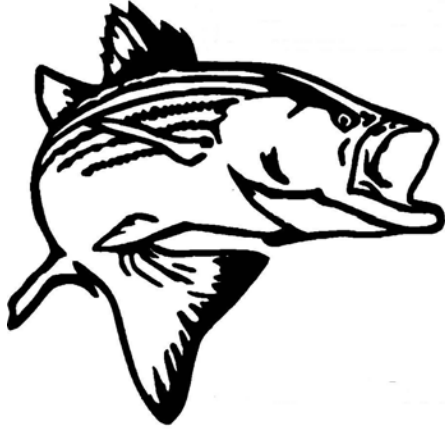


**Catch
the
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**September
2011**



Member John Harmeling and his friend Buzz Smith landed this big beauty on a trip to Norris Lake this past August. See more pictures of their successful day out on the water on page 6.

Coming September 24 at 2 p.m. The TSBA Annual Fish Fry



The tables will be prepared.



The fish cooks will be busy.



*Hopefully Sammy Robi-
nette will cook some of his
prized hush puppies.*



The feast will begin at 4 p.m.



Don't be late.



Don't be late



Seriously.
Don't be late.

Minutes of the August 2011 meeting

As members entered the Flatwater Grill a wonderful buffet awaited them. We had our choice of pork, fish or chicken along with several choices of vegetables, salad, bread, beverages and a dessert. The great food and friendship always seems to set the stage for having a productive meeting.

Forty-five members were in attendance as our TSBA Treasurer, Doug Steffe, opened the meeting. Doug had three key points to discuss with the group:

First, there is no monthly meeting in September. In place of this meeting, all members and their friends and family are invited to the annual fish fry on September 24. Everyone should bring a side dish. Doug asked for volunteers to help at the fish fry. By the end of the meeting, members had answered his call for volunteers.

The second topic on Doug's agenda was the Cherokee Lake closed fishing zone. A petition has been submitted to the proper authorities requesting that a hearing be held to consider making changes to the types of restrictions in this zone. The petitioners want to open the no fishing zone on Cherokee to allow artificial bait fishing. Members had a discussion on the issue and unanimously agreed that opening the closed zone would lead to the slaughter of the striped bass population. TSBA stands opposed to this matter and will work with TWRA to fight against making any changes to this seasonally restricted fishing zone.

Finally, Doug reported that TWRA reservoir fisheries biologist Jim Negus completed his water quality report on Norris Lake. The oxygen profiles look very good this year and Jim assures us that the striped bass population will not likely be stressed or die. You can find water quality reports on TWRA Region 4 website.

After this news from Doug, members had an informal discussion which covered the topics of downriggers, umbrellas, hooks, bait tanks, live bait tactics and jigging.

Allan Franklin held the 50/50 drawing and split \$85 between two lucky members. Allan also informed members that he would be giving cast net demonstration outside after the meeting.

Some questions were asked about the wounded warrior program. The details of this new program are still being worked out. The general idea will be to partner TSBA members with wounded military personnel for a group fishing trip. Our goal is to get this new program started in the 2012 fishing season.

TSBA would like to thank our members for a good turn out! Don't forget the upcoming annual fish fry - this is a great time.

— **Bud White, Secretary**



Wayne Beeler met with success on an August 27 fishing trip to Norris Lake with Ezell Cox.

Trophy Shots

TSBA member John Harmeling recently had the opportunity to share the wonderful sport of striper fishing with 11 year-old Jeff Smith. Jeff (also known as "Buzz") had not been fishing, or active in any sport, in over a year due to a series of surgeries to treat a tumor at the base of his brain. Jeff's mother, Lisa, appreciated



John's perseverance in fishing until they caught something, saying "the smile on his face is priceless! After a year of doctors telling him "no" he can't do this, he can't do that, it was awesome for him to do something he loves."

You can tell that Buzz is a true sportsman at heart. He says he loves striper fishing because "no matter how big or small the fish, stripers always put up a fight - just like me." Buzz also appreciates another aspect of stripers: their taste! He loves to eat fish, especially when his big brother Eric grills them.



John took Buzz out on Norris lake where they fished in the Point Five area. They used gizzard shad for bait. Their biggest fish was 39.5 inches long and weighed about 30 pounds. Congratulations, on landing a big one, Buzz!



Trophy Shots



The Reinitz family appreciates all the advice they've been given by TSBA members. This past summer Gary was able to put this advice to the test when he guided his sons Zachary, pictured left, and Cody, pictured right, on a Norris Lake fishing trip.



Delynn Boshers, left, on Melton Hill Lake with Gary Harris. These boys have been busy! Be sure to check the trophy shots page next month to see the results of a trip they took to Norris Lake. There just wasn't enough room in the newsletter to post all their trophy shots this month!



Gary Harris, pictured left and Delynn Boshers, above, had a lot of fun this past August fishing on Melton Hill Lake. When submitting these photos for the newsletter, Gary noted that “we caught several fish all on planer boards. We lost several but had a great day.”

Outlook for current fishing spots

CHEROKEE LAKE

The larger stripers will struggle from accumulated stress so catch and release is not recommended in late summer. Please harvest your limit and quit fishing for stripers until the lake turnover takes place in October. You may want to change ends of the lake and go way upstream after turnover happens. Watch for top water breaks again. The restrictions for the NO FISHING ZONE are no longer in effect, starting September 16. Looking for the large concentrations of bait fish is a good way to find stripers/hybrids as well as looking for breaking fish on the surface.

NORRIS LAKE

With the changing seasons, stripers will be free to roam the entire lake at any depth as the lake turnover develops. Finding large schools of bait fish or looking for surface feeding fish may be the key to success in catching fish in the month of October. The stripers may still be stressed early in the month but catch and release begins to be successful again as the thermocline disappears.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

Many of the stripers have moved upstream to the discharge at the dams. If you plan to fish here, remember to **WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET**. Put your sinker and hook close to the bottom with plans to lose a few for the most catches. Pulling side planer boards down the banks can also catch fish for miles downstream. The catch and release stripers will no longer struggle as the summer-time stress goes away. Use heavy line with a very quick release to keep from killing the fish.

FISHING REGULATIONS

It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. The restricted fishing area begins July 15th on Cherokee Lake. Go online to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency website at www.tnwildlife.org or pick up a 2011 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices.

— *Ezell Cox*

October Expectations

The stripers have migrated downstream in search of cooler water. The place to fish will be below the thermocline in tributary reservoirs until the lake turns over in October. Lake turnover is when the denser water found in the thermocline disappears, allowing water above and below this layer to mix together. This takes place in Tennessee starting in early October in the shallow water and continues through the month into the deeper waters. Most of the pleasure boaters will be gone from the water as summer vacation ends, school starts, and hunting, football and other interests become favorite pastimes. The schools of striper will be a little more difficult to locate with your fish finder as the stripers will be able to roam the entire water column, and use all of the lake from end to end. The thermocline will no longer trap the fish at depth and surface feeding in the reservoirs will likely be seen again in October. Be advised that fishing is often better with flow when the dams are generating. The tailraces will continue to draw fish to the cooler water with higher dissolved oxygen. Working the “boils” can still be very effective in October. It is your life and money, so remember to wear your life jacket at the dams. With the cooler, more stable weather, reduced boat traffic and fall colors it is a wonderful time of the year to be on the water.

— *Ezell Cox*

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.

YOUR 2011 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

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[vacant]

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2011 TSBA Calendar

Please join us at TSBA meetings and events. Monthly meetings are held at the Flatwater Grill at 100 Melton Lake Peninsula in Oak Ridge, Tennessee (<http://theflatwatergrill.com>).

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Sep 24 | Annual Fish Fry: reunion starts 2 p.m., dinner 4 p.m. Grainger County Park |
| Oct 17 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge Topic: Graph reading and using your GPS feature Speakers: Captain Clay Cunningham, Bill Carson |
| Nov 21 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. The Flatwater Grill in Oak Ridge |
| Dec | No monthly meeting in December. |



Important Reminder

There is no monthly meeting this month. The annual Fish Fry event takes the place of the September meeting. The reunion starts at 2 p.m. and dinner starts at 4 p.m.

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TSBA 2011 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**

Simplified Renewal Note: Membership renewals with no address or info revisions may send **just a \$20 check** with member's name, to the address above. Filling out the application is not required. 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**



**September 24, 2011
TSBA Annual Fish Fry
Grainger County Park
Reunion at 2:00 p.m.; dinner at 4:00 p.m.**