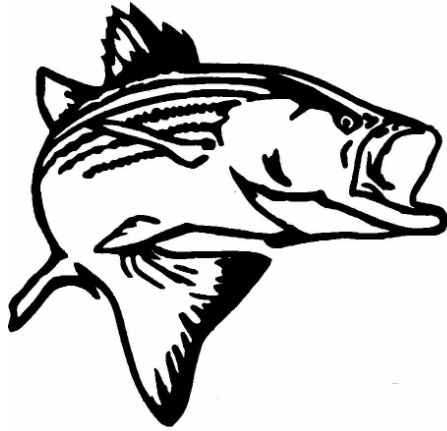


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**March
2008**



**KINGSTON TOURNAMENT WINNER
JASON HOFFMEISTER**

President's Letter

Like many of you, I'm anxiously awaiting the coming of spring. While it's been a mild winter, it will be nice to have the warmer mornings as we hit the water. Having fewer layers of clothing will make it safer to fish, too.

I've only ended up accidentally overboard one time and it happened to be in the winter when I was fishing alone a couple of years ago. Luckily I was in fairly shallow water and all I had to do was walk to the rear of the boat and pull out my ladder to climb in. I had some towels and enough extra dry clothing that I didn't even have to leave the water early. If I had been in deep water it could have turned out very differently considering the boots, sweatshirts, and other heavy clothing I was wearing.

Safety on the water is something we stressed heavily while I was with TVA. There are many opportunities to have something go wrong in what can be a very unforgiving environment on the water. All of us really need to think seriously about how we can make our boating experiences as safe as possible. Some things that you might think about include: Do I wear a life jacket when moving on the water or in cold or windy conditions; do my guests know where the fire extinguisher is located; is my boat hull cluttered with tripping hazards; do I have backup fuses on board;

do I routinely tell someone where I'll be launching and the general area where I'll be fishing so they'll know where to look if I don't show up at home when expected; if someone does get hurt seriously on the water do I know where the nearest help is located; do I ever go faster than conditions like fog, darkness, waves, or other boat traffic warrant.

We all experience many hours of fun and relaxation enjoying the lakes and rivers of East Tennessee. Let's all commit to doing it as safely as possible so that we keep seeing each other at our meetings for many years to come.

Eric Rauch
TSBA President

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"

The password will be changed on April 1.

The new password will be:

CONSERVATIONISTS

This is a person who advocates the conservation of natural resources. There is a need for more people that practice conserving, protection from loss, and waste. Preservation is needed more now than ever before with increased urbanization and greater use of our public use areas. Our waterways and shoreline are also getting a lot more use than just a few short years ago. Fishing has become such a booming business that new regulations and regulation changes are needed each year. Maintaining the resources for our future will require education of the users to the management needed and enforcement personnel to protect us from ourselves.

Striper and some trout fisheries are a hatchery spawned put and take, and may be a little different than most other fish that maintain the population with natural reproduction. The stocking is not unlike planting potatoes in your garden. When you harvest each hill of planted potatoes, it is gone until the next year's is planted. If you gravel all of the potatoes out the size of golf balls, then there will be no potatoes big enough to bake. So the users must decide what they want. We cannot have both and must choose the golf ball size potatoes in the green beans or baked potatoes, with the public using the garden. If the choice is potatoes to bake, then the public may need a guard dog in the garden for some enforcement to allow everyone the same chance.

Back on the water catching fish everyone should be aware of the impact they have on the entire fishery. Some fishermen are on the water as much as 300 days a year and could influence the entire system. With this much experience and effort a legal daily harvest would create a negative impact, and these fishermen should consider many days of catch and release. These fishermen should also try to influence everyone they are around to conserve the fish since they are often followed or communicate where, when, and how to catch. The past 10 years have exaggerated the number of fishermen on the water day and night all year long. They also have much better equipment and communication than years past. The internet and cell phones allow fishing reports from the same day for today's very mobile fishermen. Monthly publications for the upcoming season from the past year's experience and daily fishing discussion boards all add to numbers of fish caught.

We ask that everyone help support the regulations and enforcement to continue to have the great fisheries we have. We also ask everyone to call and report any violations of theft that are stealing our natural resources from the public.

Ezell Cox

Minutes of the February Meeting

Club President Eric Rauch called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for the excellent attendance. Introduction was asked for by the new first time members. Rene McComb with Striper Addiction Supplies was scheduled to be at the meeting to show his umbrella rigs and supplies but could not make it. Eric introduced Tim Adrien as the guest speaker for the meeting. Tim is a member of the Striped Bass Unlimited club from Boone Lake and producer of Monster Stripers DVD. Tim showed video of his bait choices and where and how to catch them. His large bait choice is intended for targeting the large stripers he is known for catching and releasing as shown on his videos. Tim then went through discussion on the equipment he uses like hooks, line, planer boards, rods, reels, and boat. After questions and answers, Tim invited everyone to the Striped Bass Unlimited meeting scheduled for March 14th at 6 p.m. in Johnson City at Partners BBQ. (Look for directions on the TSBA discussion board or ask staff from the officer's page.)

After a break, lots of door prizes were given out. The 50-50 drawing was won by Delynn Boshears. Tournament Coordinator Erik Engebretsen informed everyone of the February Kingston Tournament results and discussed the upcoming location for the StriperBowl on April 26th. Location will be decided at the next club meeting in March. A motion to change the Bylaws was made, seconded, and unanimously carried; Bylaws are posted on the website. There was a reminder that new license is required for fishing on March 1. Tom Elmore gave the recent fishing report since the Kingston tournament. Lots of small fish have been caught at Kingston steam plant. Water was too muddy on Melton Hill to fish. Lots of small striper and hybrids have been caught on the upper part of Cherokee. Dennis Bryant caught a few fish on Norris near the 33 Bridge. Allan Franklin showed a rod that had been modified to a spiral wrap. Doug Steffe volunteered to be Sponsor Coordinator. Doug also brought many of the umbrella rig supplies and shared the information that Rene was going to bring to show.

Ezell Cox
TSBA Secretary

**Gary Harris and Rick O'Roark
December 22, 2007**



Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

The stripers often feed on the surface in April. The gulls will still indicate where to cast. Stripers are scattered all over the lake. Fort Patrick Henry Steam Plant will attract many prespawn fish. Point 17 upstream to Point 21 always holds a lot of baitfish and stripers. Mossy Creek at Point 1 is always good with the alewife spawn. Night fishing with the alewife spawn in progress is at a premium. The size of the fish is reduced after last summer's kill.

Norris Lake

The Loyston/Lost Creek area at Point 19 and near Hickory Star Marina is excellent upstream to Point 28 at Straight Creek Marina. Pull the baitfish over the shallow humps and near the bank with your planer boards. The stripers will run into all of the major creeks including Cove Creek, Big Creek, and Cedar Creek - Davis and Sycamore also.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

The best action will still be at the steam plants, but migration will continue upstream to the tailraces.

April Expectations

Caution is needed more in the spring as the reservoirs and rivers are on the rise. That causes a lot of floating debris that can damage, injure, or worse. The new fishing license and 2008 regulations are in effect. Top water action in shallow water can be wonderful. Water temperature will rise above 50 degrees F. and above 60 degrees F. in some of the shallow, sun-warmed coves. The baitfish begin to spawn this month. The striper's movement and activity will be related to pre-spawn and warming water temperatures. Migration upstream to the rivers and major feeder creek currents will also keep the attention of the striper. The pre-spawn bellies will stay big through April in the natural rivers. As the 70 degree F. water temperature is reached, the spawn will take place, and the big stripers will slowly start back downstream. The tailrace below the dams will develop and only get better through the spring and summer. Large live and artificial baits presented on top will create some very large explosions. Records and trophies are caught this month. On Norris Lake, the creel and size limits change to 2 fish at 15 inches starting April 1.

March 17th Speaker

Ken Cutsinger
TWRA Officer

KINGSTON TOURNAMENT RESULTS

We had a great time at the Kingston Tourney in February. Twenty TSBA members and four guests competed. The weather started out below freezing but quickly warmed up into the 50's around lunch. Catching was slow to begin the day, but as the sun heated up, so did the fishing. Congratulations to Jason Hoffmeister for winning with a monster 32.15 lb. Striper. Second place went to Darren Kelly with a 26.5 lb. Striper, and Allan Franklin was third with a solid 14 lber. What a great turnout we had. We appreciate the participation and look forward to seeing everyone for the StriperBowl in April.

Thanks again,
Erik Engebretsen



Jason Hoffmeister
1st Place



More pictures on the next page!

Kingston Tournament
Darren Kelly
2nd Place

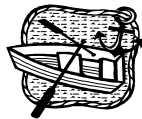




Kingston Tournament
Allan Franklin
3rd Place



Gary Carruthers



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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: Doug Steffe 865-278-2363
Kids' Fishing Day: Allan Franklin 865-805-3120
Door Prizes: Billy Davis 865-300-0392
Tournament Coordinators: Erik Engebretsen, Allan Franklin
404-683-0181, 865-694-8888
Merchandising: John Seiber 865-945-3716

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT OUTBOARD MOTOR DO YOU USE MOST OFTEN? BRAND, HORSEPOWER, TYPE OF MOTOR

A total of 27 fishermen responded with the following answers. 17 fishermen said they are using 2-stroke motors with 10 using 4-stroke. One of those 2-stroke motors is a 60/40 rated jet drive.

The brand breakdown was as follows:

Evinrude	7
Yamaha	6
Mercury	5
Suzuki	4
Johnson	3
Mariner	2

(And I will add this note. My Evinrude 70 HP 4-stroke is a Suzuki with Evinrude color/decals.)

The smallest motors used were 15 HP and the largest in use was 225 HP. The median HP used was 70 HP with 5 fishermen reporting that size. The horsepower breakdown was as follows:

15 HP	2	75 HP	1
20 HP	1	80 HP	1
25 HP	1	90 HP	3
40 HP	2	115 HP	6
50 HP	1	175 HP	1
60 HP	2	225 HP	1
70 HP	5		

As usual, after I ask a question I think of ways that I could have phrased the question better. In this case it would have been interesting to get details on the number of 2-stroke motors with the new computer controlled injection systems like the Mercury Opti-max or the Evinrude E-tech.

In closing I will state that it should be interesting to ask the same questions in years to come and compare the responses with 2008.

Jim Blazier

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.

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

Stanley Poynter passed away on February 3, 2008. He was a Striper Fisherman/Guide on Norris Lake and a founding member of the Tennessee Striped Bass Association. TSBA sent flowers for his funeral.



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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

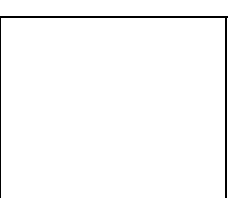
Knoxville TN 37933

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**



March 1 - New Fishing License Required

**April 1 - Norris Lake - Creel and Size Limits Change
from 1 fish with a 36-inch minimum size limit
to 2 fish at 15-inch minimum size limit**