



The Newsletter of the ...

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

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February 2017



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Chris Rooney



February Chills

Here comes the worst old man winter has to throw at us, the wind is howling out of the NNE at 25 knots and the mist hits you in the face with the temperature at 40 degrees in the middle of the day. It's just not fit for man nor beast but it is sheepshead weather, that striped bandit will be out in force to steal our bait and the chill.

The club house won't have a chill on the first Thursday of the month because that's the "CHILI COOK OFF". We will warm you to your toes with members concoctions as they compete for the prize of this years top Chili. Along with the chili is Toni Eaton of BOATTRONICS fame, he's here to provide some insight to the operations of the wonderful gadgets that find us fish then find our way home. That should be a hot combination, I wonder if anyone ever made Wahoo Chili?? This is the time of the year for the ocean speedsters to find our baits offshore and the table at home.



This month means the EL-CHEAPO preps are in full swing and man what a tournament this year going to bring, the prize structure is even better than last year. We expect 450 boats this year, WOW!!, I heard the old rock barge on the outside of the south jetty is going to be the hot spot this year for the big one. The water has cooled down and the fish are here our last two trips we had 30 and 18 with 5 or 6 black drum in the box on both expeditions. I will tell you the storm this year changed bottom structure so it will be interesting hunting for the bandit. Come see me at the Chili cook off I'll give you some of the numbers that hold Sheepies and if you want to listen I'll tell you what I think I know. We'll need a lot of help for the tournament weekend and the volunteers meeting is scheduled for Thursday the 26th of January so come out and support the club, join us in putting on the world's greatest Sheepshead tournament the EL-Cheapo and have some fun doing it.

I hope everyone is ready for the start of the fishing season because this is the last month to get everything ready. Well I've covered some subjects in this month's letter and in closing I just want spring fishing to get here, get lost Old Man Winter. **Tight Lines!!**

Capt. Chris Rooney, JOS' President



This is YOUR Club!

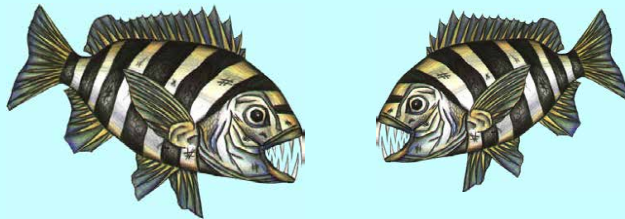
As my title says, the JOSFC is YOUR club, not only mine, or the Boards, it is YOURS!

With that in mind, we really would like to hear from you the members, just what we can do to make it better, to encourage more participation at the meetings, and or other activities that you would like to see us participate in or do.

The Board might not decide to go along with all your ideas, but they definitely would like to hear from you.

You will find all your Officers and Board members E-mail at our Website.

YES, we really mean this, Let us know what you think!



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SUPER IMPORTANT

I really hate to admit this, but this year as of January 15th, we only have (57) Yes, that is Fifty Seven annual paid members! We have a lot of Lifetime members, but only 57 families that have renewed or joined this year!

The SAMFC is working overtime to shut down all our fishing. Their latest FAKE information is their excuse to close Cobia fishing. Just such an example of their made up numbers.

From 2005 to 2014 the estimated annual catch was a steady 706,470 Pounds, Yet magically (With no increase in boats fishing or extra days fishing) their estimate jumped to 1,540,779 Pounds! More than DOUBLE the normal catch!

Naturally they just have to decrease the numbers allowed and increase the size limit, and close a big part of the waters or year to fishing for Cobia.

You must recognize that Dr. Crabtree and his crowd are the same group that took an OBSERVED (FWC Observers studying fish release mortality on party boats in the Gulf.) released fish mortality rate in the Gulf, of 10% or less and INTERPOLATED it to 90% + for Atlantic waters, hence an excuse to try to close ALL sport fishing in the early 2000's when they first got the Red Snapper closures started. They have brought total fishing closure to the front AGAIN with this year's excuse to keep Red Snapper closed on the Atlantic Coast.

They CLAIM that the stock is recovering TOO well, and we are catching and releasing too many Red Snapper, Killing them by releasing them. SO . . . they have no choice but to keep it closed, and push for a total bottom fishing closure!

Remember this is the same fake science that made up the fish stock numbers for 1945.

Super Important Continued

There were NO records or stock assessments kept back then. (No science, just made up numbers.)

We are really fighting to keep your's and our right to fish, and we desperately need you to encourage as many friends as you can to join our club to give our club the political clout to make our Senators and Representatives listen to us!

They can also come out and have fun with the club! Our meetings have gotten a lot better, Tony Thompson, our Speaker Director has been getting some outstanding guest speakers and Chris has been working some unbelievable deals so our Raffle Table is better than ever! The Minceys, Hospitality Directors, have been giving us some great meals, not the same ole same ole, how about a Baked Potato bar for dinner! That was great! We are getting more Club Tournaments, fun activities like helping the GJKT put on the "Down at the Dock" fishing day for the Down's Syndrome kids of Jax just before the GJKT Tournament! **We really need your help to have the numbers to add some weight to our letters to Congress.** They can join at any club meeting, cash, check or credit card, or at the club website.

www.jaxfish.com

Just go to the "About" tab and down to "JOSFC Membership" and join there, fill out the form and go to PayPal to pay your dues! (**It is still ONLY \$40 individual / YEAR or \$50 Family / YEAR.) There is a one time \$25 application fee on top of the first year's membership.**

IF you like to fish off Jacksonville, you should be a member of the JOSFC, even if you can't make most of the meetings, because we are fighting for your right to fish! Tell or bring your buddies to a meeting and get them to **Join!**

From the February 2017 issue of Saltwater Sportsman

Strength in Numbers

It is a fact that most people that engage in Saltwater Fishing also engage in at least one other outdoor sport. Hunting, Hiking, Snowmobile riding, Hiking and even Photography to name just a few.

The American Sportfishing Association has joined with the other outdoor Recreational industry, and we got a new law passed in 2016.

The Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act.

The **Morris-Deal** study started things and was answered by NOAA Fisheries when they created the **National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Policy**, and then the **Center for Sportfishing Policy** with their "**A Vision for Marine Fisheries Management in the 21st Century**" documents **CHANGED** the way Recreational Fishing is perceived by the Regulatory Agencies, the **Department of Commerce** in particular!

They established that the economic benefits of recreational fishing FAR outweigh those of the commercial-fishing sector!

In a study issued by the Boulder Colorado based Outdoor Industry Association they found that Outdoor Recreation drives \$646 BILLION in spending each year and supports 6.1 Million direct Jobs and \$80 BILLION in Federal, State and local Tax Revenue! Saltwater Sport Fishing is a major part of those figures.

Outdoor Spending FAR exceeds consumer spending in each of the other categories, including Pharmaceuticals, Motor vehicles, Gasoline, fuel, and Household Utilities!

Use this when you write your letters to the Local, State, and Federal Representatives demanding they overturn the Marine Fisheries commissions, and parts of the Maginson-Stevenson Act that NOAA is using to shut down Sport Fishing!

SHEEPSHEAD

Order: Perciformes
 Family: Sparidae
 Genus: *Archosargus*
 Species: *probatocephalus*



Although it reaches a maximum size of about 29.5 inches (76 cm) and 22 pounds (9.6 kg), adult sheepshead are most commonly about 1-8 pounds (.5-3.6 kg) and 14-18 inches (35 cm). Maximum known lifespan of the sheepshead is at least 20 years with maturity typically reached at 2 years of age.

This fish is highly valued for human consumption due to its fine white flesh and mild flavor. However, its heavy scales and strong fin spines make it difficult to clean and fillet. It is marketed fresh and frozen and may be prepared by frying, broiling, microwaving, and baking.

Primarily occurring inshore around rock pilings, jetties, mangrove roots, and piers as well as in tidal creeks, the euryhaline sheepshead prefers brackish waters. It seeks out warmer spots near spring outlets and river discharges and sometimes enters freshwater during the winter months. This fish moves to offshore areas in later winter and early spring for spawning, which sometimes occurs over artificial reefs and navigation markers.

Sheepshead average about three pounds but can get over ten, and are terrific fighters who like to run anglers' lines around the pilings where they are most



Ronda Thompson is holding a really nice 5.5 pound Sheepshead she caught while practicing for the El Cheapo!

THE EL CHEAP IS COMING!



THE EL CHEAP IS COMING!



THE EL CHEAP IS COMING!



Wear these, at least while underway, they don't work in the cabin!



often caught. Their bite is very hard to detect and they are a difficult fish to hook if you don't know what you are doing.

Sheepshead are tied to hard structure such as bridges, jetties, docks, and piers. They use their sharp teeth to scrap barnacles from this structure and gobble up and break the shells of barnacles, mussels, and crabs. They do not travel in schools but orientate themselves around a food source and become very territorial, often staying in an area until the food supply is used up.

Catching sheepshead is not easy. They are not often caught incidentally by bottom fishermen but are hooked and fought by local anglers in many states who target them. A strong rod and heavier than usual line, around 20 lb test, is recommended as when hooked

Sheepshead Continued

sheepshead quickly try to run the line around those pilings. It is important to put strong pressure on the fish to bring them away from the hang-ups.

Sheepshead are caught on unusual saltwater baits and rarely take usual ones such as cut shrimp, squid or cut fish. Instead they hit fiddler crabs, pieces of larger crabs such as cut blue crab, sand fleas (also called mole crabs) or even barnacles scrapped from a piling and held together by their own sticky mesh or rubber bands.

- Despite their brute strength Sheepshead have a bite that it is so soft it is often impossible to detect. *The old saying among sheepshead fishermen is that you must set the hook just before a sheepshead bites!* It's not that difficult, but almost. One trick is to watch the rod tip, which will have a slight dip from the weight of your sinker. When a sheepshead bite the dip will disappear as the tip rises. Even if you feel nothing, set the hook.

Sheepshead anglers don't stay in one place but move from piling to piling. Sometimes they can be seen in clear water rising up and slowly working on the barnacles and mussels of the pilings.

Sheepshead have protruding lips that give the fish its name. They also have a white body and big, black bold stripes. They are sometimes confused with black drum, another inshore structure fish that covers the same areas but is easier to catch.

Sheepshead are a hearty, tasty fish that yield delicious white meat fillets which fit into many seafood recipes. Sheepshead fillets are also very good simply breaded and fried.



This is your target for the month of February, the Sheepshead, 7 Striped Jetty Snapper, or as I like to call them DINNER!

Want some FREE Club Raffle Tickets?



The JOSFC Board has a reward for you! All you have to do to collect it is to get a New Member to join the club! For EVERY new member you bring in they will give you \$10.00 in Raffle tickets. That is 12 Ticket or 12 chances to win one of the \$150 to \$300 dollar Rod & Reel combos, or any of the other great raffle prizes that we have in the Raffle at the end of every meeting!

IF you get them to sign up On-Line be sure to have them put your name in the "Sponsor" box on the form.



TASHA MINCEY, HOSPITALITY DIRECTOR HAS A CHALLENGE FOR YOU FOOLS THAT THINK YOU CAN COOK!

The Regular club meeting of February 2nd is our Annual Chili Cook-Off!

If you **THINK** you make a great chili, brew up a pot of your best, and bring it to the meeting. There will be prizes for 1st through 3rd place.





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John Ballis caught this beautiful Grouper on the last day of Grouper season! He didn't weigh it but said it sure tasted good! That would have been hard to beat for the Boards John!

T...Mobile

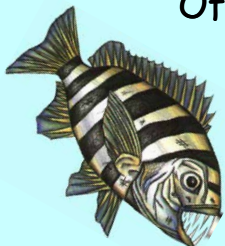
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Provider!

I don't
exaggerate...I

just
remember

BIG !!!



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<h1>February</h1>			1	2 Club Meeting Chili Cook-Off	3	4 The Sheepshead Tune-Up Tournament
			5	6 Board Meeting	7	8
12	13	14	15	16 Club Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



FEB. 2ND - CLUB MEETING. ANNUAL CHILICOOK-OFF
FEB. 4TH - THE SHEEPSHEAD TUNE-UP
FEB. 6TH - BOARD MEETING
FEB. 11TH - THE RIVER TOURNAMENT
FEB 16TH - CLUB MEETING



MARCH 4TH - THE EL CHEAPO!

Tournament Schedule for 2017

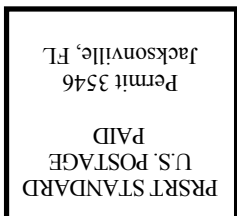
Tournament - - - - - Month - - - - - Date / - - - - - Alternate
 - All are on Saturday -

The Sheepshead Tuneup Tournament	February	----- 4 -----	11- Dustin Girard
The River Tournament	February	----- 11 -----	Jack Ogin
The Non-Live Tournament	March	----- 18 -----	25 - Robert Vermillion
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	April	----- 15 -----	22- Chris Rooney
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 20 -----	27 - Alan Shepard
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	----- -10 -----	17 - Alan Shepard
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- -8 -----	15 - Steve Kalaitzis
The Ladies Tournament -	July	----- 29 -----	August 5 - - Chuck Darner
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	----- 12 -----	19 - Steve Kalaitzis
The Bottom Tournament -	September	----- 2 -----	-9 - Steve Kalatizs

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