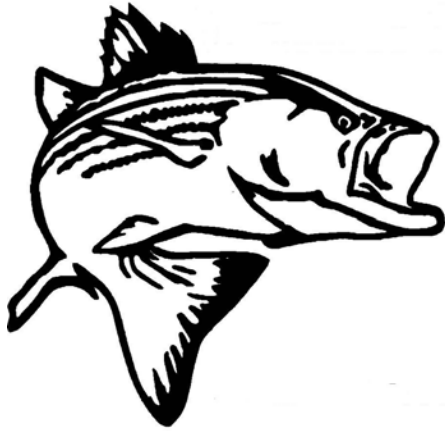


**Catch
the
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**August
2010**



***Jerry Skelley with a 35-pounder caught in late June on the
Cumberland with John DiFederico***

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello everyone,

Are we ever going to see any relief from this heat? It has definitely cut into my time on the water this summer. I hope you have been able to sneak out in the mornings and evenings for a few hours and enjoy some time on the water. I never thought I would say this, but I can't wait until we have some days with the temperatures in the 80s just so we can breathe during the day.

We tried a new venue for our meeting last month, and all who attended were blown away with the facilities and food! We met at The Flatwater Grill, which sits overlooking the Clinch River a few miles upstream from Bull Run steam plant. The food and hospitality were incredible! Owner Dean Russell, an avid striper fisherman, has graciously offered to allow us to meet there as long as we want. For our next meeting, we will be in one of his meeting rooms, and he will prepare a buffet that costs \$15 per person with drink and gratuity included (note that payment is cash or check only). I can't think of a better location to meet than overlooking the Clinch River. Many thanks to Jeff Jolly for putting the club in touch with Dean!



We now hold TSBA meetings at the Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.

Also, remember to make plans to attend the upcoming fish fry at Grainger County Park on Cherokee Lake. In the past, some brought side dishes and



This is the view that most of you see when you go to Melton Hill for bait.

continued from page 2

desserts. We would like to continue that tradition and would appreciate it very much if you are able to bring something.

We are still looking for someone to help with the newsletter. If you are interested, please give me a call or e-mail me.

Take care and see you on the water,

— Erik Engebretsen



Owner Dean Russell of the Flatwater Grill (above) is an avid striper fisherman.

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.

At this time of year, the stripers are stressed more than they are at any other time, so catch and release is not possible if the fish 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. — **Ezell Cox**

How to Contribute to the Newsletter:

Please send in any pictures or news that you think would interest club members – we are always glad to hear from you. You can e-mail photos and reports to: engebretsenerik@yahoo.com

We usually put the newsletter together around the end of the month, but send your information any time and we will work it in.

Big & Little Brothers Learn

On Saturday, July 17, Mayor Ezell Cox of Tazewell, Tennessee, had the chance to teach two brothers, Little Brother Austin Ball and Big Brother John Kosmak, both of the TriCities area in East Tennessee, how to catch some fish.

Austin, who is 13, was ecstatic for an opportunity to do some real fishing, and so was his Big Brother John. Austin and John both participate in the Big Brother/Big Sister Program of Eastern Tennessee. Both have



TSBA Member Ezell Cox and Austin Ball



Austin and Ezell meet with Sgt. Shawn Goode

been in the program since April. When asked about the program, Austin said, "I wanted to have a Big Brother so I could go out and do fun things with him like this and have someone to hang out with. We have had a blast."

John has enjoyed it just as much as Austin has. "This is an awesome pro

gram where you have an opportunity to make a real difference in a young person's life," John said. "But what is most remarkable is that the difference made is even greater in your own life. It is the most

To Fish with TSBA Member

meaningful thing I have ever done.”

This trip was topped off with Austin getting his wish to meet a real canine (K9) officer, Sergeant Shawn Goode of the Tazewell Police Department. They spent an hour together, in which Austin learned about



Ezell and Austin out on the water

his dream career of being a canine policeman. “The Big Brother/Big Sister investment in a youth will improve the life of the BIG & LITTLE for the rest of their lives,” Ezell said.



***Big Brother John Kosmak (left)
with Austin and Ezell***

“Big thanks go to Sergeant Shawn Goode. I had a wonderful time today. Thank you for sharing your day with me, Big John and Little Austin.”

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a program where magic happens and lives change. If you are interested in participating, please call (865)-523-2179 or (423)-247-3240 or email info@bbbsetn.org. There are many more youngsters who would be thrilled to learn how to fish.

***-- John Kosmak,
Big Brother participant***

Stocking Stripers: Minutes of

Erik Engebretsen called the meeting to order after the group had an excellent dinner at The Flat Water Grill on Melton Lake Drive in Oak Ridge. Dean Russell, the owner of the Grill and a striper fisherman himself, offered to host future TSBA meetings at his restaurant. The members enthusiastically agreed that the food was orders of magnitude

better than Shoney's and that the location would work well for our meetings. For the rest of the year, we will hold our meetings at the Grill, keeping our meetings on the third Monday of each month. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



Stocking ponds are up to an acre in size at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery in Clinton.

Mike Smith of TWRA's Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery in Clinton reported on progress in stocking stripers in East Tennessee's



The Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery will produce up to 300,000 stripers in 2010.

reservoirs. His presentation was accompanied by a slide show of photographs taken by Doug Steffe and shown on our new projector and screen.

Eagle Bend will produce up to 300,000 stripers in 2010. Hatcheries statewide will produce over one million stripers and a total of over seven mil-

lion (yes, million) fish of all species for stocking. (Author's note: With that many being stocked you'd think I would catch more

TSBA Meeting on July 19, 2010

than I do!). The ponds at Eagle Bend are about 0.8 to 1 acre each. The staff will raise 20-40k stripers per pond, releasing them after 60 days when they are 3-4+ inches long. Mike used about 10 pair of stripers to get some 10 million fry. Obviously, mortality takes its toll on the fry, in that nowhere near that many are available for stocking. The ponds are used multiple times each year depending on which species are being raised.



A transport tank is filled with stripers measuring three to four inches long.

As of the meeting, TWRA had stocked 46,000 of a planned 105,000 stripers in Norris; 20,000 stripers and 20,000 hybrids of a



A lake is stocked with stripers that are around 60 days old.

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total plan of 140,000 fish in Boone; and 20,000 stripers and 100,000 hybrids of a total plan of 150,000 fish in Cherokee. Watts Bar will get 200,000 stripers in 2010. Mike noted that Watts Bar has been double stocked for the last three years.

As always, Mike's presentation was very informative. TSBA appreciates having a good friend and supporter of our striped bass fishery in the hatchery business with TWRA.



Young stripers from the hatchery are weighed for a count.

In other news, it was announced that TWRA is reviewing the Cherokee No Fishing Zone to determine if it is needed and properly sized. TSBA fishermen will be participating with TWRA staff in a study of the Zone during August and September. Also, a new sponsor signed up this month to support TSBA: Livewell Systems, Inc., the makers of Super Bait Tanks II. TSBA thanks Ron Vest for his support. And in closing, the 50/50 drawing paid out \$60 this month.

-- Respectively submitted by Eric Rauch, Acting TSBA Secretary

ATTENTION: August Meeting

Mike Maddalena will speak on how to target fish on new waters at TSBA's monthly meeting on August 16, 2010, at The Flatwater Grill restaurant in Oak Ridge. Our meeting will be held in a private room, which is best entered through the side door near the railroad bridge. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting to follow at 7:15 p.m. The dinner is a special buffet that owner Dean Russell is organizing for us. The cost is \$15, which includes a drink and gratuity. (Note that payment is cash or check only.)

July 2010 Question of the Month

Has your boat or vehicle had motor problems that you think were caused by ethanol fuel?

I asked a similar question in 2008 and about a third of TSBA members reported motor problems that they think were caused by ethanol.

In 2010, our members reported fewer problems. Only six members reported recent problems and 35 reported no problems, with several members giving their reasons for good results. Eleven members reported that they are using fuel/water separator filters and Star Brite Star Tron fuel additive with good success.

Keith Shannon offered the following high-tech information: "No. My two cents ... Gasoline and ethanol (ethyl alcohol, the kind of which I'm very fond) should not separate. Gas and one end of the ethanol molecule are both nonpolar so they are miscible. The other end of the ethanol molecule is polar, like water, so they are miscible. "Dry gas," which is little more than ethyl alcohol, utilizes the polar/nonpolar

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Jeff Jolly with a striper caught on July 20 below Melton Hill Dam. Jeff said he caught this nice striper on a top water Red Fin.

continued from page 9

nature of ethanol to keep excess water in the gasoline so your engine can burn the gas/ethanol/water solution. Bottom line: ethanol is good to have in gas because it allows water to be burned with the gas instead of settling to the bottom of the tank and creating a mess when it eventually reaches a level where the fuel pickup reaches it and gets sucked into your engine. The problem occurs when there is more water in the fuel than the ethanol can mix with. Where does this water come from, you may ask? Well, not from the gas station. It comes from condensation or a leak in your tank/fill neck. Arnold Bishop referred to the corrosive nature of ethanol in a previous post and he is right on; it's not good for rubber and some plastics."

This website on pure gas might be of interest to our members: <http://pure-gas.org/index.jsp?stateprov=TN>. TSBA member Doug Steffe offered this good advice: "The best preventive maintenance is to GO FISH and use that boat as much as possible"

We are currently buying gasoline for our cars and boats that is in the process of a major reformulation. Ethanol is a domestically produced product, primarily from corn, that is a renewable fuel. The gasoline that we usually purchase is E-10 (10% ethanol) and is being introduced across the country with some stations even offering E-85. The use of ethanol presents problems for boats that usually don't affect cars and trucks. Most car and truck fuel tanks are refilled weekly so the fuel is much fresher when it is used by the engine than it would be in a lot of pleasure boats.

The problem with using alcohol/ethanol for boating is its hygroscopic nature. Hygroscopic means that it likes water and attracts and couples with water in the air. This ethanol/water mixture will be heavier than gasoline, causing it to settle in the bottom of the fuel tank. Over time, the ethanol/water level in a boat tank grows larger than it would in a car or truck tank since the typical boat tank isn't refilled as often as a vehicle tank. This is called "phase separation." Over time, the water/ethanol reaches a level that is drawn into the fuel delivery system. If there is no fuel/water separator, the water enters the carburetor or fuel injectors, and the engine doesn't run well. There is no quick fix for phase separation: the only solution is to pump out the gas/ethanol/water mixture from the tank.

There are other problems with using E-10 fuel due to its solvent properties. Since ethanol is a powerful solvent it will break down the tars and organic sediment that is usually present in marine fuel tanks. The ethanol/water mix will also act as a stripping agent for old varnish and gum accumulated from many years of gasoline being stored in the tank. If these organic contaminants are loosened from the fuel tank walls, they can plug filters and injectors and possibly disable your engine. In cold weather, the ethanol/water phase can freeze or turn into a syrupy mix that plugs filters.

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Now after telling this horror story about ethanol problems, let me stress that most TSBA fishermen will not find it difficult to avoid these problems. The boats mentioned in most articles about ethanol problems had large inboard tanks and were stored long periods in winter. Since it is not practical to completely drain an inboard fuel tank before storing it for winter, here are tips I researched to help us avoid "bad gas" problems:

DO.....

Fill your tank to approximately 95% full to reduce the flow of air into the tank thereby reducing the amount of condensation.

Try to find a station that sells 100% gasoline instead of E-10 if possible. The internet says that they can still be found.

Use a fuel stabilizer such as STAR BRITE STAR TRON, which is advertised to help prevent water contamination in fuel tanks.

Use a good water separating fuel filter and carry a spare cartridge, such as Racor Filter.

DON'T....

Leave your tank partially full.

Let your boat sit idle for long periods.

Add ethanol-blended gas if you have a significant amount of MTBE blended gas in your tank (wait until the tank is almost empty to add it).

In closing, I want to add that I know that a lot of our members have already read this information on our web site, and I thank our members for their excellent contributions. I just want to explain that we are currently mailing 139 printed issues of the newsletter to members who requested a paper copy and these members may not have seen the web site information. **Keep sending in your good comments and information.**

— *Jim Blazier*

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Hal Dwight Allen (above and below) had success while fishing on the Clinch River with Jeff Jolly (see pages 9 and 19 for some of Jolly's catches).





Ezell Cox and Ron Vest check out a new Super Bait Tank II (above and below), which some reviewers have called the most advanced live-bait system available.



YOUR 2010 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

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2010 TSBA Calendar

Please join us at TSBA meetings and events. Unless otherwise noted, monthly meetings are held at The Flatwater Grill at 100 Melton Lake Peninsula in Oak Ridge, Tennessee (see the restaurant's web site at <http://theflatwatergrill.com>).

- August 16 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m., at The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge. Dinner is a special buffet being prepared for our group (cost is \$15, and payment is check or cash only). Enter by the side door near the railroad bridge to access our meeting room in the restaurant. Mike Maddalena will speak on finding fish in new waters.
- Sept. 25 Fish Fry Grainger Park [time to be determined]
- Oct. 18 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.
- Nov. 15 Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:15 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge.

The TSBA web site has been rebuilt by Keith Shannon. Access it at **www.TNStripedBass.com**, logging in with your real name to register and your own unique password.



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T.S.B.A. 2010 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 163

Sharps Chapel, TN. 37866

Note: All members must sign and submit this membership application with the 2010 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.



Jay Girardot and Doug Steffe took Jay's new boat on its maiden fishing trip on the Clinch River below Melton Hill Dam. This is the latest of a growing fleet of Crestliner Model 1870s. Doug thinks that TSBA members now own at least four side-console and two center-helm 1870 Model Crestliner boats.



Ben Clift catches a striper on a hot summer day.

Outlook for Current Fishing 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



Jeff Jolly with another striper caught below Melton Hill Dam.



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 163
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866**

«First Name» «Wife» «Last Name»
«Address»
«City» «State» «Zip»

**August 16, 2010: Monthly Meeting
The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge
Topic: How To Find Fish in New Waters
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7:15 p.m.**