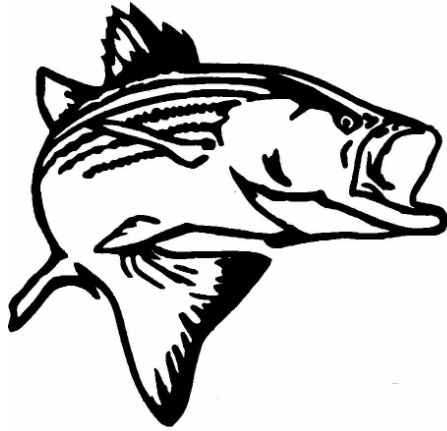


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**January
2008**

***TSBA Annual
Kingston Tournament***

***February 2, 2008
10 AM to 3 PM***

Kingston City Park

(Alternate Date Feb. 9)

President's Letter

As I start my term as TSBA President, I must first thank John Seiber for all he's done over the last three years as President. His will be a hard act to follow, but I'll do my best. I also want to thank the past and current members of the TSBA Board of Directors for the work they do in planning and leading the efforts of our organization.

I still remember my first TSBA meeting about four years ago when Bob Leach was President. I walked into Shoney's not knowing a soul in the room. Before I left that evening, I'd met several individuals. It wasn't more than a week or two before Chet Moore had me out on the water teaching me about striper fishing. Over the next several months I went fishing with several other members. I was introduced to fishing the boils below the dams; experienced cold weather fishing at the Kingston Steam Plant discharge; fished parts of Cherokee, Norris, and Watts Bar Reservoirs I'd never been on before; and learned that there was a lot more to striper fishing than I ever suspected. More importantly, I have gotten to know a lot of people who I can now call my friends.

This is what I think the TSBA is about – sharing, learning, and fellowship. As we move forward this year, I'm certain that we will continue to promote these principles.

Eric Rauch
TSBA President

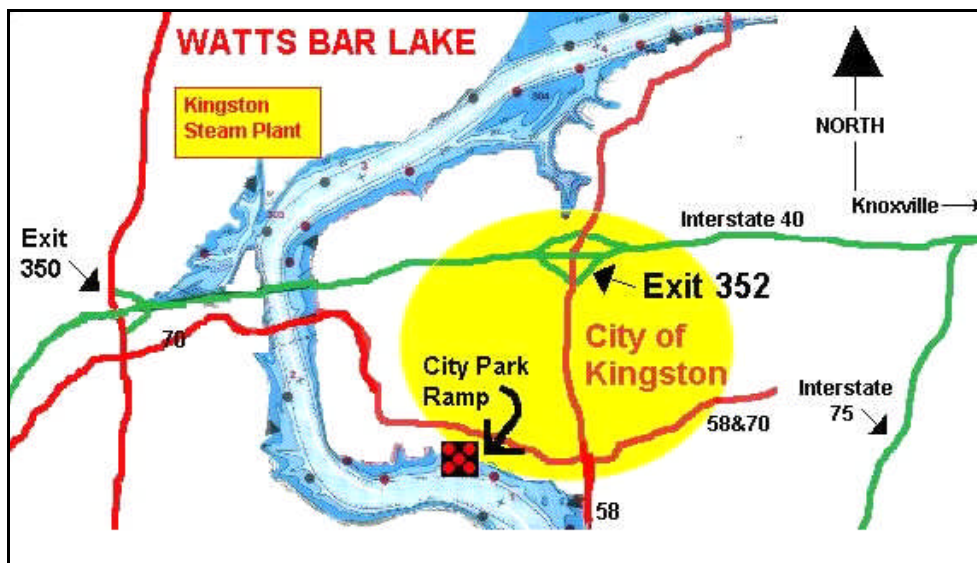
TSBA Annual Kingston Tournament

The Kingston Tournament will be held on Watts Bar Lake on Saturday, February 2, 2008.

The launch site will be at the Kingston City Park. Tournament will go from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The entry fee is \$16.00 per person - \$15.00 toward the tournament payout and \$1.00 toward awards. This will be a one-fish tournament. Make plans to come and join in the fun.

This is a TSBA tournament, open only to club members and their guests. Membership forms will be available at registration.



STRIPER NOSTALGIA CORNER

BILLY WHEAT

You've heard the old adage about 10 percent of the fishermen catching 90 percent of the fish? Clinton angler Billy Wheat is one of the 10 percent. Locally, he's made a name for himself among the bassin' crowd by winning his share of tournaments and for leading his bass club to the Tennessee State BASS Federation championship in 1996. So, what was he doing standing on a frozen bank, casting for hickory shad last Sunday morning?

Wheat's regular fishing partner had decided to go grouse hunting that day, leaving Billy to fend for himself, if any fishing was to be done. Early that morning he decided to leave his metal flake bass rig in the garage and wander down to the Bull Run steam plant discharge. He'd armed himself with a 7.5 foot flipping stick and a Quantum EX 500 reel that was loaded with 20-pound test Stren line. No elitist snob about species preference, Wheat was going after different game - striped bass. "I've fished for rockfish all my life," he explained. "I just fool with 'em; it's fun for me."

Following the long walk from the parking area, Wheat began skipping a double doll fly rig rapidly through the swirling discharge water. Hickory shad can't resist a fast retrieve; soon, Wheat had a 22-incher for striper bait. Shortly thereafter, the large bait would be taken by a fish of Ahab-like proportions.

Wheat hooks his bait just under the skin, in front of the dorsal fin, explaining that such a method helps the hook set. His rig that morning consisted of the long rod and reel and a new 3/0 Mustad hook with a wide gap and offset point. He was free-lining. With no weight on the line, the bait was free to wander and pull out as much line as it wanted. "Out on the point, there's an eddy. I seem to catch the best fish there or in the eddy by the bridge," he said. "Just let the bait go and swim; it's the best way. If one's (a striper) coming up through there, he'll eat it."

Patience is certainly a virtue in fishing the eddy. With thousands of shad in the vicinity, competition for a striper's attention is high. Wheat insists that leaving the bait out there and resisting the urge to "reel in all the time and check the bait" improves the chances for a hookup. And, he says, when the hit comes, you'd better be ready. "When they hit, they hit hard. It's like somebody took a ball bat to it. They'll hit, pause, and take off," he said.

When the big fish hit, it hit hard. Wheat's large hickory shad had run about 50 yards of line out, and was finning slowly through the eddy at about the 10-foot depth. Seizing the shad, the striper headed for deeper water, ripping line quickly from the Quantum as it turned for the center of the Clinch River channel. Wheat, standing on the bank, could only stand and watch the Stren disappear from the spool and stretch across the misty surface. Within seconds the spool was dangerously close to empty; Wheat had to take action.

"I had to stop him," he said. "He was out of Bull Run, halfway across the channel and still going. I thumbed it (the reel) down real hard and set the hook. Luckily, he turned and headed back my way. I fought it for 15 minutes."

At the Minit Check Bass Pro Shop scales in Oak Ridge, the fish weighed an even 50 pounds. It measured 49-inches in length and had a 30-inch girth. Wheat, who often guides clients for bass and crappie on Melton Hill Lake, was justifiably impressed with his catch: "I'm having it mounted," he said.

Paul H. Shaw, December, 21, 1997

Minutes of the November Meeting

John turned over the meeting to Wes Adams for the program on the basics of striper fishing. The proper equipment was discussed about rods, reels, rod holders, planer holders, pliers/ hook out, circle or J hooks, and setting your drag with a scale. Catching bait was the next topic. Wrap the excess rope around your wrist so it does not have to be gathered each cast. Use a slow troll or stop and start to have 25 or so feet between casts. If the bait can be seen, try to anticipate the movement and cast in the direction it is going. Dump the bait in a holding bucket or into the tank, not on the boat deck. If you hang the net attempt to get hold of the horn to release it. Before getting to the known fishing spot, stop and get everything ready to keep from making noise and movement when setting up to fish. There is no need to fish more than 4 rods at a time; vary the depth and amount of line behind a planer and float for each rod until a pattern is recognized. Get your baits as far away from the boat as possible. Look for birds that eat fish too, and don't stay more than 30 minutes without action before moving. Change your bait often, vary your speed by using an S pattern with your boat, and pull the planer boards very close to the bank where shad are known to be. Once you have found fish, be sure to have minimal boat noise or anchor up and fish the bottom or bank fish. Once the fish is hooked up, use the rod positions, drag, and boat placement with the trolling motor to your advantage when fighting the fish. Handle the fish the least you can; don't hold it vertically or keep it out of the water long periods to take pictures and weigh.

Drawing of the door prizes and the 50 / 50 drawing was done with Bob Leach winning the 50 /50. The election of the officers was done after a round of applause for the job John Seiber did as TSBA President. Motions were made, seconded, and unanimously carried for new officers and Directors. New officers are: President - Eric Rauch, Vice President - Jim Blazier, Secretary - Ezell Cox, Treasurer - Janine Johnson, and Assistant Treasurer - Allan Franklin. The vacant TSBA Director positions filled were Erik Engebretsen (3 years) and John Seiber (3 years). Eric Rauch as President automatically takes a Director position (1 year).

Billy Davis will pick up the door prizes for next year's meetings. Everyone is welcome to the Board of Directors meeting on December 17, 2007 to plan next year's events.

Fishing reports for Cherokee - the NSBA did a tournament and the largest fish was 8½ pounds. Dead fish were seen floating and around the bank near the dam. Looks like a major fish kill on Cherokee. Norris seems to be slow with some breaking fish seen around the 33 bridge to Hickory Star. Also, there was a report of breaking fish in Cove Creek. No reports came from below the dams or steam plants.

Ezell Cox
 TSBA Secretary

Battery Depth of Discharge

Have you ever wondered about the state of your batteries? Here's a chart I came across that helped me. You need to keep your batteries charged in order to lengthen battery life. If your battery gets discharged below 40%, it may not charge back up to 100% again. You can get the reading on your fish finder if you push the right buttons or by using a volt meter.

Janine Johnson

State of Charge	12-Volt Battery Reading	Specific Gravity Reading
100%	12.60	1.265
90%	12.55	1.245
80%	12.50	1.230
70%	12.45	1.216
60%	12.35	1.202
50%	12.25	1.190
40%	12.20	1.175
30%	12.10	1.160
20%	12.00	1.148
10%	11.31	1.135
0%	10.50	1.130

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

Condition: Good

Location: Spread out all over with a good number of fish near Hwy 25 Bridge. Fish are hitting top water baits. Birds are diving on the schools of shad driven up by the stripers.

Bait: Live Shad and Top Water

Notes: Fish are going back. A fish kill on Cherokee this summer may have killed most of the fish over 8 pounds. It has also been noticed that the stripers have a high infestation of parasites sometimes called gill maggots (copepods).

Norris Lake

Condition: Slow

Location: Stripers may be found farther upstream in the creeks. Use alewife and gizzard shad near the surface on drift lines or downriggers to 30 feet. Cast artificials into the breaking fish.

Notes: Fish are going back and there is some top water action. Bait, as always, is impossible to catch. Bring bait with you.

Watts Bar Lake

Condition: Fair

Notes: Fish near the Kingston Steam Plant in the warmer water. Remember to keep your boat within the buoys where designated in the Fishing Regulations.

Melton Hill Lake

Condition: Fair

Location: Bull Run Steam plant or the Upper Clinch is the place to try with gizzard shad and cut-bait. Top water baits are definitely an option.

February Expectations

Wintertime patterns are expected in all reservoirs as long as the temperature remains well below 50 degrees. Slow catch rates will be on the mid lake and downstream sections. Winter kill off of small bait fish may start to develop as soon as the water temperature drops. The stripers and gulls may occasionally work the surface together. Normally the best fishing is near the large concentration of small baitfish in the main channels, 20 to 40 feet deep. The next few months is when the records have been and will be broken. The steam plants are the premium places to fish until the water warms up in the spring. Skipjack have been the choice bait for most of the past records and trophies; however, the most abundant forage fish will catch the most fish even if they are smaller bait. Planer boards, balloons, sinkers, bottom fishing and artificials all work at the steam plants while the high concentrations of baitfish and all types of game fish are there.



Charles
and Craig
Blue and
Junior
Mitchell

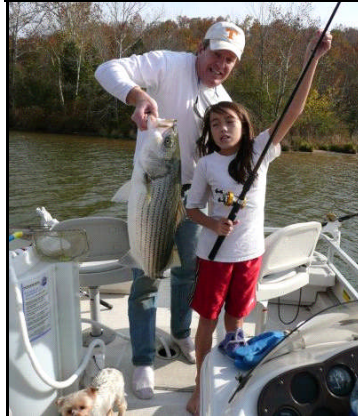
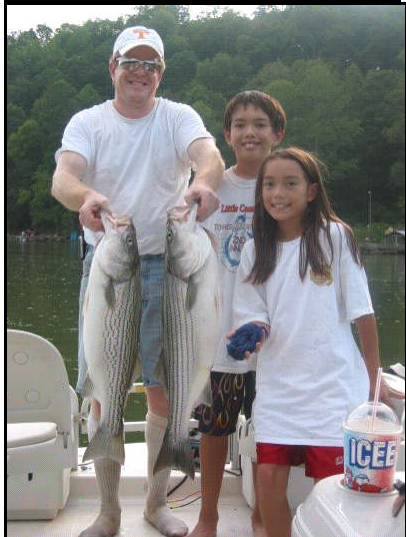
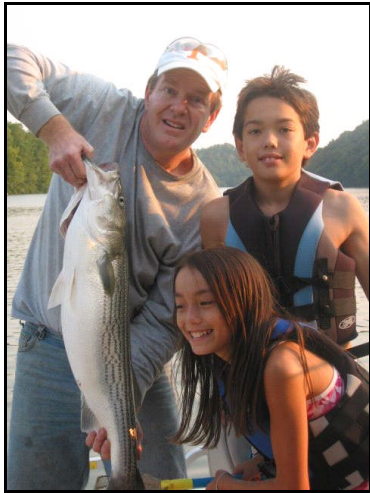




Chris Childers
Nov. 1, 2007



Gary Harris
Nov. 1, 2007



Craig
Blue, son
Fletcher
and
daughter
Georgiana

Nov. 3 &
10, 2007

Watts Bar
near
Kingston

Super 8 Motel / Morristown Tennessee



Super 8 Motel in Morristown, TN is located on East Andrew Johnson Highway, only 1/8th mile from after exiting at Exit 2B. It is only a few miles from the Oak Grove Ramp on Cherokee Reservoir, which many of our members frequently use. Amenities at the **Super 8 Motel** include an outdoor swimming pool, free local telephone calls, high speed internet, HBO and free continental breakfast.

If you are fishing in the Cherokee Reservoir area and are looking for a fisherman-friendly motel, stay with our friends at the **Super 8 Motel**. Reservations can be made by calling: 423 586-8880 or toll free: 866 802-6324. A link to specific information on the motel follows:

<http://www.super8morristown.com>

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

THE NOVEMBER, 2007 QUESTION OF THE MONTH WAS:

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU INVITED TO A TSBA FUNCTION DURING THE PAST YEAR?

Twenty members responded with the following answers.

3, 2, 6, 1, 2, 10, 15-20, 4-5, 12-15, 20, 0, 15, 2, 4, 3, 1, 4, 1, 0, 0

I really didn't expect everyone to remember exactly how many people they had invited. The reason I asked the question was to encourage members to think about who they had invited and to encourage them to invite more guests in the future.

Over the past forty years I have belonged to several service organizations, social clubs, fishing clubs, fitness centers, and a few church groups. One thing I have observed with all of these groups is that the membership numbers are constantly changing due to the loss of long time members whose interests change or they leave for a number of other reasons. I have watched as some of these groups shrunk to membership numbers that caused the groups (clubs) to dissolve. I believe the best way to maintain a viable TSBA membership is for us (TSBA members) to identify and invite fishermen who we think would share our interests in striper fishing and help promote the goals of the TSBA.

Jim Blazier

January Speaker:

Chad Whittenburg

Tennessee Wildlife Federation

-----**STRIPED BASS UNLIMITED**-----

November 5, 2007

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

Dear TSBA Members,

Striped Bass Unlimited send our sincere gratitude to all TSBA members for your support in our pursuit of the striped bass regulation change for Boone Lake. I want to thank all of the TSBA officers and directors for letters that you sent to TWRC Commissioner Mike Chase in support of the size and creel limit regulation similar to that of Norris Lake. Thank you to all TSBA members for your emails to TWRA during the comment period. TWRA was impressed with the unity of the striped bass fishermen and with the goal of safeguarding the future of striped bass fishing in Tennessee.

I especially want to express my gratitude to Dennis Bryant, Ezell Cox, Tom Elmore, Allan Franklin, and Bob Leach for attending the TWRC meeting in Gatlinburg on October 24, 2007. Your presence helped to empower Commissioner Chase as he rallied support from fellow TWRC Commissioners in order to pass this regulation for both Boone and Watts Bar Lakes.

Once again, thanks to everyone that helped make the regulation change possible.

Your striper fishing friend,
Neil Botts
President Striped Bass Unlimited
1740 Holston Drive
Bristol, TN 37620

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YOUR 2008 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

President:

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

Vice President:

Jim Blazier 865-694-8014
jblazier@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Ezell Cox

Assistant Treasurer:

Allan Franklin

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Billy Davis, Erik Engebretsen,
Janine Johnson, Chet Moore, Eric Rauch, John Seiber

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter: Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com

Membership: Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com

Web Site: John Seiber 865-945-3716
JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

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: Billy Davis

Tournament Coordinators: Erik Engebretsen, Allan Franklin

Merchandising: John Seiber 865-945-3716

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"



Kathy Mosca
September, 2007
Norris Lake

2008 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.

January 21	Monthly Meeting - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
February 2	Kingston Tournament
February 9	Alternate Date for Kingston Tournament
February 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
March 17	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
April	Hickory Star Tournament
April 21	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
April 26	StriperBowl
May	Norris Lake Advisory Committee Meeting
May 19	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
June 7	Kids' Fishing Day
June 16	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
July 21	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
August 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
September 13	TSBA Fish Fry - Anderson County Park-Norris Lake
October 20	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Nominations for Directors and Officers
November 17	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Election of Directors and Officers
December 15	Board of Directors Meeting - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM



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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

T.S.B.A. 2008 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

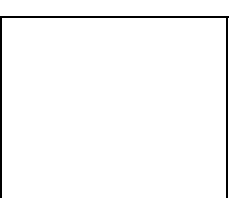
Knoxville TN 37933

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2008 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**



Thank you to all of you who have already renewed your TSBA membership. The deadline is January 31, 2008 for renewal. Your expiration date is on your mailing label.