



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 50 Issue 3

March 2010



Presidents Castings

Captain Chris Rooney

What Will This Year Bring?

The Tournament year is about to start, and as always the El Cheapo 2010 has been written to history. Frank has yet again pulled off the Worlds greatest Sheepshead Tournament where even the most dedicated of offshore anglers chased the elusive striped bandits we all know and love, and 2/3rds of the membership helped him do it! That's what it takes and why we all keep coming back on the first and third Thursday of the month. This year has started off with the two or three events where the response from our members has led to them being successful, we all need to remember without our volunteers the club just wouldn't be here anymore.

OK so who's going to win the first tournament of the year, Captain Dan Parker is the defending champ, and I think he had a crew of ringers last year for the start of the season. The quest as always during this tournament is to find the big Drum but unless something changes soon it might still be a little cold for the real big Drum to be around. That will make the river quest even more interesting!

March is also the first month of the new website and man does it look good! The radio is working and you'll be able to post your own pictures through our

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How Cool is this! This is our New Web-Site!

www.jaxfish.com

This is our NEW & Improved Web-Site. It will be updated regularly with current and important information, and we hope that club members will use it on a regular basis.

Want the Marine Weather? Click on the NOAA link in the Left colum.

Don't forget our Live Marine Radio, listen to the Radio and check out the Florida Sportsman Forum. Along the Left side of the page just below the weather box is the Florida Sportsman, North East General Forum, Automatically updating each time you go to a new page. Just click on a topic and you are in the forum.

Want to Renew your membership? Under the second Tab, "About" you will find an on-line renewal form, that links with "Pay-Pal" so you can renew, or have a friend Join right there!

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What Will - Continued

face book link, all the good stuff from the old website and lots of new stuff so here we go. If you have any suggestions for the new website, or have a lot of computer experience and want to help maintain the site, send Bill or I an E-mail and we'll see what's up.

Last but not least, the battle for our fishing rights continues and the 1st through the 5th of March our friends of the SAFMC will be meeting at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Jekyll Island Georgia. In this meeting the Snapper/Grouper Committee will be discussing the options for amendment 17A and everyone who can needs to be there to comment and request the council vote for option 2 which leaves our bottom fishing open, with the exception of Red Snapper. Well that about does it for March so lets hope for warm weather, calm seas, and we know there's great fishing, after all we live in NE Florida!

Tight Lines, Capt. Chris



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Evan (Butch) Ogin

***First a BIG Congratulations to Derek Siegel
for winning the Chili Cook-Off!***

For those of YOU FOOLS that actually ATE the Chili at our Annual Chili Cook-Off, my Hat is off to you. I showed great restraint and didn't make a fool of myself.

I do have to make a correction to my original Chili notes that I sent in the last Club Meeting reminder. (In my defense my notes were slightly scorched and unreadable)

Yankee Frank wants all to know that he has NEVER made a Black Bean Chili, and his Chili is NEVER whimpy! In fact each bowl comes with Tums! You can try his REAL Chili at his Resturant,
Jax River City Café!

jaxfish.com Continued

How about the Fishing Boards? Updated regularly, along with the Captain of the year board!

We have On-line Tournament Registration, the Fishing Rules, a Safety page, with a Link to a Float Plan.

We have a direct link to the JOSFC Face Book page where you can post your fishing reports and pictures.

Of course you can find this Newsletter in full color as a .pdf flie.

Under the "General" tab we even have a calendar of club events throughout the year. Check out the whole site, I think you will like it!



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Rob's Fishing Lore

Rob Darner

Gaff It Already!

The latest ABC, NBC, CBS or CNN poll came out much too late for me. Did you hear the news that the major networks may have just reported for a short while? It was likely just a 12 hour news spin out of a 24 hour/ 7 days a week/ 52 week per year news cycle. This 12 hour news spin poll showed that more Americans were not so in tuned with man-made global warming. It appears that the world's Copenhagen meeting on climate change did not have its desired effect. I don't know about you, but I could not get enough of those long drawn out speeches on what I need to do to compensate some poor fellow on the other side of the planet just incase the glacier on Mt. Everest melts or the all the polar ice caps melt and we cause the world's oceans to rise. I kinda think of it like this: if the poor man on the other side of the world suddenly finds himself or herself with ocean front property then sell to the highest bidder for we just made you a rich person.

Seriously now, I could not get my fingers to push the remote control buttons fast enough to leave all that Copenhagen nonsense behind. So, what is one to do in mid-January while Ol'Man Winter has North Florida in a death grip of freezing cold temperatures? I know what I did to shirk off those low twenty degree temperatures. I started all three of my cars including that great big old SUV plus ran my boat engine for a while and let all the carbon emissions build up a nice warm buffer zone around my house. It took me nearly ten days of running those motors to warm the atmosphere and break that cold grip off North Florida. In the mean time, thankfully, the sports channels finally started to run the 2010 line up of saltwater fishing shows. Yes, summer is coming and the new winter saltwater fishing shows is just like that **Phoxatanwna** Phil character foretelling the winter season end.

I was watching Sportsman something and something fishing show for Dolphin in the Bahamas'. For the program, the CEO of a big time lure company was the guest of honor for my thirty minutes of viewing pleasure. Predictably, the smaller Dolphins were caught in the early part of the show while they teased me through at least one commercial break to see if the big one got away. And from the teaser just before the commercial break, I would have bet on the fish. Here they were, trolling on a beautiful Spring day in the dark blue waters in the Bahamas wishing for a trophy of a life time. Their wish was coming true for a monster Dolphin had come a calling. The hoorays and the

hoopla was all part of the fan fare but the real action came in at the end of the fight. It appears that everyone there was an expert at catching the fish but no one was an expert at landing the fish. It's a huge difference between fighting and landing a fish. The two most sensitive times during a fight is the initial hook set and the gaff. As this magnificent Dolphin came within gaffing range, the CEO reached over with a 6 foot gaff and swiped at the monster fish. Before he did it, I was yelling at the TV your doing it all wrong. The fish was a broad as the side of a barn and yet he could not gaff the fish. I was waiting for that line to pop and the 62 pound fish to disappear for you see the CEO extended his gaff under the fish and in front of the line. With a great big heave upward, the gaff came fling back toward the gunnel empty lucky the tip missed the leader. After seeing the gaff, the big fish took off making his buddy go extra rounds just to boat this fish. Due to an aggressive fish strike, the mighty fish swallowed the bait and hook so there was little chance that the hook could work itself free.

The fish came to the boat a second time. This time, the camera caught the crew giving the CEO on-the-job training on gaffing. The suggested over the fish and not underneath it. As the directions were incomplete so was the gaffing job. The second attempt only angered the big fish when the gaff tip struck it near the tail while tangling the gaff itself in the fishing line. The moment was tense as the three of them scrambled to free the gaff from the line. It was destiny that intervened and brought this hopeless case of gaffing to an end. It was all I could do to watch; I was starting to root for the fish at this point. The angler cranked down on the drag and hauled the fish closer to the boat. Rich was reaching for the gaff when the CEO stuck the fish a midsection and dragged it over the side. What a fish! It was too bad that the crew almost lost the fish because they didn't have a clue on gaffing it. Bad things will almost certainly happen when one gaffs a fish in front of the fishing line.

An experience gaff man will likely not make those common mistakes witnessed on the TV show. Most gaff men tend to take a different approach when it comes to landing a fish at the boat. For ease of gaffing, the process should be a well coordinated event between the angler, the helmsmen and the gaff man. In some cases for fishing with heavy trolling weights a wire man maybe needed to bring that fish closer to the boat as the angler is finished with his job. The approach most experienced gaff men tend to use has been following the fish from behind the fishing leader. As the gaff is placed in this position, you lower your chances for a line strike when one misses. Instead of coming up from underneath the fish, one should extend the gaff out past the body of the fish and set the gaff hook across the fish's back. With one huge effort, the fish is no longer swimming forward but it is quickly begin dragged toward the side of the boat where the gaff man repositions the gaff. Now the gaff goes from begin drug sideways to a lifting motion and the fish will find itself airborne and if the coordination is good the fish will land in the fish box with little struggle.

Gaff hooks come in all sizes and the shafts come in various lengths. Depending on the size of the fish may depend upon the size hook you may want to use. Some hooks come in



Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

Float Plan

In case you may not have seen the notice in the newspaper, I want to call everyone's attention to a change in the boating-safety education requirements in Florida effective January 1, 2010. It states that boat operators who were born on or after January 1, 1988, are now required to pass an approved boating-safety course and have a photo identification and a boating-safety card in their possession on the water in order to operate any boat with a 10-horsepower motor or larger. So, if you plan to fish any of the future tournaments, or have a person within that age group operate your boat, you are responsible to make sure the operator has met the necessary legal requirements. You might say, it is like needing a driver's license to operate a car.

To help satisfy this new requirement by the state of Florida, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be offering a boating-safety program on Mondays from 6:45 pm to 9:15 pm at the Stellar Building, 2900 Hartley Road, in Mandarin. For additional information and cost of the program, contact Bob at 904-721-1346.

The club tournament schedule for this year will begin with the River Tournament March 27. 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 spot 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 904-564-7592. 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

Gaff It .. Continued

6" size while others are available in a 2" hook along with various lengths from a hand gaff to 12 foot. Remember, some snake kingfish can fall between the wider hooks allowing them an extra chance to escape where as a wide or thick fish may easily free itself from a narrower hook that doesn't get a firm bite. Depending on what you are catching one may need to plan on what gaff is most appropriate.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner





Derek And Kyle with Mr. Wahoo!

Here's the biggest reason we have this obsession called FISHING.

Went out on the 28th of January 2010 with George Drake and Kyle. Our trip started out as any usual mass confusion did "I" forget anything syndrome. Got under way a little earlier than usual and headed out to the ledge. Just so you will understand most of our trips are under some nasty conditions, high seas, full moon or ,oops, we left something at the house. Not this trip, other than it being a little cold you couldn't even ask for a better day. Seas were absolutely flat all day.



George Drake & Kyle with Mr. Wahoo on George's Boat

We were pulling baits at 15 mph up and down the break and on a mission. But once again we faced cold water most of the day. And George even fixed the water temp sender for this trip. The usual water temp was 69.9 almost all day but at 11:00 o'clock we hit a patch of water that read 70.2. Then it was off to the races. Port side line took off like it

was hooked to the space shuttle from the launch pad. Kyle was on it quick, getting a few lines out of the way. The fish made one big jump and the fight was on. Seemed like it swam into another zip code. Once getting the fish gaffed and onboard you could see it had swallowed the lure with a purpose. Both hooks were deep and buried. US 1, The FISH 0. Off again rigs out trying to find another one of these hotrods of the sea. We did do some bottom fishing in between. Got our 1 a piece Snowy Groupers and a few Pinkies and off to the races. We dragged almost until dark and back to the house. Listening to all the others who were out there with us didn't do so well. We can say we didn't take the ride of shame that day. Its thanks to friends such as George to take us fishing and share in the fun. Pictures speak louder than words so check them out. Thanks Again George for a great day of fishing.
Derek

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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

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<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
Frank Grassi	234-7369	Sunday	Up to 8:00 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
Joe Esparza	- C = 536 - 4114	Any Day	Up to 10:00 pm
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How about thinking SAFETY FIRST!

Ok everyone, the new fishing season is upon us.

What is the expiration date on your Flares?

When was the last time you had your wheel bearings packed?

Is the "O" ring on your plug old and brittle?

How about your Fire Extinguisher? Do you have a big enough Fire Extinguisher? Is it current, or has it been sitting in it's holder for the last 2 years with all the dry chemical compacted and hard at the bottom?

First aid kit current? Here is something to think about. A lot of the (Other guys, not me) members are getting older. Does your first aid kit have some of the new crystalized Aspirin to dissolve under the tongue in case of a heart attack? (My Son was only 34)

Have an EEPER? Why NOT? They are just a couple of hundred now! Isn't your life and your crews life worth that little money?

Checked all your hose fittings are tight, and no corroded Electrical connections?

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 Board Meeting	2	3	4 Club Meeting	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Club Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 The River Tournament
28	29	30	31			<div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> March </div>

Coming Events:

- March 27th - The River Tournament
- May 1st - The Sailfish Pot Party!
- October 23rd - JOSFC Awards Banquet



Tournament Schedule for 2010

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate
		Saturday - Sunday
The River Fishing Tournament -	March	-----27-----
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	-----17/ 24-----
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 8/ 15-----
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	-----23/ 30
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	-----20 / 27
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- 17 / 18-----
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	----- 7 / 14-----
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	-----22/29
The Bottom Tournament -	September	----- 11----- 12

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