

The Newsletter of the . . .

# The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 53 Issue 2

February 2013

## It's



## Here !!!

The 13th annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament and Fish Fry will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.



For those of you who have never fished this tournament before, welcome to "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 13th 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 60 Horse Mercury 4 stroke motor on a Magic Tilt Trailer. plus a Replica Taxidermy Mount of the winning fish! This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year that Mercury Marine has partnered with us and the 5<sup>th</sup> year for Carolina Skiff.*

*A new sponsor has stepped up and taken over 2nd place. I'd like to welcome and thank Del Marine for providing a brand new Carolina Skiff J-1650 with a 30 HP Mercury 4 Stroke on a Mgc tilt Trailer for this year's Tournament.*

With *Atlantic Coast Marine, SweetWater Brewing and Donovan Heat* 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. Paul Gallup

Its That time again!! **The EL Cheapo!!!** This is the biggest event of the year for our club. Things are going along nicely with the sponsors and the volunteers as well as out tournament director, Frank Joura. This is my first year getting a good look at the behind the scenes as to what goes on with putting this thing together and all I can say is WOW!!!! Thank you Frank for all of your hard work and thank you for making this one of he best, most fun, best payout tournaments that I've ever seen. 1st place is an 18' Carolina Skiff with a 60 hp Mercury 4 stroke, 2nd is an 16' Carolina Skiff with a 30 hp Mercury 4 stroke, 3rd is a Gheenoo with a 9.9 4 stroke!!! Thank you Mercury, Carolina Skiff, Atlantic Coast Marine as well as all of our many many sponsors that make this

possible. Be sure to visit all of them if you can and be sure to thank them and if you can, do business with them. Be sure to watch your e-mails for upcoming work days for the tournament.

Last month, we had Capt. Vic Tison at the club with a special deal for JOSFC members. You can join the RFA for \$10. That is a huge savings to join the people that are fighting for YOUR fishing rights. The RFA is the ones who are responsible for us having the two weekends of open Red Snapper last year. I know it wasn't a whole lot of time, but its a start. I personally believe that the tide is turning on the closures and the people that are responsible for it. If you would like to join the RFA (and I strongly encourage that you do) please contact me @[pgallup@aol.com](mailto:pgallup@aol.com), 904-838-6579 or see me at the club house. I've got specially coded sign up sheets for the RFA.

This month also we have our annual Chili cook. Man, oh man, oh man, there's some good chili cooks in this club. So if you've got a secret family recipe that you think could be a winner, bring it on. I know I'll be bringing mine. If you've got a hot one, please be sure to label it "hot" so the judges can be ready for it and they don't have smoke coming out of there nose and ear holes.

Until next month, tight lines and following seas. And please join the RFA. They are fighting for US!



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EL CHEAPO 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 2013 El Cheapo the best one yet!

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

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!



WAHOO! A 77 pound Wahoo to be exact! Capt Leo Mims caught a fish of a life time in January on his boat "Lucky Dog", about 50 miles off St. Augustine. Lotta good eatin there!

**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!



How is this for the El Cheapo's 3rd place prize! A 15'4" Gheenoe with a 9.9 Hp 4 stroke motor on a Galvanized Trailer. This is presented by Atlantic Coast Marine!

**CAROLINA SKIFF**  
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE



First Place in the El Cheapo wins a Carolina Skiff JVX-18 Center Console with a 60 HP MERCURY 4 stroke, on a Magic Tilt Trailer.



Second place presented by Dell Marine, a Carolina Skiff J-1650 Tiller with a 30 HP Mercury 4 stroke on a Magic Tilt Trailer.



SweetWater Brewing has covered 4th Place with a stand up Paddle Board, Kayak, and soft side Cooler!



Donovan Heat & Air fills in 5th place with \$1,250.00 CASH! We will be paying down to 15th place, AND have a Club Members Only Tournament within a Tournament, \$20 to enter, see Greg Wallace





## Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram  
Safety Officer

### *VHF Radio*

Since the El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament is February 23<sup>rd</sup> and many Captains will be checking in and out on VHF radio, 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. The most important thing is, however, to make sure your current radio works when you need it to.

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, and called the Coast Guard, when the boater did not return as expected. 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.

There is an old cliché 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, 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.

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.

VHF Continued on Page 5

VHF Continued

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.

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

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

Barnacles

Club member Bob Houghton has some good information for us just in time for the El Cheapo.

Bob asked the FWC about barnacles and the practice of scraping them from the bridges, docks, and rocks. Here is their reply.

Bob: Barnacles are not specifically regulated by FWC, As a non regulated species, the default **recreational daily bag limit is 100 pounds per person.** This would apply if the barnacles were harvested for later use as chum. If they are simply scraped from a piling and allowed to sink (not harvested) the 100 pound limit would obviously not apply.

While FWC does not specifically regulate barnacles or the activity of scraping barnacles, it is possible that the owners of specific structures (ie. bridges, docks, etc.) do restrict the activity. It would be a good idea to check with the county or owners of specific structures to determine if there are any local regulations that may apply.



**Life Jackets, Yeah, I know you don't wear one most of the time, but maybe you should consider wearing one at least while the boat is underway!**

**Or you could tie an anchor to you to try to help keep you in the boat when it hits a wake, log or turtle you didn't see!**



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. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting or or E-mail me your pictures at: [beenw@bellsouth.net](mailto:beenw@bellsouth.net)  
PH# 904-254-2791



# SHEEPSHEAD

Order: Perciformes  
 Family: Sparidae  
 Genus: *Archosargus*  
 Species: *probatocephalus*

Although it reaches a maximum size of about 29.5 inches (76 cm) and 22 pounds (9.6 kg), adult sheepshead are most commonly about 1-8 pounds (.5-3.6 kg) and 14-18 inches (35 cm). Maximum known lifespan of the sheepshead is at least 20 years with maturity typically reached at 2 years of age.

This fish is highly valued for human consumption due to its fine white flesh and mild flavor. However, its heavy scales and strong fin spines make it difficult to clean and fillet. It is marketed fresh and frozen and may be prepared by frying, broiling, microwaving, and baking.

Primarily occurring inshore around rock pilings, jetties, mangrove roots, and piers as well as in tidal creeks, the euryhaline sheepshead prefers brackish waters. It seeks out warmer spots near spring outlets and river discharges and sometimes enters freshwater during the winter months. This fish moves to offshore areas in later winter and early spring for spawning, which sometimes occurs over artificial reefs and navigation markers.

Sheepshead average about three pounds but can get over ten, and are terrific fighters who like to run anglers' lines around the pilings where they are most often caught. Their bite is very hard to detect and they are a difficult fish to hook if you don't know what you are doing.

Sheepshead are tied to hard structure such as bridges, jetties, docks, and piers. They use their sharp teeth to scrap barnacles from this structure and gobble up and break the shells of barnacles, mussels, and crabs. They do not travel in schools but orientate themselves around a food source and become very territorial, often staying in an area until the food supply is used up.

Catching sheepshead is not easy. They are not often caught incidentally by bottom fishermen but are hooked and fought by local anglers in many states who target them. A strong rod and heavier than usual line, around 20 lb test, is recommended as when hooked

sheepshead quickly try to run the line around those pilings. It is important to put strong pressure on the fish to bring them away from the hang-ups.

Sheepshead are caught on unusual saltwater baits and rarely take usual ones such as cut shrimp, squid or cut fish. Instead they hit fiddler crabs, pieces of larger crabs such as cut blue crab, sand fleas (also called mole crabs) or even barnacles scrapped from a piling and held together by their own sticky mesh or rubber bands.

- Despite their brute strength Sheepshead have a bite that it is so soft it is often impossible to detect. ***The old saying among sheepshead fishermen is that you must set the hook just before a sheepshead bites!*** It's not that difficult, but almost. One trick is to watch the rod tip, which will have a slight dip from the weight of your sinker. When a sheepshead bite the dip will disappear as the tip rises. Even if you feel nothing, set the hook.

Sheepshead anglers don't stay in one place but move from piling to piling. Sometimes they can be seen in clear water rising up and slowly working on the barnacles and mussels of the pilings.

Sheepshead have protruding lips that give the fish its name. They also have a white body and big, black bold stripes. They are sometimes confused with black drum, another inshore structure fish that covers the same areas but is easier to catch.

Sheepshead are a hearty, tasty fish that yield delicious white meat fillets which fit into many seafood recipes. Sheepshead fillets are also very good simply breaded and fried.



This is your target for the month of February, the Sheepshead, 7 Striped Jetty Snapper, or as I like to call them . . . . DINNER!



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				<h1>February</h1>		
					1	2
3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7 Club Meeting The Great Annual Chili Cook-Off	8	9 Club Fix-up / clean up day starting about 8:00 AM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Club Meeting El Cheapo Captain's Bag Stuffing work party 5:00 PM pm	22 The EL CHEAPO Set-up -10:00 am 7:30 pm Captains	23 EL CHEAPO Tournament 
24	25	26	27	28		

- Coming Events:**
- Feb. 7th - **ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF.**
  - Feb. 11th - Club Clean-up day to spruce up the club house for the El Cheapo.
  - Feb. 21st - Club meeting & Bag stuffing starting about 5:00 PM.
  - Feb. 22nd - Set-up all day for the Captains Meeting and Tournament
  - Feb. 23rd - THE EL CHEAPO All Day!
  - March 9th - The River Tournament!

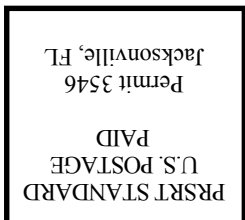


**Tournament Schedule for 2013**

Tournament	Month	Date / Alternate	Alternate
		Saturday	Sunday
The River Fishing Tournament -	March	9	17 - Jack Ogin
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	20	28 - Rob Cripe
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	4	12 -
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	18	26 -
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June		16 / 23 - Paul Gallup
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	June		30 - Dale Shelton
Kingfish Weather Date	July		6
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August		11 / 18 - Laura Ogin
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	24	Alan Shepard
Light Tackle Weather Date	September		1
The Bottom Tournament -	September	7	15 - Jack Ogin

# 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 • Boatronics • BOCA Bearings • Bonefish Grill • Bowen Upholstery • C & H Lures • Capt. Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing • Carolina Skiff • Catchin' A Buzz Fishing • Consignment Boat Sales • Copperhead Metal Arts • Coastal Angler Magazine • Custom Marine Components • DOA Lures • Dames Point Marina • Dandee Foods • Dell Marine • Doherty Brothers Marine Construction • Donovan Heating & Air • Fish Carvings by Rick & Billy • Fish Florida • Fish On • Fishing Connection • Fishing Nosara.com • Five Star Pizza • Florida Sportsman Live • Gary Newman Insurance • Great Atlantic Outfitters • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Hagerty Construction & Roofing • Hardees • Holzman's Keys cottages & Bayside • Hoo Rag • Hook The Future • Hope fishing Adventures • Hulihan Territory Irrigation Systems • In River or Ocean • International Ropes • Island Electric of the First Coast • Julington Creek Carpet Care • KC Crave • Knight Electric • Kona Skate Park • Magic Tilt Trailers • Mandarin Ale House • Mercury Outboards • Mike's Taxidermy • Mousa's Auto Interiors & More • Murphy Communications • Nosara Paradise Rentals • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Paradise Resort • Pepsi Bottling Co. • Proctor Ace Hardware • Progressive Insurance • Pure Fishing • Reel Fish Deals • Rick's Bait & Tackle • River Marine • Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service • Safe Harbor Seafood • Salt Life • Salty Charters of Jacksonville • Sea Angler Gear • Seadance Charters • Sea Tow • Singleton's Seafood Shack • Skate Station Funworks • SOC 7 Productions • Southern Propane • Still Just fishing Show • Strike Zone Fishing • Styles Smith Plumbing • Sumo Design Studio • Sun Deli • Sure Set Jigs • SweetWater Brewing • Taylor Concrete Services • T.B.S. Jigs & Charter • 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 • Woody Wax • Zaxby's*



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