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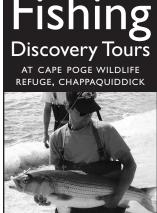


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GONE FISHIN'

Wounded veterans enjoy Derby's healing waters



Veterans Butch Freeman, Dale Cherney, Kattrina Sangillo, Terri Perry, Peter Sargent, and Stanley Munson at the weigh station.

By Nelson Sigelman

In mind and spirit the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby and fishing the waters that surround the Vineyard are a long way from the confines of a military hospital and the mental and physical struggle to recover from grievous injuries.

week, six men and women, all veterans of military service, happily embraced the Derby and found themselves embraced by the fishing. Vineyard community wherever they went.

A conversation with Army Sergeant Dale Cherney of Wisconsin one evening provided a different perspective on sobering reminder of the price being paid by servicemen and women around the globe to keep our country safe.

Derby fishermen, me incaught a fish or became irri-

ting in a comfortable chair volunteers Dr. Tamar Maragainst the backdrop of a tin-Franklin, project coordi-

Baghdad while on his third Vineyard Monday morning. tour of duty— said he was Vineyard. "I am just hoping to have fun," Dale said. "It's not about the fish, it's about the company."

But, over four days last the members of the group of their veterans shared. Catch a Jack, an avid fisherman, fish? Sure they all wanted to catch a fish, but mostly they were just happy to be

Last Thursday I described how the concept for the trip had come together quickly and was arranged through Project Healing (www.projecthealingwaters.o the usual Derby gripes and a rg), a volunteer organization that uses the therapeutic and healing powers of fishing to help veterans in their recovery and life.

The five retired military cluded, have been known to men and women from the complain when we have not Togus Veterans Administration Hospital in Augusta, tated because of something Maine, and Dale, still on acsome other fisherman did. In tive duty and undergoing the larger scheme of things, treatment at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Last Monday evening, sit- Maryland, accompanied by

Menemsha sunset, Dale nator of Veteran Anglers of Cherney — who lost his left New York, the local chapter leg and right eye in a rocket of the Healing Waters, and attack on Camp Liberty in her husband arrived on the

The group traveled to the just happy to be on the Island at the generous invitation of Bob and Sarah Nixon, owners of the Home Port Restaurant, the Beach Plum Inn. and the Men-It was a sentiment all of emsha Inn in Chilmark, and eight-year-old son who conceived of the idea.

Continued on Page 25

MASS. RECREATIONAL FISHING LIMITS - 2009

Black Sea E	Bass	12.5"	20 fish
Bluefish		none	10 fish
Cod		24"	10 fish
Fluke (seaso	on 7/1–8/13)	18.5"	5 fish
River Herri	ng <i>Harve</i>	st & use	e prohibited
Scup*		10.5"	10 fish
Striped Bas	S**	28"	2 fish
Tautog		16"	3 fish
Weakfish		16"	6 fish
Blue Crab		4 1/8"	50 crabs
		no egg	bearers
Shellfish	To	wn licer	nse required
Lobster			nse required
	traps mus	t have e	scape vents

*Maximum of 50 fish per private vessel with six or more fishermen on board. May 24-Sept. 26, 2009.

**Striped bass may be taken only by hook and line. The discard of dead, legal size striped bass is prohibited.

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^{*} Tidal flow and times in Edgartown have changed due to the Norton Point cut. Edgartown officials advise boaters to use extreme caution when entering Edgartown Harbor. Please check with local authorities for tide information.

Veterans enjoy healing waters



Dale Cherney and Bob Nixon hold Dale's bluefish.



Capt. Tom Langman lands a fish for Army veteran Peter Sargent.

Continued from Page 24

The result was the creation of "The Beach Plum Inn it," she told me. American Heroes Saltwater Challenge."

captains, Betsy Larsen of Larsen's Fish Market, and the Derby committee pitched in along with the Nixons. Many other Islanders alerted recreational therapist introby word of mouth and stories duced her to the program in published in The Times and Maine where she lives now. Gazette, also helped.

Plum assistant manager, ing. "I get thrown around ly in the center of the dining who was at the heart of the quite a bit, but I'm oaky with hall where an estimated 400 organizing effort, said a that," she said. Cape Cod Express delivery truck pulled up to the inn Butch Freeman of New eating. More than 20 people Friday. She was not expecting a delivery.

veterans visit in The Times and wanted to donate to steak and a glass of wine. the effort. He handed her a \$20 bill.

On Monday evening the question. "A very bad day." Nixons hosted a reception and dinner at the Beach Plum Inn. The venue provided a postcard view of Menemsha Harbor and Vineyard a glimmer of recognition third fishing trip arranged Sound out to Gay Head.

Terri Perry of Gorham, Maine, was anticipating fishing the next day with veteran charter captain Scott Mc- cycle. "A suicide bomber," Dowell, one of several cap- he explained.

Shore bass: Colin T. Britt, 29.22.

Boat bonito: Joe H. Turney, 9.12.

Shore bonito: Brian Gracie, 6.98.

Overall Leaders

All-Tackle Division

Fly Rod Division

Boat Albacore: William A. Pate, 12.66.

Shore Albacore: Keith A. McArt, 16.55.

Evan Metropoulos, 40.88; (3) Charles P.

Boat bass: (1) Stephen J. Pietruska, 44.68 (2)

Finnerty, 40.53. Shore bass: (1) Colin T. Britt,

29.22; (2) Dana A. Rezendes, 28.23; (3) George P. Moran, 27.70. Boat bonito: (1) Joe H. Turney,

9.12; (2) Kenneth P. Baracchini, 8.90; (3) Joe El-

deiry, 8.64. Shore bonito: (1) Brian Gracie, 6.98; (2) Craig P. Salvaggio, 6.35; (3) Donald R. Sicard, 6.25. Boat bluefish: (1) Joseph P. Canha,

13.27; (2) Henry R. Fauteux, 13.20; (3) Tom

Norbury, 12.89. Shore bluefish: (1) Angela J. Deltorto, 13.01; (2) Michael J. Mulcahy, 11.56;

(3) John F. Schillinger, 11.36. Boat albacore. (1) William A. Pate, 12.66; (2) Lenny F. Beford,

12.12; (3) Jared E. Fisher, 11.42. Shore albacore: (1) Keith A. McArt, 16.55; (2) Mark

Campos, 13.24; (3) Bernie B. Arruda, 10.38.

Boat bass: (1) Paul W. Dimaura, 16.64; (2) John

C. Rapone, 15.37. Shore bass: (1) Joe A. Dart,

16.59; (2) Tim P. Sheran, 15.84; (3) Herbert C.

Rapone, 5.77; (2) W. Brice Contessa, 5.73; (3)

Tilton, III, 13.42. Boat bonito: (1) John C.

tains who had volunteered their time. "I'm in it to win Butch's definition of a bad Army, he thought a minute

the service she had served one complain about a bad A host of volunteers that in. "There's only one," she day of Derby fishing. included Menemsha charter said with a bright smile, "the Air Force."

> ist, she had learned to fly fish in Alaska. The hospital

She does not let her wheel-Doriana Klumick, Beach chair get in the way of fish-

Retired staff Gloucester Maine served in were killed and at least 60 the Army for 27 years until were wounded. The driver ran inside and his injury-forced retirement. across from me enjoying a place?" he said repeating my

> He added, "I was in Mosul when the tent exploded." He ing as an activity to get him paused, seemingly expecting me to acknowledge with Martha's Vineyard was his what was for him a fact, through the hospital's recrebut had for me and I suspect many others long since faded into the endless news

It was three days before Christmas, 2004. Butch was A communications special- with other members of the Maine Army National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion sitting down for lunch in a mess tent at a U.S. military base in Mosul, Iraq.

> The blast from a suicide bomber struck almost direct-American and Iraqi soldiers sergeant and civilian contractors were

Married with two daughsaid he had read about the Monday night Butch sat ters and two grandsons, Butch said his recovery has been a long process. "I think "What brought me to this I'm getting there," he told me and gave credit to his wife of 24 years.

He stumbled across fishoutdoors. The trip to ational therapy program.

His injuries forced him to leave the Army, a fact he already had a doctor's apregrets. "It was my whole pointment scheduled for latlife," he said. Asked what it er that day.

I did a little research on was he liked about the day. It is worth remembering and said, "I liked pretty I asked what branch of the next time you hear some- much everything about it. I grew up there."

On Thursday morning I joined the group for breakfast prior to their departure later that day. Much of the talk was about the fish they had caught and the unforgettable reception they received when they walked into the Derby weigh station to weigh in their fish.

Former Vietnam era medic Kattrina Sangillo was beaming over a catch of 15 fish in two days. Pete Sargent, a Vietnam era Army infantry veteran, said every captain was different. He was also very intrigued about something he learned while fishing off Gay Head. "I found out about the clothing optional beach," he said. "My goal was to have fun and I exceeded that."

Stanley Munson went fly fishing with captain Charlie Finnerty. He told me, "I want it said for the record that the blind guy never got his line tangled." Then he added, "But I did hook Charlie in the nose." Charlie took the injury in stride because he



Sarah, Jack and Bob Nixon hosted a welcome dinner for the veterans and Derby committee members at the Beach Plum Inn Monday evening.

Army Staff Sergeant First a Class Dale Cherney went weighed in Tuesday. Now he fishing with captain Buddy was getting ready to return Vanderhoop. He had won a to Walter Reed Hospital, he fourth place pin proudly displayed on his Derby hat for

6.12-pound

Continued on Page 39

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64th Derby Results

(Through Tuesday, September 29) Brian K. Nunes-Vais, 5.67. Shore bonito: (1) W. Brice Contessa, 6.38. Boat bluefish: (1) Thomas **Grand Leaders** J. Rapone, 13.81; (2) Paul W. Dimaura, 8.68; (3) W. Brice Contessa, 7.81. Shore bluefish: (1) Art Boat bluefish: Thomas J. Rapone, 13.81. Crago, 4.74. Boat albacore: (1) Rob D. Morrison, 12.12; (2) John C. Rapone, 10.63; (3) Noah C. Shore bluefish: Angela J. Deltorto. 13.01. Boat bass: Stephen J. Pietruska, 44,68. Maxner, 10.55. Shore albacore: (1) David A.

Nash, 9.34; (2) Paul S. Sharpe, 9.01; (3) Jared Hull, 8.92.

Junior Division

Boat bass: (1) William C. Kadison, 27.49; (2) Townsend R. Morey, 20.87; (3) Jack W. Hewitt, 15.92. Shore bass: (1) Curtis J. Farrell, 17.71. Boat bonito: (1) William C. Kadison, 7.48; (2) Christopher A. Mayhew, 6.87; (3) Maggie M. Riseborough, 6.53. Shore bonito: (1) Evandro Medici, Jr., 4.45. Boat bluefish: (1) William C. Kadison, 11.06; (2) Caelan K. Watts, 10.56; (3) Donald F. O'Shaughnessey, Jr., 10.28. Shore bluefish: (1) Hunter D. Wojslaw, 8.08; (2) Derrick C. Weckman, 7.00; (3) Dawson Rigg, 3.83. Boat albacore: (1) Bryan Carter, 12.39; (2) Alec B. Cobban, 10.53; (3) Emily M. Turney, 10.31. Shore albacore: (1) Curtis J. Farrell, 10.96; (2) Cameron Maciel, 6.79.

Mini Junior Division

Boat bass: (1) Dylan Kadison, 28.02; (2) Brendan R. Morris, 27.15; (3) Nolan Bouchard, 19.31. Boat bonito: (1) Dylan Kadison, 6.67; (2) Mike B. Metcalf, 5.95; (3) Brendan R. Morris, 5.33. Boat bluefish: (1) Gus N. Hoy, 11.14; (2) Victoria Scott, 10.45; (3) Nolan Bouchard, 10.20. Shore bluefish: (1) Brendan R. Morris, 8.84; (2) Tristan R. Blair, 4.27. Boat albacore: (1) Brendan R. Morris, 8.33; (2) Katherine G. O'Brien, 7.90.

Daily Winners

Wednesday, September 23 All Tackle

Boat bonito: (1) Tara Morris, 8.54; (2) Carl P. Sherr, 7.44; (3) Steve J. Baccelli, 6.51; (4) William Pappastratis, 6.22. Shore bonito: (1) Pedro Guzman, 5.36. Boat bluefish: (1) Henry R. Fauteux, 13.20; (2) Gary R. Look, 12.01; (3) Tom Norbury, 12.01; (4) William E. Welch, 11.85. Shore bluefish: (1) John F. Schillinger, 11.36; (2) Peter L. Shepardson, 10.62; (3) Elizabeth B. Mellon, 10.33; (4) Stanley W. Brown, 9.97. Boat bass: (1) Corliss Maciel, 27.33; (2) Nils Leaf, 25.07; (3) James J. Stinemire, 24.39; (4) Billy L. Sweeney, 23.79. Shore bass: (1) Colin T. Britt, 29.22; (2) Joseph J. Rogers, 24.02; (3) Glenn J. Stalgren, 23.67; (4) Dana A. Rezendes, 23.52. Fly Rod Division

Boat bonito: (1) John C. Rapone, 5.77. **Junior Division** All Tackle

Boat bonito: (1) Quinn C. Keefe, 4.94. Boat bass: (1) Nolan Bouchard, 19.31; (2) Brendan R. Morris, 17.61.

Thursday, September 24

All Tackle

Boat bonito: (1) Taylor Collins, 7.59; (2) Glenn Peters, 6.56; (3) William B. Allen, 6.01; (4) Charlie G. Canfield, 5.76. Shore bonito: (1) Steven J. Wood, 5.78; (2) Tim Waite, 5.51. Boat bluefish: (1) James E. Joyce, 11.78; (2) Sam T. Bell, 11.43; (3) Ben T. Ross, 10.55; (4) Paul F. Porter, 10.01. Shore bluefish: (1) Brian J. Flaherty, 9.73; (2) Ted Krawiecki, 8.46; (3) Andrew L. Scheriff, 8.09; (4) Patricia DuPlessis 5.89. Boat bass: (1) Michael Lovuolo, 35.56; (2) John Narkewich, 26.10; (3) Mark S. Morris,

Continued on Page 36

Oak Bluffs blaze

Continued from Page 21

the building. Firefighters sounded three short blasts from the fire truck air horns, the signal to evacuate.

Once the interior attack ended, flames broke through the roof again, and firefighters began attacking the flames from above. A powerful stream of water was poured into the home from the aerial platform. About 12:20 pm, the flames were finally out, but not before most of the roof had collapsed.

Throughout the day, about 50 firefighters were involved in battling the blaze. The first firefighters on the scene called for mutual aid from the Tisbury and Edgartown departments.

Tragedy hits home

The D'Arcys lived in the home with their two small children. Mr. D'Arcy, a stonemason by trade, is well known on the Island as the co-owner of Contemporary Landscapes, a large Vineyard Haven landscaping firm. Before the birth of her children, Kimberly D'Arcy was a teacher at the Charter School. Mr. D'Arcy arrived at the fire scene just minutes after it began, and watched with remarkable composure from a neighbor's lawn. Some time later, Kimberly D'Arcy returned from the beach, but was stopped near the end of the street, where firefighters had blocked access. She was still unaware have a list of 50 phone calls, everythat her home was on fire. Mr. D'Arcy ran to the end of the street where she Martha's Vineyard called to ask what was waiting. Surrounded by friends and family who supported them literand figuratively, the couple

walked back down Carole Avenue, where Ms. D'Arcy fell to her knees in tears at the sight of the flames. The two parents held their children close, helpless to do anything but watch the devastation. In the end, the home, and nearly all of its contents, were destroyed by the water and flames.

"It was surreal," Mr. D'Arcy said. "You don't think it's ever going to hap-

Long before the flames were extinguished, the Island's sense of community and generosity was evident.

"There were people who came up to us while we were standing outside the house and put money in our hands, that we don't even know," Mr. D'Arcy said.

Yesterday, he reflected on the loss, the outpouring of support he has experienced since the fire, and his relief that his family was not at home. "Knowing that, I don't feel any different when I have nothing, than I did when I had everything I needed." Most of the couples' family members and close friends were still on the Island after attending a christening the day before. With the help of local merchants, they have taken care of the family's immediate needs, including temporary living space. Plans are under way for a future event to raise funds for long-term needs.

"We'll be fine," Mr. D'Arcy said. "I body I've ever probably met on they could do."◆

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Fire raged through the D'Arcy house Monday, and flames burst through the roof as it collapsed.



Friends and family support Jack and Kimberly D'Arcy as they approach their burning home.

Veterans enjoy healing waters

Continued from Page 25

told me over breakfast Thursday.

Dale has been in the hospital since October 14, 2007. "I'm hoping to be home by April 2010," he said. Home is the small town relatively speaking, in a safe area when of Mosinee, Wisconsin. "I'm going to go home and do nothing for a while."

The trip to Martha's Vineyard provided first opportunity to fish in saltwater. He said he was very glad to have the opportunity.

It would be easy to think that the men and women we see in news reports on combat patrols are the only folks in harm's way. But



Butch Freeman held up a bonito at the weigh station.

every member of the military signs on for a degree of risk, irrespective of the assignment

Dale was with the 376th Finance Management Unit on his third tour of duty. He was, Camp Liberty suffered a mortar attack on Oct. 10, 2007.

"Three of us were coming out of the chow Dale with his first ferry ride of any type and hall," he said. "We were heading to our vehicle when the siren went off and someone said, 'not again.' I turned around to look at the person who said not again. There was a clicking sound and a flash of light and I remember being on the ground with direct pressure on my neck."

Dale went in and out of consciousness. He remembers being wheeled down a hallway with the sounds of a helicopter in the background. He remembers nothing between that moment and two months later when he woke up at Walter Reed.

He had lost his left leg below the knee and his left eye, his spleen had been removed and he suffered from various abdominal injuries.

Dale told me he had been in Iraq during two previous tours in seemingly far more precarious places. He noted that when he was injured he was in a seemingly safe place. "Fate has a funny way of dealing with stuff," he said without a hint of irony.

Recovering at Walter Reed he latched onto fishing as a way to get out of the hospital, meet people and engage in some physical activity. Retired Navy Capt. Ed Nicholson, a fisherman and hunter, who founded Healing Waters, suggested that Dale make the Vineyard trip.

Over eggs, toast, and coffee in the elegant Beach Plum Inn dining room, Dale told me he joined the military in 1984 because he wanted to serve the country and he did not have money for college. "I was a poor person," he said, " and the only other direction I had was a factory job and I wasn't interested in a factory job."

He said the Army had been a wonderful experience. He had traveled the world, seen the pyramids, Budapest, Panama, Germany, and served on UN missions.

Now he walks with a cane and has one brown eye and one blue eye, or two brown eyes depending on his mood. "I have some had his military experience meant to him? fun with it," he said. "Most people are too polite to say anything."

Knowing what he knows now, I asked, what did he have to say about his decision to enter the military.

"I wouldn't change a thing in the world even with the injuries," he said. "I was just in a bad place at a bad time. I can't be angry so I just have to deal with what I have. I just have limitations now. I can't do things the way other people do them so I have to find other ways to do them."

I turned to Butch, seated next to me. What

The military is my life," Butch said. "I

think of the Army as a family." He said he took one thing away from Healing Waters. "It is okay to be a survivor. Because that is half the battle, because your

friends died right next to you," he said. Dale and Butch noted that each has a special date coming up. It is the day each commemorates his survival and the deaths of military comrades.

"You call it your alive day," Butch said.◆

Comment on mytimes.com



PHOTOS BY RICHARD FRANKLIN

Tamar Franklin, Terri Perry, and Peter Sargent with the catch of the day.