



The Newsletter of the ...

# The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 46 Issue 2

February 2006

*It's*



*Here !!!*

**Grand Prize:**  
presented by American Transmissions



**14' Bass Tracker Boat**  
**9.9 hp Mercury**  
**4-stroke Motor**  
**Galvanized Trailer**

Photo is for illustration purposes.  
Some details may vary.

The “EL CHEAPO” Sheephead Tournament, Raffle and Fish Fry (Sheephead is on the Menu) is this February 25th! For those of you who have never fished this tournament before, welcome to what’s quickly become one of the best inshore or offshore fishing tournaments in North Florida. For those of you who have fished it before, Welcome back! — and I’m sure you’ll find the 6th edition of this tournament the best one yet!

Through a strong commitment from the community that supports what the JOSFC is all about, and dedicated efforts of many club volunteers, we’ve been able to put together an outstanding prize structure and raffle for this year’s tournament. Boasting a combined purse and raffle of over \$10,000.00, paying out 10 places, I challenge anyone to find a better tournament for a \$60.00 entry fee!

At the captain’s meeting on Friday Feb. 24th

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## Presidents Castings



**President  
Pete  
St. Laurent**

Well, it's that time of year again. The El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament will be on the 25th of the month and I would like to *thank* Frank and all his crew for working so hard to put together what is sure to be a first rate tournament. I hope that everyone has been honing their skills and finding their spots. FYI -- over the Christmas and New Years holidays I did a good bit of Sheepshead fishing because there's no better eating than 7 banded inshore snapper! I've found that most of the fish have been in the 3 to 5 lb. range inshore near oyster beds and pylons. Poking around the jetties has been slower but the fish have been in the 4 to 6 lb. range. Although Fernandina has been producing much larger numbers of fish they all seem to be in the same size range as in the St. Johns. In this tournament the fish must be around the 10lb. range to place. Fish of this caliber most assuredly will be coming from the reefs and rock piles within 3 miles of the beach and around the Fernandina power lines. Take a few days and hunt out these areas. A tip -- when you find these areas and you pull up some studs release them in the same area. Sheepshead are known to be true home bodies and they will go right back to their house and be waiting for you on tournament day. Since I will be running the weigh in and fish cleaning station I unfortunately will not be fishing but I know that we have a few other Sheepshead **aFISHionados** in the club who will be out on the water. Here's one final tip. Get a group of your buddies together and help each other out. Have each boat look in a different area and try different baits. Once you find the right fish and bait combination let your buddies know what's working. Just ask Chuck and Rob who won big money in the Greater Jacksonville Tournament last year how well this strategy works!

This year I'd really like to see one of our club members take home 1st prize. A boat, motor and trailer for catching a Sheepshead just doesn't get any better. Good luck to all! Make me proud.

I say we fish 5 days and work 2!  
Pete St. Laurent  
Bust-N-Reds

### You Know you are a Hard-core Fisherman IF....

You have a power worm dangling from your rear view mirror because you think it makes a good air freshener.

Your wedding party had to tie tin cans to the back of your boat.

You call your boat "sweetheart" and your wife "skeeter".

Your paycheck is "Direct Deposited" to West Marine.

## Renew your membership now!

If you have not renewed yet, you have lost your club privileges. This will be your last Newsletter until you renew!

For your convenience the renewal form is inside, fill it out and send it in. Don't put it off, do it right now!

### A Gift that Keeps Giving

Christmas has come and gone. New Year's has come and gone. One would think that the gift-giving season might come to an end. However, for those of us lucky enough, one may find their birthday close to Christmas. My wife falls within this category. Jan 16, 19—something something, I believe. Buying for Christmas is usually easy for her. All I need to do is listening to what she informs me that she wants and go from there. Now, the problem is what to get her for her birthday. If I have done a good job then there really is no need for birthday gifts because I have usually purchased the mall empty. Our Christmas tree can bear this fact out.

For Christmas, my wife received a lot of needed cloths, shoes and some perfume this year. This can leave little to the imagination for a close birthday. However, being a dutiful husband, one must listen closely to those hard to find gifts. Those items not readily mentioned or remembered with each passing day. Some lady's are into matching outfits. Just ask my Dad about a picture of his matching outfit with my Mom when they were dating. I believe it has something to do with 'clam digger pants and shirts'. Others like matching rings or various pieces of jewelry. Heck, I have even seen some couples with matching motorcycles.

I like matching items but it must depend on the matching item. Now, for Christmas and a birthday present I have received various rods and reels throughout my life. My wife has received very few of these very thoughtful gifts. It is here; one must listen closely to his wife or girlfriend to figure out just what kind of need they may have. For example, if I were to receive a reel as a present then a matching rod would be appropriate. We should match the rod to the reel but the trick is to know your wife's preference for a good rod. Consider the following three types of rods and which of them your woman may prefer.

A good rod maybe hard to find or so it goes. There are several different types of rods out there to choose from but how does one find that perfect rod for his mate? First of all, identify the type of fishing your wife/ girlfriend enjoys. Does she enjoy the shallow water fishing? Is catching redfish, trout and croakers more to her liking? If so, inshore fishing is her thing and there are two possible ideas. Typically, inshore rods are shorter and thinner. These rods have superior action to them. These rods cater to using artificials to capture specific targeted species. A good inshore rod but is made from cork. The cork gives the rod but its sensitivity so one can feel the hits. For inshore rods we have two types, a bait caster and a spinning rod. The bait caster rod is for open-faced reels while the spinning rod is for closed reels. You really need to know the fishing lifestyle for that special someone in your life when choosing a rod for her.

Next, we have offshore fishing. Does your woman prefer to troll or does she like to bottom fish? Well depending upon her likes or dislikes, you will have to tailor your choice to her preference. If she likes to catch kingfish, sailfish, dolphin and other pelagic species then the appropriate rod for around these parts would be a live bait rod. A live bait rod is a unique rod for fishing. The rod is typically longer than the inshore types. However, the rod tip is fairly soft at the top and firmer in the but. The soft tip helps to telegraph what is

Continued on Page 3

A Gift Continued.

going on with the bait fish at the other end of the line. The rod has a nice taper to it. It is thin at the top to a firmer thicker base. The thicker base allows for some backbone in the rod. If not then the rod would just wiggle in whatever the direction the fish is pulling it. The rod but will typically come with a foam grip on it. The handle is for comfort when battling some of the larger pelagic species.

If your wife or girlfriend prefers to bottom fish then a whole other class of rod is needed. For NE Florida, bottom fishing is no passive activity. Snapper are a favorite target of offshore anglers. The preferred rod is what is commonly known as a BEEF stick. These rods are known for manly fishing, mono on mono just you and what ever is on the other end. The typical beef stick is shorter than the live bait rod and some maybe shorter than the inshore types too. These rods are the thickest of the three and as such are not as sensitivity as the others. These rods are made to take a bruising put on by what ever attacks your bait offshore. The rods are fairly inflexible and have a solid but. Once again, a foam grip is used for comfort of the anglerette.

Now fellows remember, one must consider what your favorite anglerette likes in a rod. Does she like one with a flexible tip if so then she may like to live bait fish? If you woman is into artificials, then inshore fishing is likely her preference. However, if she likes a rod with a firm but then she differently is into bottom fishing. Once you have figured out what she likes then you to can fish more successfully and catch more, more often.

Best Wishes for Fishing,  
Rob Darnier

This article is dedicated to my fellow Rome watchers:  
Go Tripod!!!



*Fishing Reports  
& other Tall  
Tales!*

**Chris Rooney**  
**Fishing Committee**  
**Chairman**

## February Wind Shifts

The month of February gives us some unique opportunities for the strong of spirit here in N.E. Florida. There will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 4 or 5 fishable days during the shortest month of the year, which can be the most productive for the freezer and the scrapbook. The mornings will be cold and the seas a little bumpy but if you put the boat in the water when old man winter takes a breather the bounty abounds.

The deep water trolling is producing the most consistent big Wahoo of the season. You need to troll fast with bigger baits and dark colors, black&purple, red&black, and orange&black, are three of my favorites. The Kingfish boys think they have the corner on a screaming reel, but in my opinion nothing screams like my 50 wide set as the way back with a 60# hoo headed south.

Continued on Page 4

El Cheapo Continued from P-1

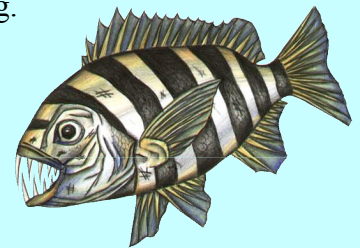
we'll once again have our resident Sheepshead guru Fred Morrow sharing his knowledge on how to catch the prized 7 striped jetty snapper. We'll also be offering a sample of Saturday's raffle with 5 prizes on the table that will be drawn that night.

On the day of the tournament, open to all friends and family, in addition to the spectacular raffle (and weigh-in of course) we'll once again have our nearly world famous fish fry.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the tournament and thank you for supporting the JOSFC and making the el Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament such a great event.

Good luck, and good fishing.

Frank



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## Top's Tips Safety First

The Captain of a vessel is responsible for the safety of his/her vessel and the crew. As a Captain, have you ever thought about what a life jacket has in common with a blanket relative to safety in boating? Both can save your life when you are facing a major killer in aquatic mishaps such as hypothermia.

Hypothermia can pose a problem for members of the crew anytime of the year, but should be of greater concern to all Captains as we approach colder 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 occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can be replaced and 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. It can also occur in water as warm as 80 degrees if you are exposed for a long period of time. In water at 50 degrees, the predicted time for survival is 1.5 to 3 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.

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, advise 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.

May you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Tom Ingram  
Fish Tales

## You Know you are a Hard-core Fisherman IF....

You keep a flippin stick by your favorite chair to change the TV channels with.

Feb. Winds Continued

I've heard them called kingfish on steroids, and that works for me, the fastest swimming fish in the sea, WAHOO!

The other, though sometimes overlooked, opportunity is the Elton Bottom. Bumpers will find a box full of tasty critters from big b-liners to grouper and snapper for the efforts they make to get to this area of natural bottom. A surprise that some forget is the Cobia will be on that offshore structure and wrecks and in pretty good numbers. One trip we made last year on the 23rd yielded, 2 cobia, 5 grouper, 5 snapper, and limits of b-liners and pinks, that makes 4 very happy fishermen.

When the wind shifts with an incoming front, and a window of reasonable sea state opens, brush off the winter blues and go fishing, there out there.

Keep the reels screaming. Chris

## You Know you are a Hard-core Fisherman IF....

You name your black lab "Yamaha" and your cat "Suzuki".

C & H Lures has a private line just for you.

You have your name painted on a parking space at the launch ramp.

Your \$100,000 fishing boat's trailer needs new tires so you just "borrow" the ones off your house.

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## *Ships Mess*



**Hospitality Director**

**Frank Grassi**

Yankee Frank tells me that the Chili Cook Off is February 2nd and it is going to be a HOT contest. Bring your Tums! For the 16th, Frank is planning to have something Mexican like Tacos. Sounds like it will be a Spicy month. Frank says he is just trying to heat up the weather.

## *Associate Member of the Month*



American Transmission is our Grand Prize sponsor for the EL CHEAPO Sheepshead Tournament!

They are located at:

5337 Beach Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32207  
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American Transmission is a Full Service Repair Facility whose Primary Business is Transmission Repair. Dedicated to Providing our customers Quality Work at a Fair Price in a Timely Manner with Complete Customer Satisfaction our Goal.

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Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club*



## *Mikes Fishing Holes!*

**Mike Coldwater  
Books & Charts  
Coordinator**

Mike still needs lots of help with distribution and sales of our Numbers Books and Charts. His new job is keeping him very busy.

If you can help Mike and YOUR club let Mike know.

If you go into a fishing store and they don't have our book, be sure to ask for it, and let Mike know where we need to contact them to sell our charts and books.

# Is This Your Last Newsletter?

## 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)

☐ Individual Member ..... \$40.00

☐ 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
		February		1	2 Great Chili Cook Off at Club Meeting	3
4	5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Club Meeting	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 EL CHEAPO Captains Meeting
25 The EL CHEAPO Tournament	26	27	28			

## Coming Events:

The Great Chili Cook Off Feb.2, 2006 at 7:00 pm  
The El Cheapo Sheephead Tournament Feb 25  
The first club tournament of the year “The River Fishing Tournament“ March 11, 2006  
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

## *Associate Members*

- Seafood Galore • Southern Propane • C & H Lures • B & M Bait & Tackle • Boaters World •
- Deonas Boat World • Hydroshield • Penn Tackle Mfg. • Si-Tex Marine • Surefire LLC •
- Fulton Fish Company • Speedy MacTwist • Dexter Russell Cutlery • Arlington Bait & Tackle •
- The Billfish Foundation • Anthony & Sandra Spa • The Floridian Sports Club • Thrifty Outdoors •
- 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 •
- Innovative Textiles – Power Pro • International Crew • Mann's Bait Company • Jacksonville Scuba Center •
- Lindgren-Pitman, Inc. • Mac's Prop Savers • MacMedia Graphics - Greg Molloy •
- Bryan McGowan Charters • Fishermen - Bill Breen •



### **Jacksonville Offshore Sports Fishing Club**

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