



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 50 Issue 4

April 2010



Presidents Castings

Captain Chris Rooney

April a Month of Transition

Well spring is finally here, and the Dolphin are due to show up in force by the end of the month. This winter has been the coldest we know of and hopefully that will provide some great rips and temperature breaks will set up as the warm water comes in from the south. That will provide the target areas out in the deep water we didn't see a lot of last year, and should be excellent for the MAHI MAHI!! Look for the changes in water color or and smooth areas running north and south filled with floatsam, weeds and bait. They will hold dolphin, we had luck last year keeping somebody up front with a big spinning rod and sight casting to fish with live bait or a jig with a squid head. Once he hooked up the other fish would come out of the weed line to see what was going on and two or three of the trolling rods would get hit and the fun started.

Mahi Mayham is always good for a laugh and even better if you hook up four fish and land them all! Just remember when your going deep make sure somebody on shore knows where you're headed and what time you plan on being back to shore. You can always file a trip float plan leave it with your wife or the marina so if you don't get back on time, someone starts the correct procedures for finding you. Check Top's Safety tips on the web site for more information.

Continued Page 2



This is a FISHING Newsletter, so what is the Jaguars Quarterback David Garrard doing on our front page? Well.....

He is starting A NEW FISHING TRADITION FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA - LET'S BE A PART OF IT!

On May 15th, a new tradition begins on the First Coast as the David Garrard Foundation hosts its first annual fundraiser: Fishing for the Cure, a one-day fishing tournament featuring NFL players and other celebrities. **Garrard's Gamefish & Gridiron** will have prizes for top fishermen in both inshore and offshore categories. This is a fun, charity event and a portion of your registrations fee is tax-deductible, so it's a win - win for everyone! The Top Angler of the tournament will win two club seats for the Jaguars' 2010 season, a value of approximately \$5,000.

Fishing will begin early Saturday morning, and we will culminate the days' festivities with a party featuring wonderful food from the Conch House, an auction, autographs from the players and great live music. Two boat registration levels are available at \$500 for the general entry or \$700 for a premium entry that includes a captain's bag valued at more than \$150 and an autographed football. After 4/15, the registration fees increase to \$550 and \$750 respectively. Both boat entry fees include two tickets to the MVP party, a value of \$300.00., In addition to the Top Angler award, there will be individual prizes for Dolphin, King, Billfish catch and release, Redfish, Flounder and Trout, as well as prizes for top Junior and Lady Anglers.

"My family and I are excited about being able to take our passion for offshore fishing and boating and use it in a way to support local children who are impacted by these diseases," said Garrard, "When my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer I

Continued Page 2

New Tradition Continued

had incredible support from my family and church. I want to do what I can to ensure local kids get that same kind of support.”

Most importantly, your registration into the tournament will benefit families right here on the First Coast. The David Garrard Foundation, a 501 c (3) organization, supports the awareness, education and research of breast cancer and Crohn’s disease and also promotes healthy lifestyle choices for today’s youth. You can help make the difference in the lives of families who are impacted by these diseases with your tournament participation.

Please take a few minutes to visit our website www.fishingforthecure.org. You’ll see that you can register for the tournament and purchase additional MVP party tickets online. If you have questions, please contact Dani Deyton, our Tournament Manager at (904) 415-4305 or ddeyton@comcast.net, or Heather Surface with the David Garrard Foundation at heather@davidgarrardfoundation.org. If your company is interested in sponsoring a celebrity boat or supporting the tournament in any way, please let us know.

We hope we can count on the support of the wonderful members of the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club for this event!



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

Officers:

- President Chris Rooney
- Vice President Don Cook
- Secretary Allison Thornton
- Treasurer Tina Proescher

**Board of Directors:
& Special Staff:**

- Special Events Butch Ogin
- Books & Charts Greg Wallace
- Hospitality Larry Hixenbaugh
- Fishing Coordinator Derek Siegel
- Membership Tony Thompson
- Trophies & Awards Alan Shepard
- Newsletter Editor Bill Breen
- Newsletter & Marine Radio Mike Murphy

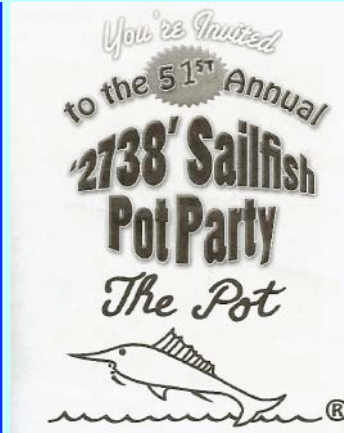
©Copyright 2010

The Men’s Sailfish Pot Party

Date: Saturday April 18, 2009

Time: 6:00 PM Till ??

Location: Ramallah American Club
3130 Parental Home Rd.
Jacksonville, FL



Menu: Steak, Oysters, Chicken Wings & Beer (Bring your own Oyster Knife & Towel)

Cost: \$30 Prior to April 23rd, \$40 After April 23, 2009

Prizes: The Best Assortment of Raffle Prizes Ever!

This is a Stag Event!

The Men’s Entry Form is on Page 6

Grand Raffle Prize:

Mercury 9.9 hp 4-stroke Outboard Motor!



Presidents Message Continued

The March meeting of our friends at SAFMC gave us a small amount of hope, a new stock assessment is in the works and will establish a new benchmark survey. All the preconceived assumptions are on the cutting board everthing from the age of our snapper to the discard mortality rates, Will be reviewed and possibly changed. This was the first time I heard something at one of the meetings from the council in the last two years that made any sense. That surely doesn’t mean we’re going to throw in the towel and let the pressure off, that pressure is what made this happen and we need to keep the pressure on our congressmen and senators. Well that’s what I have for you this month we are ready to go and the fish are biting so lets go and be safe!!



Rob's Fishing Lore

Rob Darner

The Biggest Trip of My Life

The planning started months before the event actually happened. A few buddies and I arranged to meet at a mystical place far, far away. As the plane descended and the clouds disappeared, we could see the white sands of Florida Gulf coast or so we thought. One of the biggest differences in what we saw and what we thought was the ambient temperature outside. For those white sandy Gulf Coast beaches was actually snow covered hills. Upon exiting the airport our words and breath hung in the air for all to see. We had arrived in Washington DC to rally for our fishing rights.



Our plan was to get up early on Wednesday and travel to the Metro rail and take the train to Union Station. For us, the Metro rail was problematic because we had to learn how to learn how to pay for tickets for the commute. The train took just about 50 minutes to reach Union Station where we departed. The next part of the plan was to find fellow fisherman at Union Station; however, Union Station is one big place and with thousands of people going in and out we could easily miss a small group of fisherman gathered around a corner. With this concern fresh on our minds, our fears were laid to rest because our fellow fisherman protester stood out like a sore thumb in the crowd at the Station. You see, 90 % of those who worked in DC that took the train in all dressed alike. For those nondescript workers tended to wear all black. Black overcoats, black shoes with black paints or an occasional grey fabric was tossed in was the workforce dress code. Now a bunch of long hair camo dressed fisherman with some type of fishing cap revealing

their favorite lure or port of call stood out like yellow snow in a park lot full of snow.

Once found and oriented, we collected premade protest signs touting our reason for the rally. Since we were from Florida, Rep. John Mica was holding a gathering for his constituents and this was good because I am one so I thought we would attend. Rep Mica has taken to championing our cause with at least two bills he introduced into Congress to halt the SAFMC's shut down of Red Snapper. Collectively, Bill Wildrodder, George Strate, Robert Johnson, Jodi Lynn Johnson, my father and my self plus a few commercial fisherman I know by site made our way from the Union Station to the Blackburn Building to meet with Rep. Mica.



Our travels took us in front of the US Congress. As we prepared to leisurely stroll across its grounds we were told to halt and answer a few question by men dressed in that all important DC dress code: Black; however, these men had a few more adornments to their ensemble by being heavily armed with shotguns and assault weapons. Their car of choice the Chevy Suburban was painted black just to go with the theme. (This wasn't a movie set of the X Files.) If you looked carefully you could find a sniper or two. We were permitted to cross in front of the Capitol Building and just for fun, a man in black on a bicycle decided to escort us part way wanting to know if we meant trouble because he and his friends were good at trouble. Ever wonder what the newspundents meant by the DC bubble and just how our Congressional leaders become so out of touch, I think I just found out a possible answer.

Before we could enter the Rayburn Building, the Capitol Police told us we had to leave our signs behind because they were not permitted inside. For nearly an hour we meet with Mica's aids for he was in a more public hearing on the shenagins of Toyota. Oh well, Toyota or fishing which do you think brings one more cameras right now. So after an hour, we left our room and found the rally site. The site as little more than a park with a stage; however, the mere site of this muddy cold field transformed itself into something larger than life. Nearly 5,000 that's right 5,000 fisherman gather in DC to shout with a single voice "I Fish, I Vote!" for 3 hours. Both commercial and recreational fishermen join in a single voice to raise our concerns over the Mag/ Stevenson Act.

As a response to our protests, we had 5 US Senators, 16 US Representatives and a couple of town mayors all speak to



Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

TOWING YOUR BOAT

Before I get into the subject of towing your boat, I want to remind everyone to wear your life jacket when on the water. During the past week Florida had 3 boating fatalities from drowning; One from bad weather swamping a canoe, one from falling overboard from a pontoon boat and one from falling overboard from a 12 foot jon boat. Florida has issued the following boating statistics for 2010:

Boating fatalities to date: 8

Drowning 7, Trauma 1

6 Males 2 Females

8 Single vessel accidents

Boating fatalities to date in 2009: 5

As you can see from the statistics above, 7 people might be alive today if they had been wearing a life jacket. Remember, life jackets float when you do not.



Now, with improving weather and tournaments on the schedule, Club members will be towing their boats more to get in on the action. In order to have a safe, successful

boating/fishing trip, if you are one of the 95% of recreational boaters who tow their boats, you must first tow your boat to the nearest boat ramp for launching. Towing a boat has its good and bad points, and the potential problems in towing are many. I would like to remind everyone of a few things to consider before towing your boat.

Before you add a trailer hitch to your vehicle to pull that new, or used, boat you will be fishing from, you should look at it as a package and make sure the vehicle is capable of towing the weight of the boat and trailer. Unless your vehicle is specially equipped, you should not tow a trailer load that weighs more than the vehicle. Manufacturers sell towing packages that include several modifications for your vehicle such as heavy-duty radiators, transmission oil coolers, heavy-duty brakes and proper suspension systems based on tongue weight.

Before connecting your vehicle to a trailer, make sure you are using the correct sized ball for your coupler. Never use a coupler designed for a larger ball even if it seems to fit as it can come loose with disastrous results. Also, it is sometimes possible to put a coupler on a larger ball than it was designed for. Don't do

it! It will bind and the trailer will not track correctly. The shanks of balls vary in size with the ball. Never use a smaller ball than required, as the shank will be undersized and could shear.

Balancing the load on your trailer is very important to safe towing. Between 5 & 7% of the tow weight (boat+motor+contents+trailer) should be on the tongue. If you have more than this, the rear squats, the front lifts, and your vehicle is hard to handle. If you have less, the trailer is likely to fishtail, and the wind from a large truck could cause you to lose control. For example, the tongue weight for the average passenger car should be no more than 100 pounds with the towing package weighing no more than 2,000 pounds.

To check your tongue weight, load your boat with the gear you normally carry. Then, stack cinder blocks to the height of your trailer ball and place your bathroom scales on top of the blocks. Now, lower your trailer tongue onto the scales. If the tongue weight needs adjusting, the simplest way is to move the load inside the boat forward or aft. If this is not sufficient, you can move the winch stem and your boat forward or aft.

You should develop a pre-departure check list to make sure you check the following items before you go: Air in tires and spare, tools, items in boat secured, electrical connections made and brake, lights and turn signals working, motor or outdrive up and secured, tie down straps secured, coupler locked and safety chains secured. Finally, don't forget the obvious; make sure your drain plug is installed so you can continue to enjoy safe boating.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales

Biggest Trip Continued

us about the need to amend the Mag/ Stevenson Act. Over cheers due to our representatives pandering to us and one important question was likely not heard or possibly ignored. I tried to ask "when". When would Congress take up our cause and bring the Flexibility in Fishing Act? At the rally, I learned that we in the Southeast are not alone with our concerns. Up and down our coast plus those in the Gulf and some from Alaska are all trouble and are facing the same problems we do.

This was possible the largest fishing adventure of a life time. I have only been to DC as a tourist never as someone who a sitting US Senator or US Representative wanted to meet. The experience was unique and 5,000 of us hopefully have set a hook for changes to come. I believe all these representatives know that we have numbers and PEW has money so now they just have to decide which is more important to them. The DC trip is only a beginning because we now have their attention and the attention of some of the National News Media. The News Media did not provide happy, happy coverage of the event but they did recognize what is going on. More citizens are unhappy with the current state of their government. So with their attention, what should we do is our next step. I say do what you can to keep up the pressure at the SAFMC, keep the pressure on our Florida delegation and for our sake let's get the Florida State Government involved with this fight because up till now, our State has been relatively quiet while NC & SC has chosen to fight and for their efforts they have been partially rewarded. What will you do?

Associate Member of the Month



Florida Custom Rods
(904) 619-8611

sales@floridacustomrods.com

We are a custom builder of all sorts of fishing rods and gaffs. From 8# Light-Tackle Spinning Rods to 130# International Trolling Rods, we can build it all.

All of our rods include FREE Personalization with your name and/or boat name embedded and epoxied on the rod. We use custom laser printed decals using computer fonts and not someone's handwriting on your rod. You get the choice of having the name in Gold or White.

We also offer free delivery for all Duval, Nassau, Clay, and St. Johns counties for all rods.

This company produced some *awesome* Custom Rods as prizes for the El Cheapo Tournament! They were really works of art! If you are thinking about a custom Rod or Gaff, contact Florida Custom Rods.

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

I don't usually post these numerous request, but I thought this was interesting Here is an easy and quick way to get some live bait for your inshore fishing, visit this site for information on a live bait trap.
Collapse-A-Trap.com

Here is an old member just rejoined the club!



Capt Daves
Sportfishing
Jacksonville Fl
904-642-9546



2010 Ladies Sailfish Pot Party

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Cocktails 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM

Location:

The Captain's Club, 13363 Beach Blvd.

Cost:

\$35.00 If paid PRIOR to 4/15/10

\$40.00 After 4/15/10

The Theme will be Italian:

Prize for the best Theme dressed lady.

Send Payment to

Charlene Parker
12344 Del Rio Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32258

Pay PRIOR to 4/15/10 and receive 10 free Raffle tickets!

For Party Information or to sponsor the Ladies, Contact

Bobbie Eunice
Ph - 894-0085



Loud Hailings

Newsletter Editor
Bill Breen

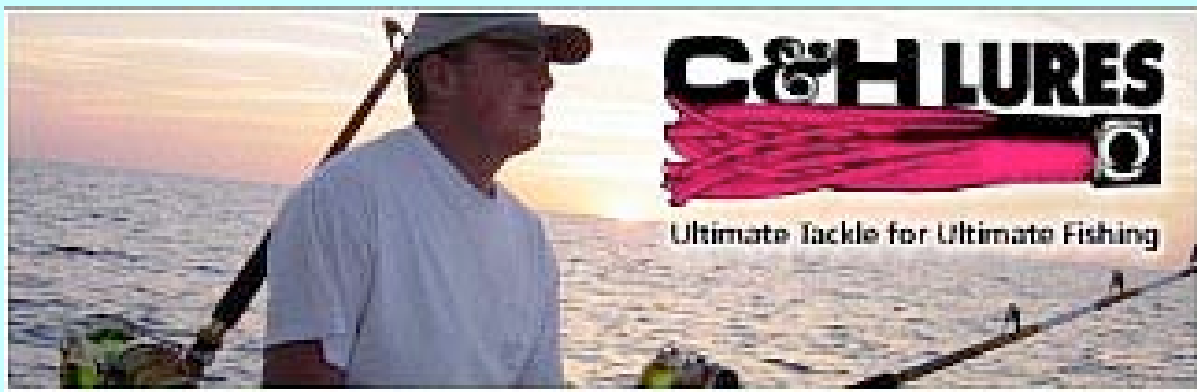
Leigh Davis, our Program Director, says that if you have a suggestion for a guest speaker or know anyone he can trick into giving a talk at the club, be sure to give him their name so he can contact them. Lets help Leigh out!

I really like to feature PICTURES of club members with some good catches. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting (I will return it to you) or Phone, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at: PH# 904-254-2791 Fax#904-213-9786 breenw@bellsouth.net Don't forget to include your name spelled correctly and the fish weight.

Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News just send or give it to me at any time.

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
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
Phillip Ferdon	H = 879-0184 C = 887-6736	Fri. Sat.	Up to 9:00 pm
Rod Saffles	- 993-6986	Any Day	Up to Midnight



Men's Entry form ONLY

The 51th Annual "2738" Sailfish Pot Party is going to be the best event in recent history!

If you have attended this party before, you know what an enjoyable evening of fellowship and fun it can be, and if you've never been before you'll be glad you came!

OFFICIAL ENTRY - 51ST ANNUAL "2738" SAILFISH POT PARTY

Saturday, May 1, 2010 • 6:00 pm till ??
 Ramallah American Club • 3130 Parental Home Road • Jacksonville, FL
 Menu: Steak, Oysters, Chicken Wings & Beer (Bring your own oyster knife.)
 Cost: \$30 prior to April 23, 2010 • \$40 after April 23, 2010

NAME _____

BOAT NAME (if applicable) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please make check payable and mail to:
 Gary Newman
 67 Sailfish Dr.
 Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____
 (\$30 if received by April 23
 \$40 if received after April 23)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 20px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">April</div>				1 Club Meeting	2	3
				4	5 Board Meeting	6
11	12	13	14	15 Club Meeting	16	17 Non-Live Tournament
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Coming Events:

- April 17th - The Non-Live Tournament.
- May 1st - The Sailfish Pot Parties!
- May 15th - *Garrard's Gamefish & Gridiron Tournament*
- May 22 - 28th - National Safe Boating Week
- October 23rd - JOSFC Awards Banquet



Tournament Schedule for 2010

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate
		Saturday - Sunday
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

Associate Members

• *All Aluminum Concepts* • *Angie's Sub Shop* • *Anchor Saver* • *Atlantic Coast Marine* • *Avid Angler* • *B & M Bait & Tackle* • *Boathouse Discount Marine* • *Bait Masters of S Fl* • *Catchin' A Buzz Fishing Co.* • *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* • *Fishing Nosara* • *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 Jaguars* • *Jacksonville Marina* • *Jax River City Café* • *Just-Right Auto Sales* • *Knight Electric* • *Lockwood Marine* • *Mercury Outboards* • *Miami Dolphins* • *Mike's Taxidermy* • *Miss Candace Nicole Shrimp* • *Mayport Princess* • *Murphy Communications* • *Ocean Get Away* • *Ocean Waves Sunglasses* • *Pepsi Bottling Co.* • *Penn Tackle Mfg.* • *Plano Molding Co.* • *Production Drywall* • *Progressive Insurance* • *Pier 17* • *PGA Tour* • *Rick's Bait & Tackle* • *River Marine* • *Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting* • *Safe Harbor Seafood* • *Salty Styles* • *Sea Tow* • *Sea Dance Charters* • *Skinner Nurseries* • *Smith & Sons Tree Service* • *SOC 7 Productions* • *Solomon's RV & Boat Storage* • *Southern Propane* • www.southernpropane.net • *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* • *Vic2Fish* • *W.L.S. Contracting* • *WebCode Fusion* • *Wild Adventures Theme Park* • *Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc.* • *West Marine* • *Woody Wax* • *Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing* •



**Jacksonville Offshore
Sport Fishing Club**

P.O. Box 331185
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

PRSRT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Permit 3546
Jacksonville, FL