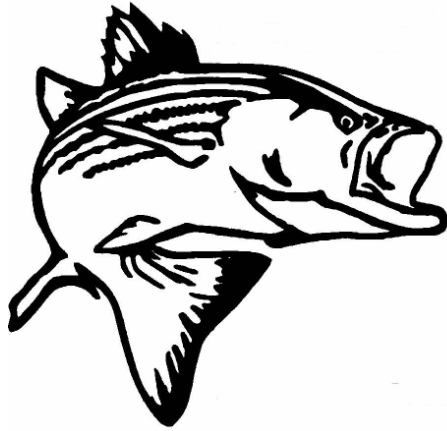


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**July
2008**

Kids Fishing Day



President's Letter

Well, the fish have finally headed to the lower part of the lake. It's about time is all I can say! While I really enjoy fishing the upper end of Norris, my gas bill was killing me. I've refused to let that hinder my fishing time so far, but it will be nice to be able to hit the ramps in 15 minutes rather than 45. Sorry for you guys and ladies who live at the upper end.

Recently, I reviewed the TSBA Bylaws. I know that things like that aren't exactly at the top of most people's best seller and summer reading lists. However, if you haven't read them recently you might take a few minutes to do so. Some of our prior officers, in particular Bob Leach and Janine Johnson, put a lot of effort into development of the Bylaws and the incorporation of TSBA. I'm sure glad that I didn't have to do it because it was a significant and time-consuming undertaking. They covered the bases well and worked hard to protect our members and officers in the event that there is a problem at a TSBA event. Development of the TSBA Release Form For Guests was an important part of this effort. It's important that we remember to get these signed for our TSBA functions where guests join us on the water. Thanks to Bob, Janine and everyone else who helped with this.

At our last meeting John Butler, who is one of our newer members, made it a point to thank Allan Franklin and others who helped make the Kids Day on Cherokee a great success. He talked about taking his nephews to the event, the help they got from other participants, the fun they had that weekend and the prizes the kids took home. His story is a big part of what TSBA is about – fun and fellowship with others interested in the sport. Of course, now John has probably ruined his nephews in terms of fishing for smaller fish, but that's the price you pay when you get hooked on stripers.

Mark your calendars now for the annual TSBA fish fry. It will be the afternoon of September 6 at Anderson County Park. More information will follow on our web site and in the newsletter.

Eric Rauch
TSBA President

Hello all,

I am the fellow that brought my niece and nephews to the last meeting. The kids had a fantastic time. Everyone was so nice. I do have a funny thing to share related to Madison buying the hat.

All the kids (my brother has six) are a bit shy and reserved in public. I thought it would be a real challenge to get Madison to speak up and bid on the cap. I whispered to her, "Bid on that hat. If you win it I'll give you the money." To me that clearly meant that I would pay for the hat. Only later did I realize it had a much different meaning to Madison.

If you recall, as soon as she won the auction she turned to me with her palm open. I thought she wanted the money to pay for the hat. Then, when I received the \$8 change from the \$20 I used to pay for the hat, she held her hand out to me and said, "Give me my money." I thought she was confused and somehow believed since she won the auction that the change belonged to her. I laughed and told her politely, "Madison, this is not your money, it's my money. It's my change from paying for the hat." She looked a bit perplexed and disappointed. I thought she was confused but I still didn't get it.

She asked me about the money again while we were still at the hatchery. It was really out of character because these kids hardly ask for anything more than attention. I still didn't get it. On the drive home she politely expressed her disappointment, "But John, you said if I won the hat you would give me money." Finally, I got it. Her disappointment was not just about money, it was about me breaking my word. She thought I offered to pay her for bidding and winning the auction. Obviously, I was the one that was confused.

I was so proud of her for having the courage to speak up and bid. Then everyone was so supportive of her for winning. I was happy she was feeling the positive rewards of speaking up and being bold in a public setting. When I realized that I had mistakenly misled her, I felt horrible. I explained to her the misunderstanding and gave her a \$5.00 reward for her courage and deft bidding skills. She thanked me and said, "I knew when he said 'going twice' that it was about to be 'Sold'."

When we got to their house the kids ran to tell their parents about what a good time they had. Landon won a door prize and Madison outbid all those big Ol' Stripper Guys. The boys were hanging on every word of Mike Smith. The boys said they want to come to all the meetings.

Thanks to everyone for their kindness and the warm welcome of the kids.

John Butler May 23, 2008



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT SONAR DO YOU USE?

PLEASE GIVE BRAND, MODEL, AND IS IT COLOR OR MONOCHROME?

The TSBA fishermen that answered the question reported that they are using 20 Lowrance, 4 Hummingbird, and 2 Eagle brand units.

Eight fishermen reported that they are now using color units (7 Lowrance and 1 Hummingbird).

I could list all of the model numbers reported, but the most prominent unit reported is the Lowrance LCX 27/28c HD.

I think this equipment is like most other electronic devices that we purchase - before we get comfortable using it "a new and better unit will be available" to compete for our money. But, I do intend to observe the color units in action to learn more about this relatively new fishing tool.

Jim Blazier



Gary
Harris

Hunter
Jones



Billy Davis

Circle
Hook

36 lb.



Brandon
Davis and
his cousin

27 lb.

June,
2008



Chris
Childers

Hunter
Jones

My Boat Bait Tank

In last month's TSBA newsletter, I talked about the importance of the size of the bubbles produced by the aeration system in your boat's bait tank. The most important single thing required to keep your shad happy and healthy is to provide them with a constant, gentle stream of water with thousands of tiny air bubbles circulating around your tank. Since I joined the TSBA several years ago, I've experimented with many different ways of aerating the various bait tanks that I've purchased and constructed. Most of these worked to some degree but not well enough to satisfy me. All I really wanted was to be able to go to bed at night and wake up the next morning to a tank of frisky bait. Nothing ruins a live-bait, fisherman's day any more than shad floating in your tank or gasping for their breath just when you're ready to take off for a great morning of striped fishing.

Of all of the techniques that I've tried over the past five years, the aeration system that works best for me is one that injects the air into the water just before the pump impeller using the venturi concept. This system is standard on the Super Bait Tank II by Ron Vest and possibly others. Many of the veteran, expert TSBA club members use this tank quite successfully and swear by it.

The system I have in my boat is a 40-gallon Blue Water tank that I've modified using various components from the KeepAlive Company. My final setup is extremely similar to the Vest tank with a few minor variations that, in my opinion, make it just about as good as you can get. My first modification was to remove the existing bilge pump and replace it with a KeepAlive air-injection system. This consists of a standard 500 GPH Rule bilge pump and a KeepAlive KA201CB conversion kit. First, remove the blue pump inlet on the standard Rule pump and replace it with the pump inlet provided in the KeepAlive kit. The new base has three suction cups that hold the pump to the bottom of my tank. These suction cups don't work all that well but the pump does stay in place in my tank due to the routing of the hoses. The kit also contains a foam filter which wraps around the pump base to filter the water just before it enters the pump. While this appears to be a good idea, I do not use this filter. It's been my experience that this foam filter is too fine and it clogs too quickly which shuts down the whole system. Throw the foam filter away!! The final items in the kit are an air hose and a clamp which enable you to adjust the amount of air entering the base of the pump. This is extremely important, and it takes a bit of experimenting to get the air flow tuned so that you get thousands of tiny bubbles. The final step in converting my bait tank was to add a KeepAlive 3/4", KA113 directional discharge. This is mounted in

the partition between the bait side of the tank and the pump/filter side by adding a large hole almost 1.8" in diameter. I drilled a small hole and then used a Dremel to get the proper hole size. The discharge is to be located so it's about halfway between the top of the water and the bottom of the tank when the tank is full.

The beauty of the KeepAlive discharge system is twofold. First of all, it's fairly large which reduces the water flow resistance. This maximizes the flow rate and keeps the velocity to a minimum. The result is a high-flow discharge which is spread out over a large enough area to make to stream strong, gentle and not turbulent. The final feature that I like is the fact that the discharge is directional. The most common technique used in the bait tanks that I've seen is to discharge the water/air bubble mixture horizontally into the tank. However, I've found that it's much better to angle the discharge downward so that the water/air mixture enters the bait tank at approximately 45 degrees. The air bubbles must now travel downward for a short distance before they start ascending to the surface. The result is that the bubbles stay in suspension much longer than if they were introduced into the tank horizontally. This drastically increases the contact time between the circulating air bubbles and the water in the tank which allows more oxygen to be absorbed into the water. You still get a great circular motion around the tank. In fact, I have a few tiny air bubbles that completely encircle the tank before popping. I don't think that you can get any better than that.

One minor problem that I've noticed with my system is that the tiny bubbles seem to linger on the surface for a longer period of time before popping which causes some unwanted surface foam. A few drops of Foam Off resolves this issue.

While I have spent many frustrating hours trying to perfect my tank, I think that I've finally got it right. The only problem that I've created with my bait tank is that I can't think of any way to further improve it, so I have to move on to other parts of my boat to satisfy my need to tinker.

Bob Leach



Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake: Good on Most Days

The best fishing will be near the NO FISHING ZONE at the dam. Hybrids can often be caught in shallow water and successfully released in water that exceeds 80 degrees F. Look around all the little islands near the dam that hold baitfish. Bait is much harder to catch on the lower half of Cherokee than normal - much easier above 25E bridge to the headwaters.

Norris Lake: Good

Most of the big stripers will be near the dam. Point #9 downstream and in Big Creek and Cove Creek.

The best information you can have in the summer comes from water quality reports on temp and oxygen at depth.

Below Fort Loudoun & Melton Hill Dams: Good

August is normally the best month of the year to fish the tailrace. Remember, if the bottom doesn't grab your bait occasionally, you are not fishing deep enough.

Any Cold Water:

Good where stripers have access.

Investigate some of these and other rivers:

Cumberland - Caney Fork - Clinch - Little Tennessee.

August Expectations

The larger stripers will be seeking the coolest refuge that is available. Stripers in the larger reservoirs will still have some of last winter's cold water stored at depth and hopefully enough dissolved oxygen to survive. The stripers will move out of the shallow warm coves to the main channel or deep coves near the dam. A good topographical map and fish finder are great fishing tools. Look for unusual humps, bends, and drop-offs on the old river channel below the thermocline. The fishing can be good at night to avoid an unpleasant day trip that has storms, pleasure boaters, and heat. August is a catch and kill month except at some tailraces with a temperature of less than 70 degrees F. It also has some of the best tailrace fishing of the entire year. Wear a good life jacket while fishing tailraces.

Speaker for July 21 Meeting
Mike Smith, TWRA at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
Pizza & Drinks at 6:00 p.m.

Speaker for August 18 Meeting
Bob Leach on Bait Tanks at Shoney's

I humbly apologize for my old-timers disease that I am obviously afflicted with when I missed the Striper Meeting this month. Not only did I miss the meeting, I was the meeting. I was floating in a sea of hay and was oblivious to the day, month, time, and minute until 6:37 p.m. when I received the call from Eric wondering where I was. I was being farmer John, instead of fisherman Allan. I truly and deeply apologize to everyone. I hope to make it up at a later date. You can ask my wife, I had already planned the topics and outline; my brain just forgot to connect. Your fishing friend, Allan Franklin

2008 KIDS DAY

First, I want to thank everyone that had a part in making the 2008 Kids Fishing Day a great success. There were so many people who helped out this year that I would be afraid to name everyone because I might leave someone out. Some people donated money and others volunteered to help out in many other ways. Having the pavilion this year was great. I appreciate all the Captains that took time out of their busy schedule to take kids fishing for this special day. I thank you very much. Remember to take a child fishing whenever you can. Your fishing friend, Allan Franklin



Kids: Autumn Brooks, Jake & Landon Butler, Alex Cheek, Josh Childers, Maddi Engebretsen, Trey Franklin, Charity Harvey, Samantha Haynes, Hunter Jones, Kelsy & Delaney Munsey.

Boat Captains: John Butler, Doug Cheek, Ezell Cox, Erik Engebretsen, Allan Franklin, Gary Harris, and Sherwin Harvey.



I wanted to say what a great job Allan did by putting on the Kids Day Tourney. My daughter has already shown everybody she knows the tackle box, rod, and lures she won in the drawing. Awesome job, Allan, and all those who helped put it together. Thanks, and I can't wait 'til next year. Erik Engebretsen

Boat Captains







To TSBA:

We want to give special thanks to Allan Franklin and the TSBA members for the Kids Fishing Day event. Jake and Landon had a great time. They won several very nice door prizes, learned to throw a bait net, and discovered the joy of fishing for striped bass.

My brother, Ray, and I joined the TSBA and started attending meetings to learn how to locate and catch striper with the goal of giving his kids opportunities to land bigger fish. The Kids Fishing Day moved us much closer to our goal.

When we arrived at the tournament we had a bait net but lacked the skills to throw it. Ezell Cox was very kind to spend time with Landon, age 10, and Jake, age 13, to show them how to throw the net. Ezell recommended that the boys use the same technique as Allan Franklin. The boys practiced what Ezell taught them and later in the meeting Allan showed them some of the finer points of his technique. Thanks to Ezell and Allan, Landon and Jake can now catch bait with our 10' net.

When we hit the lake, Ezell and Allan stayed in communication with us and directed us to the fish that Allan located near Point 4. Allan shared bait with us and put us right on top of the fish. He even handed us a rod with a "fish on." Landon did a great job fighting the hybrid and getting it near the surface before the line finally broke. Let's just say we adults on our boat still need to improve our big fish netting techniques. That was as close as we came to getting one in the boat that night. We would try again in the morning.

With our new bait net skills, the next morning we netted plenty of shad and headed back to the same area near Point 4. Our eyes popped when the 9' Ugly Stick doubled over with the tip nearly breaking the surface of the water. Jake grabbed the rod from the holder and skillfully fought the hybrid to near the surface. Ray, his dad, was ready with the net and I could see a blend of excitement and anxiety on Jake's face as he prepared, hopefully, to land his biggest fish ever. As he uttered, "Please, please, please," I could hear him thinking, "Come on fish, come on Dad, come on net, come on line, come on fish!" The net went down, the fish came up and the joy poured from the souls of our feet as we jumped into the air with elation. Jake did it. We did it. Allan and Ezell did it.

Jake caught a "big fish" and now we're *all* hooked. [Picture on next page]

Thank you to Allan and everyone that worked to put on the Kids Fishing Day event.

Sincerely,

The Butlers - John, Ray, Jake, Landon

June 19, 2008



Jake and Landon Butler
June 8, 2008
Cherokee Lake



**B&B
STRAIGHT CREEK
BOAT DOCK**

***Full Service Dock
on Norris Lake
New Tazewell, TN
423-626-5826***

Maynard & Delbert Brooks



**Hickory Star
Marina**

*"Home of the
Stripers"*

865-992-5241

**Full service marina
on Norris Lake
Near Maynardville TN**

YOUR 2008 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

President:

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

Newsletter:	Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com
Membership:	Janine Johnson Janine@tennstripedbass.com
Web Site:	John Seiber 865-945-3716 JSeiber@tennstripedbass.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:	Eric Rauch 865-494-0304
Tournament Coordinators:	Erik Engebretsen, Allan Franklin 404-683-0181, 865-694-8888
Hats & Shirts:	John Seiber 865-945-3716

Minutes of the June Meeting

The meeting was opened by Eric Rauch, who welcomed first time and returning members. Probably because this meeting was so early in the month (16th), many members apparently didn't realize that this was actually the 3rd Tuesday of the month. As a result, attendance was only about 22 people. Allen Franklin was one of those individuals. Since he was to speak on fishing below the dams, we didn't have a formal presentation. Allen will, however, give his presentation at a future meeting and we look forward to it.

Rather than having a formal presentation, we informally discussed many aspects of striper fishing as a group. Several in attendance were fairly new to striper fishing so this actually worked well for the evening as quite a bit of worthwhile information was shared. Items ranged from where to use rainbow shad and other baits, to bait tanks, to keeping bait for extended periods at home, to the simple basics of fishing below the dams and safety concerns of doing so.

Fishing reports were provided for several area reservoirs, including Norris, Melton Hill, and Cherokee.

It was noted that the annual fish fry is coming up on Sept. 6 at Anderson County Park.

Our next meeting will be on July 21 at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery.

Eric Rauch



Chris &
Josh
Childers

Hunter
Jones

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.

July 21	Monthly Meeting, Pizza & Drinks 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery
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"

Success of TSBA Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of the newsletter with pictures, stories, how-to's, minutes, expectations, fishing reports, questions of the month, and sponsor information. The stories are just amazing. Some of the great stories were from phone calls, too. You are all very much appreciated.

Janine Johnson

Member NTA - TTA
State & Federally Licensed

Ken's Natural Taxidermy
LaFollette, TN
423-566-5934

Ken Cutsinger Owner



Super 8 Motel
Morristown

www.super8morristown.com
2430 E Andrew Johnson Hwy Morristown, TN, 37814 US
Ph: 423-586-8880, Fax: 423-585-0654
Toll Free : 1-866-802-6324

Free Estimates For All Your Paving Needs

B&C Asphalt Paving Co., Inc.
Wayne Beeler
Vice-President

Plant 423-626-1234 Residence 423-626-7951
Mobile 526-7161



Rick
O'Roark

May 19,
2008

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

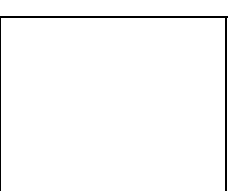
Knoxville TN 37933

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**



**TSBA Annual Fish Fry & Reunion
September 6, 2008
Anderson County Park on Norris Lake
Lots of Food and Door Prizes**