



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

Awards Day

For more than 25 years, on a Saturday afternoon near the end of January, MVSA members and guests have gathered together at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown to celebrate the sport of surfcasting on Martha's Vineyard with good food, member recognition, prizes, and most importantly, good fellowship. From the early 90's we have grown from attendance of 40 people to almost 100 this year. It is the best kept, not so secret event of the Martha's Vineyard winter. Thanks to all everyone who attended the annual get-together on Saturday January 28. Some called it one of the best ever.

The annual prize raffle, silent auction, and 50/50 raffle combined to raise more than \$6000 and some of that money has already been distributed to the MVRHS Science Fair (\$200), the MV Rod & Gun Club Kids Trout Derby (\$500) and TTOR (\$1000-second installment) to help defray the cost of the new aluminum stairs at the Fisherman's Parking lot at Wasque Point. Future donations will include MVRHS scholarship, support for the American Heroes Saltwater Challenge and more.

Special recognition goes to Kathi Pogoda who takes on the tireless and thankless job of organizing and setting up the raffle and silent auction every year. Kathi's long standing goal of raising \$5000 was not only achieved but exceeded this year. Bob Yapp, Dave Kolb, Jim Cornwell, Paul Schultz, Linda Mott-Smith, Jeff Sayre, Janet Messineo-Isreal, Dave Balon and Ron Domurat were part of her team.



Special thanks also go out to Paula Sullivan who did her usual great job of obtaining and preparing the food for our feast. Once again Paula had the help of Mary Ann Angelone and Barbara Rogers. Thanks to Phil Horton for the delicious lasagna he prepared.

Peter Johnson obtained the beautiful species specific In-House Derby awards. Dave Balon and Phil Horton handled the club apparel and raffle ticket sales as well as dues collections.

Thanks to our intrepid shellfish shuckers Jason Patterson, Ralph Peckham, Steve Parachini, Dave Nash, Win Crocker and Dave Kolb.



And once again thank you to off- island member Mark Wrabel for running the 50/50 raffle this year. The raffle generated more than \$300 for the MVSA.

MVSA club officers were also elected at the event. President Don Scarpone was re-elected for a third term. Jason Patterson was elected Vice President for the first time. Phil Horton was elected Treasurer and Dave Kolb our Secretary. After serving for three years, Ralph Peckham and Peter Johnson have stepped down as Vice Presidents. Thank you for your help and guidance.

A drawing was held to determine the reel winners of all the first, second and third place monthly winners for the 2016 In-House-Derby. Winners of new reels were John Piekos, 1st, Ron Domurat 2nd, and President Scarpone, 3rd.

Our guest speaker for the event was TTOR Superintendent Chris Kennedy who brought us up to speed on some encouraging proposed changes for OSV travel and plover protection.

Finally, we had three new members sign up and two renewed their membership after a long absence. Welcome to Kurt Freund, David Halsey and Steph Pond and welcome back to Mary Spencer and John Shillinger.



Dues

If you were not able to attend the banquet and would like to continue your membership, please forward a check for \$30 to cover your annual dues. MVSA, PO Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539.

Note: After April 30, 2017, the newsletter will not be available to members who are delinquent with their dues.

At the end of 2016, with a few comps, our membership stood at 145 members.

March Meeting

Note the next regular monthly club meeting is scheduled for Tues Mar 7 at the Rod & Gun Club – starting at 7:00PM. Copper Gilkes will be our speaker and pizza will be served. Don Scarpone

donaldscarpone@yahoo.com

Used Tackle Sale

We are still soliciting used and unwanted merchandise for our 2nd Annual Used Tackle Sale, the proceeds of which will go toward the funding of a second college scholarship. We are looking for donations of rods, reels, lures, line, accessories or any other piece of used fishing tackle. Items may be brought to a future meeting.

This year we hope to hold the event on Saturday May 27th in the MVRHS parking lot.

Cuttyhunk Trip

There is still room and still time to sign up for the June trip to Cuttyhunk.

The cost is \$300 and checks can be out to the **MVSA** and sent to President Scarpone, 19 Whalers Walk, Edgartown, 02539.

The price includes the round trip ferry fare from Menemsha to Cuttyhunk, lodging at Pete's Place Rentals, all food and drinks including unlimited coffee and Danish but excludes adult beverages which may be brought at member's expense. Private rooms for couples may be available.

The trip will depart on Tuesday 6.20.16 and return Thursday 6.22.17.

This is an outstanding opportunity to fish and explore our neighboring island and a place that is heaped in surfcasting lore and tradition. The trip timing has been made for midweek due to lodging availability and cost considerations. It's a great time of year to be there.

For more information or questions please contact: Don Scarpone
203-240-0730, donaldscarpone@yahoo.com

What is the Island Cup? *Victor Colantonio*

The Island Cup is America's only Team Surfcasting Competition open to men and women. The contest combines a surf-fishing competition with a neighborly home-hosted stay. The contest moves between islands on alternate years. The teams are tied at 4 wins each! The result is a big dose of fun while fish are biting and a bigger dose of friendship when they're not.

Island Cup is catch-and-release using only artificial bait (lures & flies). Each angler's single heaviest bluefish and heaviest bass (28" min.) landed and weight-verified by an opposing angler counts toward the team total. Heaviest total wins the spit-polished Island Cup made of solid gold, dipped in pewter.

Each angler is responsible for the cost of personal items, food and beverages and should budget \$20 (cash only) for the Fish Kitty, a prize awarded for the largest fish. Lodging, transportation and guiding to the best fishing spots is provided to the visiting team by the host team.

The 2017 tournament begins at 3:50 pm Friday June 16 when MVSA greets NAC at the Hy-Line Inter-Island Ferry at Oak Bluffs dock. The procession moves to the Sand Bar, OB for rules and tally sheets. Each Vineyard angler teams-up with one Nantucketer until noon Sunday. "Lines-in" is 5:00 pm Friday; "Lines out is 11:30 am Sunday". Tally Sheets are due to team captains 12:00 noon Sunday at the Sand Bar Award of the Cup and the Fish Kitty will be made prior NAC departing the Hy-Line Inter-Island Ferry at 12:55 pm Sunday. (Note: A Vineyard win is usually followed by a motorcade through downtown OB led by the MVHS Marching Troubadours and a few badly tattered left-over 4th of July floats; plan accordingly.)

Seriously, it is a lot of fun ... MV anglers who want to participate in the 2017 contest should contact MV Surfcasters Website at <http://www.mvsurfcasters.org/Contact> or email the MV Team Captain at v.colantonio@gmail.com.

2017 Annual Earth Day Beach Clean-up

The annual Martha's Vineyard Beach clean-up will be held on April 22, 2017. As always, we will meet at 10:00 a.m. at left fork and proceed to clean-up beaches based on how many of us show up. Bags and gloves are usually provided but please bring gloves if you have them. Also, The Harbor View hotel has again offered to host the after-party and all are invited. Our turn-out has been on the small side the last few years so please try to come out there if you can. This is the 25th anniversary of the beach clean-up event sponsored by the Vineyard Conservation Society and VCS has asked for any suggestions on how to make it a little special this year. The MV Surfcasters have been doing this for most if not all of those 25 years (does anyone know exactly how long?) and are probably one of a very few number of groups who can make that claim. If you have suggestions, please pass them along to David Nash oystercatcher@verizon.net or Signe Benjamin at VCS.

Beach Report *Chris Kennedy*

The Trustees would like to thank the officers and members of the MVSA for inviting us to speak at the annual banquet last month. I remember being invited to speak at one of the first MVSA monthly meetings during the winter of 1988-1989 and the members are as engaged in sportfishing and conservation topics today as they were in the late 1980's! Kudo's to the Association.

As part of our discussion at the banquet, the Trustees shared out viewpoint with regards to the State's efforts to liberalize the restrictive measures which Massachusetts and the US government adopted in the mid 90's to protect piping plover and tern chicks. It had been all of our hope that the new regulations would provide real benefit to the shorebirds and to those who want to access previously closed shorebird restricted areas. However, the Trustees discovered that the new rules were not quite as liberalized as hoped and what was finally adopted by Massachusetts were far from removing restrictions. In our case, we applied and have received tentative approval to allow access past two chokepoint north of the Dike Bridge and at the south end of Leland Beach. To "open" one of these chokepoints would require the Trustees to hire new staff, purchase additional beach vehicles, fencing, radios and maintain a "contingency fund" in our budget to cover unexpected shorebird expenses. In all, managing one of the two allowable chokepoints would require the Trustees to spend more than \$40,000 this year and upwards of \$30,000 each year thereafter. In addition to the funding requirement which the state imposes, the access chokepoint could only be open for six hours/day from 10 AM to 4 PM, all vehicles traveling through the chokepoint would be required to have one of their passengers walk in

front of the vehicle to ensure no chicks were in the trail (thus, no sole drivers would be allowed to drive through the area—only vehicles containing 2 or more occupants), all drivers would have to pass a state-approved shorebird identification test and the chokepoint could not be opened in the morning until all chicks were accounted for and if the state-trained monitor should lose sight of the chicks at any point, the chokepoint would be closed to all vehicles until the missing chick(s) were found. Wow! To add insult to injury the only option to pay for this expensive monitoring program would be to pass the \$40,000 costs along to the OSV permit holders who would be asked to pay an additional \$20/permit (for a total permit cost this year of \$220).

It doesn't take much imagination to see why the Trustees has decided **NOT** to implement the program for this year, but to instead look for other options which have no impact on the birds and may have an eventual benefit for vehicles and their drivers. One option we are looking at is to close the main beach access trail at the south end of the Cedars. This short trail from the Narrows out to the outside beach is the primary route that some chicks take to wander from the outside beach to the Narrows which forces the Cape Poge roadways to be closed under the existing state and federal rules. If this roadway were closed and allowed to re-vegetate naturally, it would eventually serve as a natural barrier to the chicks from crossing from the outside beach to the inside trails and Narrows. Initial conversations with the Edgartown Conservation agent and local Trustees ecologist appear encouraging but this option may take several years to build up and re-vegetate, but it is a viable option we believe.

We also have the option of implementing the state program in the future if our permit holders and members want us to go that route but we are reluctant to go that drastic route unless we are convinced it is warranted and wanted by our property users.

Permit prices will be the same as last year. For a full list of permits go to our website at <http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/cape-cod-islands/mv-osv-permits.html> If you purchase your Cape Poge or Combination permit before April 1 online, you save \$20 off the cost of this year's permit. So, go online and renew your permit to save enough money for a new plug or two.

On the beach, it looks like winter....then spring....then winter, well you get the picture. Have you seen Wasque Point recently? It is pretty thin and it is over-washing regularly. The boulder outcropping at the extreme south end of Leland is becoming exposed again on the beach due to this winter's severe erosion and the Swan Pond is only a small remnant. A few Snowy owls are about but not like two winters ago. Spring is fast approaching and we expect to see the first migrating plovers in late March.



What did the breach look like in 1850?

Dave Nash sent along this interesting piece.

An interesting on-line map viewer is available at www.mv1850.com made available as the result of a study conducted by Harvard University. The map provides a look at the island as it was in 1850 with various options available to overlay street maps, lat/long measurements, and other tools. The double breach at Norton Point is an interesting feature of the map.

Calendar of Events

March 7, 2017-7:00 PM, MVSA Monthly Meeting, MV Rod & Gun Club, Edgartown, Pizza, Speaker: Cooper Gilkes

April 4, 2017-7:00 PM, MVSA Monthly Meeting, MV Rod & Gun Club, Edgartown-Pizza

April 22, 2017-9:00 AM, Annual Beach Clean-up, Left Fork, Norton Point

May 2, 2017-MVSA Monthly Meeting, MV Rod & Gun Club, Edgartown-Pizza

May 27, 2017-2nd Annual MVSA Used Tackle Sale

August 2 - August 6, 2017-MVSA Annual Surf Shark Tournament, East Beach

September 10, 2017-October 14, 2017-“The Derby”

The list below represents the very generous merchandise donors for our recent raffle and silent auction. We are so fortunate to live and play on the Vineyard and have merchants willing to give over and over again to organizations like ours. Without them we would be unable to continue our philanthropic activities.

Vineyard Propane & Oil, Cliff Karako member, Roberts Lures, Peter Johnson, member, Guppy Lures, Spofford's Fishing Lures, Murdick's Fudge, Mansion House, Island Entertainment, Island Taxidermy, Janet Messineo, member, Tristan Isreal, MV Derby Committee, Bob and Brenda Beal, members, Dave Balon, member, Jim Mullen, member, Fran & Bob Clay, members, Ron Domurat, member, Jim & Denise Fraser, members John Piekos – member, Cape Air, Your Market, Ed LePore, member, Don Scarpone, member, Kathi Pogoda, member, Mark Wrabel, member, Dicks Bait & Tackle, Cronigs Market, Little House Café, E.C. Cottle, Copper Wok, Granite Ace Hardware, Sun Dog, Edgartown Pizza Shoppe, Jardin Mahoney, Rocco's Pizzeria, SBS The Grain Store, Entertainment Cinemas, Edgartown Marine, Chappy Ferry Service, The Square Rigger, Lucky Hank's, Al's Package Store, Coop's Bait & Tackle, Coop, member, Larry's Tackle, Peter & Melissa Sliwkowski, members, Donaroma's, Stop & Shop Edgartown, Espresso Love, Edgartown Meat & Fish, Laughing Bear Clothing, Good Dog Goods, Linda Jean's Restaurant, Phillip's Hardware, Off Shore Ale Co., Allison Shaw, DaRosa's, Island Trading, Craft Works, Slice of Life, Cottage City, The Beach House, West Marine, Rainy Day Gift Shop, Vineyard Cash & Carry, Mardell's Gift Shop, Stop & Shop Vineyard Haven, Menemsha Blues, Shirley's True Value Hardware, Peter Simon Gallery, Vineyard Hearth & Patio, The Trustees of Reservations, Hinkley/Ace Hardware, Driftwood Jewelry, Vineyard Home Center, The Net Result, Vineyard Auto Supply, Wharf Pub, Soigne, The Black Dog Tavern, LeRoux Home Center, Waterside Market, The Green Room, RM Packer, Bryn Walker, Moonstone Jewelers, Leslie's Drug Store, Woodland Variety & Grill, Sioux Eagle Designs, Basics, Heel & Sole Podiatry, Abe Pieciak, Lure-Fish, Striper Maniac Lures, Ron McKee, member.