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Jeff Sayre

Vice Presidents
Walter Lison
Paul Schultz

Volume XIII Issue 1-B

The Fishin' Times

Treasurer
Ron Domurat

Secretary
Bob Lane
Paula Sullivan

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

January, 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

15th Annual Awards Banquet Set For Saturday January 24

Our 15th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on January 24, 2004 starting at 12:00 noon in the lower section of the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown. This is your chance to come together with all of your fellow Surfcasters and enjoy the festivities of the day. We will be starting off with a luncheon followed by a few minutes of business activity, awards, and then on to our guest speaker and wrapping it up with our fund raiser for the year, our "awesome raffle". Our prize solicitors are out working hard to once again bring in those items that make the raffle one of the highlights of the year.

BYOB

There is one slight change this year in that if you have a desire to partake in beer or wine you will have to bring your own. All of the other usual non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Members are also encouraged to bring along a salad or desert to compliment the luncheon.

Bring A Friend

Once again you are encouraged to bring along a friend that may be interested in our association activities. So, find all of that loose change and leftover greenbacks from the holidays and come and enjoy the day and support our annual fundraiser.

Nominations

Election of MVSA officers for 2004 will be held at the Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet on January 24, 2003. Nominations will be accepted until that date by calling Jeff Sayre at 508-693-4841. The current officers are: President: Jeff Sayre, Vice Presidents: Paul Schultz, Walter Lison, Treasurer: Ron Domurat, Secretary's: Bob Lane, Paula Sullivan.

JANUARY 2004 PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a great holiday season and the New Year finds you in good health! It's that time again when we reflect on the past twelve months and look forward to the year ahead. We're lucky here on the Vineyard in that our fond fishing memories help to carry us through until spring. No matter how cold or snowy it is, there's always that one blitz to remember that reminds you that winter won't last forever.

Some people enjoy winter but I am one who does not. I need something to take my mind off the cold and gray months ahead. If you don't have a tropical vacation planned, one good way to do this is to attend some of the fishing, boating, or sportsman shows in our area. January marks the start of these events and they run through March. It's a great way to keep in touch with our sport and remind us that another season of fishing will be upon us soon.

Another cure for the "winter blues" is the Annual MVSA Awards Ceremony and Banquet. It will once again be held in the Old Whaling Church. This fun-filled event gives everyone the chance to catch up with friends and fishing buddies as well as win some terrific prizes in our raffle. A lot of hard work goes into organizing this event and I would like to thank all that helped out.

2003 was a great year for the Surfcasters and now it's time to look ahead and make 2004 just a great. I wish everyone the best of luck in the upcoming year and may a 50lb'er find it's way to the end of your line!

Tight Lines, Jeff Sayre

Announcing The 2003 MVSA In House Derby Results

The results are in for the MVSA in House Derby. The winners are:

Adult Division (16-64)

Striped Bass

- All Tackle Shore
Ron Domurat, 26.50 lbs.
- All Tackle Shore Release
Ron Domurat, 40.5"
- Shore Flyrod
George Moran, 21.0 lbs.
- Shore Flyrod Release
Phil Cronin, 38"
- All Tackle Boat
Mike Harrold, 29.40 lbs.
- All Tackle Boat Release
Ed Lepore, 42"

Bluefish

- All Tackle Shore
Tom Kieras, 15.27 lbs.
- All Tackle Shore Release
Ralph Peckham, 33"
- All Tackle Boat
Leong Ngor, 13.31 lbs.
- Flyrod Boat
Jeff Sayre, 5.85 lbs.

False Albacore

- All Tackle Shore
Jack Livingston, 10.13 lbs.
- All Tackle Boat
Jeff Sayre, 9.66 lbs.
- Flyrod Boat
Peter Herman, 6.90 lbs.

Bonito

- All Tackle Shore
Ron Domurat 4.22 lbs.

Senior Division (65 & up)

Striped Bass

- All Tackle Shore
Don Mohr, 13.20 lbs.

Bluefish

- All Tackle Shore
Walter Lison, 11.00 lbs
- All Tackle Boat
Ed Lepore, 11.35 lbs.

False Albacore

- All Tackle Shore
Al Premo, 10.29 lbs.
- All Tackle Boat
Ed Lepore, 8.93 lbs.
- Flyrod Boat
Ed Lepore, 9.39 lbs.

Bonito

- All Tackle Boat
Ed Lepore, 6.31 lbs.

Junior Division (Under16)

Largest Shore Striped Bass

- Josh Cleveland, 28.5"

Abe Williams Memorial Award

- Largest Shore Striped Bass-Ron Domurat

In House Derby Rule Changes

Effective this year, the MVSA in House Derby will conform to the minimum sizes established by the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby. The minimum sizes are: Striped Bass 32", Bluefish 22", False Albacore 25" and

Striped Bass a Game Fish???

Stripers Forever is a non-profit organization that was recently formed with the belief that striped bass should be declared a game fish through out its range along the Atlantic Coast. The organization contends that the real value of striped bass is not as a seasonal commodity, but as a public resource that offers social, economic and recreational benefits to millions of Americans along the entire striper coast. The declaration of striped bass as a game fish would eliminate commercial fishing for the species.

Statistics on the Stripers Forever web page indicate that there are over 3,000,000 recreational anglers as opposed to 3000 commercial fisherman, a ration of 300 to 1, Yet the commercial quota is approximately 40% of the recreational bag limit in total numbers of fish actually taken and does not include an estimate of the illegal commercial harvest which arrest and conviction records shows to be significant. In addition, the majority of commercials work part time at catching striped bass.

The group also believes that with a high minimum size limit (28" in most coastal states) both recreational and commercial fishing efforts are being concentrated on the larger, prime breeding fish, a dangerous practice. The considerable exception is in Chesapeake Bay, a major striped bass spawning area for our migrating fish, where two stripers of 18" may be taken daily. However, the combined pressure of 1,500,000 anglers who fish these waters and the sizable 4,500,000 lb commercial quota puts a huge dent in the numbers of fish that join the coastal migratory stock.

Based on this information, the group believes that there are not enough striped base in the Atlantic to provide for both a quality recreational fishery and a commercial harvest. Through representative Frank Pallone of NJ, Stripers Forever has had a federal bill introduced that will provide game fish status for striped bass.

Membership and additional information may be obtained at the Stripers Forever web site. www.stripersforever.org Membership is free.

Striped Bass Young of Year Index (YOY)

The good news is that the Maryland Dept. of natural Resources (DNR) recently announced that the 2003 striped bass juvenile index is 25.8, the fifth highest ever recorded in the 50 year history of the survey. The long-term average is 11.9. Previously, record years were also recorded in 1993, 94, 96 and 98.

The YOY Index is recorded annually by the Maryland DNR, which takes samples at twenty-two different survey sites located in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay spawning areas, and is a barometer of the health and future abundance of striped bass stocks. Biologists visit the sites monthly from early July thru September collecting fish samples with two sweeps of a 100' beach seine. The index is calculated as the average catch of the YOY striped bass per sample. Spawning success can be affected by a number of factors including weather and environmental conditions as evidenced by the low 2002 index when drought conditions prevailed. By contrast, in 2003, spring rains and mild temperatures benefited spawning efforts.

Wanted: Awesome Raffle Chairman

It's our biggest fundraiser and it's what send the Boys & Girls Club Kids fishing on the Skipper in the summer. Arnie Ziemian, who has graciously coordinated That Awesome Raffle for the past four years is stepping down after the prizes are raffled off on Sat Jan 24. 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.

There's no reinventing the wheel here. We have a tried and true format and list of generous donors. All 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.

A Brief Glossary of Fishing Terms

By Chris Windram

- *Alligator – found in estuary systems in the southeast, this is a predacious monster that waits near likely looking fishing holes preying primarily on fly-hooked snook and tarpon. If you hook up with one of these fellows, remember that fishing with bait is not considered fly fishing by the IGFA, and the IGFA doesn't have a class tippet category for 'gators anyway.
- *Bluefish – a type of toothy predator that will instantaneously appear in the water whenever an angler ties on an exquisitely made, eight-dollar epoxy albacore fly.
- *Bonito – an incredibly stupid fish which will never bite flies, lures or bait, but which many gullible anglers will attempt to fish for anyway.
- *Bunny Fly – is something you thought was a decent lure for stripers and false albacore until your wife discovers that this is actually the name of a very popular dancer at the local topless joint. You'll never find a way to explain this one away so don't even try.
- *Crowd - is something which can be found at any of your favorite fishing holes on the day you promised your best fishing buddy, who is visiting from the west coast, that "this spot is strictly secret" and you "guarantee he'll catch fish".
- *Dogfish – the only thing you will ever catch while bottom fishing with bait for striped bass. *Also see:* Skate.
- *Everyone – this is the number of folks who actually know about your special "secret fishing spot". *Also see:* Crowd.
- *Four-Wheel Drive – an important system on your truck, which is destined to fail anywhere the sand is exceptionally soft and deep. If the moon is full and the tide is incoming, exit the vehicle at once and call your insurance company.
- *Fly-casting – a hopeless attempt to deliver a small feathered hook to an improbably destination. Usually practiced in a roaring headwind, this activity can also lead to the acquisition of something you told your rebellious teenage son was absolutely not permitted: the pierced ear.
- *Graphite – a rather inexpensive substance that can be fashioned into an inefficient casting device for which you will be charged many hundreds of dollars. *Also see:* Rod.
- *Howling – what the wind will be doing on any day upon which you wish to fish with a hook and line. *Also see:* Blowing a Gale.
- *Illegal Activity – what the police will assume you're engaged in while crossing someone else's backyard in the middle of the night on you way to a favorite fishing spot. *Also see:* Impoundment (which is not a lake, but precisely what they will do with your fishing care before they toss you in the brig).
- *June – a wonderful month for fishing during which you will be required to attend weddings, graduations, important business meetings, and several dozen other impossible boring functions.
- *Knot – a weak connection tied in a fishing line that is most likely to fail when an angler hooks the largest fish of his/her angling career.
- *Line – a material which was designed to assist in retrieving a hooked fish, but which may be more commonly encountered hopelessly tangled around the propeller of your new outboard motor. *Also see:* Shear Pin (a small but important spare part which you will be unable to locate following your run-in with the "Line").
- *Motor – you may need anew one if you persist in running yours without checking to see that the water pump is working.

(Continued next page)

MVSA To Donate More Benches

The MVSA will donate three more benches this year, which will compliment a similar donation at the Upper Lagoon Pond last season.

Plans call for the installation of two benches at the Chappy Beach fishing area just north and east of the Chappaquiddick ferry dock. The property is owned by the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank who welcomed the donation for use by both anglers and beach goers. The site is popular among Derby anglers who target the False Albacore and Bonito that frequent the area in the fall.

Additional plans call for the MVSA to install a bench in the memory of Abe Williams who passed away early last summer. Funds for the memorial project were donated to the MVSA at the request of Maryann Henniger and the Williams family who have also established an MVSA memorial award in Abe's name.

The bench will be placed at the top of the stairs near the walk-on entrance to Wasque Point which is the first place Abe Williams fished during his initial visit to the island

58th Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby

As predicted in our September newsletter, a MSVA member was a grand prizewinner in the MVSB &BD Derby that concluded in October. Congratulations to Tom Kieras of Hatfield, MA for winning the 2003 Chevy Silverado donated by the Clay Family Dealerships. Tom caught his prize-winning fish, a 15.27 lb. bluefish using squid for bait. Tom is known as a hardcore angler, traveling from Hatfield MA every weekend during the Derby. He can be found on the beach virtually 24 hours a day while on the island. He is also an accomplished shark fisherman and has caught sharks on the Vineyard and during frequent visits to Florida. Nicely done Tom!

Members Dan Geary and Ed Lepore were also winners of the Arnold Spofford Memorial Awards for the largest shore and largest boat Bonitos caught by seniors.

CHAPPY BEACH REPORT FOR JANUARY 2004

By: Bob & Fran Clay

We've had lots of wind and high seas lately, so Fran and I decided to ride the Chappy beaches on January 8th and report to you what we saw.

(Continued to next column.)

(Chappy Beach Report, continued)

Pocha Pond has formed ice to the left of the Dyke Bridge and well into the water on the right. It was sunny, 25 degrees, and the contrasts of land, water, ice, and color were spectacular.

As soon as we turned right onto east beach and headed toward the rip we noticed that the traditional land mark, the Leland house, is gone. The new owner plans to raze both houses and build a 7500 sq ft home and guest house. East beach is well intact- wide and flat.

We met Dan Geary and Tom Kieras at the crossover. They were both slinging cut bait. Tom had landed a 13 lb. blue. Danny lost what he thought was a big bass after fighting the fish for 20 minutes. Dan said that the fish got into that west tide on his third run and broke Dan off. Fran suggested that he reline with 50 lb. test, and then we turned around to head up to Cape Poge.

Cape Poge Bay has formed ice along the Cedars. Looks like water has gotten into the cut-off to Aruda. It's rough going for about 20 yards what with roots sticking up and eroded tire tracks. The access to Aruda is roped off. No driving along the beach to the jetties. Not much beach remains there.

The jetties were covered with what seemed like several colors of ice. Beautiful. Lots of ducks. No seals. The only notable bird action was Paul Schultz hand feeding a couple of Snowy Owls. We waited for Paul to finish because he was blocking the beach at the Ship Wreck.

The beach is pretty flat, wide and easy to negotiate all around the Lighthouse. The stretch between the Lighthouse and the Elbow is solid with rocks at the water line. Jack Livingston was working a Needlefish at the crossover. He had seen several Albies earlier, but—No luck.

We turned around at the Windmill house and headed back through North Hole. That beach is BEAUTIFUL. To bad it's winter. Would be great for bathing. The weed is all gone, replaced with a very smooth sand.

We headed back off Cape Poge and then to Edgartown by the beach route. South beach is A REAL PROBLEM. Remember how wide the beach was at Metcalf's. It's gone. Paul Schultz had to move the fence back 15ft. The beach near Metcalf's, on the way to Katama, looks like it gets washed over during every high tide. We're all hopeful that it doesn't permanently breach in that area.

That's our report. See you all at the award ceremony. Bob and Fran Clay.

Refurbishing Wooden Lures

Looking for a project this winter? Consider giving some of your old wooden lures a face lift. All you'll need is a vise, sandpaper, pliers, and paint.

First step is to rummage up any old wooden lures in need of repair. Most wooden lures take a pounding from bouncing off rocks and frequent use will often form a "half moon" groove in the body from hooks that swing back and forth along the plug as it's being cast.

Start the refurbishing process by stripping all of the hooks off the plug. Split-ring pliers may be necessary but the hooks on many wooden lures are open eye and can easily be removed with a twist of a needle nose pliers.

Next, set the eye of the lure in a vise and strip it down to the bare wood using rough sandpaper. It's important to get it as clean as possible before painting. Some five-minute epoxy can also be used at this time to fill in the groove made by the hook swing.

Now you can paint the lure using an acrylic enamel with a glossy finish or a vinyl paint made specifically for this process. The Jann's Netcraft catalog is a good source for materials. (1-800-NETCRAFT < www.jannsnecraft.com) Paint can be applied with a small brush or sprayed on, but if spray paint is used, be sure to tape off the eyes and other hardware before the paint is applied. An air-brush can also be used and will enhance your ability to get a little creative with blending colors, etc. You can be creative as you like with single or multiple colors and some powdered metallic glitter or flash can also be applied before the paint sets for added pizzazz. Finish off the job with a couple of coats of "clear coat" for a glossier finish, replace the discarded hooks, add a new bucktail, and you're back in business. And you saved \$15.00 in the process!

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Public hearings were held recently throughout the striper coast to obtain public comment on the re-opening of the EEZ to striped bass fishing. The EEZ is the area between three and two hundred miles off shore where the federal government asserts authority over fishing practices. The area has been off limits to striped bass fishing since the striper collapse in the early 1980's. Currently, the National marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is preparing an environmental impact statement on the possible re-opening which has been requested by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the interstate board that manages striped bass.

Most recreational anglers oppose the measure and contend that the EEZ is a refuge or "insurance policy" for our largest bass, the most prolific breeders. Anglers are also afraid an offshore opening will result in more fish being killed despite quota limits, through "high grading" by anglers who select only the biggest fish and throw smaller ones back and will also contribute to the growing problem of illegal commercial fishing for striped bass. Still others believe that while stripers appear to be at their most plentiful in recent years, there is concern over whether the age structure is balanced. Finally, there is a concern that overall striped bass stocks are not as healthy as once thought and the opening of the EEZ will hasten a decline. Numbers recently released indicate that anglers have been fishing above the target mortality level established by the ASMFC since 1997 and are very near the over fishing level. In addition, the total spawning stock biomass (the total of all living sexually mature striped bass) is falling and is approximately 20% lower than had been estimated as recently as last spring.

I get all the truth I need in the newspaper every morning, and every chance I get I go fishing or swap stories with fishermen, to get the taste of it out of my mouth. *Ed Zern*

*Net - an important item which will be discovered to be missing from the boat in the event that a large fish is hooked.

*Oar - another important item which will be found to be missing from the boat in the event that the motor won't go.

*Plug - any one of a number of small, brightly painted wooden or plastic lures, festooned with dangerous treble hooks and tied to the end of a fishing line. These devices work wonders at catching passersby, fishing buddies and stray kids or dogs, but are notoriously poor at catching fish. This is also the thing that you will forget to install before you ceremoniously launch your new boat in front of all your fishing friends.

*Pliers - an item that you will lose in the rocks prior to any encounter with a huge school of marauding bluefish. See also: Hospital and Reconstructive Surgery.

*Quality - an important component that is missing from each and every piece of modern day fishing tackle currently available, as any old-timer can tell you.

*Reel - any one of a number of expensive and rather complicated devices designed for gathering small amounts of grit or sand. When the 'spool' of the reel no longer turns inside the 'frame' the reel designer's twisted plan is complete.

*Spooled - refers to the fact that you ran clean out of line and backing while playing a very large or very fast fish. This term may have both positive and negative connotations. You can get spooled by the biggest striped bass of your life, go into mourning and never recover from the horror. By contrast, you might get spooled by a very hot running false albacore and then annoy the hell out of your friends telling the story over and over at the bar to anyone who will listen.

*Squid - a strange marine animal which is responsible for the indescribably foul odor which you discover when you casually open the fishing cooler several weeks after returning home from another marginally successful fluke fishing trip. *Also see:* mackerel, herring, sand eels.

*Sucker - a fish not often encountered in saltwater fishing, but which can easily be found at all your favorite trout fishing spots.

*Stripping Basket - a device designed to store your line in a hopelessly tangled mess during the time when you're not casting. The odd name of this item may give your spouse or significant other pause for thought as they continue to wonder what it is you're really doing out of the house until 4 a.m.

*Ten-pounder - an outdated nickname for a ladyfish. Also what your fishing buddy will immediately tell you he has on the end of his line each time he hooks another six-pound albie.

*Understanding - what you will plead for with your spouse each time you return to the house at 5 a.m. covered with sand and fish scales, smelling of rotten bunker and rancid squid.

*Very Important - this describes each item of tackle which you neglected to bring with you on your fishing trip.

*Weather - something you will undoubtedly forget to prepare for properly before any important fishing excursion. *Also see:* downpour, hailstorm, hurricane.

*Xtra - refers to other important items which would've saved the trip of a lifetime. See also: waders, backup rod, fly line, flies, etc.

*Yelling - how you will tell your buddy he is not helping the situation as you attempt to remove your lure or fly from his ear.

*Zem, Ed - Late American fishing writer responsible for inspiring so many other less talented fishing humorists nationwide. *Thanks, Ed!*

Dues Increase

At the December meeting of the MVSA, members voted unanimously to raise our annual membership dues. Effective January 1, 2004, dues will increase to \$25 for an individual membership and \$35 for a family. Initiation fees and senior dues will remain at \$10. The increase was necessary due primarily to the addition of liability insurance that was added last year in addition to the rising costs of club events. This marks the first dues increase in membership since the club was founded in 1989. Dues may be mailed to the MVSA, PO Box 3053, Edgartown MA 02539.

Women's Division Notion Looses It's Motion

Also at the December meeting the concept of a women's division in the MVSA In House Derby awards structure was floated once again. However, the proposal had the approximate buoyancy of a sieve and was soundly defeated. The idea of the proposal, of course, was to give the women members a chance to win more awards. But the women at the meeting were loud and clear in voicing their opinion that due to the low numbers of women members they would prefer to be competing against the men, thank you very much, and with that the debate was over and the issue was put into the proverbial cooler for perhaps future generations to wrestle with.

Calendar

or: What's On The Line

**Jan 24, MVSA Annual Awards Ceremony
and Banquet**

**12:00 Noon, Old Whaling Church
Arnie Ziemian 508-627-3872**

**Feb. 18, MVSA Monthly meeting,
7:00PM, American Legion Hall, Vineyard
Haven**

Jeff Sayre, 508-693-4841

**March 17, MVSA Monthly meeting
7:00PM, American Legion Hall, Vineyard
Haven**

Jeff Sayre, 508-693-4841

**April 14, MVSA Monthly meeting,
American legion Hall, Vineyard Haven
Jeff Sayre, 508-693-4841**

**April 24, Earth Day Beach Clean-up
Norton Point, Jeff Sayre, 508-693-4841**

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

stamp

