



## Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

[www.mvsurfcasters.org](http://www.mvsurfcasters.org)

*"...to encourage the sport of surfcasting; to gather for entertainment and good fellowship; to promote and uphold sound conservation practices and laws, and to see that these laws are properly carried out by members; to further good sportsmanship; and to seek and protect public access to fishing areas on Martha's Vineyard." A. Spofford, 1989*

### **MVSA April 2016 Newsletter**

**They're Heere!!-** On the cold and blustery morning of April 14, school stripers from 10"-20" appeared in big numbers along south facing beaches. Up-island fisherman Joe Uva was the first to report catching one and once the word got out on social media, hundreds more were caught that day from Quansoo to Wasque Point. The fish were accompanied by returning herring and diving gannets and the scene resembled an early season blitz as the dozen or so anglers were sometimes hooked up on every cast. Some at Quansoo even reported seeing whales spouting not more than a couple hundred yards offshore. Catch numbers ranged up to fifty per angler in just a couple of hours of fishing and although fishing slowed at Quansoo the next day, Wasque was still very good on the afternoon rising tide. Anglers agreed that it was the best start we've had in many years and were encouraged by the number of small fish. Janet Messineo was the first MVSA member to report catching a striper and new member Eric Bettencourt won a Ron McKee custom lure by correctly guessing April 14 as the date the first migrating fish would be caught.

Look for the fishing to improve as the water and weather continue to warm and while we appear to be blessed with many young fish and it's fun to be out there catching after a long winter layoff, it's also important to remember that these fish are the future of our fishery and must be handled correctly. Please use single hook lures and crush the barbs. Also, please return the fish to its natural environment as soon as possible. While the survival rate is highest when water temperatures are on the cool side, biologists have determined that for every one hundred fish caught and released, nine are going to succumb to hook injuries or mishandling, even under the best conditions.

**April Meeting-**President Don Scarpone opened the meeting by welcoming new members Steve Parachini and Eric "Sweetness" Bettencourt into the MVSA and asked both to stand and introduce themselves. Steve said he has been a casual fisherman but joined the club to learn a little more about our great sport. Eric is a native islander and works the night shift at the Dukes County Sheriffs Dept. and says he does most of his fishing after work ends at midnight.

Treasurer Phil Horton presented a treasurers report and said we are in good shape financially. Phil said we have approximately \$11,000 in our club treasury which will be more than enough to cover our donations to programs and events such as Annual Rod & Gun Club Trout Derby, high school scholarship and the Wounded Warrior event.

Phil also reported that currently our paid membership stands at 95 which is less than our 2015 year-end total of 120. Members who have not renewed by May 15 will have their names removed the clubs e-mail list.

The 20 members who attended our April meeting were treated to dinner by the club and master chef and surf angler Pat Toomey. Phil Horton described it as a “monthly meeting with a flair”.

Pat owns Among The Flowers Restaurant in Edgartown and prepared a variation of the halibut special he has on his daily dinner menu. He substituted scrod but prepared it the same way with leeks, heavy cream, olive oil and fresh basil. He also demonstrated correct way to filet a fish and strongly recommended the purchase of a food saver for anyone who likes to preserve their catch or kill. He says if done properly, fish or shellfish like scallops can be preserved for up to a year.



Janet Messineo Photos



**Make Your Own Lure Contest**-Our April meeting marked the last indoor meeting of the year and the next club event will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Make Your Own Lure Contest. The contest will be held at Wasque Point on Saturday May 21, from 1:00- 5:00 PM rain or shine. This year there will be no prizes awarded for the best home-made lure but members whose lure (s) catches the first, largest or most fish will win a prize. Last year’s lures are eligible. An awards ceremony and picnic will be held after the event. Don Scarpone [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com)

**Used Tackle Sale**-The” Prez” said plans are moving forward for our Used Tackle Sale which will be held Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> at the MV Rod & Gun Club. Don said he hopes the sale will become an annual fundraising event and a way for members to get some bargains or generate some income from the sale of old or unwanted tackle, while helping to fund club activities. This year the proceeds will be used to help fund our high school scholarship program.

The event will be held rain or shine on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to Noon. The sale will be publicized and open to the general public and fishing community. The cost to participate as a seller will be \$20 and sellers will retain any and all profits beyond that. Tables will not be provided by the club. Contact [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) for more information or to reserve space.

**Shark Tournament**-The revised edition of our annual Chappy Brown Shark Tournament will take place the evenings of August 18-August 20 followed by a cook-out and awards ceremony on Sunday August 21 at a time and place to be announced. A \$10 "winner takes all" pool will be started and go to the fisherman who catches and releases the longest shark (dog fish excluded). The winner will also win a \$50 gift card to the tackle shop of their choice. Aspiring "Quints" can fish anywhere on Chappy but it is hoped that most of the anglers will gather along East Beach. Circle hooks must be used and all sharks must be released unharmed. [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com)

**Earth Day**- Just a reminder that the 24th annual beach clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016, starting at 10:00 am; rain or shine. As in past years the MV Surfcasters have volunteered to take on South Beach. We meet around 10:00 a.m. at left fork where bags and gloves are available as well as a dump truck for the trash we pick up. We work at cleaning up the parking areas, the front beach at both left and right fork if enough people show up. A few of us usually head over-sand down Norton Point. Following the beach clean-up, we are all invited to lunch provided by the Harbor View Hotel while it lasts.

**In House Derby** - The arrival of the schoolies also signals the start of our annual MVSA In-House Derby. This is a fun and loosely run tournament based solely on the honor system and club members are eligible to win prizes by submitting entries for one or more of the eligible species (striped bass, bluefish, false albacore, bonito). Fish can be kept but catch and release is strongly encouraged. To determine the weight the fish it can be weighed or the weight can be estimated by using the following formula. (length x the girth squared, divided by 800=total weight). It's surprisingly accurate.

All fish entered must conform to the following minimum sizes: Striped bass 36" Bluefish, 22" Bonito, 21" and False Albacore 25". There is only one division.

## Prizes

A monthly pin will be awarded to the member that submits an entry for the largest fish in each species.

All monthly entries will participate in a "luck of the draw" raffle to win a Ron McKee custom lure.

All first, second and third place monthly winners will also be entered into a year- end raffle to win new fishing reels. There will be three raffles, one each for all first second and third place entries.

***New-This year a special prize will also be awarded to the member who catches and releases the largest striped bass over 20 lbs.***

## Entries

Entries must received within seven days after the catch and may be submitted to: Dave Nash, PO Box 3254, Edgartown, MA 02539, [oystercatcher@verizon.net](mailto:oystercatcher@verizon.net)

In House Derby entry forms may be obtained on the MVSA web-site [www.mvsurfcasters.org](http://www.mvsurfcasters.org)

**Beach Grass Replenishment**-The Wampanoag Natural Resources Dept is looking for volunteers to help plant beach grass on the recently replenished Lobsterville Beach. The planting will take place April 24'th from 9:00 - 3:00. You're probably aware that the sand dredged from the Menemsha channel over the winter was used to replenish the beach on the West Basin side. If you haven't been up there to see it yet 1) it's pretty amazing, and 2) this would be a great opportunity to see it and help out with this important project. Link to the Dept site and additional details <http://www.wampnrd.com/> or RSVP to Mike Sellitti: [mike@wampanoagtribe.net](mailto:mike@wampanoagtribe.net) or Becky Finn: [becky@wampanozagtribe.net](mailto:becky@wampanozagtribe.net) . Coffee, water, snacks, and lunch from an up-island food truck will be provided. Bob Lane brought this event to the club's attention and intends to participate.

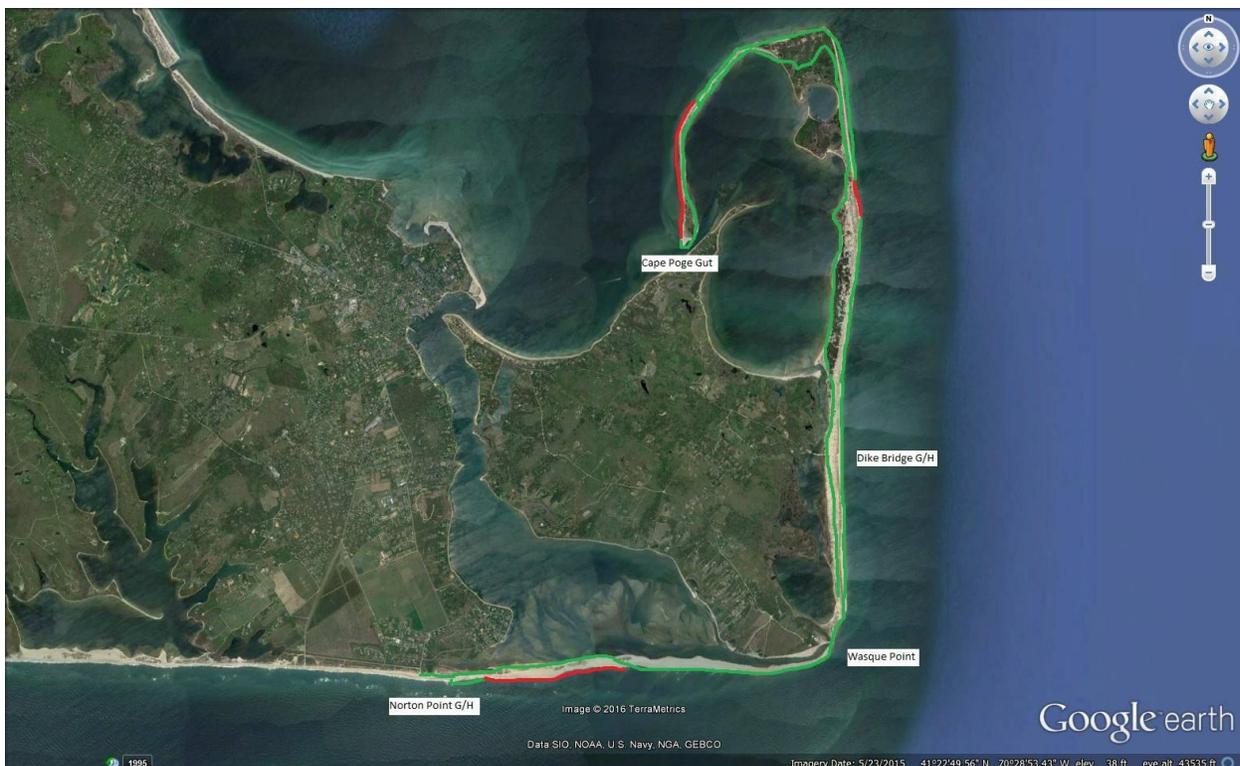
For many of us, this is a very special fishing spot. Please plan to help for even a few hours if you can.

**Trustees Update**-Chris Kennedy sent along the following update on TTOR property's.

With each passing day it is becoming more apparent that Spring has arrived on the beaches at Long Point, Norton Point and Chappy. American oystercatchers, Piping plovers and Osprey are present in increasing numbers. Most of the beach areas closed this past winter due to storms have reopened for vehicle traffic with a couple of exceptions and the new Swan Pond which formed over the winter is a fraction of the size of the old one.

Our predator control efforts have begun again this season as we look to reduce the population of skunks and crows in the areas which seem to favor concentrations of plover and tern nests. We are seeing adult plovers searching for acceptable nest spots in most of the areas they nested in last year—notably on the ocean side of the Narrows north of the Dike Bridge, outside of Leland Beach and at Norton Point. We are still awaiting word from the Mass Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding our application for a plan to allow limited OSV access through beach “chokepoints” which might otherwise need to be closed when chicks hatch per state and federal shorebird rules.

So, what's open/closed? The beach between Aruda's Point and the Jetties is looking better but at high tide the surf still consistently covers the OSV trail. We're hoping moderating winds will help this section of beach rebuild, as is the case with approximately ¾ miles of outside beach at Norton Point.



For the week ending April 24, permits are not required to travel between Katama and the Dike Bridge on Chappy due to the Chappy ferry repairs on the Chappy side. Permits are available for purchase from Coops Bait and Tackle and from the Trustees, 860 State Road, Vineyard Haven (Monday-Thursday from 9 AM to 2 PM). You can also purchase permits at last year's prices online at [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org) on at one of the sites noted above. Chappy and Combo permit prices will go up by \$20 after April 30. On May 1st permit prices will be:

Chappy OSV Permit (resident or non-resident)	\$200
Norton Point Resident	\$90
Norton Point Non Resident	\$140
Combo Resident	\$270
Combo Non Resident	\$320

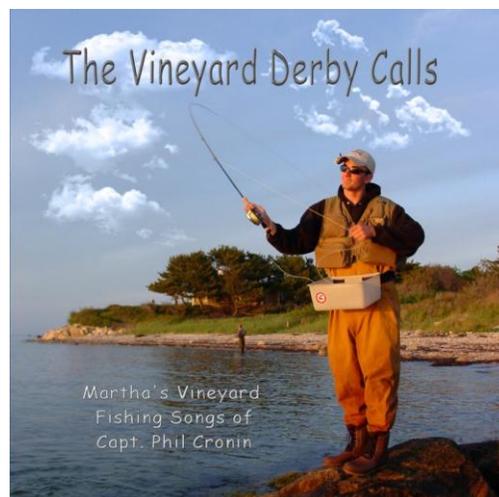
**Avoid the fee increase by purchasing your 2016-2017 beach permit today!**

Finally, as you may have heard The Trustees and the County have renewed the management agreement for Norton Point Beach for an additional three years. Thanks to all of you who encouraged the County and Trustees to renew this agreement which has proven so successful for the management of one of the island's most spectacular beaches.

**The Derby Calls**-MVSA member Captain Phil Cronin recently released his first CD titled *"The Vineyard Derby Calls."* The collection of original songs highlights his love for fishing the inshore waters surrounding Martha's Vineyard. Phil puts to melody fishing for striped bass under the cliffs of Gay Head; chasing early morning bones with a fly rod; succumbing to incurable albie fever; and driving the challenging sugar-sand trails on Chappy searching out bruiser blues. Together with his island hit song, "The Vineyard Derby Calls", the CD also contains a 90's style disco track titled "Chappy Shark Time" and his heart warming song about four friends sharing a lifetime of fishing memories anchored by a lake, "Mother Waban."

Phil writes on the inside of the CD jacket: *"combining a passion for fishing and music, this album is dedicated to the many wonderful anglers, young and old, that help further the fishing culture of the island."*

The CD will be available on the Vineyard in June and is now available for purchase on iTunes, Amazon, and most other digital distribution sites.



**First Fish of the Year-** A reminder that a Ron McKee custom lure will be awarded to the first member to catch a “migrating” striped bass and a Robert’s Ranger will go to the member who catches the first Bluefish of the year. Catches should be reported to President Scarpone, [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) This is an honor system contest but photos are encouraged and may be sent to Ron Domurat, [rd\\_bjr@msn.com](mailto:rd_bjr@msn.com)

Also, now that we have a winner for guessing when the first striper would be caught, there is still time to submit a guess as to when the first bluefish will end up on the beach. So far, we have guesses of 5/5 by Peter Johnson and Kathy Pogoda, 5/6 by Phil Horton, 5/7 by John Piekos and Linda Mott Smith, Peter Hermann guessed 5/8, new member Steve Parachini guessed 5/9, Ron Domurat 5/10, “The Prez” 5/11, and Eric Bettencourt 5/13.

## **9th Annual Island Cup Contest**

### **America’s ONLY Team Surfcasting Competition for Men & Women**

**JUNE 17, 18, 19, 2016 on Martha's Vineyard**

June 2016 marks the 9th Annual Island Cup Contest, America’s ONLY Team Surfcasting Competition for Men & Women. The series is currently tied 4 all.

Defending Champions & Home Team: Martha’s Vineyard Surfcaster Association, vs. Visiting Team: Nantucket Angler’s Club

We do our best to create lasting friendships - Island to Island. If you wonder what our contest is like call Jim & Jon Cornwell, Jim Fraser, Denise Fraser, Hawkeye, Pete Sliwkowski, Joel Graves, Jay Graves, Matt Malowski, John Piekos, Steve Tirrell, Jim Mullen, Bob Lane, Michael Stimola, Ed Wessel, Janet or me, Victor.

Schedule: Friday, June 17 meet NAC at HyLine Dock in OB at 3:40 PM. Sunday, June 19 Award Ceremony 12:00 Noon at the Sand Bar Restaurant, Oak Bluffs Harbor prior to NAC’s departure on the HyLine 12:55 PM.

Contest Hours: Lines In 5:00pm Friday; Lines Out 11:00 Sunday. Tally sheets to the Sand Bar Restaurant, Oak Bluffs Harbor; Cup by Noon.

Contest: Artificial bait, each angler’s heaviest Bluefish and Striper (28" min.) landed and verified by an opposing angler goes toward total team weight. Heaviest total team weight wins the Cup.

Accommodations: Host anglers provide visitors lodging, transportation and guiding. Cost for personal items, food and beverages are your own.

Budgetary Cost for weekend: \$120 (Fish Kitty \$20; 5 meals @ say \$20).

Contact: Victor Colantonio at [v.colantonio@gmail.com](mailto:v.colantonio@gmail.com) text / voice 617-413-6140.

## Calendar

April 24, Beach Grass Replenishment, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Lobsterville Beach

April 30, Earth Day Beach Clean-up, 10:00 AM, Rain or Shine, Right Fork

May 21, 1:00-5:00 PM, Wasque Point, Make Your Own Lure Fishing Contest-Cookout

May 28, 8:00 AM –Noon. MV Rod & Gun Club, Used Tackle Sale, Rain or Shine [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) BYOT (Bring Your Own Table)

June 11, 5:00 PM, Meeting, East Beach, Fishing Contest-Cookout

June 17, 18, 19, Island Cup Fishing Challenge, Victor Colantonio, 617-413-6140, [v.colantonio@gmail.com](mailto:v.colantonio@gmail.com)

July 9, Time TBA (late afternoon) Annual Club Picnic, Bend in the Road Beach

August 13, 5:00 PM, Meeting, East Beach, Fishing Contest-Cookout

August 18-20, Catch & Release Brown Shark Tournament, East Beach. [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) Cookout and Awards August 21, East Beach

September 3, 5:00 PM, Meeting, East Beach, Fishing Contest- Cookout

September 11, 12:01 AM-October 15, 10:00 PM, "THE DERBY"