

# CSBS News

An occasional Publication of the  
Cabot Striped Bass Society

Painstakingly Written and Printed at  
Cabot, Vermont

Progressively Priced for People  
Of All Income Brackets

## SCUPPIN' IN RHODY

### Where's the Beef?

In one of the most spectacular events ever to occur in Cabot's history, The Cabot Striped Bass Society has "brought home the bacon" – over 50 pounds of striper, bluefish, scup and seabass filets. What happened? Society aspirant Eric Allen, 33 or so, attributed the unprecedented success to his own presence on the excursion. "That's probbly what it was," he said. "It would certainly seem like it," agreed Ken Elmer, 48 or so, a seasoned fisherman who owns *his own sailboat* (italics added for emphasis). CSBS secretary Caleb Pitkin, 43½, opined that his careful reading of *On the Water*, (gift subscription courtesy of Cap'n Mike Kinney of East Falmouth, MA) helped the group immensely. "Not too friggin' likely," said long-winded society member Jon Vara, 47 or so, "I had to read it out loud to Pitkin on the drive down, and I'm not too sure he understood any of it. Essentially our success was due to dumping a truckload of money into this trip. Christ, we spent enough money to make a down payment on a double-wide." When asked for his views, Mark Bromley, about 47, a one-eared former bus driver, said only: "I'm sorry, what did you say?"



Bromley, Vara, Elmer, & Allen as they appeared a mere 5 hours before the 2001 fish massacre. Note Bromley's characteristic cupping of the ear, Elmer's familiar thumb gesture, and Vara's trademark wave.



Ken Elmer considers a purchase later regretted by fellow CSBS members

## LOCAL REACTION MIXED

Though a town-wide week of celebration in honor of the CSBS was cut short by news of the World Trade Center disaster, most residents simply couldn't get the successful fishing expedition off their minds. Some comments we overheard during the week: "About time you caught something" (Mary Carpenter); "Where did you go again?" (Carl Bean); "I bought some new furniture." (Jacie Bromley); "We been with Joe Alexander on his boat." (Larry Gochey); "You owe me." (Anne Allen); "Gross. How can you eat that?" (Hannah Pitkin); "What's up with that?" (Bob Miller); "Dude!!" (Brock Miller); "You guys are really wonderful, and I'm so proud of you!" (Peachie Keene, society landing assistant).

The Cabot Striped Bass Society owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Chris, Jackie, Kirstie and Connor Fagan. This remarkable family (Jackie being the sister of Ken Elmer) hosted the CSBS at their home in Wakefield, RI for two entire weekends during the 2001 harvest season. CSBS members sincerely hope that no lasting damage was inflicted on these fine people. Thank you, Fagans

-Paid advertisement

## Late Fall Outing Cancelled

A long anticipated dash to Wellfleet, MA was cancelled late this week due to a conflict for one of the CSBS members. Mark Bromley explains: "I gotta stay home and blow the leaves off my lawn."

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TRIP LOG

### AUGUST BOATING TRIP

August 17, 2001 (Vara & Pitkin drive to Wakefield, RI) Left Cabot at 4:59 PM Stopped at Marty's for cashews, Frappicino, gas, diet Coke, water, & cash. Observed on the highway **Seth Pitkin & family** who were returning from Washington. 7:07 – pass bridge 34. Vara reads aloud from *On The Water* courtesy of **Mike Kinney**. Fifteen alliterations counted in a single article. Excitement builds at the prospect of "scuppin' in Rhody." Fall blitzes of Blues are predicted. 8:04 – Tall Sunoco sign may have been sighted. Unsure. 9:00 – Exit 10 food stop. Papa Gino's. **Vara Building** visited. 10:30 Arrive at Fagan residence. All asleep, except for Elmer, who has awaited arrival of Vara and Pitkin. Vara sleeps aboard Elmer's Nimble as Pitkin & Elmer toss and turn fitfully indoors, sniffed repeatedly by an insomnolent dog.

August 18 – 6:15 AM – Vara notes that the Red Sox's "one game winning streak is over." Pitkin has regular coffee, cinnamon raison bagel w/cream cheese, OJ. Vara has 1 plain, 1 sesame, small decaf & OJ. Pitkin opts not to get a refill to go. 6:15 PM – Elmer gently rams his Nimble into another boat in a futile attempt to avoid hitting a power line with his mast. Society members unanimously agree to ignore the incident.

August 19 – 3:04 – Outing officially redefined as a "boating trip" since members were unable to fish. Success declared. Vara, Pitkin, **Chris & Brad Elmer** head for home. 4:30 Elmer twins fail to recognize huge billboard likeness of **FDR** also failed to recognize the initials FDR. Presidential quiz initiated. Vara commended for pronouncing Warren Harding's middle name. 630 – Chili eaten. SUV limo observed.

### SEPTEMBER FISHING TRIP

September 7, 2001, Friday – 6:45 – Pass **Wendell Carlson's** en route to the 2001 striper harvest. Noted that the society has forgotten to bring a cell phone. Vara observes: "This is a fine fucking how-de-do." 6:48 – big hill on Rt. 2 going out of Marshfield. All well. Hopes high. 7:00 – Bromley attempts to elevate the level of discourse by querying the membership about their reaction to the effort to eliminate zoning in the town of Marshfield. Pitkin opines that all of Marshfield has been declared a single "erogenous zone." 7:16 – sardines discussed. Query: what role do Herring play in Yom Kippur? (Yum. Kippers?) 7:30 – cigars ignited. Members opt to take car pool lane upon arrival in Boston. Group reaches consensus that

the entire fish harvest will be divided equally as to quantity and quality, regardless of who actually catches the fish. Allen whines that he doesn't want to have to keep any starfish. Agreed. 7:38 – five minute epoxy used to glue rearview mirror to windshield finally adheres after 20 minutes. 8:00 – West Leb – post-prandial moaning from Pitkin in rear seat. Biggie size Wendy's meal is roiling in his stomach. 10:18 – **Tall Sunoco sign** sighted. 1:00 AM – arrive at Fagan residence.

September 8, 2001 – 5:04 AM – at Dunkin' Donuts. Hopes high. 6:10 – steaming out to Block Island on the C & J with Capt. **Barry Chermis**. Beautiful sunrise observed. 11:00 AM – Bromley's seasickness calls for new strategy. Leaving rough waters of the Striper and Blue habitat for calmer water to catch wimpy little sea-bass and scup. 2:50 PM – Society staggered by unprecedented success. Harvested about 18 bluefish, 10 seabass, 40 scup, and 4 **BIGGIE SIZE STRIPERS**. Bromley's astounding recovery set back only slightly as he plunges into the fish hold, nearly tripling the volume of the catch. 7:00 – Bluefish feed at the Fagan residence.



Bromley takes a "time-out" during which he considers the desirability of non-existence. Below, Pitkin and Elmer hard at work



September 9, 2001 – 8:45 – Vara overloads the Fagan's toilet. Breaks plunger trying to rectify the situation. 10:00 AM - Members hike a grueling 150 yards through treacherous **Poison Ivy** to fish on a rocky outcropping. Through fortuitous planning, flagging energy levels are revived by eating **wholesome snack foods**. Bromley utters the nearly complete sentence: "Fail to plan, plan to fail." (his credo) 10:15 – Bromley slips, falls into the sea. Vara loses lure. 11:14 AM – Beach

at Point Judith "Harbor of Refuge" - **Hypothesis:** Vermont has an actual size, and it can be determined. Vara estimates Vermont to be 15,000 square miles, or 9.6 million acres (200 miles long by an average 75 miles wide). Pitkin estimates the state to contain about 6.2 million acres (251 townships of 25,000 acres apiece). Based on either of these estimates, it appears that Vara's **paved basketball court** at his home in Cabot will occupy only a small percentage of the land area of the state of Vermont. Pitkin and Vara agree that this small amount of pavement is practically **insignificant**. [Note to log: subsequent investigation showed the actual area of the state of Vermont to be 6,149,760 acres, including lakes, ponds, and rivers.] 1:30 – Fishing on the breakwater - Bromley pulled into the ocean by a "Killer Scup."



Bromley, still soaked from his battle with a "Killer Scup" considers a purchase at West Marine Supply

2:30 – Vara complains about the lack of editing in Allen's "Cosmopolitan" pornographic magazine. "No friggin' editors at all," he observes. 3:10 – Bromley's air conditioning is "crumped." Society orders him to effect repairs, ASAP, or purchase new vehicle. Elmer breaking wind profusely and with a most undesirable effect. Society is outraged, dismayed. 3:26 – Vara unclogs Fagan toilet, regains self-respect. 3:40 – Vara notes: "We used to make better log entries." Bromley leaves signal light on too long. 3:50 – Society resolves to look up pronunciation of the word "wizeden." Vara favors the long vowel sound as in "wise," Pitkin the short vowel as in "wizard." [note to log: subsequent investigation by Allen revealed that the word is pronounced with a short vowel sound.] Bromley attempts to pull alongside a maroon convertible driven by an apparently naturally blond woman. 3:54 – Warwick exit - Allen draws admiring glance from woman in maroon convertible. 3:58 – Huge flag observed near Cranston exit. 4:45 – tour of the **Vara Building**. Society speechless in awe. High point is a bush growing **INSIDE** the lobby. Not even in a pot, but just **GROWING** there. Pitkin notes other exciting buildings. 4:48 – Bromley reveals traumatic childhood experience of being "savaged by a pumpkin seed." Condolences expressed.



Society members rest after an exhausting tour of the parking lot at The Vara Building. CSBS plans to establish headquarters here after Jon wrests control of the building from his father

4:51 – Allen reads in his "Cosmopolitan" porn magazine about the G-spot, but is unable to locate his own. Elmer injured opening a beverage can. 6:15 – Allen is "carded" at the Safety Liquor Rest Stop. Society members are at first outraged, then jubilant, then confused.



Bromley & Vara proudly display their choices at the NH Safety Liquor Rest Stop

6:19 – Stop to close tailgate. No fish lost. 6:25 – Passed intersection with I89, committed to taking I93 all the way to St. Johnsbury. Bromley despondent about passing up Wendy's meal in West Leb. Other members congratulate each other on strength of character. 8:38 – supper in Littleton. 9:45 – Home.



Members gaze in awe at the outline of The Old Man of the Mountain in Franconia Notch, NH, before the events at Littleton.