



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

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May 2015



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Darga

April 10, 11, 12th JOSFC volunteers worked hard to bring in new members and sell the overstock El-Cheapo items. Friday Bill Breen and Butch Ogin manned the booth all day. Saturday Frank and Bill again manned the booth until 1:00 when Monica and I took over followed by Tina and Andy. Rob Vermillion and family finished out the night. Sunday we had a whole slew of volunteers all day long including new members who were visiting and jumped behind the booth to help out. The great thing about volunteering is that you get in for free and get to look around.

In case you did not go you missed Chris Rooney giving rigging advice to groups of people. Not only that C and H lures had some great deals on the Rattle Jet XL and teasers that Chris was making up on the spot for people using the stubby bubbler and magnum turbo whistler. Chris always thinking of the club was constantly mentioning JOSFC after the seminar. At last count we had 4 or 5 new members who paid at the booth over the Weekend.

I know it is only May but last month during the budget meeting it was announced that JOSFC will be having its banquet this year at the Captains Club on

Continued on Page 2

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!

Presidents Message Continued

Beach Blvd between Hodges and Kernan. South in your Mouth will be catering the event for us. Chicken, Brisket and Pulled Pork as of now will be the three meat options. Sides will be the rice and beans, coleslaw and I am working on a third option. I have been notified that the rice and beans can be spicy so I will ask for a toned down version along with the original. The best news is that tickets will be **priced 2 for 40\$ or 1 for 25 dollars.**

Nonlive tournament was fished on April 18th. We had 16 boats sign up and 9 weighed in fish. The day was beautiful with inland lake waters. No waves calm winds made the day to run deep. Wahoo, Barracuda, Bonita and blues were weighed in. Kelly W with Derek Siegel captaining came in first. Steve Grant heading up the Driftin and Dreamin II came in second and Thelfini with Steve Kalaitzis finished in third place. Again we had members just stop by and

hang out for an hour or so to see what was going on. Participation is double digits boats and we need to keep the enthusiasm going. To all new members if you are looking for a crew email Bill Breen so he can put out the word.

With fishing becoming hot both inshore and offshore do not forget to put in a fish slip so that you get credit for what you caught. It does not matter how small.



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



The Sailfish Pot Party Is Coming May 30, 2015

Get your entry in early! Remember that it is \$35 if in hand by MAY 8th and \$40 after that date! They really need you to register before the party so they know how many Steaks to buy, and how much beer, wings, and Oysters to get.

Trust me this is a GREAT party!

Cobia are HOT during the month of May 33" Fork Length, 1 a Day / Person



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Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

Towing Checklist

With the major offshore tournaments in the near future starting with the None -Live Tournament in April, everyone should give some thought to how you will get your boat to the nearest launch site. 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. Towing a boat has its good and bad points, and the potential problems in towing are many.

Before you add a trailer hitch to your vehicle to pull that new, or used, boat you will be fishing from, 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.

To ensure that your boat will get you to and from your favorite fishing spot, you should develop a "check list" and review it to make sure that each equipment item necessary to the proper, and safe, operation of your boat is operating properly; and that all needed fuel, water, oil and other supplies are on board before you leave your driveway, dock or marina.

Your checklist should be tailored to your specific boat depending on whether it is an inboard or outboard, etc. In general, your list should include all items essential to the safe operation of your boat. For instance, your checklist should include the following items: fuel (always a full tank before heading offshore), oil (carry a spare quart in case of a leak), cooling system, battery, belts and hoses if applicable, etc. Checking the above items takes only a few minutes and can save you hours on the water and hundreds of dollars if you have to call for a tow.

If your boat has two batteries, you should start the engine on number one then shut down and start on number two to make sure both batteries are fully charged. It is also recommended that you go out on one and back on the other. Never run on both because if you have a problem, you will discharge both and not have a spare to start the engine.

Your checklist should also include Coast Guard required safety items such as life jackets (at least one for each person on board), visual distress signals, fire extinguisher, sound producing device such as a whistle or horn, working navigation lights, and proper ventilation and backfire flame control if your boat is powered by an inboard engine. If you have a radio, you should verify that it is in proper working order before you need it in an emergency. Also, recommend you carry a spare hand held radio in case your main radio fails. If you run out to the Gulf Stream, or similar distances offshore, you should include a ditch bag in your check list.

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Each boat captain should brief at least one person on the operation of the vessel in case he/she is disabled. This may seem trivial, but there have been cases where this knowledge was a lifesaver in an emergency. The last item on your checklist should be a float plan completed and left with a responsible party. You can never be too safe when towing your boat. Just as any good pilot goes over his/her safety checklist before taking off, it's wise to do the same when towing. Here's a list of important items you need to address every time you head to the water.

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.

Gary Newman
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- **And, last, DO NOT FORGET TO INSTALL THE DRAIN PLUG. Always check to make sure the drain plug is installed and tight before launching your boat from a trailer.**

BOAT LAUNCH (ON THE RAMP)

- Back down the ramp far enough to allow engine cooling water to be picked up.
- Set the emergency brake, put the vehicle in park, and block the rear wheels. Do the same when retrieving the boat.
- On stern-drive or outboard boats, lower the drive into the water.
- Start the engine and let it warm up.
- Disconnect the winch hook. From the bow eye.
- Proceed to launch.
- Enjoy your outing and have a safe trip.

Top Ingram





7 year old Ilah Washington on her first trip offshore with her FIRST Bonita! This was during the Non-Live Tournament.

Her Mom, Cassi caught a Bonita, so Ilah had to catch a Bonita. Ilah's was bigger than Mom's. Mom caught a bigger Bonita so Ilah naturally caught a bigger one. (Editors note, Cassi always out fished me, so it was nice to see he daughter do the same to her!)

Mom finally caught a bigger Bonita and then we got out past them so Mom won that round!



Photo by Cassi Washington. Taken out the back of the Maelstrom, Bill Breen's boat, April 18th 2015.

We were 73 miles offshore on one of the prettiest days out there you will ever see.

The ocean was FLAT, and there were fish to be found. Tons of Bonita, some Dorado, naturally the ever present Barracuda, and Turtles! Literally hundreds of Turtles. Half way through the morning I lost count at 60+ and we kept seeing them all day! We caught a nice Dorado (About 12 pounds.) off a Turtle. As we passed by the Turtle, I saw a wake come from the Turtle toward the boat, and watched it turn and hit our short Starboard lure!

We had Dolphin come play with the boat, and I thought we were going to have to tie Ilah in the boat! The water was crystal clear and they were right there against the boat and she kept trying to pet the "Beautiful Dolphin"

This was Ilah's First trip offshore and she did great.

Remember to keep your "THROWABLE" life preserver or PDF handy at all times!

Oh, just for you landlubbers the below item is NOT what you throw to a drowning person!



How about some safety tips for Anglers!

Ok, you anglers, if you haven't done it yet, the odds are you will. What? Get a fish hook imbedded somewhere in your body! How do you get it out? There are two ways to do this: 1 - if the hook goes all the way through, and the barb is showing, carefully use the cutters you have in your first aid kit (You did remember to put a good pair of directress in your kit didn't you?) cut off the point and barb, then back the hook out. 2 - If the barb is buried, make a loop of strong fishing line and but it around the bend in the hook, then PUSH the eye of the hook down against the skin and use the line to yank the hook out. OK, There is a 3rd way, leave it alone and quit fishing for the day and go to the hospital and let a doctor do one of the above.

Knives - ALWAYS keep your Knives razor sharp! They cut easier and you are less likely to have to push or pull hard and then have it suddenly pop free and stab and cut your self. Also on your boat if you stow a knife in a rack, ALWAYS put the sharp edge toward the wall. When someone stumbles or slips on the wet deck, they won't fall against the sharp edge and cut themselves.

One last idea on Knives is to go to Harbor Freight Tools and buy one of their CERAMIC knives for your Boat or Bait Knife! They don't rust and stay sharp! (How many boats have you been on and seen an OLD dirty rusty knife as the bait knife? Makes me cringe!)

Gaffs. . . . Keep them sharp, and use some surgical tubing or a spring or even a fork to cover the tip to keep your crew from impaled! Always carry the Gaff vertically, NEVER horizontally. I also learned the hard way never to look over the Gaff man's shoulder as they gaff a fish. The handle coming back as he gaffed it almost took my nose off!

Sunscreen! Do I need to say it again? OK Sunscreen!

Always su it liberally! I bet everyone has a pitcher of them, their kids or friends looking like a boiled lobster. Use it even on cloudy days as the clouds do NOT filter out the UV rays.

After you have ignored my advise, there are several things you can do to help with the burn.

A bit of baking soda in a cool or lukewarm bath will temporarily provide relief to sun burn pain. Just remember to let your skin air dry out of the bath so the baking soda really soaks in and soothes the pain.

After it dries, use Aloe to help it heal faster! Pure Aloe gel or best is a leaf off a real Aloe plant!


Fingers and Fishing Line . . . Once again we all know a person (Like yourself.) that has been cut by fishing line, specially with the new Super Braids. I carry a "Kevlar Fishing Glove" just in case I need to grab a line. You also never want to wrap the line aroundd your hand. When you need to grab a leader or line, try to grab it from below the line, bringing the outside (Little finger side) up against the line and twisting your hand up around the line ONCE! If the fish suddenly pulls hard, the line is wasy to release without getting cut!

Finally, RELAX!!!!. Some people get really excited whenn the fish gets near the boat, and really start yelling to get the gaff, get the net, get the leader. Quick!

Your reel has a DRAG on it for a reason. If people in the boat are not ready to boat the fish, lighten up on the drag and let the fish take another run. Just keep the line tight so they don't come unhooked, and when people ar ready bring it back to the boat.

Another habit to get into is when the fish gets to the boat, LIGHTEN UP THE DRAG! IF the Gaff Man misses the gaff, the fish will make a sudden, hard run for freedom, and can and frequently do Snap the line! A light drag will let them run without snapping the line, and you just slowly tighten the drag again and the fish back to the boat of another try!

Remember, NEVER approach the dock any faster than you want to RAM the dock!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<h1>May</h1>					1	2 Unlimited Trolling Tournament
			3	4 Club Board Meeting	5	6
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 May Trolling Tournament
17	18	19	20	21 Club Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	 <p>COMING EVENTS: May 4th - Club Board of Directors Meeting May 7th - Club Meeting May 21st - Club Meeting October 17th - Annual Awards Banquet</p>					



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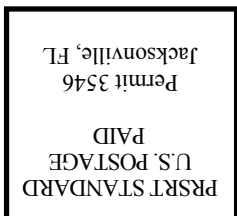
Tournament Schedule for 2015

Tournament	Month	Date	Alternate
		- All are on Saturday -	
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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