



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 Banquet-The annual MVSA banquet and awards ceremony will be held on Saturday Jan 28, 2017 at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown. Doors open at noon. Food will be served at 1:00 PM, to be followed by a brief annual meeting, awards presentations, and of course the annual awesome raffle and silent action.

Kathi Pagoda and a team of volunteers have been working hard to put together a great selection of raffle and silent action items. If you have something you'd like to donate please contact her before the event. Kathi is also in need of some young legs to serve as 'runners' during the raffle. If you have a young person in your family who will be attending the event, please volunteer their services.

katspog@aol.com

As in past years Paula Sullivan is planning an outstanding raw bar and buffet but feel free to bring along an appetizer, salad or dessert to share with your fellow club members. Set-up and shucking help is always appreciated so come early to lend a hand. paulasully@yahoo.com

As part of the meeting we'll be voting on the slate of club officers. Vice Presidents Peter Johnson and Ralph Peckham are stepping down this year and nominations for club officers are welcome. Please reach out to President Don Scarpone (donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) before the event if you'd like to place your name or the name of someone else in nomination. The current proposed slate of officers is:

President: Don Scarpone

Vice President: Jason Patterson

Secretary: Dave Kolb

Treasurer: Phil Horton

Membership Dues- Just a reminder that membership dues for 2017 are due. As in the past, a payment table will be set up at our annual awards event but for members unable to attend, checks can be made out to the MVSA and mailed to PO Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539. Dues will remain at \$30 for all levels of membership.

Used Tackle Sale-Another reminder about our 2nd annual used tackle sale, the proceeds of which will be used to help fund 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 or the Awards Ceremony on January 28th.

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

Cuttyhunk Trip-President Don Scarpone has arranged an exciting spring fishing trip to Cuttyhunk for active MVSA members only.

The cost is **\$300 by check made out to MVSA** and can either be given to Don at the upcoming banquet, or can be sent to Don at the address below. **To secure reservations in advance, all checks must be received by Don before Tuesday 1.31.2017:**

Don Scarpone
19 Whaler's Walk
Edgartown, MA 02539

The cost 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 midweek due to lodging availability and cost considerations.

For more information or questions please contact

Don Scarpone
203-240-0730
donaldscarpone@yahoo.com

Hope you can make it!!

January Meeting-If you missed the last meeting, you missed another good one. Members, Ron Domurat, Ralph Peckham and President Scarpone opened up their surf bags and revealed the secrets to their success. While all three differed on their choice of favorites, they had a couple of things in common. All of them had a Striper Maniac Striper Bomb Needlefish in their bag and agreed that metals work at night dispelling conventional wisdom to the opposite.

March Meeting- There will not be a February meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 7, 2017 at the MV Rod & Gun Club. Cooper Gilkes will lead a discussion about the use of bucktails.

Beach Clean-Up-Mark your calendars and plan to help clean Norton Point Beach on Saturday April 22nd. More information to follow.

Trustees Report, Chris Kennedy recently sent along the following.

The past couple of storms have not had any long term impact on Chappy or Norton Point. However, the beach connector at Wasque Point remains narrow and is subject to overwashing during high tide events such as the current full moon cycle but can be traveled during most tidal stages. The connector, though, is moving closer to the cliffs at Wasque Point and is quickly filling in the remnants of the new Swan Pond in front of Rick Schifter's property.



For the rest of the barrier beach system, access to Norton Point, Leland and Cape Poge is open without travel restrictions. A few Snowy owls have been spotted this winter on Cape Poge and occasionally on Norton Point.

The Wasque Point Beach Stairs, which were funded in part by a generous donation from the Surfcasters, remain in place and have seen a lot of use during the winter season. As well, I recently received Janet Messineo's MVSA Courtesy Patrol Report on the 2016 activities of the Patrol members. The Courtesy Patrol members contributed **988 hours** to assisting other Oversand vehicle drivers at Norton Point, Leland Beach and Cape Poge. They assisted drivers who were lost (it happens more often than you would think), stuck vehicles, dead batteries, and many other issues. Thank you Martha's Vineyard Surfcaster's Association for helping to maintain public access to our beaches!

We had a very successful shorebird season in 2016 and while I will go into greater depth during my comments at the MVSA banquet at the end of the month, we had a plover productivity rating of 1.11 fledged chicks per breeding pair. The national goal for plovers is 1.25 chicks/pair and while it was slightly under the goal, we had the highest productivity rate of any Trustees property in the state (even higher than Crane Beach), and also higher than any other beach on MV. This was due, in no small part, to the great cooperation between the fishermen, the visiting public and the Trustees.

Work at Little Neck in Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge by the US Army Corps of Engineers has halted for the winter. The Army began cleaning up long lost WW II practice ordinance in March, 2016 and halted ops right before Christmas. During that 9 month stretch they detonated 2,754 live bombs, recovered 5,291 expended bombs and removed more than 32,000 pounds of bombs and bomb fragments from Little Neck and the water surrounding Little Neck. And, they're not done yet. They land teams must still search some of the densest grids when they return and the boundaries of the search area will be expanded to include much of East beach opposite Little Neck and underwater to the west of Little Neck due to the large numbers of bombs (both live and inert) which the crews have found. Makes you stop and think when you see one of these small practice bombs that 1 in 3 of them still contains a live pyro charge and detonator. If you or someone you know still has one of these "Chappy doorstops" around I would have them get in touch with the police to have it safely removed from the house.

As many of you may know, Chris Bruno, Assistant Superintendent for Chappy has recently left the Trustees to take the MV State Forest Superintendent position which was held by John Varkonda for many years. We will all miss Chris but what a fantastic opportunity for him. We wish him all the best. Tony Lima one of our seasonal Chief Rangers has agreed to step in and help out until we can backfill Chris' former position.

Finally a reminder to all that when we have snowfall on the beach, driving becomes much more hazardous since drifting snow will quickly fill in dips in the roadway making it look like much of the surrounding sand. Before you know it, you've buried your truck up to the frame. Discretion is the better part of valor!

Calendar of Events

January 28, 2017-MVSA Annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon- Old Whaling Church Edgartown
Doors Open at Noon, Lunch is served at 1:00 PM

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 11, 2017-October 15, 2017-“The Derby”