

# Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !



January 2020



Semi -Monthly Meeting on first Mondays:

Puleo's Grille, 110 Cedar Lane off Merchants Rd. at I-75

TSBA web site <http://tnstripedbass.com/> for the latest news.

Submit news items to [tsba.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tsba.newsletter@gmail.com)

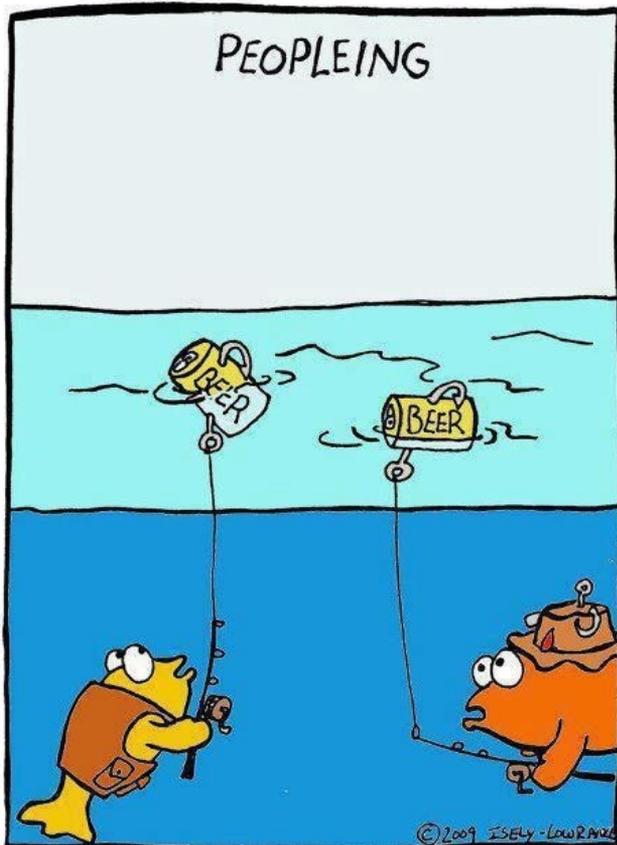
Join us on Facebook [Tennessee Striped Bass Association](#)

# Special Announcement

On Monday, February 3, TSBA members will be helping Oak Ridge National Laboratories collect striped bass for contaminant sampling and analysis. We'll meet at Hickory Star Marina on Norris Lake at 8am. If interested in participating, contact Steve Nichols (kidchevy@comcast.net) or just join us at the Marina.

## Update: Asian (Silver) Carp

TWRA has confirmed the presence of silver carp in Chickamauga Lake. In October 2019 a bass fisherman photographed a silver carp which had jumped into his boat when he deployed his trolling motor. This is the farthest upstream that silver carp have been reported on the Tennessee River. As of this writing, TWRA has not taken any action with regards to bait transport between lakes to prevent the accidental introduction of silver carp. We will keep club members apprised of any future updates.



# February 2020 Meeting

## How to Use Planar Boards—Panel Discussion

Join us at Puleo's Grill, 110 Cedar Lane off Merchant's for the first meeting of 2020. Come for food at 6pm, stay for the meeting at 7pm.



COURIER-NEWS, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1990 A-9



DARRELL GROSS AND Jack Higday landed these hefty striped bass to win the Norris Lake Striper Club Tournament held last weekend on Norris Lake.

Blast from the past! TWRA Creel Clerk, Paul Shaw, recently found this picture from an article he submitted to the Clinton Courier in 1990. TSBA was formerly known as the Norris Lake Striper Club.

## Fishing With Umbrella Rigs

There are a lot of questions being asked about umbrella rigs (u-rigs) since it has become common knowledge how effective they are to catch fish. The attempt is to make it look like a school of small baitfish swimming by with the one in the rear struggling to keep up to create a reaction type bite. Umbrella rigs are defined as an array of more than 3 artificial lures or baits (with or without hooks) used by a single rod and reel combination.

Tennessee is one of the states that have SPECIAL REGULATIONS because of how effective they are. The regulation is the u-rig may only have up to three hooks per rod. Single point, double point, and treble (3 points) hooks would each be counted as one hook.

This will be a short summary of a set up and trolling of the u-rigs since there are about as many variations as there are fishermen that use them.

Start out with the umbrella frame that that will have multiple places to attach lures and teasers. A common 4 arm frame made by Eagle Claw has 9 places to attach lures and teasers. Two on each arm of the frame and the lure with the single hook in the center of the frame is trailed at least 12 to 18 inches behind the teasers. The lures and teasers are the normal color, size, shape, and action that catch fish casting and trolling. Jigs with curly tails, blades, swim baits, and spoons all seem to work in the right location. You can just cut the hook off for the teasers. Attach the teasers on the ends of the umbrella frame as close to the arm as possible and still get the desired action from the teaser. The teasers half way in on the arm should trail behind the outside teasers by at least 4 inches. The lure with the hook should be in the center of the frame trailing behind the rest by 12 to 18 inches. You can also use another two lures with hooks on the arms giving you a total of three hooks for the rig. I use 40 to 50 pound mono or braided line up to 100 pound test to attach the lure so I can just grab the frame and lift a quite large fish right into the boat with it. The completed u-rig cost should be twenty to forty dollars.

Depth of trolling presentation methods for surface to 30 foot depth is often done by weight of the umbrella rig (one to fifteen ounces), boat speed, and length of line let out. The common practice is to pull a u-rig from each side of the rear of the boat. Down riggers can be used also for depth control of the umbrella rig. Skill and knowledge with a good fish finder and boat control also allows for some tricks to improve the fishing and pole bending. Tricks include doing zigzag moves, kicking the motor out of gear in order to get to deeper fish, and going in circles that cause the inside u-rig to slow and sink lower and the outside to speed up.

There are those that would argue that fish are frightened or shy away from line size and maybe the u-rig frame but that does not seem to hold any merit with this reaction type bite. There are tools sold to retrieve hung up u-rigs that are effective but here is another option. The heavy braid lines can be used to pull the u-rig and then if it gets hung up just tie the heavy braid line to a cleat on the boat and use the motor to recover it for repair. I use a very inexpensive 9 foot stiff rod & reel with line counter combination for around sixty dollars spooled with 100 pound braid. The first thing you want to make sure of is the connections strength when planning to use the braid for a rope to pull the u-rig and then pull it loose. Some of the swivels, snap latches, and split rings that come with the u-rigs are just not designed that heavy duty.

— *Ezell Cox*



# Creel and Size limits

## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

### **Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:**

2 per day in combination, 15 inch minimum length limit

## **NORRIS LAKE**

### **Striped Bass**

April 1–October 31: 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

November 1–March 31: 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

## **WATTS BAR**

### **Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:**

April 1–October 31: 2 per day in combination

November 1–March 31: 2 per day in combination, only one may be a striped bass.

### **Striped Bass:**

April 1–October 31: 15 inch minimum length limit.

November 1–March 31: 36 inch minimum length limit

### **Hybrid Striped Bass:**

15 inch minimum length limit

## **MELTON HILL**

### **Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:**

2 per day in combination, including Clinch River upstream to Highway 61 bridge in Clinton. 15 inch minimum length limit

### **Striped Bass:**

32–42 inch PLR; only one fish may be over 42 inches

# Outlook for current fishing spots

**CHEROKEE LAKE** The downstream end of the lake will have good fishing from Point 19 to the dam. Look for surface breaks and feeding gulls. Large schools can be found at times in very shallow water. Live bait should be easy to catch in most of the warm coves. Casting and trolling with artificial lures may still be the most effective method. The John Sevier steam plant may be offline. If this happens, the early season bite may not develop there if the plant is not discharging warm water into the lake.

**NORRIS LAKE** The best fishing should be found mid-lake from Hickory Star on the Clinch River and Springs Dock on the Powell River and upstream. Look for the gulls and the warmest water that is attracting bait fish. Artificial lures are still very effective but with some warmer water to be found on sunny days, live bait could also be pulled along the shallow, sun-warmed banks with planner boards.

**WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL** The steam plants at Kingston and Bull Run Creek will have the most predictable catches. This will depend largely on the contrast in water temperature in the Clinch River around the steam plants.

**CAUTION & PLANNING** are suggested during the winter months more than any other time of year. Top water action is common. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter. Umbrella rigs have become very popular in winter & effective over the past several years. The bite can be fast and over quickly in the coldest part of winter. Catch & Release is very successful this time of year. The Gulls will be effective until the winter kill begins on the threadfins. The kill begins to take place normally around the last week of February.

A great way to find the right places to look for fish is from past history. Look at the last few years of information available on fishing websites, articles, pictures, and magazines. Many times the best clue is to find the largest baitfish concentrations that will seek out the warmest most stable temperatures with nutrient rich water that is normally murky. Fishing shows & preparing fishing equipment for spring are common winter time entertainment when the weather is just ugly.

— *Ezell Cox*



**Mark your calendars for the first Mondays & make a point to join us for our semi monthly meetings.**

**Other events may be added if interest is shown. Get involved and participate in TSBA to make sure it reflects what is important to you!**

**Feb 3:** How to use planer boards.

**April 6:** Live Bait – catching and keeping; bait nets.

**June** (Saturday event): Kids Day at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery followed by lunch at Shoney’s (I-75/Hwy 61 location). Topic will be fishing in dam tail waters/summer fishing. Date TBA.

**Aug 3:** Mike Smith of TWRA regarding stocking levels achieved for 2020.

**Aug 29:** Club Tourney on Cherokee Lake

**Sept 19:** The annual fish fry will be held on Sept. 19 at Anderson County Park. Eric will reserve the pavilion for the fish fry.

**Nov 2:** Umbrella rigs and winter fishing techniques

## **Don't Forget to Renew**

**Renewing is easy! New address is below:**

***Enclose a check for \$20.00***

***Mail to: TSBA***

**P.O. Box 7303**

**Knoxville, TN 37921**

## **YOUR 2020 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF**

**President:** Keith Shannon

**Vice President:** Steve Nichols

**Treasurer:** Eric Rauch

**Secretary:** Keith Shannon

**Board Chairman:** Allan Franklin

### **TSBA DIRECTORS**

Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Steve Nichols, Cory Malabey, James Pierce, Eric Rauch, Bob Biscay, Hal Basdekis

### **TSBA STAFF**

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**Facebook Coordinator:** Allan Franklin/Steve Nichols/Eric Rauch

**Sponsor Coordinator:** Justin Rose

**Public Relations:** Ezell Cox

**Simplified Renewal Note:** Returning members with no changes to their contact information are not required to fill out the application. Just send a \$20 check to the address above. Be sure to include the member's name on the check. When you send in your check, please provide TSBA with an email address where we can send your club newsletter. Yearly dues are due in January each year. New members who sign up in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will get credit for the remainder of that year and the following year.

# TSBA Sponsors

TSBA appreciates all the support we get from our sponsors. If you would like to see your business listed in our newsletter please consider adding or renewing for 2020. TSBA can provide newsletters for our sponsors to distribute. Thanks!



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As a member:

- \* You'll receive a newsletter periodically.
- \* 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, Inc. web page.

Is this a renewal \_\_\_ or a new membership \_\_\_

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

\* A copy of the Bylaws can be found on the TSBA, Inc. website at <http://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 7303  
Knoxville, TN 37921

**Simplified Renewal Note:** Returning members with no changes to their contact information are not required to fill out the application. Just send a \$20 check to the address above. Be sure to include the member's name on the check. When you send in your check, please provide TSBA with an email address where we can send your club newsletter. Yearly dues are due in January each year. New members who sign up in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will get credit for the remainder of that year and the following year.

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