



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 50 Issue 1

January 2010



Presidents Castings

Captain Chris Rooney

January is Bringing in a New Decade

We're starting a new era in the fishing community here in the South East. The past year has seen a lot of changes in the regulations surrounding the quest for salt water fishing. First was amendment 16 and a recreational closure for all of the grouper we fish for, along with that the B-liner fishing is closed for 5 months. Then the hammer dropped on our Snapper fishing and as of the start of this new decade we face the start of a closure that could last as long as 35 years. It seems that people with very little to lose and a misplaced sense that they're saving the environment from all of us nasty fishermen are winning the battle for this resource.

I think we are the reason that we have the excellent fishery off the coast of NE Florida and that infrastructure of reefs we've built will bring back Snapper population faster than all the environmental statisticians have predicted. Fishermen have been at their sport for as long as words have been written and it's not going to stop now. Amendment 17 has still not been decided and the options are open for suggestion as far as we know. The next meeting of the council is March 1st through the 5th at Jekyll Island Club Hotel we'll be there to continue the fight.

The club has more than a few things going this month also, the planning for the EL-CHEAPO is in full



It's Coming!!!!

**The El Cheapo Tournament is next month!
February 27, 2010 to be exact!**

As you all know, this is the biggest fund raiser that the club puts on for the year. AND the most fun!

This year we need Volunteers for :

Captain's Bag Stuffing - the evening of the 18th, before the club meeting, about 5:00 pm

Registration - the evening of the 26th. and the 27th.

Set-Up - the 26th Friday starting at about 11:00AM

Cooking - **2 full crews needed** the 27th all day.

Serving - the 27th. from about noon on.

Fish Cleaning - the 27th all afternoon.

Trash - the 27th all day.

Tear-Down - 27th evening after the event.

There will be a meeting for all volunteers at the clubhouse on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 7:30 PM

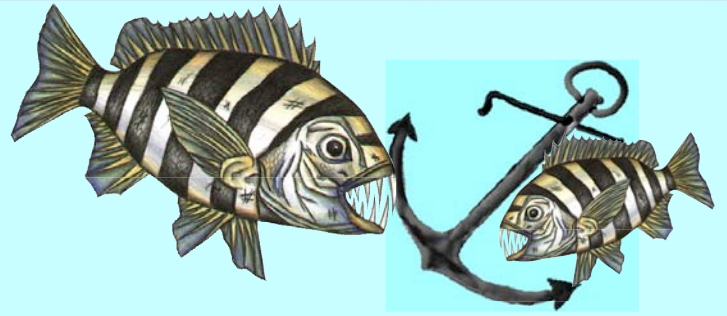
If you can volunteer and can't make the meeting, let me know.

Bill Breen - 254-2791

breenw@bellsouth.net

New Decade Continued

swing and it's the tenth anniversary of the greatest fishing tournament in the world. The second meeting in January is the swap meet and we always have a great time at this event, anything and everything you need for inshore and offshore fishing can be found here at a great price. So bring your fish slips in for what we can still catch legally and see where they place on the boards. SEE YA AT THE CLUB HOUSE!!!



JOSFC at the SKA Finals

Congratulations to Robbie Bishop (Fishbuster) for 2nd Place finish in the 23' and under class at the SKA (Southern Kingfish Association) finals in Biloxi, Mississippi. Robbie and crew caught a 84.31 pound 2 fish aggregate.



Other JOSFC members at the finals included Allison and Alden Thorton (A Team), Paul Gallup (Salt Therapy), Rob Darner (Let's Go), Bruce and Cindy Rutledge (Irresistible), and Trina Polkey (Big Bobberz).



Above, from left to right Lou Guarno, Peter Guarno, Yes, the next one is **Brien Hackbart**, and Mike Burluson

Below Mike with a 33 Lb Amberjack caught on 20 Lb test line on Mike's Boat Bad Timing



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Rob's Fishing Lore

Tournament Diaries The Big Dance

It is nearly 500 miles from my door to the door of the hotel where the SKA Nationals were being held. It was a 9 hour drive just to get there but get there we did. From the beginning of August till the middle of November, there were nearly 14 weeks to prepare for the Big Dance. During this time, 65 blue runner rigs were tied, 15 mullet rigs were tied and 18 eel rigs were tied all with the expectation that they would be used up. Prior to arriving in Biloxi, Ms myself and my crew spoke with several knowledgeable anglers who have fished these waters for either FLW or SKA events. Thank you: Steve, Steve, Kenny and Mike.



Now having these stories match up to reality sometimes is tricky. For instance, blue runners are plentiful and are so easy to catch. For a small boat person, this claim needs to have an asterisk. It appears the easy bait to catch was just out of reach of a single engine boat. Those rigs nearest to us did hold bait but the bait was not that cooperative. Next, it's a mullet factory over there! Gotta love this one. Yes, we did catch mullet and our 'big' fish did come off a mullet but it took more than just a few throws to capture a dozen & a half mullet or was the shrimper to blame selling mullet off the boat for \$100/ dozen? Did he catch all the mullet? I don't know but we did not need to spend that extra \$100. Kingfish love eels like candy. Yes they do over here and get plenty of eels to fish these tournaments.

The weather is an illusion in the Gulf. For the 10 day forecast prior to arriving in Biloxi, the weatherman said it was going to be great! For nearly 3 months, I fretted over the weather on if it would be too rough, too foggy, too rainy or cold and if we could make it. However, November weather forecast should not be relied upon as accurate unless you are fishing that day with the VHF radio on the weather channel. The crew of the mighty *Let's Go* boat did arrive a day early to do some prefishing. The weather man said 1 to 2 feet. Yes, the bay area, a 10 mile run from the mainland to the barrier island, was 1 foot without any & I mean any backs. For me, this was the



roughest and hardest part of our two day fishing trip just getting across the bay. Prefishing was wonderful because standing there in the boat heading out through passes I do not know was an experience much like a kid in a candy store knowing not what candy the kid really wants or where to find it.

The prefishing lasted for about a half a day. We fished from 8:30 am till about 1pm where it was decided we need mullet to help supplement our bait spread because the blue runners were not in a cooperative mood. Nearly 1/3 of our time prefishing was spent attempting to jig blue runners with sabiki's. Needless to say, we did not capture any but we had one or two on that got away. What we did learn was that the kingfish loved those eels. Prefishing, we fished with a spread of dead bait: eels. We caught 5 fish releasing all but none were of any great size.

As the tournament day approached so was some real nasty weather coming off the Texas Gulf coast. The weather man said, "20 to 25 mph sustained winds with gust up to 40 mph. Water spouts & frequent cloud to water lighting could occur." The weather system was likely to arrive sometime during day 2 of fishing. This was something I just could not wait to tackle in my 23 foot boat. The captain's meeting & Divisional awards dinner had the crowd cheering when Jack Holms announced it was a captain's choice on fishing. The tournament was an aggregate tournament with weighing two fish. Now it was up to the captain to decide if he/ she wanted to weigh in two fish on day 1 or on day 2 or just weigh 1 fish in each of the two fishing days. It was known that if you weighed 2 fish on day 1 you were done fishing the tournament.

As per captain's choice, it was decided we would fish for 2 fish on Day 1 and forego Day 2. Trust me it was a really smart choice. Now, Day 1 fishing

Continued on Page 4



Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

Top's Tips Hypothermia

As we move into January and the colder months, we normally think more about staying warm when fishing in the cold, windy weather. Also, since the Captain of a vessel is responsible for the safety of his/her vessel and the crew, all Captains should be giving some thought to the prevention of hypothermia. Hypothermia can pose a problem for boaters anytime of the year, but should be of greater concern to all Captains as we approach colder weather.

Hypothermia occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can produce it. As a Captain, have you ever thought about what a life jacket has in common with a blanket relative to hypothermia and safety in boating? Both can save your life when you are facing a major killer in aquatic mishaps such as hypothermia. As a result, you should carry both of these items on your boat. A life jacket is a federal and state requirement, but a blanket is not. However, all boaters should carry a blanket on board.

A life jacket, obviously, will keep you afloat, but can also help ward off hypothermia by trapping warmed water between it and your body. A blanket can help prevent hypothermia by reducing body heat loss. Most boaters do not have a full understanding of hypothermia and how it can impact them. Most people think of hypothermia as "freezing to death" or frost bite. Hypothermia can kill a person at temperatures well above freezing.

Hypothermia occurs most rapidly when your body is immersed in cold water but may occur at anytime especially in windy situations if your clothing is wet. In water at 50 degrees, the predicted time for survival is 1.5 to 3 hours. It can also occur in water as warm as 80 degrees if you are exposed for a long period of time. For instance, in 70 to 80 degree water, a person may become exhausted or unconscious in as little as 2 to 12 hours with an expected time of survival of 3 plus hours. If you should fall overboard with a lifejacket on, do not exert yourself. Keep your arms at your side and your legs together to conserve heat.

If you find yourself in the water without a lifejacket conserving heat is even more important since you will have to keep yourself afloat. Do not try to swim, but exert as little effort as possible to float until rescued. An individual who falls overboard without a life jacket has virtually no chance of conserving heat loss. In fact, many individuals, who fall overboard, seem to lose the ability to climb back on board or to hang onto some craft or object, since there is a progressive decline in muscle strength following immersion in cold water.

However, if possible, get out of the water as heat loss is less to cold air than to cold water. Always try to get out of the water.

A person's body burns food to give it energy and maintain its temperature. When your body cools, blood moves from the surface area to the vital organs and you burn stored food to generate heat. Shivering is the first sign that your body is telling you that its temperature is below normal and action is required to correct the situation. If nothing is done, your body will begin a systematic shutdown. It is at this point; a blanket can be a lifesaver. A shivering person should be attended to immediately and dried if wet, removed from the wind and covered with a blanket and kept as warm as possible to conserve body heat.

If confronted with a hypothermic person, always remember that hypothermia is a serious medical problem. Make the person as comfortable as possible and seek medical help as soon as possible. If some distance from the shore, inform the Coast Guard by radio and they may send a medivac copter to remove the victim.

The best solution for hypothermia, however, is to prevent it by wearing protective gear, staying dry and out of the wind. Never go into a potentially hypothermic situation without having eaten a good meal and be aware that hypothermia can kill you. Exercise the necessary precautions to prevent hypothermia and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales

Big Dance Continued

started off better than pre-fishing. The ride across the bay was smooth; in fact it was so good that we ran at 30 mph across the 10 mile span. It was only when we popped out the pass that Mother Nature slapped us in the face. Seas went from relatively flat to 3 footers close with no backs. Lord, one could not like the Gulf because if it is rough, the waves have no backs to them. Swells are a foreign concept to the Gulf wave structure. It was so rough that not only did we slow down but those big go-fast 31 footers slowed down to a crawl. Our original destination in the face of the on-coming seas was going to be just another story we will tell that was 30 plus miles away. We headed south while the waves came at us out of the Southeast making it a hard and wet ride. I was never so glad to have a rain/ wet suit on in my life otherwise I would have been soaked to the bone and then the cold would have set in.

Our new destination was 18 miles out the pass, a first line rig in the MO or Mobile Area. With traveling just eight miles in 45 minutes, I pulled the throttles back for a team meeting. For the waves were getting bigger and they have not lost their steepness thus everyone needed to be on board for what we were going to do. Now was the time to turn around if we were going to go back but the decision was made to slug it out like what we have been over the next 10 miles. It was a

Big Dance Continued

long ten miles that took another 45 minutes. Once there, the fishing began.

The bait spread comprised of two eels and one 4 pound Spanish mackerel. The eels were on the downriggers while the mackerel was trolled up and way back. It did not take us long to find the fish or for the kingfish to find us. Snake kingfish were plenty and they liked those eels. As we bobbed & weaved around the oil rig our fishing lines keep getting stretched by those pesky snake kingfish. It was just a matter of time when another small boat joined us for fun, a Hydrosport walk-around cabin model. We watched them and they watched us. It was funny to hear this boat call over to his buddy about the lack of luck they were having vs. us.

We made two moves from this initial spot only because the seas were lying down. The constant 4's with the not so infrequent 5's and a few 6's thrown in for good measure began to lay off. The next rig was only a mere 8 miles away but it was in 90 foot of water and that water was clean & green unlike the dirty green water we were fishing in. The run was not bad but the fishing was. It was here we decided to try live bait. We had two rather large mullet and both were attacked by sharks. In fact, we could see a shark free jumping around the rig as if to lead us to its favorite feeding station.

Mullets are a hardy breed of bait fish. The first mullet did not survive its rondavue with its shark but our second large mullet did. The second shark must have gotten itself entangle briefly in the lead wire when it bit into the mullet causing the drag to pull. When the mullet came in, we found two semi-circle bite marks in its back but the fish was still kicking. We should have named it "Timex" because it took a lickin & keep on tickin. These caused us to change location for our third and final time. We ran back into the dirty green water and to the first rig we prefished at yesterday. The rig has two towers separated by about 300 yards. We split rigs and just went beyond them when the throttles were pulled back and that partially eaten mullet went overboard. Before, I could rig an eel up, the mullet reel screamed real loud and real hard. This fish was like no other today on our boat. The crew came to attention and in 15 minutes we had our 25 pounder lying on the deck. For us at least we had a fish to show. We stayed here another 40 minutes catching teenage kingfish when we decided to run back in a weigh in our fish. The ride in was great because the seas laid off. The boat ran in at 28 mph much different from the 13 to 14 mph going out.

It was cleaning up our boat and watching the other big boys come in that we truly realized what a kingfishery the Gulf coast has. Our opinions did not change when we watched some of the weigh-in after we were cleaned up and headed out to dinner. It was just this time when the winner hung up on the scale. It came in at a whopping 74.10 pounds and that captain decided to weigh-in a second fish of 44 pounds for the grand winning total of 118 pounds of fish. Apparently, there was a major bit of rather large kingfish some 80 miles due south out of Biloxi at a spot known as the 'horseshoe rigs'. From a trusted account, she recalls seeing 25 fish of 40 pounds or more sky rocketing in the air together. Just seeing that would have been a blessing by the Good Lord.

It occurred to us that the mighty *Let's Go* was one of the smallest boats there for a reason. The SKA Nationals is

strictly a big boat tournament. The most common size of boats was the 31 or the 36 footers. From the leader board, the 'horseshoe' rigs was not that much of a secret but for a boat like mine or others like mine an 80 mile run in 4 foot seas is just too much. I have only enough fuel to get there but not back. This was an experience of a lifetime and things will likely have to change in order to make another appearance. I know where there is a 31 ft Cape Horn for \$90K for sale.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner



Thank you for all the Grouper Recipes, they are great! Remember this is a booklet of OUR fish recipes. I want to know how YOU cook your the fish that you catch here off

Jacksonville.

You can E-mail your way of cooking your catch to me at breenw@bellsouth.net, or fax it to me at 904-213-9786 or snail mail them to me at Bill Breen, 684 Tropical Parkway, Orange Park, FL 32073, or hand it to me at the meetings.

This month the featured fish is the :

Sea Bass


Thanks Bill

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| Gene Fulgham | - | 641-9970 | - | Any day | - | Up to 8:00 pm |
| Frank Grassi | - | 234-7369 | - | Weekends | - | Up to 8:00 pm |
| Richard Fisher | - | H = 221-9629 - Cell 738-1010 | - | Nearly every day | - | Up to 8:00 PM the day before. |
| John Porcella | - | 610-3855 | - | Nearly any day | - | Up to 10:00 PM |
| Matt Ennes | - | 536 - 7450 | - | Friday through Monday | - | Up to 9:00 pm |
| Joe Esparza | - | C = 536 - 4114 | - | Any Day | - | Up to 10:00 pm |
| Mike Gyutsisin | - | C = 296 - 3494 | - | Any Day | - | Up to 10:00 pm |
| Ronald Cowart | - | H = 879-4724 C = 469-4618 | - | Fri. Sat. Sun | - | Up to 9:00 pm |
| Phillip Ferdon | - | H = 879-0184 C = 887-6736 | - | Fri. Sat. | - | Up to 9:00 pm |



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 Individual Member \$40.00

(Husband, Wife, & Children under 16)

Paid Junior Member \$5.00

Annual Associate Member \$100.00
 (For Business Concerns)

Application Fee \$25.00
 (Applicable to NEW Members or if renewing over 6 months late)

Life Member Individual \$250.00

Life Family Membership \$300.00

Total Remittance

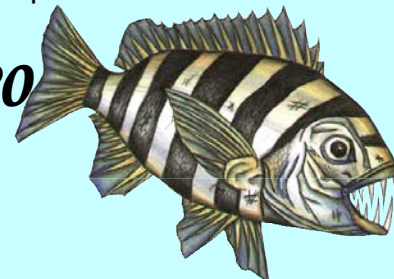
Signature _____ Date _____

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | |
|--|--|------|-----|---|-----|-----------------------------------|---|
|  | | | | <h1>January</h1> | | 1 Happy New Year! | 2 |
| 3 Happy Birthday Marge Hackbart! | 4 Board Meeting | 5 | 6 | 7 Club Meeting | 8 | 9 | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Club Meeting The Annual Swap Meet | 22 | 23 Club Fix-Up & Repair Day | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Full Volunteer meeting for the El Cheapo 7:30 PM | 29 | 30 | |
| 31 |  | | | | | | |

Coming Events:

- January 7, 2010 - Club Meeting
- January 21, 2010 - Club Meeting - Annual Swap Meet
- January 23, 2010 - Club Fix-Up & Repair day
- January 28, 2010 - Full Volunteer Meeting for El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament
- February 4, 2010 - Club's Annual Chili Cook-Off

February 27, 2010 - THE EL CHEAPO



Associate Members

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