



It's



Here !!!

The 11th El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament and Fish Fry



will be held on February 26th. 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 11th edition of this tournament the best one yet!

This year we have a **15 Foot Center Consol Carolina Skiff with a 30 Horse Mercury 4 stroke & Trailer for FIRST PLACE, Plus a Replica Taxidermy mount of the winning fish and a 13 foot Carolina Skiff 15 horse Mercury 4 Stroke & Trailer for SECOND PLACE.** 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 \$95,000.00 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.

PRESIDENTS CASTINGS

Capt Don Cook



This month is the month of the El Cheapo. This year as every year it is going to be awesome. Frank, our tournament director, has done an outstanding job of setting things up with not one but two boats as prizes. This tournament is truly one of a kind. The most generous prizes, huge raffle and El Cheapo prize (did I mention most fun as well). This event really brings our club together as volunteers and to me is one of the more rewarding things we do (Can I mention fun here again?). The question in everyone's mind is offshore, on the rocks, in the creeks, bridge pilings, Nassau sound, or??? Beats me, the best one I ever caught was on the jetties and it was not in the money. The following year the winner was

caught in the same place along the jetties. Good luck to all who fish it. Have fun. See you on the water or at the club.

Captain Don

Don't forget, at the February 3rd meeting we will hold our **ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF**. I

There will be awards for the best tasting **CHILI** as well as the **HOTTEST CHILI**. If you think you can make a great **CHILI**, cook up your best batch with all your secret ingredients and bring it to the meeting so see if you measure up!



Here are a couple of pictures from past El Cheapo Tournaments! Look at the Smile on that kid's face! Even if we weren't having fun ourselves, that smile makes all the work worth it.

The below picture is from the Captain's meeting the night before the tournament. Just picture a couple of White Fiberglass Carolina Skiff's sitting there and all you have to do to win one is to catch ONE (1) fish about 12 pounds. You can do it!



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Rob's Fishing Lore

WTF

What The Fish

Warning: this article is rated 'D'. The subject matter deals with situations if you are 15 and under you understand and if you are 16 to 35 you no longer care and if you are over 35 you may not wish to go back there again. It is intended to relay a message for some, confuse others but entertain all. FYA, For Your Amusement

If this article was written in 'Old English', even the author would have a hard time understanding it. I guess that is why *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales* torched us in English class all those years ago; however, as communication constantly change the way we communicate, i.e., language changes with it. Give an adult a cell phone and you are happy to call friends and maybe a family member or two anywhere and everywhere. Yet, give your kid a cell phone and a new language is born. Texting. Being of an **OM**, Old Man, when it comes to reading **OMG ...BFF ...TMI ...GTG ...PITA...WTF...** one can get lost in these popular short phrases but having three small kids with cell phones learning this new written language helps one to say 'in touch' with your kids.

OMG, Oh My God did we have a great day of catching Wahoo. The Wahoo were fired up at the ledge and



we went 3 for 8. From the sounds of the radio chatter, C&H had a better day out there. It seems many a boat like ours had their leaders chomped by several Wahoo ending up with a missing lure. I heard of a couple American Expresses gone, a few Mr. Bigs gone and we had a double strike on

Islanders is what ended up with both being cut and gone on our boat, **PITA**, Pain in the Assets. In just a few short hours, these hungry fish cost the fishing fleet \$300 to \$400 in missing lures. The Wahoo were thick as thieves out there between the 30 20 & the 30 15 lines: **TMI**, To Much Information.

AIR, As I Remember, the most interesting part of the day was when we stopped to bottom fish. With having 3 Wahoo in the box by 12:30 pm, did we need any more than this? **NW**, no way. On our last drop, we found a great load of 5 to 7 pound B-Liners. **NK**, No Kidding, they were that big and yet we had to let them all loose. All but one swam toward the bottom with great strength and the one lone strangler swam at a more modest rate toward the ocean floor. Intermingled with the B-Liners were Pinkies. As we drifted through the strike zone, a Pinkie hammered down on my line. From the initial stage of the fight, I knew the fish was of smaller size due to the fact that it was no match for locked up 80 pound test with 100 pound leader. My opinion of the fish began to change as it found itself nearly 1/3 of the way off the bottom. **WTF**, What the Freak, the resistance became stronger and cranking became tougher and then the cranking stopped. Weight could now be felt upon the line and the fish turned its head and ran for the bottom pulling drag. This tug of war now brought a **E2EG**, Ear 2 Ear Grin, to my face just for the simple reason that the small fish I thought I had on earlier was a big mistake. No five pound fish could pull drag on a lock down 80 pound outfit and yet this did. My happiness was short lived when it snapped my leader thus freeing itself, **AAK** Alive And Kicking.

NIGI, Now I Get It, my brother was watching all this commotion from the front of the bow when he decided to play as well. Since the Pinkies were thick he hooked up a Pinky and cranked it about 20 feet off the bottom where



he stopped and waited. It did not take too long for this **FFA**, Free For All. He was using 80 pound braid with a Shimano Travoli rod. Now he had the **WTF** fish. The tug of war lasted for nearly 10 minutes and he was nearly **CLAB** Crying Like a Baby at the end of it. In the early rounds of this battle, one could conclude that Scott was winning because he kept gaining line and pulling the great fish upward. However, the middle rounds were at a stand still when neither man nor beast would gain or loose. **BRD**, Bored. The final rounds belonged to the beast. The fish was tired of playing around and started to peel off line with out thinking of it. Three times it did this to my

Continued on Page 4



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

VHF RADIO

It has been said that a man's best friend is his dog, and that may be so for a landlubber, but a boater's best friend may be his/her radio. Although not required on recreational boats, unless carrying 6 or more passengers for hire, you should have a radio on your boat as it could save your life in a time of distress. Not only should you have a radio on board, but you should have it on and monitor channel 16 at all times when under way. If you should encounter problems while boating/fishing offshore, there is no better way to communicate your situation to the proper authorities than your VHF Radio.

Recently, there was an incident off Saint Augustine where the boater had a radio on board but did not have it on while under way. The boater did not file a float plan and had left a child in care of a baby sitter who became alarmed when the boater did not return as expected and called the Coast Guard. Without a float plan, the Coast Guard had no idea where to start searching and called the boater on the radio but got no response. The Coast Guard conducted an extensive search off Saint Augustine only to learn that the boater returned to port with no idea that the boat was the object of a search by the Coast Guard.

Having a radio on board and knowing how to use it properly could be a lifesaver. Also, selecting the appropriate channel and proper use of your radio will prevent interfering with someone else in distress trying to contact the Coast Guard for assistance. You can purchase an all channel radio, which has 73 channels or cheaper models with fewer channels. Your radio should have at least the following 6 channels: Channel 6, intership safety; channel 9, alternate calling for non-commercial vessels and bridge; channel 16, distress, urgency, safety and calling for commercial vessels; channel 22A, Coast Guard Liaison; channel 68, non-commercial working, and a weather channel. In addition to channel 68, channel 69, 71, 72 and 78 are assigned working channels for recreational boats. Channel 23 and 83 are Coast Guard working channels only.

New radios on the market today offer DSC (Digital Selective Calling) capabilities. If you have a DSC capable radio, it must be registered to effectively use the DSC function. If the device is not registered, the Coast Guard will not know what vessel is calling. Many boaters assume that the radio comes ready to use; i.e. registered and able to transmit its location. In order to transmit its location, the radio must be connected to a GPS unit. All new DSC capable radios have GPS status icons that indicate whether the GPS is successfully passing location information to the radio.

To check this, turn on the GPS and radio and see if the radio's GPS icon indicates a good connection. You may, also, want to carry on board a second portable handheld radio for use in case

you lose your main power on the vessel and your installed radio would be inoperative. I have had to use my handheld radio on many occasions when my main antenna connections became corroded.

Channel 16 is the calling channel for commercial vessels, and is to be used for distress, urgency, safety and calls to the Coast Guard if needed. Although channel 9 is the designated calling channel for recreational boaters and 16 is the designated channel for commercial vessels, common usage has made 16 the calling channel for all vessels. So, you may want to monitor 16 all the time. Do not remain on the calling channel to chat. After initial contact is made on the calling channel, you should switch to a working channel to converse.

The FCC promulgates rules regarding the use of marine radios. The FCC and the Coast Guard work closely together and have direction finding equipment to locate offenders. The misuse of channel 16 is a class D felony with a \$5,000 fine plus all costs incurred as a result of the misuse. You should guard your set against misuse as you are responsible for it.

Your VHF radio is a "line of sight" system and reaches only a little way beyond the horizon. Therefore, the height of your antenna is more important than the power of your set. A 25-watt VHF set will reach as many stations as it could with more power. A more powerful radio would only send its signals farther out into space. It is extremely important, however, that you have a good solid connection between your antenna and your transceiver. Some connections are soldered and some are pressure fitted. You should check periodically to make sure the connection is still solid if it is not soldered.

Continued on Page 5

WTF Continued

brother chagrin. In fact, the fish turned and moved the boat off it's original drifting course and when the fish was done with us it simple let go of Scott's Pinkie. We were very surprised to find that this beast of the sea was not even



hooked and it put up such a strong fight or tug of war. Since we did not see this fish we are left wondering to what it was. From the maul on the fish we believe it was not a cuda, a shark nor a Wahoo just hanging around because the teeth marks in the Pinking show it to be mauled instead of cut. It is kinda of amazing that this fish wanted to do this and fought my brother over this fish. All in all it was **ADIP**, Another Day in Paradise.

GTG, Good To Go,
Rob Darner



Chuck Darnar, Mike Watts and Bill Wilderotter with some nice Blackfin Tuna! They actually were out after Wahoo, but where else can you come back with some nice Blackfin tuna and say you had a poor day fishing!

Just don't tell anyone that we can catch these in the Atlantic, or SAMFC & Crabtree will try to close them down also!



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, or E-mail me your pictures at:
PH# 904-254-2791

beenw@bellsouth.net



VHF Radio Continued

In case of an emergency, if you have a new DSC capable radio, just press the red button on your radio to send out a distress signal. If you still have the old type radio, you should be prepared to send out a "Mayday" message without even thinking about it. The first few seconds of your message could provide the critical information that saves your life. A "Mayday" message contains Mayday 3 times, name of boat, latitude and longitude if known or location, nature of distress, number of persons on board and condition of any injured, seaworthiness of boat, description of boat and end with name of boat.

The following is a sample "Mayday" message: "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday. This is Fishtales. About 20 miles, 090, East of Mayport. Crew member symptoms of heart attack, need medivac helicopter. 3 POB (persons on board). Vessel 23 foot Proline cuddy cabin white outboard. This is Fishtales on channel 16". Listen for an answer. If no answer, make sure your set is on, is on high power, is on 16 and the squelch is not turned up high. After this check of equipment, and no answer, repeat your "Mayday" message.

If you do not receive an answer, continue to transmit in the blind since your set is both a transmitter and receiver and you may be transmitting ok but just not receiving. It happens on a routine basis where a vessel may transmit or receive, but not both. May you never have to send one of these messages and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fishtales

Associate Members of the Month

This month we have about 110 Sponsors of the month! To see them go to our web-site and click on the "We Love Our Sponsors" button at the bottom of the El Cheapo article on the Home page!

These wonderful businesses support our club and our fishing. Please be sure to support them. If you need some work done, check our sponsors list and call them first.

Just be sure to pull out your JOSFC membership card and let them know why you called them first. It also wouldn't hurt to see if they give a 10% or 15% member discount!

Remember to shop at our sponsors and support them as often as you can,

Instant Crew, Just Add Water

<u>Name</u>	-	<u>Phone</u>	-	<u>Availability</u>	-	<u>Can call the Night before.</u>
Pete St.Laurent	-	C = 220-9199		Most weekends		Up to 8:00 pm
Gene Fulgham	-	C = 641-9970		Any day		Up to 8:00 pm
Rodney Anderson	-	C = 318-4005		Any day		Up to 9:00 pm
Richard Fisher	-	H = 221-9629 Cell 738-1010		Nearly every day		Up to 8:00 PM the day before.
John Porcella	-	C = 610-3855		Nearly any day		Up to 10:00 PM
Joe Esparza	-	C = 536 - 4114		Any Day		Up to 10:00 pm
Phillip Ferdon	-	H = 879-0184 C = 887-6736		Fri. Sat.		Up to 9:00 pm
Rod Saffles	-	C = 993-6986		Any Day		Up to Midnight
Ron Hunter	-	C = 733-1197		From Noon Wednesday through Sunday		Up to 8:00 PM
Ronald Cowart	-	C = 879-4724		Weekends		Up to 9:00 PM
Greg Cole	-	C = 412 - 5722		Any Day		Up to 9:00 PM
Jason Jones	-	C = 945.6576		Weekends		Up to 9:00 PM



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
- Annual Associate Member\$100.00
(For Business Concerns)
- Paid Junior Member \$5.00
- Life Member Individual \$250.00
- Application Fee \$25.00
(Applicable to NEW Members or if renewing over 6 months late)
- Life Family Membership \$300.00

Total Remittance

Signature _____ Date _____

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 	2	3 Club Meeting The Annual Chili Cook-Off	4	5
6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Club Meeting Bag stuffing for EI Cheapo 6:00 PM	18	19 Club Fix-up and Clean-up day 
20	21	22	23	24	25 AM Set-Up for EI Cheapo PM Captains Meeting	26 EI CHEAPO Tournament
27 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!					28 29 30 31 February	

Coming Events:



Feb. 3rd - **ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF**.

Feb. 17 - Club meeting & Bag stuffing starting about 6:00 PM.

Feb. 19th - Club Clean-up day to spruce up the club house for the EI Cheapo.

Feb 25th - Set-up all day for the Captains Meeting and Tournament.

March 19th - The first of the club tournaments for COY, the River Tournament

Tournament Schedule for 2010

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate
		Saturday - Sunday
The River Fishing Tournament -	March	-----19-----20----
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	-----16/ 23-----
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 7/ 14-----
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	-----22/ 29
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	-----19 / 26
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- 2 / 16 -----
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	----- 7 / 14
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	-----20/ 27-----
The Bottom Tournament -	September	-----10/ ----- 11

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 • Coastal Angler Magazine • 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 • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Gene's Seafood • Great Atlantic Outfitters • Hardees • High Roller Fishing Team • Home - Zone Cleaning • International Ropes • Jacksonville Jaguars • Knot-2-Worry Fishing Team • Knight Electric • Mercury Outboards • Miami Dolphins • Mike's Taxidermy • Miss Candace Nicole Shrimp • Mayport Princess • Morningstar Marina at Mayport • Murphy Communications • Coastal Angler • 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 Dancer Charters • 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 • Hagerty Construction and Roofing • The Ice Man • The Outdoors Show • Vic2Fish & Adventures, Inc. • W.L.S. Contracting • Wild Adventures Theme Park • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • West Marine • Woody Wax • Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing •



It is PAST time to renew you membership !