



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 63 Issue 4



PRESIDENTS CAST NET **CAPTAIN** *Chris Jones*

Happy Spring JOSFC members! So far 2023 is

flying by and it is hard to imagine that Cobia, Mahi, and King fish season is right around the corner.

Let me start by saying congratulations for an outstanding El Cheapo tournament. Thank you to all the volunteer's and sponsors who spent countless hours making this year's El Cheapo 2023 tournament one of the best ever. We have received great feedback that we will use to ensure we continue to grow and keep this event top notch. I have been asked a few times about a possibility of a summer or fall fishing tournament, and I will bring it to the board of directors for further discussion.

Welcome to all new members in 2023! We have had over twenty new members join us over the last few months and we continue to welcome many more. Thank you to Captain Bill Pollackov for bringing in some outstanding guest speakers and we look forward to adding additional ones. Please do not hesitate to give

us feedback on any topics you would like us to find a speaker for.

Be on the lookout for our annual survey, which will launch shortly. Receiving feedback and hearing your voice is extremely important and your thoughts and recommendations on your club are taken seriously. So, when the survey comes, please take 5-10 minutes to fill it out.

The fishing boards are filling up with new anglers and it is exciting to see. I want to say thank you to all the members who stay behind and help clean up after our meetings. The building manager has nothing but accolades about the condition and cleanliness after our meetings, so thank you.

Once again Happy Spring, and I look forward to continuing to meet new and returning JOSFC members. Also, as a reminder, do not forget we will be starting our kid's clinic back up, so bring those kiddos with you!

Tight Lines and Be Safe,
Captain Chris Jones

Mega Thank You **to all Volunteers!**

Such dedicated members of JOSFC! The week before the Shepshead tournament I was totally worried there wouldn't be enough people to run the El Cheap this year. Duh, I should have known.

Thank you continued on Page 2

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.
 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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Thank you continued

The Jacksonville Off Shore Fishing Club is our club! Everyone is dedicated to keeping families together out on the water having so much fun. The fisher kids were out there with their friends eating hot dogs and /or Sheepshead picnic style on their boats or in the tent area. All this provided by our sponsors and our dedicated, loyal volunteers.

When Friday arrived, I knew I was proud of our members. Thank you so very much for giving your fishing and off-work time to all the things you do to help. I love your style. "Just show up and get it done!".

Terri Breen, Volunteer Coordinator 2023

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.

Ok everyone, the new fishing season is upon us.

How about thinking SAFETY FIRST!

THIS IS A TEST!!!

You probably already failed! **That is NOT a good thing.** Can you answer these questions without looking up some of the answers?

- 1 - Did you leave a FLOAT PLAN with someone, or on the dash of your tow vehicle?
- 2 - What date was your single, woefully too small, fire extinguisher last checked? Is it current, or has it been sitting in it's holder for the last 2+ years with all the dry chemical compacted and hard at the bottom? Do you have a big enough Fire Extinguisher? They are cheap, why not have two or three on board?
- 3 - What is the expiration date on your **Flares?**
- 4 - Is your ditch bag sitting out where it will be available and have an EPIRB or PLB attached to it?
- 6 - Do you even have an PLB? Why NOT? They are just a couple of hundred now! Isn't your life and your crews life worth that little money? Are its Batteries good? They should be replaced every 5 years!
- 7 - Does your ditch bag have enough water for everyone for a couple days?
- 8 - What year did you last replace the batteries in your hand held VHF radio? Is it IN your Ditch Bag? The same thing for your hand held GPS?
- 9 - Where is your hand operated bailing device?
- 10 - Does your hand held air horn work? What you don't have one?
- 11 - Where is your distress FLAG?
- 12 - Where is your signal mirror
- 13 - Is the "O" ring on your drain plug old and brittle?

14 - First aid kit current? How long ago did your first aid kit perishables expire? Yes Iodine expires! Here is something to think about. A lot of the (Other guys, not me) members are getting older. Does your first aid kit have some of the new crystalized Aspirin to dissolve under the tongue in case of a heart attack?

15 - Tested your VHF, or better yet upgraded to a new one with the DCS position sending feature?

16 - Checked that all your hose fittings are tight?

17 No corroded Electrical connections?

18 - Is your bilge pump working and have a backup if it goes out?

19 - Are your Life Jackets good and readily handy?

20 - Do you give your crew a safety "Tour" before each trip? Make sure they know where everything is and how to work it in case you are disabled?

20 - Have your throwable life preserver handy?

21 - When was the last time you had your wheel bearings packed?

If you did not know the answer to any ONE of these questions, you failed this quick test.

Lucky for you, your boat isn't taking on water, or someone seriously injured and you aren't trying to answer any one of these questions in a panic to save a life!

You now have a chance to correct any of these shortcomings BEFORE your next outing, and avoid the serious consequences of not being prepared.

Remember --- Keep your VHF radio on! Don't miss a club members distress call!

Bill Breen

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 its 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. Those 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 you are 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!

Do you know your Life Jacket Laws?

Type - I - Offshore, over 20 Lbs of Buoyancy, will turn an unconscious person face up.

Type - II - Near Shore Minimum 15.5 Lbs Buoyancy, will turn an unconscious person face up.

Type - III - Minimum 15.5 Buoyancy, will NOT turn an unconscious person face up.

Type - IV - Minimum 16.5 Lbs Buoyancy your THROWABLE device.

Type - V - Special use device Must be used in accordance with requirements on the label.

A **Type - V** may be substituted for any **Type I, II, or III** BUT it must be worn while the vessel is underway.

Every person age 6 and under **MUST** wear a **Type I, II, or III** while the vessel is underway.

Personal Watercraft must wear a **Type I, II, III or V** life jacket, **Inflatable PDF's are PROHIBITED!**

WaterSkiers must wear a **Type I, II, or III** Life Jacket, **Inflatable PDF's are PROHIBITED!**

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.



El Cheapo 2024
Saturday
March 2nd

Well the 2023 El Cheapo is now water under the keel!

We had absolutely beautiful weather for the tournament! This was one of the best and most fun El Cheapo's ever! For those of you wondering how it went, here are the stats.

410 Entries, almost a record total for the tournament!

We also had: **52 kayaks** in the tournament, again our biggest number of Kayaks to date

67 Jr Anglers

74 Lady Anglers

NOTE, This is the 2nd year in a row that a Lady Angler with a COMBO ENTRY has won the Tournament!

This year the winner was:

Ashley Rehberg with a 10.2 Pounder

Congratulations Ashley!

We had a record 192 boats weigh fish! The average sheepshead weight: 5.6 pounds.

Largest Lady fish 8.99 by Katie Swanger

Largest Kayak fish 7.42 by Edison Pedro

Largest Jr. Angler fish 8.70 by Atley Tavares

The new On-Line registration and instant leader-board system was a big hit, and also made the presentation of the Awards happen very fast. The weigh-in line cut off at 4:00 PM with 87 fish still to be weighed. With the new system they were weighed and Bill Pollackov was able to start the Awards at 5:07 PM!

The Raffle had the highest value ever and everyone left the site happy!



The Sailfish Pot Party

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023
 Time: 6:00 PM to ??
 Location: at the American Legion Post
 1127 Atlantic Blvd, Atlantic
 Beach FL, 32233

Menu: Steak, Oysters, Wings & Beer
 Bring your own Oyster Knife & Towel

Prizes: The best assortment of Raffle prizes
EVER!

THIS IS A STAG EVENT !

The Sailfish Pot Party is NOT a JOSFC Function, it is it's own stand alone function that was started years ago. However the JOSFC members do help whoever wins when they ask for our help, but the club does not spend any money or do anything for it other than advertise it in our newsletter and on the website when asked, just like we do for the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament.

The fishermen of the area mostly only knew each other over the CB Radio or the chance meeting at the boat ramp. They decided to meet at a local watering hole, and while there they came up with the idea of a contest for the **FIRST SAILFISH** Caught. They would all put \$10.00 in a pot (One of them just happened to have an old Chamber pot that he donated, hence the name, the Sailfish POT Party!) and the first one to catch a Sailfish would win all the money. The only catch was that he then had to put on a party for all those that donated to the pot!

This is a great party, your entry fee gets you a Steak that you cook yourself over a large charcoal grill, and you also get a baked potato and a salad with your steak. OYSTERS, there are tables full of raw or steamed Oysters where you can open and eat all you want! Of course there is a supply of beer and soft drinks that are included in your entry fee.

The evening ends with a **GREAT BIG RAFFLE** with some really good prizes!

Parents don't frame pictures
 of their kids playing video games...



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

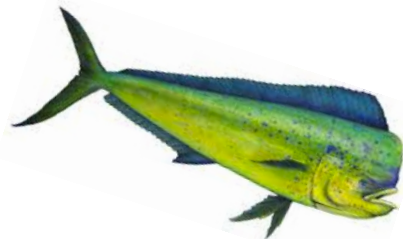
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
April						1 
2 	3 	4 	5 	6 Club Meeting 	7 	8 
9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 
16 	17 	18 	19 	20 Club Meeting 	21 	22 Sailfish Pot Party 
23 	24 Board Meeting 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 
30 		Key - The more little black fish on a day means better fishing				

**COMING
EVENTS:**



April 6th - Club Meeting
 April 20th - Club Meeting
 April 22nd - Sailfish Pot Party
 April 30th - Board Meeting

The 2024 El Cheapo will be March 2, 2024!



These fish are out there
 now, some are leaving and
 some are showing up
 during April



JOSFC & El Cheapo Sponsors in alphabetical order

A&A Express * Academy Sports * Amelia Island Bait & Tackle * Angie's Subs * Ann Kemp Art * Apex Training * **Atlantic Coast Marine** * Atlantic Seafood * B & M Bait & Tackle * Beamish Custom Tackle * Beck DeWitt * Bennett Family * Tow Boat U.S. * Brown's Creek Fish Camp * CCA Florida * Cedar River Seafood * **Colonel Jim's Breeding** * Community Igloo * Consignment Boat Sales * Costal Cottage Amelia * Costal Fine Photo * Cracker Barrel * **Dandee Foods** * Down Under * Duval Glass * Engle Coolers * Fish Bites * Fishing Nosara * Five Star Pressure Washing * Fort George Surf Shop * GemLux * **Hagan Coastal Outfitters** * Hagerty Construction * Hobie Fishing * Icon Golf Carts * Kelly's Foods * Knight Electric * Kona USA Skateparks * Land South Construction * Lisa Williams Art * Logan Pearson * Longhorn Restaurant * Luxe Picnic Baskets * Millers Ale House * Morning Star Marina * Mousa's Auto & Marine * Murphy Communications * **Murray Ford Super Store** * North Florida Inshore Slayers * Ocean Waves Sunglasses * Outdoor Show * PDQ * Pedego Electric Bikes * Port a Rod * Reel Thirsty Ice * Resellers Reef * Rick's Bait & Tackle * Roadshark Power Sports * Sacred Salt * Safe Harbor * Sailfish Construction * Salt Life Restaurant * Seahorse Stables * Sheepier Sweepers * Sherwin Williams Paint * Shurhold * Singleton's Restaurant * Skate Station * Slayer Outfitters * Solaras * Solomons RV Storage * Southern Coast Seafoods * Strike Zone * Styles Smith Plumbing * Team Buck Rogers * The West Bank * Violet Studios * Website Solutions * Whites Bait & Tackle * Will's Fine Printing * **Woods & Water Magazine** * WRI Weather Routing *

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