

Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

www.mvsurfcasters.org

April 2020 Newsletter

Hello Surfcasters,

I hope and pray this newsletter finds each of you and your family members safe, health, and finding peace in this time of COVID 19.

Dr. Dave has sent some great advice. Please, stay safe!

Surfcasters:

As you probably know, two more cases of COVID19 have been diagnosed on the island--an increase of 17%.

And that is certainly not the extent of it. I have been speaking to public health people; they indicate ***there are likely many more infected people on the island***. Many are sheltering at home with symptoms but haven't had the "official test" so they aren't included in the 14. Others are around us, infectious and harboring the virus, just showing no symptoms. It could even be your Derby partner, or your best friend, and he or she might not even know!

I bring this up because we are all beginning to suffer from sheltering fatigue. It's hard to be confined, away from work, away from our buds, away from the bait shops, away from restaurants and bars. But we can't let the fatigue get the better of us--***sheltering, social distancing, gloves, masks and hand washing are more important than ever as "our***

our currently low island numbers; it doesn't mean we're over-doing the precautions, it means that the precautions are working! Let's keep it that way. Stay home and sharpen your hooks and re-clean your reels--

As people a lot smarter than me have said, we're all in this together. We don't want to lose *any* islander to the virus due to someone's carelessness.

Please pass this along to your friends, and stay healthy.....

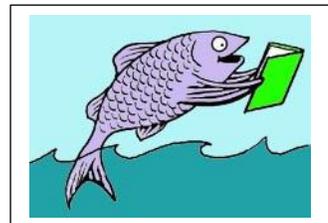
Dr Dave



Dr. Dave's winning photo from 2018. Let's heed the doctor's advice and live to fish another day.

There's still a bit of news to share, so please read on.

Obviously our calendar of events is a moving target.



If you're out there fishing while we practice social distancing, please send pictures! We could all use the positive boost of "seeing" each other fishing!

Hope to see you all on the beach this summer!



News to Know While You Quarantine

1. **Our May meeting is canceled.**
2. **The Fishing Tag Sale** has not been canceled as of this writing. The Prez is waiting to see when/if our quarantine rules change or lift.
3. If you have anything to **donate to our tag sale**, please call The Prez. He will come pick it up. (203) 240-0730
4. The trip to **Cuttyhunk** is canceled.
5. The **Striped Bass** have arrived. Don't forget the new rules: You can only keep a bass if it is over 28 inches and under 35 inches.
6. The **Bluefish** will be here soon. Remember, we can keep up to three bluefish each day.
7. When you're out there fishing, take a few pictures and please send them to me. We may not be able to gather for beach picnics, but we can share in the fun through pictures.
8. The **Island Cup** is on Nantucket this year. We're going June 12-14. Sign up now with Victor so we can kick some Whaler butt!!
9. Have you paid your dues? If you haven't paid your annual dues by the end of April, you will no longer receive the newsletter and will be off our mailing list.
10. When the fish arrive and we're out of quarantine, The Prez is going to host a **Make-Your-Own Lure Fishing Contest**. Hey, another project we can work on while we're at home. 😊
11. **Father's Day** Weekend – Picnic/BBQ on the beach. We voted to buy some fish to grill too.
12. **July 11** will be our Annual "July 4th" picnic at Bend in the Road Beach. Mark your calendars, and pray we're out of quarantine long before July rolls around!!!



Our beloved **Peter Johnson**, 82 passed away on April 2, 2020.

He was born October 1, 1937, to Albin and Helen (Petersen) Johnson of Norwood, MA and graduated from Norwood High School. He was a 1959 graduate of Dartmouth College where he majored in Physics. Peter was in Navy ROTC in college and received his commission upon graduation. He was assigned to Naval flight school and received his wings in 1960. He was an A-4 carrier pilot. After serving in the Navy, Peter started a career in the defense industry by joining Sanders Inc in Nashua, NH. Other employment included Lab-X, Sippican and Tekla Research and consulting work.



Peter was an avid fisherman and that was reflected in his

business ventures later in his life. Peter was the former owner of Larry's Tackle in Edgartown. He and his wife Lena became the owners of Robert's Lures in 1997, and later also bought Hammer Lures and Yankee Lures. Peter will be missed but Lena will continue the business. His love of fishing went beyond merely owning and running these businesses. He continuously developed and tested new designs, and always had time to talk with other fishermen.

He was often found on the beaches of Martha's Vineyard enjoying a walk along the beach or fishing. He was well-known for sharing his extensive knowledge of fishing and lures with fellow fishermen. Peter was a longtime member of the Martha's Vineyard Surfcaster's Association and the 2017 recipient of their sportsmanship award. He was well-known as a contributor to charitable events on the Island, including the Wounded Warrior program.

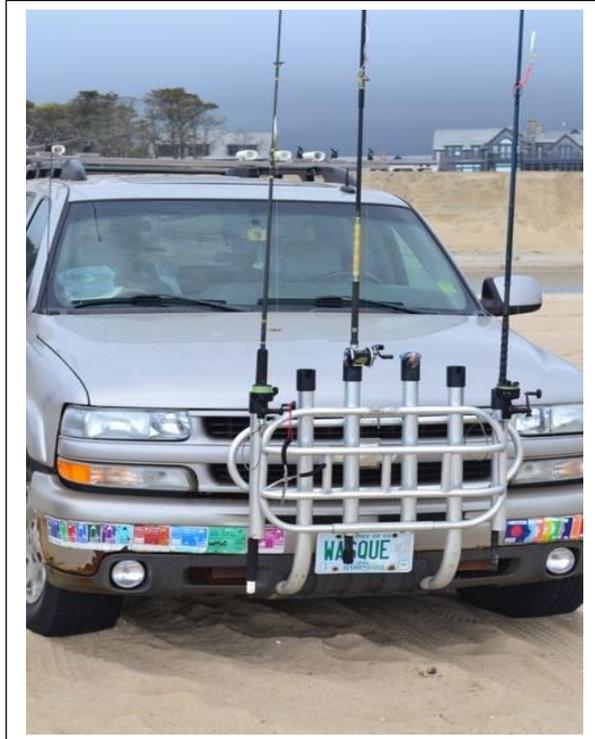
Peter leaves behind his longtime wife and partner Lena Thunholm of Newport, NH. He also leaves behind many children: Peter D. Johnson and his wife Rosalbina of Lutherville, MD; Scott Johnson and his wife Francoise of Newmarket, NH; Chris Johnson and his partner Sylvia Massy of Ashland, OR; Holly June Connell and her husband Jim of Ashland OR; Gail Arhangelsky and husband Mike of Palm Harbor, FL; Frederick Jordan of Miami, FL and Edward Jordan of Tacoma, WA. He also leaves behind three great-grandchildren and his five grandchildren Erin Garcia of Thousand Oaks, CA, Carrie Sailstad of Dunedin, FL, Meredith Johnson of Thousand Oaks, Ca, Taylor Queen of Lyndeborough, NH and Adam Queen of San Jose, CA.

In addition Peter leaves behind three brothers, Mark Johnson of Wareham, Phillip Johnson of Walpole, and James Johnson of E Weymouth. He was predeceased by his brother Paul. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of life at a future date to be held at Wasque Point, Chappaquiddick.



Peter and his dad in 1952.



The Roberts Fish Buggy with Peter's signature plate.

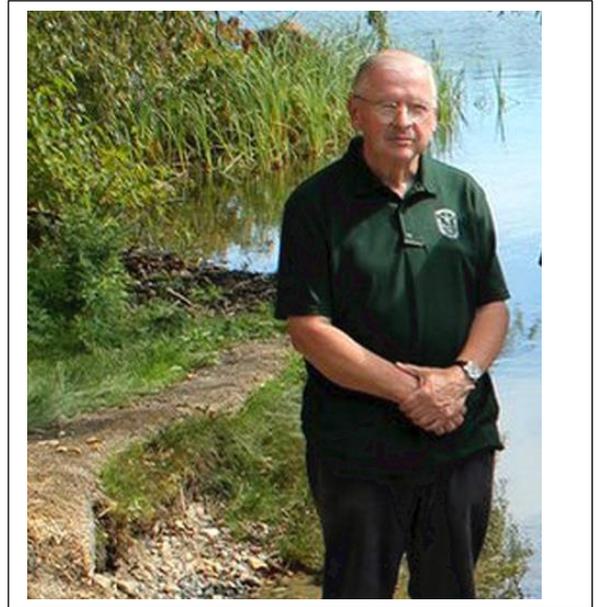


Peter and his younger brother with a fine haul of bluefish.

Remembering Jack Sheppard and His Legacy of Public Access

Jack Sheppard died in March. Most people will not recognize the name. But if you ever walked the path to access Dogfish Bar in Aquinnah, launched a boat in Katama, Sengekontacket or the Lagoon, or cast a line from the Oak Bluffs fishing pier, you have Jack to thank.

Jack was one of those special civil servants who worked quietly, got the job done and let others take the credit over a 48 year career with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW). Jack died on March 5 at the age of 76 only a month after his retirement. The April MassWildlife newsletter correctly said that “anyone who launches a motorboat, canoe, or kayak at a public boat access facility or casts a fishing line from a barrier-free fishing facility or shoreline access can thank Jack Sheppard, Director of the Office of Fishing and Boating Access (OFBA), for making their recreation experiences possible.”



To read Nelson’s full article on Jack Sheppard, click on this link:
<https://www.marthasvineyardoutdoors.com/post/remembering-a-legacy-of-public-access>



Calendar of Events

May 23 – MVSA Used Tackle Sale – MVRHS – More info to follow

June 12-14 -- The **15th Island Cup** Fishing Contest against the Nantucket Anglers' Club on Nantucket



June 20 or 21 – Father's Day Weekend Beach Picnic

July 11 – Annual Club Beach Picnic at Bend in the Road Beach

August - Annual Shark Tournament – more details to follow.



**If you happen to be hanging out
with Julio
down by the schoolyard
be ware of Rosie
She's the Queen of Corona**

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 (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.