

# 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

## SCUTTLEBUT

### CSBS Membership Shake-up

As the threat of hurricane Isabelle was fading into history, the residents of Central Vermont were shocked to learn of an unprecedented and scandalous "SNAFU" within the Cabot Striped Bass Society.

A long anticipated and carefully planned fishing expedition was nearly derailed late Friday when society members Mark Bromley (full membership, 1999) and Eric Allen (acolyte status, 2001) bailed out only minutes before the scheduled departure.



Allen (left) and Bromley (right) are shown here in happier times on a fish massacre with Cap'n Barry Chermis circa 2001. Bromley turned very green shortly after picture was taken (file photo).

The society reacted by voting to expel Bromley and Allen. However, Bromley made an offering of beer, the use of his "ugly stick" & sand spike, and a \$20 bill earmarked for food. Remaining members Pitkin, Vara, and Elmer found these items were actually of more use than Bromley himself would have been, and so reduced his penalty to a year-long probation.



Above: The earmarked bill which saved Bromley's membership in the CSBS.

Allen, who had hoped to advance within the society by driving the expedition in his nearly new car, has yet to appeal his expulsion or offer a bribe.



Jon Vara, stunned by the recent lack of respect for CSBS traditions, cogitates upon a system of "demerits" intended to instill a healthy respect for the society's bylaws.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### New Tent is "All That"

After two nights in the Society's new tent, Vara declared it to be "quite a rig." The spacious and colorful tent (purchased at WalMart for \$39.95) appears to be made of some lightweight material similar to shiny tissue paper. "Hell, yes," said Vara, "if it doesn't get wet, this baby will last for years." Elmer agreed. "It would certainly seem like it," he said. Pitkin sagely withheld comment. Mark Bromley, when informed of the purchase said only, "Can we stay in a motel next year?"



New tent has every imaginable feature, including many zippers. Elmer was impressed with the special shoe compartments on either side of the door. The tent even has a floor.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TRIP LOG

8/27/2003 – CSBS stalwarts, Pitkin, Vara, Elmer, & Bromley plan an outing for Sept. 19-21. Bromley whines about missing soccer games.

9/6 – Eric Allen offers to drive the society to Cape Cod in his "nearly new" Honda "mini-van." (Quotations added for "emphaticism.")

9/7 – Bromley whines that if he can't drive he'll be carsick, "and where are we gonna sleep? I'm exhausted."

9/19 – 4:00 – Bromley calls Pitkin at home to pull out of the expedition. 4:15 – Elmer calls Pitkin at home from Cape Cod to report that he has a campsite at Nickerson State park. 4:30 – Allen calls Pitkin at home to pull out of the expedition. 5:45 – Pitkin and Vara buy new tent at WalMart and hit the road in Vara's miniature car.

9/20 – 6:15 AM – Vara breaks wind in new tent (\$39.95). 6:38 – Looking for Dunkin Donuts. Jon stops at green light. Elmer and Pitkin urge him to continue through the intersection. 8:36 – Vara's driving noted (by Vara) to have been exemplary thus far. Ham & Egg breakfast consumed. 10:58 – Celebration of Bromley's absence continues. 2 schoolies caught at Chatham lighthouse. Elmer eats crunchy peanut butter.

9/21 – 8:44 – Vara notes that his car "appears to have been liberally hosed with Coca-Cola." 8:46 – Pitkin has five demerits for window violations, and Elmer has three. [6 demerits requires a hearing, 8 demerits results in expulsion].

### CSBS Members Set Sterling Example for Youth of Today

On their most recent foray to Cape Cod, CSBS members discussed diet and health, ate salads & other healthy foods, and missed their loved ones terribly. There was little time for fishing as almost every (lucid) minute was devoted to meaningful and productive discussion about making the world a better place. Pitkin and Vara agreed that individual CSBS members earning over five million dollars per year should give half their income to community betterment projects.

☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ NOT !!!!

**CAP'N CAL'S CAPE COD CANDIDS**



Elmer peers through his "Shag Wagon" at Nickerson State Park in Brewster. His imaginary friend, Heather, is in the passenger's seat, but doesn't show up in the photo. Note that Elmer does not really have red rabbit ears on his head. This is simply an unfortunate juxtaposition in the composition of the photo.



Elmer and his imaginary friend Heather roughhouse on the beach at Chatham, where all of the Society's fish were caught.



Official CSBS restroom facility on the Cape Cod Canal in Sandwich. Another trip is planned for the purpose of attending the seasonal closing ceremony for this facility later in the fall.



**Heather & Ivy**

Nickerson State Park: Elmer's imaginary friend Heather poses in front of a patch of poison ivy in her LL Bean swimwear. This photo seems to reinforce the common perception that LL Bean suits are not overly revealing.

The Cabot Striped Bass Society salutes the **PAPER CLIP** a hardy survivor of the digital-electronic revolution. **!!! SALUTE !!!**

**Stand-In Driver Exceeds Expectations**

by Jon D. Vara

When then-CSBS member Eric Allen made his astonishing announcement that he would not be going on this year's outing to the seashore, the remaining members were first nonplussed, then alarmed. "We realized that this meant Vara would have to drive," said Vice-President Caleb Pitkin.

Vara, who describes himself as a "slightly below-average" driver, also recalls feeling some initial concern. "I know my driving isn't all it could be," he said frankly. "My wife usually insists on driving if we're going more than a few hundred yards from the house, especially if it's dark or sunny or windy."

Vara was characteristically modest about his performance during the outing. "I knew I'd have to rise to this occasion, and by Christ I think I did an outstanding job under extremely difficult circumstances."

The other Society members agreed. "Surprisingly, I learned a lot from Jon," said Pitkin, the sole passenger on the long leg from the Berlin Park 'n' Ride to the group's bivouac site at Nickerson State Park--where the duo joined a dozing Ken Elmer. Vara showed Pitkin that once you've set the cruise control, you can push the resume button to increase your speed in about one-mile-an-hour increments. Furthermore, when you push the set button, it decreases your speed in similar increments, obviating the need to use the brake. "I had no idea," Pitkin said. "It was pretty cool. And I bet if Jon hadn't been so focused on teaching me, we probably wouldn't have rear-ended that guy."

"Caleb has had a lot of practice with tractors and pickup trucks," Vara observed. "But it takes years of grueling daily commuting to really get a handle on cruise control. It's just a matter of practice."



Vara assumes the 10-2 position only moments before stopping at a green light as an added precaution. Hard to fault this experienced driver.

Elmer was especially satisfied by Vara's confident handling of the return trip from the Chatham Coast Guard station to the group's campsite, some 20 miles to the north, or perhaps south. "We had to get back to the park before they closed the gate at midnight," he recalled. "It was dark, and the road had a lot of bends and curves

and straight sections. There was one stop sign that we were really concerned about. But Jon handled it just about perfectly. He was great. There's no other way to say it. That curb incident was just bad luck."

Vara has expressed interest in driving one of his fleet of Honda Civics again next year. Pitkin and Elmer refused to rule out the possibility, but seemed to signal a wait-and-see attitude. "Next year's trip won't happen until next year," Pitkin stated. "It's still almost a year away."

**Cell-Phone Gaffe**

By Jon T. Vara

A confusing statement by CSBS Vice-President Jon Vara during an evening excursion to the Chatham inlet left other society members shaking their heads in confusion, bewilderment, and disgust. Vara was delegated to call probationary member Mark Bromley via "cell phone hookup" and apprise him of the group's whereabouts and prospects. Bromley either couldn't or wouldn't answer, but when Vara attempted to leave a message on the answering machine, he committed a serious breach of protocol, identifying himself as "Cabot Striped Bass Society Assistant President Jon Vara."

Other CSBS members on the scene stood stunned and speechless.

"You have to wonder what, if anything, was running through his head at that moment," said CSBS Vice-President Ken Elmer. "He knows as well as anyone that all MiGS (Members in Good Standing) are vice-presidents. But assistant president? Where the hell did that come from!?"

Vice-President Caleb Pitkin was also mystified, perplexed. "At first we thought he was joking," he said. "Then as he rambled on, it was obvious that he just had no idea what he'd said." "It was weird," he added.

Vara was given three demerits for this offence. No further disciplinary action is planned.

**Experts Suspected in House-Jacking**

Alert fishermen Vara, Pitkin, and Elmer took a break from their harvest activities to investigate a recent house-jacking in the Chatham, MA environs. Pitkin, himself an accomplished jacker, declared the job had been well planned and carefully executed. "Just good jacking," he said.

