



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

*Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959*



Volume 54 Issue 4

April 2014



## **PRESIDENTS CAST NET**

Tom Darga

**Club News** – Starting May 1<sup>st</sup> the club meeting time will be moved forward. Club dinners will be starting at 6:30 followed by the General Meeting at 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our Guest speaker will now begin at 7:30 to 8:15 with questions following. Raffle table will continue to be drawn at the end of the night with tickets begin sold from 6:30 to last call. Cassi Washington, the mother of 3 Junior Anglers, has started a craft and game area for the kids to participate in during the Guest Speakers talk's, so they are un-interrupted. At the end of the night different prizes will be awarded to the winner Junior Anglers. As the weather warms up we will have additional items for the Junior Anglers to participate in. Hopefully the new hours will incite more of you to come and join in. The last 3 meetings have been standing room only and a whole lot of fun. Let's keep it up.

**Fishing News** - Well February was a very interesting month. Let's begin with the Sheepshead Tournament and the job that Frank Joura and all of the volunteers did. They made this one of the most memorable days in the history of this tournament. The fact that the very first fish

with Dandee Sandwiches giving away \$25,000 dollars if the State record was broken. Bet they were sweating it out. If you have not heard the winning weight was 11.8 lbs caught by Chuck DeGrove. Our Junior Angler 1<sup>st</sup> place winner was Victoria Price with 8.3 lbs. Great job!

Continuing with the fishing the JOSFC held its first Tournament of the Year with the River Tournament being held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Water was cold, sun was out and Sheepshead still being caught. The winning boat was Green Ghost captained by Chris Rooney with a total weight of 22.2 lbs all 3 Sheepshead. Second Place Reel Tease Captain Will Aitken with 19.3 lbs., Third Place High Roller Captain Chuck Darner with 8.0 lbs. Someone not being named did weigh in a 0.5 lb whiting. At the time of this being typed the Wahoo were still biting with some nice Dolphin being taken. Several JOSFC members are sitting nicely in the standings of the Northeast Wahoo Championship.

Thank you again for everything you do to make this club successful

Tom Darga

**The  
Sailfish  
Pot Party  
Is Coming!**

April 19<sup>th</sup>

Entry on Page 2!



**OFFICIAL ENTRY-55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL "2738" SAILFISH POT PARTY**

**Saturday April 19, 2014\* 6:00pm-til ?**

Morocco Shrine Center • 3800 St. John's Bluff Rd. Jacksonville FL 32224  
Menu: Steak, Oysters, Chicken Wings & Beer (Bring your own oyster knife.)

**COST:\$ 35 PRIOR TO APRIL 6,2014 \* \$40 AFTER APRIL 6,2014**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BOAT NAME (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable:

Brandon Davis

PO Box 350473

Jacksonville, Fl 32235

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$35 if received by April 6, 2014

\$40 if received after April 6, 2014



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The Sailfish Pot Party is definitely a **MUST** attend party!

Each year the **FIRST** person to catch a Sailfish after the party ( Always held in April. ) gets to put on the next year's Party. Everyone that attends the party pays to go and is contributing to the "POT" for the next winner.

This is a Stag party so that all the men can imbibe all the Adult Beverages they want belch and use their hands to eat, and not have to wordy about their manners. There is a little ( That might be an understatement. ) Blue Language that can be heard but that is it.

There is a **GREAT** Raffle each year that is just about the biggest Fishing related Raffle of the year!

Your \$35 ( Prior to April 6th, \$40 after the 6th.) gets you in the door, a great Steak, all the Oysters and Chicken wings you can eat, and all the Beer, soft drinks and water you can drink.

Be sure to bring a Designated Driver, and cash for the Raffle!

The party is on the 19th of April at the Morocco Shrine Center on St. Johns Bluff Road  
Just fill out the above Entry and Mail it



## Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram  
Safety Officer

### *Towing Checklist*



With the "El Cheapo" Tournament now history, the membership will be looking for action in the various Club Tournaments. All members should take advantage of the down time to review their towing checklist to make sure everything on the list is current. 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.

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

Towing continued

### 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.** 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.

## Our Kids Program is growing and working!



Hailing ALL Parents of Junior Anglers of all sizes and types, Crumb Crunchers, Rug Rats, Door Slammers and those dreaded Teenagers!

You know that now you can bring them to the meetings, and not have to worry that they will be bored or interrupt our guest speakers!

Cassi Washington the mother of 3 Junior Anglers has started her Kids Activities program and it really is working well!



At the March 20th meeting she had 8 kids playing games out on the porch with a Teenager helping supervise the young ones.

She has lots of different art projects and activities planned and the kids will be able to even win little prizes.

The teenage helpers can earn 2 hours of "Community

Kids continued page 6



## Rob's Fishing Lore

### Southern Comfort Style Chum

Good, better, best is our motto when it comes to chum fishing. Trust me, when you read that there has not been a place too large or too small in which one can search for that perfect concoction. When the target is the fierce trichechus manatus or the West Indian Manatee, there can be no substitute for 2<sup>nd</sup> best. Nearly a half-ton of fun waits one on the other side of a tight line. No stone left unturned in the search for the one labeled: best. Many miles and countless hours have gone into this pursuit. The chum has been judged on several categories. These categories are as follows: thickness, rate of decent, smell and taste. If you do not like the taste then why would they? Sampling in this case is a must besides what other chum can you eat? After judging countless samples, three recipes have oozed their way to the top. The three in good, better, best order are the NY Deli Style, Stand fair and the Southern Comfort Style Slaw recipes. After many hours of chum fishing for these ferocious fighting creatures, no self-respecting southern manatee thinks too highly of a NY Style slaw. NY Style is just not found in these parts too often. This style only fools the very young. The standard slaw receipt will bring one in if it's around and it decides if it's hungry. However, the Southern Comfort Style Slaw literally has them running on water to get there so without further ado here is the secret of the slaw. Also, it is said that one's choice in mayonnaise can greatly affect the recipes. It's all in how the oils blend and mix well together. Without the right mix, then the slaw sauce may chunk up on you. We prefer Dukes or Blue Plate Mayonnaise because it is the best kept secret of great cooks of the South.

Without further ado, here is our secret recipe for our special chum!

#### Southern Comfort Style Slaw

##### Ingredients

- ½ head of thinly sliced cabbage
- ½ head of thinly sliced red cabbage
- 1 cup shredded carrot
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. of Dijon muster
- ¼ cup of apple cider
- ¼ cup of Southern Comfort (a little for the slaw and a little for you is not a bad way of cooking)
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1/4 cup sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste

It was a day like many other days that we have experienced the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April. Calm winds with mild temperatures and sunny skies. Conditions could not be too perfect but they were. Armed with a 30 wide reel and 50 pound test plus a cooler filled with Southern Comfort Style Slaw, the little Jon boat struck out into the salt marsh. Other equipment on board was a .22 caliber rifle.



The rifle is needed at the very end, for that coup de gras. Kinda puts one in the mind of any episode of Swamp People.

Additionally, there was the premium bait on this trip because this trip was a trip for record breaking. In the bait sack, there was 3 heads of cabbage and

manatee candy, 9 heads of red cabbage. Red cabbage is a favorite of theirs and if there was a manatee larger than 1 ½ tons then we needed to get our shot in.

The tide was just beginning to ebb in. Once the Jon boat was anchored strategically, chumming began at

**Southern Comfort continued**

**Southern Comfort continued**

once. Not only did the chum go over and drifted gently into the salt marsh but a huge heap of slaw landed on the paper plate. Chumming lasted nearly 2 hours before they showed up. With little to fear, they usually cruise right up the chum trail just off the stern of the boat. This gives the angler a better view to target the one they want to take home with them. The 'one' was spotted but it was not the 3,000 pound record breaker we were looking for. None-the-less, swift action was taken. A head of cabbage and a head of red cabbage were taken from the bait bag. Large pieces of regular cabbage leaves were tossed into the chum slick. Then, in short intervals, red cabbage is thrown into the mix. If

there is more than one manatee cruising the Southern Comfort Chum slick, manatee fights will break out in vain attempts to reach the red cabbage first. As this is going on, just cut a ¼ of the



next head of red cabbage and hook this onto the 12 ough Gamakatsu off set circle hook. As conservation minded individuals, we promote the use of circle hooks to prevent any gut injury to these gentle creatures. Flora carbon leaders are necessary because their eyesight can tell differences in object shapes and colors. Stealth is a must.

Slowly the ¼ patch of red cabbage bait was maneuvered through the chum slick. As the smaller ones came up on the bait, a tug this way or that would keep it away from the small ones. The red cabbage bait was guided its way toward the large specimen inside the small bay marsh. Sight fishing is just so exciting and double fun when the right one inhales your bait. Hold on and hold on tight. Most of us know that the manatee is a slow moving sea

creature, but when first hooked, these monsters have explosive speeds. They will dump your line at blinding speeds not seen in shallow salt marshes. They have been known to reach speeds up to 20 MPH in short burst.

With the legs braced against the Jon boat, the startled creature ran and ran strong upon feeling the pointy end of the Gamakatsu hook. We were in for a real treat today, a Nantucket sleigh ride was commencing. These have not been witnessed since the golden days of whaling in which Herman Melville so articulated in the American classic, Moby Dick. The strategy here is to allow the gentle manatee to pull the Jon boat around the salt marsh till it tired out. Then, the 30 wide drag is strongly engaged to wrench in the tired creature close enough for the coup-de-gras shot. Walla, manatee steaks are just about to be served. Remember to protect your manatee. We suggest a double wrap around the freezer steaks. Coming up a little later: manatee steak recipes for grilling.

Stay thirsty my friends, thirsty for life,  
Rob Darner

**Kids continued**

**Service" that Cassi will sign off on if they bring their paperwork from school!**

**If she can get regular teenage helpers she will probably even have some homework help for the younger ones if they need it!**

**Remember that also starting in May, we will be starting our meetings with dinner at 6:30 PM and the meeting starting at 7:00 PM so you can bring the little ones and get home at a reasonable hour!**

**Here is one for you to be sure to come to,  
The First Annual JOSFC Kids  
Easter Eqq Hunt at 6:30 PM on April 17,**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			
<h1>April</h1>		1	2	3 Club Meeting	4	5			
		6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11		
		12	13	14	15	16	17 Club Meeting & First Annual Kids Easter	18	19
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
		27	28	29	30				

**Coming Events:**

- April 3rd - Club Meeting - 7:30 pm
- April 7th - Board Meeting
- April 12th - The Non-Live Tournament
- April 17th - Club Meeting - 7:30 PM
- April 17th - First Annual JOSFC Kids Easter Egg Hunt - 6:30



Southern Propane

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Serving Jacksonville One Family At A Time

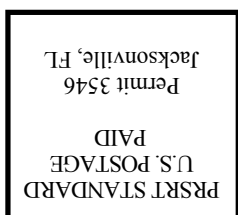
**Tournament Schedule for 2014**

Tournament	-	-	Month	-	—	Date	/	Alternate
								- All are on Saturday -
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

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