



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



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PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Capt. Robert Vermillion

It's already April and the April winds have been nonstop. We had our 1st meeting at the temporary Clubhouse at the Fort Caroline Club, it's going to take a little getting used to but it will work out until our new clubhouse is done in June. I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter.

The Captains of the year tournament are off and running. With Jack Ogin in the lead 2 points ahead of Darrin for the offshore. And Jake Ogin ahead of Craig Van Brookline by 2 points. For the inshore. Make sure you get involved in the tournaments it's not too late. April is the trolling tournament, for offshore, and shrimp only for the inshore.

If you missed our last meeting we set up tables and did some rigging and Cast-net throwing I hope everyone enjoyed it thanks to everyone who helped out.

Offshore

Black sea bass are good sizes now out around the 20 mile mark. You just have to pick through the red snapper.

Wahoo are still there and Dolphin will be picking up. Trigger fish and Bliners Grouper open in May

Inshore

Time for gator trout try a Mirrolure. Sheepshead are still going strong, and some big flounder have been caught

This is a great time of year to get out just pick your days and be safe. That's it for now see you at the club or on the water.

Tight lines

CAPT. Robert Vermillion



I know that there are a lot of you that don't recognize that fish that Capt. Craig Van Brocklin is holding, That is not a Pacific Halibut that was caught on an Alaskan trip, it really is a **LOCALLY** caught Flounder!

I don't think that anyone will beat that fish on this year's boards! Probably not for a long time! 6.4 pounds, and 25" long! That my friends is a new All Time Club Record! That is a nice catch, congrats!

REMEMBER

WE HAVE MEMBERS

LOOKING FOR A RIDE!!!

When you 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.
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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Want to have a bad on the water?

If so, don't read this and if you do, forget it right away!

Here are some things that we often overlook when we start our fishing year, but anyone can ruin your day.

Before you leave the house:

- 1 - Make sure that your Boat / Trailer Registration and INSURANCE are current and your stickers are on the boat and license plate. Boat US or Sea Tow current? (Not that I have ever forgotten to check these.)
- 2 - Double check that you have all your U.S.Coast Guard required equipment on board, Life Jackets for everyone, a current good Fire Extinguisher, Drain Plug? Your First Aid Kit is current (Refresh the expired things.) and even new Sun Block.
- 3 - Check your TRAILER! Tires good? Wheel Bearings not frozen, Safety Chain in good shape? Supports not rusted and falling off? Springs not rusted through? Retrieval strap or cable in good shape as well as your Winch works?
- 4 - Check your Fuel Filters and clean or replace them if necessary!

When you launch:

- 1 - Put the Plug in **FIRST!** (OK, I will admit that I did forget the check this ONCE. My Boat floats without the plug in so I didn't sink!)
- 2 - Start the engine, and check that the "Tell-Tale" is putting out a good stream of water showing your water pump is working correctly.
- 3 - Check that your Engine Cutoff lanyard works and attach it to you! (It's the LAW now.)
- 4 - Check ALL your Electronics, Radio, GPS / Fish Finder (Sonar) ALL your lights, Red Port, Green Starbord, White light visible 360 degrees, instrument lights, ALL of them.
- 5 - Check your Trim Tabs and or Engine Tilt for trimming your boat while underway.
- 6 - Finally give your crew the "Safety" speech, make sure someone else can run the boat if you are injured, they know how to use the radio, and don't forget the "Man-Overboard" instructions!
- 7 - Start off slowly to begin with to make sure everything is working properly!

Talking about a bad day on the water

Mine was not really a bad day, but here is a really good lesson from my mistake.

Yes, MY MISTAKE. One of my Crew members, a regular, always took care of the Aft end of the boat before launch. They took off the tie down straps, undid the engine support, and put the plug in, while I made sure the bow strap was undone, got in and put up the antenna for my VHF and checked the fish finder / GPS unit and bilge pump.

For some reason I got my part done quickly, and joined my crew member got who got distracted by someone asking questions about the boat and shrimping that we were going to head out to do.

We launched the boat and putted out to the end of the old Shands pier and one of the kids I had on board asked if he was suppose to hear sloshing sounds from the Fish Box that runs the length of the deck down the center of the boat.

WHAT! Sloshing! I knew right away that we had not put the plug in! Luckily my boat does not need the plug to stay afloat, in fact the water won't come above the fish box, the boat is just HEAVY with all that extra water. We putted back to the ramp, put the boat up on the trailer and let the water drain out. (It needed flushing out anyway as it was dirty.) We put back in and went Shrimping.

The lesson **I am the Captain, and ultimately responsible for the boat and crew. It was MY responsibility to double check that everything was done before we launched the boat!**

Grouper Season opens May 1st

Be sure to check the Regulations CAREFULLY before you head out! The SAMFC is always changing them, just to mess with us!

Electricity & Fuel DON'T Mix

Here is something that everyone should check BEFORE you start your engine next time!



Your Battery and the connections. The standard for ALL Boats is for the battery to be installed in a leakproof, and acid proof box!

That box must be secured so that there is less than 1 inch of movement in any direction, and ALL positive terminals must be covered to prevent the possibility of a short causing a spark.

The Positive cable must be RED and the Negative is BLACK. Your Battery cables should be #6 AWG Wire.

We highly recommend that you do NOT use Wingnuts as they are prone to loosening over time due to the boat's vibration and movement. Instead, use Stain-less Steel Nylock nuts.

Also do not forget to check your battery for corrosion and if a wet-cell make sure the water level is full. (You can fill it with bottled water as it is basically the same as the distilled recommended by the manufactures, and a lot handier and easier to find.)

Even if you have the "Sealed" batteries, check them to make sure they are secure and do not have corroded terminals.

This is YOUR Club!

As my title says, the JOSFC is YOUR club, not only mine, or the Boards, it is YOURS!

With that in mind, we really would like to hear from you the members, just what we can do to make it better, to encourage more participation at the meetings, and or other activities that you would like to see us participate in or do.

The Board might not decide to go along with all your ideas, but they definitely would like to hear from you.

You will find all your Officers and Board members E-mail at our Website



Don't forget those delicious
SPADEFISH

They are a firm white meat fish, and taste as good as a lot of the fish we catch. Just put a small piece of shrimp or squid on a small # 6 or # 7 hook and a split shot, just enough weight to get it tossed out to the school and let it sink slowly. They are also a pretty good fighter and you can catch them ALL year round. Limit is up to 100 Pounds total weight.



Remember, we need to support the businesses that support our club!
Need something? Check our sponsors page first! (The back page)

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!



Wear these, they don't work in the cabin!

At least do it while under way, especially entering and

leaving the inlets, they can get rough in seconds.



Our Tournaments and Boards

Don't forget that our Tournaments run all month long, **YOU** get to pick the day you want to fish a tournament, **Declare** it and fish!

With our new Points structure it is NOT too late to get in on the hunt for the Captain of the year.

Remember that you are NOT fishing against some "Expert", your competition is the guy or Lady sitting next to you at the meetings!

I have seen tournaments WON with (2) one pound Whiting! Or (1) Barracuda! Just go for it, and have fun, after all that is the whole idea of **YOUR club, to have fun!**

Now for those Boards:

Adult Boards:

#1 - Ladies, **#2** - Mens, **#3** - Blue Water, **#4** - Unlimited, **#5** - Light Tackle, **#6** - Adult Inshore, **#7** - All Time Club Record.

Junior Angler Boards:

#8 - Junior Angler 11 and UNDER, **#9** - Junior Angler 12 to 17, **#10** - Junior Angler Inshore, **#11** - Junior Angler All Time Club Record.

FYI, the **LIGHT TACKLE** is for **OFFSHORE** only. **Also the Ladies can post fish** to the Blue Water, Unlimited, Light Tackle and Adult Inshore Boards! The only thing they can't post to are the Junior Angler and Mens Boards, **everything else is WIDE OPEN!**

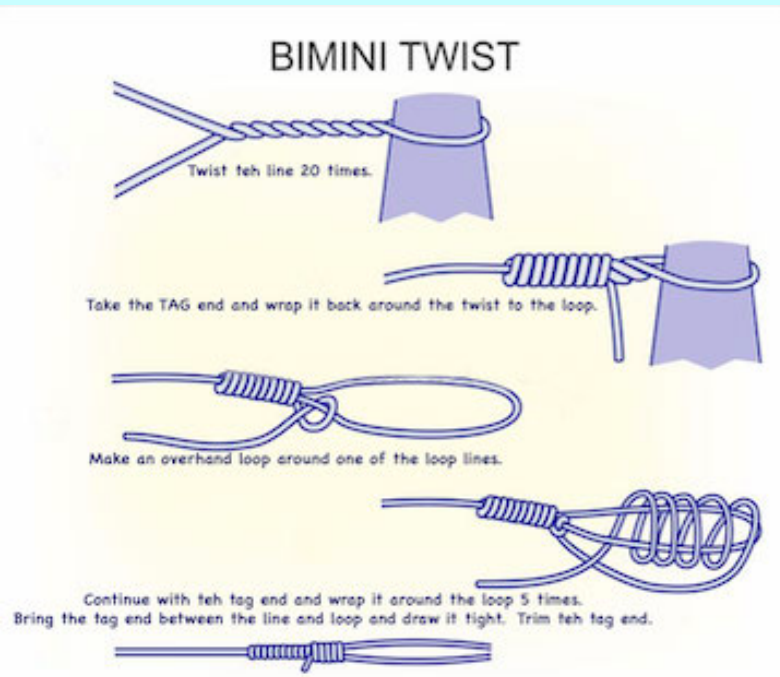
So get out there and get a \$5.00 Fish Slip for every fish you get on the Boards!

Remember you **MUST** participate in 3 club events and have the **MOST** fish on a Board to win it.

Yes, this is a RE-DO Knot as it is a great Knot, and does take some practice to master.

BIMINI TWIST

The Bimini is considered to be a 100% knot - providing 100% line strength. It creates a double line with a loop at the end to which a leader can be attached with a loop-to-loop connection. With this your leader can be reeled onto the rod.



Bimini Twist Tying Instructions

- Double the line into a loop and make twenty twists in the end of the loop. Slip the open end over a knee (or both knees or your feet for a long loop) and keep constant pressure on both ends of the loop.
- Lower the hand that is holding the tag end until the tag end slips back over the first twists. Open the angle of the loop and let the tag end roll over the column of twists to the end of the twists.
- After the line is rolled down to the end of the twists, make a half hitch (overhand knot) on the near side of the loop to lock everything in place. Maintain tension on all lines.
- Secure the knot by making 3 to 5 half hitches around both lines of the loop, working from the loop end back toward your knot. Tighten-up half hitches against the base of the knot.
- Clip excess tag end to about ¼ inch.

Summer time Safety on the water.

With the summer heat, we have a couple of safety problems. **Lightning, Heat and Sunburn.** { I still can't count :-)) }

I will start with **Lightning.** You all know that if you count 5 seconds between seeing the flash, and hearing the thunder, it was 1 mile away. Just my humble opinion, **THAT IS WAY TOO CLOSE!** In fact if you can hear the thunder you are probably too close. If you can, run North or South to put some distance between you and the storm. Usually, the storms form over land and move offshore later in the afternoon.

Heat, this is a problem that gets to everyone at one point or another. If it is really **HOT** out there, or in your back yard, you need to be sure to drink plenty of water. (Not Alcohol, as it constricts your blood vessels and worsens the problem.) Wear a hat and even use those evaporative cooling towels.

Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke can creep up on someone very quickly, so keep an eye on your partners!

This is a potentially FATAL problem and not to be treated lightly!

IF someone gets overheated, get them in the shade, and put **ICE** on the back of their neck and in their arm pits to help their body cool down. Then get them back to shore and some air conditioning.

Sunburn, Did you know that people can get Sun Poisoning? That is when you get a large percentage of your body sunburn, (Even just 1st degree burns.) However it is very easy to get 2nd degree and even 3rd degree sunburns. (I had a friend I was skindiving with in Brazil, and we were at a bunch of islands north of Rio. He forgot his swimsuit. His butt (The only part of him that stuck up above the water.) ended up with 3rd degree burns that put him in the hospital for almost a month!

Here is some information that you can use to help avoid that painful malady.

The water temperature is critical to catching the various species of fish that we target.

Below is a chart of the preferred water temperature for the various species. It has a lower avoidance, preferred range and upper avoidance temperatures. This does not mean that you won't find an occasional fish outside of its lower or upper range, but if you are going to target a species, you will have better luck finding them in their preferred range.

Don't forget that just because your bottom finder shows 70 degrees at the surface that there might be a thermocline making it a lot cooler on the bottom. If my weight feels cool when I bring it up I carry a cheap thermometer that I lower to check the bottom temp.

Species	Lower Avoidance	Optimum	Upper Avoidance
Amberjack	60	65 - 75	80+
Bonito	60	65 - 75	80+
Barracuda	55	72 - 80	86
Bigeye Tuna	52	62 - 74	80
Black Marlin	68	72 - 82	87
Blackfin Tuna	65	70 - 75	82
Blue Marlin	70	74 - 82	88
Bluefin Tuna	50	60 - 72	82
Bluefish	50	66 - 72	84
Dolphin (Mahi)	70	72 - 78	82
Flounder	56	62 - 66	72
Jack Crevalle	65	70 - 85	90
Kingfish	65	68 - 76	88
Permit	70	75 - 85	92
Pompano	65	70 - 82	85+
Redfish	52	70 - 90	90+
Red Snapper	50	55 - 65	70+
Sailfish	68	72 - 82	88
Snook	60	70 - 82	90
Spanish Mackerel	60	65 - 75	80
Spotted Seatrout	56	66 - 82	90
Striped Bass	42	50 - 65	75
Striped Marlin	61	68 - 76	80
Swordfish	50	60 - 75	80
Tarpon	70	75 - 90	100+
Wahoo	65	68 - 80	88
White Marlin	65	68 - 78	80+
Seabass	58	64 - 68	74
Yellow fin Tuna	64	72 - 82	80

Summer Safety Continued

always wear a hat, that will help keep the sun off your ears and face. If possible wear a long sleeve shirt, and plenty of SUNSCREEN!

Sunscreen is rated with SPF (Sun Protective Factor.) usually SPF 20 to SPF 50 and sometimes SPF 75. Just what does that mean? OK, I will tell you. If the UV rating for the day is 15 minutes to burn, (That is assuming you are laying still in direct sunlight.) an SPF of 50 means you can stay out in the sun for ABOUT 50% longer, or 20 to 25 minutes.

We all know that if we are moving about in and out of shade we can stay out longer than advertised without any burn. HOWEVER while out on the water, we have the reflected and direct rays that can give us a good burn in no time at all.

SO be sure to get a good, sweat and water resistant sunscreen and reapply it several times during your time on the water!



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 :

breenw@bellsouth.net

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

The more the better the fishing day - From the Moon / Tide/ tables.



Coming Events:

- May 2nd - Board Meeting
- May 5th - Club Meeting
- May 19th - Club Meeting
- Both May meetings will be at the Fort Caroline Club
4131 Ferber Road
Jacksonville, FL 32277

The Captain of The Year Tournament Schedule

Offshore

Inshore

May -	May Trolling		Redfish
June -	Junior Angler		Junior Angler
July -	Kingfish Tune-Up		Roulette
August -	Ladies		Ladies
September -	Bottom Fishing		Flounder

Associate Members

Listed in alphabetical order.

Academy Outdoors • Anchor Apparel Company • **Angies Subs** • Apex Training Solutions • Atlantic Coast Marine • B & M Bait and Tackle • **Cast & Blast Boats** • Captain Dave's Sport Fishing Charters • Colonel Jim's Breeding Co. • Consignnet Boat Sales • DanDee Foods • Duval Glass & Mirror • FishingNosara.com • Five Star Painting • Five Star Pressure Washing • **Hagan Coastal Outfitters** • Hagerty Construction & Roofing • Knight Electric • Mark Feagle Relator • Murphy Communication • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Outdoor Show • Paradise Vacation Hotel • Pro Clean Marine Mobile Detailing • Ricks Bait & Tackle • Sailfish Construction • Sherwin Williams Paint • Solomons RV & Boat Storage • Strike Zone • Styles Smith Plumbing • The West Bank Group • Weather Routing Inc. • 904 Website Solutions •

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3948 3rd St. South #232
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

