



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



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PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Darga

Can you believe that we are already into April, JOSFC has had 2 tournaments this year and both have had outstanding participation. March 21st we held the River Tournament with the Kelly W taking honors of first place with 89 lb black drum. Second place went to Thelfini with Patti catching a 78 lb black drum. Third place going to Sea's the Moment. In all we had over 13 boats fishing with 10 boats weighing in. Our next tournament is a club favorite the Non-Live with both bottom and trolling as a long as you use any bait that is not alive. We have started out this tournament year with great participation and I would love to continue with 15 to 20 boats per event. The best part of this year is the amount of members who are stopping by during the weigh in to just visit and talk to each other. This friend is what JOSFC is about, fishing and visiting and having a good time. The Captain of the Year board has already changed please take a look at the standings. If you have not fished a tournament yet you still have plenty of time to begin and get into the race. Just ask Rob Cripe he was not even on the board after two tournaments last year and finished as Captain of the Year. Members who have children that need **volunteer points in High School or Junior High**. I will sign off on the volunteer slip if your

child works any of the tournaments or if they help during the meetings for hospitality or boat show events. I signed several for children who worked the El-Cheapo. This way they are able to enjoy themselves and fulfill the requirement for school.

Finances

On a different note I will be going over the club's budget on the second meeting of this month we will not have a speaker as I plan to devote the 30 minutes we reserve for the speaker. This is important that everyone in the club understands where we are on our budget and I will explain the decisions that the board has made during the April Board of Directors meeting. Please attend this meeting so that you stay informed of what is transpiring for the rest of the fiscal year.

Fishing

JOSFC is part of the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament this year. The club will be part of the Junior Angler Division Dock Tournament's we will be hosting the Down on the Dock which benefits children with Down Syndrome. We will also host the Junior Angler Dock Tournament held on the same day as the Junior Angler Kingfish Tournament. Last year JOSFC turned out in force for both Tournaments to assist with the children. I am going to ask for volunteers to sign up this year so that you are able to receive a volunteer shirt.

Tom Darga

President JOSFC





The Sailfish Pot Party Is Coming! May 30, 2015

Attention Parents!

THE SECOND ANNUAL JUNIOR EASTER EGG HUNT IS COMING UP, AND WE WOULD WELCOME ANY DONATIONS TO CANDY OR PLASTIC EASTER EGGS FOR THE JUNIOR ANGLERS TO HUNT FOR AND FIND!

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Little Details

Lets start talking about some little details that can make or break your day on the water.

First and foremost is safety, for you, your crew and the boat.

Have you checked all your hose fittings to make sure they are tight? Yeah I know, when you try to remove one it is like you had epoxied it on and almost impossible to get off, BUT when you don't want one to pop off it will do it all by it's self. You should also check your hoses to make sure they are not cracked and rotten. How often should you do this? At least once a month, or as I try to do after every trip as I wash and clean up my boat getting it ready to go.

Here is something I bet you haven't thought about, emergency plugs. If you have a "Below the water line through the Hull" fitting like a water pickup for your live well or a protruding sonar (Yes, your fish finder is sonar.) fitting. What are you going to do if you hit a log, surfacing turtle or whatever, and snap it off? You should have a wood or rubber plug, that is a tapered cylinder that you can drive in the hole. (Unless you really WANT your boat to sink.)

Now of where to keep that plug. Use a Zip Tie and fasten one the correct size to the inside part of the fitting or the bulkhead right next to it. (Here is a tip in side of a tip!) Instead of putting screws into your fiberglass use a spot of 5200 to glue a Stainless Steel ring to your bulkhead. You can do this

Continues on page 4



Wear these, while underway, they don't work in the cabin!





Rob's Fishing Lore

Help Wanted



Being on the fun end of fishing tournaments, can make one inquisitive on just what goes on behind the scenes. Have you ever wondered just what goes on during the working end of a tournament? Does a tournament just spring to life or does it grow and mature. Did the tournament just come together during a weekend or does it take a few months of preparation? Having fished several tournaments, this is what one may describe as the fun end, just what does it take? To have a successful tournament, there are four things needed to bring it to life.

The first item needed: vision. Vision is important at the beginning, middle and end of a tournament. Vision, simple stated is the concept for the tournament. Just what are we fishing for and why are we fishing for this species? Do we select kingfish, sailfish, dolphin, redfish or sheepshead? In order to select the species of choice, do we have a target audience and just how willing is the target audience want to participate. From the choice, the vision can incorporate a theme. Biggest prize structure, fewest rules, pricing, just what will be the theme or the culture. Even when the tournament gets off the ground and it becomes an annual event, vision is still important. For the tournament, keeping it grounded to

its roots and concept becomes critical as the annual event grows. As more fisherman become familiar with the event, the event stays true to the past memories. This is important as the word of mouth advertising spreads, the next event is still true to the other past events. Continuity can help increase and create success. If the vision is to be modified, always ask, how does this change benefit the fisherman? Too many tournaments experience growing pains in part by growing away from their audience. This is either accomplished by making the tournament more convenience for the staging crew or changing the focus of who the tournament is really about. Once this is set then it the task is implemented, then the tournament needs direction.



Direction: who is taking charge and just how the tournament structure will look like? Some tournaments are run by boards or committees while other are run by a director. It is this managing apparatus the takes and fulfills the vision. This can be a very personal stamp upon the tournament itself. Several management decisions are made which affect the tournaments personality. Will the tournament have a mascot and the layout of the tournament site? Other typical decisions one will find will be prize structure and rules. How complicated the rules are or are not may go into the complexities of holding the tournament. Merchandise efforts and marketing are generally considered.

A third area needed for most fishing tournaments is volunteers. As it goes without saying, the smaller the fishing field the less manpower needed. Volunteers are critical to the success of any fishing tournament. The volunteers are the face of the tournament. It is this interaction with the public that make and sustains your fishing tournaments impression.

As it was explained once to me, my tournament director referred to the tournament as a product. A product? In the scheme of things, he is absolutely correct. The tournament is a product in which the target audience is there to enjoy rather it's the fisherman (either die-hard or 1st timer) or the interested spectator. The people who are the boots on the ground make the product come to life. Volunteers are needed in several areas and the most importantly is clean up. Trash pickup is the unsung volunteer position of any organization. Most of us know that it is not glamorous however, without this vital function, the tournament site will no longer be glamorous and thus the tournament is in jeopardy of becoming less.

The forth area needed is found when the first three items are fulfilled. When all three come together, then the tournament will take on a life of its own. As I have experienced, magic is created when all three elements come together in harmony. It is very satisfying when spectators come out to the event just to see what is caught. Your audience has now expanded. Now the tournament has become more than a tournament, it has not become an event where it has crossed over from being just a fishing tournament into entertainment. Lately, the tournament I have worked is achieving a more meaningful plateau. The Jr. Angler section of our tournament is transcending itself. This special segment is now having memorial awards given by families who fish together. These memorial awards arise out of non-related tragic circumstances; but it shows the depth of feelings that the tournament produces. It is simply amazing how the general tournament and a Jr. Angler tournament when married affect families. Our families give back because of what



they experienced during the tournament was simple profound and now they are reaching out to the tournament to extend the family legacy and the tournament's impact on the next generation.

Wanted: person or persons who are organized, shows exceptional managerial skills, familiar with spreadsheets, can balance a budget and can work well overseeing employees. However, cannot fire your employees since they are volunteers. Job requires several months of preparations, long telephone calls and excellent sales acumen to find and update prize structure items and raffle goods. Position provides little or no monetary compensation but provides a wonderful experience. If this sounds like you, then please reply and come see me at our tournament.

Stay Thirsty My Friends, Thirst for Life,
Rob Darner

LITTLE DETAILS Continued

anyplace you want or need to run wires through it, zip tie things to it, or anything you want.

It would not hurt to have 4 or 5 tapered plugs in different sizes hanging below deck where they are easy and fast to get to.

Now another thing you should pay close attention to is FIRST AID. You should always carry a good First Aid kit. As you are fishing, include a good heavy duty pair of wire or bold cutters, sturdy enough to cut the heaviest fish hooks you use. Don't just get a little plastic Walmart First Aid Kit, you need to assemble a good kit. Just think of some of the injuries you could see.

Cuts down to the bone, hooks through the hand, broken bones from falls on a slippery deck. Kingfish, Wahoo, Barracuda, Sharks and all kinds of fish here have a mouth FULL of big sharp teeth! (That is why on my boat I don't recommend sandals, flip flops or bare feet.)

You need plenty of gauze pads, Gauze wraps, Anti-biotic spray, cream, and something to wash the wound with like fresh water or a sterile saline wash. A friend that is a Doctor said he does not like Hydrogen Peroxide as while it does sterilize the wound and area it also actually kills some of your cells on the exposed surface of the wound and delays healing and makes bigger scars.

Here is something you would not think of for a first aid kit, but how about a roll of good

LITTLE DETAILS Continued

cloth backed Duct Tape? It is good for temporary splints as well making a waterproof wraps over wounds and lots of other temporary repairs around the boat.

How about an Eye Wash? People do get suntan spray or lotion in their eyes and who knows what.

Do you carry a couple of those Emergency Blankets to use in case someone needs to get warm or prevent shock?

Ok. don't forget the little stuff like band-aids for little cuts, Aspirin (The quick dissolve powder in case of heart attack. (My Son was only 34.)) Also some Tylenol or Motrin for those people that can't take Aspirin.

Do you have a tool kit of some type? Repair that reel, hose fitting, clean your spark plugs, or change your broken prop? (From hitting that same turtle or log that broke off you fitting.)

Fire Extinguishers (Yes, plural ExtinguisherS) Your boat is fiberglass, foam, plastic (All burn very well and ignite easily.) and GAS!!!! I carry 3 extinguishers, the little way undersize one that came with the boat, and 2 bigger ABC 5 pounders. If you have an inboard motor, install a fire port, so you don't have to open the cover. (And give it lots of oxygen to flair up)

Don't forget to shake them up to keep the powder loose so it all comes out, and have them checked out or recharged every couple of years. (There are only two things that really frighten me on the water and they are FIRE and LIGHTNING that can also cause that fire.)

You have your "Throwable PDF." as required by the USCG, but do you also have a rope with a weight on the end to throw to someone overboard to pull them to your boat?

Do you carry extra Sunscreen for Mr. Forgot mine, or even an extra pair of good sunglasses, just in case?

How about an extra Drain Plug? You never forgot or misplaced it?

All these things can save a day out on the water and make your day end better. All these things combined won't break the bank and should be part of your everyday boating.

At the River Tournament I experienced a boater that was in need of this Boat Launching and Retrieving list. He pulled his Jet Skies onto his trailer, cleared the water, and still blocking the ramp started securing his gear and Skies to the trailer

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.**

Retrieve your boat: Clear the ramp and reverse the above. Be courteous to other Boaters.



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram

Float Plan

I want to remind everyone about the change in the boating-safety education requirements for the state of Florida effective January 1, 2010. It states that boat operators who were born on or after January 1, 1988, are now required to pass an approved boating-safety course and have a photo identification and a boating-safety card in their possession on the water in order to operate any boat with a 10-horsepower motor or larger. So, if you plan to fish any of the future tournaments, or have a person within that age group operate your boat, you are responsible to make sure the operator has met the necessary state legal requirements. The boating safety card for a boater is like a driver's license for an operator a car.

To help satisfy this new requirement by the state of Florida, the Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a boating-safety program on Saturdays at the Stellar Building, 2900 Hartley Road, in Mandarin. For additional information and cost of the program, contact Bob at 904-721-1346.

The club tournament schedule for this year begins with the River Tournament. And, since all of our future tournaments will be offshore, we need to give a lot of thought to making sure our boat and equipment will perform satisfactorily and safely before heading out to our favorite spot offshore. We also need to have a plan to make sure that someone knows where to look for us, and what will happen, if our equipment fails us while off shore.

The first thing you need to do to make sure that your outing on the water begins and ends safely 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.

A news article that appeared in the local paper headlined "High drama, high seas" told the story of a

local boater on a 35-foot Viking and how a float plan and the proper equipment on board prevented a loss of life. The boater had filed a float plan, left it with his wife and was proceeding to his destination about 30 miles offshore when a fire broke out and destroyed the boat. Fortunately, the boater had not only filed a proper float plan, but had extra safety equipment on board such as an EPIRB, life raft, ditch bag and hand held radios.

After the crew abandoned the boat, continued to send a MAYDAY message, and the EPIRB was activated, the Coast Guard contacted the boater's wife to verify certain facts. The wife advised the Coast Guard that if the EPIRB was on, the crew was in trouble. A boat that had seen the smoke came to check and advised the Coast Guard it would stand by until they arrived on scene as their boat was too small to take all the crew on board. Remember, if you have an EPIRB, make sure it is registered so there will be a contact person listed in case it is turned on in an emergency. There have been cases where an EPIRB was purchased, not registered and when activated was useless. The following statement by this boat captain is one all of us should follow: "If I tell my wife we'll be in by 8:30, and we're not in, and she hasn't heard from me – don't start worrying, start calling the Coast Guard."

Hopefully, the above experience will remind all of us to file a float plan before we leave home for the launch ramp. 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 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.

The local Coast Guard station phone number is 904-564-7592. Make sure the person who has your float plan has this phone number, or put it on your float plan. 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.

You can go to: www.floatplangenerator.com, to down load a form.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			
<h1>April</h1>			1	2 Club Meeting 6:00 Pm Easter Egg Hunt	3	4			
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11 The Non-Live Tournament
			12	13	14	15	16 Club Meeting	17	18
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30					



**COMING
EVENTS:**

- April 2 - 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt 6:00 PM at Club
- April 2 - Club Meeting 6:30 PM
- April 11 - The Non-Live Tournament
- April 16 - Club Meeting

Southern Propane

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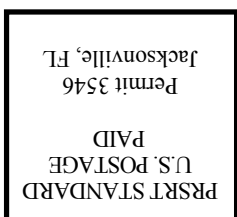
Tournament Schedule for 2015

Tournament	Month	Date	Alternate
		- All are on Saturday -	
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	11	18 - Greg Wallace
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	2	9 - Jack Ogin
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	16	23 - Steve Grant
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	13	20 - Jack Ogin
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	June	27	July - 11 - Rob Cripe
The Ladies Tournament -	August	1	8 - Greg Wallace
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	22	29 - Jack Ogin
The Bottom Tournament -	September	5	12 - Rob Cripe
Triple Challenge Tournament -	October	5	12 - Steve Shaw

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