



The Reel News

The Newsletter of the . . .



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

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It's



Here !!!



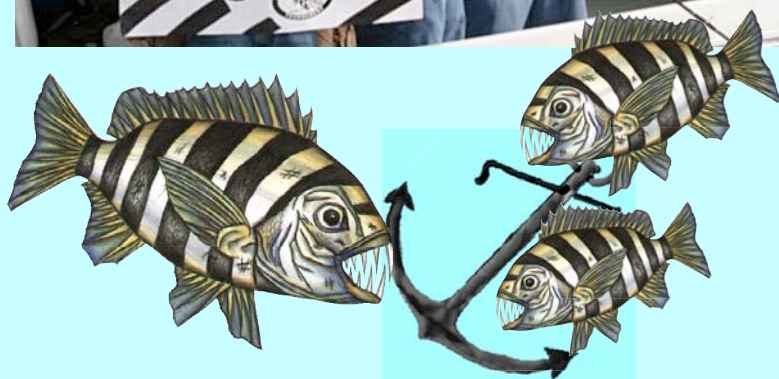
The 10th Anniversary El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament and Fish Fry

will be held on February 27th. 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 10th edition of this tournament the best one yet!

This year we have a ***G3 #1548 VBW 15' Aluminum Boat, 20 HP Yamaha Motor & Galvanized Trailer Plus a Replica Taxidermy mount of the winning fish for FIRST PLACE, and for SECOND PLACE, a G3 1436 LW Aluminum Boat with a 9.9 Yamaha Outboard and a galvanized trailer.***

Through a strong commitment from our sponsors 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 fresh Sheepshead Fish Fry Dinner that we serve up at the tournament site.



Above Left, my favorite picture from a past El Cheapo tournament. Look at the smile on that kid's face!

Directly above is a picture from the Captain's Meeting Friday night before the tournament. We have about 10 of those big tents set up with the prizes and Raffle set up in the main area, a Kitchen area to fry up all the FRESH Sheephead, and a Botique where we sell El Cheapo Shirts & Hats



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The last trip for Red Snapper!
Left to Right, Kyle Adkins, Lou Guarno, and Mike Bureson, with some Snapper caught from Mike's boat BAD TIMING. Below is Lou with a nice one.





Rob's Fishing Lore

Rob Darner



TIC TOCK, BIOMASS CLOCK

Tic tock, tic tock is the sound of the biomass clock. Times are a changing and so is our fishing thus I had to go and target something else completely different. As a fisherman in NE Florida, I use to go and try my hand at catching a Red Snapper or two but now those days are long gone so it's now fishing for that hard to find White Grunt. Yes, it's a fish of little known quality as a sports fish but never-the-less a sports fish is a sports fish, right? As the winter winds howls, it has keep the newly revamp grunt fishing fleet in port; however, last weekend saw Ol'Man Winter catch his breath and let up on the wind.

It was nice to feel the cold wind rush against my ears as the mighty *Let's Go* knifed through the sea and air on its way out to our spot. The destination was a mere twenty-five plus miles offshore to trophy size fishing grounds of the White Grunt. Our boat anchored in 103 foot of water on a little known number given to me by the Sheppard of the Seas, Capt George Strate. As usually, the bottom scope lit up with a great red mass indicating an abundance of fish gathered around a bottom structure. Since this was January, each of us secretly prayed that we would not have a monster grouper or one of those mythical, hard to find Genuine Red Snapper eat our White Grunt on the way up to the surface.

Anchoring was a breeze since the big red biomass mark on the depth finder was located straight under the boat. As with fishing for either snapper or grouper, the big beef sticks were taken out because we had to be ready just in case any of these fish choose to eat our baits. As for finding that four pound White Grunt, I guess we were cursed because our fishing day did not work out for us. Unfortunately, we were plagued by a few grouper which had to be released, what came next was truly unexpected. It just so happened to work out that this one tiny spot in the entire South Atlantic held the remaining biomass of Red Snapper. We could not get our baits resting on the bottom long enough to target our 4 pound White Grunt before one of those pesky Genuine Red Snapper snapped our bait up. It was an exercise in futility because just as fast as we found our bait on the bottom a Red Snapper was coming up. In fact, when we did have a grunt on, the grouper gobbled them up as well leaving us with very little for the fish box.

As I stood there on the deck of my boat surveying the ocean contemplating life, it hit me like a ton of bricks. I guess Ol' Roy Crabtree was right after all. I was so wrong at all those SAFMC scoping meeting where I ceaselessly campaigned about just how wrong their economic data was. I was here fishing just like our wise government leaders said I would be. Who would have thought I would have paid \$20 in

gas for fuel for the suburban, \$12 in ice for the food and fish cooler, \$35 for oil, \$40 for bait and \$100 in gas all just to catch a trophy grunt. Oh man, I forgot the \$9 for lunch material and another lets say \$20 for fishing supplies such has leaders, sinkers and hooks. But here, I stood fishing away for my trophy 4 pound White Grunt. Like the Great Buddha passing out enlightenment cards, I had been dealt a full house. With three other anglers on board and all of us trying to capture a trophy grunt plus the Red Snapper not relenting, I came around to understand just how the SAFMC developed their mortality figure. We must have caught just over fifty or so snapper. They were right! My God of Kindness and Enlightenment, the Council was right! Of the Red Snapper we caught, exactly 40% of them died. If I am lying then I am, well you know the phrase. It was a true stunner to see so so many Red Snapper floating way from our anchored boat. Just how could I be so wrong for so long is what I was asking myself?

With all of those snapper floating behind the boat was a sight to behold and after four and a half hours of fishing all that dead fish acted just like a glorified chum slick. Its hard to image a chum slick made up of several 5 pound snapper plus a few teenage snappers and one or two twenty pound sows mixed in but they floated off none the-less. Now cue the Jaws theme music because it was working up our chum line. Yes, in recent years, Jaws has become a more frequent visitor to our shore. Today was our turn to spy this beast. Honestly, the mere sight of a Great White shark, you emote so many a different emotions that it is truly hard to say which one wins. Although, fear and awe are the two that tend to peak when viewing this creature.

If the Boy Scouts ever taught me anything it was to always be prepared. But just how does one prepare for a Great White? Well, a 16' hook and 400 pound cable leader pre crimped is a good way to be prepared. One thing about big sharks like the Great White is that they are lazy feeders. Instead of chasing one of the many or few remaining Red Snapper coming off the bottom, it preferred to snack on one of the several 40%'ers floating on the surface. That snapper came of the side of the boat and dehooked itself upon landing on the deck. (It is here where my therapist suggested I had a slight anger management problem.) I grabbed the wooden fish bat reserved for sharks & catfish and I began to way-lay upon the fish. Others heard me proclaim, "take that Roy" or "40% mortality, \$@!! How 'bout 100% mortality now". (This was a dark period for me so please excuse the outburst) With one eye dangling and blood leaking from its gills, I knew this would be hard for the Great White to resist.

The 16' hook was plunged through the half dead snapper and it was tossed into the chum slick. The great grey fish sensed the snapper quiver in the chum slick because its motions quickened. It turned crisply toward the floundering fish and with one great gulp, it inhaled the 13 pound snapper. With a mouth as wide as any trash can, the bait snapper simply disappeared. Not even those coal black eyes blinked as the hook found its mark inside that fleshy mouth.

Light tackle fishing for Great Whites is a tall task because all I had to battle with watery demon was a 30 wide and forty pound test. The first run was second to none. A large

Continued page 4



Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**



Subj: Polk County Boating Fatality

On 12/18/2009 at approximately 7:30 p.m., a Winter Haven couple were fishing on the east side of Lake Howard when their 12 foot vessel capsized. The husband last saw his 66-year-old wife holding onto a throwable life jacket before losing sight of her. The victim's body was recovered a short time later by rescuers with no signs of life.

Boating Fatalities in Florida 1/1/09 to date: 62

39 drowning - 19 trauma

1 undetermined

3 pending autopsy results

46 males - 16 females

42 single vessel accidents

6 accidents involving 2 or more vessels



Comparison to 2008

By this date in 2008, 51 fatalities had occurred.

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

The 10th Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament, to be held on February 27, presents an excellent opportunity to remind the Club membership of the fact that the successful fishing/boating trip is the one that begins and ends safely. One way to ensure a safe outing on the water is to wear your life jacket. Although not required by law, except for children 13 years of age and younger, boaters should wear a life jacket especially when the boat is underway. Historical data shows that many excellent swimmers have drowned when thrown from a moving boat without wearing a flotation device of some type. Recently we had a near tragic accident when a small boat, with 3 fishermen, capsized near the jetties. Since the fishermen were not wearing life jackets, only the quick action of some nearby fishermen prevented a tragedy.

As a practical matter, I know that many of you will not wear your life jacket. If the life jacket is not worn, however, it should be at least readily accessible and available for immediate donning in an emergency such as a vessel sinking, fire, etc. One place it would be readily available is draped over the helm seat back. Please keep in mind that a life jacket will be of no help to you if you are thrown from the boat without the life jacket on. A life jacket should not be stowed in a closed or locked compartment, or have other gear stowed on top of it.

If your boat is 16 feet or longer, you must have a throwable flotation device in addition to wearable ones for each person on board the vessel. The throwable device must be immediately available near the helm and all persons on board should be informed of its position and use. All recreational boats must carry one type 1, 2, 3, or 5 flotation device for each person

on board. Any boat 16 feet or over, except canoes and kayaks, must also carry one type 4 (throwable) device.

Most recreational boaters elect to carry the type 3 flotation device which is designed to keep the wearer vertical in the water and where quick rescue is probable. The type 2 flotation device, or near shore buoyant vest, is designed to turn a person to a vertical position in the water, but not as pronounced as the type 1.

The type 1 flotation device is designed to turn an unconscious person from face down to a vertical position and is used by boaters cruising waters where there is a probability of a delayed rescue. The type 5 flotation device, or flotation suit, provides not only flotation, but also protection from hypothermia and is intended for special use activities. No matter what type of lifejacket you carry on your vessel, it will only work when worn.

Make it a point to at least wear your life jacket when running from one spot to another. If you encounter a rogue wake or wave and are thrown from the boat your chances of survival are increased. Wear your life jacket and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales

Tick Tock Continued from page 3

Wahoo would be envious on the distance of the run and a sailfish would have shaken its head in shame over the speed that this 16 foot fish reached. What none of us were prepared for was the battle at the boat. Yes, battle at the boat side. After stopping the initial great run, we fought the fish to a mere 100 yards away from the boat. The fish circle the 23 foot boat giving us angry glances every 30 feet or so. Now we know but then we didn't was that a Great White are known for attacking small boats such as ours. It came within gaffing range just to size us up when it flinched its body redirecting its tail toward our boat. The sides held together well enough as the massive tail struck us not once but twice. Shocked, together we backed toward the boat's center as if this would hide us if the boat went down. With a second burst of energy, the great fish sped away from us chewing on the 400 pound cable. It only took one great big chomp and the cable was shredded freeing the massive shark.

With little wasted motion or energy, the *Let's Go* was made ready and headed home. Amazed at nature's awesome power, we now had a story for a lifetime of telling. However, upon inspection of the fish box at the dock, we noticed we failed to accumulate any 4 pound trophy size White Grunts. I guess we need to venture out once more to do this all over again. What would Ol' Crabtree say echoed in my head with all those dead snapper sacrificed to the sake of a trophy grunt. With nothing to show and our heads held low, we wondered just how we could face our fellow fisherman on the Club's front porch.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner





Mike Burleson with a NICE 6.82 Lb Flattie caught near CH!

Below Left to Right, Young Mike Burleson, Dad Mike Burleson, and Ryan Burleson with some more Flatties caught 1/3/10.



FYI

The Fishing Boards..... For all the new members and any one that wants to win one or go for Captain of the Year.

When you catch a fish that is bigger (Bigger by $\frac{1}{4}$ Pound) than a fish that is currently on a board, or that slot is empty, and you have weighed it on a certified scale, you submit a Fish Slip (Found in the rack to the right of the door as you come in.) For each fish you get on a board you get a Club \$5.00 certificate, that can be spent at several local bait & tackle stores or for club the raffle or club merchandise.

At the end of September, **IF** you have the most fish on a board, **AND** have participated in **3** of the Club Tournaments, either as a Captain, Crew, or for 1 of the 3, helped Run the Tournament at the Club house, you win that Board.

Remember, any one can knock you off a board with a bigger fish, and you can knock them off by catching another bigger fish.

The Bluewater and Unlimited Boards are for fish caught outside the Eastern boundary of our Chart, out to 100 Miles, and within the North / South limits of our Chart. The rest of the boards are for fish caught within the limits of our chart.

The Light Tackle board is for Fish caught on 8 Pound Test line, and a 10 foot sample of the line must be submitted with the Fish Slip. It must break at no more than 8.8 Pounds.

All these RULES are detailed in the yellow Fishing & Tournament Rules booklet found in the rack by the door.

Loud Hailings Newsletter Editor Bill Breen



Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News just send or give it to me at any time. I really like to feature PICTURES of club members with some good catches, like these in this issue. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting or Phone, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at:

PH# 904 - 254 - 2791 Fax# 904 - 213 - 9786

breenw@bellsouth.net



Is this your last issue of this Fantastic, Informative, Entertaining, Award Winning (I award each newsletter a gold star myself.) Educational, and Great Newsletter? Starting in March, we will only be mailing out the newsletter to Life Members and currently Paid Members. If you don't get your March Newsletter, and have paid your dues, contact me (Page 5 Loud Hailings has my contact info.) or Tony Thompson at 509-8628.



We are still fighting the Fishing closures, and your membership is very important, PLEASE RENEW!



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 _____

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Board Meeting	2 	3	4 Club Meeting The Annual Chili Cook-Off	5	6
7 <i>If you haven't already renewed your membership, you are OVERDUE! Do it today! Form on page 6, Please Fill it out, all info, & Mail it TODAY!!!! This could be your LAST Newsletter!</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Club Meeting Bag stuffing for El Cheapo 6:00 PM	19	20
21	22 	23	24	25	26 Set-Up for the El Cheapo Captains Meeting	27  EL Cheapo!
28					<i>February</i>	

Coming Events:

Feb. 1, Monday - Board meeting
 Feb. 4, Thursday - Club meeting -The Great Chili Cook-off
 Feb 18, Thursday - Club meeting - Captains bag stuffing 7:00PM
 Feb 26, Friday - Set-Up for the El Cheapo 10:00 AM
 Feb 27 - Saturday - THE EL CHEAPO SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT!
 May 1 - The Sailfish Pot Party
 October 23 - JOSFC Awards Banquet.



Tournament

The River Fishing Tournament -
 The Non-Live Tournament -
 The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -
 The May Trolling Tournament -
 The Junior Angler Tournament -
 The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -
 The Powder Puff Tournament -
 The Light Tackle Tournament -
 The Bottom Tournament -

Tournament Schedule for 2009

Month	-	-	-Date / Alternate	Saturday	-	Sunday
March	-----	-27	-----			
April	-----	-17/ 24	-----			
May	-----	- 8/ 15	-----			
May	-----		23/ 30			
June	-----		20 / 27			
July	-----	17 / 18	-----			
August	-----	7 / 14	-----			
August	-----		22/29			
September	-----	11	-----			12

Associate Members

• All Aluminum Concepts • Angie's Sub Shop • Anchor Saver • Atlantic Coast Marine • Avid Angler • B & M Bait & Tackle • Boathouse Discount Marine • Bait Masters of S Fl • Catchin' A Buzz Fishing Co. • 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 • Fishing Nosara • Gary Newman Insurance • Gear 4 Fishermen • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Gene's Seafood • Great Atlantic Outfitters • Hardees • High Roller Fishing Team • Home - Zone Cleaning • International Ropes • Jacksonville Jaguars • Jacksonville Marina • Just-Right Auto Sales • Knight Electric • Lockwood Marine • Mercury Outboards • Miami Dolphins • Mike's Taxidermy • Miss Candace Nicole Shrimp • Mayport Princess • Murphy Communications • Ocean Get Away • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Pepsi Bottling Co. • Penn Tackle Mfg. • Plano Molding Co. • Production Drywall • Progressive Insurance • Pier 17 • PGA Tour • Rick's Bait & Tackle • River Marine • Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting • Safe Harbor Seafood • Salty Styles • Sea Tow • Sea Dance Charters • Skinner Nurseries • Smith & Sons Tree Service • SOC 7 Productions • Solomon's RV & Boat Storage • Southern Propane • www.southernpropane.net • Super Chum Slick • St. John's Seafood & Steaks • Strike Zone Fishing • T.B.S. Jigs & Charter • The Canvas Shop of North Florida • The Haggerty Company • The Outdoors Show • Vic2Fish • W.L.S. Contracting • WebCode Fusion • Wild Adventures Theme Park • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • West Marine • Woody Wax • Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing •



**Jacksonville Offshore
Sports Fishing Club**

P.O. Box 331185

Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

PRSRT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit 3546
Jacksonville, FL



It is **PAST** time to renew you membership !