



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

Club News

MVSA monthly meeting resumed in November and President Don Scarpone brought us to date on plans for the balance of 2016 and what to look forward to in 2017. He started off by saying we are in good shape financially with more than \$8000 in the club treasury and then discussed future events.

Shark Tournament –This year the event will be reduced from a week to a period of three or four days with a cookout and awards ceremony to be held on the 3rd night.

Summer Meetings- We discussed the possibility of eliminating monthly meetings in the summer due to the lack of attendance. Don says interest in the monthly summer meeting on the beach has fallen off to the point where it's not worth the effort to put them together. The issue was tabled for further discussion.

Tackle Sale-The used tackle sale will be held again on Memorial Day weekend but the format will change. This year members are requested to donate unwanted or new tackle items to be sold at the event. All proceeds will go to the MVSA Scholarship fund. The collection of items has begun and members may bring sale items to future meetings and/or to the awards luncheon in January.

Please support this effort. This year we were able to award two \$1000 scholarships to deserving high school seniors and support of this event will enable us to repeat that

Cuttyhunk Trip-The “Prez” threw out the idea of a weekend fishing trip to Cuttyhunk and there was some interest. More details will follow.

Book Library-Club Secretary Dave Kolb is the librarian and curator of the club library. For new (and old) members, a number of fishing related books are available at monthly meetings. We never stop learning in this game and with long fishless winter nights upon us, what better way to pass the time than reading about it fishing.

Additions to the library can be made simply by bringing them to a future meeting.

Monthly Meetings-As in the past, monthly MVSA meetings will be held at the Rod & Gun Club on the first Tuesday of every month. Pizza will be served at 7:00 PM and the meetings will start at 7:30. The meeting schedule and calendar is printed below.

We need more ideas for subject matter and/or speakers. If you have an idea for a meeting please get in touch with President Scarpone. donaldscarpone@yahoo.com

The December meeting will feature Cosmo "Big Bass" Creanga who will give a talk on the use of live and dead eels.

The January meeting theme will be "What's In Your Bag" and three veteran members will discuss what they carry in their surf bag for a night of fishing.

Angler of the Year-A discussion was held about an annual "Angler of the Year" award. The award would be based on a point system using the In House Derby monthly pin standings. More information will follow.

Annual Awards Ceremony and Raffle-The Annual Awards Ceremony will be held Saturday January 28, 2017 at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown. Once again Kathi Pogoda is handling the collection of raffle and silent auction items. In the past, in addition to donations from local merchants and tackle shops MVSA members have very generously donated items to this event. Donations can be brought to a monthly meeting. Kathi can be contacted at katspog@aol.com

This is our only fundraiser of the year and most of the money we raise gets recycled back to the community in the form of donations to causes like the Kids Trout Derby and annual high school scholarship.

Military Care Packages- Last year before the holidays, former club president Bob Lane asked for help in sending useful items for a family member who had deployed to Iraq and MVSA members very generously responded with items like energy bars, energy drinks, lip balm, aspirin, toiletries, reading material, medicated ointment, jerky, oatmeal, razors, packaged nuts, candy, packaged noodles and much more. A total of eleven boxes were shipped out. While Bob's family member is no longer stationed in Iraq, president Scarpone asked that we make a similar gesture again this year.

At our December meeting a donation box will again be available and any items collected will be sent to a member of the military serving in harms way. If you have a family member or know of a local person serving in the military, please get in touch with president Scarpone donaldscarpone@yahoo.com or Kathi Pogoda katspog@aol.com .

We Have a Winner!



Photo credit: Mark Alan Lovewell, Vineyard Gazette

Longtime MVSA member and Derby participant, eighty one year old Ed Amaral caught the largest boat bluefish during the recent MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby and won the Grand Prize Chevy Colorado pick-up truck donated by the Clay Family Dealerships.

Ed fished the very first Derby in 1946 and almost every one since. He caught his monster blue ten days into the event and held the lead the rest of the way. In the key drawing he picked key number one which produced that "special click" and opened the lock held by Derby President Ed Jerome. Ed dedicated his win to his brother in California who is suffering from cancer. He said his brother told him to get a good fish and he did. "this is for him" he said. After the pandemonium subsided Ed Jerome said that as he looked back thru the Derby records he saw that Ed had weighed in a striped bass in the very first Derby. What goes around comes around!! Congratulations Ed!!

Since it's founding in 1989 a total of 19 MVSA members have been Grand Leader. A very impressive showing but only Ed, Cooper Gilkes and Tom Kieras have been fortunate enough to hold the Grand Prize winning keys. Jim Cornwell, Cooper Gilkes, Jack Livingston and Keith McArt have each been a Grand Leader on two different occasions.

Sportsmanship Award

At the Derby Awards Ceremony long time MVSA member and Derby supporter Mark Wrabel was chosen to be the recipient of the Martha Vineyard Surfcasters Sportsmanship Award.

Many of us know Mark from the beaches of Chappaquiddick where he spends most of his time while on the Island, but some of you may know him as the nice guy that runs the 50/50 raffle at the MVSA Awards lunch every year.

In his letter of nomination, Mark was described as someone who “*constantly promotes the true attributes of the derby through his upbeat attitude, friendship, promotion of the derby, excitement and always being there to support others. Mark is also the type of person that just gives the derby energy and enthusiasm. Whenever you fish with or talk to Mark you cannot help to get energized or at a bare minimum feel better about your whole day. His encouragement and ability to put it all in perspective is second to none*”.

Mark is the 2nd MVSA member to be the recipient of this prestigious award. Club treasurer Phil Horton received the inaugural award in 2012.



Photo Credit: John Piekos

With some very bad weather and an off year for false albacore and shore bluefish, it was a very tough Derby. But as usual MVSA members led by our Grand Prize winner Ed Amaral, rose to the occasion and did themselves and the MVSA proud.

2016 MVSA Member Derby Accomplishments

Major Awards

Grand Prize Truck Winner- Ed Amaral, All Tackle Boat Bluefish

Overall Division Leaders

All Tackle Boat Bluefish, 1st, Ed Amaral

All Tackle Shore False albacore, 2nd, Frank O'Rourke

Flyrod Shore Striped Bass, 2nd, Joe Dart

Junior All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 2nd, John O'Connell Jr.

Mini Junior All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st, Sabrina McArt

Senior Grand Leaders

Madison Alwardt Memorial Award, Boat Bluefish, Ed Amaral

Howie Leonard Memorial Award, Shore False Albacore, Frank O'Rourke

Special Awards

MVSA Sportsmanship Award, Mark Wrabel

Roberto Germani Catch & Release Award-Bluefish, Don Scarpone, Patrick Paquette

Junior Top Rod Award-John O'Connell Jr.

Grand Slam

Ed Amaral, Patrick Paquette

Hat Trick

Ron Domurat- (Striped Bass)

Weekly Awards

Three-Janet Messineo

Two-Fran Clay

One-John O'Connell Jr., Kathi Pogoda, Frank O'Rourke, Joe Dart, Ed Amaral, Phoenix Russell, Joel Graves, Patrick Paquette

Daily Awards

Four- Ron Domurat, Janet Messineo,

Three - Ed Amaral, Dave Nash, Sol Watson (two shore, one boat) Jack Creighton, John O'Connell Jr., Patrick Paquette

Two – Joe Rogers, Jason Patterson, Ralph Peckham

One- Hayden Boullie, Jack Livingston, Dom Chieffalo, John O'Connell, Kelly O'Connell, Abigail O'Connell, Dave Kolb, Bob Beal, Cosmo Creanga, Chris Scott, Sabrina McArt, Ed Wessel, Joe Dart, Jonathan Cornwell, Phoenix Russell, Jason Graves, Joel Graves, Brian McCarty, Phil Horton, Peter Sliwkowski,

Dave Balon, John Bean

In House Derby

While not yet officially over, most of us have already called it a year, cleaned up our gear and turned our thoughts to the holidays and those spring days when we start looking for schoolies on our beaches. The current leaders of our In House Derby are Cosmo Creanga with his 44.61 lb. trophy bass, Jason Patterson with a 14.0 lb. bluefish and Kathi Pogoda with a 10.75 false albacore. No shore bonito were caught.

August pin winners were Ron Domurat with a 25.7 lb. striped bass, and John Piekos with a 7.5 lb. bluefish. Runners up getting entries into the reel drawing in January were Tony Rezendes with a 25.0 lb. stripers and Cosmo with a 15.33 lb. fish

In September, pin winners were Ron Domurat for a 19.59 lb. stripers and Dave Nash with an 8.62 lb. bluefish. Dave Balon was a runner up with a 6.67 lb. bluefish.

October winners were Cosmo Creanga with an 18.46 lb. stripers, Dom Chieffalo with a 11.67 lb. bluefish and Kathi Pogoda with a 10.75 lb. false albacore. Runners-up in the striped bass category were Ron Domurat (17.64) and Jason Patterson (15.45). Ralph Peckham was second in the bluefish category with an 11.0 lb. fish and Janet Messineo with a 10.21 lber. Both will get raffle entries.

Amy Coffey

Our good friend, MVSA member and Derby weigh-station administrator extraordinaire will be leaving us soon as she will be moving back to her hometown of Southold LI to be closer to her family and old friends. Amy has spent the last twenty two years on Martha's Vineyard and her warm and infectious personality and always smiling face will be missed by those of us who know her as well as the many who have come into contact with her on the beaches, docks and especially Derby headquarters where she has been a fixture as a volunteer and administrator for most of her twenty plus years on the Vineyard. Good luck Amy but not good bye!



Photo credit: John Piekos

Octoberfish 2016

Once again MVSA members made their presence known in the 24th annual month long Octoberfish contest sponsored by Larry's Tackle Shop. Kathi Pogoda finished first in the shore false albacore division with her 10.75 lb. fish and earned herself a one in four chance at a new Van Staal reel by catching it in the "After Derby" part of the event. Unfortunately, her key to the showcase lock containing the Van Staal did not produce the magical "click".

Ralph Peckham finished 2nd in the shore bluefish with a 11.00 lb. fish category and Ed Amaral extended his amazing success by finishing 3rd in the boat bluefish division with a 13.63 lb. beauty.

Saltwater Challenge

The eighth annual event was held during the Derby and the MV Surfcasters came out in force to facilitate and support the annual East Beach outing. Our guests landed a few small blues and a few dogfish to round out the catch. No weighable blues but by all accounts a great outing with the soldiers and their families. We're lucky to have such a great place to chase fish, and this year's visitors were blown away by the experience of fishing in such a great setting.

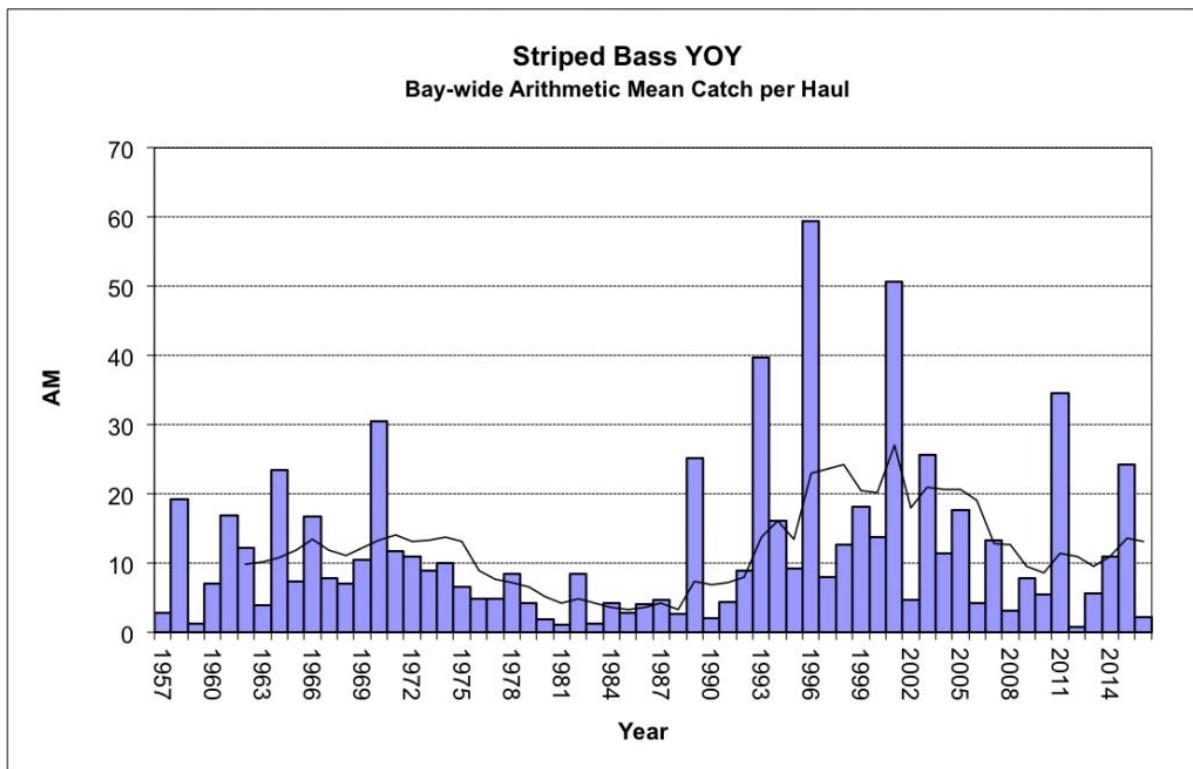
As in prior years the club made a \$1000 donation to this life changing event. We also ask you to please consider making a personal donation to help defray the cost of this very expensive event.

<http://www.saltwaterchallenge.org/>

Annual Young of the Year (YOY) Index

The striped bass advocacy group *Stripers Forever* recently sent along the following information regarding the results of the 2016 spawning index in Chesapeake Bay. Note the downward average from 1986 thru 2016.

Official Numbers: Maryland's 2016 Striped Bass Young Of The Year



The official numbers are out on Maryland's 2016 striped bass young of the year, and they aren't good. This late summer count of striped bass born during the past spring is calculated annually by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources by hauling a seine through essentially the same areas of Chesapeake Bay, at the same time, year after year. The number of baby bass caught in the net is averaged and a final count for the year is eventually calculated. In 2016 it was 2.2 which compares to a long-term average of 11.86. In fairness striped bass spawning success in the Bay has historically varied considerably on a year to year basis. But it is the trend that is worrisome. Here is the average YOY trend by decade since the recovery began from the collapse of the late 1970s:

- **1987-1996 17.3**
- **1997-2006 16.2**
- **2007-2016 10.9**

This is a decline of 37% since the height of the recovery that gave us the great fishing of the late 90s and early 2000s. But what is more alarming is that two of the poorest years for young stripers in the last 30 – 2016 and 2012 – occurred during the last 5 years. In fact the average for the last 5 years is just 8.81 or about half of what it was during the top of the recovery.

Clearly the direction is not good. We cannot change these numbers and the abundance or scarcity of big bass available to spawn and to fish for 10 or 15 years from now will depend on how we treat these fish as they grow. If we gill net them in Chesapeake Bay, then start cropping them off commercially and recreationally at 28 inches in size, there certainly will be many less large spawners than there are right now, and the quality of fishing will continue to deteriorate.

In truth we are not talking just about numbers here but of the future of wild striped bass and how we choose to manage this shrinking resource going forward. This fishery and the billion dollar plus recreational striped bass fishing economy are threatened by the current, regulatory philosophy that undervalues the quality of the fishery in favor of harvesting. At present these fish are managed primarily for their limited commercial value and as long as these fish have a commercial price tag on their heads their future will always be in doubt. Only by declaring and managing them as a game species will they have a secure future..... and that is the goal of Stripers Forever: insuring a healthy and robust wild striped bass fishery.

MVSA Calendar

December 6, 2016-Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM MV Rod & Gun Club, Cosmo Creanga, Speaker, Fishing with live and dead eels. Collection of items for military members.

January 3, 2017-7:00 PM, MV Rod & Gun Club, "What's in your bag?"

January 28, 2017-1:00 PM Annual Awards Ceremony, Old Whaling Church