



## Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

[www.mvsurfcasters.org](http://www.mvsurfcasters.org)

### April/May 2022 Newsletter

From The Prez: "You must be vaccinated to attend all indoor MVSA events, including meetings. Thanks"

Hello Surfcasters,

The fish have arrived. Life on the beach begins again.

Did you miss our April meeting? Retired USCG Machinery Tech Scott Maccaferri talked about making his Island Lures. You can read about his talk further down in the newsletter.

This month we will celebrate Memorial Day. In this issue we want to honor all our MVSA members who served, or are serving, in our military.

If your name is not listed below, please email me your military information ([mom1runner@aol.com](mailto:mom1runner@aol.com)). I could only include the names and photos of people who sent them in.

**News flash:** Our May meeting will be held Monday, May 23 at 7 pm.

**Father's Day Weekend Beach BBQ on Chappy.**

**Let the Prez know if you're coming by June 1.**

Hope to see you on the beach catching fish and enjoying the warmer days.

Lisa

#### First Bluefish of 2022 Contest

Rules: Bluefish must be weighed with an electronic scale, as demonstrated by Brenda, and the weight/scale and fish must be photographed together and sent to The Prez.

Winner gets fame and glory, as well as a Roberts Ranger and Striper Mainiac lure.



Save the Date:

July 9, 2022 – 5 pm

Annual Club Picnic

Bend in the Road Beach

# Thank You for Your Service

Eddie Amaral  
Private First Class  
US Army  
1954-1956



Bob Beal  
Sergeant  
US Air Force  
1969-1972



Frank Dougherty  
Captain  
US Army - Dental Corp.  
1965-1967



John Beal  
LCDR  
US Coast Guard  
2011 - to present



Bruce Laurich  
US Navy  
Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9) / Master Diver  
HTCM/MDV  
November 1966 - Retired November 1990

Bob Clay  
First Lieutenant  
US Army, 1965-1966  
1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry



Scott Maccaferri  
Machinery Tech 1st class  
US Coast Guard  
1992-2013



James C. Cornwell  
Captain  
US Army Infantry  
March 1957 - July 1968



Joseph McGuire  
Captain  
US Army, Ordnance Corps.  
Years: 1966-1970



Jack Creighton  
Sergeant  
US Marine Corps  
1965-1969



Paul Schultz  
US Army  
1968-1970



Solomon B. Watson IV  
Lieutenant  
US Army Military Police Corps  
1966 to 1968

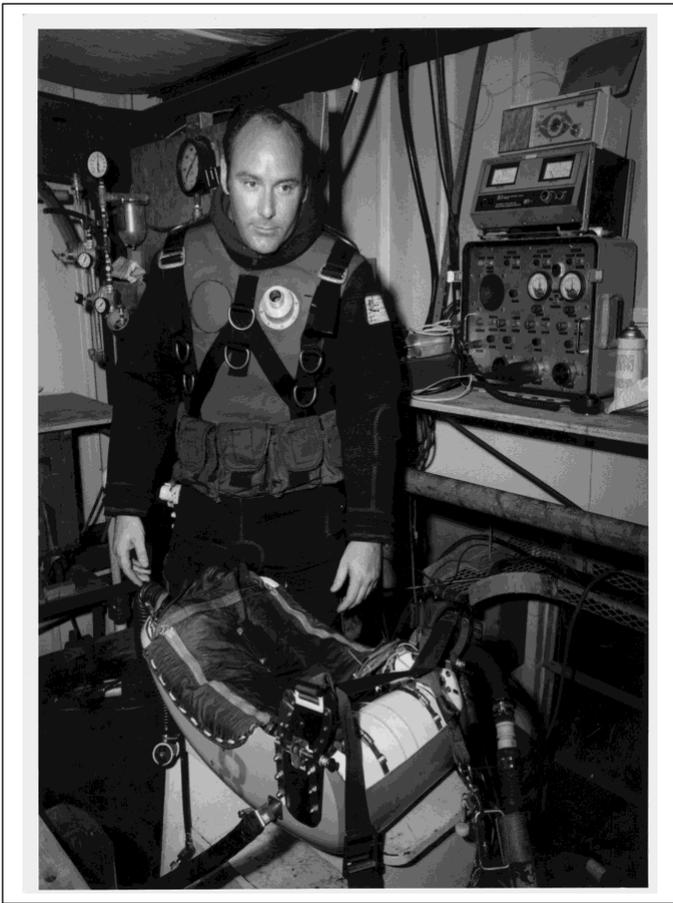


Winslow Crocker  
US Coast Guard  
Antarctica Bases



Richard Wood  
US Army  
1961-1963





Bruce Laurich, US Navy



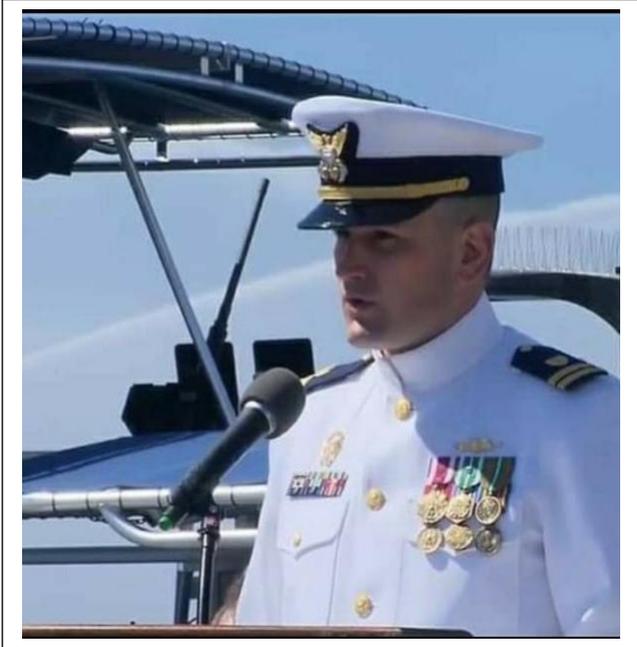
Joseph McGuire, US Army



Scott Maccaferri, US Coast Guard



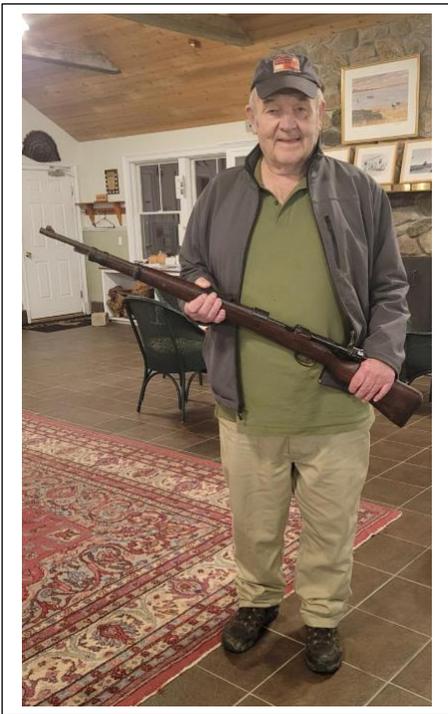
Richard Wood, US Army



John Beal, US Coast Guard

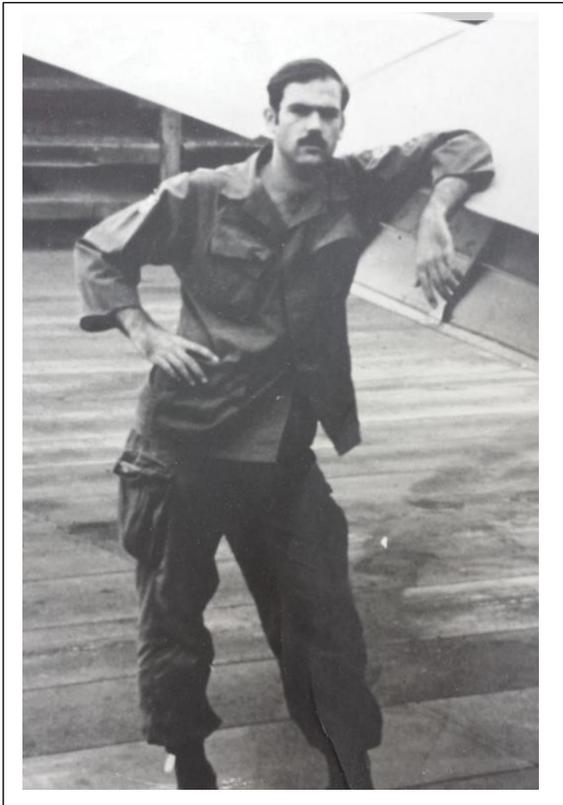


Winslow Crocker, US Coast Guard



Paul Schultz, US Army





Bob Beal, US Air Force



Eddie Amaral, US Army



Sol Watson, US Army

# Club News and Meeting Notes

1. **SAVE THE DATE: July 9 – Annual Club Picnic** at Bend in the Road Beach at 5 pm. This year we are planning a huge party since our banquet was canceled. We will not only have the traditional burgers and meats, but we're also having a clambake with clams and oysters. [If you live off-Island, be sure to get here!](#)

2. Our annual Father's Day BBQ will be held once again on Chappy during Father's Day weekend. The Prez will let us know where and what day once he knows the best day for sun and wind. **Please RSVP by June 1 and let The Prez know what meat you're bringing** so he knows how many smokers we will need on the beach.

3. The Prez announced that 2022 will be his last year as president. He will stay on as VP, but we need a member to **step up and be our new president**. Is that you?

4. **The club donated \$750** out of the monies we made from our online auction. We donated \$500 to Island Food Pantry and \$250 to the Kid's Trout Derby. Tyler Poole reported that Coop said 750 pounds of fish were stocked and it was a great morning of fishing for the kids.

5. The club has **T-shirts, bags, hats, pins, and stickers**. Call the Prez if you want any.

6. We need **donations for our tag sale!** Over the last three years, our tag sales have brought in over \$30,000. Let's keep the momentum going! If you're not going to the April meeting, call the Prez to drop off.



7. The annual **Shark Tournament** will be held in July/August when the sharks show up. We will have a club beach barbeque the last night of the tournament. \$200 Chappy Ferry book to the winner.

8. The club gave a \$250 prize in Peter Johnson's name at the **MVRHS Science Fair**. See report below.

9. We had seven graduating seniors apply for our scholarships. The executive board will meet and select the top two. We will give away **two \$4,000 scholarships** this year.

10. **The Prez sold 580 lures** to Trader Fred for \$2 each. Now we need more lures and plugs for our sale!

11. The club will be **renting a storage unit** so The Prez can have his garage back.

## April Guest Speaker: Scott Maccaferri of Island Lures

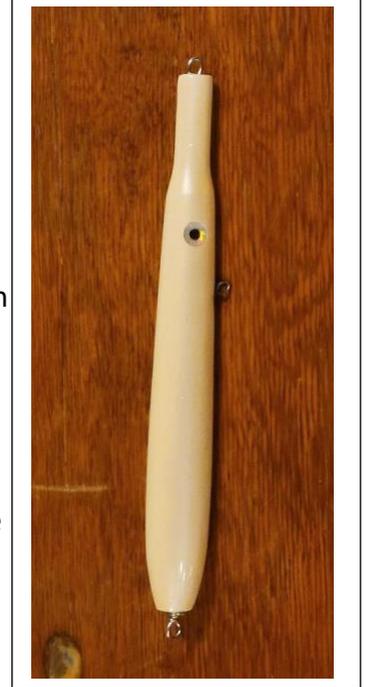


Scott Maccaferri, now retired from the US Coast Guard, has found a new passion – making lures. “I build all kinds lures. Personally, I really like needlefish.”

Scott made his first two plugs while still in the Coast Guard. He used a broken broom handled. “I caught fish! Blue love everything,” joked Scott.

Scott uses cedar, poplar, pine, and Alaskan yellow cedar for buoyancy in the top water lures and swimmers. For his needlefish, Scott likes maple.

Scott makes everything -- his own jig heads and bucktails, plastic slugs and lures.



You can purchase Scott's *Island Lures* at Coop's Bait and Tackle Shop and Larry's.



A sampling of what Scott brought to the MSA meeting to show us.

# MVRHS Science Fair

On Saturday, March 19, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) hosted its 23rd annual Science and Engineering Fair. The MVSA has participated in this event for many years with members serving as judges and through sponsorship of an award. Our award is given to the project that focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of aspects of our marine environment with a focus on the flora and fauna of Martha's Vineyard.

This year the MVSA \$250 Peter Johnson Award was presented to Jacob Riis for his project titled: "SEAsaw Upweller Scaled-down Prototype". Mr. Riis was also awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in the engineering category.

By coincidence, MVSA member David Nash was assigned to judge Jacobs' project. According to David, Jacobs' project was an interesting look at methods of increasing the flow of nutrient carrying sea water over the oyster baskets thereby increasing the food brought to the oysters. Jacob had to design a method to accomplish this and subsequently deal with alternate designs in a true test of engineering principles. In short,

Jacobs' prototype was made of lightweight materials so that the movement of surface and subsurface waters by wind and current would successfully move nutrients to the oysters. Jacob did a very good job of applying engineering to his project but David also felt that Jacob especially excelled at his presentation. He displayed solid knowledge of all related subject matter and described his project in a very clear and concise manner.

Jacob was mentored in his project by one of the Islands' pioneering oyster aquaculture pioneers, Jack Blake.



# Remembering John Phillips, a Friend to Island Anglers

Nelson Sigelman

John Charles Phillips 2nd died on March 10. But for the mysteries of Google algorithms, which picked up on a reference to East Beach in his obituary, I would not have learned of his death at the age of 76 at his home in Portland, Me.

The news put me in a melancholy mood. Not necessarily because John died — at a certain age we accept that we're on life's taxiway — but because I knew that few fishermen who had cast a fly into the current at Dogfish Bar, or watched a bluefish furiously snap at a plug off East Beach, would recognize his name.

I first met John when he stepped off the Steamship Authority ferry in Oak Bluffs almost three decades ago. John was commissioner of the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement.

There are high-profile state and federal political appointees who are intoxicated with their authority and travel with an aide who hovers around them like a remora. John arrived alone, carrying a fly rod case and a small backpack. We didn't know each other, but he had accepted an invitation to stay with my wife Norma and me for the weekend. The plan was to fish Dogfish Bar, one of the premier fly fishing spots on the Island, and hear from concerned fishermen about the frustrating effort to secure a longtime informal parking lot before it disappeared behind a locked gate.

For many years, property owner Dr. Jason Lew generously allowed fishermen to park in his small lot. A narrow path through the tick-laden beach grass led to the beach. A short cast was all that was needed to place a fly in the trough that ran parallel to the shore and in which the current carried bait to waiting game fish and game anglers.

On a good night, striped bass fishing could be legendary. But the informal parking arrangement, one similar to past conveniences that once offered fishing access around the Island, was set to disappear when the property went on the market.

In 1996, the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank stepped in with an offer to buy Dr. Lew's entire parcel that stretched from Lighthouse Road to the beach. But the town advisory board nixed the deal.

John appreciated the public value of this unique fishing spot. He asked Jack Sheppard, director of the Public Access Board, to make a purchase deal. With minimal fanfare, the state bought the 2.4-acre beach-front lot in 1996 for \$160,000, even as private shares in a nearby association gated parking lot were selling for \$18,000 each, and now sell for much more.

The small parking area and path to the beach were reserved solely for the specific purpose of public fishing access. It was not John's only accomplishment. Three years earlier, under John's leadership, the state completed the long contemplated purchase for just under \$1 million of Leland beach, also known as East Beach, on Chappaquiddick. The 100-acre barrier beach stretches from Wasque to the Dike Bridge and provides access to some of the best fishing on the Island.

In a story published on Oct. 1, 1993, the Vineyard Gazette reported, "Although it is privately owned, the Leland family beach has historically been open to the public. Now that tradition will remain intact."

No key that sells for hundreds of thousands of dollars is required to get on the beach. You do not need to be a member of an exclusive club to walk or drive across the Dike Bridge and cast a line and fish for bluefish, stripers, bonito, false albacore, and brown sharks. Under an agreement with the state, The Trustees of Reservations manages Leland Beach, which joins the Wasque and Cape Pogue reservations.

It is not unknown for elected leaders to console failed pols, heedless of their actual skills, with a plum appointment as a consolation prize. Give Gov. William Weld credit for appointing John in 1991 to head the state's important environmental agency. John, a Harvard graduate who held a master's degree from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources, had experience working in government and nonprofits and a passion for the environment. He also liked to fish, which I consider a mark of good character.

In April 1995, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) held a series of public hearings on striped bass limits that included a well attended meeting on the Vineyard at which many fishermen argued strenuously for a more conservative approach. DMF, acting on federal guidelines, proposed a 28-inch recreational size limit and a 36-inch commercial size limit.

The Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Commission, at the recommendation of Commissioner Phillips and with the support of Governor Weld, approved a 34-inch recreational and commercial minimum size limit.

Although other New England states were free to adopt the 28-inch limit, Commissioner Phillips told the press that the decision to act conservatively on striper size limits should not be based on what other states are unwilling to do. He said those states "that do not choose to act in the best interests of conservation are the ones which are out of step."

In 1999, Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci, a pol of the old school was elected governor. John unceremoniously lost his job.

As the years slipped past, John and I lost touch. No matter. John Phillips, fisherman and conscientious champion of rare and cherished places, will be remembered by Vineyard anglers.

## Have you ordered your Striped Bass Conservation Plate yet?



The Baker-Polito Administration announced Massachusetts is now offering a new specialty license plate available through the Registry of Motor Vehicles to promote conservation of striped bass. The striped bass license plate is available to all motorists who are registering a vehicle in the Commonwealth or for motorists who already have a vehicle registered and want this new plate, they can visit [Mass.Gov/myRMV](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-stripped-bass-conservation-license-plate) to order one.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-stripped-bass-conservation-license-plate>

## 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](mailto: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](http://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.