



PRESIDENTS CASTINGS

Capt Don Cook

I am writing this message in the middle of May, on a Saturday, watching the rain fall. Yep another plan for a fishing trip that didn't go the way we hoped. I am sure the fish are chewing it has been a good season so far. We will get um next time. As you are reading this it is June. The poggies are on the beach with of coarse all the toothy critters that eat them. June is the month that we celebrate the clubs birthday. This year is our 52nd. We will have a party at the first meeting of the month on Thursday June 2nd. This is the meeting that we honor our past presidents and the food, friends and raffle will be great. I hope to see everyone there. It is summer. It is fishing season. The king fish are back. Go get a few (or a lot). See you on the water or at the club.



If you don't wear it all the time, at least wear it while the boat is underway!

So you are new to fishing the greater Jacksonville area.

This is the start of a short series on fishing the North East Florida waters. This is intended as a primer for people that are new to fishing here.

While I am no expert, I have learned some good information that will help the novice. Part 1 is all about "NUMBERS"

So you are new to fishing the greater Jacksonville area. Here are some tips and hints that will help you actually catch fish.

I have only been fishing here for the last 8 years. I moved back after 30 years in Northern California, where I was considered an exceptionally good fisherman. I got here and I couldn't even hook the bottom and loose a weight or hook. The members of the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club have taught me a lot about fishing here, and now I loose gear every time out, and occasionally catch a fish or two.

For starters, here is the skinny on the numbers. Numbers are the GPS coordinates for the reefs, ridges, drop-off's, live bottom and wrecks that we fish.

Numbers are like a religion out here. If you are invited on someone else's boat, it is considered VERY RUDE to bring your hand held GPS unit and copy or capture their numbers. One charter boat has a big 2" X 12" board mounted right beside the cabin door. On that board are about 12 or 15 hand held GPS & Cell Phone



Will Aitken with his first Bull Dolphin. That is a nice fish, and he caught it while hopping around on one foot. This was on the 3 day trip that Will badly sprained his ankle on the first morning even before they started fishing!



You are looking at Brian Kiel's (new to him) Boston Whaler Outrage 19' Boat. He has named it "Plan B" Brian just finished re-rigging the boat with new electronics and that nice SS Bimini top and polishing the boat all out to look new!

The Reel News

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Above are Brian and his son Casey on Plan B and Casey is holding a nice Trout.

Brian said that it was too windy to get out after Grouper, but the Trout were on fire and they caught a lot!



Numbers continued from page 1

units with a large spike driven right through them. The Captain points out that if he catches you using a GPS or Phone, to capture his numbers, that is where it will end up!

If you ask where someone caught a fish, you will get an answer like "East of here." or as they put their finger in the corner of their mouth and pull out and up "Right here in the corner of the mouth." Lots of people believe that they are the ONLY one with the numbers for that secret spot or spots they like to fish, and they defend them with their life. They will give you the shirt off their back, or their last dollar, but don't mess with their 'Numbers'.

My thoughts are that there are no "private" numbers, if you found it, then the odds are that at least 10 other people have that spot in their GPS's. On the other hand, there are people here off Florida that think they own their secret number, and when they are anchored up and fishing, you had better stay a mile or more away or they will just about start shooting. They will throw weights, cuss you over the radio, run over your lines and be down right nasty. SO.... If someone is anchored near where you are planning on going, when you get near, call them on the VHF and ask if they mind you fishing near them, **on numbers you have**. Usually that will work, and who knows, you might make a life-long friend.

The JOSFC has a book of Numbers that we sell and give away in our raffles. (*It is worth getting just for the history of the reefs. Very interesting reading. The Histories have been compiled by the Club Historian Charlie Hamaker. "Jax Wreck" was a WW II Tanker that was sunk by a German U-Boat, and could be seen from shore burning. Charlie has interviewed BOTH the Tanker Captain, and the U-Boat Captain!*) The numbers are from over 11 years ago now, and at that time the GPS units used a map datum of WGS 73. BUT they were in the process of switching to WGS 84. That is the map datum that the book's numbers are done in. Now most GPS units do an automatic set-up and get it at WGS 84. HOWEVER some still set things up with the old WGS 73. You need to check your set-up under Map Datum and make sure it is on WGS 84. That will put you on most of the numbers. If you use WGS 73 you can be as far as a third of a mile away from the actual spot. About a quarter of the GPS numbers were

converted from the old LORAN TD's, and while close, you can still be 50 yards or more off. **The trick is go to a number, if you don't find anything, start a spiral out from that spot, and 95%+ of the time you will find something within 5 or 6 circles. Mark it and then erase the old number that didn't have anything under it.**

A GPS unit will take you BACK to the exact spot you marked on it, but using numbers from another GPS unit on your GPS and you can be off 10 to 50 feet.

NOW, over the last 10 years, some of the spots are ridges that run for 10 to 50 yards long or longer, and where we had a number marked has sanded in, and the other end of that ridge or drop-off is now uncovered. Others are what we call "Live Bottom" and don't really show any structure on the bottom. **You need to learn how to read your bottom machine, and know which is hard bottom and which is soft or sand or mud.**

Over the years, some of the hard bottom spots have sanded over, and opened up hard bottom 30 to 50 yards away. If you find a hard bottom, nothing will show at first but if you drop a bait on it quite often you will see it start to show fish, after you start fishing it.

If you want some good current numbers, the Club also has Chart we sell, and have at the club house. That Chart was updated in 2008, and every number on it was physically verified with a GPS unit. Bring your book, and copy the numbers from a chart!

Still talking about numbers.

Always have a pencil and note book, and watch your bottom scope as you are trolling or running to another spot. When you go over a reef or show fish on the bottom, circle back and check it and if it looks good, hit your "Mark" or MOB button, then mark in your book roughly where "Waypoint # XX" is so you can later name it and copy the numbers into your book. Your "Book" is your backup for when you loose your electronics! Your "Book" is a book of numbers that you have found that are not on a chart or in a commercial book. Remember, your GPS is (A) a computer, and (B) an electronic being used around saltwater. It is going to fail, crash, lose all it's data, go Bottoms up, it is going to lose every waypoint you have stored in it at some time, so keep a hardcopy "Book" of your numbers!





Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

I want to remind everyone about the change in the boating-safety education requirements for the state of Florida effective January 1, 2010. It states that boat operators who were born on or after January 1, 1988, are now required to pass an approved boating-safety course and have a photo identification and a boating-safety card in their possession on the water in order to operate any boat with a 10-horsepower motor or larger. So, if you plan to fish any of the future tournaments, or have a person within that age group operate your boat, you are responsible to make sure the operator has met the necessary state legal requirements. The boating requirements are now like needing a driver's license to operate a car.

To help satisfy this new requirement by the state of Florida, the Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a boating-safety program on Saturdays at the Stellar Building, 2900 Hartley Road, in Mandarin. For additional information and cost of the program, contact Bob at 904-721-1346.

The club tournament schedule for this year began with the River Tournament. And, since all of our future tournaments will be offshore, we need to give a lot of thought to making sure our boat and equipment will perform satisfactorily and safely before heading out to our favorite spot offshore. We also need to have a plan to make sure that someone knows where to look for us, and what will happen, if our equipment fails us 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

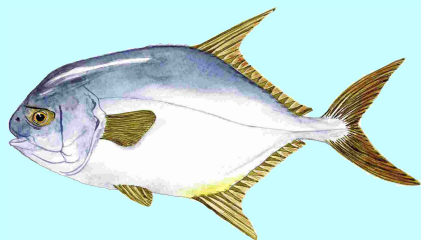
Float Plan Continued

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 our Website, the Fishing Info tab, and down to Fishing Links and the first link is to a Float Plan Generator! Download a form and create your own personalized float plan, and file a plan on line with the web site for no charge.

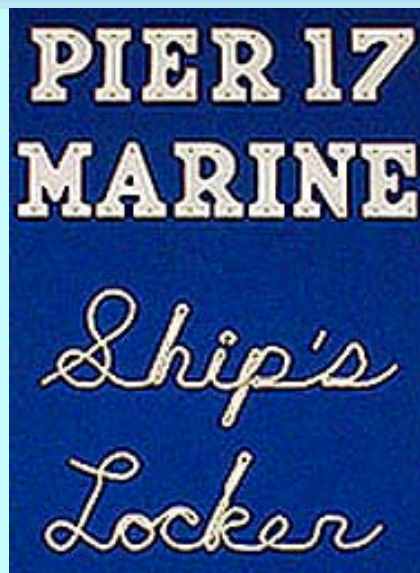
File a float plan each time you go boating/fishing to help ensure your safety on the water. May you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales



THE RACE FOR CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR

PLACE	CAPTAIN	POINTS
1 -	Greg Wallace	22
2 -	AJ Proescher	17
3 -	Tom Cavin	16
4 -	Steve Kalaitzis	16
5 -	Tom Meyer	10
6 -	hh Deyton	9
6 -	Chris Rooney	9
7 -	Jeff Altman	8
8 -	Paul Gallup	7
8 -	Will Aitken	7
8 -	Rob Darner	7
9 -	Butch Ogini	6
9 -	Rob Cripe	6
10 -	Eddie McGowan	5
11 -	Tony Thompson	4



Pier 17 Marine is continuing their 48th year anniversary sale with various 48% off sales. For June and July, they will be featuring all Outrigger mounts and Rod Holders, and in the Gunnel Rod Holders. All 48% off! That is a discount you can't bear or match anywhere!

Pier 17 is located at 4619 Roosevelt Blvd. Jacksonville, FL. 32210

Their Phone Number is: **904 - 387 - 4669**

Their website is: <http://pier17jaxfl.com>

They are your kind of store for EVERYTHING!



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, like these in this issue. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting or Phone, or E-mail me your pictures at:

PH# 904-254-2791

beenw@bellsouth.net



Instant Crew, Just Add Water

<u>Name</u>	-	<u>Phone</u>	-	<u>Availability</u>	-	<u>Can call the Night before.</u>
Pete St.Laurent	-	C = 220-9199		Most weekends		Up to 8:00 pm
Rodney Anderson	-	C = 318-4005		Any day		Up to 9:00 pm
Richard Fisher	-	H = 221-9629		Nearly every day		Up to 8:00 PM the day before.
John Porcella	-	Cell 738-1010				
	-	C = 610-3855		Nearly any day		Up to 10:00 PM
Joe Esparza	-	C = 536 - 4114		Any Day		Up to 10:00 pm
Phillip Ferdon	-	H = 879-0184		Fri. Sat.		Up to 9:00 pm
		C = 887-6736				
Rod Saffles	-	C = 993-6986		Any Day		Up to Midnight
Ron Hunter	-	C = 733-1197		From Noon Wednesday through Sunday		Up to 8:00 PM
Ronald Cowart	-	C = 879-4724		Weekends		Up to 9:00 PM
Greg Cole	-	C = 412 - 5722		Any Day		Up to 9:00 PM
Jason Jones	-	C = 945.6576		Weekends		Up to 9:00 PM
Roy Edwards	-	C = 918-633-1976		Any		

Associate Member
of the Month

D.O.A. Lures have a lure for whatever type of fishing you are doing. Here is a suggestion, always carry some D.O.A. Lures with you so when you run out of bait during a hot bite, (I know it has happened to you!) you can pull out your D.O.A. Lures and continue fishing!

They also have a lot of good information on their website on fishing for different species with their lures!

www.doalures.com



Brian Kiel with his Daughter Kaitlyn and friend Abbey Foster with some more Cedar Key Trout. This was Abbey's first Trout!



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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
June			1	2 Club Meeting Club Birthday Party & Honor all past Presidents Low Country Boil for dinner!	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Club Meeting	17	18
19 Junior Angler Tournament	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Coming Events:

June 2nd - Club Birthday & Past
Presidents Party

June 19th - Sunday -Junior
Angler Tournament




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FOR MORE
INFORMATION!

Tournament Schedule for 2010

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate
		Saturday Sunday
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	----- 19 / 26 - S. Kalaitzis
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- 2 / 16 ----- M. Summersill
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	----- 7 / 14 -- Judy Altman
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	----- 20/ 27----- Greg Wallace
The Bottom Tournament -	September	----- 10/ ----- 11 -- AJ Proescher

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Jacksonville Offshore Sports Fishing Club

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