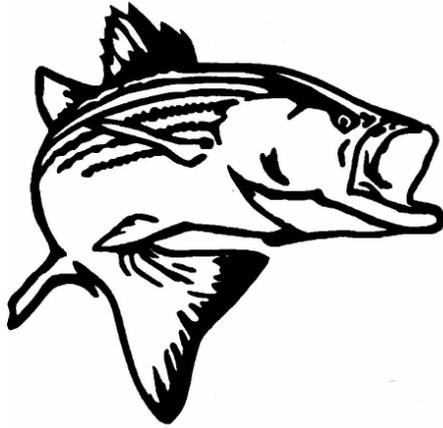


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



***Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association,
Inc.
Newsletter***

**April
2007**

StriperBowl

Saturday, April 28

**First Safe Light at Oak Grove
on Cherokee Lake**

President's Letter

Most all of us are familiar with the popular credit card commercial that ends with the question, "What's in your wallet?" I guess when it comes to anglers, the question on a lot of people's minds is what kind of tackle or what kind of boat do you have. While having the right equipment is very important, there is also the toolbox of knowledge that we have to work with. A lot of folks enjoy one type of fishing and are content with doing that when it works and watching the ball game when it doesn't work. For those who have it really bad and need to fish year round, there comes the need to broaden your horizons so to speak. The need to be outside and on the water and catching fish causes them to study their prey and learn as many of their habits as possible. I know that, when I first started striper fishing, I was glad to just catch a fish, and having someone else tell me where to find it was okay. And although the help of someone else is **still always welcome**, I find that going out and finding fish on my own is much more satisfying. Although I'm still going through the learning curve and zero sometimes, it's still a lot of fun studying the striped bass and learning its habits. It makes finding and catching a big fish much more rewarding. It also adds the valuable knowledge (tools in the tool box) that you need to go and successfully find and catch fish on your own. Don't be afraid to think outside the box as a lot of people would put it; you could find out something that no one else knows about. As a friend of mine says, "If you fish like everyone else, you will catch like everyone else." So don't be afraid to try that new spot or technique that you have been wondering about. If it doesn't work, then you've learned what not to do. If it does work, well you get the point.

On a different subject, I would like to remind everyone that our monthly meetings have been moved **from** Shoney's on Clinton Highway in Knoxville. Starting in April, our meeting will be held at the Shoney's restaurant in Clinton. It is located at 2405 Andersonville Highway in Clinton. This is very close to where

Highway 61 (Andersonville Hwy.) crosses over I-75. If you exit I-75 at exit #122 and turn toward Andersonville, Shoney's will be on the left side of the road (don't blink or you will miss it).

Also, I hope that everyone is planning on fishing in the StriperBowl coming up on April 28. As most everyone knows, this is a tournament with no payout, but proceeds are used to purchase gifts for the Kids Fishing Day on June 9, 2007. We do encourage everyone to bring a friend, and the friend does not have to be a member. However, in order to take the trophy home, you will need to be a current club member. This is a fun event where everyone has a good time.

Good Fishin'
John Seiber
TSBA President



ALL IT TAKES TO BE A GOOD FISHERMAN

Being observant is a good place to start the education on catching fish. Some of us are somewhat hard of hearing, but let a bait flip or a fish break the water and the hearing is as fine tuned as possible. You can learn some of the language of the sea gulls just by listening and then rush to the spot they are talking about to catch the stripers that are pushing the bait the gulls are after to the top of the water. Be sure to use all the clues being offered to find those stripers, like all the boats in the area coming up on top at full throttle going to the same diving gulls. On a strange lake, it is always good to look for all the fish-eating birds because they are going to be close to the most bait fish that are easy to catch and so are the stripers. Smell is also possible to use to find shad. Where there are large numbers of shad in relatively calm water, just put your sniffer in gear and start watching on your fish finder.

No matter how good you think you are, someone will always come up with a better game plan occasionally. So listen to what new tricks or spots they may share with you. If they don't share information, it is not illegal to follow and use your long range glasses to spy on them when on public waterways. On tournament days, follow the best fishermen and observe. Much information is available from websites, magazines, newspapers, marinas, free fishing publications, and the pictures posted for bragging rights. They can tell you what time of year, where caught, what size, and often what kind of bait or plug.

Good communication is always a plus. Good records are also a great way to develop a long-term goal of success in catching stripers, and you can even cross reference some of the information to other rivers and reservoirs. If all the conditions are the same where you caught fish last year, they will also be in the same place year after year. Most things have to be the same to make this statement correct like water temperature, elevation, clarity, pH, high or low pressure, wind, and available fish and bait populations.

Use good equipment that is a proven success. Much of the marketing tries to sell you what they have for sale, and it is not always what will work the best. Most of the highly advertised products are just trying to catch a fisherman, and they don't care if a fisherman catches a fish or not after they have your money. Some of the best spent money as an investment to become a good fisherman may be spent on guides before the first purchase of any fishing gear. Go out with several guides if it is an option because everyone fishes differently. This may stop you from purchasing the wrong equipment you may never use.

The most important feature to becoming a good fisherman is trial and error and then and do it differently the next time. They call that experience and you can only get it from going fishing, going fishing, going fishing, and going fishing some more.

Your Fishing Friend,
Ezell Cox

Striper Nostalgia Corner

Archive from [the former] Norris Lake Striper Club
Newsletter, January, 1992

Letter from Chuck Kingsley

Nineteen hundred ninety-two is going to be a busy year for our club members. In 1991, the word was put out that our fishing was in serious trouble and that it's time to stop talking and do something about it!

Since then, we have been forming committees all aimed at improving our fishery and bringing the club members closer together. As a result of this "teamwork," there's no doubt in my mind that, in the long run, we will be the determining factor influencing the future of the Striper fishing on Norris Lake.

Every club member I talk to wants to support or participate in this effort. We need all of the help we can get, so please join a committee or at the very least, give moral support to those who will be putting their hard work into our goal.

For those who have a hard time attending the club meetings due to their schedules, set yourself a goal in 1992. Attend just one meeting! It will make a difference.

The Norris Lake Striper Club is the biggest striper club in the state and, if not already, will be the largest in the country. I feel that this gives us the right to "speak our peace" when the future of our Stripers is being compromised. That's where we're at, so I urge you again please participate in some way, no matter how insignificant it may seem in our effort to preserve and improve the quality of Striped Bass fishing on Norris Lake. If you have ideas or just want to offer moral support and can't be here, write a letter to us. We'll be glad to hear from you.

StriperBowl

Saturday, April 28

**First Safe Light at Oak Grove
on Cherokee Lake**

**Registration 1/2 hour before with mandatory
meeting 10 minutes prior to start
\$16.00 Entry Fee**

**Weigh-in, Sandwiches, Chips,
Soft Drinks & Cake
at 11:00 a.m.**

**Proceeds go to support
the Kids Fishing Day**

The StriperBowl is a tournament where we use the money generated from the tournament to fund the Kids Fishing Day outing each year.

You don't have to be a member to fish in the tournament, but only a member can win the "StriperBowl trophy" with names engraved on it. Keep it for one year until the next StriperBowl and then bring it back to defend it. We take the money and buy door prizes for all the Kids that come out and fish in the Kids Fishing Day fun tournament.

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake - Good

Some stripers weighing up to 20 pounds can be caught, but they are not nearly as abundant as the hybrids. Hybrids eight to ten pounds are common. The best fishing is from Point 24 downstream in most of the large coves and creeks that have abundant bait. Fish shallow and do not neglect the banks. Night fishing is great when the alewife is spawning late this month. This is the best month to catch fish on artificial lures.

Norris Lake - Fair

Do not expect to catch a large fish on Norris like in past years, but fish weighing as much as 20 pounds from the stocking in 1999 can be caught. Top water action is at its best this month. Most fish will be in the upper one-half of the lake, in and around the large coves. Fish the shallow, rocky banks and points. Outriggers are very good fishing tools.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake - Good

The steam plant in Kingston will still hold some fish, but expect to catch more fish. They may be larger upstream to the discharge at the dams.

May Expectations

The stripers will be in the headwaters of the rivers and in the major feeder creeks for the spawn. Temperature of the water will dictate when the stripers are most of the time. If the rivers or shallow water exceeds 70 degrees F., the fish will seek out cooler thermal refuge. The gulls and other fish-eating birds are always a good clue that stripers are also there to feed on the same bait fish. The stripers can be at any depth that it chooses, but most will be caught on or near the surface close to the rough, rocky banks and points. Side planer boards or any outriggers work great. It is important to know thermoclines start to develop in slow-moving water this month. Top water action is good in May, and survival of released fish is also great.

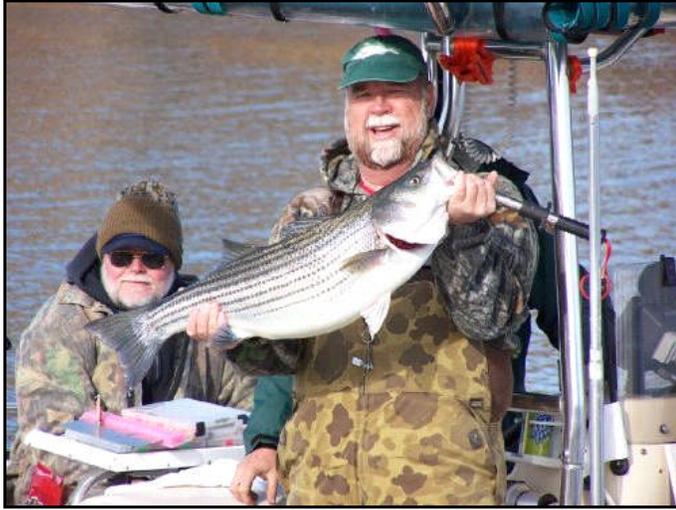
The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members. Visit the web at: **www.**

TNStripedBass.com

The current password is:

Username: "striper" Password: "club"

May 21-Monthly Meeting at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
Speaker: Mike Smith, TWRA
Pizza & Drinks



Ken Eaker
(Reel
Music)

Ed Wright

Randy
Baucom

Feb. 24-25,
2007

Watts Bar
Lake



Member Profile

**Orville Hansell
Harrison, Ohio**

I live with my fantastic wife, Anita, at Harrison, Ohio. I am a retired Millwright.

I started fishing for Striped Bass with Mike Thompson in 1970 more or less first at Lake Cumberland. Then we started fishing Cherokee Lake. I enjoy all the people that I have met in the Cherokee and Norris Lakes area. I look forward to the newsletters and the Fish Fry. Keep up the good work.

Orville Hansell



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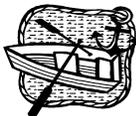


Dennis Bryant

Norris Lake

February 28, 2007

22 lbs.



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YOUR 2007 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

President:

John Seiber 865-945-3716
JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

Vice President:

Eric Rauch 865-494-0304
ewrauch@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Ezell Cox

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Ezell Cox, Billy Davis, Allan Franklin,
Janine Johnson, Chet Moore, John Seiber

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter: Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com

Web Site: John Seiber 865-945-3716

Public Relations: Allan Franklin 865-694-8888
Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Sponsor Coordinator: Eric Rauch 865-494-0304

Kids' Fishing Day: Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

Door Prizes: Chet Moore

Tournament Coordinators: Ezell Cox, Allan Franklin

Merchandising: John Seiber 865-945-3716

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Minutes of the March Meeting

John opened the meeting with the announcement that our Shoney's meeting place will close. Our meeting location for next month will be at the Shoney's on Interstate 75 north of Knoxville Exit 122 (Hwy. 61 - Norris-Clinton).

Ken Cutsinger was introduced as the guest speaker. Ken is an enforcement officer and K-9 trainer for TWRA. He is also a taxidermist. Examples of 3 stripers were brought in for display in different stages of preparation. The photo album was passed around of mounts done over the past 20 years of many wildlife, birds, and fish. Preparation for the freezer suggestions were a very wet cloth wrapped around the fish or a plastic wrap. For the skin mount fish he charges \$8.00 an inch for striper and \$7.00 for black bass. A careful measure of length and girth is done to order the Styrofoam preformed filler for the skin. Removal of the skin from the body is done with a long cut on the right or left side of the fish that is to be against the plaque or drift wood mount. All meat must be removed from the head and skin with no less than 13 specialized knives and scraper tools. The skin is then put into a borax solution to remove the fat and body oils. The skin is then mounted over the Styrofoam to dry for about 2 weeks, and epoxy is used to fill all the sunken places on the head and mouth. An air brush is used to paint the fish. The final coat of clear sealer and eyes are put on. A specialized coat is applied to the fins to keep them from cracking and breaking. Ken brought stacks of boater safety books, 2007 fishing regulations books, and angler's guide to Tennessee fish books. He answered questions on no wake zones at commercial docks and swim areas, also the requirement for a boater safety course for anyone born after 1989. The hotline for reporting poaching in East TN Region IV is 1-800-332-0900. Report violations when they are happening.

After the break Chet did the drawing for a lot of nice door prizes. The 50-50 drawing was a nice \$50 dollar cash prize. Fishing reports by Chet Moore for below the dams were very poor. Some of the reports coming from Cherokee and Norris were starting to show signs of changing from deep to shallow water springtime patterns. Norris had reports of catches around Hickory Star up to 33 Bridge and some on the lower half of the Powell side. Cherokee reports were best from point 16 to point 24 with bait very easy to catch. A lot of floating debris is starting to show up on the surface as the lakes are coming up.

Ezell Cox, TSBA Secretary

2007 TSBA Calendar

Please attend TSBA events and join us at the meetings.
Monthly meetings will be held at Shoney's Restaurant, 2405 Andersonville Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 122 (Hwy. 61 - Clinton/Norris), head east. Shoney's will be on the left.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| April 14-15 | Hickory Star Tournament |
| April 16 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| April 28 | StriperBowl - Oak Grove Launch Ramp on Cherokee |
| May | Norris Lake Advisory Committee Meeting |
| May 21 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery |
| June 9 | Kids' Fishing Day |
| June 18 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| July 16 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery |
| August 20 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| September 29 | TSBA Fish Fry |
| October 15 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Nominations for Directors and Officers |
| November 19 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Election of Directors and Officers |
| December 17 | Board of Directors Meeting - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM |

Note: Open fishing days may be on the Saturdays after the meetings as planned during the monthly meetings.

*** The Monthly Meeting location has changed.**

**RESULTS FOR
MARCH 2007
QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

WHAT BRAND OF FISHING LINE DO YOU USE MOST FOR LAKE FISHING?

WHAT TEST LINE DO YOU USE MOST FOR LAKE FISHING?

25 FISHERMEN RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONS WITH THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS

| <u>BRAND</u> | <u># OF USERS</u> | <u>AVERAGE TEST</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| P-LINE | 13 | 16.7# |
| STREN | 6 | 17.5# |
| BERKLEY BIG GAME | 3 | 17.5# |
| ANDE | 1 | 20# |
| EXCEL | 1 | 14# |
| MAGNA | 1 | 20# |

Jim Blazier

T.S.B.A. 2007 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a member: *You'll receive a monthly newsletter.

- * You'll help support Striped Bass Fisheries & Wildlife Agencies.
- * You'll be informed of new regulations & information that affect Striper fishing.
- * You'll develop a network of "Striper friends."
- * You'll learn new methods to improve your Striped Bass fishing effectiveness.
- * You'll be able to call officers for fishing reports.
- * You'll be able to attend monthly meetings with informative programs.
- * You'll have access to all areas of the TSBA web page.

Is this a renewal ____ or a New Membership ____

Your Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(_____) _____ # of minor children in family _____

E-Mail address _____

Referred By: _____

I have read and agree to abide by and be bound by the Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. (TSBA) Bylaws*.

* A copy of the Bylaws can be found on the TSBA website at www.TNStripedBass.com or at the offices of the corporation.

(Signature)

(Date)

Enclose a check for \$20.00

Mail to: Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc

P.O. Box 24442

Knoxville TN 37933

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2007 dues. Yearly dues are due in January each year. New members that sign up in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will get credit for the remainder of that year and the following year.



The TSBA is a non-profit corporation that supports TW/RA & its Striped Bass & Cherokee Bass programs. We come together to provide a unified voice for the Striped Bass & the Cherokee Bass programs in the State of Tennessee. We educate the public & share our knowledge with fellow Striped Bass anglers.

**Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 24442
Knoxville, TN 37933**



**The monthly meeting location has changed
To Shoney's at 2405 Andersonville Highway
I-75 Exit 122 at Hwy. 61 Clinton/Norris
April 16th Speaker: Ezell Cox
"Secret Fishing Holes Exposed"**