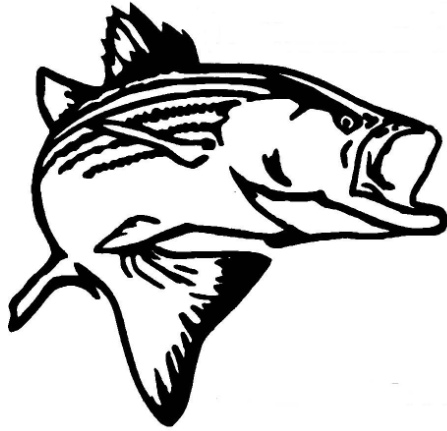


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**August
2008**

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

**Anderson County Park
on Norris Lake**



**September 6,
2008, 2:00 p.m.**

**Dinner
3:00 p.m.**

President's Letter

I was reminded in mid July of how much fun it was to catch my first striper when my wife, Linda, caught her first. The previous week she hooked a nice one but lost it – not that any of the rest of us have ever had that happen! But when she actually landed a nice sized striper this time I could tell she was quickly becoming “hooked” on the sport. We’ve fished together many times in the past, but it has always been for the “other bass.” We were usually on vacation up north where it wasn’t uncommon for her to land the biggest fish between us. This, however, was clearly her largest catch ever. To see the smile on her face as she tried to get feeling back in her arms after fighting the fish was really fun for me.

I’ve taken my dad, brothers, several nephews, and friends fishing for stripers. The reaction is always the same when they boat their first one. The smiles, high fives, and subsequent stories (which are for the most part true) can’t be beat, especially when the trip is over and we’re sharing with others who weren’t able to come that day. As I’ve heard other club members say, it’s just about as much fun to see someone else land a big one as to do it yourself. If it’s a first time for someone, it’s even more fun to see them do it.

On another subject, by now there should be a link on the TSBA web site to the Tennessee Wildlife Federation’s site at: www.tnwf.org. On the TWF site is a link to sign up for the Camo & Casting Coalition. It’s free to sign up and is a great way to stay informed of key issues related to hunting and fishing in Tennessee. Take a look and see if you’d like to join.

I want to thank Bob Leach for the work he’s done over the last several weeks to find very economical ways to procure door prizes for our meetings. I’m sure that those of you who attended our last meeting were pleased with the quality of the door prizes as well. Coincidentally, Bob will be our speaker at our next TSBA meeting. He’ll be speaking on optimizing the performance of bait tanks. Members who don’t yet have a quality tank will really benefit from this discussion. Even experienced members will likely learn a few new pointers.

Don’t forget to put the afternoon of September 6 on your calendar for the TSBA Fish Fry at Anderson County Park. It’s always a fun event and is a good way to link up with friends who haven’t been able to attend meetings regularly.

Eric Rauch
TSBA President



Mike Leach
Melton Hill Dam - 28 lb.
June, 2008

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU USE IN YOUR BAIT TANK? (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, OR ? gal.) and HOW MUCH SALT DO YOU ADD TO YOUR WATER FOR SHAD?

Our meeting attendees and Fishing Report responses indicated that they used 1/2 to 1 cup of salt per each 10 gallons of water in their tanks. The amount of salt reported most often was 1/2 cup. I know that the majority of our club members have a lot more experience than I do, so I don't plan to tell anyone how much they should use. When I was trying to learn more about using bait tanks, I found a very well-written article on the StriperBoard. Part of that article is quoted below.

The following information was copied from the StriperBoard.com with permission from the author Capt. "Duck" McDonald:

Fish maintain their blood and tissues at a salinity intermediate between fresh and normal seawater. Therefore, they constantly expend some energy in this respect, except when in brackish water of similar osmotic pressure. In their gills, only a cell-layer about the thickness of a red blood cell separates vascular system contents from the outside environment. The provision of brackish water surroundings when fish are likely to be stressed has definite advantages, both in conserving energy for physiological emergency purposes, and in countering the electrolyte disturbances associated with stress-elevated adrenaline and cortisol levels described above. The presence of salts does not repress stress hormones, but softens their side effects.

(ref: <http://psyeta.org/hia/vol8/kreiberg.html>)

Using water of moderate salinity to mitigate stressful procedures with fish is effective regardless of whether the fish are coming from salt or fresh water and, likewise, independent of the destination salinity. In cases where fish will be returned to fresh water, it will be beneficial if they can be given a recovery period of one to two days in brackish water. This serves to reduce osmotic stress and provides a reservoir for essential ions which the fish may need to replace. One should be careful, however, not to take too simplistic an approach and attempt to create salinity with a single salt such as pure sodium chloride. Ocean seawater relies on several ions for its characteristic salinity. Therefore, it is best to provide as full a spectrum as possible. In fact, higher salinity created by only one ion may be

harmful. Natural or artificial seawater provides the best mixture. A general recipe may be found in Spotte, (1970). Alternately, concentrations of single ions or salts reflecting their occurrence in natural seawater may serve (for sodium chloride, this will be of the order 0.5 to one percent in aqueous solution, to achieve a final salinity of about half that of normal seawater).

(ref: <http://psyeta.org/hia/vol8/kreiberg.html>)

Note from Duck, Sea salt is "NaCl (98%) + 80 elements(2%) versus pure NaCl (99.9%)

The Bulk density of salt approximate (dry, ASTM D 632 gradation) 1.154 (72 lb/ft³)

Since 1 ft³ = 7.48 gallons, the Bulk density of salt converts to 72 lb /7.48 gal = 9.6 lb/gal.

And 1 gallon = 16 cups, so salt weighs 9.6 lb/gal X gal/16 cup = 0.6 lb/cup
gallon of fresh water is about 8.36 lb

1.0 percent of a gallon of fresh water is 0.0836 lb.

So the amount of salt per gallon for a 1% solution is:

0.0836 lb. X (1 cup/0.6 lb) = 0.139 cups

To get a 1 percent solution...

For 50 gal: 50 X 0.139 cups = 6.95 cups

For 30 gal: 30 X 0.139 cups = 4.17

Conclusion:

Since the brackish water is 0.5 to one percent, in a 50 gal. bait tank, you should use 3.5 to almost 7 cups of salt or in a 30 gal bait tank, you should used about 2 to 4 cups of salt.

In a nutshell, the salt helps the bait maintain their proper blood chemistry while under stress.

I have been told by a fisheries biologist to use 5 cups in 50 gallons so that sounds about right but feel free to check my data.

Good Fishin'

"Duck"

To read the entire post, go to the following link:

<http://www.striperboard.com/brd/sb/messages/19602.html>

Jim Blazier

My Umbrella Rig

Umbrella rigs are becoming increasingly popular with striped-bass fishermen in East Tennessee simply because they work. This trend is expected to continue especially with the price of gasoline skyrocketing to unheard-of levels. Catching and keeping live bait can be quite expensive - especially for those of us who have a long way to drive to catch lively shad. However, the gas money saved in your truck must be balanced against the additional gas used by your main motor used to troll with umbrella rigs. While most striper anglers believe that live bait will generally out-fish any artificial bait, umbrella rigs do provide a viable alternative especially when the water temperature is cool and the stripers are spread out all over the lake. You can cover a lot more water in a shorter period of time trying to locate a school of rockfish trolling with umbrella rigs. While I don't claim to be an umbrella rig expert, I have paid attention to the veterans in the club; and I've experimented with a lot of various combinations of components. As a result, I have developed an umbrella rig that has been working quite well for me. If there are hungry stripers or hybrids in the immediate area, they will be attracted to this setup. Before I describe my design, I would like to review the TWRA rules for umbrella rigs. The following has been copied verbatim from page 10 of the 2008 Tennessee Fishing Guide published by the TWRA.

"Umbrella rigs are defined as an array of more than 3 artificial lures or baits (with or without hooks) used by a single rod and reel combination. If the hook size is 6 or larger, then only one lure or bait may have a hook and that hook must be a single hook. A single hook is a hook with only one point."

Frame: My basic frame is a bare, four-arm rig that's approximately 19-3/4" across and it has a center weight that's roughly 1" long and 3/4" in diameter. This comes standard with one large barrel, snap swivel on one end of the center weight. These are available from Cabela's, Bass Pro and on the Internet. Each of the four arms has two closed loops for attaching the hookless teasers.

Teasers: I add a size 2/0, green barrel, snap swivel that I purchased from Cabela's (their part number is WX-11-2554) to each of the eight loops on the umbrella rig. To each of these snap swivels, I add a hookless lure directly without any leader. They work just fine without a leader, and they don't tangle nearly as easily as they would if you used a leader. There is an infinite variety of lures that will work. I've settled on a froglike lure whose main feature is its two back legs with blunt feet that are designed to wobble frantically when pulled through the water. The specific lure that I use for the eight teasers is a 4" Humpin' Toad from Bass Pro. The Berkley 5" Bat Wing Frog is another good choice. The primary colors that I've been using are the greens, the silvers, and the whites. All eight of the teasers are the same as I don't mix colors or designs on the same rig.

Main Lure: On the center, barrel snap-swivel that was provided with the basic rig, I attach a 12" to 15" monofilament leader that is one poundage size smaller than the line on my reel. I generally use 30# line in my reel when I use umbrella rigs so I use 25# line for this leader. To the end of the leader I attach a Storm WildEye Swim Shad in some variation of green, silver, or white holographic color. This has a single hook protruding from its back, and its tail is blunt to give it an erratic motion in the water. Its natural-looking eye adds to its alluring

appearance. Normally, I use a 5 or 6" WildEye Swim Shad except in the winter when I switch to a 4" version. There's no reason to experiment with any other type of lure as these work great – use them.

Rod & Reel: I use a 7'-6" Berkley Big Game, medium-action, casting rod that I bought at Wal-Mart for \$20. This rod is stiffer than I normally use fishing for stripers with downlines or planer boards as the umbrella rig produces a lot of force on the rod as it's being pulled through the water. I like the Okuma Convector CV20D, line counter reel with 30# monofilament line. Their line counter really works. I've had trouble with the line counter on every other brand of line counter reel that I've tried. So far, the Okuma Convector line counter has worked perfectly every time and the reel is as smooth as any I've ever used.

Rod Holders: I pull two rigs at a time – one on each side of my 18' Lowe Jon boat. I like the Driftmaster Li'l Pro rod holders with a 5 degree angle. Don't use Li'l Pro rod holders with an angle greater than 5 degrees or the rod and reel may come out of the holder during moderate turns of the boat. I use a right-threaded rod holder on the starboard (right) side and a left-threaded rod holder on the port (left) side. If a right-threaded rod holder is used on the port side, it can easily twist due to the force of the umbrella rig itself and a big striper hitting the rig. You may lose your entire rod and reel. The left-hand rod holders are hard to find at retail outlets, so call Driftmaster directly at 803-473-4927. For a small additional charge you can get these with an extra long stem if it would be more convenient in your boat.

Presentation: Perhaps the hardest thing to know is just how fast to go and how much line to let out. Basically, I let out between 75' to 100' of line and use my 70 HP four-stroke Suzuki motor to quietly push the boat along between 2 and 3 mph. Of course, the slower you go and/or the more line you put out, the deeper the umbrella rig will travel through the water. With umbrella rigs, you must have some knowledge of the structure and water depth underneath the boat or you will risk snagging your rig. With my setup the way I've described it above, I've snagged my rig as follows:

1 – Snagged at 12' traveling at 2.5 mph with 75' of line out

2 – Snagged at 13' traveling at 2.3 mph with 100' of line out

I've snagged it many more times than this, but I wasn't aware of my speed or line-out distance. Things do get hectic when your reel starts singing and you're by yourself whether it's a fish or a snag on the other end.

In conclusion, the above has been working quite well for me so I'm going to stick with it. I realize that there are many different setups for an umbrella rig that are quite effective in catching striped and hybrid bass, and you'll need to see what works best for you. In any case, you really need to try this style of striper/hybrid fishing. It's a nice alternative to live bait fishing especially when the water is cooler.

I'm going to have samples of my basic umbrella rig at the TSBA Fish Fry on September 6 at the Anderson County Park so you can analyze it and hopefully give me some ideas on how to improve them. They will be included in the items that will be given away as door prizes.

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 "Summer 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.

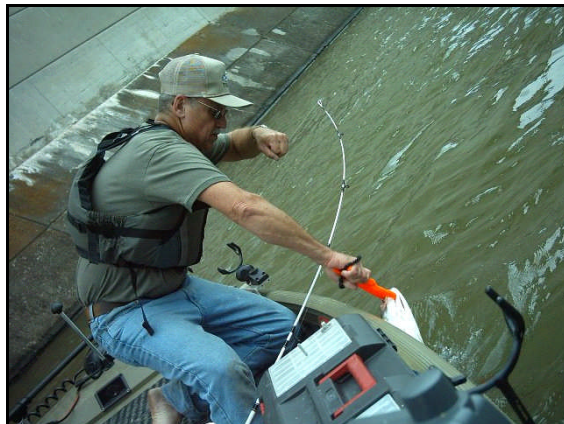
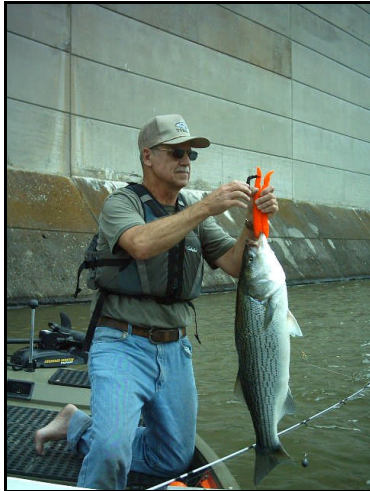
September Expectations

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.

Speaker for August 18th Meeting

Bob Leach

Topic: Bait Tank Optimization



TSBA Annual Fish Fry & Reunion

Take the time to come out and enjoy yourself with good people, excellent food, fun, cast net lessons, contests, lots and lots of door prizes.

Saturday, September 6, 2008
2:00 p.m., Dinner at 3:00 p.m.
at the Pavilion at
Anderson County Park
on Norris Lake

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!

Directions

Take I-75 to Route 61 (Clinton Exit 122). Turn east onto 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.



Minutes of the July Meeting

TSBA supplied the pop and pizza for all before the meeting started. Wes Adams introduced his first time visitor girlfriend Heather and showed a picture of her large striper that was caught and released. Tom Scott with TENNESSEE WILDLIFE FEDERATION gave Eric Rauch thanks for attending the State Sportsman Summit in Franklin July 19. He then told about the organization and asks all to get involved with wildlife needs and concerns by volunteering for the regional committee being formed. Tom can be reached at tmwscott@comcast.net Web site www.tnwf.org

Some planning for the TSBA Fish Fry September 6th was discussed. Erik Engebretsen in his absence was nominated to be in charge of any additional games / activities to the cast net contest. A drawing will be done for the Sixty Dollar cast net by the contestants when completed. Fish Hatchery manager Mike Smith discussed the striper / hybrid stocking for the summer of 2008. All stocking quotas are complete. Boone got a double stocking to help recover the numbers. Watts Bar received 10 stripers per surface acre. There was some discussion about Cherokee being stocked with only hybrids in the future. Pro and con both were talked about. Mike also said that the headwater stocking would be resumed on Norris. He also said the stripers' hatching timeframe would be moved back to the normal schedule as in past years when it was more successful.

At the break, Doug Steffe told of a new advertiser he signed up for TSBA (Master-Flow Bait Tanks). Doug had a couple of tanks to show in his truck at break and after the meeting. Bob Leach brought the door prizes and told about the savings and quality of the prizes. They are name brand items bought in bulk wholesale related to striper fishing. The advantage is the TSBA gets to give away great prizes that cost our club a small fraction of the retail price. Doug Steffe won the 50-50 drawing.

Cherokee fishing report: Hybrids caught at point # 2 and # 4 just outside the no-fishing zone.

Norris fishing report: Fish caught at point #21, #9, #10, #5, #2. It was suggested that alewife may be the bait of choice.

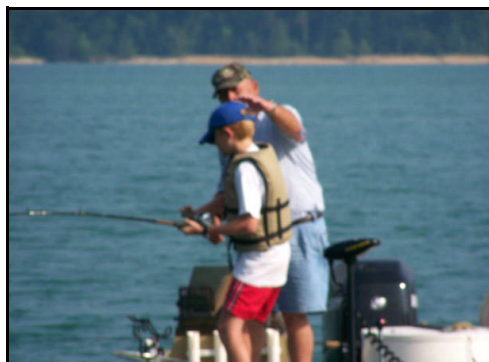
Melton Hill Dam report: Fish caught at the dam and downstream fishing down lines 15 to 18 feet deep and flat lines behind planer boards.



Caution of summertime catch and release mortality of the striper was discussed.

Ezell Cox, TSBA Secretary

Ezell breaking a rod and landing a hybrid on Cherokee



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has a long-term
fishing buddy,
Tyler Edwards

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July, 2008



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

Hats & Shirts: John Seiber 865-945-3716

Ron Whilden & Friends



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.

August 18	Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
September 6	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"



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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**



**TSBA Annual Fish Fry & Reunion
September 6, 2008
Anderson County Park on Norris Lake
Biggest Event of the Year
Lots of Food & More Door Prizes Than Ever**