



The Reel News

The Newsletter of the . . .



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 52 Issue 2

February 2012

It's



Here !!!

The 12th annual El Cheapo Sheephead Tournament and Fish Fry will be held on February 25th.



For those of you who have never fished this tournament before, welcome to "The World's Largest Sheephead Tournament" ! For those of you who have fished it before, welcome back! --- and I'm sure you'll find the 12th edition of this tournament the best one yet! This year our Grand Prize winner will receive an **18 Foot Center Console Carolina Skiff with a 75 Horse Mercury 4 stroke motor on a Magic Tilt Trailer. plus a Replica Taxidermy Mount of the winning fish! This is the 6th year that Mercury Marine has partnered with us and the 4th year for Carolina Skiff.**

A new sponsor has stepped up and taken over 2nd place. I'd like to welcome and thank First Coast Powersports for providing a brand new ATV for this year's Tournament.

With **MarineMax, Donovan Heat & Air, and Styles Smith Plumbing** rounding out the top 5 places, we've got a combined value of over \$30,000.00 for just the top of the payout! When you add the Junior Angler, Platinum, Gold, and Silver level sponsor's contributions along with all the bonus prizes we've got, you end up with over \$100,000.00 worth of prizes being given away! This event truly has become one of the best fishing tournaments in all of Florida.

PRESIDENTS CASTINGS

Capt. Danny Del Rio



Steve Grant gave a very informative and interesting seminar on trolling for Wahoo and other big game fish at our first meeting of 2012.

Everybody get ready for our biggest month starting off with our annual "Chili Cook Off" at our first meeting on February 2nd. So bring your favorite recipe for the challenge! Prizes will be awarded!!

Then everybody get ready for our most important events of the year!

Beginning with our club cleanup on February 11th (time to be announced at February 2nd meeting).

Annual bag / bucket stuffing for El Cheapo Captain's, will be on February 16th before the meeting starting at 5:30 pm. All volunteers please come! This is pizza night at the meeting!

February 24th is set up day for the El Cheapo. We need help to set up several tents. This starts early Friday morning and will continue all day.

February 25th is the El Cheapo Tournament day, and is now the largest Sheepshead Tournament in the world! Grand Prize is a 2012 Carolina Skiff JVX-18 Center Console with Mercury 75 HP 4 stroke valued at over \$20,000.

Everyone come and enjoy the day and let's make this the greatest tournament ever!

Tight Lines and Safe Boating!

Danny Del Rio

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!



Pete St. Laurent proves he can still catch some nice Grouper! Here is an 18 + pound Gag he caught while fishing with Brien Hackbart on the "Knot to Worry" near "MR" on New Years Eve!

I sure hope it taste as good as it looks!



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Rob's Fishing Lore

TRIP A OR TRIP B

Just sit right back and let enjoy this story and you may even find a 'pearl of wisdom' or a 'nugget of knowledge'. These maybe true accounts of what actually happened despite the author being a fisherman and as we know just how much fisherman really bend and stretch the truth.

Trip A

Have you ever found a fishing spot when just running? Well, in this case, while being out a nearby boat was throwing down. In the span of ten minutes, the anglers had pulled two from the water. The angler hooked one and the fought the fish to the boat. The rod bending action caused some paralleling to see if the hooked fish would escape or would the unknown angler capture his prize? It turned out that the fish lost its freedom. As fast as a blink, the angler had a second fish on and the results were the same. The angler acknowledged the loud message of congratulations with a wave of the fishing rod. Well, this seems like a good spot, one needs to make a mental note of this so we too can try our hand at catching instead of fishing.

The weather seemed iffy at best and for my father and me, we decided to chance it and launch the boat. The winds were coming from the NW with overcast skies would make for a chilly day of fishing. Lucky for us, the water temperature was still warm and the fish- hopefully were still chewing. From what was found a few short fishing days ago, the spot was not unknown to other fellow anglers for when we arrived there sat a boat in the magic spot. As if to tease us some more, the boat there was hooking up to a few fish. We watched and wondered just what should we do? We had a bait well full of sixty baits and we were intending to get rid of them at the end-of-a-point. The water

temperature was just right so the captain decided to look around to find any other structure that may hold the fish. The color monitor soon revealed what we were looking for and the boat was set with the hope of finding a few fish.

It took the fish nearly fifteen minutes to find our baits. It was one vicious strike after another and our baits began to disappear. The rod tip bent over and the drag started to cry. It was known as a drag pullin fish. What joy it was to have a fish of worth on the other end of the line pulling hard. It did not matter where our baits were in the water column, the fish were there. They were on top, in the middle and the biggest came from down deep. This fish took off on a long hard run before Dad could turn it around. For a second or two, the thought of chasing the fish down seemed appealing but we let the idea pass. The other boat that was on our spot to begin with could not believe our unbelievable luck. As we, whooped and hollered, they turned green with envy as any novice fisherman's first trip in a 4 to 6 foot sea bottom fishing with heavy chum. As the tide ebbed so did the strikes. Once the fishing action waned enough, we picked up to find another spot. Our journey took us several miles to the south where we did not find much. In fact, we did not even loose a bait. As the tide picked up velocity, we ran back to the beginning and ended up losing the remainder of our bait. The trip took about three and half hour and we did lose all sixty baits.

Trip B

Just like with the other adventure, the boat was launched and we cruised out to our spot. On this weekend, the weather was nearly perfect for the run. As we neared our destination, we watched the temperature rise and rise. The gauge read just a tad over 72 degrees and we had five to eight miles to go and we could not believe our good fortune. The previous fishing reports had the fish stacked up like cord wood. When we arrived, we had to find our place for our spot was once again busy with other boats getting the good word like what we did. As we put our baits out, the temperature gauge fell to a chilly 68 degrees. With the other boats there, we decided to give it go. We searched for our fish. And we searched for our fish. We searched some more! We listened to the



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

VHF RADIO

With the fishing activity slowing down this time of year, it is time to take a look at your radio and determine if it meets your current needs, or if you should consider replacing it with one of the newer DSC capable models.

It has been said that a man's best friend is his dog, and that may be true 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.

Earlier this year 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 repeatedly 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 since he did not have his radio on.

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 are purchasing a new radio, recommend you consider a DSC capable radio. 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.

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. Recommend, however, that you follow-up that with a voice call on channel 16. 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.

VHF Continued

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



Tom Meyer (He is the one on the Right) had a good day on the water with this little ole 67 Pound Wahoo.

Ok guys and gals, you now have your work cut out for you, that is going to be a hard fish to beat on the fishing boards! I bet it took some work to land that fish, at least Tom looks a little better off than that Wahoo does.

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

Also remember to pull out your JOSFC Membership card and ask if they give a club discount! They don't all do it, but it lets them know we are supporting them as a Club!

Continued from Page 1

While we continually thank our sponsors for that big number, the reality is that without the J.O.S.F.C. membership, NONE of this would be possible. It's truly a spectacle to behold watching all the volunteers come together to transform our clubhouse and grounds of the Mayport Boat Ramp into a First Class tournament facility. To have such a large event take place at a such small venue in such a short amount of time is testament to how dedicated and focused our members and volunteers are. I look forward to seeing all of you out there and making the 2012 El Cheapo the best one yet!

Towboat US Jacksonville.

Club Member Robert Vermillion is offering towing memberships to JOSFC Members for the cost of \$134.00 for unlimited towing. The regular price is \$149.00 a year.

For unlimited towing with *trailer coverage*, JOSFC members will pay \$148.00 regular price is \$163.00 a year. You must call Robert Vermillion @ 904-773-3714 or email him at vermillion@duvalglass.com to get this discount!

Red FLAG, Make Note!

If you catch a Red Snapper with a Tag in it's back, PLEASE, note the (1) Tag Number, (2) Date & time caught, (3) Location, (Numbers will not be released or published) (4) Pinched tail length, (5) Released or Kept. Optional info wanted, Type of bait used, Released condition, Vented or not or killed by a predator, and hook location, Lip / corner of mouth / gut / Gills. and was the hook removed. Then Call 1 - 800 - 367 - 4461 with that info. JOSFC encourages participation in this program!

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 or E-mail me your pictures at: beenw@bellsouth.net
PH# 904-254-2791



Instant Crew, Just Add Water

I am going to discontinue this section of the newsletter because we now have a better and more current way to find a crew or ride. Our own club member Tim Altman has created the web-site AVAILABLE ANGLER where you can go to find a ride or crew. Just go to:

<http://www.availableangler.com/>

Trip A or Trip B Concluded

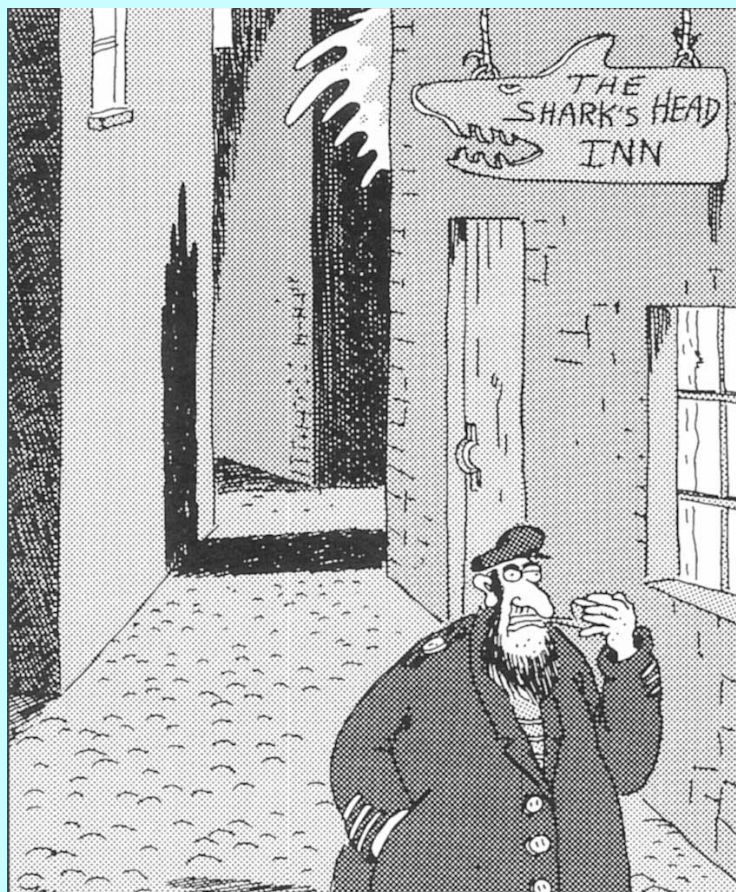
radio for important tips and everyone else listened to the radio for important tips as well. Soon it became apparent that everyone here was just here doing what everyone would normally expect one to do. Group think, it can be a disaster on most occasions. With over 60 minutes into fishing, we had not even lost one of our 48 baits. After a very fruitless hour, we decided to find that tiny splinter of warm water about 8 miles to the west of us. As we arrived, so did another boat. We took to the temperature break to see what we could find. The radio chatter picked up about 1:15 pm that day because whoever was in the warmer water got at least two strikes within a 15 minute period and then the bite was over. The most notable part of this trip was the center bait. After being in the water for hours upon hours, the routine boredom was shattered by a brief reel song and our bait flung skyward. With the sun hanging lower in the western sky, it was time to head home.

The Moral

For trip A, when we launched our boat, our destination was to the other side of the ICW to fish against the rocks around the bridge rocks. I guess we would have used a whole teaspoon of fuel to get from one side to the other. For trip B, we used nearly 70 gallons of gas. Trip A, we caught some many trout, drum, blue fish and croakers it was hard to keep track. Trip B, we had two hits all within 10 minutes of each other. Question, what trip would you rather be on?



At the very least you should
ALWAYS wear your Life
Jacket while Underway!



**THAT NIGHT CAPTAIN CHRIS
BARELY ESCAPED BEING MUGGED BY
A FOLLOWING SEA!**

This year it is easy to register for the EI Cheapo!

Tell all your friends that they can just go to www.jaxfish.com to register for the EI Cheapo!

Right there on the home page are 4 buttons for the EI Cheapo. The first is to an ON-Line registration with Pay Pal and you can also buy some 'T' shirts and hats there. The second button is to a printable registration form that you can fill out and mail in with your check. The third button is for the Junior Angler printable form. (Please fill out one for each Jr. Angler.) and the fourth button is for a .pdf of the actual EI Cheapo Brochure that we will be putting in all the shops!

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

Feb. 2nd - **ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF.**

Coming Events:

Feb. 11th - Club Clean-up day to spruce up the club house for the El Cheapo.

Feb. 16 - Club meeting & Bag stuffing starting about 6:00 PM.

Feb. 24th - Set-up all day for the Captains Meeting and Tournament

Feb. 25th - THE EL CHEAPO All Day!

March 6th - RFA meeting at Sneakers Sports Grill at 6:00 PM

March 10th - 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 | - | - | 10 - - - - - 17 - - Tom Cavin |
| The Non-Live Tournament - | | | April | - | - | 14/ 21 - - - - - Greg Wallace |
| The Unlimited Trolling Tournament - | | | May | - | - | 12/ 19 - - - - - Tom Meyer |
| The May Trolling Tournament - | | | May | - | - | 19/ 27 - - - - - AJ Proescher |
| The Junior Angler Tournament - | | | June | - | - | 17 / 24 - - - - - Jack Ogin |
| The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament - | | | July | - | - | 7 / 14 - - - - - Greg Wallace |
| The Powder Puff Tournament - | | | August | - | - | 12 / 19 - - - - - Tina Proescher |
| The Light Tackle Tournament - | | | August | - | - | 26/ September -1 - Tournament Director |
| The Bottom Tournament - | | | September | - | - | 8 - - - - - 9 - - AJ Proescher |

Associate Members

• *Academy Sports* • Advantage signs • *All Aluminum Concepts* • Amelia Island Bait & tackle • *Angie's Sub Shop* • Atlantic Coast Marine • *Atlantic Engraving & Graphics* • Available Angler • *Avid Angler* • B & M Bait & Tackle • *Beach Plaza Auto Care* • Best Western Mayport • *Boat U. S./Angler* • Boathouse Discount Marine • *Boattronics* • Bonefish Grill • *Bowen Upholstery* • Brown's Creek Fish Camp • *C & H Lures* • Capt. Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing • *Catchin' A Buzz Fishing* • Coastal Angler Magazine • *Common Ground Lawn & Landscaping* • Consignment Boat Sales • *Copperhead* • Dell Marine • *Custom Marine Components* • Dandee Foods • *DOA Lures* • Doherty Brothers Marine Construction • *Donovan Heating & Air* • First Coast Powersports • *Fish On* • Fish Carvings by Rick & Billy • *Fishing Connection* • Fishing Nosara.com • *Florida Sportsman Live* • Ft. George Island Marina • *Freedom Boat Club* • Gary Newman Insurance • *Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament* • Great Atlantic Outfitters • *Hardees* • Home - Zone Cleaning • *Hook The Future* • Hulihan Territory Irrigation Systems • *In River or Ocean* • International Ropes • *Island Electric of the first Coast* • JaxFlats Fishing Apparel • *Julington Creek Carpet Care* • Knight Electric • *Kona Skate Park* • Magic Tilt Trailers • *MarineMax* • Mayport Princess • *Mercury Outboards* • Mike's Taxidermy • *Morningstar Marinas at Mayport* • Murphy Communications • *Nosara Paradise rentals* • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Paradise Resort • Pepsi Bottling Co. • Pier 17 • Proctor Ace Hardware • Progressive Insurance • Pure Fishing • Rick's Bait & Tackle • River Marine • Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service • Safe Harbor Seafood • Salty Charters of Jacksonville • Seadance Charters • Sea Tow • Schaeffer Manufacturing Co. • Skate Station Funworks • SOC 7 Productions • Solomon's RV & Boat Storage • Southern Propane • St. Augustine Toyota • Still Just fishing Show • Strike Zone Fishing • Styles Smith Plumbing • Sumo Design Studio • Sun Deli • Tait's Bait & Charter • Taylor Concrete Services • T.B.S. Jigs & Charter • The Haggerty Company • The Ice Man • The Outdoors Show • The Spot Tournament • The Water's Edge • Towboat US of Jacksonville • Trout River Fish Co. • Vic2Fish • West Marine • Wild Adventures • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • Windsor Park Golf Club • WLS Contracting • Woody Wax • Zaxby's



Jacksonville Offshore Sports Fishing Club

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Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

PRSRT STANDARD
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Permit 3546
Jacksonville, FL

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