



Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

www.mvsurfcasters.org

December 2023 Newsletter

Hello Surfcasters,

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

If you attended our club Christmas party, or were unable to make it, we've got some fun pictures in this newsletter. No coal, all goodies! ☺

I also went out to Chappy after the big storm and took a bunch of pictures. They are at the end of the newsletter.

We – all of us who love fishing – have an important OSV access meeting on January 24 at 4 pm. See the next page for more information. Please plan to attend – in person or via Zoom. You can also have a major impact on OSV access by writing a letter to the Edgartown Conservation Commission. More information below.

The New Year started with a pop-up Beach Clean-up at Lobsterville. About ?????? people showed up. /?????? Fishermen. Most of us are avid about OSV access. I'd love to see as many members equally convicted and involved in keeping our beaches and our oceans clean for the health of the fish we want to catch and the beaches we want to enjoy.

I hope to see you Monday, January 8th at the meeting. Alley McConnell from the MV Shellfish Group is going to be with us to speak on eel grass restoration on MV.

Lisa



Important Public OSV Access Meeting

The next Edgartown Conservation Commission meeting related to the TTOR filings is on **January 24th, 2024 at 4 pm**. It will be 14th meeting of the Edgartown Conservation Commission related to public OSV Access on TTOR managed properties since November 2022.

MVSA members NEED to be there!!!!!!!!!!!!

Link to the agenda and Zoom - <https://www.edgartown-ma.us/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/3638/74>

Stay update on OSV and Chappy news at MVBAG: www.mvbag.org

Current MVBAG Leadership initiatives include:

- An analysis of vehicle capacity and staffing levels proposed by TTOR to other OSV accessible properties in the state. Vehicle capacity and staffing levels seem to be pivotal factors in the Commission's decision framework.
- Continued participation in TTOR-led Beach Management Plan (BMP) Working Group discussing various issues on beach access on Chappy.
- Identifying the major actionable issues of the private landowners on the Cape Pogue Refuge as it relates to restoring historical access "North of the Town Jetty". In other words, instead of the general theme from the private landowners of "The Trustees are simply incompetent", what are the real issues that could be discussed, and potentially resolved.

**You can scan this
QR code to donate
to MVBAG**

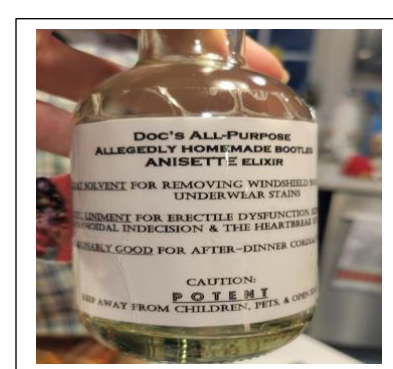
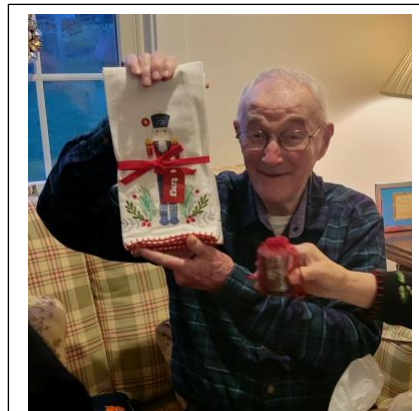
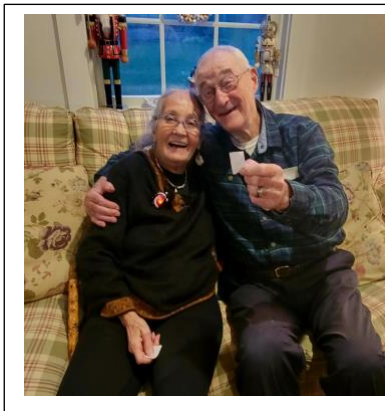


A snapshot of the OG fishermen's group: Walter Lison, Janet Messineo, Jeff Sayre, and Bob Lane.

Christmas Party 2023



My wife said, "For Christmas take \$200 and buy me a Nativity set and if there's anything left over you can spend it on fishing stuff!"



Club Meeting Notes

1. **February 3 is our Annual Banquet** at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown at 1 pm. The club will provide clams and oysters. We will have the members food list next month.
2. We need donations for our **silent auction**. Go out and get donations or donate your new gear.
3. Lucas Brewer offered to help gather donations.
4. The Prez is asking everyone to go through your fishing gear and bring in your used tackle to the Banquet for the used tackle sale in September. We sold out of a lot stuff last year – reels – and we sold a lot of lures.
5. The Prez ordered the award plaques.
6. This year Triple Crown plaques will only go to the top three placings. Lots of members achieved a Triple Crown. Too many and too expensive to get plaques for everyone.
7. The Prez announced that we are going to have the Make Your Own Lure Contest again this year. Once the fish are in, we'll set a date and let everyone know. Prizes for first fish caught on your homemade lure, most fish caught, and ugliest lure. Probably a side bet or two – just saying. LOL
8. Our Annual Club Picnic will be July 13 at Bend in the Road Beach. Rain date will be Sunday.
9. We welcomed new member – Midge Jacobs. Ursula urged Midge to join, and she's thrilled to be part of the club and looks forward to fishing come Spring.
10. John Piekos was our guest speaker. John spoke about MVBAG and brought us up to date on what is happening with OSV access. More notes below.
11. The Prez suggested the Club make another donation to MVBAG to help with the legal expenses. There was discussion about how much the Club should give. In the past, the most we'd given was \$1,500. Luke Brewer suggested \$2,000. The club voted – all in favor of \$2,000.
12. We will also have donation buckets at the banquet for members to give to MVBAG and we'll have QR codes on each of the tables to make it simple to given.



John Piekos on MVBAG

If you're breathing, you know about the battle for Oversand Vehicles to be allowed on Chappy – all of Chappy. At our December meeting, John Piekos spoke about the Martha's Vineyard Beach Access Group and what they are doing to help restore and retain OSV access to all our favorite Chappy beaches.

MVBAG was founded by Peter Sliwowski, Jonathan Herman, Karen Cambray, Brad Holley, Jay Hunter, and John Piekos in 2021 after The Trustees of Reservations announced their ridiculous Beach Management Plan. The uproar reached all levels of resistance.

In the last two-plus years, MVBAG has worked tirelessly to not only be a voice to all people who want beach access – whether birders, hikers, or fishermen. The initial MVBAG strategy was to analyze beach access and beach front on Island, they created a petition to protest the proposed BMP, and then spent hours learning the nuisances of beach management. In 2022, MVBAG hired Chris Kennedy to be their expert advisor.

There has been a lot of discussion and heated debate about shorebirds, dogs, and boats anchoring inside The Gut, but the biggest concern we all have is OSV access north of the dike bridge. We know that MV has 63 miles of shoreline, of which only twenty-four percent have public access. If we lose access on Chappy, we'll lose a huge piece of our Island life!

The current MVBAG Leadership initiatives include:

- An analysis of vehicle capacity and staffing levels proposed by TTOR in comparison to other OSV accessible properties in the state. Vehicle capacity and staffing levels seem to be pivotal factors in the Commission's decision framework.
- Continued participation in TTOR-led Beach Management Plan (BMP) Working Group, discussing various issues regarding beach access on Chappy.
- Identifying the major actionable issues of the private landowners on the Cape Pogue Refuge as it relates to restoring historical access "North of the Town Jetty". In other words, instead of the general theme from the private landowners of "The Trustees are simply incompetent," MVBAG is looking at what the real issues are that could be discussed, and potentially resolved.

Your voice is needed! Now!

Here's how you can help today – before the January 24th meeting:

1. Write a letter to the Edgartown Conservation Commission: via email to: conservation@edgartown-ma.us or by mail to: Town of Edgartown, Edgartown Conservation Commission, PO Box 5158, Edgartown, MA 02539
2. Fill out the latest MVBAG Beach Access Questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/QRqHNGeJoF6YhdCTA>
3. Donate to MVBAG: www.mvbag.org

After you've done all of the above, please plan to attend the 4 pm January 24th Edgartown Conservation Commission Meeting: <https://www.edgartown-ma.us/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/3638/74>

Right before your newsletter went to press, I got a phone call and email from Pete with an update on MVBAG's primary focus and activities this month.

From Peter:

1. Active Participation in the Edgartown Conservation Committee meetings
 - a. Next meeting regarding TTOR filings is on January 24th, 2024 (4-7pm)
 - b. Chris and I continue to engage Geoff Kontje, one of the more active and vocal members of the Committee. We have shared with him the latest "Comparison of TTOR Chappy to Other OSV Access Properties" Analysis Report as well as other critical data. We are considering engaging additional members of the Con Com before the January 24th, 2024 meeting.
 - c. I will be submitting the "Comparison of TTOR Chappy to Other OSV Access Properties" Analysis Report as part of the public comment process.
 - d. [Con Com provided TTOR a set of questions](#) that need to be answered by TTOR leadership by January 17th. There don't appear to be any "outlandish" questions that would raise significant concerns. However, in collaboration with Chris, we will work on what we believe are appropriate answers.

2. Bill Brine-led BMP Working Group Meetings - Bill Brine, a Chappy resident and partial owner of the land the encompasses the Swimming Beach and Dyke Bridge Bulkhead initiated a process to engage the members of BMP Working Group to discuss without TTOR and The Town issues related to beach access and the TTOR filings. Phil Horton, John Piekos, Jonathan Herman and Chris Kennedy are all participants of the BMP working group.
 - a. Led by Chris, we developed a [Questionnaire](#) to help Bill frame the various discussions by identifying the critical issues, specifically issues related to private landowners and access “North of the Jetty”. For the most part, (not surprising), Bill completely rejected the Questionnaire value and many of the questions.
 - b. Bill is now trying to set up meeting times and calling members to lobby his position, which includes the fact that private landowners want to allow public OSV access except during Protected Shorebird Season (April 1st to Sept 30th) which is the same as the proposed Dog Policy on Cape Pogue that exist in the TTOR Beach Management Plan.
3. Edgartown Planning Board is engaged in TTOR filings. Under the auspice of the DCPC (District of Critical Planning Concerns) Advisory Committee, Rachel Self has engaged the Edgartown Planning Board with regards to the fact that the “Special Permit” granted to the Trustees in 1990 to install a Gatehouse, boardwalks and other infrastructure on the property was never recorded. Neither the TTOR nor the Town can find it even though the minutes of the meeting show a “Special Permit” was granted. BTW, Chris Kennedy was the one who applied for the “Special Permit.”
 - a. This adds another variable to this complex differential equation with another Town Department, Town officials and public meetings that we need to take into account. The Planning Board has much broader authority than the Conservation Commission which is a real concern.
 - b. There was a short discussion on Dec 19th, 2023 at the Edgartown Planning Board meeting regarding the "Special Permit" and TTOR filings. Moreover, there was a lengthy discussion at the December 28th DCPC Advisory Committee. Neither meeting was attended by TTOR leadership. Members of the Planning Board attended the DCPC meeting.
 - c. The next meeting regarding the TTOR “Special Permit” and filings will be January 16th, 2024 (5:30pm to 7:30pm)

This is a lot of information, but it’s super important that all of us who love Chappy, who love people who love Chappy, who care about OSV access, and who care about a way of life we’ve lived for decades stand up and speak out for continued OSV access for all.

MVSA Upcoming Calendar

1. **January 8th – Monthly Meeting** at the Edgartown Rod & Gun Club. Pizza is served at 7 pm. Meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Alley McConnell from the MV Shellfish Group is going to be with us to speak on eel grass restoration on MV.



2. **January 24th – Edgartown Conservation Commission Meeting** via Zoom at 4 pm. OSV access on Chappy is being discussed. Don't miss this meeting!



- 4 Feb 3rd at 1 pm is our **Annual Club Banquet** at the Old Whaling Church. Set up begins at noon. Raffles, awards, lots of food. Stay tuned for More information next month.



- 5 **March 4th - Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club - The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

- 6 April 1st - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club - The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.



- 7 May 6th - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club - The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

Chappy After the Storm

December 20, 2023



BE A WINNER IN THE MVSA IN-HOUSE DERBY

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 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.

HOW TO ENTER -----

You must be a paid in full member before catching and weighing in any fish.

Use the weigh-in slip on the MVSA website and make as many copies as you need.

When you catch a fish you want to enter, use the calculation above or weigh on a digital fishing scale.

To be eligible for consideration, your fish must conform to the minimum sizes below:

Bluefish 22"

Bonito 21"

False Albacore 25"

Boundaries: To be eligible, a fish must be caught in or around the waters of Martha's Vineyard, within MVSB & BF Derby Boundaries. *(Fish caught during the trip to Cuttyhunk are not eligible for any prizes)*

DIVISION AND AWARDS

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.

The 'Angler of the Year' will be determined by a point system based on monthly entries. Five points will be awarded for a first-place monthly winner, three for second, and one for third. The member who finishes the year with the most points will be declared the '**Angler of the Year**'.

Entries: Must be received within seven days after the catch and may be submitted by email to Dave Balon at: WeighSlip@mvsurfcasters.org. If you do not have an email account, mail your entry to: MVSA In-House Derby, P.O. Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539

Slips must be postmarked within seven days of the date of catch. During the MV Bass & Bluefish Derby, there is no need to fill out our weigh-in slip; simply mail in the official MV Derby weigh-in slip.

In-House Derby entry forms may be obtained on the MVSA web-site www.mvsurfcasters.org (Then go to the Club tab, 2018 In-House Derby) The Official Weigh-In Slip link is under the MVSA Derby Info section.