



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

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Rob's Fishing Lore

TUNA TOWN, USA

DAY 1

Our adventure began surrounded in darkness. The captain guided the thirty-two foot Twin Vee to the dock. Introductions and handshakes were given, personal items were loaded and thus we left Venice Marina for the mighty Mississippi River. The trip out to the mouth of the South Pass would take nearly forty-five minutes, just enough time to capture a few mullet and for the sun to rise. As we broke the South Pass jetties, the oil rigs towered in the near distance. Our captain, Damon guided his boat over to a near shore rig and within twenty-minutes we jigged all-you-wanted hardtails for bait. The next destination was to a rig just fourteen miles out so we could dropped our first baits. Within minutes, the two reels sang to life. Sharks and barracudas were the early and only customers so their presence dictated a move toward cleaner and deeper water in hopes of catching any yellowfins.

The final move took us sixty-fives miles to the southeast. Due to the sheer size of the oil rig it was hard to determine if you were fifteen miles or five miles away. As we drew closer, the word on the radio was the yellowfins were there. Our boat came off plane and it shrank in size next to the massive deep water oil rig. A yellowfin welcoming committee came out to greet us as a fifty to sixty pound yellowfins sky-rocketed ten feet in the air. Everyone on the boat was anxious for a chance at catching one of these true unique giants of the seas. Capt. Damon and Josh, another licensed captain assisting as the mate, were just as excited as the rest of us. Josh went right to work and grabbed two thirty-wide Duel reels spooled with eighty pound mono with a circle hook attached. Two hardtails were grabbed from the live well and each fish was hooked just in front of the dorsal through the shoulder. The two bait fish were tossed out the back and one hundred to one and fifty feet of line was let out. We were slow trolling for yellowfin tuna just like we do for kingfish.



The hard tails were stout enough not to need a sea anchor or could it have been that they just did not last long enough to tire out and give up.

It took less than fifteen minutes before both reels made a noise simultaneously. With the strike drags barely engaged, two fish were having their way with the baits. Josh manned the starboard rod while the port reel was unattended. The portside fish hammered the bait allowing the circle hook to do its job while the starboard fish escaped its hook. Damon gave Scott the go ahead to strike the drag and man the rod. With one smooth motion, Scott struck the drag and picked up the rod for the fight. The great fish at the other end felt the increased drag and it took off to show its un-appreciation. On eighty pound test and a stiffly set drag, the pressure was immense. The fish ran out and then sounded. It took Scott only fifteen minutes to raise the large yellowfin from the deep blue. As the fish made large circles underneath the boat, Scott pumped and reeled thus the fish came closer and closer. Soon, the gaff was made ready. Josh lowered the gaff into the water and decided to tickle the largish yellowfin behind its eye in attempt to sink the hook in the fish's shoulder. The gaff bounced off its leathery hide. If

Continued page 5

Fishing Reports & Other Tall Tales



Mike Watts
Fishing Committee
Director

May Fishing Report

By: Mike Watts

This is my first report as your newly appointed Fishing Committee Director so bear with me until I gain “my sea legs.” Being relatively new to offshore fishing, or fishing of any kind should the truth be known, I am learning something new every day, week, month and year about this great pastime. My passion for the past 35-years has been golf, but I am now searching for “fish” rather than “birdies.” We (my wife Susan and daughters Sarah and Maggie) moved here in 2004 from Oklahoma and I want to report that Oklahoma and Jacksonville are similar in one respect – it seems the wind blows “frequently”, starting Friday morning and ending Sunday night

– especially if you are still working full time and mainly have weekends to fish.

Now down to the business at hand. April/May marks the beginning of spring and warmer weather, with more opportunities to comfortably get on the water. I will not try and “BS” you with my fishing report knowledge (I will wait a few months for that.) We all know that the bottom fishing close in has been terrific with many boats getting a limit of snapper, sea bass and/or grouper and even reporting a few cobia. Those getting to the further offshore (as weather permits) are catching even bigger snapper and grouper. The kingfish should start showing up this month, so fishing will get even better in May. Hopefully we will have more “pogies” off the beach this year than last.

By the time this article hits the press, the Spanish mackerel should also be here in quantity. This is without doubt one of the more fun fish to target – makes a great fun day for the entire family. Most any light trolling outfit will work and my favorite rig is - a #1 planner, snap swivel, 5 feet of 20-40 lb clear Monofilament and a Sea Striker Mackerel Tree (available at Strike Zone or B&M for about \$4.00.) Drag two rods @ 5-7 mph, 50 to 75 feet behind the boat and wait for a strike – hooking multiple fish is common. Here is a picture from last year of Ron Carr with a “four banger.”

In my opinion, this is the best trolling rig for Spanish Mackerel. With this rig you can catch up to six Spanish at a time on each rod. If you tie this rig in the order that I have described you will end up with rod and reel then planner then snap swivel then 5 feet of mono then mackerel tree. Drop your rig back about 50 to 75 feet behind the boat (I drag 2 rigs - one on each side of the boat), put them in the rod holders, maintain speed @ 5 to 7 mph and wait for a strike. Once set, the planner should deploy and the rod should bend noticeably. When one or multiple fish get hooked, the rod will start jerking and the planner will come to the surface – all you have to do then is reel in to see how many you have caught. Spanish make good table fare and even better bait (when brined.) Trolling for Spanish requires a minimum of effort, is economical and provides great fun for a leisurely family day on the water - especially if you have young children.

By the way – be watching for details on a new end of summer fun tournament – the “*First Annual LTD Tournament*” (Luck of The Draw) to be held in September. More details to follow.

Here is a head’s up for everyone. Below is a list of the remaining tournaments, and who won that tournament last year, or as you all know, who is running that tournament THIS year.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| May Trolling Tournament | Tom Meyer |
| Junior Angler Tournament | Chris Bernacki |
| Kingfish Tune-up Tournament | Andy Proescher |
| Powder Puff Tournament | Chris Rooney |
| Light Tackle Tournament | Eddie McGowan |

Finally, not for Captain Of The Year points, but new, The

LTD Tournament (New – Sept) TBD



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Kingdom - *Animalia*
 Phylum - *Chordata*
 Class - *Osteichthyes*
 Order - *Perciformes*
 Family - *Lutjanidae*
 Genus - *Latjanus*
 Species - *Campechanus*

Common Name - **Red Snapper**

The Red Snapper is one of the most targeted fish along the southern U.S. coast. It is delicious eating and can be prepared several different ways.

I have actually caught Red Snapper but I still won't claim to be an expert on fishing for them.

Red Snapper reach sexual maturity at about 3 to 4 years of age, and spawn over 20 times a year at 4 to 6 day intervals between late June and early October, with a peak in June-August. Scientists believe that fish move away from reef structures to spawn. Once spawned, the eggs are buoyant and float to the surface where they hatch in about 24 hours. At this stage the larvae are about 1/16 inch and extremely vulnerable to predation. They grow rapidly in the warm surface waters for about 20 days, after which time they begin to settle to the bottom. At six months to one year, juvenile snappers begin to migrate to reefs and become structure-oriented. Red snappers grow about four inches per year for the first six years, then growth slows. Average lengths per age would be eight inches at two years, 16 inches at four years, 24 inches at six years, and 28 inches at eight years.

Fish are the number one item in their diet, with the most common ones being pipefish, snake eels, searobins, pinfish, striped anchovies, cusk eels, and pigfish. Stomatopods (king shrimp or sea lice) are the second most important food item, followed by several species of crabs. Also eaten are tiny pinhead-size zooplankton and bottom worms. Shrimp make up only a very small portion of their diet.

Recent research has shown that red snappers may move around more than commonly thought. Tagged snapper

have been caught over 200 miles from where they were tagged, but the average is about 20 miles.

The bigger fish usually can be found in deeper cooler water, or during the winter months they will move inshore with the cooler water.

The Florida record is - 46Lbs 8 Oz.

Here is a great recipe:

Baked Red Snapper With Garlic

INGREDIENTS:

- * 2 red snapper fillets, about 6 to 8 ounces each
- * 4 tablespoons butter
- * 1 medium clove garlic, pressed or minced
- * 3 or 4 drops Worcestershire sauce
- * 1/2 teaspoon Creole or Cajun seasoning, or your own favorite seasoning blend, with salt
- * 1/8 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- * 1 to 2 teaspoons minced fresh parsley
- * 1 teaspoon snipped fresh or frozen chives, optional
- * 3 to 4 tablespoons plain or seasoned bread crumbs
- * 2 tablespoon freshly grated parmesan cheese, optional

PREPARATION:

Place snapper fillets in a baking dish which has been sprayed with a butter-flavored baking spray.

In a skillet, melt butter with garlic, Worcestershire sauce, Creole seasoning blend, pepper, parsley, and chives, if using.

Cook on low for 2 minutes, just to blend flavors. Brush both sides of fish fillets with the butter and herb mixture. Toss bread crumbs in the remaining butter mixture; sprinkle over the fillets. Bake at 400° for about 12 minutes, depending on thickness of fillets, until fish flakes easily and is no longer translucent.

Serves 2.



Loud Hailings **Newsletter Editor** **Bill Breen**

We have had several request for a club roster. However we have a few members that are concerned with privacy issues, so.....

Lets try something different. I am going to have a COMPLETE club roster at the next couple of meetings. If you DON'T want your name and number listed in the published version, (Published ONLY for club members.) be sure to scratch it out and initial the "Opt-Out box. For the rest of us, PLEASE initial the "Everything is correct" box after double checking the spelling and numbers.

I still want you to send pictures and stories of your fishing adventures, so you can get them to me by: Fax - 904-213-9786, E-mail - breenw@bellsouth.net or snail mail Bill Breen 684 Tropical Parkway, Orange Park, FL 32073 or at the club meetings.



Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

READING THE WEATHER

Club member Ron Carr informed me recently of two fishermen who drowned, after being caught in a mid-day storm while fishing on a large fresh water lake in Alabama. The two fishermen were seasoned boaters and were aware that a storm was imminent. No one knows exactly what happened, but the two fishermen were found dead the next day attached to the capsized boat, but without their life jackets on. Life jackets were still on the boat. There are many unanswered questions from this tragedy, but one thing is certain. Your life jacket will work only if it is worn. Even if you do not wear it at all times, keep it near by so you can put it on in case bad weather approaches, or other situations arise that would require you to don it quickly.

As we move into the warmer months with more daylight hours, and increasing temperatures, we must be alert to the ever increasing afternoon thunderstorms. In order to have a safe outing, boaters have a special need to know and understand the weather. On land, the effects of storms can be devastating. At sea, they can be even worse. High winds, lightning, rough seas and poor visibility are some of the side effects of storms at sea. The first step in avoiding weather related problems is "know before you go." This means you need reliable weather information before you go out on the water.

Even if good weather is predicted, it can change while you are out. At least as important as knowing what weather to expect on your trip, is knowing how to tell when the weather is changing for the worse, or how to read the obvious signs. Therefore, we must understand how high and low pressure air masses impact our weather. Air masses with high pressure contain cool, dry air and low pressure contains warm, moist air. In the US, these air masses move mainly from west to east.

In the Northern Hemisphere, air flows clockwise around a high and counterclockwise around a low. Therefore, since a high moving toward a low may have high winds, the area between the high and low may have stormy weather. Thus, it is important to know where the highs and lows are in relation to your location on the water.

To locate the highs and lows in our area, stand with your back to the surface wind. Then, turn 45 degrees to your right which will align you with the winds aloft. After you have turned 45 degrees to the right, the low-pressure area will normally be to your left. The high area will be to your right with the resulting pressure area to the west the one that will reach you and the one to the east has already passed you. Therefore, if the pressure system to the west is low, weather conditions may deteriorate and you should make plans accordingly.

Clouds also tell us when bad weather is approaching. The one you want to pay close attention to is the cumulonimbus thunderhead or anvil shaped cloud. It usually signals a cold front

moving at 10 to 30 knots with winds as high as 30-60 knots in a squall line. Gusts of wind may exceed 80-100 knots, which could present dangerous boating conditions with high seas and heavy rain followed by clearing. If caught in this condition, head into the waves and maintain position as the rough weather should pass shortly. If you must head back to port, try and cross the waves at a 45 degree angle and run a zigzag course back to port to prevent pounding into the waves and possible capsizing or pitch poling.

Know before you go, pay attention to changing weather conditions and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales



Above is Hunter Davis, warming up to take the Junior Angler board this year, and below is Leigh Davis, trying to convince us that he still catches bigger fish than Hunter.



Associate Member of the Month Jacksonville Marina

**4852 Ocean St
Atlantic Beach, FL
904-246-8929**

If you didn't already know, the Jacksonville Marina is now under the management of Captain Dennis Young, of Sea Dancer Charters. Since Dennis and his better half Judy took over, this place has become the best marina in the Jacksonville area. It is a marina run BY a fisherman and active boater, FOR fishermen and boaters. Dennis is doing it right, and from talking to members that keep their boats there, they are really happy with the service and improvements that Dennis has implemented.

The Jacksonville Marina is located right between the St. Johns River Ferry and the Mayport Boat Ramp, Dennis's full service shop and tackle shop, selling ice and bait have saved many of our members boating trips.

Be sure to think of the JACKSONVILLE MARINA when you need something for boating!



**Remember, we need to support the
businesses that support our club!**

Tuna Continued from pg-1

anything could anger a fish more I would not know what that would be because the beast of a yellowfin took off for the comfort of the deep. Without a fighting belt, the fish was winning and Scott handed off the rod to Dad. Dad took the challenge head on and grasped it. Still the pressure was immense and the tuna was giving as good as it was getting. Once again, it took another fifteen minutes and the fish was

Tuna Continued

making large circles underneath the boat. After a few more pumps and cranks, the fish came within gaffing distance. Josh lowered the gaff to the water only to have the fish catch a glimpse of the steel hook. Still fresh in its memory, the yellowfin did not want any part of the gaff and for a second time it ran deep. This time the rod was passed to yours truly. As stated previously and still true now, the pressure was immense causing your body to strain without a fighting belt. Arms, shoulders and back groaned as the fight wore on. It took both hands on the rod while the fish ran. Soon, I realized with eighty pound test line, one could put a lot of pressure on the fish. Short pumps and cranks followed and for the third time the fish circled under the boat. With elliptical circles, the giant yellowfin would rise and fall in the water column. On its last rise near the boat, Josh struck the gaff and grunted as the fish was hulled over the side. Our yellowfin was estimated to weigh near 100 pounds.

This is what we were fishing for. Our trip was made and the fish was in the box. It was not a true behemoth but it was a few sizes past medium. The three of us, together, captured our prize and forged lasting memories of it. (Beside that, it was mighty good eating!) The remaining fishing was difficult because the yellowfin seemed scattered. The fish would not subcome to the same fishing technique as each previous fish. Damon and Josh work hard to get that second and third fish. Once at the dock, the fish were assembled for photos while the crowds gathered. Several other were just as happy to take pictures of our fish as we were.

Day 2

Our trip started in the usual way by greeting our captain, Bobby. Of all the times for the weatherman to be right this was not one of them but the prediction of a new weather front moving in was timely. From flat calm seas on Friday, the front caused the seas to increase to a constant five foot with white caps. With hope against hope, we ran out the Southwest Pass toward a near shore oil rig. After forty minutes of attempting to lasso to the oil rig, Bill Wildotter put his foot down and our fishing day was called. With three full waves cresting over the bow and a few others barely breaking across it, this was an excellent call. We exited through the Southwest pass and we re-entered through the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Our day was called and so was tomorrow's. The four of us quickly packed for the return home. Two years since Katrina and you can still see some amazing things. The daylight allowed us a more vivid view of what a monster storm could do. Forget the 45 plus sportfisherman stuck way back in the marsh or the suburban submerged to its roof out back in the water or all the numerous bare house foundations with a single wide trailer next to them, what is truly amazing are those individuals rebuilding Venice, La. It's the rebuilt restaurants, stores, marinas and that amazed me. It's Captain Damon rebuilding his business and expanding it by adding a third 30 foot Twin Vee to his fleet for Super Strike Charters and the captains, Josh and Bobby who guide them. It is these Americans who turn adversity into triumph that amaze me still.

Best Wishes For Fishing,
Rob Darner



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
Richard Fisher	-	H = 221-9629 C = 738-1010	-	Nearly every day	-	Up to 8:00 PM the day before.
Bob Calfee	-	C = 472-9957	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 8:00 pm



Just in case you are wondering, the Cobia, weighs 80 Pounds. It was caught by Darin Kirksey about 14 miles off shore, while fishing on George Drake's 28 foot Grady White, the "Waviator"



As Mike said, the Spanish Mackerel are running in close for a fun day of fishing.



The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament

This year the Tournament needs volunteers during the tournament.

The Tournament dates are:

Junior Angler Wednesday, July 23rd

General Tournament, Friday July 25th &

Saturday July 26th

If you would like to or can volunteer, please contact:

Inez Higginbotham

Home telephone 249-1773

Cell 424-1981

Work 356-7611

Email Inez.Higginbotham@GBE.com

The GJKT has supported the JOSFC during the years, and they need all types of volunteers!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 20px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">May</div>				1 Club Meeting	2	3 Unlimited Trolling Tourny. Run by : Any volunteers?
				4	5 Board Meeting	6
11	12	13	14	15 Club Meeting	16	17
18 May Trolling Tourny. Run by : Tom Meyers	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Coming Events: May 3 - Unlimited Trolling Tourny
 May 18 - May Trolling Tourny
 June 14 - Junior Angler Tourny

Eddie McGowan in the Bite Me!

I just had to squeeze in this picture of our fearless leader in his new offshore boat



Tournament Schedule for 2008

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate	Saturday	Sunday	Run by...
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 3 / 10 -----			Unk
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 18 / 25 -----			Tom Meyer
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	----- 14 / 28 -----			Chris Bernacki
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- 5 / 19 -----			Andy Proescher
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	----- 10 / 17 -----			Chris Rooney
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	----- 23 / 30 -----			Eddie McGowan

Associate Members

• *ACM Electronics* • *Advance Marine* • *Adventure Landing* • *Wild Adventures* • *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* • *Carey Chen Art* • *Consignment Boat Sales* • *Custom Marine Components* • *D & S Fishing Specialities* • *D.J. Connection* • *Deonas Boatworks* • *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* • *Jacksonville Marina* • *Jacksonville Scuba Center* • *Knight Electric* • *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* • *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* • *Thrifty Outdoors* • *West Marine* • *Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing* • *Woody Wax* •



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