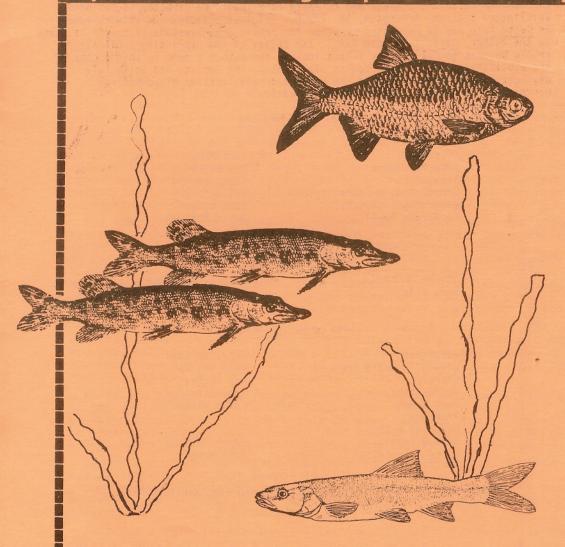
*DELTA TALE * MARCH/ 1991 vol 27 #2

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The Delta Tale is published for the benefit of the membership of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, Inc. a non-profit educational and social organization. The Society was founded in 1960 for the purposes of furthering the aquarium hobby by the dissemination of information and advice, and to the promotion of good fellowship among the membership by organized activities and competitions. All correspondence to the Society and to Delta Tale should be directed to Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 22206. Original articles and artwork appearing in Delta Tale may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations if credit is given to the author, Delta Tale, and PVAS. Two copies of the reprinting publication should be sent to Delta Tale; please include the author's name so that a copy of the publication can be forwarded to him or her. The Society and Delta Tale disclaim any responsibility for the content or availability of advertised merchandise or services within this publication.

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Auctions:

Breeder's Award Program:

Library: Membership: Bowl Shows:

Programs: Ways and Means:

FAAS Delegate: Delta Tale Editor Gerry Hoffman John Jessup Ray Hughes Gene Aldridge Larry Wilkie

Gerry Hoffman John Mangan

Printed by TOP CAT Printing, 164 Colburn Drive, Manassas Park, VA.

FRUM THE EDITORS DESK

I want everybody to go and find themselves a big, fat, bright red felt tip marker. Now rush over to your calender and put a big circle, and a couple of stars, around May 17 & 18. Go ahead, do it now, I'll wait...

Hey! a couple of you are still just sitting there, do it now! Your holding everybody up.

Is everyone finished? I know a couple of you are lying, but I'll deal with you later. I don't want to make the others have to wait any more.

The dates you've just circled (most of you at least) are the dates of the 1991 PVAS spring show & auction. Yes, I said show. We are going to have one this year and it's not too early to start thinking about it. Start thinking about what fish you want to take. How about helping out behind the scenes this year? We can always use more help. See Ray Hughes, or any Board member, for more info on what jobs need to be done. Most of the jobs are easy, as long as we get enough volunteers to do them, and require no experience. You may even have fun. Make this the year that you participate. The amount of member participation and interest is certain to be something that the board looks at when deciding on whether or not to hold future shows.

For those of you interested in plants- the Aquatic Gardeners Assoc. has come alive again after being dorment for some time. For membership (\$15) or more info contact membership chairman Dorothy Reimer, 83 Cathcart St., London, Ontario, Canada, N6C 3L9. As an old member I received a copy of the first publication put out by new editor Neil Frank (one of our friends from Raleigh). It looks like they're off to a very good start and I intend to renew my membership. Send Dorothy a cheek. They need, and deserve your support to suceed.

I've also recently received vol. 1 #2 of the publication of the American Labyrinth Assoc. Those of you interested in Gouramis, Bettas, etc. may want to give this group a try. I didn't see any mention of how much dues are in this issue, If you are interested try contacting Joanne Harrison, 3247 N. Kildare Ave, Chicago, IL 60641.

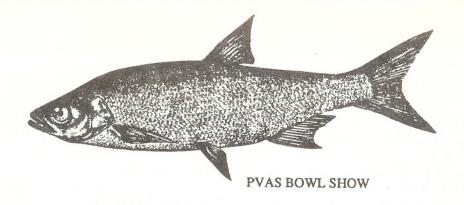
While I'm giving plugs to specialty groups— The American Livebearer Assoc. will be holding its 20th Anniversary Convention May 3-5 in Akron Ohio. Be sure to mark this on your calendar too. There will be speakers, show, auction & more. For more info contact Rich Serva & Gina Tash, 5487 S. Celeste View Dr., Stow, OH 44224 or see me.

Due to a computer error* two Maryland shops were left off of our dealer lists in the last issue. These shops are Brothers Pet in Aspen**and Marine Care Specialists in Rockville. I apologize for the error and ask everyone to go buy something from them so they'll forgive me. ** I did it asain - this should say Aspen Hill

That's all for this month. I'll let you all get to the rest of the magazine now, except for those of you that didn't circle those show dates on your calendar. Thought I'd gorgotten about you huh. No such luck. I want you to go back to the top of the page and reas this whole column all over again. That should be enough punishment for you!

Until next month...

* I don't have a computer, that's why I made the error.



MARCH

CHICLID- DWARF

APRIL

BARBS

MAY

SPRING SHOW AND AUCTION: CATFISH (non-corydoras)

JUNE

ANGELS AND DISCUS (no open class)

JULY

KILLIFISH

AUGUST

ANABANTOIDS

SEPTEMBER

TETRAS

OCTOBER

LIVEBEARERS

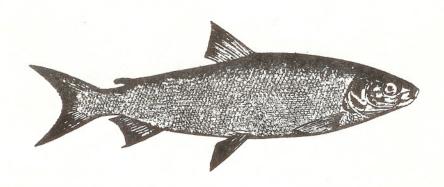
NOVEMBER

CORYDORAS

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL MONTHS EXCEPT JUNE WILL HAVE AN OPEN CLASS.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

MARCH:

March 11-PVAS meeting night.

Program
Bowl Show- categories- dwarf cichlids, open
Mini-auction- PVAS members may bring up to 3 items
to sell, anyone can buy.
Door Prize & Raffles- lots of good stuff to win.

Lots of other fun stuff- come see Ray Hughes juggle 3 chain saws and a live penguin (if we can find someplace that will rent us a penguin).

APRIL:

April 8- meeting night.

Program
Bowl Show- categories- barbs, open.
Mini-auction
Door Prize & Raffles
Pass around a get well card to be signed for Ray
(or take up a collection for flowers, whichever
is appropriate). This is assuming he's*able to get
the penguin for march. * If you read the bylaws very
carefully they say that the vice president is in
charge of the spring show & flightless waterfowl
rental. Now you know why Dan Quayle was the only one

George Bush could get to agree to be vice president.

MAY:

May 3-5- American Livebearer Assoc. Convention May 17-18- PVAS Spring Show & Auction



EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING READY FOR A FISH SHOW, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.

John Mangan, PVAS

I'm sure there are some of you reading this and saying "Oh no, not yet another version of that article he's reprinted 50 times". Well if one of you had voluntered to be editor you wouldn't have to see it again, but I've got the job so I'm rewriting and printing it again. So There, ha, ha, ha. (Sometimes it's fun being editor).

This article is to encourage those of you that haven't entered a fish show to give it a try. It isn't really hard, and you don't have to be an advanced or experienced hobbyist to win. Everyone has a chance as long as you know the basics.

The first piece of advice I'll give you, and one that I'll keep repeating, comes from the title of this article. Don't be afraid to ask. If you don't understand something ask someone. Don't be afraid of sounding dumb, we were all begineers once and one of the purposes of joining an aquarium society is to get advice from the older members.

You should start thinking about which of your fishes you want to show as far ahead of time as possible. Chose more than you actually intend to show so that you have some backups. You will see that the old saying "if something can possibly go wrong it will" is very true with showing fish. If you put all of your hopes on one fish you can be sure that something will happen to him the day before the show.

Make sure that the fishes you chose are as close to full size as possible. Don't try to enter a quarter size angelfish or a 3" Discus. Size is one of the things they will be judged on.

If possible put your show fishes into tanks of their own or at least with peaceful tankmates. You want to be sure that they are not being picked on, getting torn fins, etc. Give them as much room as possible and make regular partial water changes. This will increase the size and general health of your fish.

Food is also very important. Feed your show fish the best foods you can. Give them a variety and include some live foods if possible.

Make sure that you are going to have the right sizes, and number of bowls and/or tanks to show your fish in. Be sure to use the right size container for each fish. Don't try to cram a big fish into a little bowl, remember he is going to be in it for the duration of the show. On the other extreme don't put a tiny fish into a great big bowl. He will get lost in it and appear much smaller than he actually is. If you don't have the right size bowl go out and buy or borrow one. Don't try to just make do with what you have. Make sure that your bowls are as clean as possible. A dirty bowl will influence the judges opinion of your fish. Glass bowls are better than plastic. Plastic is o.k. but glass just looks better.

Make sure you get your bowls all cleaned and organized ahead of time. This will save you a lot of time and panic on show day. You'll have enough to do without having to find and clean fishbowls. Also

make sure that you have enough airline tubing, airstones, etc. and suitable boxes to carry everything in.

One of the most important things to do, and the one people don't pay enough attention to, is to read the show rules very carefully. Make sure you know for sure which classes your fishes should be entered in. What type of bowls are allowed—generally they must have at least two flat sides. Are you allowed to use gravel or backgrounds? What time and where do you go to enter. If there is anything at all that is not 100% clear to you ask ahead of time. Don't wait until the last minute and have your fish disqualified on a technicality. Once you are sure that you know it all, read them again. Do this several times. I can almost guarantee that you missed something the first time through. There is on person at every show that causes all kinds of trouble and/or goes away mad because he didn't follow the rules. Don't let it be you. Read, Read, Read, Ask, Ask, ASk.

Show Day! - this always comes faster than you think. Now is when all of your advanced preparation pays off. Your fishes should all be in top shape and reasy to go win some trophies.

Make your final selection of who is to go. A show fish should be full size, or as close as they get in an aquarium. There should be no torn fins, missing scales, deformites etc. The fish should be active and have good color.

DO NOT FEED your show fish today. If you do their wastes will dirty and foul their bowl rapidly. This will put the fish under a lot of extra stress and could even be fatal. It won't hurt them to be a little hungry, as a matter of fact this will probably make them a little more active and alert looking. Deportment is something the judges will be looking at.

If you followed the advice above you will have all of your bowls bowls, etc. cleaned, lined up, and ready to go. If not, you better start washing. Try drying the outside of the glass with newspaper, for some reason this make it nice and clean and shiny.

Now that your bowls are ready you will need water. It should come from the fishes tank if possible, if not make sure the pH, temp., etc. are as close as possible to reduce stress and shock. The water should be as clean, clear, and colorless as possible. If you are using the drum shaped fish bowls DO NOT fill them all the way up. Only fill them about 1/2 to 3/4 full. You want to have as large an air surface as possible to allow gas exchange.

Very carefully catch your fishes and place them in the bowls. Be sure not to tear any fins or otherwise damage the fish. Don't chase the fish madly around the tank, you'll have better luck and stress the fish less if you keep calm. Sometimes two nets make it easier to catch an elusive fish or if the tank is thickly planted. Take a piece of plastic, plastic fish bags or plastic wrap work well, and place it over the opening on top of the bowl. Secure it in place with a rubber band. The bowl should be labeled above the water line with the common and/or scientifis name of the fish. Use waterproof ink or completely cover the label with transparent tape. Check the rules for details on labeling the bowl.

The bowls should be placed in a sturdy box with paper or cardboard in between them to prevent knocking together. They won't break without this, but they will make some very nerve wracking noises everytime you go over even the smallest bump.

An alternative method to the one above is to carry your fishes to the show site in plastic bags or buckets and placing them in their bowls after you arive at the show. If you have large fish or one that may be easily damaged this method may be best. If using this method be sure to bring enough water to fill your bowls. There will usually be a water source at the show site but it may need to be dechlorinated and have pH and temperature adjustments. If you can it is better to use water your fish is used to.

I've used both methods and prefer the first for small fish. It seems easier once you get to the show and also takes up less room in your car, which may be a factor to some of you.

Before leaving home check to make sure you have any tubing, airstones, etc. that you may need. Make sure any paper work that you can fill out ahead of time is done. If you've read the rules carefully and asked questions you should know just what you need to have.

Upon arriving at the show site go inside and take a quick look around before trying to bring in your stuff. Find out where the registration table and show stands are. Find out what you need to do. ASK. You don't want to have to stand there with a wet heavy box in your arms gazing aimlessly around the room trying to figure out what to do or where to go.

After you have your fish registered place them in the proper places on the show stands. Once again, if you have any questions or doubts ASK someone. There will be show committee people there whose job it is to help you.

Once your fish are in the proper places place their airstones in the bowls. Cut a small hole in the plastic cover to put them through. A plant weight wraped around the end of the airline tubing is helpful to keep it down on the bottom of the bowl.

Now comes the hardest part, waiting for the judging to be over. Go rest up someplace so you have the strength to carry home all of those trophies.



WHERE DID THEY GO?

My Fish Room is wonderful this much I know. My fish! My fish! Where did they go?

The planning was easy construction was tougher. The fish that were waiting beginning to suffer.

Up went the racks, added the tanks, lights and fish. Turned on the air pumps and watched bubbles swish.

With luck and some care some fish multiplied. While others, I thought, were starting to hide.

In some tanks were more fish and others were less.
The reason for this
I just couldn't guess.

I looked on the floor,

I looked on the racks.

I looked in the other tanks

I looked in the cracks.

Some fish were just missing I hadn't a clue.
I found none floating belly up as some of them do.

After feeding one evening and taking a break from under the rack crawled a snake.

Aha! I shouted in a state of some shock. I sure it was heard all around the block.

I scooped up my net but alack and alas, the snake saw me coming and moved much too fast.

More fish are missing they're gone on the sly. with the snake as a partner I think I know why.



Submitted by Martin Kranitz

BOARD MINUTES

The Jan. board meeting was canceled due to bad weather. A combined Jan/Feb. meeting was held Jan. 28 at the home of Rick McKay.

The following board members were present: Rick Mckay, Pete Thrift, Ray Hughes, Kenny Warren, Julie Spall, John Mangan, Gerry Hoffman, Steve Bucknell, Beverly Sweitzer, John Jessup, Gene Aldridge.

A motion was made and passed to hold a spring show and auction May 17-18. The site will be John C. Wood. The large room has been reserved for Sunday for the auction. A classroom has been reserved for the show. The possibility of a second classroom was discussed and will be looked into.

The board members will review the show classes so that possible

changes can be discussed at the next board meeting.

The subject of ribbons vs trophies as show awards was discussed. A list of possible judges was discussed and will be contacted to see if they are available.

A one page flyer will be made up and mailed out with preliminary

information on the show/auction weekend.

Possible sites for the Fall Workshop were discussed. Possible speakers for the workshop were also discussed.

The "Theme" for this years workshop will be breeding fish. We will try to have all of the speakers somehow tied into this theme.

A motion was made and passed to print up more meeting reminder postcards.

Submitted by John Mangan, Recording Secretary.

TRADING POST

Ads for the trading post should be sent to John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave, Vienna, VA 22181. The deadline for ads is the night of the monthly meeting of even numbered months, ie April 8, june 10, etc. See back cover for dates.

Balls- nylon ballbearings for your Dynaflow- Make that old Dynaflow purr like a kitten- \$1.00 each, 3 for \$2.50- send SASE to: Martin Kranitz, 639 Wayward Dr. Annapolis, MD 21401.

30 PSI Air Compressor- \$35 50 Gallon Stainless Tank- Make Offer Don't send SASE- call Martin at 261-8445 and leave message.

Wanted- Breeding pair of Angels. For Sale- Breeding pair of Jewels. Chris Korin, (703) 642-8884

For Sale or Trade- backissue aquarium magazines, many titles. Send SASE for cataloge. John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave, Vienna VA 22181.



HOW I RAISED "GREEN" GOODIEDS

by George White, PVAS

Now that society has changed and become more tolerant of bizarre behavior, I will admit to having once inadventently raised "Green" Goodieds (anyone who has even seen a "Green" Goodied will know why I did not want this to leak out earlier). Anyway, people do perverted things today. For example, marine hobbyists—who are probably a bunch of closet masochists—speak of keeping "inverts."

I assume that the club magazine editor is so hard up for articles that he will even be willing to print one about Goodieds. It seems that the people who spawn spectacular species like farlowella feel like resting on their laurels rather than writing for the club magazine.

My embarrassing encounter with Goodieds began innocently enough. One Saturday I found enough time to engage in one of my favorite sports--fish chasing. I hopped in the car planning to buy some feeder guppies for some of my piscavorous African cichlids. I also wanted to fish chase, that is to say, tour the local aquarium shops. Driving across Arlington towards Alexandria, I suddenly remembered that I was on the street where Jessie had his infamous aquarium shop.

Jessie was a great guy, but a burned-out aquarium shop owner. His wry point-blank honesty irritated some people. But you could count on him to sell you good equipment and give honest evaluations about it and about lesser equipment he would not sell. His lack of patience with people who asked the wrong questions may have cost him a number of customers. If he was in the mood, Jessie would reel off interesting stories about fish. (One of his stories was not only about fish, but about fishy behavior. It seems that a number of years ago an aquarium club member bought a whole tank of baby Kuhli loaches and subsequently cooked up a story about a spawning in the club bulletin.)

Jessie's fish were another story. He often had excellent specimens, but his concept of hygene left something to be desired. Some of Jessie's tanks reminded you of the old rule--quarantine any new fish. Jessie did, however, always have a fine selection of feeders and good prices. And, his feeder tanks were generally clean. I always quarantined the feeders too.

I walked in and told Jessie that I was looking for very small, cheap feeders. He smiled and led me over to a bare tank with scads of small, nondescript fish fry swimming about. Jessie said, "These are Green Goodieds. You can have the whole tankful for ten dollars."

I looked at the fry and dumbly remarked that there wasn't any color apparent in them. Jessie wrinkled his lip and replied, "I thought you wanted feeders. You can have them all for five dollars." Jessie's prices were good, but this deal should have raised my warning antenna.

After a week I dropped a few of the Goodied fry in my 55 gallon aquarium which contained some Cichlids from Lake Tanganyica, one of the great east African rift lakes. The aquarium residents included some magnificent Lamprologus Compressiceps. Their compressed body and elongated snout suggested to me that these Cichlids might be ambush piscavores who lurk among the aquatic weeds waiting to pick off unwary smaller fish. My young Compressiceps, like many of their compatriots from this lake, grew exasperatingly slowly. I speculated that a live food such as the Goodied fry would supply some missing nutrient necessary to spur their growth.

The Compressiceps caught a couple of the Goodieds, but soon lost all interest in eating them. Perhaps the Goodieds tasted as bland as their appearance. There was a problem. The aquarium contained so many carefully stacked limestone rocks that it would take hours to clear it and catch the Goodieds. Well, the Goodieds grew and spawned. And, the Compressiceps showed absolutely no interest in catching them.

By this time I had found out what Goodieds were and was embarrassed to show my tank to friends. Goodieds are the piscatoral equivalent of computer viruses—they multiply quickly and foul things up. Finally, I cleared the tank and caught all of the Goodieds which wasn't easy since they blended in with the grey muck on the bottom of the aquarium.

I brought the Goodieds over to Jessie, hoping to trade them for some fish food. (Some store owners will, as a service to their regular customers, accept good fish in trade for supplies. But, of course, they have no obligation.) Jessie acted insulted when I said that I had bought Goodieds from him. He pointed to several tanks full of feeders and sneered at my fish. I left quickly.

I then remembered that the O'Connell High School aquarium club was holding an auction in a few days. I labeled the bags and brought them to the auction. The sweet young lady at the registration desk looked at the fish and remarked that she could not see any green on them. She asked me for my name and address. I almost blushed and said that I did not want to be registered—the fish were a donation. She then said they would like to send me a thank you note. How was I going to get out of this without public damage to my reputation? Luckily, someone distracted her and I made a hasty exit.

Afterwards, I felt a little guilty. Imagine some poor student sitting around waiting for those "Green" Goodieds to color up.

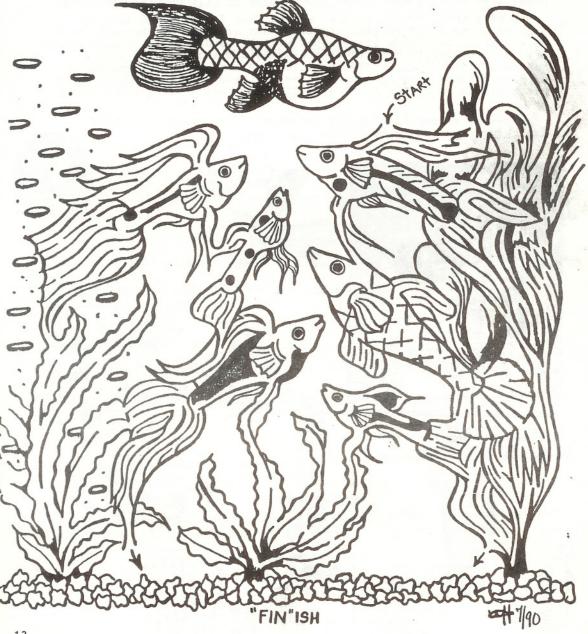
Incidentally, the fish pictured at the top of this article is far too interesting to be a Goodied. It is a somewhat simplistic rendition of an Eusthenopteron, the first amphibian-like life form that was capable of living on land for short periods. I thought I could get by with this trick. Afterall, does anyone who has ever seen a Goodied remember what it looked like?

ed. note- George is currently living in exile some where in Europe where he is currently employed as Salman Rushdie's food taster. I.M.

Fun with Fins

Reprinted from Kitsap Aquarian, Kitsap Aquarium Society.

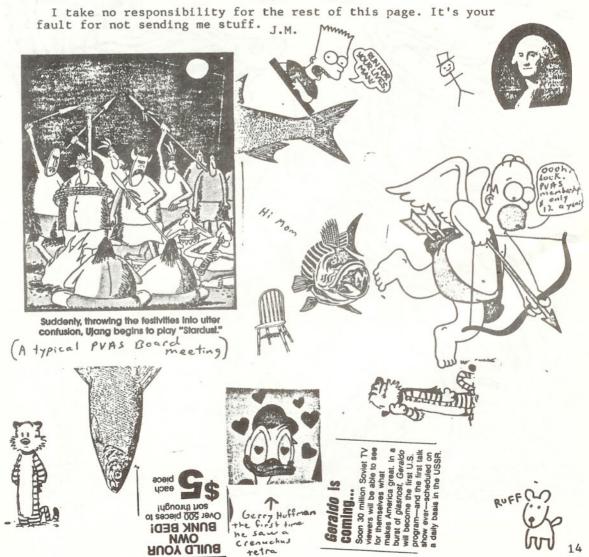
The female guppy below is about to give birth. Unfortunately for her fry the other guppys are hungrily waiting below!! Begining at start, trace their path to safety at the base of the plants, but do not cross over any solid lines.



A PAGE FULL OF ASSORTED STUFF

Since PVAS President Rick McKAy is in Romania as I'm writing this, and I don't think he'll be back in time to write a president's page, I've got one extra page that I have to fill up with something.

The only thing that I have to write, that I didn't put into my page, is a call for original articles and artwork for the next issue. This will be our "show issue" that will be used to help attract new members from people that attend the show and auction. I'd like it to contain ALL original PVAS articles and artwork. So how about ithelp us to look good and atract some new members. The deadline to get stuff to me is the April 8 meeting so start writing and drawing now.



DOTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE:	19	

NAME:		*
STREET:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
TELEPHONE: (HOME)	(OFFICE)	
How long have you been in the hobby?		
What can PVAS do for you?		
Have you ever belonged to another aquariu	m society?	
If yes, which one(s)?		

Individual annual dues for membership in the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are \$12.00 per year, renewable each June.

Please hand this application to any PVAS member, or mail it to the address above. You will be contacted.

PVAS MEMBERSHIP

Gene Aldridge 703-998-8757 HON LIFE 4522 South 31st St Apt. 12, Arlington, VA, 22206-2131

Liz Allyn 703-941-5870 5/91 4335 Americana Drive, Annandale, VA, 22003

Edward D Andre 703-737-8966 5/91 382 East Williamsburg Road, Sandston, VA, 23150

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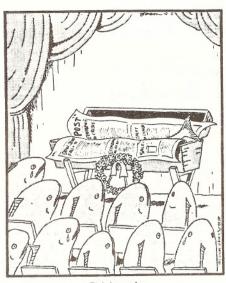
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THE POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARION SUCTETY WILL MEET ON THESE MONDAYS IN 1991:

14 JAN 8 APR 8 JUL 21 OCT 11 FEB 13 MAY 12 AUG 11 NOV 11 MAR 10 JUN 9 SEP 9 DEC

Meetings are held at the John J. Wood Facility, 3730 Old Lee Highway (Rt 237), Fairfax City, Virginia. Doors open at 7:30, and the meeting starts at 8PM.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

