



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 53 Issue 4

April 2013



PRESIDENTS CASTINGS

Capt. Paul Gallup

Well its April and just to let you know, I've had a serious chat with mother nature about please turning off the fans!! It sure seems like its been windier than usual keeping most of the fleet tied up at the docks so I believe the wahoo got off light this year.

It seems like every time there was a weather window, it was during the middle of the week and for some of us its just hard to call in sick or take a day off on such short notice. So hopefully my chat with her will sink in and give us an awesome spring.

April is one of my favorite times of the year because the Mahi Mahi should start showing up and anybody that knows me also knows that that's my favorite fish to target. Not only are they excellent table fare, they fight like the dickens, are super colorful and generally when you find one you'll find more. I usually start "looking" when I get out to about 130' for any thing different, It could be a color change, a 1 or 2 degree temperature break, weed lines or a piece of flotsam. As you set up your trolling spread, keep a spinning rig on

Continues on Page 3



The 54th Annual "2738" Sailfish Pot Party

This great party will be held April 20, 2013
5:30 PM

The Men's Party will be held at the Morocco Shrine at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South.

\$35.00 if paid by April 10th, \$40.00 after the 10th and at the door.

If you need an entry form , check at your local fishing shops, or mail or call :

Captain David Rix
1374 7th Street South
Jacksonville Beach, Fl 32250

Phone - (904) - 703 - 7300

This is definitely a great party, serving Steak, Oysters, Wings, and Beer! There is also one of the best Raffles you will see all year!

You Gotta Go! Trust me this is a do not miss party!



The Ladies Party will be the same night, April 20th.
It will be at the:

American Legion Post 316
1127 Atlantic Blvd.
Atlantic Beach, Fl, 32211

Ladies Info continues on Page 2

Ladies Continued.



The Fun Starts at 6:00 PM

Cost: \$35.00 if paid by April 19th, \$40.00 at the door

Menu: Theme will be “Luau”
Pork and shrimp – etc.

If you have not received you entry – please contact:
Keadie Higginbotham
7447 Elvia Street
Jacksonville, FL 32211
904-424-1980

Lots of fun – and ladies – don’t forget the raffle.....



“To go fishing is the chance to wash one’s soul with pure air, with the rush of the brook, or the shimmer of Sun on blue water. It brings meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle-makers, patience toward fish, a rejoicing that you do not have to decide a darned thing until next week. And it is discipline in the equality of men - for all men are equal before fish.”

Herbert Hoover



Bill Wilderotter and Morris Anderson said that they got to fulfill a fishing Bucket-List task last month.

Bill said neither of them had been freshwater fishing with long poles and tiny corks in many decades.

They arrived early at Georgia Boys Fish Camp on Dunns Creek in Satsuma, Florida where they met up with Billy Parmenter (Featured in the March issue of the Florida Sportsman Magazine in the Freshwater Section.)

They headed for the lilly pads, a 3 mile boat ride, and Billy Parmenter showed them his technique for catching fish.

Their catch was diverse, Crappie, Copperheads, Catfish, and Warmouth Perch. An added bonus was the abundance of wildlife along the area, Otter, Eagles, Turkey, Armadillo, and Raccoon all call this waterway home.

Bill said Sandy Morris’s wife fried up some of the fillets for lunch. What a delight!



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April Showers Bring More Than Rain

Well "Old Man Winter" will finally let go of us around the middle of March and we can finally see some light for the month of April. The B-Liners are back in season so we will add another fish to the short list of what we can keep to make the grease stink. On the inshore grounds that gives us triggers, pinkies, and the b-liners. The limit on B-liners is 5 per person, 12 inches minimum overall length.

Some of the fish we overlook on the party grounds are the other snappers, Mangrove, Mutton and Lane. Lighter leaders with live bait and some patience is called for when you are fishing the wrecks in 90 feet, (TW, BR, CB) and don't forget to put out a flat line because this is where the Cobia show up first along with the early Kings. Both of those will work for the grease and I still think fresh Kingfish on the grill is pretty darn good.

On the offshore grounds all the same bottom fish are in play but so are the Dolphin, they'll be here in droves by the end of the month. Filling our fish boxes and freezers with very tasty fillets. That coupled with the occasional Wahoo and Black fin Tuna can make for a great offshore trip.

So in the end here comes April and the preverbal showers but here come the fish also! Tight Lines!!

Captain Chris

Artificial intelligence is on match for Natural Stupidity.

Presidents Castings Continued

stand by with a circle hook because if you hook one, more times than not it will have company. The largest one I've had on my boat was a 43.5 bull that followed his hooked cow to the boat.

April is also the month that the SAMFC starts to loosen its grip on the recreational fisherman (and women) by opening up Vermillion Snapper (AKA beeliners). The pressure has been off of them and they should be chewing just about every where. The limit is still 5 per person so I like to target them starting in about 90' of water. Cut Squid makes an excellent bait but if you can find them, Cuttlefish are even better. Check with Rusty at B&M on when he'll be getting some in. When your out there, a piece of cut beeliner (legal size of course) makes an excellent bait as well. Some of the largest beeliners I've caught came from this bait.

Last month we had our River tournament to kick off the Angler of the Year race and the top 5 are as follows: Chris Rooney, AJ, Greg Wallace, Rob Cripe and Jack Ogin. This month is also the Sailfish Pot party. Its on April 20th at the Shrine center on St. Johns Bluff Rd at 6pm till ????? If you've never attended it, its a hoot for sure. The ladies party is also the same night at the American Legion at the corner of Mayport Rd and Atlantic blvd. Until next time,

Capt. Paul Gallup



Go to www.jaxfish.com and download the April newsletter to see these fish in color. These are the 3 snapper Capt. Rooney just mentioned in his article. You all know what a B-liner looks like.



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

Towing & Checklist



With the most successful ever "El Cheapo" Tournament now history, the Club's River Tournament March 9th, and the Non-Live Tournament scheduled for April 20, 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 Cont.

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. There was a rumor that a boat was launched during the El Cheapo and the crew forgot to check to make sure the drain plug was installed. Always check to make sure the drain plug is installed and tight before launching your boat from a trailer.

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



Life Jackets, Yeah, I know you don't wear one most of the time, but maybe you should

consider wearing one at least while the boat is underway!



Did you know. . . .

Your website has all kinds of information you can use on a daily basis?

At www.jaxfish.com you can get the Fishing Tournaments Schedule under the "**TOURNAMENTS**" tab. You can even find out who won that tournament last year, and is responsible for putting it on this year. There you can also get the current Tournament Rules and Register on line for any JOSFC Tournament. Remember these tournaments are FREE to Members to fish!

You will also find the Current Fishing Boards so you will know if your fish qualifies for the boards, or you can find out what you want to target to get on the board, or knock someone else off the board!

Of course you can find out all about the El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament there also.

Under the "**ABOUT**" Tab you will find the Reef Histories, compiled by Charlie Hamaker. These are very interesting to just read and find out about the Jax fishing history. Did you know that Jax Wreck is actually the SS America a tanker that was torpedoed during WW II and was seen burning from the beach as it sank. Charlie has actually interviewed the Captain of the SS America, AND the Captain of the U-Boat that sank the SS America! How cool is that?!

You can find the Officers & Board Page so you can get their E-mail to contact them, or just to find out what the Membership Director looks like or who the Treasurer is.

There you can also renew your membership On-Line or direct a prospective member to that page to Join the Club On-Line. We use secure Pay-Pal for payment.

Finally you can also find the Club By-Laws there in case you have a question about them.

Under the "**FISHING INFO.**" Tab you can find both NOAA Weather and Accuweather for your fishing forecast.

You will find Top's Safety Tips, and how to take a safe boating class from the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary.

Then there are several Fishing Links, such as a Float Plan Generator, the RFA, FWC, and links to both the U.S. House and Senate, as well as Florida House and Senate so you can E-mail your representatives about the

ridiculous NOAA and SAMFC "Rules". There are several other useful links there also.

There you can also listen to the Marine radio, and we also have a current Solunar Tables page for the best days and times of the day to fish!

Under the "**GENERAL INFO.**" Tab, you will find a link to some Downloadable .pdf files, some of which are useful as well as interesting. For your letters to our Representatives there is a study on the Economic importance of sport fishing, some fishing facts about the Jacksonville area.

There is an Addendum for your JOSFC Reef Guide book, and if you are new to fishing the Jacksonville area, there is a primer worth reading.

We have a Sponsors page, Photo Archives, a link to our Facebook page with lots more photos, a Club Calendar and some Members helping Members info.

There you can also download the latest or past Reel News, the Club Newsletter. (You can go back as far as January 2006) On-Line it is in full color and the Photos look so much better than the Black & White version.

At the current time there is nothing under the "MEMBERS LOGIN" button, but I am hoping to have the current membership list there soon so that Members can find other members Phone and E-mails by logging in there. I will let you know when I get that ready to use, as well as provide you with a username and password when it is good to go.





























Loud Hailings Newsletter Editor Bill Breen

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 him 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 E-mail me your pictures at: breenw@bellsouth.net Ph. # 904-254-2791 Don't forget to include your name spelled correctly and the fish weight, and names of anyone in the Picture!

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 Board Meeting 	2  	3  	4 Club Meeting  	5  	6  
7  	8  	9   	10    	11   	12 Boat Show at Metro Park   	13 Boat Show at Metro Park  
14 Boat Show at Metro Park  	15  	16  	17  	18 Club Meeting  	19  	20 Non-Live Tournament The Sailfish Pot Party  
21  	22  	23  	24   	25   	26    	27   
28  	29 	30 			April	

Coming Events:

April 4th - Club Meeting.
 April 12th, 13th, & 14th - On the Water Boat Show at Metro Park.
 April 18th - Club Meeting.
 April 20th - The Non-Live Tournament.
 April 20th - The Sailfish Pot Parties.



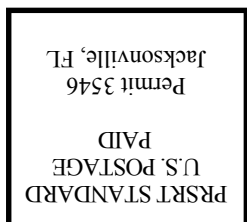
Tournament Schedule for 2013

Tournament	Month	Date / Alternate	Host
		Saturday	Sunday
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	-----20-----	28- - Rob Cripe
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	-----4-----	12 - -
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	-----18-----	26- -
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	-----	16 / 23 - Paul Gallup
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	June	-----	30 - - Dale Shelton
Kingfish Weather Date	July	-----	6
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	-----	11 / 18 - - Laura Ogin
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	-----	24 - - Alan Shepard
Light Tackle Weather Date	September	-----	1
The Bottom Tournament -	September	-----	7 - - 15 - - Jack Ogin

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