

President  
Jeff Sayre

Vice Presidents  
Walter Lison  
Paul Schultz

Volume XIII Issue 3

# The Fishin' Times

*All the news that's fish...we'll print*

The Newsletter Of The Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

Treasurer  
Ron Domurat

Secretary  
Bob Lane  
Paula Sullivan

April, 2004

"...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

## 2004 Awards Ceremony & Banquet Recap

The annual MVSA Awards Ceremony and Banquet was held Saturday January 24th at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown. To say that the event was our best ever would be an understatement as more than 100 members and guests attended. In spite of the loss of one of our major contributors, Manager Cliff Karoko and A & P, the event raised almost \$2500 this year that will be used to once again sponsor three fishing trips for Boys & Girls Club members on board the Skipper fishing boat. Additional funds will be used for Boys & Girls Club camper ships and donations to the Red Stocking Fund as well as to offset the cost of our club liability insurance.

As in the past the highlight of the event was the "Awesome Raffle". In his last year as raffle chairman, Arnie Ziemian did an outstanding job of putting together a committee that gathered more than 200 raffle items that were generously donated by both on and off Island merchants and individuals. Raffle participants had opportunities to win valuable merchandise including overnight stays, day sails, beach permits, airplane rides, fishing tackle, raingear, dinner and merchandise certificates and much, much more. Added this year was a silent auction and 50/50 five-dollar raffle were also added.

Other highlights of the afternoon were an outstanding computer power point presentation by Phil Cronin that highlighted the activities of the MVSA members over the last year. In addition, MVSA member Captain John Shillinger was on hand with his new video of some red-hot striped bass fishing.

Regrettably, Arnie Ziemian is stepping down as raffle chairman and to date, no one has stepped forward to replace him. With his organization and dedication to the task, Arnie raised our fund raising to a new level and he will be sorely missed. Thank you Arnie for a great job. We are very grateful for your efforts!

**Next Meeting - Tuesday April 13**  
**VH Legion Hall**  
**7:00 pm**

## President's Message

We finally made it to spring! It sure feels good after the brutal winter we had. Soon, the herring will begin to fill the Island runs, the chorus of pinkietinks will fill the air and the start of another season will be on our doorstep. The sun is higher in the sky and the days are noticeably longer. It's time now to start taking inventory of the plugs, jigs, and flies you will need for early spring fishing and spool up your reel with new line. The tug of that first schoolie is going to feel especially good this year!

Spring also brings the start of another busy season for the MVSA. We kick it off in April with our annual Earth Day beach clean up of South Beach and Norton Point. We have the distinct honor of collecting the most trash and debris every year during this Island-wide event. Hopefully, we'll keep our title again this year! The weather has to be better than last year's cold, driving rainstorm.

Once again we will conduct our Casting Clinic in June and in July we will hold our Beach Picnic and sponsor trips aboard the *Skipper* for the Boy's and Girl's Club. The Chappy Shark Tournament will be a weeklong this year and will take place the first week of August. All these events require planning and participation so it is important to have input and involvement from all our members no matter how small or how great.

I look forward to working with all of you towards the goal of having a safe and successful season for the MVSA!

Tight Lines,  
Jeff Sayre

## Norton Point Beach Clean Up Set For 10 am Sat. April 24

Find your pitch fork and gloves and join us for the annual Earth Day clean up at Norton Beach. This is just one part of an island wide Vineyard Conservation Society effort to clean our beaches. We will be meeting at the Left Fork to South Beach, where the OSV entrance is located. Clean up will go from 10 am to noon. This is also a great chance to check out your 4 wheel drive if you haven't used it in a while, but walk ons are also welcome. Gloves and a pitch fork are recommended but not necessary. Recycled bags will be supplied. See you there!

## Short Casts

**New Members** We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. Thank you for joining the MVSA. We would look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

James Dropick, Edgartown, John J. Dropick, Edgartown, T. J. Haggerty, Vineyard Haven, Charles Harner, E. Otis MA, Jim & Debbie Hendrickson, Sparta NJ, Bruce Keep, West Tisbury, Howell Kelly, Edgartown, Keith McCart, Cambridge MA, Dave Nash, Edgartown, Barry Rosenthal, West Tisbury, Patrick Toomey, Edgartown, Marc Zahariades, Milford, CT

**Last Issue** We are purging our membership list, which in this case means if you have not paid your 2004 dues, this will be your last newsletter. Please renew your membership now!!!!

**T-Shirts for Sale** We will no longer be issuing T-Shirts to new members and have a limited number of green MVSA shirts for sale at the club cost of \$8.00/ea. Sizes are limited. Call Paul Schultz at 508-627-4491 for availability. (New members will continue to receive an MVSA hat)

**Membership List** Up to date membership lists are available by calling or e-mailing Ron Domurat @ 508-627-4956 or [rd\\_bjr@msn.com](mailto:rd_bjr@msn.com). Membership lists will also be available at the April monthly meeting.

**Photos** If you attended the Annual Awards banquet you were treated to an outstanding computer power point presentation by our web-master, Phil Cronin. The show highlighted club and member activities over the last few years. If we're lucky, we might be able to prevail upon Phil to do it again at next year's event. But we need your photos. We are specifically looking for photos of any fishing or club related activity. Photos can be sent to Phil Cronin at RFD 361, Lamberts Cove Road, Tisbury, MA 02568 or e-mailed to [phil.cronin@capawock.com](mailto:phil.cronin@capawock.com).

**Web Site** If you haven't already done so, be sure to check out our popular award winning web-site at [www.mvsurfcasters.org](http://www.mvsurfcasters.org). Web master and designer Phil Cronin recently added a new feature called "What's Your Opinion" where members can chime in on a new weekly survey question every week. Questions like "where you caught your biggest striper, the Chappy access dispute or the striper game fish issue. Results of previous questions can also be viewed. The site also contains copies of our previous newsletters, fishing reports, an interactive forum, a members and links page as well as a photo page of member activities. Check it

out and participate. It's your web site and it's fun and informative.

### Web-Site Poll Results

**Question-week one**-Should over sand vehicle beach stickers be further limited on Chappy?  
38 responses-38 no.

**Question week two**-Should striped bass be classified as a game fish?  
28 responses-27 yes, 1 no.

**Question week three**-Should commercial fishing for striped bass be eliminated?  
24 responses-16 yes, 8 no.

**Question week four**-In which general location have you caught your largest striper?  
31 responses-9 Chappy, 5 South Shore, 4 Lobsterville, 1 Menemsha, 7 North Shore  
2 Vineyard Haven, 3 None of the above.

**Line Recycling Boxes** Captain John Shillinger took some time over the winter to construct six new line recycling boxes. The new boxes will replace boxes that have been destroyed or stolen and will be placed in additional popular sites around the Island. Thanks for your efforts John, we are very grateful.

## Events and Meetings

**Note:** The April meeting date has been changed from Wednesday, April 14 to Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00PM.

Please make note of the change and plan to attend. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall in Vineyard Haven.

**Flea Market** The April 13 meeting will feature a flea market for fisherman. If you're like most anglers you are a saver of everything you don't lose or don't even use. While that lure or reel may have gotten very little use over the years or out lived its usefulness, it may have value to someone else. Here's an opportunity to get rid of it. Put a price tag on it and bring it to the April meeting. Tables will be set up and space set-aside for members to sell or buy unwanted fishing gear. It doesn't matter how old it is or what kind of shape its in. Remember—"one man's junk is another man's treasure". We also hope to get participation from our Island tackle dealers and lure manufacturers.

For more information call Ron Domurat at 508-627-4956.

**Earth Day** The Annual Earth Day beach clean up will be held on Saturday, April 24. As in the past, MVSA will be assigned the task of cleaning Norton Point beach from the right fork at Katama to Metcalf Hole on Chappaquiddick. Members are requested to meet at the right fork parking lot in Katama at 10:00AM. Trash bags will be provided but bring your own work gloves. The event will be held rain or shine. For additional information call Jeff Sayre at 508-693-4841.

**June Meeting** The June meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday June 16th at the Wasque Point picnic area. We'll keep the meeting short so members can fish the new moon tides at Wasque or elsewhere on Chappy.

**Casting Clinic** The annual MVSA instructional Casting Clinic for beginners is scheduled for Saturday, June 26. Call Arnie Ziemian, 508-627-3872 for details.

**Summer Picnic** The annual MVSA summer picnic is scheduled for Saturday July 10 at Bend in the Road beach. Phil Horton has volunteered again to run this event and we are fortunate to have him and his famous ribs. More details to follow but mark your calendars and plan to attend. Phil Horton [hortonnh@attbi.com](mailto:hortonnh@attbi.com)

**Shark Tournament** Mark your calendar now for the MVSA Shark Tournament. The dates are July 31-August 6. Details will follow at a later date but note that this year the event has been extended to a full week. Russ Lawrence-508-627-9670, [captain.russ@marthasvineyardfishing.com](mailto:captain.russ@marthasvineyardfishing.com)

## Trustees of Reservations Report

*By Bob Clay*

There's a new management plan adopted by the Trustees of Reservations as of February. The report is about a half inch thick. Fishermen will likely notice three obvious changes sometime in the near future.

If you wanted to fish Metcalf's Hole and were coming from the Chappy ferry you would pass a gatehouse after coming out of the woods at the beginning of the Trustee property. From the gatehouse you could go right on a road to Metcalf's. Until now, you could go down a middle road leading to a beach between Metcalf's and Wasque. Or, you could go straight and go to the Wasque parking lots. The Trustees have eliminated the middle road. We'll still be able to get to that center beach by taking the right road which now goes to Metcalf's. The elimination of the center road will make the currently divided Sand Plain one big undivided parcel.

The Trustees will eliminate the "inside" road which brings us back from Wasque to the Dyke Bridge. The road will be closed from the current cross-over near where Tom Kieras caught his big bluefish to the bridge. They will leave open the "spur" road which goes down to the narrows of lower Pocha Pond so we can drive to that semi-popular fishing spot. They want to close this road because it isn't a necessary avenue to get back to the bridge and it takes us through wetlands. We'll stay on east beach to get back and forth to the bridge.

The Trustees will eliminate the route through the Cedars. They say they need to do this in order to abide by an Edgartown Conservation Commission ruling which years ago required them to close this route. I understand that there is something special about this particular cedar grove. The Conservation Commission doesn't want a road cutting through these special trees. We'll have to drive on the inside, along Cape Poge Bay, or on the road that travels along the ocean, just inside the dunes. Several of us pressured the Trustees to leave the Cedars route open, but we lost the battle.

I don't think most fishermen will notice any other changes in the near future in the way the Trustees manage their Chappy property.

# Good News-Bad News

By Ron Domurat

Before moving to the Vineyard a few years back, I occasionally worked part time opening a local tackle shop on weekend mornings. The shop was located near the mouth of the Connecticut River in Old Saybrook in an area dotted with estuaries and marinas as well as old abandoned freight and coal docks that had never been demolished. The shop was owned and operated by a veteran surfcaster and a former commercial fisherman who legitimately claimed fifty "fifties" to his credit.

Like most local shops we had our share of colorful regulars who liked to hang out, particularly on weekends, with Sunday being the favorite. The regular clientele hung out for any number of reasons. Some just liked to be around the sport, some liked to listen for rumors of action while others liked to drop in for a cup of coffee after a hard night of fishing the local beaches or jetties. We affectionately dubbed the Sunday morning regulars the "disciples" who attended weekly mass at St. Patrick's Tackle Shop.

St Frank & St Mike were two of the most devout regulars who rarely missed Sunday mass. Both would spend most of the night fishing the night tides at local hot spots in a search for striped bass. Both were experienced hard-core anglers who had good equipment and knew their stuff. But as luck would have it they had come into the sport during the striper recovery period in the early nineties and neither had ever taken a striper over thirty pounds.

On one particular early fall morning the guys arrived at mass just as some local hotshot kids were talking excitedly about the huge stripers they had seen in the river just a short bike ride from the shop. It seems as though they had been fishing an underwater auto dump at the end of one of the abandoned piers. Authorities speculate that back in the late fifties, the area was a disposal site for teenagers bent on stealing cars and disposing of the evidence by running them off the end of the old pier into the deep water below. Over the years, the dump had created an artificial reef that had been a well-kept secret known only to some local sharpies. The kids who had stumbled upon this spot had been snagging bunker at a nearby creek, biking back to the pier and then live lining them for big stripers, some of which ran into the high forties.

After loading up on a supply of weighted trebles the kids left the shop on their bikes that morning. Unbeknownst to them, St Frank & St Mike were hot on the trail behind them in their well-equipped pick-up. As they arrived at the scene they covertly watched from a safe distance as the kids trekked out to the edge of the pier and started fishing. Within seconds, one of the kids was fast into a big fish. The scene was too much for our

intrepid friends who bailed out of the car, grabbed their rods and literally sprinted the length of the pier like track stars. It didn't take but a minute or so for the guys to spend some big money relieving the kids of a few bunker and trebles. Frank was first to rig his bunker and make his cast. The bunker hit the water and was instantly inhaled by a huge striper that created a swirl the likes of which the guys had never seen before. Frank paused for a second before setting the hook and then reared back and set so hard he nearly fell over backwards. It took the big fish a few seconds to realize what had taken place but off toward the opposite shore it ran. After uttering few holy "expletive deleted" prayers to the fish gods, Frank held on for dear life as the fish made its first long run. Mike simply looked on in utter amazement. After the first long run and a couple of shorter ones, Frank was finally able to turn the tired cow and work it relatively close to the end of the dock but suddenly, he could not move the striper more than a foot or two at a time. He knew it was still on because from time to time he would feel some movement that he guessed might have been a little headshake. Frank tried every trick he knew but could not move that fish more than that one or two feet. An eternity seemed to pass as our friends tried to figure out what to do, even to the point of Mike volunteering to take a swim to see what he could do to help. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a scuba diver popped his head out of the water about twenty feet in front of them. Had help arrived???

As the diver approached the pier, our two excited anglers quickly hailed him and asked if he would swim down to see what was going on and maybe shake the fish free. The diver agreed and after taking a bearing from the severely bent rod, disappeared in a trail of bubbles following the line toward the fish. He surfaced a few minutes later and quickly swam toward our friends. "I've got some good news and some bad news," he yelled. "The good news is that you've hooked the biggest striped bass I've ever seen. It's got to go at least sixty pounds. The bad news is that it's swum into one of those cars down there". The boys again pondered their fate for a second when Mike reached down and picked up a long handled gaff that was lying on the pier. "Here, take this and poke it at him and see if you can get him to come out of there". "No good" replied the diver. "I tried poking my spear at it but he rolled the window up and now I can't get at him"

Have a great season!!!

## Around the Island

In the next few issues this column will be devoted to taking our members on a tour of various fishing spots around the Island and includes some as to how and when to fish them. It is meant to be used strictly as a guide, particularly by newer and off Island members. We'll also try hard not to give up any deep dark secret spots. You'll have to find them yourselves.

We'll start on Chappaquiddick which holds a myriad of great spots many of which are accessible without an OSV. Most anglers visiting the Island for the first time are directed to Wasque Point because it's probably the most consistent fishing spot on the Island particularly in the late spring when the bluefish first arrive. While erosion has taken it's toll over the last ten years and changed the way the rip makes up, it is still a great spot to fish. Most anglers like to fish the last few hours of the west or ebbing tide with Roberts Rangers or Spoffords Ballistic missiles but there are times here when heavier Kastmasters or Hopkins will out fish everything else. Popping plugs also produce and big swimmers like Danny's and Darters are the nighttime ticket for stripers. Cast and retrieved live eels also work well during the fall migration. Wasque is also an overlooked spot for false albacore and bonito in the fall. Be aware that this place can be wild when the bluefish are blitzing and might even be a good place to avoid as inexperienced anglers can create some real problems. Patience is a necessary virtue when fishing here during those times.

A couple of hundred yards down the beach to the north at the extreme end of East Beach and the extent of the OSV access area is Leland's Point. Conditions here are somewhat similar to Wasque Point when the tide is running. One major difference is that this spot can produce on either tide. Like Wasque, this spot can also produce bluefish blitzes but with vehicle access to Wasque closed the last couple of years, this can be a very popular spot to fish. It can get very crowded. Leland's can also be a place to try for bonito and false albacore. Last year the Derby winning shore false albacore was taken here.

The regulars that fish there refer to the area from Leland's down to the walk-on-bathing beach as East Beach. This entire stretch of beach can be good during the spring bluefish run and is a good spot to dunk bait for bluefish during the Derby. Brown sharks are also taken during the summer.

For those with OSV's two miles down the beach to the north are Arruda's Point and the Jetties that are great spots on either tide for false albacore and bonito as well as striped bass and bluefish in the spring. A few years back the stretch from the jetties to the lighthouse was the place to be for big stripers for a few

weeks in early June. If bluefish are your target species, don't overlook the spot called The Cedars that is on the east or inland side of Pocha Pond on your way to the jetties. This spot is best fished when there is some water in the pond about halfway into either tide. Clip on a Ballistic Missile or Roberts Ranger and wade out as far as you can. If the bluefish are in there it's a real blast particularly on a calm day to watch them smashing your lure as you retrieve it almost at eye level. If you are looking to get away from the crowds a little don't overlook the stretch of beach between the bathing beach and Arruda's. You'll need to take the soft and slow outside trail but will find a number of turnouts with a short walk to some great spots for false albacore and bonito. This area sees very little fishing pressure as most guys drive right by, preferring instead to fight the crowds at Arruda's or the jetties.

Continuing around and under the Cape Poge Lighthouse toward the Windmill House is a series of rocky bars and points. Again, most veterans like to fish these spots when there is some water there about three or four hours into the tide. Poppers, metals and soft sluggo type plastics all work here depending upon the bait that's available. In the fall this area is good for false albacore and an occasional bonito particularly by the crossover to Pocha Pond. Don't overlook the Pond in the fall as just about all of our coveted friends will frequent this area during Derby time.

From the crossover, it's a five-minute ride to the Gut. This can be an outstanding place to fish and again most of our finny friends can be caught there but it can get crowded. Most guys like to fish the western or Edgartown end of the Gut on a dropping tide and the opposite end during an incoming tide but don't overlook the area in between. The outside beach also produces false albacore and bonito on an early morning incoming tide. Depending upon your targeted species metals, bucktail jigs, surface plugs all work at this spot. Casting & retrieving live eels at night will also produce an occasional nice striper and the Edgartown end is a good spot to take the kids for some fun scup fishing in the summer.

The opposite or North Neck side of the Gut will end our tour of Chappaquiddick. The area at the end of North Neck road is owned by the Land Bank and the Town of Edgartown maintains a small parking lot there. Like the opposite or soft side, this area also produces all of our targeted species but is best known for being a hot place for false albacore in the fall. One note-if you plan to fish here in the fall when the albies are in, plan to arrive very early in the morning to stake out your spot as this is a favorite destination of off Island fly fisherman and it gets extremely crowded especially after the Chappy ferry starts running. The area just to the right of the bottom of the stairs down is a good place for albies.

## Surf Safety Tips

A few issues back veteran member Chip Bergeron wrote a scary piece about getting knocked down suddenly in the surf on two separate occasions. We thought it might be a good idea to review a few surf safety tips.

**Wading belt**-Wear one! Most experienced surf rats cinch a belt around their waist. Should a dunking occur, the belt prevents water from filling up your waders and hauling you under.

**Neoprene waders**-While hot as blazes in warmer weather, neoprene has a higher degree of floatation and may provide a bit more protection against hypothermia should you go in the drink.

**Inflatable life preserver**- If you spend a lot of time at the water's edge and don't own an inflatable vest, buy one before you spend another dollar on any kind of fishing equipment-and get in the habit of using it. While some may consider this item an expensive and unnecessary piece of equipment, it may save your life someday.

**Wading staff**-An often overlooked piece of safety equipment it's a must item for anglers fishing alone or at night, particularly in slimy or boulder filled areas. You'd be surprised how much it aids your balance when walking. Most hard-core surf anglers won't venture out with out one. Drilling a hole through any old broom handle and running a four or five foot piece of rope through it can make a simple wading staff. Tie a loop around the opposite end and run your wading belt through it. The staff will float out of your way when wading.

**Corkers**-Corkers are sandals with spikes on the bottom and straps that can be worn over the top of wader shoes. Corkers provide a great deal of added traction in slimy boulder filled waters. Considered a little heavy by some they are an invaluable piece of footgear if you spend any amount of time in that kind of environment. The spikes are replaceable. Some anglers will even drive small round-headed screws into the bottom of their waders to provide a similar effect.

**Short boots**-You might consider dispensing of waders altogether when jetty fishing. Instead try wearing short boots with rain pants over them. Should you should go in the drink, the boots, even if filled with water will not weigh you down and are easy to kick off.

**Flashlight**-It goes without saying that you are going to carry a flashlight when fishing at night. But most veterans carry an extra flashlight or at the very least and extra set of batteries and a spare bulb.

**Compass**-Buy and carry a small compass and know how to use it. It may get you safely off a bar if a fog rolls in unexpectedly.

**First aid kit**-Carry a small first aid kit that contains some anti bacterial ointment.

**Cell phone**-Carry it if you own one.

**Plan**-Finally, without divulging any secrets, let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

## Smell Like Fish???

Here are a few suggestions for getting that fishy smell out of your hands, car, cooler, or waders.

For fishy hands try Dr. Bonners Pure Castille Oil Soap that can be purchased at health food stores. This powerful odor killing soap makes short work of fish odors. Also, seasoned veterans learned long ago that scrubbing with pure lemon juice also works wonders but leaves your hands smelling like a lemon.

An open can of coffee will absorb foul odors in a car or a vile smelling pair of waders. Buy a can of the least expensive coffee you can find, punch a few holes in the plastic top and let sit in your car for a few days. Also try sprinkling some unused coffee grounds on auto upholstery before vacuuming.

Finally, to get the fishy odor out of a cooler, try soaking a rag with vanilla extract and leaving it overnight with the lid closed.

## Release Tactics

Most of you have seen these before but with the season rapidly approaching with schools of marauding bluefish and hungry stripers, we thought it might be appropriate to review some tactics to ensure the survival of fish once they are returned safely to the suds.

- Use single hook lures whenever possible. When bluefishing, using plugs with tail hooks only allows you to safely grab the plug to control the fish
- Flatten the barbs with a pair of pliers or file them down.
- Match your equipment to the quarry and reduce the playtime when fighting fish. The longer the fish fights, the higher the stress level for the fish, particularly when the water warms up in the summer and fall.
- If possible, to avoid slime loss that protects the fish from bacteria, handle the fish with wet hands or throw a wet rag over it, which also tends to have a calming effect on it. Also, try to avoid letting the fish thrash around on the beach or boat. Ideally, the fish should not be removed from the water.
- Certain tools like surgical (hemostat) or long nose pliers are extremely helpful and musts in any tackle box to facilitate the actual hook removal from the fish.
- Try not to use the gills or eyes as a handhold and don't step on the fish to gain leverage.
- If the fish has swallowed the hook, do not forcibly remove it. Instead, cut the line as close as possible to the hook eye and release the fish. The corrosive power of salt water and the fishes own natural enzymes will rust the hook away quickly.
- Finally, when releasing a fish, return it to the water head first and revive it by supporting it with both hands while moving it back & forth in a swimming motion until it swims away under it's own power. Note that an erect dorsal fin indicates a healthy revived fish ready for release. Our fast swimming fall visitors like bonito and false albacore should be revived by thrusting them headfirst into the water that serves to force oxygenated water over their gills while providing a quick shot of adrenaline.

Remember the credo of catch and release anglers: "You may not be the first to catch that trophy fish, but you may be the next."

## Wanted: Awesome Raffle Chairman

When asked to describe a child a famous person once said: "A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important."

Over the past few years we have introduced many Boys & Girls Club summer campers to the sport of fishing by hosting trips for them on the Skipper. Just how many of them will end up to be the next generation of MVSA members and "attend to those thing we think are important" remains to be seen. But one thing is sure, we couldn't have done it without the income from the raffle at our annual banquet.

The raffle is our biggest fundraiser thanks to the efforts of Walter Lison who built the raffle from a table of member donated prizes to several tables of articles and gift certificates donated by dozens of local merchants as well as our own members. Four years ago Arnie Ziemian took over the the raffle from Walter and maintained it's integrity while dealing with merchants coming and going and with an economy that has had it's ups and downs. This year he had over a hundred donations from local merchants and members alike. Unfortunately Arnie is stepping down from that position and we need someone to take the reins. Arnie confides that yes it is work but it is also a good feeling seeing those kids out on the Skipper having a good time, many of whom would not get to go fishing otherwise, and hoping that someday one of them might be sitting where he has sat.

There's no reinventing the wheel here. We have a tried and true format and list of generous donors. What we need now is someone to divide the list up and delegate the work to other members. If you are ready to give back to the club please call Jeff Sayre at 693-4841 and tell him you want to make an "awesome" difference in a kid's life.

# Chappy Beach Report

## March 2004

By: Bob and Fran Clay

Fran and I took a ride out to the Chappy beach yesterday, March 24th. It was a beautiful spring day, sunny and about 75 degrees, no wind.

Our old friend and harbinger of warmer weather greeted us at the Dyke Bridge. The Potter's osprey has returned and was busy carrying long sticks to reinforce his old nest.

We took a right and drove up East Beach. About 100 yards from the turn we had to stop, back up and go around a sleepy seal who seemed only half interested. Fun stuff.

The new owner of the Leland property has taken about six feet off of the top of the hill where he plans to build his new 7500 sq ft house.

There's lots of heavy equipment and materials all along the route from the bridge to the lighthouse. Paul Schultz says that they are burying telephone cable all the way out to the Poge.

Oystercatchers are back in the Tom's Neck area. Aruda looks like it might be coming back. It's still roped off, but one way traffic could make it to the Jetties. The small jetty is almost completely covered with sand. It doesn't seem that long ago when there were two pretty long jetties sticking out there. We're getting old.

We bumped into some old friends just before we got to the lighthouse cliffs. Bob Ozycz was having a cookout with his grandson Robert. Don Mohr and his famous dog Abbie had stopped to say, "Hi". The Ozycz's had been fluking. Bob had two big buckets full of the critters. He also had two lines out. Said that he had jigged up some live squid at Memorial wharf and was bottom fishing for bass. No luck on the bass.

Our discussion came to a close when Robert offered his last kielbasa to Don. The sausage fell into the sand as he tried to pass the sandwich. Don looked VERY disappointed, but Abbie look full advantage of the indiscretion.

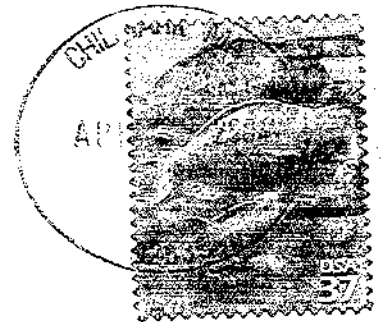
As we went around the corner at the lighthouse I was taken in by the same old optical illusion. I was sure I saw Bass swirling. It was low tide. The swirls were caused by water washing over a couple of big rocks.

Soooooooooooooooooooo----- as Coop said to me the other day, "we're only a moon away."

Be well everyone. See you then!

---

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



## BE A WINNER IN THE 2004 MVSA IN-HOUSE DERBY

The rules are easy and the challenge among members is a lot of fun whether you're fishing from shore or boat for blues, bass, bonito, or albies.

### HOW TO ENTER -----

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

1. Use the enclosed weigh-in slip as a master and make as many copies as you need.
2. When you catch a fish you want to enter, bring the fish to any island tackle shop and have the weigher sign and date the slip.

### Note new rule on size limits:

3. To be eligible for consideration all fish whether entered by a junior, adult or senior, must conform to minimum sizes below.

Striped bass 32"  
Bluefish 22"  
Bonito 21"  
False Albacore 25"

4. **Mail** the slip to

Paul Schultz  
PO Box 1245  
Edgartown, MA 02539

### Entries must be postmarked before the fifth of the following month!

During the fall 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 or a copy of it to Paul.

## DIVISIONS AND AWARDS

Divisions are the following: Junior (under 16), Adult (16 through 64), Senior (65 & up). The categories for the four species are as follows: All Tackle Shore, All Tackle Boat, Fly Rod Shore, Fly Rod Boat, and our special Release Award for both All Tackle and Fly Rod. Record the **overall length of your released fish, not the weight**, in the weight section of the slip and be sure to mark it clearly: **RELEASE**

Don't forget the First Fish Award. A certificate suitable for framing will document that member's first ever fish in each species. Please print in large letters "First Ever" on the weight slip, and if you release it, write in the measurement.

*GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!*

## Fishing Forecast

We asked a number of our seasoned veteran members for their input on how the upcoming season would play-out, but only one, our intrepid web-master Phil Cronin would go out on a limb with any predictions.

Phil says he usually starts walking the south shore beaches after the "dreaded tax day" on April 15, and with the exception of last year, can usually find schoolies starting to show up. He likes to fish either side of Quansoo and the right fork at Katama and prefers to use a small white Spofford Joppa Jig. He says that even with the exception of the late snowfalls and extremely cold winter we had, we've had somewhat of a normal spring season and looks for the fishing on the VY returning to some semblance of normalcy this year. Phil predicts better fishing for bluefish, bonito and false albacore after several sub-par seasons. He also believes more weakfish will be caught in Island waters but thinks striper fishing will remain status quo. He goes way-way out on a limb to say it probably won't be him that catches it but predicts a 55lb'er being caught on a VY beach this year. All in all, a very optimistic forecast.

Other predictions? First migrating striper-April 18 and first bluefish may 3. (Editors note-my log from last year indicates the first striper was caught on April 30 and the first bluefish on May 9, caught by MVSA member Will Geresy)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Method  
 All Tackle  Fly Rod

Category  
 Shore  Boat

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Species:  
 Striped Bass  Bluefish  
 Bonito  False Albacore  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  Released

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ Girth \_\_\_\_\_

Weigher: \_\_\_\_\_

Tackle Shop: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Method  
 All Tackle  Fly Rod

Category  
 Shore  Boat

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Species:  
 Striped Bass  Bluefish  
 Bonito  False Albacore  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  Released

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ Girth \_\_\_\_\_

Weigher: \_\_\_\_\_

Tackle Shop: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Method  
 All Tackle  Fly Rod

Category  
 Shore  Boat

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Species:  
 Striped Bass  Bluefish  
 Bonito  False Albacore  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  Released

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ Girth \_\_\_\_\_

Weigher: \_\_\_\_\_

Tackle Shop: \_\_\_\_\_

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