



C.A.T.C. NEWS

April 2012

THE CAROLINA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

VOL XV NUMBER 2

President's Message

by Walt Maynard

Well, as I sit here typing the NCAA basketball tournament is starting. Being a Kentucky Wildcat and living in North Carolina, I hear little but ACC talk and ribbing from my friends about their Blue Devils, Tarheels and Wolfpack teams. But we'll see by the end of March Madness.

April 13 – 15 we'll have our show in Greenville SC and if its anything like the show in 2010 it will be a pleasure to attend. Hack and Sharon Hensley will share hosting duties with T. D. Norman. The facility at the Crowne Plaza is great and the people are very supportive, not to mention the city of Greenville SC that has just been booming the last several years. Could be a great weekend for the whole family. As of the writing of the news article we had over a hundred tables sold, so if you have not registered you'd better call T.D., Hack or Sharon.

Membership – To date we're holding our own but its no secret that our membership is aging. Therefore, what we need is an infusion of younger members. I charge the membership to look for opportunities to invite new prospective members to join our club. Please take every opportunity to make our club known to collectors that are not involved with any organization.

My son recently returned a stamp collection to me that I had turned over to him a decade or so ago. As he had lost interest, I dived in and enjoyed exploring the history and growth of the hobby. But what I found is that it may be a dying hobby. I've found most of the local stamp dealers have gone out of business only to be found in major cities or the internet. Most stamp values have tanked and many are selling at 10% of catalog value. Antiques and collectibles have all been hit by the recession, but as I look at lure and reel values at recent shows, the prices may

be down, but nowhere near what has happened in stamps, or baseball cards or any number of collectibles.

Again, I know that most of our collectors do not look on our hobby as an investment, but over a period of time that becomes a fact and its comforting to know that the value of our hobby is holding its own. So, what can I say but **buy more lures or reels.**

See ya in Greenville
Walt Maynard, President CATC

Funny Things You Hear at Flea Markets

I was at the Raleigh Flea Market one Saturday last Spring and came upon a man with a tackle box full of lures. When I asked what he wanted, he gave me a price and pointed to an L&S Bait. He said "that one's worth \$25". Unimpressed, I asked if he had any more. He pointed to a large cardboard box on the ground. I opened it to find a couple of cigar boxes full of baits. A pretty blue lure caught my eye and the price he gave was very fair. As I paid him the money the man said



"that lure says U-N-C on the side of it. You reckon somebody over at the college made it?"

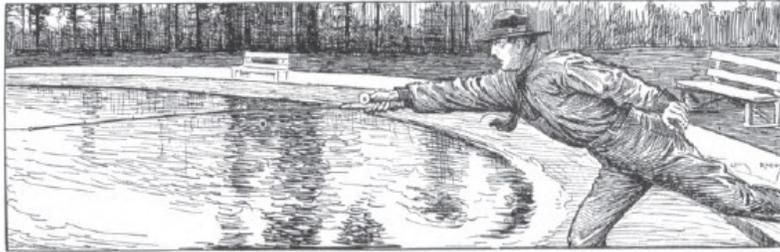
UNC-CHARLIE

He was dead serious. I got a nice lure for my Florida collection and a very good laugh.

-joe-

Are Your 2012 CATC Dues Paid?

It's easy to tell whether or not your 2012 dues have been paid. Just look at the area near the mailing label on the outside of this newsletter. If your dues have not been paid there will be a small "\$20 DUE" stamped in red near your name and address. If you see the "\$20 Due" stamp, please send a check for \$20 (made out to CATC) to Steve Barrow, CATC Sec/Treas, P.O. Box 487, Kittrell, NC 27544.



March 1, 2012 CATC Financial Statement

Beginning Balance January 1, 2012...	\$6,124.74
 <u>Receipts</u>	
2012 Spring Show (Notes 1 & 2)	\$135.00
Dues	\$800.00
CATC Patches	\$10.00
Total Receipts	\$945.00
 <u>Expenses</u>	
Website Fees	\$71.29
Materials & Supplies	\$22.40
2012 Spring Show (Note 2)	\$100.00
Total Expenses	\$193.69
Net YTD 2012 Receipts and Expenses	\$751.31
 Ending Balance March 1, 2012...	 \$6,876.05

Note 1: Show receipts include dues paid with registration.

Note 2: Some Spring Show receipts and expenses were booked in 2011.

CATC Members in the News

Congratulations to CATC member Billy Prince, who was re-elected as NFLCC Region 3 Vice-President at the January Winterfest Show in Pigeon Forge, TN. Billy has always done a great job of representing the members of our region.

Congratulations to CATC member Ed Weston, who was elected President of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors at the recent show in Daytona Beach. Ed is a long time collector who will a fantastic job for FATC.



CATC members Ralph Hecht and Bob Dennis won awards for their lure displays at the Daytona show. Ralph had another super display of fly rod lures, many of which were accompanied by X-ray images of the lure internals. Bob had a huge display of Carolina lures. Doug Brace received the President's Award from Larry Lucas. Nice job guys!

Dennis McNulty won the Heddon vs. Creek Chub fishing contest at Daytona, catching a "whopper" on a Heddon River Runt.

Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors Officers

Walt Maynard
President
Email: wallypm@aol.com

Elizabeth Yates
Vice-President
Email: ebyates@earthlink.net

Steve Barrow
Secretary / Treasurer
Email: stb647@embarqmail.com

The C.A.T.C. News is published 4 times a year and is the official publication of the Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors. Articles and stories for the newsletter are welcome and should be sent to:

Newsletter Editor
Joe Yates Email: jyates@ix.netcom.com

A Dying Breed? By Margaret Kerns

My husband, Keith, has been a member of CATC for three years, NFLCC for three years, and the FATC for two years. We attend the regional shows for these clubs and have attended the Nationals as well. He has enjoyed these clubs and friendships greatly.

I attend the shows with my husband to help and support him in his hobby and because I enjoy the social atmosphere of the clubs. As an "outsider" to these organizations, there are things that strike me as I attend all three of these organization's shows: (1) The "aging out" and "passing" of the older collectors. (2) Lack of younger collectors 10 to 25 years of age. (3) Lack of women collectors.

Several things have brought this to mind. At the 2011 Myrtle Beach show there was only one display by a youth that I was aware of. There were none by women that I know of.

There are women who do have collections but at most of the shows I do not see their displays. At my first time attending the Myrtle Beach show, there was a wonderful display by a woman in the motel room of a "purple/lavender" collection. She did not set up at the actual show – just in the room. I've never seen her again – or the collection of purple lures again!

And I don't see collections being passed down to children or younger generations. Granted, today, there are many other distractions for kids and young adults – video games, sports, computers, etc. But, as older members pass away, and their collections are sold or absorbed by other members and collectors, there is one less member for the clubs. This was really brought to my mind when we attended a FATC regional show in Clearwater. I overheard one of the officers say (and I don't remember the exact numbers) that they had lost something like 80 members that year and gained 40 new ones. And I wondered if that is the same story for all three clubs? Are the current members "A Dying Breed"? How will these organizations grow and keep these clubs alive and vital? These friendships are too important to be allowed to fade away.

Let's go fishing...

Elizabeth Yates picked up this nifty stand-up point of sale card at the CATC Myrtle Beach show in November. It was made by C.S. Williamson and Company in Orangeburg, SC. The card has a dozen furnished line rigs made up and ready to go fishing. The line is pretty heavy, being 15 lb test braid.

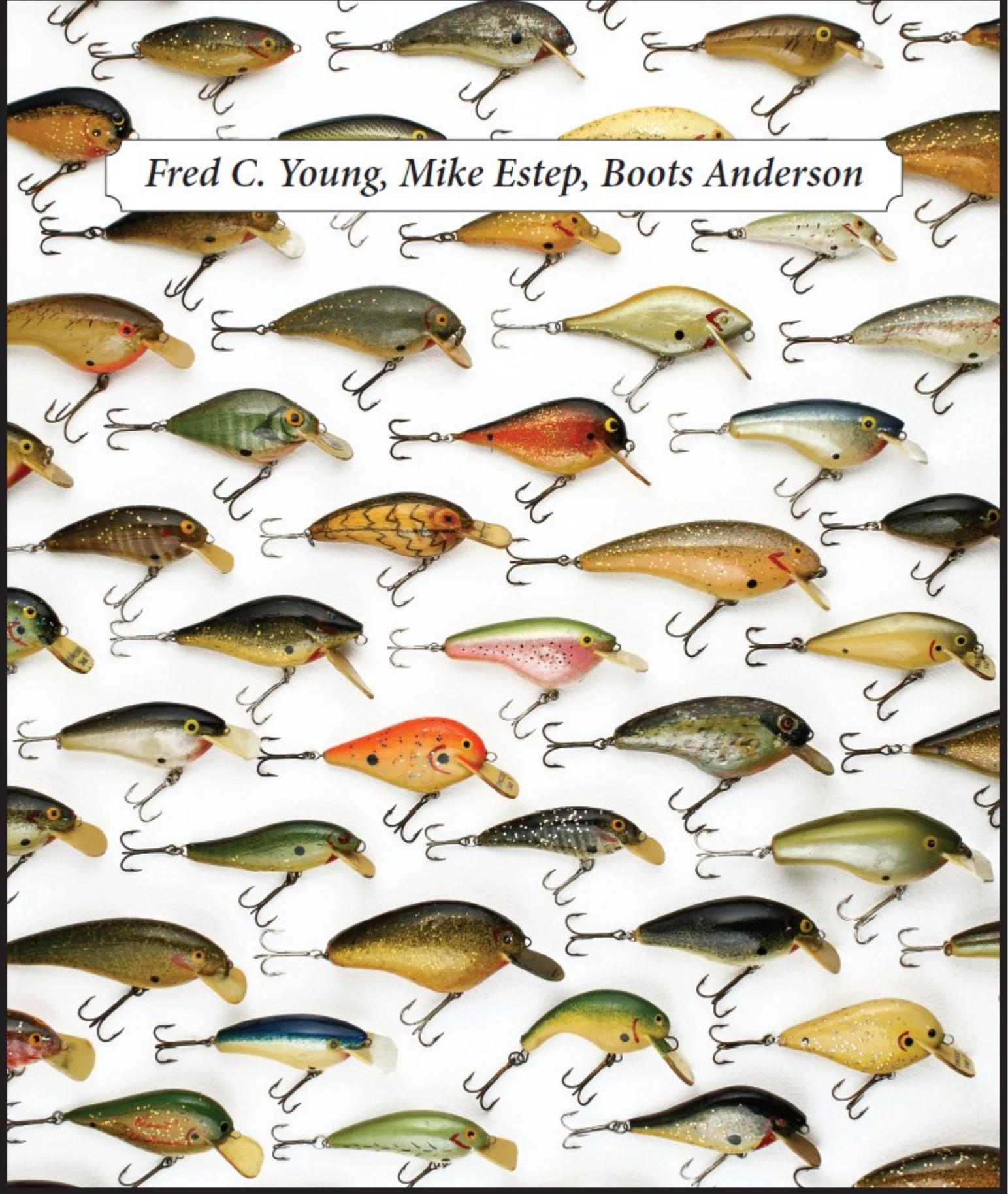


Liz bought the card because it was made by a Carolina company and because she liked the colorful graphics. She didn't even notice the FREE RUBBER BAND that comes with each rig. Wow!



**Make your plans now to attend the
4th Annual Myrtle Beach Antique Fishing Tackle Show
November 16-18, 2012**





Fred C. Young, Mike Estep, Boots Anderson

LANG'S
Auction, Incorporated
The World's Leading Fishing Tackle Auction

April 21 & 22, 2012

www.Langsauction.com • Sales@Langsauction.com • 315-841-4623

Lisk Fly Manufacturing Company

by Joe Yates

I get an email every month or few from someone asking if I know where they can find some Little Skunks. The question is usually followed by a comment that the lure was the finest fish catcher they have ever used. A smile comes to my face as I imagine a furry little critter and recall the slogan on the Little Skunk package "made by 'Tar Heels' for 'you-all' to fish with". The Little Skunk lure was a creation of Leard Lisk, a man whose story is rather more interesting than his fishing lures.

Leard Evander Lisk, Jr., also known as Junior Lisk, was born in Rockingham, NC in 1917. He helped his family work their small farm and also helped his mother with a small grocery store that she ran. Much of his spare time was spent fishing in a nearby creek. Junior dropped out of school after the eighth grade, and he moved with his parents to Greensboro about a year later.



Lisk took several jobs, including one operating a trolley bus for Duke Power Company. Duke Power opened the trolley coach line in Greensboro in 1934 and continued operating it into the mid 1950's. Junior did not always remember to ring up the passengers when they boarded his trolley. When he totaled the days till, there was often a bit more money than there should have been for the number of riders that he had rung up. When he asked another driver what he should do with the extra money, he was told "put it in your pocket, stupid". So begins the tale of L.E. Lisk and the law.

Lisk lost his trolley job when the War ended and servicemen returned home to reclaim the work they had left behind. He had a wife and a family, very little money, and very few prospects. Lisk sought advice from a fellow named Mouse Jones, whom he met at the Jefferson Pool Room in Greensboro. Jones told Lisk to take his money and go just up the road to Danville, Virginia and buy a bunch of liquor. He told him that he could double his investment selling the booze in Greensboro. At that time Guilford County was "dry" and did not allow liquor sales. Lisk did exactly what Mouse Jones told him to do and he soon found out that there was indeed money to be made in bootlegging liquor.

It didn't take Lisk long to learn that he could make even more money if he went straight to the source of the booze. He found out about the distillery in Maryland that was supplying the store in Danville and he began making runs between Baltimore and Greensboro. Business was so good that he had to buy a bigger vehicle in order to carry more liquor. The story is that Lisk bought a used Merita bread truck with a picture of the Lone Ranger painted on the side to haul his booze to North Carolina.

In time, Lisk figured out that he could yet more money if he just started making his own liquor. He bought a little farm and went into the business of making and selling moonshine. It didn't take long for the revenuers to catch Lisk and he was sentenced to fifteen months in a federal penitentiary. Lisk would later tell the story of how he and his good friend and fellow moonshiner Junior Johnson were coming and going from prison at about the same time.

It was during the time that Lisk was in prison that his wife Eva went to work for a fellow in Greensboro who made fishing lures. Following his release after serving seven months, Junior went to work

making fishing lures too. I do not know the name of the man they worked for, or anything about his company, or the lures he made. It must have been a very small business operation, because the man told the Lisks that he would not be able to pay them for their work until Spring, when fisherman actually bought his lures. The man had a heart attack soon thereafter, and he told Leard and Eva they could just keep the lures they had made and try to sell them on their own. So began the lure making business known as the Lisk Fly Manufacturing Company. It was about 1954.

Over the years Lisk made a variety of different fishing lures. Leard Lisk designed the baits and fabricated them, as well as numerous other inventions, in his machine shop at their home on Huffman Street in Greensboro, NC. None of the lures were ever patented, but the Lisks did secure trademarks on the Little Skunk, Pole Kat, Wampus Kat, Brand X, and Little Jewel Lures. The name "Lisk Lures" was also trademarked. Other lures made by Lisk included Doodle Bug, Torky, Agi-Tater, Tarheel Spinner, MMU Plug, Carolina Wiggler, and others. Most Lisk lures were small and designed for spinning. They often included a leader of light monofilament line.



Lisk Little Skunk



Lisk Pole Kat



Lisk Torky

As seen in the last CATC newsletter, Leard Lisk also designed and patented an electric trolling motor, and secured a trademark on the RO-NO-MO name. Operations of the Lisk Fly Mfg. Company were run by Eva Lisk. When the company was at its peak, Eva supervised thirteen employees. She retired from the lure making business in the 1990's and the Lisk Company was at its end. Eva Caudle Lisk passed away in 2002.

Not long after he got out of prison, Leard Lisk met a man by the name of David Marshall Williams. They had a great deal in common, and became very close friends for the next twenty years. Like Lisk, Williams was also a former Carolina moonshiner, but one with a much more troubled past. A deputy sheriff was shot and killed during a moonshine raid in 1921 and Williams was charged with first degree murder. Two of Williams' helpers testified against him and the case ended in a hung jury. Rather than face a possible death sentence in a second trial, Williams pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 20-30 years in a North Carolina prison.

It was in the prison machine shop that Williams developed his skills for working on guns and even built a working rifle, with the warden's knowledge. Prison officials were so impressed with his work that they pronounced him reformed and released Williams in 1929, after serving only eight years. He received a pardon in 1931.

Williams applied for his first gun patent in 1935 and went to Connecticut to work with Winchester Arms Company. His short stroke piston design was used to create the M1 Carbine Rifle that earned his nickname "Carbine Williams". The gun was carried by millions of soldiers in World War II and Korea. David Marshall Williams secured dozens of gun patents over his lifetime. He was portrayed by Jimmie Stewart in the 1952 film "Carbine Williams".

David Marshall Williams died a penniless alcoholic in Dorothea Dix mental hospital in Raleigh, NC in 1975. Before his death, he gave plans for another gun to Leard Lisk. The design was for a .22 Long Rifle submachine gun, which he called the Model 7. Williams was never able to make a working prototype of the gun. Lisk improved upon the Williams design and finished a prototype for the weapon in 1977. He named it the LEL-1. Lisk's gun has been referred to as a ".22 caliber buzz saw". It was capable of firing 2,700 rounds a minute and the design could be adapted to fire larger rounds. By comparison, the Uzi, which was invented at about the same time, shoots 800 rounds a minute.

Lisk demonstrated the weapon to the US Army at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The Army was less interested in the gun itself than they were in how it actually worked. Lisk was so fearful that the Army would steal the design before any contracts were signed that he would not allow them to perform an internal inspection of the weapon. A classic standoff followed, with the Army and Lisk parting ways. Lisk would later say that he had received an offer of \$10 million for the gun from the North Koreans, and that he had also been wooed by a Saudi Arabian King and a South African Ambassador. Lisk lost interest in weapons completely after Eva's death, and donated his LEL-1 to the Greensboro Historical Museum in 1994.

Lisk once remarked that "when I was little, we were so poor, if I had anything, I had to invent it." He tinkered and invented his entire life. A 1981 invention was for an "energy machine" that he claimed could turn farm grain into power that could run farm machinery and make electricity. The 500 gallon tank looked exactly like a liquor still. Another invention was for a water purification system. When friends said it looked like he could make liquor with that thing, Lisk replied "well, we could run a little liquor through it." Another of his patented inventions was a stackable aluminum container for storing liquids. Wonder if he had liquor in mind when he made that one? Lisk's published autobiography also describes inventions such as plastic bricks that could be used to build houses, solar energy, and an electric car that could recharge itself while rolling.

In 1983 Leard Lisk, Jr. ran afoul of the law yet again. Lisk was co-owner of a print shop where an employee was charged with counterfeiting. Leard Evander Lisk, Jr. was himself charged and convicted on three Federal counts of possessing and concealing counterfeiting equipment and more than \$100,000 of funny money. At the sentencing in Winston-Salem, US District Court Judge Hiram Ward said that he was a fisherman and had used lures designed by Lisk. "I'm a fisherman", Ward said. "Between his lures and my expertise, we fooled a lot of fish. I just wish he hadn't tried to fool the Treasury." Ward sentenced Lisk to six years in Federal Prison, where he served twenty two months.

Leard Lisk, Jr. died in December 2009. Many of his creative ideas can still be seen at the Greensboro Historical Museum. Every little skunk still brings a smile....



Upcoming Shows of Regional Interest

April 13-15, 2012
CATC Spring Show
Greenville, South Carolina

June 15-17, 2012
FATC Spring Show
Bartow, Florida

July 19-21, 2012
NFLCC National Show
Fort Wayne, Indiana

September 28-29, 2012
NFLCC Region 3 Fall Show
17th Annual River City Antique Tackle Show
Decatur, Alabama

November 16-18, 2012
4th Annual Myrtle Beach
Antique Fishing Tackle Show
Myrtle Beach, SC



A River Runt will do the stunt - Just ask Dennis!
Florida Photographic Collection - State Library and Archives of Florida



The CATC News Editor
6807 Castlegate Drive
Charlotte, NC 28226

