

Tennessee Striped Bass Association

Get Hooked !

February 2016



NEW FOR 2016 Monthly Meeting: First Monday

at Puleo's Grill, 110 Cedar Lane off Merchants Rd. at I - 75

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

Join our Facebook group: [Tn Striped Bass Association](#)

TSBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well, it looks like winter has finally arrived. The good thing about that is that it means spring is getting closer each day. If you attended our January meeting or watched the video, you should have some great ideas about how to be successful fishing for stripers for the next few months. Thanks to Ezell for leading our discussion and for the other members who contributed their knowledge to the presentation. This is a great time to use umbrella rigs and to consider using smaller live bait. Just be especially careful when on the water. Accidents are even more serious when it's cold. Ramps and docks, as well as fiberglass and aluminum boat decks, can get really slick when you combine moisture with cold temps.

At our January meeting we filled two important functions of the club. Keith Shannon agreed to continue as our Secretary. Also, one of our newer members, Art Muchow, agreed to transition the membership role into the Treasurer role which he already accepted. He'll be working with Doug Steffe on this transition. Thanks to Doug for coordinating our memberships for us for many years. It's really great to have our new members get involved in running the club. That's a great way to get to know our members and forge long term relationships. Also, we added Steve Nichols and Allan Franklin to our Board of Directors to replace Eddie Dills and Greg Dee.

Membership renewals are due now. This edition of the newsletter is the last one that will be sent to you if you haven't renewed. The annual cost is still only \$20 and it's one of the best deals around! You can renew in person at the February meeting, send in your renewal with the form at the end of the newsletter or do it on Pay Pal. Don't miss out on the getting the April newsletter.

For some time now we've been concerned that we weren't getting many posts on our web site forum, especially fishing reports. Many of our members are using our Facebook group for this purpose. I have resisted joining Facebook, even though my family and many friends were on it. However, I finally decided to give it a shot, specifically to see how the TSBA group works. I found that it's very easy to use. As Allan Franklin stated at the last meeting, you can even post a picture directly from your boat if you want. Consider giving it a try. You can find TSBA's Facebook group at: [Tn Striped Bass Association](#). You'll have to request access, as this is limited to club members, but that will be handled quickly.

Our annual TSBA Fish Fry will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Granger County Park. Mark your calendars!

By now I hope that you are aware that we have changed our monthly meeting date to the 1st Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be on February 1st at Puleo's Grill (110 Cedar Ln, just east of the I-75/Merchants Road exit). Dinner will be at 6 pm and the meeting is at 7 pm. Keith Shannon will discuss "Keeping Bait Alive". We hope to see you there.

Hot Spots

CHEROKEE LAKE

Catch and release works great until summer with cool temperatures & good dissolved oxygen at all depths. Look for the gulls to find the bait and fish. Top water action is often good, so keep something to cast handy. Stripers/hybrids can migrate to any part of the lake with the temperature and oxygen comfortable everywhere, so look for large concentrations of bait fish, herons, gulls, or breaking fish. Some of the best action is often in the deep open waters on the lower half of the lake where the water temperature is most stable attracting the bait fish schools. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter.

NORRIS LAKE

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on NORRIS November 1ST until April 1st. Best fishing can be found mid-lake and downstream around the large coves & creeks in open water with bait fish abundant. Top water action can be good early mornings & late evenings so take something to cast. The bite can be fast and over quickly in the coldest part of winter. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter. Catch and release is very successful now.

WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) in effect on Watts Bar November 1ST until April 1st. Look for the gulls. Look for the stripers in front of the major coves or where you find the most bait fish and bait eating birds. The steam plant's warmed water attracts bait that attracts game fish. Catch and release works great. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch Watts Bar have contamination warnings so should not be harvested.

Ezell Cox

Cover photo: Allan Franklin

Makes me hungry!



Photos courtesy Allan Franklin



Creel and Size Limits

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 PLR; only one fish may be over 42 inches

Hybrid Striped Bass: 15 inch minimum length limit

2016 Meeting links

November 2015 *Speaker: Fuzzy Lambert* *Topic: Minn Kota Products*

<https://youtu.be/2muyal5XdvY>.

January 2016 *Speaker: Ezell Cox* *Topic: Winter fishing tips*

<https://youtu.be/u70F-rTdoOw>

Time to renew your membership!

tennstripedbass@gmail.com

You may send payment by mail per last page of newsletter, pay at next meeting, or send a PayPal **gift** payment to email address above.

TSBA thanks you for your past and hopefully your future support.



Fishing the Coldest Part of Winter

CAUTION & PLANNING are suggested during the winter months more than any other time of year. Top water action is common. Artificial and small lively bait do well in the coldest water of winter. Umbrella rigs have become very popular in winter & effective over the past several years. The bite can be fast and over quickly in the coldest part of winter. Catch & Release is very successful this time of year. The Gulls will be effective until the winter kill begins on the threadfins. The kill begins to takes place normally around the last week of February.

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 baitfish concentrations that will seek out the warmest most stable temperatures with nutrient rich water that is normally murky. Fishing shows & preparing fishing equipment for spring are common winter time entertainment when the weather is just ugly.

—— *Ezell
Cox*

Members Photos



Looks like a COLD day on Norris, someone is hiding behind that Striper.

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YOUR 2016 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

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erauch01@gmail.com

Vice President:

David Powell

Treasurer:

Art Muchow

Secretary:

Keith Shannon

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Justin Rose & Steve Nichols

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Ezell Cox

423-626-9547

Allan Franklin 865-694-8888

Members Photos

Craig Phillips, one of our new members submitted pictures of his fishing trip with family. I have included an excerpt from his e-mail.



Hi Bob,

Been a member for a few months but haven't been able to make a meeting yet. I live close to Chattanooga so it's a little drive for me. Hopefully can make it next month. Just got a boat this summer and used to live back west so having to learn all the lakes from scratch. Did get on some nice fish below FT Loudin in December at full spill (not for the faint hearted haha). Look forward to meeting some guys in the club.



Members Photos

In October, 2015 my son Kevin came to visit me on Lake Cherokee for 10 days. During his time here he caught 16 Striped Bass. This 16 pounder is the biggest one he caught. It was almost as tall as he was and he was very excited. Yes Allen, he is holding it incorrectly, but it did not matter as this was our dinner that night. He caught at least one Striper every time we went out for a 100 % success rate. He had a great time fishing here and now wants to move from Arizona to Tn. Thanks to all the members of the club who have been very patient with me during my short time here and helped me learn all I know about striper fishing. If not for you guys, my son would not have been so successful. I look forward to being the clubs treasurer for at least the next year and hopefully longer.

Art Muchow



Members Photos



Ezell Cox and Phillip Ford



Members Photos



Allan Franklin with neighbors Will and Riley



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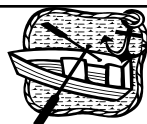


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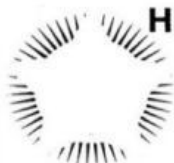
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As a member:

- *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 _____

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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 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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