



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

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PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Darga



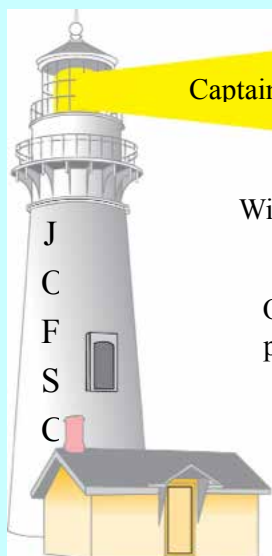
I want to start off by saying Happy New Year.

As always our Holiday Dinner was fantastic with Ham and Bills famous smoked Boston Butt as the main entrée. Everyone did a great job bringing sides and attendance was excellent even with Thursday night football and the Jaguars last home game. Santa arrived to the delight of all of our junior anglers. Presents were passed out and wrapping paper was flying. Toys, Guy Harvey t-shirts and other items were opened. I actually watched kids swap presents and shirts with each other. Talking about swapping our annual swap meet will be January 15th. This is the only meeting we will be having in January.

El-Cheapo time is coming fast. As always volunteers are needed to support this event. We are looking for 2 crews to work the kitchens. Talking about the kitchens a change has been made this year. The serving hours will be from 1 to 5:00. The last dinner ticket will be sold at 4:30. This gives everyone a chance to enjoy the festivities. I will have a sign up sheet at the next meeting.

Fishing when you are able to go Blue Water

Continued Page 2



Captain of the Year

Will your name be here?

Only if you participate!



This month the Captain of the year race begins with the Triple Challenge Tournament!

What does it take to be the Captain of the Year?

I have the answer to that, and it isn't what you think!

The answer? LUCK & Persistence!

The main thing that you have to do is just show up and fish all 10 tournaments! Well at least all the tournaments that are not canceled due to weather.

We have had members that never placed over third place, didn't win a single tournament, and they have won the Captain of the Year!

I have seen bottom tournaments won with 2 - half pound Whiting! Trolling tournaments won with 1 Baracuda!

People, you are not fishing against some mysterious magical "Expert", you are fishing against me or the person sitting next to you at a meeting. Average every day fisher people!

By the way, Expert is defined as
X = Unknown quantity, Spurt = A drip under pressure. SO an "Expert is nothing more than a "Drip

Continued Page 2

Captain of Year Continued

Under Pressure”!

Let me remind you that you need to participate in 3 of the club tournaments to win a fishing board! By participate we mean either as Captain, or as a crew member OR as weigh-master at a tournament.

You also have to have the most fish on the board when we close the boards at the last meeting in September.

So get off your easy chair and take the family or friends fishing! Club tournaments don't cost anything to enter!

All the docking lessons you will ever need

NEVER approach the dock any faster than you want to RAM the dock.



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Presidents Message Continued

Bee liners are everywhere. Wahoo of all sizes are being caught. Hot lure according to anglers is the C and H BAMF. Do not forget at the time of writing this article, Grouper is closed and Trigger was supposed to re-opened January 1st.

Happy fishing everyone!
Tom Darga
President JOSFC

KNOW ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE A SPONSOR?

The El Cheapo is the major fundraiser for our organization for the year. Through the tremendous support of our sponsors, this tournament has become the "Largest Sheepshead Tournament in the World" and one of the largest fishing tournaments in the United States! Over the past several years, the tournament has grown to nearly 2000 visitors at the tournament site with over 450 participating fishing teams at the 2 day event. The Junior Angler Division features over 150 kids participating. The appeal of a family friendly low cost tournament has created a huge following of participants and supporters. We have received extensive positive regional and statewide media coverage, as well as internet exposure that extends far beyond the local fishing community.

There are 5 levels of sponsorship that drive this event:

Presenting Sponsors; 3 boat, motor and trailer packages, then cash for a total of 15 prizes.

Junior Angler Sponsors; 15 prize items and cash of any amount specifically earmarked for the Junior Angler Division.

Platinum level; over \$500.00 in cash, merchandise, or equivalent value.

Gold level; \$250.00-\$500.00 in cash, merchandise, or equivalent value.

Silver level; under \$250.00 in cash, merchandise, or equivalent value.

Frank Joura
El Cheapo Tournament Director



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

Hypothermia

As the cold weather moves into our area, we normally think more about staying warm when fishing in the cold, windy weather. Also, with the "El Cheapo" tournament scheduled during February, 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, especially during cold weather.

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 life jacket 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 life jacket 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 of 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

This is YOUR Club!

As my title says, the JOSFC is YOUR club, not only mine, or the Boards, it is YOURS!

With that in mind, we really would like to hear from you the members, just what we can do to make it better, to encourage more participation at the meetings, and or other activities that you would like to see us participate in or do.

The Board might not decide to go along with all your ideas, but they definitely would like to hear from you.

You will find all your Officers and Board members E-mail at our Website under the "About" tab down to the "Officers and Board" tab. You can E-mail any of them or me at any time that a brilliant idea strikes!

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Rob's Fishing Lore

Bueller, Bueller!

As our favorite movie philosopher of the mid 80's would say, "Life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around once in a while you could miss it" so says Ferris Bueller. It's just that 80's influence which captured my attention this early morning. Work was calling and it still calls, matter-of-fact it is always calling. With the advent of a variety of electronic gadgets, when does it stop? It seems where ever we go and whatever we do, work is calling. So, upon waking then making that very routine morning run, the dark gave way to a brilliantly colorful array of orangish light. As the sun rose so did an idea. From the back of mine mind, crept a singular thought: its time, it's time to just look around.

Today, it seemed it was going to be routine. Without any planning or forethought, Ferris's words echoed: "look around once in a while you could miss it". In through the door and a pronouncement took place. Unlike Ferris, I did not have to avoid the overseer/ Dean of any school instead, I simply had to convenience a loving wife it was all too reasonable to play a little hooky. Today, I was going to look around and leave the work behind. Or at least for a little while. Quickly the Jon boat was tossed into the back of the Suburban and engine loaded along with a few rods and necessities and a journey began. In Ferris's journey he and his friends journeyed to the famous Art Institute of Chicago to gaze upon priceless works of art. In this journey, I was privileged to gaze upon great outdoors. As great as they are, the Monet's, Van Gogh's, Vereen's or Warhol's, just how can their brushes compare to that of brush Mother Nature uses each and every day.

Armed with three dozen shrimp and a couple of rods, the Jon boat hurled its way down the ICW. A rising sun warmed the air and the skin upon my face.

The onward rushing of the Jon boat blew water cooled air cross of the remaining hair upon the top of my head. The fisherman in me knew enough that time was of the essence out here because it was going to turn in a few hours. Just like Ferris, he had a schedule or things he needed to do and so did I. The entire day just hinged upon the event that a fish, any fish would bite down hard on the shrimp offering. Did it have to be one fish or two fish? Did it have to be a blue fish or red fish, well we would just have to wait and see.

Just as glib as the day began, so did the first fishing spot. It was a small creek on the west side of the ICW, one I did not readily recognized. The entry bar was almost too shallow for Jon boat to pass over but it was managed. On the other side the creek proved to deeper and teeming with life. Small fish and birds were gathering the oyster bars and so did my Jon boat. The key here was float fishing. I specialize in what I call the poor man's float fishing rig. Its simple, a popping cork with a small weight under neath it by a desired depth and at least a 12 inch leader so my shrimp could flip this way or that without much hindrance.

Our fishing adventure moved from spot to spot just as did Ferris in his day off. During the day, Ferris notably caught a fly ball during a Cub's game. Since catching was on the menu, we did a little catching of our own. Trout & Redfish were the preferred targets of choice. Instead of waiting on the hit ball to come or fish, the float rig moved the timid shrimp over to the fish. In a grand jester of gratitude, the popping cork disappeared underneath the water in quick fashion. A tight line and a bowing rod all foretold of the watery battle which ensued. Short runs against the drag followed by maneuvering the rod this way and that guiding the fighting fish away from the sharp edges of the oyster bar. At the end of the battle the fish was hoisted from the water. The hook was removed and the grateful fisherman returned the fish back into the ebbing creek with egger anticipation of the next fish.

Bueller Continued

With one such float, the cork vanished! For the fish occupying the oyster bar, the bow became a bend in the rod and the drag strained against the weight of the fish. Ohhhh, a challenge! Wrangling and maneuvering occurred to bring this fish alongside the Jon boat. Still, even at broad side the fish would not give up. Splashing and running, it showed its defiance all the way to the end. As the fish appeared near the boat, my eyes opened just a little wider in wonderment. This prize was a black drum or in my mind fish finger dinner. Quickly, I scanned the boat for my net to scoop this delectable creature from the water. As with Ferris's side kick, Cameron let out a loud yell and fell into a pool near the end of the movie. Yes, a loud yell was heard from the deep inside the marsh grass when the net failed to appear for it was back in the garage thus the black drum fell back into the creek when it was attempted to be lifted into the inviting Jon boat.



Having started the day with a mere 3 dozen shrimp, less than a handful made it to safety. As the bait supply waned and the tide slowed, it was time to dash home. This adventure did not offer 'the man' coming

after me to look at the fish or for a license check, it simply ended with some trout in box and the Jon boat in the back of Suburban. It does not matter the adage: Carpe Diem, stop & smell the roses or time & tide wait for no man, for a 2015, take time out of the normal routine and do something just a little less you when you need to do it.

Stay Thirsty, Thirst for Life,
Rob Darner

Your

While we would like to hear what we are doing that is NOT driving more participation, we really need your new, fresh brilliant ideas!

Why isn't our turnout at the meetings bigger? We have a lot of members, 300 + but not a great turnout at the meetings, only 75 to 90 on the average, why so low?

We had some really great speakers this past year, informative and entertaining, really good speakers.

We have something to eat at every meeting so the people that work or have kids sports keeping them out late don't have to make the choice of going home and eating dinner and missing the club meeting, or going to the meeting and missing dinner.

How do we get more participation on the Fishing Boards and in our Tournaments? All you have to do to get on a board is to catch a fish that is 1/4 Pound heavier than the one that is up there, or fill in a blank species line! There is suppose to be some fun in knocking the other guy or Lady off the board and having them try to knock you back off!

Remember this is FISHING, just dumb luck, you are not fishing against seasoned professionals, backed by big corporations, just other people that put their pants on one leg at a time just like you!

Let us know what you think, after all, This is YOUR club!



Gary Newman

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In every Newsletter I strongly suggest that you wear your Life Jacket at least while your boat is underway.

Here are some other safety things that you should consider.

Is your Fire extinguisher current? Do you have a big enough one, or more than one?

How about a "Ditch Bag" is it properly stocked, and sitting out where it is handy?

First aid kit current, plenty of fresh Hydrogen Peroxide to clean wounds?



THE EL CHEAP IS COMING!

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Bring your KIDS to the meetings!



































































We have had a club member, Cassi Washington, step forward and she will be providing activities for the kids to do during our Guest Speaker's Seminars!

There will be fishing related games or activities that will be supervised by either her, or another adult and for you teenagers, there will be a chance for you to earn 2 hours of Community Service if you help with the youngsters.

She has come up with a "Go Fish" card game with pictures of the local fish that we catch and their size limits, seasons and any important information on them. The kids will learn to recognize the fish and limits just by playing that game. She is also putting together other games and contest so the kids can win small prizes to keep them occupied and quiet during the speakers time at the mike!

She is also open to suggestions for games and activities that you might have so she can have a good variety for the kids.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<h1>January</h1>				1 Happy New Year! NO CLUB MEETING  	2  	3 The Triple Challenge Tournament   
			4   	5 Board Meeting    	6   	7   
11 	12  	13  	14  	15 Club Meeting & Annual Swap Meet.  	16  	17  
18  	19   	20    	21   	22   	23  	24  
25  	26  	27  	28  	29  	30  	31  



Coming Events

January 1st - Happy New Year! - **NO** Club Meeting!

January 3rd - The Triple Challenge Tournament.

January 15th - Club Meeting, Annual Swap Meet.

February 5th - Club Meeting, Annual Chili Cook-Off.

February 19th - Club Meeting, El Cheap Captain's Bag stuffing work party!

February 20th - El Cheapo Set-up day & Captain's Meeting

February 21st - THE EL CHEAPO!!!



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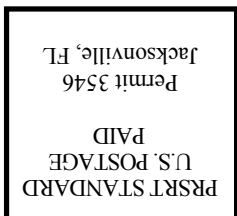


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