



The Newsletter of the ... **The Reel News**

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 54 Issue 1

January 2014



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Darga

Well this is what happens when you are Vice President.

As I sit here writing my first newsletter as the President of JOSFC I am both sad and joyful, if you have not heard yet Paul Gallup resigned as the President of JOSFC and I am now serving as President.

If you do not know me I have been a member of the club for 6 years. I first joined the club at the Florida Sportsman boat show (that was when they still had one). I joined even though I did not know a single member. I attended my first meeting in January after the Christmas Party where I recognized several members especially Marcy Summerville, this was because of the color of her hair, from fishing on the Majesty with Capt Scott and the several members from fishing on the Jacksonville Pier. While at this meeting Chris Rooney made an announcement that he was looking for crew members to go Wahoo fishing. Since I grew up on the Great Lakes yep I'm a Yankee and proud of it, no I did not know what grits were until I moved down here, still I had no idea what a Wahoo was but figured why not. I was warned by several members that Drift-n-Dreamin 1 was a wet boat. Chris also warned me thank you Chris. It was wet very wet. This was my introduction to offshore fishing with Chris and now my good friend Tim Altman. Yes we did catch Wahoo and Trigger. Yes I lost my first one I let the line go slack I can't put in print what Chris thought of that. Since that trip I have made many friends and fished with members and nonmembers who I have met through the club and won the Blue Water Board this past year. Yes I weighed a Wahoo and have caught many more since that

Continued Page 2

El Cheapo Wrap-Up



Well the 2014 Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club's Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament was another great success! This is now one of the largest saltwater fishing tournaments in the country!

It also has the reputation of being the most family friendly and fun tournament to be at. Even if you are not fishing in it!

The El Cheapo is always held the last Saturday of February when there is not much else going on and people are looking for an excuse to get out of the house after a long winter.

The Tournament keeps all the fish weighed and most of the entrants also donate several other Sheepshead to the Tournament. We fillet those fish, to serve up the freshest, tastiest Sheepshead dinner you will ever get! Fresh Sheepshead, corn on the cob, french fries, and hushpuppies! Can it get any better than that?

There are lots of people that just visit the tournament site just to get that fresh Sheepshead dinner!

Even with Friday being a "Sever Weather Alert Day" with sever thunderstorms and tornado

Continued Page 2

Presidents Message Continued

first trip.

On Saturday Feb 8th the club had its annual spring cleaning for the El- Cheapo. I wanted to send a special thank you to the following members who took time out their Saturday to volunteer. Bill Wilderotter, Bill Breen, Byron Darner, Chuck Darner, Ed Kalakaskis, Frank Joura, Jade Aitken, Will Aitken, Laddie Birge, Jim Anderson, Nick Calverato, Rick Metz, Rob Darner, Steve Kalaitzis. If I missed anyone I apologize. Even though the weather was cold and raining many of the members worked in the rain to build a new fillet station and clean off the front porch. All of the items on the porch have been thrown out except for the picnic table and round table. I am asking that all members please respect the hard work that has gone into this project and maintain how the clubhouse looks. First impressions are important to any new visitor. If you take a drink outside please discard it and dispose of your cigarette butts properly by not throwing them on the deck flooring. In the next several months you will notice more changes inside and out as the housecleaning continues to improve the overall image of the JOSFC.

Tom Darga
JOSFC President

Wrap-Up Continued

watches all over with the forecast for Saturday being unpredictable, we still had about 400 boats with 119 Junior Anglers entered for this year's tournament.

We had fisher people entered from as far north as New York State, as far South as the Florida Keys, and as far west as Texas! The El Cheapo is no longer just a little fishing club's tournament; it has become a major tournament that is catching the attention of the entire fishing community all over the country!

With the average Captain and crew numbering 3 people and their families all spending money locally, the El Cheapo is a tremendous boost to the local economy.

Saturday turned out to be a great day, a little cool for the start at about 55 degrees but it soon warmed up, the sun came out and the rain stayed away. So with weigh-in starting at 1:00 p.m. it was great at the tournament site.

This year was again, with the generous help of Carolina Skiff, and Mercury Marine and Dell Marine, along with over 120 other great sponsors a great success. Go to www.jaxfish.com click on "Tournaments" and down to "El Cheapo" and over to "2014 El Cheapo Sponsors" to see all of them. By the way, all of those Sponsors support FISHING, so be sure to check them first when you need any work or to get anything!

This year the grand prize winner was Chuck DeGrove with an 11.8 pound Sheepshead! Chuck won a Carolina Skiff 198 with a Mercury 115 Hp four stroke outboard on a Magic Tilt Trailer presented by Dell Marine! How is that for catching 1 fish!

Our Junior Angler 1st Place Winner was Victoria Price with an 8.3 pound Sheepshead! She won by .2 of a pound! There were a lot of fish close to hers' but hers was the biggest!

The complete list of winners is posted on Facebook at the El Cheapo Facebook page. Just scroll down until you see the post by "El Cheapo"

Our sincere thanks to all of our sponsors and every one that fished the El Cheapo!



The Reel News is published monthly by the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club (JOSFC). All rights reserved.

Officers:

- President Tom Darga
- Vice President.....
- SecretaryMonica Darga
- TreasurerCarol Hixenbaugh

Board of Directors & Special Staff:

- Speaker Coordinator Will Aitken
 - Special Events Derek Seigel
 - Hospitality Tony Thompson
 - Fishing Coordinator Rob Cripe
 - Membership Rob Darner
 - Trophies & Awards Tim Altman
 - At large Steve Grant
 - Newsletter Editor / Website ... Bill Breen
 - Newsletter & Marine Radio.... Mike Murphy
- ©Copyright 2013





Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

FUELING

With the El Cheapo on February 22th and the River Tournament scheduled for March 8, and then the first offshore Non-Live Tournament in April, everyone needs to start thinking about maintaining the proper fuel level to make sure you have sufficient fuel to make it out to your favorite spot and back home again.

One of the most often calls to towing services is for fuel when a boat runs out of fuel on the way back from a fishing trip offshore. If you use the "1/3rd rule"; use only 1/3rd on the way out, 1/3rd on the way back and save 1/3rd for reserve, you should never run out of fuel. When we think of fuel, or fueling, we normally think of the consumption of fuel. However, one thing we should always think about and be prepared for is fire on board when fueling the boat. There have been numerous occasions when boaters have become careless when fueling and wind up with a boat on fire. Although it is more dangerous when fueling an inboard versus an outboard, all can be hazardous to your health if proper safety procedures are not followed.

Before fueling, shut off your engines and all electrical appliances that may create a spark. Remember, if you spill fuel in the water when you are fueling your vessel, make sure all the fuel and vapors are cleared before you start your engines.

The same applies if you spill fuel in the bilge of your boat. If you are fueling an outboard with portable tanks, always remove the tanks from the boat and fuel them on the dock. If you should smell fuel, do not start your engines until the source of the smell has been determined and eliminated.

Also, to ensure that your boating/fishing trip is one that begins and ends safely, take the necessary steps in advance to make sure you do not run out of fuel offshore. Always check to make sure your fuel tank is full before starting a trip offshore. It will not only guard against you running out of fuel, but will also help reduce condensation in your fuel tank. When

a partially empty fuel tank cools, some of the water vapor in the air condenses. Thus, when you leave your tank partially empty, you will slowly accumulate water, which could cause more problems later.

As some of you may already know, it's a horrible feeling to look at an empty fuel gauge after your motor sputters and quits. Keeping a full tank is one way to safeguard against this. Another safeguard is to follow the "one-third rule" mentioned above. This rule says use only one-third of your fuel on your trip out to sea, use one-third on the way back and save one third for reserve.

Why this formula? Why not use one-half out and one-half back? The reason being that the trip back may take more fuel than the trip out. When you go out, the wind and seas may be calm or from astern which would cause you to use less fuel than normal. When you turn around and head back home, you may find yourself now heading into a strong head wind and heavy seas which will cause you to use much more fuel than normal. Forward progress can be slow and fuel consumption high, which could cause you to run out of fuel.

If you start with a full tank, and if you use the one-third rule, you should never have to worry about running out of fuel. Before filling your fuel tank, make sure the engine is shut down and all electrical devices such as fans, navigational devices, radios, motors, generators and lights have been turned off.

To be on the safe side, if an inboard, operate your engine compartment blower for at least five minutes after fueling, and anytime you start the engine. In order to make sure your blower is venting the compartment properly, do not rely on the noise of the motor running, but instead put your hand over the vent to make sure air is exiting the vent.

Many times insects will build a nest in, and block the vent, so that the only way to know if the vent is working is to put your hand over it to test for air movement. Then, before starting your engine, use the best instrument you have for checking for gas fumes, your mark eight nose to check all compartments for gas fumes by sniffing for odors. Follow these rules and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales



Rob's Fishing Lore

REVOKED!

A letter to the TV Sports Executives

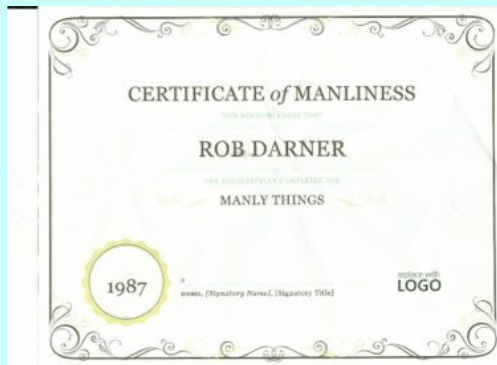
Dear TV Sports Executive Presidents and Marketing Managers,

An epiphany came to me as I was sitting around the kitchen table, recovering, watching my daughter decorate cupcakes. I have had this for 26 years. It is with a heavy heart and a wounded soul that I feel compelled to do what I am about to do. I understand fully that by turning this in my rights and privileges will be revoked.

No longer will I be entitled to a 'man cave'. No longer will I be entitled to wear my favorite plaid team jersey and baggy pants.

No longer will I be able to sit around, lazy-like on that old couch my wife wants to toss in the trash. No longer will I be able to swill beer with my buddies and acting childlike just to be the 12th man or something of the sorts. Gone are the days of unhealthy snack foods, PS2, Xbox 360 and the new beloved Xbox One. Now are the days that may look bleak. I will have to redesign that cave to a color scheme my wife wants. Say good-bye to that old comfy couch and video games. Hello, health food.

So, please accept my MAN CERTIFICATE. I realized this was the sporting event of all sporting events, the Super Bowl, and a proper man should be in front of his mega HD TV watching endless hours of



sports award shows and hanging on every word the talking heads put forth but I couldn't. As the endless hours of sports commentating droned on and on something just snapped. I took off for a charity event on Saturday which lasted nearly all day. It was a just a little 'ol run...an ultra-marathon event of 55 miles and this is where the recovery part came in around the kitchen table. At the end of the event, an opportunity presented itself. I went home and cleared it with the wife for I was leaving again bright and early Sunday morning and there was a good chance that I would be gone into the darkness.

Like Geronimo and his Apache warriors fleeing the Turkey Creek Reservation, so I and the rest of the

Darnier clan fled from the warm and soft confines of our couches and mega TV sets. No longer will we be



subjugated to hours of meaningless statics of who's got whose hips turned faster to face their rushing defensive player. Our destination was an eastern flight of nearly 58 miles through fog and slightly choppy seas to chase the elusive *acanthocybium solandri*, the peto, the ono or commonly known as the wahoo. Hours of hours of pulling large plastic lures yielded spares results. Water temperature was right but there was a lack of bait in the area. 0 for 2 we were on strikes. A slow but expensive day. The first strike came at the front lead taking with it 32 oz. plus assorted clip swivels and a brand new high speed C&H Lure called the B-liner. The second strike was a brief runoff of nearly 30 ft. then the drag went silent and so did the rest of our time spent pulling for wahoo.

So then, the Darnier Clan looked to less manly pursuits in order to pass our time.

Continued Page 5

Revoked Concluded

It was now time to go for meat! As any good hunter/gather, we needed to bring home dinner. The great thing about high speed pulling is that you are able to cover a lot of ground and in doing so one can find new marks upon the bottom and this is just what we did. The color scope had light up with fish both on the bottom and suspended in the water column. With the tide running in our favor, anchoring was easy at a 145 feet. Drop one, two, three and four lines went over the side. Squid delight for anyone down there and they were hungry. It did not take but just a few precious moments before rod tips arched downward and fisherman were grunting. Up and over the side came trigger fish, pinkies, B-liners and a sea bass or two. It did not take more an 80 minutes before we had enough fish for the family freezer. With the bow pointed west, we donned our weather gear and waited on the cold and the fog near shore to welcome us in.



So, please accept my proclamation of emancipation from those TV commercials which show me how my life should be lived, those sports talking heads which know more than I, and the ever hypnotic presents of the mega TV screen which attacks us all like a bug to a blue light. So, today there will be one less man in this world. Hooray for those on the field of play living their dreams as for I and the clan, we have left the reservation to go live ours. Won't you come and live yours?

Stay thirsty my friend, thirsty for life!
Rob Darner

All the docking lessons you will ever need

NEVER approach the dock any faster than you want to RAM the dock.



Captain of the Year

Will your name be here?

Only if you participate!

This month the Captain of the year race begins!

What does it take to be the Captain of the Year? I have the answer to that, and it isn't what you think!

The answer? LUCK & Persistence!

The main thing that you have to do is just show up and fish all 10 tournaments! Well at least all the tournaments that are not canceled due to weather.

We have had members that never placed over third place, didn't win a single tournament, and they have won the Captain of the Year!

I have seen bottom tournaments won with 2 - half pound Whiting! Trolling tournaments won with 1 Baracuda!

People, you are not fishing against some mysterious magical "Expert", you are fishing against me or the person sitting next to you at a meeting. Average every day fisher people!

By the way, Expert is nothing more than
X = Unknown quantity, Spurt = A drip under pressure.

Let me remind you that you need to participate in 3 of the club tournaments to win a fishing board! By participate we mean either as Captain, or as a crew member OR as weigh-master at a tournament.

You also have to have the most fish on the board when we close the boards at the last meeting in September.

So get off your easy chair and take the family or friends fishing! Club tournaments don't cost anything to enter!

Gary Newman

INSURANCE

Family Owned & Operated

- Boat
- Auto
- Home

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



In every Newsletter I strongly suggest that you wear your Life Jacket at least while your boat is underway.

Here are some other safety things that you should consider.

Is your Fire extinguisher current? Do you have a big enough one, or more than one?

How about a "Ditch Bag" is it properly stocked, and sitting out where it is handy?

First aid kit current, plenty of Hydrogen Peroxide to clean wounds?



Remember that we want to hear from you with any suggestions for improving YOUR club and the meetings. You can send an E-mail to any club officer by going to the above website and to the "About" tab and down to "Officers & Board" Each board member has their E-mail listed there.

Bring your KIDS to the meetings!

We have had a club member, Cassi Washington, step forward and she will be providing activities for the kids to do during our Guest Speaker's Seminars!

There will be fishing related games or activities that will be supervised by either her, or another adult and for you teenagers, there will be a chance for you to earn 2 hours of Community Service if you help with the youngsters.

She has come up with a "Go Fish" card game with pictures of the local fish that we catch and their size limits, seasons and any important information on them. The kids will learn to recognize the fish and limits just by playing that game. She is also putting together other games and contest so the kids can win small prizes to keep them occupied and quiet during the speakers time at the mike!

She is also open to suggestions for games and activities that you might have so she can have a good variety for the kids.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<h1>March</h1>						1
			2	3 Board Meeting	4	5
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Club Meeting	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Up Coming Events: March 6th - Club Meeting March 8th - The River Tournament March 20th - Club Meeting April 1 - Tuesday All Fools Day				

Southern Propane
Serving Jacksonville One Family At A Time

CALL 904-764-0065 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

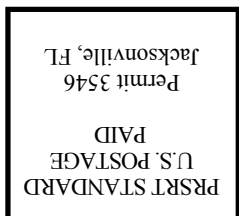
Tournament Schedule for 2014

Tournament	Month	Date	Alternate
		- All are on Saturday -	
The River Fishing Tournament -	March	-----8	----- 15 - - Chris Rooney
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	-----12	----- 26 - - Fishing Director
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 3	----- 10 - - Chris Rooney
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	-----17	----- 24 - - Jack Ogin
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	-----14	----- 21 - Jack Ogin
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	-----12	----- 19 - - Chris Rooney
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	----- 9	----- 16 - - Fishing Director
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	-----23	----- 24 - Fishing Director
The Bottom Tournament -	August	----- 30	-----September - 6- - Chris Rooney
Triple Challenge Tournament -	November	----- 8	-----22 - Fishing Director

Associate Members

*Academy Sports • Advantage Signs • All Aluminum Concepts • Amelia Island Bait & Tackle • Angie's Sub Shop • Atlantic Coast Marine • Atlantic Engraving & Graphics • Available Angler • Avid Angler • B & M Bait & Tackle • Beach Plaza Auto Care • Best Western Mayport • Boat U. S./Angler • Boathouse Discount Marine • Boatronics • BOCA Bearings • Bonefish Grill • Bowen Upholstery • C & H Lures • Capt. Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing • Carolina Skiff • Catchin' A Buzz Fishing • Consignment Boat Sales • Copperhead Metal Arts • Coastal Angler Magazine • Custom Marine Components • DOA Lures • Dames Point Marina • Dandee Foods • Dell Marine • Doherty Brothers Marine Construction • Donovan Heating & Air • Fish Carvings by Rick & Billy • Fish Florida • Fish On • Fishing Connection • Fishing Nosara.com • Five Star Pizza • Florida Sportsman Live • FOOTCUSH • Gary Newman Insurance • Gone Fishin' • Great Atlantic Outfitters • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Hagerty Construction & Roofing • Hardees • Holzman's Keys cottages & Bayside • Hoo Rag • Hook The Future • Hope Fishing Adventures • Hulihan Territory Irrigation Systems • In River or Ocean • International Ropes • Island Electric of the First Coast • Julington Creek Carpet Care • KC Crave * Knight Electric • Kona Skate Park • Magic Tilt Trailers • Mandarin Ale House • Mercury Outboards • Mike's Taxidermy • Mousa's Auto Interiors & More • Murphy Communications • Nosara Paradise Rentals • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Paradise Resort • Pepsi Bottling Co. • Proctor Ace Hardware • Progressive Insurance • Pure Fishing • Reel Fish Deals • Rick's Bait & Tackle • River Marine • Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service • Safe Harbor Seafood • Salt Life • Salty Charters of Jacksonville • Sea Angler Gear • Sea Dancer Charters • Sea Tow • Singelton's Seafood Shack • Skate Station Funworks • SOC 7 Productions • Southern Propane • Still Just fishing Show • Strike Zone Fishing • Styles Smith Plumbing • Sumo Design Studio • Sun Deli • Sure Set Jigs • SweetWater Brewing • Taylor Concrete Services • T.B.S. Jigs & Charter • The Ice Man • The Outdoors Show • The Spot Tournament • The Waters' Edge Boat Detailing • Towboat US of Jacksonville • Trout River Fish Co. • Vic2Fish & Adventures • West Marine • Wild Adventures • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • Windsor Park Golf Club • Woody Wax • Zaxby's*

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS! THEY SUPPORT US AND FISHING!



Jacksonville Offshore
Sports Fishing Club
P.O. Box 331185
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

