



# TIDERUNNER

Newsletter of the Annapolis Chapter of the MSSA

“More Fish – More Catching – More Fun”

January 2008

## JANUARY MEETING & GUEST SPEAKER

The speaker for the January 16, 2008 meeting will be Brandon White who is the Chief Angler and Moderator of TidalFish. TidalFish has quickly grown to become one of the most popular web sites for Mid-Atlantic Anglers looking for current Fishing Reports and to exchange advice and opinions. Brandon will talk on light tackle fishing and his annual journey up and down the Chesapeake. He will touch on techniques, rods, reels, and other equipment he uses along with some general talk about locations.

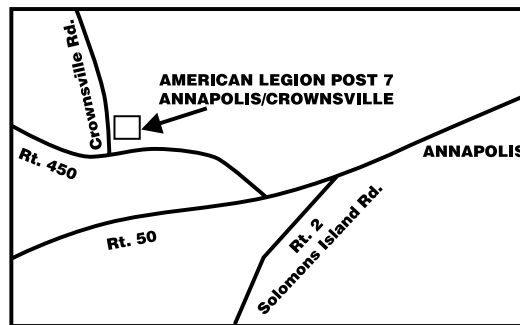
Chapter Meetings are held @ 7:30 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July & August) at the Annapolis American Legion Post #7 located at 1905 Crownsville Rd. The meeting format is informal yet informative with an emphasis on learning and talking about fishing. Please join us to expand your knowledge of Bay & Offshore Fishing and to extend your Fishing Buddy Network to know where and how the big fish are being caught.

Paul Kurchock  
*Speaker Chairman*

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[www.mssaannapolis.com](http://www.mssaannapolis.com)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

After 2 years in the copilot's seat Kevin has passed the gavel back to me and agreed to serve as our VP for 2008. My first official act is to extend to Kevin and his family our sincere thanks for serving our chapter with energy, imagination, and sound common sense. We enter 2008 in excellent financial shape with a full calendar of events and opportunities to expand our fishing activities and community involvement.

The outlook for fishing this spring is good. DNR has managed to get us beyond penalties and restrictions and I expect that when the season opens we will be able to take fish in reasonable numbers at sizes that will meet our expectations for trophy and keeper rockfish. We'll have more on the season's opening activities including the MSSA Spring Tournament, Boatyard Bar and Grill Tournament, and the Chapter Spring Tournament and Calcutta in later issues.

Pete Abbott  
*President*

## CURE FOR CABIN FEVER

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Preparation for spring fishing should be on your mind now that the holidays are behind us. The seasonal fishing shows start on January 19-20 with the Upper Marlboro Expo followed by our own Saltwater Fishing Expo on Saturday, February 9, at the Elk's Lodge in Annapolis. **Please** take time to participate in this great event which is also the primary fund raising activity for the Chapter.

The cost is \$5 at the door. Bring your children, spouses, and fishing buddies. You can browse, attend useful lectures, and buy Bay and offshore equipment and book charters for the remainder of the year. We have an outstanding cadre of vendors and speakers to make the day informative and worthwhile. We need you to walk through the door and support the chapter and our vendors. If you want more raffle tickets, they will be on sale at the Expo. The drawing for the grand prize will be at the end of the show.

**Help us advertise this event!** If you can post a flyer at work, know of a tackle shop or other site where people can see one of our flyers, or would be willing to email or mail copies of the flyer, please do it. A copy of the flyer is included in this mailing and as an attachment to the email version of this newsletter. Updated versions are also available from [www.mssaannapolis.com](http://www.mssaannapolis.com). Please use them to get the word out that our show will be on February 9, 8 am to 2 pm, at the Elk's Lodge in Annapolis.

*The Fisherman Magazine* has agreed to act as the primary sponsor of our Fishing Expo in February. Through Chris Dollar, Editor of *The Mid-Atlantic Fisherman*, we have been granted advertising space and articles to stimulate interest and attendance at our show by anglers within the region. We are deeply indebted to Chris and the magazine's management for their support and commitment to the success of our show. We have provided a table to *The Fisherman Magazine* staff at to sell subscriptions and renew subscriptions about to or recently expired. Take advantage of this opportunity to buy or renew your personal subscription or make a gift to a fishing friend of this very useful and informative weekly magazine. Stop by *The Fisherman's* table, and say thanks to our sponsor by becoming a subscriber.

We would also like to thank our Seminar Speakers who will present at this year's Expo. The final schedule was not set as of this writing but will be in the next few days. Any one of the Seminar Speakers is worth the price of admission and all four of them add up to an informative half day to help make you a better fishermen. Please stop by their tables as well and purchase a book or talk with them regarding a future charter trip.

## BOD UPDATE

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I attended the January Board of Directors Meeting at the MSSA Headquarters last week and beyond seeing several familiar faces from the other chapters, had a chance to work directly with Steve Schectel, President of MSSA since the departure of Bill Windley. Steve gave the Board his agenda for changes in our procedures and practices, particularly those relating to the shift from hard copy to electronic correspondence and his commitment to move forward with initiatives such as online registration for memberships, tournaments, and merchandise purchases. We have needed these capabilities to better serve our members for several years and I am confident we will implement these new procedures in the coming year.

Steve appealed to us to identify a highly qualified and motivated individual who would take on the challenges inherent in the job of Chairman of the Tournament Committee. The tournaments are the lifeblood of the MSSA and they fund our organization and its activities on behalf of recreational anglers. The participation levels in the Bay and Ocean tournaments have been stagnant or declining in recent years and Steve and the BOD would like to see this changed. The marketing and management of these key public relations and fund raising events is critical to MSSA's public perception and financial health. Leadership of this Committee will entail a bottom up review of the tournament structures, levels of participation, pricing policies, rules and regulations, and frequency and location of events. New marketing and advertising campaigns must be developed and broader channels of communication within the fishing communities served by our tournaments need to be used if we are to achieve growth and renewed vitality in our events, particularly the Blue Water Series. Our Chapter is known for our Bay and Ocean anglers. My question to you is which one of you is willing to bring your knowledge and expertise to bear on these problems and lead the Tournament Committee in 2008? Call me if you want to talk about it. (410) 758-2071.

Pete Abbott  
*President*

## REEF BALL UPDATE

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In December, 2007, Tom Humbles from MES and a diver joined me on TOMCAT to conduct the first video survey of the reef balls that we placed near Dolly's Lump. The balls are showing evidence of marine growth including some mussels and barnacles. Tom expects that the fish should start congregating on the reef in the next year. He is working on getting another grant that we can use to conduct a second round of production and deployment of about 150 more reef balls, preferably on the same site. More on this subject when next I hear from Tom.

## ROD & REEL RAFFLE

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If you haven't yet done so, get those raffle tickets we sent to you last month into the mail to Tim Palmer, our Treasurer, with a check to the Annapolis Chapter, MSSA, for at least 1 ticket (\$5), or 5 tickets (\$20). The 10 ticket package is \$40.00. The grand prize is a matched pair of Daiwa rods and Penn 330 GTI lever drag/level wind reels. These are the perfect rods to troll for the winning fish in the Spring Tournament in early May.

Let me also acknowledge the generosity of Chapter Member Ed Okunak, who sent a check for \$300.00 to the chapter with instructions to buy raffle tickets and donate them to kids who want to go fishing. Ed, please accept the sincere thanks from all of us in the Annapolis Chapter of MSSA and know that your wishes will be honored. Kevin and I are working to develop a list of youngsters and youth groups that meet the criteria to receive these gift tickets. If anyone has nominations for this list, please send them to me at 219 Overture Way, Centreville, MD 21617, or by email at [abbottgru@aol.com](mailto:abbottgru@aol.com).

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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Through the 8th of January, we have \$4331 in the checking account, an unheard of amount for our Chapter at this time of year. Of course, the coffers are being padded nicely through the sale of raffle tickets for the Rod/Reel combo raffle which will be drawn at the Swap Meet on February 9. In addition, we have taken in money for vendor tables at the swap meet, and as noted elsewhere, this event is our major fund raiser of the year. Be sure you come out to support this effort—and bring along a bunch of neighbors, too, who may like to fish, or may be enticed to fish. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Expo—I should be at the front door collecting your money. Keep in mind that the money we have in excess of regular meeting expenses goes to subsidize the wonderful fall crab feast at Sandy Point State Park, our mid-summer fishing expedition, and the dynamite Christmas party at Post 7. Without your constant and continued support, the Chapter would be just a hum-drum little group going nowhere. Pat yourselves on the back for making our Chapter a huge success.

Tim Palmer  
*Treasurer*

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Happy New Year to all! Thanks to everyone who helped organize and attended the Annual Christmas Party last month. It was another fun event which was highlighted by our Mega Raffle Table of Prizes all disguised in gift wrap. There were a lot of great prizes along with a few laughs and all were well received in fine holiday spirit.

In case you weren't there, I also made two special chapter award presentations. The first was to Bart, Vickie, Samantha and Brandie Rankin as the recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Award. The Rankin Family was chosen for the tremendous support they gave our Chapter by handling the delivery of our Monthly Newsletter that many of you receive via USPS. They faithfully handle the printing, collating, labeling, stamping and mailing of the monthly newsletter to our 600+ Members. And they perform this task under an extremely tight time schedule each month. We thank the Rankin Family for their service and you can help them by supplying a Chapter Officer with your email address to lighten the load on this monthly activity.

The second award was for our Chapter Attendance Prize. At each Chapter meeting we pass around an Attendance Sheet to help us keep track of our membership roster. This year for each time you signed in at a Chapter meeting, we put your name on a raffle ticket and put it into the bucket. Its simple enough, the more meetings you attend, the better your chances. This year's winner was Chapter Member Perry Masden. For those that don't know Perry, he has been a long time member and key contributor to the Annapolis Chapter. He has served as Chapter Representative on the Tournament Committee for many years and is now a key volunteer for the Spring Tournament Captain's Meetings that are held at numerous locations around the Bay. I will also say on a personal note that Perry has always been ready to help out at a Boat Show, Crab Feast or wherever we need an extra hand. Thanks Perry for your support and congratulations on winning a Top of the Line Shimano Spinning Reel.

Finally, let me repeat a request from Pete Abbott. Check your rods, reels and tackle boxes and create your shopping list for the items that you will need for the upcoming fishing season. Then make your first stop the Saltwater Fishing Expo that our Chapter is hosting along with *The Fishermen Magazine* on February 9 from 8am to 2pm. You'll find great prices on high quality tackle from the local companies that support the Annapolis Chapter. They are offering products that work and they will also give you advice on how to use them. If in doubt, grab me and I will walk you around the floor and tell you what I would fish from my boat and how. Our Seminar Speakers and the experts from *The Fisherman Magazine* are also there to answer your questions as are the numerous Charter Captains who can take you out and show you how. These are some of the best recreational and professional fishermen in the Mid-Atlantic that will there to talk with you and help you to become a more successful angler. I'll see you there!

Kevin McMenamin  
*Vice President*

## CHAPTER OFFICERS AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

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President	Pete Abbott	(410) 758-2071
Vice President	Kevin McMenamin	(410) 349-0575
Secretary	Bob Sheperd	
Treasurer	Tim Palmer	(410) 280-2187
MSSA Scholarship Committee		Vacant
MSSA Tournament Committee		Bob Kimball
Speaker Chairman		Paul Kurchock
Raffle Table Chairman		Bob Sheehan
Intra-Chapter Tournament		Bob Thompson
Member Roster Chairman		Bill Tongue
Assistant Web Master		Craig Teuber

## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### January

- 10-13 Fishing Expo & Boat Show @ MD State Fairgrounds
- 16 Annapolis Chapter Meeting – Guest Speaker: Brandon White from TidalFish on Light Tackle Fishing around the Chesapeake
- 19-20 Chesapeake Fishing & Outdoor Expo – Upper Marlboro
- 23-27 Baltimore Boat Show @ Baltimore Convention Center

### February

- 1-3 MSSA Convention in Ocean City
- 9 Saltwater Fishing Expo @ Annapolis Elks Lodge
- 15-17 Seaside Boat Show @ Ocean City Convention Center
- 20 Annapolis Chapter Meeting – Guest Speaker: Capt TBD
- 23 Dorchester Chapter Flea Market @ AM Post #91 Cambridge

### March

- 15-16 Essex/Middle River Flea Market @ Commodore Hall
- 19 Annapolis Chapter Meeting – Guest Speaker: Capt TBD
- 29-30 Southern MD Fishing Fair @ Solomons Firehouse

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