



www.surfcaster.com

THE PLUM LINE

The Official Newsletter of The Plum Island Surfcaster

P.O. Box 364 – Newburyport, MA 01950

<http://plumisland.surfcaster.com>

MAY 2006

Sleeping with the Fishes

The night was very dark with just enough ambient light to be able to see the small waves that created the borderline between the sand and the surf. Bob Edwards was fishing his favorite section of ocean front beach just south of the south jetty at Plum Island. Blue phosphorescence dotted the sand as Bob trudged along the wave line. There was no wind and no sound except for the crunch of the sand beneath his feet and sound of his breath as he labored across the beach.

After twenty minutes of walking it was time to fish. Bob unhooked the black popper from the rod guide and launched the lure out into the dark surf. Bob made his own lures and had several of this particular style of popper in different colors. He slowly retrieved the lure using a steady rhythm that he counted off silently in his head. Crank, crank, twitch, crank, crank, twitch. Since he could not see the lure he had to rely upon his hearing to know if there were any fish around. He strained to hear the telltale sound of a splash in the water indicating that a striper had come after his lure. Crank, crank, twitch, crank, crank, twitch. As the lure crept closer he could hear it pop as he twitched it.

Bob liked to move and usually counted off ten to fifteen casts before he'd move down the beach. On his fourteenth cast he heard it, a small splash just a bit louder than the pop of the lure.

He cast out quickly again. Crank, crank, twitch, crank, crank, WHAM! Automatically Bob set the hook. This fish was big and taking line out in short bursts as it sought to regain its freedom. Bob held on. This was why he spent most of his summer nights on the beach and why he endured the endless nagging of his wife about the long hours spent fishing. This could be the fish of a lifetime, the big catch he had always dreamed of.

The battle was now on between man and fish and Bob was ready. Bob worked the great fish giving line when it ran and slowly retrieving line when the fish tired. The fish was moving south and Bob figured he had walked a half mile along the beach following the striped monster. Bob could tell the fish was tiring as the runs were becoming shorter and Bob was able to gain some line on his spool. In the dark Bob still could not see the fish but could now feel the fish as it was now caught in the steady sweep of the waves. He could hear his heart pounding as he got nearer to his prize.

Years of experience came into play and Bob expertly maneuvered the fish closer to the beach with each wave. Finally he could make out the dark shape in the wave wash. He stepped into the water to seize his trophy. In that split second his line slackened and the lure was spit from the fish's mouth. Bob dropped his rod and pounced upon the giant struggling in the wave wash. He seized the fish in a bear hug and kept the striper from gaining its freedom. Bob had both arms around the fish and could not gain enough footing in the soft sand to get the fish out of the water. The battle was still on.

With every wave the giant bass regained some strength and thrashed to free itself from Bob's grasp. Bob rolled on his back trying to get the fish out of the water and use his heels to push himself up the beach. When he rolled he felt a sharp pain in his back. He had rolled upon the lure and was now impaled by the barbs. He pushed with his heels but the soft sand gave way. The waves from the incoming tide now swept over the pair. But Bob held on.

Suddenly everything went white. Bob was immersed in white light and was completely disoriented. Was this death? Did he die in this latest battle with this striper? Had the hunted finally overcome the hunter? Bob felt a hand on his shoulder, then heard a familiar voice.

"Are you all right honey?" his wife Beth sleepily inquired. Bob realized where he was and responded in a muffled grunt. Beth was sitting up in the bed.

"You were having a nightmare, and you're lying on my hairbrush." Bob grunted again and rolled over. Beth patted him on the back.

"It's all right now, I'm here. Go back to sleep."

Bob just grunted again. Beth reminded him that they were going shopping in the morning. Before Beth turned out the light he looked at his alarm clock. The display read 2:40 am. Bob released the pillow he was squeezing in his arms and placed it under his head. He closed his eyes tight. He still had a few hours left to try to find that giant striper again! It had been long off season.

Don Jalbert

Note from the Editor:

May is here and the club has a lot going on. Be an active member. I have featured a short story in each newsletter for the past few months and encourage our members to contribute one of their own. Show up to the casting clinic. Participate in the Invitational. Take a run down the Cape give the Tri-State a shot. Our yearlong tournament has kicked off. Start sending in your slips to Kevin McGrath. Our club is what we make it and we have something for everyone. I just got back from Plum Island slamming schoolies. They're here with the big fish hot on their tails. Yes!!! It's that time of year. Finally, to all the membership and executive board members that have contributed to the newsletter this year, I'd like to say thank you for making my job of filling the newsletter an easy one. Tight lines.

Aaron Quinlan

Presidents Message

May is finally here. The stripers are trickling in, the shads are running and the local rivers and streams have the herring and alewives seeking their spawning beds. With the new month comes the thoughts of big fish caught and lost. The clubs year long tournament begins and let me wish everyone good luck. On the 13th we have the annual casting clinic and I'd like to say thank you to the Parker river wildlife refuge for the use of their rods and their continued support of our club and the use of their facilities for the kids program. We wrapped up another successful portion of our classroom activities for the year and without their continued support the kids program would not be as accomplished without them. Again good luck to all and may all your lines be tight.

Kevin M. Moore

JR's Program

On the 29th of April we had our last classroom meeting of the year and we had our introduction to fly tying seminar. The kids learned how to tie the blonde buck tail streamer and everyone did a fantastic job. It never ceases to amaze me how fast the kids pick up and learn different things. The flies that came out of their vises looked like they had been tying for years. We truly have some talented boys and girls. Next up is the casting clinic on the 13th and then the mackerel fishing trip on the 10th of June. There has been some interest in being part of the Yankee homecoming parade again this year and I will check in on that and talk with all interested parties in the next coming months. Being part of the parade is just another way of getting ourselves out in the community and can only help in recruiting new membership. Once again, the JR'S program has been instrumental in bringing new membership both for the present and the clubs future. Thanks to all who donated items over the course of the year without you we would not be what we are.

Thank you,
Kevin M. Moore

Jr's. Program Schedule

At the Parker river wildlife refuge headquarters (classes will be held from 3-5 PM)

At the Newbury upper green

Saturday May 13th: Annual casting clinic (8:30 AM -12 PM)

At Plum island point

Saturday June 10th: Mackerel fishing trip

Sites to be determined by fish

Friday June 23rd: Fishing trip

Friday July 28th: Fishing trip

Friday August 25th: Fishing trip/ possible overnighter

Friday September 29th: Plum island overnighter

Friday October 13th: Plum island overnighter

Date to be determined

September beach blast

*Plum Island
Surfcaster*

<http://plumisland.surfcaster.com>

3rd Annual Casting Clinic

May 13, 2006

9 am to 12 noon

At

The Newbury Upper Green

Route 1A, Newbury Ma

Across from the Town Hall

FREE and NO license required

It's a great opportunity to try your hand at something new or to work out the cobwebs, bring the family and make a day of it.

Children of all sizes are welcome.

For more information contact: Kevin Moore @
978-255-1028

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Dan Challord, June Amerault,
George Trout, Chris McNamara,
Mark Nelsan, Mike Carey

REFRESHMENTS

NO TIME TO EAT BEFORE THE MEETING, NO WORRIES.

The refreshment committee will be offering a nice home cooked meal before each meeting for a donation of \$3.00. Below you will find the menu for the next three months. So come **HUNGRY!**

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEAL FOR MAY!

May: **Beef Stew w/ bread**

June: Chop Suey

July: Hamburgers & Hot dogs on grill

Coffee and snacks will continue to be offered for a small donation.

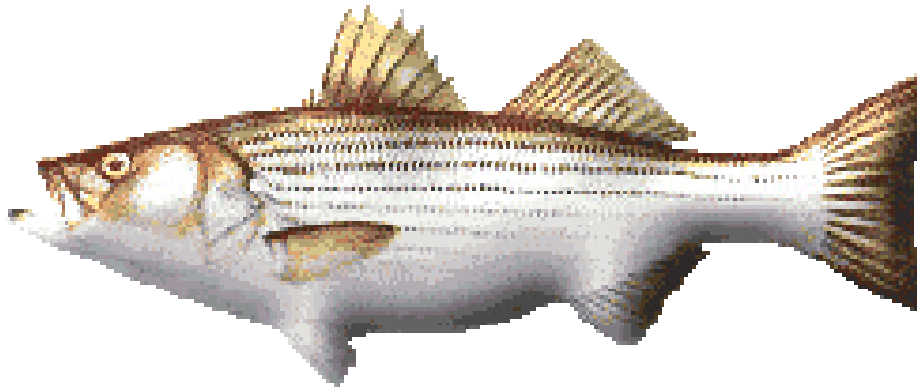
The refreshment committee and JR. Surfcasters Thank You for your continued support.

Legislation

Groundfish – In a recent announcement by the New England Fisheries Management Council, it appears that emergency actions will take place on May 1st for efforts to reduce mortality of Gulf of Maine cod. This will likely result in the minimum length for cod in federal waters will be increased to 24 inches. An official release on the increase should come later in the month. You can get up to date information at the Council web page, www.nefmc.org, on the multispecies page.

Herring ID Chart - The following chart has been provided by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. It gives visual and physical descriptions of the various herring species you may encounter on the water. Reminder – Blueback Herring and Alewife are prohibited to take, possess or sell.

Ocean Management Plan (S2308) – This have been moving in our direction with this bill in part to the efforts of the club president, Kevin Moore, and the membership that took the time to write letters. I want to give a big thanks to Kevin for his efforts in producing very informative and professional letter that went to various legislators. Thank you, too, for those of you that wrote individual letters. We still have a way to go, however, before this legislation is defeated or amended to address our concerns.



TOURNAMENTS

Plum Island Year Long – May 1st – October 31st

Plum Island Invitational – Saturday May 27th - 28th

Tri-State Tournament – Cape Cod Leg - June 2nd, 3rd, 4th

Plum Island Boat Tournament – Saturday June 10th noon – June 11th noon. BBQ to follow

Tri-State Tournament – Maine Leg – September 8th, 9th, 10th

Exotics – October 1st – November 1st

Tri-State Tournament – Rhode Island Leg – October 27th, 28th, 29th

Die Hard – November 1st – November 30th

2006 SCHEDULE:

May 16- Captain Charlie Crue, “Light Tackle and Fly Fishing in the Merrimac”

June 20- Dave Hadden, Editor for Fly Fishing America, “Fishing from Kayaks”

July 18- Don Jalbert, “Late Summer Stripers in NH”

Aug 15- Kevin Moore, “Surf Fishing the Island from the River to the Refuge”

Sept 19 – Steve McKenna, “Techniques for Big Bass After Dark”

Oct 17 – TBA

Nov 18 – Saturday Awards Banquet/Photo Contest/Fish Stories

Dec 19 – Yankee Swap – Gifts and Desserts

Club meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Newbury Fireman’s Hall. Doors open at 6:30pm for setup. A short business meeting will start at 7:30pm, followed by a quick raffle drawing, and then our speaker will follow. We try to be done by 9:30pm. The hall is located off Route 1A@Morgan Ave, behind the Newbury Town Hall and Fire Dept.

PLUM ISLAND SURFCASTERS

General Meeting Notes

April 18, 2006

The President called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Attendance

33 members

8 board members

6 guests

1 jr.

Meeting Notes:

April board meeting notes were read and accepted. A motion was made to except the general meeting notes as printed in the newsletter. Motion made and notes passed.

Treasures Report

Treasures report read and places on file.

Report of Committees

Membership:

Don Jalbert reported we had 130 paid members as of April 18, 2006

Ways & Mean:

Kevin Henrich reported that hats and pins were ordered.

Sweatshirts and shirts will be individually ordered, see him with your order.

Juniors Program:

April 29 2006 intro to fly tying.

May 13, 2006 9-12:30 annual casting clinic. Instructors and additional fly rods needed.

The Parker River Wildlife Refuge approved the loan of their 8 ft. surf rods for the casting clinic, in exchange the surfcasters will go over them and perform cleaning and line replacement as necessary.

Programs:

It was reviewed that on May 16th Captain Charlie Crue from Channel Edge Charters will talk about Light tackle and fly fishing in the Merrimac

Internet Coordinator:

The web site is back on line.

Tournaments:

An explanation of the upcoming tournaments was given and a written handout of tournaments with affidavits was available to all in attendance.

Legislation

A thank you note was read by the President from Chuck Casella thanking the membership for contacting their politicians in regard to S2308. A count was taken on those who participated with 15 members raising hands.

Report of Communications

A bio was sent out to local papers on April's guest speaker Roger Aziz JR. as an announcement to the public prior to April's meeting. 6 paying guest attended.

Old business

The casting clinic is set for May 13th 9a-12:30p at the Newbury upper green and ball field. Instructors and additional fly rods are still needed.

The Wildlife Refuge has approved the use of their rods for the Casting Clinic.

New Business

A vote was taken on a motion by the board to have a speaker from Stripers Forever speak to the club for 10 minutes after the business portion of the May membership meeting. The motion passed and a speaker from Stripers Forever will be invited to speak.

The club was contacted about a date for the Beach Blast, September 16th was agreeable and this information will be passed on.

The Parker River Wildlife Refuge will be holding a Parker River Plover Festival on May 20, 2006 from 9a-4p, the club was invited to host a table at the festival. This was discussed with no findings, it will be reviewed again at May's meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn, the president closed the business meeting at 8:08 PM and Roger Aziz Jr. the evening's speaker was introduced.