



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



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PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Chris Rooney

Trolling Away the Month of May

Here we go!!! The winds of the winter and early spring are gone, the temperature breaks are just right out in the deep blue sea and to quote Captain Ricky, "I wish every month was May". Well we have two big trolling tournaments this month starting with the Unlimited on the 7th. Weather permitting we'll all head for where the big boys play, looking for striking fish to go on the Blue Water Board. I think I'll stick my neck out a little bit this month and say the winning Captain is going to have a Billfish!! I mean why not look at the fishing so far this year, It's been a good year for the JOSFC tournament season so far and what do you say, how about we continue it!!

The May Trolling tournament is at the end of the month, the 21st, and the pogies have been on the beach sense the beginning of April so the party grounds are alive. How about we weigh a 50# King or some Sailfish are caught and the winning boat has two releases, just don't forget the rules require you to immediately report a billfish release to a committee boat. I'll bet the winning aggregate for both tournaments is over 100 points.

On the Snapper front We can't let our guard down the SAMFC will take away everything if we let them, help keep up the fight! Keep the letters and e-mail going to our Government Officials Senators and congress, they can make a difference, the SAMFC does not care about our fishing. Have a great Fishing Month!!

Captain Chris Rooney, JOSFC President

MAN OVERBOARD!

Do you know how to handle this emergency?

As some of you already know, in April we had a club member fall overboard while fast trolling. The only damage was to his ego, he was retrieved safe and sound, BUT it could have been bad! They had a full spread of Wahoo lures with BIG bad hooks out behind them. Not a good scenario!

That is why we advocate wearing your life jacket while underway!

As part of your safety lecture or tour for your crew before you leave the dock, you should go over the drill for a MAN OVERBOARD!

When someone makes an unexpected departure from your boat while on the water, the person seeing it and yelling the warning IS the designated "Pointer". (Unless it is the Captain, then he assigns that duty to someone.)

The "Pointer" actually POINTS (Arm extended with the finger pointing directly at the swimmer.) at the person in the water and never takes their eyes off the person or stops pointing until it is time to help them back into the boat! This makes it easier for the Captain to know where to maneuver the boat to correctly position it to pick up the person in the water. In calm seas this seems silly, but should still be done, but if it is at all sloppy, this could be the difference between losing a person or successfully recovering them!

Continues page 2

Man Overboard Continued

When you approach the person in the water with your boat, you should approach them from UP-Wind, so your BOW is Down-Wind and you are beside them. As you get close, shift to neutral or if calm enough, turn the engine off to avoid the possibility of the propeller hitting them. If you go sideways to them from up-wind your boat could drift over them before you can pull them in, injuring them., If you try from down wind it will drift away faster than they can swim to you.

Do you have a rope set aside and easy to get to, just for throwing to the person to help pull them to the boat?

Do you have a way to get back in the boat? What if YOU fall overboard by yourself? can you get back in without help? Make sure you have a way to self rescue!

It can happen to the best most experienced of us, so be prepared !

Derek Siegel fishing on the Thelfini during the River Tournament caught this 80.76 pound Black Drum! The fish was revived and released in good condition! That fish is as big as Amanda! Amelia!



IF this looks familiar, it is because it was in last month's Newsletter. However, I owe Amelia Siegel a big apology . The young lady in the photo (Not the fish.) is Amelia.



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Wear these, they don't work in the cabin!
At least do it while under way, especially



entering and leaving the inlets, they can get rough in seconds.

Mayday / Pan-Pan / Securite

Do YOU really know what they mean, and how to use them? Well now you will!

When used, repeat the words 3 times before your message, this gets people's attention, and gives them time to pay attention to what is being transmitted.

Mayday - This means immediate danger. Only use it when you are in grave and imminent danger and require immediate help! Like man overboard and you have lost sight of them!

Pan-Pan - Urgent attention required. This is to be used for any situation that is urgent, but not imminent! Best I can think of here is like a major but not life threatening injury and you don't have a first-aid kit that will handle it on board.

Securite - This is used to warn people of hazards like floating debris, or a hard to control barge coming in an inlet, to let boaters know to stand clear.



The 2016 Sailfish Pot Party will be held this year on May 7, 2016 at the Morocco Center on St. Johns Road, Starting at 6:00 PM.

Pay attention Guys, PLEASE pre-Register! Last year they had an unusually large number of people wait to pay at the door, and that threw the planning all off, so there were a lot of unhappy people that didn't get their steak dinner!

You can find the entry form at jaxfish.com under the "General" tab at "downloadable .pdf forms"



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Gary Newman
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For all you new members or those of you with C.R.S. Gary Newman is a past president of the JOSFC, and he graciously lets us use his mailing address for the mail-in registrations for the El Cheapo!

Gary is there for US, he works for his clients and looks out for their best interest. That is why I have my boat and homeowners insurance through him.

Just an example, a few years ago, out of the blue he called me and found a different homeowners insurance that had better coverage, and cost me a lot less, and recommended I switch. I did, and he took care of the details.

Are your flares still in date? They have an expiration date, and the Coast Guard checks!

How about your fire extinguisher? Is it good, the right type and big enough? Check them NOW, not when you need them!

Another thing to check are your hoses, fittings and clamps. You don't want them failing while you are miles from shore.

FIRE!

I have said this before, there are only (2) two things that frighten me out on the water, FIRE and Lightening. (Lightning can also causes fire.) for this article I am going to talk about your Fire Extinguishers. (Note I said Extinguishers, plural.)

The Coast Guard requires ONE extinguisher for a boat LESS than 26 feet in length, and TWO for boats 26 feet to 40 feet in length. THREE for 40 to 65 feet.

We are mostly concerned with the 25' and under, and 26 to 40 ' size boats. The PRO's recommend at least 2 preferably 3 for up to a 25 foot boat, and at least one of them being a 5 pound ABC extinguisher. ABC means it will put out 'Solids' , 'Electrical' or 'Liquid' fire.

For a 26 foot and up you should have 3 or 4 on board.

The typical 2.5 pound extinguisher will only last only 8 to 10 seconds! IF you didn't start at the base of the fire and sweep back and forth working up, you probably didn't get the fire out in that short time, and if the fire is big, 10 seconds just won't do at all!

I bet that most of you have one little 2.5 Pound extinguisher that came with your boat several years ago, and has never been checked or recharged! It is sitting in it's bracket and the powder has become compacted and hard in the bottom so it may not work at all!

The little one that came with your boat is probably not rechargeable, and as it is OLD I would suggest that you take it out of your boat, build a fire in your driveway or yard, and use it to train your family or crew to properly use one. Then go buy 3 good bigger extinguishers for your boat, after all, your life is worth every penny. Just saw 2 on sale for \$29.00 Cheap!

Check out the boat.us.org/findings fire extinguisher testing videos on line.

Here is what you need to know for fishing the Atlantic off Jacksonville!

- Barracuda - 2 / day
- Black Drum - 14" to 24" 1 over 24" 5 / day
- Red Drum - 18" to 27" 2 / day
- Pompano - 11" Fork Length 6 / day
- Gag & Black - 24" TL (Total Length) - 1 / day
- Red, Scamp, Yellow Fin, & Yellow Mouth - 20" TL - 1/day - Total of 3 Grouper / day
- Black Seabass - 10" - 5 / day
- Cobia - 33" FL (Fork Length) - 1 / day
- Dolphin (Mahi) 20" - 10 / day
- Kingfish - 24" FL - 2 / day
- Spanish Mackerel - 12" FL - 15 / day
- Gray Triggerfish - 12" FL - 10 / day
- Sheepshead - 12" 15 / day
- Spotted Sea Trout - 15" to 20" 1 over 20" 6 / day
- Weakfish - No sizelimit 100 pounds total
- B-Liners, (Vermilion Snapper) 12" TL - 5 / day
- Bluefish - 12" FL - 10 / day
- Flounder - 12" TL - 10 / day
- Greater Amberjack - 28" TL - 1 / day
- Tripletail - 15" TL - 2 / day
- African Pompano - 24" Fork L. - 2 / day
- Red Snapper - 20" TL - 2 / Day - FLORIDA WATERS ONLY (Within 3 Miles of shore!)
- Snappers - 10 / day aggregate
 - Mangrove - 10" State, 12" Federal
 - Lane - 8"
 - Mutton - 16"
 - Cubera - 12'

May possess no more than 2 Cubera Snapper over 30" per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less. 30" or larger not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.

Check the Regs before each trip to make sure they haven't changed!

Don't forget that we have added TARPON to the Boards! They are a Catch & Release only fish, so catch it take a photo and measurements and send it on it's way!

Nautical Terms, and Why.

Have you ever wondered why some people use Nautical terms on their boat, acting like old time sailors? Well I have the answer for you.

Lets start with Port and Starboard. First every boat has a Port side and a Starboard side. If you sit in the boat facing forward the Port side is on your LEFT, and naturally that makes the Starboard side on your RIGHT.

In old sailing days there was a board or plank that stuck out from the right (Or Starboard) side of the ship where the navigator would go out on to see the stars better so take a fix. Quite often this was a fixed board so when they came in to dock they always docked with the left side against the pier or dock, hence the terms Port and Starboard.

Now why use them? I have seen this happen more that once. A fisherman has a fish on the line and is fighting them. The fish is to the Stern (Or Back) of the boat, so the fisherman is facing the back. Now the Captain or person running the boat is facing forward. The fisherman wants the boat to turn to his right and yells "Turn Right" so the Captain turns to HIS right, the wrong way! Now if everyone uses the nautical terms for the right and left, there will be no confusion, the fisherman says turn to Port and the Captain knows the he wants the boat to go left which is the fisherman's Right!

I have gone so far as to put plastic placards at the helm and on the back corners of the boat so people won't forget which way to tell me to turn.

You can also remember which is right or left with this saying. " You can always be LEFT in Port" Here as in a lot of the English language Port has a second different meaning and that is the place at land where the boats sail from or to. As in Port Jacksonville, or Port Miami..

Moat of the other nautical terms come from sailing ships where they gave the parts of the ship standard names to avoid confusion when telling someone which sail or mast or rope to adjust or where to go to find something or someone.



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As mentioned on Page 1, one of our newsletters, one of our members (I am NOT going to tell you that it was Tom Darga, our past President. That might embarrass him.) fell overboard last month.

The facts are something like this;

The Un-named club member, was crew on a 36' boat, and they just had a couple of Wahoo on deck, making it slimy and slippery! being a good crew member the Un-named club member grabbed a 5 gal. bucket and leaned over the side to scoop up some water to wash the deck down. As bad luck would have it, he did this just as the Captain hit the gas to get back up to trolling speed! The Un-named club member got a bigger scoop of water than he planned, and was yanked overboard before he knew what happened! BUT, he held onto the BUCKET!

SO At the April 21st meeting the Un-named club member was presented with his OWN 5 gal. bucket, as mandatory trolling equipment for him in the future.

Yes, it is BRIGHT ORANGE, half filled with foam, has a rope with a float at the end for attaching to the Un-named club member to make retrieval easier in the future!



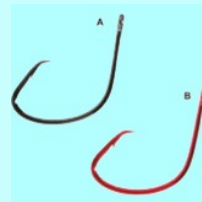
Loud Hailings

Bill Breen
Newsletter
Editor

I am looking for PICTURES of club members with local catches, to use in our newsletter. If you have a good photo PLEASE E-mail it or give it to me at a meeting. I will Scan it and return it to you undamaged. Don't forget to include a piece of paper with your name address, and the information on the catch, size or weight, and when. You can even include your numbers where caught, I won't tell anyone else, I promise! ;-) Cross my heart and hope to catch your fish!

Just a reminder, ANYONE and everyone can submit something, a good story, joke, or you can also submit photos to be included in our Newsletter. Just get your article and or pictures to me by the 18th of the month, to be in the next months newsletter. Just hand me a copy at any meeting, or E-mail it to me at : breenw@bellsouth.net

Circle Hooks



Circle hooks are designed to not gut hook your fish, and they do this very well, once you learn how to fish with them. In fact, studies have shown a 30% increase in your catch or Hooked ratio over standard "J" hooks. Once you learn how to

fish them!

The hardest thing to learn is to NOT set the hook! When you feel a fish on the line, point your rod at the fish and SLOWLY start to reel your line in, and the hook will usually hook the fish in the corner of the mouth. You can also lift your rod tip slowly, like you are pulling the bait away from the fish, and this works also. Once you feel it is hooked, you can reel hard to get it to the boat!



I don't exaggerate...I just remember BIG !!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 🐟🐟	2 Board Meeting 🐟🐟	3 🐟🐟	4 🐟🐟	5 Club Meeting 🐟🐟🐟	6 🐟🐟🐟	7 The Unlimited Trolling Tournament 🐟🐟🐟🐟
8 🐟🐟🐟	9 🐟🐟	10 🐟🐟	11 🐟🐟	12 🐟🐟	13 🐟🐟	14 🐟🐟
15 🐟🐟	16 🐟🐟	17 🐟🐟	18 🐟🐟	19 Club Meeting 🐟🐟	20 🐟🐟🐟	21 The May Trolling Tournament 🐟🐟🐟
22 🐟🐟🐟🐟	23 🐟🐟🐟	24 🐟🐟🐟	25 🐟	26 🐟	27 🐟	28 🐟🐟
29 🐟🐟	30 🐟🐟	31 🐟🐟	May			



Coming Events:

- May 2nd - Board Meeting
- May 5th - Club Meeting
- May 7th - The Unlimited Trolling Tournament
- May 7th - The Sailfish Pot Party
- May 19th - Club Meeting
- May 21st - The May Trolling Tournament

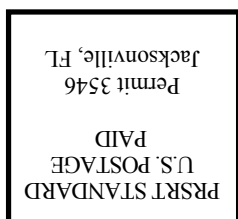
Tournament Schedule for 2016

Tournament	Month	Date	Alternate
			- All are on Saturday -
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	7	14- Fishing Director
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	21	28 - Fishing Director
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	11	26 - Steve Grant
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	June	18	July - 9 - Derek Seigel
The Ladies Tournament -	August	6	13 - Fishing Director
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	27	-Sept. 3 - Alan Shepard
The Bottom Tournament -	September	17	-24 - Steve Kalatizs
Triple Challenge Tournament -	October	15	-22 - Alan Shepard

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