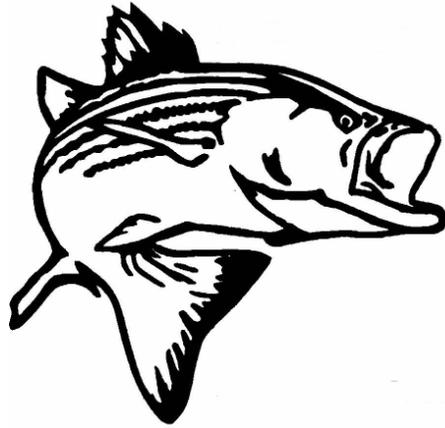


Catch
The
Striper
Fever!

T.S.B.A.



*Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association,
Inc.
Newsletter*

**November
2008**

Please come to the November Meeting
and Elect Your Officers and Directors



President's Letter

This is my last President's letter to the members of TSBA. I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve the club in this capacity. I regret that I'm not able to continue in this position, but business opportunities that are taking me out of town frequently make it so that I won't be likely to make several meetings next year. For that reason, I didn't think it was in the club's best interest for me to retain the office.

I talked with Jim Blazer after the October meeting and am very pleased with the slate of officers and Board members that has been nominated. It's clear that the club will be in very good hands. The Board and officers will meet on December 15 to plan our programs for 2009 and discuss other issues of concern to TSBA. While this is a Board meeting, it is open to all TSBA members. It is important for your officers to know the kind of presentations that our members want, so bring your ideas to the meeting. If you can't come and you have ideas, please contact any TSBA officer so they can bring them to the meeting. In particular, if there are elements of striper fishing that we haven't covered recently, let us know. We want our meetings to be as useful as possible to everyone and have access to highly qualified experts, so let us know your preferences for meeting topics.

I've recently been working in South Texas for FEMA on hurricane relief efforts. It's been a challenge, but I hope it's worthwhile. I've learned a lot about a part of the country that I've never been to before. Once again it's made me thankful to live in East Tennessee where we have mountains, lakes, green trees, and clean water to drink (the tap water down there tastes like old dish water!).

I have had one opportunity to go fishing in the bay between South Padre Island and the Texas mainland. It's very shallow salt water. We caught five species of fish on Gulp spit tails, including my 21 inch spotted sea trout. It was lots of fun and I hope to go again before we leave the area.

Again, thanks for the last year. It's been fun and I hope to serve TSBA in some capacity again in the future.

Eric Rauch, TSBA President



Richard Miller Fishing Under the
Guidance of Sammy Robinette

September on Norris
25 lb.

Minutes of the October Meeting

Jim Blazier opened the meeting in the absence of Eric Rauch by introducing new members in attendance. Jim then gave the floor to Bob Leach to talk about his research on fish finders. Before Bob started on fish finders, he told everyone of the Grainger County Park for consideration of some of the club functions like the fish fry and kids fishing day for 2009 planning. Bob's research was on the most common brands of fish finders like Humminbird, Lowrance, and Eagle. A chart of transducer cone angle was passed out that showed the covered area at 30 foot depth. Bob discussed the use of dual frequency transducers and the difference of frequency needed. Discussion followed about the need for color and power needed. There were door prizes for all and then the 50/50 drawing was won by Bill Cate.

The nominations for officers and directors were as follows. Nominations are open until the beginning of the November meeting.

In November, we will be electing:
5 officers plus
2 Directors for a one-year term
2 Directors for a three-year term

President	Erik Engebretsen
Vice President	Jim Blazier
Treasurer	Doug Steffe
Asst. Treasurer	Allan Franklin
Secretary	Dick Vornehm

Director	Keith Shannon
	John Butler
	Wes Adams
	Kyle Rutherford

The meeting was adjourned after the fishing reports.

Ezell Cox, TSBA Secretary



Dick Vornehm - September 26 - Norris



Grainger County Park

The TSBA annually sponsors at least two outside events away from Shoney's restaurant where we normally rent a pavilion. The first event is the Allan Franklin Kid's Day in the spring on Cherokee. This year we rented the pavilion at the Cherokee Dam. The second event is the Fish Fry & Reunion held in September at the Anderson County Park on Norris. Unfortunately, both of these locations have some significant drawbacks – both have very limited parking and the pavilions are a little small for the crowds that we have been drawing. Therefore, it was determined that we should look around and see if we could find a location that would better accommodate our growing needs. The first place that I've found which appears to me to be an excellent candidate for both events is the Grainger County Park. It's located on the north side of Cherokee Reservoir just off of State Road 375 about 3.6 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 92 and State Road 375. Here are the highlights of this park:

Pavilions: There are three pavilions – one large one with ten picnic tables and two smaller ones with four tables each. You can rent the larger pavilion for \$25/day but the other two are first-come, first-served. The Anderson County pavilion is very small with only four picnic tables. Furthermore, you can back right up to the large pavilion at Grainger County Park - making it easier to load and unload your vehicle.

Parking: This is a major issue with both of our present locations as there just aren't enough parking spaces. The parking area at the Grainger facility is at least four times larger than either of the other locations and it's been recently paved. This is an excellent parking facility for both cars and vehicles with boat trailers. Also, the adjacent boat ramp parking area, which is visible from the pavilions, is now paved.

View: The view is at least as good as either of the other locations. There's a huge, mowed area around the pavilions and the various play areas.

Play Area: There is a fantastic kid's play area with many slides, swings and things to crawl and climb on. All the equipment is clean and nice. Furthermore, it's all under a grove of huge shade trees.

Restrooms: There is a nice-looking restroom building beside the play area.

Walking Trails: There are two, paved walking trails totaling 1.0 miles encircling the park. A portion of the trails goes through the woods located between the parking lot and Cherokee Reservoir.

It's my opinion that this park is far superior to either of the facilities that we used this year, and we should seriously consider switching both events to the Grainger County Park. As such, I would like for as many of you as possible to visit this park and then give your TSBA officers your opinion of it. Also, let me know if you know of any other facilities in the general area of Cherokee, Norris, or the Clinch River that we should evaluate. These outside events are important to the club, and we want to use the best facilities that are available to make everyone's experience at them a little nicer.

Bob Leach



Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake: Good

Early and late day often have breaking fish, so keep something to cast handy. December is the time to look for gulls. Look for large concentrations of bait fish because the stripers will come to them. Normally, the best fishing is around mid lake (Points 10 to 20). Bait is easy to catch in all the large coves.

Norris Lake: Good

The fish are not as big as past years but are growing and seem to be healthy. The best fishing will be near Hickory Star to Straight Creek Marina (Points 22 to 29 on the Clinch side and Points 12 to 16 on the Powell side).

Remember to check the fishing regulations on Norris starting November 1 because it is your responsibility to stay legal on quantity and size harvested (1 fish, 36 inches). Look around mid lake and in the large coves.

Tailrace and Downstream: Fair

As the weather cools, the steam plants will become more productive.

December Expectations

The thermocline is gone and the temperature is near the same from top to bottom. Expect to find the temperature in the mid 40's unless influenced by springs or steam plants. The bait fish will be in the warmest water they can find; the stripers will be close by. Large baits work well the first half of December, but as the temperature drops, smaller baits are best. Top water baits are normally good the first half of the month. Stripers often push the bait fish to the surface, and gulls become more productive as the month progresses and the temperature begins to drop. Point or bottom fishing is normally effective. Before going fishing, we ask that you take every precaution to prevent hypothermia. Catch and release works great in the winter months.

November 17th Meeting

**Speaker: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
on Water Safety**

**Election of Officers and Directors
at Shoney's, Hwy. 61 - Norris/Clinton Exit**

**December 15th Board of Directors' Meeting
Everyone is welcome!**

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

DO YOU USE AN "ONBOARD" BATTERY CHARGER?

The responses from the monthly meeting and on-line responses were equally divided between onboard and portable chargers. I think one on-line response should be copied to the newsletter since a lot of our members don't use the on-line website on a regular basis.

"No... I tried an on-board one time on my big boat and it was only keeping my batteries at 50-75 percent. My \$39 manual charger from Wal-Mart gets them way more juice. On the 6 amp rate I leave my deep cycle trolling battery charging from 6-12 hours for 100% charge. On a 24 volt trolling motor you can get by with 50% to 75% charge (and an on-board charger is the easy way to go), but my small boat only has a 55 lb thrust 12 volt and it needs all the juice it can get, especially in the rivers against current. If you are using an on-board charger, I challenge you to hook up a manual charger with a charge rate % dial on it, and I bet you will see you are not on 100% (even though the green light on the on-board is on...). " Dirk

The following is from my experience.

In the spring of this year I bought a new deep cycle battery because my old battery would not hold a full charge. After charging the new battery, with my usual charger, I tested it with a hydrometer and found that I could not charge it to greater than 75%. But before I went back to Wal-Mart and exchanged the battery, I decided to try another battery charger. After using the new charger my hydrometer test indicated 100% in all cells.

More testing proved that the old charger had lost its ability to charge past the 75% level. These results have convinced me that periodic battery testing is a good practice for fishermen. The battery is not always the source of the problem.

A quick and easy test is to use a digital volt meter four to twelve hours after the battery has been charged; however, the best method is to use a hydrometer on each cell for wet cell batteries.

I found a lot of information on the web, and I think the following excerpt is one of the best.

3. HOW DO I TEST A BATTERY?

There are six simple steps in testing a deep cycle battery: inspect, recharge, remove surface charge, measure the state-of-charge, load test, and recharge. If you have a non-sealed battery, it is highly recommended that you use a good quality temperature compensated hydrometer; these can be purchased at an auto parts store for between \$5 and \$20. A hydrometer is a float type device used to determine the state-of-charge by measuring the specific gravity of the electrolyte in each cell. It is a very accurate way of determining a battery's state-of-charge and its weak or dead cells. To troubleshoot charging or electrical systems or if you have a sealed battery, you will need a digital voltmeter with 0.5% or better accuracy. A digital voltmeter can be purchased at an electronics store like Radio Shack for between \$20 and \$200. Analog voltmeters are not accurate enough to measure the millivolt differences of a battery's state-of-charge or the output of the charging system. The purchase of a battery load tester is optional; if you use a golf cart or electric trolling motor every day, buy one.

3.1. INSPECT

Visually inspect for obvious problems. For example, is there a loose or broken alternator belt, electrolyte levels **below** the top of the plates, corroded or swollen cables, corroded terminal clamps, dirty or wet battery top, loose hold-down clamps, loose cable terminals, or leaking or damaged battery case?

If the electrolyte levels are low in non-sealed batteries, allow the battery to cool and add **distilled** water to the level indicated by the battery manufacturer. If this is not indicated, use 1/4 inch (7 mm) **below** the bottom of the plastic filler tube (vent wells). The plates need to be covered at all times. Avoid **overfilling**, especially in hot climates, because heat will cause the electrolyte to expand and overflow.

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3.2. RECHARGE

Recharge the battery to 100% state-of-charge. If the battery has a difference of .03 specific gravity reading between the lowest and highest cell, then you should equalize it. [\(Please see Section 6.\)](#)

3.3. REMOVE SURFACE CHARGE

Surface charge is the uneven mixture of sulfuric acid and water within the surface of the plates as a result of charging or discharging. It will make a weak battery appear good or a good battery appear bad. You need to eliminate the surface charge by one of the following methods:

3.3.1. Allow the battery to sit for four to twelve hours to allow for the surface charge to dissipate.

3.3.2. Apply a load that is 33% of the ampere-hour capacity for five minutes and wait five to ten minutes.

3.3.3. With a battery load tester, apply a load of at least one half the battery's CCA rating for 15 seconds and wait five to ten minutes.

3.4. MEASURE THE STATE-OF-CHARGE

If the battery's electrolyte is above 110° F (43.3° C), allow it to cool. To determine the battery's state-of-charge with the battery's electrolyte temperature at 80° F (26.7° C), use the following table. The table assumes that a 1.265 specific gravity reading is a fully charged, wet, lead acid battery. For other electrolyte temperatures, use the Temperature Compensation table below to adjust the Open Circuit Voltage or Specific Gravity readings. The Open Circuit Voltage will vary for gel cell and AGM type batteries, so check the manufacturer's specifications.

Digital Voltmeter Open Circuit Voltage	Approximate State-of-Charge	Hydrometer Average Cell Specific Gravity	Electrolyte Freeze Point
12.65	100%	1.265	-75° F (-59.4° C)
12.45	75%	1.225	-55° F (-48.3° C)
12.24	50%	1.190	-34° F (-36.7° C)
12.06	25%	1.155	-16° F (-26.7° C)
11.89	Discharged	1.120	-10° F (-23.3° C)

STATE-OF-CHARGE

[Source: BCI]

Electrolyte Temperature Fahrenheit	Electrolyte Temperature Celsius	Add or Subtract to Hydrometer's SG Reading	Add or Subtract to Digital Voltmeter's Reading
160°	71.1°	+.032	+.192
150°	65.6°	+.028	+.168
140°	60.0°	+.024	+.144
130°	54.4°	+.020	+.120
120°	48.9°	+.016	+.096
110°	43.3°	+.012	+.072
100°	37.8°	+.008	+.048
90°	32.2°	+.004	+.024
80°	26.7°	0	0
70°	21.1°	-.004	-.024
60°	15.6°	-.008	-.048
50°	10°	-.012	-.072
40°	4.4°	-.016	-.096
30°	-1.1°	-.020	-.120
20°	-6.7°	-.024	-.144
10°	-12.2°	-.028	-.168
0°	-17.8°	-.032	-.192

TEMPERATURE COMPENSATION

*Electrolyte temperature compensation, depending on the battery manufacturer's recommendations, will vary. If you are using a non-temperature compensated **HYDROMETER**, make the adjustments indicated in the table above. For example, at 30° F (-1.1° C), the specific gravity reading would be 1.245 for a 100% State-of-Charge. At 100° F (37.8° C), the specific gravity would be 1.273 for 100% State-of-Charge. This is why using a temperature compensated hydrometer is highly recommended and more accurate than other means. If you are using a **DIGITAL VOLTMETER**, make the adjustments indicated in the table above. For example, at 30° F (-1.1° C), the voltage reading would be 12.53 for a 100% State-of-Charge. At 100° F (37.8° C), the voltage would be 12.698 for 100% State-of-Charge.*

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For non-sealed batteries, check the specific gravity in each cell with a hydrometer and average the readings. For sealed batteries, measure the Open Circuit Voltage across the battery terminals with an accurate digital voltmeter. This is the only way you can determine the State-of-Charge. Some batteries have a built-in hydrometer, which only measures the State-of-Charge in **one** of its six cells. If the built-in indicator is clear or light yellow, then the battery has a low electrolyte level and should be refilled and recharged before proceeding. If sealed, the battery is toast and should be replaced. If the State-of-Charge is **below** 75% using either the specific gravity or voltage test or the built-in hydrometer indicates bad (usually dark), then the battery needs to be recharged **before** proceeding. You should replace the battery, if one or more of the following conditions occur:

3.4.1. If there is a .05 (sometimes expressed as 50 points) or more difference in the specific gravity reading between the highest and lowest cell, you have a weak or dead cell(s). If you are really lucky, applying an **EQUALIZING** charge may correct this condition. ([Please see Section 6.](#))

3.4.2. If the battery will not recharge to a 75% or more state-of-charge level or if the built-in hydrometer still does not indicate good (usually green, which is 65% state-of-charge or better).

If you know that a battery has spilled or bubbled over and the electrolyte has been replaced with water, you can replace the old electrolyte with new electrolyte and go back to [Step 3.2](#) above. Battery electrolyte is a mixture of 25% sulfuric acid and distilled water. It is cheaper to replace the electrolyte than to buy a new battery.

3.4.3. If digital voltmeter indicates 0 volts, you have an open cell.

3.4.4. If the digital voltmeter indicates 10.45 to 10.65 volts, you probably have a shorted cell or a severely discharged battery. *A shorted cell is caused by plates touching, sediment (mud) build-up or treeing between the plates.*

3.5. LOAD TEST

If the battery is fully charged or has a good built-in hydrometer indication, then you can test the capacity of the battery by applying a known load and measuring the time it takes to discharge the battery until 20% capacity is remaining. Normally a discharge rate that will discharge a battery in 20 hours can be used. For example, if you have an 80-ampere-hour rated battery, then a load of four amps would discharge the battery in approximately 20 hours (or 16 hours down to the 20% level). New batteries can take up to 50 charge/discharge cycles before they reach their rated capacity. Depending on your application, batteries with 80% or less of their original capacity are considered to be bad.

3.6. RECHARGE

If the battery passes the load test, you should recharge it as soon as possible to restore it to peak performance and to prevent lead sulfation.

My information source: http://marine-electronics.net/techarticle/battery_faq/b_faq.htm

This site has a lot more interesting marine battery information and is well worth reading.

Jim Blazier

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More Fish Fry Pictures Throughout Newsletter

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.

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

There will not be a newsletter in December.

It's time to renew your TSBA membership.

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: "bait" Password: "fish"



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T.S.B.A. 2009 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 2009 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 TWRA & 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**



**Election of Directors and Officers
at November 17th Meeting at Shoney's
Speaker: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
It's time to renew your TSBA Membership.**