

The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 46 Issue 6

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Presidents Castings



**President
Pete
St. Laurent**

I would like to inform the membership that the J.O.S.F.C. has been given a great opportunity. The Club has been asked to take over the Hooked on School Scholarship, once the last of the eligible students have used their scholarships. A little history as to how this scholarship came about. Captain George Strate and Laura Whittal were talking after the funeral of George's father (George Strate Sr.). You see George Strate Sr. was an advocate for helping underprivileged children. George wanted to do something for the children in Duval County as a way of carrying on the work that his father had started and so believed in. George asked Laura "what could we do for the kids?" Laura replied as any good angler would "Lets take then fishing" this was the birth of the Hooked on School Tournament. A few years later George, Laura, along with Rob Flatley, Rick Ryals and Don Whittal decided that along with the Tournament that the kids should be given the opportunity to go to collage. They contacted FCCJ who helped them to form a scholarship and the group started fund raising to feed the scholarship.

After the last Tournament in 2002 some 400 kids had fished the Tournament and were now eligible to partake in the near \$100,000 in scholarship money that was raised by the Hooked on School and JOSFC. As of today all eligible students will have used their scholarships up by 2009. I know, that is some three years away but the Club will be tasked with developing the criteria for eligibility once the scholarship has been

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Special Guest Speaker for the June 1, 2006 Meeting

Our guest speaker for the June 1st meeting will be Capt. Josh Foster from the famous Deep Sea Fishing company, Hubbard's Marina in Madeira Beach, FL, and a regularly featured Seminar speaker for Florida Sportsman Magazine, will be giving a very informative presentation about offshore fishing in the famous Gulf of Mexico Middle Grounds. This presentation will include a very detailed description of various bottom fish species, behaviors, conditions, rigging, tackle, and much more.

At the same time, Capt. Josh will be discussing the opportunity for our club to Privately Charter the famous 75 foot Catamaran "The Florida Fisherman II", for a 34 hour, 2 day fishing trip to this prized fishing region.

This is a meeting you don't want to miss. Several of our club members, including Vice- President Eddie McGowan, have taken this trip before and will attest as to how productive these trips are. At the end of this meeting, Capt. Josh will be giving away a Custom Grouper rod to 1 lucky club member.

To learn more about Hubbard's Marina and the great fishing opportunities they offer, visit their web site at www.hubbardsmarina.com. You can email Capt. Josh Foster at jfoster@hubbardsmarina.com

The Cat on the left is the boat we will be going on.



Presidents Message Cont.

turned over to the J.O.S.F.C. Hence the reason that I'm writing this article. The board has decided that the Scholarship is too important an issue to be left as a side committee so we would like to form a new committee consisting of 5 members of the club that would be appointed to this committee by the Board and service for not less than 2 years.

This committee would be responsible for developing the eligibility criteria as well as the criteria for awarding the scholarship. If you have been to the meeting lately you would have heard me talking about this very important topic so I am asking now if any of the membership has a background in the field of education or has been involved in the development of a scholarship in the past or if you are just committed to helping the underprivileged children in our own community please contact any one of the board.

The Board has voted on and passed a motion that once the J.O.S.F.C. takes over the scholarship the name will be changed to the {George Strate Sr. Memorial Scholarship} in memory of George's father.

Presidents Message Cont.

So that the Club can carry on George's father's wish to help the kids in Duval County.

I say we fish 5 days and work 2!

Pete St. Laurent

Bust-N-Reds

Fishing Reports & Other tall Tales



Chris Rooney
Fishing
Committee
Chairman

June Marks the Start of Summer

Here we are at the start of the summer season; by the end of the month over half of the year 2006 is gone! The big words starting this month is Kingfish, Kingfish, Kingfish, the King Buster out of St. Augustine will start the division five season. We missed what could only be a big King during the May trolling tournament at TW and by now, baring a thermocline the big kings are on the beach. Speaking of the May Trolling Tournament the race for the Captain of the year honors is heating up. Our beloved Edwina is in a heated tie for second with Rob Darner. Danny DelRio is in the lead spot but first through forth have only two points of separation. I think when this article is published the Unlimited Trolling tournament will be over and the lead will have changed a little. Then just maybe Edwina can be Eddie again we'll see what happens.

Lets recap the month of May a little; man did the Dolphin provide some great action this year! Catches of double digits were the norm and if you only got 6 fish to 20 pounds you were disappointed. The down side of the month is the main run of Wahoo are gone and this season just was not as good as in recent years. On Driftin'n'Dreamin last year from January to the end of May we had 16 Hoo's but this year it's only been 8 for the year and I think we did more fishing specifically targeting them. Well that's why they call it fishing and not catching.

So June Fishing will show us big Kings trying to smoke the reels with that first blazing run. Anywhere along sailfish alley is a great place to start. As you slow troll with live pogies or if the big sardines are around I think they



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President Pete St.Laurent
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Secretary Marge Hackbart
Treasurer Emily Murphy
Newsletter Editor Bill Breen
Newsletter Staff Greg Molloy, Mike Murphy
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Rob's Fishing Lore

Rob Darner

A Tip for the Captain

Have you ever wondered how well you would do as a professional captain? Have you had romantic dreams about fishing for a living? Do you believe you have what it takes for day in and day out fishing trips; well then you may consider this little story. If you have ever wondered about this then you may want to give a try to see if fishing for a living is right for you.

Last Fall, I donated a fishing trip on the *Let's Go* for my church's preschool silent auction. The fishing trip was just that a chance to catch some fish. Having donated two other trips before and only one of the two winners cashing in, I was not all that sure how this would pan out for the third winner. The only thing the winner needed to do was to contact me and we would coordinate a date to go fishing. When John called, we discussed what type of fishing experience he had and what type of fishing he wanted to do. John chose to go jetty fishing because he had never jetty fished before and he wanted to learn. John explained that he and his father both owned boats and they do fish the river out of Goodby's Creek.

We scheduled our fishing trip for April 14, Good Friday. John wanted to take his father fishing as well. Out of all the types of fishing he had to choose jetty fishing. I was thinking about something less complex like Spanish mackerel fishing in the Spring or even bottom fishing for some snapper & grouper. Of all the different types of fishing, jetty fishing is something I am least proficient in. Since John and his father both fish, this added additional pressure for me to show these two guys a good time catching or fishing. From my standpoint, I was taking two inexperienced jetty fishermen out and I needed some additional experience to help so I asked my father to come along and help me.

When Good Friday arrived, we meet John and his father at the Mayport boat ramp around 9 am. John chose a Friday because he thought it would be less crowded vs. the weekend. This was slightly true because the 14th turned out to be a gorgeous day out there on the water. The hardcore fisherman and retirees were out in force on such a fine Spring day. I game planned our day. High tide was around 10 am and thus we would have a falling tide the rest of the day. My first fish of choice was anything that would bite their hook and my second target

Tip for the Captain Continued

species was sheepshead. The third choice was float fishing for trout on the outside of the South tips.

After we were underway, we were looking for a spot to anchor up inside the South jetties for some sheepshead action. There is one spot I know of that has produced for me consistently. We anchored up there and started to explain how to sheepshead fish. As the saying goes, 'set the hook before they bite'. John and his father, Charlie were full of question. My father and I did our best to answer most of them and explain why and what we did. I guess I now have some understanding of how a professional charter captain must feel. Our first few cast produced a few hits and some missing crabs. Within our first five minutes, John hooked up. This was simply amazing to me. Sheepshead are tricky to catch plus John and Charlie have never done this before yet John had one so quickly. This fish tugged on the line pretty good and it gave a good account of itself during the fight. The fish turned out to be a 5 to 6 pound sheepshead. Within a few more cast, I had a fish on and then in the boat. My father stuck next and his sheepshead was boated.

Charlie was blanked in the first twenty or so minutes of fishing. John was having a good time hooking up and catching some fish while his father was not having that much luck connecting. Feeling some pressure to have Charlie catch a fish, I decided my next hook up was going to him. It did not take me too long for it to come. Catching fish usually goes hand in hand with Murphy's Law. My next hook up came as Charlie was on his cell phone telling one of his friends what he was doing. My hook up was uncharacteristically like that of sheepshead. It was making a long, strong run down the rocks and out to sea. I passed my rod to Charlie who then realized he had one cell phone in one hand and a rod in the other. Charlie and I swapped rods. He next started to describe the chaos happening around him to his friend on the phone. At once, the three remaining anglers decided to unburden him of his cell phone so he could battle this fish from the deep. As you, my loyal readers may have guessed, the fish did get away.

Anyway, we hung out in this spot for about two and half hours catching and releasing some sheepshead. We had to re-anchor or reposition only once since the tide had changed and we were swinging too close to the rock. As the current picked and our jigs no longer were able to float to the bottom a change in pace was called for. The next part of our fishing plan was acted upon and we relocated to the outside of the tips of the South rocks.

It took a few attempts at anchoring the boat but we managed to get it set. Once there a few crabs were tossed near the rocks for any roving sheepshead. A few shrimp were thrown as well. Needless to say, the South rocks were very busy. The fishing seemed good because the other boats around us were hooking. Our sheepshead gear gave way to float rigs. Now, we started to drift shrimp for trout. Soon we were having strikes and they turned out to be bluefish. A

Continued page 4

Tip for the Captain Continued

bluefish school was hanging tight in the jetties and they were nailing most things floating around the rocks.

The bluefish were too tempting a target not to take advantage of it. Soon our float rigs were exchanged for jigs with plastic tails. The fish were thick and Charlie was in fish catching heaven. On his first three casts, Charlie hook up to three fish. Each of them were landed and release. For the next hour, we caught bluefish and Spanish mackerel. Only the two-pound Spanish was kept.

All in all we had a great day of fishing. We totaled about eighteen to twenty sheepshead, a couple dozen bluefish, half dozen Spanish, one black drum and a pompano. Yes, a pompano! This was something new for the species list for the *Let's Go*. John and Charlie had a great time. They were excited about their catch and taking home seven sheepshead and a black drum. Without a doubt, I know I will see John and Charlie anchored up in the jetties fishing more and more. They had such a good time fishing they offered me a tip. The jester flattered me. I wondered how good I could be if I was a professional captain. After that brief moment of insanity passed it made me realize how hard all these captains really work. Not are these guys like Dennis Young, George Strate and Dave Sipler good at what they do, they are professionals at their craft. After this little adventure into donating a trip my hat is off to all these guys.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram Safety Officer

The successful boating/fishing trip is the one that begins and ends safely. With warmer weather and the boating season in full swing, we must be aware of, carbon monoxide poisoning, a silent killer in boating that boaters give very little thought to.

Most boaters are aware of the CMP danger from an automobile engine or a boat inboard engine in an enclosed space, but are not aware that it can be deadly in an open space as well as from an outboard engine. The newer outboards today are four strokes and do not emit the smokey exhaust like the old two strokes that would drive one away before suffering from CMP. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and highly poisonous gas. All running internal combustion engines produce carbon monoxide and exposure to it can be fatal since it reduces the ability of the blood to absorb oxygen.

A tragic fatal accident happened in the St Johns River off NAS Jacksonville when three teens were swimming at the stern of two cruisers rafted for an afternoon of fun on the river. The fun turned tragic and to sorrow when one of the teens slipped beneath the surface. Everyone thought he had drowned, but the medical examiners report indicated carbon monoxide poisoning was the cause of death.

Carbon monoxide is toxic in concentrations as small as 1/100 parts per air. The symptoms of CMP include drowsiness, headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, fainting, and eventually results in death. Most people would never consider running their car engine in an enclosed space, but give little consideration to doing the same with their boat engine.

Most people are also aware that a moving station wagon on the highway can suck the auto exhaust gas into the vehicle through the open rear window, but again never think about the same condition occurring in the cockpit of a vessel enclosed on all sides except the stern. People have died under both scenarios.

The CMP that may kill you does not have to come from your boat's engine. If you are moored at a marina slip, it could come from a boat in the adjacent slip. If you experience any of the symptoms of CMP, immediately shut off your engine, if running, and search for the cause. If you have a swim platform, do not allow anyone to swim at the stern of the boat when the engine is running.

You can prevent CMP by making certain that your engine compartment is well ventilated and not completely

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Gary Newman

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Top's Tips Continued

enclose your vessel if it was not designed to be enclosed. Also, you should install a carbon monoxide detector in all enclosed spaces people will occupy on your vessel. Above all, be alert to the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales



The Race For "Captain Of The Year"

Hay, the Captain of the Year Race is heating up with several of our Captains going for the title. Remember, 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 Three club Tournaments are done with, and Oops!, AGAIN!! Eddie is in SECOND place, tied with Rob Darner!

The Standings with three of nine tournaments done are:

1st - Danny DelRio	19 Pts.
2nd - Eddie McGowan	18 Pts.
2nd - Rob Darner	18 Pts.
3rd - Chris Rooney	17 Pts.
4th - Vernon Summersiel	15 Pts.
5th - Frank Grassi	14 Pts.
6th - Tony Benevento	12 Pts.
7th - Mike Coldwater	10 Pts.
8th - Mike Snyder	9 Pts.
9th - Mike Murphy	6 Pts.
10th - Andy Proescher	5 Pts.
11th - James Teter	4 Pts.
11th - Pete St. Laurent	4 Pts.
12th - Bob Hughton	2 Pts.
13th - Gary Newman	1 Pt.

Associate Member of the Month **B & M Bait & Tackle**

What can we say about these Great Guys, they are right on the way to the Mayport Boat Ramp, located at: 2789 Highway A1A
904 - 249-3933

Rusty, James, and crew always have the freshest bait and latest information on where to go for whatever species you are after. Forget something, don't worry, they have it.

B & M Bait & Tackle are big supporters of the JOSFC, contributing to all our major events.

You can always plan on getting Ice on your way to the ramp, and don't forget their great fresh home made sandwiches on the weekends for your lunch.

Support these guys, we definitely want to keep them in business and doing well.

Fishing Reports Cont.

work even better. Remember Sailfish, are they around? Is the pot still up for grabs? If the pot doesn't go before the end of May it will go in June, right out of this type fishing, if I were to make a prediction. The June full moon will be the spring high tides and a great snapper bite offshore.

This year I'm going to look for a few crewmembers and some buddy boats that want to do an overnigher for Mango's and Red Snapper during the full moon. It's been a long know fact the "full moon in June" is the best snapper night of the year. So if your interested let me know, overnight on an open boat is not for every fisherman. You'll need to be well prepared for the night of fishing, but the rewards can be awesome. It will be 130-140 feet of water for us, and lots of live minnows to drop on the bottom.

It doesn't matter if you chase Kingfish and the elusive Sail or bottom fish till the freezer over flows. The main thing to remember is we live in the best fishing area in Florida so go get um.





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

With summer upon us...

I thought I would revisit the way to tell how close lightning was, so we would know when to panic.

Lightning:

5 seconds between Flash and Thunder = 1 Mile
1 Mile = WAY to close! You want to be 10+ away from any lightning.

Fish Weight Formula:

Now for those of us without a good scale, how to tell, approximately, the weigh of that big fish.

This formula works for most pelagic fish like Kings, Cobia, Sails, Wahoo etc.

Girth in inches Squared, Times Length in inches
Divided by 800 = Weight in Pounds.

$$G^2 \times L \div 800 = \text{Weight in Lbs}$$

For bottom fish use:

Length in inches Squared times Girth in inches
divided by 1200

$$L^2 \times G \div 1200 = \text{Weight in Lbs}$$



Loud Hailings

Newsletter Editor
Bill Breen

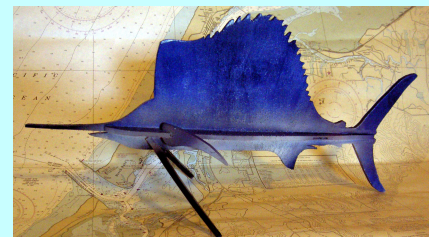
I would really like to feature PICTURES of club members with some good catches. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting (I will return it to you) or E-mail me your pictures at:

breenw@bellsouth.net

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

OK Dan Parker, pay attention, this is about your favorite bait. Next month look for the article on how to catch and brine your own Ribbon Fish.

Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News just send or give it to me at any time.



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

Coming Events:

June 1st meeting guest speaker Capt. Josh Foster from the “Deep Sea Fishing Company” Hubbard’s Marina, Madeira Beach, FL

June 15th meeting is the Club Birthday and Past Presidents day party at the club.

June 15th meeting guest speaker Don Dingman Jr.

NOTE the Kingfish Tune-up Tourny will be Sunday, July 9th

NOTE - The SECOND meeting for July will be on July 13th, the SECOND Thursday. Because of the Greater Jacksonville Bellsouth Kingfish Tournament which is - July 17 - 23

Tournament Schedule for 2006

Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Date		Rain Date
Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	June 17 th	-	June 18 th
Kingfish Tune-up Tournament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	July 9 th	-	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

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Jacksonville Offshore Sports Fishing Club

P.O. Box 331185
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

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