



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*

Well May is gone, and so are the winds. The Dolphin bite has been hot. The warm water is moving in and so is the bait. Mullet and Pogies, are in the creeks and on the beach. Grouper is open and the kingfish are on the beach what a great time to be an angler in North Florida. Just make sure you watch out for the afternoon storms.

Bill Pollackov did a Grouper seminar at the first meeting in May he give us a lot of info to use, Thanks Bill For giving us your time and knowledge. Rob Darner did a Dolphin seminar at the second meeting with a lot of good info we like to Thank Rob for his time, and knowledge.

The new club house is moving along but will not be open till the end of June. We will hold off on the past presidents Party till we move in. We have no date set yet. We have a close race for offshore Captain of the year, only 5 or 6 points separate the top three. Inshore is also close. So, keep fishing the points add up.

The boards are full but now the time to knock people off and win a board make sure you

Here is a very important reminder!

Wear your Kill Switch lanyard! Even after it became LAW there are Captains losing their lives when they fall overboard and the boat continues on its way.

Think about this, you are treading water 30+ miles offshore Watching your boat headed East with no one on board! It will go until it runs out of gas, and you figure that will be about 200 miles East of where you are, and NO ONE KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE! (A float plan would probably help some here, did you leave one on your tow vehicle dash?) Hopefully you are wearing your Life Jacket as you always wear it while underway. (Hint - Hint.)

NOW, I know that it is impossible to run the boat, step back to grab a fishing pole or the gaff with that darn Lanyard on without it killing the engine. However there is a solution! They make wireless engine kill switches for about \$160 and a new Lanyard only cost about \$10.

\$160 is LESS than a full tank of gas, the same for a PLB at \$250. Aren't your passengers and YOUR LIFE worth more than that?

A - Wear your Life Jacket!!!!

B - Wear that Engine Kill Lanyard, it is the Law!!!!

It just may save your life!

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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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.



Lets Talk FISHING

First so those of you that are new to the club, some background about ME. Not to brag (Well I am a Fisherman, so I love to brag.) In 1970 I got my degree in Oceanography, with minors completed in. . . Marine Biology , Marine Zoology, MARINE FISHERIES, and Wildlife Management. (I also like to hunt.) I have also been Skin & Scuba diving since I was 10 years old. My PADI Certification Number is only 3 numbers long! I also hold several Gold medals in the California State, U.S. National and International Police Olympics in Skin & Scuba competitions.

NOW, first do NOT over thing your fishing. Fish do NOT see your rig and think" Humm, that looks wrong, I won't hit it. Fish's brains only have 3 things that they "Think" (1) Eat, (2) Avoid being Eaten and (3) Reproduce!

If you missed Rob Darners presentation on Dolphin (Mahi-Mahi) fishing you missed a good one! (Shame on you.) Rob gave a lot of really good details on trolling and actually how to catch them.

One of the things that Rob stressed was that he liked his boat and lures to make a disturbance on the water as that draws the fish to him. BINGO!

To all predator fish, a disturbance in the water is a FEEDING FRENZY, and they rush to get to it before the bait is all gone. The more

Fishing Continued

splashing you can make the better. I troll at JUST below breaking onto the plane so my boat is plowing through the water. Teasers with "Birds" on them help a lot! (A Bird is that funny sorta streamlined lure with short wings out to the side that make it plane up and splash along the water surface.) Like Rob said, always have a lure at the end of your teaser with a hook, just in case they hit the teaser string!

You do NOT have to spend a lot of \$ for weights and long leaders, when trolling, Wahoo have been recorded coming up from 200' deep to hit a lure on the surface. All the predator fish (Except Salmon on the West Coast) will dart up from over 100' deep to hit a bait on the surface.

The other mistake is putting your lures too far back!

You really should run your inside lures at about the 3rd and 4th wave back, (Your Wake waves) 10 to 15 yards, just on the FRONT side of the wave and bouncing along the surface, right outside the wake's 'Bubble Stream'. Your bait will look like it is caught outside the bait ball and easy prey as it is trying to get back into the protection of the bait ball. (Don't worry, they really can not be too close, I have had fish hit my bait AT the transom, 1' from my hand!)

Your outside or longer back lures should be dropped back to where the 'Bubble Stream' is **just** starting to fade, about 25 or 30 yards back. Again on the front side of the wave.

NOW, your Way-Way Back **It is too far back!** Your Red headed Cedar Plug (The most common and generally acknowledged best lure for the Way-Way back.) should be right behind, in the clear water, at the point where your 'Bubble Stream' is just faded out. Maybe 50 or 60 yards. Again it is that straggler trying to catch up and is easy prey! I also keep my Cedar plug in a bottle of runny (So it soaked into the wood.) fishy oil. WD 40

Another trick is that when you get a hit, either land that fish or if you missed it, circle back around and come back through the same

spot FROM THE SAME direction, and the odds are that you will get hit again. If you turn around and go back in the other direction, your lures will be working differently because of the wind and current, and usually don't get hit! Circle around twice or more and you could still getting hit.

Lets start upping your bites with some of my tricks that made me the best fisherman off Eureka California! (I kid you not.)

At a recent meeting we had a Captain Bill about BAIT for bottom fishing. He liked Mackerel as it just seemed to work better. AND I know that you watch the TV show "Wicked Tuna" Their Captains like a nice Mackerel when drift fishing or at anchor. Know why? **OIL**

Mackerel are a very oily fish. And they put out a nice fish oil sent trail. If you use a live Mackerel, put (1) one **shallow** slice along its side on one side aft of the dorsal fin, from top to mid way down the side. This does not kill the fish, and makes it a "wounded" fish and leak oil and blood.

When you are trolling if you see a slick on the surface, troll along it, that slick is from bait fish below.

When trolling and I find a good temperature break or a weed line or slick I like to troll about 10 yards on the warmer side or just in the clear water outside the weed line as the predators will be just in the dirtier water hiding and waiting to ambush the bait as it comes by in the clearer or warmer water.

Back in the 60's there was a doctor that started winning all the Salmon tournaments off the North Coast of Ca. I made friends with him and he finally (It only took a pint of real moonshine.) told me his secret. **WD-40**

Continued page 4

Check your hose fittings

Fishing Continued

He would fill a syringe with WD-40 (It is made with fish oil and other stuff.) and inject his bait with WD-40! He found that he got 10 hits on his oiled fish for every bait that was not leaking oil!

My adaptation is to take a 35mm plastic film canister and put 10 or 12 small holes in it's sides with one hole in the bottom, off center. Through this hole I run about a 3" or 4" piece of 7 strand wire (40 Lb test) with a crimp in it through or around a penny or SS washer to keep it in the canister, and a snap swivel on the other end. I then put a piece of sponge soaked in "Smelly Jelly" fish oil in the canister.

Attach this to your trolling setup at the front and that off center hole in the bottom makes it wobble and if you are using a weight it will be banging against the weight causing noise and vibration while leaving a sent trail in the water!

If I am bottom fishing I attach this above my hooks so that the cent is dispersed in that area.

Trolling, that canister will last about an hour, and to replenish it I used a clear plastic catsup bottle like you see at picnics with catsup and mustard in them. That pointed spout makes it easy to put in a hole and squirt the oil into the canister, and to squirt it on your baits!

For your lures, like a bubbler or B-2 Tan Squid, I put a RED bead above the hook so that it acts as a stopper to keep the lure from sliding down onto the hook.

This also helps keep the Smelly Jelly in the head of the lure as before I put it in the water, (Do this over the water, NOT over your boat gunnel or deck as it is slippery, smelly and takes real dish soap to clean off. Not that I found out the hard way.) Turn your lure upside down and lift the bead away from your line through the lure head, and squirt some smelly Jelly into the hole, then turn it back over and deploy that lure!

Rigging your lures . . . Here on the East cost ALL the fish have a lot of sharp teeth.

Consequently a lot of people rig with heavy wire from the hooks to about 4+ feet in front of the lure.

The predators are really accurate in their attacks, they do not hit 2' in front of your bait or lure, they hit IT as that is how they eat and live.

I suggest that you use either Titanium wire (A lot tougher than the regular fishing single strand wire.) or stranded wire as it is more flexible, and if their teeth cut a strand or 2 the whole line is not lost. I rig my lures with about 8" to 10 " of wire out the front, no more than that, then my fluorocarbon leader.

These setups let your lure have a more natural action.

Here is West Coast thinking on your line and leader and drag.

Your main line usually cost a pretty penny to spool up your big reel, so use a heavier line, say 40 pound line and your leader should be 20 or 30 pound test. ?!! Yup, your leader should be lighter than your line. If you do have to break off your line , you do not lose a 100' or more of good line, just a few feet of leader.

Your Drag . . . should be set to no more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the weakest part of your set up. . This gives you some room for that sudden shock of a really hard hit that can exceed the breaking strength of your line. Once you are fighting a fish, you should do just that, fight it. Let it take line if it pulling drag, DO NOT tighten up you drag! If necessary, chase the fish to gain line back. As your line goes out, and the line on your spool gets down, THAT naturally increases the drag, let off on the drag some. Another time to really lighten up your drag is when you get the fish boat side! Just before that novice with the gaff goes to gaff the fish, really lighten up your drag. When he misses or messes up and the fish makes a sudden lunge for the deep, let it go, and slowly tighten up the drag and bring it back. A lot of fish are lost

Fishing Continued

when the gaff is missed and the make a lunge for the deep and snap the line!

Here is some news for you, Mono line REPLACE it every year! You do not want to loose that catch of a lifetime to old line.

The new super Braid . . . I spooled up my reels 35 years ago with 80 pound test Spyder Line Big Water Braid. At that time it topped 105 pounds to break it. (Not 80 Pound test!) Last weekend I took the first 20' off 4 reels and tested it. It STILL Topped 105 pounds breaking strength!

How about Kingfishing? Well here is an idea that someone else told me and knowing what I know about fish, made a lot of sense. Sorry my CRS, I can't remember who told me this or I would give them credit as it really works.

You know that you want your boat making as big of a disturbance as possible, and for Kingfish you are SLOW trolling. If you have a downrigger, run one with a Ribbon Fish. Put it down about 25 feet, and set it so that the Ribbon Fish is about 15 feet below and BEHIND your Pogies that are live and on top. The Pogies will be aware of the Ribbon Fish, and act very nervous and be darting back and forth drawing attention to themselves.

Now since you are SLOW trolling, try tilting your engine up so that the prop almost breaks the surface and makes a lot of splash. Another trick is to (Use strong rope.) drag a bucket along side your boat so it is just at the surface.

A final trick is to use a CHUM bag. Suspend it off your transom so that about $\frac{1}{4}$ of it is in the water. As the chum melts and washes out, more will move down to the water and it will last longer than if you put the whole thing in the water.

I am sure that there is still a lot more I could tell you but my CRS says; " That's all for now". So try these suggestions and you WILL up your catch ratio!

Bill

THE ENEMY

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world. I have destroyed more men than all the wars of all nations. I massacre thousands of people every year. I am more deadly than bullets, and have wrecked more homes than the mightiest guns.

In the United States alone I steal over 500 million dollars each year. I spare no one, and find my victims among the rich and poor alike, the young and old, the strong and weak. Widows know me to their everlasting sorrow. I loom up in such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labor.

I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently. You are warned against me, yet, you heed me not. I am relentless, merciless and cruel. I am everywhere... in the home, on the streets, in the factory, at railroad crossings, on land, in the air and on the sea.

I bring sickness, degradation and death, yet few seek me out to destroy me. I crush, I maim, I will give you nothing and rob you of all you have.

I am your worst enemy... I am

CARELESSNESS.

It is TIME

Do this now! Just to be safe
Replace ALL the batteries in your flashlights, handheld radios, scales, anything that uses batteries on your boat!

Unless you are a very rare individual, I bet that your USCG approved Flares are OUT of DATE, check them and replace them before your next trip!

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 !

Presidents Cast Net Continued

turn in your fish into Darrin there just could be a nice thirty wide waiting for you at the end of the year.

The Sailfish pot has a winner, our past president Roger Walker. He was Kingfishing and got it on a downrigger. If you haven't made it to one of the pot parties, you don't know what you're missing. Watch for it next April.

We have a lot of local fishing tournaments coming up, the old school kingfish, the Greater Jax's, King Buster, and the Ancient City Kingfish. Make sure you check out their web sites for dates.

On the Fishing Front:

Offshore: Dolphin, Blackfin, Kingfish, and some Wahoo on the troll. The bottom is holding Grouper, B-liners Black Seabass, Cobia, and Triggers.


Inshore: Sheepshead are still here along with Black drum and Redfish on the rocks. Flounder, Reds and Trout are in the creeks. Make sure you watch the weather and plan your days.

That's it for now hope to see you at the club.

Tight Lines.

CAPT. Rob Vermillion



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		Fri	Sat
June			1 	2 Club Meeting	3 	4
			5 	6 Board Meeting 	7 	8
12 	13 	14 	15 	16 Club Meeting 	17 	18
19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 	25
26 	27 	28 	29 	30 	 <p>Ribbon Fish, AKA Kingfish Candu</p>	

The more little fish the better the fishing day - From Sol-Lunar Tables



**COMING
EVENTS:**

June 2nd - Club Meeting

June 6th - Board Meeting

June 16th - Club Meeting

Both June meetings will be probably be at the Fort Caroline Club

4131 Ferber Road

Jacksonville, FL 32277

Sept. 10th - Fishing Rules Meeting

October 22nd - Annual Awards Banquet



The Captain of The Year Tournament Schedule
Offshore

Inshore

June - Junior Angler

Junior Angler

July - Kingfish Tune-Up

Roulette

August - Ladies

Ladies

September - Bottom Fishing

Flounder

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IT IS PAST TIME TO RENEW . . PLEASE DO IT NOW.**



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