



The Newsletter of the . . .

# The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 47 Issue 3

March 2007



## The EL CHEAPO Sheepshead Tournament! What a tremendous event!!!

A record 291 boats participated Saturday in the Largest Sheepshead Tournament in the World; the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club's 7TH Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament!!

65 sponsors contributing prizes, raffles, and support, along with more than 70 volunteers of the JOSFC hosted a terrific tournament under nearly perfect weather conditions.

As tournament director for the 5th year in a row, I consider it a privilege to be associated with such an outstanding group of club members, and I would like to commend all the volunteers who put the hours in to make it happen.

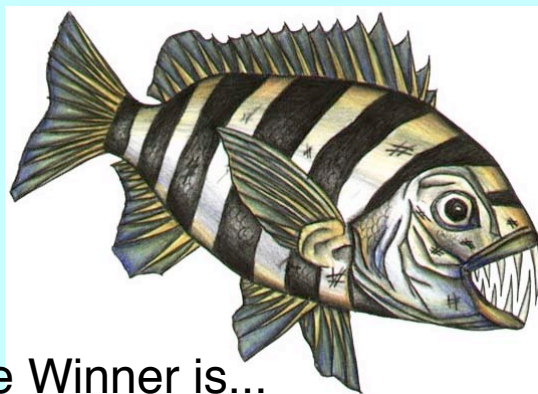
I would also like once again to thank all of our sponsors, especially the 2007 Presenting Sponsors.

Congratulations to all of our winners; it was great to see such an impressive weigh-in.

Hope to see you all again next year.

Frank Joura

2007 El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament Director.



The Winner is...



1 st Place winner of the 2007 EL CHEAPO Sheepshead Tournament, Tim Price and crew.

Tim won this nice 16 foot Lowe Johnboat with a 25 Hp Merc. 4 stroke on a new all aluminum Loadmaster Trailer. He also won the Tournament within a Tournament and won \$2020.00 cash! The JOSFC also by way of thanking everyone for the great turnout added a crisp \$100.00 bill to his winnings. The JOSFC also added a \$100.00 to each of the other 9 winning places!

See page 2 for the list of winners!!!

# Presidents Castings



**Club President  
Eddie McGowan  
Bite This**

WOW WHAT A TOURNAMENT!

First and foremost I want to thank all of you that

volunteered your time and efforts to help make "The Largest Sheepshead Tournament in The World" happen! It was absolutely outstanding. This is our club's largest fund raiser of the year, and without your help and the great sponsors that gave so graciously, it would not have happened.

The tournament sponsors are FANTASTIC and have helped us tremendously - THANKS GUY'S!!!

When you club members need something, remember the people that helped us, and return the

Continued on page 6

EL CHEAPO from Page 1

Congrats to all the winners and THANK YOU for making this such a great event. Photos and complete standings to follow on <http://www.jaxfish.com>

Frank Joura

El Cheapo Sheepshead Tnmt. Dirrector

1. Price, Tim - 11.9 Lb. Fish - Boat Motor & Trailer Package from Kwik-Fix Plumbing, Taxidemy Mount from Strike Zone, PLUS 2,020.00, PLUS \$100.00

2. Beasley, Chris - 11.7 Lb. Fish - 2 Kingfish Kayaks from Crescent Mtg., PLUS \$1,212.00, PLUS 100.00

3. Robey, Alton - 10.9 Lb. Fish - \$750.00 PLUS, \$808.00 PLUS \$100.00

4. Bright, Kevin - 9.9 Lb. Fish - Custom Fish Cleaning Station, from Gear 4 Fishermen PLUS \$100.00

5. Wheeler, Douglas - 9.0 Lb. Fish - \$500.00 from Donovan Heating & Air PLUS \$100.00

6. Finch, Larry - 9.0 \$400.00 Lb. Fish - from Land Roofing, PLUS \$100.00

7. Patterson, Tyler - 8.8 Lb. Fish - \$350.00 from Solomons Boat & RV Storage, PLUS \$100.00

8. Hayes, David - 8.7 Lb. Fish - \$250.00 from Production Dryall, PLUS \$100.00

9. Blong, Bryan - 8.7 Lb. Fish - \$150.00 from Families of the J.O.S.F.C., PLUS \$100.00

10. Daley, Brook - 8.6 Lb. Fish - \$100.00 from High Roller Fishing Team, PLUS \$100.00

Lee, Chuck - 1.4 Lb. Fish - \$50.00 Smallest Fish

Stewart, John - 5.3 Lb. Fish - \$250.00 Top Placing Kayak

Charlton, Donald - 5.8 Lb. Fish - \$100.00 Mystery Weight Winner

Davis, Matt - 4.9 Lb. Fish - \$100.00 Mystery Weight Winner

Wilsie, Mark - 4.8 Lb. Fish - \$100.00 Mystery Weight Winner

## CLUB FINAL STANDINGS

1	McGowan, Eddie	8.1 Lb. Sheepshead
2	Cook Don,	7.5 Lb. Sheepshead
3	Baines, Wally	5.6 Lb. Sheepshead
4	Shaw, Steve,	4.2 Lb. Sheepshead
5	Hickmon, Chuck	4.2 Lb. Sheepshead
6	Rooney, Chris	4.1 Lb. Sheepshead
7	Murphy, Mike	3.5 Lb. Sheepshead
8	Darner, Chuck	2.8 Lb. Sheepshead
9	Trahan, Kevin	2.7 Lb. Sheepshead
10	Dedols, Robert	1.7 Lb. Sheepshead



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Layout & Design ..... Bill Breen

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## Rob's Fishing Lore

**Rob Darner**

### Coverage S

It was lunch time while we anchored out on the outside of the North jetties. I tossed my fiddler crab up near the rocks and then placed the rod in the rod holder in the stern of the *Let's Go*. Peanut butter & jelly on wheat was the lunch menu for me. A tasty red & white beverage (coke) was my drink of choice. After the third mouthful, the line to my rod started to move. Having little success with the sheepshead previous to lunch maybe one would pick the crab just laying there on the bottom. Sure enough, the line started out against the current. I placed my sandwich down and reached for the rod. The line came tight as I wound the reel slowly. The hook drove itself slowly into the fish's mouth and then in John Madden's immortal words "Wham" the fish took off. The fish tried to bury itself in the rocks. I fingered the spool adding pressure to the line forcing the fish away from the Giant rocks. Next, the fish ran down the rocks toward the beach. It ran for a while taking nearly half the spool. The small light spinning tackle was getting a real work out with this fish. Since, we were pre-fishing for sheepshead in front the El Cheapo tournament, was a large sheepshead in the cards? Naaa. After the first long run down the rocks, the feel at the other end said redfish. The battle was good. The fish would slowly relent and come back toward the transom; however, it would not show itself. The fish would see the boat and take off again. It made about four strong runs and then headed toward the bow to wrap itself around the anchor line. With some maneuvering and control tactics the fish was turned and came back to the stern. Soon the fish showed itself and yes it was a redfish. Matter-of-fact, it was a 34 inch redfish to be exact. What a fish! What a fight, could anything get any better than this?

Certainly, the sheepshead fishing did not. Well, we pulled the hook and motored to three other spots before throwing in the towel. The mighty *Let's Go* took off toward home. The motor tact up and everything seemed right. We were just past the navy fuel dock when the once reliable engine gave us cause for concern. The engine shut down and then off. No alarms, no nothing and this caused us to scratch our heads as to what could be the cause. However, in the back of our minds, the unstated personal diagnosis was not good. After an engine check and a brief cool down, the engine started up and it ran up. Then, it came crashing down near the pilot docks. The Mayport boat ramp was just around the corner when the engine made a weird noise and seized. Yes seized. We were going no place except where the tide would bring us so toss out the hook and wait.

Since so few people were out we could not raise anyone on the radio for tow. When we got home, the engine was looked over. After pulling the spark plugs on the port side of the engine, we discovered that the number five piston melted to the cylinder. A quick debate occurred between me and my lovely and talented wife. She won the debate and she called BoatUS to file a claim. Filing a claim, she reasoned would not guarantee payment but it would initiate an investigation that would determine the cause of loss. From here, it was standard operating procedure. We just followed the advice from the adjuster and thus the boat, motor and trailer were taken to a marine repair shop for some tear down to identify the cause of loss. A marine surveyor came out to inspect and verify the damage. He also identified the cause of the failure.

Did you know each insurance policy has several coverages and sections which compromise the policy? Well, one such coverage that is not widely stated in your policy is Coverage S. What is Coverage S? Have you guessed? The 'S' stands for stupid. Yes, Coverage S is for the stupid things we do that are sudden and or accidental. Routine maintained to my outboard is common. I change spark plugs, lower unit oil and for some of the older engines cylonoids. During one such routine maintained check over, I cracked a plastic fitting to an oil hose while changing out some zip ties on the engine's reserve oil tank and its hoses. This crack leaked just enough to thin out the oil to number 5 cylinder causing it to fail/ melt the piston during high speeds. Since I was the cause and the investigation determined it to be accidental, Coverage S applied. My ego kinda was getting in the way when I heard my wife tell more than a few friends what Coverage S stood for and we would see if the policy would cover our damages. I did not want to admit that I was dumb enough to do this. Why couldn't it be something else? It was also reasoned that if we did not attempt to pursue this claim we could leave money on the table. How stupid would that be? I guess I am stuck in a catch 22 situations, stupid for causing this or stupid for not pursuing a claim.

In this case, I just remember the joy of the fight and of a good release. I keep telling myself that the redfish was worth it. It was 34 inches long or \$212 per inch totaling \$7200.00. Just remember what a boat is defined as: a hole in the water in which we throw money into. Also, B.O.A.T stands for "Break Out Another Thousand" or in our case several thousand. We are very appreciative to BoatUS for all that I have put them through. The adjusters were great and the process went smoothly. Image that!

Best Wishes for Fishing,  
Rob Darner





## Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram  
Safety Officer**

### Wear your Personal Flotation Device

As the Club membership knows, I always stress the fact that the successful fishing/boating trip is one that begins and ends safely. One way to ensure a safe outing on the water is to wear your life jacket (PFD). Although not required by law, except for children 13 years of age and younger, boaters should wear a PFD when the boat is underway. Historical data shows that many excellent swimmers have drowned when thrown from a moving boat without a PFD on.

As a practical matter, I know that many of you will not wear your PFD. If the PFD is not worn, however, it should be at least readily accessible and available for immediate donning in an emergency such as vessel sinking, fire, etc. One place it would be readily available is draped over the seat back. Please keep in mind that a PFD will be of no help to you if you are thrown from the boat without the PFD on. A PFD 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 PFD in addition to wearable ones for each person on board the vessel. The throwable PFD 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 PFD for each person on board. Any boat 16 feet or over, except canoes and kayaks, must also carry one type 4 (throwable) PFD.

Most recreational boaters elect to carry the type 3 PFD which is designed to keep the wearer vertical in the water and where quick rescue is probable,

The type 2 PFD, 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 PFD 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 PFD, or flotation suit, provides not only flotation, but also protection from hypothermia and is intended for special; use activities. No matter what type of PFD you carry on your vessel, it will only work when worn.

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

Top Ingram  
Fish Tales



Above we have Brian Darner with his 14 Pound Bonita, and Below we have Rob Darner helped by Brian Darner with his big Wahoo!

That is what fishing is all about! Way to go!!!



## Fishing Reports & Other tall Tales



**Jeff Rodda**  
**Fishing Committee**

Want to set a club record? March is your chance if the weather cooperates. If you can get out to the ledge before the full moon you have a great chance of catching a big grouper. These fish should be in about 140' all the way out to the ledge. After the full moon they will start to move to deeper water. Randy McLendon caught his record in May, but over the last few years I have read several reports of big fish being caught this time of the year. Ask Rusty or James at B&M about it if you have time. Speaking of the ledge, Wahoo should still be here in good number and the bottom fishing at the ledge should be outstanding. In the Elton bottom Kingfish, Wahoo and bottom fishing should all be good. In the party grounds, a great place to fish is the culverts at Harms Ledge Ioran: 45097.6 61809.9, GPS 30 24.650 / 80 54.604. Red Snapper and big beeliners should greet you. Look around because there are other spots near this one. The rest of the party grounds should still be holding Sea Bass as well as kings once the water temperature rises. Live bait has already started to move into the area and will bring the other fish with it.

Inshore the big drum should definitely be here. Sheepshead should still be good but will taper off as the month passes. Look for Redfish in the creeks and Intercoastal waterway. The spring flounder run should start even though it seems as if they never left. You can keep trout again and they will be in the deeper water and at the white shell rocks. In the surf the big whiting should still be here. As I write this (15 FEB) Pompano are beginning to be caught around Sebastian. March may be a bit early but, later in the month look for the numbers to start to increase. As always, good luck and have fun fishing.



## Ships Galley.....

**Sidney Duncan**  
**Hospitality Director**

Sidney said that for the March 15th meeting he will be out of town, so he thinks that we will be having Hamburgers and Hotdogs for dinner unless someone steps up to do a fish fry or something else. Anyone?

## Associate Member of the Month

**Sea Tow of Jacksonville**  
**P.O. Box 331606**  
**Atlantic Beach, FL 32233**  
**904-220-7500**

Sea Tow has been a generous supporter of the JOSFC for years.

What can I say, this is a no brainer. If you own a boat, you need Sea Tow. There is NOTHING that you can buy for your boat that is a better buy than a Sea Tow membership at \$149.00 per YEAR! If you break down at the jetties, and don't have Sea Tow, it will cost more than that to get towed to the ramp! These great guys will come way offshore, even in bad weather, to tow you in, or bring you gas or oil! Every member of the boating community should have SEA TOW!

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



## Loud Hailings

**Newsletter Editor**  
**Bill Breen**

Leigh Davis, our Program Director, says that if you have a suggestion for a guest speaker or know anyone he can trick into giving a talk at the club, be sure to give him their name so he can contact them. Lets help Leigh out!

I really like to feature PICTURES of club members with some good catches. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting (I will return it to you) or Phone, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at: PH# 904-254-2791 Fax#904-213-9786 [breenw@bellsouth.net](mailto:breenw@bellsouth.net) Don't forget to include your name spelled correctly and the fish weight.

Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News just send or give it to me at any time.



## Instant Crew, Just Add Water

<u>Name</u>	-	<u>Phone</u>	-	<u>Availability</u>	-	<u>Can call the Night before.</u>
Pete St.Laurent	-	220-9199	-	Most weekends	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Gene Fulgham	-	641-9970	-	Any day	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Dale Karg	-	451-2251	-	Most weekends	-	Up to 10:00 pm
George Pieper	-	246-7522	-	Most Days	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Sara Meier	-	H= 786-5608 C= 812-322-1519	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 10:00 pm

### Using barnacles for chum for sheepshead

Submitted by Bob Houghton

Thank you for your inquiry to the Division of Marine Fisheries Management. As long as you are not harvesting a species of marine invertebrate that is prohibited for the use of chum or bait, you may scrape structures for this purpose.

For example, you may not scrape hard or stony corals from a structure for any purpose, but you may harvest and transport barnacles on your vessel for the use of chum.

The barnacle is not currently a species that is regulated recreationally within Florida's salt waters, although they are commonly found. For species that are unregulated, or that do not have an established bag limit, more than 100 pounds or 2 fish per person per day (whichever is greater), is considered commercial quantities and will require a saltwater products license.

The regulation is species/weight specific for 100 pounds or 2 fish per person per day (whichever is greater). This would mean that if you are harvesting a fish that is generally small, for example bay anchovies, then you would be restricted to 100 pounds because that would be greater than 2 fish. However, if you are harvesting a fish that is generally very large, for example the ocean sunfish - in which 1 fish may weigh well over 100 pounds, you would be restricted to 2 fish because that is a greater amount of fish than 100 pounds. Generally, the "100 pounds" is used much more because within Florida's state waters an unregulated fish that large that is caught with the intent to be kept is unusual.

I hope that this information assists with your inquiry. Please feel free to contact us should you have any further questions.

Presidents Message Continued from Page 2

favor by using their services or buying from them or simply passing along what great people they are and recommend them to others. I have been told that most all of the sponsors have already committed to help out again next year. Some have told me that they want to upgrade their sponsorship to even bigger and better prizes! Can you believe that!?

I am already excited about next year's EL CHEAPO!

Alright people - we have our own club tournaments beginning March 10th. The River Tournament is the kick off to a FUN year.

Please read the rules to all of the tournaments and abide by them. No-one wants to protest a fellow club member or especially D.Q. them. Win the Tournament fairly, you will sleep better!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the "Florida Sportsman Show", March 24th and March 25th, and of course upgrading my tackle stock and supplies. Right!

Have Fun, Be Safe, and Catch lots of Fish!

Eddie

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">March</div>				1 Club Meeting	2	3
				4	5 Board Meeting	6
11	12	13	14	15 Club Meeting	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 The Florida Sportsman Show
25 The Florida Sportsman Show!	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Coming Events:** *Please note.... The March issue was late because I chose to hold it for the results of the EL CHEAPO. This will be done each year so that we won't have to wait until April for the results.*  
 Thanks ..... Editor - Bill Breen

- March 8, 2007 - Wrap-up meeting for the EL CHEAPO or.... How do we improve on perfection?
- March 10, 2007 - The River Fishing Tournament
- March 24, 25th 2007 - The Florida Sportsman Show
- April 14, 2007 - The Times Union Spot Tournament

Tournament Schedule for 2007

Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date	-	Rain Date
The River Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	March 10 th	-	March 11 th
Non-Live Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	April 7 st	-	April 8 th
May Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 5 th	-	May 6 th
Unlimited Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 19 th	-	May 20 th
Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	June 16 th	-	June 17 th
Kingfish Tune-up Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	July 14 th	-	July 15 th
Powder Puff Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 4 th	-	August 5 th
Light Tackle Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 18 th	-	August 19 th
The Bottom Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	September 8 th	-	September 9 th

## Associate Members

• *ACM Electronics* • *Advance Marine* • *Adventure Landing* • *Wild Adventures* • *American Transmission* • *Anthony & Sandra Spa* • *Arlington Bait & tackle* • *Avid Angler* • *B & M Bait & Tackle* • *Baitmasters of South Florida* • *Boaters World* • *Boathouse Discount Marine* • *Bryan McGowan Charters* • *Ballyhood Top Gun Trolling Lures* • *C & H Lures* • *Cabelas* • *Cannon's Bait & Tackle* • *Carey Chen Art* • *Consignment Boat Sales* • *Custom Marine Components* • *D & S Fishing Specialities* • *D.J. Connection* • *Deonas Boatworks* • *Dexter Russell Cutlery* • *Dockside Inn* • *Donovan Heating & Air* • *Florida Sportsman* • *Gary Newman Insurance* • *G & W Marine* • *Gear 4 Fishermen* • *Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament* • *Guy Harvey Publishing* • *Hubbard's Marina* • *Hydro-Shield* • *Power-Pro* • *International Crew* • *Jacksonville Marina* • *Jacksonville Scuba Center* • *Kershaw Knives* • *Knight Electric* • *La Mee Florist* • *Land Roofing* • *Lindgren-Pitman, Inc.* • *Loadmaster Trailers* • *Mercury Outboards* • *Mac's Prop Savers* • *MacMedia Graphics* • *Mann's Bait Company* • *Maxima America* • *Mike's Taxidermy* • *Ocean Get Away* • *Ocean Waves Sunglasses* • *Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp.* • *Penn Tackle Mfg.* • *Production Drywall* • *Pier 17* • *Rick's Bait & tackle* • *River Marine* • *Roffers Ocean Forecasting Service* • *Salty Styles* • *Sea Tow* • *Sea Dance Charters* • *Jacksonville* • *Seafood Galore* • *Captain Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing* • *Solomon's RV & Boat storage* • *Southern Propane* • *Speedy MacTwist* • *SSI Custom Plastics* • *St. John's Seafood & Steaks* • *Strike Zone Fishing* • *Surefire LLC* • *Team Fish Industries of America* • *The Billfish Foundation* • *The Florida Sportsman Club* • *Thrifty Outdoors* • *West Marine* • *Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing* • *Woody Wax* •



### **Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club**

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