



The Reel News

The Newsletter of the . . .



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 62 Issue 8

August 2022



PRESIDENTS CAST NET CAPTAIN ROBERT VERMILLION

I am writing this post with a heavy heart, as we lost one of the best club members and past Presidents. Chuck Darner, Chuck is one of the nicest person you could ever meet always had a smile on his face, upbeat and very giving. He loved to boat, fish and travel with his wife Marry. The whole fishing community will miss him. so please keep his wonderful family in your prayers and in your hearts.

Sail on Chuck! You will be missed.

The new clubhouse should be open by the 2nd meeting in August there are some thing the city needs to get done before we can get in, I will make sure we keep everyone in formed.

Not a lot has been going on with the club just in limbo till we move into the new club house.

The kingfish bite has been hot, and the bottom fishing is good, so try to get out and get some.

That's it for now, let us keep Chuck in our hearts and remember all the god times. Keep fishing I think that's what he would have wanted.

Tight lines
CAPT. Rob Vermillion



In MEMORY

Chuck Darner - May 13, 1944 - July 14, 2022

Chuck was an exceptionally good man, if you met him, you were instantly a friend, Chuck would greet new members and talk to them and often take them fishing. I NEVER met anyone that didn't have anything but high praise for Chuck. If I were to ask for people to send me stories for the Newsletter, on how Chuck helped them, the NL would have to be at least 50 pages plus long.

Chuck was a past President of the club, and a champion of the Saltwater Fishermen.

He was involved with the City of Jacksonville Waterways, the TISIRI reef program, and on the Board of the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament. If it had something to do with fishing in Northern Florida or anywhere, Chuck was there!

Chuck will be really missed by all of us!

**May he always have calm seas, and
good fishing.**

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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Fishing in August!

August has lots of great fishing for us to do here on the North East Coast of Florida. There is the summer fishing for Kingfish by trolling anywhere from the shore on out.

If you go on out to the party grounds to the middle grounds or ledge to troll, you will also catch Cobia, Blackfin Tuna, Dolphin, Amberjack, Sailfish, and the occasional Wahoo or Marlin at the ledge on out. You can also stumble on the not uncommon to catch, African Pompano and these get pretty big!

Bottom fishing (Depending on what is open to keep.) you will catch some nice Red Snapper (Gotta release them of now darn it!) B-Liners, Red Pogey, Sea Bass, Trigger fish, Lane Snapper, Mutton Snapper, Sheepshead, Gag Grouper, Scamp Grouper, Red Groper, Black Grouper, Amberjack, Jack Cravelle, Bluefish, or any number of other species that might show up in our waters.

You can also always take the kids fishing for Whiting or Spanish Mackerel around the Jetties or along the beach.

If you want to really challenge yourself, during late July and August, drift behind a shrimp boat while they are culling their catch, and float a pogey in the chum line to try to hook and bring to boat side one of our giant Tarpon! You will also catch plenty of all types of Sharks. How about Tiger Sharks or a nice big Bull Shark or a Hammer Head to about 300+ Pounds?

If it is too rough to get offshore, we have the river, and backwaters of Jacksonville. Here you can fish for Red Drum, Sea Trout, Sheepshead, Croker and any number of the Saltwater species that wander into our tidal waters. Further up the river they even catch Striped Bass.

When you go, you can always catch plenty of bait yourself. If you can throw a cast net, there are plenty of Pogey's to be had, and if you stop at any of the closer wrecks or reefs, you can use a Sabiki rig to catch lots of Cigar Minnows, Spanish Sardines, Pin fish, Blue runners, or any number of good bait fish. If you have a large Live Well, you can keep them alive for the best bait, or just pile them in a bucket with ice to keep them fresh.



Shrimping starts to pick up in the River! All you need is a Cast Net, Cooler of Ice and to find a good spot!

It really is simple to go out and catch a few pounds of shrimp. All you need is a Cast Net (More on that later.) an ice chest or 5 gal Bucket with some ice to keep them fresh, and I recommend a tub or basket to empty the net into.

While it **IS** fun to get down on your knees and chase a dozen shrimp around the bottom of the boat, it is easier with a tub to dump them out of the net into. The Tub also makes it easier to cull the small shrimp and other things like little stingrays and fish that you don't want. I got a rubber tub that is about 14 inches deep and 20 inches in diameter. I then drilled a bunch of $\frac{1}{8}$ " holes around the bottom edges to let the water drain out as dumping the net and shrimp into it does put about an inch of water in it. (That makes it easier to sort the shrimp.)

I also recommend using some shrimp pellets or make your own fish meal into patties or balls to bait the area you are shrimping once you locate the shrimp. I usually use about 5 or 10 pounds per trip. I break it into 5 pound bags and once I locate the shrimp, I use about half a 5 Lb bag on each side of the boat. A 25 Lb bag is only about \$10.50

You can buy the shrimp pellets at:

Standard Feed Company
1236 Kings Road
Jacksonville, Fl. 32204
904-355-5575

Now let us get back to that Cast Net. First you have to know how to THROW a Cast Net.

Here is the method that I like the best as it is easy to learn and use:

<http://www.madnesscharters.com/portfolio-view/easiest-way-to-throw-a-castnet/>

Now that you have mastered that, what mesh size, weight and diameter net to use.

For Shrimping, a TAPED net is a **MUST!** The taped nets can be bought already taped or you can tape your own net.

The way I have taped my nets is with standard (Cloth backed, the better quality.) Duct tape. Run a strip of it about 3 to 4 inches up from the weights, all the way around the circumference of your net, (UNDER your riser lines.) and then put another band on the other side of the net over the first layer. (Sticky side to sticky side with the net in between.)

I recommend using only a 5' foot or 6' foot diameter net. They are easier to throw, especially from a crowded boat, and a taped 6' (12' diameter) net will cover about 8' or more of the bottom in 20' of water where an 8' (16' diameter) untaped net will cover about 3' of bottom with out the tape! Watch this Video Tom Ruggles found for us, to see the difference:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Z1m6qoYjV8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR01OV91EeaAO9Jzv1fcdkKh4MCCLK8X7iFY_n5gqLWxvVCE2WMH6DaDuQ

Mesh size is usually about $\frac{3}{8}$ th of an inch, but some people recommend a big mesh so little shrimp can get out, but with the tub, they are easy to cull and throw back, so it doesn't make much difference. The weight should be about 1 pound per foot. Heaver just makes it more work to throw.

Here is a SAFETY tip, I tie my rope to a large Rubber Band, about 1" wide by 10 to 12" in circumference. This is what is around my wrist, JUST IN CASE I net a big Stingray or even a Bull Shark or Manatee and they take off, I won't be pulled overboard to follow them. It has happened to people I know!

Shrimping Continued

Another thing to know is that you **MUST** give the net plenty of time to sink all the way to the bottom. I have added 15' of extra line to my net, so it can reach the deeper water while shrimping during the day. Watch how slow it sinks in the above video.

When you pull your net in, do so **SLOWLY** until you get it off the bottom. Give the weights time to drag on the bottom to the center before you lift it up. (You catch more Shrimp that way.)

The current rules are 1 - 5 gallon Bucket per BOAT. However if you are fishing from a dock or shore with friends, you each may have a 5 gal bucket. 1 - 5 gallon bucket per person.

Now what to do with those mouth watering morsels once you have them.

The first thing I do with them is to **HEAD** the shrimp. Just twist the head off, and put the heads in a big ziplock bag to use later for chum out in the ocean! They work great!

I then de-vane them and shell them. That is easy if you use that little plastic long curved tool you can pick up at any supermarket. Just push the curved point into the vein in the center of the body until it comes out the tail. Now quickly shove the shrimp all the way back toward the handle. That will split the shell and back to the vein so you can just peel off the shell and rinse the vein out.

I like to do a dozen or two of them while I am waiting for a pot of water with a hand full of salt in it to boil. Once it is boiling, throw about 4 or 5 of your cleaned shrimp in at a time and have something to scoop them out after **2 to 3 Minutes**. They will be cooked perfectly and ready to eat like candy! I then munch on these while I clean the rest of my cooler full of shrimp.

Now for what to do with the rest of your cleaned shrimp.

Terri's Coconut Shrimp

Take as many shrimp as you think you can eat, and soak them in a bowl that is full of "**Coffee Mate**" Coconut Creamer. Place a bag of ice or something on them to make sure all of them are submerged. Soak about 1 hour.

Next get a package of McCormick Golden Dip Tempura Seafood Batter Mix and **ADD 2 Table spoons of Coconut Flower** to the dry batter mix and mix it well. Now use $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup of fresh **COLD** Coconut Creamer to mix the batter until it is slightly stiff but smooth. Use more creamer if necessary.

Have your oil at 375° and then dip each shrimp in the batter and shake off the excess, now, a few at a time, **SLOWLY LOWER** the shrimp into the oil and cook until a golden brown. (**Don't OVER Cook your seafood!**)

Now you can go get more shrimp to cook as you will find they are so good you want **MORE!**

Here is another way that I recently discovered, that matches Shrimp Scampi served at high end restaurants.

Publix has been carrying McCormick's "Scampi Seafood Sauce". This stuff is really, really good!

After I have cleaned and peeled my shrimp, I heat my frying pan and pour in the entire bottle of the Scampi sauce and bring it to almost boiling.

I put the shrimp in the pan and cook them for a couple minutes, flipping them until they are just done.

You can then serve them over a pasta or like I prefer I just eat them by them selves!

JUST A REMINDER

- 1 - Wear your **LIFE JACKET**
 - 2 - Did you leave a **FLOAT PLAN?**
 - 3 - While Underway, **HAVE YOUR KILL SWITCH LANYARD** attached to **YOU!**
- It is the law now!



Safety First

While our sport is a relaxing and fun sport, it does have some hazards that we sometime don't think about.

How about your KNIVES A dull knife is 7 times more dangerous than a SHARP one. With a dull knife you use more force to get something cut, and quite often when it does start to cut, it suddenly jumps forward and you cut yourself as it was not a controlled movement.

I keep all my knives on my boat in the slots provided in either cleaning boards or rod racks. It is important to keep the cutting edge toward the gunnel so if someone slips on the slippery deck (from all the fish you are catching,) if they fall against the knife they hit the back of the blade, not the sharp edge cutting their hand or arm to the bone.

My second suggestion is to buy a CERAMIC knife from Harbor Freight (They are very inexpensive there.) How many times have you been on another persons boat and tried to use their "Bait Knife" and it is a RUSTY, DULL piece of junk. The Ceramic knives stay sharp almost forever, and they don't rust and look like junk, giving your boat a look of "Class". :-))

I have over 200 knives, as I have collected knives all my life. While doing so, I have tried just about every knife sharpener out there, and I have found what I feel is the worlds best Knife Sharpener. The **Work Sharp Knife and Tool Sharpener Mk. 2**. It is an electric mini belt sharpener. It can be had for \$80 to \$100 dollars on line.

They have belts to turn an old dinged and super dull blade into like new, and even diamond belts to sharpen ceramic blades! Most blades can be sharpened with just a few passes with the medium belt and finished with the stropping belt. You can make any knife into a razor sharp tool that is easy to use!



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

Tow Boat U.S.

1-800-391-4869

Sea Tow

1-800-473-2869



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!



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



Swimming Near Boat Docks Claims More Lives

ANNAPOLIS, Md., June 20, 2017 - The fatalities over the weekend of an [11-year-old](#) girl in New Jersey and [19-year-old](#) young man in Ohio are bringing scrutiny to an age-old summer ritual that's common on waterfronts across America: swimming near boat docks. Initial reports say the youngster died when touching a dock's electrified boatlift, and the Ohio teen died as a result of dangerous electrical current in the water while trying to save his father and family dog that also appeared to be stricken by the electrical current. The BoatUS Foundation, the boating-safety arm of the nations' largest recreational boat owners group, has some tips to prevent an electrocution tragedy.

While swimming deaths due to electricity fall into two categories, electrocution and [electric shock drowning](#) (ESD), both can be prevented the same way. Electrocution can happen in fresh- or saltwater when swimmers make contact with energized metal dock fittings, boats or other structures due to faulty alternating current (AC) wiring.

ESD occurs when AC gets into freshwater from faulty wiring and passes through a swimmer, causing paralysis or even sudden death. Unlike electrocution, with ESD a swimmer does not need to be touching a boat or dock structure, and even minute amounts of electricity can be incapacitating and lead to drowning.

The risk of ESD is greatest in fresh- or brackish water, so some areas such as estuaries or rivers may only be in the danger zone after heavy rains. In saltwater, electrical current takes the path of least resistance, bypassing swimmers. Unlike a drowning swimmer, who typically can't yell out for help because their mouth is mostly underwater, an ESD victim is often confused about what is happening, may be

able to shout, and will feel numbness, tingling, pain and paralysis. Tingling in the swimmer's body is one of the early warning signs of ESD. What can you do to prevent an electrocution or ESD fatality? Here are 6 tips:

1. Never swim around boats and docks that use electricity.

2. Post "no swimming" signs.

3. Have a qualified electrician with experience in dock electrical service inspect your private dock annually.

4. Install ground-fault protection on your boat and private dock.

5. Ask your marina if they have installed ground-fault protection, and if the electrical system is inspected and


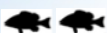
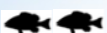
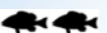

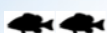
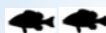

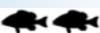



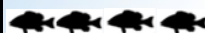

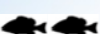



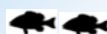
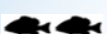


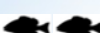
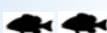



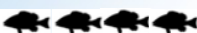




tested annually just in case someone falls overboard. No one should ever swim in a marina.


6. Periodically test your boat for electrical leakage into the water.

What do you do if you see a distressed person in the water near a boat dock? A drowning victim often looks "playful," while an electric shock drowning victim looks "distressed." It may be difficult, however, to immediately determine either, so play it safe by not jumping in. The first task is to shut off power to the dock at the breaker panel, and if equipped, disconnect any power cable to the vessel. If power cannot be shut down, follow the "reach, throw, row, but don't go" mantra by using an oar, boat hook or throw a floatation device to reach the stricken person.

For more information, parents, dock owners, boaters, and marina and boat club operators can go to the BoatUS Electric Shock Drowning Resource Center at: www.BoatUS.com/Seaworthy/ESD.

This article from BOATSUS Boat Owners Association of The United States
880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304
BoatUS Press Room at www.BoatUS.com/

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

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



Coming Events

August 1st - Board Meeting

August 4th - Club Meeting

August 18th - Club Meeting



Don't forget those tasty Spade Fish out there!

A small hook with a piece of shrimp or squid on a medium to light spinning rod will give you some fun and good eating!

The Captain of The Year Tournament Schedule

Offshore		Inshore	
August -	Ladies	Ladies	
September -	Bottom Fishing	Flounder	

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Listed in alphabetical order.

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

