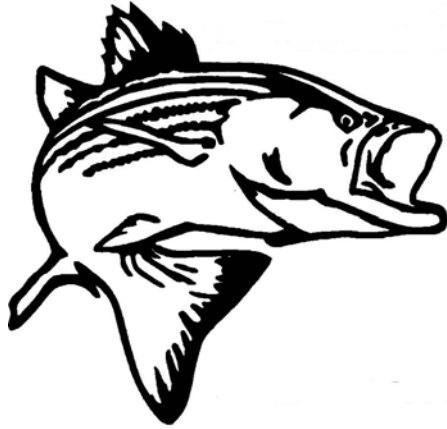


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**September
2009**

August Club Meeting on Umbrella Rigs



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello,

I want to say thank you to everyone that wrote letters to the TWRA and voiced your concerns about stripers being stocked in Cherokee. I am proud to say our voices have been heard and I have been told we will definitely be getting stripers stocked this year. I also have been told as long as they continue stocking stripers, the no fish zone will stay in place at the dam. We are still in discussion with TWRA over a few more issues that are pending, and I will let you know the outcome once they are resolved. Once again, thank you to all that wrote letters!

It has been brought to my attention that some people have called the turn in poacher hotline and have seen no response from an officer or an extremely delayed response at best. Currently, we are trying to put some pressure on TWRA for a better response time. If you call the number, please call me or e-mail me and let me know how this was handled.

Well the new website is up and running now! I want to give a big thanks to Keith Shannon for spending his time setting this up! Remember that it is a work in progress and if you have any questions or suggestions, please let Keith or myself know. This new site seems to be more user friendly and will give us different options for the future.

Last but not least, don't forget to attend the fish fry this year on the 20th. We are having it at Grainger County Park this year, the facility is a little more user friendly than the past and also has a playground for the kids! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Tight lines,

Erik

INTRODUCING

"TSBA FISHING TRIP RAFFLE"

All TSBA club members have a unique opportunity to fish alongside and learn from two of the best and well-known striper fishermen in this area and fellow TSBA members. These fishermen are Ezell Cox and Allen Franklin.

The TSBA has many good fishermen but these two are well known to be willing to share their knowledge and are "good teachers". Both have always tried to help new club members get started correctly by offering advice on equipment, methods and any information they can to help you improve your fishing.

Although these two fishermen are very willing to help fellow club members, there just isn't enough time for them to give everyone personal instructions. They have volunteered, however, to give personal instructions during a fishing trip to the lucky TSBA CLUB MEMBER who wins the first TSBA FISHING TRIP RAFFLE. Both Allen and Ezell have volunteered to give a personal fishing trip to two lucky TSBA CLUB MEMBERS and their guest in the 2009 TSBA FISHING TRIP RAFFLE.

NOTE: The intent is to have two winners and two trips if enough tickets are sold.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help support the Kids Fishing Day, the Annual Fish Fry and the increased cost of printing and distribution of the Newsletter.

GUIDELINES:

- EACH \$10 CONTRIBUTION WILL EQUAL ONE TICKET
- **ONLY CLUB MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN TICKETS**
- **EACH WINNER CAN BRING ONE GUEST, BUT THE GUEST MUST EITHER BE A CLUB MEMBER OR SIGN A LIABILITY RELEASE FORM**
- THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE FISH FRY SUNDAY 9/20/09
- THE WINNER MUST SCHEDULE THEIR TRIP PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 2009
- MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE FISH FRY CAN CONTRIBUTE AND BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE TRIP BY MAILING CHECKS TO:

Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 163

Sharps Chapel, TN 37866

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER ON THE CHECK



MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING

The Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc. met at the Clinton Shoney's (I-75 exit 122) at 7:00 pm on August 17, 2009. There was the usual order-what-you want dinner and discussions from around 6:00 to 7:00pm. There were 68 people in attendance. This was probably the biggest crowd of the year.

The speaker for the evening was Mack Farr. Mack is a striper guide from the Atlanta area who fishes on Lake Lanier. He frequently uses umbrella rigs (u-rigs) and also makes and sells them. He said we should always consider the use of u-rigs as a primary bait type or as a supplement to what we are doing. Many people have a love-hate relationship with them but they are a tool we need to understand and add. They can be used in many ways:

1. They are an excellent search tool. They can be pulled at speeds of 2 to 3 miles per hr. and will explore a lot of water quickly.
2. They can be used in conjunction with a spread of other bait types to better cover the water column and to present a quick strike reactionary type bite.
3. They can be pulled on larger planer boards to work the edges.
4. They can be a go-to bait then the weather is rough and you have to move around because you can't hold position to fish drop lines.

EQUIPMENT

Rods –use a cheap heavy rod, something like a downrigger rod that's heavy but has a quick tip works well.

Reels – Big enough to hold the line you need . A line counter is nice but you can always count passes coming off of the reel.

Line Size - On Lanier he uses 40# line but in Georgia they can use rigs with multiple hooks and sometimes hook multiple fish and there are a lot of snags. In Tennessee where we are allowed only 1 hook per rig and it must be a single hook, 25# line is more common.

Line Type - As with anything you troll, line diameter influences how deep a bait will run at a given speed. A small diameter braid line will run a u-rig deeper at the same speed than the same strength mono.

U-rigs -They come in all sizes and colors. There are small units with 4 teasers and a bait. These are usually pulled behind a downrigger ball and are light weight. There are bigger units with 8 teasers and a bait that can weigh 6 ounces or more they are pulled by themselves. The teasers and baits can be almost anything – Spinners, grub type jigs, small plugs, bucktails, swim baits and in any colors and sizes.

SETUP

There is no right or wrong way to rig a u-rig. The teasers can be hooked directly to the arms or attached with a short leader. (The leader should be short enough to keep teasers from tangling with each other.)

The center lure is usually rigged with a 12" or longer leader. A wire leader will tangle less. Jigs with a bucktail work well for stripers. Sassy shad type swim baits work well for hybrids. Spinners, spoons and crankbaits also can be used. Make the bait stand out from the teasers by using different colors or size. Size is more important than color.

METHOD

Have the boat moving slowly as you put the u-rig in the water and let line out slowly. Watch the graph all the time if you don't know the water well.

If you suddenly get into shallower water, speed up. It will cause the u-rig to rise quickly.

If you get hung up, keep pressure on the line and back up to get straight over it. Then use a good plug retriever. (or just use 150# line and wrap it around a cleat and rip it out.)

Run in an S pattern to cause the rigs to speed up, slow down, rise and fall.

If you are running close to the bottom, speed up a little in the turns so the inside rig doesn't fall too much.

If you are running smaller u-rigs on downriggers use about 50 feet of setback and have them in the center of your spread.

You can pull a u-rig on a heavy planer board but don't hook the swivel clip. It's just too much to try to get in with a fish on.

If you want to run deeper with less line out add an egg sinker on the line and stake it on right on top of the u-rig with a toothpick.

Mack also made a pitch for a vendor. Stripertackle.net He said they have a good assortment of stuff including some good O2 systems and for the next month they are giving us 10% off, if we use the promo code – TN STRIPERS

OTHER BUISNESS

Remember the Fish Fry is coming up next month on Sunday Sept. 20. The club will provide the fish, plates, cups silverware and drinks. The rest of it is a pitch-in and up to you.

We are going to have a Swap Meet as part of the Fish Fry so bring all the stuff you aren't using and take home some new stuff you *really* need. We plan to have plenty of Club logo hats for sale at \$10.00 each.

Dick Vornehm

Secretary



Melton Hill Boat Ramp

As the temperature heats up during the long, east Tennessee summer, many avid striper fishermen flock to the cool waters downstream from Melton Hill dam. Some anglers fish the boils while others lazily drift downstream for several miles using live shad. The increasing water temperature in Watts Bar Lake drives many stripers upstream where they find the water temperature much more to their liking. Generally, the fishing here is good and you have the satisfaction of knowing that the mortality level will be very low when you release the stripers back into the cool water.

This is one of those times when you might be inclined to say “Life is good” or “It just doesn’t get any better than this”. That is, of course, unless you get back to the boat ramp by the highway 95 bridge and discover that your vehicle has been broken into and many of your prized possessions are now gone. Wham – A great day on the water just turned horribly bad. After you get past the anger of being robbed and vandalized, you might start to wonder how this could happen to you. After all, this is a very nice boat ramp and it’s heavily used! Who would have the guts to break into your vehicle right here in broad daylight? Unfortunately, break-ins at this boat ramp are not uncommon. In fact, it is probably the worst boat ramp around for this type of crime. If you use this boat ramp a lot, it’s just a matter of time until it’s your turn. On the surface, it doesn’t make any sense. However, when you carefully analyze the location of this boat ramp’s parking lot, it’s easy to see why it’s a popular place for thieves. First of all, if you stand in the middle of the trailer parking area and look around, you’ll discover that you can’t be seen by anyone moving up and down the river in their boat until they are almost at the ramp. If a boat was coming back to the ramp, you would be able to hear it, wrap up your illegal activities and get away long before they would be able to see you. Also, vehicles passing by on highway 95 really don’t have a good view of the parking area. The only potential problem for the thief would be a vehicle on highway 95 turning into the boat ramp area. This could happen too fast to get away quickly and unnoticed. This problem is easily solved by having a partner in a second vehicle parked at the entrance to the area who could signal you whenever a vehicle is about to turn into the boat ramp area. Many of the robberies occur in broad daylight as it’s much easier to see what you are doing then so the job can be accomplished much quicker.

With all this being said, most of us are still going to use this boat ramp as it provides easy access to some great summertime striper fishing. Is there anything that you can do to lower the probability of your vehicle getting hit or minimizing the impact if this does happen? First of all, make it so that anyone looking into your truck doesn’t see anything worth taking. Also, don’t cover up anything as they will think that you are trying to hide something of value. If it’s valuable, perhaps you should take it with you on the boat. \If you have an alarm system, get some stickers advertising that fact and prominently display them in windows on both sides of your truck. Maybe the would-be thieves will move on to the next vehicle instead of hitting yours. Also, lock your boat trailer to your vehicle with a strong padlock as, in one instance, the entire boat trailer was disconnected and carted off. Wouldn’t that be a stressful situation? Your boat is in the water and you can’t load it or leave it. Finally, be extra alert whenever you pull into the boat ramp area and write down the license number of any vehicle that is not loading or unloading a boat. If you do see any suspicious activity, don’t get personally involved. Just call 911.

BOB LEACH



New Member, Stacy Stipes
with his personal best.



Dick Vornhem with his
personal best, 37#



Jeff Jolly with his
personal best, 42#

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.

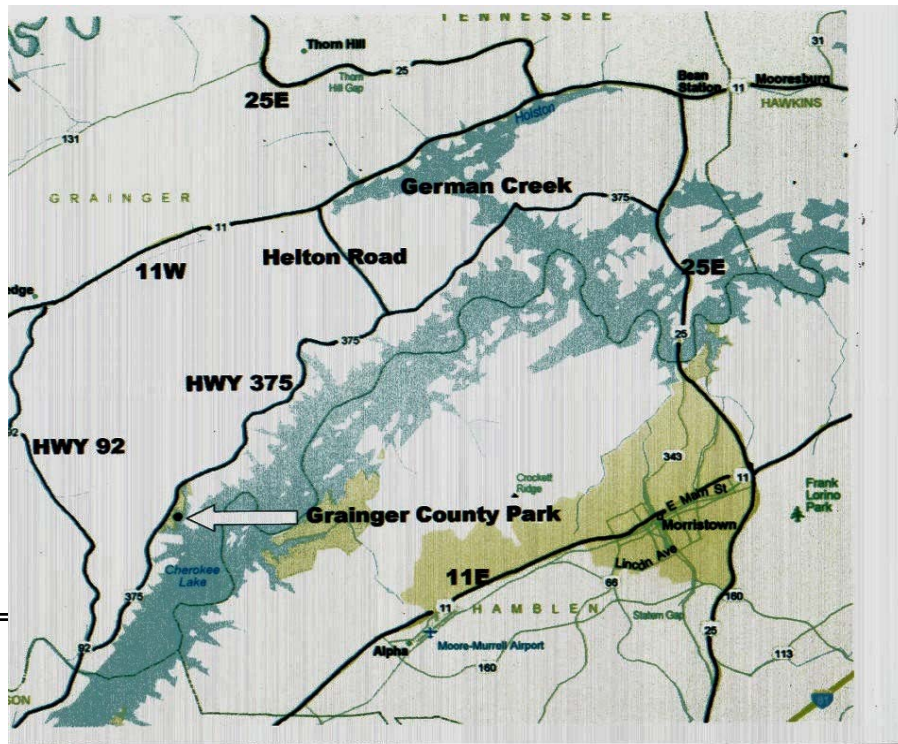
OCTOBER EXPECTATIONS

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.



Stacy Stipes and a 38# August Striper

Grainger County Park, location for the September Fish Fry Reunion



The Fish Fry / Reunion starts at 2:00 with dinner served around 4:00. Come early for door prizes, contests and tackle swap.



Mike Maddelena on a recent August trip



Tim Adrien with a 38#



AUGUST 2009 QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Recently we have seen reports of theft at the ramp below Melton Hill Dam. I thought it might be interesting to ask our members which East TN ramps they feel safe to use and which ramps they think their vehicles have the greatest risk. This is just opinion there are no right or wrong answers.

Most of the information that I have heard about Melton Hill Lake was obtained from LM, SM and crappie fishermen that I know because of living in the Karns area. If you were driving toward Melton Hill from I-40 and looked at the lake map for ramps there are three ramps that might seem like good choices: Solway Park just across the Solway Bridge, Guinn Road Park in Knox Co. near mile 41 and Melton Hill Park also in Knox Co. near mile 37. These ramps might be near an area that you would like to fish but I have heard of several thefts at these locations. The ramp that I would recommend is called Clark Center (Carbide Park to us old timers) located between mile 37 and 38 on the Anderson Co. side.

The following is a list of ramp locations that our members suggest to be **HIGH RISK:**

Fort Loudoun below the dam
Topside Road at George Creek on Fort Loudoun
Melton Hill below the dam
Solway Bridge on Melton Hill
Melton Hill Park
Bull Run Park on Melton Hill
Dismal Bluff on Melton Hill
61 bridge on Melton Hill
Peach Orchard on the Clinch River
Earl Hollow near pt. 18 on Norris
Lonesome valley on Norris
Cove Creek on Norris, it is also very steep and covered with fine gravel
Dirt ramp half way to Anderson Co. Park
25-E Bridge on Cherokee
Oak Grove on Cherokee

The following is a list of ramp locations that our members suggested to be **LOW RISK:**

Clark Center on Melton Hill
Chinese Restaurant on Melton Hill, but it is very steep
Anderson Co. Park
Pt. 19 on Norris
Hickory Star
Most Commercial docks on Norris
Big Ridge
Brogans ramp near 33 bridge
Sycamore ramp on 25-E
Highlands on the Powell
Needham Hollow on 33
Cherokee Dam
Greenlee Docks on Cherokee

I will close by quoting Keith's observations from some of the ramps he uses.

"In terms of theft risk, all ramps are low risk to me. Anyone who has seen my truck understands. Some other high risk categories and ramps are:

High risk for hysterical laughter: Baker's Creek ramp on Tellico. A steep ramp with a peculiar algae that makes its coefficient of friction less than that of greased ice. Saturday afternoons are the best. Watch and laugh as 2 wheel drive trucks struggle to pull out wakeboarding boats. Lots of spinning tires and burning rubber. Think dragsters heating up their tires before a run. High risk for 400 pound women in bikinis: Louisville Point Park on Ft. Loudoun. This ramp, with its small adjacent beach, attracts loud, drunken family picnics. Come in the late afternoon when everyone is nice and sloshed and you may get to watch a fight or see a mom put out a cigarette on a toddler; "Momma told you to quit yellin!" High risk for stepping in a gut pile: Lotterdale Cove, Tellico Lake. A popular ramp during deer season because of its proximity to huntable lakeshore. The ramp features a deer hanging thingamajig where folks gut and skin deer. A couple years ago, someone left a deer's "equipment" on the my winch handle as a present. I later found out it was one of my students."

Jim Blazier



Todd Asher and a 30 pounder.



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YOUR 2009 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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jblazier@comcast.net

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865-278-2363, 865-335-3815

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Dick Vornehm
865-938-1883

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865-805-3120

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Ezell Cox 423-626-9547

Sponsor Coordinator: John Butler 865-207-7627

Kids' Fishing Day: Allan Franklin 865-805-3120

Tournament Coordinator: Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

Fish Hatchery Meetings (Pizza): Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

Door Prizes: Bob Leach 865-471-1365

Open Fishing Day Coordinators: John Butler & Dwayne Clark
865-207-7627, 865-964-9295

Fishing Trip Raffle: Jim Blazier 865-694-8014

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2009 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.

September 20 TSBA Fish Fry Grainger County Park, Cherokee Lake

October 19 Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM

- Nominations for Directors and Officers

November 16 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 has been rebuilt by Keith Shannon. The link to access it is the same [www.TNStripedBass.com] but you will need to log in with your real name to register and input your own unique password.

redirig@windstream.net

www.redirig.com



***Q Redi-Rig
Tackle Inc.***

PO BOX 208
NORTHFIELD, OH 44067

**Ed Kainec
330.467.3849**

Fish Fry Reminder

At this year's fish fry, we are going to set aside an area where TSBA members can display any of their unwanted fishing items that they would like to sell to other members or guests. Each item should be clearly marked with the seller's name and the amount that is being asked. The TSBA is merely hosting this event and they will not be involved in any resulting transactions. If you see something that you want to buy, contact the seller directly and work out the details of the sale with him or her. All of us have a few things lying around gathering dust for which we no longer have a need. Any items that do not sell can be taken home by the seller or donated to the club to be used as door prizes.

At last year's fish fry, several different varieties of trees and flowers were donated to the club to use as door prizes. This will be repeated at this year's event. However, all of the plants will have a price marked on them and you will be able to purchase them before the door-prize drawings begin on a first-come, first-served basis. If you see a plant that you would like to buy, pick it up and take it over to Doug Steffe to pay for the item. 100% of the proceeds from these sales will go directly to the club. Any plants that are not sold before the door prize drawings begin will be available for someone to select for their door prize whenever their number is drawn. Any plants remaining after the drawings are complete may be taken by any member for free.

T.S.B.A. 2009 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 2009 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**



**TSBA Annual Fish Fry & Reunion
September 20, 2009
Grainger County Park Cherokee Lake
Bring a Covered Dish, Bring your Family
Tackle Swap at 2:00 Dinner at 4:00**