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Virginia Beach Anglers' Club

TIGHT LINES

April 2014

The Fish of 1000 Casts ***By Pete Federico***

It was late October 1973, My dad and his friend would always reserve the third week of October to travel to the 1000 Islands in Clayton New York. Their quest? Muskellunge, muskie, the Fish of 1000 casts. The first time they went was circa 1970, and they hired a guide whose name fails me now. Two days of fishing yielded some of the biggest Northern Pike either my dad or his friend Doug ever caught, but no muskie.

The following year they did some homework and hired a young guide named Clayton Ferguson Jr. Now one does not usually hire a guide in his early 20's, but Clay's dad was known as THE muskie guide in the 1000 Islands, so they decided to give "Muskie Ferg Jr." a try. That year Doug nabbed a 46 pounder, and Dad brought in a 26 pounder.

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The following year I joined them for my first trip, and drew the first fish (I think it was fixed) so the first fish was mine. By then, Clay was well known as the up and coming guide and was often followed by other boats while trolling his favorite spots. Clay would have his wire lines measured and marked with either paint or nail polish every 25 yards so he would know exactly how much line was out. With that and what speed he was trolling he knew what depth the lures were swimming. With two or three boats following, Clay instructed my dad and Doug to crank up the lines about 50 yards while he slowly goosed the throttle to bring the lures almost to the top of the water. The boats behind stayed right with us, Clay the guided us over a very thick weed bed. After he was sure the other boats were pretty well entangled in the weeds, he pulled the boat back to the edge of the weeds and had us drop the lines to their original distance. Once the lines were back out, a tug to check the drag and we were fishing again. Within 5 minutes one of the Penn reels was singing "FISH ON". Clay knew that the fish on the end of the line was not very big, but was definitely a muskie. It was a light fight, 5 minutes or so and we had a 15-pound muskie in the net. Not a prize fish, so it was released. But I did it! I landed my first muskie at 11 years old.

Now the next year, It was the day before my 12th birthday, October 22, 1973, and I drew second fish. We had been trolling about an hour and a half, and I was bored. I decided to mess with the guys and give the reel a good hard tug and make them think there was a fish on... I gave it a hard yank, and the reel screamed, causing the three men in the cabin to whip their heads around thinking there was a fish on. They found me standing there laughing, until the reel peeled off another 15 yards of line. A muskie must have been following the lure and hit it just after I pulled on the line. Doug grabbed the rod and began fighting the fish. Twenty minutes later, he landed a 22 pounder, and it was released. The next fish was mine. About an hour later, one of the lines began howling, and I remember hearing Clay say "that's a big one". The rod

was handed to me and I started cranking, I remember hearing things like, "Don't horse it" and "Let it run" and "Don't give him slack". Clay was running the boat in a large concentric circle keeping the fish in the "bull's-eye" of the circle. I remember my hands cramping, and my father saying "If I touch that rod, it's not your fish!" I cranked, complained, ached, and kept cranking. A half-hour into the fight, the fish broke water and danced on its tail, thrashing his head back and forth. Then he ran another 30 yards or so, but the tension was kept on the line and it did not get loose. As the fish tired, the circles Clay was running got smaller and smaller. The fish was tiring, and so was I. Gradually, I was able to gain more real estate between the fish and the boat, until it was about 20 feet from the boat and it lunged out of the water again, this time with less enthusiasm than the first. I was finally able to get the fish alongside the boat and Doug gaffed the fish. While it was being pulled over the side, the fish whipped its head one last time, and the plug broke in half at one of the joints, the half attached to the line went flying, and the tail half still hooked in the muskie's mouth on the deck of the boat.

The fish was mine! A 32 pound 6 ounce muskie, and I came in second that year in the tournament.

Clay "Muskie Ferg" Ferguson is still a top notch guide and STILL runs his trips from his CLASSIC 1951 ChrisCraft 27' Hardtop! For more info you can visit his website at <http://www.fergusonfishingcharters.com/>



Events

April 3 Club Meeting- Show, Don't Tell! Come out to see several different speakers and vendors show what they do best. From fly tying to knife sharpening, it's sure to be an educational event!

April 5 ADOPT-A-SPOT club cleanup at Crab Creek. Lots of volunteers needed! Come earn your your club participation credit while supporting our community. **Lunch will be provided!**

May 10: Hunt for Hardheads

The Portsmouth Anglers Club will host the 11th annual tournament and picnic: a croaker, bluefish, and flounder fishing challenge between the Great Bridge Fisherman's Association, Portsmouth Anglers Club, and Virginia Beach Anglers Club. Last year was a lot of fun with good fishing and good food for VBAC, GBFA and the PAC.

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2014

Location: Portsmouth City Park

Lines In: 7:00 AM, **Measure In:** 12:30-1:30 PM

Entry Fee: \$30.00 / Boat (covers 3 anglers, any additional anglers \$10.00) Fee includes: tournament entry, picnic and Wish A Fish Donation! **Picnic Only:** \$5.00

WINNERS GET THEIR CLUB'S NAME ENGRAVED ON THE COVETED HUNT FOR HARDHEADS PLAQUE...AND BRAGGING RIGHTS!

RULES:

1. Clubs are limited to five boats. Team Captains must be club members.
2. Teams must register and pay in advance through their own club's tournament director.
3. Boats may depart from any VA port.
4. The eastern boundary will be 500 yards east of the HRBT.
5. Fish will be measured by length only, if the exact length tie is encountered a girth measurement will decide.
6. Points Structure: The longest legal fish of each species will earn 5 points, the 2nd longest legal fish earns 4 points, 3rd longest legal fish earns 3 points, 4th longest legal fish earns 2 points, and the 5th longest fish earns 1 point.
7. The Club with the Most Points Wins!

Membership tees are **\$30** for individuals and families. Members must be current to be eligible to participate in tournaments. Pay at meetings or mail to VBAC, PO Box 8602 Virginia Beach, VA 23450

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Jack Guthrie 757-647-4490

Please contact Victoria Jones to add or remove your name from this list.

Surf Fishing Report

By Robbie Parks


Just a reminder that the balance of the lodging (\$116.00) for Ocracoke is due at the meeting Thursday. Those of you who were drawn for the fall teams need to pay \$60.00 for each team you are on at this meeting also.

Tight Lines
Robbie

Photo Contest & 2015 Calendar


The Club is looking for *colorful, scenic* pictures similar to those used in our 2014 calendar for our 2015 calendar. They should be submitted to Bob Burstein at rburstein2747@msn.com and Pete Federico at Petefeds@gmail.com. The deadline for these pictures is **April 1st**. Pete will then publish a collage of all the submitted pictures collected and the club members will vote on which ones are to be used by May 15th. Pictures submitted by members for the calendar will also be included in our year-long "best picture" competition. The April 1st deadline only applies for consideration for **calendar** inclusion, you can still submit pictures after that date for the club's "best picture" competition.

Please patronize the businesses pictured here, as they supported our first club calendar by purchasing ads. Make sure you use a calendar coupon or mention the Angler's Club so they realize the value of their ads and hopefully participate again for our 2015 calendar.




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Special Thanks
to EVERYONE who came out
to and supported the banquet. It
was a great success!
Pictures and a list of donors to follow.

VBAC MISSION & OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Virginia Beach Anglers' Club is to encourage sport fishing, both freshwater and saltwater, while supporting prudent governmental and other policies that promote the preservation, conservation and ecology of all marine life.

Our objectives are to:

- Monitor legislative and regulatory activities relating to management of local and regional fisheries and participating actively, where appropriate, to assure the adoption of sound management policy and practices that best serve the interests of VBAC members.
- Promote interest and participation in recreational angling by conducting programs and activities that encourage sport fishing.
- Educate members and others in the techniques of sport fishing to enhance their enjoyment of the sport.
- Conduct social activities that create a wholesome climate for deriving the maximum pleasure from sport fishing by members, their families and guests.
- Plan and conduct fundraising activities to provide the revenues needed to support these objectives.

Officers

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<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Russell Willoughby	757-965-4810
<i>Corresponding Sec.</i>	Jerry Hughes	
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Victoria Jones	484-888-4046



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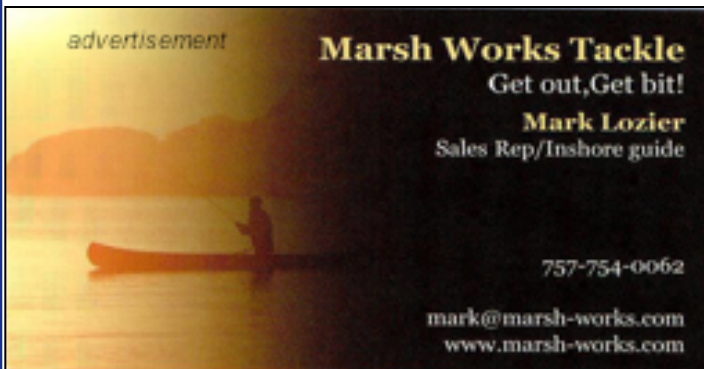
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