



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

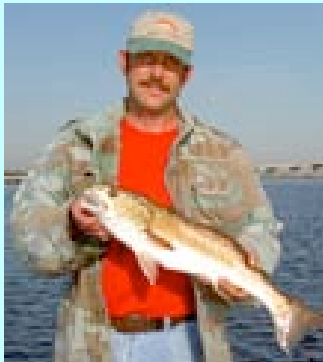


Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 46 Issue 1

January 2006

Presidents Castings



**President
Pete
St. Laurent**

Happy New Year!!! Here we are in 2006 and I hope that this year proves to be a great year for all of you. I know with the new year comes all thoughts New Years resolutions and I would like to wish everyone good luck on your endeavors. My resolution for 2006 is not to get hurt this year so that I can do a lot more fishing.

Frank has been hard at work organizing The 6th Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament. I would like to thank all that have volunteered to help out with this very important fundraiser and add that if anyone else is interested in volunteering we can always use the added help. The next organization meeting will be held at the clubhouse at 7:30 P.M. on Jan. 12th. This tournament proves to be the best one yet. At the Captains' meeting there will be hotdogs and hamburgers and a good size raffle to boot. The tournament will be on Saturday Feb. 25th check out starting at 6A.M. with a weather date of Sunday Feb. 26th. We will be having a big fish fry and a truly impressive raffle after the awards are presented.

At a meeting not to long ago a few of the members and myself were talking about our worst trips ever. I told them mine and even though it wasn't at all funny at the time it had every one in stitches. So lets all climb into Mr. Peabody's 'Way back Machine' and go back to Jan. 2005. (Bill" let me see you print this article before it happened). Brian Hackbart picked me up at the house at about 4 A.M. and we headed to Valanio to meet Gary and

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ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SPORTFISHING

According to the American Sports Fishing Association, Florida leads the nation in impact from recreational fishing. What's more, if you take NE Florida's share of that, you come up with about \$600 million in annual economic impact. That number is twice the best estimates for economic impact related to Jacksonville's hosting the Superbowl! I would argue this makes a compelling case for to find and fund boat ramps and water access in NE Florida.



IT'S

COMING!

The EL CHEAPO is coming! This is our biggest fund-raiser for the club, and we need volunteers to work the Tournament. This year we have a New **Boat, Motor, & Trailer for the Grand Prize !** Come to the organizational meeting Thursday January 12, 2006 at 7:30 pm at the Club House.

In case you haven't noticed, it is already 2006! Renew your membership in this great club now, before you lose your club privileges. For your convenience the renewal form is inside, just fill it out and send it in. Don't put it off, do it now!

Fishin Reports & Other Tall Tales



Cold Days of January

The water has cooled down and we may not be able to find 60 degree water until were at BR or even further off shore. The days we can get out to fish are few and far between, but when you can get out the fish will bite! A good place to look for bait would be the barge on the east side of TW. (N30 30.670 W080 56.382) If the water isn't too cold start fishing there but remember that water is a little cold and the snapper bite may be slow, stay with the same spot for a minimum of 30-40 minutes. The smaller fish will bite first and that's a good indication the larger fish are around.

January is Wahoo season if the wind lays down enough for us to get to the fish. The Tuna patch at a heading of 110 deg. out of Mayport has always been a good spot to try at this time of year. The fish are in a little closer not on the ledge, try 140 feet before you go all the way to the ledge. My favorite thing is to look for a temperature break with the water temp around 71 or 72 and put the baits out, then just wait for the reel to start screaming. If the Wahoo won't cooperate watch the recorder while you're trolling and mark some bottom, or go to numbers you have out there. We marked a small piece of hard bottom in that area last year dropped a live bait down, and in four drifts had 19 Scamps to 18 pounds. That will defiantly make the grease stink.

Don't give up on the month of January, old man winter can be nice to us here in N.E. Florida and the fishing is always great somewhere in the Ocean. **Keep the drags screamin!!**

Question:

How much fishing tackle and boating gear can a man accumulate before his wife throws him out?

Answer:

We don't know the answer yet, but we believe that Eddie is getting really close!

TW vs. BGA



A lively discussion took place this morning from my house to the Mayport. The topic at hand was where to fish. Should we go offshore and chase snapper & grouper or should we go inshore and chase trout & redfish. The choices one has to make and the monement of truth has arrived. From our vantage point, the trees were unusually still for a fall mid-

November morning and this only fueled our desire for offshore snapper & grouper trip. The only thing holding us back was the fact the Capt. George Strate and Capt. Denis Young were on dry land calling into the Florida Sportsman Talk Radio show which meant the seas were particularly nasty.

With the mighty *Let's Go* hooked up to the Suburban, we stuck to our original game plan and choose the trout & redfish trip. Oh! The choices we make. Did we compromise ourselves? Had we sold out the manly fishing trip for comfort? Six dozen shrimp and a pint of fiddler crabs later said we might have. Our first order of business was to find, catch and release some jetty's sheephead. As we neared the mouth of the Jetties, we found out why Capt George and Capt Denise are the professionals they are. It was rough out there. The wind was just starting to pick up only indicating that it was only going to get rougher out there. As the tide ran out the wind ran in, the waves started to stack up in the Jetties. Needless to say, our stint at Jetties sheephead fishing was brief to say the least.

We moved a couple times with little fan fare. A few trout here and a few trout there was nothing much to write about. However, our last stop was the one to write home about. We anchored up in Mill Cove in the marked channel on the Westside of the cove. Once there the competitive nature came out. TW vs. BGA. Tournament Winner vs. Big Game Angler. My Dad is BGA. As he claims, Norm Issac calls him for advice. Being the worldwide big game angler that he is catching for him comes naturally. BGA has traveled the world around capturing Marlin, Atlantic & Pacific Sailfish, Roosterfish and a whole host of others too numerous to mention. Your humble host is TW. Tournament Winner, just having proved myself in the Super Bowl of fishing, the GJKT. Nothing more needs to be said.

Well, the two titans were about to square off in a dazzling display of fishing skill. The fishing was hot, very hot. Who would you rather have on you side, BGA or TW? Trout were everywhere. We ran through 6-dozen shrimp in a matter of a couple of hours. The fish were of no particular size. The best thing about them is that they were there. As TW threw out his last shrimp, he was true to form and caught his next victim. Now, there was a vacuum, no more bait but the fish were still chewing. TW and BGA were going to square off using artificials. TW choose a yellow pinkish jig head with a sparkly pink grub. BGA choose a DOA terrorizer minnow.

As the contest began, TW struck first. TW 1, BGA 0. Once again, TW hooked up, caught and released a trout. TW 2, BGA 0. BGA threw and threw the little terrorizer to no avail. The trout were not interested. Being the BGA that he is, he knew enough to change tactics. Now, BGA unleashed his latest secret weapon. It was a DOA Shrimp with a popping cork. Much discussion occurred over this configuration. Soon, BGA exclaimed everyone else would be fishing for second. The DOA weapon looked more interesting to us then to the fish. BGA did improve his luck and had a couple of strikes. Still, TW was starting to mount a commanding lead. TW 5, BGF 0. With the

Continued on Page 4

Presidents Castings Cont.

Eddie for a ledge trip. We got down there in no time and put the boat in the water and started loading the gear. Bill and Peter showed up with Bill's boat to buddy boat out with us. (A little back ground for anyone that has not seen Bill's boat it is a 17 Ft. Cabin Boat made for the seas in the Pacific North West "oh ya" and it holds I believe about 50 or 55 Gallons of gas.) But they said they were ready for the run to the ledge with us and I thank god they were with us. Shortly after they arrived Gary and Eddie showed up on time and everyone climbed aboard. Well when I stepped aboard I rolled my ankle and herd a big pop and I thought to myself 'boy that's goner hurt tomorrow'. I climbed up on the leaning post and Settled in for the long run out. The water was nice long rollers with some fog banks and the occasional rain shower but in all a nice ride. We got out to about 180 Ft. of water and I hopped down from the leaning post to start setting lines out. When my foot hit the deck I thought my leg was on fire. I pulled up my pant leg and my ankle was about the size of my thigh. I asked if Brien had any tape on board, 'nope' was the answer I got, so knowing Bill as I do I radioed over to the Moustrum. Bill asked me what color would I like. (Okay, a little more info about Bill's boat, yes it is 17 Ft. bow to stern however there is a 60,000 Sqft Wal-Mart in that 8x8x6 cabin.) Bill never has less than 2 of everything in that cabin. So Bill though us a roll of tape and I rapped up my leg. The fishing was slow and my leg was throbbing so I made a beanbag nest in the bow all day. About 1P.M. the seas were starting to get pretty bad and Bill called us to say he was headed home. I call back to see if I could catch a ride home so that I could get to the hospital. So here I am 65 / 70 miles offshore cross decking from Brien's boat to Bill's with a bad leg in 6 to 8 Ft seas. I got aboard and we headed for St. Augustine. The seas were building and that little boat was tossed. Lying on the deck I noticed that Bill had saddle tanks on either side and both had about 5 or 6 gallons of gas left and the main tank by my feet had about 8 to 10 Gallons left. All the time I was thinking 50 miles to go at 1.5 miles per Gallon. (Editors Note... The Maelstrom gets about 4 mpg, we used 40 Gal total, and had 16 Gallons on board when we hit the dock.) Bill handled his boat though the seas like a Dr. performing surgery. Running up one side and sliding down the backs to try and give me as smooth a ride as possible. Now as if it wasn't bad enough about 15 miles out the electronics went out. So for the last 15 miles we were navigating with 3 hand held units. After a while I climbed up to see what was going on and we are headed due west towards Ponte Vedra not to St. Augustine. I told Bill not to get too close to shore and head strait for the St. Augustine lighthouse. Finally we broke the jetties and pulled up to the ramp. I believe all three of us jumped out of the boat and kissed the ground thankful to be home and still alive. Now Peter had just moved into Jacksonville and didn't know how to get to the hospital and as I gave him directions I called my wife's cell phone to meet me - of course the phone is turned off. So I called Marge to ask her to look up my son in-laws work number and call him, to get my daughters number so that Marge could call her since I did know that my wife and daughter were going out to dinner together. This is where everyone started laughing. I finally made it to the hospital and they checked me in. I was telling the nurse that my wife was going to kill me when she saw me because she didn't want me to go fishing that day. Well Marge shows up and asks me how I was doing and I said, "Okay for the shape I was in". Marge went out with my gear to wait for Diane. The nurse looks at me

and said "It doesn't look like she's that mad". My reply was "that's because that's not my Wife". They took me back for X-rays and a cast exc.... and after about 1 _ hours my wife and daughter walk in and I ask, "where have you been?" Diane said "When Marge called we had just ordered dinner so we stayed to eat". Luckily after looking at me with my leg in a cast Diane felt sorry for me so I was let off easy. Finally about 9:30 P.M. I got home and had a 3-month recovery to look forward to. Gary's always told me that this fishing thing is going to kill us.

Looking back I can laugh to myself about that trip but as I told everyone in a past article "You wouldn't believe how fast everything went wrong" So be careful and I hope you got a chuckle out of my misery.

I say we fish 5 days and work 2

Pete St. Laurent

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Do you have some fishing or boating equipment you would like to get rid of? Bring it to the JOSFC Annual Swap Meet. January 19th at 7:00 pm at the Club House, Followed by the regular club meeting at 8:00 pm. Even if you don't have anything to swap or sell, come on down and see what might be there you can't live without!



Top's Tips Safety First

The successful boating/fishing trip is the one that begins and ends safely. In order to have a safe outing, boaters have a special need to know and understand the weather. On land, the effects of storms can be devastating. At sea, they can be even worse.

High winds, lightning, rough seas and poor visibility are some of the side effects of storms at sea. The first step in avoiding weather related problems is "know before you go." This means you need reliable weather information before you go out on the water.

Even if good weather is predicted, it can change while you are out. At least as important as knowing what weather to expect on your trip, is knowing how to tell when the weather is changing for the worse, or how to read the obvious signs. Therefore, we must understand how high and low pressure air masses impact our weather. Air masses with high pressure contain cool, dry air and low pressure contains warm, moist air. In the US, these air masses move mainly from west to east.

In the Northern Hemisphere, air flows clockwise around a high and counterclockwise around a low. Therefore, since a high moving toward a low may have high winds, the area between the high and low may have stormy weather. Thus, it is important to know where the highs and lows are in relation to your location on the water.

To locate the highs and lows in our area, stand with your back to the surface wind. Then, turn 45 degrees to your right which will align you with the winds aloft. After you have turned 45 degrees to the right, the low-pressure area will normally be to your left. The high area will be to your right with the resulting pressure area to the west the one that will reach you and the one to the east has already passed you. Therefore, if the pressure system to the west is low, weather conditions may deteriorate and you should make plans accordingly.

Clouds also tell us when bad weather is approaching. The one you want to pay close attention to is the cumulonimbus thunderhead or anvil shaped cloud. It usually signals a cold front moving at 10 to 30 knots with winds as high as 30-60 knots in a squall line. Gusts of wind may exceed 80-100 knots, which present dangerous boating conditions with heavy rain followed by clearing.

Know before you go, pay attention to changing weather conditions and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales

"If people concentrated on the really important things in life,.....

there would be a shortage of fishing poles."

Doug Larson

TW vs. BGA Continued

evidence mounting, BGF changed to the pink grubby. One of the secrets to the fishing was to locate the school of trout. The trout tended to shift to different locations around the boat. Now that BGA had his pink grubbie, he now boated his first trout. BGA 1, TW 5. BGA had located the school and now he had another, BGA 2, TW 5. The pressure was mounting for TW. Strikes were not coming as easily as they once were. BGA was throwing down the smack. Could BGA overtake TW? BGF 3, TW 5. Wack, it was hit and a release for TW, then a strike, catch and release for BGA. 4 to 6. Now, 5 to 6. The school had moved and it was found again. 6 to 6. Now, time was running out and each made the last promised cast. It was a swing and miss for one and a croaker for the other. Did this change the total? Would a croaker make the difference? Who knows, who cares, we didn't. We just realized this was not the end of the game. BGA vs. TW would continue to see who would get the better of each other. There is plenty of fishing left and plenty of fish still left in the ocean. It was BGA vs. TW.

It was a great for all. As we saw it, the two titans were squaring off but we did not realize our day may have been a regional contest, like East coast vs. West coast. It should have been the North vs. the South. For our guest, Bernie was from South Florida. He had captured and released all the big fish. He had the 4-pound sheepshead, largest trout and likely the heaviest croaker. For all of smack down, Bernie quietly caught his fish. As we saw it, I we were just being gracious host treating our guest to a good time fishing. What's life without a little smack?

Best Wishes for Fishing,

Rob Darner

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Hospitality Director

Frank Grassi

Yankee Frank just called and he tells me that January is going to be Italian Month.

For the meeting on the 5 th of January he is planning on Lasagna with Garlic Bread and Salad.

For the 19 th of January, the Swap meet, he is bringing Baked Ziti with Bread and Salad.

Frank assures me that this will all be Home Made!

Associate Member of the Month

Avid Angler

824-8322

2101 North Ponce de Leon Blvd.
St. Augustine, Fl.

Avid Angler has been a long time supporter of the JOSFC. They are right on the road going into St. Augustine, and are open 7 days a week. They open at 7:00 am Monday through Friday and close at 6:00 pm. On Saturday and Sunday they open at 6:00 am and close at 6:00 pm Saturday, and 2:00 pm on Sunday.

Avid Angler has live bait in addition to all the frozen bait and tackle you need.

You can also just stop in and get the latest fishing information so you know where to go and what is being caught.

Remember, they support us, so when you go out of St. Augustine, stop in and support our associate member!

Avid Angler



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Last years EL CHEAPO winner
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It is time to find your secret fishing hole and start practicing catching Sheepshead!

This year there is a Boat, Motor, and trailer as Grand Prize!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!!!

A subtle reminder, our By Laws mandate that; If you do not renew by January 1. You lose all club rights and privileges until you renew. If membership has lapsed for 6 months or more the **Application Fee** is applicable.

Here it is, Cut out this page, fill it out completely (Please include your full 9 digit Zip code) and then write your Check and drop them in an envelope and mail them to:

Jacksonville Offshore Sports Fishing Club
PO Box 331185
Atlantic Beach, Fl 32233



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Renewal)

The JOSFC invites the participation of all area fishing enthusiast and is dedicated to conservation, preservation and fellowship with our membership.

NAME _____ HOME PH. _____
 SPOUSE'S NAME _____ WORK PH. _____
 ADDRESS _____ CELL PH. _____
 CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ OCCUPATION _____
 BOAT NAME _____ MAKE _____ LENGTH _____

Family Membership \$50.00

(Husband, Wife, & Children under 16)

Annual Associate Member\$100.00

(For Business Concerns)

Life Member Individual \$250.00

Life Family Membership \$300.00

Individual Member \$40.00


Paid Junior Member \$5.00

Application Fee \$25.00

(Applicable to NEW Members or if renewing over 6 months late)

Total Remittance

Signature _____ Date _____

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2 Board meeting 7:30 pm at Club House	3	4	5 Club Meeting 8:00 pm	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 EL CHEAPO meeting 7:30 pm at Club House	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Club Meeting 8:00 pm Swap meet	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	<h1>January 2006</h1> 				

Coming Events:

Annual JOSFC Swap meet January 19th at 7:00 pm before the regular meeting. Bring your excess boating and fishing gear to trade or sell!

The Great Chili Cook Off Feb.2,2006 at 7:00 pm

The El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament Feb 25

The Sailfish Pot Party is April 29th

The Greater Jacksonville - Bellsouth Kingfish Tournament is July 17 - 23

Tournament Schedule for 2006

Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date	-	Rain Date
The River Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	March 11 th	-	March 12 th
Non-Live Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	April 1 st	-	April 8 th
May Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 6 th	-	May 13 th
Unlimited Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 27 th	-	June 3 rd
Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	June 17 th	-	June 18 th
Kingfish Tune-up Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	July 8 th	-	July 9 th or July 15 th
Powder Puff Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 12 th	-	August 19 th
Light Tackle Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 26 th	-	September 2 nd
The Bottom Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	September 9 th	-	September 16 th

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- Adventure Landing • Adventure Parks Group – Wild Adventures • Avid Angler • Baitmasters of South Florida
- West Marine • Boathouse Discount Marine • Cabelas • Team Fish Industries of America •
- Cannon's Bait & Tackle Shop • SSI Custom Plastics • Carey Chen Art • St. Johns Seafood •
- Custom Marine Components • Sea Tow Jacksonville • G&W Marine • Roffers Ocean Forecasting Service •
- Kershaw Knives • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp. •
- Ocean Get Away - Alan Stamm • Maxima America • Guy Harvey Publishing •
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- Lindgren-Pitman, Inc. • Mac's Prop Savers • MacMedia Graphics - Greg Molloy •
- Bryan McGowan Charters • Fishermen - Bill Breen •



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