

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

GET HOOKED!

January 2014



*(Santa) Fred England,
TSBA Member and Sponsor*

Letter from the Prez

As I begin my term as President of TSBA I want to start by thanking Doug Steffe for his leadership over the last few years. Doug put a tremendous amount of time into making sure that TSBA continued to thrive and prosper. We and our sport are better off as a result of his efforts. I'll do my best to continue in the direction that Doug set. I also want to thank Eddie Dills for accepting the position of Vice President, Keith Shannon for continuing as Secretary, Bud White for serving again as our Treasurer and Greg Dee for volunteering to handle our fishing supply operation which was previously handled so well by Steve Nichols. Doug will take on the membership responsibility. These individuals and others are why we have such a good organization.

Our Board of Directors met in December and has developed a list of programs/speakers that should help all of us become better fishermen. I look forward to working with our newly elected Board Chairman, David Powell, and the rest of the Board throughout the year. If there are any topics that you would like to have covered at one of our meetings, tell us and we'll try to work it in.

We currently plan to hold our January, February and March meetings at Austin's Steak House. Then we'll shift our location back to Bass Pro Shops. This may change, so be sure to check before heading to our meetings. If you have a suggestion on our meeting location, please let us know so we can find the best place in the area that meets the most needs. Our January meeting will feature Bill Ballou, who will show us how to properly maintain our reels.

Now that we're clearly into the winter months I want to encourage everyone to be especially cautious while out on the water. Problems that would be considered fairly minor in the warmer months can lead to serious problems with the cold water, especially when the wind is blowing.

This will be another great year for TSBA if our members continue to step forward and participate in events.

— Eric Rauch, TSBA President

TSBA January Meeting
Monday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Austin's Steak and Homestyle Buffet
900 Merchant's Drive, Knoxville

We have a private room reserved.
Come early and have dinner.

Topic: Maintaining & Repairing Fishing Reels
Presenter: Bill Ballou

The Next Generation



Kaden

Bad Luck Bananas



*Even the **Bad Luck Bananas** can't stop Striperman and Striper Ace from catching fish.*



*Larry Nowell
(Striper Ace)*



*Ron Whilden
(Striperman)*

Fishing Regulations

LOOK FOR THE NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2014 FISHING SEASON ON UMBRELLA RIGS

New fishing licenses are required to fish starting each March 1st. It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. NO FISHING ZONE runs July 15th until September 15th on Cherokee Lake. Changes are normal in the management of our fishing each year, and those changes become effective on March 1st. Each body of water may have exceptions you need to be aware of before exposing yourself to a fine. There are some seasonal striped bass CREEL AND SIZE limit changes that take place April 1st and November 1st. Go online to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at www.tnwildlife.org or pick up a 2014 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices. Wearing life preservers are required below the dams and a good habit anytime on the water for personal safety.

— Ezell Cox

Fishing the Coldest Part of Winter

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

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*



TSBA Members' Photo Pages

Dennis Bryant shared these pics of a recent trip with his son-in-law, Tony Morales, and his grandson, Hunter, and granddaughter, Kaylee.



Would you like to see your fishing pictures in our newsletter?
Send them to jeneddie@comcast.net.



Jay Girardot



Greg Dee

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Hot Spots

CHEROKEE LAKE

Catch and release works great until summer with cool temperatures & good dissolved oxygen at all depths. Look for the gulls to find the bait and fish. Top water action is often good, so keep something to cast handy. Stripers/hybrids can migrate to any part of the lake with the temperature and oxygen comfortable everywhere, so look for large concentrations of bait fish, herons, gulls, or breaking fish. Some of the best action is often in the deep open waters on the lower half of the lake where the water temperature is most stable attracting the bait fish schools. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter.

NORRIS LAKE

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on NORRIS November 1ST until April 1st. Best fishing can be found mid-lake and downstream around the large coves & creeks in open water with bait fish abundant. Top water action can be good early mornings & late evenings so take something to cast. The bite can be fast and over quickly in the coldest part of winter. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter. Catch and release is very successful now.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on Watts Bar November 1ST until April 1st. Look for the gulls. Look for the stripers in front of the major coves or where you find the most bait fish and bait eating birds. The steam plant's warmed water attracts bait that attracts game fish. Catch and release works great. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch Watts Bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

— *Ezell Cox*

YOUR 2014 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

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Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

2013 Meeting Links

February Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNz56Jq2VIQ&feature=youtu.be>

Speaker: Todd Asher

Topic: Skipjack Catching and Keeping

March Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAi3OyUgEyQ>

Speaker: Tom Blackburn

Topic: Trolling for Striper

April Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWjmfzX2Jg&feature=youtu.be>

Speaker: Keith Shannon

Topic: Catching and Keeping Bait

May Meeting Link

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_-syAvk...e=youtu.be

Speaker: Mike Smith

Topic: Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery

June Meeting Link

http://youtu.be/IMO_JjqbIZA

Speaker: Alan Colette

Topic: Artificial Baits

July Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXVpvEsv5mY&feature=youtu.be>

Speaker: Mike Smith

Topic: TWRA Striper Stocking Summary

August Meeting

Speaker: Jim Farmer of [Cast Away Bait & Tackle](#) Topic: Trolling for Stripers

For more information on what was discussed, please check out his blog post at <http://castawayblog.com/2012/06/17/crib-notes-for-striper-trolling/>.

October Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpDiqAxQm6o&feature=youtu.be>

November Meeting Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWfWs-4X1qY&feature=youtu.be>

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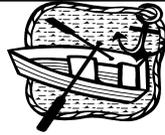
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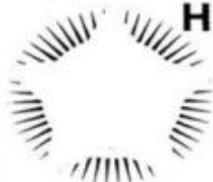
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TSBA 2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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.

Your Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Referred By: _____

Please provide an e-mail address to receive the monthly newsletter:

E-Mail address _____

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 163

Sharps Chapel, TN 37866

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 that sign up in Oct., Nov., or Dec. will get credit for the remainder of that year and the following year.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

GET HOOKED!

The TSBA is a non-profit corporation that supports TWRA and its Striped Bass and 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 and share our knowledge with fellow Striped Bass anglers.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 163
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866



TSBA Monthly Meeting
Monday, January 20, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Austin's Steak and Homestyle Buffet
on Merchant's Drive in Knoxville