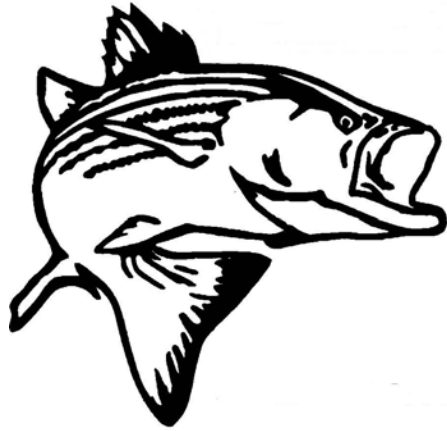


**Catch  
the  
Striper  
Fever!**

# **T.S.B.A.**



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

**January  
2013**



***Doug Steffe is looking forward to serving another year as the President of TSBA.***

## Letter from the Prez

Season's Greetings Friends, I hope everyone had happy and enjoyable holidays.

East Tennessee lakes went below their winter averages during this early winter, but rebounded with a big rise and flow with the end-of-year rains. The fishing was typical for this time of year with some good and some slow days. The more diving gulls, the better the bite!

With the end of 2012, several terms on the TSBA Board of Directors expired and new ones were elected at the November meeting. In early December, the Board of Directors got together with the current officers and staff for their annual meeting. At this meeting an election for 2013 officers was held and club directions were reviewed. After consideration of positions and interests in serving, the board voted to retain the current officers for the upcoming year.

In review of 2012 TSBA highlights, the club took a strong stance against a request for commercial fishing expansion, supported the continuation of the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Commission process, and gave input on the change to the umbrella rig regulation. We also created a club tackle supplies co-op, moved our meeting location to the Bass Pro Shops and started posting video recordings of our monthly meetings on YouTube. There were also several well attended fishing tournaments and a great annual fish fry event with music, contests, prizes and a bounty of food. Club membership and sponsorships increased and the club's income was greater than expenses. 2012 was considered to be positive in direction for growth and the support of striped bass fishing.

Committees were formed to work on several new projects in 2013. These projects include: creating a new TSBA logo, updating the look for the website and newsletter, and identifying potential investment opportunities for club funds. Providing content and printing support for eleven issues of the newsletter was identified

as a concern. A suggested reduction to eight issues per year, skipping every third month, was agreed upon as a solution. Monthly meeting topics were reviewed and tentatively scheduled. We have a creative, engaged group of directors and officers supporting our club and I believe we will have a great upcoming year.

I am hoping that some of your New Year resolutions involved the sport of fishing. We are very fortunate here in East Tennessee with so many lakes and water ways options to Go FISHING!

— Doug Steffe, President



*Roy Hawk, above, and Doug Steffe, below.*



## November Meeting Minutes

The November meeting was held at Uncle Buck's restaurant due to a scheduling conflict with the normal conference room. As a result, video recording of the meeting was unavailable this month. The first item on the meeting agenda was filling three positions that will serve on the 2013 Board of Directors and Officers. Ron Gabler, Ed-die Dills, and Larry Norwell expressed an interest in serving on the Board. These three members were nominated and elected to fill the positions by the other members present at the meeting. No one expressed an interest in serving as an officer for the upcoming year. Election of the officers will occur at the December Board of Directors meeting.

The next topic on the agenda was a discussion of the new three hook per rod umbrella rig regulation for 2013. The regulation will take effect with the new license year, starting in March. Members were encouraged to monitor unintentional mortality with the extra hooks. During the featured topic of striper tackle, members talked about swim baits, u-rigs, buck tails, crank baits, and more. Bill Bal-lou shared info on custom made tackle and lures. It was a small crowd with around 20 members. The 50/50 drawing was \$33. Many members paid their 2013 dues before leaving. Renewals are due by the end of the year.

—— Bud White and Doug Steffe

## January Meeting

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Please join us on January 21, 2013 for the TSBA monthly meeting. Our meeting location is:

**Bass Pro Shops (Kodak/Sevierville)  
3629 Outdoor Sportsmans Place,  
Kodak, TN**

Bass Pro Shops is located at Exit 407 on Interstate 40. We will have dinner at 6 p.m. in the restaurant located inside the store.

### Reminders

Be sure to visit our website at [www.TNStripedBass.com](http://www.TNStripedBass.com)

To view the September meeting on You Tube: [Click Here](#)

The November meeting is not available for online viewing.

Annual **membership renewals are due** in January. See page 15 for the simplified renewal process for returning members.

## Winter Fishing Expectations

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.

The winter months are also some of the best surface feeding times and the RETURN OF THE GULLS to help find the baitfish that the stripers are running to the surface. Cold water temperatures will change the feeding habits of the striper, so be aware of their slower metabolism and the need to use smaller bait and lures as the temperatures dip below 50 degrees. Casting artificial bait and pulling umbrella rigs are favorite techniques in the coldest water months. Where warm water is discharged by steam plants is another good place to look for stripers. Catch and release also is an option.

Winter is a great time to be on the water but needs some preparations to make it a safe, uneventful, fun trip. Slick roads and icy boat ramps can make for a bad fishing trip.

— **Ezell Cox**

## Still Hooked on Stripers

As most of you know, I bought “The Little Blue Boat” in February, 2011 just before I started striper fishing. Little did I know that this was a wrong direction in boat choices for this particular fish species. Not being a striped bass fisherman at the time, who would have thought a bass boat does not work well for striped bass? But, it was bought, so I was determined to make it work.

I learned a lot from many of our club members, so things started to come together for “The Little Blue Boat”. I put in several new upgrades to all of my equipment. I think the first thing I got was the Elite 5

Lowrance, then the Minnkota Terrova trolling motor, then

I think I got me one of those big minner buckets like everyone else had. Mine was a Grayline 24-gallon Slimline as it was called, due to its compact size, 24 tall x 24 long x 18 wide, I think. It barely fits in the floor of a bass boat, but it does, so all is well. I did have to buy a lot of other things to accomplish the task at hand: rods, reels, rod holders, bait nets, dip nets, and too many other little things to mention. Okay, I guess I could mention the line for the reels, the hooks of exactly the right kind, the sinkers of larger than normal sizes. Not to mention the de-hookers and a variety of all kinds and types of grippers, scales for weighing, and even chemicals for my new bait tank. Whew !!!!! You get it yet? I had to resupply *everything*, but I thought “The Little Blue Boat” was finally ready. If I only had some bait, I would be really ready.



*Steve was like a lot of fishermen that transitioned from other types of fishing to stripers. He bought the "Little Blue Boat" thinking that this would be a good versatile fishing boat.*

Let me say that bait is most important: without it, you're not fishing.



You could be using artificial baits of some sort, but that didn't seem to be the way I was going because I liked live bait fishing the best. I have since learned that artificial baits do work in the right conditions, winter mostly for me, due to the baitfish and the bite slowing way down in the colder months.

It's all about the bait--- catching it, keeping it, and using it correctly. If you do any of these things wrong, it doesn't go well. I have learned from experience that bad bait is like having no bait at all. It is bad to have your bait die, but even worse is when your bait will not work when you try to present it to the fish. I have sat beside other people in this club who were catching fish in their boat while I was not catching fish my boat - until I changed baits. Who would have thought *alive* bait is not necessarily *good* bait. I'm learning again, duh!

I won't go into details too much about catching bait except to say that it is the hardest part of fishing for me. Going to the water, unloading the boat, finding the bait, and then catching the bait, then keeping the bait in perfect shape until you're ready to fish with it is a royal pain in the butt! I have gone home a half dozen times in the past 20 months with zero bait, after 3 hours of trying real hard to catch the elusive little rascals. What a bummer this is. However I must say that catching bait is also fun for me when it goes right. When you throw that bait net out there, and it pancakes in a perfect circle and sinks onto the bait, and you draw it up beside the boat and it's exactly the right size, shape, and amount of bait you desire, it's *great*. I still have much to learn about all kinds of live bait. It is a lot of information to comprehend in a short period of time when you're getting older and slower, but I'll get it someday.

Now that we are to this part of the story, I might as well tell all that "The Little Blue Boat" has been semi-retired for a new-to-me fishing vessel. As time went on, I learned that all boats are not meant to be striper boats. So I got a striper-friendly fishing boat. I call her "Ole Girl" because she's an old Lund Deep-Vee boat. Way different from a bass boat. Now the re-rig is on! I have moved all the above mentioned items from "the little blue boat" and reinstalled them on the "Ole Girl". Most things moved right over, no problem. Now I have more room for a bigger minner bucket, like my Vest 40-gallon

Super Tank II, and all the other necessary items. I have since been upgrading equipment and will continue upgrading as time progresses. The boat I have now is smaller and older, but I bet she catches as many fish. I know she is more comfortable for the fishing I'm doing at this point in time. Maybe someday I'll find the Perfect Boat for all my needs, but that's another boat story (2002 Crestliner in the garage) and (bass boat for sale if anyone is looking).



*The Lund is a good choice to meet the needs of a striped bass fisherman.*

With that being said, I would like to thank a bunch of you for your help and support this past couple of years. Without the **sharing** of knowledge and the camaraderie of our sport, I would not be where I am today. I still need a lot of help from you pro's and I am willing



*Steve Nichols and John Vincenzo in "The Ole Girl" bending a few poles mid-December on Cherokee.*

and able to learn from you. Could we just go fishing? I would personally like to say to everyone, let's go fishing, together. You instigate it, and I'll see it through. This is going to be a great New Year for fishing, and I hope to fish with more of you that I haven't had the pleasure of fishing with yet.

THANKS!

— Steve "The Supply Guy"





*TSBA would like to welcome new member Johnny Ramsey.*



*Another welcome is extended to new member Melvin Cooke.*



*Did you know that Santa Claus is a member of TSBA? He goes by the name of Fred England during his off time!*



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Joseph Speciale

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Madisonville, TN 37354



# Hot Spots

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## **CHEROKEE LAKE**

The stripers/hybrids are in large schools roaming the lower half of the reservoir below the 25E Bridge. The water temperature is around 50 degrees so much of the large concentrations of baitfish have moved into the deep main channel where the temperature is most stable. The metabolism of stripers and baitfish has been slowed by the cold water, making bait easier for the stripers to catch and the feeding times shorter. Find the gulls to be in the feeding zone with breaking fish on the surface being likely. The stripers have completely recovered from the summer stress and are putting on the weight. Catch and release will be successful so we should see some 25 pound stripers in Cherokee by spring pre-spawn.

## **NORRIS LAKE**

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) is in effect from November 1, 2012 until April 1, 2013. Find the large schools of baitfish by locating gulls whether feeding or not, and looking for surface feeding fish. Other bait-eating birds are scarce on Norris, but the gulls and a good fish finder will get you in the right area on the lake. The premium locations will be in or near the main channel where the water is deepest with less change in temperature around mid-lake and downstream. Water temperature will be in the high 40's. Good catch and release practice is successful even with the largest of stripers in the cool waters of the winter months. The best fishing is around the gulls in the large deep coves and main channel.

## **WATTS BAR & MELTON HILL**

SIZE (36 INCH) AND CREEL LIMIT (ONE) is in effect on Watts Bar from November 1, 2012 until April 1, 2013. The striped bass bite in the tail race often moves downstream for the coldest months of winter in front of the major coves or where you find the most baitfish. The Kingston Steam Plant often has large concentrations of baitfish, especially if the warm water discharge influences the areas water temperature. The steam plants have not produced the warm water discharge like in past years so the fishing has suffered around them. The baitfish will often find the warmest water. The cooler longer nights will equalize the temperature in the coves and river to allow the bait to use the river more, so look for the sun warmed banks and the gulls. The survival of released fish in the winter months is great. The fish in Watts Bar & lower Clinch have contamination warnings so they should not be harvested.

— *Ezell Cox*

## **YOUR 2013 TSBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF**

### **President:**

Doug Steffe 865-335-3815  
dougsteffe@centurytel.net

### **Vice President:**

Cory Malabey 865-659-3947  
clmalabey@charter.net

### **Treasurer:**

Bud White  
423-754-0541

### **Secretary:**

Keith Shannon  
keith.shannon@gmail.com

### **Assistant Treasurers:**

Allan Franklin  
865-805-3120

### **TSBA DIRECTORS**

Todd Asher, Bill Ballou, Jim Blazier, Eddie Dills, Ron Gabler, Cory Malabey, Larry Norwell, Eric Rauch, Bud White, Doug Steffe

### **TSBA STAFF**

#### **Newsletter Printing**

**& Distribution:** Jim Blazier, Bill Ballou, and Eddie Dills

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

Sherry Wehner  
(swehner9@gmail.com)

#### **Membership:**

Bud White 423-754-0541  
(tn1fishin fool@yahoo.com)

#### **Web Site**

Terry Reinitz and Bud White

#### **Tournament Coord.**

Todd Asher 865-789-1991  
Bud White 423-754-0541

#### **Co-op Supplies and**

#### **Raffle Prizes:**

Steve Nichols  
kidchevy@comcast.net

#### **Advisors:**

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

## **2013 TSBA Calendar**


Please join us at TSBA meetings and events. Monthly meetings are held the third Monday of the month at the ***Bass Pro Shops (Kodak/Sevierville), 3629 Outdoor Sportsmans Place, Kodak, TN.***

- |        |                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 21 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: Jay Girardot<br>Topic: Fishing Electronics & How To Interpret Your Sonar |
| Feb 18 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: Todd Asher<br>Topic: Skipjack Catching and Keeping                       |
| Mar 18 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: Jay Farmer<br>Topic: CastAway Tackle                                     |
| Apr 15 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: Keith Shannon<br>Topic: Catching and Keeping Bait                        |
| May 20 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: Mike Smith<br>Topic: Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery                            |
| Jun 17 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: Alan Colette<br>Topic: Artificial Baits                                  |
| Jul 15 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: Mike Smith<br>Topic: TWRA Striper Stocking Summary                       |
| Aug 19 | Monthly Meeting: dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Speaker: TBA<br>Topic: Trolling for Striped Bass                                  |

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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.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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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 monthly 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.



*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**



**January 21, 2013: Monthly Meeting  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.**