



# Midlands Striper Club NEWS

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July 2001

## July Meeting

**Tuesday, July 10, 2001**

Our regular meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at **Western Sizzlin, corner of I-26 & 378, Columbia, near Lexington Medical Center**. Come early if you plan to eat.

Thanks to David Clyburn and John Davis for their great program on bait and bait tanks! This meeting we'll have Gene Hayes plus some night tournament lighting, safety info and catch tips to share. Come out and join in!

## Programs...

**July: State Of The Lake...** Gene Hayes, SCDNR biologist on the condition of the Lake Murray striper fishery...don't miss it!

**Also in July: Night Lights...** Tips, techniques and safety discussion.

## July Night Tournament...

**Club All-Night Tournament**

**Fri - Sat, July 20/21**

**6:30 pm - 10:00 am**

**Jakes Landing**

## 2001 Angler of the Year...

Standings after six events:

- |                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Billy DuRant        | 2119 pts. |
| 2. Lemond Vanderford   | 2009 pts. |
| 3. Lee Thomas          | 1964 pts. |
| 4. James Cassell       | 1897 pts. |
| 5. Forrest Byrd        | 1753 pts. |
| 6. Dal Dyches          | 1657 pts. |
| 7. Marshall West       | 1642 pts. |
| 8. Ann Byrd            | 1563 pts. |
| 9. Justin Wright       | 1512 pts. |
| 10. Trey Cobb          | 1442 pts. |
| 11. Townsend Wessinger | 1435 pts. |
| 12. John Davis         | 1398 pts. |
| 13. James Kelly        | 1325 pts. |
| 14. Joby Wetzel        | 1322 pts. |
| 15. Jimmy Wright       | 1223 pts. |

● **Voyager Lunker: Forrest Byrd, 21 - 15**

## The Byrd is The "BIG" Word in July...

Forrest Byrd put the Byrd family duo back in the spotlight in a big way in our June MSC tournament. Forrest weighed in a whopping 40 pounds, 9 ounces to surpass all in our sixth club tournament of the year, including a 21 pound, 15 ounce lunker that becomes the Voyager Lunker leader for the year.

Finishing second with five stripers weighing 25 pounds, 6 ounces, was Marshall West. In third place was Lemond Vanderford with a limit of five weighing 23 pounds even.

With 49 paid and 44 fishing, this was the largest MSC event in quite a while.

**Tournament Report: 49 paid, 44 fished.**

**80 fish caught, 10 five-fish limits.**

**Total weight: 370.75; Avg weight: 4.63; Avg Lgth. 22.43"**

## July Night Tournament Report One Year Ago...

Billy DuRant brought another winning limit of five weighing 23.43 to the scales in our July night tournament, making it two wins in a row. Close behind was Townsend Wessinger with five fish totaling 23.25, less than a quarter pound behind Billy and good for second place. Townsend also had a 7.06 striper that took Big Fish honors. In third place was James Lindler, less than two pounds back with five weighing 21.75.

The boat traffic was heavy with MSC and the Greenville Striper Kings in tournaments, plus lots of others on the water. Except for some tough winds through the night, the weather cooperated.

*Mike Huber & Joby Wetzel, Tournament Directors*

## Night Tournaments require special preparations...precautions...

Don't let this month's night tournament slip up before you take time to fully charge batteries, check all navigation lights and make sure any auxilliary lights are charged and in good, safe condition. Those who use generators and inverters remember...110 vac can kill. Be sure to check all plugs, connectors, fuses and wiring. And even if you're using extra lights, you need to ensure you have an "all-around" light to be safe AND legal. And, if you're not at anchor, even just drifting, *navigation lights are required.*

*Editor*

## President's Corner...

As we begin our annual night tournaments, safety is our number one goal. We need to check lights on the boats and have an extra flash light available. Nothing is more important than our health, safety and well being, so please take a little extra time to prepare your boat and yourself for the upcoming event.

MSC Tee's are still available...only a few left, so don't be left out. There will be some very special door prizes to be given away this meeting so come early, bring the family, eat and enjoy the fellowship.

This month's seminar will be on boat lights to attract fish and bait, very inexpensive to very expensive, so you don't want to miss it. Remember, a lot changes on the lake when it's dark...**SAFETY FIRST.**

**Good Fishing!**

**Catchall Lee Thomas, President**



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## 2001 Officers...

- President - Lee Thomas 532-1317
- Vice-Pres. - Marshall West 951-3974
- Secretary - Merida Baergen 781-4394
- Treasurer - James Cassell 345-9010
- Tour. Dirs. - Mike Huber 781-5680
- Joby Wetzel 781-2364

## Striper Limits Fail...

Unfortunately, the political maneuvering to tack an ammendment reversing the lifting of size restrictions for Lake Murray striped bass onto another bill failed. Efforts to get the ammendment onto a bill revising red drum catch limits and later onto a bill dealing with peeler crabs failed. The bills ended up in conference committee with both Senate and House members debating, but the efforts were futile. *Editor*

## Welcome Aboard...

MSC has a new Sustaining Sponsor for our upcoming September 2001 Youth Tournament. Thanks to Ben Pace and John Hart of Tru-Green/Chemlawn, Irmo, for their generous support of this worthwhile event!

## 2001 Tournament Schedule...

Date	Place	Time	Other
Jan. 20	Billy Dreher Is.	7am-4pm	1st event of 2001
Feb. 17	Billy Dreher Is.	6:45am-3:45pm	
Mar. 17	Hilton	6:00am-3:00pm	
Apr. 21	Jakes	6:30am-3:30pm	
May 12	Jakes	7am - 12noon*	<u>Ladies' Tournament</u>
May 19	Jakes	6am-3pm	
June 9	Bundrick Is.	TBA	<u>DNR Media Event</u>
June 16	Jakes	6am-3pm	
July 20/21	Jakes	6:30pm-10am	All-Night Tournament
Aug. 17/18	Jakes	6:30pm-10am	All-Night Tournament
Sept. 15	Jakes	7am-12noon*	<u>Kids Tournament</u>
Oct. 20	Hilton	7am-4pm	
Nov. 17	Acapulco	7am-4pm	
Dec. 15	Dreher Is.	7am-4pm	<u>Double Points!</u>

\**Weigh-in, lunch & followed by a friendly calcutta...details TBA!*

## Lost any big fish lately?

I keep hearing the same thing often enough in club fishing reports to open a little round of discussion. What I'm hearing goes like this, "We were on fish and caught several keepers. But we had two BIG fish break off." I'll open that can of worms with this question. Are you sure it was a break-off?

We all know there are gremlins out there. Snags, rocks, stumps, trees, our own boats, etc. to wear or fray our lines. But truly...with care and the proper drag setting...10-14 lb. test should handle any fish in Lake Murray, including a 60-pounder. If a "break-off" occurs, examine the broken line tip or leader. Is it frayed or nicked or is the tell-tale (curly) sign of a poorly-tied knot evident. Did it break *in the knot itself*? Why not try a new knot? Was the drag too tight and/or did the fish surge close to the boat against a tight drag? If so, loosen up near the boat and use thumb pressure if the fish runs.

You all know how much I think of the Uni-knot. It works. So does the right drag setting and regular line inspections, *especially after catching a fish or two.* *Editor*

**MSC thanks the following sponsors:** AC-Delco, Ace Hardware, Alpine Spring Water, Applebees, Auto-Zone, Better Bait & Tackle, Blueback Bait, Charlie's Fishermans Wharf, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dooley's, Driftmaster, Flight Deck, Frank's Car Wash, Goodyear, JC's Lexington Bowl, K-Mart, Lake World, NAPA, O'Charlie's, PastTime Pavilion, Sagebrush, SCDNR, Shakespeare, Silstar, *South Carolina Wildlife*, Spiegel Distributors, Sport 'N Tool Warehouse, Tom Hughes Marine, Tru-Green/Chemlawn, Turner's Florists, Wal-Mart



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