

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB WIRELINE

JANUARY 2019



What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Conservation Police Officer Bonnie Braziel, and Conservation Police Officer Chris Smith

Fishing Reports:

- James River; Rockfish
- Chesapeake Bay/Cape Charles; Rockfish
- Offshore; Black Sea Bass
- Lynnhaven Inlet; Speckled Trout
- Elizabeth River; Rockfish
- Little Creek Inlet/Pretty Lake; Rockfish
- Louisiana; Yellowfin Tuna, Almaco Jacks, Red Snapper, Amberjack Tuna, King Mackerel
- South Carolina; Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Thank you for another great year for the Norfolk Anglers Club! 2018 was a fantastic year for the Club and with your continued support we'll make 2019 even better!

We've got Club Board of Directors elections scheduled for January and I'd like to thank each of the Club Officers for agreeing to serve another year. Their leadership and support is invaluable to organizing and guiding our club to the many successes we've enjoyed.

Thanks to each of you who supported the SeaTow Holiday Stuff-a-Boat toy drive in support of the USMCR Toys-for-Tots campaign. More than 1,800 toys were collected for local children. That's an amazing success from YOUR efforts and generosity Well Done!

We're still collecting non-perishable food items for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. In fact, we never stop collecting, so please remember to bring something to the January meeting and we'll get it to the foodbank.

- Will

Meeting

Guest Speaker: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Conservation Police Officer Bonnie Brazier and Conservation Police Officer Chris Smith will be joining us for the January meeting. Our Conservation Police Officers have a wide variety of responsibilities protecting our natural resources and enforcing our hunting, fishing and boating regulations. Don't miss this opportunity to interact with our Conservation Police Officers.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, 14 January at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill

7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

Publishers NOTES

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NORFOLK ANGLERS



Club Calendar

January

Wednesday, Jan 9th, FMAC Meeting - 6:00pm

Monday, Jan 14th, NAC Club Meeting - 7:00pm

Tuesday, Jan 22nd, VMRC Commission Meeting

February

Fri-Sun, Feb 8-10th, Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boatshow
- Va Beach Convention Center

Mon-Thurs, Feb 11-14th, Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council (MAFMC)
Meeting - Va Beach



FOR SALE: 2004 Grady White Seafarer 226 (24 ft). Soft top.

2004 Honda 225HP engine with only 150 hours. Engine hours reflect total usage since new. Boat is in nearly

new condition (always stored indoors). Head, baitwell, almost everything else never used. You could eat off the bilges. This is a time capsule. I am selling for an elderly friend who has rarely used the boat. \$30K Let's talk! Hank Giffin 375-1491 hankgiffin@cox.net

Stuff-A-Boat Holiday Toy Drive

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Another very successful Holiday Toy Drive for local children in Hampton Roads thanks to Sea Tow Hampton Roads. Assisting in the collection of the toys; Virginia Beach Angler's Club, Norfolk Anglers Club, Tidewater Angler's Club, Portsmouth Angler's Club, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association, Tidewater Boat Club, Princess Anne Distributing, Bon Secours In Motion Physical Therapy at DePaul Medical Center, East Beach Marine Supply, Lynnhaven Marine, Surf Rider Restaurant Group, Norfolk Marine Company, Portsmouth Jewelry Repair & Design, Salas Auto Service, and Greg's Bait Shack. Toys collected supported the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys-for-Tots campaign and benefitted local children.



NACHOLIDAY PARTY

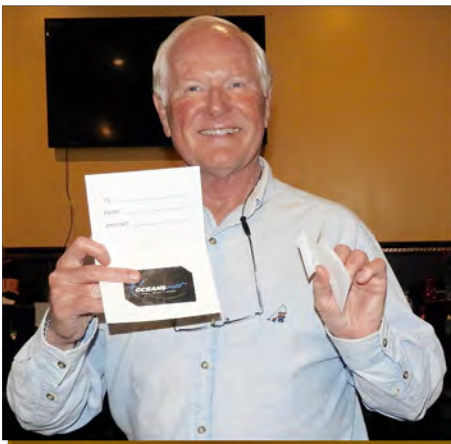






**THE
STEALS**





**THE
STEALS**



**THE HOLIDAY
PARTY WAS A
GREAT SUCCESS.
THANKS TO MIKE
HUBERT AND
WENDY BRANSOM
FOR DECORATING.
ALSO THANKS TO
KAREN SCHRADER
FOR DONATING
THE BEAUTIFUL
POINSETTIAS!**



Fishing Reports...



2 DEC: I fished for Stripers on a Monday in the James River area with John Curry. We usually only fish for an hour or two but have pretty good luck with school size fish, 18 - 26 inches, yes under 20 inches go back. We hooked three but only landed one. All were caught on Stretches. Color doesn't seem to matter, dark top/light bottom and red/white both caught fish. Hard to believe with two treble hooks on the lure, they can throw the hook and get away. It seems like we lose about 20 percent of the fish we hook. - Henry Troutner



14 DEC:
This striper weight 50 lbs 6 oz, it was caught off Bouy 38 off Cape Charles. Russell Willoughby was with me and caught two schoolies 24 and 26 inches. We used Eels for bait.



I am not sure of water temp as my gauge is not accurate. Lots of fish were caught at 36A. - Jerry Hughes

19 DEC: So most of you know I help a commercial rod and reel guy sea bass fishing. We'd made several trips during the past 2 weeks and have done really well on some deep water/offshore wrecks. Probably most of them are further than a recreational guy would want to travel considering bag limit, travel time & fuel cost. One day, while baiting some hooks the 20 oz. sinker rolled off the side and pulled the hooks with it, lodging one deep in my left index finger. Due to where it went in at a joint I didn't want to mess with it so we just cut it off so I could continue fishing. When we got in, about 8:00 PM, I went to the E.R. X-rays confirmed it had gone to the bone, tearing the tendon sheath. The Doctor



said it was a good thing I didn't try to remove it. About an hour of surgery was needed to remove it. Shouldn't be any long term damage.

- Henry Troutner



19 DEC: I had to go through over a dozen Speckled Trout on a Thursday to manage these two small keepers. - James Robinson



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ETA: PRONTO

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But we heard on the radio several people catching bigger ones over 40 lbs. Parking at the ramp was slammed. Most everyone caught fish. It was a beautiful day out there and very calm but cold. I hadn't been out since 2012 for stripers. So it was still worth it since I got some striped meat in the freezer now and the boat is a great fishing boat, very comfortable to fish in. Way to go Russell! - Ike Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower

19 DEC: Maiden Fishing Trip on Russell's new (old) Mako Striper Fishing out of Cape Charles. Bob Stuhlman and I went with Russell for his maiden fishing trip on his new Mako 21' with a 200 hp Mercury on it. He's put a lot of work into it rehabbing this 1970s Mako and putting this "new" 2015 Mercury (he bought it with only 28 hours on it). It ran like a champ on a beautiful day out of Cape Charles Public Ramp. We fished all day drifting eels once we found some bait in the area of #38 buoy. Russell and Bob ended up with 2 stripers, 33 and 27 inchers on the afternoon bite. Bob refused to let me take a picture.



26 DEC: Jon and I got out after Christmas day and fished most of the morning with no luck until we hit a 22 inch keeper on a stretch 25+. On the run home we came across birds working a large school of bait and a ton of small rockfish. We hooked into about 8 more fish in all just short of the legal limit. All in all it was nice get into a little action before the season closed. - EJ O'Brien





12 DEC: In mid-December Bert Sainz and I put the boat in at the Jordan Bridge Boat Ramp and fished the Elizabeth River. We went up stream as far as the Gilmerton Bridge and fished the flats and drop offs for stripers. We had some success catching 7 stripers between 16 and 22 inches. Back at the dock we got into a pleasant conversation with Bonnie Braziel, Conservation Police Officer, DGIF. She talked about her job and the general



condition of the fishery in Virginia. She said she would enjoy coming to an Norfolk Anlgers Club Meeting and talk about her job and issues facing the fishery.

19 DEC: Bert, Mike Rhinehart and I headed over to Cape Charles for some striper fishing. Winds were low, air temp in low forties and water temp at 44 degrees. We fished around the 38A buoy for 2 hours plus and got no bites. We than headed to buoy 38 where we found some bait and fish on the screen. Over the next 3 hours, we had a few knock downs and picked up a 26, 30, and 33 inches. We used 25 and 30 stretches and a small mojo with a 6 inch Storm trailer. Winds started to pick so we headed home. It was great to get out on the bay and catch some fish. - Ned Smith



DEC 18
Fish still
in Pretty
Lake.
- Louis
Glaser



11 DEC: I fished under the light on the dock in Pretty lake with Taz on a nice night. We caught four stripers and kept two. It was a little little nippy so we only stayed 40 minutes.

- Louis Glaser





26 DEC: *This was my first Citation Striper since 2011!* I went fishing with Russell and Jerry Hughes from the Cape Charles Public Ramp which was slammed with trucks and trailers when we got there. At one point Russell counted 106 boats within view near the Buoy 38. The winds were light from the NW as we rode in Russell's Mako 21 to Buoy 36A about 3 miles from the ramp. We found lots of bait but no fish biting in the 120 foot hole that is there. So moving on to Buoy 38 where we caught

fish last Wednesday, we also found bait and stripers in about 50 - 75 feet. We waited drifting with live eels under bobbars and free lining. In just a few minutes, my Bait Runner spinning rod went off with a nice striper taking line like crazy. After a great fight for five minutes with this fish pulling line, once she saw the boat we had her in the net and in the boat. We measured her at 45 inches and my scale read 46 lbs but at Oceans East it weighed out 45 lbs 7 oz for a state weight citation. But, that was all the fish that we caught there and the bait seemed to leave the area quickly. So Russell had us looking for bait until we ended up almost at Buoy 40 about ten miles from Cape Charles. The bait was there and pretty soon we had a 41 inch fish weighing 37.5 lbs at Ocean's East later in the day. We tried several areas between 40 and 36A buoys until it got time for us to go weigh in our fish. Overall, it was a great day and Christmas present for me. This was the first citation striper that I've caught since 2011, and the first striper over 40 inches since 2012 in the Cape Charles area. The weather was great, the boat ran great and we "got the meat"!

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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26 DEC: We had spent 4 days with my dad in Wheeling helping him and celebrating Christmas. On Christmas evening we arrived back home and had found that Santa Claus had fixed my boat! (long list of stuff & best gift ever!). We decided to do a test run/meat run the next day. We grabbed the bait we had already in the freezer and left Rudee around 7:00 am in the morning. The trip out was rough and so we decided to go to a plan B location. After a very bumpy ride, we got there and did multiple drifts in various spots from previous trips there. The Sea Bass were thick in some areas and not in others so we sifted through and found our little

niche and then proceeded to have some good old fashioned fun. Kevin and I had a fish off and even though I was showing Kevin what I was using ... I was still pulling in sea bass twice the size of his, many were over 4 lbs. We laughed and made smack comments here and there and just had fun. We boated a 2 man sea bass limit and left to head back home around 2:00 pm. The sea bass preferred squid over frozen cut bait, and 2 hook bottom rigs produced larger fish then jigging. Totally opposite of the norm with these critters in my opinion, but either way, I'll take it. We both were using the shimano trevala medium fast (80-200 lb) jigging rod paired with a Daiwa saltist 50 which did the trick nicely. The rod is super sensitive and the reel is light and holds a large amount of line, both are



durable for multiple species but do not break the bank. I have used this set up rod/ reel for the last 4 plus years and can't say enough about it. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, Tight Lines Everyone!

- Beth Synowiec





17 DEC: Venice, LA Day 1 - The target was large tuna, but we never found them along the 2 floater rigs that we worked. It is almost a 2 hour boat ride one way and we want to be back before sunset. Hence, our fishing window is only about 5 hours. Tuna usually hang on the up current side of these rigs. We troll 2 rods with diving plugs in hopes of picking up a schoolie yellowfin or blackfin while looking at the fish finder for marks of bigger tuna. Bigger tuna here are usually not fooled by lures. We did get 2 keeper schoolie yellowfins between trolling and chunking along with many tiny blackfins. However, we struck the meat jackpot on the second rig. Almaco jacks saved the day. Smaller than amberjacks, almacos are tastier and fight just as well pound for pound. While cruising up to jig up live bait, I noticed hundreds of almacos under the boat. We proceeded to cast poppers and surface irons at these jacks. 2-3 jacks would come up and crush the popper. After 30 minutes, we put 2 dozen almaco jacks up to 32 inches in the fish box. Most of the jacks were on the smaller side- averaging about 20-24 inches. We even had 2 fish on one popper at one point. This was the biggest almaco jack of the day- on the popper.

19 DEC: Day 2 - After a 10 minutes discussion with my friend, we decided to skip out on the shot of big tuna and go for a combined trip of wahoo and bottom fishing. This would enable us to shorten our drive out the Gulf and give us more time to fish. Also, this would be an early season wahoo scouting trip than can help him plan his next trip. We were hosting the Louisiana Wounded War Heros. These veterans

given the leftover 2018 red snapper quota ~~and will be~~ allowed to keep 2 red snapper per person per day until the end of 2018. We wanted to make sure they can get their snapper. Fishing turned into catching fast! On our first troll drift across the rig, we got a big hookup.....big amberjack. On the next pass.....barracuda. This would go on three more times and we decided to troll along the lump away from the rig. Barracuda is not really valued as a food fish and amberjacks were out of season. Nevertheless, everyone enjoys bring up a big 40 pound+ fish!

Trolling along the lump near schools of menhaden being busted on top resulted in a double king mackerel hookup. I took the first rod that doubled over. The fish took over 150 yards of line off the Penn 30W. We

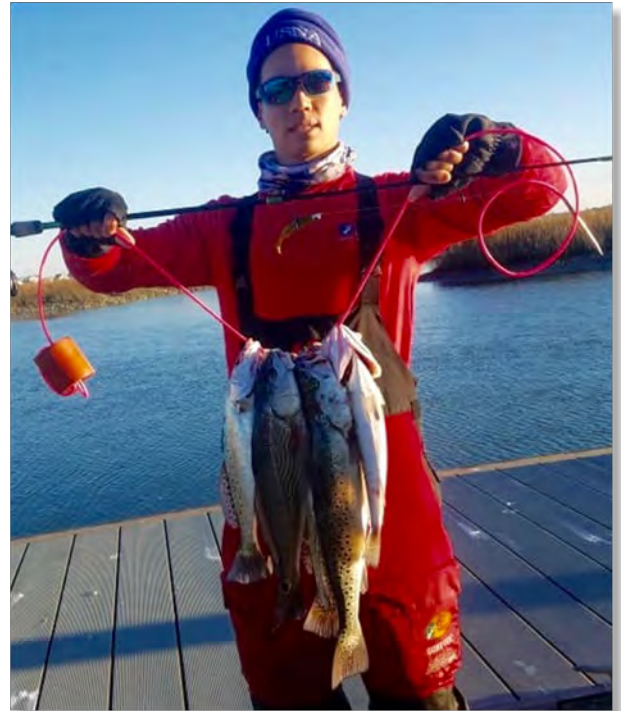


thought we finally got a wahoo. During my 10 minute fight, the other rod went off and a nice king mackerel was landed. My fish ended up being a monster king mackerel. It measure 64 inches fork length. We did not have it weighed, but it is estimated to be in the mid 60 pound range, which would be competitive for the Alabama and South Carolina state record. Another boat nearby did a wahoo off the same rig, we we just kept getting amberjacks and barracuda. On one drift, we tried chunking and jigging, I got 2 smaller king mackerel on the Fall Flat Jig and had another amberjack that was mauled by sharks. On the way back in, we stopped by 2 oil rigs to get red snapper. The first rig was loaded with sharks. I managed to hook one that ate my hooked blue runner. I was pretty impressed by the 4/0 hooks on that jig- it held up to a 6 foot shark. The second rig got us our limit of 6 snapper. I caught my snapper on a 3 oz green bucktail tipped with a strip of blue runner.

Murrells Inlet, SC: I went back to my parent's place in Florence, SC and took the kayak down to the coast. At this point, I have a decent local knowledge of a sector of that Murrells Inlet marsh. I went straight to my favorite creek at low tide. With the full moon, the creek becomes landlocked and fish are trapped. Everything worked to my advantage. I released about a dozen dink trout and kept trout up to 21 inches. I spooked 1 slot red while wading and landed another. All fish were caught on a Unfair Lures paddletail paired with a G Eye Jighead.



Georgetown, SC: I got invited to join a local charter captain's family trip. He took us to some exotic creeks behind a barrier island. We hit the jackpot early on the first stop and probably had 20 slot reds. We kept our limit and tagged the rest.



Unfortunately, the rest of the day was just slow. I picked up 2 dink trout and another slot rod at another stop. Also, if anyone is looking to do a charter or have another spot for a crew for blackfin tuna jigging on the Outer Banks, please let me know. I have my own gear and willing to make the drive and chip or cover as need be. -



- Brian Tsai



Norfolk Anglers Club

Angler Interests



Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) meeting; January 9th

The Virginia Marine Resource Commission will host the FMAC meeting on Wednesday, January 9th at 6:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Virginia Marine Resource Commission, 2600 Washington Ave, Newport News VA, 4th Floor Conference Room. Agenda items include a discussion on the 2019 Recreational Black Sea Bass season for February, discussion on Management of Spot and Croaker, an update on the Striped Bass Stock Assessment, and a briefing on the December meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) meeting in Arlington, VA

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will hold their winter meeting in Arlington, Virginia. The Commission will meet February 5-7, 2019. The meeting will be held at the The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Eads Street · Arlington, Virginia, 22202 · Phone: 703.486.1111. Preliminary agenda items include; considering approval of the proposal for 2019 recreational measures for Scup & Black Sea Bass and a progress update on the development of Draft Amendment 1 to the Cobia FMP.



66th Mid-Atlantic Sports & Boat Show, February 8-10, 2019

If you've been thinking of buying a boat or upgrading what you currently have, now is the time to buy! All the big dealers will be under one roof, ready to show you their stock and make a deal. Whether you want to see the latest and greatest 2019 models or want a great deal on an unused 2018, you don't want to miss this chance to check them all out.

Friday Feb 10 (noon-8:00pm), Sat Feb 11 (10:00am-10:00pm), and Sun Feb 12 (10:00am-5:00pm)
Virginia Beach Convention Center



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) meeting in Virginia Beach

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold their next meeting in Virginia Beach. The Council will meet February 12-14, 2019 in Virginia Beach, VA. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront (3001 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23151, 757-213-3000). Meetings are open to the public.

Norfolk Anglers Club Food Drive.....We never stop collecting



The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore was pleased to receive the non-perishable food items we've been collecting at the meetings. As a club, we can certainly do more for those who could use our help.

Items always in need; Lean Canned Protein (Peanut Butter, Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Beans), Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Fruit Preserves and Dried Fruit, Whole Grains (Pasta, Oatmeal, Rice, Crackers), Other Meals (Stew, Boxed Meals, Canned Pasta), and Baby Products (Formula, Baby Food, Diapers, and Wipes).

We'll have a box for your donations at the door. So take a moment while you're out shopping to pick up a few of the items and bring them to the meeting. We'll take care of getting them to the Food Bank. Thank You for all you've contributed so far.

