

President
Jeff Sayre

Vice Presidents
Walter Lison
Paul Schultz

Volume XII Issue 6

The Fishin' Times

All the news that's fish...we'll print
The Newsletter Of The Martha's Vineyard Surfcaster's Association

Treasurer
Ron Domurat

Secretary
Bob Lane
Paula Sullivan

September, 2003

"...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

President's Message

It's hard to believe summer is almost over. It seems like I was scraping ice off my windshield not so long ago! And with the cold spring we had, it seemed like it would never be warm. But that's the way it always is, summers go by way too fast here on the Vineyard.

Our summer events were terrific! We had a beautiful day for our annual summer picnic and everyone had a great time. A special thanks goes out to Phil Horton who did a tremendous job in organizing and preparing food for the event. I hope he'll do it next year! We also had outstanding participation during the 3 days we sponsored the kids from the Boy's and Girl's Club to go fishing on the SKIPPER. We actually had too many volunteers the first day and I would like to thank everyone for taking time out of their day to help out. The kids had a great time!

This summer we also resurrected the Cape Poge Shark Tournament. It had been a few years since the club had held this event so it was a learning experience and something to build on for the future. Although no brown sharks were landed during the two-day event, there were some hook ups and some were caught the week before. There was quite a bit of interest in this year's tournament and it brought in a few new members. Next year we are looking to possibly expand the length of the tournament to allow for more fishing time and possible landings.

I guess the one good thing about the end of the summer season is it means it's Derby time! That gives us an excuse to fish night and day for a month. It's also a time to get reacquainted with friends who visit the Island during the tournament. The camaraderie we share while fishing is all part of the Derby experience. There's something special about standing on a jetty before daybreak with fellow anglers. Waiting for the albies to come crashing as a cold NW wind stings your face. Everyone is united and focused on the same thing.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone good luck in the Derby and it would be nice to see a Surfcaster win the Abe Williams Memorial Award which will go to the first person to achieve the grand slam from shore. We have some great candidates in the club so I think we can do it!

Tight Lines, Jeff Sayre

MVSA Members Inducted Into Derby Hall of Fame

MVSA members Don Mohr and Cooper (Coop) Gilkes were recently inducted into the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Hall of Fame. Recognized for their accomplishments both on and off the water, the two were inducted in a ceremony held at the Harbor View Hotel on Wednesday July 16. Both join an impressive group of previous inductees.

Don Mohr had previously served as Treasurer and then Chairman of the Derby at a critical juncture after the Derby stepped out on it's own after being run by the MV Chamber of Commerce since it's inception. A WW II veteran and the former athletic director at Wright State College in OH, Don is also an accomplished angler and in 1984 was recognized for catching the third largest resident shore bass caught by a Vineyard resident. At age 80 he is known to many as the friendliest guy on the beach and is still a consistent winner of daily prizes. He can usually be found on the beaches of Chappaquiddick almost daily from mid April until early November. Last year he won the MVSA award for the largest shore bass caught by a senior.

Coop is known as one of the Islands premier anglers but his greatest fishing accomplishment is winning the Derby's Grand Prize of a Boston Whaler in 1987 for catching the largest boat bonito. Coop is also well known for his tireless work on the Derby committee as well as his work with children's fishing events, particularly the MV Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Kid's Tournament and the MV Rod & Gun Clubs spring trout derby. He is also a strong advocate of beach access and serves on the TTOR Chappaquiddick Advisory Committee.

Tackle Tips/Circle Hooks

In MA alone, anglers catch & release millions of striped bass and it is estimated that over 8% of those fish are lost to the population due to the stress of the fish or lethal hook wounds. Recent studies in MA & MD indicate the use of circle hooks significantly reduces fish mortality. Estimates of lethal wounding were 1.6% for circle hooks vs. 27.5% for conventional "J" hooks. Studies also indicate that circle hooks tend to hook slightly more fish even with untended rods.

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The use of circle hooks takes some getting used to as most anglers find it difficult to shake the "haul back hard" hook set mentality. It's a difficult habit to break and seems almost unnatural at first, as the hook set with a circle hook simply requires the angler to point the rod at the fish until the line comes tight. The hook then does the work as the "circle" or bend, rides up the gullet and lodges in the corner of the mouth as the fish runs off with the bait.

With the Derby upon us, many of us will be fishing with live eels or cut bait in an effort to catch that "one big fish" that will gain us fishing immortality. If you haven't used circle hooks you might want to give them a try. They work!

How to Use Circle Hooks

*You must use a 'non-offset' or straight shank circle hook.

*Place your bait on the hook as you normally would and cast in a normal fashion.

*When you get the hit simply point the rod tip at the fish and start reeling. Do not set the hook with the kind of violent lifting/jerking motion you are accustomed to with regular "J" hooks. If done correctly, the hook will ride up the gullet and hook the fish in the corner of the mouth.

*Fight the fish in a normal fashion.

Chappy Beach Access

July 12th, August 14th, and August 16th were the dates for public input meetings for the final draft of The Trustees of Reservations revised management plan for their Chappaquiddick properties. Before those meetings took place, the date for the plan completion was September 1st. Because of the tremendous pressure instigated by the leadership of the Chappaquiddick Island Association (CIA), the Trustees' staff responsible for the revisions, has backed off from that date. They are now waiting for any additional public input before convening a meeting with the planning committee reviewing the management plan where further concessions to the Chappaquiddick community could be made.

Surfcaster members were at each of the three meetings, but it was at the Chappy Community Center on July 12th and August 16th where they really heard the opinions of those Chappaquiddick property owners who are angry with TTOR's policies and programs. Succinctly put, those people want programs cut and access curtailed. The opponents were, unfortunately, more vocal than the TTOR proponents. However, if anyone followed the newspaper coverage of the issues by the GAZETTE and the M.V. TIMES, you know that the opposing sides made their arguments for or against TTOR management. We can only hope that the majority of Vineyarders found the reasons for support more compelling, reasonable, and fair.

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The August 14th meeting took place at the Wakeman Center where the atmosphere was more positive and constructive although many fewer people attended that one.

Pressure on the Trustees is not likely to subside with the summer ending because the major critics are either year-round residents or people who stay in close touch with Chappaquiddick politics. **IT IS CRITICAL** to counteract their actions. We ask that each Surfcaster member write or email TTOR asking that they remain firm in quickly finalizing the present plan without making any more concessions. In your communication, please emphasize that the beaches are important to you and your families for swimming, picnicking, bird watching, relaxing, and enjoying nature instead of emphasizing fishing. By taking that approach, we will not be looked at as a self-interested group, but rather as community members who strongly respect the charter of TTOR.

Their email address is the following: www.thetrustees.org or write to Chris Kennedy at TTOR Islands Regional Office, P.O. Box 2106, Vineyard Haven, 02568 (or call him at 508-693-7662) or write to Andrew Kendall, Executive Director of TTOR, 572 Essex St., Beverly, MA 01915.

If you have any further questions, please call Bob or Fran Clay at 508-627-3407. Thank you everybody; we really need your help.

Abe Williams

The MVSA and Chappy regulars lost a good friend when Abe Williams died unexpectedly on Saturday June 7 at age 70. He spent his last night catching bluefish at Arruda Point and some beach regulars have affectionately re-named the spot "Abe's Hole". Abe was a fisherman's fisherman and could often be found (or not) prowling the beaches of Chappaquiddick or making the long arduous walk to Squibnocket with one or more of his five sons. In 1998 Abe was a Grand Prize Derby winner with a 20.58 lb. bluefish, the fourth largest bluefish ever recorded in Derby history and the largest since 1972. He was also the winner of numerous daily and senior awards and entered the coveted Grand Slam club in last year's Derby. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Maryann Henniger, Abes partner of 35 years and Abe's family have requested that awards in his memory be established by the MVSA and the MVSB & BF Derby. The MVSA award will be given to the member that catches the largest shore striped bass and the Derby award will go to the "first" Grand Slam weighed in by a shore angler. A Memorial Service to celebrate Abe's life will be held at 2:00PM on Saturday October 11 on East Beach. Memorial donations in his memory can be sent to the MVSA, PO Box 3053, Edgartown, 02539 or The MVSB & BF Derby, PO Box 2232, Edgartown, 02539.

Past Derby Accomplishments

Over the years, many MVSA members have distinguished themselves as outstanding anglers by winning major prizes in the prestigious Marfa's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby. We thought it would be good to recognize their accomplishments.

Al Angelone

2001 All Tackle Grand Slam, 3rd

Chip Bergeron

1984 All Tackle Shore Bass, Non Resident 1st
1991 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 1st
1992 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 3rd
1995 Flyrod Shore Bass, 1st
1995 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 3rd
1995 Flyrod Shore Bonito, 3rd
1995 Flyrod Shore Grand Slam, 1st (Derby

Record)

1997 Flyrod Shore Bass, 2nd

Fran Clay

2001 All Tackle Boat False Albacore, 1st

Bob Clay

2001 All Tackle Boat Bonito, 1st (Grand Prize Winner)

Ron Domurat

2002 All Tackle Shore Bonito, 1st

Thor Farrish

2002 Flyrod Boat Bluefish, 3rd
2001 All Tackle Boat False Albacore, 3rd

Dan Geary

2002 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st (Grand Prize Winner)

2002 Bob Post Memorial Award, largest shore bluefish, The daRosa Award for the heaviest bluefish. The James P. Catlow Memorial Award for the heaviest shore bluefish caught by a resident. The George H. Pye Award for the heaviest shore bluefish caught by a resident senior. The Chamber of Commerce Award for the heaviest shore bluefish caught by a senior. Madison Alwardt Senior Memorial Award, shore bluefish.

Cooper Gilkes

1987 All Tackle Boat Bonito, 1st (Grand Prize and Boat Winner)

Bob (Hawkeye) Jacobs

1995 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 3rd
1997 All Tackle Shore False Albacore, 3rd
1998 All Tackle shore Grand Slam, 3rd
2001 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1st
2001 All Tackle Shore False Albacore, 3rd
2001 Robert "Huff" Langley Award
2002 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1st

Karen Kukolich

1986 Flyrod Boat Bluefish, 3rd
1988 Flyrod Boat Bluefish, 3rd
1995 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 1st
1995 Pierre Aetello Award, Women's largest

False Albacore

2001 All Tackle Boat Bluefish, 1st (Grand Prize Winner)

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Karen Kukolich (Continued)

2001 Dr David Finkelstein Award, Boat Bluefish, Carol Driscoll Memorial Award, boat bluefish, The daRosa Award, heaviest boat bluefish, The Musia fly Fishing Award

Bob Lane

1993 All Tackle Shore Bass, 2nd

(Bonito) Ed Lepore

1991 All Tackle Boat False Albacore, 3RD
1992 Flyrod Shore bluefish, 3RD
1993 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 2ND

Jack Livingston

1996 All Tackle Shore Bonito, 1st, (Grand Prize Winner)

2001 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st (Grand Prize Winner)

2001 James P. Catlow, Memorial Award, shore bluefish, Dr. David Finkelstein Award, shore bluefish
Janet Messineo

1984 All Tackle Shore Resident Bass, 2nd.

1984 The Thomas Goode Special Award

1985 All Tackle Resident False Albacore, 1st

1985 All Tackle Resident Bonito, 1st

1987 & 1988 CB Stark Award, woman's

heaviest shore fish.

1991 CB Stark Award, woman's heaviest shore false albacore

1996, 98, 99, 00, 01 Carol Driscoll Award, woman's heaviest shore bluefish

1998 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam 2nd.

1998 Sunglasses USA Award, woman's heaviest shore striped bass.

1998 Sunglasses USA Award, woman's heaviest shore bluefish.

Gary Miranda

2002 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 2nd

Don Mohr

1984 All Tackle Shore Bass, Resident 3rd

Paul Schultz

1995 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st (Grand Prize Winner)

1999 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st (Grand Prize Winner)

Jeff Sayre

1996 Flyrod Shore False Albacore, 1st

2001 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 1st

Wayne (Duke) Smith

1998 Flyrod Shore False Albacore 1st

Hank Unczur

2001 Ray Metcalf Sr Award, boat bass

Abe Williams

1997 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st (Grand Prize Winner)

2001 Howie Leonard Sr Memorial Award shore false albacore.

2002 Madison Alwardt Sr Memorial Award, shore false albacore.

Tackle Tips Fast Fish Favorites

With the Derby upon us as well as our annual tropical visitors, bonito and false albacore, we thought it timely to poll some of our members about their favorite lures for catching these speedsters. Here are the results

Jack Livingston Green, 5/8 oz. Spoffords Needlefish. Varied retrieve depending upon surface conditions.

Mark Wrabel-Yo-Zuri 30gm black sardine or a Maria 28gm green minnow-both fished fast.

Jeff Sayre-Epoxy silverside imitation for a fly and a small Deadly Dick or Yo-Zuri crystal minnow. Sometimes fished fast and other times especially fly fishing, stripped slower and a little erratically.

Janet Messineo-Charlie Cinto "secret weapon" called a Peanut, and a Cinto Got to Have It lead head jig.

Phil Cronin-The epoxy "Scotty Fly" developed by MVSA member Scott Patterson that represents a silverside.

Ron Domurat- , or 1 oz. Hammer-fished very fast.

Fran Clay-No 1 or 2 Deadly Dick, green or silver.

Bob Clay-No 1 or 2 Deadly Dick, Mega Bait or Maria. (Keeps changing until he catches one and then stays with it for a while.

Steve Purcell- 1 oz Hammer or no. 1 green Deadly Dick fished slowly enough to keep it a little lower in the water column.

Don Mohr-1/2 or 1 oz. Hammer and no. 1 green Deadly Dick.

Walter Lison-Ava 007 Diamond jig, yo-Zuri crystal minnow and his own version of the Hammer. All fished at a normal retrieve.

Thor Farrish-His own hand tied epoxy silverside fly.

Bob Lane- Yo-Zuri Metallic Sardine. Once, within a half hour, used one to catch a bonito, a false albacore and a spanish mackerel from East Beach, on a dozen casts.

Dan Geary- "Can't remember."

Trustees Management Plan For Cape Poge & Wasque

The Trustee's of Reservations have developed a new draft management plan for Cape Poge & Wasque. In a press release dated May 27, 2003, the Trustees stated it had been thirteen years since these scenic beach

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properties had seen a "top to bottom review". During that period, vehicular traffic has decreased and education and natural history interpretation have increased. In gathering data for the proposed plan, the Trustees surveyed fisherman, property visitors, and Chappaquiddick residents. Information from this survey and research is the basis for the new proposed plan which calls for consideration of an education center, limits on the hours of nighttime access except for fishing, closure of redundant roadways and trails through sensitive areas and greater control on the sale of merchandise. The plan also supports the establishment of limited year-round bathroom facilities and review of low-impact boardwalk access from the Dike Bridge to the Cedars on East Beach. In addition, the plan calls for a closer working relationship with other Chappaquiddick groups to look at the issues of vehicle access to Chappaquiddick and ways The Trustees can work with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Town of Edgartown to address local concerns on traffic.

A draft of the updated plan is available for review at: www.thetrustees.org/capepogewildliferefuge.cfm

Comments may be submitted until June 25th via e-mail to islands@tfor.org or by writing to The Trustees, PO Box 2106, Vineyard haven, MA 02568.

What's On The Line? (MVSA Calendar)

9/14-10/18 Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby

10/1-10/31-Octoberfish, Larry's Tackle Shop

10/11 Abe Williams Memorial Service
East Beach, Time TBA
Charlie Barr, 693-6957

11/19 MVSA Meeting
7:00PM, American Legion Hall
Jeff Sayre, 693-4841

12/17 MVSA Meeting
7:00PM, American Legion Hall
Jeff Sayre, 693-4841

1/24 MVSA Awards Ceremony & Banquet
12:00PM, Old Whaling Church
Jeff Sayre, 693-4841

Tackle Tips/Slug-Gos

Soft plastics were hot this spring, particularly the Storm Shad four and five ounce varieties. But one of the originals is the Slug-Go which has always been a favorite of many good surf jocks. We thought you might enjoy this "how to" article by Rich Russo, a member of The Connecticut Surfcasters Association.

It was a dark night, the kind of night striper fishermen yearn for. My partner and I had just walked into our favorite spot. On my second cast with a live eel, I took a decent bass in the mid to upper teens. Then it happened... the bluefish had invaded our striper party. We threw all sorts of plugs in an attempt to catch a blue or two but they were only interested in our live eels. Out of frustration and a desperate need to land one of those toothy adversaries, I attached a 9" Slug-Go to the end of my line. After a few minutes of tossing the Slug-Go into the surf, WHAM! a fish hit. Unfortunately, I lost the fish after it had tested my drag washers. I retrieved my lure, expecting it to be chewed up by one of those blues but it was intact, I had hooked into a nice bass!

That fish prompted me to stick with the Slug-Go and forsake my usual live eels for the rest of the night. I was rewarded with a healthy bass in the thirty-pound range and several smaller ones as well. I had numerous hits that I didn't connect on which had me perplexed. I sought advice from a few local experts on what I could do to improve my hook up ratio. They both advised me on a better way to rig my Slug-Gos which I am passing on to you as well as how to fish them.

First, you will need an 8/0 O'Shaughnessy hook from Mustad. It has a long shank which distributes it's weight very similarly to the 8/0 offset hook which comes packaged with the lure. Weight distribution is an important factor when it comes to the action of these lures. If the weight is too far forward, as it would be with shorter shanked hooks, the lure will nose dive when it is on the fall. Seeing as just about all of the hits come as the lure is falling during the retrieve, this is extremely important. The O'Shaughnessy hook allows you to fish with more of the hook exposed that will increase your hookup ratio. It does tend to hook more weeds as well, but I have found it to be a worthwhile tradeoff. Next you will need a spool of thread and some glue to help hold the lure in place.

The first step in rigging your Slug-Go is to wrap some thread around the shank of the hook. This, in conjunction with the glue, helps to hold the lure in place on the hook even after you have caught a number of bass. You don't need to wrap the thread too far down the shank. Starting from the eye, wrap about the first half-inch of the shank then wrap back up towards the eye to build up the wrap. Finish it off with a few half hitches or any other knot you desire.

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The next step is to hold the hook against the Slug-Go to determine where the hook point will be exiting the bottom of the lure. It is very important to get the Slug-Go to sit straight on the hook as a curl in the body will affect the way the lure darts through the water. Hold the hook against the lure and then roll the hook over the belly of the lure. Then mark where the bend of the hook crosses the very bottom of the lure. You can use a marker or make a small hole in the Slug-Go's belly with the point of another hook.

Be sure to center the point of the hook with the nose of the lure. As stated before, getting the lure to sit straight on the hook is of utmost importance. Thread the lure onto the hook and bring the point out where you marked the belly. Pull the head of the lure up to the eye of the hook to see if the lure lays straight. If your hook came out a bit too far back on the lure causing your Slug-Go to have a slight bend in the body, you can pull the tail section firmly from just behind the hook. This will tear the Slug-Go a bit but it will straighten it out. All you need to do once you've glued the head down, is place a drop of glue on the tear to repair it.

Once you are happy with the way your Slug-Go sits on the hook, slide the head back down the shank of the hook a bit to expose the thread wraps. Place a drop or two of glue to the wraps. Once you have gotten your thread covered with glue, slide the lure back up the hook and snug it up to the eye of the hook.

Now comes the fun part... fishing with your Slug-Gos! I know there are many experienced surf fishermen who will curse me up and down for saying this but I prefer to use a snap when fishing these lures. I use at least a 50lb. duo-lock snap tied to a 50lb test monofilament leader. It seems to give the lure more freedom of movement. The method that I have found to be most effective for fishing Slug-Gos is to retrieve the lure slowly and give your rod tip a short quick upwards jerk then reel up the slack as it drifts down. Try not to let too much slack build in your line as the lure drop because, as stated before, your hits will come as the lure drops. As with any lure, fish it right up to your feet as sometimes the fish will follow it in.

When it comes to color, I generally stick with the old adage of dark colors on a dark night such as all black, red shad and gold pepper shiner. I don't use all white on bright nights but I will use Slug-Gos with dark backs and light bellies like alewife. Once daylight starts peaking over the horizon, it's time to try the all white Albino Shad. You can also make your own color variations by using indelible markers sold for coloring fly tying materials.

I hope this has helped convince you to give Slug-Gos a try. They are one of the most productive striper lures to hit the surf in a long time. If you don't believe me, just ask a local striper sharpie. Odds are, he's been using them to his advantage for some time now!

Around the Island

Filet Station Help

The Derby committee is looking for help at the filet station. If you are good with a filet knife and would like to give up a couple hours of your time to a good cause, give Matt Malowski a call at 508-693-4615 or e-mail mattm@cape.cpm. The job of filet master is open as well. As you know, filets from unwanted Derby fish are donated to various senior citizen groups around the Island.

On the subject of filets, with fish being weighed to the 1/100 of an ounce it is your best interest, as well as those receiving the donations, to keep your catch fresh. If you plan to weigh in your fish, get it on ice as soon as possible, cover it with a wet cloth and head to the weigh-in. Many pins have been lost by a fraction of an ounce because anglers haven't taken care of their catch.

Family & Friends Picnic

The annual MVSA summer picnic was held June 12, on a beautiful early summer afternoon. Over 50 members and guests turned out for the event that was organized by Phil Horton our new chairman who did an outstanding job as well as providing his famous secret recipe barbecue ribs. Highlight of the event was the annual casting contest that was won by Bob McKay, Jeff Sayre, and Paul Schultz.

Skipper Trip

This past July, the MVSA donated \$1,300.00 to the Boy's & Girl's Club to sponsor two summer camperships and three fishing trips aboard the SKIPPER. Volunteers from the Surfcasters, councilors from the Boy's & Girl's Club and the crew of the SKIPPER all helped to ensure that the kids had a great time. It's a lot of work baiting hooks, untangling lines and unhooking fish all morning.

The weather cooperated for the most part during the three days, despite a little wind, and the fish were biting! Plenty of scup were landed as well as fluke and I heard that even a large bluefish was hooked but was lost at the boat.

Greg Rollins, Executive Director of the Boy's & Girl's Club, sent us a note thanking the MVSA for our contribution saying the Club couldn't function without the support of friends like us. We look forward to helping out again next year!

Surfcasting Clinic

Our third annual Surfcasting Clinic was held on June 21st and it was co-hosted by Paul Schultz and Arnie

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Ziemian and volunteer assistance was provided by Walter

Lison. This year we had only four participants as compared to the 18-20 participants that we have had attend in the previous two years. However, everyone had a really great time. Those who attended were really pleased to learn how to cast, find out the lures and plugs to use for the various species of fish, which knots to tie for various applications, and finally how to be safe when fishing at all times of the day or night. Some of the attendees brought along their own fishing gear and they were pleased to be able to learn how to use it and take care of it.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many MVSA members who volunteered to help prior to the Clinic. We really appreciated their willingness to help and provide assistance, but with such low attendance we did not need further help this year.

Shark Tournament

If fun was a measure of success, the MVSA Beach Shark Tournament held August 1st thru August 3rd was all of that. Thirteen current members and three new members rose to the challenge of trying to beach the winning shark. Many reported hook-ups but the fish proved to be the winners in the end with none of them tasting beach sand. From the stories told at the cookout held at Jeff Sayre's Sunday afternoon nearly everyone experienced the thrill of defeat.

The prevailing opinions pointed toward expanding the tournament to include several weekdays/nights, holding the award over to next year as there was no winner, and possibly including t-shirts with next years entry. More than \$300 dollars was raised for the treasury that will likely be used for kid's events on the island.

Fishing Report

By the time you receive this newsletter, the fall season should be in full swing. The weather is changing and there is a ton of silversides, peanut bunker and sand eels surrounding the Island. The table is set for some hungry guests. Reports of bonito and false albacore are being made from Menemsha, The Big Bridge as well as East Beach and the fish should be in the Gut and Edgartown Harbor. Just in time for the Derby. Two to four pound bluefish, with an occasional bigger fish mixed in, have returned with the cooler weather and the Poge area is loaded with them. Stripers are also reappearing to shore anglers after taking the summer off, and reports are starting to trickle in from Metcalfs, Tashmoo and Poge which appear to be holding some decent size fish. In short, the doldrums are over and the Derby is shaping up nicely! As evidenced by our members past Derby accomplishments, look for one or more of our members to be standing on the stage on awards day. Good luck and have fun!

Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association
PO Box 3053, Edgartown, MA, 02539

Name _____

Address _____

All Tackle Method Fly Rod

Shore Category Boat

Division
 Junior (Under 16) Adult (16-64) Senior (65 & up)

Mail to: Paul Schultz PO Box 1245, Edgartown, MA, 02539 by the 5th of the following month.

Date: _____

Species:
 Striped Bass Bluefish
 Bonito False Albacore
 Other _____ Released

Weight: _____ Length _____ Girth _____

Weigher: _____

Tackle Shop: _____

Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association
PO Box 3053, Edgartown, MA, 02539

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Address _____

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Date: _____

Species:
 Striped Bass Bluefish
 Bonito False Albacore
 Other _____ Released

Weight: _____ Length _____ Girth _____

Weigher: _____

Tackle Shop: _____

Dangerous Waters

By: Chip Bergeron

This year I have been dunked twice by unexpected waves while fishing. I thought that I should share these stories with the membership just to help keep us on our feet. The first one came at the opening to the Tisbury Great Pond. It was early in the morning and I was standing on the bar just to the right of the outflow. I was about 20 yards out but only knee deep. I was casting into the outflow and drifting my fly over the drop, the perfect picture. Everything seemed very safe, the sand was solid, and the surf was low. All of a sudden a wave that had broken behind me on the side of the bar and rolled back out hit me from behind. It hit me in the back of my legs and threw me face first into the water. It was shallow enough and I was far enough away from the outflow current to get up safely. This is an area that we all know we have to be especially careful; the scary part is that I thought I was.

The second episode this year is even more frightening to think about. It was a bluebird day and I was fishing the grass patches near the windmill on Chappy. Not a ripple in the water. It was one of the few times that I was fishing the area in the daytime. I was about hip deep on the grass and fishing the little holes. I stopped to watch a rather large yacht coming into Edgartown from Nantucket way. It had to be over a half mile from shore. The yacht was out of sight in the harbor and I had gone back to fishing when small waves started coming in, the wake from that yacht. By the time I realized what was happening, I was eye to eye with a wave cresting over my head. The only hope I had was to try and jump up in the wave the way we would when swimming on south beach. I made my jump, but the wave broke in my stripping basket. This tipped me forward, and head first into the water. When I tried to recover the second large wave went right over me. Again I was able to get to my feet and recover. I cannot imagine how this would have felt, or what the outcome would have been, if this happened in the dark of night.

On both of these incidents I was wearing my neoprene waders, which are much better in these situations than my baggy summer waders. I was also wearing my inflatable life vest. However, in neither of these situations did I ever think to pull the cord until after I had struggled to my feet and gotten out of the water. I also kept hold of my rod through both of these dunks. It is interesting how we react when thrown into these situations.

Be careful, stay safe, and tight lines.

(Note: At least one manufacturer makes a non inflatable, certified Class V PFD that is a full coat with sleeves and pockets. Since it doubles as a coat you are more likely to be wearing it when you step off that rock or when that wave takes you by surprise. Editor {who has been dunked more than once, too.})

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