Catch
The
Striper
Fever!

T.S.B.A.



Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association,
Inc.
Newsletter

March 2005

You Will Want to Be There for Sammy Robinette's Presentation:

Catching, Presenting and Keeping Live Bait at the March 21, 2005 Monthly Meeting

President's Letter

Off to a Great Start

2005 has started out great for the club. We have had great turnouts for open fishing and the Kingston tournament. With 30 anglers participating at Kingston, it proves that TSBA members are eager to get together and have a good time.

With the schedule this year, you will have an opportunity to attend several outings. Even if you have to miss something, you will not have to wait very long before another event rolls around.

Our club meetings have been fun and informative, and the attendance so far has been very good.

Thanks to Bill Cate, our February speaker, for a very good meeting.

In March, our featured speaker will be Sammy Robinette. The topic will be "Catching, Keeping, and Presenting Live Bait."

Be sure to regularly check the website calendar for updates and information on club events and meetings. Under Club Info you can check the Tournaments page for tournament information and results.

President's Letter - Page 2

Goals

As I stated in last month's letter, one of our goals is simply to have fun. At our last meeting, we talked a little about attracting new people to the club. looked at ways of attracting new members. I believe, if we are meeting the goal of having fun in our tournaments, meetings, and open fishing gettogethers, that in itself will attract the new person. I do want to encourage you to invite someone new to any and all TSBA events this year. Our new Bylaws allow us to bring a guest to any TSBA event. Any one person may attend two events or club meetings before they are required to join. The only thing that a non-member could not do is win the StriperBowl Trophy. However, as the Bylaws now read, they could attend this event as your guest (they just couldn't win the trophy). So let's take advantage of this and get someone new on your boat soon.

Our Sponsors

One last request: As you visit our sponsors, please let them know that you are with the Tennessee Striped Bass Association and that we do appreciate their support.

John Seiber

2005 Tournament Trail

The first TSBA tournament of 2005 took place on Saturday, February 19th at Kingston steam plant on the Clinch River. turnout was excellent with 30 participants which was up significantly from last year. Also, the weather was good for this time of year a bit nippy but no wind or rain. The only thing lacking was an abundance of stripers. Everyone fished hard for almost four hours but only six stripers or hybrids were caught and weighed-in. The largest striper was caught early in the tournament by Wes Adams, and it weighed-in at a whopping 25 pounds and 11 ounces. He caught it using a Skipjack on a planer board up in the discharge of the steam plant. Second place went to Mark Beggs whose striper weighed-in at 14 pounds and 2 ounces. Bobby Hall had the third largest striper at 13 pounds and 12 ounces. These three members split the \$300 prize money pool as follows: Wes Adams - \$150. Mark Beggs - \$105, and Bobby Hall got \$45. Also, Wes claimed the extra "Big Fish" pool so he had quite a day, and he has a significant lead in the "TSBA Angler of the Year" race. Fortunately for everyone else, we get to drop the lowest score from the five 2005 tournaments and I'm sure that this will be the one most of us will drop. You know the fishing was tough when expert anglers like Ezell Cox and Allan Franklin get skunked, as they generally catch fish.

The third tournament of the 2005 TSBA Tournament Trail will be on Saturday, April 16th on Cherokee Lake. We plan to launch from the Oak Grove boat ramp. The stripers should be nearby at this time of year, and I'm sure that the following areas will get a lot of attention - Rocky Hollow, German/ Ray creek areas, and Macedonia. The format and entry fee for this tournament will be the same as the last two tournaments, and we really want another nice turnout as we all try and catch Wes Adams. Again, we plan to have extra bait available. So come out even if you don't have a chance to get bait before the tournament. These are friendly tournaments, and we all want to help each other as much as we can so everyone has a good time regardless of who wins or loses. Please call me at 865-471-1365 if you have any questions.

Bob Leach



Kingston Tournament

And they're off!

Winners

1st Wes Adams2nd Mark Beggs3rd Bobby Hall





Wes Adams 25 lbs. 11 oz.

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake

The stripers often feed on the surface in April. The gulls will still indicate where to cast. Stripers are scattered all over the lake. Fort Patrick Henry Steam Plant will attract many prespawn fish. Point 17 upstream to Point 21 always holds a lot of baitfish and stripers. Mossy Creek at Point 1 is always good with the alewife spawn. Night fishing with the alewife spawn in progress is at a premium.

Norris Lake

The Loyston/Lost Creek area at Point 19 and near Hickory Star Marina is excellent upstream to Point 28 at Straight Creek Marina. Pull the baitfish over the shallow humps and near the bank with your planer boards. The stripers will run into all of the major creeks including Cove Creek, Big Creek, and Cedar Creek - Davis and Sycamore also.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake

The best action will still be at the steam plants, but migration will continue upstream to the tailraces.

Work is for those who don't know how to fish!

Boating Safety Is No Accident

Too many people fail to realize driving a boat is just as serious as driving a car and in some ways more dangerous. The causes of boating accidents are many, but in almost every case, each was preventable had the boaters followed common-sense safety precautions.

Letter from the Vice President

Edges and Transitions

As Spring nears and the temperatures begin to rise, the Striper Fishing gets good. Fishing in a bit warmer weather is much more comfortable for the human participants as well. History tells us there will be a strong topwater bite in the mid-lake regions of some of our favorite waters. The fish will be moving with the prevailing weather.

It's an important time to participate in all the events possible. Pay attention to our members who have been around for awhile. It will make you a more successful fisherman. Read the postings on the TSBA web page and pay attention to where the fish are under differing conditions and times of the year. It's a good bet that they will follow the same patterns in the future.

A lot has been said about posting too much information, and I understand the concern. I have upset some folks in the past because I gave out "too much information." Some folks are very protective of their "hot spots". So I will only give out information of my first-hand knowledge. If someone else gives me a spot, I will be selective about passing it along if they tell me not to. With that said I will otherwise tell all I know.

We are a club and as such depend on each other and offer assistance to one another. We all fish public lakes and are open to all who are interested in our sport. It's not all about location all the time. A specific location can be duplicated on another area lake that meets the same general conditions. Things like current, depth, temp., water clarity, and bait that attract fish to an area on one lake will certainly do the same on another. If possible give information about such things in your fishing reports. I am not interested in fishing out another member's hot spot, but I am interested in learning more about where fish might be found on any area lake.

I can be fishing any of 7 lakes within a hour drive from my house. In 2 hours the number of possibilities doubles. Most all of these lakes hold superior stripers at one time or another. Because of all the options, I am more interested in being able to predict where fishing will be good than in where they were good yesterday. Knowing where they were biting yesterday is an important part of the puzzle but only a part. If the weather changes they will be somewhere else tomorrow

Felix Taylor

Minutes of the February Meeting

John Seiber, the TSBA President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Bill Cate told fishing stories and included many of the club members when he did his presentation on striper tubes. He showed how the striper tube operates and how it can be successfully used to keep and subsequently release stripers up to 15 pounds in the spring, fall, and winter months.

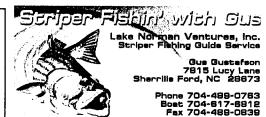
Bob Leach gave the results of the Kingston Tournament. There were 30 participants and the weather was great. See Bob's write-up on the tournament page.

John Seiber said one of his goals is to continue to grow the club membership. Invite someone to join in the club activities and monthly meetings.

The TWRA is making signs to be posted at Melton Hill Lake boat launches about size limits for stripers and muskies.

Dave Johnson
TSBA Secretary

Reminder: Take a camera with you when you go fishing, and send your pictures to Janine @TennStripedBass.com



งงงงงง.Lakai lorman5iggiparFiahing.cor

B&B Straight Creek Boat Dock

This month we are highlighting another one of our fine TSBA sponsors - the B&B Straight Creek Boat Dock located on beautiful Norris Reservoir near New Tazewell. This fullservice facility includes a snack bar and a convenience store that offers a complete line of fishing and camping necessities including propane, bait, gas, ice, etc. They have covered slips for all sizes of boats from Jon boats up to houseboats. They also rent fishing boats and they have a fleet of some of the finest pontoon boats on Norris for rent by the hour, day or for extended periods of time. These come complete with the following amenities: 50 HP four-stroke motors, AM/FM CD Player with 4 speakers, 9' Bimini top, Depth Finder and Fish Locator, Light Pods with Docking Lights & Dual Horn, Aerated Live Well, 29 Gallon Built-in Fuel Tank with Gauge, Sleeper Bench Seats, Vinyl Floor, Built-in Swim Ladder, Table and Changing Room. The rates are quite reasonable: 24 hours - \$150, 3-Days - \$350 and a 5-Day rental is only \$550. These prices do not include gas and oil. To get to the B&B Straight Creek Boat Dock, proceed South out of New Tazewell on Highway 33. Turn left on Lone Mountain Road and after 2.4 miles turn right onto Straight Creek Dock Road and proceed to the dock. For further

> B&B Straight Creek Boat Dock 775 Straight Creek Dock Road New Tazewell, TN 37825

information, Call either Maynard or Delbert Brooks

to

go

www.straightcreekdock.com. Their address is

their

website

at

or

423-626-5826

Please support these fine folks. They have an excellent full-service facility strategically located on Norris lake. They know this part of Norris and they can help put you onto some striped bass.

Evolution of Striper Fishing/Technology

A Mitchell 300 or Cardinal 5 spinning reel mounted on a stiff eight-foot no name rod and seven inch top water Red Fin tied onto the cheap 20-pound test line was my initiation equipment to start catching stripers from the river bank "when the rockfish started to run." This was some of the common equipment used to catch fresh water fish like walleye, bass, catfish, and carp before the stripers were stocked in Tennessee in the late 1960's. After about ten years of striper stocking, there were few fishermen trying to catch them with most of the accidental hookups on light equipment not being landed. With the overabundance of bait fish, good water quality, and lack of fishing pressure, the stockpile of large stripers to 40 pounds was awesome. Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, and Boater's World had not come to Tennessee, but some of the local bait and tackle stores started to offer some baitcaster levelwind reels with a good drag. The stores also started to tell other fishermen when and where they had been told to catch them so those expensive Red Fins at \$4.95 would be sold. Trolling with \$3.95 Little Mac also became a common way to catch stripers. Large white flies tipped with large minnows cast or pulled with an electric motor began to catch stripers in other parts of the lake where the migration took them. All we had to do was get the migration figured out.

Before the introduction of the alewife as baitfish in Tennessee, the large schools of gizzard and threadfin shad would be on the surface, and you could see the stripers breaking in them from miles away. The alewife was in most striper lakes by 1990. With the stripers feeding on the alewife in the deeper cooler water, visually finding them became less effective. The gulls' migration pattern has only developed since 1990 to help anglers locate stripers in the cold water months. The sonar fishfinder found on most early striper boats was a flasher that sent a red streak on the round depth dial when something was under the transducer. The larger streak meant the mass was larger with no history remaining on the screen to analyze. A few of the

expensive cathode tube sonars were seen on the boats before the first liquid crystal displays (LCD) that were not very good by today's standard. The alternative good fishfinder would have been the paper graph, but then you would have to continue to buy paper and electrodes at about \$4.00 a day to use. The noise of the flasher and paper graph was annoying as well as the smell of burnt paper.

The other issue was the high amp hour draw on the battery from the early fishfinders as well as trolling motors. Before built-in maximizers, the amp draw was the same on High, Medium, or Low when the trolling motor was on. We started to see the stern mount gradually move to the front, and the improvements just kept coming. Autopilots could be operated up to 18 feet from the motor with a flexible cord, and now with a remote the size of a keyless car entry worn on the wrist you have total control of operation anywhere in the boat. There is no reason to go fishing with batteries not fully charged when all you need do at the end of each trip is plug up your on-board waterproof charger.

The first live bait was catching some bluegill or buying tuffy, chub, or shiners. Shad was already recognized as being the best bait but was very hard to get and keep alive. My first shad were caught by snagging with treble hooks, and it was just as effective as my attempt with the small slow-sinking cast nets that seldom opened more than halfway in the learning process. To catch more shad than your livewell could handle was never a problem. It is hard to understand now why striper fishermen didn't go to where the large concentrations of shad could be caught and put in the bait tank for tomorrow's trip. There were no striper clubs, no guides, no internet, no one with experience to ask, and no articles or books that would help with bait in Tennessee. There was a lot to learn from our own experience of trial and error on cast nets, like where to get them, what size mesh, diameter, radius, and where and how to use them.

Bait tanks were at first the boxes in your boat that sprayed water from the lake into the bait and then ran out the overflow. Most striper fishermen trying to figure out the perfect shad solution built a series of homemade bait tanks and then just purchased the best available as the market developed. Holding tanks in the garage, baskets on the lake, and holding ponds were all tried to keep shad alive for the next fishing trip.

Some of the technologies that we have used, improved, or discarded are in the corner of our garage that have not been mentioned are leadcore, downriggers, outriggers, compass, G.P.S., and marine radios. For the few of us old-timers that can look back more than 30 years, learning to catch fresh water striper has been a rewarding challenge. Communication from everyone's experience and history now allows us to catch more fish with more predictability throughout the year. Back in the 1970's, we were sure the stripers were born weighing 20 pounds, and \$50.00 worth of technology would catch them over 40 pounds from the bank . . . but only for about two weeks two times a year when the "rockfish started to run."

By Ezell Cox

Monthly Meeting - March 21, 2005

Sammy Robinette Presents

"Catching, Presenting, and Keeping Live Bait"

Don't miss this one!

Monthly Meeting - April 18

Dave Johnson Demonstrates
"Trolling Tactics:

Planer Boards, Downriggers, & Umbrella Rigs"



Mark Beggs WOW!

Fishin'
Reports
Password
is being
changed.

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: "tank"

April Expectations

Caution is needed more in the spring as the reservoirs and rivers are on the rise. That causes a lot of floating debris that can damage, injure, or worse. The new fishing license and 2005 regulations are in effect. Top water action in shallow water can be wonderful. Water temperature will rise above 50 degrees F. and above 60 degrees F. in some of the shallow, sun-warmed coves. The baitfish begin to spawn this month. The striper's movement and activity will be related to pre-spawn and warming water temperatures. Migration upstream to the rivers and major feeder creek currents will also keep the attention of the striper. The pre-spawn bellies will stay big through April in the natural rivers. As the 70 degree F. water temperature is reached, the spawn will take place, and the big stripers will slowly start back downstream. The tailrace below the dams will develop and only get better through the spring and summer. Large live and artificial baits presented on top will create some very large explosions. Records and trophies are caught this month.



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



YOUR 2005 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

President:

Vice President: John Seiber 865-945-3716

JSeiber@tennstripedbass.com

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

Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Dave Johnson

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Ed Baker, Ezell Cox, Allan Franklin, Kevin Mason, Chet Moore, John Seiber

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter:

Public Relations:

Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com

Web Site:

John Seiber 865-945-3716 Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Sponsor Coordinator: Eric Rauch 865-494-0304

Tournament

Coordinator:

Bob Leach 865-471-1365

Cumberland

River Trips:

Bob Leach 865-471-1365

Felix Taylor 865-981-2827

Door Prizes:

Bill Cate 865-933-9431

Merchandising: Kept In Stitches 865-981-2827





Lighthouse Marina STEVE PEMBERTON

(865) 494-8138

Interstate 75, Exit 128 1604 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

Cabins 877-MTN-CA-*Lodge *Gas

MP

Swimming Pool * Playground * Game Room Miniature Golf * Camp Store * Laundry www.mountainlaketennessee.com

Boat Rentals *Bait & Supplies

*Camping &

Letter from the Secretary

Getting Better!

'Tis the season for sneezing and coughing. As we recover from winter's woes and wait for a warm. comfortable summer, the plans for the TSBA are coming together fast. The Directors and Officers wish to thank you for renewing your membership and putting your faith in us.

We are always open for suggestions and ideas. Attend a meeting, you'll be surprised, more fishing info each and every meeting.

What's next on the horizon? STRIPER BOWL

How important is this? VERY, VERY IMPORTANT. Last year was great, but with everyone's help, this year will be better. Remember, it's a fund raiser for Kids' Flshing Day. All monies raised will be spent on the children. They love camping and fishing. STRIPER BOWL. Be there or be square! Better! You better believe it!

Dave Johnson



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 Catherine Taylor cell 207-8749

2048 Eckles Drive Maryville, TN 37804

cell 414 3024

Email Keptnstitches@aol.com

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

2005 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.

March 21:

Monthly Meeting -Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

Sammy Robinette Presents "Catching, Presenting

and Keeping Live Bait"

March 26:

Open Fishing on Norris

April 16:

Tournament on Cherokee

April 18:

Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

Dave Johnson Demonstrates "Trolling Tactics: Planer

Boards, Downriggers, & Umbrella Rigs"

April 30:

Open Fishing on Cherokee & Striper Bowl Tailgate Party

May 1:

Tournament - Striper Bowl - Cherokee

May 13-15:

Cherokee Family Campout & Kids Fishing Day-Cherokee

May 16:

Monthly Meeting & Tour at Fish Hatchery in Clinton

Pizza & Drinks - 6:00 PM

May 21:

Open Fishing on Cherokee

June 10-12:

Cumberland River Trip

June 20:

Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

June 26:

Open Fishing on Cherokee

July 9:

Open Fishing on Cherokee

July 18:

Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

July 23:

Open Fishing on Melton Hill

July 29-31:

Cumberland River Trip

August 15:

Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

August 20:

Tournament on Melton Hill

September 10: TSBA Fish Fry & Reunion (Monthly Meeting)

September 17:

Open Fishing on Cherokee

October 17:

Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

October 22:

Open Fishing on Cherokee

November 12:

Open Fishing on Norris

November 21:

Monthly Meeting - Dinner: 6 PM Meeting 7 PM

December 19:

Board of Directors Meeting - 6 PM

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

	A in gray on front & Catch the Fever on the ba	ck witl	h a Striper & fishir	ng rod
Address				-
	State	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		-
			 ·	
)			
Hats	Number of Winter T.S.B.A. Hats	x	\$10.00 = \$	
	Number of Summer T.S.B.A. Hats			
Kids Shi	<u>irts</u>			
Numbe	r of Shirts (kids size medium 10-12)	x	\$8.00 = \$	
	umber of Shirts (kids size large 14-16)			
Adult S	<u>hirts</u>			
	Number of Shirts (adult size small)	x	\$12.00 = \$	
Number of Shirts (adult size medium)				
	Number of Shirts (adult size large)			
Number of Shirts (adult size xtra-large)		x	\$12.00 = \$	
	Number of Shirts (adult size 2X)			
	Number of Shirts (adult size 3X)			
Adult Sw	veatshirts			
	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 <i>adult size 2X</i>	X	\$24.00 = \$	
\$5.00 to	ship 1 to 2 items or \$8.00 3 or more item	ms :	Shipping\$	
			der Total \$	
٨	lake checks payable to "Kept In Stitches". I			

Mail to: TSBA Merchandise

2048 Eckles Drive, Maryville, TN 37804

Page 17

T.S.B.A. 2005 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".

(Signature)

- * 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.

Enclose a check for \$20.00

Mail to: Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 24442

Knoxville TN 37933

(Date)

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2005 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.



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

public & share our knowledge Bass & the Cherokee Bass unified voice for the Striped Tennessee. We educate the May 1 - StriperBowl-Cherokee April 16 - Cherokee Tournament Trail:

programs in the State of

come together to provide a

Cherokee Bass programs. We

TWRA & its Striped Bass &

corporation that supports

The TSBA is a non-profit

anglers

with fellow Striped Bass