

HAPPY NEW YEAR EAST BAY ANGLERS -- JANUARY , 2009

East Bay Anglers -- founded 1972

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2009 'Expo' is near sell-out



Mike Laptew (left) and "Crazy" Alberto Knie kept the audience paying attention all the way. After the show several people asked Will why the show couldn't have been continued for another half hour or so. Readers who are interested should check www.laptewproductions.com for new information on Mike's latest DVD which has been praised by Lefty Kreh. Alberto also has a lot of art work for sale, which can be found on the internet if you use his name.

This was the first EBA Winter show to be held on a Sunday. Also, the first show to be promoted with help from the Internet. John Redmond of www.stripped-bass.com put a web site together for us, and then featured it on his own web site. Between these two events, more than half of the returns that came in were on "downloaded" coupons. The snail mail went out in early November. . .and those returns came in early. Most of the rest were downloads.

So, the bottom line here is that we have a whole new format for the future.

"Near sell-out" means that the last ticket sold was No. 479. Then, there were deductions for no-shows who had asked for tickets to be held. Add to that the sad stories of people asking for refunds (which we gave.)

EBA is now a club that has to be run with a high level of "computer literacy" in order to keep up to the challenges of the future.

To have all this develop just as the nation begins an agony of economic

over please

License meet Monday

Skipper John Mazurak urges all anglers to attend a major meeting sponsored by RISAA and DEM to discuss the salt water fishing licenses. This will be a key meeting held in the Riverside Sportsman's Club on **Monday night, January 12th at 6:30 PM.**

Mazurak attended RISAA and DEM meetings. If states don't put some form of program in place, the feds will do it on their own. What may be presented are options of what Rhode Island anglers would prefer.

Riverside Sportsman's Club is at the end of Mohawk Drive -- a right turn off of the northbound lane of Wampanoag Trail, going north from Barrington.

Club members urged to attend crucial Jan. meeting to discuss changes in club's future

There is an article on page three of this newsletter that is a line of thought that Skipper Mazurak and Will have been discussing regarding the club's future. The fact of the internet producing more than half of the attendance at the Expo indicates that the club has entered the digital age.

OK, here we are. Now what?

Well, first of all we have a web site. It's up and has been noticed. If not updated it will die, as will the interest now generated in the club. So, we need a web site update program.

Next, we have e-mail addresses. How should we use (or not use) them?

Then there are blogs. What policies will help avoid attacks?

And, finally, how do we increase member participation and fishing? How do we counter those trends?

The article on page three outlines one approach to discuss. Does it make sense? Do you think it would work?

That's why you are urged to come to this key meeting so that we can talk it out. There will be no food, by the way.

Will we grow or die on the internet?

“Backroom boys” can go for years working at the Winter shows, and never actually see one!



Running a raffle is a big job. Thousands of tickets have to be separated for the drawing can. . .and of course, money must be counted. To do all this takes a crew of at least four people, in addition to the ticket sellers. This year's crew included (left to right) Jack Peacock of Seekonk; Jimmy Patterson of Riverside; Doug Semple of Attleboro; and Kevin Murray, also of Attleboro.

High School teacher Nahum Mitnik runs technical events to keep the audio/visuals running smoothly

The East Bay Anglers started their shows with slide projectors and a multi-image computer that could run 3 to 15 projectors. Will built a 12 foot screen out of architect's velum -- and audiences saw the shows from both sides of the screen (sitting on the stage!)

They outgrew that hall (Barrington Middle School) and tried the Warren/Bristol High School for a few years.

They finally found a home in Barrington. . .at the same time that Nahum Mitnik joined the school staff. When Nahum joined the fishing club, everything fell into place.

Meanwhile, slide technology has been replaced by video, and last year, by HD video. Nahum and his resources have kept pace with the changes.

Barrington's school department has kept the High School right up to date with the latest and best equipment.



Nahum Mitnik has run the control console for EBA shows for three years. Never been a hang up --yet!

Expo near sell-out

continued from page one

stress is not too shabby! The first Sunday in January was selected at a time when it was felt that if the Patriots had to play a 'wildcard' game, they were in big trouble. (Little did we know!)

EBA crew pitched in

One of the most heartening things that took place. . .as it has in previous shows . . .was the way the EBA members all pitched in to make the show run well.

Oscar Stone -- rafflemaster

There are many tasks in pulling together a big event like this. One of the major projects is assembling the raffle prizes, putting them on display, and finally running a rapid event that gets prizes out to the winners. EBA's maestro at this is Oscar Stone of East Providence. Not only has Oscar excelled at his choice of prizes, when he runs the raffle he also provides a lot of jocular entertainment so that the audience doesn't get bored. That takes a lot of personality, wit and a bit of patience to boot.

Skipper oversees events

The challenge this year was the disposition of available workers so that all critical tasks were covered. This fell to Skipper John Mazurak who had to assign workers -- or re-assign them as loads shifted. People tend to come in all at once, and John moved his workers around as needed.

Ticket selling hot corner

When EBA received permission from the High School to sell tickets at the door if attendees were "documented" it opened up a rush. There were more than 50 'walk-ins' which makes show management difficult. EBA has long adopted the policy of advance sales to that people who come from long distances will be assured of a seat. Back in 'open admission' days, we nearly had riots as people left jobs at five, drove two hours to find a house "sold out."

Hopefully, we get smarter.

Membership reminder: The \$20 annual dues should be paid by the January meeting so that we can organize the roster for 2009.

Are fishing clubs obsolete?

Could anglers replace the club format with a 'forum' format to continue instructional role?

This essay assumes the answer to the title question is 'yup.' The writer proposes a new 'business model' to replace traditional club formats. He was a co-founder of the East Bay Anglers in 1972, and founder of a MacIntosh club in 1985. He has counseled organizations of several kinds on planning their futures.

It's now accepted that clubs of all kinds – from bowling to fly-fishing – are failing to attract new members. The digital revolution – particularly the internet – is the oft-blamed cause of this change. Although in its 37th year, the East Bay Anglers now exists as a sluggish shadow of its past participating, energetic self. Were it not for steady funding from these annual Winter shows, it might not have persisted.

As the digital age has dawned with widespread ownership of computers, many of us faced a steep learning curve. The premiere computer club of the early '80's era was The Boston Computer Society. I organized a local chapter of that group so that we learners could socialize with the people who really understood this new stuff: often our own 12 year old kids.

The digital age called these organizations "user groups." But club and user group missions are the same: to

By Will Barbeau

keep members enthusiastic, informed and growing. When computer savvy grew widely through society with support from schools at all levels, need for computer user-groups shrank. The world-wide Boston Computer Society faded away.

The internet has produced alternative methods for striped bass anglers to learn and grow: web sites, chat rooms and e-mail. Locally we are richly blessed with an outstanding example – one that played a major role in the success of this "Winter Expo:" the web site:

www.striped-bass.com, initiated by John Redmond.

Digital learning is home-friendly. Anglers don't have to go anywhere or take on any responsibilities. They sit at computers and hack away. However, this method lacks one key learning ingredient: social interaction. Face-to-face contact with like-minded friends or experts is also a fast learning method.

This proposal from the East Bay Anglers combines the best of the digital and social worlds: at-home digital learning, with occasional face-to-face social interaction with like-minded friends and experts. The new format is based on the speed and low cost of e-mail.

East Bay Angler skipper John Mazurak and I call it the

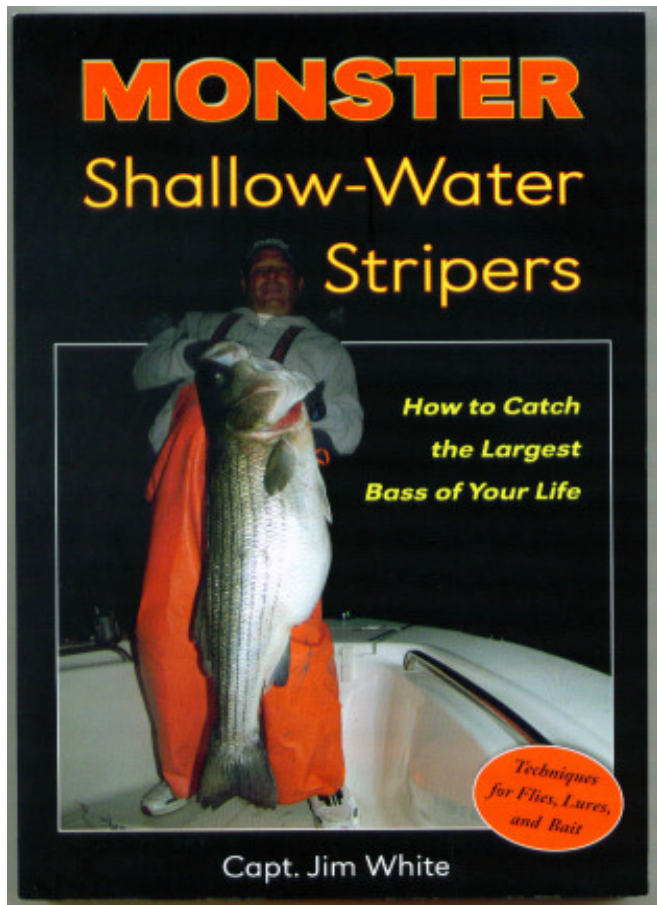
"East Bay Angler Forum." We propose publishing a 10 month schedule of well-known speakers – which we will e-mail to all interested parties. Our meeting facility can handle a maximum of 40 extra people. The first 40 people who express a desire to hear the speaker of any particular month pay a low admission of \$3 to \$5. Meetings open at 7PM on the second Wednesday of every month, and scheduled speakers go on promptly at 7:30. If these paying visitors become interested in the EBA club fishing tournament – with its \$900 in prizes – they become eligible to compete as members of the forum by paying the \$20 dues. Again, there is no requirement to participate in management or other responsibilities.

Winter Seminars (or Expos) are run to raise money to educate anglers. Anglers miss the opportunity to learn because they are not ready to take on club management responsibilities. We invite anglers to participate in the Forum – a pay as you go learning program. If you believe there is merit to this approach, send us your thoughts via our web site 'info' e-mail address:

www.rifishshow.com then info@rifishshow.com

e-mail recipients of this newsletter are invited to submit their ideas on this topic. Send to: info@rifishshow.com

Jimmy White's life with grandson Devon still has great moments



(Following is an e-mail from Jimmy White to relate some events at the EBA Expo Sunday)

Hi Will: Glad you liked the book. I sold 24 at the show, which isn't bad.

Devon had guys asking for his autograph after Mike's show. He went to the Men's Room and four guys said to him, "I want your autograph, you're a movie star. I just saw you in the film catching a big fish"

Now, here's how smart this kid is. he told them to go to the table where the books are for sale, buy a book, and I'll ask my Grampy if its ok to sign it for you. THEY'RE \$25 AND ITS A LIMITED EDITION!!!!!" All four guys bought books.

Absolutely Amazing. While I was signing books, he sat next to me saying to everyone who came by, "Want a good book my Grandfather wrote? Twenty-five bucks for a Limited Edition." he then collected their money.

IF I LIVE TO BE ONE HUNDRED, I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT SHOW YESTERDAY. WORKING WITH HIM WAS WORTH MORE THAN ALL THE BOOKS I SOLD.

One guy came up and asked him how his back was doing. he looked at him for a minute, then realized he was talking about what he had said on the video. He then said, "Oh, you mean the fish I caught with Mike and my Grampy. it was ok, I caught a bigger one than that one before, my Grampy's friend, Tommy had to hold on to my pants once. That FISH, was a big as I was."

On the way home, I told him that I would pay him \$25 for helping me and that he did one amazing job. he said TWENTY FIVE BUCKS!!! Grampy, don't I get extra for signing those books for the guys in the bathroom??

I have no idea where this kid came from but he's going to do all right in life.

Anyway. The book is \$24.95. keep it for the monthly raffle. See you soon.

You did a great job on the show. Lots of happy people from what I heard.

Thanks a bunch. Jimmy

Here's an angler's "must read" book

by Will Barbeau

When I moved to Rhode Island in 1956 one of the first things I did was to go to Narragansett to Jerry Sylvester's tackle shop. There I bought (and he autographed) his book "Salt Water Fishing Is Easy."

Later, during the striped bass wars in the 70's & 80's I worked with Jimmy White -- and later Dick Russell. And, finally, for many years I was a close friend of Les Boyd -- who was a member of East Bay Anglers. The point here is: all these guys have written books about striped bass fishing! I am in awe of anyone who can write a book!

I'm only a short way into Jimmy's new book. But, already, it's easy to see the love and clarity he brings to his subject. With Jimmy, it's up front and personal. Maybe, like me, Jimmy might have reached a point in his mature years when fishing became something like "an itch that's been scratched." But now that Jimmy has this fantastic grandson "DJ" to fish with, it's a whole new adventure. "DJ" is an inspiration who has given new life to "grampy's" fishing career.

Here's how to buy it:

"**Monster Shallow Water Stripers**" can be purchased from Jimmy's web site: www.shallowwaterstripers.com.

The books are signed by both Jimmy and Billy "Eel-Man" Nolan, and they are being number in sequence from 1 thru 800 as limited Editions. The only place to get signed copies is at the sportsmen's show this winter as well as at many clubs that he will be signing books at, and at bait and tackle shops throughout New England or from his web site. So be sure to get yours before those 800 are gone. No others will ever be signed after these are gone. The reviews of his book so far have been outstanding, with a few guys saying its like reading a Best Seller. Order your copy today, before they are all gone!

Next club meeting: January 14
NO MEAL AT THIS MEETING
Program: "EBA's future in the digital age"
We will also review the finances of the club for the coming year. We will discuss how to revamp the club to meet the needs of the digital world (which has just demonstrated how it can affect the club.)
REPEAT: THERE WILL BE NO FOOD!

We need not start until 7:00 PM OK?