



Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

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 May 2016 Newsletter

On Sunday May 8, the Martha's Vineyard fishing community and the MVSA lost a good friend, great surf fisherman and a colorful island character when Bob (Hawkeye) Jacobs passed away after a short illness.



Mark Alan Lovewell Photo

Hawkeye - A Passionate Fisherman Leaves Us All Too Early

By Janet Messineo

I still can't wrap my head around the fact that he has passed on. This is a tough one.

Unique is a word that comes to mind. A bit eccentric and quirky. Not a malicious bone in his body. A brilliant man who was amazed when he discovered that my dogs actually understood what I was saying to them. He said, "He knows what you are saying?" I answered, "Yes, Hawk, dogs actually understand some vocabulary!" He was not fond of dogs or kids but he tolerated mine.

I met him somewhere in the 1970's when he came here for the summer to drive cab. We fished together many, many times over the last forty years. He took John Best and me to Gay Head one night. He waded out into the abyss and left us on the beach. Neither of us had a clue as to what we were doing in the dark! John said he remembers that his lure was landing behind him. I only remember my waders filling up with water. That was what it was like when you went fishing with Hawk, you better be prepared because once you got to the water, you were on your own. John gave up after that night but I would join him in his maroon 1968 Plymouth. When we fished up island, we usually broke down on the way home. Tristan would drive up and pick us up off the side of the road. I laugh now but I was not amused then.

He may have appeared to be a disheveled absent minded professor. I used to tell him, "Your brain is a store house of useless information." But he was a master of numbers and had an analytical mind that drove his friends crazy at times. He had rote memory. He remembered everyone's license plates numbers and knew where they fished. He remembered fish weights and the years they were caught. He remembered the weights of *my* fish, ones I had totally forgotten about.

I have had so many remarkable times with Hawk, fishing together or having a typical one or two-hour phone conversation. We fished two entire derbies together after I lost my mentor, Jack Coutinho. After fishing with Jackie for twelve years, I really needed Hawkeye in my life and I am so grateful for all the hours and months he was there for me. When we took Ron McKee into our fold, we became the wild three-some! The hours we fished together were ridiculous. Three compulsive fishermen that didn't have enough sense to go to sleep. We just lit the fire under each other.

Hawkeye was so interesting, his personality would flip between a helpless child and incredible brilliant man. We could talk fishing, politics and life in general, ad infinitum. My ear was always sore when we finally hung up the telephone. He was more like a brother to me than my actual brother. I'll never forget the nights we fished Lobsterville when bluefish up to twenty pounds blitzed. We released all of them but we finally decided to keep one to share for food. When we got back to my house and weighed it, it was over nineteen pounds! We were releasing bluefish over twenty pounds!

The Bachelor Diet

On the beach it was Little Debbie Fruit Pies, until he discovered Stop and Shop chocolate chip muffins and always a steady beach snack of little packaged crackers.

He insisted on describing how delicious his frozen bluefish fillets tasted night after night through the winter months. I begged him to stop talking about them as I did not find them at all palatable. But, *every time* we talked he ended our conversation by saying "I had the most delicious frozen bluefish last night". I would say "Hawkeye, you are so annoying!" I can still hear him saying "I take pride in being your most annoying friend". He really worked hard to hang on to that title.

Oh Those Beach Buggies

I'll never forget the night that the big bluefish arrived and we planned on meeting up at the rip. As I was driving over the dunes, I saw the smoke. I knew immediately that it was his jeep that smelled of gas. I had tried to get him to pay attention to the fact that his jeep reeked of gas fumes, but he found *me* annoying.

It was difficult for him to take a passenger in his beach buggies because he had his own method of organization. Some would say it looked like clutter but he knew exactly where everything was and could get quite upset if anyone moved his stuff.

He couldn't sneak around with his bail less Penn 706. The grating sound that carried in the night time gave up his secret spots. You could hear him from North Neck all the way to the Gut or a good $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down the north shore. And how can we ever forget those baggy Greylite waders? With NO belt!

I could go on forever with memories of my friend Bob Jacobs. Our trip to Cabo San Lucas, our secret fishing spots, his annoying, brotherly behaviors. My brilliant friend could make me laugh till my belly ached and he could bewilder me as I listened to his interpretation of how to catch fish. He was definitely one of a kind. The world as Hawkeye sees it! He is leaving a big hole in the fishing community on Martha's Vineyard.

I hope there is a "here after" where his spirit can connect with the big ones that he pursued. He was a one of a kind that can never be replaced.

Thank you to all the MVSA members that showed up at his graveside service and for the food and beverages at the gathering later to show his family how many people's lives he touched.

Hawkeye's Impressive Derby Record

1995 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 3rd

1997 All Tackle Shore False Albacore, 3rd

1998 All Tackle shore Grand Slam, 3rd

2001 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1st

2001 All Tackle Shore False Albacore, 3rd

2001 Robert "Huff" Langley Award

2002 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1st

Used Tackle Sale-The event will be held rain or shine on Saturday May 28th from 8:00 AM to noon at the Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club. 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. Club proceeds will go into our MVRHS annual scholarship fund. Contact donaldscarpone@yahoo.com for more information or to reserve space.

Make Your Own Lure Contest-*Note: Due to scheduling conflicts by members and the fact that as of May 14th the bluefish had not yet arrived on the Vineyard, the date of our second annual Make Your Own Contest has been changed to May 28th.* Competition will begin at 3:00 PM, steamed hot dogs will be served at 5:00 and the contest will end at 7:30 PM. Awards will be distributed after. The contest will be held at Wasque Point.

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 but new entries are welcome and encouraged. In spite of the fact that no fish were caught last year this was a fun event. Hope to see you there!! Don Scarpone donaldscarpone@yahoo.com



Fishing Report-Since they arrived on April 14th the schoolie fishing along the south shore has been providing almost non-stop action. Most of the fish are still in the 12"-20" range but keeper size fish up to 32" are being taken regularly. MVSA Secretary Dave Kolb was the first member to catch a keeper size fish and will receive a special Ron McKee custom lure for his efforts.

As of 5/13 there have been no reports of a bluefish being caught by a Vineyard angler but the area is loaded with squid so it's just a matter of time.

In House Derby-A change has been made to our In House Derby. The minimum size for a Striped Bass entry has been reduced from 36" to 32". The minimum size of Bluefish will remain at 22", Bonito will stay at 21" and False Albacore at 25". There is only one division. Entries may be submitted to: Dave Nash, PO Box 3254, Edgartown, MA 02539, oystercatcher@verizon.net

Long Point Access- The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) have generously agreed to open their property at Long Point Wildlife Refuge in West Tisbury to MVSA members for fishing. The Winter Access off of Deep Bottom Road is closed to the public from June 15 to September 15. However, from sunset to sunrise MVSA members will now be able to access the beach via the winter gate at the end of Deep Bottom Road. Entry will be limited to members and two guests per visit and activities restricted to fishing. Long Point Beach is a prime place for surfcasting at any time of year but even more so when the Tisbury Pond has been cut open to the Atlantic. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

Trustees Beach Report-*by Chris Kennedy*

We could almost copy last month's beach report and paste it here. The beaches remain open, shorebird fencing has been put into place and the birds are slowly making their way back to Chappy and Norton Point.

Currently we have three Piping plover nests on Chappy. We estimate that we have 3 more pairs of plovers between Norton Point and Chappy that will begin nesting soon. We also have 10 American oystercatcher nests at Chappy and Norton Point. One adult oystercatcher was found predated at Norton Point. Only the head, spine and wings were found. Most likely caused by an avian predator (owl, hawk or falcon).

As noted above all shorebird fencing is in place and is flagged. At least one vehicle has driven through the protective fence line on the bayside at Norton Point. I would like to think it was an honest mistake but we want to ask the Surfcaster's members to keep an eye out for errant drivers and let us know the when and where (grab a plate number as well if you're able). As always we appreciate the close working relationship we enjoy with the MVSA. Thank you!

Ninth Annual Island Cup Challenge-Victor Colantonio is recruiting teammates for this year's event. Contact: Victor Colantonio at v.colantonio@gmail.com text / voice 617-413-6140 for more information or to sign up.

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

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, approx. \$120 (Fish Kitty \$20; 5 meals @ say \$20).

MVSA Website

MVSA webmaster Dave Balon sent along the following statistics regarding the popularity of our website

I have enclosed the latest statistics on the usage of the MVSA website for the month of April. Might be worth letting our members know how the website is doing.

Some of the important stats that stand out are as follows:

- There were 585 viewing sessions opened just for the month of April.
- For the 585 sessions, there were 362 Desktop users, 134 Mobile users and 89 Tablet users. Still a lot of home of more likely office users out there.
- There were also 434 new users to the site which is always good news.
- Although there were 534 Page views the distribution across all the webs tab pages was pretty uniform. Meaning all the information tabs of the site were being used. Not surprisingly, the "Fishing Info" tab had the most use with 194 page views.

Just about 80% of the sessions were opened through a Google browser. The MVSA website is still in the top 3 as far as search returns and usually in the top 2 when searching on Martha's Vineyard Fishing or MV Fishing. This is rated by Google, so not bad for our little fishing club with all the other websites out there!

Calendar

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

May 28, 3:00-7:30 PM, Wasque Point, Make Your Own Lure Fishing Contest & Cookout
donaldscarpone@yahoo.com

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

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
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"