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Jeff Sayre

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Walter Lison
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The Fishin' Times

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

The Newsletter Of The Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

Treasurer
Ron Domurat

Secretaries
Bob Lane
Paula Sullivan

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"...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

Happy Fall Everyone, There is now a nip in the air and soon there will be frost on the pumpkin. Autumn is upon us and the Derby is over. And what a Derby it was! The false albacore fishing was the best we've seen in years. Chappy was albie central. From the Gut to Wasque albies kept reels singing and anglers busy during the whole tournament. Thankfully they were plentiful because finding a bonito or big blue from shore was like finding a needle in a haystack.

There was a great showing of MVSA members in the final standings this year! We even had a member, Keith McArt, on the Grand Leader board! Congratulations to all who won prizes this year. I know everyone wants to catch a big fish but for me, the Derby is also about spending time with friends who share a common interest. It's a time to enjoy the natural beauty of the Island and rekindle fishing stories from the past. If the fishing is good, it makes it all the better!

Even though the leaves are turning brown there is still some good bass fishing to be had. If you get a big one don't forget to enter it in our In House Tournament. See you at the next meeting.

Tight Lines, Jeff Sayre

2004 Chappy Shark Tourney

Written and Compiled by Phil Cronin

Note: The views put forth in the following article (or at least the joke part) are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association, nor can they be rebroadcast or retransmitted without the express written consent of the commissioner of baseball.

"On a tour of Chappaquiddick Island, a small island off the eastern end of the larger island of Martha's

Vineyard the Pope took a couple of days off to visit the coastal area for some sightseeing. He was cruising along East beach in his OSV 'pope mobile' without the required sticker when suddenly he notices a frantic commotion just off shore. There was John Kerry struggling frantically to free himself from the jaws of an 8 foot Brown shark. As the Pope watched, horrified, a speedboat came racing up with two men aboard. One of the men, President George W. Bush quickly fired a harpoon into the shark's side while Dick Cheney reached out and pulled the bleeding, semi-conscious John Kerry from the water. Then using Louisville Slugger baseball bats, the two heroes beat the shark to death and hauled it into the boat. Immediately the Pope shouted and summoned them to the beach. 'I give you my blessings for your brave actions,' he told them. 'I heard that there was some bitter hatred between President Bush and John Kerry, but now I have seen with my own eyes that this is not true.' As the Pope drove off, President Bush asked Dick 'Who was that?' 'It was the Pope' Dick replied. 'He is in direct contact with God and has all of God's wisdom.' 'Well,' President Bush said, 'he may have access to God's wisdom, but he don't know nothing about shark fishing! How's the bait holding up?' "

Well apart from having all of God's wisdom and access to the right bait, the Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association 2004 annual Chappy Shark Tourney was an outstanding success. A field of sixteen competitors challenged their patience and courage to catch the largest shark from the beach. Tom Kieras caught first honors by beaching a 6 foot 1 inch female Brown shark estimated to weigh more than 125 lbs. Second place was captured by Steve Purcell with a 66" Brown shark while Carl Deerhing placed third with a 61" Brown shark. Ed Willoughby received honorable mention for his 56" Brown shark. Photographs of the beach caught sharks along with a slide presentation

complete with music can be found on the MVSA Website at [HYPERLINK](http://www.mvsurfcasters.org)

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The annual event was held over the week ending August 8, 2004 for members of the association. Proceeds from the entrance fees are used to support the club's introductory fishing programs for children such as the Boys and Girls Club fishing trips onboard the Skipper. According to Captain Russ Lawrence, Chairman of this year's shark fishing tournament: "This year's event was a great success with four qualifying sharks caught and beached. Two of the sharks were tagged and released unharmed and two were taken for table fare with some of the shark steaks used at the awards barbeque. Several anglers discovered the ferocity of these magnificent creatures when they hooked up and fought them only to have lines parted or hooks pulled straight". Greg Skomal, one of the East Coast's foremost experts on sharks attended the awards ceremony and expressed his gratitude for the club's interest in tagging and releasing sharks for scientific study.

While any species of shark except dogfish would have been considered in the tournament, the targeted species was the Sandbar Shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) also called the Thickskin shark, the Brown shark, the Northern Whaler, and the Ground shark. Mostly referred to locally as the Brown Shark it is a common shark with a very tall dorsal fin. They have mouse-gray skin, with paler skin below; the head is wide and flat. The largest reaches about 8 ft long; on average, females are 6 ft long and males are 3-4 ft long. Brown sharks are found from very shallow waters to deep waters, generally staying on the bottom. They are a frequent visitor to estuaries and harbors. Brown sharks have a growth rate of about 1.7 inches per year, a relatively slow growth rate for sharks in general. The thick skin is sometimes used for leather and the meat is considered quite delectable. These strong swimmers migrate over 1500 miles with their range consisting of Southern Brazil, Louisiana, both coasts of Florida, and northward along the Atlantic coast of the United States to southern New England; also the tropical-subtropical belt of the eastern Atlantic, and the Mediterranean, or represented there by an extremely close relative. Their diet is mostly

fish, including menhaden, eels, other sharks, skates, squid, and also crustaceans. Females are sexually mature at 16 years when they reach a length of about 6 feet. They give birth to 8-12 live young after a gestation period of 9-12 months. Pups are about 8.5 inches long at birth.

Congratulations to all of those who participated in this year's event. The consensus of opinion at the awards barbeque hosted by Jeff and Dawn Sayre was that the shark fishing tournament should definitely have a permanent place on the annual calendar of events for the Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association.

In House Derby Standings as of October 24, 2004

Shore Striped Bass-Keith McArt, 42.46lbs.
Boat Striped Bass- Peter Herrmann 19.3lbs.
Shore Striped Bass Release-Will Geresy- 41"
Senior Shore Striped Bass-Ed Amaral-20.31lbs.
Senior Boat Striped Bass-Lois Kelly Stout-29.15lbs.
Flyrod Shore Striped Bass-Oh Keong-17.82lbs.
Senior Boat Striped Bass Release-Walter Lison-37"
Flyrod Boat Striped Bass Release-Phil Cronin 22.0lbs.

Shore Bluefish-Will Geresy-11.63lbs.
Senior Shore Bluefish-Walter Lison-11.12lbs.
Senior Boat Bluefish-Sylvia Wheeler-12.92lbs.
Flyrod Shore Bluefish-George Moran-3.82lbs.
Flyrod Boat Bluefish Release-Jeff Sayre-8lbs.

Shore Bonito-Ron Domurat-6.05lbs
Senior Shore Bonito-Al Premo-5.6lbs.
Senior Boat Bonito-Sylvia Wheeler-8.35lbs.

Shore False Albacore-Keith McArt-10.87lbs.
Boat False Albacore-Peter Herrman-7.40lbs.
Senior Shore False Albacore-Walter Lison-10.10lbs.
Shore Flyrod False Albacore-Oh Keong-8.57lbs.
Boat Flyrod False Albacore-Peter Herrman-9.19lbs.
Shore False Albacore Release-Paul Schultz, 27".
Shore Flyrod False Albacore Release-Jeff Sayre, 9.5lbs.

Most people fish all their
life without knowing that
it is not fish they are after.

Henry David Thoreau

Noteworthy

Once again MVSA members distinguished themselves in the recently completed MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. More than 30 members won daily, weekly or special awards, and for the third year running, an MVSA member was a Grand Leader as Keith McArt caught the largest shore striped bass, a 42.46lb beauty. Chip Bergeron also won top honors in the Shore Flyrod Division with a 9.32 lb bluefish. Here is a list of the Derby accomplishments of our members. Congratulations!!!

Grand Leader: Shore Striped Bass-Keith McArt.

1st Place Flyrod Division-Shore Bluefish-Chip Bergeron.

Chamber of Commerce Award for the heaviest shore bluefish caught by a senior-Walter Lison.

George H. Pye Memorial Award for the heaviest bluefish caught by a senior-Walter Lison.

Kastmaster Joe Kreskey Memorial Award for the heaviest shore bluefish on the first day of the Derby, Ron Domurat.

Roberto Germani Memorial Award-All Tackle-Mary Ann Angelone

Hat Trick-Tom Kieras, Shore Bluefish

Weekly Award Winners-Keith McArt, Oh Keong, Mary Ann Angelone, Chip Bergeron, George Moran, Steve Purcell, Janet Messineo.

Grand Slam Pin Winners-Steve Baccelli, Ed Lepore, Shirley Craig.

Daily Award Winners-Keith McArt, Ed Amaral, Oh Keong, Lois K. Stout, Steve Baccelli, Chip Bergeron, Pete Connly, Jim Cornwell, Win Crocker, Ron Domurat, Dan Geary, Will Geresy, Sue Geresy, Sherm Goldstein, Bob Jacobs, Tom Kieras, Ed Lepore, Walter Lison, Janet Messineo, George Moran, Ralph Peckham, Paula Sullivan, Steve Purcell, Hank Unczer, Paul Schultz, John Shillinger, Ed Willoughby, Sylvia Wheeler, Dan Williams.

Also worthy of note during the year:

1st Migrating shore striper-Phil Cronin-4/18

1st Keeper striper-John Schillinger-5/6

1st Shore bluefish-Ed Amaral-5/12

1st Boat Bonito-Sylvia Wheeler-7/12.

1st Shore Bonito-Al Angelone-7/28.

1st Shore False Albacore-George Moran 8/8.

1st Boat False Albacore-Bob Clay 8/29.

1st Cast of the year-Joe Mikos, 26" striper, Joe Gubitose- 6lb bluefish.

1st Trip of the year-Ralph Peckham, 29lb striper, Charlie Stula, 26lb striper.

1st Place Shore Bass, Big Brothers, Big Sisters Memorial Day Tournament-Pat Toomey

2nd Place Shore Bluefish, Dick's Bait & Tackle Memorial Day Tournament-Ron Domurat.

3rd Place Shore Bluefish, Dick's Bait & Tackle Memorial Day Tournament-Phil Horton.

1st Place Annual MVSA Chappy Shark Tournament-Tom Kieras.

2nd Place Striped Bass Octoberfish-Keith McArt

2nd Place False Albacore Octoberfish-Walter Lison

Nice going everyone!!!

MVSA Web-Site Opinion Poll Results

Current Question-Over 600 albies were weighed in during the 2004 MV SB & BF Derby. Should the minimum size be raised next year?
Yes-50%, No-50%. Total 14 Votes.

9/15 Question-Who Will Have the Greatest Degree of Success During this Years Derby?
Shore Anglers 47%, Boat Anglers 53%-Total 19 Votes

8/9 Question-Who Would You Rather Go Fishing With? *George W. Bush 28%, Bill Clinton 10%, George H. Bush 8%, John Kerry 5%, By Myself 48%-Total 40 Votes.*

7/29 Question-What Size Shark Will Win The MVSA Shark Tournament? *5 to 6 feet, 43%, 4 to 5 feet, 36%, 0 to 4 feet, 14%, 6 to 7 feet, 7%. Total 14 votes. (Note: The winning shark measured six feet, one inch).*

Calendar

November 17, MVSA Meeting, American Legion Hall, Vineyard Haven
Jeff Sayre, 508-693-4841, [HYPERLINK](#)
"mailto:jeff@flyfishingthevineyard.com"
jeff@flyfishingthevineyard.com

December 15, MVSA Meeting, Pizza Night, American Legion Hall, Vineyard Haven
Jeff Sayre, 508-693-4841, [HYPERLINK](#)
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January 29, MVSA Annual Awards Ceremony & Luncheon, Old Whaling Church, Edgartown. Jeff Sayre, 508-693-4841, [HYPERLINK](#)
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Short Casts

Summer Picnic:

Thanks to Phil & Lauren Horton for another wonderful job planning our annual summer picnic and for treating us to the "special" Horton Family" ribs. Thanks also to Your Market for providing the beverages and all members who brought such wonderful deserts. Over fifty members attended the event on a beautiful July afternoon that was highlighting by the spirited "Long Cast" championship. This year the competition was won by Russ Lawrence who dethroned last years champ Chuck "Long Cast, Quahog" Hodgkinson.

Awards Ceremony & Banquet:

Planning has started for the Annual MVSA Awards Ceremony and Banquet. The event is scheduled for January 29, 2005 at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown. We are grateful to Chuck Hodgkinson who has volunteered to take over the thankless job of Raffle Chairman from Arnie Ziemian who did a superb job the last two years. Chuck has already started to collect prizes from local and off Island merchants. If you would like to help out or have something of value to donate to the raffle or silent auction table, please contact Chuck at 508-693-9322 or cahodge@aol.com

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