



The Reel News

The Newsletter of the ...



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 57 Issue 4

April 2017



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Captain Chris
Rooney

April a Month of Trasition

Well spring is finally here, and the Dolphin are due to show up in force by the end of the month. This winter has been consistent with cold weather, but nothing down in the 20's, water temp's have already warmed up so this hopefully will provide some great rips and temperature breaks as the warmer water comes in from the south. That could set the target areas out in the deep water we didn't see a lot of last year, and should be excellent for the MAHI MAHI!! Look for the changes in water color or and smooth areas running north and south filled with flotsam, weeds and bait. They will hold dolphin, we had luck last year keeping somebody up front with a big spinning rod and sight casting to fish with live bait or a jig with a squid head. Once he hooked up the other fish would come out of the weed line to see what was going on and two or three of the trolling rods would get hit and the fun started.

Mahi Mayhem is always good for a laugh and even better if you hook up four fish and land them all!



Gentleman, The 2017 Sailfish Pot Party will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at the Ramallah Club. More Information to be found on Page 5.

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4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the Junior Anglers

Come one come all! April 6th is our 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. All kids are welcome. Easter Eggs will be hidden around 6:15, so please have kids in the club house before then. We are still seeking pre-wrapped candy to fill our eggs with. Please write me at fishingqueen79@gmail.com with questions or donations. Can't wait to see all our bright eyed junior anglers!



On February 2nd Bill Wilderotter, Jim Anderson and Ferris Solomon Chartered Captain Dennis Young on the Sea Dancer for a good day of fishing. Above is Jim Anderson in front of their day's catch.

Sea Dancer Charter Cont.

They had a great day with Beeliners, Mutton Snapper, Flounder, Seabass, Kingfish, Cobia and the ever-present nuisance (catch 10 for every keeper) catch and release Red Snapper. There were also an assortment of Jacks.

They fished the Elton Bottoms first and later came back into the TW area to catch their big Seabass, (Up to 18 inches!)



Ferris Solomon with a nice 36" Cobia.

OK Bill, you got Ferris to go fishing with you, Now bring him to a meeting so he can join the Club!

Hay Ferris, we don't care if you fished with Bill Wilderotter, we will let you join anyway! :-)

Remember, bring in a new member and you get 12 (Twelve) raffle tickets for the club Raffles!

Remember that we want to hear from you with any suggestions for improving YOUR club and the meetings. You can send an E-mail to any club officer by going to the above website and to the "About" tab and down to "Officers & Board" Each board member has their E-mail listed there.

JOSFC Membership

Welcome new **LIFE** members, Danny Cohan, Madison Shaw and William McKabel! Also we welcome the **Peter Hannifin, Donnie Hutto, Hal Hannah, Catherine Longmine, Wayne Jimerson, Shawn Smith, Edwin Fickey, , Janet Pelliccioti, Susan Barrett, and Gregory Hutto families!**

April finds us continuing to grow as a fishing family! Between the El Cheapo Tournament (Thank you mega times to Tobi Browning for her help) and our last meeting in March, we gained THIRTEEN new families! Three of those were new Lifetime memberships! A young woman Madison Shaw signing up for her first personal membership as an adult decided to make it a **Lifetime Membership**. That is the power of a family-centered fishing club! Don't forget to sponsor a new member. You'll receive a free \$10 worth of raffle tickets for your efforts when you sponsor a new member and they become JOSFC members.

We are enjoying a growing fishing club with children learning the joys of being outside and catching fresh fish to eat. The children' ages range from two or three (Don't forget the Easter Egg Hunt before our April 6 meeting.) up into the teens. The wonderful thing is that as these 'kids' reach adulthood, they are continuing to fish and and be supportive of our fishing rights far into the future.

Don't forget to come to the meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Not only is Tasha cooking the most incredible meals, but the speakers have been outstanding in discussing topics near and dear to us all. Whether you are new to fishing this area or are an 'oldie but goodie' to Florida fishing, there has been something for everyone. President Chris has had great raffles at the end of the meeting. So many fishing goodies are going out the door in the hands of smiling members.

Thank you all for being involved members! Be sure to stop and greet our new members at the meetings and tournaments. They'll have questions only you can answer. See you at the JOSFC Mayport Clubhouse on April 6.

If you are NOT receiving the "Reminder E-mails" of meetings and other important fishing related information, be sure to make sure we have your correct E-mail.

TOWING YOUR BOAT

Before I get into the subject of towing your boat, I want to remind everyone to wear your life jacket when on the water. During a past year by April, Florida had 3 boating fatalities from drowning; One from bad weather swamping a canoe, one from falling overboard from a pontoon boat and one from falling overboard from a 12 foot jon boat. Florida has issued the following boating statistics for 2010:

Boating fatalities to date: 8

Drowning 7, Trauma 1

6 Males 2 Females

8 Single vessel accidents

As you can see from the statistics above, 7 people might be alive today if they had been wearing a life jacket. Remember, life jackets float when you do not.



Now, with improving weather and tournaments on the schedule, Club members will be towing their boats more to get in on the action. In order to have a safe, successful boating/fishing trip, if you are one of the 95% of recreational boaters who tow their boats, you must first tow your boat to the nearest boat ramp for launching. Towing a boat has its good and bad points, and the potential problems in towing are many. I would like to remind everyone of a few things to consider before towing your boat.

Before you add a trailer hitch to your vehicle to pull that new, or used, boat you will be fishing from, you should look at it as a package and make sure the vehicle is capable of towing the weight of the boat and trailer. Unless your vehicle is specially equipped, you should not tow a trailer load that weighs more than the vehicle. Manufacturers sell towing packages that include several modifications for your vehicle such as heavy-duty radiators, transmission oil coolers, heavy-duty brakes and proper suspension systems based on tongue weight.

Before connecting your vehicle to a trailer, make sure you are using the correct sized ball for your coupler. Never use a coupler designed for a larger ball even if it seems to fit as it can come loose with disastrous results. Also, it is sometimes possible to put a coupler on a larger ball than it was designed for. Don't do it! It will bind and the trailer will not track correctly. The shanks of balls vary in size with the ball. Never use a smaller ball than required, as the shank will be undersized and could shear.

Balancing the load on your trailer is very important to safe towing. Between 5 & 7% of the tow weight (boat+motor+contents+trailer) should be on the tongue. If you have more than this, the rear squats, the front lifts, and your vehicle is hard to handle. If you have less, the trailer is likely to fishtail, and the wind from a large truck could cause you to lose control. For example, the tongue weight for the average passenger car should be no more than 100 pounds with the towing package weighing no more than 2,000 pounds.

To check your tongue weight, load your boat with the gear you normally carry. Then, stack cinder blocks to the height of your trailer ball and place your bathroom scales on top of the blocks. Now, lower your trailer tongue onto the scales. If the tongue weight needs adjusting, the simplest way is to move the load inside the boat forward or aft. If this is not sufficient, you can move the winch stem and your boat forward or aft.

You should develop a pre-departure check list to make sure you check the following items before you go: Air in tires and spare, tools, items in boat secured, electrical connections made and brake, lights and turn signals working, motor or outdrive up and secured, tie down straps secured, coupler locked and safety chains secured. Finally, don't forget the obvious; make sure your drain plug is installed so you can continue to enjoy safe boating.

Top Ingram



Chris Beasley won the 2017 El Cheapo in grand style with his Tournament Record Breaking 14 pound 3 Ounce Winning Sheepshead! Chris broke the 14 year old 12.9 Pound record by over a whole pound!

Presidents MessageContinued

Just remember when your going deep make sure somebody on shore knows where you're headed and what time you plan on being back to shore. You should always file a trip float plan leave it with your wife or the marina so if you don't get back on time, someone starts the correct procedures for finding you.

The latest from our "friends" at SAFMC gave us little hope, no changes in the rhetoric from the council and more misinformation from the "Science".

We just got the latest from the SAMFC and the mixed news is that we have managed to get the powers above them to admit and tell them that their stock assessments are all off and wrong! Now their rotten response is to say:

OK, we have no good information, so we can't take any chance on it being the same or worse than we "made up" (My words) so we will just **HAVE TO CONTINUE THE TOTAL CLOSURE UNTIL WE CAN FIND OUT DIFFERENTLY!**

What a total "IN YOUR FACE FISHERMEN"!

We need to get on the game again and call all our concerns to action, if the rumors are true from the council this is worse than when they first started. That means if we ever want to fish for Red Snapper again we need to put the pressure on, that pressure is what makes something happen and we need to keep the pressure on our congressmen and senators. I have a few letters we wrote in the beginning I'll edit and make some adjustments then get it out to Bill and Trina, get everyone you know to send it out to our senators and congressmen. Well that's what I have for you this month we are ready to go and the fish are biting so lets go and be safe!!



The Sailfish Pot Party

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM to ??

Location: Ramallah American Club
3130 Parental Home Road
Jacksonville, FL

Menu: Steak, Oysters, Wings & Beer

Bring your own Oyster Knife & Towel

Prizes: The best assortment of Raffle prizes
EVER!

THIS IS A STAG EVENT !

The Sailfish Pot Party is NOT a JOSFC Function, it is it's own stand alone function that was started years ago. However the JOSFC members do help whoever wins when they ask for our help, but the club does not spend any money or do anything for it other than advertise it in our newsletter and on the website when asked, just like we do for the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament.

The fishermen of the area mostly only knew each other over the CB Radio or the chance meeting at the boat ramp. They decided to meet at a local watering hole, and while there they came up with the idea of a contest for the **FIRST SAILFISH** Caught. They would all put \$10.00 in a pot (One of them just happened to have an old Chamber pot that he donated, hence the name, the Sailfish POT Party!) and the first one to catch a Sailfish would win all the money. The only catch was that he then had to put on a party for all those that donated to the pot!

This is a great party, your entry fee gets you a Steak that you cook yourself over a large charcoal grill, and you also get a baked potato and a salad with your steak. **OYSTERS**, there are tables full of raw or steamed Oysters where you can open and eat all you want! Of course there is a supply of beer and soft drinks that are included in your entry fee.

The evening ends with a **GREAT BIG RAFFLE** with some really good prizes!

Gary Newman

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In every Newsletter I strongly suggest that you wear your Life Jacket at least while your boat is underway.

Here are some other safety things that you should consider.

Is your Fire extinguisher current? Do you have a big enough one, or more than one?

How about a "Ditch Bag" is it properly stocked, and sitting out where it is handy?

First aid kit current, plenty of Hydrogen Peroxide to clean wounds?



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!














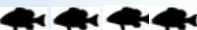


















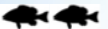


Just a reminder, ANYONE and everyone can submit something, a good story, joke, or you can also submit photos to be included in our Newsletter. Just get your article and or pictures to me by the 18th of the month, to be in the next months newsletter. Just hand me a copy at any meeting, or E-mail it to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



Little Gracie, fishing the 2017 El Cheapo caught this Beautiful Sheepshead during the tournament! This is one of the reasons that the El Cheapo is such a great FUN

Tournament for the entire family!

Remember, Parents don't take pictures of their kids playing video games! Take your kids Fishing they are never too young!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<div>April</div>						1 Club Non-Live Tournament 
2 	3 Board Meeting 	4 	5 	6 Club Meeting 	7 	8 
9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 Club Unlimited Trolling Tournament 
16 	17 	18 	19 	20 Club Meeting 	21 	22 
23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 
30 		<div>  <p>COMING EVENTS:</p> <p>April 1st - Non-Live Tournament</p> <p>April 6th - Club Meeting & Junior Angler Easter Egg Hunt 6:30 PM</p> <p>April 15th - Unlimited Trolling Tournament</p> <p>April 20th - Club Meeting</p> </div>				

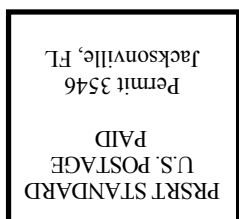
Tournament Schedule for 2017

Tournament	-	-	Month	-	—Date /	Alternate
- All are on Saturday -						
The Non-Live Tournament			April	-----	1	----- 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
Triple Challenge Tournament -			October	-----	15	----- -22 - Alan Shepard

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