



The Reel News

The Newsletter of the . . .



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 47 Issue 2

February 2007

It's



Here !!!

It's here! The 7th Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament and Fish Fry

will be held on February 24. For those of you who have never fished this tournament before, welcome to what's now known as "the World's Largest Sheepshead Tournament". For those of you who have fished it before, Welcome back! --- and I'm sure you'll find the 7th 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

Grand Prize:

presented by Mercury Marine, Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing and Loadmaster Trailers



Retail Value Over \$7,500.00!

14' Lowe Jon Boat
- #L1448MT

25 hp Mercury
4-stroke Motor

Loadmaster
Trailer



Photos for illustration purposes.
Some details may vary.

PLUS! - Replica Taxidermy Mount of the winning fish presented by Strike Zone Fishing

Continued Page 2



Presidents Castings



**Club President
Eddie McGowan
Bite This**

It sure is great to live in Northeast Florida and have the enormous variety of fishing available to us that we all enjoy so much. Wahoo, Tuna, and Mahi at the ledge or Snapper and Grouper on the outer party grounds of Sea Bass by the truck loads just a few miles off the shore. Oh yea, lets not forget our great inshore fishing. Sheepshead and Black Drum are showing up in pretty strong numbers and Trout and Redfish are being caught all over the river.

Frank is doing a tremendous job organizing our 7 th Annual "El CHEAPO Sheepshead Tournament". If you would like to volunteer to help out, please give Frank a call at 465-4552 and let him know.

EL CHEAPO from Page 1

prize structure and raffle for this year's tournament. Boasting a combined purse and raffle of over \$30,000.00 paying out 10 places, this truly has become one of the best fishing tournaments in all of North Florida.

A new item added this year will be a "winner take all" optional Tournament within a tournament" for club members only! Entry is \$20.00. See Jeff Rodda for details.

At the captain's meeting on Friday Feb. 23rd we'll once again have our resident Sheepshead guru Fred Morrow along with a special guest sharing their knowledge of how to catch the prized 7 striped jetty snapper. We'll also be offering a sample of Saturday's raffle with several prizes on the table that will be drawn that night.

On the day of the tournament, in addition to the spectacular raffle (and weigh-in of course) we'll also have our nearly world famous fish fry. I invite all of your friends and family to join us as we present the day's winners.

As we've mentioned before, this tournament above all, is a CLUB event, and we need your support to present a 1st Class Tournament. We'll be needing volunteers to help with getting brochures out, registration, prize procurement, and captain's bag stuffing, as well as tournament site set up and tournament day support including check-out, hospitality, fish cleaning, raffle, weigh-in and of course, clean-up. There will be an "El Cheapo" full volunteer meeting on Thursday, February 8, 7:30 pm at the club house. If you'd like to be a part of this great event, please plan on attending. For more information, contact Frank Joura at 465-4552 or by e-mail at FJoura@bellsouth.net.



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Presidents Message Cont.

If you are going to fish the tournament - Good Luck - I would really like to see one of our members take first place! Don't forget the "winner take all" optional Tournament within a tournament" for club members only! Entry is \$20.00. See Jeff Rodda for details.

The Florida Sportsman Show is coming up, and we need members to volunteer for this also. We will not be running the Casting Booth this year, but we do need people to man our club booth for a few hours. There might be a little contest going on, so sign up for a shift in the booth by contacting Leigh Davis at 521-0917.

I hope by now that everyone has renewed their membership. If you are not a current member (paid -up) any fish that you catch CAN NOT be entered on any board nor can you acquire any tournament points! So please that this as a reminder to pay your renewal NOW if you haven't already done so.

I want to take a moment to thank all of you that help out at the meetings and club activities. When we all chip in and help, the burden is a lot easier on everyone.

I am proud and very excited to be a member of such a great club and have the opportunity to become friends with so many wonderful people!

Have Fun & Be Safe
Eddie



Rob's Fishing Lore

Rob Darner

ODE TO OLOFF

We now find our favorite author aboard the *Scott Free*, once again. As with the last article, we were out after that speed demon of the seas: Wahoo.

Up at 3:30am to get yourself ready and then over to Scott's place to get the boat in the water by 5:30 am. Sure to form, we were running out at 115 degrees until we hit 125 ft of water. Once there we were to get our 'mac' on for those unsuspecting wahoo. Once again, the high-speed plastics came out. One the best things about plastics is that there seems to be little mess. Just toss them over the side and hang on. The plastics are trolled in various ways. Naturally, one goes down the middle and far, far, far back. Two others go down, one on a planer. The planer is not an in-line planer attached to the lure but the planer is attached to a line and run from the stern cleat. A rubber band is attached to the line and then the rubber band is attached to the shower ring that finds it way down to the trolled planer. On the starboard side, the lure is trolled behind not one but two 48 oz trolling weights. A numb chuck is what Scott called them. Six pounds of lead was used to get this bait down. On the port side, the planer system was in play. With the planer system, the port planer bait also used a 48 oz in-line lead for this bait. For the two remaining outriggers, cedar plugs were deployed for that possible tuna. If you are going to troll for tuna then the cedar plugs go back. They go way, way, way back and this caused the now shot gun bait to go from far, far, far to far, far, far...far, far back. Everything was going smooth and the *Scott Free* was charging through the seas at a steady 11.5 knots.

For not being too lucky at high-speed tactics our jinx was broken within twenty minutes of getting set. The numb chuck bait took off. We were running east and the beast at the other end was running west. Quickly, the crew rose to the challenge. I leaped from what I was doing and snatched a rod. Immediately, one could feel the weight on the other end. As I started to crank the pressure emitted seemed immense. I could not and would not falter. I would not be the cause of loosing this fish so I cranked and I cranked. The rest of the *Scott Free* crew joined the ballet in the stern of the boat. Dad started in on one of the cedar plugs while Scott positioned himself at one of the rods and sat on the gunnel and started to crank. Brian, Scott's son, kept a watch on the whole dance. I myself hung on for dear life to my rod. Now, not helping was too much was the eight year old and he soon joined in our dance. Brian was at the console and decided to pull the throttles back. The pressure was now relieved somewhat. No longer did we have a boat heading east at 11.5 knots. There is a long standing principal in physics: for

every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Poor Brian, he did not deserve the reaction he received but he was fishing with the 'Darner's' and excited utterances in the heat of battle do occurred on some of our fishing excursions. This is just a fancy way to write that he got yelled at for touching the throttles. Dad soon rectified the situation and the vessel was returned back to 11.5 knots heading east.

I was still cranking like a mad man when the pressure returned. I was not going to be the cause of losing this fish. Oh, the pressure! Help was needed; however, none could be found and yet my shoulders started to burn. My muscles were wearing down, the speed necessary to crank in the rod was diminishing. When would this end? There must have been over a thousand feet of line out there. Never the less, I had to continue, we could not go another one for seven! Shutter the thought, so the fight continued. The sun beat down, sweat poured from my forehead and all that jazz. I was giving it my all upon the rod. Dad finally slowed the boat and thus the pressure of the rod was letting up but not that of the pressure to boat the fish. For you see, I was Oloff. It was my job to clear the lines. And clear them I did. It is a whole a lot work when the fish is screaming on the other line and you have to clear the cockpit for the fight.

Who is Oloff one might wonder? He holds a special position on our fishing trips. I became acquainted with Oloff on a Saturday morning fishing show. Tred Barta was filming one of his shows about yellow fin tuna fishing. The show centers on Tred and Oloff catching these fish. In typical Tred fashion, he yelled and yelled until he found perfection in Oloff. Oloff did what Tred commanded him or yelled at him to do. Oloff did all the grunt work. He cleared the line, he gaffed and took the abuse while Tred sought the glory of reeling in the fish. If you ask me, Oloff should have deep six ol' Tred over the side 72 miles out for the verbal abuse he took. Since Oloff was about 6'3" weighing about 260 plus pounds and sported the physic of a body builder, I could image Oloff picking up the height challenged Tred over his head and plunging Tred into the North Atlantic with one mighty heave.

Now back to our fight, I cleared three lines that seemed to have over a thousand feet out. Nine pounds of lead and one planer was pulled back to the surface. If you had not guessed, the wahoo whacked the numb chuck bait and took off. Six pounds of the weight was attached to the bait with the fish attached to it. Behind the six pounds of weight, Scott had about twenty feet of shock leader. Once the lead made the boat, the rod man, Scott, was done. He took off for the throttles while Dad and I wrestled with the fish. I hand lined the fish closer to the boat while Dad waited with the gaff. There was some give and take between the wahoo and I but soon the fish came within gaffing range. Another forty pounder came over the side and onto the deck. With all that work, I can tell you, that fighting the wahoo seemed to be much easier. If you need a moral to the story or a good excuse, then remember this story and get to the rod first. I did for the next fish.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner





Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**



After listening to Chuck Darner's story, at a meeting about a boaters encounter with a large wave, I thought it appropriate to remind everyone of the ever present dangers when crossing a boats wake or a high wave. Always remember, the successful boating/fishing trip is the one that begins and ends safely.

When cruising the river, leaving and entering the jetties area, and even in the open ocean, you should be alert to protecting yourself, your crew and your boat from the potential dangers of large wakes or high waves.

Nationwide during the past year, a number of people lost their lives, and many were injured, some permanently, in encounters with boat wakes. For instance, in Florida a man was slammed against his center console and broke several ribs when he hit a large wake from another vessel.

Statistics show, however, that the most critical injuries such as fractured vertebrae and compression fractures, tend to occur when people are seated near the bow. Listed below are a few recommendations to protect yourself, your crew, and your boat from wake damage:

Make sure your passengers are seated aft or amidships and away from the bow.

Warn your passengers to sit down, if standing, when approaching another boats wake. In some cases, passengers were thrown out of the boat.

(Another reason to wear your PFD)

Don't wait until you are in the middle of a wake to slow your boat. Slow the boat before the wake arrives to lessen the impact.

Don't come to a complete stop. Maintain at least some headway into the wake to prevent the bow from being pushed to the side and the boat possibly being swamped.

Don't hit wakes or large waves head on. Try to cross the wake/wave at a slight angle. This will allow your boat to grip the wake/wave longer and prevent the bow from being thrown high into the air.

When overtaking another boat, cross it's wake quickly rather than riding the waves. Keep both hands firmly on the wheel and stay well away from the overtaken boat's stern.

Avoid taking a steep wake on the beam which could swamp a small boat. It is better to turn back into a wake briefly and then come back on course.

Never, never, overload a boat. Overloading a boat is foolhardy, even in calm waters. A 29 year old man drowned in the Chesapeake Bay last year when his 17 foot boat with 8 people on board was swamped by a passing boat.

Always try to anchor away from busy channels. And, never, never anchor your vessel by the stern. Many boats are swamped each year by this one mistake.

Follow these common sense rules to protect yourself, your crew and your boat. May you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fishtales



Here is an old one, can anyone guess who that is on the left? Here are some hints... That is a 99 Lb. Sturgeon, caught on 15 Lb. test line, that's right, fifteen pound test! (Mono, they didn't have super braids in 1968) caught on the French River in Canada.

Still having trouble recognizing him? OK here is the last hint, look at the "Top" left of this page. Yup, that is him, our very own Top Ingram in 1968!



Fishing Reports & Other tall Tales



Jeff Rodda
Fishing Committee
Director

Do you think the ground hog will see his shadow? If the weather of the last few weeks is any indication, I do not think that Punxsutawney Phil will. When it comes to fishing though, I think it might be better if he did.

The Sea Bass should still be here in good numbers and sizes. A good place to go looking for them before they leave would be SS. Smaller size Red Snapper should still be on the inshore wrecks and Grouper can be found in limited numbers if you have any spots that aren't public. Out in the Elton bottom, Kingfish and even Wahoo could be found if there is a warm water eddy in the area. Free satellite sea surface temperature images can be found at www.sstcharts.com.

Inshore you should be able to catch some big trout. Just remember to let them go as the season is closed until the 1st of March. Big whiting can be caught from the beach and the bank. A great place to look for them is off of the Red Tops, which are the condos at the Ponte Vedra Club and Inn with the red tile roofs, in 35 ft of water. Big reds will be on the inshore wrecks. If the weather stays warm, then the big Black Drum should show late in the month. Try and fight them on heavier tackle if you can. The quicker you get them to the boat and release them, the greater their chance of survival. If you are going to eat them, I hear that Cajun seasoning is great.

Check out the new Tournament Schedule on Page 7

Good luck to all of you. Remember to pay your dues. I will have to take your fish off of the boards if you are not current.

Ships Galley.....

Sidney Duncan
Hospitality Director



Here is the menu for this month!
February 1 st meeting is the Great Chili Cook-off.
Make your best tasting chili and bring it to the meeting. There will be a judging and prizes!

For the meeting on the 15 th Sidney is going to make, as he describes it, REAL GUMBO, not that soup you are used to.

Associate Member of the Month

An advertisement for Workman's KWIK-FLX, INC. PLUMBING DIVISION. It features the company logo in red and blue, a phone number 904-398-4118, and a website URL www.kwikfix.com. Below the text is a photograph of a white service van with the company name and phone number on it. At the bottom, a red banner reads "We want to be Your Plumber!"

Workman's is there for the Club! He stepped up and is sponsoring the Grand Prize in this month's El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament!

We would like every club member to think of Workman's KWIK-FIX Plumbing if you need any plumbing work, and to be sure to recommend them to anyone that you hear needs a plumber.

Lets make his generous donation to the club pay off for him.

Remember, we need to support the businesses that support our club!

Loud Hailings

Newsletter Editor
Bill Breen



Leigh Davis, our Program Director, says that if you have a suggestion for a guest speaker or know anyone he can trick into giving a talk at the club, be sure to give him their name so he can contact them. Lets help Leigh out!

I really like to feature PICTURES of club members with some good catches. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting (I will return it to you) or Phone, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at: PH# 904-254-2791 Fax#904-213-9786 breenw@bellsouth.net
Don't forget to include your name spelled correctly and the fish weight.

Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News just send or give it to me at any time.



Instant Crew, Just Add Water

<u>Name</u>	-	<u>Phone</u>	-	<u>Availability</u>	-	<u>Can call the Night before.</u>
Pete St.Laurent	-	220-9199		Most weekends		Up to 8:00 pm
Gene Fulgham	-	641-9970		Any day		Up to 8:00 pm
Dale Karg	-	451-2251		Most weekends		Up to 10:00 pm
George Pieper	-	246-7522		Most Days		Up to 8:00 pm
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369		Weekends & Some days		Up to 8:00 pm

***If you haven't renewed Your membership
HAS EXPIRED RENEW NOW!***



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
	<h1>February</h1>			1 Club Meeting The Great Annual Chili Cook-Off	2	3
				8 The EL CHEAPO Volunteers Meeting Boat Show 12:00 - 9:00 pm	9 Boat Show 12:00 - 9:00 pm	10 Boat Show 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
				15 Club Meeting Sidney's real GUMBO dinner	16	17
				22 El Cheapo Captain's Bag Stuffing work party 7:30 pm	23 The EL CHEAPO Set-up -11:00 am Captains meeting 7:30 pm	24 The EL CHEAPO Tournament
4 Boat Show 11:00 am - 6 :00 pm	5 Board Meeting	6	7 Boat Show at Prime Osborne center Set-Up			
11	12	13	14			
18	19	20	21			
25	26	27	28			

Coming Events:

*Remember, your #1 New Years resolution to
Attend more club meetings and have fun fishing!*

Feb. 1, 2007 - Our guest speaker will be Mike Brandon from West Marine speaking on Safety!

Feb. 8, 2007 - A full volunteer meeting for the EL CHEAPO, 7:30 pm at the Club House.

Feb 15, 2007 - We are looking forward to a lesson on Sheepshead Fishing from Rusty and James from B & M Bait & Tackle

Feb. 22, 2007 - The captains bag stuffing work party at 7:30 pm at the Club House.

Feb. 23, 2007 - EL CHEAPO Set-up 11:00 am Captains Meeting 7:30 pm at Club House

Tournament Schedule for 2007

Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date	-	Rain Date
The River Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	March 10 th	-	March 11 th
Non-Live Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	April 7 st	-	April 8 th
May Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 5 th	-	May 6 th
Unlimited Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 19 th	-	May 20 th
Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	June 16 th	-	June 17 th
Kingfish Tune-up Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	July 14 th	-	July 15 th
Powder Puff Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 4 th	-	August 5 th
Light Tackle Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 18 th	-	August 19 th
The Bottom Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	September 8 th	-	September 9 th

Associate Members

• ACM Electronics • Adventure Landing • Wild Adventures • American Transmission • Anthony & Sandra Spa • Arlington Bait & tackle • Avid Angler • B & M Bait & Tackle • Baitmasters of South Florida • Boaters World • Boathouse Discount Marine • Bryan McGowan Charters • C & H Lures • Cabelas • Cannon's Bait & Tackle • Carey Chen Art • Custom Marine Components • Deonas Boatworks • Dexter Russell Cutlery • Dockside Inn • Donovan Heating & Air • • G & W Marine • Gear 4Fishermen • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Guy Harvey Publishing • Hydro-Shield • Power-Pro • International Crew • Jacksonville Scuba Center • Kershaw Knives • Knight Electric • Lindgren-Pitman, Inc. • Mac's Prop Savers • MacMedia Graphics • Mann's Bait Company • Maxima America • Ocean Get Away • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp. • Penn Tackle Mfg. • Roffers Ocean Forecasting Service • Salty Styles • Sea Tow Jacksonville • Seafood Galore • Southern Propane • Speedy MacTwist • SSI Custom Plastics • St. John's Seafood & Steaks • Strike Zone Fishing • Surefire LLC • Team Fish Industries of America • The Billfish Foundation • The Florida Sportsman Club • Thrifty Outdoors • West Marine • Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing • Ballyhood Top Gun Trolling Lures



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