

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !



January/February 2022



Ralph McCool with a nice striper!

In-Person Bi-Monthly Meetings on first Thursdays
- at Shoney's on Emory Road in Powell

TSBA web site <http://tnstripedbass.com/> for the latest news.

Submit news items to tsba.newsletter@gmail.com

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December 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

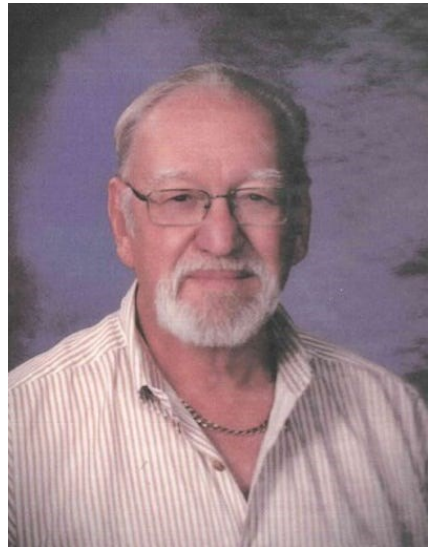
In December, the 2021 TSBA Board members met to discuss plans for 2022. All board members and officers, with the exception of Vice-President, will continue in their current roles through 2022. Volunteers for the vacant position should contact Keith Shannon (keith.shannon@gmail.com) or Allan Franklin (striperallan@aol.com). It was also decided that the club would meet every other month (in even months) on the first Thursday. Meetings will be held at the Shoney's on Emory Rd in Knoxville. Dinner and social hour will begin at 6 pm; meeting will begin at 7 pm. Due to continuing COVID uncertainties, the board decided to extend the membership for all members who paid dues in 2020 or 2021 through the current year.

February 2022 Club Meeting

The first meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, February 3rd at Shoney's, 315 E. Emory Rd, Powell, TN 37849. Come join your fellow club members for a fun and informative session!

In Memoriam—Bill Cate

TSBA will sorely miss long-time member Bill Cate. Bill was a tireless proponent for striped bass fishing in Tennessee. He was a founding member of the Norris Lake Striper Club, which eventually became the Tennessee Striped Bass Association, and served as club president on at least one occasion. During the Norris Lake “Striper Wars” in the early to mid-nineties, Bill traveled to Nashville to advocate for striped bass stocking in the face of fierce opposition. Needless to say, he was successful, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for helping maintain the fishery.



Changes at Eagle Bend

Mike Smith (aka Stump) recently retired from his position as director of the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery. Replacing him is Chris Morton, a fisheries biologist from Region 3. TSBA welcomes Chris in his new role!



Norris Lake Striper Club

ISSUE 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORRIS LAKE STRIPER CLUB

JANUARY 1991



A Word From Our New President

Our club in 1990 reached some rather lofty goals. The membership increased to 250 members and T.W.R.A. announced that they were increasing the stocking rate significantly on Norris Lake. We now have a core of dedicated fishermen who are willing to unselfishly devote their time, money and efforts to improving Striper fishing on Norris Lake.

The Newsletter this year will be going out to 500 individuals and docks and should increase our membership dramatically.

My personal goal is to include more people and docks on the upper end of the Clinch and Powell arms of the lake. Also we should have more social functions that include the whole family. A junior or child's tournament with the aid of Striper Club members would be nice. The club needs more young people because they are our future.

Good Fishing!

Bill Cate

Christmas Classic Striper Tournament

Hickory Star held their annual two day Christmas Classic Striper Tournament on December 8th and 9th. A total of 51 people competed for the \$3,000.00 in prize money.

Taking first place was Wayneth Frye with 66.6 pounds, followed by Curtis Ridenour, Randy Helton, Bob Sonnie,

and Elvin Helton. Glen Davis took the big fish pot with a 27 pounder.

Our hats off to the winners and to Hickory Star for sponsoring the annual event.

Pictured from left to right are tournament winners Randy Helton, Bob Sonnie, Wayneth Frye, Curtis Ridenour, Elvin Helton, and Glen Davis.

Gill Net Alert !

One of the most serious threats to the Striper populations in area lakes is the illegal taking of Stripers with gill nets.

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (T.W.R.A.) reports that netters have been active on Norris Lake. Most of the illegal netting occurs at night with nets being set out just after dark and pulled just before dawn.

continued on page 3

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Blast from the past! The Norris Lake Striper Club was founded in 1987 and became the TSBA in 1995. Note that Bill Cate was the club president in this 1991 newsletter.

Fishing With Umbrella Rigs

(We've featured this before, but it's good timely info!)

There are a lot of questions being asked about umbrella rigs (u-rigs) since it has become common knowledge how effective they are to catch fish. The attempt is to make it look like a school of small baitfish swimming by with the one in the rear struggling to keep up to create a reaction type bite. 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.

Tennessee is one of the states that have SPECIAL REGULATIONS because of how effective they are. The regulation is the u-rig may only have up to three hooks per rod. Single point, double point, and treble (3 points) hooks would each be counted as one hook.

This will be a short summary of a set up and trolling of the u-rigs since there are about as many variations as there are fishermen that use them.

Start out with the umbrella frame that that will have multiple places to attach lures and teasers. A common 4 arm frame made by Eagle Claw has 9 places to attach lures and teasers. Two on each arm of the frame and the lure with the single hook in the center of the frame is trailed at least 12 to 18 inches behind the teasers. The lures and teasers are the normal color, size, shape, and action that catch fish casting and trolling. Jigs with curly tails, blades, swim baits, and spoons all seem to work in the right location. You can just cut the hook off for the teasers. Attach the teasers on the ends of the umbrella frame as close to the arm as possible and still get the desired action from the teaser. The teasers half way in on the arm should trail behind the outside teasers by at least 4 inches. The lure with the hook should be in the center of the frame trailing behind the rest by 12 to 18 inches. You can also use another two lures with hooks on the arms giving you a total of three hooks for the rig. I use 40 to 50 pound mono or braided line up to 100 pound test to attach the lure so I can just grab the frame and lift a quite large fish right into the boat with it. The completed u-rig cost should be twenty to forty dollars.

Depth of trolling presentation methods for surface to 30 foot depth is often done by weight of the umbrella rig (one to fifteen ounces), boat speed, and length of line let out. The common practice is to pull a u-rig from each side of the rear of the boat. Down riggers can be used also for depth control of the umbrella rig. Skill and knowledge with a good fish

finder and boat control also allows for some tricks to improve the fishing and pole bending. Tricks include doing zigzag moves, kicking the motor out of gear in order to get to deeper fish, and going in circles that cause the inside u-rig to slow and sink lower and the outside to speed up.

There are those that would argue that fish are frightened or shy away from line size and maybe the u-rig frame but that does not seem to hold any merit with this reaction type bite. There are tools sold to retrieve hung up u-rigs that are effective but here is another option. The heavy braid lines can be used to pull the u-rig and then if it gets hung up just tie the heavy braid line to a cleat on the boat and use the motor to recover it for repair. I use a very inexpensive 9 foot stiff rod & reel with line counter combination for around sixty dollars spooled with 100 pound braid. The first thing you want to make sure of is the connections strength when planning to use the braid for a rope to pull the u-rig and then pull it loose. Some of the swivels, snap latches, and split rings that come with the u-rigs are just not designed that heavy duty.

— *Ezell Cox*



Creel and Size limits

CHEROKEE LAKE

Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:

2 per day in combination, 15 inch minimum length limit

NORRIS LAKE

Striped Bass

April 1–October 31: 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

November 1–March 31: 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

WATTS BAR

Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:

April 1–October 31: 2 per day in combination

November 1–March 31: 2 per day in combination, only one may be a striped bass.

Striped Bass:

April 1–October 31: 15 inch minimum length limit.

November 1–March 31: 36 inch minimum length limit

Hybrid Striped Bass:

15 inch minimum length limit

MELTON HILL

Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass:

2 per day in combination, including Clinch River upstream to Highway 61 bridge in Clinton. 15 inch minimum length limit

Striped Bass:

32–42 inch PLR; only one fish may be over 42 inches

Outlook for current fishing spots

CHEROKEE LAKE The downstream end of the lake will have good fishing from Point 19 to the dam. Look for surface breaks and feeding gulls. Large schools can be found at times in very shallow water. Live bait should be easy to catch in most of the warm coves. Casting and trolling with artificial lures may still be the most effective method.

NORRIS LAKE The best fishing should be found mid-lake from Hickory Star on the Clinch River and Springs Dock on the Powell River and upstream. Look for the gulls and the warmest water that is attracting bait fish. Artificial lures are still very effective but with some warmer water to be found on sunny days, live bait could also be pulled along the shallow, sun-warmed banks with planer boards.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL The steam plants at Kingston and Bull Run Creek will have the most predictable catches. This will depend largely on the contrast in water temperature in the Clinch River around the steam plants.

CAUTION & PLANNING are suggested during the winter months more than any other time of year. Top water action is common. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter. Umbrella rigs have become very popular in winter & effective over the past several years. The bite can be fast and over quickly in the coldest part of winter. Catch & Release is very successful this time of year. The Gulls will be effective until the winter kill begins on the threadfins. The kill begins to take place normally around the last week of February.

A great way to find the right places to look for fish is from past history. Look at the last few years of information available on fishing websites, articles, pictures, and magazines. Many times the best clue is to find the largest baitfish concentrations that will seek out the warmest most stable temperatures with nutrient rich water that is normally murky. Fishing shows & preparing fishing equipment for spring are common winter time entertainment when the weather is just ugly.

— *Ezell Cox*

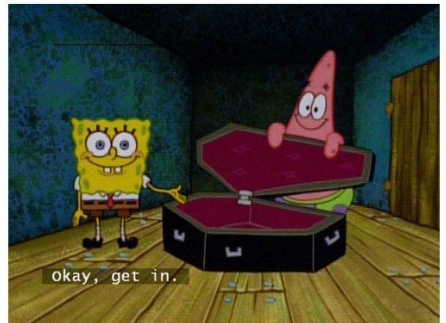


On the 24th of January, 5 boats full of TSBA members collected striped bass for ORNLs contaminant sampling program.



David Mullins shows off a beauty!

when I'm fishing and i see another person not picking up their trash



YOUR 2022 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

President: Keith Shannon

Vice President: Seeking candidate

Treasurer: Eric Rauch

Secretary: Keith Shannon

Board Chairman: Allan Franklin

TSBA DIRECTORS

Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Steve Nichols, Cory Malabey, James Pierce, Eric Rauch, Bob Biscay, Hal Basdekis

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Facebook Coordinator: Allan Franklin/Steve Nichols/Eric Rauch

Sponsor Coordinator: Justin Rose

Public Relations: Ezell Cox

No Need to Renew!

If you paid dues in 2020 or 2021, your membership has been extended through 2022. New members can still join by completing the form in this newsletter and mailing it with their payment to the address below.

Enclose a check for \$20.00

Mail to: TSBA

P.O. Box 7303

Knoxville, TN 37921

TSBA Sponsors

TSBA appreciates all the support we get from our sponsors. If you would like to see your business listed in our newsletter please consider adding or renewing for 2022. TSBA can provide newsletters for our sponsors to distribute. Thanks!




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- * 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 bi-monthly meetings with informative programs.
- * You'll have access to all areas of the TSBA, Inc. web page.

Is this a renewal ___ or a new membership ___

Your name _____ -- _____
Spouse's name _____
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I have read and agree to abide by and be bound by the Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. (TSBA, Inc.) Bylaws*

* A copy of the Bylaws can be found on the TSBA, Inc. website at <http://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 7303
Knoxville, TN 37921

Memberships extended: Members who paid 2020 or 2021 dues have no need to renew for this year. All current memberships have been extended through 2022 due to COVID uncertainties. New members may still join by filling out the above form and submitting it with their payment.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association
P.O. Box 7303
Knoxville, TN 37921

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