

AOTY Banquet...

Saturday, January 11, 2003

Our January meeting will be our annual Midlands Striper Club Angler of the Year Banquet. In addition to AOTY awards, we will inaugurate our slate of new 2003 officers.

The banquet will be held at **VFW Post 8738 on Cedarcrest Dr. in Lexington**. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and the meal will be at 7 p.m.

A steak and chicken dinner will be served. Cost is only \$10 per person, kids 7-12 are \$5 and kids 6 and under are free. Price includes gratuity, cleanup and rental fees. Please bring cash so we can pay the bill on the spot.

This is a great culmination to our monthly competitions, plus there will be a host of door prizes and lots of fun for the whole family!

You can pay dues and annual tournament fees at the banquet.

Agenda...

**Angler of the Year Awards...
 The Best of the Best for 2002!
 ...don't miss this!**

2002 Angler of the Year...

Final Standings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Lee Thomas | 5810 pts. |
| 2. Justin Wright | 5569 pts. |
| 3. Townsend Wessinger | 5205 pts. |
| 4. Danny Young | 4948 pts. |
| 5. Marshall West | 4597 pts. |
| 6. Forrest Byrd | 4550 pts. |
| 7. Ann Byrd | 4492 pts. |
| 8. Kyle Smith | 4439 pts. |
| 9. John Davis | 4375 pts. |
| 10. Joby Wetzell | 4357 pts. |
| 11. James Lindler | 4336 pts. |
| 12. Brian Thomas | 4269 pts. |
| 13. Jimmy Wright | 4129 pts. |
| 14. Michael Spires | 3995 pts. |
| 15. Wynn Corley | 3804 pts. |
- **Voyager Lunker: Caroline Freeman,
 25 pounds, 10 ounces**

Caroline Freeman Has Big Fish...Lee Thomas is AOTY

Lee Thomas fought off a crowd of challengers all year long to claim his third AOTY title in only four years! Facing December double points pressure from two-time Youth Angler of the Year Justin Wright, plus a surge by fellow NSBA member Townsend Wessinger, Lee won with 241 points to spare. His "hang-on" win was reminiscent of last December, as Billy DuRant fought off Lee as a very close challenger to his 2001 AOTY title.

Finishing first in the event was Caroline Freeman, with a whopping 49 pounds, 2 ounces, including the Voyager Lunker for the event and for all of 2002. The fish was weighed in at a huge 25 pounds, 10 ounces, denying Lee a sweep as he was also leading the Voyager Lunker category at 22-7.

Townsend Wessinger finished second for the event and 3rd in AOTY with a great limit of five weighing 30 pounds, 6 ounces. Third place went to Forrest Byrd, also with a 30-6 limit. Townsend's largest striper outweighed Forrest's in a tie-breaker for second.

Tournament Statistics:

31 paid, 26 fished

22 anglers weighed in 80 fish at an average weight of 4.95 lbs.

January tournament one year ago...

2000-2001 Youth Angler award winner Justin Wright battled a miserable January day to win MSC's first tournament of 2002. Justin's four stripers, weighing 20-3, bettered a field of 34 anglers (including Dad Jimmy Wright.)

Brad Pittman finished second with three weighing 19-11, and Brad also caught the Voyager Lunker, which weighed 9-5. Lee Thomas was third with four weighing 17-2.

The new digital scales donated by David Clyburn were a hit with co-tournament directors James Lindler and Mike Huber...keeping Mike's hands "fish-free" for the entire day.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER...

I, along with all the newly elected officers for 2003, am very excited about serving you for the 2003 year. The PAC committee has met a couple of times discussing ideas for programs and projects which we hope will make MSC an even better club.

This year is shaping up as a busy and interesting one with MSC co-hosting several open tournaments, coping with low water levels, hydrilla and decreased weigh-in limits. Those of you who may want to volunteer to serve on committees may do so by contacting any of the club officers.

I hope that I can serve you well and if you have any recommendations or comments please let me know. My phone number is posted on the reverse side of the newsletter and my email address is emwestjr@cs.com.

Please contact me right away if you haven't yet signed up for the banquet!

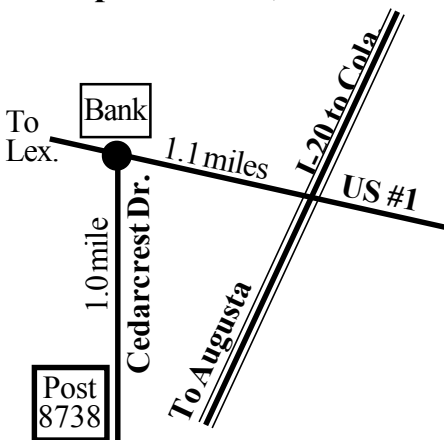
Have a great year!

Marshall West, President, 2003

2003 Officers...

- President - Marshall West 951-3974
- Vice-Pres. - John Davis 781-3856
- Secretary - Billy Taylor 957-3575
- Treasurer - James Cassell 345-9010
- Tour. Dirs. - James Lindler 939-4647
 - Terry Allen 808-0770
- Parliment. - Bob Marshall 251-1426

MSC AOTY Banquet
VFW Post 8738 - Lexington
6:00 p.m. Social, 7:00 Meal



NOTICE: Effective Feb. 11
New Club Meeting Location
Hilltop Restaurant
767 St. Andrews Road

2003 Tournament Schedule (Tentative)...

Date	Place	Time	Other
Jan. 18	Acapulco	7am-4pm	<i>1st event of 2003</i>
Feb. 15	Acapulco	6:45am-3:45pm	
Mar. 15	Acapulco	6:30am-3:30pm	<i>Boat Tournament</i>
Apr. 19	Jakes	6:30am-3:30pm	
May 17	Jakes	7am-12 noon	<i>Kids Tournament</i>
June 21	Jakes	5:45am-5pm	<i>MSC/GSK/NSBA Event*</i>
July 18/19	Jakes	6:30pm-10am	<i>All-Night Tournament</i>
Aug. 16/17	Jakes	6:30pm-10am	<i>MSC-HydroGlow</i>
<i>All-Night DNR Conservation Benefit Open - NSBA Sanctioned**</i>			
Sept. 20	Jakes	7am-12 noon	<i>Ladies' Tournament</i>
Oct. 18	Acapulco	7am-4pm	
Nov. 15	Acapulco	7am-4pm	
Dec. 20	Acapulco	7am-4pm	<i>Double Points!</i>

**Open boat tournament co-sponsored with Greenville Striper Kings. Members may fish a tournament within a tournament. 4-fish per boat maximum weigh-in.*

***August 16-17: MSC / Hydro Glow SCDNR Benefit Open Night Tournament*
 August 16-17, 2002, Jakes Landing, 6:30 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Special MSC DNR Conservation Open Tournament sanctioned by the NSBA. MSC tournament within a tournament. Hydro Glow will award \$250 each to 1st place and Big Fish...but ONLY if fishing with a Hydro Glow light. This is a boat tournament.

(Schedule is tentative, based on ramp access and other factors...always check in advance!)

January 2003 Tournament...

Saturday, January 18, 2003

7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Acapulco Landing

NEW! 3-Fish Maximum Weigh-In Per Angler!

MSC thanks the following sponsors: AC-Delco; Alpine Spring Water; AnglersChannel.com; Better Bait & Tackle; Blueback Bait; Driftmaster; Goodyear; HydroGlow Fishing Lights; Benjamin A. Lanza, D.P.M.; Sea Hunt Boats; Shakespeare; South Carolina Wildlife; Spiegel Distributors; Tru-Green/Chemlawn; Wal-Mart



Midlands Striper Club
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 Columbia SC 29212

