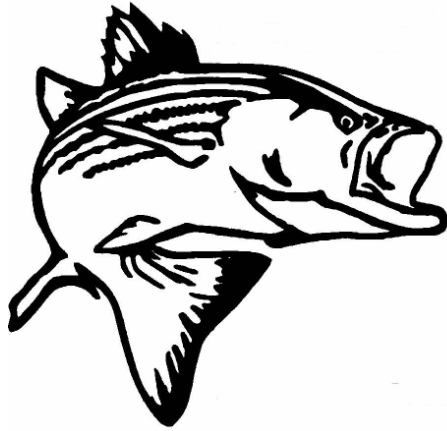


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**April
2008**

StriperBowl

Saturday, April 26

2:00 p.m. Registration

3:00 p.m. Leave the Ramp

At Norris Lake

Brogan Free Launch

Just North of Highway 33 Bridge

President's Letter

My wife and I recently took a vacation to Jamaica, clearly one of those “relax on the beach and eat more than you should” weeks. We really enjoyed ourselves and met many interesting people from around the world. That was all great. However, it was quickly very clear to us that we were playing in what I can only describe as a two tier society. Either you had financial resources or you were dirt poor with very little chance of changing that situation.

It reminded us of how lucky we are to live where we do, having opportunities that most people around the world have little or no hope of ever realizing. Most of us here have little to really worry about when it comes to the security of our families or whether we will be able to provide food and comfortable shelter for them. We can go out and enjoy our lakes and rivers with little concern for our health other than whether we're getting too much exposure to the sun. A lot of the reason for this is because so many people across this country work hard to make certain that our rights to enjoy the great outdoors and the environment itself are protected.

There are many organizations in our area which are directly involved in these efforts. Groups like the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, various lake user organizations, “Friends” of many federal and state parks, and of course TSBA, to name only a few.

If you really appreciate what we have here, I want to challenge you to become active in one or more of these groups. Find the ones that most closely align to your personal interests and go to their meetings. Get involved in their projects. You’ll be very happily rewarded by knowing that you can make a difference that will benefit not just what we have today, but will leave a legacy for generations to come.

Eric Rauch
TSBA President



Allan
Franklin

Ray
McKissick

Feb. 25,
2008



Tom
Elmore

March,
2008

Minutes of the March Meeting

With the absence of President Eric Rauch, V.P. Jim Blazier started the meeting then turned it over to TWRA Officer Ken Cutsinger. Ken's program was on boater safety starting with safety around the dam's spillways and turbulent waters. Personal floatation must be worn by everyone in identified area below dams. The next part was on surviving hypothermia and cold water immersion. The progressive failure that can lead to death is cold shock, swimming failure, hypothermia, and post-rescue collapse. Boater education and etiquette to prevent accidents was explained. A boater education certificate is required if you were born after January 1, 1985. The most common violations are personal floatation use, alcohol, and lights. All boating accidents that receive medical treatment beyond first aid or property damage that totals more than \$500 must be reported within 48 hours of the occurrence. Tennessee had 271,687 registered boats with 50,000 new boats being registered in 2006. A caution about spring rising waters that cause floating debris was given.

After a break, there was a drawing for the 50/50 and door prizes. Tournament coordinators set the STRIPER BOWL location and time to: Register 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. / Tournament start 3:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. April 26 on Norris Lake at the Brogan Free Launch just north of Highway 33 bridge. The KID'S DAY (under 18 years) was confirmed for Cherokee Dam June 7 at 3:00 p.m. There was discussion on a bill to abolish TWRA by Representative Jones - HB2856. If you wish to voice your opinion, it is free at this site. <http://capwiz.com/tnwf/mim/signup/>

Fishing reports: Water temperatures are between 50 and 60 degrees. Watts Bar steam plant is doing great with some large fish being caught. Cherokee above 25E Bridge is good for numbers of small fish with bait being easy in the back of coves. Norris is just starting to warm enough to start the migration upstream and to the banks. Melton Hill has been unpredictable with a few catches of nice size fish reported.

Ezell Cox
TSBA Secretary

Tennessee Fishing Regulations

While most Tennessee anglers know the basic laws governing our favorite sport, it is wise to periodically review them as there are subtle differences between the various bodies of water that we frequently fish. Furthermore, the regulations are periodically modified by the TWRA to meet the changing needs of our fisheries. The following is a summary of the current fishing regulations published by the TWRA as they apply to Striped and Hybrid/Cherokee bass in East Tennessee.

Statewide or General Regulations

- 1** – The daily creel limit is two Striped or Hybrid bass in any combination.
- 2** – The minimum length for both species is 15” which is determined by laying the fish on a flat ruler, closing its mouth, and squeezing its tail lobes together to produce the maximum length.
- 3** – The total possession limit is twice the daily creel limit, but you may not have any more than the daily creel limit with you while afield. It is unlawful, while afield, to have altered any fish of any species so that its species and/or length cannot be determined.
- 4** – There is no limit as to how many fishing poles you can use at any one time.
- 5** – Umbrella Rigs – Umbrella rigs are defined as an array of more than three artificial lures or baits (with or without hooks) used by a single rod and reel combination. If the hook size is 6 (not 6/0) or larger, then only one lure or bait may have a hook and that hook must be a single hook with only one point.
- 6** – All boaters and passengers must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket within the area designated and appropriately marked as a hazardous area below the dam and/or lock.
- 7** – If you are 13 years or older, you must have a valid Tennessee fishing license in order to take, or attempt to take, fish by any method or if you assist someone else to do so. There are several exceptions which are listed in the 2008 Tennessee Fishing Guide available at Wal-Mart or any sporting goods store where you can also buy your license. Also, you can buy your fishing license online by going to www.tnwildlife.org and clicking the link “online licensing” or you can call 1-888-814-8972. There will be an additional fee of \$3.25 to charge your license to a credit card. Tennessee hunting and fishing licenses run from March 1 through the following February.

8 – It is illegal to sell, or offer to sell, fish without a commercial fishing license.

9 – It is illegal for any angler to refuse to let a TWRA officer conduct inspections to determine if the state's wildlife laws are being properly observed. This includes license and creel limit checks.

10 – It is unlawful to possess or transport live specimens of the following animals – Silver carp, Bighead carp, Black carp, Blueback herring, New Zealand mud snail, Round Goby, Rudd, Ruffe, Snakeheads, Swamp eels and Zebra mussels. The Blueback herring is the species that is of most concern to live bait fishermen as it's legally used as bait in neighboring states and it's difficult to distinguish from the Alewife which is a very popular and legal baitfish here in East Tennessee.

Exceptions to the Statewide Regulations

Cherokee Reservoir – Don't forget the "No Fishing Zone" that is in effect on Cherokee from July 15 through September 15. This is from the boat ramp south of the Cherokee dam across the lake to point 2, upstream to point 3, and the back across the lake to the primitive boat ramp just north of the dam. This restriction applies to all species of fish and not just Stripers and Hybrids. Fishing from the bank is allowed.

Cordell Hull & Melton Hill Reservoirs – There is a "Protected Length Range" or PLR on both of these reservoirs and all Striped bass between 32" and 42" must be immediately released unharmed back into the reservoir. While the daily creel limit is two, only one striped bass over 42" can be kept. These special regulations do not apply to the waters below the dams forming these reservoirs.

Norris & Boone Reservoirs – The rules for Norris and Boone reservoirs from April through October are identical to the statewide regulations. However, from November through March, the daily creel limit for striped bass is one fish with a minimum length of 36". Creel limits are in combination with Cherokee/hybrid bass.

Watts Bar – From April through October, the regulations are identical to the statewide regulations. However, from November through March, the limit is two fish (striper & hybrid bass) per day in combination but only one may be a striper and it must have a minimum length of 36". These regulations do apply to the tail waters of Melton Hill and Fort Loudoun Dams as they are considered part of Watts Bar.

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake - Good

Stripers are much smaller than past years. They seldom exceed 8 pounds. Hybrids eight to ten pounds are common. The best fishing is from Point 24 downstream in most of the large coves and creeks that have abundant bait. Fish shallow and do not neglect the banks. Night fishing is great when the alewife is spawning late this month. This is the best month to catch fish on artificial lures.

Norris Lake - Fair

Do not expect to catch a large fish on Norris like in past years, but fish weighing as much as 25 pounds from the stocking in 1999 can be caught. Top water action is at its best this month. Most fish will be in the upper one-half of the lake, in and around the large coves. Fish the shallow, rocky banks and points. Outriggers are very good fishing tools.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake - Good

The steam plant in Kingston will still hold some fish, but expect to catch more small fish. They may be larger upstream to the discharge at the dams.

May Expectations

The stripers will be in the headwaters of the rivers and in the major feeder creeks for the spawn. Temperature of the water will dictate when the stripers are most of the time. If the rivers or shallow water exceeds 70 degrees F., the fish will seek out cooler thermal refuge. The gulls and other fish-eating birds are always a good clue that stripers are also there to feed on the same bait fish. The stripers can be at any depth that it chooses, but most will be caught on or near the surface close to the rough, rocky banks and points. Side planer boards or any outriggers work great. It is important to know thermoclines start to develop in slow-moving water this month. Top water action is good in May, and survival of released fish is also great.

April 21st Speaker

Billy Davis
"River Fishing"

May 19th Speaker

Mike Smith, TWRA
at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery



Top
Kevin
Ray McKissick

Bottom
Allan Franklin
Kevin

Feb. 25, 2008

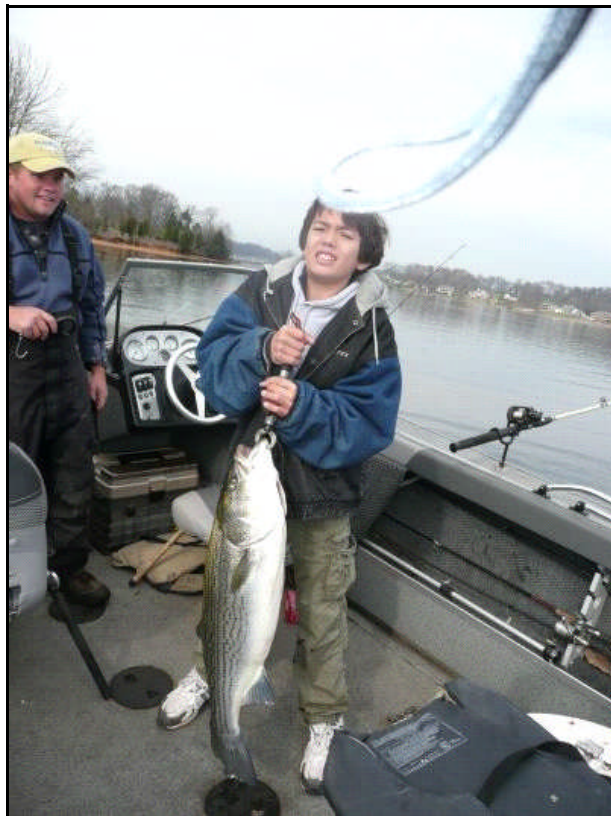




The Blue Family

Charles Blue, Sr.
Charles Blue, Jr.
Charles Blue III
Fletcher Blue

January 12, 2008



StriperBowl

Saturday, April 26

**2:00 p.m. Registration
at Brogan Free Launch
Just North of Highway 33 Bridge
on Norris Lake**

**You will be allowed to leave the ramp area at
3:00 p.m. to launch wherever you choose.**

**You must be back at the 33 ramp no later than
8:00 p.m. for weigh-in. Entry fee is \$16.00 per
person. At the weigh-in we will have
sandwiches, chips, cakes, and soft drinks.**

**Proceeds go to support
the Kids Fishing Day**

The StriperBowl is a tournament where we use the money generated from the tournament to fund the Kids Fishing Day outing each year.

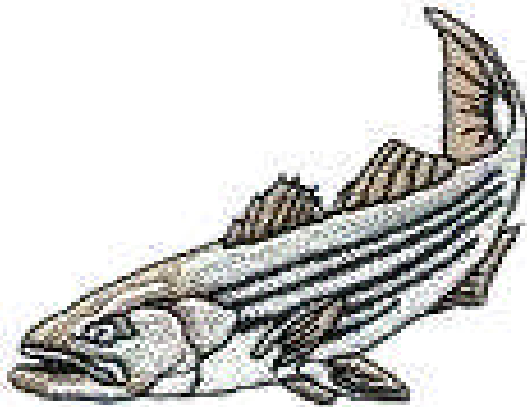
You don't have to be a member to participate, but only a member can win the "StriperBowl trophy" with names engraved on it. Keep it for one year until the next StriperBowl and then bring it back to defend it. We take the money and buy door prizes for all the Kids that come out and fish in the Kids Fishing Day fun tournament.

We had a great turnout for the Kingston tournament, and we are looking for an even better one for the StriperBowl.

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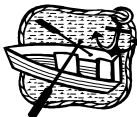
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Allan Franklin
Ray McKissick

Feb. 25, 2008



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YOUR 2008 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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

Vice President:

Jim Blazier 865-694-8014
jblazier@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Ezell Cox

Assistant Treasurer:

Allan Franklin

TSBA DIRECTORS

Wes Adams, Billy Davis, Erik Engebretsen,
Janine Johnson, Chet Moore, Eric Rauch, John Seiber

TSBA STAFF

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Membership: Janine Johnson Janine@tennstribedbass.com

Web Site: John Seiber 865-945-3716
JSeiber@tennstribedbass.com

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

Sponsor Coordinator: Doug Steffe 865-278-2363; 865-335-3815

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

Door Prizes: Billy Davis 865-300-0392

Tournament Coordinators: Erik Engebretsen, Allan Franklin
404-683-0181, 865-694-8888

Merchandising: John Seiber 865-945-3716

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

HOW MANY "FISHING RELATED" MILES DID YOU DRIVE IN 2007?

DO YOU PLAN TO DRIVE FEWER MILES IN 2008 BECAUSE OF THE HIGHER FUEL COSTS?

AT WHAT FUEL COST WILL (OR DID) YOU CHANGE YOUR DRIVING HABITS?

We had 19 responses to this month's questions with the following results and speculation. The average of "fishing related" miles driven in 2007 was 3,808. Eight fishermen stated that they plan to drive fewer miles in 2008, and eleven stated that they did not plan to change their driving habits due to potentially higher fuel costs. Three fishermen stated that they changed their driving habits when the fuel price reached \$2.50, and three more stated that they changed at \$3.00. Nine more fishermen said they will change their habits when fuel costs reach the following levels:

4 @ \$4.00; 1 @ \$4.50; 2 @ \$5.00; 1 @ \$7.00; 1 @ \$8.00

And four stated that they would not change their driving habits no matter how high fuel costs rose.

3,808 miles @ 12 mpg = 317 gal x \$4 = \$1,268

I don't even want to think about prices higher than \$4.00. Maybe it's like someone stated at Monday's meeting "as long as fuel just goes up a few cents at a time we will get use to it."

Of course, we can't all be as lucky as Yank. "Lucky Ole Yank" reported on the Fishing Reports that he lives about 7 miles from Cherokee and trolls with a 60 hp four stroke Yamaha. He said that his total fuel costs (truck and boat) are about \$9.00, and his buddy usually pitches in \$5.00 to help share the expenses.

Jim Blazier

2008 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.

April 21	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
April 26	StriperBowl, Norris Lake
May	Norris Lake Advisory Committee Meeting
May 19	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
June 7	Kids' Fishing Day, Pavilion at Cherokee Dam 3:00 p.m. (under 18 years old)
June 16	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
July 21	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
August 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
September 13	TSBA Fish Fry - Anderson County Park-Norris Lake
October 20	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Nominations for Directors and Officers
November 17	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM - Election of Directors and Officers
December 15	Board of Directors Meeting - Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7PM

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: "fish"

The password changed on April 1.

Member NTA - TTA
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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 2008 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**



**April 1
Website "Fishin' Reports" password changed.**