

VCFA Board Meeting Minutes – Thursday, February 4, 2010

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm at Bayside Presbyterian Church with the following members in attendance: Aaron Johnson, Ron Russell, Dave Kushner, Leslie Parr, Spencer Hayes, Kevin DuBois, Kendall Osborne, George Hughes, Pat Hartline, Mike LaHorner, Noel Horne, Mike Buss, Larry Clemens, Kyle Sawyer, Mitch Osroff, Scott Reppert, and Ed Owens.

Secretary's Report : (Mike LaHorner)

Mike LaHorner provided the Minutes from the previous meeting held Thursday, January 7, 2010 to all attendees. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Minutes.

Discussion was held concerning uploading and making public the board meeting minutes on the club website. The general consensus of those present was favorable with the caveat that speaker's fees or other sensitive/confidential financial information would not be included in the uploaded/public version. The official minutes would continue to include all information and would remain a matter of record. The approved January minutes will be uploaded on the website and this would be club policy for the future. Mike LaHorner and Kevin Dubois shared the development of an "Action Item & Tasker" spreadsheet to track and keep status of "who" was doing "what" and "when" to better facilitate meeting milestone and schedule goals and to improve club organization. George Hughes suggested web-enabling to create a collaborative tool readily used and updated by all members via the club website.

Discussion was also held concerning the collection of previous club documents and club historical information for the purpose of digitally archiving the information. George Hughes indicated he would provide the club, at no cost, a 60 gig harddrive for this purpose.

Spencer Hayes led discussions concerning the club newsletter. Email alternatives to a hard copy mailing were presented and further discussion ensued concerning the pros and cons of both formats. Kevin DuBois raised concerns as to who would actually generate the newsletter. George Hughes offered to create an every other month club E-bulletin and provide it via a club email distribution list.

Treasurer's Report: (Kendall Osborne)

Kendall Osborne read the Financial Report from January 2010. Kendall reported that the club took in (receipts) \$2039 in January 2010 from renewals, new members, raffles, Alan Caolo, and banquet tickets. The club spent \$724.63 on Alan Caolo, banquet expenses, President's Award, storage shed key, and \$100 change for the boat show (to be replaced after the show).

Balance on hand is \$3,041.58. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as read.

Ways and Means Report : (Spencer Hayes, Kyle Sawyer, Mike LaHorner, Chairs)

Mike Buss reported that discounted rod pricing was no longer available from a sponsor for a previous club raffle. 600 raffle tickets were made available for sale and the drawing was to be held after 100 tickets were sold. Few tickets were sold and discussion ensued to determine the best course of action. Noel Horne made a motion that the club contact the ticket holders and refund their money. Dave Kushner seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Mike Buss took for action to send "Thank You" letters from the club to the vendors that sponsored the Banquet raffle items. It was suggested that the sponsors also be listed on the VCFA homepage. Mike Buss offered to provide the sponsor list to George Hughes for this purpose.

The final Boat Show raffle items were discussed and confirmed – fly rod and reel combo, waders, box of flies, and a fly fishing lesson/outing with a club member. Pat Hartline presented the raffle flier to attendees for review and commentary. It was determined to include ticket sale locations – Boat Show VCFA booth and the March & April VCFA general meetings, and the drawing info – April VCFA general meeting. Distribution of finalized raffle flier was also encouraged.

Kevin DuBois requested club member articles for the local How to/Where to fish compilation of articles to be sold in book form as a club fund raiser. Brief discussion was held concerning other fundraising strategies. Mike Buss reported that the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News was interested in a fly tying/casting class as an offered program at the museum. Mike offered to contact the museum point of contact for more information.

Programs Report: (Kevin DuBois, Chair)

The February general club meeting program and fly tying presentations were briefly reviewed. George Hughes, Kevin DuBois, Mike Buss, and Larry Clemens will present highlights from the Somerset, NJ Fly Fishing Show.

Kevin DuBois requested status of coordination efforts for the March general club meeting and fly tying seminar by Alan Caolo. Larry Clemens reported that all issues and scheduling were resolved and in place. The tying seminar by Alan will be hosted at Larry Clemens' residence from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Alan will speak at the general club meeting at 7:30 p.m.

An overview of the Virginia Coastal Fly Fishing Expo on March 20, 2010 was presented by Kevin DuBois. Kevin explained that regional gatherings were gaining popularity. Kevin provided a preliminary flier & explained the Expo's format and the advantages of capitalizing on regional groups/gatherings. There will be tying stations and information booths including kayak clubs and conservation groups. Kevin stressed the need for a strong VCFA presence. The Expo will be held at Norfolk Collegiate Middle school on Tidewater Drive in Norfolk. Expo advertising strategies were discussed. Sponsors to date include Tidalfish and Sage, in addition to other vendors. Any proceeds realized from the Expo would benefit a conservation organization, most likely Sea grass restoration or Lynnhaven River Now – oyster restoration.

Kevin was also coordinating a viewing of the movie "Redfish Can't Jump" and potentially using Cinema Cafe' as a viewing venue. This would also take place on March 20 and would be offered in conjunction with the Expo.

Larry Clemens reported that he had contacted the casting instructor that he had previously identified. Mike LaHorner reported that he had identified a FFF certified instructor and would pursue making contact and getting further info. It was discussed and suggested that two club casting clinics be held this year, the first in June and the second in September.

General discussion was held concerning the annual club picnic and the lack of attendance. A barbeque following a scheduled club outing was suggested. Less formal social gatherings on a more frequent basis were also suggested. Kevin DuBois requested further ideas and suggestions from the meeting attendees.

A Boating Safety and Boat Safety Check by the Coast Guard Auxillary was suggested by Kevin DuBois for the October general club meeting. A viable location large enough for multiple boats was discussed, with the south church parking lot and the Haygood Shopping Center parking lot offered as possibilities. Kevin DuBois offered to follow up.

Kevin DuBois suggested a NJ tuna presentation by Shore Catch Guide service for the December general club meeting. Kevin also suggested combining the presentation with fly tying by Steve Ferrar. Kevin offered to investigate both further, coordinate and follow up.

Travel/Trip Committee Report : (Mike Buss, Mitchell Osroff, Dave Kushner, Noel Horne, Chairs)

Kevin DuBois reported that he would be attending the MAFA Fly Fest in Maryland on February 27 and would attempt coordination of possible inter-club activities, as well as offering MAFA Virginia Coastal Fly Fishing Expo representation.

Mike Buss reported that he would be making a Florida panhandle trip (St Joes near Panama City) from March 12–21 and offered to assist any club members interested with general information, lodging suggestions, etc. Mike also indicated he would post up reports.

Kevin DuBois reported that the OBX-hosted VCFA trip in May (Point of contact - Ed Palaszewski) would be an Ocracoke fishing location. Kevin further reported that he would be visiting the OBX club in March and will gather more information concerning the trip and will provide a report back to the club.

Kevin DuBois will finalize details for the MAFA-hosted trip to Cape Henlopen in June during his MAFA Fly Fest visit. Kevin also recommended VCFA reciprocate with MAFA with a local (September ?) kayak redfish outing. Kevin indicated he would provide a report back to the club.

Discussion was held concerning setting a tentative date for a multiple boat summer shark trip led by George Hughes and Mike LaHorner. It was determined to schedule this outing for the first Saturday in August, weather dependent.

Aaron Johnson proposed a December Venice, Louisiana kayak trip be considered.

Mike Buss outlined dates and preliminary planning for the rental house for 2010's annual Harkers Island/Cape Lookout false albacore outing in October/November .

General discussion ensued concerning the 2010 event dates and an all hands efforts was to made to identify and select preliminary event dates.

Website Report : (George Hughes, Aaron Johnson, Chairs)

George Hughes indicated that he would upload the Mentoring program info to the club website tomorrow (Friday, Feb. 5th).

General discussion was held concerning adding a photo gallery to the website. Larry Clemens suggested the home page have a link to the photo gallery. Further web site photos discussion ensued including posting pictures from the banquet and various slideshow formats.

George Hughes suggested a "Fish of the Month" contest to be hosted, updated and maintained on the club website.

George Hughes encouraged attendees and members in general to use the website, especially the forums.

Menhaden Regulation Transfer to VMRC : (Dave Kushner)

Dave Kushner presented information concerning menhaden regulation authority transferring to the VMRC. Dave encouraged attendees and the club in general to take a more active role concerning menhaden harvesting quotas and regulation. Dave suggested the club consider a stance statement on the website homepage. Discussion ensued concerning club political “neutrality” and links to various conservation groups on the website. Further discussion continued as to whether it would be prudent to include CCA’s link. Kevin DuBois requested an overall plan be presented to address these particular issues.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and approved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike LaHorner

2010 VCFA Secretary