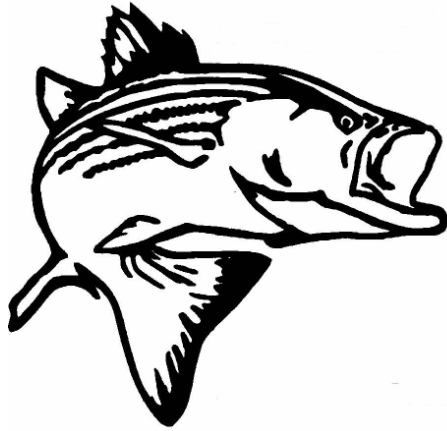


**Catch
The
Striper
Fever!**

T.S.B.A.



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

**October
2008**

TSBA Fish Fry & Reunion 2008



President's Letter

Well, the annual fish fry is over and was once again a tremendous success. It was great to see several members who can't regularly come to our meetings. We had several people who traveled pretty good distances, including from Ohio. We even had a couple of new members come from California (they were fishing Cordell Hull and saw that we were having a fish fry so they came over and joined!). That proves the worth of our web site (thanks John Seiber). As usual, lots of people contributed to make this successful – Ezell and Tom for the 50 pounds of fish and much more; Sammy and Lynn for cooking the fish and hush puppies; Bob for bringing most of the door prizes; Jim for lugging the drinks; Erik for running the net tossing contest; and, of course, Janine for bringing supplies, door prizes and coordinating much of what took place behind the scenes to make it all come together properly. We all owe these individuals a big thank you!

Sometimes I wonder if all the technology we use in fishing is really needed. However, on my recent week of fishing in northwest Ontario I realized how nice it is to have. To set the stage, we were in one of those places you have to fly an hour and a half to by float plane, and there are no roads or public utilities any where close to the lake. My brother Jeff and I had left our cabin on the third morning into our trip. We were in a small aluminum boat with a 9.9 hp outboard. It ran fine for the first couple of days. After we'd gotten about 2 miles from our cabin it started making some "unpleasant" noises. I'm no mechanic, but it didn't take long to determine the sounds were coming from the gears. We turned around to head back in, and within a couple of hundred yards the gears were shot. We weren't going anyplace. This could have been a major problem, especially if the wind picked up much. The one paddle we had wasn't going to be much help.

Between technology and friends though, the day was saved. John Mosca and Kyle Rutherford, both TSBA members, were also on the trip. John, who works for Motorola, brought along portable radios for the four boats in our group since cell phones are only useful for paper weights up there. We radioed for assistance and Kyle quickly responded that he'd be over to give us a tow back. John also responded and was still at the cabin preparing to head out. He used a satellite phone to call the outfitter and arrange for us to use another outboard motor. If we did not have a way to quickly communicate, we could have spent a very difficult day on the water as the lake was about six miles from end to end and had lots of large coves. We might not have been missed until about dark that evening, when finding us could have been a real ordeal. It was also a good reminder to make sure that someone knows where you're heading on the water and when you expect to return so that if something does go wrong they have an idea where to start looking. Oh yeah, we really went "catching" rather than "fishing" on this trip. It couldn't have been better.

It's great to be back fishing for stripers again. Hope to see you on the water.

Eric Rauch, TSBA President

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

We are thankful that Dennis and Georgia Bryant were able to attend our Fish Fry, and we all look forward to seeing them at future events (and on the lake). The TSBA has been blessed to have great weather for the past two years for the annual Fish Fry.

The QUESTION OF THE MONTH (as it was last year) was to find out where the attendees live. I counted 93 members and guests on the sign-in sheets. But a rough count of the group by a couple of members would indicate the we actually had closer to 120 total attendees.

This year we had out of state members and guests attend from CA, GA, IN, KY and OH.

Attendees listed the following residences:

Knoxville	13	Barbourville, KY	3
New Tazewell	10	Lakeside, CA	2
Sharps Chapel	10	Cincinnati, OH	1
Heiskell	8	Harrison, OH	1
Oak Ridge	7	Cumming, GA	1
LaFollette	6	Dahlonega, GA	1
Speedwell	6	Lawrenceburg, IN	1
Tazewell	5		
Maynardville	3		
Seymour	3		
Andersonville	2		
Jefferson City	2		
Maynardville	2		
Norris	2		
Gray	1		
Loudon	1		
Morristown	1		
Powell	1		

We missed you guys from VA, NC, and FL. Hope to see you next year.

Jim Blazier

Minutes of the September Meeting

There was no formal meeting during the Fish Fry & Reunion on September 6. We had a really great turnout of members, new members, and guests from several states as detailed in the Question of the Month. Everyone had a wonderful time with the beautiful park on Norris Lake, warm breeze, friendly conversation, great food, games, and prizes.

People enjoyed spreading out in the entire area in and around the pavilion and parking lot. The club provided toys this year so all ages would have activities. The fish fryers were brought under the pavilion, as there were a few drops of rain upon arrival and the extra picnic table was missing.

Although we usually do not have door prizes available for everyone, at this particular event so much attention was focused on the door prizes that everyone in attendance received one and there were extras. In addition to a large assortment of fishing items, they included a rod and reel donated by Tony Metz from Indiana, flower and tree plants donated by Bob Leach, ladies items donated by Debbie Blazier and Janine Johnson, plus other donations. Bob Leach has been finding deals on the internet. Through his efforts the club has been able to provide more value on door prizes for the fish fry and for club meetings. Kids were able to choose from items such as Cinderella or race car sleeping bags and kids lunch pails.

Net cast contest participants: Gary and Terry Reinitz, Doug and Alex Cheek, Mike Hoyt, J.J. Erlbacher, Kyle and Alex Mendonca, Allan and Becky Franklin, Leonard Poppy, Jim Rhodes, Wally Edwards, Adam and Zach Clark, Doug Steffe, Bill Ballou, Sherwin Harvey, John and Landon Butler, Keith Shannon, and Sammy Robinette. Adult winners: 1st Sammy Robinette, 2nd Keith Shannon, 3rd John Butler. Kid winners: 1st Alex Cheek, 2nd Alex Mendonca, 3rd Zach Clark. Landon Butler won the drawing for the cast net prize.

Thank you to all the members who helped put on this year's Fish Fry! Jim Blazier for drinks, table, sign-in sheet/question of the month, and photography; Erik Engebretsen for running the cast net contest; Jim Rhodes for games and 50/50 ticket sales; Doug Steffe for the table and canopy; Betty Boshears, Dick Vornehm, and Jim Blazier, and others for help with setup and clean up; Tom Elmore and Pat Kneiss for assisting the cooks; Delynn Boshears and Sammy Robinette for cooking the fish; everyone who brought door prizes and a dish to pass; Ezell Cox, Tom Elmore and others who caught, cleaned, and froze the fish; Ezell and Reba Cox for the fish batter and cast net prize; Doug Steffe, Ezell Cox, and others for bait tank displays and helpful hints; Allan Franklin, Ezell Cox, and others who invited guests and provided cast net lessons. There were comments that people received helpful information.

Pictures will be displayed on the website and throughout the newsletter. It was a wonderful day !

Janine Johnson, TSBA Treasurer



Cast Net
Contest
Winners

Sammy,
Keith,
John

Cast Net
Contest
Winners

Alex,
Alex,
Zach



Cast Net
Drawing
Winner

Landon





Fishing Hot Spots



Cherokee Lake: Good

Top water action is often good, so keep something to cast handy. Stripers can migrate to any part of the lake with the temperature and oxygen comfortable everywhere, so look for large concentrations of bait fish, gulls, or breaking fish. Normally, the best area to look is from Point #20 downstream to the dam.

Norris Lake: Good

Remember to check the fishing regulations on Norris starting November 1 because it is your responsibility to stay legal on quantity and size harvested (1 fish, 36 inches). Look around mid lake and in the large coves.

To review T.W.R.A. data on dissolved oxygen, go to www.TNStripedBass.com. Click on the link: TWRA Region 4, Water Quality.

Tailrace and Downstream: Good

It may be a little harder to find the stripers, so look where you find a large quantity of bait fish including at the steam plants.

November Expectations

The lake turnover is complete and with no thermocline. Top water action is common, and catch and release is almost always successful. The water temperature is normally around the mid 50 degree F. range with cooler water in the shallow coves. Stripers often run up in the larger coves to feed on the abundant bait fish that are usually there. Sometimes as early as November the gulls start to show where to fish by diving on the shad that stripers cause to come to the surface when they feed. Tailrace fishing will begin to slow, and the steam plants may start to attract the bait fish if the weather is cold enough and the steam plant discharge is warm.



Wayne Beeler, Vice President of B&C Asphalt Paving Co., Inc. with his limit from Norris Lake on September 5

Sonar Fish Finders

If you're a live-bait, striped-bass fisherman in East Tennessee, then you are undoubtedly somewhat familiar with sonar fish finders as they are an essential part of the gear used to pursue these highly-prized game fish. However, you may not know exactly how they work and which unit is the best one for you. Recently, my fish finder has been malfunctioning at the most inappropriate times. As a result, I decided to get a new, upgraded unit. However, I needed to research the various units on the market to determine which one best fits my needs and style of striper fishing. This eventually led me to the Lowrance website as they had what I considered to be the best explanation of how sonar works and exactly what to look for in a first-class unit. The following is a brief summary of what I learned from my research efforts.

How Does Sonar Work – First of all, SONAR is an abbreviation for SOund, NAvigation and Ranging. It was developed during World War II as a means of tracking enemy submarines. Basically, an electrical impulse from a transmitter is converted into a sound wave by a transducer and sent into the water. When it strikes an object, it rebounds and sends an echo back to the transducer which is then converted back into an electrical signal. The receiver then amplifies it and sends it to the display. Since the speed-of-sound in water is constant, the time lapsed between the transmitted signal and the rebounding echo determines the distance the object is from the transducer. This process is repeated many times per second. The most important facets of a good fishing sonar unit are outlined and briefly discussed below.

High Power Transmitter – High transmitter power increases the probability that you will get a return echo in deep water or in poor water conditions. It also lets you see finer detail and get better target separation. I personally wouldn't buy any single-frequency unit that has less than 300 watts RMS (2400 watts peak-to-peak). I would increase this specification to at least 500 watts if a dual-frequency unit is chosen as you must have enough power to drive both frequency signals.

Efficient Transducer – A quality transducer must be able to convert the electrical power into sound energy while minimizing the signal loss. Also, it must be able to detect the smallest of echoes being returned to the unit.

Sensitive Receiver – The receiver has a wide range of signals that it has to deal with. It must dampen the extremely high transmission signal and amplify the much smaller returning echoes. It has to be able to separate targets that are very close together into distinct, separate impulses for the display instead of a single blob.

Display – The display must have a high resolution, vertical pixels, and good contrast to be able to show all of the details crisply and clearly. This allows fish arches and fine detail to be sharply displayed.

Transducer Cone Angle – This has been the most confusing aspect of sonar devices for me. Most single-frequency fish finders that you find in the fishing catalogs advertise that they have a 20-degree cone angle. I incorrectly assumed that this was a reasonable indication of the space in the water below the boat where the unit would detect fish and show them on the display. If you do the math, you will determine that the diameter of a 20-degree cone in 30' of water is only 10.5'. That seemed to me to be way too small, so I thought I wanted a unit with a higher cone angle or a dual-frequency unit with both narrow and wide-angle beams so I would see more of the bottom. However, things aren't always what they seem. The cone angle, as defined by Lowrance, is determined by the horizontal distance away from the center axis of the underwater cone where the sound power has decreased to 1/2 as strong as it is at the axis of the cone. This really has absolutely nothing to do with defining the volume of water where the sonar unit will detect and display fish. It's a way to define how rapidly the beam spreads out under the water. It's sort of like the choke on a shotgun. Narrow cone angles are more like full chokes, and wider cone angles are more like modified or open chokes. Unfortunately, not all manufacturers use the half-power point in defining the cone angle for their sonar units which really complicates comparing competitive units. Humminbird defines their cone angle as the point where the power level has decreased to 1/10 of its value at the axis instead of 1/2. Therefore, what Lowrance calls a 20-degree cone angle, Humminbird would define as a 40-degree cone angle. The unit is the same – just two different definitions of the cone angle.

The true space under your boat where the sonar unit will detect and display fish is called the "Effective Cone Angle" by Lowrance. The Effective Cone Angle of a Lowrance sonar system with a 20-degree cone angle is much larger than 20 degrees. In fact, Lowrance estimates that it's at least 60 degrees for their systems. Now, that's more like it. If you do the math again, you'll discover that the diameter of a 60-degree cone in 30' of water is roughly 34' in diameter or slightly larger than the depth. However, they don't publish the Effective Cone Angle as its value depends upon many factors such as the receiver's sensitivity. You can increase the unit's Effective Cone Angle by increasing its sensitivity. With low sensitivity settings, the effective cone angle will be lower, showing only targets immediately beneath the transducer. Turning up the sensitivity control increases the effective cone area, letting you see targets farther out to the sides. Other factors, too numerous to mention, also affect the Effective Cone Angle. However, there is a downside to higher sensitivity levels. Your screen will display more unwanted clutter.

It will pick up echoes from tiny leaf parts and other small items floating in the water. You can either leave the sensitivity setting alone and let your sonar device select the sensitivity level that it thinks is the best overall, or you can over-ride the sensitivity manually and come up with what you think works best for you.

Frequency: Dual or single - You now have to decide if you want a single or dual-frequency unit. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. If you visit the Lowrance website and thumb through the fishing catalogs, you'll discover that Lowrance recommends using a single-frequency 200 kHz unit for shallow, freshwater applications (less than say 200'); and they recommend a 200 kHz/50 kHz dual-frequency unit for saltwater or deeper water applications. Evidently, 200 kHz frequency gives the best detail, works well in shallow water, and shows less undesirable noise and echoes. It also provides for excellent target separation and definition. However, when operating in salt or at extreme depths, a lower frequency like 50 kHz works better. While a dual-frequency unit would expand the cone and pick up stuff farther out the sides, it would not give you as good of detail of what's going on in the column of water under the boat equal to the water depth. You'll have to decide for yourself what's best for you. However, I'm satisfied with a unit with an "Effective Cone Angle" of 60 degrees, since I'm going to be operating exclusively in the relatively shallow reservoirs and rivers of East Tennessee.

Color – Most of the expensive, upgraded units utilize a color display instead of a monochrome unit with various levels of Grayline. While the color displays do look quite impressive, I have yet to find any documentation indicating that the color units are superior in any way to the monochrome units in locating or identifying stripers. The veteran striper anglers that I know, who have had color and monochrome units, state that the color display does not add anything in locating fish. However, you will spend at least an extra \$100 for a unit with a color display.

After all of my research, I purchased a Lowrance X135 sonar fish finder and installed it on my boat. I couldn't be happier with the results. The Lowrance X135 is a single-frequency unit that operates at 200 kHz and has a rated cone angle of 20 degrees and a power rating of 4000 peak-to-peak watts or 500 watts RMS. The display has 480 vertical pixels. This will give me a first-class system for under \$400.

I'm going to be the speaker at the TSBA's October 20th meeting at the Shoney's just off of I-75 at exit 122. The subject will be Sonar Fish Finders. If you have any questions concerning any of the above, you may want to attend the October meeting as it will be much easier to explain this material in person. Bob Leach



Gary Harris & James
West, 44, 40 released
Clinch River - Sept.



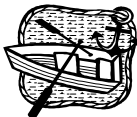


Tom
Elmore

In the fog
Sept. 8



Zophia with
her 2 dogs
and 16 lb.
fish,
daughter of
Pat Kneiss,
caught the
first fish in
Pat's new
striper boat
on Sept. 9



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BOAT DOCK**

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New Tazewell, TN
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Maynard & Delbert Brooks



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*"Home of the
Stripers"*

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**Full service marina
on Norris Lake
Near Maynardville TN**

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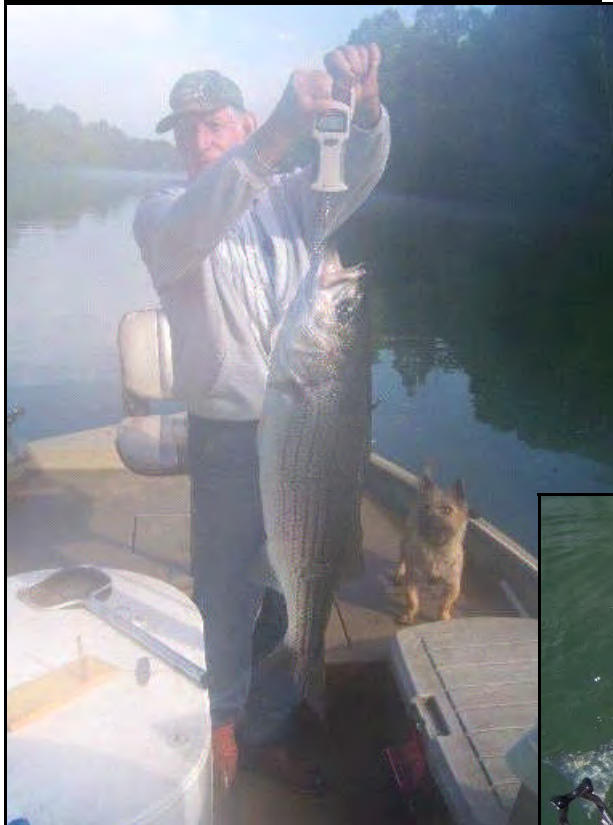
Tournament Coordinators: Erik Engebretsen, Allan Franklin
404-683-0181, 865-694-8888

Hats & Shirts: John Seiber 865-945-3716



Todd fishing
with Billy
Davis

Caught and released by Doug Cheek
43.3 pounds and his Dad George
Cheek 23 pounds - Sept. 4



2008 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.

- October 20 Monthly Meeting, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
 - Nominations for Directors and Officers
- November 17 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 offers up-to-date fishin' reports to all TSBA members. Visit the web at: **www.**

TNStripedBass.com

The current password is:

Username: "bait" Password: "fish"

Tony Patterson
September 1



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 24442

Knoxville TN 37933

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 24442
Knoxville, TN 37933**



**Nominations for Directors and Officers
at October 20th Meeting at Shoney's
Elections at November Meeting**