



The Reel News

The Newsletter of the . . .



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 46 Issue 5

May 2006

Presidents Castings



**President
Pete
St. Laurent**

I would like to start off by saying "Thanks" to everyone who helped out with all the club functions this past month. The Florida Sportsman Show, Non Live Bait Tournament, Club House repair day, Bottom Digger Weigh-in and the Buoy Building Party were all extremely successful due to your dedication and belief in what the JOSFC is all about...and it's fun too! April was packed with a lot of hard work and that proves to me what an important part the JOSFC plays in your life. So I tip my hat (grungy as it is at times) in a heartfelt thanks to you all.

I was happy to see so many club members fishing on other member's boats during the Non Live Bait Tournament. It's great that the social aspect of this club is alive and well! Wouldn't it be wonderful if more members fished on each other's boats? This is how we get to know each other better, and that's why I've asked Bill Breen to add a new section to the newsletter. So, if you are looking for crew or a ride contact Bill as soon as possible so he can add your name and phone number as an interested party. No doubt you'll see my name as I'm often looking for crew. Joining the JOSFC has been one of the best things I've ever done (next to marrying my wife). It has allowed me to make many friends and learn more about fishing and this mean a lot to me. I can see by looking around that the JOSFC means a lot to many other members too. After all our club was formed by a group of people who loved to fish and wanted to share their knowledge and passion with others that have the

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Fishing Reports & Other tall Tales



**Chris Rooney
Fishing
Committee
Chairman**

The month will begin with your last chance at a Wahoo in the Elton Bottom area, but it tends to be a really big line screamer that hangs around feeding on the snake kings. The Kingfish will start to show up on the beach, At the FLW Tournament at the beginning of April there were a lot of fish in the forties and the winning fish was over 50 so those fish should be here by now. The Sailfish pot is open and Mr. Spindlebeak is back on the party grounds, who is the lucky winner going to be this year??

The highlight of the offshore trolling scene is Mr. Phin, Dolphin that is! Who can resist those beautiful steaks thrown in a cast iron pan getting blackened for dinner? On the 20th of May last year we found a rip in 220 feet of water, the temperature break went from 76.5 to 77.9 degrees. 36 ballyhoo later we had 24 dolphin in the box and at 11:00 it was time to go bottom fishing I was out of bait for trolling. That trip we were due east on a 30.15 line and the bottom fish were tearing it up also. **So enjoy the month of May friends it only comes once a year!**

The Captains race has started and the current standings are listed on page 2. I've got some news though with the May Trolling Tournament on the 6th and the Unlimited Trolling Tournament on the 27th I'd be willing to bet it won't look the same come the end of the month.

May brings the first hints of summer by the end of the month and the trolling scene really heats up.

Presidents Message Cont.

same addiction... F-I-S-H-I-N-G!!!! If you have ever overheard part of my conversation with new members you've heard me say "the more you put in to the club the more you'll get out of it". Not to get sappy, but I could never repay the club for all that it has done for me.

May should prove to be a great month. With the warmer weather, longer days and water temperature coming up, and add in the fact that the Kings never really left us this past winter, I think we are in for a season of big fish and a lot of great stories on the porch. Lord knows I'm ready to knock the dust off my trolling bag and put the trusty old Speed Masters back to work. May also is the month that hosts the Trolling Tournament and the Unlimited Tournament. Both tournaments will test the skills of our "would be" Captains of the Year and should prove to make for some rather impressive weigh-ins.

As a closing note, remember that the fun and laughter is always free even if the fishing trip isn't.

I say we fish 5 days and work 2.

Pete

Bust-N-Reds



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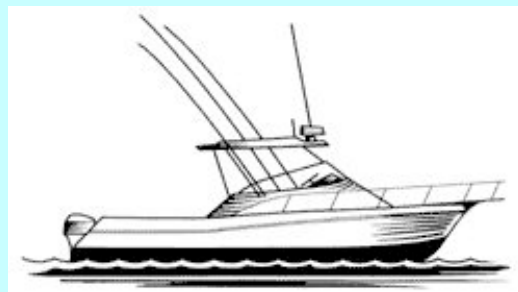
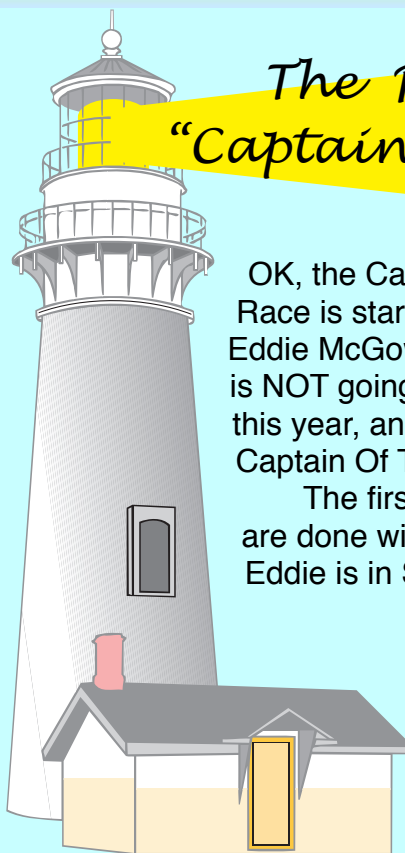
The Race For "Captain Of The Year"

OK, the Captain of the Year Race is starting to get good again. Eddie McGowan has vowed that he is NOT going to be a Brides Maid this year, and is finally going to win Captain Of The Year.

The first two club Tournaments are done with, and Oops!, Eddie is in SECOND place.

The Standings with two of nine tournaments done are:

1st - Frank Grassi	14 Pts.
2nd - Eddie McGowan	12 Pts.
3rd - Rob Darner	11 Pts.
4th - Danny DelRio	10 Pts.
4th - Mike Coldwater	10 Pts.
5th - Chris Rooney	9 Pts.
5th - Mike Snyder	9 Pts.
6th - Tony Benevento	7 Pts.
7th - Mike Murphy	6 Pts.
8th - Andy Proescher	5 Pts.
8th - Vernon Summersiel	5 Pts.
9th - James Teter	4 Pts.
9th - Pete St. Laurent	4 Pts.
10th - Bob Hughton	2 Pts.
11th - Gary Newman	1 Pt.





Flotsam & Jetsam

Rob Darner

Does It Taste Like Chicken?

The wind is out of the NE and the temperature has dropped fifteen degrees since midweek. The first Wahoo Tournament had to be postponed due to high winds so what are we doing out here fishing? We're real men! Real men don't go to the mall when the chips are down. Out of adverse conditions, one can overcome and adapt to find the fishing adventure that is waiting for you. As such, last weekend was one such adventure, a one of a kind experience that I had to bring to you. By now you will have probably heard this tale from my father. If not, then you'll be all the wiser for reading it.

After twelve years of inshore fishing, I have finally discovered a place to catch fish on an incoming tide. Yes, that's right and incoming tide. I know this does not mean a whole lot to most of you, but for me this is a major achievement, a milestone in my NE Florida fishing resume. I have been to this spot three times twice on an incoming tide and once on an outgoing tide. With the out going tide, it did not produce a single strike. However, on the incoming, the fish a.k.a yellow mouth trout were in there like flies on honey. I had discovered this hole about a month ago with Byron and me fishing just a half-day. I was excited to come back with my Father and Byron to demonstrate what I had learned. Besides, we were planning on doing some catching anyhow.

As stated previously, it was a rather windy, cold day thus the offshore option was off the table. The day started off perfect for the yellow mouth trout. We were catching the last of the incoming. We decided to cruise up to Ft Caroline National Monument and fish along rock sea wall. Off the wall is about forty or so feet starts a drop off. The drop goes from about eight/ nine foot to about 25 foot. Its along this drop off is were we are going to fish. The anchor was set perfect just along the top of the drop. We were using float rigs to drift a live shrimp back to the fish.

It did not take to long when my father's float bobbed up and down. A swing and a miss. I floated my shrimp out and the same thing, a swing and a miss. The fish were in. Now, we had to work on hooking these scaly creatures up. Dad's third or forth float produced a hook up. As expected a trout. The trout hit out about 75 feet back from the boat. As the fish came closer, the fish fought a little more. The float slashed back and forth leaving a bubble trail. The trout

B & M Bait & Tackle

2789 Highway A1A
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These guys are really great to do business with! They are on Mayport road, right on our way to the ramp. Be sure to stop in and at least pick up your ice and the latest information on what is biting and where it is biting! Rusty and James will give you the best and latest information on everything from in-shore to the stream, and they will have your best bait for whatever you are going after. Forgot something? They have it so you won't have to go back home and get a late start. They are a full service bait and tackle shop.

I bought my cast net from Rusty, and he made sure I knew how to use it before I left his shop. Great guys.

flashed just under the surface, a flash here and a flash there. All three of us were excited to see the fish coming toward the boat. Yet, something else out there was equally excited to see the fish flashing to and fro in the water. We never expected anything to happen to the trout on the way in but something out there had other plans. The fish came about twenty-five feet from the boat still flashing just underneath the water when it happened. The brownish flow of the St John's erupted in a ball of white water and foam. A few feathers were thrown in for good measure. To our amazement, a circling Osprey was spying my dad's trout. With the quickness of lighting, the bird of prey pounced upon the unsuspecting trout stunning the anglers as well. The bird landed in the water and plucked the fish from beneath the surface with its talons. With its huge wings the Osprey took flight with my Father's fish in tow. As the fish was being flown away, my dad's drag started to sound out. Soon a tug of war was taken place because the bird was now fighting the drag on the reel. The hook never gave way. After a brief struggle over the fish, the Osprey let loose allowing the fish to fall back into the water. With a few quick cranks the trout was brought to the boat and Byron netted the fish and thus the fish was landed. As the hook was removed the fish was measured, it turned out it was an undersize fish for human consumption. However, the holes pierced in the trout's back said it just the right size for bird consumption. Never the less, the fish swam away once it was placed back in the water.

After watching this unfold, we were all dumbfounded for words but howled with laughter. I floated the next shrimp out and was skilled enough to hook up the next trout. The float twisted in the water causing a bubble trail and the trout took to the surface to fight its angler mono on mono. However, that is what the trout had in mind but not the Osprey. With the same blinding speed, the Osprey pounced. For a second time in a row, the Osprey dove on a hooked trout. With the skill of a top predator, the bird took flight with my trout. This time the bird

Continued page 4



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

In order to have a safe, successful boating/fishing trip, if you are one of the 95% of recreational boaters who trailer their boats, you must first trailer your boat to the nearest boat ramp for launching. Trailering a boat has its good and bad points, and the potential problems in trailering are many.

Before you add a trailer hitch to your vehicle to pull that new boat you just bought; 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

Chicken continued.

was determined to keep its meal. The drag sang out on the Ambassador reel. The fight was on!

Byron ran and got the net ready. I fought the bird. Being so close to a national park, I now wonder if a ranger was observing any of this action. The tourists were having an unusual sighting seeing on this day. The bird climbed high but hung on. The angler fought back bringing the bird closer and closer to the boat. Instead of placing the net in the water to scoop up a fish, Byron was waving the net toward the clouds or as close as he could get in hopes of capturing the Osprey. The bird slowly kept coming closer and closer. Does anyone know if an Osprey taste like chicken? If you have any recipes please let us know.



Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner

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

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With our water temperatures coming up from our cool winter temps, the following chart should help when you go looking for your favorite species.

For Sea Surface Temperatures just go to

www.sstcharts.com

Scroll down to North East Florida Coast, and click on Java, then "I Agree"

Species	Lower Avoidance	Optimum	Upper Avoidance
Amberjack	60	65 - 75	80+
Bonito	60	65 - 75	80+
Barracuda	55	72 - 80	86
Bigeye Tuna	52	62 - 74	80
Black Marlin	68	72 - 82	87
Blackfin Tuna	65	70 - 75	82
Blue Marlin	70	74 - 82	88
Bluefin Tuna	50	60 - 72	82
Bluefish	50	66 - 72	84
Dolphin (Mahi)	70	72 - 78	82
Flounder	56	62 - 66	72
Jack Crevalle	65	70 - 85	90
Kingfish	65	68 - 76	88
Permit	70	75 - 85	92
Pompano	65	70 - 82	85+
Redfish	52	70 - 90	90+
Red Snapper	50	55 - 65	70+
Sailfish	68	72 - 82	88
Snook	60	70 - 82	90
Spanish Mackerel	60	65 - 75	80
Spotted Seatrout	56	66 - 82	90
Striped Bass	42	50 - 65	75
Striped Marlin	61	68 - 76	80
Swordfish	50	60 - 75	80
Tarpon	70	75 - 90	100+
Wahoo	65	68 - 80	88
White Marlin	65	68 - 78	80+
Seabass	58	64 - 68	74
Yellowfin Tuna	64	72 - 82	80

Associate Member of the Month



KNIGHT ELECTRIC, LLC

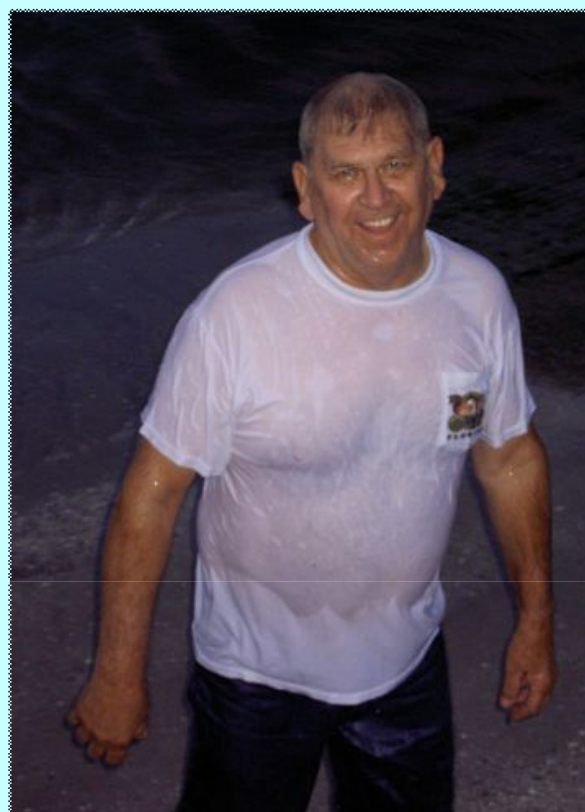
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Knight Electric, another of our MAJOR sponsors for the EL CHEAPO Sheepshead Tournament.

They are a licensed electrical contractor and can handle any job you have, so the next time you or anyone you know needs an electrician, give Knight Electric a call or referral.

Support our sponsors, they have been very supportive of our club.



Frank Reiss caught his first Sailfish a couple of months ago, and in keeping with the club tradition, we finally got to throw him in the drink to celebrate!



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
Bill Breen	-	254-2791	-	Any day	-	Up to 10:00 pm



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Renewal)

The JOSFC invites the participation of all area fishing enthusiast and is dedicated to conservation, preservation and fellowship with our membership.

NAME _____ HOME PH. _____
 SPOUSE'S NAME _____ WORK PH. _____
 ADDRESS _____ CELL PH. _____
 CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ OCCUPATION _____
 BOAT NAME _____ MAKE _____ LENGTH _____

☐ Family Membership \$50.00

(Husband, Wife, & Children under 16)

☐ Individual Member \$40.00

☐ Paid Junior Member \$5.00

☐ Annual Associate Member \$100.00
 (For Business Concerns)

☐ Application Fee \$25.00
 (Applicable to NEW Members or if renewing over 6 months late)

☐ Life Member Individual \$250.00

☐ Life Family Membership \$300.00

Total Remittance

Signature _____ Date _____

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Board Meeting	2	3	4 Club Meeting	5	6 May Trolling Tourny
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Club Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Unlimited Trolling Tourny
28	29	30	31			May

Coming Events:

The Captains Club Marine Flea Market at Beach Marine - May 6th & 7th
The Greater Jacksonville Bellsouth Kingfish Tournament is - July 17 - 23

Tournament Schedule for 2006

Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date	-	Rain Date
May Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 6 th	-	May 13 th
Unlimited Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 27 th	-	June 3 rd
Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	June 17 th	-	June 18 th
Kingfish Tune-up Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	July 8 th	-	July 9 th or July 15 th
Powder Puff Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 12 th	-	August 19 th
Light Tackle Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 26 th	-	September 2 nd
The Bottom Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	September 9 th	-	September 16 th

Associate Members

• *ACM Electronics • Adventure Landing • Wild Adventures • American Transmission • Anthony & Sandra Spa • Arlington Bait & tackle • Avid Angler • B & M Bait & Tackle • Baitmasters of South Florida • Boaters World • Boathouse Discount Marine • Bryan McGowan Charters • C & H Lures • Cabelas • Cannon's Bait & Tackle • Carey Chen Art • Custom Marine Components • Deonas Boatworks • Dexter Russell Cutlery • Dockside Inn • Donovan Heating & Air • Fulton Fish Company • G & W Marine • Gear 4Fishermen • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Guy Harvey Publishing • Hydro-Shield • Power-Pro • International Crew • Jacksonville Scuba Center • Kershaw Knives • Knight Electric • Lindgren-Pitman, Inc. • Mac's Prop Savers • MacMedia Graphics • Mann's Bait Company • Maxima America • Ocean Get Away • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp. • Penn Tackle Mfg. • Roffers Ocean Forecasting Service • Salty Styles • Sea Tow Jacksonville • Seafood Galore • Southern Propane • Speedy MacTwist • SSI Custom Plastics • St. John's Seafood & Steaks • Strike Zone Fishing • Surefire LLC • Team Fish Industries of America • The Billfish Foundation • The Florida Sportsman Club • Thrifty Outdoors • West Marine • Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing •*



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