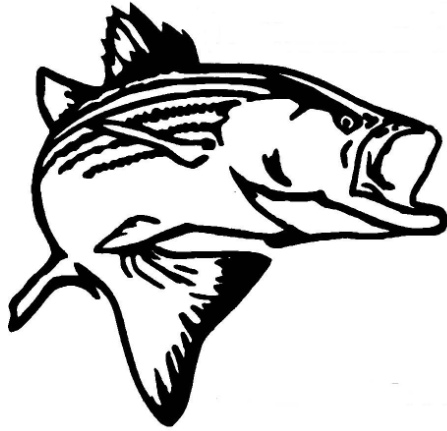


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**September
2008**

Elaine & Joe Deal
Norris Lake - August 24, 2008
Fishing with Janine Johnson



President's Letter

One of the “perks” of being the club’s President is that I get copies of newsletters from several striper clubs from across the Southeast. It’s interesting to read them and see what they are thinking about. Often it’s similar issues to what we’re concerned with. When I started getting these I quickly realized how fortunate we were to have the quality of publication we produce each month. When I say “we,” many of you know what I really mean. Several club members contribute articles and related information for our newsletter. Those efforts are truly appreciated.

However, if it weren’t for the untold hours that Janine Johnson puts in each month compiling all of this information, getting it organized in the computer, inserting pictures and ads, and many things that I don’t even know about, we wouldn’t have a newsletter. Production doesn’t stop there. John Seiber merges the address list with the newsletter and handles the printing (and the entire website).



Assembling and mailing the newsletter to our members are also handled by Janine. I want to formally thank her for all she does on the newsletter, not to mention handling our bookkeeping needs as well. So...**THANKS JANINE AND JOHN FOR ALL YOU DO FOR TSBA!!!**

During our October meeting we will take nominations for officers and directors. We will have elections during our November meeting. So if you are interested in serving or can think of someone you believe will serve our members well, please be certain to participate in the October meeting.

As I write this, I’m also packing for a fishing trip to northern Ontario. I’ll join a couple of other TSBA members (Kyle Rutherford and John Mosca) and some other friends for a week of fun. I’ve heard that the mosquitoes are larger than the birds up there, but I’m sure we’ll all survive. By the time you read this in the newsletter we’ll all be back home with plenty of pictures and lies. Then it will be time to get serious about striper fishing again.

Eric Rauch, TSBA

President

Minutes of the August Meeting

Bob Leach opened the meeting in the absence of the president and vice president with the agenda that Eric Rauch had left for the meeting. Bob welcomed and asked the four new first time visitors to introduce themselves. Ezell Cox answered the request for an update on the health of Dennis Bryant and his recovery. He is home with some signs of improvement starting to show. Dennis thinks he may recover enough to fish sometime early next year.

Allan Franklin then did a presentation on fishing below the dams. Allan said you can catch fish there all year with the best season being from June through October. Threadfin shad are best early in the summer with gizzard shad better mid to late summer. He uses a three-way swivel with a one ounce sinker when casting the boils most of the time and will change as needed with heavier or even no weight at times. Bait can be caught below Melton Hill Dam sometimes up at the dam and is easy in the coves (Pawpaw / Buttermilk) below the first two islands on the left downstream of the 95 Bridge. Bait below Fort Loudoun Dam can be a challenge sometimes. Check on the rocks on the left side before getting to the dam, downstream at the discharge below the barge, and against the wall of Tellico Dam. When there is no discharge you can pull boards and floats with no weight near the discharge area and the banks downstream. Fish can also be caught on down rods about 15 feet deep near the bottom. You must wear life preservers when you are in the water above the signs at the dam. Caution was issued when close to the dam about sudden dangerous discharges from the locks and turbines.

After a break Bob Leach made everyone aware of the discussion on changing the striper stocking on Cherokee Lake to hybrids since the stripers have major summertime kills almost every year. He asks for input from other anglers that use Cherokee.

Drawing for the door prizes and 50/50 were then done. After checking to see if all the planning for the September fish fry was complete, the fishing reports were exchanged for different locations. Norris is great on the lower 1/3 of the lake. Cherokee is also great near the dam for mostly hybrid and small striper just outside the No Fishing Zone for a few miles upstream. Below Melton Hill and Fort Loudoun Dams are also great with some 20+ pound stripers being caught.

Ezell Cox, TSBA Secretary



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Is the power supply to your (boat) bait tank protected with a fuse/circuit breaker?

Yes or No?

We had a total of 22 fishermen respond to the question of the month with the following answers:

Twelve stated that their bait tank power supply was protected and ten said that it was not protected.

The following article explains why I think it is a good idea to install a fuse or circuit breaker in the power supply:

I recently purchased a second bait tank to help reduce my driving miles. When I attempted to test the tank, I found that the pump would not run. I thought that debris might have caused the pump shaft to "freeze up," but the shaft and impeller seemed to be in excellent condition. On the next attempt to start the pump, I noticed that one of the battery clips was partially melted.

I then cut the extension wires away from the original pump wiring and connected the pump wiring directly to my battery with some test leads. The pump worked fine and the problem was traced to the extension wires that the previous owner had installed. These wires had shorted causing the battery clip to be damaged.

I am now even more convinced that bait tanks and other accessories on our boats should have overload protection. I am not an electrician so I did a little research to determine which wire should be fused (protected). Most cars and trucks have fuses or circuit breakers on the positive wiring

since they have a common negative ground, but I wasn't sure about boating equipment. After searching with Google, I found several good sites about boat wiring but one of the best was on our TSBA club home page "HOW TO" section.

<http://tennstripedbass.com/BasicFishingInfo/BasicFishingInfoFramed.htm>

The fuse or circuit breaker should be installed on the positive (+) wire as close to the power source as practical. And if using a circuit breaker it should be the type that has to be manually reset instead of the automatic resetting type.

JUST THINKING ABOUT ALL THE BAD THINGS THAT COULD HAPPEN IF THE SHORT HAD OCCURRED WHILE THE BOAT OR TANK WAS IN MY GARAGE AND LEFT UNATTENDED IS A GOOD REMINDER TO ALWAYS INSTALL OVERLOAD PROTECTION.

Jim Blazier



Elaine and Kyle Rutherford

August, 2008

Norris Lake

Kyle caught a 40-incher a week before
Elaine caught a 43-incher weighing in at 34 pounds





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.

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 on the Clinch and Point #14 on the Powell). The water quality was better than normal this summer, although the drought caused the lake drawdown to be early.

Tailrace and Downstream: Excellent

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

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, humidity, ski boats, and jet skis is welcome.

Doug Steffe - Melton Hill Dam - First Trip to Boils



STRIPER NOSTALGIA CORNER

BORROWED ROD, RECORD FISH

It's what friends are for. Knoxville angler, Lee Marsh, fishing in borrowed coveralls and using his friend Jimmy Lowery's rod and reel, reeled in the state record striped bass, Feb. 7. The 63 pound, 12 ounce behemoth bettered Ralph Dallas' old state record by 1.75 pounds, and was the third-largest landlocked striped bass ever recorded caught on rod and reel. Only two California fish, at 66 and 67.5 pounds, are heavier. And, pending International Game Fish Association verification, it will hold the 20 pound line-class world record.

It began the night before, as the two fished for sauger below Melton Hill Dam. It was a cold night and Marsh had borrowed a pair of insulated coveralls from his partner. As they stood on the rip-rap, casting into the river, Marsh looked down and noticed an object on a rock.

"What's that?" he asked his partner.

"It's a shell," was Lowery's prophetic reply. "It's a lucky shell; put it in your pocket."

Marsh did. The next morning, when they walked the quarter-mile from the Edgemore Road pull-off to the Bull Run steam plant discharge to fish for stripers, he was wearing the same pair of coveralls with the shell in his pocket.

As is the custom of Bull Run striper fishermen, Lowery and Marsh began their day by casting small plastic grubs into the swirling discharge water, trying to catch skipjack herring. Once caught, the skipjack (also known, locally, as river herring or hickory shad) would be hooked in front of the dorsal fin and used as bait. The herring Marsh and Lowery caught that morning were quite large, being about a pound-and-a-half in weight. Too heavy to cast, each bait was placed into the warm discharge water and allowed to swim out into the channel.

Shortly after 9 a.m., Lowery let Marsh use his rod and reel. Attached to the 7-foot heavy action Quantum rod was a wide-spool Ambassador Royal Express baitcasting reel which Lowery had recently filled with 17-pound test Excel line. Marsh's herring, wearing an 8/0 hook, dragged the line into the swirling, steaming discharge. Marsh kept his thumb on the spool; the bait tugging against the line, just under the water's surface. Lowery had just missed setting the hook on three good strikes in that location, and a nearby fisherman had a 40-pounder tied to a stringer; Marsh had reason to expect a strike at any second. He was not to be disappointed.

"It looked like Jaws," Marsh said. "You know the vee that Jaws made in the water when he came at the boat? That's what it looked like, going toward my bait. It just took it and ran, straight up the bank about a hundred yards."

The striper bolted, running between the bank and some lines a fisherman had out, heading toward a railroad trestle. The drag screaming on the Ambassadeur, Marsh couldn't turn the heavy fish; at the trestle, it stayed and swam about for several minutes before finally heading back toward Marsh and Lowery.

"When the fish came in, it was worn-out, floating on its side," said Lowery. "Lee jumped in the water, up to his knees, and grabbed the fish and brought it to the bank. Then he just took off running - toward the truck - and ran all the way back with a piece of rope for a stringer. I stayed and held the fish 'til he got back."

Marsh snaked the rope through the striper's mouth and out the gill cover, tied four knots, and wrapped the other end around a tree. The two men continued fishing until noon, Marsh hoping to catch another one, and Lowery telling him he ought to get it to a set of scales right away. Before they left, Marsh had another strike, this time on his own rod. The fish broke the line.

Marsh, a powerfully built 25-year old, found the trudge back to the parking area to be more difficult than the catch itself. "I tried carrying the fish with the rope over my shoulder, but the rope was cutting into my hands," Marsh said. "I finally put the fish over my shoulder and carried it that way. It made a mess of the coveralls."

Kurt Hope weighed the fish at Minit Check Bass Pro Shop, in Oak Ridge. He'd weighed many fish before, some of 50-pounds or better. "When I first saw the fish, I told them I didn't think it would go over 50 pounds," he said. I weighed Billy Wheat's 50-pound striper last month, and it was longer. But then I looked at this one's belly. It had a huge belly. I moved the scales to 50 pounds, then 55, expecting the bar to move. When the weight went to 60 pounds, and the bar still didn't move, I knew we had a big fish."

Jimmy Lowery was happy for Marsh, and philosophical about his rod and reel hooking the fish minutes after he handed it to his friend. "That's fishing," he said. "You have to be there at the right time, and in the right spot."

Paul H. Shaw, February 14, 1998

STRIPER NOSTALGIA CORNER (Continued)

GLEN GETS A RECORD

Glen Roberts found himself in a predicament. If it were equated to hunting, Glen's situation would've been akin to a hunter taking a potshot at what he thought to be a squirrel only to find he'd hit a grizzly with number 6 field load.

On Wednesday, the Oak Ridge fisherman launched his boat at Melton Hill's Carbide Park (it's called something else nowadays, but most of us can't make the switch), tied on a 1/8 ounce white bucktail jig and headed for the channel. Glen's rod and reel were the basics - a 5.5 foot Shimano rod with mended tip, and a lightweight Shakespeare spinning reel spooled with 6-pound test Excel line. Once on the channel, he started casting the bank for bass. At 6 p.m. he hooked something big.

"I didn't know exactly what it was, but figured it was probably a big striper or a catfish," Glen said. "It took off down the channel, pulling line off pretty fast."

As Glen told me the tale, I picked the rod up and pulled on the line. The reel clicked easily - the drag was set pretty loose. Glen laughed at my reaction. "It did plenty of that," he said, referring to the rapid clicking of the reel. "I had to crank up the motor and follow the fish. David McNeely was fishing down the bank a ways. When I got close to him, he thought I'd already caught the fish and was coming over to show it to him. I passed him up, with the fish still on."

"I had an old dip net in the boat I didn't think would be big enough if I ever got the fish up. When I passed David, I asked him how big his dip net was and asked him to get over in my boat to help. He tied his boat off to mine and hopped in and stood there watching and praying for the line not to break."

Glen fought the fish for well over an hour before it surfaced. It was a huge striper. The two men were able to get the old dip net over the fish but the handle began to break under the fish's weight. Then the old, rotted net tore. The fish was still over the water when it happened.

"I crammed my fist down the fish's throat," said Glen. "I'd fought him for over an hour, and I wasn't about to let him go. I've got some skinned knuckles, but I've still got the fish."

Glen's striper weighed an even 44 pounds, but was only 38 inches long. Most healthy stripers of that length will weigh in the mid-thirties. Pending certification from the International Game Fish Association, Glen's fish will be the 6-pound line class world record. The 6-pound line class is a new IGFA line category.

Paul H. Shaw, March 26, 1995

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: 70 HP ETEC motors, 9' Bimini top, Dual Horn, 29 Gallon Built-in Fuel Tank with Gauge, & Vinyl Floor, Built-in Swim Ladder. The rates are quite reasonable: 10 hours - \$150, 24 hours - \$175, 3-Days - \$400 and a 5-Day rental is only \$600. 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



**B&B
STRAIGHT CREEK
BOAT DOCK**

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

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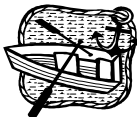
Batter Mix Recipe

(Good for fish, shrimp, onion rings, okra, and squash)

1/2 cup flour
1/4 cup corn starch
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
1 1/4 tsp. seasoned salt

Mix all this dry. You can store this dry in a container for a long time. I usually make a triple batch. Pour out what you want, mix with water to like a thin pancake batter, and use.

Dick Vornehm



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Janine Johnson

Secretary:

Ezell Cox

Assistant Treasurer:

Allan Franklin

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Janine Johnson, Chet Moore, Eric Rauch, John Seiber

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

Hats & Shirts: John Seiber 865-945-3716

Canadian Fishing Trip

On August 8, 2008, three friends and I flew to Lynn Lake, Manitoba (about 1500 miles north of Chicago) and then on about 40 miles by float plane to Mahekun Lake where we fished for a week. We were in the only cabin on a lake that was about 6 miles by 6 miles, and we were probably the only people within 15 miles.

The fishing was all northern pike and walleye. The lake was shallow compared to what we are used to. It was mostly 6 to 10 feet with a few spots that got down to 12 or 14 feet. There were some huge open water weed beds (5 or 10 acres) usually around 6 feet deep and we fished them heavily the first couple of days with not much success.

The pattern that finally worked was to fish the heads of coves straight down wind in the meanest places we could find and there were lots of fish there. If you trolled slow and near the bottom you caught walleye, and if you went a little faster and fished about 4 feet deep, you caught northern.. We had taken a several big plugs (10 or 12 inches long), and they didn't catch a fish. Everything we caught was on 3 inch stuff. We decided it was probably because by this time of the season that is the size of most of the forage fish.

The biggest northern was 43 inches and we caught a couple of dozen between 34 and 36 inches. All told we caught just under 900 fish. We think it was about 2500 pounds and a total length of over 3/10 of a mile of fish.

Dick Vornehm

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.

- 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"

Matthew & Ron Wargacki
Dayne, Ron, & Luke Nussman from Ohio



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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**



**October 20th Meeting at Shoney's
Nominations for Directors and Officers**