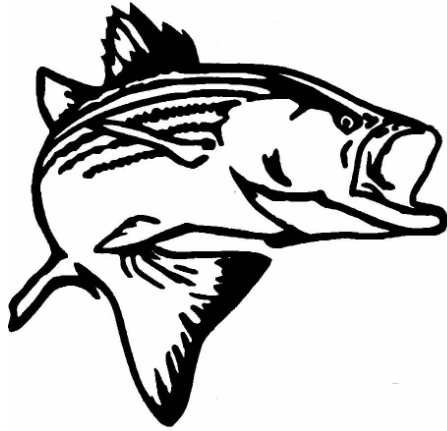


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



***Tennessee
Striped Bass
Association,
Inc.
Newsletter***

**August
2007**

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

**Anderson County Park
on Norris Lake**



**September
29, 2007
2:00 p.m.**

President's Letter

I have been on vacation for the past few days and have been having a blast. It's been nice to get out on the water early each day and get in on the early bite. I think even better than that has been the fact that there's hardly anyone else out that early. I have for sure caught up on my fishing this week. I also got the opportunity to take my oldest daughter and my grandson fishing last night. It was her first time to go striper fishing, and she had a great time. Her first fish was 20 pounds, and we had a couple more fish hooked up that got off before we landed them. I think she's hooked now because she says that she wants to do that again.

I would like to bring back up a topic that has been discussed quite a bit lately, and that is the subject of circle-hooks. I have been using them for a little over a year now and have more confidence in them than any other type hook. I mention confidence because what we have confidence in is what we will use. I've heard others say that they have tried them and could not hook a fish, or they don't like them for some other reason. I'm bringing this back up because a lot of folks don't realize that there are different kinds of circle-hooks.



The hook on the left is an “Octopus Style” circle-hook, and the one on the right is a “Circle-Sea” hook from Eagle Claw. Both hooks are circle-hooks, but there is a lot of difference in the two. I prefer the one on the right (circle-sea) to the one on the left. I have caught lots of fish on these hooks; and although you can still deep hook a fish, you will deep hook far fewer fish with the circle-sea hook. Even if you do deep hook a fish, the fact that you are not setting the hook with a big jerk means that the fish will have far less internal damage and have a better chance of survival. The hook on the left, in my opinion, is not nearly as good as the straight shank circle-sea hook on the right. If you don’t use circle-hooks and release a lot of fish, I would encourage you to give it a little more time. Be sure you are using a hook like the circle-sea before you rule them out altogether. I have fished with both of these hooks as well as j-hooks; and based on my experience, you can’t beat the circle-sea hook for hookups and for lip hooked fish. Just remember DON’T SET THE HOOK. All you do is keep a tight line, and reel in the fish.

*God Bless and Good Fishing,
John Seiber*



Minutes of the July Meeting

Between 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., TSBA supplied all the pizza and pop everyone wanted. John opened the meeting then turned it over to the hatchery manager, Mike Smith. Mike asked who had never been to the hatchery before then gave a brief introduction about it. The hatchery was started in 1974 and opened in 1976 to raise musky and striped bass. It has since been expanded to raise most game fish stocked into East Tennessee. Eight to ten million fish are hatched each year and kept in the 40 ponds or traded to other states for species not raised here, like sturgeon and musky. Mike said they are expecting to have money for some expansion over the next years. He also said the hatchery had an exceptional year and met all their goals. Some of the striper fisheries that the biologists determined needed additional fish got some extra stocking over the normal like Boone and Watts Bar. The stocking locations and numbers were available for Norris 2007.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| 25 E BRIDGE CLINCH RIVER | 24,543 |
| EARLS HOLLOW | 10,243 |
| FLAT HOLLOW | 13,000 |
| POINT #19 | 21,068 |
| LINDSEY MILL | 22,260 |
| 33 BRIDGE MARINA | 9,900 |
| TOTAL | 101,014 |

A Bill Dance / T.W.R.A. video was played to warn about the dangers of exotic species being introduced into Tennessee waters accidentally.

Chet Moore again did a drawing on some great door prizes. Alan Franklin did the 50 -50 drawing with Eric Rauch winning \$47.50. There was a discussion about lack of access to public use boat ramps and some of the problems they had. Some of the marinas are closing the ramps to the public and increasing prices to double from last year. Some of the problems were lights needed at Cove Creek and security problems in the parking lot. The ramp at Big Ridge needs more light and a wider ramp to accommodate more than one at a time. There is a need for more access locations to

the lake for the public. Suggestions were to be put on the web site fishing reports. Ron Overby should be contacted with suggestions at 423-522-2452. Chet and Alan gave fishing reports for below the dams in the boils as very good. The fishing had been very good on Cherokee where the no fishing zone went into effect July 15 until September 15. There were reports of floating dead catch and release fish in front of the dam at Cherokee. Norris fishing report was good from Hickory Star downstream to the dam and up Cove and Big Creek. Locations were talked about where to catch the best bait. The Water Quality reports are now available and can be accessed from TSBA'S web site on TWRA Region 4. Water quality is the best it has been in the past five years in Norris. The meeting was adjourned and most went out to the ponds that still had stripers that were going to Watts Bar the next day. Mike dip netted some up and showed a pleased audience.

Ezell Cox
TSBA Secretary



Jim Negus is a TWRA biologist that will do the program at our meeting in August. Although he stated this is out of his field of study, he has excellent research skills and contacts and can help us understand some of the water quality issues related to the fishery. I received this information by e-mail after asking him many questions.

Ezell Cox

WATER QUALITY / DROUGHT YEAR

The first six months of 2007 had the lowest recorded rainfall for the Valley in 118 years of record. This extreme drought has prevented TVA from filling tributary reservoirs and has resulted in an early drawdown of tributary reservoirs in order to meet downstream flow requirement. Norris was the only major tributary storage reservoir (this excludes reservoirs like Parksville, Fort Pat, Appalachia, Boone, etc.) to reach summer pool level this year, although it wasn't there for long.

Because runoff is extremely low throughout the Valley, local inflows are not contributing much to overall flows throughout the system or to replenishing the water in storage. You actually can have a net loss (i.e., evaporation of water from the amount flowing into a reservoir via the upstream dam(s) and the amount flowing out of the reservoir (e.g., 10,000 cfs in, 9000 cfs out). Ever since early June, releases from reservoirs like Norris and Cherokee have been higher than expected (as compared to a "normal dry year") in order to have enough water moving through the system to meet flow requirements.

Based on historic data, I expect overall dissolved oxygen conditions in Norris Reservoir to be better than average this year due to dry conditions. I also expect conditions at the mid-reservoir of Cherokee to be worse than normal. However, I thought conditions in the Cherokee forebay would be better than they are. The interesting twist is that the water elevations on Cherokee (as with many tributary reservoirs) are lower than they have been this time of year since the Lake Improvement Plan was implemented back in 1990. As previously stated, the volume of water released is near normal levels, which is reducing the hydraulic residence time in these reservoirs.

Keeping Bait Alive

I think it's safe to assume that the majority of the TSBA members use live bait most of the time when pursuing their favorite quarry - the striped bass. The most common baitfish is undoubtedly the gizzard shad. While shad are great bait for stripers, they are not the easiest bait to keep in top condition especially when you aren't going to use them for a day or two. Everyone who has tried to keep shad alive for any length of time has had the disappointment of waking up to a tank of either dead or struggling shad. One of the potential problems is that the bait life-support system on your bait tank can and does periodically fail. If your venturi pump goes out in the middle of the night, you'll have a significant problem in the morning. This has happened to me enough times in the past, that I now have two completely-independent sources of air/oxygen for my bait tank at all times. When I'm fishing, I use the the venturi-type pump that came with my bait tank and an Independent oxygen tank. When my boat is in my garage and I've got bait to keep alive and frisky, I shut off the oxygen tank and use a 120 volt, dual-output air pump designed for 20 to 60 gallon aquariums as a backup in case my regular venturi pump goes out. The 120 volt pump that I've been successfully using is an Aqua Culture aquarium pump model MK1504 that I get from Wal-Mart for about \$10. I connect both of the air outlets to large air stones which put out an incredible amount of air bubbles. I realize that the air bubbles from air stones are much larger than those from a venturi pump and, therefore, not as effective. However, this does make for a great, low-cost emergency backup system for your bait tank which can save a fishing trip. Furthermore, the extra air is welcome even if your venturi pump is working just fine.

Bob Leach

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. 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 works great. Nighttime still offers a lot of good fishing.

To review the dissolved oxygen level data, go to www.TNStripedBass.com. Click on "TWRA Region 4." Then click on "Water Quality."

Tailrace and Downstream: Excellent

Four common methods of fishing below dams all work well.

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

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 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.**

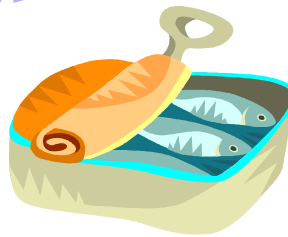
TNStripedBass.com

The current password is:

Username: "striper" Password: "club"

**Speaker for August 20th Meeting:
Jim Negus, TWRA
at Shoney's, Hwy. 61 - Norris/Clinton Exit**

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 29, 2007
starting at 2:00 p.m.

at the Pavilion at
Anderson County Park
on Norris Lake

Lots of Door Prizes



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

Cast net throwing
lessons,
contests, and
prizes.



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 the
left on top of the hill.

B&B Straight Creek Boat Dock

B&B Straight Creek Boat Dock is located on beautiful Norris Reservoir near New Tazewell. This full-service 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 pontoons. 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, 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. 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 one mile turn right onto Straight Creek Dock Road and proceed to the dock. For further information, Call either Maynard or Delbert Brooks at 423-626-5826 or go to their website at www.straightcreekdock.com. Their address is:

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

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.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT TWO ARTIFICIAL LURES DO YOU USE MOST FOR STRIPERS/HYBRIDS?

Fishermen were asked to list a first and second choice.

I received some interesting answers to this question. Some fishermen stated that they don't use any artificial lures and one fisherman stated that he thought "anything other than shad was considered to be artificial" so he stated that "trout was his #1 artificial lure with skipjack in second place". Obviously, this fisherman doesn't target small fish with these "artificial lures."

But the other 19 fishermen that gave a #1 choice gave the following answers:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|---|
| DOLL FLY | 10 ea. | (with most saying that white was the usual color) |
| RED FIN | 5 ea. | (no specific colors were mentioned) |
| STORM SWIM SHAD | 3 ea. | |
| "SAMMY" | 1 ea. | |

Some fishermen did not give a #2 choice but 13 fishermen gave the following answers:

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| RED FIN | 7 ea. |
| DOLL FLY | 4 ea. |
| STORM SWIM SHAD | 2 ea. |

Jim Blazier

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS



AJ
Cutsinger

June, 2007

Fishing with
Dad,
Ken
Cutsinger,
on
Norris Lake



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President:

John Seiber 865-945-3716
JSeiber@tennstribedbass.com

Vice President:

Eric Rauch 865-494-0304
ewrauch@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Ezell Cox

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Ezell Cox, Billy Davis, Allan Franklin,
Janine Johnson, Chet Moore, John Seiber

TSBA STAFF

Newsletter: Janine Johnson Janine@tennstribedbass.com

Web Site: John Seiber 865-945-3716

Public Relations: Allan Franklin 865-694-8888
Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Sponsor Coordinator: Eric Rauch 865-494-0304

Kids' Fishing Day: Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

Door Prizes: Chet Moore

Tournament Coordinators: Ezell Cox, Allan Franklin

Merchandising: John Seiber 865-945-3716

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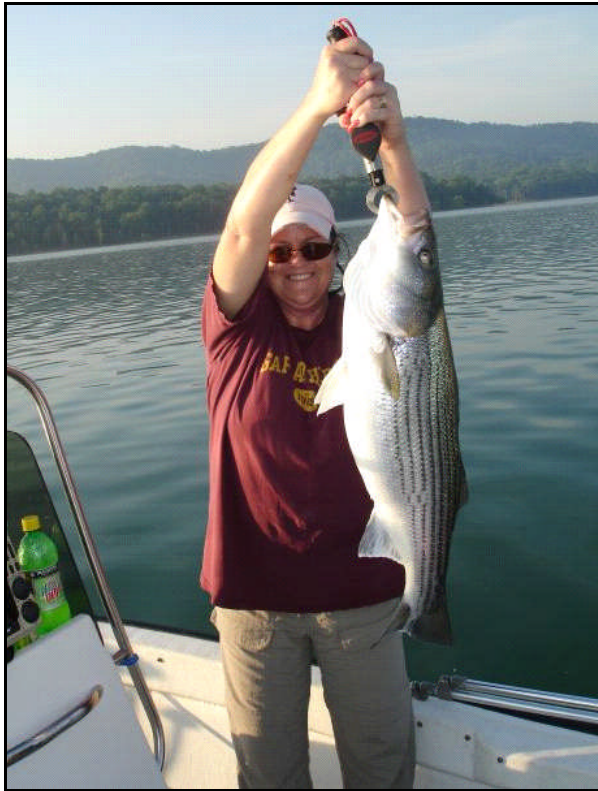
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*Camping &
Cabins
*Lodge *Gas



Elaine
Rutherford

Norris
Lake

June, 2007

Jim Orrick
38.5 lb.
July 17, 2007



2007 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.

August 20 Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM

September 29 TSBA Fish Fry, Anderson County Park

October 15 Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM

- Nominations for Directors and Officers

November 19 Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM

- Election of Directors and Officers


December 17 Board of Directors Meeting

- Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM



Kyle Rutherford, Norris Lake, June, 2007



Super 8 Motel
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Billy Davis

 Central
 Tennessee

 July, 2007

T.S.B.A. 2008 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

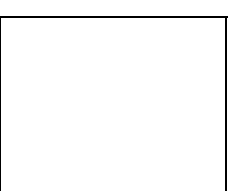
Knoxville TN 37933

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2007 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**



**TSBA Annual Fish Fry & Reunion
September 29, 2007
Anderson County Park on Norris Lake
Biggest Event of the Year - Lots of Food & Door Prizes**