



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 49 Issue 3

March 2008



El Cheapo wrap-up Another extremely successful Tournament and event for the JOSFC!

OUTSTANDING !!!

What another amazing tournament. With a record 305 boats participating in the "Largest Sheepshead Tournament in the World", the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club put together an incredible effort and presented a 1st class event: The 8TH Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament.

Congratulations to all of our winners; it was great to see such an impressive weigh-in. This year we unveiled a Junior Angler Division which attracted 64 anglers under the age of 16. Smiles abounded as the kids weighed their catch! I'm tremendously proud of the kids who represent the future of our sport.

Although the weather was questionable in the pre-dawn hours, the skies cleared, the fish cooperated, and the JOSFC hosted a terrific tournament and fish fry under nearly perfect weather conditions.

As tournament director for the 6th year in a row, I consider it a privilege to be associated with such an outstanding organization, the JOSFC. I would like to commend all the volunteers who tirelessly put the hours in to make the event possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of our sponsors, especially the 2008 Presenting Sponsors.

Thanks to all the participants and spectators. Hope to see you all again next year.

Frank Joura
2008 El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament Director.



Loud Hailings Newsletter Editor Bill Breen

We have had several request for a club roster. However we have a few members that are concerned with privacy issues, so.....

If you want your Name, Address, and Phone number listed in a club roster, fill out the below form and get it to me - fax - 904-213-9786, E-mail - breenw@bellsouth.net or snail mail Bill Breen 684 Tropical Parkway, Orange Park, FL 32073 or at the club meetings.

Name : _____

Address : _____

City, Zip : _____

Phones : H - _____

C - _____

E-mail _____



El Cheapo Revisited

Here is an E-mail from a soon to be new member. It makes all the work to put it on worth every second!

Hi my name is Scott Meyer and I would like to take this time to thank your club for making an amazing day that my sons will remember for the rest of their lives! We entered not knowing anything about fishing for sheepshead , but the club members we meet at the captains meeting were helpful to my sons with tips and stories.

We launch our 1969 Cobia at 7 am in the rain. Every minute was filled with the anticipation of the Big One. By 10 o'clock or so the day was beautiful and with 3 fish in the boat all those tip the boys were given were paying off. At 2 o'clock we headed for the dock both boys had their catch. We now had the challenge of getting to the



Fishing Reports & Other Tall Tales
John Moscarillo
Fishing Committee Director

March, in like a lion, out like a lamb, or so they say. This year the first weekend in March looks very lamb like. I hope the lion stays home. The year in fishing has been anything but normal. The Wahoo are still up in the Carolinas, but hopefully will begin to run South. Meanwhile the ledge is providing Blackfin Tuna, a few smaller Dolphin, and the occasional 'hoo. The bottom out that way should continue to yield good catches of Grouper, Snapper, and Amberjack.

Closer in legal Snapper should continue to show up and the Sea Bass will still be there. The Eastern end of the party grounds should be the best areas.

Inshore Trout are legal again and the big Drum should be here. Catching a 40 to 60 pound fish is always fun, but releasing a fish that will not be eaten is best. If the Sheepshead bite is going to really fire up, this should be the month for it.

Fishing Reports Cont.

Whiting are in the surf, and pompano may begin to appear later this month. Flounder should also begin their spring run.

Cath 'em up
 John

Scott Meyer from page 1



scale before 4. We made it with a few minutes to spare. The boys weigh in their junior angler catch and placed 8th and 10th. I was the proudest dad. And thankful that God let me be here for this day because last Nov. I had a heart attack at 43 years old. Again thanks to all the members who help make this club great. The boys picture is the first picture on the third page of weigh in. Also is the juniors pictures going to be in your news letter? If so when I would like to get two copies for the boys to put in their scrap book. Again thank you for a great day of quality time with good people, and God Bless

Scott



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Paul Taylor weighed in a 10.7 Pound Sheepshead to win this 16' Lowe Jon Boat, 25 Hp 4-Stroke Mercury Motor & Loadmaster Trailer for First Place in the 2008 El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament!



Pete St Laurent teaching Captain Trina how to clean a Sheepshead.



This picture should have been on the front page of the Times Union Newspaper!



2008 JUNIOR ANGLER RESULTS

- 1 Samual Manking 7.4
- 2 Logan Finch 5.6
- 3 Michael Murhee 5.4
- 4 Hunter Mullen 5.0
- 5 Dustin Leitch 4.0
- 6 A.J. Proescher 3.6
- 7 Josh Mitchell 3.5
- 8 Brandon Meyer 2.1
- 9 Caleb Carroll 1.9
- 10 Zachary Meyer 1.6

2008 El Cheapo FINAL 15 STANDINGS

- 1 Paul Traylor 10.7
- 2 Alton Robey 10.0
- 3 Tom Wheeler 9.8
- 4 Brett Cannon 9.4
- 5 Chuck Degrove 9.1
- 6 Eric Leitch 8.8
- 7 Larry Finch 8.3
- 8 Casey Riley 8.1
- 9 George Scott 7.9
- 10 Casey Wilson 7.8
- 11 Jeffery Kress 7.7
- 12 Chuck Lee 7.3
- 13 Sammy Fulford 7.3
- 14 Jim Hammond 7.1
- 15 Richard Dean 7.1

The standings for places 16 through 92 can be found on the JOSFC Web-Site www.jaxfish.com



Here are some of the people that made it all possible.



Marci, Jennifer and Jan running the serving line for our world famous FRESH Sheepshead Fish Fry!



Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

Wakes and High waves

During the past year there have been many stories in the media about boaters being tossed into the water when encountering large wakes and waves. Because winter brings some heavy seas, I thought it appropriate to remind everyone of the ever present dangers when encountering a large wave or crossing another boat's wake.

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 rogue waves.

Nationwide, a number of people have 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 boat's wake. In some cases, passengers were thrown out of the boat.

(Another reason to wear your life jacket)

Don't wait until you are in the middle of a wake to slow your boat. Slow the boat before the wake arrives to lessen 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 its 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 your 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 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. Always remember the successful boating/fishing trip is the one that begins and ends safely. May you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fishtales

Right Whales

By Ron Carr



It was a good day. This ocean going tale isn't so much about the catching, as it is about.....the day. It was an exceptionally, good day.

It wasn't a day of abundant catch, but the catch was good. It wasn't a string of exciting, frantic times in the boat. No screaming reels. No skyrocketing fish attacking bait; but a day of steadily unfolding, special treats.

Instead of crack of dawn, "up and at 'em," we didn't even leave the dock until 10:30 a.m.....sacrilege in the sport, punishable by stern looks from the other "real men" on the water. Mike Watts and I in the Rag Top, had planned to fish the jettys for sheep's head. A phone call to Chuck and Rob Darner, on the water since dawn, revealed that the sheep's head weren't cooperating, but that the seas were glassy. At the last minute, plans were changed from jetty fishing to bottom fishing on the near shore numbers. Rods, tackle, and bait were changed out and a course was set for a 10-mile ride to wrecks, reefs, and ledges with the promise of Black Sea bass, and just maybe a Red Snapper or Grouper.

Ah the treat of unexpected glassy flat seas, comfortably cool temperatures, and bright sunny skies. This is NOT the typical February fishing day. Absent were the north winds, 3-4 foot chop and slop, blustery cold wind and temperatures. It was an unexpectedly good day. After a couple of empty spots at MR, there was the first sea bass at Nine Mile. The first of about 80 released during the course of the day. The fish were willing, abundant, albeit on the small side. Mike and I were pulling in double doubles! Lots of fun, considering it had been two months since the last trip to the ocean. Two months can be a millennium, even an agony for those whose motto is "I fish, therefore I am."

But then THEY came. Oh,,,,, at first, it looked like the dorsal fin of the Orca. The Killer Whale. But how could

Whales Continued

they be so far south? Not a dorsal, but a pectoral fin. A pectoral fin, suspended 10 FEET in air. Balanced on its tip and stretching to the sky. A Right Whale. Then, Right Whales. A pod of adult female Right Whales with at least 2 calves. We had 4-6 adults and 2 young! If that weren't treat enough, these 40+ foot long legends continued around us for over 4 hours! Sometimes coming within 50 ft. of our boat. Bare in mind, it is illegal to chase these animals and should never be



approached closer than 500 ft. Apparently, the Marine Fisheries staff had neglected to inform the whales. One group would be 3-400 yards away on two sides of the boat, and suddenly another would appear close enough to nearly touch. With the engine off, the best decision to be made was to sit quietly and make like a hole in the ocean. Playful or angry, a bump from an animal weighing multiple tons is not pleasant to contemplate. Four hours with whales within site on 3 of 4 sides of our boat. Close enough to hear the blowholes clear and the low bellow of whale-speak. Even calves breaching water and crashing back into the sea within an easy stone's toss from the boat.

All this time, the fish remained cooperative and enjoyable. In the end, we had a fine catch including one keeper grouper, a triggerfish, and 4 good-sized sea bass. More than enough for two couple's dinner. We had enjoyed releasing smaller grouper, red snapper, a large shark, and a literal bathtub full of sea bass.

Finally, as always happens, time forced a return to port. As we enjoyed the run home on smooth seas, it was time for reflection on the day. Usually, this is to analyze what went well and what needed to be done to finish the day: clean the catch, wash the boat & gear, and the drive home. What might need service or repair? But today was different. Today, we just contemplated the day. What a good day. Not a WOW day, but a uniquely good day. A good day with a twist. Isn't that what the Lord gives often if we will just see it? What had we expected? Some fish to catch? Hopefully, a ride that wasn't too bumpy? Hopefully, weather without problems? Hopefully, no mechanical issues? Instead, we were treated to perfect seas, perfect weather, no problems....not even a single broken line, enough fish to have a lot of fun and even bring a nice catch home. Then, even more, 4 hours of up close whales 3 times the size of our boat. And then, the final treat: we even realized at the time just how good of a day we were having. This is one day that didn't get past us before we were aware of

how good it really was. Ever notice how good a day really was, a day or two after it happens? Something valuable is lost in the delay. When you are aware right then, just how good the day has been, it is something rich. You don't have to fish to experience that. Knowing the value of the day as it happens.....that really is priceless. When the day is so good that you find yourself hoping that if Alzheimer's ever strikes, it is one of the days still remembered, then know this: It has been a GOOD, GOOD Day. Thanks Lord. I just can't put them together like YOU can.

But being fishermen, nobody really believes the tale without documentation. These pictures won't win any Pulitzers, but hey, the fish were biting irregardless of what the whales were doing!



If you didn't catch it, on February 7, 2008 our member Mike Watts had his 15 minutes of fame! His picture was featured on The Florida Sportsman Magazine's Web-Site!

Way to go Mike, and that is a pretty Grouper you are holding.

The Dry Dock

For Sale:

Boat Slip and Lift

A locked, gated Boat Slip and Lift on the south side of the St. Johns River \$45,000 (\$43,000 to JOSFC member) - call Alan Stamm 904-642-1655

El Cheapo - FUN FACTS

304 BOATS ENTERED

140 BOATS WERE PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

164 NEW BOATS

26 CLUB BOATS FISHED

92 BOATS WEIGHED FISH

471.2 #S OF FISH WEIGHED (& CLEANED)

5.12# AVERAGE WEIGHT

2 BOATS HAVE FISHED ALL 8 YEARS



Windy Thompson caught this 12 Lb. Bait stealer, then it tried to steal their boat!

Windy & Tony had a great day on the river, with 3 Black Drum 11, 11.5, and 12 Lbs, 3 smaller Drum, some throw-back snappers and Sea Bass, and kept some Yellow Mouth Trout and Whiting!



Associate Member of the Month



C&H Lures is our Number #1 store to shop at!

They always have what you need, Bait, Line, Rod's, Reels, Terminal Gear, and of course those great lures for all types of fishing! Not only will they make sure you have what you need, they will tell you where to go, how to rig up, and what is biting where!

Now that is a FULL service store.

Don Combs, the owner has been a tremendous supporter of the JOSFC, and sport fishing all over the world. Most of the local tournaments owe Don a big THANKS for his support and help.

Their prices are very competitive and JOSFC members also get a club discount with your membership card!



Welcome New Crew!

Don Cook
Membership Director

We would like to welcome our new members and remind them that this is THEIR club, and encourage everyone to make the most of it. Come to the meetings and spin some fishing tales and enjoy the good times!

Welcome to these new members as of press time.

- John & Kim Ryals - family
- James & Larichie Cato - family
- Chuck & Anita Blalock - family
- Ted Hartman - Individual
- Jeff & Christine Kress - family
- Lyle & Anna Rose - family
- Steve & Kathy Goulette - family
- Bruce Hall - Individual
- Paul & Annette Gallup - family
- Chris Karpowicz - Individual
- Bob & Tresa Calfee - family
- Jack & Jesse Shaffer - family
- Vernon & Sheila Roberts - family
- Walter & Jean Forster - family

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
		March					1
2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6 Club Meeting	7	8	
9 The River Tournament	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20 Club Meeting	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 The Non-Live Tournament	
30	31						

Coming Events: March 9 - Sunday - The River Tournament.
 March 29 - Saturday - The Non-Live Tournament.
 April 10 - West Marine 5951 University Blvd. W. Bottom Fishing Seminar
 by Rob Darner, 2007 JOSFC Captain of the Year.

Tournament Schedule for 2008

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate
		Saturday - Sunday
The River Fishing Tournament -	March	----- 9 / 16
The Non-Live Tournament -	March	----- 29 -----
	April	----- 5 -----
The Bottom Fishing Tournament -	April	----- 13 / 27
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 3 / 10 -----
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 18 / 25
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	----- 14 / 28 -----
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- 5 / 19 -----
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	----- 10 / 17
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	----- 23 / 30 -----

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* •



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