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wireline

newsletter of the norfolk anglers club





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NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 14th, 2012 at 7:00 pm

MAY 2009 GUEST SPEAKER

Angler Ben Shepherd

presenting

» BIG COBIAS



Capt. Ben is a charter boat captain and fishes mainly out of Hatteras and Virginia Beach. His specialty is sight fishing for cobia, but also fishes for flounder, drum and other inshore and off shore species as well. Ben holds many Virginia and North Carolina saltwater citations. Please plan on attending this meeting to learn techniques and to ask questions about catching big cobias.

This months cover shot was by Ric Burnley.

LOCATION: Mom & Pop's

331 East Bayview Boulevard Norfolk, VA 23503 | 757-233-2453

All Meetings are Open to the Public, you do not have to be a member to come.

Wind, Wind GO AWAY »

I'm truly a torched soul when it comes to spring. Normally, I'm thawing-out from a blustery winter however this year, we fished January thought March as if spring was already here. And because of the mild winter, waiting for decent shots at drum, cobia & flounder has me crawling the walls!

For me personally, April tends to be a "false-start" month. There are plenty of sunny days but Mother Nature finds a way to keep us home with small craft advisories, swinging air/water temps, pop-up thunder storms and water void of bait fish or crabs.

The only thing worse than Mother Nature holding me back are reports from friends who somehow made it out and already scored drum hook-ups. On the outside, I'm happy for them, on the inside I'm seething that I couldn't make it out there. (Hence the torched soul comment).

Even though the season hasn't technically started, I still feel behind. That feeling is driven in part by my competitiveness,

"For me personally, April tends to be a 'false-start' month. There are plenty of sunny days but Mother Nature finds a way to keep us home."

but more sincerely driven by the fact I'm a saltwater photographer/publisher and need every photograph I can get of quality fish.

So while I'm home pining for fair-weather days, I've thrown myself into "spring cleaning" mode for my boats, bait barn and man cave. As the owner of three boats, there is always something for me to do. I've tightened every screw, cleaned every bilge hatch, polished all my chrome, double checked all my wire panels, ensured my batteries are current/charged, polished my enclosures, changed the fuel/water separators and the list goes on. While that sounds like work to some, I honestly love it. Tooling



around the boats and gear are one of those "little things in life" that simply make me happy. If I can't fish, then being around those things help pass the time.

Every morning I eagerly check the weather sites (praying the fair weather days coincide with my days off). It seems the best days are the days I have work, travel, or family commitments.

So until I win the lottery, find a long-lost rich relative, or rob a bank, I'm living through all of you who get out there and CATCH SOME FISH!

Keep the fishing reports coming and somehow I'll live. (Even if it kills me.) ■



Harry R. Hindmarsh
harry@getcabinfever.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY: Harry R. Hindmarsh

"At first, I was initially drawn to the beautiful color of this Spanish mackerel but then I got a good look at this guy's chompers!! About three hours later, this little beauty turned into a 56 pound Yellowfin tuna." - Harry R. Hindmarsh





THE DITCH SLAM!

LOCATION: Elizabeth River

REPORTING ANGLER: "JB" John Brown

Saturday, 21 April started much the same as the 2 previous mornings with early morning fog and light winds. As fishing in the ER had been slower in recent days, expectations were not running high but we were glad to be on the water and anxious to fish.

Randy and I left Top Rack Marina at 0800 and at 0805 made our first casts. Randy threw a Bone Skitterwalk top water plug and I followed with a Black/Orange 17 MR. We were fishing a known rubble pile in the ER. Nearing the end of the drift where the water drops from 4-5' to 12-14', Randy has a crashing blowup on top. But, it doesn't come tight. As the bait settles, he twitches it again and another violent strike results in a chunky 20" Striper. I followed with a couple similar size Stripers on the 17 MR.

Before long, another crash on the surface and Randy is hooked up again. Assuming we had found a small pod of Stripers, Randy gets the fish to the boat and...21 3/4 Speck! Nice. Again, I follow with the 17 MR and bam! - back to back Specks for me - both about 18". Randy continued to diligently work the top and was soon rewarded. This time, the violent strike and hook up resulted in a 25 1/2" pretty Speckle - we both could not believe our fast success. We continued to work the area and managed a couple more decent fish before the bite ended and we moved on. Final tally, 4 Specks, 4 Stripers.

We moved to Newton's Creek in search of Reds. We had managed a couple Redfish from this creek in the last few weeks. This day...nada! However, still wanting to score with the Reds, we moved to another proven Red location. My first cast up against the bank with a Redfish Magic spinning bait and wham, I'm immediately hooked up with something heavy...then, I'm not...pulled off!!! Very next cast into the same location, hooked up again. This time, the Red is hooked well. As I fight my fish, Randy casts a Redfish Magic lure into the same area...hooked up - we are doubled up on Reds!!! Both to the boat and they are "cookie cutter" 26" Reds. Quick photos, fish back in the water another cast...another Redfish! As I fight mine, Randy yells "hooked up" - another double!! We get both to the boat again and it's a 26" and 28". After that, it was game over and we never saw another Red.

We fished another creek mouth and picked a couple dink Specks and another 19" er. At that point, the air temperature started to get hot, the winds stiff, and we figured we probably could not match the day we had already had. We both had managed to catch the ER slam of Specks, Stripers and Reds. So, at 1130, we pulled the plug and headed for the barn. Another darn good day of spring fishing the ER.

fishing reports



SHALLOW WATER STRIPERS

LOCATION: Eastern Shore

REPORTING ANGLER: Harry R. Hindmarsh

April is a tough month for me. I'm always torn between the hot ditch, early flounders and the thought drum in the shoals.

The flats of the eastern shore offer some of the best shallow water striper fishing around. April is the time when all those slot fish we release head to the mating grounds to lay their eggs. For several weeks, the schools stay close to shore eating mullets and anything in their way.

Most of the fish are skinny but they're big and long. The fish in the top photo is a 46" citation and the others are close behind. This is a quiet fishery. I say that because it's shallow water and there usually isn't a boat in sight. The fish can be seen in large schools and concentrate in 2' to 9' of water. The fish can literally see you so you need to have your act together. I've found that it's better to see the fish first and then get a nice, long cast to them. If you get too close they spook and develop lock jaw.

Shads and bucktails are my bait of choice. The water clarity is so clear, it's almost like fishing in the Florida Keys. Because of this, I prefer the more expensive fluorocarbon leader.

This is also Skiff territory. I have a JV-17 Carolina Skiff equipped with a MinnKota iPilot and a push-pole. Low tides are especially interesting as 8" of water are very common. I strongly recommend a GPS that retains your tracks. Until you know every square inch of that terrain, it can be risky business when running your gas powered engine. If you're interested in a new skiff, I highly recommend Norfolk Marine. Best selection of boats, best crew and great customer service.

As the stripers lay their eggs, zillions of rays move over the flats to eat them. As you pole over the rays, they take off in what looks like the parting of the sea. Once you find the rays, it's time to fish another species because the stripers are long gone.

photos from our members

members photos



online resources

FISHING & BOATING 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.PilotOnline.com | Lee Tolliver

Lee Tolliver's Fishing Forecast appears on PilotOnline.com and in the Virginian Pilot sports section every Thursday from the first week in April through Thanksgiving Day.

www.baydreaming.com

Chesapeake Bay Guide provides information on boating, fishing, travel, events, and history for many areas throughout Virginia.

www.fishva.org

An online resource for choosing a VA Saltwater Fishing charter service. Over 100 licensed Captains in the organization.

www.boat-ed.com

The official site for boater education. Boat Ed is the only place on the Web where you can study the official boating safety manual developed specifically for your state government's boating agency.

www.chesapeake-angler.com

A comprehensive fishing network dedicated to all types of Virginia fishing.

www.boatsafe.com

Boating safety courses with boating simulations, animations, boating safety quizzes and boating tips for powerboaters and sailboaters.

www.sportfishermen.com

Comprehensive fishing resource including, tournaments, articles, forums, pictures and video.

www.cbf.org

Features education material, access to critical bay issues, and tools for citizens to take action on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay.

www.dailypress.com/fishingspot

Official website of the Daily Press Newspaper Fishing Section. Offers forums and weekly fishing report.

www.discoverboating.com

Provides a variety of information on safety, maintenance, destinations and tips on buying a boat.

www.hamptonroads.com

Comprehensive resource for Hampton Roads. Includes Virginian Pilot newspaper fishing reports.

www.pierandsurf.com

Provides Virginia pier and surf fishing reports.

www.mrc.state.va.us/swr/saltwaterreview

Includes weekly Virginia Marine Resources Commission fishing report.

www.stripersonline.com

Brings you the most complete striped bass fishing information, including saltwater, surf and fly fishing articles, tackle, techniques, fishing reports and discussions.

www.takemefishing.org

Serves as a one-stop resource for those seeking boating, fishing and conservation information.

www.tidalfish.com

Provides fishing reports and fishing information covering saltwater fishing, freshwater fishing, fly fishing, fishing reports, etc.

www.vbsf.net

Virginia Beach Sport Fishing website links to fishing chat, fishing guides, and catches of the week.

www.vcanaccess.com

Virginia Coastal Access Now (VCAN) is a non-profit organization that represents recreational anglers.

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Official site of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Provides easy access to regulatory and management information related to Virginia marine resources.

WEATHER & TIDES

www.noaa.gov

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

www.weather.com

Provides a national and local weather forecast for cities worldwide.

www.wtkr.com

Hampton Roads local CBS affiliate. Provides weather and marineforecast 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, moonrise, moonset, and moon phase information.

www.wvec.com

Hampton Roads local ABC affiliate. Provides weather and marineforecast information.

nac prize fish contest rules

NAC PRIZE FISH CONTEST RULES

Rules regarding our annual PRIZE FISH CONTEST and are posted on the NAC website.

In a nutshell, our rules will closely parallel the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament for saltwater fish and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for freshwater. However, there are a few small differences so please visit the NAC PRIZE FISH CONTEST page on the NAC website.

Most important, we need for everyone to PARTICIPATE in the contest. If you catch (or have caught) a fish in calendar year 2008 meeting citation criteria, simply make a copy of your citation application or fill out the NAC PRIZE FISH ENTRY FORM and provide that to our Awards Director at our next meeting, it's that easy.

At year's end, we will recognize those anglers that catch the "prize" fish in each category plus recognize some overall "Anglers of the Year". Again, please visit the website to learn the details of the contest rules. Let's make our contest fun and competitive, Please Participate.

NAC Prize Fish Entry Form

Please fill out the following information. All weights must be on certified scales, witnessed & caught on hook & line in accordance with the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Species: _____ Place Caught: _____

Lure or Bait: _____

Weight ____ lbs. ____ oz. Length ____ Feet ____ Inches

☐ The fish was released ☐ The fish was tagged ☐ Adult Angler ☐ Jr. Angler Age _____

Angler's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Boat name _____

I Certify that all the above information is correct:

Angler's Signature _____

Witness Signature _____

Witness Name (printed) _____

Please submit your awards to the new awards director who will be available at the meetings. You must be an NAC Member in good standing to qualify.

Closing image

PHOTOGRAPH BY: Harry R. Hindmarsh

"This may look like a typical departure from Oregon Inlet, however this particular trip turned out to be one of the roughest days on the water I've ever had. In the blink of an eye, 13' choppy seas were on us. Still managed two blackfin tunas."

- Harry R. Hindmarsh

