



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



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PRESIDENTS CAST NET Tom Ruggles

At this point you have probably heard that we did something really special for everybody who attended the March 19th meeting. We gave away free Tiagras to everybody, but only if you were there, so I hope you were!

Of course, that is not true. Because of that news story that is on repeat and just won't go away we were forced to cancel the meeting. Along with the club meeting we were also forced to defer the El Cheapo post mortem meeting so I don't have all that much to tell you there. I do know that we had a great tournament with 270 general entries, 29 kayaks, 80 ladies and 80 juniors, a great fish fry and a band to keep us entertained while we all waited for the results to come in. We will be sure to share more details as soon as is feasible under the current conditions. Stay tuned.

As I write this it looks like we may have a favorable forecast for the Non-Live offshore tournament and the River inshore tournaments. That could make two weekends in a row! The tournaments should be a great way to exercise social distancing AND get the heck out of the house. Lots of great fish have been caught recently including Team Rooney's monster

Wahoo (A new Club Record 97.3 Lbs) as well as some great Mutton, Dolphin and Cobia (already). Hopefully this weather and this bite continue into April when we get to the Unlimited Trolling tournament.

In the meantime, keep your hands clean and your lines tight. See you at the clubhouse, soon I hope!



Please Note

We have a new address to Snail Mail the Club! It is on the last page.

Not so random thoughts from your Editor.

While the media is "All Corona Virus All the Time" and everything is shut down, for a while, the Boat Ramps are open, and the fishing is really good right now! This is evident by the great catches being reported.

If you catch a good fish and want to post it to the Boards, you still can even without the club holding our meetings.

Hal Hanna is maintaining the On-Line Boards at www.jaxfish.com under the "TOURNAMENTS" tab, and down to "FISHING BOARDS" and choose your Board to look at.

Now if your fish has a blank line or is bigger than the one posted there, you can submit your catch by E-mailing it directly to Hal at his E-mail (williamh3@comcast.net)

Random Thoughts Continued

Just remember that your entry must have been caught before the NEXT meeting date. If you catch one on 4/9/2020 and don't submit it until 4/18/2020 you are out of luck, it won't count!

You also **MUST** submit the info as it is required on the "Fish Slip" Here is an example:

Steve Kalaitzis
Fished on - WOOS YOUR DADDY
Red Snapper - 28 lbs 13oz
R4 North of EB
Used dead squid
Weighed and verified by James Smith at JOSFC

Now my take on the El Cheapo Tournament.

First **GREAT JOB TRINA!**

While I didn't work behind the closed door, from what I saw working the JOSFC



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Membership table that was centrally located, it all went very smoothly.

While the cold temperature and high wind did cut down our General Entries and the number of people that actually showed up to fish, we had a good turnout with 460 total entries!

Trina also got a lot more of the prizes and Raffle prized DONATED so the club did not have to spend as much on the tournament!

I don't know about you, but Terri and I really enjoyed the band! Good music that people liked. That helped keep people occupied while they waited for the final results and the Prizes to be awarded.

The Raffle went well with the kids drawing the tickets and handing them to the Board Members that had the items already in hand that eliminated any possibility of people claiming that any one cheated to get the best prize! Thanks Mark Aley for doing that!

One last comment, the JOSFC Membership table did well also, we got 10 new members and several people renewed there as well!





That is Steve Kalaitzis with his 28 pound 13 Oz Red Snapper that he just posted to our Fishing Boards. The ability to post a Red Snapper to the boards is new this year with the acceptance of Hand Held Digital scale weights on board so the fish can be released after weighing.



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



Time for some common sense Safety!

Remembering Brian McCluney and Justin Walker our two Fire Rescue First Responders that were lost at sea last year off St. Augustine, just prove that it can happen to ANYONE, and you need to be prepared.

With that in mind, how many of you actually leave a FLOAT PLAN? What!? You don't!!! Well you should, it just might make a difference between life or death. (Read the first paragraph again.)

Here is an idea, you can go to www.jaxfish.com "Fishing Info" - "Links" - "Fishing Links" and print out the USGC Float Plan or the JOSFC Courtesy Float Plan. While you are at it, print out 1, pre-fill out all the info you can in advance and now COPY it several times so you have several handy and don't have to do it every time you go fishing.

When you go fishing all you have to do is grab one and fill out the last minute info like planned locations and crew info!

Lou DeNicola sent me this suggestion and I really like it!:

I have a Float Plan Addendum that I add to the USCG Float plan information.


It includes the names of each crew member and the contact number of their significant other, my expected fishing spots for the trip by name ie: North Elton Bottom, Amberjack Hole etc. and coordinates. Additionally, since I use a Garmin InReach, I give instructions about tracking us on a home computer.


Then I send this to each crew member.


My wife almost always checks in on us once or twice to see where we are. I know that this could reveal "secret" fishing spots but I find these secret spots are usually out there anyhow.





Helpful Hints & Tips


 Thaw fish and shellfish in milk. The milk draws out the frozen taste and provides a fresh caught flavor.


 Take the Fish out of the Refrigerator 30 minutes before cooking to allow to warm to room temperature.


 Try soaking fish in 1 cup vinegar / 3 cups water for 15 minutes before cooking for a sweet tender taste.


 Microwave limes for 40 seconds before squeezing, you'll get twice the amount of juice.


 Add 1 tablespoon of vinegar to the fat in which you are going to deep fry. It will keep the food from absorbing too much fat and eliminate the greasy taste.


 Clams and oysters will be simple to open if washed with cold water, then placed in a plastic bag and put in the freezer for an hour.


 To get rid of the "canned taste" in canned shrimp; soak them in a little sherry and 2 tablespoons of vinegar for about 15 minutes.

 For non-smoke broiling, add a cup of water to the bottom portion of the broiling pan before putting in the oven. The water absorbs the smoke and grease.

 Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating.

 Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.

 Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.

 Here is something you can use to keep from getting ripped off.

The standard Propane Bottle will weigh 17 pounds empty.

When it is filled it should weigh 35 Pounds.

When you use the Pre-Filled exchange bottles, you usually get short changed by a good 5 pounds!



Lets Welcome these new members from the El Cheapo Weekend.

First **Johnny Dunning** jumped right in and joined as a Lifetime Family!

We also had the following people join either as Family or Individual.

Justin Kirkpatrick

Brock Renner

Jeff Mears

Derek Yan

Wade Fahnestock

Art Gustafson

Jared Dewalt

David Lane

Jesse Ponder

Remember that not all of our members have boats! SO If you are going out, either in the river or offshore, and have room for one or more, put it out on Dock Talk or Let me know so I can put it out to all the members. Every extra body on your boat is another person to help pay for gas, ice, and bait!

Who knows you just might find a lifelong friend!



Sport Fishing RULES!!!

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 COMMERCIAL and 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! The NOAA report touted the success of COMMERCIAL fisheries with the top 5 high value commercial species being:

- Crabs = \$686 Million
- Shrimp = \$681 Million
- Lobster = \$625 Million
- Salmon = \$617 Million
- Scallops = \$428 Million

That is impressive, and NOAA touted that as an example of their success from their regulations. You had to dig deep into the report to find the Recreational fishing stats, but here they are, and should be front page in EVERY publication in the country! 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! BUT they spent money for Bait, Ice, Gas and gear! 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!) ; -)

Notice that there is NO economic value placed on the Recreational Fishing. It is just not in their report. However if you dig deep in the NOAA site you can find that a 2011 study showed the economic value of recreational fishing is placed at \$23.4 Billion dollars, if adjusted to 2020 dollars it would be even MORE!

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 finfish resource, yet we get NO economic impact coverage in the 2014 NOAA report to the Congress and people of this country!

Safety, YOUR main goal!

Every time we go fishing, we face a whole myriad of dangers. Fish hooks, sharp Knives, lightning, we are sitting in a Fiberglass (Burns very well.) container full of VERY flammable gas, rough water, potential boat sinking, even Sunburn!

Are you prepared for any or all of these emergencies? You should be. Remember usually you are far from help, and even with the Navy's helicopters you can count on over an hour from injury to hospital!

Did you leave a Float Plan?

Do you give your passengers a safety tour before you leave the dock? Have you shown everyone how to run the boat in case you become incapacitated? How about how to call for help on the VHF? How to read the GPS to give your location?

Safety goal Continued

Do you put your "Ditch Bag on deck? I know I have reminded you to get a BIGGER fire extinguisher (Or Two.). Are you Life jackets out so everyone can wear them while underway?

Do you have a heady duty wire cutter that can cut any hooks you might be using?

Do you ALWAYS put your knives in the holder so that the sharp part of the blade is against the bulkhead or where if someone falls they won't fall against it and cut them selves badly?

Did you teach your crew how to SAFELY handle the Gaff?

Is everyone wearing shoes so when you bring in that very toothy fish and it is flopping around on the deck they don't get a toe bitten badly, or a hook in the foot?

Do you carry extra Sun Screen for those passengers with CRS?

Is you First Aid kit handy and full of current supplies, NOT Expired ointment or empty because you used it last time and forgot to refill it?

Do you even carry an emergency locator beacon? For about \$200 you can have one on your boat, and isn't your life worth \$200?

Now how about your boat motor and trailer? When was the last time you changed the oil and had your Motor tuned up?



**Remember, NEVER
approach the dock
any faster than you
want to RAM the
dock!**

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Loud Hailings

**Bill Breen
Newsletter
Editor**

I am always 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 |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| April | | | 1 | 2 Club Meeting Not gonna Happen | 3 | 4 |
| | | |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | 6 Board Meeting | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 The Unlimited Trolling & Shrimp Only Tournaments |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Club Meeting Maybe? | 17 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |  | |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |



**COMING
EVENTS:**

April 2nd - Club Meeting very **Doubtful**

April 6th - Board Meeting

April 11th - Tournament Day -

Offshore = Unlimited Trolling, Inshore = Shrimp Only

April 16th - Club Meeting **Still Doubtful**



Club Annual Banquet - October 17, 2020

Month - Offshore -

April - Unlimited Trolling -

May - May Trolling -

June - Junior Ang. -

July - Kingfish Tune-up -

Aug. - Ladies -

Sept.- Bottom -



Inshore - Date - Weather Date

Shrimp Only - 4/11/20 - 4/18/20

Trout - 5/9/20 - 5/16/20

Junior Ang. - 6/6/20 - 6/13/20

Roulette - 7/11/20 - 7/25/20

Ladies - 8/15/20 - 8/22/20

Flounder - 9/12/20 - 9/19/20



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