

**Catch
The
Striper
fever!**

T.S.B.A.



*The
Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association
Newsletter*

**August
2004**

**T.S.B.A. Annual Fish Fry
& Reunion
September 11, 2004
Anderson County Park**



President's Letter

August 16th Meeting - Jim Negus of the TWRA will be our guest at the August 16th meeting for a "Question & Answer" session. Basically, we have made up a list of questions related to fishing for stripers in East Tennessee; and we have given them to Jim in advance of the meeting so he can research the answers before the meeting.

Jim has been working in Region IV for the past 11 years in reservoir fisheries management under Doug Peterson. He is responsible for the data collection and analysis for Cherokee, Norris, Melton Hill, Tellico, Fort Loudoun, Calderwood and Chilhowee. He writes the annual reports, takes summer water quality samples, gill net, trap net, and electrofish. In addition, he does all of the data entry, except creel, and he creates a lot of the I & E information related to Region IV reservoir fisheries like the "Norris Angler" and certain news releases, i.e. - the gill maggots (Achtheres).

This should be an interesting session that you will not want to miss. Please don't hesitate to give me any questions that you have or bring them to the August meeting at Shoney's.

NSBA - We have been approached by the the National Striped Bass Association (NSBA) to participate in the weigh-in for their tournament on Cherokee on December 3, 4 and 5. As you may know, there was some criticism of their procedures during their summer tournament on Cherokee; and I assume that they have made changes to reduce the mortality rate in the upcoming tournament. While the TSBA is not going to be involved with the December NSBA tournament, several members, including myself, plan to be there for at least part of tournament. We would like to see how they operate and possibly open up discussions to determine if there are areas where we can work together for the good of our local fishery as it's in the best interest of both associations to maintain a healthy striped bass population on all of the East Tennessee reservoirs.

President's Letter - Page 2

2004 Events Calendar - We have constructed a calendar indicating the events that your club is planning for the remainder of 2004. Please read this over and let us know if you have any questions, suggestions or comments as we want to plan events which will be interesting to the club.

August	16	Monthly Meeting at Shoney's
	21	Open Fishing
September	11	Annual Fish Fry & Club Reunion
	19	Open Fishing on Cherokee
October	15-17	Cumberland River Trip
	18	Monthly Meeting at Shoney's
November	15	Monthly Meeting at Shoney's
	20	Tournament on Cherokee
December	11	Open Fishing on Cherokee

October Cumberland River Trip - The next trip to the Cumberland River has been scheduled for Friday, October 15, through Sunday, October 17. The spring outing to the Cumberland was well received, and I expect a similar turnout for this event. We will be staying at the Budget Inn again as it is really the only motel in Carthage, TN. If you plan to come along with us, please make your own reservations with Larry at 615-735-1300.

For directions to the motel, see the April TSBA newsletter.

Fall Tournament - I would like to schedule some fishing events for the late fall and winter months. The first such event that I am proposing is a tournament on Cherokee on Saturday, November 20. I think that we need to continually reach out to the newer members and get them integrated into the club quicker. Therefore, I would like to make it so that each boat contains some members who have never fished together before. Let's get to know everybody better. The entry fee would be \$25 per boat, and the proceeds would be divided up as follows:

Largest Striper	40 %
Largest Hybrid	40%
Kid's Day Fund	20%

We will decide on the exact format at the fish fry.

President's Letter - Page 3

Nonprofit - Several times in the past, there have been conversations about whether or not the club should incorporate in some fashion. After the July meeting, several members approached me and said that they could not believe that we were not incorporated. They had just incorporated some businesses, one was nonprofit, and I got the name of a lawyer who specializes in this. I set up an appointment with the lawyer to review our options. Basically, he said that the club definitely should incorporate as a **Nonprofit Association** which would be called the Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. This would shield all of the members from liability should something happen during one of our events. We would have to develop a set of bylaws and file an annual report with the state. The cost to set this up would be \$400 for the lawyer and a \$100 filing fee for the state. There may be other minor expenses. When he was quizzing me about the club to determine if we would qualify, his main concerns were whether or not any club members received any compensation and if we received any money from sources other than the members. The only compensation that I can think of is that the officers have been getting their dues waived. He did not see this as a problem, but we will stop this practice immediately just to keep it clean. As far as receiving money from other sources, I told him that we did get \$100 each from 6 to 8 sponsors. He then wanted to know how much money we received from the members which I guessed as between \$3,500 and \$4,500. He indicated that the percent of money received from outside sources was too low to be a problem. There is no doubt in my mind that the club needs to do this, and it will be on the agenda for the August meeting. I don't think that we are prepared to move forward on this yet as I would want another member to confirm that I have all of the important facts correct.

President's Letter - Page 4

TSBA Decal - As you probably know, I have been developing a new TSBA bumper sticker for our members to display on our vehicles and/or boats. The final design was approved at the July meeting and it is shown below. The overall dimensions are 3-3/4 by 7-1/2 inches and it will be made from laminated "Bumper Sticker" material designed for outdoor use. Our present plan is to give one of these to each member with their 2005 renewal. Additional stickers can be purchased for \$2.00 each. I am not going to order them until we decide on incorporating the club as the name on the sticker would then change to "**Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.**"



Bob Leach

Dawn

Magical time of day when the only thing an angler has to do to absolutely guarantee that the fish will be biting like crazy is simply to stay home in bed.

River

Any stretch of moving water large enough to be crossed by a bridge from which fishing is prohibited.

Rod

Flexible, tapered stick that is the basic tool of angling. A rod of even medium length is awkward to carry, but anglers have found through long experience that it can be easily shortened with an ordinary car door, tailgate, or trunk lid.

Striped Bass

Widely favored, delicious, and beautiful game fish eagerly sought by commercial fishermen for profit and recreational fishermen for sport. Even though the commercial fishery is thought to account for well over two-thirds of the landings, surprisingly enough, seven out of every three striped bass reported caught last year were claimed by sport fishermen.

NORRIS DAM MARINA SOON TO BE LIGHTHOUSE LODGE & MARINA AT NORRIS DAM

Norris Dam Marina is located off North I-75 at the Lake City exit 128; at the stop sign turn left on 441 go 4½ miles. The view of the marina and dam are out of this world. The marina is located inside the Historical Norris Dam State Park as well as the quarry area where all the stone was quarried for the dam. Norris Dam Marina is open all year with plenty of paved launch ramp. The marina is equipped with Fuel and a Store for numerous items. Rentals include pontoon boats, fishing boats, and for the skiers a ski boat. Call and reserve your boat for the Holidays. Overnight slips are available upon request. Year round slips are also available. Live Bait is sold during the season. There is plenty of truck and trailer parking. There is a \$5.00 launch fee. The Staff and Owner would like the opportunity to serve you and make your day a pleasant experience.

The future of the marina is changing with the construction of a 100 room lodge, including a restaurant and functional lighthouse overlooking the lake and dam. Projected completion date is scheduled for sometime in the summer of 2006.

**T.S.B.A ANNUAL FISH FRY
& REUNION**

BE THERE!

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2004
4:00 P.M.**

**ANDERSON COUNTY PARK
ON BEAUTIFUL
NORRIS LAKE**

This year, the Annual Fish Fry and Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, September 11, at the Anderson County Pavilion, and it will be bigger and better than ever. In the past, this has been an extremely popular event with many of our out-of-town members attending. While the details of this year's event are not finalized, here are some of the changes that are being considered.

We really do want this to be the best fish fry ever so please feel free to give us any suggestions that you have. It's your event so let us know what you want out of it.

Casting Contests

The casting contests that were initiated last year went over quite well. This year we will make them more difficult by adding obstacles and having some of the casts from awkward positions.

Pot Luck

The food at previous events has been great but this year we would like to add even more variety to the table.

Publicity

We need to publicize this event more. Newcomers John & Pat Seiber have agreed to figure out how to get the word out about our fish fry. Remember that this is an open event and that you are free to bring guests.

Displays

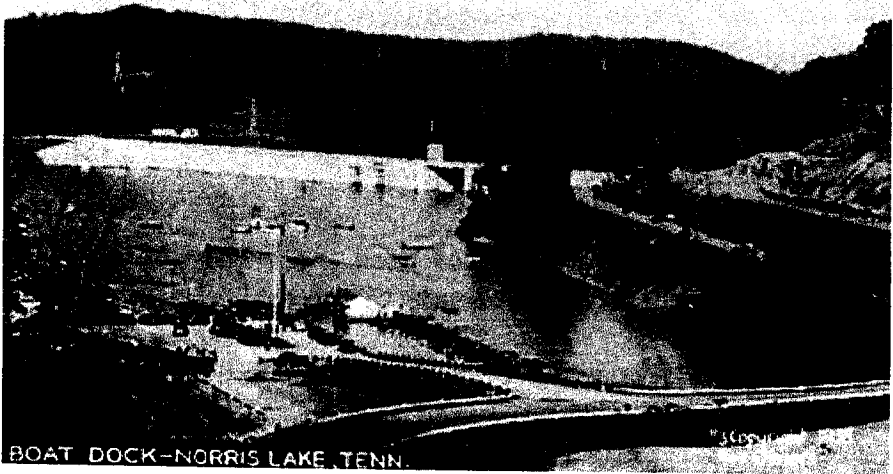
We would like to have a section where various vendors can display their products or events. Felix Taylor has agreed to head this up. One thing that we will do for sure is to have literature for each of our sponsors so everyone can see what they have to offer.

Flag

Dave Johnson will bring a flag for us to display which is appropriate considering that this event is on 9/11.

Fishing

As I stated, this event draws a lot of our out-of-town visitors. I would like to plan some sort of fishing event for them. It's not really possible for most of us to go out on the day of the fish fry, but maybe we could schedule something for the day before or the day after. I would like to hear from anyone interested in trying to set something like this up. I will not pursue this unless I get a good response from the members.



The Story of Norris Lake

Norris Dam was the first dam built by the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority). Construction started on October 1, 1933, only a few months after the agency was created. The gates were closed on March 4, 1936 and Norris Reservoir was completely filled on January 22, 1937. The completed dam helped moderate the disastrous Ohio and Mississippi flood of 1937. The giant drum gates at the top of the spillway were raised for the first time to impound waters that would have swelled a flood more than 600 miles away. The initial cost of the project was \$32,269,027.

The construction of the Norris Project incurred 16,977,720 man hours of labor. During the construction 8 men lost their lives, and 962 suffered injuries. The project relocated 2,899 families and caused the removal of 5,226 gravesites. Some of the materials used to build the dam are 1,002,300 cubic yards of concrete, and 225,889 bags of grouting for the foundation.

Norris has the largest flood control storage of any TVA dam on a tributary of the Tennessee - at normal maximum pool the reservoir holds 2,040,000 acre feet of water. Norris' two hydroelectric generators turned out the first TVA electric power in the eastern end of the Tennessee Valley and the transmission line from Norris to the Wilson Dam provided the first elements of the distribution system that later spread through most of the valley and beyond.

Norris Lake extends 73 miles up the Clinch River and 56 miles up the Powell River. It has 750 miles of shoreline, and 50 miles of island shoreline giving a total of 800 miles of shoreline. The maximum width of the lake is 1.2 miles with a surface area of 34,200 acres. The watershed area for Norris Lake covers 2,912 square miles. Norris Dam is 265 feet high, and 1860 feet long and is located on the Clinch River at mile marker 79.8 in Campbell and Anderson County, Tennessee. The reservoir is 129 miles long. Norris Lake and the dam were named for George W. Norris, a U.S. Senator from Nebraska. The dam helps control floods in the area, generates electricity, and helps maintain navigation depth on the Tennessee River. Before reaching the Ohio River the water goes through nine different dams, generating electricity at each one.

Located in a ridge and valley region Norris Lake abounds in secluded coves. On these wooded banks TVA established the first demonstration public parks. Later the parks were turned over to the State of Tennessee. Recreational use of the reservoir exceeds that of any other tributary lake. TVA acquired the entire shoreline of the reservoir. Although 56,700 acres of lake land have been sold a continuous shoreline strip dedicated to public recreation has been retained, and 35,300 acres have been transferred or leased to the state of Tennessee and the various counties for public recreation. The state administers two large game management areas, three state parks, and 59 public access sites. There are three county parks. The TVA retains about 22,000 acres for future recreational development.

Lake Norris is a great place for fishing, boating, swimming, and other water sports. Nestled between East Tennessee ridges, Norris Lake points the way to Cumberland Gap and the historic wilderness trail marked by Daniel Boone. With its clear deep water, it produces excellent catches of rock fish, walleye, and bass, as well as the usual species found in other area lakes. June through September night fishing for small mouth bass, crappie, white bass and walleye is a popular activity. Two small wild areas on Norris Lake provide visitors with a mini wilderness experience. River bluff features spring and summer wildflowers and a three mile hiking trail. Hemlock bluff presents spectacular views across Norris Lake from high tree covered bluffs. Museums, scenic hiking trails, and a trail for the handicapped complement the fine trout fishing and canoeing below the dam. A picturesque 18th century grist mill excites the imaginations of artists and historic buffs alike.

The five counties surrounding Norris Lake are Anderson County, Campbell County, Claiborne County, Grainger County, and Union County.

Letter from the Vice President

Melton Hill Dam Trip

T.S.B.A. had a free fishing club event below Melton Hill Dam on July 24. We had 8 boats show up before daylight and fish the area. We had hoped to fish the boils below the dam; however, TVA was not generating that morning. It was in spite of no generation a very educational trip. That's what these events are all about. Us novice fishermen have a chance to learn from the masters. Here's what I learned that morning. To get to Melton Hill Dam take I-40 west and take the first exit past the I40-I75 split (US321 TN95) and go to the right on TN95. You pass over the river, and the ramp is just past it on the right. From the ramp, the dam is about 1.5 miles east. This is an area where you must wear a life jacket. The lock as you approach the dam will be to port. Head all the way up and drift down the side away from the lock.

The first thing I had to do that morning was to catch some bait. I followed Allan downstream or west of the ramp past Jones Island to Paw Paw Creek (2.5 miles). There is a bigger and deeper creek, Caney Creek, further west (5.5 miles). Both creeks are to port as you head downstream. Allan had no trouble getting bait in Paw Paw Creek, but I found it much easier in Caney Creek.

After getting enough bait, we headed back to the dam and I put out lines deep (following the instructions Allan had given at July's meeting). I later learned from Ezell that, when the water is not flowing, it's better to run the lines on top behind boards.

I had to leave before any generation occurred, so I did not get to fish under those conditions. I did hear from Chet Moore that he was fishing when they came on and caught 6 between 5 and 5:30 PM during a short generation period. Some people caught a few Stripers even in slack water. I caught fish but not Stripers.

It was a beautiful day with good friends. I'll put what I learned to use some other day when they are generating. Come join us on the next trip.

Felix Taylor

Letter from the Secretary

Question: Why was the world created round?

We could look back and see what we have lost in the Norris fishery. Rather, let's look ahead and plan for the future. Allan has taken a giant step down that path with the StriperBowl and Kids' Fishing Day.

Bob is forming us into a club where we as a group are enjoying our sport together in camaraderie. Let some of Ezell's enthusiasm rub off on you. How far and in what direction T.S.B.A. goes depends on us. That's why we need you at the meetings. Norris Lake is on a rebound, but it will take years. Does that mean we must stop enjoying our sport. No, not at all. Just change gears and try something new - Melton Hill, Cherokee, Watts Bar. Get out and enjoy your sport. Take a child or friend fishing. Speaking of camaraderie, what better place than the T.S.B.A. Fish Fry & Reunion on September 11 at Anderson County Park. Please attend and bring a friend.

Question: Why was the world created round?

Answer: So you can't see too far ahead. The thrill of what is over the next hill will always be there.

Dave Johnson

What did the striper say when it
swam into a concrete wall?

Dam!

September Expectations

Early September is much the same as August in the reservoirs. The larger stripers will be in the old river channels near the dam, below the thermocline, trying to find enough cool water with dissolved oxygen in it to survive. The stripers are stressed more than any other time of year, so a catch and release is not possible if it exceeds 20 to 25 inches (4 to 8 pounds) depending on the reservoir. As the cold water is released through the dam, the funnel effect can cause the thermocline to go very deep late in the month, so fish can be caught in excess of 100 feet. Cool water tailrace fishing will continue to be at its best for the entire year. Some of the tailraces may struggle to have a successful catch and release of the larger fish. Wear your life jacket below the dams. It may save you \$200 in fines or even your life.

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: "tsba"

Password: "club"

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Question of the Month

How many times have you fished
in the last 30 days?

<u>Fishing Opportunities</u>	<u>Number of People</u>
25	1
18	1
15	2
14	1
12	1
10	3
8	1
6	1
4	4
3	1
2	3
1	2
0	1



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Norris Dam Marina
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Cabins
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2004 TSBA Calendar

*Please attend TSBA events
and join us at the meetings.*

Monthly meetings will be held at Shoney's Restaurant, 5420 Clinton Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 108, head west for about one mile. Turn right onto Clinton Hwy. Shoney's will be on the right.

August 16: Monthly Meeting - Speaker: Jim Negus, TWRA
(Send your questions for Jim to Bob Leach)

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

August 21: Open Fishing

September 11: T.S.B.A. Fish Fry and Reunion

Anderson County Park on Norris Lake 4:00 p.m.

(September Monthly Meeting will take place during Fish Fry.)

September 19: Open Fishing on Cherokee Lake

October 15-17: Cumberland River Trip

October 18: Monthly Meeting

Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

November 15: Monthly Meeting - Speaker, Fuzy Lambert,
Minn Kota Rep. - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

November 20: Tournament on Cherokee Lake

December 4-5: Hickory Star Tournament on Norris Lake

December 11: Open Fishing on Cherokee Lake

December: No Monthly Meeting

*Mark
Your
Calendar*



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Phone: (865) 379-8278 Fax: (865) 995-9260

Fishing Hot Spots

CHEROKEE LAKE:

Poor

The best fishing will be within a few miles of the dam. Pulling artificials on downriggers and jigging spoons will catch more fish than live bait this month. Most of the time hybrids can be released. The "no fishing zone" at the dam continues to be in effect until September 15. However, the stripers will still be vulnerable after that date. Please do not kill more than your limit of stripers after September 15 in the oxygen bubbles by trying to release them.



NORRIS LAKE:

Good

Most of the stripers will be near the dam. Point #9 downstream and in Big Creek and Cove Creek. Artificial bait on downriggers work great. Nighttime still offers a lot of good fishing.

According to the T.W.R.A., dissolved oxygen concentrations are much better than they were last year. Readings taken at four locations by TWRA's Data Collection Department found excellent dissolved oxygen at almost all depths at those locations. To review the data, go to www.TNStripedBass.com. Click on the link: TWRA Region 4 Website, "Water Quality Profiles" and "Fishing Reports - Region IV."

TAILRACE AND DOWNSTREAM:

Excellent

Four common methods of fishing below dams all work well.

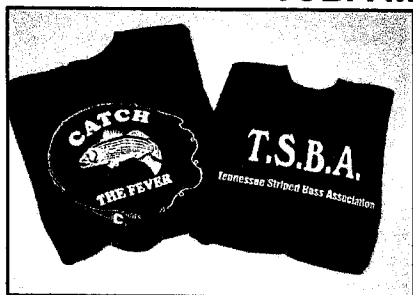
- 1) Run up to the boils and lob live bait into the boils and drift downstream.
- 2) Cast heavy jigs into the boils or cast into schooling fish anywhere you find them.
- 3) Run side planer boards against the bank with live bait going with the current for miles downstream.
- 4) Use live bait and a heavy sinker placed near the bottom and go with the current until you find feeding fish.

Boat for Sale:

G3DLX1860 '02, side console, galv. trlr. w/spare tire & rim,
'02 50hp Yamaha 4 stroke, SS prop, ext. warr. 3 yrs,
Lowrance X95 DF w/speed & temp., radio w/antenna, fire
extg., 10 gal. gas tank, 3 batt., \$10,900.

Ted 865-828-6047

TSBA Merchandise



Hats are gray w/ a Striper on the front & the letters TSBA in green. Adult T-shirts are gray or tan depending on availability in sizes w/ a Striper and Tennessee Striped Bass Association embroidered in green. Kids shirts are gray. Sweatshirts are hunter green with TSBA in gray on front & Catch the Fever on the back with a Striper & fishing rod.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Hats Number of **Winter** T.S.B.A. Hats _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

 Number of **Summer** T.S.B.A. Hats _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

Kids Shirts

Number of Shirts (*kids size medium 10-12*) _____ X \$8.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*kids size large 14-16*) _____ X \$8.00 = \$ _____

Adult Shirts

Number of Shirts (*adult size small*) _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size medium*) _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size large*) _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size xtra-large*) _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size 2X*) _____ X \$14.00 = \$ _____

Number of Shirts (*adult size 3X*) _____ X \$16.00 = \$ _____

Adult Sweatshirts

Number of *adult size medium* _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Number of *adult size large* _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Number of *adult size xtra-large* _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Number of *adult size 2X* _____ X \$24.00 = \$ _____

\$5.00 to ship 1 to 2 items or \$8.00 3 or more items Shipping\$ _____

Order Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to the "TSBA". Do not send cash!

Mail to: **TSBA Merchandise**

YOUR 2004 TSBA OFFICERS AND STAFF

President:

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Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Dave Johnson

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Advertising: Amy Stevens 865-426-8509

Web Site: Toney Stevens 865-426-8509

T.S.B.A. 2004 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: _____

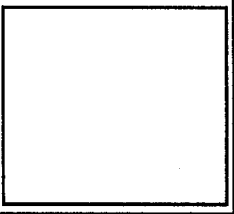
Enclose a check for \$20.00

**Mail to: T.S.B.A. PO Box 962
Norris Tennessee 37828**



The TSBA is a non-profit organization, 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.

**The Tennessee Striped Bass Association
PO Box 962
Norris, Tennessee 37828**



**Jim Negus from the T.W.R.A.
will be at our Monthly Meeting on August 16.
(Send your questions for Jim to Bob Leach
prior to the meeting.)
Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m.**