



HARDLINES

Northern Neck Anglers Club Monthly Newsletter

Member Spotlight:
Stan Pryor

What's inside this Issue:
Club News, Tournament Updates,
Fishing Reports, Boating Safety Tips
and more

BONUS ROCKFISH

December 2021

WWW.NORTHERNNECKANGLERSCLUB.COM

Greetings NNAC Members,



Happy Holidays to our NNAC family! While there are still fish to be caught in 2021, the calendar says it's getting late and most of us are taking part in those family activities all about Christmas and New Year's. And that's how it should be. We hope everyone has a great holiday period, has plenty to eat and drink, and will come back in 2022 invigorated

to chase fish all year!

Club News

NNAC Board of Director and Officer Elections, January 2022

You will be receiving more information about our email election process which will take place in January. If you would like to put your name in nomination for a board position, send us your interest to do so and a bio which will then be placed on the ballot and sent to all members in January. We do have an opening for club treasurer which is a Board of Directors position. Again, you will be receiving an email pertaining to the election after the first of the year. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us or call my personal cell number which is listed at the end of the newsletter. The current club president and vice president will both be up for reelection as both of us have agreed to continue in our positions if asked.

Save the Date

We have scheduled a day of fishing, boating and assorted seminars on April 23, 2022 at the Lancaster county public library in Kilmarnock! There will be speakers covering the charter boat industry, fisheries biology, fishing techniques, tackle, boating safety, etc. This event was scheduled last year but had to be postponed because of Covid restrictions. As of now we are a go for the same event this spring. This will double as the first club meeting of the year.

Member Spotlight

STAN PRYOR

Joined NNAC: 2019

Rivah Home: Reedville

Cover Story – Stan grew up in Washington, D.C. and built a home in Chesapeake Beach Estates in Reedville in 2009. In 2014 he purchased a home on the Little Wicomico River near Smith Point Marina. Stan has always been an active fresh and saltwater fisherman. His work with American Indians and Alaskan Natives has provided him the opportunity to fish all over the lower 48 and Alaska. Stan has fished for Halibut in the Bering Sea off the coast of St. George Island, AK, Salmon off the coast of Kodiak Island, AK, and anything he could catch in the Arctic Ocean during a stay in Barrow, AK. His prize catches to date are a 73 lb. King Salmon caught while float fishing the Kenai River in Alaska and a 60 lb. Halibut caught during a trip to Homer, AK. Stan is also an active bass fisherman. He has fished in tournaments from Florida to Texas and has, of course, fished all throughout Virginia rivers and lakes. Stan is an active member of the Northern Neck Anglers Club since 2020. He has a 31 ft. Boston Whaler Conquest and a Carolina skiff and is always looking for a crew to run lines and clean fish! His goal in 2022 is to use his new Panoptix Livescope unit to find his own secret trout spot in the Little Wicomico! When not fishing, Stan enjoys playing the Blues on his bass guitar or driving his car at the Virginia International Raceway. When you see a green Porsche 911 with FSTDDY (Fast Daddy) plates, that's Stan heading to his next adventure!

The hours for the event will be 9 AM to 3 PM with a break for lunch. You will get more information about this a bit when we get closer.

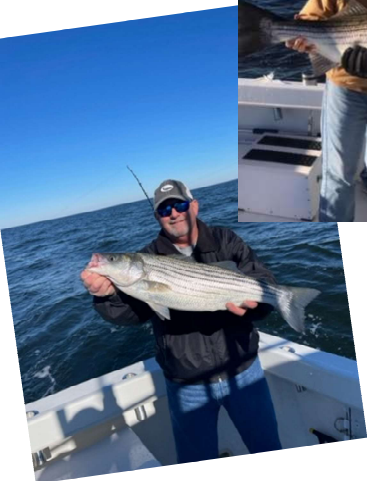
Club Fishing Reports

There were some really nice Rockfish caught this past month of December, but the weather gods did not look kindly on our three weekends of the Bonus Rockfish Tournament. We lost most of our tournament days to small craft advisories. Many members did get out fishing on other days however and were able to snag a few nice ones. Most of the decent rockfish have moved down to the cut channel and buoys south of 58 in the vicinity of the Rappahannock. However, there still are some lingering fish in the Potomac and most are very close to the Maryland line.



Earl Pierotti boated a 44lb 2oz. beauty December 12.

Jeff Hall and crew were a few of the lucky ones that got out and it paid off for them with nice holiday season Rockfish.



We were out there in Potomac a few days ago, upriver a few miles and didn't find much. But some other anglers were fishing a bit further south in the Potomac and caught some nice fish. The trouble was, the past weekend was really rough weatherwise and the end of last week produced fog. Typical for this time of year I suppose but frustrating when we were trying to get in the last weekend of our Bonus Rockfish Tournament.



The fish are **finicky** so when you find them you must work them hard. The schools are concentrated in a little deeper water (40'-50') and gathered in small tight schools and are moving fast around the area. Umbrella rigs with small tails combined with small tandem baits with large sinkers seemed to work the best. Typical white or chartreuse are the favorites.

Look for the birds (especially gannets) and you will find the schools of fish. Don't drive right into the center of the birds and start fishing most likely you will spook the school and they will disappear. Approach slowly and watch your depth finder closely.



Be sure to check out Lenny Rudow's Fishtalk site for reports of other catches around the bay.

<https://fishtalkmag.com/fishing-reports/lower-bay>

We had a couple of club charters organized for December and many of you were able to take part in those. For those of you who didn't, just know we already have five charters scheduled for 2022 and more will be added. Those trips are spaced throughout the year to take advantage of as many species as possible. The first one begins in May for trophy rockfish/stripers. We will be releasing those dates for sign up in January.

Here are a few photos from the charters we ran this month, and you will notice some happy club members on board with some nice fish:



Bonus Rockfish Tournament Updates

There were no entries reported by any of the weigh stations for the Bonus Rockfish Tournament. The weather had a big impact on the tournament this month. 3 of the 6 tournament days were canceled due to SCAs.

Thanks to all our tournament sponsors and weigh stations for their continued support for the club and its members.

Angler of the Year Standings



Congratulations to this year's Angler of the Year, Earl Pierotti. This is Earl's 2nd straight AOY award since joining the club. Earl finished 1st in 10 tournament species categories and captured Best of Species awards for Rockfish, White Perch, Bluefish, and Spanish Mackerel. Well-deserved Earl!

Top 4 Angler of the Year contest finishers will receive gift cards for their efforts. The following are the top 4 finishers in the Angler of the Year contest:

Angler of the Year Contest Results

Place	Angler	Points
1	Earl Pierotti	50

2	Robin Cunningham	22
3	Tom Hedgpeth	13
4	Jan Jamrog	11

Top finisher in each species category in the Best of Species contest will receive a plaque. Below are the top finishers for each specie:

Best of Species Contest Results

Species	Angler
Bluefish	Earl Pierotti
Cobia	John Almassy
White Perch	Earl Pierotti
Puppy Drum	Jan Jamrog
Speckled Trout	Jan Jamrog
Spanish Mackerel	Earl Pierotti
Rockfish	Earl Pierotti

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this season's tournaments.

Fishing Safety

Safety Tips Using VHF Radio

First thing to do when you get on the water is to perform a check of your VHF radio to ensure it is operating properly.

Make sure your antenna is vertical and as high as possible.

VHF Channel 16 is not for the purpose of radio checks. Please use VHF Channel 09, which has been designated by the FCC as a boater's calling channel.

4 Golden Rules:

1. **Clarity** - Your voice should be clear. Speak a little slower than normal. Speak in a normal tone, do not shout
2. **Simplicity** - Keep your message simple enough for intended listeners to understand
3. **Brevity** - Be precise and to the point
4. **Security** - Do not transmit confidential information unless you know the proper security technology is in place. Remember,

frequencies are shared, you do not have exclusive use of the frequency

Hold Mic 90 Degrees to your mouth. This will reduce noise and any static from the wind.

For several years, Sea Tow operated an Automated Radio Check System available on CH 24 and CH 28 for the benefit of mariners in over 130 locations. However, this service was discontinued on October 2020.

If your radio has DSC capability (All fixed mount radios have DSC), you can perform an automated DSC Test Call. Enter the U.S. Coast Guard's coast station group identity "003669999" into the radio's DSC memory. Once entered and stored, a DSC test call can be made by executing the following three steps:

1. Select "Test Call" from the radio's DSC menu,
2. Select the USCG number entered into memory, and
3. Transmit the call.

The radio display should indicate when that test call is acknowledged and display the acknowledging station's nine-digit identity. That identity may be different than the group identity previously entered into memory.

It is good practice to test your radio each time you head on the water.

Fishing Tips and Techniques

How to Ensure Proper Reel Drag

A lot of times when out fishing, and your buddy is on a fish, you see him or her adjusting the drag on the reel. You should never adjust another angler's drag setting without asking permission. Adjusting the drag too tight could damage the reel bearings and washers or worse, break off the fish. Every reel has a max drag setting. On the reel box or in the owner's manual usually tells you the max drag strength of the reel. You should not exceed the reel's max drag setting.

It's a good idea to set your preferred drag setting prior to leaving the dock. Doing this is easy to do.

Before you start, make sure you know the breaking strength or test of the line on the reel you are about to set. A good rule of thumb is 1/3 the strength of the line. Have a good readable scale. It is easier to have a friend help you, but you can do it alone.

Connect the scale to the line. Have a friend hold the scale and have them watch the measurement while you slowly put pressure on the rod like you would when fighting a fish. If you are alone, with the line attached to the scale, attach the other end of the scale to a stationary object and repeat the step above. When the drag starts to release the line, note the measurement. That is the current drag setting. If the scale measures more than 1/3 of the line strength, you should loosen the drag and repeat the process until it measures the proper 1/3 strength for your line.

Conversely, if it is less than the preferred measurement, tighten the drag. Continue these steps until the desired drag is reached. Now the drag is properly set. It's also a good idea to note the drag setting somewhere for each reel so you can adjust again if needed.

Things to Remember When Netting Large Fish



Keep the net out of water until you are netting the fish. Putting it in the water too early, could cause the netting to become fouled from the movement by the current, tide or boat.

Net the fish head first. Fish do not swim backwards.

Once the fish is securely in the net, point the handle of the net skyward and pull the net up vertically grabbing the hoop while pulling the fish into the boat. When netting a large fish, lifting horizontally puts excessive stress on the handle and it could bend or break the handle.



Rubberized nets are best if you plan to release fish because it protects the fish's slime, and your hooks don't get tangled in the netting as easy as knotted mesh nets.

Finally, make sure your net is large enough to handle the fish you are targeting.

Know How Much Line is Deployed

Ever wonder how far back or how deep your baits really are? Here are a couple tips on how to solve this problem. This can be used for measuring depth or distance.

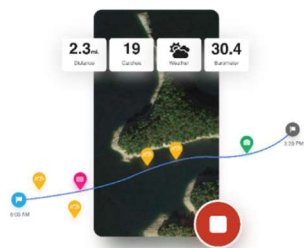
For Levelwind Reels— Pull out the line until the line guide travels a full time across the reel. Measure how much line was removed from the reel. Now you can determine how much line is deployed by counting the number of times the line guide travels across the reel.

For Non-Level wind Reels— Use metered line to measure distance. You can buy line with multiple colors. Each color represents a fixed number of feet. By counting the number of colors deployed, you can determine how far back or how deep your bait is.



Logging Your Fish

Have you ever caught a fish and wish you could press a button and automatically capture all the details about the catch and surroundings for later use? Well now you can.



The days are gone of trying to remember everything about a fishing trip and jotting down the details in a logbook.

The smartphone has become an important weapon in an angler's arsenal. There are several Apps available today that automatically capture data above and beyond what is being captured manually.

These apps **automatically** capture weather and sea conditions, air and surface temperatures, location, route data among other details all for a single waypoint. You can also add details not automatically captured like pictures, species, length, tackle and weight. Some apps also allow sharing information with other anglers in real time that you agree to share with.

This technology may be the future of tournament fishing. It can provide up-to-the-minute information about fish caught during a tournament without the need to go to the closest weigh station and manually fill out an entry sheet.

While most of these apps provide some of these features for free, most offer a premium version for a small fee that gives you all the bells and whistles you need to capture that special trip.

Here is a list of some of the top angling apps:

ANGLR
FishAngler
Fish Brain
Fishidy
Fish Track
iAngler
Pro Angler

NNAC does not endorse any specific app, just providing information about the availability of the

technology for you to choose if it fits your angling needs.

Tackle Box

I have submitted a design for a Northern Neck Angler club only custom designed Mirrolure for speckled trout and redfish/puppy drum which should be delivered in March. We will have some available for purchase at our cost in April at our first club event which you will read about below. This lure design is a project conducted in conjunction with Thomas Licht as a consultant.

Thomas may be the best speckled trout fisherman ever to set foot on the Northern Neck. This bait is designed for our area, our water clarity, fishing conditions, etc. It's also not available as a standard purchase from Mirrolure.

Here's a photo of Thomas with a beauty. He has tallied a dozen released trout citations in the Rappahannock area since October one alone this year.



Again, we are grateful for all of our club members, and our membership continues to grow. We thank you for being a member. God bless you and your family during the holiday season!

Fish on!!

Ben Ames
President, NNAC



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Tom Hedgpeth
VP, NNAC



If you would like to contribute feedback, content or photos to be included in the newsletter or on the club website, please forward it to the club's email address at: fishNNAC@gmail.com and we would be more than happy to publish it.

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