

# Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !

February 2015



Monthly Meeting Third TUESDAY at  
Puleo's Grill 110 Cedar Lane off Merchants Rd. at I - 75

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

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/#!/TennesseeStripedBassAss>

## TSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We held our first TSBA meeting of 2015 at Puleo's Grill in January. Attendance was good and the food was a vast improvement over our previous venue. Mel Cooke and Ezell Cox presented information on boat and home bait tanks. Once again it was a very useful presentation. If you couldn't make it to the meeting, check it out on our web page in the Forum. By the way, Mel is making boat tanks for sale. They are clearly worth checking out if you're in the market for a new tank.

Bob Biscay ( bcbusy@att.net) has assumed the critically important role of TSBA's Newsletter Editor. Please send him pictures of your fishing trips. If you are willing to write a story about the trip or anything else related to striper fishing, please do that too. He can only be successful in putting out a quality newsletter if we support him by sending in materials for publication.

In mid-January, 14 of our members each donated several hours over a four day period supporting our booth at the East Tennessee Fishing Show. We talked with lots of fishermen regarding fishing in general and striper fishing in particular. Hopefully several new members will result from this effort. Thanks again to everyone who was able to participate.

One of our members reminded me recently of how critically important safety is on the water, especially in the winter. Try to fish with another person, wear a life vest and be sure your boat is in top running condition. Keeping a set of battery jumper cables in the boat is a nice insurance policy to have. Also, be sure that someone who isn't on the fishing trip knows roughly where you're planning to fish and when to expect you home. That way, if you do have a problem they will know where to start looking. None of us want to read about another member's accident in the paper.

New licenses for 2015 go on sale this month. Remember that you need a new license effective March 1.

Our next meeting will be at Puleo's Grill (110 Cedar Ln, just east of the I-75/Merchants Rd. exit) on February 17, with dinner at 6 pm and the meeting at 7 pm. Our speaker will be Jay Girardot. His topic will be umbrella rigs. This is a very timely topic as many of our members use them, especially in the winter months.

The TSBA is a non profit corporation that Supports TWRA and its Striped Bass/Cherokee Bass programs. We come together to provide A unified voice for the Striped Bass/ Cherokee Bass programs in the state of Tennessee. We Educate the public and share our knowledge With fellow Striped Bass anglers.

Remember 2015 is upon us, Memberships must be renewed to receive the newsletter. Please help to support TSBA by renewing now.

## Fishing Regulations

New fishing licenses are required to fish starting each March 1. It is each fisherman's responsibility to know the rules and stay legal. NO FISHING ZONE runs July 15 until September 15 on Cherokee Lake. Changes are normal in the management of our fishing each year, and those changes become effective on March 1. Each body of water may have exceptions you need to be aware of before exposing yourself to a fine. There are some seasonal striped bass CREEL AND SIZE limit changes that take place April 1 and November 1. Go online to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) or pick up a 2014 Fishing Regulations book at sporting stores or TWRA offices. Wearing life preservers are required below the dams and a good habit anytime on the water for personal safety.

— *Ezell Cox*

Members Photos    Dennis and Georgia with the big fish





Word on the water U-rigs are working well.



## Feedback from the TSBA fishing show booth

I met several fishermen that did not know there was a striper fishing club in this area. I met fishermen that were actually fishing for other fish like largemouth and crappie when they caught stripers. Most of these guys had interesting stories to share about landing their "accidental catch". Some of them said they would like to learn more about how to target stripers. A lot of people I met took cards and/or newsletters. I was surprised that none of them came to the last meeting. Jim

TSBA had 14 members work at our booth at the East TN Fishing Show on Jan. 15 - 18. We showed the Monster Stripers videos and had a very nice mount (courtesy of Ezell) to catch people's attention. Also we gave out a large number of newsletters and about 300 business cards. Our reasons for being there were to promote the club to area fishermen and bring in new members. We had lots of people stop by to talk about striper fishing. Hopefully several will decide to come to a meeting and join the club

Sammy Robinette and I had the Sunday afternoon session. Traffic was light to steady. I estimate about 1 third of traffic would stop. Almost all who stopped were familiar with Striped Bass, but over half were not aware of TSBA. A also noticed that negative comment about Striper were much less than previous shows. Lots of News letters handed out... as Membership Coordinator, I will see and report new sign ups.

Bob, our session was first. Many people were still at work. But there were some people that stopped and asked some questions. I know 2 guys that will join and probably be at the next meeting. Overall I think it was the right thing being at the show Bill

As several folks passed by and were both attracted and amazed by our striper mount (thanks again, Ezell), I asked if they enjoyed "catching big fish". This usually started an enjoyable conversation and I offered the meeting and guide service cards.

Briefly I explained to them the "treasure" that we had here in Eastern Tennessee and most seemed really interested. I thought we'd have some of these folks at our Jan meeting but hopefully next month. overall the show is a worthwhile event IMO. Ron

# Hot Spots

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## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

**NO FISHING ZONE RUNS JULY 15—SEPTEMBER 15 IN FRONT OF THE DAM.** The seasonal migration away from the summer thermal trap is complete as the striper have scattered into the coves & upstream looking for bait. The turnover & mixing is complete. The water quality remained good enough this summer for great survival of the larger stripers. Catch and Release is optional. Top water activity can be noticed on the calm mornings. The largest concentration of bait happens in the upper end of the reservoir and the back of major coves & creeks, then starts the migration to the main channel. The gulls have arrived & other bait eating birds will help find the game fish.

## **NORRIS LAKE**

Water quality remained great all summer, so survival was excellent. Lake turnover & mixing is complete, so migration of the stripers from deep water around the lower portion (dam end) of the lake allowed them to scatter & search for bait. Bait can be seen on the surface along with breaking game fish feeding in it. Stripers can be found around the most abundant bait in the headwaters of major creeks, coves, and rivers. Good Catch and Release practice now becomes optional. The gulls are back to help find the fish. The size and creel limits changed on November 1.

## **WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL**

Look for the stripers in front of the major coves or where you find the most bait fish and bait-eating birds. Catch and Release works good in the cool water months. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch / Watts Bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

— *Ezell Cox*

# Creel and Size Limits

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## **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.

**Striped Bass:** 32–42 inch Protected Length Range (PLR); only one fish may be over 42 inches

**Hybrid Striped Bass:** 15 inch minimum length limit



# **Fishing Cool Months For Stripers**

The change in season is very welcome by fishermen. Some of the reasons are cool, stable, comfortable temperatures to enjoy the foliage getting ready for winter, reduced boat traffic as school starts and football and hunting season begins, Catch & Release becomes optional, and the return of the helpful gulls for locating schools of striper that often feed on the surface.

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 bait fish concentrations that will seek out the warmest most stable temperatures with nutrient rich water that is normally murky.

— *Ezell Cox*

**SAFETY SHOULD BE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY WHEN FISHING AS THE WATER IS USED MUCH LESS IN COOL WATER MONTHS.**

**BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS PRESENTED EACH SEASON AND STAY PREPARED.**

Our next TSBA meeting will be held on TUESDAY, Feb. 17th. at Puleo's Grill (110 Cedar Ln, Knoxville – just east of the Merchant's Rd exit off of I-75). We will have Jay Giradot Speaking about Umbrella Rigs Please join us in the large meeting room at Puleo's for dinner at 6:00. The meeting will start at 7:00. Hope to see you there.

## United States Coast Guard Safety

Many folks spend time on the water for enjoyment and relaxation. Subsequently, our Tennessee waterways see more vessel traffic each year. With the increase of recreational boating, the focus has become boating safety. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in Eastern Tennessee is committed to helping those who use motor, sailing or personal water craft learn safety procedures that will save lives, prevent accidents and even help reduce the cost of your boater's insurance. Some examples of the Coast Guard Auxiliary public service include life jacket loaner programs that allow boaters to temporarily borrow life jackets free of charge for their guests, boating safety classes that can reduce the cost of your yearly boat insurance and vessel inspections by a certified inspector (without cost to you) to ensure your vessel meets all the equipment and safety requirements. Vessels meeting those requirements will receive a USCG safety inspection decal that will be displayed on the owner's watercraft. Our classes begin in February and will end in October 2015.

Classes can be accessed by going to our website at:

<http://www.flotilla-12-2-tellico-village.blogspot.com/>

Mike Colacone Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education

## **YOUR 2015 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF**

### **President:**

Eric Rauch 865-223-9788  
erauch01@gmail.com

### **Vice President:**

Eddie Dills 865-296-3743  
jeneddie@comcast.net

### **Treasurer:**

Larry Nowell 865-898-9273  
larrynowell@gmail.com

### **Secretary:**

Keith Shannon  
keith.shannon@gmail.com

## **TSBA DIRECTORS**

Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Greg Dee, Eddie Dills, Ron Gabler (Board Chairman) Cory Malabey, Larry Nowell, David Powell, Eric Rauch

## **TSBA STAFF**

### **Newsletter Printing & Distribution:**

Jim Blazier, Larry Nowell & Bill Ballou  
Jim's email (jblazier@comcast.net)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Bob Biscay  
bcbusy@att.net

### **Membership:**

Doug Steffe  
dougsteffe@centurytel.net

### **Website:**

Terry Reinitz

### **Adv. Sponsor Coord.:**

Ron Gabler

### **Tournament Coord.:**

Eddie Dills and Larry Nowell

### **Co-op Supplies and Raffle Prizes:**

Greg Dee  
greg@kingdomlandscapes.com

### **Advisors:**

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

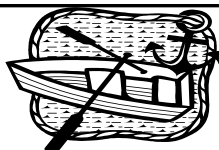
# 2015 Meeting links

*January Ezell Cox and Mel Cook    Topic Bait Tanks*

<http://youtu.be/HG9x7CWEQ-Y>

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# TSBA 2015 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.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ # of minor children in family \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an e-mail address to receive the monthly newsletter:

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://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:** Returning members with no changes to their contact information are not required to fill out the application. Just send a \$20 check to the address above. Be sure to include the member's name on the check. When you send in your check, please provide TSBA with an email address where we can send your club newsletter. 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.

Tennessee Striped Bass Association, Inc  
P.O. Box 163  
Sharps Chapel, TN. 37866

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2015 ! Please help to support our club . TSBA has not received your dues if this is highlighted (hard copy only)