



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 49 Issue 3

March 2009



Presidents Castings

Captain Chris Rooney

The Start of the Season

The year is flying by and here comes the start of our tournament season; the first one up is the river tournament. This one is always up for grabs with the combination of tide and moon phase playing a huge part in how you fish it. One nice thing is there always seems to be a surprise at the weigh-in. In past years have seen new club records set by 50 pound plus black drum or 10 pound plus sheepshead, any way you go the aggregate weight in this one will surprise you.

When this is published the El-chepo will be over and we can all breath a sigh of relief. The club owes a lot of gratitude to Frank Joura for his continued support of this organization as the tournament director. He's the man and it takes months of putting a constant strain on the issues then a mad dash for the finish line as everything comes together, no one does it better than Frank!!

We need to fight for our right to fish:

The fight for our fishing rights continues, the first meeting of this years South Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council is the 2nd through the 6th of March at Jekyll Island Club Hotel and we need to show in force to oppose any closure of our costal waters. Here's a link to

the meeting schedule for those of you who read the paper on line [http://www.safmc.net/Portals/6/Meetings/Council/BriefingBook/March09/MARCH%202009%20AGENDA%20\(rev1_30_09\).pdf](http://www.safmc.net/Portals/6/Meetings/Council/BriefingBook/March09/MARCH%202009%20AGENDA%20(rev1_30_09).pdf) We are privy to some information that the lead scientist for the Council believes that sport fishing is driving the fish in question to extinction. His personnel agenda is to end all fishing for us and I'm a little against that opinion, aren't you? The Pooler Georgia meeting found 12 of us from the club addressing the council on our concerns, we even surrounded the council members a couple of times and made them listen. I don't know if what were doing is going to make a difference, but if we do nothing we do know the bottom fishing in N.E. Florida will be a thing of the past in 2010.

Well I'm late with this months issue and Bill is probably ready to shoot me so until next month catch'em up and good fishing. Capt Chris

On a sad note, long time **Bestowed Life Member Wendell Brooks** passed away on Feb. 7, 2009.

I received numerous E-mails from members that knew Wendell, and they all had comments like: "Anytime something needed to be done he was there. We really missed Carmen and Wendell when they moved to Orlando.

We need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

*May his waters be calm, the boat ride short and smooth, the fish be biting, and big.
He will be missed.*



We will have the wrap-up for the EL CHEAPO Tournament in the April Newsletter as this needs to go to press before the Tournament is held, so Stay Tuned....

Fishing Reports & Other tall Tales



Derek Siegel
**Fishing Committee
Director**

Well the EL Cheapo is over and while I don't have the results as I am writing this before the tournament, we will have a complete wrap-up in the April issue of the Reel News.

March is the start of our club's Tournament fishing season, and we have the "River Tournament" on Saturday, March 21st.

The fishing has been good further offshore. Lots of reports of Wahoo being caught at the Ledge. Steve Grant was present and gave an in depth seminar on Wahoo fishing. If you weren't there you missed out on

Fishing Report Continued

a lot of great information. Thanks Steve. Bottom fishing has been a hit and miss lately. This cold snap and this last full moon phase has slowed down the bite somewhat. From HL and further out has reported some real good catches but some of the party grounds has been a little slow. The Black Sea Bass have been really on the bite out there!

The S.A.M.F.C. rulings haven't been voted on as of yet. We've got to keep our letters going out on this matter. Thanks goes out to Becky Hogan and Dennis Young and all those who showed up at the Pooler Ga. meeting.

Inshore has been steady. Good reports of Redfish, Yellow Mouth Trout, Black Drum, and some Flounder are being caught. The Sheephead have showed up in good numbers too, which was good for all who fished the El Cheapo.

Keep a close eye on the weather while out in your boat. No need to have a good trip turn bad due to our ever changing weather. I would like to mention my son Derek who is on deployment to Iraq. He left in January and is settled in until his deployment ends next year. Semper Fi. Also if you weren't at the February 5th meeting you missed out on the Annual Chili Cook Off to which yours truly won 2nd, Mary Darner won 1st and Zach Miller won 3rd. Thanks to everyone who participated in the event and all who enjoyed the good food and fellowship.

Tight Lines Derek

Vern Summersill took this great picture of a giant Sun-fish off Jacksonville



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Rob's Fishing Lore

PLAN B:

The morning came dark and early when I arrived at Dad's house at 5 am. On the docket today was a trip planned for the ledge to chase some Wahoo. At 5 am, it was the usual pretrip gear loading. We budgeted only 30 minutes to stow the gear and get out of the driveway to meet "Wildman" Bill at the boat ramp in St Augustine. We arrived at the ramp right on schedule at 6 am. Bill was fashionably early and waiting on us. At the ramp, we loaded Bill's gear and prepped the boat to float it off the trailer. During the walk around, Dad noticed that his engines were misaligned. Every so often the two engines will drift apart; no big deal inside the haul is a hydraulic release valve that allows one to reposition one engine to the other. This particular maneuver is quite easy to accomplish either in the dark or in the light. The maneuver was completed and both engines were back in alignment. A steering test was conducted to check on how well the alignment took. The steering system failed the test. It appeared that the engines were stuck hard starboard and could not be turned. If we launched the boat then we just could troll in circles inside the boat ramp harbor. After some heavy pushing here and there was nothing else could be done. So at 6:18 am it appears that our day was coming to a screeching halt. What you do now?

Plan B. It was decided to simply swap boats and re-launch and go Wahoo fishing. The World Cat was swapped for the Angler. Like an experienced NASCAR crew, the three of us unhooked one boat, hooked up the other, swapped gear and filled up the fuel tank to the Angler in just under an hour. This does take into account the drive time back and forth from the ramp. It helps to live just about fifteen minutes from the boat ramp. Our new start time was just about 7:20 am. The Angler gave us a brief cause of concern but it turned out to be nothing. The fishing destination laid 56.6 miles to the east of us. Just about eight miles out we spied a sight to behold. It was a pod of Atlantic Right Whale playing in the dawn light. Fifty of the fifty-six mile run was through fabulously calm seas. The last six miles proved to be a bit more bouncy due to the NE wind blowing against a north running Gulf Steam. Never-the-less, we were in Wahoo country when the water depth sounded to 145 feet and the water temperature came up near 72 degrees.

Steve Grant, the local Wahoo expert, told us during the seminar that the Wahoo were keying on high speed plastic lures. Since the Angler has had very few appearances at the ledge this was its debut at high speed trolling. Our start time was near 9:10 am and from the radio chatter it appeared that there was an early morning bite in which we missed. Oh that magically hour, how one can never get back that missing time. The *Let's Go* trolled at 9 knots for just about an hour

without a strike. We trolled on the ledge and just off it and nothing. What would you do next?

Plan B. We broke out the Ballyhoo. It took us about ten minutes and our spread changed to two lined trolled down, one on a planer and the other using an inline trolling lead. Two ballyhoo we trolled up and an American Express was trolled way back down the middle. The ledge was not producing much of anything and the radio chatter revealed one boat striking a fish or two in deep water about 450 feet. What you do?

Plan B. We headed out for deeper water; however, as the water depth became deeper the seas became rougher. It was just about 11:30 am when our first strike came. The inline lead rod took off, drag screaming the whole bit. It was a welcome sound to the boat crew in a sea of silence drags so far. "Wildman" Bill took charge of the helm as my father feverishly cleared the lines allowing me to fight the fish. The crew and the fight came together beautifully. The fish gave a good account of itself. The fish constantly shook its head trying to throw the hook and bite through the wire. The lines were cleared in an orderly process and "Wildman" Bill managed the boat just perfect. With each crank of the reel, the fish came closer and closer to the boat. Soon all could see the neon bluish glow of the Wahoo. Dad grabbed the trolling weight and began wiring the fish toward the boat. Quickly the rod was placed in a rod holder and I fetched a gaff. The fish came broadside to our gunnel pacing the moving boat. The gaff just started to peer across the gunnel toward the water when the fish altered its direction and surged toward the haul. It disappeared under the haul chewing through the wire in the process taking its lure prize with it.

With our only strike of the day that came and went, what would you do? We simply stayed the course. We stayed out in deep water and turned south. Our second strike came nearly ninety minutes later when a bull Dolphin chose to strike at a plain Ballyhoo. The outrigger snapped to alerting us to the pending action. Upon feeling the hook set up in its mouth, the fish took to the air in one mighty leap. Just as the fish was on, it was off just as quick. A Dolphin managed to bit through the 100 pound test mono leader on the rig. The fish leaped again just to tease us showing off its freedom. Zero for two on the day. What else would you do?

Plan B: the fish market!

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner





Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram

Float Plan

The club tournament schedule for this year will begin with the River Tournament. Since all of our future tournaments will be offshore, we need to give a lot of thought to making sure our boat and equipment will perform satisfactorily and safely before heading out to our favorite honey hole offshore. We also need to have a plan to make sure that someone knows where to look for us, and what will happen, if our equipment fails us while offshore.

The first thing you need to do to make sure that your outing on the water begins and ends safely is to develop a float plan and leave it with your spouse, significant other, some other reliable person, or your marina. Ask the custodian of the plan to contact the Coast Guard or other local authority if you do not return by the indicated time on the plan.

A news article that appeared in the local paper headlined "High drama, high seas" told the story of a local boater on a 35-foot Viking and how a float plan and the proper equipment on board prevented a loss of life. The boater had filed a float plan, left it with his wife and was proceeding to his destination about 30 miles offshore when a fire broke out and destroyed the boat. Fortunately, the boater had not only filed a proper float plan, but had extra safety equipment on board such as an EPIRB, life raft, ditch bag and hand held radios.

After the crew abandoned the boat, continued to send a MAYDAY message, and the EPIRB was activated, the Coast Guard contacted the boater's wife to verify certain facts. The wife advised the Coast Guard that if the EPIRB was on, the crew was in trouble. A boat that had seen the smoke came to check and advised the Coast Guard it would stand by until they arrived on scene as their boat was too small to take all the crew on board. Remember, if you have an EPIRB, make sure it is

registered so there will be a contact person listed in case it is turned on in an emergency. There have been cases where an EPIRB was purchased, not registered and when activated was useless. The following statement by this boat captain is one all of us should follow: "If I tell my wife we'll be in by 8:30, and we're not in, and she hasn't heard from me – don't start worrying, start calling the Coast Guard."

Hopefully, the above experience will remind all of us to file a float plan before we leave home for the launch ramp. The float plan should contain your name, address, phone number, name and description of your vessel, names of other persons on board, trip details including geographical location of your destination, the route you will take to get there, and/or GPS numbers if possible, time of return and time to call local authorities or Coast Guard if you do not return by the scheduled time. A properly executed float plan could be a lifesaver in an emergency if you have to abandon your vessel at sea, or break down, with no power for your radio to communicate your location and notify someone of your need for help.

The local Coast Guard station phone number is 904-247-7311. Make sure the person who has your float plan has this phone number, or put it on your float plan.

A properly executed float plan would enable the person in custody of the float plan to initiate a timely search for you if you did not return by the time specified. Time could be a critical factor in saving your life in a real emergency. A sample float plan is available in the boating safety materials rack at the Mayport clubhouse.

File a float plan each time you go boating/fishing to help ensure your safety on the water.

May you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales





Leigh Davis with his biggest Snappa ever. 25.7lbs.

I caught him on the "Whippersnapper" fishing with club member Bryan Breslend.



Captain Chris Rooney of the Driftin' n' Dreamin always puts his crew on the fish. Chris LOVES those Trigger fish.

While he is good at sending pictures, he forgets to include his crew's names and the big fish weights. Is that called C.R.S. Chris?

*Associate Member
of the Month*

Gary Newman
INSURANCE
Family Owned & Operated

- **Boat**
- **Auto**
- **Home**

67 E. Sailfish Dr. • Atlantic Beach, FL
241-0777

Gary is a past President of the JOSFC, a fisherman just like you! There is no one that understands our insurance needs any better than Gary. In plain English there is no reason for anyone in the club or Jacksonville area to have any other insurance agent! Switch to Gary now!

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

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 Phone, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at:

PH# 904-254-2791 Fax#904-213-9786
breenw@bellsouth.net



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
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
Perry Arnold	-	H = 304-521-5987 C = 904-379-1189		Any day		Up to 10:00 pm
Richard Fisher	-	H = 221-9629 Cell 738-1010		Nearly every day		Up to 8:00 PM the day before.
John Porcella	-	610-3855		Nearly any day		Up to 10:00 PM
Bob Calfee	-	C = 472-9957		Weekends & Some days		Up to 8:00 pm
Matt Ennes	-	536 - 7450		Friday through Monday		Up to 9:00 pm
David Brown	-	962 - 3787		Saturdays & Some week days		Up to 11:00 pm
Ken Roach	-	221 - 7212		Any Day		Up to 8:00 pm the day before.
Joe Esparza	-	C = 536 - 4114		Any Day		Up to 10:00 pm

Our Website

Our website is now back up, running, and in the process of being fully updated and improved. We have LIVE MARINE RADIO streaming on our website. **We owe a big thanks to Mike Murphy for all the work he has done to get this up and running.** You can log onto our website and listen to the boats out there fishing, find out where they are biting, and what the seas are really like. Capt. George and the other charter boat captains are more informative when talking to each other during the week than on weekends.

You can also find the best weather links at our website, and check the fishing boards to see if your big fish will qualify to knock someone off, as well as how the Captain Of The Year Race is going. You can read the "Reel News", get the latest club information and important notices that came in after the newsletter went to press, and see pictures from the latest events.

We would like YOU, our club members, to start talking up our website to everyone you can, just tell them to:

Check out www.jaxfish.com

**If you know anyone who would like to advertise on the site, Have them contact:
Greg Molloy, at MacMedia Graphics 904-725-8871**

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

Coming Events:



- March 21, - Saturday - The River Tournament
- April 4, Saturday - The Times Union Redfish Spot Tournament.
- April 5, - Sunday - The Non-Live Tournament
- April 17, 18, 19, We have a Booth at the International Boat Show
- April 18, - Saturday - The Sailfish Pot Party
- April 25, - Saturday - The Bottom Fishing Tournament

October 17, 2009 - JOSFC Annual Awards Banquet

Tournament Schedule for 2009

Tournament	Month	Date / Alternate
		Saturday - Sunday
The River Fishing Tournament -	March	-----21-----
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	-----5 / 11-----
The Bottom Fishing Tournament -	April	-----25 / May 2-----
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	-----16 / 23-----
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	-----31 / June 7-----
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	-----21 / 27-----
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	-----18 / 19-----
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	-----16 / 23-----
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	-----29 / Sept. 5-----

Associate Members

• *Advance Marine* • *All Aluminum Concepts* • *Angie's Sub Shop* • *Atlantic Coast Marine* • *Avid Angler* • *B & M Bait & Tackle* • *Beaches Florist* • *Boaters World* • *Boathouse Discount Marine* • *C & H Lures* • *Capt. Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing* • *Consignment Boat Sales* • *Dell Marine* • *Donovan Heating & Air* • *Florida Sportsman Live* • *First Coast Offshore Rodeo* • *Fish Carvings by Rick & Billy* • *Fishing Connection* • *Float Tech* • *F.W.C.* • *G & W Marine* • *Gary Newman Insurance* • *Gear 4 Fishermen* • *Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament* • *Gene's Seafood* • *Great Atlantic Outfitters* • *Hardees* • *High Roller Fishing Team* • *Home - Zone Cleaning* • *International Ropes* • *Jacksonville Marina* • *Just-Right Auto Sales* • *Knight Electric* • *Land Roofing* • *Loadmaster Trailers* • *Lockwood Marine* • *Mercury Outboards* • *MacMedia Graphics* • *Mike's Taxidermy* • *Mayport Princess* • *Murphy Communications* • *Ocean Get Away* • *Ocean Waves Sunglasses* • *Pepsi Bottling Co.* • *Penn Tackle Mfg.* • *Production Drywall* • *Progressive Insurance* • *Pier 17* • *PGA Tour* • *Readyforyoutravel.com* • *Rick's Bait & Tackle* • *River Marine* • *Riggers Plus* • *Safe Harbor Seafood* • *Salty Dawg Marine* • *Salty Styles* • *Sea Tow* • *Sea Dance Charters* • *Skinner Nurseries* • *Smith & Sons Tree Service* • *SOC 7 Productions* • *Solomon's RV & Boat Storage* • *Southern Propane* • *Super Chum Slick* • *St. John's Seafood & Steaks* • *Strike Zone Fishing* • *T.B.S. Jigs & Charter* • *The Canvas Shop of North Florida* • *The Haggerty Company* • *The Outdoors Show* • *Three brothers Marine* • *Vic2Fish* • *W.L.S. Contracting* • *WebCode Fusion* • *Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc.* • *West Marine* • *Woody Wax* • *Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing* •



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