

Letter from the PRESIDENT

To All Our Valued NAC Members,

We are pleased to announce that the 2013 Awards Banquet will be held at the Cypress Point County Club this year on February 22, 2014. The cost to a member in good standing with current dues paid will be \$15.00 per person. The club will be picking up the remainder of the cost per member.

We ask members to prepay at our next meeting on Monday, 2/10/2014. We will also collect money at the Banquet, if needed.

Beer and wine will be served at an open cash bar from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Drinks will also be served throughout the evening as requested.

Dinner will be buffet style served from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

The Awards Ceremony will begin after dinner with a raffle to be conducted as well!

We are look forward to seeing you all there to enjoy and celebrate this festive occasion!

Thank You for Your Time,
Neal Taylor
President NAC

Whats Next for the Masters Anglers PROGRAM?

The Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament Advisory Committee met on **February 18, 2014** at 7 pm. The result was an unanimous vote to reinstate the Master Angler Program for 2014 and beyond. Levels are:

Master level one 25 qualified Citations With 5 different species

Master level two 50 qualified Citations With 10 different species

Master level three 75 qualified Citations With 15 different species

Master level four 100 qualified Citations With 20 different species

Master level five 125 qualified Citations With 25 different species

Master level six 150 qualified Citations With 30 different species

Master level seven 175 qualified Citations With 35 different species

Thank you everyone who has shown support to help make this happen — especially Wes Blow who made sure to stay on top of all the latest developments and was an active participant in gathering enough support!

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Next MEETING

Awards Banquet | Cypress Point
Country Club

Saturday, February 22, 6:30 pm
Healthy Grin Sportsfishing



A number of first & PERSONAL BESTS



Written by: John Brown

With Striper season being pretty much a bust in the Bay and legal ocean waters this year, brother Randy and I have been hitting the ER as often as possible. It has been quite a Speck season for us both. I finally caught my first ever 30”+ Speckle and Randy caught a boat record 32.25” monster...his personal best as well. It looked like a fat Salmon with a 17” girth (see photo). Actually, since November, we have managed 4 Specks over 30” with a good number of 24”- 29” fish. As always, the fish were all taken casting artificial lures and all released.

My personal best length Speck at 32” was taken in mid-December on a 17MR. I was fishing solo, so the photo is only of the fish “on the tape”. The fish had a girth of 16.5”. Amazingly, this fish was 1 of only 2 Specks I caught on this slow, 8 hour fishing day. The other Speck, just 17”. You just never know.

More recently, I had the good fortune of boating a personal best weight Speckle. Until just a few weeks ago, Randy and I felt like we did not have a safe way of weighing fish on the boat. We just measured length and girth on big fish and estimated the weight using an on-line fish weight calculator – still, a guess at best. **Well heck, with the quality fish we were catching, we decided to look for a fast and safe way to weigh our fish.** Randy did some research and found a fish sling and hand held scale system that minimizes additional stress on the fish while getting an accurate fish weight. So, after verifying the accuracy of our digital scale with the certified scale at OEII, we were ready to catch and weigh fish with confidence.

Anyway, on with the story. The first fish-able day after our first snow, I

fished the ER. I went solo curious to see what, if any affect, the cold and snow had had on the bite. Surface water temps in the river were a chilly 42-43 degrees at my first stop. Wanting to “test the waters,” I fished the area for about 45 minutes and, much to my surprise, did catch a dink Speckle in that cold water. I then received a call from fellow NAC member, Louis Glaser, who called to say that Ned Smith had just released a 24” Speckle further up the river. They had also had another bite or two that did not come tight. **That phone call resulted in what would become an amazing big fish day.**

I departed for their location and upon arrival, saw that they had just boated another Speckle...water temp in the river was now 45.7 degrees and warming. At Louis’s direction, I sat up a couple cast length distance from he and Ned to join the bite. **On my second cast with a 27MR, I was hooked up to a HEAVY fish.** It did not have the head shakes normally associated with a Speck or a Striper. It felt more like a Red, just steadily, doggedly taking line. I fought the unknown fish for quite a while, watching Ned and Louis boat fish after fish.

Of course, I am thinking **“heck, I am fighting this darn big Redfish and missing out on the great Speckle bite Louis and Ned are having — dang.”**

Finally, my fish makes its first appearance. My jaw drops and my knees begin to shake. **It is a long, W-I-D-E Speckle.** With shaking knees, my fishing rod in one hand and net in the other, I was able to guide this tired, big ol’ gal into the net. Safely in the boat, I used the trolling motor to get close to Louis and Ned while I measured and



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A number of first & PERSONAL BESTS

weighed the fish. The fish was 31.5” long with a 17”+ girth. I weighed her twice and both times the digital scale registered 12lbs 7oz!!!! **A real fatty, I was in awe of how wide, wide, wide (did I say wide?) the fish was – amazing.** After a quick photo by Louis from Ned’s boat, I revived and released her. She swam off strong. I did not include the picture of this fish as unfortunately, the details of the background in the photo are much too revealing — sorry.

Catching my breath, I returned to where I had hooked her up and started casting. Within a couple casts, I am hooked up again to another heavy fish. **Living a dream** (as Louis likes to say), I got this fish to the boat and net...29.25” and again, **thick!** Back to the sling and scale, this 29”+ fish weighed 10lbs even — **wow!** Released.

A couple of casts later and again, another big darn Speckle. This time 28.25” — **unbelievable!** I did not even weigh this fish as I was anxious to get a lure back in the water. But, as with all good things that must come to an end, this bite too was ending. I did manage 1 more 20” Speck and 3 slot Redfish, but the big fish bite for me was done.

As for Louis and Ned. They had a 20 fish day with 19 quality Speckles and 1 slot Red. They had 3 citation Specks at 24”, 24.5” and 25.5” — all from the same location (hear his version of the story on the side bar of this article!)

Many thanks to Louis and Ned who called me in on an incredible bite. It resulted in the quite possibly, the heaviest Speckle I may ever catch. Very unselfish of them and I can only hope to return the favor in the future. Thanks again fellas.

The ER bite continues even after snow fall number 2. The Speck bite is slower, but the Redfish have shown in numbers. **Good luck if you go.**

Catching Reds in the ELIZABETH RIVER

Written by: Ned Smith



Earlier in the week the 8 plus inches of snow and ice on the roads shut everything down. But Saturday’s warmer weather and late rain solved the road problem and melted the snow and ice on the boat ramps. Sunday (Feb. 2) was our first good day for fishing on the Elizabeth River. Bert Sainz and his dad invited Louis and me to fish on Bert’s skiff. His trolling motor was a big plus for working the flats.

The water temperature was 45 when we started fishing and almost 48 degrees when we headed in 5 hours later. For the 1st hour the outgoing current and bite were slow...but then both bite and current picked up steam. For the next 3 hours we caught around 20 reds (20 to 25 inches) and 6 specks (4 were 22 to 23 ¾ inches). All fish were caught on 17, 20 and 27 MRs (color didn’t matter). In terms of numbers this was my best Redfish day on the ER.



Weather & Tides RESOURCES

www.FishCrazy.info
Outdoor writer Ric Burnley provides up-to-date, reliable fishing reports, step-by-step how-to articles, news and events, professional guides

and everything you need to fish the Mid Atlantic.

www.weather.com
Provides a national and local weather forecast for cities worldwide.

www.noaa.gov
The National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States.

www.wtkr.com
Hampton Roads local CBS

affiliate. Provides weather and marine forecast information.

www.wunderground.com
Provides weather forecasts for the US and the world with a fast, easy to use interface. Includes weather maps, graphics and radar images.

www.saltwatertides.com
Provides low and high tide predictions, sunset, moon rise, moon set, and moon phase information.

www.wvec.com
Hampton Roads local ABC affiliate.