Smith Mountain Lake Striped Bass Movements

Early spring action starts around late February, as water warming above 45 degrees draws bait and stripers to the shallows. Most fish are found above Markers R22 and B12; prime spots include Indian, Beaverdam and Gills Creeks and Three Quarters Point. Focus on prominent points. At dawn/dusk, cast a 1/4 ounce feather jig or topwater plug in 5-to-10-foot depths; during daytime, locate schools of stripers and camp over them with live shad.

By mid-April pre-spawn stripers are converging on the major spawning site in Cedar Keys. At dawn/dusk and especially at night, hit shoreline points from Marker R2 to Cedar Keys with bucktail jigs or Rat-L-Traps. Spawning usually peaks on the full moon in May.

From late May through July, alewife/shad swarm to the banks at night to spawn, and the stripers follow. Work major points in the lower part of both river-arms (Marker R12 to around to Marker B10). Waking a "Redfin" on topwater can be devastating. Surface "breaks" can pop-up anytime/anywhere, but particularly at dawn between Vista Point and the Dam. Move in quietly and cast a bucktail jig, Sassy Shad or topwater chugger.

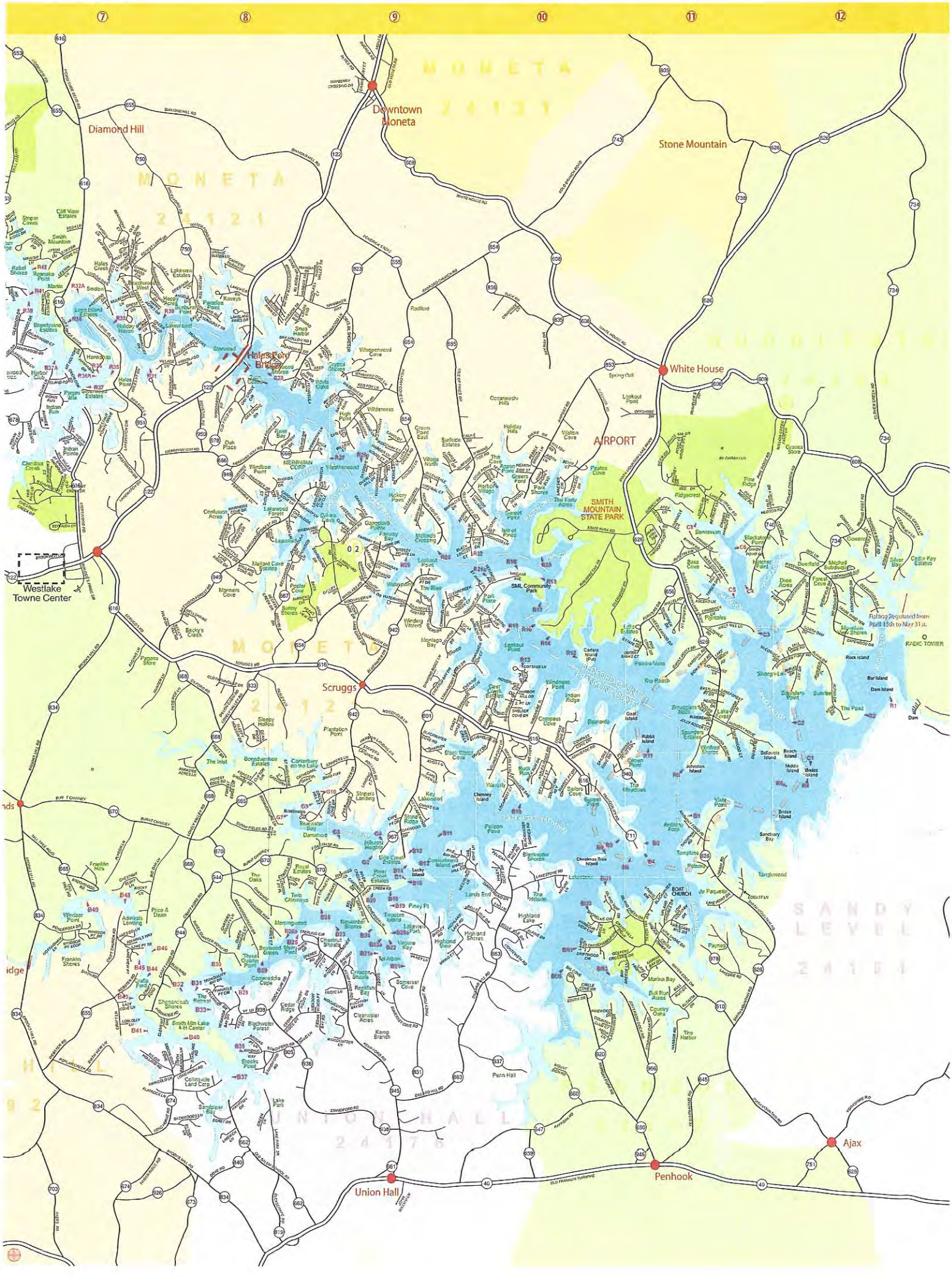
Striped bass spread up both river arms in August and September, to the "S-Curve" sections (Markers R12 to R22 and B-10 to B-22. Key areas include the Islands at B-13 and lower Walton Creek. Baitfish suspend near the top of the thermo cline (20 to 30 feet deep) for much of the day, often near standing timber. Locate bait/stripers and troll flutter spoons like Sutton 88's from downriggers. If you prefer casting, go with 1/4 ounce feather jigs or bucktails.

From mid-October to mid-December, large schools of bait and hungry stripers move to the upper parts of the river arms (above MarkersR-36 and B26) and feeder creeks like Beaverdam, Indian and Standiford. At dawn, dusk, and at night, beat the banks with a Redfin or bucktail jig. In daytime, use live shad in 10 to 25 feet of water.

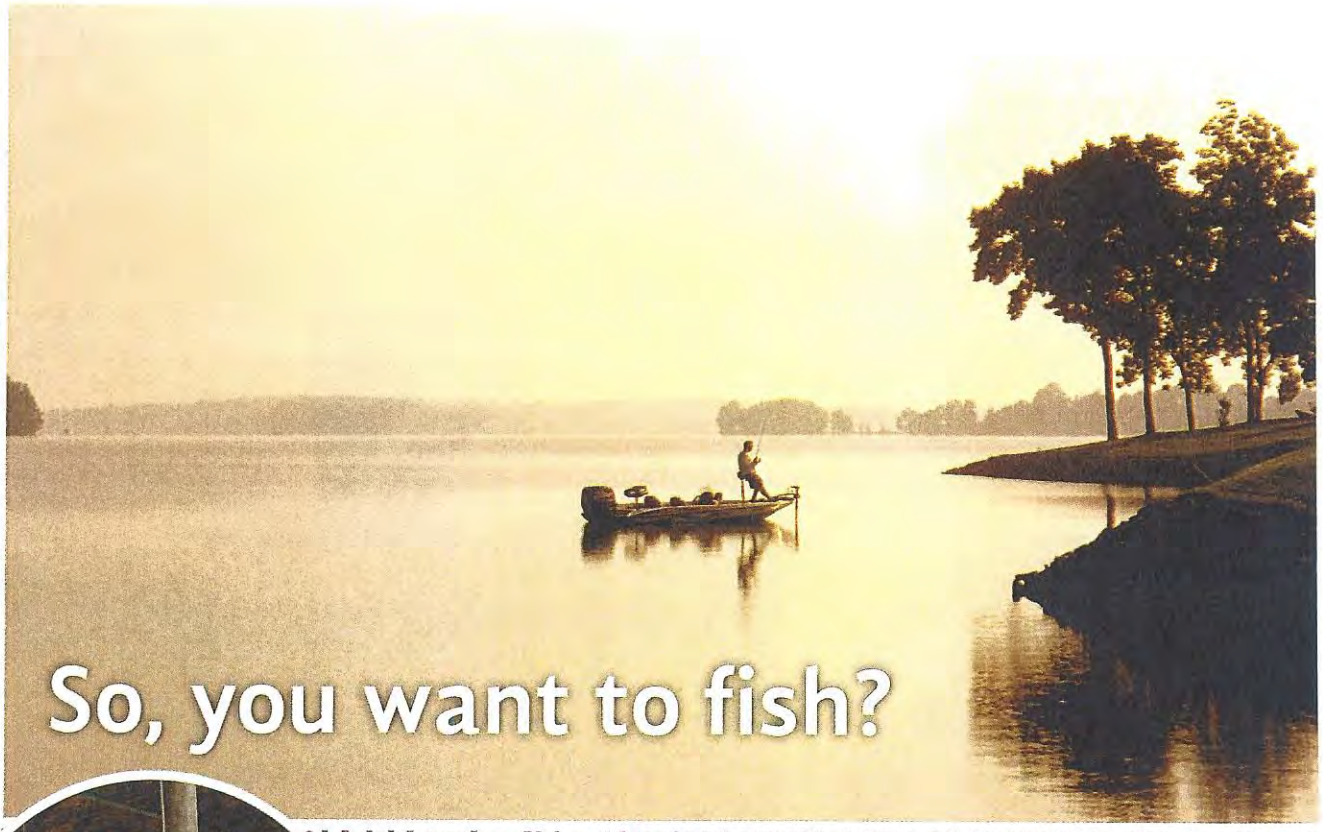
During the coldest weather of January/February, the stripers drop to 30-50 foot depths on major points, humps, and around submerged timber, especially in the "S-Curves" section and main creeks like Gills, Bull Run, and Craddock. Vertical jig a 3/4 ounce Hopkins spoon or cast/countdown a 3/8 ounce feather jig or bucktail jig

Public Marina Guide

	Open Year-Round or Seasonal	Boat Slips	Gas	Boat Rentals	Dump Stations	Boat Repairs & Service	Fishing License	Bait & Tackle	Dinning Full or Short Order
All Season's Marine Service 540-297-7943 . 800-814-3668	YR					●			
Bay Roc Marina 540-890-2194	YR	●	●	●	●	●		●	Short Order
Bayside Marina 540-721-3664	YR	●	●		●	●			
Blue Ridge Campgrounds & Marina 540-721-FUNN (3866)	S	●			●				
Bridgewater Marina 540-721-1639	YR	●	●	●	●		●	●	Full Menu
Captain's Quarters 540-721-1175	S		●	●				●	
Craddock Creek Marina 540-297-7325	YR	●			●				
Crazy Horse Marina 540-719-0620	S	●	●	●	●			●	Full Menu
Crystal Shores Marina (540) 297-1888	YR	●	●		●	●			Full Menu
Gills Creek Marina 540-721-2451	S	●	●	●		●	●	●	
Indian Pointe Marina 540-719-2427	YR	●	●	●	●			●	Full Menu
Lake Haven Marina 540-297-7347	S	●		●	●				Full Menu
Lakeside Marina 434-927-5380	S	●			●				
Lumpkin's Marina 434-927-5150	S	●	●		●		●	●	Short Order
Mitchell's Point Marina 540-484-3980	S	●	●	●				●	Full Menu
Palmer's Marina 540-576-3651	S	●							
Parkway Marina 540-297-4412	YR	●	●	●	●	●		●	Short Order
Smith Mountain Dock & Lodge 540-565-0222	S	●	●		●	●	●	●	Short Order
Virginia Dare Marina 540-297-7100	YR	●	●						Full Menu
Waterwheel Marina 540-721-5668	YR	●			●				
Webster Marina 540-297-5228	YR	●			●	●			



⑦
⑧
⑨
⑩
⑪
⑫
MONETA
24131
Downtown Moneta
Diamond Hill
Stone Mountain
MONETA
24121
Hales Ford Bridge
White House
AIRPORT
SMITH MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
Westlake Towne Center
Scruggs
MONETA
24122
SANDY LEVEL
24171
UNION HALL
24176
Union Hall
Penhook
Ajax



So, you want to fish?



Before you drop your line, you'll need a valid Virginia fishing license, available in most tackle shops, marinas and online at dgif.virginia.gov/licenses, to fish at the lake.

Fishing is available from the shores and piers at several public locations, including the SML State Park (Bedford County) and SML Community Park (Franklin County).

There are several guide services that can introduce you to the lake and share tips and secrets.

Captain Bert's Fishin' Charters
P.O. Box 673, Hardy
(540) 721-5788 • www.captainbert.com

Kenny's Striper Guide Service
P.O. Box 356, Rocky Mount
(540) 493-9541
www.kennysstriperguideservice.com

Spike's Prime Time Fishin', Inc.
4067 Hales Ford Rd., Moneta
(540) 297-5611
www.spikesprimetimefishin.com

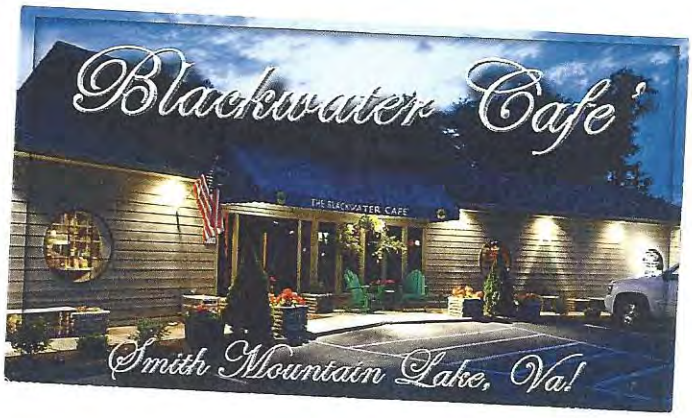
Rodbender Striper Guide Services
1093 Hannabass Dr., Goodview
(540) 246-4375
www.fishingwithrodbender.com

Pullin Drag Striper Guide Services
2050 Moorewood Rd., Hardy
(540) 493-8790
www.smlfishingguides.com

Adventures By Rockfish
GUARANTEED FISH
26 Viburnum Dr., Waynesboro
(540) 256-2571
www.rockfishadventures.com

Stone Mountain Guide Service
P. O. Box 18, Huddleston
(434) 665-6042

A Sport Fishing Expedition w/PointRunner
176 Caldwell Ln., Fishersville
(540) 836-0145
www.pointrunners.com





Jennifer Beamesderfer

taiBella Salon & Spa

Hair Stylist
C (540) 420-1222
B (540) 719-0025

400 Scruggs Rd. Ste. 400
Moneta, Virginia 24121

JAKE'S PLACE

1041 Harbour Inn Lane
(540) 297-4732

Moneta, Virginia 24121
fax (540) 297-4801

Mike Gordon
General Manager
gm@jakesplacesml.com
www.jakesplacesml.com

Smith Mountain Lake's Premier Waterfront Restaurant





T.J.'s SPORTING GOODS

BUY • SELL TRADE

GUNS ◆ AMMO ◆ FISHING ◆ ARCHERY
KAYAK/CANOE SALES & RENTALS
www.tjsportingoods.com

1100 Celebration Avenue
Suite 216
Moneta, Virginia 24121

Phone: (540) 297-4447
Fax: (540) 296-0988
Cell: (540) 580-9437

SEA TOW®
Where Boaters Belong™

Capt. Rick Ellett

Sea Tow Smith Mountain Lake
P 540-719-5555
F 704-302-1930
rellett@seatow.com
www.seatow.com

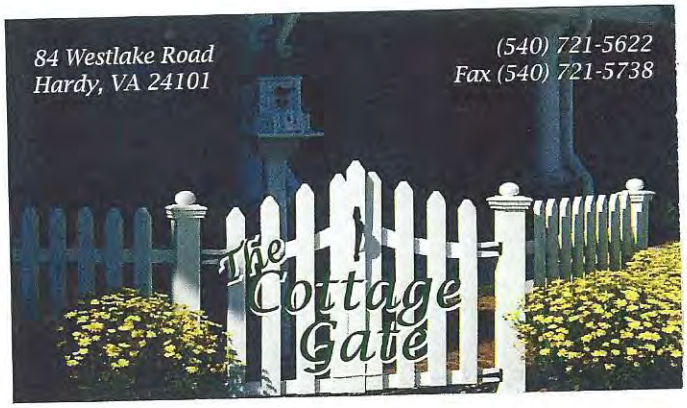
BAYSIDE
Marina & Yacht Club

Smith Mountain Lake's
Place for:
Slips - Dry Racks - Storage
Service - Gas - Ship's Store

Dale Runyon
500 Shoreline Circle
Moneta, VA 24121

Phone: (540) 721-3664
Fax: (540) 721-1119
bayside.marina@hotmail.com

baysidemarinasml.com







Capps HOME BUILDING CENTER Do it Best

13700 Booker T. Washington Hwy. • Moneta, Virginia 24121

Ryan Cappellari
Business Development Mgr.

P: (540) 721-2276
F: (540) 721-2299

ryan.c@cappshomebuildingcenter.com