



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 57 Issue 3

March 2017

It's



Here !!!

The 17th annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament and Fish Fry will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017

For those of you who have never fished this tournament before, welcome to "The World's Largest Sheepshead Tournament"! For those of you who have fished it before, welcome back! --- and I'm sure you'll find the 17th edition of this tournament the best one yet!

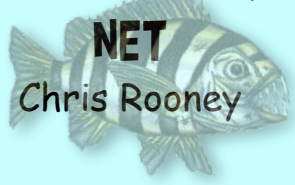
This year our Grand Prize winner will receive an **18 Foot Center Console Carolina Skiff with a Suzuki 4 stroke 60 Hp motor on a Magic Tilt Trailer. plus a Replica Taxidermy Mount of the winning fish! This is the 1st year that Suzuki Marine has partnered with us and the 9th year for Carolina Skiff.**

Second Place is a Carolina Skiff 15 JV with a Suzuka 4 stroke on a Magic Tilt Trailer!

With **Atlantic Coast Marine, Fishing Nosara, and Styles Smith Plumbing** rounding out the top 5 places, we've got a combined value of over \$50,000.00 for just the top of the payout! When you add the Junior Angler, Platinum, Gold, and Silver level sponsor's contributions along with all the bonus prizes we've got, you end up with over \$100,000.00 worth of prizes being given away! This event truly has become one of the best fishing tournaments in all of Florida. Still only \$80 (After 2/20/17 \$100) per BOAT entered!



PRESIDENTS CAST NET



March Madness

Beware of the Ides of March, if you're a fish, that is!! The Tournament season has started, with the El-Cheapo 2017 and it is ready! "Away we GO".

This year is already looking like the fishing deities are smiling down upon the El Cheapo . As I write this we are ahead of schedule and the entries are flowing in, everything went out on time and the Captains and Anglers are all in!! Do not forget this is when your club needs YOU the most, it will take a hard, concerted team effort to make the El-Cheapo happen.

The Effort is concentrated on the three days starting Friday morning and running through Sunday afternoon, it does not matter if you do not

have a specific job or function, or did not sign up, we always need roamers to help with all the little things that popup.

The River Tournament is the third competition in the race for Captain of the year. Remember all of this is fun and our tournament rules are set up to promote boating safety and our enjoyment. As we start the Season remember these rules, in order to be eligible for an "Angler of the Year" board win, (except the Junior Anglers boards) you must fish a minimum of 3 club tournaments.

The fishing will heat up this month with the start of the spring runs for a lot of the inshore fish with Sheepshead and Black Drum at the head of the inshore side of that list. The Offshore fishing is awesome with the Wahoo fishing leading the pack trolling followed by Mahi-Mahi and the bottom fishing is fired up and filling freezers. When checked our log book for last year it was a mixed month, highlighted by great hauls of bottom fish and a couple of great trolling days in the deep water. Keep your lines tight folks and I'll see you out there!

Capt. Chris Rooney
JOSFC President



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Ms. Emily Murphy, the Grand Lady of the JOSFC passed away 2/9/2017. Ms. Emily was one of the greatest generation and a true loss.

She was the oldest member of the Club, a charter member with her husband Pat, and the Club Treasurer for years. She will be missed greatly!





Joe Esparza spent a day just having fun catching some fish on light tackle at the jetties.

Emergency Phone Numbers First for Any Emergency - 911

U.S. Coast Guard, Jacksonville Emergencies
904-564-7500 Press 1

U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center
1-800-424-8802

Jacksonville Sheriff's Marine Unit
904-630-2160

Florida Fish and Wildlife
1-888-404-3922

Sea Tow
1-800-473-2869

Tow Boat U.S.
1-800-391-4869

Now use that thing on top of your
shoulders for more than a Hat Rack!
Program the above numbers into your Cell
Phone so you always have them!

Remember to shop at our sponsors
and support them as often as you can.

Also remember to pull out your JOSFC
Membership card and ask if they give a club
discount! They don't all do it, but it lets them
know we are supporting them as a Club!

MetroPCS

**The Official Service Provider of
the JOSFC and their El Cheapo
Sheepshead Tournament**

These are YOUR Metro PCS Stores

- 1177 Park Ave, Orange Park, FL 32073
- 809 Lomax St, Jacksonville, FL 32205
- 1560 Business Center Drive, Fleming Island
FL 32003
- 204 N. Orange Ave, Green Cove Springs FL 32043
- 542176 US Hwy 1, Callahan FL 32011

Lou DeNicola said he was fishing on Howard
Thurman's boat, 9 miles east of St. Mary at KBY. We
were having a good day on keeper Drum and
sheepshead but kept breaking off when something big
took our fiddlers. Changed to 100 lb leader on a 65lb
braid and used 1/4 blue crab. Instantly Howard
hooked up and caught an estimated 100 lb Drum. I
took about 10 minutes to get this 50 pounder. Both
swam off unharmed.





Hi there everyone! I am going to give you something to think about, as far as fishing, and the "Conventional, local wisdom" goes.

For those of you that don't know me very well, I moved back to Florida after being born in Lakeland, Fl, 70 years ago. I have

been here for 14 years now and while I haven't gotten to do as much fishing here as I would like to, I have been fishing and free-dive spear fishing since I was about 9 years old and got Scuba certified in 1964.

I got my degree in Oceanography from California University at Humboldt, with secondary degrees in: Marine Zoology, Marine Biology, Marine Fisheries, and Wild Life Management. (I also like to hunt.)

From about 1968, I was fishing and diving on the West Coast mostly North of San Francisco. I averaged about 400 hours on the boat engine every summer, with probably as many hours just drifting with the engine off. (We NEVER anchored out there.) We usually only had part of June, July, August, and part of September for fishing because of the weather.

First, about FISH in general. Fish are not smart in any sense. Their brain is nothing more than a bunch of nerves with three main functions. Eating, avoiding being eaten, and reproducing. That is it, their total capacity!

Fish do not see your leader and think: Hummmm, that looks like a trap!

They do not learn from being hooked. I was Salmon fishing one day and a guy came on the VHF and said:

"IF anyone catches a big Salmon with a Penn GLD 45 hanging out of it's mouth, that is MY fish and Rod & Reel."

Naturally everyone gave him a bad time for not hanging on to his rod, but about 20 minutes later someone came on the VHF and asked if he was still out there. They had caught his fish with the lure still hanging out of it's mouth and the Rod & Reel still being dragged around. He kept the 45 lb Salmon, but gave the guy his Rod & Reel back.

Lesson learned from this. . . Having a lure hanging out of it's mouth didn't stop it from hitting

another lure just like the one it had in it's mouth. **SLOW LEARNERS!**

Our studies show that fish really don't feel pain. After all, they eat all kinds of things with sharp pointy spines!

Now for Trolling

There really isn't any deep secret to this. Just remember that fish see ANY disturbance in the water as a possible feeding opportunity and will go to it to investigate it for food.

Think of trolling like this, your boat is a disturbance in the water. The lures you are trolling behind it are possible FOOD!

When I troll I try to get my boat to make as much noise and splash as I can. I trim my engine up as high as I can so my boat plows through the water and does not get up on plane (about 10 MPH).

Now remember to keep your lures close to the boat. I run my "flat lines" off the corner of the boat and about 20 yards behind the boat. I try to position it just on the edge of the wake or bubble water from my prop. I like it on the back of the second wave created by my boat. NO, that is not too close. I have had fish hit my bait right AT my transom. My next two are about 15 to 20 yards further back, just where the bubbles from the engine are starting to fade out. I like these lures to be about 5 feet outside the flat lines, running just in the clear water by the wake. IF you run a "Way Back" line, it should be in the center of your wake, just where the water is getting back to normal. NOT way, way, way, back, where it takes you 20 minutes to reel it in.

Remember, your boat is what attracts the fish, and they will be looking for food near it!

Temperature breaks are more important than structure! I'll repeat that again. Temperature breaks are more important than structure!

Remember, fish are not rocket scientist, they don't see your gear and think "This looks wrong, or I see a hook, that is not for me." If it looks like food, or like it is alive and might be food, they will try to eat it,

One last thought, don't over tighten your drag, it will wear YOU out. Let the fish run and wear itself out; then bring it to the boat!

Wishing you; Calm Seas & Tight Lines... Bill

IF you don't read this and write letters to your Congress Representative and Senator, you might as well sell your boat!

This information is from the March issue of the "Saltwater Sportsman" magazine.

While we are all in the same boat, Commercial and Sport Fisherman, we need to work together, not let NOAA have us fighting between ourselves. NOAA and their SAMFC (South Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council) and GMFC (Gulf Marine Fisheries Council) have been run by the anti-fishing interest - NOT Economics as mandated by the Magnuson- Stevens Act. Here are some of the FACTS.

Commercial fishing for 2014 had a total value of \$ 5.4 Billion dollars. That is from the Pacific Coast, Alaska, Gulf of Mexico, and Atlantic Coast combined.

5.4 BILLION DOLLARS! That is NOTHING compared to the VALUE of Recreational Fishing!

Recreational fishing had a total value of \$23.4 Billion + Dollars!

That is almost 5 times the value of Commercial fishing!

10.4 million anglers took 68 Million trips in 2014, and they caught 392 Million Fish!

10 Million anglers, 4 million fish

That means 6 Million anglers got skunked!

Of that 392 million fish caught, 60% of those fish were released! The total harvest was estimated at 155 million fish, weighing 186 million pounds. (Someone, and YOU know who you are, are catching an awful lot of little fish!) ;-)

NOAA is ignoring the laws as the Magnuson-Stevens Act states that the reason for the law is to "Maximize the value to the Nation of our resources."

The Recreational Fishery creates many times the economic impact of the Commercial Fishery, but it does so with approximately 3% of the fin fish resource, yet we get NO economic impact coverage in the 2014 NOAA report to the Congress and people of this country!

For the greater Jacksonville area, That is the Florida Georgia border, to the South City limits of

of St. Augustine in a loop back around the city of Jacksonville. The economic impact of Saltwater Recreational fishing is over \$600 Million dollars EVERY YEAR! Each and every year we bring in over \$600 Million dollars to the local economy of the Jacksonville area! Year after Year after Year!

That is more than the Super Bowl brought in and the city does not spend much on improving or maintaining the infrastructure that we use. We are a vital asset to the Jacksonville economy.

The SAMFC has decided that this year will NOT have a Red Snapper season! The reason **The stock is recovering too well**, so we are catching too many that we have to throw back, and with their made up (* PROVEN to be totally wrong by a Past President of the GMFC.) mortality rate, 60% + of released fish, we are killing too many, so we can't have a season this year to off set the fish we "Killed by throwing them back."

They now WANT to close all bottom fishing! We can NOT let them get away with this!

Write the Mayor and each City Council member with this information, and we need to write our Governor, your State and US Congress person and Senators, and have them abolish the NOAA's Marine fisheries Councils.

For over 40 years they have done nothing except hurt fishing and the economics of this country with their rules based on POLITICS not science.

(* "Shipp chartered the Lady Ann out of Dauphin Island on Aug. 6, 2009 for one of his regular snapper research cruises. On each trip, he tags and releases hundreds of snapper from both public and secret artificial reefs off Alabama. On this cruise, he said, the goal was to sample several popular public reefs to see if they had been "fished out" during the 70-day snapper season.

The answer, Shipp said, was a resounding NO!

While several hundred legal-sized snapper, including some up to 15 pounds, came aboard the boat, only one legal triggerfish and no legal grouper were caught. Eleven tagged fish were recaptured, including several that had been tagged just nine days before, proving the fish recover quickly from being caught, Shipp said."

Write those LETTERS!

Do you know your Life Jacket Laws?

Type - I - Offshore, over 20 Lbs of Buoyancy, will turn an unconscious person face up.

Type - II - Near Shore Minimum 15.5 Lbs Buoyancy, will turn an unconscious person face up.

Type - III - Minimum 15.5 Buoyancy, will NOT turn an unconscious person face up.

Type - IV - Minimum 16.5 Lbs Buoyancy your **THROWABLE** device.

Type - V - Special use device Must be used in accordance with requirements on the label.

A **Type - V** may be substituted for any **Type I, II, or III** BUT it **must** be worn while the vessel is underway.

Every person **age 6 and under** **MUST** wear a **Type I, II, or III** while the vessel is underway.

Personal Watercraft must wear a **Type I, II, III or V** life jacket, **Inflatable PDF's are PROHIBITED!**

WaterSkiers must wear a **Type I, II, or III** Life Jacket, **Inflatable PDF's are PROHIBITED!**



Wear these, at least, while you are underway. They don't work in the cabin! Most people fall overboard while underway!

Never Approach the dock any faster than you want to RAM the DOCK!



Gary Newman

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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. breenw@bellsouth.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			
<h1>March</h1>			1	2 Club Meeting	3	4			
			5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9	10	11
			12	13	14	15	16 Club Meeting	17	18 The River Tournament
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31				



**COMING
EVENTS:**

- March 2 - Club Meeting
- March 6 - Board Meeting
- March 16 - Club Meeting
- March 18 - The River Tournament
- April 1 - The Non-Live Tournament

Tournament Schedule for 2017

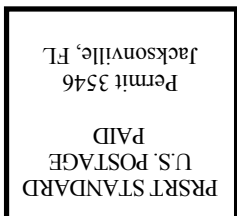
Tournament - - - - - Month - - - - - Date / - - - - - Alternate
 - All are on Saturday -

The River Tournament	March	----- 18 -----	Jack Ogin
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

Associate Members

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