



The Newsletter of the . . .

# The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 63 Issue 1

January 2022



## PRESIDENTS CAST NET CAPTAIN *Robert Vermillion*

Well, another year is gone, they seem to run together these days. I hope all had a great Christmas and Happy New Year.

The wind and weather have been off and on for the last month, mostly on, so there has not been a lot of days to get offshore.

If you have made it out to Mayport boat ramp, you've noticed the new community center building going up. They have gotten a lot done in the last couple months, and it looks like we will be in the new building sometime in February or March, but we will see.

They are building a new tournament gazebo, down by the water with fish cleaning tables around the outside, and we are going to hang a new scale on it.

It looks like the New rule changes are working well, so keep sending in the pictures.

We all enjoy watching them on the big screen at the meetings.

We will have our first tournament on January 15th called the Presidents Choice. **This will be a Zebco 202 tournament**, check the website for rules or get them at the next club meeting. If you want to fish it, make sure

you make it out to the meeting and get your rod and reel!

The permits for the El Cheepo are in and we are gearing up for a BIG tournament this year. We will be looking for a lot of volunteers to help pull it off. With Hells Kitchen being open again we really need everyone to pitch in.

All the board members and I are looking to make this a great year at the club so keep your eye out for workshops, seminars and speakers at the club house. And if you have any suggestions on speakers or workshops, let us know, send an email or write it on a note and get it to me or any board member and we will try to get it done.

### On to the fishing fronts:

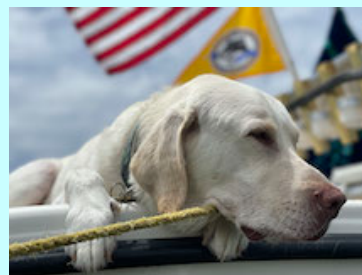
**Offshore:** there has been some reports of wahoo and black fins at the ledge. Sea bass, b- liners, and triggers have been biting well. Sheepshead have been found on the close reefs and wrecks.

**Inshore:** sheepshead are in full swing at the rocks and docks, look for red fish tailing at high tide. And the trout have been thick.

Make sure you stay safe and check The regulations.

That's it for now, tight lines.

CAPT. Rob Vermillion



# REMEMBER

## WE HAVE MEMBERS

### LOOKING FOR A RIDE!!!

When yo are going out and have room for one more, or need crew to **help pay for gas**, we have several members that do not have boats, and are always looking for someone to take their gas money!

Just either give me a call, text or E-mail [breenw@bellsouth.net](mailto:breenw@bellsouth.net).  
904-254-2791

Or post it on the club's Dock Talk page. We will get you that extra person to fill out your crew!

Who knows, you just may find a new great friend!



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Newsletter Editor / Website ... Bill Breen  
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## Mayday / Pan-Pan / Securite

Do YOU really know what they mean, and how to use them? Well now you will!

When used, repeat the words 3 times before your message, this gets people's attention, and gives them time to pay attention to what is being transmitted.

**Mayday** - This means immediate danger. Only use it when you are in grave and imminent danger and require immediate help! Like man overboard and you have lost sight of them!

**Pan-Pan** - Urgent attention required. This is to be used for any situation that is urgent, but not imminent! Best I can think of here is like a major but not life threatening injury and you don't have a first -aid kit that will handle it on board.

**Securite** - This is used to warn people of hazards like floating debris, or a hard to control barge coming in an inlet, to let boaters know to stand clear.





## 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.

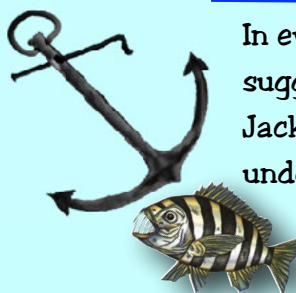
We never got more than 200 yards from our first spot. Sometimes it just takes moving from the high side of a ledge to the low side or vice-a-versa. OR move from one end of a ridge or ledge just 40 yards to the other end!

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

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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!



## What's in Your Ditch Bag? You do have a Ditch Bag don't you?




Boating accidents, they happen every week. Usually the difference between a sad ending and a happy ending is preparedness. Since you can't always count on Lady Luck ( In case you haven't noticed, you are in a predicament because she isn't with you today, she's fickle, in case you haven't heard), the best thing to do is be like a Boy Scout. Veteran captains going offshore - no matter what size boat they are in -- carry emergency "ditch bags" because they never know when the catastrophic might happen.


OK, lets get started. . . . Your Ditch Bag should be a container that will FLOAT, is secured closed so that if your boat overturns or goes down, it will be on the surface with you, and all of it's contents inside. When you leave the dock, it should be sitting on deck, NOT in the cabin or a locker.


I have seen everything from Ice-Chest that latched shut as ditch bags to \$300 specially made ditch bags. These soft sided insulated coolers will work quite well, just make sure it will float with a full load of your gear.


Now for what you put inside. This can vary a lot from boat or Captain to Captain.


The little Sailfish signify priority items!


 You should have your required flares. ( Make sure they are not out of date.) I also carry several arial flares or rockets.


 First Aid supplies.


 A good waterproof sun block. Neutrogena now makes one ( SPF 70 ) that goes on wet skin, kind of handy if your already in the water.


 You should have some rope to tie everyone together so you don't drift apart. ( A group of people are easier to spot than a single person. )

 Your bag should have a waterproof strobe light attached to it. ( Be sure to test it before every trip, and change the batteries once a year. )

 A signal mirror works well in bright daylight to get attention.

 Drinking Water! This is left out of most ditch bags because most people do not think of it. A single gallon of water will help keep up to 4 people from becoming dehydrated for a couple of days.

 Whistles for everyone! It beats yelling 10 ways to 1. Yelling is exhausting, and uses up a lot of energy, and can not be heard for a very long distance, whistles carry for a mile or more!

 At the least you should have PLB ( Personal Locator Beacon ) like a Spot. Or an EPIRB

A drift marker is nice. It is a long 20 or so foot long bright red streamer that floats out along the surface to increase your spotability from the air.

A bright die marker also helps increase your spotability from the air, but it does dissipate, so maybe a couple of them.

If you can afford it, a hand held VHF, and a hand held GPS unit.

I also carry several Chem-Lights or Glo Sticks that last for at least 12 hours once you break the glass vial and activate them.

I also have attached one to each Life Vest to increase visibility for each individual and the group.

That covers the basics for your ditch bag. To put all that in your bag cost a lot of money, and if you are like me you couldn't afford to do it all at once. That is OK, but start building your bag with the items that you have or can afford. You can add the hand held VHF or GPS or a big EPIRB later as you can afford to buy them. A life is worth every dollar you spend even if it stretches your budget!

OK, you have assembled your Ditch Bag, now what ?

Like I said at the start of this article your bag should be ON-Deck when you leave the dock. You should then assign a primary person and a secondary backup person to be responsible, to make sure in an emergency, it goes over with them and does not get stuck in the boat!

## It is time to Troll for those Wahoo & Mahi!

Here are some fishing facts to think about.

First and foremost, when you are trolling, you have to remember that the fish you are targeting are PREDATORS. Not rocket scientist. Their tiny brain only works on three things, 1 - Eating, 2 - Not being eaten, 3 - reproducing.

To all predators in the ocean, any **DISTURBANCE** in the water **IS A FEEDING FRENZY**. They don't think is that a boat? NO, they think **FOOD!** And I need to get there to take advantage of it.

How does that help you? Your **BOAT** is a disturbance in the water, even if you are high speed trolling, you want your boat making as much of a disturbance as possible.

Don't put your lures **WAY, WAY** back. You want them at the 3rd to 5th wave back. ( I have had fish take the bait out of my hand as I was trying to set the down rigger, right at my transom! )

Again unless you are high speed trolling, you don't need weights on your set-up. Wahoo are one of the fastest fish in the ocean. They will come from 100 + feet down to hit a bait on the surface.

Remember, Kite fishing dangles your bait **AT** the surface, bouncing it out of the water, and that is very effective! **IF** your bait is bouncing out of the water, that just makes it more attractive to the predators!

Another trick to improve your luck. ( or Skill? ) Use any fish oil on and even in your trolled bait or lure. ( I learned this from a guy that was winning tournament after tournament. He injected WD-40 into his bait so it left an oil trail as he trolled. WD-40 is made from fish oil. ) I use a 35 mm film canister with a couple small holes in it and a sponge in it saturated with Smelly Jelly fish attractant. It is attached to my down rigger or line ahead of the bait. Here is another tip that just might help with your

hook-ups. When you troll a bait, you want to bury your hook in the body of the bait. Not because the predator will see it , but to reduce your chances of picking up weeds. You want to scrape off all the **SCALES** from both sides of your bait for about a half inch before and behind where the hook will come out when the predator strikes. **WHY?** This prevents a hard scale from sticking to the tip of your hook and preventing it from doing it's job and imbedding itself in the mouth of your fish! Think about that. I know you have found your own hooks with a scale on the tip of the point.

Another trick to help cutdown on the tedious task of clearing weeds from your lines is to put a soft plastic squid on your line ahead of your bait so it can be slid down over the head of your bait, making it very streamlined and a lot less prone to weeding up.

Don't worry, they won't see it and **THINK** "something looks wrong" remember they don't think. All they see is a straggler trying to catch up with the school and it is easy prey to all predators!

This story is true, I was there and watched the rod being returned.

There were a bunch of us trolling for Salmon, when a guy came on the radio and said "If anyone catches a big salmon with a Pen H-113 on a Pen rod dangling from it mouth, that is **MY** fish and Rod & Reel."

Everyone gave him a bad time for losing his rod to a fish. After about 45 minutes someone came on the radio and asked if the guy that lost his Rod & Reel was still out there.

He was, and the second fisherman said "You can have your Rod & Reel back, but I am keeping that 44 pound King!"

**That fish was swimming around still feeding with a lure hanging out of the corner of it's mouth, dragging a rod & reel and it struck another of the exact same lure, to be caught 45 minutes later. lesson? Not slow learners, but NON-Learners, fish are nowhere near as smart as people give them credit for!**



# MAN OVERBOARD!

Do you know how to handle this emergency?

As some of you already know, in April, 2019, we had a club member fall overboard while fast trolling. The only damage was to his ego, he was retrieved safe and sound, BUT it could have been bad! They had a full spread of Wahoo lures with BIG bad hooks out behind them. Not a good scenario!

That is why we advocate wearing your life jacket while underway!

As part of your safety lecture or tour for your crew before you leave the dock, you should go over the drill for a MAN OVERBOARD!

When someone makes an unexpected departure from your boat while on the water, the person seeing it and yelling the warning IS the designated "Pointer". ( Unless it is the Captain, then he assigns that duty to someone. )

The "Pointer" actually POINTS ( Arm extended with the finger pointing directly at the swimmer. ) at the person in the water and never takes their eyes off the person or stops pointing until it is time to help them back into the boat! This makes it easier for the Captain to know where to maneuver the boat to correctly position it to pick up the person in the water. In calm seas this seems silly, but should still be done, but if it is at all sloppy, this could be the difference between losing a person or successfully recovering them!

When you approach the person in the water with your boat, you should approach them from UP-Wind, so your BOW is Down-Wind and you are **beside** them. As you get close, shift to neutral or if calm enough, turn the engine off to avoid the possibility of the propeller hitting them. If you go sideways to them from up-wind your boat could drift over them before you can pull them in, injuring them., If you try from down wind it will drift away faster than they can swim to you.

Do you have a rope set aside and easy to get to, just for throwing to the person to help pull them to the boat?

Do you have a way to get back in the boat? What if YOU fall overboard by yourself? can you get back in without help? Make sure you have a way to self rescue!

It can happen to the best most experienced of us, so be prepared !

## 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.




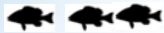






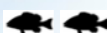
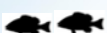
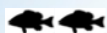
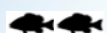
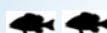


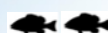





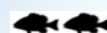


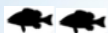
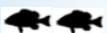
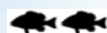
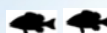
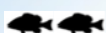
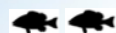


Instead of using BLEACH to clean your boat, try a cup of VINEGAR in a gallon of water to make a great cleaner that is both environmentally safe, and it destroys orders better than bleach!



*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](mailto:breenw@bellsouth.net)*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>January</b>						1 
2 	3 Board Meeting 	4 El Cheapo Volunteers 7:00 PM at Club House 	5 	6 Club Meeting 	7 	8 
9 	10 			13 	14 	15 Club Zebco 202 Tournament 
16 	17 	18 	19 	20 Club Meeting & Swap meet 	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><b>January 3<sup>rd</sup> - Board Meeting</b></p> <p><b>January 4<sup>th</sup> - El Cheapo Volunteers meeting 7:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>AT JOSFC Club House</b></p> <p><b>January 6<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting &amp; Annual Swap meet</b></p> <p><b>January 15<sup>th</sup> - Zebco 202 Tournament</b></p> <p><b>January 20<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting</b></p> <p><b>February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Annual Chili Cook-Off Meeting</b></p> <p><b>March 5<sup>th</sup> - The El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament</b></p>				

## COMING EVENTS:



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Listed in alphabetical order.

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