



# Narragansett Surfcasters Newsletter

Volume II Issue VII

July 2007

## Who's Who

### Officers

President: Dennis Rebelo  
1st Vice President: Dave Peterson  
2nd Vice President: Al Corrente  
Secretary: Howard Mahady  
Recording Secretary: Mark Hudzin  
Treasurer: Alan Schmied

### Board Members

Nelson Valles  
Robert "Woody" Woodard  
Andy Lemar

### Newsletter Editor

Tom Clune

## Tournament Affidavits

Just a reminder that affidavits for the Narragansett Surfcasters Annual Tournament are available at the next meeting or on [www.narragansettsurfcasters.com](http://www.narragansettsurfcasters.com).

The tournament runs each year from April 1-November 30 and is open to all club members. Awards for Stripers and Blues will be distributed at the annual banquet.

So get out there, fish, and get yourself a trophy!



## Spring Challenge: 3rd Place!

Congratulations to all of the club members who participated in the Spring Challenge sponsored by RISAA. This event raised \$1,312 to benefit MS thanks to the combined efforts of each club that participated. We came in a respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place this year out of 10 registered teams, nice job everyone!

The tournament started on Friday at 7:00 p.m. and finished up Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m.

Fishing was slow in general, but it was great just being out there. This was my first tournament and my first time fishing extensively at night. I learned a lot about tying knots in the dark and walking/slipping on rocks. Thanks to everyone who helped this newbie out over the weekend!

After fishing wrapped up Sunday morning, there was a breakfast buffet and award ceremony at the Homestead restaurant in Exeter. Of the 37 people who attended the breakfast, 11 were from the Narragansett Surfcasters. Nice job representing the club! Raffle prizes were drawn and some club members went home with some nice gifts.

A special thanks to club members Andy Lamar, Tom McGuire, Nelson Valles and Marty Wencek for taking the time to be on the experts panel at our special Saturday morning Board of Directors meeting called to prepare for the tournament. Work and personal schedules were changed to accommodate the meeting. We appreciate their contribution and commitment to the club, and also appreciate them sharing their tips and tactics to help us produce some fish.

For those of you who didn't participate, you missed a lot of great knowledge being passed on. Hopefully you'll have another chance to participate next year!

Thanks also go out to Mark Hudzin who organized the event for our club. The Spring Challenge was a great opportunity to meet new club members and make a difference by raising money for MS.

Here are the results for our club:

### Stripers

- John Johnson 15.9
- Lenny Andrade 15.7
- John Johnson 10.5

### Blues

- Tom McGuire 8.5
- Howard Mahady 8.14
- Tom McGuire 6.14

-Rich Clarke weighed in a couple of bass around 9 pounds.



## Cuttyhunk Ho! By Eben Horton

Last month Woody, Cliff, Bryan and myself Joined the RISAA Surf Committee for a trip to Cuttyhunk Island. For those who are not familiar of Cuttyhunk, it's the last island of the Elizabethan Island chain between New Bedford, Mass and Martha's Vineyard. Time has sort of forgotten this island... there are no restaurants or bars- in fact, there isn't much of anything except a few houses, a small grocery store and the fishing club.

On Friday June 15<sup>th</sup> we departed from New Bedford on the Cuttyhunk ferry and about an hour later we were on the island sipping margaritas out of coconut shells and were having our feet massaged by topless natives in preparation for fishing off of the island's many bass stands.

Well, Ok. That really didn't happen, but it was nice to be In such a noble spot of Bass fishing history. The Cuttyhunk Bass Fishing Club was founded in the late 1800's by a few members of the West island club who wanted a new place to call their own. The building still stands today, unlike the West Island Club which is long gone except for its stone foundation visible off of Sakonnet Point. Much of the original furnishings are

still in the clubhouse along with the log books, the rules, the last list of member's Etc. of course, the bass stands are long gone as well, but if your observant, you can find a few rocks scattered about on the island with the tell tale rusty metal spikes protruding from them.

The fishing on both nights was slow, but all of us managed to tangle with a few Striped Bass. Saturday night Bryan and myself walked about 8 miles in search of better fishing and at around 2 am we managed to find a decent pod of fish but they were feasting on juvenile sand eels. I don't know about you guys, but a juvenile sand eel event is just about as hard to hook up in as spawning cinder worms so we threw in the towel for the night.

Besides the slow fishing, I think I can confidently speak for all of us when I say that we had a great time. The club was comfortable, the staff was friendly, and most of all we were away from all of our busy lives at home.



Club members on Cuttyhunk Island.

*This is a great way to contribute to the club and make a difference.*

*If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, send it to [tom@tomclune.com](mailto:tom@tomclune.com) or see Tom Clune at the next meeting.*

## June Meeting In Review: Slug-Go!

The night started off with a BBQ by Chef/President Dennis Rebelo and continued with some fish stories and fun. After a great meal, we headed inside to listen to local legend Steve McKenna and Herb Reed from Lunken City (maker of the favorite Slug-Go)

Local legend, Steve McKenna, started fishing for Stripers in 1973. He noted club member Andy Lemar as being a big influence in

his fishing style. Steve started out with a slide presentation displaying his biggest fish, all caught with a 9" Black slug-go.

The biggest question Steve gets is "Where do I go to catch a keeper and how do I catch them?" Steve swears that you have to fish at night to catch worthwhile fish. If you can't fish at night, low light period can work and are typically a ½ hour before sunrise and after sunset.

Live eel is the best thing to use after dark, from the boat and surf. Steve has used live eels for close to 30 years, but recently switched over to artificial lures approximately 4 years ago. Steve was very skeptical using an artificial, but realized that he could catch fish using a Slug-Go. Since that day, he hasn't used a live eel.

See attached for more Slug-Go info!

# Member Spotlight: Wickford Rodworks

I recently had the opportunity to get a personal tour of the newly opened Wickford Rodworks. Club member Bob Barlas took his love of rod making one step further by opening a classic bait and tackle store in historic Wickford. The store is fully remodeled and looks amazing. The rod building equipment is located on the shop floor, so you may be lucky enough to see a rod being built the next time you are there.

In addition to custom rods, the store has a great selection of bait and tackle to get you out there on the water. The store also offers an on-site rod and reel repair service. As I was learning more about the store, club member Nelson Valles arrived looking to fix his rod tip. This couldn't have been better timing! It was nice seeing a club member supporting the business of another club member. In a matter of minutes, Bob had Nelson's rod repaired and Nelson was ready to get back on the water.

If you are interested in building your own rod, Wickford Rodworks will be holding a rod building class this fall. Check the website or call the store for more details.

Wickford Rodworks is offering a 10% discount to all club members, just show your club ID when you checkout. There is parking behind the store, so you won't have to

This is a great store with the old time feel of a classic bait and tackle store, stop by today!

## Wickford Rodworks

7 Main Street  
Wickford, RI 02852  
401-667-7363

[www.wickfordrodworks.com](http://www.wickfordrodworks.com)



Club member Nelson Valles watches as his rod gets repaired.



Wickford Rodworks

## Narragansett Surfcasters Business Directory

Submissions are slowly coming in for the Narragansett Surfcasters Business Directory. As a club member, you can be listed in the Narragansett Surfcasters Business Directory for free! Each month we will showcase a new business listing, so get your listing in today!

### What you need to do

Send your information to Tom Clune via email at [tom@tomclune.com](mailto:tom@tomclune.com) or see him at the next club meeting.

Include your type of business, how to get in touch with you, a web address if you have one, etc.

### Graphic Design

Richer Graphics  
Ryan & Cliff Richer  
401-724-4361  
[richergraphics@gmail.com](mailto:richergraphics@gmail.com)

### Photography

Tom Clune Photography  
Fine Art Prints and Gifts  
10% off for club member  
Tom Clune  
401-450-9400  
[tom@tomclune.com](mailto:tom@tomclune.com)  
[www.tomclune.com](http://www.tomclune.com)

### Custom Rods, Bait & Tackle

Wickford Rodworks  
10% off for club member  
7 Main Street  
Wickford, RI 02852  
401-667-7363  
[www.wickfordrodworks.com](http://www.wickfordrodworks.com)

*Next Meeting: Tuesday July 17, 2007 7:00 p.m. at Snug Harbor Marina*

Join us for a special club meeting at Snug Harbor Marina on 7/17. There will be no speakers, just a chance for you to relax and meet with your fellow club members. We'll have a cookout and BYOB.

**Snug Harbor Marina**

410 Gooseberry Road  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
401-783-7766

Special thanks to Al Conti from Snug Harbor Marina who will be giving us 10% off in the store, excluding reels.

Too hot to cook! Stick those striper filets in the freezer and look for some new recipes next month.

Keep those ideas and suggestions for the newsletter coming!

Tom Clune

Newsletter Editor

tom@tomclune.com  
401-450-9400

## Slugo-Go Tips

### Rigging the Slug-Go

#### Supplies Needed

- Size 7 “J” style hooks, don’t use circle hooks
- Zap a Gap glue: Glue it in the head to keep the hooks in.
- Lunker city insert weights (you can use finishing nails, etc). It is best to use the Lunker City weights because they are threaded and will stay in the lure better.
- 50# Dacron line, don’t use braided (double it for strength instead of using an 80# or 100#)
- Rigging needle: Make your own by using the bottom of a coat hanger. Snip it and make a U’ and sharpen the other end with a fishing hook sharpener.
- Go to [www.saltwateredge.com](http://www.saltwateredge.com) and see Steve McKenna rig a Slug-Go and other tutorials.

### Fishing the Slug-Go

Fish this lure fast, like a pencil popper.

1. Cast out and let the lure sink
2. Reel the lure fast and bounce your rod.
3. Once the lure is halfway in, put the rod on the side and point straight forward for the rest of the reeling in.

#### Colors

- Day time, use the Albino shad or pink in the Spring.
- Steve uses a black sparkle when it is bright at night.
- All black is the best after dark and low light periods.
- Biggest fish was caught on a rainbow trout color., 40.5 lbs. at Frenchmen’s Reef

#### General Tips

- When rigging eels, use a 5 or 6 O hook, barrel swivel, long leader with an 8 or 9’ rod
- Spray on Sea Bait or menhaden oil on the slug-go, then cast. This also takes your scent off the lure. Check out PowerBait too.
- Erratic action is what attracts the fish. The weight in the tail will help keep the lure horizontal, the more erratic the lure will become.
- You can also put the weight into the side and snip the weights. If you pre rig, the plastic tries to shape back and essentially locks in the weights and they won’t fall out.
- When using braid, try to flip over bail with your hand as this will reduce the wind knots.
- Don’t tie direct to the line, Steve uses a Breakaway F11 snap
- Use a ball bearing swivel (welded ring, 185#) instead of a barrel swivel. This helps to reduce the line twist you get with the lure.
- Use a fiberglass rod over a graphite rod, a fiberglass rod will bounce more. Mono over braid for the same reason.

#### Links

- Lunker City (Maker of Slug-Go) <http://www.lunkercity.com/index.html>
- Saltwater Edge: <http://www.saltwateredge.com/>  
-Click on SWE TV to see how to rig a Slug-Go and other interesting fishing videos
- Seabait: <http://www.seabaitmaine.com/>
- Zap a Gap: <http://zap.supergluecorp.com/>
- Breakaway Fastlink Clips: <http://www.breakawayusa.com>; available at Wildwood or Quaker Lane