



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 63 Issue 9

September 2023



PRESIDENTS CAST NET CAPTAIN Chris Jones

Greetings, JOSFC Anglers,

September has arrived, and it's time to set sail for thrilling saltwater fishing expeditions right here in our own backyard. I extend my congratulations to all who have reeled in the exhilarating prize of a sailfish this year. The anticipation of that majestic swim is undoubtedly a highlight of our angling journeys.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us on August 17, 2023, for a memorable gathering featuring guest speakers from FWC, Sea Great, and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Their insights, expertise, and educational contributions were invaluable. Let's mark our calendars for September 30th at 8:30 am, as we come together to review and update our fishing rules. This is your chance to have your voice heard and contribute to our shared fishing regulations. And don't forget, on September 7th during our club meeting, we will be nominating our next round of board members.

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This is YOUR Club!

As one member so aptly put it, "This club is a 'Legacy Club', for our kids we need to keep this club going".

Next June, we will celebrate the club's official 65th Birthday! That is over 6 decades of at first, improving the fishing off Jacksonville with over 300 drops of reefs and reef replenishments, and over the last 20 years of also fighting to keep fishing open along the Atlantic Coast.

NOW . . . It does not take a lot of time to help keep this club running, but it does take a little time from several people. (Get where I am going with this?) **Nominations for the Board of Directors are at the first meeting in September!**

The Board of Directors, would like some NEW people to step up and run for the Board of Directors or Officers. **The only restriction is to run for President you must have been on the Board for 1 year prior to being nominated.**

Even if there is someone already in that office, IF you would like to run for it, GO for it! In the past we have had 2 or 3 people running for several of the offices!

You may run for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or for the Board of Directors. Note I didn't put the BoD positions. That is because you get elected to the Board, and then you serve "At the direction of the

Continued page 2

With the price of GAS 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
breennw@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 for life!



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Officers:

President Chris Jones
Vice President.....Darrin Willingham
Secretary Ashley Rehberg
Treasurer Tom Forbess

Board of Directors & Special Staff:

Tom Ruggles - Tournament Director
Mayan & Mark Aley - Co-Awards & Events
Max Stein - Fishing Director
Stacey Schwab - Membership
Marianna Suzette - Media Director
Patti Daniels - Hospitality Director
Bill Breen - Web & Newsletter
Bill Pollackov - Speaker & El Cheapo Director
Tom Ruggles - Fishing
Rob Vermillion - Advisor to the Board

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Your Club Continued

President". Meaning that the President may appoint you to a position.

That doesn't mean you can't tell the President that you would like to fill a particular position and that usually happens.

Please, even if you are a long time member, or new, just joined at the last meeting, consider running for the board! **NO, you are not too new!** While the club is getting older, we need fresh new ideas to keep it current and inviting to everyone!

I guarantee you that you will enjoy being on the Board!

The Board currently consist of the following positions:

Tournament Director - In charge of running the club tournaments.

Awards & Events - Sets up the Club Booth and gets staff for the 2 or 3 events we go to every year, and gets the Awards for the Banquet.

Website & Newsletter - you are responsible for the Newsletter and the Website.

Fishing Director - Keeps track of the COY points and fish slips & Boards.

Membership - Easy as I do most of that work on the Website. You would sign new members up at meetings and events.

Media Director - Social media and Print media information.

Hospitality - In charge of the meals at the meetings. (You can get a whole crew to help you if you want.)

Speaker Director - Lines up guest Speakers for the meetings.

IF you get one of these jobs, the outgoing person will help you with lot of good info, contacts and even work with you if needed. There is always plenty of help for you!



SEPTEMBER

The prime Shrimping in the St. Johns River Month

Want to catch more fish?

PART #2

Double check your measuring device, and ALL the fishing regulations before you go out. Remember that FWC officer may have had a bad night and be in a bad mood so he WILL write you a ticket if he has a chance!

Now about FISH in general. Fish are not smart in any sense. Their brain is nothing more than a bunch of nerves with three main functions. Eating, avoiding being eaten, and reproducing. That is it, their total capacity! Fish do not see your leader and think: "Hummmm, that looks like a trap!"

They do not learn from being hooked. I was Salmon fishing one day and a guy came on the VHF and said:

"IF anyone catches a big Salmon with a Penn GLD 45 hanging out of it's mouth, that is MY fish and Rod & Reel."

Naturally everyone gave him a bad time for not hanging on to his rod, but about 20 minutes later someone came on the VHF and asked if he was still out there.

They had caught his fish with the lure still hanging out of it's mouth and the Rod & Reel still being dragged around. He kept the 45 lb Salmon, but gave the guy his Rod & Reel back.

Lesson from this. . . . Having a lure hanging out of it's mouth and a Rod & Reel dragging around didn't stop it from hitting another lure just like the one it had in it's mouth. SLOW to NON-LEARNERS!

Trolling. . . . There really isn't any deep secret to this. Just remember that fish see ANY disturbance in the water as a possible feeding frenzy and will go to it looking for food.

Think of trolling like this, your boat is a disturbance in the water. The lures you are trolling behind it are possible FOOD! When I troll I try to get my boat to make as much noise and splash as I can. I trim my engine up as high as I can so my boat plows through the water, and does not get up on plane, about 10 MPH.

Now remember to keep your lures close to the boat. I run my "Flat lines" off the corner of the boat, no more than about 20 yards behind the boat. I try to position it just on the edge of the wake or bubble water from your prop. I like it on the back of the second wave created by your boat. My next two are about 15 to 20 yards further back, just where the bubbles from the engine are starting to fade out. I like these lures to be about 5 feet outside the flat lines, running just in the clear water by the wake. IF you run a "Way Back" line, it should be in the center of your wake, just where the water is **starting** to clear up. NOT way, way, way, back, where it takes you 20 minutes to reel it in. Remember, your boat is what attracts the fish, and they will be looking for food near it!

There was a fad for a while off California of putting decals of Squid or baitfish on the bottom of the boats. This is coming back as it does work! I recently saw an add for the decals in either Florida Sportsman or Sport Fishing. This actually works, and I know three different boat owners in California that did this. All of them told me that they could feel and hear fish hitting the bottom of their boat when they located schools of Tuna, Salmon, or Bonita (Bonita are a prized sport and food fish out west, just BLEED it immediately.) and one Captain even had a Thresher Shark whipping his hull with it's tail. That was one confused shark, the Captain said it hit his hull at least 10 times and just couldn't find anything to eat until they threw it a piece of bait with a big hook in it, attached to some wire leader and a big rod & reel. (Off California then Threshers were legal, and a targeted species as you really can not tell the difference between them and a Swordfish when cooked.)

Remember, fish are not rocket scientist, they don't see your gear and think "This looks wrong, or I see a hook, that is not for me." If it looks like food, or like it is alive, and might be food they will try to eat it.



Loud Hailings

Bill Breen
Newsletter
Editor

I am looking for Stories or Articles from club members, to use in our newsletter. 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

Hook Removal

The most common accident during fishing season involves hooks. A first aid kit with a little knowledge of how to use it will take care of **MOST** of the hook problems.

Just Ask Tom Ruggles and Robert Vermillion! Good thing they knew this in July this year!

The most important tool any angler should always have with him /her for removing a hook is a sharp pair of wire cutting pliers. **ALWAYS have a pair of cutters that will cut the BIGGEST hook that you have on your boat!** Some of those hooks are **TOUGH!** Here are a few methods for removing hooks.

When a hook's point and barb are protruding out the skin, it's easier to cut off the barb and back the hook out of the wound.

This is when those sharp wire cutters come in handy.

The snatch method of hook removal is simple and effective,

and it's the best method to remove a hook that's deeply imbedded in the skin and when the barb is buried. This method is quick, simple and relatively painless, as long as you get it on the first try. The secret to a first time success is yanking the loop of line, which is wrapped around the embedded hook, rather hard so the hook comes out on the first try. The reason you should get it out on the first try is obvious, the patient might not stick around for a second try.

To perform the snatch method when the barb is imbedded, all that's needed is a short length of fishing line, at least 10 pound test, approximately 2 feet long.

* Remove hook from lure.

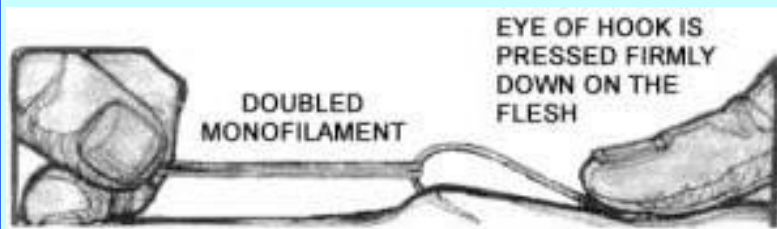
* Double the fishing line and loop it around the hook, as close to the skin's surface as possible.

* Hold onto both ends of the doubled line, wrapping them around your hand for a firm grip and holding the line parallel to the skin's surface in line with the hook.

* With your other hand, press the eye of the hook down onto the surface of the skin and back toward the hook's bend, as if trying to back the hook out of the wound.

* While pressing on the hook eye, yank (**Don't be shy here, give it a very HARD, Quick parallel pull!**) the line **sharply, parallel** to the skin and in line with the hook, to snap the hook back out of the wound.

* Apply antibiotic ointment, bandage wound and check to make sure tetanus shots are current.



There are lots of these tasty Spade Fish out there to catch!

(Spinning Rod & Reel, small hook with a small piece of Shrimp or Squid)



Catch More Fish Cont.

NOW my tricks!

If you are trolling, it really pays to look for a temperature break or a slick. I prefer to run a break or slick over targeting bottom structure for trolling. More strikes!

The Temperature break will more often than not have clear warmer water on the outside, and "dirty" water inside. OR it will have "weed Line. The predator fish will hang in the dirty water or under the weeds and dash out into the clear water after the bait. Troll about 5 yards outside the dirty water.

Find a slick? Great, that most often was created by Bait fish! I like to troll along the slick slowly zig-zagging back and forth through the slick, working up-stream against the current. **Trust me the predator fish are doing the same thing!** You may not show bait fish on your bottom finder as they may have moved on, but there usually will be an occasional straggler and eventually you will find the bait fish. Don't think you have to find the bait fish to get that strike, that whole slick will be attracting the predators who are following it looking for the bait fish, you will get hits at any time. Once you get a strike, CIRCLE around and come back up through that SAME spot going the same direction. Odds are you will get another strike as most predator fish swim in loose schools.

Now here is my "Trolling Trick". I create my own slick as I fish. I take a 35mm film canister or a Quarter size diameter plastic pill bottle and drill or burn with a nail, several small holes in it. The Important ONE is in the bottom, off center by a little bit. I then run some mono line through that hole with a bead that is too big to fit through the hole inside the bottle, and about 2 inches of line outside with a Snap Swivel on the end. I like about 6 holes around the sides of the bottle. I then cut some open cell sponge to fit the bottle and soak it in fish oil. I found "Smelly Jelly" brand last longer while trolling. Put the cap on and attach it to your trolling weight at the top end so it can hang against the

weight and with the bottom hole being off center as you troll it will bang against the weight creating "Noise" that also attracts the fish that are off to the side, not in the scent trail.

That trick alone upped my strike ratio by a good 60% plus!

I also attach one of my scent bottles to my bottom fishing weight so it creates a scent trail by my baits down on the bottom.

IF SLOW trolling, a Chum bag hanging with the bottom of it just touching the water also works well and with the bottom JUST touching the water it won't thaw or wash out as quickly.

Here is the other critical part of actually catching bottom fish, and that is **anchoring!**

You need to realize some of the spots are no bigger than your boat, so you have to learn how to anchor to put your boat on the spot. It sounds easy, but it does take some practice to get it right. I have been with experienced club Captains that have re-anchored 3 or 4 times before they are happy and we could catch fish.

I have been on boats where the people on one side of the boat were catching fish, and the people on the other side were just drowning bait.

Anchoring is that critical sometimes.

The first thing you need to do before you go is make 3 or 4 "Float jugs" (An empty Clorox or similar jug with a light nylon line with about a 5 pound weight on it.) with lines for the different depths. (Don't forget to mark the line length on the bottom of the jug.) When you mark a spot on your bottom machine, toss the jug with the right length line for the depth, behind your boat to get it as close to the spot as possible. You want the jug floating as close to directly over the spot as you can get it. Offshore there is always a current caused by the wind and tide. You can drift for a couple of minutes to get a line on your GPS to find the anchor lay. Go directly up current / wind and drop anchor and then **back** down to your jug. **Don't drift, power back to your jug**, stopping short and making sure that your anchor has set, or is holding, then let out line until you are showing the bottom on your scope, or you are by your jug.

Catch More Fish Cont.

You can adjust your location by turning your engine or rudder to port or starboard to make the boat move some in the current. You can also tie the anchor line off on the port or starboard cleat and that will adjust your location in the current. You can also adjust your anchor line by letting some out or power up and pull forward some to shorten up your line. IF there is a strong current, you want to be short of the reef as your line and weight will trail down current from where you are. Try fishing the up current side, and just on the down current side of any reef or wreck.

Another thing I learned that surprised me here is that you can fish 10 spots within a 500 yard diameter, 9 of them will be holding Grunts, and Sharks, and the 10th will have Grouper, Snapper, Trigger fish and good fish all over it. So if you are not catching good fish at one spot after 15 minutes, **MOVE**, Usually the biggest fish on a spot will feed first, (Pecking order). Try that other spot only 100 yards away. It just might have good fish on it. Some times the difference between catching Sharks or good fish is switching from fishing the low side of a ridge or drop-off to fishing on the high side or vice-versa.

One last thought, don't over tighten your drag, it will wear YOU out, let the fish run and wear itself out, then bring it to the boat!

Presidents Message Continued

This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved and make a lasting impact. Speaking of exciting events, make sure to secure your tickets for our upcoming annual banquet. **This year's banquet promises to be exceptional, with an array of great experiences awaiting you. The raffle tables will be loaded and we have some special prizes in store for you.**

As we navigate the waters of September, let's continue to embrace the camaraderie that binds us together.

Tight lines and smooth sailing,
Captain Chris

Lynne Gokey took Doug Deen's Grandkids out for a day of fishing. That is Rosie (Age 7) and Finn (Age 10)



Love seeing Rosie holding that Remora in her hands!
Way to go young Lady!



With a name like Finn, he just has to grow up being a great fisherman!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
September					1 	2 
3 	4 	5 	6 	7 Club Meeting Nominations for Board of Directors 	8 	9 
10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 The Down at the Dock fishing event. 
17 	18 	19 	20 	21 Club Meeting FINAL Nominations for Board of Directors 	22 	23 
24 	25 Board Meeting 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 Fishing Rules Meeting 8:30 AM Boards close 11:59 PM 

FYI, the little fish is a Sol-Lunar fishing days key, the more fish the better the fishing day.

September 7th - Club Meeting - Nominations for the Board of Directors
Joe Kistel at meeting with videos of Reefs

September 16th - Down at the Dock Fishing Event Sisters Creek

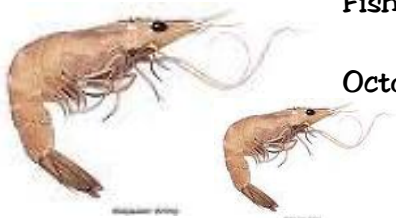
September 21st - Club Meeting - Final nominations

September 30th - Fishing Rules Meeting 8:30 AM / Kid with Cancer
Fishing Event at Sisters Creek / Fishing Bards Close 11:59 PM

October 1st - Fishing Boards OPEN at 00:01 AM

The FINAL Captain of the Year Tournaments:
Offshore it is the BOTTOM Fishing Tournament.
Inshore it is the FLOUNDER Tournament.


**COMING
EVENTS:**



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

JOSFC SPONSORS

Listed 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 * Sheeper 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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Jacksonville Offshore
Sport Fishing Club
P.O. Box 330924
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

