



The Newsletter of the ...

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 46 Issue 3

March 2006

Presidents Castings



**President
Pete
St. Laurent**

Knowing that Bill, our newsletter editor is on the ball and the March newsletter will probably be out before the tournament happens. With that said, I would like to again thank Frank and all his crew for the exceptional job on making the 6th Annual El Cheepo Sheepshead Tournament the best one yet. I would like to congratulate all the winners of the tournament but I would also like to thank all who participated in and sponsored the tournament, without your support the J.O.S.F.C. would not be able to put on seminars, deploy the reef buoy's or fund all the events that we presented, for so many years. So once again THANK YOU ALL, and I look forward to seeing you all next year – though I am not sure how we can do it - For an even bigger and better 7th Annual El Cheepo in 2007.

March is the start of our tournament year. So all you would be Captain of the Years this is your call to arms. With the river Tournament on March 11th, so begins the race to see how will emerge as the 2006 COY. My dad will be coming down from the frozen north to fish the tournament, so be warned that the Bust-N-Reds will be a force to reckon with. I believe that Edwina will be the man/woman to beat this year. For someone that has fished a hard as he has, to come in 2nd for the last 4 years I believe this year he will be pulling all the stops to keep from coming in 2nd for a 5th straight year.

The Florida Sportsman Show is also in March and Aaron Webber is

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Is it going to be FISHABLE?



How do I find out what the ocean is going to be doing tomorrow, or this next weekend so I can plan where and what I will be fishing for?

Well here are the tools to do your own research and planning.

First and the easiest way, is to go to:

www.jaxfish.com

Greg Molloy our Web Master has put together a great links page of most of the best weather sites. Once at jaxfish.com, go to the "General Info" button and click on it, then click on the "Weather Links" button. Greg has set it up so each link will open in a new window so you never lose your place and it is easy to go from site to site.

Combine this information with Chris Rooney's "Fishing Report", and you will know what is biting and where to go, weather permitting.

Now for some additional sites and for those of you that want to build your own set of links that you use, here is a list of the best links I could find for us.

General starting place:

www.srh.noaa.gov/jax

www.intellicast.com

Radar:

www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/radar.shtml/...shtml

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Presidents Message Cont.

looking for volunteers to help him man the booth. This event is one way that we can promote the clubs message of safe boating, conservation and good citizenship on the water to the general public as well as an avenue to invite the public to become a part of one of the oldest and best family oriented clubs in Florida. So please help Aaron and I by being a good will ambassador of the club and welcoming and informing the public that there is a club in northeast Florida that is truly dedicated to the promotion of safety, camaraderie, and of course fishing.

I say we fish 5 days and work 2!
Pete St. Laurent
Bust-N-Reds



Fishing Reports & other Tall tales



Chris Rooney
Fishing
Committee
Chairman

March Madness

Beware of the Ides of March, if you're a fish that is!! The Tournament season has started, the El-Chepo 2006 will be written into the analogs of history, and the first of the club competitions for the Captains Race is the 11th. Eddie McGowan (alias Edwina) was the River Tournament winner last year with two sheepies and a black drum to narrowly beat Chuck Darner for the top honors. As we start the Season remember the changes to the rules, in order to be eligible for an "Angler of the Year" board win, (except the Junior Anglers boards) you must fish a minimum of 3 club tournaments.

The fishing will heat up this month, the start of the spring runs for a lot of the inshore fish with Sheepshead and Black Drum at the head of that list. The Jetty's will be busy and isn't that first moon phase to the full moon when the giant Black Drum are caught every year just off the mouth of Nassau Sound? I'm told just look for the flotilla anchored up as the sun goes down and that's where you're likely to find them.

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Flotsam & Jetsam



Rob Darner

INDOCTRINATION IN PROGRESS

Sweat was beading down my brow. The nats were out enforce. SPF 30 was being applied to prevent sunburn. It was 81 degrees outside and my son and I were dressed in long sleeves and long pants. I could not believe this was Saturday in January. I must say it has been a great warm weather month for fishing considering it is January. We were anchored up in the Mill Cove Channel in our attempt to catch a few trout. We were there at the end of the out going tide. Yes, there were a few small Sea Trout around and yes we did catch a few of them. We did not catch enough of them to keep Byron's attention. He often looked up at me and complained that his head was itchy.

Without a little wind to keep the nats away, a new location was in the cards. We ran over to the Dames Point Bridge to see if any Sheepshead were hanging around. With only one fish answering the dinner bell, a second move was coming up since the fishing action would not keep our attention fixed on this spot. Capt. Dave Sipler had recently stated to me that the winter fishing action was hot. He reminded me that all you need to do was find some type of structure and the fish would be there. Structure ugh? I have always thought the rocks by Ft. Caroline were inviting so I decided to stop there first before adventuring to the Queen's Harbor seawall.

The tide had just turned and now it started to ebb in. Having never fished here before, I wondered what might be hanging around. There was a nice ledge that came up from twenty to ten foot. A couple of rocks stuck out from the pile making it a nice ambush point for fish. The current was flowing at a gentle steady pace. Byron's rod was rigged for bottom fishing. Mine, on the other hand, was rigged for float fishing. On the first drift, I watched the float drift away from the boat about fifty feet or so before it disappeared underneath the water. On the second attempt, the float went down and the fish was hooked up. Soon a pound & half Yellow Mouth Trout came to the boat. Byron was a buzz with excitement. He wanted to pet the fish when it came in. Upon dehooking the fish, the fish was petted and released. Byron was focused on his rod as to telegraph that a fish was about to eat his bait. No sooner said then done, a fish hit. Byron got to his rod and started to fight. Needless to say, the fish came off. However, on my next five drifts, two more Yellow Mouths were caught. Byron did manage to fight and crank in some of these trout. The majority of the trout were of the same cookie cutter mold between one and two pounds. Needless to say, he was hooked! The trout were here and they were here in numbers. It seemed

Continued Page 3

Indoctrination Continued.

that nearly every drift resulted in a strike. Not all strikes resulted in a catch but we had a good catch to strike ratio.

Soon it became apparent, Byron was getting bored. There were too many fish to be caught. As my float drifted away from the boat, he would let me know he was done fishing. How could anyone be done fishing? Was I ruining him on fishing? Should we be doing some other father/ son activity? Would he turn out to be a mall rat? I shutter at that thought. He did not need to catch anymore! I guess he was testing me. All I had to do was to remind him that his rod had a fish on. Whether it did or didn't wasn't the point. He was back to the rod holder in a flash starting to fight the fish. Knowing that he was tricked a majority of the time; I turned over half of my hook ups to him so he could fight the fish. Every time a trout was boated, Byron came away with a most inquisitive grin. The grin glowed of a particular attitude that seemed to say guest what I have just done now. I stopped and wondered what was going on in his little brain. Every time Byron stated that he was bored and did not need to fish anymore, the more fish I turned over to him to catch. Hmmmmm? I wonder who had who by the end of the day. I only caught half of the fish I hooked and the other half went to him. Yet on the other hand, he caught all the fish hooked on his rod. Byron was as happy as he could be because he caught a whole mess of nice trout. Together, we used up nearly four-dozen shrimp during our half-day fishing adventure. As for Byron not wanting to catch any more fish, I guess he was playing me like we were playing the fish.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner
Indoctrination will continue!

March Madness Cont.

When we checked our logbook for last year it was a mixed month, highlighted by Jeff's 42# Grey Grouper, and a couple of great trolling days in the deep water. We had the trip of a lifetime for Jeff Rodda Last year on the 20th when after a whole bunch of gruttin and groanin he said in a very pleading voice "someone please get the Gaff" and that 42# Grey Grouper came over the side. The total that day was somewhere in the Neighborhood of 200#s in the box including a 40# Wahoo. We fished the due east bottom in 150 feet using nothing but dead sardines for the bottom fish. The Wahoo will be out in full force this month with 10 to 15 knockdowns the norm and four or five nice whoo's in the box not unheard of. This is just the start of the spring season here in N.E. Florida, so go drown some minnows or fiddlers the Fish are waiting for ya.

WWW.  .com

Weather Continued

Marine forecast:

www.srh.noaa.gov/data/JAX/CWFJAX

Wave forecast:

<http://surfinfo.surflin.com/html/fnmoc.html>

Jax Surf Cams:

<http://jaxsurfcam.com>

www.fluidgroove.net

Tides:

<http://cyberangler.com/weather/tides>

Sea Surface Temperatures:

www.sstcharts.com

Scroll down to North East Florida Coast, click on Java.

[http://marine.rutgers.deu/cool/sat_data/?](http://marine.rutgers.deu/cool/sat_data/?product=sst®ion=floridacoast¬humbs=0)

[product=sst®ion=floridacoast¬humbs=0](http://marine.rutgers.deu/cool/sat_data/?product=sst®ion=floridacoast¬humbs=0)

Sun & Moon phases:

http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.html

Weather Bouys:

St. Augustine, 40 NM off shore.

www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=%2041012

Gray's Reef, 40 NM off shore.

www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=%2041008

Cape Canaveral, 20 NM off shore.

www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=%2041009

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Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

After listening to Chuck Darner's story, at the last meeting about a boaters encounter with a large wave, I thought it appropriate to remind everyone of the ever present dangers when crossing a boats wake or a high wave. Always remember, the successful boating/fishing trip is the one that begins and ends safely.

When cruising the river, leaving and entering the jetties area, and even in the open ocean, you should be alert to protecting yourself, your crew and your boat from the potential dangers of large wakes or high waves.

Nationwide during the past year, a number of people lost their lives, and many were injured, some permanently, in encounters with boat wakes. For instance, in Florida a man was slammed against his center console and broke several ribs when he hit a large wake from another vessel.

Statistics show, however, that the most critical injuries such as fractured vertebrae and compression fractures, tend to occur when people are seated near the bow. Listed below are a few recommendations to protect yourself, your crew, and your boat from wake damage:

Make sure your passengers are seated aft or amidships and away from the bow.

Warn your passengers to sit down, if standing, when approaching another boats wake. In some cases, passengers were thrown out of the boat.

(Another reason to wear your PFD)

Don't wait until you are in the middle of a wake to slow your boat. Slow the boat before the wake arrives to lesson the impact.

Don't come to a complete stop. Maintain at least some headway into the wake to prevent the bow from being pushed to the side and the boat possibly being swamped.

Don't hit wakes or large waves head on. Try to cross the wake/wave at a slight angle. This will allow your boat to grip the wake/wave longer and prevent the bow from being thrown high into the air.

When overtaking another boat, cross it's wake quickly rather than riding the waves. Keep both hands firmly on the wheel and stay well away from the overtaken boat's stern.

Avoid taking a steep wake on the beam which could swamp a small boat. It is better to turn back into a wake briefly and then come back on course.

Never, never, overload a boat. Overloading a boat is foolhardy, even in calm waters. A 29 year old man drowned in the Chesapeake Bay last year when his 17 foot boat with 8 people on board was swamped by a passing boat.

Always try to anchor away from busy channels. And, never, never anchor your vessel by the stern. Many boats are swamped each year by this one mistake.

Follow these common sense rules to protect yourself, your crew and your boat. May you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

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Hospitality Director

Frank Grassi



Helpful Hints & Tips

Thaw fish and shellfish in milk. The milk draws out the frozen taste and provides a fresh caught flavor.

Try soaking fish in 1 cup vinegar / 3 cups water for 15 minutes before cooking for a sweet tender taste.

Microwave limes for 40 seconds before squeezing, you'll get twice the amount of juice.

Add 1 tablespoon of vinegar to the fat in which you are going to deep fry. It will keep the food from absorbing too much fat and eliminate the greasy taste.

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Workman's KWIK FIX Plumbing is our 2nd Place prize sponsor for the EL Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament! \$1,000.00 cash for the second largest fish!

I am sure that you have all shopped at the Strike Zone, well this is another Workman family business, and is run with the same efficient, honest, high quality work that you would expect from them.

We all live and work around Jacksonville, and when you need some plumbing done, instead of calling any old plumber, support the people that support your favorite pastime FISHING!!!

When you need plumbing done right, and quickly call:

KWIK FIX at 904-398-4118

Hints & Tips Cont.

Clams and oysters will be simple to open if washed with cold water, then placed in a plastic bag and put in the freezer for an hour.

To get rid of the "canned taste" in canned shrimp; soak them in a little sherry and 2 tablespoons of vinegar for about 15 minutes.

For non-smoke broiling, add a cup of water to the bottom portion of the broiling pan before putting in the oven. The water absorbs the smoke and grease.



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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!!!

A subtle reminder, our By Laws mandate that; If you do not renew by January 1. You lose all club rights and privileges until you renew. If membership has lapsed for 6 months or more the **Application Fee** is applicable.

Here it is, Cut out this page, fill it out completely (Please include your full 9 digit Zip code) and then write your Check and drop them in an envelope and mail them to:

Jacksonville Offshore Sports Fishing Club
PO Box 331185
Atlantic Beach, Fl 32233



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>
		March		1	2 Club Meeting	3
4	5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Club Meeting	17
18 The River Fishing Tournament	19 Florida Sportsman Show	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Coming Events:

The first club tournament of the year “The River Fishing Tournament“ - March 11, 2006
 The Florida Sportsman Show - March 18th & 19th
 The Blitz Bottom Tournament at Mayport - April 15th
 The Times Union Spot Tournament - April 22nd
 The Greater Jacksonville - Bellsouth Kingfish Tournament is - July 17 - 23

Tournament Schedule for 2006

Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date	-	Rain Date
The River Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	March 11 th	-	March 12 th
Non-Live Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	April 1 st	-	April 8 th
May Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 6 th	-	May 13 th
Unlimited Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 27 th	-	June 3 rd
Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	June 17 th	-	June 18 th
Kingfish Tune-up Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	July 8 th	-	July 9 th or July 15 th
Powder Puff Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 12 th	-	August 19 th
Light Tackle Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 26 th	-	September 2 nd
The Bottom Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	September 9 th	-	September 16 th

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- The Billfish Foundation • Anthony & Sandra Spa • The Floridian Sports Club • Thrifty Outdoors •
- Adventure Landing • Adventure Parks Group – Wild Adventures • Avid Angler • Baitmasters of South Florida
- West Marine • Boathouse Discount Marine • Cabelas • Team Fish Industries of America •
- Cannon's Bait & Tackle Shop • SSI Custom Plastics • Carey Chen Art • St. Johns Seafood •
- Custom Marine Components • Sea Tow Jacksonville • G&W Marine • Roffers Ocean Forecasting Service •
- Kershaw Knives • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp. •
- Ocean Get Away - Alan Stamm • Maxima America • Guy Harvey Publishing •
- Innovative Textiles – Power Pro • International Crew • Mann's Bait Company • Jacksonville Scuba Center •
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