



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 60 Issue 8

August 2020



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Ruggles

What a month. Since my last column we have seen a lot of things come and go: the King Buster, the club's Kingfish Tune Up and Roulette tournaments, the Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament and our oh-so-generous four day snapper micro season.

True to form, the July winds and seas have been very favorable. If you haven't been fishing you haven't been trying.

The races for Offshore Captain of the Year and Inshore Captain of the Year are still up for grabs. Jack Ogin has a nice lead heading into the last two tournaments for offshore, but anything can happen. Meanwhile, there is only a single point separating the leaders in the inshore series. This will be a fight to the finish.

In other news, Tim Altman is running a new tournament, the "Back To School Kingfish Derby," on Saturday

August 8th. This is an end of summer tournament just for the kids. The entry fee is \$25 per kid. Fish will be donated to benefit the Safe Harbor Boys Home.

There will be two brackets for prizes - 7 to 15 and 6 and under. And, to sweeten the pot, JOSFC will be awarding a separate \$50 prize to the club members who place highest in each bracket. More info about the tournament can be found here - <https://bit.ly/btsderby> (like Back To School Derby).

The Ladies Tournament is up next for both series on August 15th. Let's make sure to get out there!

Tight lines and see you at the clubhouse! Tom

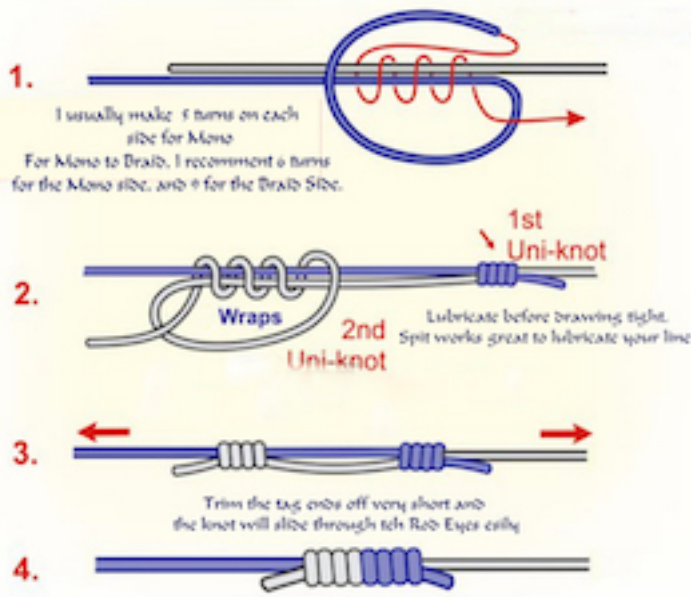
Get an Accurate Boating Forecast

The United States Coast Guard performs almost [20,000 rescues a year](#), a large proportion of which are due to bad weather.

It is your DUTY to check the Boating Weather and Tides before every trip!

Checking the weather forecast before heading out onto the water is an obligation, not an option, even if you plan to stay in an area close to the dock. Wind and weather conditions are as important to know as tide and current tide table.

DOUBLE UNI KNOT



This knot works great for connecting line to line. It is easy to tie, quick and strong!

I use it to attach leaders, or for the Light Tackle Tournament my 8 lb Mono to my braid .



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What Happened to the Kingfish Tuneup?!

While we had 8 boats for the Junior Angler Tournament, ONLY (2) TWO boats weighed fish for the Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament!

Obviously some of you did NOT read my article in the July Newsletter on how to catch Kingfish! ;-)) OR, you realize I have never won a Kingfish Tournament and followed someone else's advise and still didn't catch any!

Jack Ogin took first for 10 points, and Zeke Mears second for 9 points. What happened? Did you not catch any Kingfish? Or did you make the BIG mistake of thinking that just legal 24" King was too small to weigh?

I would like to remind you that you really should weigh ANY fish you catch! I have seen the Bottom Tournament won with just (2) TWO Whiting weighing just a pound each!

You are NOT fishing against any "Expert", but just that person sitting next to you at the meetings. Look at the Captain of the Year Board, not many people go for it thinking that they would have to win most of the tournaments to even get in the top 3. Not true!

We have had members WIN the COY without ever winning a single tournament! They just placed in the top 5 for all of the tournaments.

For both the Inshore and Offshore Tournaments we are averaging just 4 members weighing any fish! Offshore is an average of 6 and Inshore just 3 people weigh fish an an average for the tournaments!

YOU CAN catch fish and weigh them in and really could win Captain of the Year!

NEVER think your fish is too small or only (1) one, fish won't even place!

WEIGH THAT FISH!

Catching too many Sharks and Grunts?

Here is a mistake that a lot of us make when we are out there fishing.

You stay in the **WRONG** place too long!

Shortly after I joined the club, I was fishing with a great guy, (I won't mention Mike Greenstein's name as I don't want to embarrass him.) and I learned several valuable lessons on fishing here off Jacksonville from him.

We went to one spot and started fishing, Sharks and Grunts After about 15 minutes he said to pull in the lines we were moving. We upped anchor and only went about 100 yards to another spot. Sharks and Grunts. Up anchor and move again after about 15 minutes. This time we moved to a spot about 100 yards on the other side of our original spot. Sharks and Grunts. 15 minutes or less and we moved again! The next move was again within about 200 yards of our original spot! Sharks and Grunts. The Last move was just about 15 yards to the high side of the ledge we were on, and we were catching good fish! Snapper, Seabass, Vermillion Snapper (B-Liners) etc.

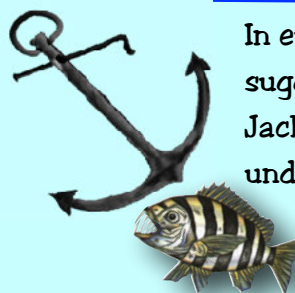
We never got more than 200 yards from our first spot. Sometimes it just takes moving from the high side of a ledge to the low side or vice-a-versa. OR move from one end of a ridge or ledge just 40 yards to the other end!

Just remember when you are catching trash fish, it is time to move!

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.

Are your Flares out of date?

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 fresh Hydrogen Peroxide to clean wounds?

Do you have some "Wire Cutters" that are strong enough to cut the **BIGGEST** hook on your boat? Most fishing pliers are **NOT** strong enough for even a medium size hook!



Ladies - Lets talk the Fishing Boards!

You guys can read this also if you want to.

As you know, we have (6) six adult fishing boards, and YOU can post fish on all of the Boards except the Men's board! (Naturally the men can't post fish on the Ladies Board either.)

Here are the Boards:

1 - The Ladies Board

For any fish caught outside the jetties in the Ocean. This is for inside the Party Grounds (Chart limits) only

2 - The Bluewater Board

This is for any of the "Striking" Fish caught beyond the limits of our Chart. Ie: Sailfish, Wahoo, Marlin, Tuna etc.

3 - The Unlimited Board

This is for any fish caught while bottom fishing beyond the limits of our Chart.

4 - The light Tackle Board

This is for any fish caught on 8 pound test fishing line. This is an OFFSHORE Only Board.

5- The Inshore Board.

This is for any fish caught in the river, inter-costal and sloughs around Jacksonville

6- The Men's Board

For any fish caught outside the jetties in the Ocean. This is for inside the Party Grounds (Chart limits) only

Why am I telling you this? Because last year we had 11 Ladies post fish on the Ladies Board, the SAME number of men that posted on the Men's Board. However we only had (1) Lady post on the Unlimited Board, (She almost won that board.) and NOT a single (Or Married) Lady posted any fish on the other boards!

We have never had that many Ladies post fish before! Here is another interesting fact about last year. The men posted 18 fish for an average of 14.5 Pounds per fish. The Ladies posted 17 fish for an average of . . . Wait for it 15.2 Pounds per fish!

Guys the Ladies are out fishing us!

To win that great big beautiful (Expensive) reel all it took for BOTH boards were to post (5) Five fish!



Each board was won by catching and posting only 5 fish!

Think about that everyone, **only 5 fish to win a board**. Each board is won by having the **MOST** fish posted on it, not the biggest fish, just the most number of fish on that Board!

Are there any LADIES going for **Captain of the Year?** This year it is too late to go for the COY title, **but next year?**

I want to remind everyone that we have had Captains win the COY without ever winning a single tournament. All it took was to place in the top 3 for most of the tournaments! About 5 years ago going into the last tournament I was in second place just by placing in the top 5 for 6 tournaments. (I didn't even place in the last tournament and dropped to 5th.)

My point here is this is a fishing club, and not just a men's domain, but one that is open to all Fishermen and Ladies. Don't be afraid to enter that 1.2 pound fish if that line is open or it beats a 1 pounder to knock it off the board. As long as your fish is the biggest of that species for this year, **ENTER IT!** Have fun! Get out there and catch some fish!

Weather Continued

We have tried to provide you with the best sites for getting the weather forecast before you go out in your boat. While there are several sites, these are the ones that we feel give you a good forecast that you can depend on.

<https://www.windalert.com/search/32255>

This is MY favorite site, it is very accurate and gives both the wave height, period, wind direction and speed on an hourly chart.

You can also set up a personal location or several more that give the forecast for that spot.

I set up mine 25 miles off Jacksonville in the middle of the "Party Grounds" and 70 miles due East near the ledge.

This one is the National Weather Service:

<https://www.weather.gov/jax/>

When you go to this page, just below the main radar map is a small map of Northern Florida / Southern Georgia and it says "Click a location below for detailed forecast."

Just click on the, either near shore or way offshore boxes to get a good forecast.

Now the TIDES! They are very important for a couple of reasons.

First when you are entering or leaving an inlet like the St. Johns River Jetties, an **OUTGOING** tide can make it very rough! Even if the forecast is for a good, not great, but a good day on the water, the inlet can be deadly! You will want to leave and return on an **INCOMING** tide if possible.

Another thing to remember if it is rough, in the inlet, and you are caught outside of the inlet, hang back and observe the waves. They do run in sets, a few bigger waves then a few waves a little smaller. You will eventually see that there is a pattern of really rough, then a calmer (Not calm, just calmer.) period. If you must chance the inlet, wait for the end of the rough wave

pattern and try to go in on the back of a wave, match your speed to keep on the back side of one of the calmer waves.

The second reason is if you are foolish enough to go out without a good towing service like Boat U.S. or Sea Tow, and like (I am not kidding here.) a call I got last night, 7/19/2020 from a novice boater, "What do I do now? We have run aground and are stuck in the mud."

As the tide was incoming and still had about 4 hours to High Tide, I told them to see if they could find the deepest water either behind the boat or to the channel side and put the anchor out and wait for high tide to see if they floated off or call their tow service if they could not flag down a passing good samaritan boater to pull them off.

Hopefully you also have been at your boat ramp at low tide so you will know if you can launch or retrieve your boat at dead low tide. There are several that are unusable at low tide.

There are also a couple of times a year when the "Spring Tides" are running. These are unusually high tides and the runoff or outgoing tides are running so strong it is hard to get your boat back on the trailer with the current running so hard. Again you will want to be sure that you return to the ramp during the slack tide or the incoming tide before the flow gets too strong.



Here is a great gift for your fisherperson! We have a great "Gift Certificate" giving them a membership renewal or for a new member. Contact Bill Breen

Better Boating Tips

I know that some club members tow their boats down south, so here is a great tip. Before a long tow (Specially through "Love-Bug" country) wipe your boat with liquid dish soap, (No don't wash it off yet.) and after you get where you are going, bugs and tar will come right off!

If you have a really bad tar or scum line, Easy Off oven cleaner will remove it and sticky residue from stickers, without damaging your gel coat.

Instead of using BLEACH to clean your boat, try a cup of VINEGAR in a gallon of water to make a great cleaner that is both environmentally safe, and it destroys orders better than bleach!



OK members, have YOU found or lined up a new sponsor for next year's El Cheapo? They don't have to be fishing related, they will get advertising at the BIGGEST fishing tournament in Florida much less the Jacksonville area!



Here this is AGAIN! I 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?



Here are some cooking tips you might like.




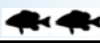














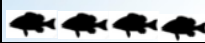

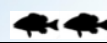
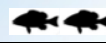
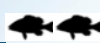


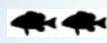
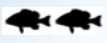
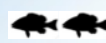
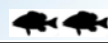

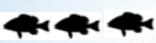
- Try soaking fish in 1 cup vinegar / 3 cups water for 15 minutes before cooking for a sweet tender taste.
- Add 1 tablespoon of Vinegar to the fat in which you are going to deep fry. It will keep the food from absorbing too much fat or oil and eliminate the greasy taste. This is for a Frying Pan amount, for a deep Fryer use 1/4 cup of Vinegar. OH, another lesson I learned the hard way. Add it BEFORE you bring it up to heat!
- Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if your want a stronger taste of garlic.
- Microwave garlic cloves for 15 seconds and the skins slip right off.
- Seafood is very easy to over-cook! Always WATCH your seafood carefully as you cook it and watch your recommended times! Overcooked seafood will be hard, dry, rubbery or chewy, and not very tasty.

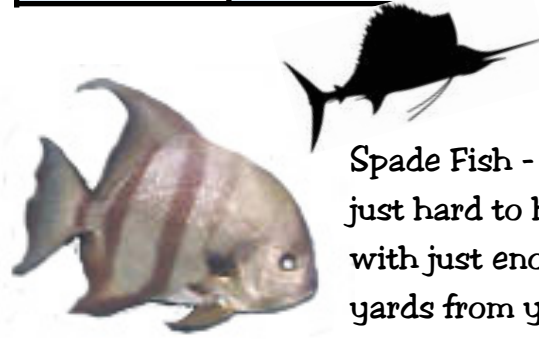


Loud Hailings

Bill Breen
Newsletter
Editor

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>August</h1>						1 
			2 	3 Board Meeting 	4 	5 
9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 Ladies Tournament 
16 	17 	18 	19 	20 Club Meeting 	21 	22 
23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 
30 	31 	<p>Key - The more little black fish on a day means better fishing</p> <p>August 6th - Club Meeting</p> <p>August 15th - Ladies Tournament / Inshore & Offshore</p> <p>August 20th - Club Meeting</p>				



Spade Fish - They are out there in BIG numbers, and really are a tasty fish, just hard to hook. Use a #4 hook with a little bit of shrimp on it as bait with just enough weight to cast it to that school of Spade fish that is 5 yards from your boat. Let It slowly sink and you should get a good fish on!

Month	Offshore	Inshore	Date	Weather	Date
Aug.	Ladies	Ladies	- 8/15/20	- 8/22/20	
Sept.	Bottom	Flounder	- 9/12/20	- 9/19/20	

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