



Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

www.mvsurfcasters.org

January 2026 Newsletter

Hello Surfcasters,

Happy New Year to all! I hope 2026 is your best year yet.

Are you ready to celebrate? Our Annual Banquet is only days away. This Saturday, January 31, we will gather at the Old Whaling Church for awards, food, raffles, and a great time with friends.

There is lots of important information about the Banquet in the newsletter. Keep reading so you're in the know. Don't forget: Bring a dish to share. Food is based on the first initial of your last name:

A – G — Dessert

H – Q — Main Course

R — Z — Side Dish/Appetizer

If you received any new fishing gear for presents, please consider donating your older, gently-used tackle to the Club. We need lures, with or without the hooks on, rods, reels, boat gear, surf tackle. If it relates to fishing, we want to sell it. Call The Prez if you have any questions. Please bring your donations to the Banquet this Saturday.

Last month Patrick Roden-Reynolds of the Martha's Vineyard Tick-borne Illness Reduction Initiative spoke at our Club meeting. If you missed the meeting, there is a recap and also some fabulous information in the following pages.

The Club needs a new Treasurer and someone to take over the newsletter. Please consider stepping up at the Banquet.



I hope to see you on Saturday at the Banquet!

Lisa

Banquet and Raffle Information

At our MVSA meeting on Monday Nov 3, it was recognized that we need to breath some additional vitality into our annual Banquet, including the raffle items and silent auction.

Dedicated member **Bob Yapp** will continue to solicit donations for the banquet. Thank you Bob!

But -- Bob can't do it all. We all need to help make the raffle and silent auction enticing.

We are asking each attending family to:

1. Solicit and acquire a donation with value of at least \$50. You can see some *potential* past donors by visiting our Club **google doc** here:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bNGBkcAcLSKXEYjQWb3glwXuUQLpyxaGxhYXkaOFQL4/edit?usp=sharing>

2. Notify us when you have secured a donation by entering the information in the Club **google doc (link above)**. ***If the business said "no" to a donation, please also indicate that in the google doc, that way multiple club members will not needlessly go to that business.***

If you are uncomfortable using **google docs**, you can email Raffle Chair Kathi Pogoda at: katspog@gmail.com.

3. Give the donated item, or a full description including value and photo, to Kathi Pogoda. Please call or email her ASAP if you have acquired something this week.

The donation can be a physical item, tickets of various types, or gift certificates. Think about what restaurants, stores, or entertainment venues you visit often. Ask them for a donation.

Let's make this year's raffle and silent auction Fin-tastic!!!

Bring a dish to share. Food is based on the first initial of your last name:

A – G — Dessert

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Comments and questions can be directed to Lisa Belcastro at: 508-560-3678 or mom1runner@aol.com

Club Meeting Notes

1. The Christmas Party was canceled due to safety concerns for people walking and slipping, not because of road conditions.

2. The Annual Banquet will be held Saturday, January 31st at 1 pm at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown.

3. Banquet set up is at 11:30 am. Please bring a folding table if you have one.



4. Shellfish will be arriving around noon for the shuckers to prepare. Ralph ordered the bivalves.

5. The Prez is bringing two platters of sandwiches and chicken wings. Phil Horton is making clam chowder.

6. Kathi Pagoda will be emceeing the event. Kathi will run the raffles.

7. Zach Magic will oversee the kitchen.

8. Raffle Donations – **The Club NEEDS donations** for the Banquet. [See info above.](#)

9. We will be using raffle sheets instead of raffle tickets. No more writing your name on ten thousand tickets. Yippee!

10. The Club dues is now \$40 a year. You can pay at a meeting, at the Banquet, or mail your \$40 check to: MVSA, PO Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539

11. We still need someone to take over the newsletter.

12 The Club donated \$25,000 in 2025. We gave away two \$7,500 scholarships and we also gave \$10,000 to the veterans to furnish one of the new apartments.

13 The Club will vote at the Banquet to donate another \$10,000 to the vets to furnish a second apartment.

14 Reminder – **No February Meeting**

15 The Club needs a new Treasurer. Please consider volunteering.

Prevent the Bite! Tips for Tick Protection

1) Treat your clothes, shoes, gear with permethrin
• DIY: You can buy permethrin sprays to use on your own clothes at home, which usually lasts 6 weeks or 6 washings (whichever elapses sooner). • Buy new pre-treated clothing: available online & on-island and lasts up to 70 washings • Send in your own clothes to be treated: only available from InsectShield.com and lasts up to 70 washings. Use MARTHASV2025 promo code for 15% off.
2) Dress tick-smart
Prevent ticks from getting to your skin. Tuck pants into socks, shirts into pants. Leggings are ideal with ticks unable to get under them. Light colored clothes helps you spot ticks so you can remove them.
3) Wear effective repellents
Look for “EPA-registered” label on repellents demonstrating that they have been tested for effectiveness & safety. Follow label instructions. Use the “Find the Repellent Right for You Tool”: https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you
4) Have a tick kit by your door, in your car, and in your bag
Essentials include repellent, sticky lint rollers (use on clothes after being outdoors), tweezers (to remove ticks), tape or plastic baggie (to secure ticks), and alcohol wipes (to clean bites).
5) Get the ticks off DAILY. After coming in from the outdoors:
- Remove clothes and either hang outside, wash on hot cycle, or put in dryer for 20 min on high heat to kill hitchhiking ticks. Heat—either from the sun, your washer, or your dryer—is key. - Shower: showering gets you out of your clothes, helps wash off any unattached ticks, and gives you a chance to do your full-body tick check. - Tick check daily: put a handheld mirror in your shower to remind yourself to check your entire body, crevices and all, for ticks. Building habits are hard, but full body tick checks take 30 seconds.
6) Save your tick & submit a photo to University of Rhode Island’s TickSpotters for FREE tick ID
Know the tick, know your risk. Experts will identify the tick and estimate attachment time to help you figure out what to do next. https://web.uri.edu/tickencounter/tickspotters/
7) Test your tick if you are concerned at www.TickReport.com
Costs vary based on what you want to test for, but this could be good information about what pathogens a tick carried and how long it was feeding for. This can help you and your doctor *IF* you develop symptoms. Not all tick bites lead to disease. Monitor for symptoms after any tick bite.

Other favorite websites:

- Martha’s Vineyard & Nantucket tick website: <https://islandspublichealth.com/tick-borne-illness/>
- Cape Cod tick website: <https://capecod.gov/tickprevention>
- University of Rhode Island Tick Encounter: web.uri.edu/tickencounter/fieldguide
- National Pesticide Safety Information Center Fact Sheets: npic.orst.edu/ingred/specchem.html
- “Tickology” Youtube video series – search “Tickology” and you’ll find it!
- CDC’s “Tick Bite Bot” – step-by-step removal, identification support, and what to do next advice

Discount codes for 15% of Insect Shield is **MARTHASV2026**



Tickborne Conditions in Dukes County

Dukes County, 2020-2024



Dukes County, 2020-2024

Ranked from Most Common to Least

1. Lyme Disease

2. Alpha Gal Syndrome

3. Babesiosis

4. Anaplasmosis

5. Ehrlichiosis

6. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF)

7. Tularemia

8. Borrelia miyamotoi

9. Powassan Virus

Very common

Common

Uncommon

Rare, but present

Transmitted by:

Pathogen Type

Bacteria

Not a pathogen

Protozoa

Bacteria

Bacteria

Bacteria

Bacteria

Bacteria

Virus

Deer Tick







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Lone Star Tick







American Dog Tick





Data from Massachusetts Epidemiologic Virtual Network (MAVEN) & Martha's Vineyard Hospital (Alpha Gal Syndrome, total positive tests per year). Analysis & graphic by Lea Hamner, July 10, 2025

Tick risk is local. Check tick disease risk maps across the US here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/data-research/facts-stats/geographic-distribution-of-tickborne-disease-cases.html>

***Ehrlichia:** There are several types of ehrlichia bacteria. The ones found on Martha's Vineyard (ehrlichia ewingii and ehrlichia chaffeensis) are transmitted by Lone Star tick. There is also an ehrlichia transmitted by deer tick (ehrlichia muris euclairensis) that is primarily found in the Mid-West.

MVSA Upcoming Calendar

1. January 31st – **Annual MVSA Banquet** – 1 pm at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown. Bring a dish to share. Food is based on The first initial of your last name:
A – G — Dessert
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2. March 2nd — **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club - Guest speaker: To be determined.
The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.
Join in person or on Zoom. The link is below, or if you're using the app:
Meeting ID: 827 0079 8930. Passcode: 446667

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82700798930?pwd=k1kaRTN0egYzmCb3pPmFaDte4uTvaY.1>

3. March 6th-8th – Rhode Island Fishing Show. The Prez is getting hotel rooms at a discount. Let him know if you want to go.

4. April 6th - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club
Guest speaker: To be determined.
The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.
Join in person or on Zoom. The link is below, or if you're using the app:
Meeting ID: 827 0079 8930. Passcode: 446667



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82700798930?pwd=k1kaRTN0egYzmCb3pPmFaDte4uTvaY.1>

5. April 18th – **Earth Day Beach Clean Up** – The Prez is expecting a great Club turnout. More info to come.

6. May 4th - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club -
Guest speaker: To be determined.
The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.
Join in person or on Zoom. The link is below, or if you're using the app:
Meeting ID: 827 0079 8930. Passcode: 446667

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82700798930?pwd=k1kaRTN0egYzmCb3pPmFaDte4uTvaY.1>

Reminder – No February Meeting

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 website www.mvsurfcasters.org (Then go to the The Club tab, MVSA Derby Accomplishments) The Official Weigh-In Slip link is listed under the Documents section, MVSA In-House Weigh Slip.