SURF TEAM SEEKS MEMBERS – PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING

The Virginia Anglers Club Surf Fishing Team is seeking to fish the 2015 Cape Hatteras Anglers Club Invitational Surf Tournament being held on November 5 and 6, 2015 (individual CHAC surf tournament on the 7th). The Virginia Anglers Club has had a team in the tournament every year since 1961. One hundred twenty 6-member teams fish the two day tournament. This is the largest surf fishing tournament in the world and the waiting list is 70 teams long. Quent Corbett will discuss the team and their activities at the February 24th Membership Meeting.



NOW ON LINE

ELECTRONIC POINTS CALCULATOR AND ENTRY CARDS. ANNUAL AWARD LEADERS SHOWN ALMOST IN REAL TIME

Electronic enhancements to the “Catch Entries” and “Awards” sections of the VAC Website’s Member’s Area make calculating points, entering a catch and seeing who is currently leading in all Annual Awards categories makes these part of the Member’s Area very angler friendly. These enhancements were made by Web Secretary Johnny Wetlaufer who wrote the code and by Angling Rules Chairman who did extensive pre-activation testing the these new features. If you have an iPhone or other device with you while fishing that will open the VAC web site, you can use all of the below functions.

Here is what is now possible with these enhancements.

Calculate Points: Calculate points immediately by entering and selection catch data into the Points Calculator.

Electronic Entry Card: Enter catches immediately by entering and selecting catch data into the E-Card. When you hit “Submit” the Angling Rules Statistician and you receive a copy of the card with the status of “Pending”. The ARS reviews the data and then releases your catch from the “Pending” status into the VAC database. Clicking on “Tournament” for tournaments entries before submitting the card also sends a copy to the Tournament Chairman.

Annual Awards Listing: View who currently is leading in the various Annual Award categories for the current Angling Year.

A word to the wise about your iPhone....never go fishing without it.

SCALE CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE AT FEBRUARY MEETING

The Annual Scale Certification required for Members wishing to weigh for submission catch entries during the 2015 Angling Year will be made at the February 24TH VAC Membership Meeting. Weighmasters Ryan and Danny Noland and Larry Allen will be doing certifications during the meeting. A similar session will be held during the March Membership Meeting also.

Remember the following scale preparation pointers:

- 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 (just inside the entry door to the DGIF building).

FOUR NEW HAT STYLES ADDED TO THE COUNTRY STORE

Co-Store Keepers Joe Lovasz, Sr. and Joe Lovasz, Jr. have added four new styles of hats to the inventory of the Country Store. These new hats will be for sale at the February Membership Meeting and can be viewed in the Country Store’s On Line Catalog. To access the Country Store catalog, please open the Members Area of the VAC Website (www.virginiaanglersclub.org), look for “Other Downloads” and then click on “Country Store Catalog”. Look for the sub title “New Merchandise” under the pictures of the new hats.

If you cannot attend the February Meeting and want to buy a hat or other merchandise, please see Shop By Mail on page 6 of this issue of The Angler.

INTRODUCING VAC EXPEDITIONS FUN FISHING FOR ALL

Virginia Anglers Club Expeditions: 2015 (By Mike Ostrander)

Look for an expanded series of fishing trips with the VAC in 2015. These outings will be special trips organized by different members of the club. These will be fellowship trips open to members, their friends and family.

This is a perfect opportunity to go fishing with no pressure of a tournament. Competition is very important to the history of the Virginia Anglers Club and with these trips you can ALWAYS compete for your own VAC goals.

Details will be coming out as we get closer to the date of each VAC Expedition. Please see page 5 of this issue of The Angler for the dates and trips scheduled. Details will come out as the dates for the Expeditions come closer.

For The Leadership Team,

VDGIF ANNUAL VIRGINIA RIVERS SMALLMOUTH FORECAST

VDGIF Fisheries Biologists have released their annual reports to inform anglers on forecasts for Virginia Rivers and Smallmouth Bass Fishing. For more commentary on this report, please turn to page 7 of this issue of The Angler. If you are a small bass angler, reading this informative report is time well spent.

WISDOM FROM THE TACKLE BOX

“Bragging may not bring happiness, but no man having caught a large fish goes home through an alley.” ~Author Unknown.

For The Leadership Team,

John Wetlaufer, Sr.
Membership Chairman



“Catchy Comments”

By *Stuart Lee*

The worst of the ugly weather is behind us; better days are coming, and cabin fever is almost over. While we have received few entries from members, I have heard some reports of some yellow perch being caught on creeks around Tappahannock and in the Chickahominy.

I went to the Fly Fishing Show in Somerset, New Jersey on the weekend of January 24, and there was much to see and hear. There were some 300 exhibitors of all types with everything relating to fly fishing and a large number of presentations on a multitude of topics. I found it to be enjoyable.

I attended an interesting presentation on the flats fishing opportunities now available to US anglers in Cuba. Apparently, 23 years ago the Cuban government realized the tourism potential of its expansive flats and instituted very restrictive regulations to protect this fishery. There are six or seven areas, most on the island’s south side that offer flats fishing. It is catch and release only, and some areas are restricted to fly fishing only. They have gone to great lengths to regulate the fishing pressure. One of the areas, we were told, was equal in size to all of the Florida Keys, and it is restricted to a total of 15 skiffs to fish the entire area.

Bonefish, tarpon, permit, jacks and barracuda are available year round as are a limited number of snook. In May and June, the large migratory tarpon show up, and this is considered their peak season. The thing that piqued my interest was the report of the large numbers of snappers available on the flats, including both muttons and cuberas.

Cuban flats fishing opportunities sound interesting, offering both mothership and lodge accommodations, but it sounds to me that they are still sorting out some of the logistics of hosting U.S. anglers given our recent change in relations. I would also say that it was not lost on me to wonder if the only Cubans that were able to fish these areas were the guides poling the flats skiffs.

I only hope that next month I have some fish to report.

Stuart





VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB EXPEDITIONS: 2015

Here is the schedule for VAC Expeditions as they stand as of February 24th, 2015

May 9: Chickahominy Lake & Lunch at a Restaurant

Ed Allen's Boat Landing. Launch 5:30am for those with boats. Boat Rentals start at 6am.
Jon Boat and motor: \$55 per day. Lunch at restaurant around 11-11:30. Fishing afterwards.
Coordinator: Art Conway aconway@vcu.org

May 23: Pop - N - Fly

Western Branch Reservoir. Pan fish and Bass. Boat Launch: 6-7am
Coordinator: Andrew Campbell campbellx2@verizon.net

June 20: James River Float from Hardware River to Bremo Bluff

Meeting location TBA
Coordinator: Steve Knox sknox@knoxmarine.com

August 29: Wade Fishing the James from Pony Pasture

Meet at Pony Pasture parking lot at 7am
Coordinator: Mike Ostrander Mike@DiscovertheJames.com

October 24: Trout Fishing the South River in Waynesboro, VA

Meeting location: Parham Road Park & Ride 8:30AM. Fish from 10AM to 3PM
Coordinator: Eric Webster Mtn_trout@hotmail.com

TBD: Rudee Inlet Fishing Trip

HELP SUPPORT

The Virginia Wildlife Crime Line has become a valuable tool in the enforcement of the Commonwealth's game, fish and boat laws. Reward payments are approved and funded through the Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund, Inc. The Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund's mission is to promote the enforcement of hunting, fishing, and boating laws in Virginia by supporting the Wildlife Crime Line in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to:
Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104
or by calling (804) 367-1242

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VAC COUNTRY STORE OFFERS MAIL ORDER SERVICE

Co-Country Storekeeper Joe Lovasz, Sr. is offering mail order service from the current inventory of the VAC Country Store as well as for special order merchandise coming up on 2015 as these items are announced in The Angler. This new feature of the Country Store should be of special interest to Non-Resident VAC Members and Resident Members who do not attend Membership Meeting on a regular basis. The procedure is simple and, once your payment and postage are received, your order will be sent promptly.

How To Order By Mail

1. Go to the On-Line Country Store catalog in the Members Area of the VAC web site: www.virginiaanglersclub.org. and select your merchandise.
2. Send an E-mail to Joe Lovasz, Sr. at lovaszjv@aol.com and let him know the item(s) you want and the price of each item noted in the catalog. Please include your mailing address in this E-mail.
3. Joe will return an E-Mail confirmation of your order and will confirm the price of the merchandise and the shipping costs.
4. Send a check written for the price of the purchases and the shipping cost made out to the Virginia Anglers Club to Joe, Sr. at:

Joseph V Lovasz, Sr
6501 Buglers Trail Lane
Moseley, VA 23120
5. Upon receipt of the check, Joe will pick the item(s) from inventory and pack and send them to the ordering member via the USPS.

If you have any questions about this order-by-mail option, Joe will be glad to answer them for you.

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**



ASMFC ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS BOARD APPROVES STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS TO REDUCE HARVEST

Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum IV implementation plans and conservation equivalency proposals for all the states and jurisdictions. The implementation plans, which were reviewed and approved by the Technical Committee, contain state-specific management options that achieve a 25% reduction in harvest from 2013 levels for the coastal fishery and 20.5% reduction in harvest from 2012 levels for the Chesapeake Bay fishery. Given the wide range of options being considered, the Board recommended neighboring states and jurisdictions work together to implement consistent management measures, especially on shared water bodies. This recommendation was also supported by the Commission’s Law Enforcement Committee. Additionally, the Board reminded states there is greater certainty in the percent reductions of simple management measures (i.e., changes in bag or size limits) relative to more complex measures (e.g., slot/trophy fish and mode-specific options). The Board also tasked the Technical Committee with expanding the exploration of stock-specific reference points to include the other producer areas, such as the Delaware Bay and the Hudson River stocks, in addition to the Chesapeake Bay. The Board will review progress on the stock-specific reference points at its Spring Meeting in May.

States and jurisdictions must have final measures for implementing Addendum IV in place by the beginning of their 2015 fishing seasons. For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

FROM RECENT EDITIONS OF DGIF’S THE OUTDOOR REPORT

(click on the [blue text](#) for additional information)

VDGIF RADIO DISPATCHERS BUSY IN 2014

Over the last year, VDGIF Communications Officers have been busy! They entered and/or monitored 35,429 CAD calls, handled approximately 72,686 telephone calls and made or monitored approximately 100,000 radio transmissions. The month of November alone typically sees an average of over 300 calls a day.

MAPPING WHERE SNAKEHEAD FISH ARE FOUND IN VIRGINIA

It’s been over a decade since snakehead fish turned up in the Potomac River, and the population has expanded in Virginia to several other tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay. Using data from surveys, angler reports, and commercial fishers, we now have a current [distribution map of snakehead fish](#) in Virginia. Your reports greatly contributed to this effort. Keep ’em coming!

Caught a snakehead fish? [Report it online](#) with our easy-to-use “Snakehead Observation Form” site, or call the hotline at 804-367-2925.

For more information, see the [Snakehead Frequently-Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

VDGIF ANNUAL VIRGINIA RIVERS SMALLMOUTH FORECAST

VDGIF Fisheries Biologists have released their annual reports to inform anglers on forecasts for [Virginia Rivers and Smallmouth Bass Fishing](#). Virginia is an angler’s paradise with over 176,000 acres of public lakes, primarily man-made impoundments, and 28,300 miles of fishable streams (1,000 miles tidal) that provide fishing opportunities for more than 600,000 licensed anglers. Virginia has 24 man-made large impoundments over 500 acres that are spread throughout the state and provide the public with over 139,000 acres of quality fishing. These impoundments range in size from 510 to 48,900 acres and were built by various federal, state, or private entities for flood control, water supply, hydroelectric generation, and/or recreation. Additionally, Virginia has over 40,000 miles of streams. [Review the report on our website!](#)

TOURNAMENT NEWS



BY DREW CAMPBELL

**NEXT TOURNAMENT - VIRGINIA YELLOW PERCH
FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 1, 2015
(BLOW DATES: MARCH 7 & 8, 2015)**

Ring Perch, American Perch, Bandit Fish, Calico Bass, Convict, Coon Perch, Eisenhower, Jack Perch, Lake Perch, Red Perch, Sand Perch, Striped Perch, Ring Tail Perch ...

Whatever YOU call them they are here and are the fish many people see as kicking off the Spring fishing season!

The Yellow Perch tournament is open to all Virginia waters. Popular spots include the Chickahominy and Mattaponi Rivers. But don't overlook Little Creek or Western branch reservoir's both are citation producers 1.4 pounds or 12 inches!

Fishing is usually dependable if weather conditions co-operate. Please contact Chairman to confirm event if weather is questionable (campbellx2@verizon.net, H (804) 658-8297, O (804) 658-8297).

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.

Each fish entered must be declared a points entry or a weight entry, but cannot qualify in both categories. Only two fish of each specified tournament species can be entered in any tournament.

The 2015 Tournament Chairman is Andrew Campbell. Tournament entries will qualify if sent to Andy within 24 hours of the end of each tournament. The preferred method of notification is the E-Card (electronic entry card) with the Tournament box checked. Phoned-in entries are also accepted and paper entry cards if post marked or made within the 24 hour time limit.

**COMING SOON-
KELLY STAFFORD MEMORIAL HICKORY SHAD & WHITE PERCH
APRIL 11 & 12, 2015
(BLOW DATES: APRIL 18 & 19, 2015)**

VIRGINIA ANGLERS CLUB - 2/18/15

SPECIES	ANGLER	WEIGHT	LN	DIV.	PTS	DATE	LOCATION	BAIT
2015 SPECIES LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	A CAMPBELL	12-6	8	FLY	206	12/28/14	Chesapeake Bay, VA	HALF & HALF CLOUSER
2015 DIVISION LEADERS - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	A CAMPBELL	12-6	8	FLY	206	12/28/14	Chesapeake Bay, VA	HALF & HALF CLOUSER
BASS, STRIPED	A CAMPBELL	9-6	12	SPIN	78	12/28/14	Chesapeake Bay, VA	Jig
2014 SPECIES LEADERS LARGEST - SALTWATER								
BASS, STRIPED	A CAMPBELL	12-6						



Robert Thomas

Fishing Adventures

Fly Casting & Fly Tying Instruction
Equipment: Rods, Reels, Lines, etc.
Fly Tying Materials & Tools
Hosted Trips

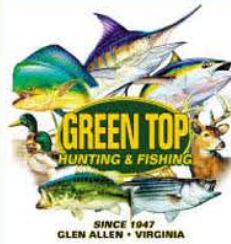
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Design and Layout: Rob Choi

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at DGF Headquarters

