

SOUTHERN MARYLAND FISHING NEWS

P.O. Box 1191, Solomons, Maryland 20688
March 15, 2007

FISHING FAIR! MARCH 24 & 25—Solomons Firehouse

Don't miss the best Fishing Fair yet! If you've been to our annual fundraiser and fishing show before, you know it is an event not to miss. Lots of vendors, great door prizes and deals galore! All for only \$2.00 donation at the door. In addition, there's a great assortment of food and beverages — including hotdogs, hamburgers and BEER!

Please see the flyer inserted in this newsletter for the 14th Annual Fishing Fair, and post it somewhere lots of people will see it! At the Fair, you'll see an assortment of tackle vendors, guides, and new and used boats. For complete details visit the chapter website www.mssasmc.com. The site has a full list of vendors, a map, driving directions, information for potential boat dealers, and more.

For those who enjoy volunteering at this event be sure send to an email to smc_mssa@yahoo.com, call one of the chapter officers, or come to the next meeting on March 15th to sign up. You can choose to work in the kitchen, at the door, sell raffle tickets, memberships, or help out with set-up and clean up!



Capt Bruno always offloads some surplus gear to raise money for the Reef Foundation.

Annual Raffle — Something for Everyone!

As usual, lucky raffle winners will benefit from the generosity of Chapter members with local businesses. Two rod builders that belong to our chapter, Joe Cox and Ken Preston, are each donating a piece of their handiwork for the 2007 raffle. Joe Cox is providing a custom trolling rod, and Ken Preston is building a custom spinning rod. Each rod will come with a brand new reel.

A new addition to the raffle, and third prize, is a framed original print of Drum Point Lighthouse, worth over \$350.00. This beautiful photograph, seen here, is donated by SMC member Bill Conway. In addition to being the Chapter photographer, Bill runs a profitable business selling his beautiful photographs.

This raffle really does have something for everyone. If you are not interested in a custom rod and reel, a nice piece of artwork for your home could be just perfect! Tickets are on sale now for \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Winners will be drawn at the FISHING FAIR on March 25th at 2pm.



President's Message

By Tom Kemp

By the time you read this the Department of Natural Resources should have made the final decision for 2007 Striped Bass regulations. I have attended the last three meetings of DNR's Sport Fish Advisory Committee to observe the process of determining regulations. It was interesting to see the interaction between the representatives of the user groups that make up the recreational fishing community. Each group hoped to protect their interests, and in the end came to a consensus on what is best for all. It is expected we will have a slot size for the four week spring season. The minimum size should be 28 inches, but we will not be allowed to keep fish from the mid 30s to somewhere around 42 inches. This allows anglers to catch fish for the freezer and can continue their quest for that true trophy Rockfish.

These regulations will allow us to pay back the over fishing of the last two years and should keep the target catch under 30,000 migrant Striped Bass. A target is better than a quota because if we exceed the limit, no pay-back is required.

Another big change for Southern Maryland is the continued expansion of the Point No Point fishing reef. Material continues to arrive from the old Wilson Bridge. The DNR Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative (MARI) has received funding from many sources including the Southern Maryland Chapter of MSSA. Future material from the Wilson Bridge and other sources will be placed at various locations in the Maryland portion of the bay. This chapter, in conjunction with the Solomons Charter Captain's Association and CCA Southern Maryland, is working to obtain material for the three fish reef locations closest to the mouth of the Patuxent River; Little Cove Point, Cedar Point, and Taylor's Island. Some discussion has also taken place regarding enhancing oyster reefs in the Patuxent River.

Your chapter has many activities scheduled for 2007. I hope you will support these activities. Each event planned requires leadership and a team of support workers. Please become involved as much as your schedule allows.

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Thanks to Our Donors!

Special Thanks for the generous support by:

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- Bill Conway
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- The Tackle Box
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Chapter News: What's Happening?

MARI

The Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative (MARI) is moving forward under the leadership of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and CCA of Maryland. It is expected that the first portion of this initiative, The Wilson Bridge material, will cost \$750,000. About half of this money has been obtained from donors large and small. Your chapter has been a contributor to this project. We feel it is important for the chapter to be involved as much as possible as the first location, Point No Point, and many of the other proposed locations are within boating distance of the Southern Maryland region. Please visit www.ccamd.org and make a tax-deductible purchase of one ton or more, to improve fish habitat in the Chesapeake Bay.

Bay Country Boat Show

Our chapter will be sponsoring the "Kid's Casting" at the Bay Country Boat Show at the Hollywood Firehouse on April 14 & 15. Sam Stuber will be leading this activity. Please contact Sam if you're interested in helping out with this event. It's always fun and easy, and you get into the show for free!

Chapter Logo

The new chapter logo can be seen on the club website, www.mssasmc.com. Special thanks go to the two young ladies, Amber and Miranda Stuart, for submitting the ideas that were combined to create the final logo!

Details on how to get your new club gear embroidered or printed with the logo will be available at the March Chapter meeting. You will be able to get the logo on almost any item!

Angler of The Year — Charlie Hanko!

Charlie Hanko received handsome rewards for catching citation fish. Charlie caught a citation marlin in North Carolina on the 4th of July, that earned him 15 points, and then clinched the lead with a 42 ½" striper on November 18th. This allowed him to beat out his nearest competitor by one point! To their credit, other anglers caught bigger citation rockfish, most notably Joe Bow's 45" striper! Others earned points with winning categories in chapter contests. One person among the entrants received points for fishing the MSSA Spring Tournament. Our

Hats Go off to Charlie! He won a beautiful custom spinning rod, built by Ken Preston, and a small trophy for his mantel. In addition, his name was added to a plaque bearing the names of winners from 2004 and 2005. Check the website for details for this year's Angler of the Year event. It costs only \$5 per angler to participate!



Charlie Hanko (far right) wrestles a nice sized White Marlin with the help of two crew members during his July 4th off-shore fishing trip. WOW! Congrats to the Angler of the Year!

Cooperative Striped

Bass Survey

Over the past months much has been published in the media regarding Striped Bass regulations for the 2007 season. The data used by various agencies, including DNR, is flawed. Without accurate data, it is very difficult to make accurate decisions regarding the fishery. Maryland DNR sponsors the "Cooperative Striped Bass Survey" every year with limited angler participation. In 2005 only 439 anglers submitted results of their Striper fishing, in 2006 this increased to 5,034 postings out of a total of over 100,000 saltwater anglers! Your chapter is asking each of you to register on the DNR website and report each Striper fishing trip. If accurate numbers are reported for the 2007 season, DNR will be able to work with other agencies to make the best decisions for the 2008 season.

Next Meeting: March 15th.

The March Guest Speaker is the well known author Lenny Rudow. Come hear what Lenny has to say about fishing in and around the Bay.

Pre-meeting activities start at 6:00pm with lure making, knot tying, and a member's yard sale. Table space is available for members to display items at no cost. The chapter has 4-inch sassy shads in both white and chartreuse. Shirts and hats are also for sale.

Come early and bring a carryout dinner. Enjoy good company, good information, and good lies! Meetings provide an opportunity to learn about each other's fishing adventures, and plan trips together.

We will have our usual 50/50, attendance raffle, and good door prizes. Beverages are available for a small donation.

The guest speaker for April 19th will be Capt Matt Marlowe. Mark your calendar now!

Spring Trolling Spread Workshop

Captain Greg Buckner, our February guest speaker, will return to the March Pre-Meeting session to help you set up your individual boat for spring trophy trolling.

During this time Capt. Greg will work with members individually or in small groups. He will have standard set-ups and show how to modify your spread to fit your situation and maximize the space and rod holders for the best spread.

At this time you will be able to place orders for items from his "Shore to Shore" tackle business for delivery at our Fishing Fair. It is suggested you bring the following: diagram of your boat with rod holder locations, photos of your boat, and a list of your rod and reel combinations.

A tackle order is not required to take advantage of this workshop. If you would just like to figure out the best way to set up your trolling spread, don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of the best!

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