



The Newsletter of the ...

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 54 Issue 5

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PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Darga

Club News – At the time of this posting the club had its First Annual Easter Egg Hunt with 200 eggs placed out at the playgrounds before the April 17th meeting. Thank you everyone who volunteered to help Cassie set this up. Please give a thank you to Cassie when you see her for all of her time and hard work. One lucky Jr. Angler won a rod and reel for having the Golden Ticket. Yep we stole that from Willie Wonka. If you have not been to a meeting in a while you need to stop by. It has been standing room only and the raffle table has been active with a bottom rod and Shimano TLD 25 as the grand prize. I have been asked if the TLD 25 will be the reel of choice from now on, the answer: **Yes**. All raffle tables will have the TLD 25 as the reel and rod combo. All lures will be trolling, jigging or kingfish lures along with other various items hats, shirts etc. The last 2 meetings the rod and reel have been won by new members. Sorry AJ. Please check your email in the near future as the Board of Directors will be sending out some news concerning tournaments and fish slips. If you have not fished in a tournament in the past you will want to in the future. That's all I'm saying for now.

Fish Slips – All fish slips need to be turned in to Rob Cripe by 7:30 to receive your ticket. If the slip is turned in after this time it will be presented to you at the next meeting.

Fishing

April 12 the club held its Non-live Tournament. The weight station was busy with a variety of fish from Spanish Mackerel 0.8 lbs first one for Monica Darga, but believe it or not this was not the smallest. We can save that honor for Will Aitken weighing in a whopping 0.6 Blue fish. Largest was a Barracuda 30.7 lbs caught by Derek and attracting flies, not sure if it was the fish or Derek attracting them. The hard part for anglers was trying to get to the bottom before the red snapper hit your bait. At JW we were actually able to throw chunks of cigar minnow and had the snapper eating at the back of the boat. Question can you catch a red snapper slow trolling at JW after bottom fishing? **YES**, Billy Bait Master Hooker purple and black with a whole Cigar Minnow with a 3oz sinker to hold it down, 20 to 25 lbs have a nice picture of it.

Winner of the Non-Live Tournament was Greg Wallace Kelly W with 44.2 lbs. Second place Rob Cripe Reel Tight with 11.7 lbs. Third Place Jack Ogin Adreneline with 8.7 lbs.

Remember the club is made up and supported by **all of you**, the members. Without you and your support JOSFC would not be who they are or have been since 1959. No other club can say the same.

Tom Darga
JOSFC President

Well the boating season is definitely here. So in honor of it, here are some tips and tricks to help you make it a safer and easier year.

While I know you have seen some of these here before they are worth repeating.

1 - (My favorite) NEVER approach the dock any faster than you want to RAM the dock!

2 - Oven cleaner like "Easy-Off" will remove paint and adhesive residue from Gelcoat without damaging it.

3 - If you are using a putty knife to scrape something, use a file to ROUND the corners so it won't gouge the surface.

4 - Take an afternoon and check the water in your batteries to make sure they are full, and clean!

5 - CHECK your FIRE EXTINGUISHERS! Make sure they are in good shape, and fully charged! Turn them over and shake them vigorously to make sure the powder is not hard and compressed in the bottom. Get an EXTRA bigger fire extinguisher, the one small one is legal but not enough if you actually have a fire.



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**What's in Your Ditch Bag?
You do have a Ditch Bag don't you?**




Boating accidents, they happen every week. Usually the difference between a sad ending and a happy ending is preparedness. Since you can't always count on Lady Luck (In case you haven't noticed, you are in a predicament because she isn't with you today, she's fickle, in case you haven't heard), the best thing to do is be like a Boy Scout. Veteran captains going offshore - no matter what size boat they are in -- carry emergency "ditch bags" because they never know when the catastrophic might happen.


OK, lets get started. . . . Your Ditch Bag should be a container that will FLOAT, is secured closed so that if your boat overturns or goes down, it will be on the surface with you, and all of it's contents inside. When you leave the dock, it should be sitting on deck, NOT in the cabin or a locker.

I have seen everything from Ice-Chest that latched shut as ditch bags to \$300 specially made ditch bags. These soft sided insulated coolers will work quite well, just make sure it will float with a full load of your gear.

Now for what you put inside. This can vary a lot from boat or Captain to Captain.

The little Sailfish signify priority items!
 You should have your required flares. (Make sure they are not out of date.) I also carry several arial flares or rockets.

 First Aid supplies.

 A good waterproof sun block. Neutrogena now makes one (SPF 70) that goes on wet skin, kind of handy if your already in the water.



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

FLOAT PLAN

With the next two offshore tournaments in May; the May Trolling Tournament and the Unlimited Trolling Tournament, all Captains should give a lot of thought to making sure the boat and equipment will perform satisfactorily and safely before heading out to the favorite spot offshore. You should, also, have a float plan to make sure that someone knows where to look for you, and what will happen, if your equipment fails 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. Time could be a critical factor in saving your life in a real emergency. A sample float plan form for your use is available in the boating safety materials rack at the Mayport clubhouse.

However, if you prefer, you can go to www.floatplangenerator.com, Download a form and create your own personalized float plan, and file a plan on line with the web site for no charge.

File a float plan each time you go boating/fishing to help ensure your safety on the water. May you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.


Top Ingram
Fish Tales





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





Ditch Bag Continued


 You should have some rope to tie everyone together so you don't drift apart. (A group of people are easier to spot than a single person.)

 Your bag should have a waterproof strobe light attached to it. (Be sure to test it before every trip, and change the batteries once a year.)

 A signal mirror works well in bright daylight to get attention.

 Drinking Water! This is left out of most ditch bags because most people do not think of it. A single gallon of water will help keep up to 4 people from becoming dehydrated for a couple of days.

 Whistles for everyone! It beats yelling 10 ways to 1. Yelling is exhausting, and uses up a lot of energy, and can not be heard for a very long distance, whistles carry for a mile or more!

 At the least you should have PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) like a Spot. Or an EPIRB

A drift marker is nice. It is a long 20 or so foot long bright red streamer that floats out along the surface to increase your spotability from the air.

A bright die marker also helps increase your spotability from the air, but it does dissipate, so maybe a couple of them.

If you can afford it, a hand held VHF, and a hand held GPS unit.

I also carry several Chem-Lights or Glo Sticks that last for at least 12 hours once you break the glass vial and activate them.

I also have attached one to each Life Vest to increase visibility for each individual and the group.

That covers the basics for your ditch bag. To put all that in your bag cost a lot of money, and if you are like me you couldn't afford to do it all at once. That is OK, but start building your bag with the items that you have or can afford. You can add the hand held VHF or GPS or a big EPIRB later as you can afford to buy them. A life is worth every dollar you spend even if it stretches your budget!

OK, you have assembled your Ditch Bag, now what ?

Like I said at the start of this article your bag should be ON-Deck when you leave the dock. You should then assign a primary person and a secondary backup person to be responsible, to make sure in an emergency, it goes over with them and does not get stuck in the boat!

Don't Panic all you Kingfishers

Yes, the SKA (Southern Kingfish Association) after 23 years of operations, Folded up, Closed their doors, Went out of Business Went Kaput! Three weeks ago, BUT

NBOA Marine Insurance has bought the brand, and will keep the tournaments going!

NBOA said, legacy and tradition are important to us. So when we heard one of the best tournament trails was about to close its doors after 23 years of operation, we wanted to do whatever we could to ensure that didn't happen.

Fast forward three weeks and we are proud to officially announce: NBOA has acquired the Southern Kingfish Association and will be assuming all operations effective immediately!

So, what exactly does this mean? Business as usual, with a whole lot of exciting, new plans in store.

NBOA's Jim Butler jbutler@nboat.com and Erin Henshaw ehenshaw@nboat.com will be the managing directors of the SKA, sanctioned tournaments will continue as scheduled, and we'll be announcing final intentions on this year's PRO Tour within the next three weeks.

The transition between current SKA management and NBOA is effective now. Please feel free to give our team a shout with any questions or comments. We're all ears and excited to hear what you (the lifeblood of this organization) have to say.

We had a GREAT Easter Egg Hunt!



In spite of the weather, we had about 15 Junior Anglers bring their parents and show up for

Easter Eggs Continued

the First Annual JOSFC Junior Angler Easter Egg Hunt!



Cassi Washington and her helpers hid over 250 candy and prize filled Plastic Easter Eggs in the park playground across from the Club House. There were 5 Golden Eggs with prize papers in them that 5 lucky kids found.



They won everything from Easter Baskets, to



Shakespeare Rod & Reels to the Grand Prize of a really nice Penn Spinning Rod & Reel!

Things actually worked out really well for the Easter Egg Hunt. It drizzled while Cassi was hiding the eggs, but then it stopped, and the sun almost came out while the kids did their hunt. I can guarantee you that both the kids, parents and grandparents had a blast!



Above Jacob Stewart, Pete St. Laurent's grandson gets his Rod & Reel!

All Photos were taken by Diane St. Laurent, Thank you very much!



2014 GJKT SCHEDULE

- Mon, July 21** Warm Up Captain's Meeting
- Tues, July 22** Warm Up Tournament, Jr. Angler Captain's Mtg
- Wed, July 23** Jr. Angler Fishing & Jr. Dock Tournament
- Thurs, July 24** GT Captains Meeting
- Fri, July 25** GT Fishing, Redfish Captain's Meeting
- Sat, July 26** Shootout Captain's Mtg, & Tournament,
 - Redfish Tournament
 - Jr. Angler Seminars
 - Presentation of Awards
 - Live Entertainment



The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament underwent a format change last year that was widely accepted by its participants. In our continuing efforts to provide the best experience for not only our anglers but also the fans that show up at the tournament and festival we sent out questionnaires for both groups to voice their opinions on the changes. By a wide margin there were positive responses. And there were ideals in several of those surveys that were taken up by our board of directors at last year's September planning session for the 2014 tournament.

Here are some of the more prominent changes: The General Tournament was changed last year to a one day format with a second day "shootout" for the top ten finishers and the Redneck VIP winner. (Eleven boats on day two) The new change eliminates that VIP winner slot, but increases the first day finishers to the top 10% of the field. Ex. 200 entries in the GT = 20 shootout qualifiers.

The Redneck VIP remains the same except for a name change to our 'Warm Up Tournament', sponsored by Summit Contracting Group. This will be a Stand Alone Tournament with its own separate winners.

Another new addition we are proud to announce is a partnership with the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville for a new dock tournament, the 'Down at the Dock Fishing Derby'. 50 junior anglers with Down syndrome and their siblings will have a fish derby, held on Wed, prior to tournament week. This will be a lot of fun. That makes 3 Jr Tournaments on our schedule during tournament week. Look for more of these kind of events in the future.

Through board member Dave Workman's affiliation with world famous marine artist Guy Harvey, we were able to commission an original work from Mr Harvey to be used on our tournament tee shirts. We have it in our hands and "WOW" is it beautiful. The shirts are going to be awesome!

Our list of exhibitors is growing daily and if you know someone who might want to join us for tournament week, well, they need to call the office soon. (904-251-3011)

The Food Festival is set & ready with everything from barbeque to seafood available. Sponsorship is falling into place and with the economy seemingly turning around we are looking for a bigger and better tournament week this year. Come join us!

For more information & exact times, see our website www.kingfishtournament.com or call the tournament office at 904 251-3011

Roger Walker






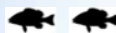



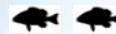




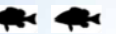








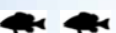





Yea ! Grouper Season opens back up!

Yes, as of May 1st, Grouper Season opens up again. Here is what you need to know for fishing the Atlantic off Jacksonville!

- Gag & Black - 24" TL (Total Length) - 1 / day
- Red - 20" TL - 1/day - Total of 3 Grouper / day
- Black Seabass - 13" - 5 / day
- Cobia - 33" FL (Fork Length) - 1 / day
- Dolphin (Mahi) 20" - 10 / day
- Kingfish - 24" FL - 2 / day
- Spanish Mackerel - 12" FL - 15 / day
- Gray Triggerfish - 12" FL - No Limit
- B-Liners, (Vermilion Snapper) 12" TL - 5 / day
- Bluefish - 12" FL - 10 / day
- Flounder - 12" TL - 10 / day
- Greater Amberjack - 28" TL - 1 / day
- Tripletail - 15" TL - 2 / day
- African Pompano - 24" FL - 2 / day
- Red Snapper - 20" TL - 2 / Day - FLORIDA WATERS ONLY (Within 3 Miles of shore!)
- Snappers - 10 / day aggregate
 - Mangrove - 10"
 - Lane - 8"
 - Mutton - 16"
 - Cubera - 12'

May possess no more than 2 Cubera Snapper over 30' per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less. 30" or larger not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.

Check the Regs before each trip to make sure they haven't changed!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<h1>May</h1>				1 Club Meeting 	2 	3 The Unlimited Trolling Tournament 
				4 	5 Board Meeting 	6 
11 	12 	13 	14 	15 Club Meeting 	16 	17 The May Trolling Tournament 
18 	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 
25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 	31 



- May 1st - Club Meeting
- May 3rd - Unlimited Trolling Tournament
- May 15th - Club Meeting
- May 17th - May Trolling Tournament
- June 5th - Club Birthday & Past Presidents Party
- June 14th - Junior Angler Tournament

Comina Events:



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Tournament Schedule for 2014

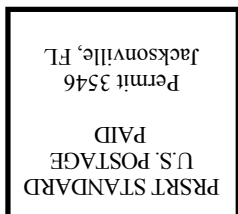
Tournament - - Month - - Date / - Alternate
 - All are on Saturday -

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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