

THE NORFOLK ANGLERS CLUB

WIRELINE

NOVEMBER 2017

What's Inside

Guest Speaker: Ryan Jiorle, Virginia Marine Resource Commission
Fisheries Management Division; Cobia

Fishing Tips: Product Review; Eelsnot Protective Coatings, Boat Therapy

Fishing Reports:

- Pennsylvania; Smallmouth Bass, Walleye and Muskie
- James River; Grey Trout and Rockfish
- Offshore; Golden Tilefish
- Inshore; Flounder and Red Drum
- Little Creek; Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum
- Lynnhaven; Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, Spot
- Rudee Inlet; Speckled Trout

Anglers Interests: Maintenance Matters; Trailer Maintenance: Replacing Leaf Springs

Leadership Notes...

Fellow Norfolk Anglers,

Don't forget to bring an un-giftwrapped toy to the meeting for the Sea Tow Hampton Roads' Stuff-A-Boat Holiday Toy Drive. Ed & Karen Schrader will collect them up and deliver them to the USMCR Toys-for-Tots campaign in December. Last year local Angler Clubs and businesses collected more than 800 new and unwrapped toys for children in Hampton Roads. So be generous and help make a Tidewater child's holiday brighter.



As always, we're collecting food and other non-perishable items for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. See the Anglers Interest section of information on the types of items they need.

Will



MEETING

Guest Speaker: Ryan Jiorle, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Fisheries Management Division

Cobia has garnered a lot of attention in recent years. With Federal seasonal closures, proposed changes in the fisheries management approach, and the creation of a Cobia Landing Permit this year with required reporting, we're fortunate to have Ryan joining us at the next meeting to share a VMRC perspective on Cobia.



Important:

Date of next meeting - Monday, November 13th at 7pm

Location:

Teppanyaki Buffet & Grill
7525 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

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Club Calendar

November

Sunday, Nov 5th: Daylights Savings Time

Monday, Nov 13th: Club Meeting

December

Saturday, Dec 2nd: Club Clean-Up at the Ocean
View Recreation Center

Monday, Dec 11th: Member's Holiday Party &
Gift Exchange

Tuesday, Dec 12th: VMRC Meeting



Club 5-Fish Tournament Results

We held our second 5-Fish Tournament and cookout on Saturday Oct 28th at Vinings Landing Marine Center. The tournament fished for Speckled Trout, Puppy Drum, Tautog, Rockfish, and Bluefish. Congratulations to all the Anglers who fished!

Top honors went to Alex Perez and his son "AJ". Together they took three 1st Place categories with their Speckled Trout (19"), Rockfish (25.75"), and Bluefish (11.75") entries. They swept the Bluefish category with their second place Bluefish (11.00") entry.

Ray Sexton nailed the Puppy Drum category with his 1st & 2nd Place entries with a 26" and 23.5" Red Drum. Ray caught them with cut blue crab.

Sharon "Sam" Justice brought in the only Tautog entry with a 17" Taug for 1st place.

Taz Humphrey took 2nd place in the Speckled Trout category with a 16" fish.



25.75" Rockfish

"AJ" Perez

As the Tournament "Official Measurer" I thought it important to give Mike Hubert an Honorable mention for his Bluefish entry. Mike didn't place but he can sure make a fish look much bigger than it really is. Well done Mike and to all our Anglers.
- Will Bransom, Official Measurer
(because I didn't catch any fish)



Honorable Mention Bluefish

Mike Hubert



WE WANT YOU!

The Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program is looking for a few good anglers...

Are you an avid angler?

Would you like to learn what happens to the fish you release?

For more than 20 years, our team of dedicated taggers have been tagging fish and contributing data to help us learn more about our favorite game fish species. A cooperative effort between the Marine Advisory Services Program at VIMS and the Saltwater Tournament Program at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the VGFTP was created in 1995. Our overall goal is to train and maintain an experienced group of recreational anglers who volunteer their time to tag and release their fish. We target cobia, spadefish, red drum, sheepshead, summer flounder, black sea bass, grey triggerfish, black drum, speckled trout, and tautog.

For more information see: <http://www.vims.edu/vgffp/>.

There are a few still spaces left for the 2018 Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program. To learn more about joining, please contact Susanna Musick, susanna@vims.edu, by December 10, 2017.

Product Review: Eelsnot Boat Therapy

We were privileged to have Toby West with *Eelsnot Protective Coatings* join us for our October meeting. Many of us had heard about his product Eelsnot Boat Therapy but knew little about it. What better way to find out what *Eelsnot* is all about than have the owner of the company come and talk with us.

Before the meeting I picked up some of the Eelsnot Boat Therapy at Boaters Warehouse and decided to give it a try before I departed on an offshore trip. After having spent a week buffing, polishing, and waxing my Parker 28, I thought I'd apply Eelsnot to one side of the hull and see how it goes. Well, I spent too much time getting the boat ready for the trip and didn't get a chance to apply it the way I intended. Running out of time the night before I put some Eelsnot on my fingers and casually swiped an area along the waterline where the crud usually accumulates.

The night we returned I only had enough time to hose the boat down, no soap, no scrubbing, just plain water. The next day I got out the cleaning gear to give it a good cleaning. The area I'd applied Eelsnot to stood right out along the waterline; no scum, nothing but clean hull. The untreated waterline had the familiar crud layer, so out came the brushes and soap.

I also applied Eelsnot to our Carolina Skiff, treating the portside with Eelsnot Boat Therapy and the other half with a good quality boat wax two weeks prior. I spent the day fishing in Lynnhaven and accumulated a nice layer of crud along the waterline. Fortunately, when I cleaned the boat I only had to scrub off the crud on the starboard side. The Eelsnot treated portside hosed off without scrubbing.

Applying Eelsnot is easy. It goes on like you would grease a baking dish, buffing isn't necessary, Toby advised, but you can buff it to give a smooth final finish. It can be applied to fiberglass, gelcoat finishes, metal, and anti-fouling paint finishes. Eelsnot isn't recommended for softer abrasive paints, as they're designed to wear off as they protect the hull. Don't apply Eelsnot to zinc anodes (defeats their purpose) and don't treat walkways, hand holds, or anything you want to stand on or grab hold of when it's wet.

Eelsnot is environmentally friendly, non-toxic, no odor, non-greasy, and made right here in Hampton Roads (Toano, VA) with all American made products. What I like most about Eelsnot, is less drag on the hull equals better efficiency and less fuel AND, less maintenance & cleaning means MORE fishing!

Thank You, Toby for sharing your product line with the Norfolk Anglers Club. You've got a great product! Captain Will Bransom



Annual Fall Social

Thank you to everyone who attended the Fall Social. It was great to have so many Norfolk Anglers and their families together with great food and perfect weather. A special Thank You to the Anglers who made this all possible. Greg Rogers and Mike Hubert who helped out setting up and taking down everything. Mike also helped shop for all the food and supplies. Gregg, our Chef for the day, worked tirelessly to organize the cooking. Henry Troutner, Dr IKE, Ben Capps, Ned Smith, Mike Hubert, Sam Justice and Steve Harding all who helped with preparing the food and cooking. Thanks to Neal & Janet Taylor for supplying the crabs (and cleaning them) and oysters. Steve Harding brought and fried up some delicious Crappie for everyone to enjoy. Tom Hubert supplied us with all the ice we could use. Everyone loved the side dishes and deserts that were brought, they were yummy!







**EVERYONE
HAD A
GREAT
TIME!**



**ALL
TUCKERED
OUT**



Fishing Reports...

30 SEP – 1 OCT: I went to Pennsylvania on the last weekend of September to fish for Smallmouth Bass, Walleye and Muskie. We took 2 float trips. On Saturday 30 SEP, we floated down the Conemaugh River from Boliver to Blairsville. On 1 OCT we floated the Juniata River from Mt. Union to Newton-Hamilton. We managed a few small walleye and a good amount of Smallmouth Bass. Most of the smallies were in the 15" to 18" class. But I did manage the to catch a 21" Smallie. The preferred baits of choice were 3" Rapala shallow Shad Rap silver body with a black back and live Hellgrammites. - Gary Waddell



19 OCT: I've been fishing often on the James over a green Deep Glow light at night and I'm catching many Grey Trout, sat well as Rockfish, but October 19th was great! I caught four Rockfish over 20" on the fly rod and 4 Speckled Trout as well as numerous Grey Trout! - Jack Salvant Jr., MD



15 OCT: I fished with my neighbor Jerry Noah and Taz on a nice morning in Little Creek. We had a good day catching Speckled Trout. They were all caught with MR27 Mirror Lures, color pink.

On 17 OCT, I went to Ocean East to pick up some more Mirror Lures since they have the best selection. I then decided to go into Pretty Lake. I trolled MR52 Mirror



Lures and had my limit of Speckled Trout. They were between 15" and 17". It was a great place to fish when weather conditions are bad. I expect the Speckled Trout will be bigger later on. - Louis Glaser





1 OCT: We had an extremely windy day with 3 foot waves in Little Creek. Taylor and I manged 7 Speckled Trout. We caught most on MR 52s.
- Louis Glaser



4 OCT: I went out with Burt Whitt and his son Taylor in Little Creek and got our limit of Speckled Trout. We caught them on MR 17 & MR 20.
- Louis Glaser

17 OCT: I had a nice limit of Trout in Lynnhaven on a nice Sunday. I waded through 22 shorts but it was fun. Ebb tide was around the oyster bars. Jig heads and Curley tails were hot. - Jimmy Robinson



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Oct 6; Norfolk Canyon: With a perfect weekday weather forecast I had an opportunity to head out to the Norfolk Canyon with fellow Norfolk Anglers, Beth Synowiec, Mike Hubert, and Greg Rogers. Departing out of Rudee Inlet at 6:00am, we made a quick trip out to an area south of the Norfolk Canyon to try our luck with the Tuna. Greg came well prepared with his bag of tuna gear and Penn International reels and while we were hopeful to get a Yellowfin Tuna in the boat, we knew the chances were slim as most have moved on. Still we put out a spread of rigged and naked ballyhoo and spent much of the morning working an area. Late morning we found a grass and debris line and trolled along it looking for a few dolphin and were rewarded with one dolphin.

We moved on to a favorite Golden Tilefish spot and started making the deep drops. Mike was the first to land Golden Tiles, which have a beautiful Yellow/Gold hue, and make incredible table fare. Mike was also able to land another great eating fish, a Black Belly Rosefish from more than 800 ft. We all ended up catching nice Golden Tiles during the day and only stopped when it started getting dark.

Greg topped the day when he hooked into a citation Golden Tile and after a 45 minute fight had it in the net. Golden Tilefish like to bury into the soft mud and when you get a big one on the line and it's gotten into its hole, well, you're in for a good fight getting it out. Greg did a fantastic job!

We scored a second Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament Citation when Beth hooked into another Golden Tile however, after battling it off the bottom, it was hit by a Scalloped Hammerhead Shark on the way up, not once but multiple times the shark went after the tilefish. So many times it eventually hooked itself on the circle hook. Getting it alongside and to the leader was a real challenge and Beth did a great job making it possible for me to get a quick measurement for her release citation. It measured in at 7 1/2 feet!

We enjoyed the long ride home under the bright Harvest Moon and look forward to the next offshore trip. We caught 16 Golden Tilefish, 1 Black Belly Rose Fish and a Dolphin. - Will Bransom



2 OCT: I fished with Doug Wilburn and Ned Smith on a Monday. We caught 7 keeper Speckled Trout 16" - 21" on Doug's 19 ft Maycraft.



Louis Glaser and friend Jerry Gaines had fished the same general area and only caught a 24". Doug, Ned and I had started fishing before the sun was up and caught more of our fish before Louis and Jerry had even gotten out to the jetties. All our fish were caught near the jetties in Little Creek but we had to move around a whole lot and we probably fished with almost every Mirrorlure and rubber bait we had. They seemed to catch best on 17 MR's but never seemed to like one color over another. So we switched and switched lures all morning. The tide also was really weak with NE winds blowing, keeping the water in the creek on the incoming and outgoing tide. The water was really clear, typical there in a NE wind. Tough fishing but it was very comfortable with the water 72 degrees.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



3 OCT: After a terrible time fishing the day before, I went fishing with Louis again. We were hoping for better luck finding the fish than we had the day before. Launching at 8:30am from Vinings Landing, we found 6 boats already in place around the jetties. We tried several positions amongst the fleet but we had to throw out lures into the E wind at 15 mph so we gave up after an hour of catching only throwback sized trout. After an hour of fruitless fishing and repositioning, we finally settled away from the fleet and jetties and instantly I had a 16" fish on my line. I was fishing a 17 MR that had been productive the day before. The water was so clear we actually could see the flat's bottom. When the water is clear, the fish seem to hit on small lures but you have to have the wind at

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your back to cast them anywhere which we did. From that point for the next hour we caught one after another with several of the largest being about 21" long. We were fishing very shallow water with the outgoing tide. We were moving the lures really slowly allowing the current to move the lure as it suspended which seemed to make them irresistible to the Speckled Trout. Most of the fish caught were keepers with a few throwbacks mixed in. Then the bite turned off just as we got to 9 keepers in the livewell. So we moved to deeper water and right before giving up for the

day I hooked another 20" Speckled Trout fishing with a Trouteye lead head with a Z-man Minnow-Z rubber bait. That was the only one caught there so we gave it up. Speaking with our friends in the fleet at the jetties, it was evident that they caught few keepers that day yet it was a great morning fishing for us.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower & Louis Glaser

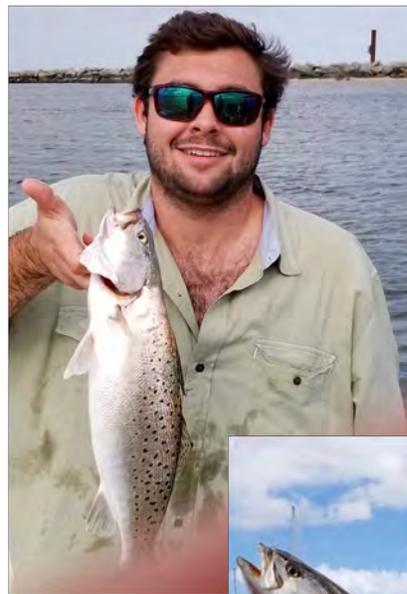
5 OCT: I fished with Doug Wilburn in Little Creek going for Speckled Trout. We REALLY struggled to catch 8. Most caught on MR 20 Mirror Lures.



9 OCT: I fished with the Hampton Sidney boys, Austin, Tye and Pat Valent in Little Creek under extremely windy conditions. We had our limit using Mirror Lures.

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Cooked fish
 Pat Valent



7 OCT: I fished with my great nephew Austin, nephew Kevin Glaser and Pat Valent in Little Creek. We had a good morning but slow afternoon. We caught the Speckled Trout on on MR 27 & Paul Brown lures.



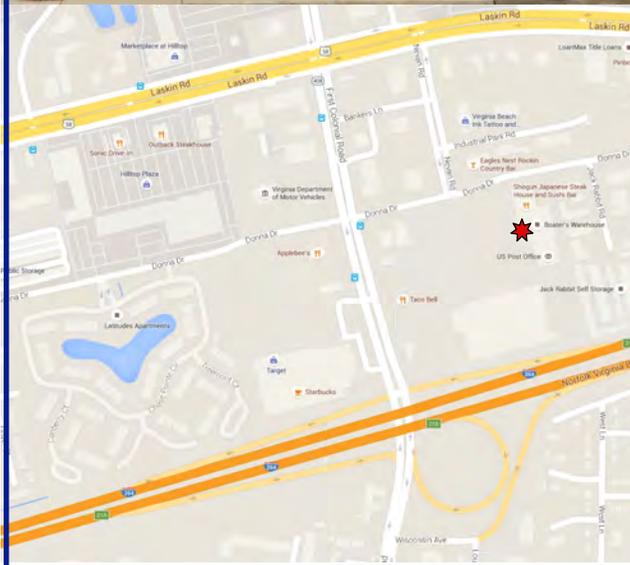
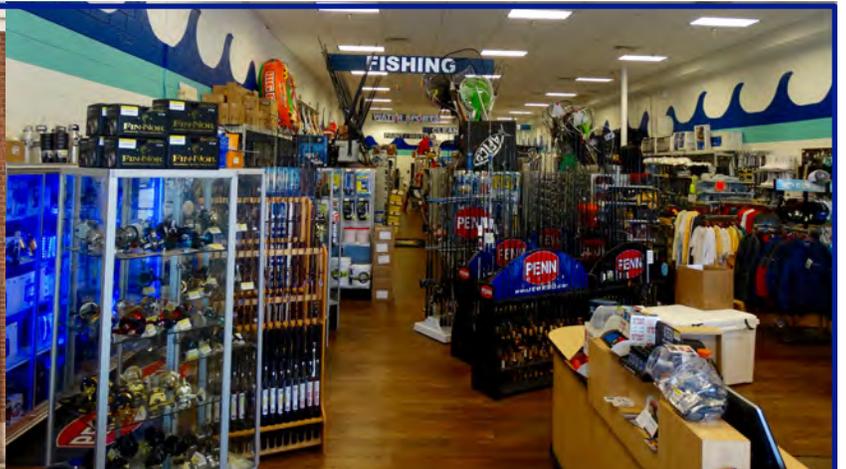
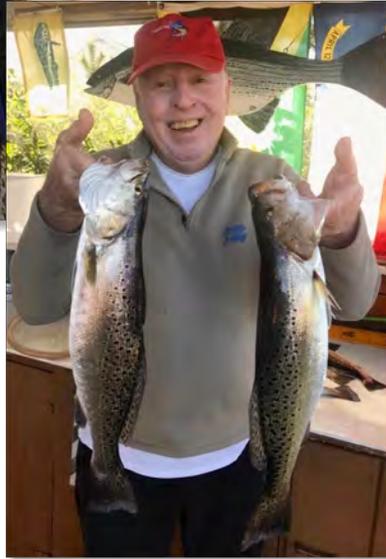
All Reports
 by Louis
 Glaser



18 OCT: I got some big girls on a cooler day. It took two hours to find them and two more to catch them.
- Jimmy Robinson

2 OCT: I had a double limit on Speckled Trout. My buddy Al and I tagged 21 shorts and lost a big one at the net.

- Jimmy Robinson



Mon - Sat: 9:00am - 6:00pm
Sun: 10:00am - 5:00pm



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PROJECT HEALING WATERS

FLY FISHING
HEALING THOSE WHO SERVE

21 OCT: I fished with friend Frank Slevin in the Project Healing Waters, Legends of the Fly Saltwater Fly Fishing Tournament in Virginia Beach. We had a fantastic day and caught 18 Speckled Trout up to 19.5" and 1 Puppy Drum.

We did not accomplish a Slam which would have included a Rockfish. The event supports Project Healing Waters, which is an organization that supports wounded and disabled US military veterans by introducing them to fly fishing and providing outings to fly fish and support their recovery.

I caught 2 Flounder on a fly rod for the first time! One was 16" and the other one about 5" which I found quite surprising!

- Jackson B. Salvant Jr., M.D.



4 OCT: Russell, having been recovering from rotator cuff surgery, had not been fishing with me since the end of August so I just had to get him back out there to enjoy the catch of Puppy Drum and Spot while it was still hot. We launched my Tracker V14 (that I had bought from Melanie Bayford) at sunrise at Crab Creek and headed right for the coves that are only accessible at high tide and started our search for Puppy Drum. Unfortunately someone had put out a half a dozen long gill nets throughout Brown Cove which I was able to avoid while heading into the east side of the cove. While the first place we stopped wasn't productive the second was and Russell soon had a 24" Puppy Drum on a gudgeon floating under a bobber. Of course the fish went everywhere tangling lines that needed to be cut in order to continue fishing. Soon afterward I had a 24" on a piece of frozen mullet who gave me a nice fight pulling drag (both fish in pictures). Then we both caught throwback sized Pups before we left the spot. Moving again Russell had another 24" and I had throwbacks. We tried several other places but didn't get any bites so we decided to try the west side of the cove.

Again we had to weave through the maze of nets that lined the boat channel. Russell caught a 21" around one of the docks and I had another throwback. Since by that time it was almost an hour from full low tide, we decided to try the tennis court area for Spot. As we headed towards the boat channel again I fouled one of the nets and wrapped up my propeller. Cursing my luck and the man who set these damn things, Russell and I cut our way free of the net. I hated to cut the net but we were so tightly wrapped it was the only way to get free. We managed to get set up for spot in a nice place off the channel and promptly caught about 3 dozen Spot, most yellow bellies, in a matter of an hour as the outgoing tide started to slack off. There were about a half dozen boats anchored as well, all of us were catching Spot after Spot. We used nightcrawlers until we ran out then switched to Fish Baits bloodworm which really worked well. By 1:00pm we were worn out and the tide slacked so we headed home. Great catching for a half day fishing in the Lynnhaven in the best time of the year, Fall. Water temperature was 71 degrees.

- Dr. James W. "Ike" Eisenhower



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6 OCT: I went Speckled Trout fishing on windy Friday in Little Creek. I was accompanied by Dave and Beth Hayes. We caught a lot of throwbacks but we did manage to catch our limit with the biggest trout at 21". We fished the jettie and the creek itself and the fish were plentiful. Most of the fish were caught on a Mirrolure 52MR red head with silver body and we caught a few on red jig heads with 4" white curly tail grubs. - Gary Waddell



9 OCT: I went Speckled Trout fishing with fishing buddy Norman Cunanan. We fished Ruddee Inlet and caught over 25 Speckled Trout in the 16" to 20" class. The bait of choice was any silver sided 27MR or 52MR.

- Gary Waddell



6 OCT: I took my buddy Jimmy Overton on our annual Spot fishing trip on a nice day. We had a great time and a great catch!
- Jimmy Robinson



20 OCT: My buddy Al and I got a quick limit and even culled out a few before looking unsuccessfully for Puppy Drum.

- Jimmy Robinson



20 OCT: My boat Magic Carpet with Greg Rogers and Levon Mott went trolling for Bluefish. We went out for a few hours with high hopes for some choppers around the Chesapeake Channel. We only fished one tide cycle because Greg and I had things to do in the afternoon. We got to the 3rd Island just after day break and were on some taylor blues that would have been great flounder bait but we wanted bigger fish for canning and smoked bluefish dip but didn't catch any. We did manage to catch fish steadily all morning though and put 8 fish in the cooler for Mike Delbridge to use for bait the next day. On the way home we saw a school of false albacore chasing minnows so we dropped lines to them. we boated one and lost 2 at the boat due to the light tackle we were using. They are some big fun on light tackle.



On the 28th, Magic carpet took San Justice and Ray Sexton out for the Norfolk Anglers Club 5 Fish Tournament. We were supposed to have Gregg Rogers and Jen Lang along too but both had last minute emergencies and couldn't make it. We started fishing for Tautog near the high level bridge and Sam caught what would be the only Tautog measured. I caught a short and then the oyster toads took over so we left. We stopped at the 3rd to troll up some Bluefish and kept 3, all of them were too short to win anything. Sam also caught a False Albacore which we released. We started moving back toward Little Creek and stopped at two spots I know and Ray caught 2 nice Puppy Drum that took both first and second place. Sam also caught a 14" Seabass and a bunch of shorts.



- Mike Hubert



22 Oct: Kevin and I made a quick trip on the bay and back at the ramp and at the house before 5pm. We were in search of some fun pullage and I think we found it . We caught 2 person limit of pups, size range between 24" to 26". We kept 4 for our neighbors to eat or smoke as an early Christmas gift and we released the other two 25" pups to live another day as well as releasing another drum that measured 27". I mentioned to Kevin on the way out that I was hoping he would get his paper red release drum for the year and that I already had my favorite red drum rod set up and ready to go in the Cuddy. When we got to the location, Kevin did not even hesitate and had that rod out almost immediately; the rod wasn't even in the water 4 mins and zzzzzzz, Kevin had his paper fish on. The battle was awesome and he proudly boated and then released a beautiful 49 inch Red Drum. Although we would have liked to stay much longer we had to be back home to take Clara to work at the Hunt Club Farms. - Beth Synowiec



22 OCT: I went Speckled Trout fishing with Bert Sainz in Little Creek. We started catching Specks immediately. I caught 5 in the first 1/2 hour with a She Dog top water lure; Bert was catching nice Specks on a mirrolure 27. After 2 hours the bite stopped. We were ready to move when we saw bait fish and predator fish coming out of the water outside of the inlet. We gave chase with Bert setting me up for casting a 4 inch paddle tail on 1/4 oz. jig head. I was using my medium lite speck rod with 10 pound test line. After chasing the fast moving bait ball down the beach I finally hooked up with the mystery predator. I thought I was going to be spooled, but the fish finally stopped and I began to retrieve my line and fish. The predator was an 8 - 10 pound False Albacore. Major thanks to CAPT Bert for maneuvering the boat for the catch and giving me a memorable day.



21 OCT: I went with my niece Jonna Glaser looking for Speckled Trout. After an hour we decided to go into Little Creek and finally found some. This was my niece first trout. We caught them on a MR 20 Mirror Lure. On 16 OCT I left dock to Little Creek just as the cold front came thru with my friend Jerry Gaines and Taz Humphrey for Speckled Trout. We ended up with 8 keepers. *Jerry and I thank Taz for handling the anchor in 3ft swells because of our tender age.*
- Louis Glaser



On 15 March, I went Speckled Trout fishing with Nick Wright in the Lynnhaven. The wind was breezy but we had a nice outgoing tide. We caught 9 keeper Specks and a some Rockfish. We had fun catching the Stripers on top water plugs. We took home a few 20" to 21" fish for dinner. - Ned Smith





20 OCT: We only got out few times this month. On the 20th, we tried for Tautog for a couple of hours at the 4th Island prior to Drum/ Shark fishing and managed one keeper with a few throwbacks on the Ocean side. Afterwards we got Martin his first big Drum



fishing the edge of the channel. On the 21st we tried a serious Tautog trip at the 4th Island but ended up feeding the Sea Bass for the most part. We brought home one keeper and tagged 21 smaller Tautogs, Sea Bass, Spadefish and Sheepshead. On the 28th, I took Gwyneth out to the 4th Island for her first fishing trip and put her in charge of catching Sea Bass for the tagging program while I looked for dinner. I ended up with 2 keepers on the Bay side to take home and we released 16 smaller Togs and Sea Bass. - Mike Griffith



18 OCT: I went Speckled Trout fishing with fishing buddy CAPT Patrick Koren on a nice afternoon at the Little Creek Jettie. We caught a mixed bag of small Striper, small Speckled Trout and a few nice sized Speckled Trout. The biggest Speckled Trout was 20". All of the fish were caught on red or chartreuse jig heads and 4" white or chartreuse curly tail jigs. - Gary Waddell



8 SEP: I went fishing with my Dad on his Birthday. We were at the Third island of the Chesapeake Bridge Bay Tunnel (CBBT) using live Fiddler Crabs as bait. My Dad drops the bait down and hands me the rod. A 20.5" Sheepshead grabs the crab right away and I start reeling. We get it in the boat. We took a photo and released the fish healthy. We caught some Croaker later on. We moved on to fish for Red Drum using live Croaker but end up not getting any bites. Overall, it was a nice night.



From the Cover

- Alex Perez Jr.



October 27: Kevin Synowiec Dr James Edward Trudeau and I headed out on a nice morning to fish. This was Jim's first saltwater adventure ever so we decided to fish some inshore areas just in case. The day started off flat and calm and Dr. Jim seemed to be doing well and enjoying himself. In fact, he had his first trigger on the boat in no time. Then Kevin caught a gorgeous Flounder on a crab, and he even received some friendly cheers from some anglers who saw him boating his fish as they passed. We wreck fished for short while and then decided to go to see about some Red Drum. I had my favorite 2 red drum rods set up, in addition to the rods we were holding and in no time the first red hit, a 28" pup that I caught and released.



Then my favorite drum rod went off, I told Jim to grab it and briefed him on what to expect. His face said it all and he was so excited as he boated and released a 36" Red Drum beauty. He was stoked and sure enough as he was grabbing something from his cooler minutes later, my favorite rod went off again. This time Kevin grabbed it, the fight was awesome and Kevin almost had a big fish to the boat but the leader line snapped about 4" up from the hook. It happens to the best of us I said, I re-rigged the line and baited it and as I was dropping it and sure enough I felt the resistance and wham, fish on! It was a blast to fight and apparently the guys even got the end of the battle on video (*and here I thought they were just taking photos, ha!*). I boated and released the 47" citation beauty and got the line back in the water.

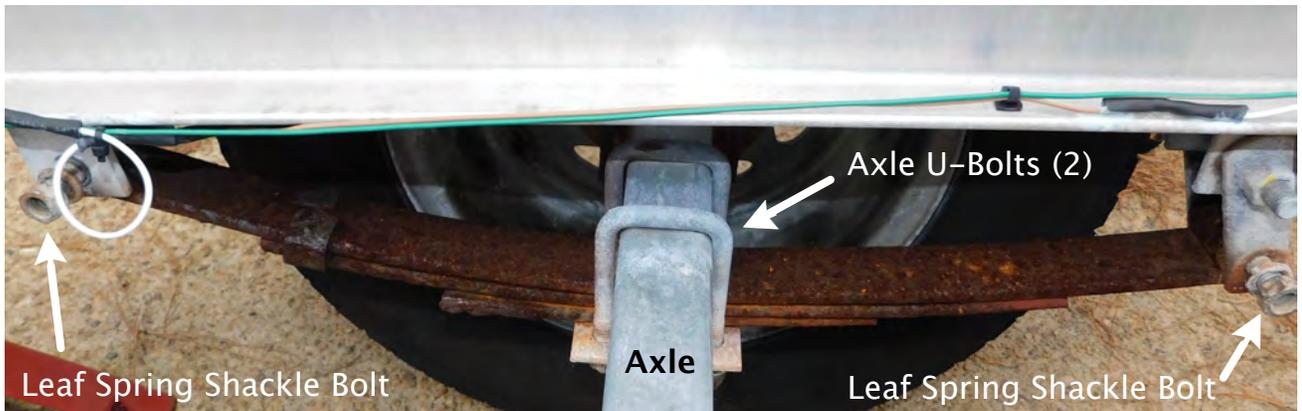


A few minutes went by and wham, my lucky rod went off again! (*They just would not leave that rod alone, ha ha*). I told Dr. Jim to grab it and he did. The fish was very heavy and the battle lasted at least 6 plus minutes. He almost got the fish to the boat but the fish snapped line about 50 feet away. I think these big reds made an imprint on our friend and I have a feeling he will be back. We made a mutual decision to head back as the wind increased, current became rough and the white caps started appearing more and more. *What a great day on the water ! Tight Lines Everyone! - Beth Synowiec*

Trailer Maintenance: Replacing Leaf Springs

Fall is a good time to take care of maintenance issues. Replacing the leaf springs on a small trailer is relatively straightforward but you'll need a few tools and a little mechanical ability.

You'll need an assortment of wrenches and sockets to fit the hardware on your trailer, a jack, two jack stands, a ball peen hammer, and a drift punch. After getting all the tools, hardware, and parts together, start by securing the trailer. You'll be working on one side at a time so hitching it up to your tow vehicle and placing a chock under one side will keep the trailer from moving.

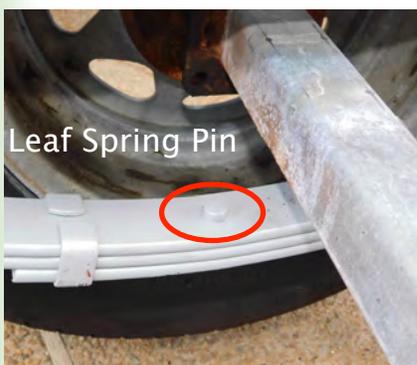


Start by loosening the Leaf Spring Shackle Bolts and Axle U-Bolts, loosen but do not remove them. It's easier and safer to apply force to the hardware while the trailer and axle is on the ground. After loosening the bolts it's time to raise the trailer and put it on the two jack stands. The stands will support and hold the trailer frame steady while you work on the Leaf Spring and Axle. Position the jack under the axle and raise the trailer frame and axle until the tire is about 4 inches off the ground. Place one jack stand under the trailer frame in front and behind the leaf spring shackle bolts with enough room to work.

Carefully lower the axle until the trailer frame rests on both jack stands. The jack will now be used to support the Axle while removing the Leaf Spring Shackle Bolts. You may need to tap the bolts out using a punch. Once removed the Leaf Spring will drop. Unbolt the two U-Bolts holding the Axle and Leaf Spring together.



When you separate the Leaf Spring from the Axle take note there's a hole in the bottom of the Axle and a Pin on the Leaf Spring. These must be aligned and doing so when you reassemble the components will create zero gap between the Axle and Spring.



Trailer Maintenance: Replacing Leaf Springs

Now that you've removed the Leaf Spring from the Axle, take the replacement Leaf Spring and install one end into the Leaf Spring Shackle and insert the bolt. Then repeat with the other end of the Leaf Spring.

The next step is to attach the Leaf Spring to the Axle. Using the jack, lower the Axle down onto the top of the Leaf Spring. Taking care to align the Pin and Hole mentioned previously. If there's a gap between the Spring and Axle the two components are not aligned correctly.



With correct alignment, place the two U-Bolts over the Axle and position the supporting plate from underneath. Install the lock washers and nuts finger tight. Note there's a hole in the center of the supporting plate. The nut on the underside of the Leaf Spring and the Supporting Plate must align.



When tightening the Axle U-Bolts do so evenly so that each U-Bolt has approximately the same amount of threads exposed past the retaining nut. This step will keep the supporting plate aligned flat against the bottom of the spring and an even load on the U-Bolts.



Make one last check to ensure you've installed all the hardware correctly, including the lock washers. Then raise the trailer to remove the jack stands before lowering the tires back to the ground.

Now's a good time to check a few other items on the trailer. Check the wheel bearings for the proper amount of grease or evidence of water intrusion. Examine the wear pattern on your tires and verify proper inflation. Check the lights for proper operation and trailer wiring for security.



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