

Northern Neck Anglers Club

May 2013 Newsletter

(www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com)

The NNAC held a members' meeting on Saturday, April 27th at the Transportation Building of the Rice Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern at 73 Monument Place in Heathsville. There were 29 current members and 9 guests who joined the club during the meeting in attendance. Capt. Doug Gray, a custom lure maker and a mate on Capt. Ryan Rogers' boat, the Midnight Sun, was the speaker. He discussed techniques for early season striper fishing. He emphasized the importance of fishing early in the morning and staying away from a crowd of boats that tend to drive the fish deeper in the water column. He said that there may also be a second good bite in the afternoon when many boats have gone home and the fish start feeding again closer to the surface where they are vulnerable to lures trolled from planer boards, biting either from hunger or as a reaction to seeing the lure. Doug brought some of his custom parachute lures and sold many to the members. He also answered questions and discussed lures for catching Red Drum later in the year. Further details of the meeting will soon be posted as Meeting Minutes in the Members' Only section of the NNAC web site listed above.

Members who fished and did not catch many rockfish were relatively quiet but did hear a report of a group consisting of a number of NNAC members catching the boat limit of 8 nice trophy stripers on Capt. Billy Pipkin's boat, Liquid Assets II, with Capt. Dave Compton as the mate. The best bite was also reported to be early in the morning in the vicinity of Buoy 66.

The first tournament of the year will be the **Trophy Rockfish Team Tournament**, which is a team event scheduled for **May 4 & 5** in which the combined weight of the two largest fish (or single fish) entered by a team will be counted. This tournament is sponsored by the **Northern Neck Ace Hardware** in Kilmarnock. NN Ace has expanded their fishing section and has all of the lures and equipment recommended for the area by local captains. It is also an authorized weigh station for state citation fish and for NNAC tournaments. There will be awards from NN Ace Hdwe. for the top 4 teams. Each team may enter two fish each day, and the team may consist of both NNAC members and nonmembers with no guest fee or registration required. So invite a guest and let the guest consider joining the NNAC for the rest of the tournaments.

The second tournament of the year will be the **Rock-A-Thon Tournament on May 25 & 26** for striped bass and croakers and is sponsored by **R. W.'s Sport Shop** in Callao. Awards will be provided to the top two places for each species. It will be the first tournament counting for the Angler of the Year. Detailed descriptions of the both tournaments are listed on the new club web site listed above.

A new requirement in 2013 from Maryland DNR is for the club to record and report information on any of our tournaments in which striped bass are a target species. If you weigh in a striped bass caught in Maryland waters (including the Potomac River), you will need to tell the weigh-in station to record that the fish was caught in Maryland. You will also need to measure the length of the fish and ask the station to record the length on the NNAC form. The club will collect the information and report the results to Maryland DNR.

The NNAC picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 8th from 4-6 PM. Also on that same day, there is an **NNAC meeting at 7:00 PM at the library in Kilmarnock.** We will have two speakers at the meeting. **Neil Drumheller**, a custom rod builder located in Gloucester Point, will discuss rod and reel maintenance and repairs. Also, **Jon Lucy**, a retiree from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science

(VIMS), will discuss techniques for catching speckled trout. You will be receiving an e-mail asking you to respond if you are planning to attend the picnic so that the proper quantities of supplies can be purchased for the picnic.

The club will once again have a "Fishing Partners" roster, which you can join by signing up with club Secretary, Tom Hedgpeth at (the.hedgpeths@verizon.net). You would list your name, phone number, e-mail address, and general fishing location. You would have to give your permission to allow your information to be distributed among those on the list, but your information would not be published to the entire club membership.

Links to VA and MD for registering for the Fisherman Identification Program are listed below:
<http://www.mrc.state.va.us/FIP/index.shtm> or 1-800-723-2728 for VA and 1-855-855-3906 for MD

Please take a look at the NNAC web site (www.northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com), where you can find lots of information about the club, our tournaments, our sponsors, our weigh-in stations, fishing boundaries, tournament results, meetings, tournament rules, liability waiver forms, membership application forms, and copies of NNAC Newsletters. Also, take a look at the pictures posted and send in photos with your catches and provide the information on the details about the angler and the catch. Members must sign and return the liability waiver form (copy attached) prior to entering our tournaments and to be eligible to win an award.

The tournament schedule and target species for 2013 are listed below:

Trophy Rockfish	Rockfish (team event)	May 4 & 5 (4 places)
Rock-A-Thon	Rockfish and croaker	May 25 & 26 (2 places each)
Target Ship Shoot-out	Bluefish, croaker, and flounder	June 22 & 23 (2 places each)
Flounder Bash*	Flounder, croaker, and speckled trout	July 20 & 21 (2 places each)
Spanish Lessons*	Spanish mackerel, bluefish, & spot	Aug. 17 & 18 (2 places each)
Fall Grab Bag *	Speckled trout, Sp. mackerel, and spot	Sept. 14 & 15 (2 places each)
Striper Challenge	Rockfish and bluefish	Oct. 12 & 13 (2 places each)
Bonus Rockfish	Rockfish (9 consecutive days)	Nov. 30 – Dec. 8 (6 places)

* Bounty Fish Puppy Drum *(during the July, Aug. & Sep. tournaments) (2 places)

Please remember to shop at our sponsors' businesses and to thank them for supporting the NNAC.

Hope to see you at the meetings and picnic and wish you good luck during the club tournaments.

Tom Smith
President, NNAC