



TIDERUNNER

Newsletter of the Annapolis Chapter of the MSSA

“More Fish – More Catching – More Fun”

May 2010

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a busy 30 days since our April Chapter meeting. Most of us finished preparing our boats and baits for the trophy season, a little catch and release action and then the games begun.

Opening day started with the Boatyard Bar and Grille tournament which a lot of Annapolis chapter members participated. Although rough weather prevailed the fishing was very good and I know most of us put fish in the box.

Day two of trophy season kicked off with the Annapolis Chapter Rock On Warriors event. We had 10 boats take out 30 warriors and family members from Walter Reed Army Medical Center for a day of fishing and fun. Although the bite wasn't as good as Saturday most warriors caught fish and had a great day. I am very proud to have been part of this event and would like to thank the over 50 volunteers for putting this together. The awards ceremony was truly a heart felt and emotional event for all those involved.

Most of us got in some fun fishing to prepare for the MSSA Tournament. Although fishing was good, it was not great.

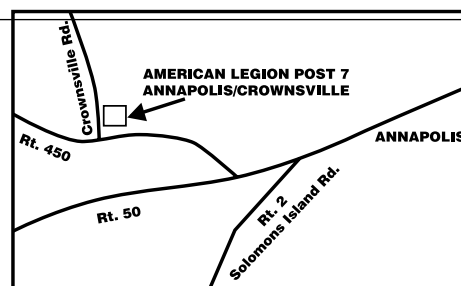
The 27th annual Championship on the Chesapeake was held April 30, May 1, and May 2, 2010. Over 4,000 anglers participated in three days of competitive tournament rockfishing. The weather was incredible but the fishing reports sound like to was tough out there, particularly in the North. We fished south all three days and boated 19 nice fish but nothing big enough to cash any checks. Congratulations to Annapolis Chapter Member, Kevin Howell on his winning 52.55 pounder. Another great showing from the Annapolis Chapter.

A couple more weeks of rock fishing this month, than some of us head to the ocean and others prepare for Chumming, live lining, crabbing and cruising in the Chesapeake.

John Thibodeau
President

MAY MEETING/SPEAKER

Chris (C.D.) Dollar will be the guest speaker at the Annapolis MSSA chapter meeting on Wednesday, May 19th at 7:30 pm at the American Legion Post #7 on Crownsville Road in Annapolis. Many of you know Chris as the outdoor columnist who chronicles fishing and outdoors news each Sunday in the Capital/Gazette newspapers. Chris is also the proprietor of CD Outdoors, which arranges Chesapeake Bay light tackle and fly-fishing trips, kayak adventures, and youth fishing camps. His wealth of knowledge, spirit for adventure, and enthusiasm for fishing and water sports is unparalleled. At the meeting, Chris will share fishing stories and discuss a variety of outdoor and fishing opportunities that many of us would otherwise not fully appreciate. We look forward to seeing everyone at the chapter meeting on the 19th.



Dale Dirks
Speaker Chairman

ROCKFISH SURRENDER AS DOZENS OF WARRIORS TAKE TO THE BAY



Annapolis Chapter of the MSSA hosts inaugural "Rock on Warriors" Event

When it comes to battling weather, choppy waters and targets that want to elude capture, having a crew used to tough fights is a bonus.

In fact, for the many wounded warriors hosted by the Annapolis Chapter of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's

Association (MSSA), their April 18 mission to catch rockfish on the Chesapeake was a day on the Bay after what they've been through.

As the rockfish season got underway, dozens of injured warriors made the trek from Walter Reed Hospital to the Annapolis City Dock where 50 Annapolis MSSA chapter members welcomed them to the first Rock On Warriors event. More than a dozen boats, all flying giant American flags, pulled alongside the Fleet Reserve Club, as the warriors, their caregivers and many family members accompanying them came aboard for a great day of fishing.

One warrior watched in amazement as his two children reeled in catches that nearly equaled them in size. For him, and the many other veterans, it was a day to remember.

Returning from the half-day trip, the veterans were the guests of honor at an awards ceremony at the Fleet Reserve Club where each received a plaque for their participation, a "Rock on Warriors" t-shirt, a boxed American Flag and other mementoes commemorating the day.

According to many of those in attendance, tears of joy and gratitude were in abundance. In his closing remarks, John Thibodeau said he spoke for all Annapolis Chapter MSSA members when he thanked the veterans for their service and sacrifice. "Just having the opportunity to give back to all of you is an honor we'll all cherish for a very long time."



Courtesy of The Capital

John Thibodeau congratulates winning warrior Army Cpl. Jonathan Albrecht, who caught the biggest fish of the day, a 42-incher and Captain Ken Jones from the boat Stripe Tease.

52.55 POUND ROCKFISH WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

Second Place Pays \$63,000

The 27th annual Championship on the Chesapeake, the country's largest rockfish tournament, concluded with 580 boats and approximately 4,000 anglers participating in this year's event. The Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association (MSSA), the largest sport fishing group in the state hosted this event.

For three days, starting on April 30, anglers from all over the East Coast put their skills to the test as they experienced world class fishing on the Chesapeake Bay and competed for some significant cash prizes and the title of Champion.

This year's champion in the amateur division is Kevin Howell of Edgewater, Maryland. Howell weighed in a 52.55 pound rockfish at the Rod N' Reel docks in Chesapeake Beach just after noon on Friday. Howell said he caught it just south of the CR buoy in 55 feet of water using a 9 inch white shad off his planer board. Howell's catch secured him first place in the overall tournament and first in three of the additional skill levels bringing his total earnings to \$21,750.

Second place went to Steve Smith of Hanover, PA who weighed in a 41.9 pound fish at Chesapeake Beach. Smith said he caught his fish near buoy 78 using a tandem rig with 9 inch shad. Smith is the big money winner this year as he entered all of the additional skill levels and will be taking home \$63,022.

Third went to Jeff Schmitt of Baltimore as he weighed in a 40.05 pound rockfish at Calvert Marina in Solomons, Maryland on Friday, the first day of the tournament. Because Schmitt entered additional skill levels he will be walking away with over \$12,000.

Additionally James Lutz also of Baltimore will be taking home a considerable amount of money for his 39 pound fish. Lutz entered in several of the skill levels and for that he will cash in for \$21,750.

Dave Smith, Executive Director of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association (MSSA) said they have increased the prizes in the Kid's division as well as the Catch and Release division. The top fifteen kids will receive fishing gear and merchandise as well as certificates congratulating them on their catch.

"If we don't get our youth involved in fishing and the outdoors our sport will be in serious trouble and fishing tournaments provide that opportunity to get kids involved," Smith said.

New to this year's tournament was the use of text messaging as a way to update tournament anglers on who is winning and what they need to bring in to have a chance. This new feature is something new to the sport and another example of responsible fishing tournament management.

"Texting is a great opportunity to communicate with our tournament anglers and let them know what they need to have a chance at winning," Smith said.

The Catch and Release division was popular this year as anglers turned in their catch logs for a chance at some new fishing gear. The winner Sam Fisher Jr, who has won this portion of the tournament before, will receive \$800 in fishing gear and merchandise from local tackle shops. Second through fifth place will also receive fishing gear for their efforts.

PROFESSIONAL AND CHARTER BOAT DIVISION

This year's Champion in the Professional and Charter Boat division went to Captain Ed O'Brien. Captain O'Brien runs a charter boat, Semper Fidelis III, out of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland. Captain O'Brien weighed in a 35 pound rockfish taking home nearly \$10,000.

All awards and cash will be given out at the awards ceremony on Thursday, May 13 at the Columbian Center in Severna Park starting at 7:00 PM. All tournament anglers are invited as there is still prizes to be given out as "last chance awards" and door prizes. The big winners will receive checks and the Champion will receive the coveted Championship on the Chesapeake trophy.

For more information and a complete list of tournament results please visit www.mssa.net. All results are unofficial and subject to change until all anglers who have won \$5,000 or more pass their polygraph tests. You can also contact Dave Smith at 410-255-5535 for more information.

BOATYARD BAR & GRILL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, April 17, 2010 was the date of the Ninth Annual Boatyard Bar & Grill Opening Day Fishing Tournament, which benefited the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Coastal Conservation Association Maryland and the Annapolis Police Department's Youth Fishing Camp. This was a "Catch and Release" Tournament. Great prizes were given and gala party was held in the late afternoon in the Boatyard's parking lot. The Winner's name and an outline of their fish will be painted on rafters at the Boatyard. Photographs of the tournament can be found under "fishing" on the Boatyard website www.boatyardbarandgrill.com. The Boatyard Bar & Grill is located at Fourth & Severn in Eastport, Annapolis, phone 410-216-6206.

Boatyard Bar & Grill 9th Annual Opening Day Rockfish Tournament April 17, 2010

Place	Angler	Length
1st	Russell Knapp	48+"
2nd	Andrew Wendell	47 1/4"
3rd	Bill Judge	45"
4th	Jamie Gill	43 3/8"
5th	Allen Fritsch	42 3/4"
First In	Amy McCarthy/ Kate Torgerson	33 7/8"
Youth	Nico Omechevarria (age 11)	38 5/8"
Smallest	Tim Campbell	18 3/8"

CHAPTER CRAB FEAST

Urgent. We need your help. We need a volunteer to be the Crab Feast Committee Chairperson. Responsible for organizing the entire effort and working with other volunteers and vendors. You will have the support of the entire board for guidance and help. Crab Feast is scheduled for Sunday September 19, 2010. If interested please contact John Thibodeau at statefarm@earthlink.net immediately.

JULY CHAPTER FISHING TRIP ALERT

I have 40 people signed up for the trip, but only money to cover 12 people. Please send your checks in or be prepared to pay at the next meeting. I cannot book the third boat until I have a much larger financial commitment. This is a fun trip with your fellow Annapolis chapter members and their families. We get a fair amount of children (of all ages) and grandchildren. If you have never tried one of the trips this is a good year to try it out. Fishing out of Chesapeake Beach is a lot closer than Solomons Island. Chesapeake Beach (Rod and Reel) offers a restaurant if you want to come down early and have a late lunch or an early dinner. I would appreciate you sending your checks in as early as possible. Send your checks to Ronald Schaefer, 47 Poplar Point Road, Edgewater, MD 21037. Make the checks out (\$60 per person) to Annapolis MSSA. If you have any questions or want to add your name to the list email me at mellowfive@comcast.net, or see me at May's meeting. You can also give me a check at May's meeting.

*Ron Schaefer
Fishing Trip Chairman*

STATES MOVE CLOSER TO PROTECTING MENHADEN

Protecting menhaden moved a bit closer to reality this month when East Coast Fisheries managers unanimously agreed to review the science that forms the foundation of regulations. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is preparing more conservative benchmarks for menhaden that would lead to greater abundance.

NEW MD LIFE JACKET LAW

Governor Martin O'Malley has signed a bill into law to strengthen protection of children on Maryland waterways. Under the new Maryland law, effective immediately, any child under the age of 13 is required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) while aboard a vessel that is underway. The law will also require children under the age of 16 to possess a certificate of boating safety education before they can operate a vessel unless they are supervised by an adult or someone 16 or older who has a boating safety certificate, effective Oct. 1. Formerly, any child under the age of seven had to wear a PFD on a recreational boat 21 feet or smaller, unless the boat is moored or anchored or the child is below deck in an enclosed cabin.

The State averages 12 boating related fatalities a year. In 2009, Maryland had 17 boating related fatalities; 16 of the victims were not wearing PFDs. Raising the age requirement puts Maryland in line with federal regulations and 34 states, including Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Washington, DC. The federal regulations do not supersede the state, but the National Transportation Safety Board strongly encourages states to update their PFD requirements.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 13 Championship on the Chesapeake Adwards Ceremony, Columbian Center, Severna Park – www.mssa.net
- 19 MSSA Annapolis Sportsfishing Chapter Meeting, American Legion Post 7, Crownsville, 7:30 PM – www.mssaannapolis.com
- 23 MSSA Annapolis Sportsfishing Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament Ends, submit entry verification form – www.mssaannapolis.com

June

- 14 Pasadena Sportsfishing Meeting, Earliegh Heights Fire Hall, Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park, at 7:30 PM – www.pasadenasportfishing.com
- 24 MSSA TunaMent Captain's Meetings at Alltackle-Ocean City, MD and Wachapreague Marina-Wachapreague, VA, 6:00 – 8:00 PM – www.mssa.net
- 25 MSSA 21st Annual TunaMent - www.mssa.net
- 26 MSSA 21st Annual TunaMent - www.mssa.net
MSSA 2nd Annual Carroll County Chapter Perch Tournament, Sandy Point State Park, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM, contact Capt. Michael Liberman at 410-627-6887
- 27 MSSA 21st Annual TunaMent - www.mssa.net

July

- 17 MSSA NW Chapter 15th Annual White Peach Fishing Tournament, Sandy Point State Park @ Podickery Point, 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, contact Capt. Charles Reichert at 410-456-7117
- 21 MSSA Annapolis Chapter Fishing Trip, Rod and Reel Docks, North Beach, MD – Contact Ron Schaefer 410-266-0856 or Lee Slagle 410-263-3663

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

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MSSA Scholarship Committee	Pete Abbott
MSSA Tournament Committee	Dale Dirks
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Raffle Chairman	Bob Sheehan
Intra-Chapter Tournament	Bob Thompson
Member Roster Chairman	Bill Tongue
Webmaster	Craig Teuber
Website Content Editor	Fred Menage
Fishing Trip Coordinator	Lee Slagle

Crab Feast Chairman	To Be Determined
Newsletter Editor	Fred Menage
Saltwater Fishing Expo Coordinator	Pete Abbott
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