



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 47 Issue 5

May 2007

Presidents Castings



**Club President
Eddie McGowan
Bite This**

According to one of our prestigious club members, past President, and "Part time weatherman", we had our last cold front a couple of weeks ago - as HE was informed by his "Pet Mole Crickets". I was all excited and pumped up knowing we were going to have good weather and great fishing, because I believed in my friend and his "little pet crickets". Now, after this weekend, (4' & 14 to 16 seas) I honestly think Roger put too much pesticide in the yard and really made those little guys pretty mad.

The "Non-Live" tournament was a blow out also. That leaves 7 more to go. Maybe we will get lucky and have good weather conditions for the rest of the tournaments. The fish are there and chewing if you can get to them.

We have two great tournaments this month. The "May Trolling Tournament", and the "Unlimited Trolling Tournament. These two will get the "COTY" (Captain of the Year) race on fire! Bring it on Captains, Lets have a lot of participation in the remaining tournaments, it is wide open right now!

If you have any suggestions for seminars or guest speakers at our meetings, please see Leigh Davis our Special Programs Director. If there is anything that I can take care of, please let me know.

Lets have fun, catch a lot of fish, and most of all
BE SAFE!

Eddie

Fishing Reports & Other tall Tales



**Jeff Rodda
Fishing Committee
Director**

May brings more than the start of spring. The Wahoo bite should slow down, but the Dolphin bite is just starting. Warmer water in the party grounds and the beach mean that the Kingfish and Snapper should be moving closer to the inshore fish havens. There are two trolling tournaments in May; first is the May trolling tournament on the 5th and the Unlimited tournament on the 19th. The May trolling is governed by general tournament rules. The Unlimited, however, will allow you to fish up to 100 miles offshore. The key to both of these is going to be finding the bait and the warm water. Bait has been holding at BB and most of the inshore wrecks. At sunrise you will probably want to have your Sabiki rigs close to the bottom, as most of the bait holds deep before and right when the sun comes up. If you get out later than sunrise, you are not on Chris Rooney's boat, and you should be able to find bait on the surface as well as throughout the water column. You can check www.sstcharts.com to get free satellite images of the temps in our area. There are other services out there that will provide more information, but they are not free. If you want advice on what to troll, ask Steve or Matt at C&H or check this website; www.pakula.com, click on the full list of pakula articles and then read the articles under "Unlocking the Secrets." There is a wealth of information in these articles. For the May trolling tournament, BR is going to be a great place to fish. Try here for a start (#13 Ferry 30.21.750 / 80.49.986 or #16 Plane 30.21.352 / 80.49.238).

On the beach the Spanish Mackerel should be out past the surf. Big Reds will show up when the Pogies get here.

Continued Page 2

Fishing Report Continued

Cobia should be on the beach in the first half of the month. Look for Rays migrating north and cast a squid tipped jig or big soft plastic bait on a 1oz jig head. You will also find Cobia by blind casting into and around schools of bait.

In the shallower waters, Redfish can be found in the creeks and on the flats. Flounder can be caught with jigs tipped with Mullet, Mud minnows, or Shrimp. Try fishing the edges of the channel, docks and drop offs in the river and the ICW or creek mouths in the back waters. Blues and ladyfish are already in the river and should still be here in May.

Fish that should be in the party grounds are Flounder in the sand off of the wrecks, Snapper, Grouper, and Kingfish. Spanish Mackerel, big Redfish and Cobia will be here as soon as the bait moves up the coast. Elton should be holding big Triggerfish, big Scamps, Mutton Snapper and even a possibility of Wahoo or a Dolphin if the water is warm enough.

Good luck to all of you. I hope to see you on the water this month.

Jeff



Welcome New Crew!

Don Cook
Membership Director

We have several new crew members and wish to welcome them to their new club!

- Tom & Katharine Naylor***
- Mark & Karen Aley***
- Mike & Kelly Bowers***
- Steve & Muriel Sandiford***
- Robert & Margie Lee***
- John & Ann Von Thron***
- Perry & Angela Arnold***
- John & Romy Shaw***
- Dan & Laura Lom***
- Kenneth & Ellin Durden***
- Jason & Carmon Ehret***
- Jeffrey & Monica Stam***
- Jonathan Storck***

And last but not least.....

Congratulations to Dan & Charlene Parker our newest Lifetime Members!

Welcome aboard! See you at the meetings !



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- President Eddie McGowan
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- Layout & Design Bill Breen

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Rob's Fishing Lore

Tail of Two Fish Part 1

Well, it has been a long February and March. Some of my activities included blowing up the old engine and buying another. In between this time I have tried to put on a few hours on the new motor; however, I ended up with only seven or eight after a few cold fronts rolled through. The groundhog predicted an early spring yet there is only sparse evidence of it arriving. Yea, right! Spring is one of my favorite times of the year because everything is changing from cold to warm. As the weather warms (not due to global warming) the fish start to arrive. Bluefish and Spanish mackerel are two of my favorite fish to fun fish for. Needing hours on the engine I could not wait to get out there and troll for some Spanish.

The weatherman stated it was going to be a beater of a Saturday due to a rather nasty northeaster moving through. The winds were predicted to gust up and over 30 knots. Yet, when listening to the weather, it was nearly unanimous that the front and the wind were going to arrive later on Saturday meaning the morning may just be ok. In fact, it was. Byron and I took off to St Augustine because the Redfish Spot Tournament was going on in Jacksonville. I did not want to fight a crowded boat ramp with just me and him. With nine hundred dollars in fuel, our very next stop was to the bait and tackle shop. Seeing we were the only customers in there, I guessed several others were either redfishing or staying in port due to NOAA's weather prediction. Like a child going through Santa's workshop, I found my second home. I was on a mission this morning. I was looking for a particular device: a fish deboner. Yes, a deboner! There is such a device and I was in the mood to find one. Tommy Vaughn had one in stock so I took it with me along with a few other items.

The second part of my mission was to troll for Spanish mackerel. For kids, there is nothing better to fish for. The fish school well and it allows for constant action to keep their attention. It took me a few minutes to deploy the spoons. I was running three Clark spoons with 1 _ to 2 ounces of lead in front of the one hundred pound mono leader. As I told Byron, the birds will mark the fish so find me the birds. It was not too hard to find since there were about two hundred of them crashing the water within the inlet channel. The tide was flowing out and the wind was coming out of the southeast. The inlet proved to be rough. It was a good three to four with white caps inside the

channel while outside the channel the seas were a more pleasant two foot swell. We made a pass in the channel and we came away with a bluefish. Byron had a great time with the fight. Well this is not what I was after; I wanted barely legal Spanish for the deboner. I have plans for them. On the second pass, a couple of waves crested over the side of the mighty *Let's Go*. Byron pleads innocent to spilling water in the boat. Well, the channel was not the place for us. The tide kept getting stronger and the waves were getting steeper. What turned out to be a blessing was the south side of the channel just outside of the green buoy cans. The tide and the current were not stacking up nearly as bad as it was in the middle of the channel. After several passes we caught three legal Spanish and a half dozen or so bluefish.

About 11:30am I received a phone call from Dad warning me of the pending storm front encroaching. The winds were starting to howl in Mandarin but at the inlet it was still calm. Knowing what was coming and knowing my game plan only called for us to stay no longer than noon. We brought in all three lines and headed in. We made on brief stop to try our hand at some inshore fish but the wind arrived and it began to moan and then howl.

Once back safely onshore and the boat cleaned up and put away, I turned my attention to the Spanish. First, I gutted the Spanish and hollowed out the cavity. Like an evil scientist, I clutched the deboner and turned my attention to the Spanish. I read the instructions on the back of the pack but the directions were lacking for a novice deboner person. The only thing that stood out about the instructions was the part of getting the knack or feel of the tool as it worked on the backbone. The deboner is a tubular device with a cross-cut in the tip. The device cores out the backbone much like an apple core tool removes the apple core.

With the first Spanish in hand, I made a cut from the dorsal to the head. I used my knife to expose the backbone to gain access for the deboner. With a quick insert of the device it quickly severed the spine. In a rotating manor, the tool slide down the backbone cutting the spinal rays way from the main backbone. Oh what fun, oh what joy this was going to be. After a small distance down the spine and a short snap of the tool, the deboner was removed to find the spine inside the tool. The backbone was removed. The Spanish flopped like a limp fish. The excitement was mounting. Now, I had purchased five 10 ought hooks from Tommy along with eighty pound wire. I pre-tied some hooks to the wire and inserted them inside the belly of the fish. The wire exited through the fish's mouth. I took another piece of wire and I was able to wire the fish's mouth shut. Next, I used unscented waxed dental floss to sew both incisions. The sewing went flawlessly. I should have been in the ER and stitched for a living. After this, the fish were wrapped in aluminum foil and placed in the deep freezer for later use. As I finished each fish, I could only image what would eat these baits while being trolled out there near the Ledge. What can you image? Can you say?

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner



Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

With improving weather, and tournaments on the schedule, Club members will be towing their boats more to get in on the action. In order to have a safe, successful boating/fishing trip, 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. 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 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



Ships Galley.....

**Sidney Duncan
Hospitality Director**

Barbecued Cobia

Ingredients:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------------------------|
| 2 | - | Average size Fillets from a Cobia. |
| ½ | - | Cup Butter. |
| ½ | - | Cup any white wine you like. |
| 1 | - | Tablespoon minced garlic. |
| ½ | - | Teaspoon Salt. |
| 1 | - | Teaspoon Basil. |
| 3' | - | Heavy duty Aluminum Foil. |

The Secret Way:

First take the fish out of the refrigerator 30 minutes before you are going to cook it. The fish should be at room temperate, NOT chilled. Plan on cooking it for 10 to 12 minutes for each inch of thickness of the fillet, or until it can be flaked apart.

While waiting for the fillets to warm to room temperature, start melting the Butter, add the Garlic and Salt. When the Butter is melted, add the Wine and stir well. Take the Basil and crush and or grind it up and add it to the baste. (I grind it up finely between my fingers as I add it.) Stir th ingredients well over a low heat.

Fold the Aluminum foil in half so you have a piece about 18" long, and fold the edges up slightly so it will hold the juices in. Place it BY your BBQ grill which should have a good bed of coals going.

Baste your fillets on one side, and place them directly on the grill with the basted side down. Now baste the top and cook for 3 to 4 minutes, basting them lightly once or twice. After the first 3 or 4 minutes over the coals, flip the fillets over ONTO the Aluminum Foil, and place the Aluminum foil over the hottest part of the grill to finish cooking.

Continue to baste the fish as it finishes cooking. Be sure to keep the baste over the some heat and stir it often to keep it mixed.

When the Fillets are done, take them off, baste one last time and serve immediately while HOT!



Pete St. Laurent is starting his Marine Electrical Service business. He knows what he is doing and does a professional, clean, quick and neat job.

I have seen him work and highly recommend him.

Pete's
Marine Electrical Service
914 Misty Mountain Dr. W.
Jacksonville FL. 32225



(904) 220-9199
Cell 343-6002

Bustnreds@hotmail.com

Pete St. Laurent
Owner

Service or Electronics' Installation we come to you.



Chuck Darner with a pretty Kingfish.



That is a nice mess of B-Liners!



Bill Wilderotter with a nice grouper caught on the High Roller.

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. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting (I pay \$5.00 to the FIRST person that contacts me and tells me they actually read this in the newsletter.) or Phone, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at:

PH# 904-254-2791 Fax#904-213-9786

breenw@bellsouth.net

Don't forget to include your name spelled correctly and the fish weight.

Leigh Davis, 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 Leigh out!

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
Gene Fulgham	-	641-9970	-	Any day	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Dale Karg	-	451-2251	-	Most weekends	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Sara Meier	-	H= 786-5608 C= 812-322-1519	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Perry Arnold	-	H = 304-521-5987 - C = 904-379-1189	-	Any day	-	Up to 10:00 pm

*Associate Member
of the Month*
Consignment Boat Sales

4852 Ocean St.
Mayport, FL 32233
904-249-6225

These fine people are our neighbors, located right behind our clubhouse. First and foremost, they do a great job of selling your boat for you! Our club member George Piper just used their services, and has nothing but praise for how well they handled his sale, getting his asking price, and they sold it to someone in San Diego, CA.!

Second, they really stepped up and supported our club big time with the EI CHEAPO !

If you are looking for a boat, or want to sell your boat contact CONSIGNMENT BOAT SALES first



Here is proof that our President can actually catch some nice fish. That is a nice Wahoo Eddie, and I bet Peter had fun with that Amberjack!

Remember to shop at our sponsors and support them as often as you can,

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

Coming Events:

May 3rd - Guest speaker - Denny Young JR. talking about Trolling.

May 17th - Guest speaker - Rick Ryles giving his Trolling secrets.

July 16 Through 21st - The AT&T Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament & Festival



Tournament Schedule for 2007

Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date	-	Rain Date
May Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 5 th	-	May 6 th
Unlimited Trolling Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	May 19 th	-	May 20 th
Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	June 16 th	-	June 17 th
Kingfish Tune-up Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	July 14 th	-	July 15 th
Powder Puff Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 4 th	-	August 5 th
Light Tackle Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	August 18 th	-	August 19 th
The Bottom Fishing Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	September 8 th	-	September 9 th

Associate Members

• *ACM Electronics* • *Advance Marine* • *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* • *Ballyhood Top Gun Trolling Lures* • *C & H Lures* • *Cabelas* • *Cannon's Bait & Tackle* • *Carey Chen Art* • *Consignment Boat Sales* • *Custom Marine Components* • *D & S Fishing Specialities* • *D.J. Connection* • *Deonas Boatworks* • *Dexter Russell Cutlery* • *Dockside Inn* • *Donovan Heating & Air* • *Florida Sportsman* • *Gary Newman Insurance* • • *G & W Marine* • *Gear 4 Fishermen* • *Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament* • *Guy Harvey Publishing* • • *Hubbard's Marina* • *Hydro-Shield* • *Power-Pro* • *International Crew* • *Jacksonville Marina* • *Jacksonville Scuba Center* • *Kershaw Knives* • *Knight Electric* • *La Mee Florist* • *Land Roofing* • *Lindgren-Pitman, Inc.* • *Loadmaster Trailers* • *Mercury Outboards* • *Mac's Prop Savers* • *MacMedia Graphics* • *Mann's Bait Company* • *Maxima America* • *Mike's Taxidermy* • *Ocean Get Away* • *Ocean Waves Sunglasses* • *Okuma Fishing Tackle Corp.* • *Penn Tackle Mfg.* • *Production Drywall* • *Pier 17* • *Rick's Bait & tackle* • *River Marine* • *Roffers Ocean Forecasting Service* • *Salty Styles* • *Sea Tow* • *Sea Dance Charters* • *Jacksonville* • *Seafood Galore* • *Captain Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing* • *Solomon's RV & Boat storage* • *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* • *Woody Wax* •



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