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**The Derby Hall of Fame** –
Profiles of Honorees throughout the years

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Martha's Vineyard Smokehouse encourages all Fishermen to “GET HOOKED” on the Derby!

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On behalf of the dedicated volunteers that comprise the Derby Committee, welcome to the 77th annual Vineyard fall classic. The past two years required the Derby to make significant adjustments and changes, due to public health and safety conditions. We remain grateful to all participants for their collective support, patience, and understanding while we worked to ensure we could manage the Derby safely and successfully. We learned a lot, and look forward to a 77th Derby that provides more of what we all expect and love.

Because of strong support from participants, sponsors, and our community, the Derby scholarship program was able to award a record-high $80,000 in 2022 to ten deserving high school graduates. This program, which was the vision of Ed Jerome over 35 years ago, continues to provide incredible opportunities for island students pursuing continuing education. The Derby has now awarded over $800,000 in scholarships. While the Awards Ceremony in October receives appropriate attention, Class Night in June–when scholarships are presented—is an event of equal importance to our organization, and something the Committee is very proud of.

Among the items that the Derby Committee considered and discussed since the end of the past Derby was sportsmanship. While we recognize that participation in the Derby includes the element of competition, we are sincerely hopeful that anglers reflect on the importance of good sportsmanship. It is disappointing to learn when individuals conduct themselves in a manner that negatively impacts the experience of others. Sadly, this occurs too often. We ask that all participants make an effort to demonstrate safe, sportsmanlike behavior—on the jetties and beaches, in tackle shops, on the water, and everywhere else. This strengthens the Derby experience for all of us. Not all are able to catch a winning fish, but all are able to take part in the Derby in a way that is enjoyable for themselves and others. Thank you for doing your part.

Many individuals can look back and identify a person or group that introduced them to fishing, or supported their love of fishing. Those are special people, and we think about them, especially during the Derby. I am fortunate that my father introduced me to fishing when I was very young, and continues his interest in the sport today. I also am fortunate that my uncle, David Custer, shared decades of memorable fishing experiences with me. My uncle lived in Connecticut, and visited the Vineyard frequently over the past 40 years. He particularly liked the fall, due in part to the Derby and the energy it brought to the island. I considered him an unofficial ambassador of the Derby, as he enthusiastically shared souvenir booklets, decals, t-shirts, and hats with his friends at Mystic Shipyard East, where he kept his boat. His love of the Derby and what it represented was a reminder for me, over many years, of what an amazing, special event we have. My uncle passed away this past January. I miss him, but I smile when thinking of the great times we shared fishing together.

As you fish the 77th Derby, take a moment to consider those who sparked your own interest in fishing. And, in their honor, participate in the event in a way that celebrates camaraderie, tradition, sportsmanship, and respect for our environment.

Enjoy the experience, and thank you for supporting the Derby.

Sincerely,

John Custer
President, Derby Committee
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Veteran Owned
On behalf of the Derby Committee, I’d like to welcome you to the 77th Annual Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. The Committee members and dedicated volunteer support staff hope you enjoy the experience. This may be your first Derby, or one that adds another Derby badge to your large collection. In either case I hope you enjoy being part of the great Derby tradition. After enjoying the Derby for many years as a participant, and frequent ‘fish cutter’ volunteer, I joined the Committee in 2012. I was immediately struck by the dedication of a group of volunteers committed to the tradition of the Derby and the enjoyment of its participants. After spending ten years working with my fellow Committee members, this past winter I was asked to chair the Committee. I was both honored and humbled, and look forward to the challenge.

In my new role, I recently had the privilege of assisting with the presentation of the 2022 Derby Scholarship awards at the MVRHS Class Night. This year the Derby awarded $80,000 to ten deserving high school graduates. I was overwhelmed by the appreciation shown to the Derby by the students and proud family members who attended the event. I urge you all to read the scholarship section of the booklet to learn more about this year’s recipients. Through the scholarship program, filet donation, and other activities, the Derby continues to pay forward to the island community.

I encourage participants to review this year’s Rules Brochure as even long-time participants can benefit from a quick review and refresher. There are a few important changes to point out this year. The team competition has been changed to include weigh-ins of bluefish, bonito, and false albacore from both team members – for a maximum team total of six fish. While it’s not necessary to fill all six spots, it will certainly help your team’s standing. Evening weigh-in hours have also changed. Based on feedback from volunteers and participants the evening weigh-in period has been moved up one hour and is now 7:00 to 9:00 pm. I would like to thank the participants who participated in the on-line survey we conducted on the evening weigh-in change. The survey results were overwhelmingly in favor of the change.

I want to extend my personal thanks, and the thanks of the Derby organization and participants, to our Grand Prize sponsor Eastern Boats and our hat sponsor Vineyard Vines for their generous contributions. We are also grateful to the many other companies, island businesses, and organizations that provide the many prizes and goods to support this great event. And finally, to the island restaurants and shops that provide donations of food and beverages to the HQ staff – a heartfelt thank you. I encourage all participants to support our sponsors and the island businesses that contribute to the Derby.

I hope you enjoy the Derby, and in doing so please respect the Derby rules and private property rights. Help protect the wonderful beaches and pristine waters that we have the opportunity to enjoy during the Derby. Leave only your footprints on the beach and your wake on the water. Most of all, please respect your fellow participants, and yourself. The competitive spirit runs high during the Derby. Enjoy the thrill of competition, but please conduct yourself in a manner that honors this remarkable event. Indeed, the Derby is about catching the biggest fish, but please don’t forget to enjoy your time on the water, and fellow anglers. I hope you enjoy the Derby, not just the fishing, but also the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, and reconnect with yourself and this amazing island. Finally, remember to release any fish not destined for weigh-in quickly and carefully, and please put any fish you plan to keep on ice as soon as possible.

Phil Horton, Chairman – Derby Committee

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Chairman, Derby Committee
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Carry in Carry Out/ Secure Your Trash
Don't let food wrappers, cigarette butts, nips, and any other trash get into our ocean! Keep a trash bag or bin with you at all times. See trash on the beach or in the ocean? Pick it up!

Please join the Vineyard Conservation Society

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Connect. Protect. Reflect.
In keeping our oceans clean.
Future derbies and healthy fish depend on us!
The Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Committee is comprised entirely of volunteers whose mission is to plan, manage, and operate a successful and enjoyable event that benefits the Island community. These men and women meet throughout the year— as soon as one Derby ends, work begins for the following year’s event. Only because of the energy and efforts of the Derby Committee does the Derby exist as one of the oldest, largest, and most popular saltwater fishing tournaments in the country. A love of the Island, an interest (or obsession) with fishing, and an appreciation for tradition are common threads that bond these individuals in their service on the Committee.

John Custer
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Phil Horton
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Katie Carroll
Vice Chairman
Chris Scott
Treasurer
Maryanne Jerome
Secretary
John Piekos
Director-At-Large
Joe El-Deiry
Director-At-Large
Mike Cassidy
Director-At-Large

Left to right front row: Katie Carroll, Leah Fraumeni, Paula Sullivan, Janet Messineo, David Pothier, Debbie Manley Smith, John Piekos, Taylor Pierce, Phil Horton, Tom Smith, Joe El-Deiry
Left to right back row: Stacy Nickerson-Hall, Mike Carroll, Steve Baccelli, Dave Nash, Bob Lane, Chris Scott, Cosmo Creanga, John Custer, Jake Waters-Maciel

Committee members unfortunately not pictured: Shirley Craig, Adam Darack, Will DeBettenourt, Cooper Gilkes, David Heam, Maryanne Jerome, Wilson Kerr, Mark Kokoska, Brian McCarty, Steve Morris, Bill Roman, Jeff Sayre, Tim Sheran, Greg Skomal

In this photo, Derby Committee members are wearing sweatshirts purchased from the Spouses Association for US Coast Guard Station Menemsha. The Derby Committee appreciates all that Station Menemsha does for our community.
Derby Scholarship Program

2022 RECIPIENTS

Since its establishment as a nonprofit organization, the Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby, Inc. has awarded annual scholarships to Martha’s Vineyard graduating seniors. The amount of money donated since 1988 totals $843,000. Qualified students are recommended by the school and selected by a Derby subcommittee. The Derby scholarship program has also enjoyed the support of the Ann E. Clark Foundation, the Tony and Renee Marlon Charitable Trust, the Dougherty Family Trust, The Windmill Foundation, the Edgartown Board of Trade, and the Howes Family—in memory of Teddy and Sarah Howes. In 2022 the Derby awarded $80,000 in scholarships to the ten deserving graduates featured on this spread. One of the scholarships has been named in honor of longtime Derby President and island educator Ed Jerome, whose vision led to the creation of the Derby Scholarship Program. Another is named in honor of island artist Ray Ellis, whose contributions to the Derby made the scholarship program flourish. A third scholarship has been named the Teddy and Sarah Howes Memorial Scholarship supporting those interested in ocean engineering, and/or, as the Howes would say, “anything salty.” The Derby Committee wishes these graduates success in their educational endeavors.
Kayleigh Bolin

Kayleigh is the 2022 co-recipient of the Ray Ellis Memorial Scholarship for students pursuing education in the fine or performing arts. She achieved honor roll recognition in each of her four years at MVRHS and excelled at photography and graphics, earning numerous prestigious awards. She was also co-President of the Photography Club and Editor in Chief of the school Yearbook. Kayleigh will pursue art studies at Curry College.

Nicholas Cranston

Nick excelled academically at MVRHS, achieving National Honor Society membership and conducting Honors Science research, promoting aquaculture of edible algae in coordination with the MV Shellfish Group. His interest in developing sustainable food in our marine waters was reinforced by his volunteer work with local organizations that combat food insecurity. Nick also served as Assistant Harbormaster in Vineyard Haven for four years and is undertaking an internship at a local aquafarm, growing oysters and kelp. Nick will attend Tulane University, focusing on Marine Biology.

Owen DiBiaso

Owen was an Honor Roll student during high school, achieving membership in the National Honor Society in his senior year. Gaining an acute awareness of the environmental impacts from climate change, he has worked for the past two years as a volunteer for the Island Grown Initiative and with the Island Food Pantry. Owen's strong commitment to environmental sustainability and addressing food insecurity have reinforced his plan to pursue college studies in Earth and Environmental Science at California Polytechnic State University.

Delilah Hammarlund

Delilah was in the top 10% of her MVRHS class, receiving several Honor Awards in recognition of her excellence. She interned with Biodiversity Works, which reinforced her goal of pursuing advanced education in conservation and Wildlife/Marine Biology. She was a four-year member of the Environment Club, serving as Vice President and Climate Café Organizer. In addition, she was a Minnesinger performer and was Captain of the Varsity Swim Team. Delilah will attend Wellesley College, concentrating in Environmental Science and Biology, minoring in Music.

Colin McNamee

Colin is the 2022 recipient of the Teddy and Sarah Howes Memorial Scholarship. At MVRHS, Colin was recognized for his outstanding character and he took on leadership positions volunteering for community service at his church. He also gained valuable experience as a summer apprentice maintaining excavation equipment for a Vineyard contracting company. Colin will attend Massachusetts Maritime Academy, majoring in Marine Engineering.

Ingrid Moore

Ingrid is the 2022 recipient of the Edward J. Jerome Memorial Scholarship. A top student in her graduating class, Ingrid was a member of the National Honor Society, the Assistant Director of Theater and Musical Theater and undertook numerous meaningful opportunities for community service. In addition, she earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement of the Boy Scouts of America. She served as President of the Environment Club and was Varsity Crew on the Sailing Team. Ingrid will attend Yale University, concentrating in Evolutionary Biology.

Benjamin Mulvey

A student-athlete, Ben combined strong academic achievement, graduating in the top 20% of his class, with participation in multiple sports. He earned membership in the National Honor Society and was a member of the Varsity Baseball team. In addition, he was elected to leadership offices in each of his four years at MVRHS, including serving as Senior Class President. He is recognized and respected for improving the school campus, initiating the successful Outdoor Courtyard Project. Ben will attend Colorado State University, studying Human Centered Technology Education.

JJ Polleys

JJ is the 2022 recipient of the Gregg Dougherty Memorial Scholarship. He attended the MV Charter School, excelling in technology. His interest in programming and digital printing, combined with his creative skills, have led to his crafting working components of a virtual reality glove, among other advanced projects. An avid chess player, he plans to work professionally in networked computer systems. JJ will attend Brigham Young University, concentrating on Computer Science.

Emma Toomey

Emma achieved a solid academic record at both Falmouth Academy and MVRHS, earning the respect of her peers and teachers. She has a commitment to helping people and she led the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness as the President for the past two years. A Varsity Basketball player, Emma also volunteered with a local dog rescue organization to place shelter dogs in permanent homes. She is equally interested in advanced studies in both Exercise Science and Law. Emma will attend the College of Charleston.

Benjamin Yancey

Ben is the 2022 co-recipient of the Ray Ellis Memorial Scholarship. At MVRHS, he excelled academically and earned membership in the National Honor Society. Ben was also a stand-out talent in vocal performance and musical theater as a section leader in the Minnesingers and a lead performer in numerous musical productions. Ben will attend Ithaca College, concentrating in Theater and Performance.
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The Derby Hall of Fame

Throughout its long history the Derby Committee has chosen to recognize and honor individuals and organizations who have made a “significant and positive impact on the sportfishing community of Martha’s Vineyard and on the operation and goals of the Derby.”

The Derby Hall of Fame Honorees Throughout History (Listed Alphabetically)

Ed Amaral

Ed Amaral has participated in the Derby since its inception in 1946. Ed personifies the role of a true sportsman and always is there for others sharing his love of fishing and the Derby. As an “Ambassador of Good Will” for the Derby, he has set a guiding example for participants to follow as they cross his path at Island fishing spots. He was an active member of the Derby Committee and his competitive spirit and passion for fishing has been contagious for all who have met him.

Steve Amaral

Steve Amaral fished the first Derby with his Dad, Mother and brother which was a family tradition since he was a young boy. Except for 1956, when he was away serving his nation, he has participated in every Derby. Steve has unselfishly contributed to the success of many Derby winners who he shared much of his fishing knowledge. Steve has been an active member of the Oak Bluffs community for many years serving on the Fire Department and as Captain before retiring. He was an appointed member of the MVC and has been instrumental in the success of the Rod and Gun Club’s Kid’s Trout Derby.

Bob Boren

Bob was a long standing Derby Committee member who worked hard to support the Derby in many ways, but perhaps he was best known for his responsibility for handling the Derby’s raffle of a 4x4 Jeep.

For years, the committee’s raffle of a Jeep was the main fundraiser supporting the tournament and Bob was always at the center of our efforts. If he wasn’t hawking tickets on Circuit Ave or at the Tisbury Street Fair he was at the NE Sportaman Shows. Bob was a tremendous ambassador for the Derby.

Kib Bramhall

A member of the Derby committee for many years, Kib Bramhall is a conservationist, skilled fisherman and distinguished artist. Kib Bramhall has held both Derby and world fly rod records. Most important, he brings a sense of integrity and fair play to the sport of fishing and the Derby. Respected both for his demeanor and fishing accomplishments, he is honored for the example he has set for others over more than four decades of Derby fishing.

Karen Kukolich

Karen Kukolich (left) fished Vineyard waters for nearly forty years and was both an involved and valued member of our Island community. As a member of the Derby Committee, Karen served as Treasurer for three years and coordinated the filet program for nearly twenty years. Her angling prowess, particularly with the fly rod, was well known, including five International Game Fish Award world records. Her fishing knowledge and passion for the sport were evident and she welcomed opportunities to share that knowledge and love. She held her Captain’s license for thirty years, and was one of the first women to run her own sportfishing boat. Karen was a member of the Martha’s Vineyard Surfcasters, served on the Edgartown Finance Committee, Land Bank Advisory Committee and as a Board member of the Martha’s Vineyard Rod and Gun Club.

Al Brickman

No single individual on Martha’s Vineyard had more connections than did Al Brickman in the mid 1940’s. This “Father” of the Derby took these ties in the fishing community, the business and tourism community, the worlds of journalism, public relations, real estate and transportation, combined them with his deep concern for the welfare of the Vineyard, its people and natural resources, and with a singularity of purpose, yet skillfully and patiently, forged the Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby into existence. This month long event has, dramatically improved the quality of life on Martha’s Vineyard.

This Year’s Inductee

Karen Kukolich

Karen Kukolich

Ed Amaral

Bob Boren

Kib Bramhall

Al Brickman

Hall of Fame Honorees continued on next page
Mike Cassidy

Mike has faithfully served on the Derby Committee for over 30 years. As Chairman, he oversaw the celebration of the Derby's 50th anniversary. Mike exemplifies the spirit of the Derby in his humor, generosity, and dedication to making the Derby a success. He continues to put in countless hours, including numerous shifts as weighmaster. Mike Cassidy is always there for the Derby – and he consistently puts its needs and the needs of others ahead of himself. He is humble in his behind the scenes work to ensure that things run smoothly. For years, he has been the Derby's unsung hero.

Serge de Somov

Distinguished by his fishing skills, respected as a gentleman, both on and off the beach, Serge de Somov's four derby victories, three consecutively, were unmatched during the first half century of the Derby competition. He was known as the "Mad Russian" and "The Count", due to his aristocratic European background. Serge de Somov caught the heaviest shore striped bass to claim victories in 1964, 1965, 1966 and again in 1969. Surrounded by an aura of mystery, Serge de Somov earned his place among the legends of Derby history.

Ray Ellis

Ray Ellis, one of the most renown American artists of our time, graciously donated his artistic talent to the Derby since 1988. The paintings that he annually created for the Derby have generated the money to make our scholarship program possible. In addition, he has donated a portion of the proceeds from his book "Fishing the Vineyard." The Ray G. Ellis Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a MVRHS graduate who has studied the visual and/or performing arts.

Everett Francis

Everett "Porky" Francis was one of the longest serving active members of the Derby Committee. For more than thirty-five years he helped give back to the community through his continued work on the committee to help plan and organize our annual Fall event. Among Porky's many contributions to the Derby, he was instrumental in securing sponsors throughout the years and especially Boston Whaler as a major sponsor for more than a decade. Porky was one of the anchors at the sportsman shows manning the booth for the entire show while other members came and went during the often 5-day event. Porky was an asset to the Derby as well as the Island's fishing community.

Bob & Fran Clay

For more than 20 years, Bob and Fran Clay were linked to the Derby's success as much as Striped Bass and Bluefish. Their sponsorship of the Derby's past grand awards is just one aspect of their generosity and community involvement. They played an important role in the transition of the management of Norton Point from the County Commissioners to the The Trustees of Reservations and the increased access to that stretch of the beach. Bob was a member of the Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee and was active in the development of the Morgan Woods Affordable Housing Property. He was also a member of the Edgartown Finance Advisory Committee. Fran worked to keep the fishing public apprised of the latest developments of beach closures due to piping plover protection. Bob and Fran never ask for or want the spotlight or credit for their efforts. Their satisfaction has always been contributing to a better Island community.

John Crews

John dedicated himself to filleting fish during the derby for over 2 decades. He served as the Official Fillet Master long before the committee assigned a filet master. "Big John," as he was known, worked both weigh-ins each day with a broad smile and tireless dedication until he was 87 years old.

John Custer

John Custer has been an outstanding member of the Derby Committee since 1999 of which eleven were as Chairman. During John's tenure as chairman, the Committee has benefitted significantly from his sharpness to detail as he created an equitable distribution of prizes, ensuring that all winners receive consistent awards in each category. He has been a true sportsman and has always focused on conservation and scholarships for the young people of our Island community. He has always been thoughtful and has put the best interest of the Derby first in his entire decision making. He has been an exceptional leader and a community role model as the Principal of the Tisbury School.

Cooper Gilkes

Cooper Gilkes has been an active member of the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby Committee for many years. He was instrumental in the rejuvenation of the Derby in the early 1980's. He assisted in the successful presentation to purchase the Derby from the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce in the mid 1980's. His thoughtful opinions were very helpful in the restructuring of the Derby. Cooper has been synonymous with the Kid's Derby. His ideas led to the creation of the event that today draws hundreds of kids annually. He religiously catches bait prior to the early morning event and, with the help of his wife Lela, has successfully managed this event since its inception.
Clayton Hoyle was a skilled rod maker and was instrumental in the creation of the Martha’s Vineyard Rod and Gun Club. Affectionately known as “The Instigator” he always offered his opinions and ideas whether asked or not. Several members of the Rod & Gun Club along with Clayton helped foster the idea of an Island fishing tournament that later became the Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby.

Ruth Hughes
In 1947, Ruth Hughes began her daily reporting of the Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby for the column she wrote as a reporter for the then New Bedford Standard Times. She chronicled the operations of the day, wrote the names of the daily winners on the derby blackboard, kept a running account of the day’s largest fish and recorded for history special occurrences of the day. Ruth was a Derby fixture at the weigh station for 11 years doing just about everything that was needed until 1958 when she assumed the role of Oak Bluffs Town Treasurer until her retirement in 1976.

Ed Jerome
At the helm of the Derby, Ed Jerome guided the faltering tournament out of perilous waters and helped build it into a successful and respected institution. As the longtime President of the Derby Corporation, Ed Jerome was a thoughtful and patient leader. Whether through the Derby scholarship program or charitable contributions, he never wavered in his belief that the Derby exists to contribute to the Vineyard community. A fisherman, educator and community leader, he was honored for his extraordinary efforts in making the Derby a truly unique Island institution.

Jerry Jansen
Jerry first started fishing the Derby during the second year of its existence. Jerry has been an avid surf fisherman and is well known to many. His great sense of humor and wealth of fishing stories about the Derby are legendary. Jerry’s book “Successful Surf Fishing” has helped many a beginner with helpful tips.

Hall of Fame Honorees continued on next page
Ruth Meyer

Ruth Meyer was Chairman of the Derby in the late 70’s until 1981. She was the organization’s first female chairman, which should have come as no surprise, as she grew up in a fishing family. Her father owned and operated Larry’s Tackle Shop. Ruth ran Larry’s for many years after her father and continued the tradition of it being the center of Derby information. Ruth was instrumental in securing big name fishing tackle companies as Derby sponsors. Companies such as Penn and Boston Whaler became a major part of the Derby because of her efforts.

Don Mohr

This “Beach Ambassador” could be found fishing the beaches of Chappy from April until November. Don epitomizes what the Derby is all about. This sportsman always has a smile and helping hand for his fellow anglers. He has a deep respect for the resources and environment and without hesitation will gently point out a rule, infraction or abuse of these resources. Don served on the Committee from 1984 to 1991. He was Treasurer from 1985 to 1989 and Chairman from 1989 to 1991. During his tenure as Chairman, the Derby began its transition from the Chamber of Commerce to an independently run event.

Richard Morris

Richard Morris founded Dick’s Bait and Tackle in 1969. He loved to fish, but most of all he loved to tell stories about fishing. He never won a prize in the Derby, but many a Derby yarn was spun in his tackle shop about the one that got away by those who congregated there on a regular basis. He enjoyed meeting new people every year and looked forward to each fall knowing the Derby would be starting. The Derby was a major part of his life and he would be very proud to know he was in its Hall of Fame.

Jesse J. Oliver III

In the early years of the Derby, Jesse “Buddy” Oliver often went to Boston to help Al Brickman solicit prizes from sponsors for the Derby. Although he never won the Derby, his catches of large bass before and after the Derby were well known and made him the most renowned Vineyard angler of his time and arguably the most famed surfcaster of the post-World War II era.

His fame was recognized by Life Magazine in an article with his photo, and Salt Water Sportsman Editor Frank Woolner wrote a featured story on him in their September, 1956 issue titled “Bud Oliver—Vineyard Surferman”. This article was a great publicity boost to the Derby.

Buddy was known for his character and astonishing fishing talent and often it was said “where Buddy was, the fish were.” He fished with the likes of Al Doyle, Frank Drake, Wallace Pinkham, Oscar Flanders and the legendary Serge de Somov.

Robert J. Post

Bob Post, self described as a “fisherman trapped in the body of a dentist”, was also a gifted journalist, author, Public Health official, Derby member and father. Most importantly, Bob was a connector and chronicler of the living history of the Derby. He was happiest when sitting astride a boulder on a Gay Head beach, after fishing and conversing with fishermen passing by. Bob turned these conversations into the critically acclaimed book “Reading the Wipers”, which, more than any other source, illuminates and brings to life the wonders and mystery of surf fishing the Vineyard and the Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby.

Stephen Morris

Stephen Morris has been a member of the Derby Committee for more than 30 years. During the mid 90’s, Stephen was the chairman of the Derby and helped take the Derby to new highs in participation, prizes and activities. Stephen was one of the best Chairmen the Derby has had. His organizational skills, commitment and knowledge of the fishing industry have been his hallmarks. Many of the improved practices used today in the Derby and Awards Ceremonies were suggested by Stephen.

Stephen is a well respected local tackle shop owner and registers the largest number of participants in the Derby. His opinion is well respected and his contributions have been many.
Helen Scarborough

Helen was a fixture at the weigh-in for many years. She was the weigh master and keeper of records many years before the scale became digital and computers replaced the pen and paper. She was known as "mother hen" as she kept the busy weigh-in running efficiently and exciting for young and old alike.

Greg Skomal

Greg has been on the Derby Committee for more than 30 years. As an official state marine biologist, Greg was able to guide the Derby with valuable research and insight on various conservation issues and political impact. His research helped us establish minimum fish lengths for all fish in the Derby. His research helped us to reduce the mortality rate of false albacore by establishing a size that reduced the number of False Albacore coming to our scales by more than 50%.

Chris Scott

Chris has served and continues to serve on many non-profit boards as well as Town of Edgartown committees. For all his volunteering commitments, one has the sense that the Derby offers him the greatest degree of satisfaction and pride. Chris first came to the Derby organization more than 25 years ago. He has served for most of that time on the Executive Committee, ultimately settling into his current role as treasurer. Under his watchful eye, the Derby has thrived and steadily built financial capacity, ensuring the strength of the organization and its scholarship program. For many years, Chris has shared his passion for boating and fishing with his daughter Victoria. For her and others, he has been a true example of good sportsmanship, honesty, and integrity. The Derby Hall of Fame is proud to add an individual of Chris Scott’s character.

Martha Smith

Martha was the glue at Derby Headquarters, morning and night, for over 15 years. As Weigh Station Manager, she understood fully the intricacies of operating the Derby and kept it running smoothly. Her dedication to the Derby was demonstrated by her commitment to the event and all it benefited. Martha endeared herself to countless Derby participants over the many years she stood behind the desk at Derby HQ.

Daniel Shea

For more than 25 years, Dan Shea was an extremely important part of the success, growth and popularity of the Derby. While working as a Manufacturers Representative for the J. D. Keith Agency, Dan was instrumental in obtaining many new sponsors including Zebo which became the Kid’s Day Sponsor for many years. In 1985, Dan and his business partner became a rep for Penn Reel Company as their flagship line. Although Penn had been a sponsor prior to this time, their contributions grew exponentially with Dan’s help and dedication to the Derby. Dan is an accomplished fisherman and a role model in the fishing tackle industry.

Arnold Spofford

Arnold Spofford was a member of the Derby Committee for nearly 15 years beginning in the early 1980’s. He was well known for his famous Ballistic Missile and Needle Fish Lures. But “Spof” was known best to us for his vision and forward thinking for the Derby’s direction. It was Spof who created and wrote the first Souvenir Booklets. His stories captured the essence of this tournament and were matched by his photography.

Spof was instrumental in the creation of the Ray Ellis prints we sell each year and the Scholarships we now offer to Island graduates. Arnold Spofford truly had an impact on the Derby as we know it today.

Arthur Winters

Arthur was a member of the Derby Committee from 1981-1992. He was part of the new group of Derby Committee members who traveled about New England trying to create a new image for the Derby. At that time, participation was at a very low point. Arthur traveled to sportsman shows hawking Jeep raffle tickets and many Island activities. Arthur helped catch bait for the Kids Day event every year and was well respected for his ability to catch Bonito and Albies, often getting on the leader board. His 11 pound Bonito was an Island record for many years.

Arthur Winters brought humor to all that he did and there are countless stories of his wit.
We are proud to sponsor the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby.

CONGRATULATIONS DERBY WINNERS

FEATURED:
- Penn Rods & Reels
- G. Loomis Pro Shop
- St. Croix Rods
- Daiwa Tournament Center
- Custom Made Rods
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- Live & Frozen Bait

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MA LIC. # 21641-A
Final Results 2021

Grand Prize Winner

EASTERN BOATS - Zachary Magid

All Tackle Division Awards

First Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Joe W. Thompson  13.10 lbs.*
Shore: Gavin Smith  8.43 lbs.

**BLUEFISH**
Boat: Richard Wood  20.11 lbs.
Shore: Zachary Magid  16.65 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**
Boat: David C. Kadison  14.76 lbs.
Shore: Kathi M. Pogoda  12.31 lbs.

Second Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Midge F. Jacobs  10.73 lbs.
Shore: Matthew D. Strem  7.12 lbs.

**BLUEFISH**
Boat: David C. Kadison  16.54 lbs.
Shore: Tyler Poole  15.82 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**
Boat: Sean Ready  13.51 lbs.
Shore: Alexander O. Bettencourt  10.51 lbs.

Third Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Oberon K. York  10.68 lbs.
Shore: Bob Clay  7.01 lbs.

**BLUEFISH**
Boat: James E. Joyce  16.54 lbs.
Shore: Donald R. Sicard  15.35 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**
Boat: Zachary Horrocks  13.51 lbs.
Shore: Alexander O. Bettencourt  10.51 lbs.

Flyrod Division Awards

First Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Rick Schifter  6.88 lbs.
Shore: Bob Clay  7.01 lbs.

**BLUEFISH**
Boat: Zachary Horrocks  13.49 lbs.
Shore: Stephen S. Pond  8.66 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**
Boat: Sean Ready  13.18 lbs.
Shore: David Nash  9.85 lbs.

Second Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Paul Schneider  6.13 lbs.
Shore: Stephen S. Pond  10.51 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**
Boat: Hudson R. Smith  12.35 lbs.
Shore: Wells Lowry  10.51 lbs.

Third Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Eli Beford  6.91 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**
Boat: Willow Rosbeck  9.38 lbs.

Mini Junior Division Awards

First Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Dill Kleeman  7.47 lbs.
Shore: Ty Arieta  13.08 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**
Boat: Hudson R. Smith  12.35 lbs.
Shore: Cameron A. LaVigne  9.85 lbs.

Second Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Finnian J. Moriarty  6.69 lbs.
Shore: Owen A. Emin  7.11 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**

Third Place

**BONITO**
Boat: Finnian J. Moriarty  6.69 lbs.
Shore: Owen A. Emin  7.11 lbs.

**FALSE ALBACORE**

Derby Record Winning Fish

**FOR ANY OVERALL RECORD FISH CAUGHT, ANGLER RECEIVES $1000.00 CASH PRIZE**

- **Bluefish**: Jean Hancock  23 lbs., 4.5 oz. (boat, all tackle, 1972)
- **Striped Bass**: Charlie Blair  18.85 lbs. (boat, all tackle, 1984)
- **False Albacore**: Dick Hathaway  60 lbs., 2 oz. (shore, all tackle, 1978)
- **Weakfish**: Bill Beshaw  42.14 lbs. (boat, all tackle, 1981)
- **Bonito**: Joe W. Thompson  13.10 lbs. (boat, all tackle, 2021)
- **False Albacore**: Nelson Skelton  10.81 lbs. (boat, fly rod, 1994)
- **Weakfish**: Donald MacGillivray  19.39 lbs. (boat, all tackle, 1990)
- **Bonito**: Jaime Boyle  16.38 lbs. (boat, fly rod, 1990)
- **False Albacore**: Lee Welch  16.90 lbs. (boat, all tackle, 1990)
Junior Division Awards

First Place
Bonito
Boat: Elizabeth R. Thompson 11.68 lbs.
Shore: Mason Warburton 4.49 lbs.

Bluefish
Shore: Dylan Waldman 13.03 lbs.

False Albacore
Boat: Teddy Rosbeck 12.38 lbs.
Shore: Ezra McGinley-Smith 8.71 lbs.

Second Place
Bonito
Boat: Dylan Kral 8.70 lbs.

Third Place
Bonito
Shore: Breck Lyon 11.58 lbs.

False Albacore
Boat: Peter V. Rosbeck III 12.07 lbs.
Shore: Dylan Waldman 8.05 lbs.

Special Awards

The Abe Williams Memorial Award – Casey Elliston
The Albert Angelone Memorial Award – Peter Rosbeck III
The Bob “Hawkeye” Jacobs Award – Team Fish Whistle
Evon Hammond and Casey Elliston
The Thomas A. McCauley Award – Linda Mott-Smith
Martha’s Vineyard Surfcaster’s Sportsmanship Award
– “Salties” Bob Dunn and Jack Creighton
Beaulieu/Loud Memorial Award – Midge, Andrew
and Anna Jacobs
Robert “Huff” Langley Memorial Award – Bob Clay
Cutler Bike Shop Award – (boat) Teddy Rosbeck;
(shore) Dylan Waldman
David Furino Memorial Award – Paige and Jocie Smith
Jared Fisher Memorial Award – Alana Rosbeck
‘Bonito’ Ed Lapore Memorial Award –
Rick Schifer
Walter Morrison Memorial Award – Ryann Holden
Roberto Germani Memorial Catch and Release
Awards – Flyrod False Albacore - Chas Gill
All Tackle Bluefish - Deborah Viglas
All Tackle Bonito - Andrew Jacobs
All Tackle False Albacore - Justin Cooper

Team Winners

Boat

Shore
1st: Reel Choppy – Zachary Magid & Tyler Poole 32.09 lbs.
2nd: Hard Core – Cameron Maciel & Matthew Strem 28.66 lbs.
3rd: Fish Whistle – Casey Elliston & Evan Hammond 25.22 lbs.

Senior Awards

Madison Alwardt Memorial Award (bluefish)
Boat: Richard Wood 20.11 lbs.
Shore: Stephen Tirrell 14.20 lbs.

Arnold Spofford Memorial Award (bonito)
Boat: Midge Jacobs 10.73 lbs.
Shore: Bob Clay 7.01 lbs.

Howard Leonard Memorial Award (false albacore)
Boat: Ed Amaral 13.75 lbs.
Shore: Kathi Pagoda 12.31 lbs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Place</th>
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<th>Score</th>
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From 1946 to 1984, with the exception of 1980, the fishermen catching the largest striped bass was the grand prize winner.

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**Note:** The table above lists the top 10 bass anglers from 1946 to 1984, except for 1980, where the grand prize winner is listed. The weights are in pounds and ounces (lbs. oz.).
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<tr>
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Junior Division Winners

Since its Inception in 1991 thru 2020 • 2021 Winners are on Page 31.

**FALSE ALBACORE**

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<td>JOSHUA ALWARDT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CODY PACHICO</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ZACH SHEA</td>
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<td>LAUREN A. WILLSTON</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>BRYAN CARTER</td>
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<td>CAELAN K. WATTS</td>
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<tr>
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<td>KATHERINE G. O'BRIEN</td>
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<td>MICHAELA BENNETT</td>
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<td>QUINN KEEFE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>LINDA E. HILLEMIRE</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>LAITHROP J. KEENE</td>
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**STRIPED BASS**

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<td>CASEY ELLESTON</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>NICK WARBURTON</td>
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**JUNIOR RECORD**

* Junior Record
Honoring Family and Friends by Supporting the Derby Scholarship Program

The true grand prizes in the Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby are the scholarships that students receive to pursue higher education. In an effort to support this core mission the Derby established the ‘Honoring Family and Friends’ program. This program provides individuals, families, or groups with an opportunity to make contributions to the scholarship program in memory of individuals for whom the Derby was an important annual event.

The Derby Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the families and individuals who have made contributions to the Derby Scholarship program in memory of the following fisherman:

- Jared Fisher
- Teddy & Sarah Howes
- Geoff Coddington
- Karen Kukolich
- Porky Francis
- Ken Beebe
- Andre J. Mallegol III
- Dr. Robert Yantoro
- Dexter Nerney
- Francis “Sancy” Pachico

To make this contribution to the Derby Scholarship, Honoring Family and Friends:

- Mail a check ($100 minimum, payable to “MV Derby”) to Chris Scott, Derby Treasurer, PO Box 2101, Edgartown, MA 02539 no later than June 1, 2023

- Include a note stating the name of the individual the contribution honors (please specify if it is in memoriam)

Thank you for your consideration
Lookout Tavern
Celebrating Our 24th Year
2012 - 2021
Best of the Vineyard

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Grilled & Fried Seafood • Chowder
Burgers • Salads • Lobster • Tacos

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Bar & Grille
with a Caribbean Flair

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On The Harbor • Oak Bluffs

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An Upper-Scale Fish Market
The Net Result

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We’ve said it for years... Our fish are so fresh, they’ll make you blush!

Best of Cape Cod & the Islands
Best Fried Clams
Best Seafood Market

SantorO hospitality group

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Awards Ceremony 2021

Paige and Jocie Smith win the Furino sibling sportsmanship award

Midge Jacobs took Bonito All-Tackle Boat 2nd Place

“Card My Yard” helps us thank Derby participants!!

Zachary Magid wins the grand prize Eastern Boat

Greg Hopkins (of Eastern Boats) and daughter

Flyrod grand leaders

John Custer greets the award ceremony crowd

Zack Magid’s key unlocks the grand prize!

Elizabeth Thompson and Aubrey Warburton of team “Girls Kick Bass”

PHOTOGRAPHED BY RAY EWING. COURTESY OF THE VINEYARD GAZETTE, vineyardgazette.com ©THE VINEYARD GAZETTE, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

(Except where noted)
Smith • Bodfish • Swift

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The Grain Store

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• GARDEN •
• PET •

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Tisbury, MA 02568
508.696.7271

Good Luck
to All Derby
Participants

CHAPPY LURES
“Catch” The Latest Derby News at Coop’s
We Wish Everybody Luck In The 77th Derby
- Coop & The Crew

- “Hot Spot” Information
- Fresh & Saltwater Tackle
- Fresh & Frozen Bait
- Experienced Beach & Boat
  Guides
- ROD RENTALS

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1/2 mile from Edgartown next to Cottle’s Lumber • 147 West Tisbury Road

Marthas Vineyard Sharks
Collegiate Baseball

Kids 13 and younger enter games for free

MV SHARKS TICKET PRICES
Food tickets include 1 Hamburger & 1 Hot Dog
($10 Value)

<table>
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<td>$9.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Food</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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2013 2018 Champions

Hosting a Sharks player is easy!
You only need three things...

1. A Spare Bedroom
2. Some Extra Food
3. A Big Heart

If you can help us out, contact Russ Curran at
russ.curran@mvsharks.com
*all players will be fully vaccinated and do not require transportation*
Memorial Wharf – also known historically as Steamship Wharf – has seen a lot of history over the past two centuries. It is now the access point on Edgartown Harbor for commercial fishermen, charter boats, ferries such as the Pied Piper, the Patriot and, of course, the Chappy Ferry. It is also a spectacular vantage point for visitors, with sweeping views from the Edgartown lighthouse to Katama Bay. Schoolchildren cast flowers off the wharf every year on Memorial Day and dock dances enliven summer evenings. And, during the Derby, the pier is home to hardcore fishermen, the Wharf Rats, who have hauled in their share of Derby winners over the years!

On July 1 of this year, the re-installation of the wharf flagpole in a freshly asphalted parking lot marked the completion of the Town of Edgartown’s four-year, comprehensive restoration of the wharf and its two-story pavilion, ensuring that this historic marine resource will serve the community for generations to come.

Phase 1, completed in 2018 at a cost of $450,000 by Trademark Services, a Vineyard contractor, rebuilt the pavilion structure. The work included reinforcing structural components as well as installing new railings and stairways to meet current codes.

After a period of two years lost to the Covid shutdown, Phase 2 of the project moved forward; Childs Engineering completed a structural evaluation of the wharf and prepared restoration plans. Last fall, BTT Marine Construction was awarded a $3 million contract to completely rebuild the pilings, bulkheads, and decking, with funds provided by a $1 million grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council and town appropriations approved by Edgartown voters. The contractor towed a massive barge and crane into the harbor and reconstruction work was undertaken for the next nine months.

A town committee led by Edgartown dock builder Steve Ewing oversaw the project, with valuable input from Harbormaster Charlie Blair and Chappy Ferry owner Peter Wells. The restored pavilion was temporarily moved into the parking lot. The wharf’s deck was raised by two feet to mitigate rising sea levels and the aging wooden pilings and beams were replaced with marine-grade steel. Existing steel bulkheads were reinforced with concrete caps.

Today, Memorial Wharf is more solid than at any time in its history, standing strong and ready for years of service ahead. And who knows, maybe the 2022 Derby Grand Prize winner will be landed right there!
My Gallery - The “Crossroads Gallery” - Was Named Best Gallery on Martha’s Vineyard in 2020 and runner up in 2021, by Martha’s Vineyard Magazine. The Crossroads Gallery came to life in May of 2017. In the Spring of 2019 I moved from my Circuit Ave location in Oak Bluffs to our new home at 93 Dukes County Ave in Oak Bluffs. My gallery concept has transformed into a meeting place. Folks from my Facebook fanbase have come in to talk about healing from addiction and other of life’s challenges. We share stories, hug, laugh and cry. In addition to the selling of art it has become a spiritual place for me. Hope to see you there.

Crossroads Gallery
93 Dukes County Avenue,
Oak Bluffs Arts District,
Marthas Vineyard

My two books Through a Sober Lens and Fighting for My Life both won the coveted Ben Franklin Award for most inspirational story and best Art and photography. A portion of each book sale directly supports addiction treatment on the Island.

For more information and to order photographs, calendars and books please visit: www.blanchardphotomv.com
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Martha’s Vineyard

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Captain Robert Douglas, 1971 - Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard

Serving Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner. Check out our new seasonal menu featuring the best local seafood, beef, pasta dishes, beer, wine, & craft cocktails. Expanded outdoor seating on our covered patio. As always, enjoy our extensive Breakfast menu, housemade breads & desserts, & unrivaled view of Vineyard Haven Harbor.

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The Black Dog Tavern

The Black Dog Water Street Bakery

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Steve Amaral
Thanks for Support, Enthusiasm and Inspiring Others

In June, Derby Committee members John Custer and Stephen Morris recognized Steve Amaral for his unparalleled record of participation in the Derby. The plaque presented to Steve acknowledges his participation in 75 Derbies. The only one he missed was in 1956, when he was serving overseas in the United States Army.

Steve, for decades, has been an avid fisherman and outdoorsman, proudly sharing his knowledge with many others. He is a member of the Derby Hall of Fame and a respected, admired, and valued member of the Island community.

The Derby Committee thanks Steve for his support, his continued enthusiasm, and for inspiring others.

Steve Amaral has unselfishly contributed to the success of many Derby winners with whom he’s shared much of his fishing knowledge. Steve (above) from 25 years ago, and (right) from 47 years ago with his father Gus Amaral.
FISH SMELL 1000X BETTER THAN WE DO.

Underwater. In current. And even in nutrient-dense saltwater, fish can pick up a scent at the parts per billion level.

Think that’s impressive? How about a bait with the ability to trick that sense of smell into believing it is even better than real food. In scientific tests, Gulp!® proved so effective on saltwater gamefish, it actually outfished real bait time and time again.

Not only does the scent outperform real and artificial bait, it has 400 times the scent dispersion of the best competing soft plastic bait.

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We’ve done the science, now you catch the fish.

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The 2021 Derby: A Good Year for Bluefish

Synopsis by Phil Horton, Derby Chairman

2021 Derby registration (3,146) was down 3% compared to 2020 (3,227). Even with the reduced level of participation, 6% more fish were weighed in 2021 (1,529) when compared to 2020 (1,444). The 2021 weigh-in total was 51% less fish than the time series high of 3,146 weighed in during the 2004 Derby. Note the total weigh-in number is not adjusted for striped bass, which were removed twice from the Derby, most recently in 2020. Landings of bluefish increased significantly in 2021 compared to 2020. False albacore numbers were down year over year, as were bonito landings.

The following synopsis and accompanying figure show how Derby participants fared in 2021 when compared to the previous 33 years.

Bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix):

From 1990 to 1996, bluefish landings declined from a 33-year high of 1,700 fish to a low of 665 fish. For the next decade (1997 to 2008), Derby bluefish landings slowly rebounded to levels comparable to those in the late 1980’s. Between 2008 and 2019 bluefish landings declined steadily year over year, until a rebound in 2020 - which continued into 2021. Bluefish landings increased by 68% in 2021 (1032) - as compared to 2020 (614). Even with the increase 2021 landings were 28% lower than the 14-year high watermark of 2008 (1,438). Boat landings increased from 399 in 2020 to 714 in 2021 and shore landings increased from 215 to 318. On average, shore fishermen have accounted for 25% of the annual bluefish landings over the last 33 years. In 2021 shore fisherman weighed 31% of the bluefish catch, above average. The average weight of bluefish from 1987-1997 was approximately 10 lbs., and just shy of 8 lbs. from 1998-2008. The average weight has increased to 8.3 lbs. since 2008. It was 9.1 lbs. in 2021, slightly above the 34-year average (8.8 lbs.). Daily landings indicate that bluefish were available throughout the event.

Striped Bass (Morone saxatilis):

Striped bass were eliminated from the Derby prize structure for conservation reasons in 2020.

Atlantic Bonito (Sarda sarda):

Over the last 34 years, bonito landings have fluctuated between 110 and 696 fish annually. Prior to 1995, the average number of bonito weighed annually was on the high end of the range (528 fish) which can be partially attributed to more effort being directed at bonito because striped bass was excluded from the Derby. Since 2000, the annual average has dropped to 296 fish largely due to the conspicuous absence of shore fish. In 2021 191 bonito were landed, a significant decrease compared to 2020, when 394 fish were weighed in. Boat landings decreased from 317 in 2020 to 165 in 2021 while shore landings decreased from 77 to 26. Since 2000 shore fishermen account for only 12% of the bonito landings. 2021 came in slightly above average at 14%. There has been significant variability in the number of shore bonito weighted in over the past 21 years – from as few as 1 to as many as 100. The underlying fact is that boat anglers have a significant advantage in the hunt for ‘bones’.
False Albacore (*Euthynnus alletteratus*):

Trends in false albacore landings are difficult to interpret and should be viewed with caution due to rule changes designed to reduce landings. Since 1995 daily prizes have not been awarded for false albacore, thereby reducing the incentive to weigh in fish. In 1998, the minimum length of 25 inches was established, which further reduced false albacore landings in subsequent years. In 2005, the Derby Committee made efforts to further reduce landings by imposing a bag limit of three fish. Despite these restrictions, some information can be derived from the landings data. In 2000 and 2001, this species was not available to shore fishermen, but this changed dramatically in subsequent years as both shore and boat fishermen were equally successful. Landings have fluctuated dramatically since 2006, ranging from 131 (2010) to 520 (2014). In 2021 306 false albacore were weighed by Derby fishermen, representing a 30% decrease from 2020 (436). In sharp contrast to bonito, a larger proportion of the catch (35%) was taken by shore fishermen in 2021. Between 2003 and 2019, the average weight of false albacore has fluctuated between 7.9-9.5 lbs. In 2021, the average weight was 8.7 lbs. A higher percentage of false albacore weighed in 2021 were landed in September, but this may not reflect availability due to the three fish bag limit.
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photo: Debbie Grant
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Glory Fades Away

Sportsmanship Lasts Forever

Words by Nelson Sigelman

Latin scholars and fans of the movie “Patton” will certainly be among the more than three thousand fishermen expected to participate in the 2022 Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. I’m guessing there are more of the latter than the former. But nevertheless, nearly all will recognize the phrase “Sic transit gloria mundi.” Loosely translated it means “All glory is fleeting.”

To put that in the context of the 77th Derby, should you be so fortunate as to ascend the awards platform in the aftermath of the competition, the applause you hear will quickly fade away and few outside your immediate family will remember or care that you were once a Derby winner.

However, if in the single-minded quest for glory and prizes you get so carried away that you scream obscenities at others, cast lures with no regard for nearby fishermen, or wield a fishing rod like a lightsaber, people will remember that you were a Derby jerk.

I understand the context. Take a group of fishermen who have existed on a diet of too little sleep and too much sugar, and stand them on a jetty or on a dock casting sharp hooks for hours hoping to hook a fish. Suddenly, a school of false albacore appears in a feeding frenzy. The more deranged among the assembled fishermen wouldn’t hesitate to send a jig flying past his grandmother’s ear if she stood in the way. Luckily, Island grannys are a spry lot, and there are no recent reports of concussions. But lines get tangled, words are exchanged, and tempers may flare.

Derby leaders report that in tackle shops and on the beaches, they’ve heard about rude and bullying behavior by shore and boat fishermen that, in at least a few instances, have led to police involvement. Concerned that civility seems to be eroding faster than Chappy beaches, Derby officials would like to remind fishermen that for 77 years, community spirit and good sportsmanship have been at the heart of the five-week competition.

“The Derby committee is committed to running a tournament where individuals, where families, can enjoy themselves without feeling intimidated or threatened,” 2022 Derby chairman Phil Horton said.

He added, “It’s about simple respect. Respect each other. It’s fishing. It’s supposed to be relaxing. Try to give other people a chance to enjoy themselves.”

Phil has been fishing the Derby for more than 35 years. He’s a Chappy beach guy and has experienced his share of Wasque-bluefish-blitz-scums which calls for a certain level of expertise required if you expect to fish shoulder to shoulder without incident. He says it’s important to understand how to get along with other fishermen.

“I look at things and make a judgment. If a place looks too crowded, I find another place to fish even though there are fish there. Generally, I try to avoid situations where there might be hard feelings.”

Arguments over Island fishing spots are not new. Claims to a rock, a beach, or a section of a rip—the Derby has always brought out the territorial imperative. But thirty years ago life was much simpler (or so we thought) because a lot of what went on only made it as far as the local coffee shop. Google Maps, Tweets, Facebook, and TMZ didn’t exist.

A guy who documents what he ate for breakfast on social media is sure to let you know that someone chucked a three-ounce sinker at him when he decided to plant his twin-engine center console in the middle of Cape Poge gut—and leave out the part of how close he was to the fishermen lined up along the shore.

Joe El-Deiry, 2021 Derby chairman, commenting on some of the stories he’s heard, said, “It’s gotten a little out of hand.”

Joe said more than a good day fishing is at stake. “Many people fish the Derby, not because the fishing’s great; they fish the Derby because of all it represents because it’s the Derby,” he said. “So if we lose that spirit, then we’re really risking the future of the tournament, and it’s important for people to know that the committee takes sportsmanship seriously. But we can’t do it alone.”

Under the heading, Committee Rights, the Derby rules hold that the committee “may disqualify” from the Derby—from one day to forever—any person or persons who “act in an unsportsmanlike manner.”

A fisherman who witnesses something serious needs to step up to the plate and file a grievance with the committee. There’s no official form. Describe in detail what occurred and list any witnesses.

I know some fishermen may not want to get involved for fear of repercussions. But we all have to do our part to protect the integrity of the Derby. And the committee does not take action based on anecdotes or complaints whispered about in tackle shops.

The offending party may simply be told to dial it back or the committee may decide on more formal action. Any threat or actual physical violence is a matter for the police.

The members of the Derby committee are all volunteers. I’ve served on the Derby committee, and I can say that they take disciplinary action very seriously. But the committee is not in the business of sorting out every schoolyard argument. Or, as Joe told me, “We take our responsibility to run a good tournament seriously, but we can’t control idiots.”

The reality is that some people are annoying.
But you’re not driving on a jammed expressway or stuck on a subway. You’re on Martha’s Vineyard, and there’s always another fishing spot down the road.

Here are some suggestions to help you enjoy the 2022 Derby:

- Get there first if you want to fish at the end of a jetty.
- Avoid fishing on a jetty or wharf if you don’t like people.
- If a fisherman vacates a spot to land a fish, expect him to want to reclaim it.
- Don’t crowd a fisherman who is not a family member.
- In a boat, stay out of the casting distance of shore fishermen.
- Do not cut off another boat from a breaking school of bonito or albies.
- If a fisherman hooks up, don’t cast over his or her line.
- If you screw up, apologize.
- Be respectful of fish and other fishermen.
- When fishing becomes more aggravating than reading the newspaper, it’s time to go home.

Nelson Sigelman, a member of the Derby Hall of Fame, is the author of “Martha’s Vineyard Outdoors: Fishing, Hunting and Avoiding Divorce on a Small Island,” and “Martha’s Vineyard Fish Tales: How to Catch Fish, Rake Clams, and Jig Squid, with Entertaining Tales About the Sometimes Crazy Pursuit of Fish.”

SPIRIT OF THE DERBY

Ryann Holden, age 13, catching her first albie!

Getting ready to fish after the wedding vows

MAGIC MOMENTS

PETER JAHRIES

Beaching a big bluefish!

Francesca Krempa with her 13.73 lbs boat bluefish

Sandy McLaughlin, age 5, catches his first fish of the Derby
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---

1. Cape Pogue Gut  
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
2. Cape Pogue Light  
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
3. East Beach Jetty  
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
4. Wasque Point  
bass, blues and anything else
5. South Beach  
bass, blues
6. Squibnocket  
bass, blues
7. Philbin Beach  
bass, blues
8. Gay Head  
bass, blues
9. Lobsterville Beach  
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
10. Menemsha Jetties  
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
BLUEFISH are an aggressive fish, considered among the toughest battlers, pound for pound, among saltwater species. Their sharp teeth require the use of pliers when removing hooks. Often under-appreciated for table fare, fresh bluefish, if iced and properly cared for, is delicious. Consistently, bluefish account for the greatest number of Derby weigh-ins. Exciting to catch on topwater lures, the Massachusetts bag limit is 3 fish per angler, per day.

BONITO, highly valued for its appetizing fillets, are strong, fast fish. They have keen eyesight and are thrilling to catch on light tackle. A member of the tuna family, bonito attract anglers ripe for a challenge. Catches from shore have become more rare in recent years. It is not uncommon for the heaviest bonito to show late in the Derby, as evidenced by several winning fish caught on the final day.

FALSE ALBACORE attract a cult-like following, including many flyfisherman. Incredibly fast and powerful, albies offer an unmatched fight for anglers. Also called “Little Tunny”, these fish feature beautiful colors and markings. The arrival of false albacore ushers in an annual frenzy of fisherman, eager to pursue this popular species. There is a Derby limit of three fish per badge.

STRIPED BASS are an historic part of the Derby tradition. The species has been suspended from the Derby this year as a conservation measure. The hope is to return stripers to the Derby when stocks are healthy. Massachusetts regulations allow anglers to possess one fish per day, between 28” and 35” in length.

11. Cedar Tree Neck
   bass, blues
16. Oak Bluffs SSA Wharf
   bonito
12. Tashmoo Opening
   bass, blues
17. Little Bridge
   bass, blues
13. West Chop
   bass, blues
18. Big Bridge
   bass, blues
14. Vineyard Haven Jetty
   bass, blues
19. Edgartown Light
   bass, blues, albacore, bonito
15. East Chop
   bass, blues
20. Edgartown Dock
   albacore, bonito
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MAGIC MOMENTS

Throughout the Booklet we’ll show you many “Magic Moments” from the 2021 Derby — some are identified, others . . . well, speak for themselves. Enjoy, and send us your “Magic Moments” from this year’s 2022 Derby.

Good sportsmanship encompasses many aspects of a person’s character, the most fundamental being respect. Participation in the Derby is intended to be a memorable experience. Please play fair, stay positive, keep trash talk to a minimum, set a good example and show integrity.

A derby winner is just one cast away...

No surprise that Dr. Doug Treyz beaches his albie at the rockpile!

Big blues were around during the 2021 Derby!

Jake Batchelder is all smiles when weighing in a nice bluefish!

Vermont Mike lands a nice albie at The Gut

Sol Watson still getting it done!
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“The derby is on,” said M. Martin Gouldey, general chairman, “and it looks as though it is likely to be an annual event. The entire Island seems to be alive with the possibilities of the contest for testing the skills of our own fishermen as well as of sport anglers from the whole North Atlantic area.”

— Vineyard Gazette, September 20, 1946.

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Cameron LaVigne and Wells Lowry battle for the mini junior lead with last day shore blues

Zachary Horrocks makes a quick stop to weigh-in before heading to a wedding!

Surfcaster Dave Balon gets it done on a boat too!

Jason Patterson’s boat fishing is a game changer!

Aaron Kinne weighs in the first bonito of the Derby

Cameron LaVigne into fish on the last day of the derby
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MAGIC MOMENTS

Picture perfect evening of fishing for Bailen Darack

Bob Clay and John Piekos with last day Derby blues

Bob and Brenda Beal's Bluefish

Jerry Salvi John Van Calcar and Scott Brain beach nice albies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apple Fritter</th>
<th>Lotsa Dough</th>
<th>Oreo Cream</th>
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<td>Black Raspberry</td>
<td>M&amp;M Cream</td>
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<td>Blueberry</td>
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<td>Butter Crunch</td>
<td>Mint Chocolate Chip</td>
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<td>Coconut</td>
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ICE YOUR CATCH

For many Derby anglers, a day on the water often leads to the excitement of catching and taking a trip to the weigh in. Whether you are planning to keep your fish after weighing in for a well-earned dinner time meal or donate it to the Derby’s fillet program you must do one important thing: ICE IT!

Donated fish is filleted and distributed to our island elders through each of the senior centers and is also utilized by Island Grown Initiative (IGI). We want to ensure a quality product is passed along for the recipient’s enjoyment.

How you initially handle a fish can greatly affect its quality, taste and storage life. Proper preservation begins the moment the fish is hooked and pulled from the water.

After you catch your fish and snap a few photos for the memory book, please ensure that it begins the cooling process immediately by placing it in a cooler with ice. Ensure the entire surface area of the fish is covered-ice above, below and around the fish. According to research, a good rule of thumb is two pounds of ice for every pound of fish.

Whether you plan to donate your fish or not, anglers are asked to keep their catch as fresh as possible.

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MAGIC MOMENTS

SPIRIT OF THE DERBY

Bob Crane with his first ever albie

Marc Holey and his son Colin

A good morning is when the only sound is the drag from your reel

Big smiles for his first weighable fish!

Winning photo for the Spirit of the 2021 Derby photo contest by Sarah Rivers
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Derby Weighmaster Sam Riccio with Derby Committee Member Karen Kukolich

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Joe Thompson and his derby record 13.10 lb bonito!

Lisa Belcastro and a nice shore false albacore!

Nice release for Zach Magid, who always seemed to find fish!

Elizabeth Thompson briefly took the boat bonito lead early in the derby
Husselton Head
Oysters

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Chilling at Wasque after the bluefish bite

Chasing fish as the sun sets...

Eli Beford with his Mini junior 2nd place bonito.
Will your fish place?

LIVE, REAL-TIME DERBY STANDINGS ARE ALWAYS ON!

Access Results, Check Rules, Get Updates and More...
On Your Smartphone, On The Water, ANYTIME!

www.MVDerby.com/Results

STEVE LONDON’S ORIGINAL FISHPRINTS

For more information email: islandgyotaku@gmail.com
Menemsha Sunset

Rebecca Pierce lands a nice boat bluefish!

Sara Kadison boats a nice bonito!

Everyone’s going to weigh-in!
PLAY WITH A FULL DECK!

Stunningly Stable
Amazingly Able
Everyone’s hooked up at the epic Wasque bluefish blitz!

Cameron Lavigne and her father Curtis weigh in her 9.41 lb bluefish

Ralph “Bluefish” Peckham and Paula Sullivan with their big blues

DON SCARPONE
THE GEAR THAT GETS YOU THERE

APPAREL, SUNGLASSES AND MORE AT SALTLIFE.COM

UNCHARTED WATERS HOST, PETER MILLER
AND SALT LIFE ATHLETE, STACEY BAKER
MAGIC MOMENTS

Beautiful boat blue!

Dave Nash and his fly rod leading False Albacore

Mask up when not socially distant!

George Rogers with his big boat bonito
Tony Thompson was all over the island chasing these fish!

Jonathan Herman out fishes the chunkers that morning!

Gorgeous Derby Days of 2021
Picket Line Albie Chaser Surfcasters

Proud Sponsor of MV Striper and Bluefish Derby!

www.soundviewmillworks.com 843-324-5186 soundviewmillworks@gmail.com
folk art by brian kirkpatrick

studio: 8 fisk ave., OB  ◆  860-235-6577  ◆  e-mail: vineyardfolkart@gmail.com

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Come to Shirley’s to stock-up on fishing supplies...

Filet Knives  ●  Flashlights  ●  Batteries
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Portable Grills  ●  Beach Chairs

Good luck to all the derby participants!

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Your Island Hardware Store
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508-693-3070

Tisbury Market Place
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Vineyard Haven
508.693.1125

Mangia!

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and at: www.robertslures.com

Cyni Gressot caught this all tackle world record 71 lb. Leerfish on a Ranger. Catch your Derby winner on a Roberts!

Be Seen, Be Safe
The Edgartown Board of Trade is holding the third annual Bass in the Grass Fundraiser! The initiative raises money for participating artists and the Derby Scholarship Fund. Sponsored by Edgartown businesses, an entire school of bass comes to the streets of Edgartown in September. Each fish is creatively designed by artists and put up for auction during the 2022 Derby.

Visit the site and bid on your favorite bass by October 16th!

www.BassInTheGrassMV.com
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The best casting Popper on the market!

The NEW Mag™ Popper’s patented bullet magnetic weight transfer system expands an angler’s casting range by up to 70%.

Featuring a bottle neck design with a large head and deep mouth, the Mag™ Popper pushes a ton of water.

Built tough, it can be fished for the world’s most powerful gamefish. The Mag™ Popper the perfect topwater from the surf to blue water and everywhere in between.

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FLYROD & ALL-TACKLE. 6 FIRST PLACE WINNERS (BY LENGTH) AWARDED PLAQUES OCT 16TH.
RESULTS (LEADERS) POSTED WEEKLY.

Note: Fish must be caught, measured, promptly released alive, and entered online within 14 hours. Open to registered 2022 Derby anglers. Derby rules apply. Catch and Release fish entered NOT eligible for any merchandise/cash awards. Fish entered must meet Derby minimum lengths. Paper or incomplete/inaccurate forms not accepted. Measure fish length straight (not over the curve of the fish) from nose to tip of tail, rounded to the nearest inch (EG: a 30.3 inch bluefish = 30 inches. A 30.5+ inch bluefish = 31 inches). Length ties go to first fish entered. Photos not required (honor system). Multiple entries allowed.
THE 2022 SPIRIT OF THE DERBY PHOTO CONTEST!

TAKE A PHOTO DURING THE 2022 DERBY THAT CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF THE DERBY?

SUBMIT BY OCT 15 TO: MVDERBYCOMMITTEE@GMAIL.COM
ONE WINNER ANNOUNCED AFTER THE DERBY!

Weighing in a Derby fish always starts here.
We thank all of the Derby registration outlets for making the Derby experience so special.

KISMET
204 Upper Main St. in Edgartown
774.549.5921

147 West Tisbury Road Edgartown

508.627.3909

LARRY'S TACKLE
258 Upper Main St.
Edgartown
508-627-5088

COOP'S
508.693.7669
New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs

Bait & Tackle

Menemsha Texaco Service
508-645-2041

Menemsha
The Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Committee Scholarships
One $15,000 scholarship, one $10,000 scholarship, five $7,500 scholarships and two $5,000 scholarships to high school graduates planning to continue their education in the field of Marine Science. In addition, the Derby awards one $7,500 scholarship in honor of Ray Ellis to a high school graduate planning to continue their education in Fine or Performing Arts.

The Bob “Hawkeye” Jacobs Memorial Award
Awarded to the first Shore Team to record a Triple Crown.

The Estey Teller Memorial Women’s Weekly Awards
Awarded for the first place weekly honors for all species, boat & shore.

The Beaulieu/Loud Memorial Award
See weigh-in for details.

The Cutler Bike Shop Award
Awarded by luck of the draw to two of the six junior grand leaders one from boat and one from shore.

The Jared Fisher Memorial Award - Third place Junior Boat False Albacore.

The Roberto Germani Competitive Release Awards (6) First place plaques awarded by length, submitted by online form. One award per species for both All-Tackle and Flyrod.

The Martha’s Vineyard Surfers Association Sportsmanship Award
Honoring the true meaning of good sportsmanship during Derby.

The Thomas A. McCauley Award
Weigh any species under Badge number 204, Boat or shore.

The Robert “Huff” Langley Memorial Award
Selected at random from the third place finalists in the All Tackle Shore Division.

The Abe Williams Memorial Award
For the first angler to record a shore Triple Crown.

The David Furino Memorial Award
Awards to siblings who show determination and sportsmanship.

Albert Angelone Memorial Award
Given to the first junior angler to weigh in a Bonito.

Senior Awards - In Honor of their past participation and support in the Derby. Howie Leonard – Albacore, Arnold Spofford – Bonito, Madison Alwardt – Bluefish For heaviest of each species caught from boat or shore.

Edward ‘Bonito Ed’ Lepore Memorial Award
For the heaviest flyrod bonito caught from boat or shore.

The Walter Morrison Memorial Award
For Mini-Junior or Junior catch and release false albacore.

Special Presentations and Awards
The Derby Committee reserves the right to create, adjust or delete additional categories, awards and prizes and to accept and create special presentations.

Special Thanks From The Derby Committee to Our Sponsors

Grand Sponsor and Hat Sponsor –
Eastern Boats, Vineyard Vines

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Major Contributors –
Backwater Trading Co., CapeFish, CB Stark Jewelers, Chappy Lures, Coop’s Bait and Tackle, Dairy Queen, Dick’s Bait and Tackle, Douglas Outdoors, Fish 4:19, Fish Bandit Premier Clothing, Douglas Outdoors, Flying Fishermen Sunglasses, Folk Art by Brian Kirkpatrick, Hardy Fishing, High Hook Vineyards, Hob Knob Inn, Island Phoenix, Island Pools, Kevin Shea Fine Art, Kismet Outfitters, Larry’s Tackle Shop, The Local Tide, Mad Martha’s Ice Cream, Mark Wrabel, Martha Rose Fisheries, Mass Audubon Wellfleet Center, Mink Meadows Golf Club, Mud Water Saltwater Flies, Narragansett Beer, New Engler, Orvis, Outcast Lures, Packish Landscape Construction, The Port Hunter, Roberts Lures, Sea Falcon, Sharks Baseball Team, Simms, Soundview Millworks, St. Croix Rods, Steve London Original Fish Prints, Summer Shades, Tebo Bamboo Flyrods, WMVY Radio, XtraTuf, Yozuri Lures

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Special Supporters –
Carroll’s Trucking, Patriot Party Boats
The Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Corporation was created to hold an annual fishing tournament for the benefit of the island of Martha’s Vineyard, and for the funding of college scholarships and charitable causes. In 2021, the nonprofit Derby Corporation enjoyed a successful year, and was thus able to provide assistance to other groups and individuals. Many of these play a part in maintaining the quality of life on the Vineyard that we all enjoy, but sometimes take for granted.

Thanks to the support of all sponsors and participants, the Derby Corporation was able to contribute $81,300 in 2022. We hope you share our pride in being able to help.

### Corporation Grants, 2022

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Red Stocking Fund</td>
<td>$ 1,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Donations</td>
<td>$ 800.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sancy Pachico Memorial Youth Scholarships</td>
<td>$ 3,500.</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Scholarships</td>
<td>$ 76,000.</td>
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(in conjunction with the Ann E. Clark Foundation, the Tony and Renee Marlon Charitable Trust, the Dougherty Family Trust, and The Windmill Foundation.)

**Total** $81,300.
You are Invited to Become a Sponsor
of The Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby

The Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby is held annually in the Fall. Every year, fishermen come from around the country to visit the beautiful Island of Martha’s Vineyard and enjoy its great fishing. The Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby has become one of the most successful and perhaps the premier saltwater fishing tournaments on the East Coast. In 2021 almost 3200 anglers participated in the 76th anniversary of the contest, weighing in a total of more than 1500 fish.

Aside from managing a successful tournament, at the core of the Derby’s mission is to give back to the Vineyard community and to support and protect recreational fishing efforts. In 2021, the Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby awarded $76,000 in scholarships to graduates of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School as well as $3,500 in scholarships for Island youngsters to attend summer camps.

Please Contact Us at MVDerbyCommittee@gmail.com

Sponsorship Categories

**Special Supporter:** Donations of $100 to $500.
   Name listed in the Souvenir Booklet.

**Major Contributor:** Donations of $1501 to $5000.
   Logo and name listed in the Souvenir Booklet.
   Half-page color advertisement in the Souvenir Booklet.
   Banner hung at the Awards Ceremony.

**Contributor:** Donations of $501 to $1500.
   Logo and name listed in the Souvenir Booklet.

**Major Sponsor:** Donations in excess of $5000.
   Full-page color advertisement in the Souvenir Booklet.
   Banner displayed at Weigh Station** and at Awards Ceremony.
   Logo and name listed in Rules Brochure and any major advertising.

**The Weigh Station attracts thousands of visitors during the five weeks of the Derby.**

We Welcome and Appreciate Your Contribution at any Level

JEANNE STAPLES WEIGH STATION PRINTS

The Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby is pleased to offer you an opportunity to purchase two limited-edition giclée prints from by Martha’s Vineyard artist Jeanne Staples. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Derby Scholarship program. The original oil paintings have been reproduced in two sizes and unframed.

Jeanne Staples is represented on the island by the Granary Gallery.

For Further information: Call Maryanne Jerome at 508 627-8510
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Matt Poole, We Salute You!

Thank You for Helping Our Island Community Through This Very Difficult Time.

WRITTEN BY JOE EL-DEIRY AND STACY NICKERSON-HALL

Matt is the Edgartown Board of Health Agent and there was no one person more responsible for the fact that we were able to hold the Derby for the last couple of years. He shaped all the health and safety protocols we put in place in order to hold the Derby during the height of the pandemic.

We spoke with Matt early in the planning stages of the 2020 Derby, the 75th year of this annual event. We knew it would require a total reorganization to our typical Weigh Station layout. Matt gave us some guidelines to start with and the Derby Committee began to meet. We held lots of meetings. Long meetings. Zoom meetings. No one had more meetings than past Derby chairman Joe El-Deiry, often with Edgartown Health Agent Matt Poole, all to answer the questions: Can we do this? Should we do this? How can we safely make this happen?

Throughout the planning we knew that if the pandemic took a turn for the worse we might have to cancel the fall classic. We continued our planning and came up with a new layout for the Weigh Station. This includes the area outside Derby Headquarters where anglers line up to weigh their catch, access the fillet barge and pick up prizes. We also had to come up with a safe way to distribute the fish through our fillet program administered by the Island Senior Centers; as well as a program with IGI, the Island Grown Initiative.

Matt Poole, the Derby Committee thanks you, and the Island fishing community appreciates your efforts. For all your hard work, We Salute You!
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