



The Newsletter of the ...

# The Reel News



Volume 46 Issue 4

April 2006

## Presidents Castings



**President  
Pete  
St. Laurent**

A few of the membership have recently asked me, where can I find all these numbers everyone is talking about? Most of the members that I have fished with will tell you that I don't have any secret numbers, but the easiest way to compile a large numbers book for bottom fishing in the fall and winter is to do a lot of trolling in the spring and summer. Now trolling to some means merely dragging baits. However there is far more to it than throwing a pogie out and waiting for a knockdown.

First lets discuss finding bait since live bait can be used for both trolling and bottom fishing. Finding pogies is quite easy, simply look for the cluster of boats on the beach, or if there isn't any boats around run down the beach in 12 to 20 feet of water watching for pogies flipping on the surface or a dark patch in the water, while your running keep an eye in your bottom scope as pogies will ball up on the bottom. Once you have found them you will need a 8 ft or larger fast sinking net to load your live well quickly. In my experience it is much easier to though a large net than a smaller one and I will gladly show anyone that wants the easiest way to through a large net. To me pogies are the bait of choose if I'm fishing the beach but if I'm fishing the chart reefs I would much prefer to have cigars or sardines, though pogies are a safe bet and well worth the time before you head offshore.

Finding bait spots offshore are a little more challenging but if you keep an eye out for bait pods on the surface, birds diving and swooping, other boats and an eye on

Continued on Page 2



WOW !

Was that awesome or what!!!!?

170 boats participated in what now has become largest Sheepshead Tournament in the World; the 6TH Annual El Cheapo !!!

To say this tournament was a success would be a huge understatement.

With 52 sponsors donating over \$23,000.00 worth of prizes, raffles, and support, the 50 plus volunteers of the JOSFC pulled off one of the most successful events in the club's 47 year history.

As tournament director for the 4th year in a row, I consider it a privilege to be associated with such an outstanding effort., 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 2006 Presenting Sponsors

American Transmissions put together the boat, motor and trailer package for 1st place. The owner Keith Segars is a great guy who loves fishing and really wanted to be a part of the tournament this year. Thanks Keith.

Donald Workman of Workman's Kwik-Fix plumbing put up \$1,000 cash for 2nd place. Thanks Donald.

Owner Darryl Smith of Salty Styles gave the 3rd place prize of \$750.00 cash. Thanks Darryl.

4th place was presented by ACM electronics owned by Dave Devoss. Dave presented a Furuno FCV 600 L colorscope.. Thanks Dave.

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## Presidents Message Cont.

your bottom scope while your running you should be able to find bait. Once you find any or all of these things and you start to subiki up bait mark this spot in your GPS and take notice of any bottom structure, the water temp and the date. Put all of these in your logbook for future reference. Bait ball up in areas for a reason and once you have determined the reason you will consistently find bait offshore. Once you are baited up don't think you have to run 10, 5 or even 1 mile to your fishing spot. Once baited up, set a spread out and zigzag the area this will help you to find structure on the bottom as will as give you a good idea of what is really going on in that area. As you are zigzagging and you come across a bit of structure on the bottom mark it on your GPS and make a note in your log book (example: #11 2 ft profile .08 NE of MR flag) This will help you later as you compile all the numbers of that days trip into your numbers book because not only will you have the number but you will know the general location and what to look for when you go back to that number later. When you get a knockdown the first thing the person driving the boat should do is mark the spot and make a note in the logbook (example: #12 KD cigar down 15ft port heading 210 11:10 am) once the fish is landed enter the fish in logbook (large Cuda.) I used the Cuda for a reason because everyone considers cudas to be a nascence fish, but you can learn something from even them. Cudas are a strong structure orientated fish and if you start catching them you are very close to a structure that is holding bottom and bait fish. So even though they may be a pain in the neck in the summer you might be thanking them in the fall and winter.

Now that the tournament season is underway and the captains race has begun you all have an opportunities to start building a numbers book that even the most seasoned fisherman would be proud of.

I say we fish 5 days and work 2!

Pete St. Laurent

Bust-N-Reds

The first club Tournament is under our belts, and Eddie is in the lead for Captain of the Year!

## The Results of the River Tournament

1st - Eddie McGowan (BiteThis)	122.6lbs,
2nd - Mike Snyder (No Peekin'2)	65.4lbs.,
3rd - Frank Grassi (Maelstrom)	18.3lbs.,
4th - Danny DelRio	16.8lbs.,
5th - Mike Murphy	12.8 lbs.,
6th - Andy Proesher	10.8lbs.,
7th - Pete St.Laurent	9.8lbs.,
8th - Rob Darner	7.9lbs.,
9th - Bob Houghton	7.8lbs.,
10th - Gary Newman	3.6lbs.

Donovan Heating & Air presented \$500.00 cash for 5th place. Thanks to Jimmy, Joel, & Kyle.

Steve Knight with Knight Electric presented all 3 \$100.00 mystery weight prizes. Thanks Steve.

And lastly, thank you to Dave and Brian at Strike Zone Fishing for mounting a replica of the winning Sheepshead for the 1st place angler.

Congratulations to all of our winners especially Tyler and his crew who took first place. In doing so they've also proven that you don't need a little boat to win this tournament. He captained their 27' Contender all the way to the end of the North Jetties ( nearly 2 miles from the boat ramp !) to anchor up and catch the winner on a chunk of crab !!!

Hope to see you all again next year.

Frank Joura

2006 El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament Director.

## Fishing Reports & Other tall Tales



**Chris Rooney**  
Fishing  
Committee  
Chairman

### Get Rid of the Winter Blues

The Winter is GONE!!! The fish are starting to get fired up, April is the month of spring showers for some, but for us it's the kick off of our offshore summer season. The first target is on April Fools day, the 1st is a Saturday, and the Non-Live Bait Tournament just happens to kick it off. The River tourney has been written into history and the race for Captain of the year is on. Here are the targets this month:

#1. Wahoo, they are starting to spread out, and the catches will dwindle as the month progresses. But the largest fish of the year will end the month feeding in the East 21-22 bottom including the Elton Bottom area, this is when they chase the snake kings, try a rigged spanish and horse ballyhoo. Just don't forget the Wire cause they are defiantly toothy critters.

#2 Dolphin, The Phins show up at the ledge this month, I'm out of dolphin fillets in the freezer, so it's about time they show up. The really big fish are caught the end of this month and the beginning of May. The other thing that happened last year was





## Flotsam & Jetsam

**Rob Darner**

The 6th Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament has come and gone. Comparing this year's tournament to the 1st Annual Tournament is like comparing an apple to a potato. There is no comparison. The tournament that started out six years ago has blossomed into a quite stunning flower. At the heart of it all are the volunteers who have made this into what it is today. Six years ago, the tournament was not but a dream and a laugh floating around Kevin Shivar's kitchen table. Mr. Kevin Shivar was the tournament's first director and he took the reins by the hand set the fishing tournament into motion. Mr. Frank Joura took those reins and added a few more horses to the fold and now has this tournament up and running.

It is easy to see those in front but it is difficult to always find those who follow. Like a Broadway play, the actors could not pull off the performance without the aid and skills for those who manage the stage from behind the scenes. Without those who follow and do the yeoman's work, the tournament would not be what it is today. It is impossible to thank everyone for doing their part from setting up chairs and tents, to cooking fish, selling raffle tickets and T-shirts. Other jobs include brochures designs, brochures distribution, fish cleaning, PA system and the very important job of cleaning up in general. Some jobs are big and others are small but they all need to get done. What is so great is that there is someone there to do the job where it is big or small. It was quite a stunning event and it was so great to see the many club volunteers who turned this into a first class fishing tournament.

Everywhere one roamed, a common refrain was heard. The tournament was a good time. This thought is echoed out on the forum. One would have been hard pressed to see someone having a bad time. Having fun and fellowship is part of the tenants that make the club what it is and what it has been. This was so evident with all the participants who entered the tournament. If you have any doubts just log on to Jaxfish.com and upload Greg Malloy's photos. Since every picture is worth a thousand words then there must be millions of words describing the fun and good times illustrated in these photos.

Six years ago, the club's treasury was looking kinda thin and something needed to be done for the financial health and well being for the club. Out of this need, the El Cheapo was born. "El Cheapo" was our motto from the entree fee to what we could put together for raffles and

prizes to get this off the ground. The only thing that wasn't cheap was the fun to be had and the friendships to be made. Six years later, the tournament has achieved what it intended to do. It has put the club on a strong financial footing. Having been involved in the early processes to set this dream in motion, I cannot thank everyone for making this a dream come true. This is no one man's project but rather a group effort to what we have today. When everyone is involved then this is the type of results we see.

Thank you,  
Rob Darner

### Fishing Reports Continued

the man in the Blue Suit showed up with the smaller fish in the first wave, quite a few Marlin were caught. One way to give yourself a chance is matching the hatch, a green and yellow lure in spread, will attract Mr. Blue and big Wahoo eat little dolphin too.

On the bottom the Snapper will light it up as the water warms up. They never really left the party grounds this year and that makes the spring look very promising. I'll bet the non-live will yield a couple of mules if the entrants look to the bottom for the fish and bring them to the weigh-in. The month ends with the Sailfish Pot Party on the 29th, signaling the start of the Sailfish season on the Party Grounds. It's a great party and if the sailfish bite like they did last year, I'm sure the river will see some swimmers at the club meetings. All in all the month of April is yet another reason to live in the new fishing capitol of Florida.

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## Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram**  
**Safety Officer**

The club tournament schedule for this year began with the River Tournament. Since our future tournaments will be offshore, we need to give a lot of thought to our equipment and safety before heading out to our favorite honey hole offshore.

Safe boating should begin at home before you trailer your boat to the ramp or leave your dock or marina. To ensure that your outing on the water begins and ends safely, the first thing to do to ensure the safety of your trip on the water 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.

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

Continued Page 5

## THE NEW EL CHEAPO

"We are not concerned with your comfort!"

pronounced Frank Joura the El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament Director. With that pronouncement, it was on! The 6th El Cheapo Tournament was a go despite NOAA calling for such a terrible day: lows in the 50's, the possibility of cold rain nearly all day and the wind out of the SE at 20 knots. Nothing less would do for the El Cheapo Tournament. Last year, it was bitter cold with frost the morning of the tournament. What else would one want for a sheepshead tournament? Crummy weather is part of our mystic. Would you really want a high in the 70's and light wind from the South? Naw, we are real tournament, die hard fisherman and the worst it is the better. Right?

This year's tournament took a major step forward in its growing maturity. The tournament could boost of nearly 175 boats entered, over 400 dinners served and practically running out of T-shirts and hats. Wow, what an effort that went into this one!

What really has made the tournament come into its own this year was the competition? No longer was the tournament the domain of the crusty old sheepshead fisherman whose boat was battered and torn with many a ding but there was a new class of tournament fisherman to be found. This year we had the arrival of the Fountains and the Contenders. Yes, that's right, a Fountain and a Contender were spotted fishing for Sheepshead. The Tournament has arrived. Since a Contender boat and crew took first place, I guess those boats are good for jettie fishing too. You wonder how close to the rocks one of those boats actually got? Let's see \$120,000.00 boat vs. \$4,500.00 first place price and you guest it, they would actually get that close. Once such go-fast boat was spotted backing down toward the rocks to free up an anchor and yes, the rocks don't move much. Just ask that crew.

Having improved my weight from last year by .7 ounces, I see I have several years of increasing catches in order to get into the winner's circle. However, I see from all the stiff competition that a new strategy might have to come into place. A bigger boat is in the works and I will have to develop new fishing strategies for catching the King of Bait Stealing Thieves. New lines, hooks and rigs will have to be developed as to propel us into the winner's circle. With the Fountain and Contender's making a grand entrance, I guess I will top of the fuel tanks and make the run south to Ponce. Oh yea, did I mention that I lost a tournament winner as well. That fish straighten out my hook and got away.

For the 6th Annual El Cheapo, the field was tight lipped about who was catching what and where prior to the event. There was a certain buzz about who had a 6 pounder here or there. Was it Mike that had a 7.3 at the Jetties or was it Dave? And which Jettie tip was it, the North of the South? Inside or Out? The questions never stop and for some of us, they never get answered for others. Did anyone hear about the secret bait that was used to catch this year's winner? I heard something but I am not sure if it is true or not. Secret baits, secret numbers does this sound too familiar? I would

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Top's tips continued

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.

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

### The Ladies Sailfish Pot Party is coming!!!

The Ladies party is April 29th at the Captains Club on Beach Blvd. From 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. The dress is Resort Casual. It is only \$25.00 / Person

There will be plenty of GREAT Raffle prizes

Any questions, call Charlene at 904-292-9207



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## Associate Member of the Month



Atlantic Coast Marine Electronics Inc. Was our 4th Place Sponsor for the El CHEAPO Tournament. Located at 13725 Beach Blvd, they handle Sales, Installation, and Service on all Marine Electronics.

Atlantic Coast Marine Electronics Inc is a FULL service business. You don't have to pull your boat out of the water and trailer it to them, they will respond to your boat's location and work on it right there.

Again, Atlantic Coast Marine Electronics Inc supports our club, so when you need new electronics, or repairs to your old equipment, lets give ACM our business!

The New El Cheapo Continued

think I was on the SKA tour. What's next, the SST or Southern Sheepshead Tour.

What more could one ask for a mere \$60 entry fee. The food was great; the raffle was exhaustive and deep. For the new and improved tournament, we had a tent and a PA system plus several tables to handle the spectators and captains during the tournament event. Even the 1.6 pound Sheepshead won a prize of \$100. It was a mystery weight winner. Even though you did not catch the biggest, you still had a shot at something. Something is what this tournament has become and soon it will develop its own lore on fishing.

Best Wishes for Fishing,

Rob Darner

## Instant Crew, Just Add Water

This space is going to be used by our members that for whatever reason don't have a boat and want to go fishing, either inshore or offshore.

If you know that you will be available on certain dates, or just in general, give me your Name, Phone, Dates available, and note if you can be called the night before for the next day. I will have that list here in this part of the Newsletter each month.

## The Men's Sailfish Pot Party is Coming!!!

The Men's party is April 29th at the Ramala Club. The Party starts at 6:00 pm. Dress is resort casual, and admission is \$25.00 / Person. Bring extra for the raffle and drinks.

Any Questions call Rob Bishop at 838-7381



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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Renewal)

The JOSFC invites the participation of all area fishing enthusiast and is dedicated to conservation, preservation and fellowship with our membership.

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(Husband, Wife, & Children under 16)

☐ Annual Associate Member ..... \$100.00  
(For Business Concerns)

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☐ Life Family Membership ..... \$300.00

☐ Individual Member ..... \$40.00

☐ Paid Junior Member ..... \$5.00

☐ Application Fee ..... \$25.00  
(Applicable to NEW Members or if renewing over 6 months late)

Total Remittance

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>April</b>				<b>1</b> The NON-LIVE Tournament
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Board Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Club Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Repair the Clubhouse Day
<b>9</b> The Blessing of the Fleet	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> The Blitz Bottom Tournament
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Club Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> The Times Union Spot Tournament
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> The Ladies & Mens Sailfish Pot Party
<b>30</b>	<b>Coming Events:</b>		The Non-Live Tournament - April 1st Repair the Clubhouse Work Party - April 8th The Blessing of the Fleet - April 9th The Blitz Bottom Tournament at Mayport - April 15th			

The Times Union Spot Tournament - April 22nd

The Ladies Sailfish Pot Party at The Captains Club - April 29th, 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

The Men's Sailfish Pot Party at the Ramallah Club, starts at 6:00 pm \$30.00 / Per Person

The Captains Club Marine Flea Market at Beach Marine - May 6th & 7th

The Greater Jacksonville Bellsouth Kingfish Tournament is - July 17 - 23

### Tournament Schedule for 2006

Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date	-	Rain Date
Non-Live Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	April 1 st	-	April 8 th
May Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 6 th	-	May 13 th
Unlimited Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 27 th	-	June 3 rd
Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	June 17 th	-	June 18 th
Kingfish Tune-up Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	July 8 th	-	July 9 th or July 15 th
Powder Puff Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 12 th	-	August 19 th
Light Tackle Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 26 th	-	September 2 nd
The Bottom Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	September 9 th	-	September 16 th



## *Associate Members*

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