



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 52 Issue 4

April 2012

PRESIDENTS CASTINGS

Capt. Danny Del Rio



We had two great meeting in the month of March. First was Capt. Tony Bozzella giving us a great amount of information on fishing for trout and red fish. Then next meeting we had a very informative speaker, Dr. Mitchel Roffer, giving a presentation on his sea surface temperature charts, as to how they reflect where the fish are in the water column.

The River Tournament which was postponed due to foul weather conditions was fished on the next weekend.

Enough about March with its exceptional weather! As we go into April, we should expect more of the same or better. Hope everyone has checked their boats and fishing gear and has it all in top-notch shape. Fishing in the river has been extremely good for just about any species you want to catch. Also, offshore with the water temperatures rising, the dolphin should be fired up!

The Non-Live Tournament is scheduled for April 14th. Last year's winner Greg Wallace will be the tournament director. Also, the Metro Boat Show at Metropolitan Park is on April 20th, 21st and 22nd.

Last but not least, don't forget the Sailfish Pot Parties on April 28th. Mens at Shriners Morrocan Temple, contact Chris Rooney at 334-9023. Ladies is at American Legion Post 316, contact Inez Higginbotham 424-1981.

Ya All Come!

Tight Lines and Safe Boating,

Danny Del Rio



The Sailfish Pot Parties

Both the Men's & Ladies Sailfish Pot Party Party Are Saturday, April 28th, 2012

The Men's will be at the [Morocco Shrine](#) on St Johns Bluff (3800 St. John's Bluff Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32224)

The 53rd Annual "2738" Sailfish Pot Party is set for the 28th of April, this tradition has survived through the tough times and our area merchants and members of the fishing community are with us more than ever. If you've been with us before you know the evening is as good as it gets, old friends and the new guys are equally at home with one of the greatest events ever created for the fisherman of N. E. Florida.

If you didn't get your invitation in the mail, you can register by going to our Website and clicking on the link in the Pot Party Article. Registration is \$30 until April 10. After April 10 it cost \$40. You can pay at the door if you decide to go at the last minute.

The Ladies Party will be at:

Continued on Page 2



This is just a beautiful picture, and most of you will get this, it shows why I love fishing, and just being out on the ocean.

This was sent in by Will Aitken from his fishing trip for Wahoo with AJ Proescher and Tom Darga.



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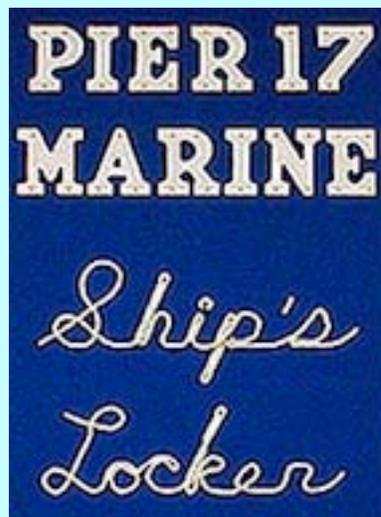
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Sailfish parties Continued

American Legion Post 316
 1127 Atlantic Blvd
 Atlantic Beach, Fl 32233

For the Ladies party please contact: Inez Higginbotham - cell is 424-1981 or work 356-7611

If anyone would like to help me please call, and could you please mention to the ladies if they could bring a door prize or if they know anyone that I can contact to give me a call. Thanks ... Inez



On Saturday, April 14th we are having our Spring Marine Flea Market from 7AM-12Noon.

In the week preceding Tuesday April 10 through Saturday April 14th we are having our 49th Anniversary Sale as well. We will have some good values in rod holders and other related items in the

store marked 49% off for the week. We also will have a large selection of lubricants and cleaning supplies reduced 85% in recognition of our parent company, Segraves Service Station and Garage started by my grandfather Segraves, 85 years ago in 1927.

Last year some of your members were here; they also participated in our Fall Flea Market in November. Even better than any values we have in our store are the opportunities for savings on good quality merchandise offered by our customers-your members included. There is no charge for participating. I hope you will advertise it in your newsletter. Please note that anyone may call us for additional information at 387-4669. Thank you so much. I'm glad the Sheepshead Tournament was such a huge success. Wow what a crowd! With best regards, Cynthia Segraves





Laddie Birge Caught this one about a week to late to win some good money in the El Cheapo. That is a NICE Sheepshead!



Gary Newman

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Here are two more pictures Will sent in from that same fishing trip for Wahoo. Funny, but I don't see any Wahoo in these pictures, just Will holding a nice Mahi, and AJ & Tom with a nice Blackfin Tuna. (Maybe Tom, AKA - Mr. Drag Master, can explain where the Wahoo pictures are.)





Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer



Towing Checklist

With the most successful ever "El Cheapo" Tournament now history, and the Club's River Tournament scheduled for March 10th, club members should take advantage of the down time to review their towing checklist to make sure everything on the list is current. In order to have a safe and successful future boat outing, 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.

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.

To ensure that your boat will get you to and from your favorite fishing spot, you should develop a "check list" and review it to make sure that each equipment item necessary to the proper, and safe, operation of your boat is operating properly; and that all needed fuel, water, oil and other supplies are on board before you leave your driveway, dock or marina.

Your checklist should be tailored to your specific boat depending on whether it is an inboard or outboard, etc. In general, your list should include all items essential to the safe operation of your boat. For instance, your checklist should include the following items: fuel (always a full tank before heading offshore), oil (carry a spare quart in case of a leak), cooling system, battery, belts and hoses if applicable, etc. Checking the above items takes only a few minutes and can save you hours on the water and hundreds of dollars if you have to call for a tow.

If your boat has two batteries, you should start the engine on number one then shut down and start on number two to make sure both batteries are fully charged. It is also recommended that you go out on one and back on the other. Never run on both because if you have a problem, you will discharge both and not have a spare to start the engine.

Towing Continued

Your checklist should also include Coast Guard required safety items such as life jackets (at least one for each person on board), visual distress signals, fire extinguisher, sound producing device such as a whistle or horn, working navigation lights, and proper ventilation and backfire flame control if your boat is powered by an inboard engine. If you have a radio, you should verify that it is in proper working order before you need it in an emergency. Also, recommend you carry a spare hand held radio in case your main radio fails. If you run out to the Gulf Stream, or similar distances offshore, you should include a ditch bag in your check list.

Each boat captain should brief at least one person on the operation of the vessel in case he/she is disabled. This may seem trivial, but there have been cases where this knowledge was a lifesaver in an emergency. The last item on your checklist should be a float plan completed and left with a responsible party. You can never be too safe when towing your boat. Just as any good pilot goes over his/her safety checklist before taking off, it's wise to do the same when towing. Here's a list of important items you need to address every time you head to the water.

PRE-TOWING :

- Check cold tire pressure on the tow vehicle and trailer.
- Make sure you are towing the trailer in a level position.
- Verify that lug nuts on the tow vehicle and trailer tightened to the correct torque setting.
- Stow all required U. S. Coast Guard Safety equipment in the boat.
- Secure outboards or stern drives in the full-up position.
- Securely tighten the boat cover if it is used when towing.
- Secure the coupler. Insert a bolt or other locking device into the coupler so it does not pop open.
- Connect the trailer lights and check to make sure they are working properly.
- Secure the safety chains and emergency brake cable.
- Raise the trailer jack and lock it in place.
- Ensure that the boat is snug against the bow stop and secured with a winch strap, plus a safety chain or tie-down.

- Make sure the transom tie-downs are tight.
- Properly secure all equipment inside the boat.
- Adjust the tow-vehicle mirrors as needed.

BOAT PRE-LAUNCH (IN PARKING AREA OR READY LANE):

- Remove tie-downs.
- Remove engine support.
- Disconnect trailer wiring from tow vehicle.
- Load and stow gear to be carried on board.
- Check all boat systems: engine, bilge pump, lights and horn, etc.
- If equipped, turn on the engine compartment blower.
- Make ready all dock lines, fenders and boat hook.
- And, last, **DO NOT FORGET TO INSTALL THE DRAIN PLUG.**

BOAT LAUNCH (ON THE RAMP)

- Back down the ramp far enough to allow engine cooling water to be picked up.
- Set the emergency brake, put the vehicle in park, and block the rear wheels. Do the same when retrieving the boat.
- On stern-drive or outboard boats, lower the drive into the water.
- Start the engine and let it warm up.
- Disconnect the winch hook. From the bow eye.
- Proceed to launch.
- Enjoy your outing and have a safe trip.

Top Ingram
Fishtales

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 or E-mail me your pictures at:

breenw@bellsouth.net



Instant Crew, Just Add Water

Our own club member Tim Altman has created the web-site AVAILABLE ANGLER where you can go to find a ride or crew. Just go to:

<http://www.availableangler.com/>



What a disreputable looking crew! But boy they sure caught a nice looking bunch of fish! Henry Taylor, Bill Wilderotter, Morris Anderson and George had a good day on the water!



Some of the Raffle items from last years Sailfish Pot Party. Captain Chris says that this year it will be Bigger & Better!



How about this for a feed! All you can eat FRESH raw oysters, Steamed oysters, Grill your own Oysters, All you can eat Chicken Wings in several different flavors, and your own nice big juicy Steak you can GRILL ANY WAY YOU WANT! You also get a Salad and Baked potatoes!

Guys you just have to plan on going to this party, it just does not get any better!

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
1 City of Jax & Captain's Club Blessing of the Fleet	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5 Club Meeting	6	7	
8	9	10 Pier 17 49th Anniversary Sale up to 49% off selected items .	11	12	13	14 The Non-Live Tournament	
15	16	17	18	19 Club Meeting	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	April					

Coming Events:



- April 1st - Captains Club & City of Jax Blessing of the Fleet
- April 5th - Club Meeting
- April 10th through 14th - **Pier 17** is having their 49th year Anniversary Sale
- April 14th - **Pier 17** Annual Spring Flea Market & Sale
- April 14th - Non-live Tournament
- April 19th - Club Meeting
- April 28th - The Sailfish Pot Parties Stag Only for both Men's & Women's Parties.

Tournament Schedule for 2010

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate	Saturday	Sunday
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	-----14/ 21 -----		Greg Wallace
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	----- - 12/ 19 -----		Tom Meyer
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 19/ 27--		AJ Proescher
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	----- 17 / 24 -		Jack Ogin
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- 8 / 15 -----		Greg Wallace
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	-----12 / 19 --		Tina Proescher
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	----- 26/ September -1 -		Tournament Director
The Bottom Tournament -	September	----- 8 -----	9 --	AJ Proescher

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