

**Catch  
The  
Striper  
Fever!**

# T.S.B.A.



*The  
Tennessee  
Striped Bass  
Association  
Newsletter*

**September  
2004**



**Come Join Us!**

**T.S.B.A.  
Annual Fish Fry  
& Reunion**

**September 11, 2004**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Anderson County Park  
on Norris Lake**

# President's Letter

**August 16th Meeting** - The bulk of the August meeting was devoted to a "Question & Answer" session by Jim Negus of the TWRA. The club had compiled a list of questions relative to striper fishing and given them to Jim in advance so he could research his answers before the meeting. Jim did an excellent job and everyone really appreciated the effort that he put into this project. The following is a summary of the information that we obtained from this session.



**Jim Negus  
TWRA**

**1 - Spillway Activity:** It was previously thought by many members of the club that the spillway activity in 2003 on Norris contributed significantly to the large-striper die-off. Also, we thought that the TVA was going to maintain higher summertime water levels on Norris and Cherokee which would mean that future spillway activity would be more likely to occur. Jim's response indicated that the spillway activity was not a major factor in the die-off and that the primary culprit was the higher than average influx of nutrients due to the heavy rains. Basically, Jim indicated that the die-off would have occurred with or without the spillway activity.

## President's Letter - Page 2

According to the new TVA operating guidelines, summer pool levels will be extended but the levels will not be higher. Therefore, we should not have any increased frequency of water going over the spillway. Incidentally, Jim indicated that the dissolved oxygen on Norris looks good and he doesn't expect any problems this year.

**2 - Norris Aeration:** The TVA plans to install a DO injection system within the Norris forebay this fall. The primary purpose is to increase the oxygen levels in the tailwaters, but it will attract stripers as it did on Cherokee. We will have to watch this closely to determine if a "No-Fishing" zone on Norris would be beneficial to the striper fishery.

**3 - Cherokee Aeration:** The purpose of the aeration system on Cherokee is to increase the DO of the tailwaters. We asked if the aeration could be energized whenever the water quality above or below the dam got too low. Basically, we were told that these two events usually occur at the same time. Furthermore, the TWRA is working with the TVA to improve the injection system in regards to the striper refuse.

**4 - License Fees:** We asked when and by how much the TWRA intended to increase the fishing license fees. At this point in time, no decision has been made. However, it appears that it will take a 30% increase just to maintain the present levels of their present programs. Evidently the TWRA would like to use some of the additional revenues to increase law enforcement but nothing has been decided. Also, it is very doubtful if any of the money will be used to increase the number of stripers released.

## President's Letter - Page 3

**5 - Temporary Regulation for Norris:** The proposed temporary regulation on Norris calls for a one-striper limit with a minimum length of 36" for the wintertime. This must go through the field staff, then the commission, public review and then obtain commission approval at their October meeting. If it passes, it will become effective on March 1, 2005 and it will revert back to the current 24" limit on March 1, 2008.

**6 - Larger Stripers or Hybrids:** We asked if there was any research going on to increase the size of either the striped bass or hybrids. How about a hybrid that is 3/4 striper and 1/4 white bass. Evidently, the TWRA thinks that the present stripers and hybrids are the best varieties for our waters. A 3/4 hybrid would be easy to obtain, but it would not withstand the summertime temperatures much better than a regular striped bass.

**7 - Wanton Waste:** We asked why the state of Tennessee does not have a "Wanton Waste" law. The answer was " As long as individuals are allowed to cull, the enforcement of any potential "Wanton Waste" law would be entirely unenforceable in regards to fishing. Jim challenged us to find examples of what other states were doing. I am going to pursue this matter further.

**8 - Fishing Below Dams:** We advise our members not to fish in the turbulent waters below the dams if there is any water going over the spillways, and we asked how we could find out if the spillway was running. This information can be obtained by going to **[www.tva.com/river/lakeinfo/index.htm](http://www.tva.com/river/lakeinfo/index.htm)** or calling the following number - **865-632-2264**.

## President's Letter - Page 4

**9 - Trophy Striped Bass:** We asked about the best places to go to catch a trophy striper. Here is his answer.

### Anytime

Cherokee Dam Tailwaters  
Fort Loudoun Dam Tailwaters  
Melton Hill Dam Tailwaters  
Ft. Patrick Henry  
Cordell Hull Reservoir  
Cordell Hull Dam Tailwaters & downstream

### Winter

Bull Run Steam Plant  
Gallatin Steam Plant

Go to [www.tennesseesportsmanmag.com/tn\\_aa54902a?](http://www.tennesseesportsmanmag.com/tn_aa54902a?) for a great article on this subject.

**10- Blueback Herring:** The final subject that was extensively discussed was the blueback herring. These unwanted baitfish are presently in Melton Hill, Watts Bar and, perhaps, Loudoun and Tellico. The TWRA does not want them to spread any farther than they already have. Evidently, they prey heavily on Largemouth Bass eggs. **In Tennessee, it is illegal to possess or transport blueback herring.** The TWRA is quite serious about enforcing this regulation, and they will not be in a forgiving mood if they catch you with any bluebacks in your bait tank. Unfortunately, they are quite similar in appearance to the alewife.

Go to [www.tnfish.org/Blueback/BluebackHerring.htm](http://www.tnfish.org/Blueback/BluebackHerring.htm) to see a picture of one. Please be extremely cautious if you catch bait fish from any water where they are known to exist. We want to be good stewards of the waters that we fish.

## President's Letter - Page 5

**Incorporation** - At the August meeting, we voted overwhelming to incorporate the TSBA as a nonprofit association. There was some concern about the timing as the budget is a little tight for the rest of the year. However, after analyzing the situation further and consulting with the other leaders of the club, we have decided to proceed as quickly as possible. This process should be well underway by the September meeting.

**Cumberland River** - A few of the members are planning to go back to the Cumberland River September 7-10. This is not a club-sponsored event but if you want to go, please let me know. Also, you should contact the Budget Inn in Carthage yourself for motel reservations. The contact is Larry and tell him that you are a member of the TSBA. Their number is 615-735-1300. As you may know, the club was sponsoring a trip to the Cumberland in October, but I have been told that October is not prime time. I will check into this with the TWRA and report back to you.

**Cherokee Die-Off** - In early August, the TWRA informed us of a die-off on Cherokee of approximately 60 striped bass. The only explanation appears to be that these stripers got themselves into an area of the lake with poor water quality and they could not get out quickly enough. This has happened before on Cherokee during the summer and there doesn't appear to be anything that we can do about it. We have also had reports that some fisherman have been culling stripers even though they know that they will not survive when they are caught deep in warm water. Presently, this is not illegal, no matter how distasteful it is to the members of the TSBA and to all true sportsmen.

## President's Letter - Page 6

**Open Fishing** - The next "Open Fishing" date will be on Saturday, September 18. We will probably fish on the lower end of Cherokee. The "No-Fish" zone will be over by then but there will still be a lot of stripers in the area unless the weather turns much colder earlier than normal. We had eight boats at the last open fishing date. Let's beat that number this time.

*Bob Leach*

map - Handy schematic representation of all the various roads in the area which, unlike the one you are now on or are currently looking for, are large enough to be shown on a map.

test - 1. A measure of the breaking point of fishing line, which can be anywhere from 2 pounds to more than 100. 2. A trying or difficult fishing experience that reveals the breaking point of an angler, which can be anywhere from one or two lost fish in half an hour to zero fish caught in 10 days.

# Ezell's Fishing Archive

December 3rd at 4 a.m. after a clear night can be very frosty. I put on my warmest winter gear, got my hot thermos, and grabbed my best casting outfit as I headed to my defrosting truck. I pulled in to pick up my buddy at 5 a.m., his porch light went off, and he walked in front of the headlights with his fishing gear. By the time we had slow motioned to the farm gate on the rough, winding road on Thanksgiving Day, memories had been remembered thoroughly, 2 fish over 30 pounds. My buddy unlocked the gate as I put the truck in low-lock 4 wheel drive. The incline down the hill looked like a TV commercial for a super 4 wheel drive. About that time, a wall of fog hit the truck's windshield. When we got down to the water, we were about an hour before daylight, when we intended to get there. Tony could not wait for daybreak so after putting a big red fin on we walked to the water's edge. We put all of our gear in a pile including our flashlight. It could not have been any darker in a cave at midnight. I could hear Tony make his first cast, and a few seconds later the red fin hit the water. As the quiet retrieve of Tony's reel started, the quiet was interrupted. Godzilla or Loch Ness monster had hit the red fin and nearly splashed the lake dry. I could hear Tony's reel screaming over his screams to get the flashlight. As I groped to find my light, Tony was trying to go along the bank in the direction the fish was headed, in total darkness. Tony crashed into my stooped body as we both went to the ground with a loud pop of the line breaking. Silence!! It was still 45 minutes before any daylight as we decided any fish that had been here were scared away. We headed to where last week's



30-pound fish had come from. As we walked, we fussed about whose fault losing the world record was. He was even fussing about losing his \$5.00 red fin plug. It was almost 7 a.m. when we got to the fishing hole, and it was no longer total darkness. Tony whispered "that looks like my lost red fin" as he tied on a new one. I cast as far as I could trying to reach what he thought was his plug. The same explosion happened again, but we also had a visual this time. WOW!! I pulled the 45-pound fish out 20 minutes later over a hundred yards from where the hook-up came. As I looked up, here came Tony with his fishing pole bent double in the same path that I had been in. I pulled my fish up on the bank and headed back to the fishing hole. BOOM again! The violent turbulence was awesome. My bent fishing pole was pulling me on the same path as before as I met Tony running back to the fishing hole. It was 10 a.m., and the action had been stopped for the last hour. A one-hour walk along the steep bank with small boulders did not seem very bad this morning, but now we had 215 pounds of fish to get back to the truck. With no knife or rope, the best solution we could think of was to run our belts through the gills and start dragging. I would drag 3 a little while and Tony would drag 2. Then we would swap until we finally got back to the truck. Those 5 beautiful big fish (42 to 45 pounds) did not even look like fish after we dragged the scales off and replaced them with blood shot skin where there was no mud. I got back to the fishing hole a number of times every year since 1983, and it is my favorite place on earth - although some 40-pound fish have come from my secret fishing hole, not a whole school the same morning. I have learned how to release 40 and even 50 pound fish since 1983.

*By Ezell Cox*

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

Take the time to come out and enjoy  
yourself with good people,  
excellent food, and lots of fun.



Saturday, September 11, 2004  
3:00 p.m.

Anderson County Park on Norris Lake

\* Camping available

## Pot Luck



Bring a yummy covered dish. If you don't have the opportunity, be sure to come anyway. There is always more than enough for everyone!

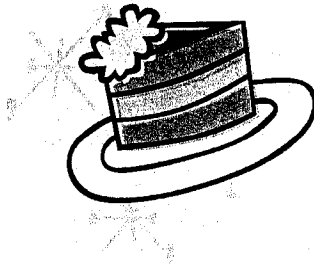
## Games

Casting and Cast Net Throwing Contests

Try out your skills for fun and friendly competition.

## Displays

We will have literature for each of our sponsors so everyone can see what they have to offer.



## Directions

Take I-75 to Route 61 (Clinton Exit 122).  
Go East to Park Road. Turn left and take Park Road to its end at Anderson County Park.  
Go to the pavilion on top of the hill.

# Letter from the Vice President

## Striper Tube Study

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Striper Tube Study results are in. [Link](#)

<http://www.sdafs.org/reservoir/projects/2004/sum02-04.htm> .

They did a test in cool weather and again in hot weather. The cool weather resulted in 100% survival after 3 days. The warm weather test gave a 15% survival rate. Even in warm weather the tube showed some benefit to the fish but could not improve survival to an acceptable rate. The tubes used were the basic models without any additional oxygenation or modification. SCDNR concluded they were useful in cool water conditions for holding fish for short periods of time but not in warm water. These are the results I expected, actually a little better than I expected.

This study is a starting point. It points out some interesting questions that need to be studied. What happens if you catch a fish in warm water and release it in cool water? Can the temperature in the tube be lowered gradually to give a better survival rate. What can oxygenation do and how can it be done safely? Are there water treatments (ie salt) that would make a difference? Like I said, it's a starting point for more study. I am hopeful that with experience and modification the Striper Tube will have a place in Striper Fishing.

*Felix Taylor*

## Letter from the Secretary

THEN was BETTER?

One of my most enjoyable memories is rowing stern first up a very narrow creek while Janine was casting and catching bass. Stop for a moment and remember your good old days. Fishing should be fun and relaxing. If it has become work, then something has changed, but that change is something we did to ourselves. It isn't fishing's fault. The TSBA came together because of a common bond, the love of fishing for stripers. That hasn't changed. The TSBA has worked with and will continue to work with the TWRA in improving the striped bass fishery. Often change is something beyond control. A perfect example is fishing pressure. We can look back and wish it was THEN, but in today's real world let's look forward. Thirty cent a gallon gas is gone, and the good old days are memories. But in a few years today will be the good old days. Don't you want a memory of TSBA friendships and accomplishments? We are a club - united we stand, divided we fall.

*Dave Johnson*

# October Expectations

Lake turnover takes place through the month of October in the reservoirs of Tennessee. As the lake is homogenized, stripers will be free to roam the waters top to bottom, bank to bank, and end to end. This sometimes makes stripers difficult to locate because you have to find them on a daily basis. Many times the best clue is to find the largest baitfish concentrations. October is also the start of some surface feeding. Catch and release also becomes an option again. The tailrace fishing and the river-run below them will still be at a premium as the reservoirs are being emptied to their winter levels. The scenery is wonderful on the water this month. The lack of storms, heat, ski boats, and jet skis is welcome.

The TSBA web site offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members.  
Visit the web at: [www.TNStripedBass.com](http://www.TNStripedBass.com)  
The current password is:  
Username: "tsba"  
Password: "club"

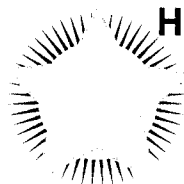
**(423) 587 2200**

*Best Value  
In Town!*



**2512 East Andrew Johnson Hwy  
Morristown, TN 37814**

**\*\*\*\*Special TSBA Rates\*\*\*\***  
Boat Parking w/ electric hook-up  
Pool, HBO,  
Free Continental Breakfast



**Hickory Star**

**Marina**

*"Home of the Stripers"*

**865-992-5241**

**Full service marina  
on Norris Lake  
Near Maynardville TN**

## Question of the Month

What make of electric trolling motor do you have and does it work well?

<u>Trolling Motor Make</u>	<u>Number of People</u>
Minn Kota	21

Approximately half had problems and half rated it from excellent to the best, the major problem being with the Auto Pilot.

Minn Kota requires that the trolling motor be mounted within five degrees of level in order for the Auto Pilot to work properly.

Currently, Minn Kota is offering a buy-back on their Genesis model. For more information, contact Minn Kota technical support at 1-800-227-6433.



### Lighthouse Marina

**STEVE PEMBERTON**  
(865) 494-8138

Interstate 75, Exit 128  
1804 Norris Freeway  
Norris, TN 37828

Norris Dam Marina  
P.O. Box 1587  
Norris, TN 37828-1587



### Mountain Lake Marina and Campground

*On Norris Lake*  
**865-426-9756**  
**877-MTN-CA-  
MP**

Boat Rentals  
\*Bait & Supplies  
\*Camping &  
Cabins  
\*Lodge \*Gas

Swimming Pool \*  
Playground \* Game Room Miniature Golf \*  
Camp Store \* Laundry

## 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.

*Mark  
your  
Calendar*

**September 11:** T.S.B.A. Fish Fry and Reunion  
Anderson County Park on Norris Lake 3:00 p.m.  
(September Monthly Meeting will take place during Fish Fry.)

**September 18:** 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



**B&B  
STRAIGHT CREEK  
BOAT DOCK**

**Full Service Dock  
on Norris Lake  
New Tazewell, TN**

**423-626-5826**  
*Maynard & Delbert Brooks*

## Kept in Stitches

CUSTOM EMBROIDERY

Lisa Groover Moore  
cell 207-8749



Catherine Taylor  
cell 414 3024

2048 Eckles Drive Maryville, TN 37804

Email Keptnstitches@aol.com

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



## Fishing Hot Spots



### **CHEROKEE LAKE:**

#### **Fair**

Early October will have some stripers that have not left the aeration near the dam. The best fishing will be from Point 14 upstream to Point 26. Baitfish on the surface will have some striper breaks at the right time of day. It is not uncommon to catch stripers to 20 pounds and hybrids to 10 pounds.

### **NORRIS LAKE:**

#### **Fair**

The stripers have scattered, and if you find them the bite can be good on some days. The best fishing is from the forks of the river (Point 9) upstream about 10 miles (Point 24 Clinch and Point 14 Powell).

According to the T.W.R.A., dissolved oxygen concentrations are better than they were last year. In 2003, water quality had problems in July and August. This year, it doesn't look like it will have any affect on the striped bass. To review the data, go to [www.TNStripedBass.com](http://www.TNStripedBass.com). Click on the link: TWRA Region 4 Website, "Water Quality Profiles" and "Fishing Reports - Region IV."

### **TAILRACE AND DOWNSTREAM:**

#### **Excellent**

It is hard to fish wrong here with the bait and hungry fish plentiful.

### **Boat for Sale:**

'76 - 17' Invader Ski Boat with Trailer, 175 HP  
Inboard/Outboard Ford Engine, Electronic Ignition,  
Low Hours, Garage Kept. Runs Great! \$2200 or  
best offer.

Mike Tamosiunas, TSBA Member, 865-458-8758

# 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:**

Robert Leach 865-471-1365  
Robert@TNStripedBass.com

**Vice President:**

Felix Taylor 865-981-2827  
Felix@TNStripedBass.com

**Treasurer:**

Janine Johnson

**Secretary:**

Dave Johnson

### TSBA STAFF

**Newsletter:** Janine Johnson Janine@TNStripedBass.com  
**Public Relations:** Allan Franklin 865-694-8888  
Ezell Cox 423-626-9547  
**Merchandising:** Cathy Taylor 865-981-2827  
**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***

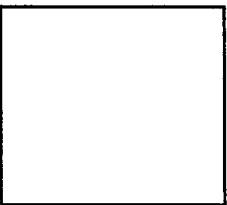
***Mail to: T.S.B.A. P.O. Box 24442***

***Knoxville TN 37933***



*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.*

**Tennessee Striped Bass Association  
P.O. Box 24442  
Knoxville, TN 37933**



**T.S.B.A. has changed its mailing address to:**

**P. O. Box 24442  
Knoxville, TN 37933**