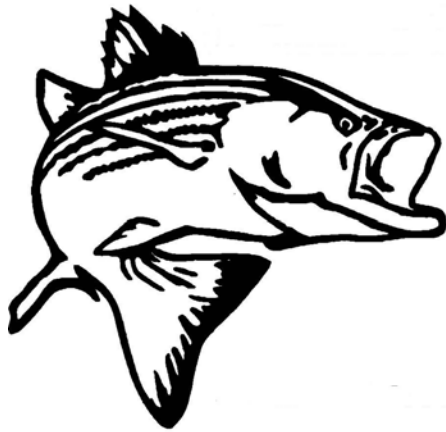


**Catch
the
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**May
2010**



Emily Williams fishing on Norris Lake with a TSBA member

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello, everyone,

As you can see by the photographs in this issue, our members are enjoying the stretches of warmer weather that we've had off and on in recent weeks. Notice the look of pride on the faces of the girls in two of these photographs. After a day of fishing with one of our members, these girls were thrilled with the experience of catching a fish on their own.

In June, each of us has the chance to teach fishing to children who are part of the local Big Brothers And Big Sisters Club. The more of us who participate, the more children who can go. If you are interested, see the details posted on our web site and in our last newsletter. There is still time for you to sign up by contacting Eric Rauch by phone (865-223-9788), e-mail (ewrauch@bellsouth.net), or by posting a message on the TSBA web site. Eric needs to know the TSBA member's name, contact phone number, and how many pairs (adult and youth) the member can safely carry in the boat at one time. If a TSBA member wants to participate more than one day with different pairs, please state that as well. I hope we can have some great participation from our members and make a special day for some under-privileged kids, some of which may have never ridden in a boat or held a fishing rod before.

As you get out on the lake, remember to take your camera and send photos to engebretsenerik@yahoo.com.

Take care and tight lines,

— Erik Engebretsen

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.

Minutes of TSBA's Monthly Meeting On April 19, 2010

As usual, Erik Engebretsen opened the meeting about 7 p.m. He introduced Bill Carson, who is a representative of Lowrance, as well as several other companies. Bill mostly discussed the new Lowrance HDS and Side Scan (LSS-1) units. He also compared the Insight and Navionics lake maps. While the Insight maps appear to be much better than what many of us now have, the Navionics maps have additional capabilities that may be worth considering, including one-foot contours for many lakes. It is suggested that you check on the company's web site to confirm if the lakes you primarily fish have the additional detail. Bill stressed how way points can be used on the new systems to enhance our ability to return to a specific area repeatedly. The ability of the HDS units to capture screen information was also discussed. Bill explained how he uses that capability as his fishing log since you can also capture a considerable amount of related information such as date, depth, water temp, GPS location, etc. Regarding Structure Scan, Bill noted that you have to be moving at least at 0.7 mph for it to scan properly. Bill can be contacted through his web site at: www.nothingbutfish.com

Bill updated the software on several members' Lowrance units. He noted that Lowrance will not be releasing updates on any of their units except for the HDS models in the future. The members appreciated that Bill came up from Georgia to spend the evening with us.

Erik reminded the members that our next meeting will be on the water at Granger County Park on Saturday, May 22, at 2 p.m. In addition, the Striper Bowl will be at Granger County Park on Saturday, May 8, from 2 to 8 p.m.

Eric Rauch asked members to review the information in the last newsletter and on our web site (see "Announcements") regarding our Big Brothers/Big Sisters fishing event. Please let Eric know either by phone, e-mail, or on the web site if you can participate. We need to know quickly how many kids and sponsors we can accommodate in order to coordinate this June event.

Tom Elmore won the 50/50 (AGAIN!). He actually had the last two viable numbers in the drawing. That's a first for the club. If possible, please take pictures and send them to TSBA for the web site and/or the newsletter. If stripers aren't biting but something else is, go for whatever is fun to catch that day!

— by Eric Rauch

What's the Secret To Prolonging Battery Life?

Let me start by saying that I now only have three power boats and two jet skis, down from five boats and three jet skis that I had owned for the past 10 years. As you can guess, batteries, chargers, and battery care have been a big thing for me. I live on the lake where I rescue, jump off, and/or tow many boats each year due to their battery troubles. The boats I have owned and/or traded over the years have used a wide variety of batteries, both good and bad.

If I bought a boat and maintained the batteries correctly (i.e., fully charging immediately after use, as well as maintaining full water levels), all brands of batteries seem much the same. On the boats I anticipated owning for some time, I have always installed an on-board charger. This has made getting the battery on-charge immediately after use and maintaining a fully charged battery much easier.

I have tried both high-priced and cheap discount batteries. For years I used Wal-Mart specials as Keith Shannon has stated on the TSBA forum. They are easy to find and no matter where you fish, you could find a Wal-Mart and get the battery replaced under warranty. Lately, I have been purchasing at Batteries Plus since I rarely boat out side of East Tennessee. I have found their batteries to be a good value for the price and no receipt required for the warranty. I have Optima's D34M's BlueTop (AGM type) in my jet boat, as do Jim, Doug, and Ezell, not only to reduce weight but also because of the pounding it takes. The AGMs hold up well.

When I decide what type of battery to purchase, I consider their accessibility and maintenance requirements. Flooded batteries must be checked and topped off regularly opposed to AGM or gel batteries which reabsorb the gases and require no maintenance other than charging and the periodic cleaning of the terminals.

Price is my second factor in battery selection. For me this is complicated and stressful decision. As to which is cheaper, the \$80-\$100

flooded battery, typically lasting two years, costs \$40-\$50 per year (down to \$33 per year if lasting three years). The AGM batteries at \$150 with no maintenance and better shock resistance, typically last five years at \$30 per year. One thing that has improved my love/hate relationship with batteries was when finding out about sulphated batteries! I purchased a Battery MINDER Plus about four years ago. It conditions sulphated batteries as well as automatically charging any type 12-volt storage battery without ever over-charging. Dubbed the “charger with a brain,” it is believed to be the first charger of its kind to reverse the primary cause of early battery failure known as ‘sulphation.’ Sulphated batteries that were once considered beyond recovery can now be restored to long-term useful condition. I now have several of these and rotate to all my batteries.

And finally, yes, I disconnect all my batteries from the on-board charger every other month and use the Battery MINDER Plus for a week. I have not replaced a battery since learning about ‘sulphation.’

– *Jeff Jolly*



Katlin Williams fishing on Norris Lake with a TSBA member.

Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake: Good

Stripers are much smaller than in past years. They seldom exceed eight pounds. Hybrids around eight to ten pounds are common. The best fishing is from Point 24 downstream in most of the large coves and creeks that have abundant bait. Fish shallow and do not neglect the banks. Night fishing is great when the alewife is spawning late this month. This is the best month to catch fish on artificial lures.

Norris Lake: Fair

Do not expect to catch a large fish on Norris like in past years, but fish weighing as much as 30 pounds from the stocking in 1999 can be caught. Top water action is at its best this month. Most fish will be in the upper one-half of the lake, in and around the large coves. Fish the shallow, rocky banks and points. Outriggers are very good fishing tools.

Watts Bar Lake/Melton Hill Lake: Good

The steam plant in Kingston will still hold some fish, but expect to catch more small fish. They may be larger upstream to the discharge at the dams.

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MAY EXPECTATIONS

The stripers will be in the headwaters of the rivers and in the major feeder creeks for the spawn. The temperature of the water will dictate where the stripers are most of the time. If the rivers or shallow water exceeds 70 degrees F., the fish will seek out cooler thermal refuge.

The gulls and other fish-eating birds are always a good clue that stripers are also there to feed on the same bait fish. A striper can be at any depth that it chooses, but most will be caught on or near the surface close to the rough, rocky banks and points.

Side planer boards or any outriggers work great. It is important to know thermoclines start to develop in slow-moving water this month. Top water action is good in May, and the survival of released fish is also great.

Fishing Regulations

New fishing licenses were required as of March 1. It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. Changes are normal in the management of our fishing each year, and those changes become effective on March 1. Each river or lake may have exceptions you need to be aware of before exposing yourself to a fine.

Go on line to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at www.tnwildlife.org or pick up a 2009 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices.





Stacy Stipes with a 29-pounder



Our April speaker Bill Carson catches with a 35-pounder

Do Moon Phases Affect Fishing?

Do you believe, or have you ever heard anyone say, that the fishing bite is better during certain phases of the moon?

A lot of expert striper fishermen say that moon phases do affect fish habits. In addition, many fishing magazines publish calendars indicating when the bite will be the best according to the moon's time tables.

While determining the optimum fishing times is not a simple matter and remains a matter of debate, it appears that, in general, the best time to fish is during a full moon.

If you are interested in knowing when a full moon will occur, go to www.stardate.org/nightsky/moon and input the month and year for which you want to know the moon phases.



Kyle Rutherford, left, unhooking a striper, and Dennis Bryant, right, fishing on Norris Lake.



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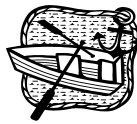
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YOUR 2010 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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engebretsenerik@yahoo.com

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Jim Blazier 865-694-8014
jblazier@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Doug Steffe
865-278-2363, 865-335-3815

Secretary:

[vacant]

Asst. Treasurer:

Allan Franklin
865-805-3120

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Todd Asher, Bill Ballou, Erik Engebretsen, Cory Malabey,
Eric Rauch, John Seiber, Keith Shannon

TSBA STAFF

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& Distribution:

Jim Blazier & Bill Ballou

Membership:

Doug Steffe
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keith.shannon@gmail.com

Public Relations

Allan Franklin	865-694-8888
Ezell Cox	423-626-9547

Kids' Fishing Day:

Allan Franklin	865-805-3120
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Tournament Coordinator:

Allan Franklin	865-694-8888
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Door Prizes:

[vacant]

Fishing Trip Raffle:

Jim Blazier	865-694-8014
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Erik Engebretsen with a 39-pounder



Bill Carson with another 35-pounder

2010 TSBA Calendar

Please join us at TSBA meetings and events. Unless otherwise noted, monthly meetings are held at Shoney's Restaurant, 2405 Andersonville Highway. Get off I-75 at Exit 122 (Hwy. 61 - Clinton/Norris), head east. Shoney's is on the left.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 8 | Striper Bowl, Grainger County Park, 2-8 PM |
| May 22 | Monthly Meeting at Grainger County Park boat ramp, 2 PM. Todd Asher to demonstrate setting planer boards, floats and down lines. |
| June 5 | Kids' Day, Grainger County Park, 4-8 PM |
| June 12 | TWRA free fishing day, kids event, Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery |
| June 19 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
(Program to be determined) |
| July 19 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
Mike Smith of TWRA on stocking striped bass |
| August 16 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
Mike Madalena to speak on finding fish in 'new waters' |
| Sept. 25 | Fish Fry Grainger Park [time to be determined] |
| Oct. 18 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |
| Nov. 15 | Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM |

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.



Todd Asher with a 40-pounder



Nate Hall with a 25-pounder on a foggy April morning

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.



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**



**Make sure to send your dues for 2010
as soon as possible and check the calendar
for meeting dates in 2010.**