



Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

www.mvsurfcasters.org

March 2025 Newsletter

Hello Surfcasters,

Happy Spring. The daffodils are beginning to bloom. The hyacinths are scenting the air. And striped bass are migrating up the East Coast as I type.

Spring cleaning is probably on everyone's to-do list. Be sure to mark your calendars for Earth Day and our annual beach clean-up on Saturday, April 19th. We will be meeting at Right Fork and Left Fork again this year. The club will supply bags, bring your gloves. The Prez is asking for a great member turn-out.

Our next MVSA meeting is Monday, April 7 at 7 pm at the Edgartown Rod and Gun Club. Our guest speaker will be Taylor Pierce, candidate for Edgartown Planning Board. Whether you're from Edgartown or another Island town, you don't want to miss this.



Our fishing contests require an electronic scale. Before you start fishing this spring, make sure your digital scale working properly. Bring your fish scale to the meeting. The Prez is bringing a measured weight so everyone can check the accuracy of their scale.

Have you renewed your MVSA membership? If you'd like to participate in Club activities and continue receiving these wonderful newsletters, you must pay your \$30 dues by April 7.

Zoom Link: Meeting ID: 872 8501 5479 Passcode: 356624

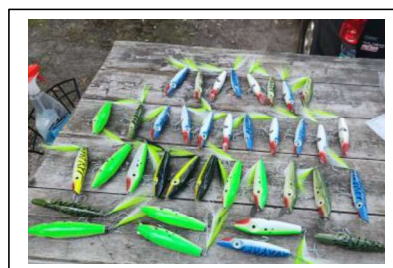
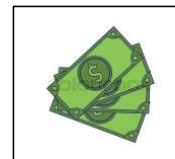
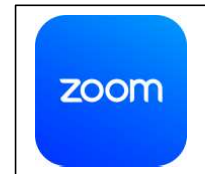
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87285015479?pwd=HroG3MlboaBaCFSVvpMmb80Allgrya.1>

I hope to see you Monday at the meeting!

Lisa

Club Meeting Notes

1. The Prez welcomed new members Barbara and John Wilson and Martha and Michael Klein.
2. You must pay your dues by April 7th.
3. If you want to join the club's private Facebook group, friend The Prez on Facebook and then he can invite you to join the group.
4. The Prez discussed our annual banquet, which is our main club fundraiser. We hold the Used Tackle Sale to fund the scholarships, but the Banquet supports the Club account. The Prez asked for suggestions on how to draw more people to the Banquet and how to raise more money. Should we charge a fee to attend? Should everyone attending bring an item to donate to the raffle?
5. The Prez sent out all the thank yous for the Banquet.
6. Michael Klein offered to set up Zoom for our monthly meetings.
7. The Prez announced that we will need a Club secretary next year and a new newsletter writer.
8. We voted to give two \$7,500 scholarships this year.
9. Please go through all your gear and donate what you can to this year's Used Tackle Sale. Contact The Prez if can't make it to a meeting and you need to drop off donations.
10. Scott Maccaferri will generously donate another trip on his boat for a raffle again this year. Winner and guest will enjoy a day of fishing with Scott. Raffle tickets are \$10 each. You can pay by cash, check, or Venmo.
11. We discussed our annual club fees. Our current dues is \$30 a year.
At this year's Banquet, club members voted to increase annual dues to \$50. In 2026, dues will be \$40, and we will discuss the \$50 fee at next year's Banquet.
12. We voted to give gift cards next year at the Banquet instead of reels so winners can select the reels he or she wants.
13. Ralph won the framed Derby print.
14. We will hold our yearly fishing contests again this year, from first fish to last fish, as well as monthlies, longest shark, three species awards, and Angler of the Year. Check out the rules below. Be sure to email Dave Balon the weights of your catches.
15. The Prez has MVSA merchandise – T-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and long sleeve tech shirts.
16. The club approved The Prez purchasing Striper Maniac lures for the club awards.





We learned more about Friends of Sengekontacket at our March meeting. Betsy Dripps, Martha Klein, and Chick Stapleton visited and shared the mission and activities of FOS.

Friends of Sengekontacket is dedicated to the preservation of Sengekontacket Pond; the Barrier Beach and Trapp's Pond; to the protection and preservation of water quality; and the preservation of habitat and promotion of environmentally sound management.

Friends of Sengekontacket was formed in 1988 when, for the first time, the pond was closed to shell fishing due to high coliform counts. Since that time FOS has been assessing the foundations of Sengekontacket's natural ecosystems, identifying threats to water quality, and initiating long range planning based on a scientific databases.

Each summer, FOS hires people to clean the beach four to five times a week. They set up dredging at Little Bridge once a year, got jetskis banned from Sengie at they churned up eel grass and the yummy oysters everyone loves, and they have a shorebird task force.

Visit their website to learn more: <https://www.sengekontacket.org>



Nipsy – the shark made out of beach trash. All of Nipsy's teeth are nip bottles collected at Sengekontacket.



Each year, 44 winning posters are hung around the Island as part of FOS' Carry In/Carry Home campaign.



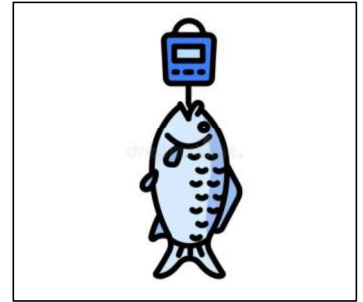
The annual Oar and Paddle Regatta fundraiser. Island Spirit Kayaks donates their fleet of kayaks, or you can bring your own.

MVSA Upcoming Calendar

1. April 7th - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club -
Come meet Taylor Pierce, candidate for Edgartown Planning Board, and hear his thoughts on beach access.

Don't forget your fish scale.

The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.



2. April 19th – Earth Day – Beach Clean Up on South Beach and Norton, then a festival at the MV Museum.



3. May 5th - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club -
Speaker TBD

The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

4. Father's Day BBQ – June 20 - 22 – Stay tuned for the date.
The Prez will announce the date once he knows the weather.



5. July 12th – 5 pm - Annual MVSA Beach Picnic

6. August 30th – save the date – **Annual Used Tackle Sale**



BE A WINNER IN THE MVSA IN-HOUSE DERBY

MVSA In-House Derby - This is a fun and loosely run tournament based solely on the honor system and club members are eligible to win prizes by submitting entries for one or more of the eligible species (striped bass, bluefish, false albacore, bonito). Fish can be kept but catch and release is strongly encouraged. To determine the weight, the fish can be weighed or the weight can be estimated by using the following formula. (length x the girth squared, divided by 800=total weight). It's surprisingly accurate.

HOW TO ENTER -----

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

Use the weigh-in slip on the MVSA website and make as many copies as you need.

When you catch a fish you want to enter, use the calculation above or weigh on a digital fishing scale.

To be eligible for consideration, your fish must conform to the minimum sizes below:

Bluefish 22"

Bonito 21"

False Albacore 25"

Boundaries: To be eligible, a fish must be caught in or around the waters of Martha's Vineyard, within MVSB & BF Derby Boundaries. *(Fish caught during the trip to Cuttyhunk are not eligible for any prizes)*

DIVISION AND AWARDS

A monthly pin will be awarded to the member that submits an entry for the largest fish in each species. All monthly entries will participate in a "luck of the draw" raffle to win a Ron McKee custom lure. All first, second and third place monthly winners will also be entered into a year-end raffle to win new fishing reels. There will be three raffles, one each for all first, second and third place entries.

The 'Angler of the Year' will be determined by a point system based on monthly entries. Five points will be awarded for a first-place monthly winner, three for second, and one for third. The member who finishes the year with the most points will be declared the '**Angler of the Year**'.

Entries: Must be received within seven days after the catch and may be submitted by **email** to Dave Balon at: WeighSlip@mvsurfcasters.org. If you do not have an email account, mail your entry to: MVSA In-House Derby, P.O. Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539

Slips must be postmarked within seven days of the date of catch. During the 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.

In-House Derby entry forms may be obtained on the MVSA web-site www.mvsurfcasters.org (Then go to the Club tab, 2018 In-House Derby) The Official Weigh-In Slip link is under the MVSA Derby Info section.