



# The Reel News

The Newsletter of the . . .



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 49 Issue 2

February 2009

## It's



## Here !!!

### The 9th Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament and Fish Fry

will be held on February 28th. 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 9th edition of this tournament the best one yet.

This year we have a **Carolina Skiff** J-14 Boat, 25 hp **Mercury Outboard** & Galvanized Trailer Plus a Replica Taxidermy mount of the winning fish for **FIRST PLACE**, and for **Second Place**, a **Carolina Skiff** J-12 Boat with a 9.9 Mercury Outboard and a galvanized trailer.. Through a strong commitment from sponsors like **Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing** and 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 \$50,000.00 paying out 15 places, this truly has become one of the best fishing tournaments in all of North Florida. Again this year we will have a Junior Angler division with it's own prize structure.

Don't forget the fantastic Raffle that we have every year with thousands of dollars of prizes to win, and bring your family and friends to the now world famous Fish Fry Dinner that we serve up at the tournament site. All Sheepshead weighed in and most caught are donated to the fish fry so you get to eat the delicious light white meat of the Sheepshead. They feed on crustaceans ( Crabs ) and are some of the tastiest fish out there! Not to mention these will all be the freshest fish you will ever eat!



See Page 5 **IMPORTANT!!!**





## Dropping a Line

By the Club President  
February Chills



Here comes the worst old man winter has to throw at us, the wind is howling out of the NNE at 25 knots and the mist hits you in the face with the temperature at 40 degrees in the middle of the day. It's just not fit for man nor beast but it is sheepshead weather, that striped bandit will be out in force to steal our bait and the chill.

The club house won't have a chill on the first Thursday of the month because that's the "CHILI COOK OFF". We will warm you to your toes with members concoctions as they compete for the prize of this years top Chili. Along with the chili is Steve Grant and "Wahoo 101" now that's a hot combination, I wonder if anyone ever made Wahoo Chili??

The end of the month means the EL-CHEAPO and man what a tournament is this year going to bring, the prize structure is even better than last year. We expect 350 boats this year, WOW!!, I heard the old rock

barge on the outside of the south jetty is going to be the hot spot this year for the big one. Come see me at the Chili cook off I'll give you the number for that one. We'll need a lot of help for the tournament weekend and the volunteers meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29th so come out and support the club, and have some fun doing it.

I hope everyone is ready for the start of the fishing season because this is the last month to get everything ready. Well I've covered some subjects in this month's letter and in closing I just want spring fishing to get here, get lost Old Man Winter.

Capt. Chris Rooney, JOSFC President

*Editor's Note: Captain Blarney arrived by anonymous "Daimon Mailer" to the Editor of the "Reel News". We have no idea who Captain Blarney is, but I liked the article so..... Here it is!*

### Captain Blarney

This is the first, and could be the last, article by Captain Blarney. Here the Captain will attempt to cover and comment on going's on with the JOSFC and the fishing scene in general.

Last Sunday morning Captain Blarney was watching the TV, when all of the wonderful TV fishing shows came back on, enough with the shows about hunting. Lets see Offshore Adventure, Salt Water Fishing, and even the Spanish Fly. He was watching George Provermo's Salt Water Fishing that was filmed off Key West, West of the Marqueses.

George and his friend, a guide from there managed to catch some Mango's, a nice Mutton Snapper, and a decent Red Grouper. George thought that it would be nice to have some underwater shots of the Grouper, so they put it back in the water, still hooked up. As soon as it hit the water a 50 Lb Barracuda flashed out from under the boat and cut the Grouper in two. "Wow, did you see that!" Was all you could hear from these two expert Captains. The lesson here is keep your fish in the boat to take their picture.

Captain Blarney overcome by the thought that if that was all they caught for a TV show, then they should come to Jacksonville to film a show. Captain Blarney is willing to bet that almost every trip by the fantastic fishermen and women of the JOSFC turns out better than that one. Three to five legal red snapper, some Sea Bass and a few B-Liners would make a super catch and a good TV show. So, the next time the TV wanderlust strikes you, be glad that you live here where the fishing is excellent and just head East of the Jetties.

Till the next hook up..... Captain Blarney



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## Rob's Fishing Lore

### WARNING SIGNS

It begins. The sounds of heavy breathing from a labored running are heard. A primal guttural growl comes between fast fleeing footsteps crunching through the snow. A hunter is seen running with object fear and then you quickly come to understand that a man killer bear is closing in upon him. It takes less then a minute and the killer bear corners the fleeing hunter only after the hunter falls. You know the unhappy ending to this sad hunt because it doesn't go well for the hunter. This is how the *Cabela's Dangerous Hunts 2009* opens up for all you gamers out there. Santa was kind enough to deliver this particular Wii game and gaming console for Christmas this year. The packaging/ advertising intrigue me to read on. Not only the title speaks of "danger" but reading through the instruction manual and the back cover just reeked with warning signs. The back cover promises "Hand to Claw Combat", "25 Dangerous Animals" and it promotes one to "Be Afraid... Be Very Afraid!" The instruction booklet has several 'warning' sections. These warning sections cover anything from motion sickness, repetitive motion injuries & eyestrains and promote the use of wrist straps so one does not break the TV while engaged in playing with the Wii system. On a very serious note, the game itself does warn of seizures for those who are affected by epilepsy due to the bright lights and quick changing screens.

The game box got me thinking specially the day after Christmas where the family and I were anchored up off the outside of the south jetties float fishing for trout. I began to look around the new *Let's Go* for warning signs. What kind of warning signs would I be able to find in my Angler VBX model boat? I checked the console and all around the helm. No warning sign that would proclaim to the user, if you take this boat out in large confused seas you may get sea sick. Been there, done that already. Yet, what about a warning label for your anniversary of wife's birthday with 2 foot or less sea conditions. Maybe the warning label should read: forgetting these dates and going fishing may find one sleeping on the couch or in the boat. So far, I have not done this one.

Even though I know the engine propeller is dangerous, I found no warning signs. I did not find any label stating to troll faster than poggie speed with blue runners because the runners like to fowl your propeller with mono and wire. I did this one several times this year. Speaking of fishing line, I did not find any caution labels stating grabbing braded line could saw through the palm of your hand when the fish flees from the side of the boat. Recently, I have almost done this one. Fortunately, I was quick enough to release the line

before the shark could cause any damage. Oh yea, grabbing a leader with a crimp in it does not come with a warning label saying the crimp will cut you hand when the fish flees as well. Dad just learned this one. Oh yea, here is a warning label that needs to be applied to the fishing cockpit. The label would state: gaffed fish may shed its hook and have the freed hook catch the angler. Dad was almost the unfortunate recipient of a dislodged hook into his right shin when the struggling cobia tossed its hook off. Lucky, the hook only caught his pants while the cobia thrashed around on the deck. This happens infrequently but enough anglers succumb to some serious injuries this way. May be my gaff should have warned that if one sticks his ankle with the gaff tip it causes pain & swelling. I have done that one as well.

What about your fishing rods? Has anyone ever found any warning labels here? Maybe there should be a warning label stating teaching a six year old how to cast may cause the teacher to get hooked. Sorry Dad, I have done this one as well. Or, throwing off the reel break during a fish strike would cause the mother of all backlashes. Once again, sorry Dad, there was not a warning label.

How about any caution labels on something inherently dangerous like knives. Has anyone every cut themselves while using a fillet knife? Done that one as well. Any possible label forewarning that dropping a knife on your foot would cause injuries? What about the fish themselves? Should the good Lord tattoo a warning label on them? Just how many injuries have been caused by those needles like spines stabbing the fisherman while filleting a sheepshead? Mark the 'done' column for this one.

What more needs to be said about gasoline and your gas tank. Maybe there should have been a huge warning sign about the whole ethanol boat gas tank thing. Oh yea, what about the biggest warning label of them all? This warning label should read: \$4.11 / gallon gas is extremely dangerous to my wallet! Haven't well all recently experienced this one.

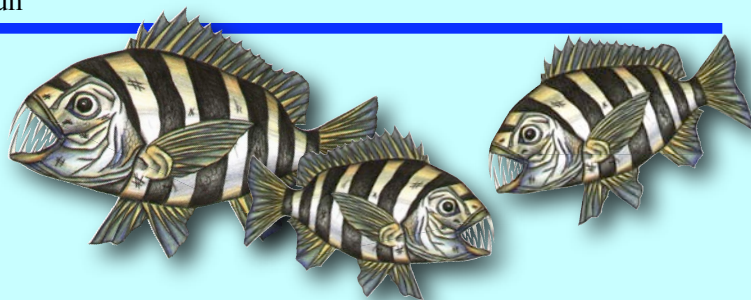
I know my boat lacks all sorts of warning labels when comparing it to a Wii game but then again, maybe the Wii game needs these labels to tell the player just how much danger he or she is in while sitting on the couch shooting or being killed by an electronic beast. I guess if I am going to go, it will have to be out there doing something rather than playing something on the TV.

Best Wishes for Fishing,  
Rob Darner



PS

I must admit that the *Dangerous Hunts 2009* edition is fun







## Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram**  
**Safety Officer**

### Hypothermia

As we move into the winter months, and as the weather man predicts more cold weather in our fishing forecast, and 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 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. 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 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



Above is our favorite picture from the EL Cheapo 08 Tournament.

Below is from the Captain's meeting with last year's 1st & 2nd Place boats, This year we have Carolina Skiffs





## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club,  
 P.O. Box 331185

Atlantic

This is more **important** than anything else in this newsletter!

The South Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council has a plan in the works where they would like to **"Close the Atlantic Ocean from the Carolina's to the Florida Keys from shore to 60 miles offshore to ALL BOTTOM FISHING for 26 YEARS! Starting in 2010.** This is to protect the Snappers from overfishing including as by-catch!

You need to go to:

[www.keepeceanfishing.com](http://www.keepeceanfishing.com)

and send an E-mail to your congress men to stop this. Also send letters or E-mail to your City, and State representatives to get them to put pressure on congress.

We, sport fishing, bring in more than \$600 Million dollars EVERY YEAR to the local economy, and if this goes through, it will all be lost!

## Loud Hailings

**Newsletter Editor  
 Bill Breen**



Randy Raulston, 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 Randy 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](mailto: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
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369		Weekends & Some days		Up to 8:00 pm
Sara Meier	-	H= 786-5608 C= 812-322-1519		Weekends & Some days		Up to 10:00 pm
Perry Arnold	-	H = 304-521-5987 C = 904-379-1189		Any day		Up to 10:00 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
Bob Calfee	-	C = 472-9957		Weekends & Some days		Up to 8:00 pm
Matt Ennes	-	536 - 7450		Friday through Monday		Up to 9:00 pm
David Brown	-	962 - 3787		Saturdays & Some week days		Up to 11:00 pm
Ken Roach	-	221 - 7212		Any Day		Up to 8:00 pm the day before.
Joe Esparza	-	C = 536 - 4114		Any Day		Up to 10:00 pm

## Our Website Is UP!

Our website is now back up, running, and has been fully updated and improved. **WE NOW HAVE LIVE MARINE RADIO** streaming on our website. It is up, and you can log onto our website and listen to the boats out there fishing, find out where they are biting, and what the seas are really like. Capt. George and the other charter boat captains are more informative when talking to each other during the week than on weekends.

A BIG THANKS to Mike Murphy for all the hard work he put in getting Comcast to run a cable to the Club House and donating a computer and equipment and a lot of his time to get the Internet Marine Radio at the Club for the Web-Site!




You can also find the best weather links at our website, and check the fishing boards to see if your big fish will qualify to knock someone off, and how the Captain Of The Year Race is going. You can read the "Reel News", get the latest club information and important notices that came in after the newsletter went to press, and see pictures from the latest events.

We would like YOU, our club members, to start talking up our website to everyone you can, just tell them to:

**Check out ..... [www.jaxfish.com](http://www.jaxfish.com)**

**If you know anyone who would like to advertise on the site, Have them contact:  
Greg Molloy, at MacMedia Graphics 904-725-8871**



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5 Club Meeting The Great Chili Cook-off Contest	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b><i>If you haven't already renewed your membership, you are OVERDUE! Do it today! Form on page 5, Please Fill it out, all info, &amp; Mail it TODAY!!!!</i></b>						
15	16	17	18	19 Club Meeting Captains Bag Stuffing for the El Cheapo 7:00 PM	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 The EL CHEAPO Set-up -10:00 am 7:30 pm Captains	28 The EL CHEAPO Tournament
		<b>February</b>				

Feb. 2, Monday - Board meeting

Feb. 5, Thursday - Club meeting -The Great Chili Cook-off

Feb 19, Thursday - Club meeting - Captains bag stuffing 7:00PM

Feb 27, Friday - Set-Up for the El Cheapo 10:00 AM

Feb 28 - Saturday - THE EL CHEAPO SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT!

October 17, Saturday - The Annual Awards Banquet.

### Tournament Schedule for 2009

Tournament	-	-	Month	-	-	Date / Alternate
						Saturday - Sunday
The River Fishing Tournament -			March	-	-	21 -
The Non-Live Tournament -			April	-	-	5 / 11
The Bottom Fishing Tournament -			April	-	-	25 / May 2 -
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -			May	-	-	16 / 23 -
The May Trolling Tournament -			May	-	-	31 / June 7 -
The Junior Angler Tournament -			June	-	-	21 / 27
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -			July	-	-	18 / 19 -
The Powder Puff Tournament -			August	-	-	16 / 23
The Light Tackle Tournament -			August	-	-	29 / Sept. 5 -

## Coming Events:



## Associate Members

• All Aluminum Concepts • Angie's Sub Shop • Atlantic Coast Marine • Avid Angler • B & M Bait & Tackle • Beaches Florist • Boaters World • Boathouse Discount Marine • • C & H Lures • Capt. Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing • Consignment Boat Sales • Dell Marine • Donovan Heating & Air • Florida Sportsman Live • First Coast Offshore Rodeo • Fish Carvings by Rick & Billy • Fishing Connection • F.W.C. • Gary Newman Insurance • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Gene's Seafood • Great Atlantic Outfitters • Hardees • High Roller Fishing Team • Home - Zone Cleaning • International Ropes • Jacksonville Marina • • Just-Right Auto Sales • Knight Electric • Align Roofing • Lockwood Marine • Mercury Outboards • MacMedia Graphics • Mike's Taxidermy • Mayport Princess • Murphy Communications • Ocean Get Away • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Pepsi Bottling Co. • Penn Tackle Mfg. • Production Drywall • Progressive Insurance • • PGA Tour • Rick's Bait & Tackle • River Marine • Safe Harbor Seafood • • Salty Styles • Sea Tow • Sea Dance Charters • Smith & Sons Tree Service • SOC 7 Productions • Solomon's RV & Boat Storage • Southern Propane • Super Chum Slick • St. John's Seafood & Steaks • Strike Zone Fishing • T.B.S. Jigs & Charter • The Canvas Shop of North Florida • The Hagerty Company • The Outdoors Show • Vic2Fish • W.L.S. Contracting • WebCode Fusion • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • West Marine • Woody Wax • Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing •



**Jacksonville Offshore  
Sports Fishing Club**

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*It is PAST time to renew your membership. Do it NOW!*