



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 51 Issue 7

July 2011



PRESIDENTS CASTINGS

Capt Don Cook

Happy birthday America!!

It is July and that time means good times on the water. The king fishing season is in full swing. While a lot of members like to compete in tournaments I prefer a more relaxed approach.

Last year we drifted pogies under popping corks and had a ball catching small to medium kings with a few big sharks thrown in. The kids and guests that don't fish a lot had a great time, it is fun to see someone's face light up when their first king makes that first blazing fast run.

July is also scalloping season on the west coast, another fun family outing. Last year the scallops were so thick that we limited without getting out of sight of the markers. Cleaning scallops can be tough but there are a few tricks (did I say shop vac?) ask me at the club. My family has been going over there for decades and we have a system that gets the job done.

It's summer the water is calling. See you on the water or at the club. Don

The Hamaker Cup

If you are going to fish the Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament, **DON'T FORGET** to mark that you are a JOSFC member so you are entered in the Hamaker Cup !!

So you are new to fishing the greater Jacksonville area.

This is the conclusion of my short 2 part 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 2 is all about "Anchoring."

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 lose a weight or hook. The members of the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club have taught me a lot about fishing here, and now I lose gear every time out, and occasionally catch a fish or two.

In this part I will give you the other critical part of actually catching fish, and that is anchoring!

You need to realize some of the spots are no bigger than your boat, so you have to learn how to anchor to put your boat on the spot. It sounds easy, but it does take some practice to get it right. I have been with experienced club Captains that have re-anchored 3 or 4 times before they are happy and we could catch fish.

Continued on Page 2

Anchoring from Page 1

I have been on boats where the people on one side of the boat were catching fish, and the people on the other side were just drowning bait. Anchoring is that critical sometimes.

The first thing you need to do before you go is make 3 or 4 "Float jugs" (*An empty Clorox or similar jug with a light nylon line with about a 5 pound weight on it.*) with lines for the different depths. (*Don't forget to mark the line length on the bottom of the jug.*) When you mark a spot on your bottom machine, toss the jug with the right length line for the depth behind your boat to get it as close to the spot as possible. You want the jug floating as close to directly over the spot as you can get it. Offshore there is always a current caused by the wind and tide. You can drift for a couple of minutes to get a line on your GPS to find the anchor lay. Go directly up current and drop anchor (*If in doubt as to the direction, Call Captain George Strate on the Mayport Princess, on Channel 6 and he will give you the compass heading, or "Anchor Lay" to use.*) and then back down to your jug.

Don't drift, power back to your jug, stopping short



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and making sure that your anchor has set, or is holding, then let out line until you are showing the bottom on your scope, or you are by your jug.

You can adjust your location by turning your engine or rudder to port or starboard to make the boat move some in the current. You can also tie the anchor line off on the port or starboard cleat and that will adjust your location in the current. You can also adjust your anchor line by letting some out or power up and pull forward some to shorten up your line.

Another thing I learned that surprised me is that you can fish 10 spots within a 500 yard radius, 9 of them will be holding Grunts, and Sharks, and the 10th will have Grouper, Snapper, Trigger fish and good fish all over it. So if you are not catching good fish at one spot after 15 minutes, MOVE, try that other spot 100 yards away. It just might have good fish on it. Some times the difference between catching Sharks or good fish is switching from fishing the low side of a ridge or drop-off to fishing on the high side or vica-versa.

Finally, go fishing with other members or take a longtime member fishing with you and pay attention to what they say! That will get you started . . . Bill



Well it looks like we will be having another great Sailfish Pot Party next year. Our own Captain Chris Rooney just claimed the Pot with his fishing friend Terry Lee.

Terry was on the rod, last Saturday, the 11th, but he was not in the Pot, but Captain Chris was so as the rules state, the Captain gets to put on the party!





Rob's Fishing Lore

Father & Son Project

Saturday was reserved for a family fishing day while Monday was just for the boyz! The ladies in the house had other more delicate items on the addenda like shopping. For them, this was their day and we would not spoil it by forcing the issue of two days of fishing. It was Sunday night that it was decided to drop the boat in the water and go beach fishing in search of a big green slimy just two weekends in front of the Kingbuster 400.

With just Byron and myself, I knew that we should not venture too far off the coast just in case. It was 'in case of what' the unknown that caused caution in the fishing plans so Plan A was the Southeast Hole. Poggies were easy to find. They are the dark brown stains found in the water. With a ten foot cast net that was both taller than Byron and just as heavy as he is meant that he ran the helm while yours truly tossed the net. A two foot chop persist from Saturday's adventure just to make our day more fun. Directing from the bow, Byron followed direction perfectly. The boat glided both to port and starboard as indicated while the boat chased down its prey. Only once did he go strong on the throttle knocking the bow's occupant off his lofty perch but then again who has not done this little trick by purpose or accident in the recent past? It took only two casts to fill the bait well and it took a second cast because the first one floundered in the wind causing the toss to miss its mark.

Having bait well full of Poggies, it was only a 5 mile run into the teeth of the on-coming seas. We pounded our way out there and prepped the boat for fishing. Initially, we were going to run four lines between the two of us just for fun. The fish could not have been timelier or more cooperative at the Southeast Hole. It took less than 10 minutes before the fish line took off and Byron was rewarded with the first fish. Skillfully, the fish was brought to the boat and released, a three foot blacktip shark. Byron now had the helm once more while the baits were deployed for round two. We could not get all four lines in the water for our next shark decided to play. Having spent much of last year's tournament season learning how to run the stern of the boat, Byron raises the downriggers and cleared the remaining lines with great efficiency for a 9 year old. After six blacktip sharks in a row, we decided to explore other waters.

Our first stop was a twelve mile run to the northeast to a patch of natural bottom just off of Nassau Sound. Water was just slightly less milky, the hard bottom was holding bait and with a 79.7 degree temperature range things should prove favorable for kingfish. However, this was not meant to be on this day. No fish not even a shark out there so after thirty minutes or so, we gave up and cruised for the RL area. This patch of natural hard bottom looked better than before

with more bait and slightly cleaner water. The fishing or catching did pickup here briefly. Sharks! Puzzlement and confusing was confounding the Captain because all the signs pointed toward kingfish and yet there were none.

As we circled the ledges and hard bottom again and again, Byron now had a new but important duty in the cockpit. He quickly became chum chopper boy. With great vigor, he mushed and crushed a tube full of dead Poggies into itty bitty bits that trailed behind the boat. It was due to his vigor that the lone Cobia came a calling around the stern. The fish scent in the water excited flathead into licking our chum chopper. With all four rods out, the fish was in front of our baits thus it was not able to find them. The shallow downrigger was popped and the bait or more correctly baits was positioned within the Cobia's eyesight.

The Cobia saw a new double Pogy rig I have been experimenting with. The rig is simple but amazing effecting. Instead of having three hooks attached on a single wire with a simple barrel swivel, the new rig uses a 'three-way' swivel thus allowing two single Pogy rigs to stream from behind the 'three-way'. A Pogy is attached to each rig independently and both are tossed into the water. The two fish tend to swim side by side with each other while being trolled. Typically, this rig finds its way on the shallow downrigger or as prop wash bait. The two fish stay together until a predator fish such as the Cobia comes a calling then its every Pogy for themselves. It's the frantic action of the two Poggies that captures the predator fish's attention. Both bait fish will take off in different direction and cross each other's path in the vain attempt to elude the larger fish. It is funny, with a choice of two equal baits side by side, the larger fish will key only on just one of the two Poggies but the Poggies fail to realize just who the intended target is.



This was just the case when the double Poggies were dangled at the side of the Cobia. Quickly, the bait fish split only to find the limits of their wire leader. With fast hard jerky movements, the Cobia locked onto one Pogy. We watched that wide mouth open up and consume the unfortunate fish and this made us happy! A slight raise of the rod tip helped to embed the hook into the fish's mouth. It took a minute or so for the fish to figure out that it was hooked then hold on. It was only after the fish was hooked a point of contention was raised by my mate. He promptly informed me that it was his



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram

ELECTROCUTION

Stop and think before you jump into the water in or around any dock, boatlift, pier or boat where electricity may be in the water. Most of us never think about, or consider, the danger of electrocution as something to be concerned about in the safety of boating. However, with the advent of warmer weather in the summer months, we find ourselves, at times, with a desire to jump in the water for a quick dip to cool off without giving any thought to the fact that electricity may be in the water around or near the boat. Many factors can contribute to the electrical marine environment responsible for fatalities, but the ultimate killer is alternating-current (AC) electricity in the water. It can stem from a wiring problem on a power boat that introduces voltage into the direct-current (DC) system, a low-level ground fault leakage in the marina AC shore power system, or other simple electrical malfunctions, such as deteriorating insulation on the lift motor wires of a boatlift. Whatever the cause, if the AC is unable to reach ground (and potentially short and trip a breaker), it can create a deadly field in the water. A swimmer passing through this field is "seen" by the electrical current as a low-resistance path to the ground, especially in fresh water, where the human body makes a much better conductor because of its high salinity. The result of electric current passing through the body is electrocution.

There are technical ways to help prevent these situations, such as ground fault monitoring for low level leakage, as well as devices that boaters can buy for their vessels to lessen the chance of an electrical accident. Most marinas prohibit swimming because of the hidden electrical dangers, but such rules are certainly not mandated by law. Boaters should be leery of marinas that permit swimming around their docks because such facilities are not following widely accepted safety practices.

Electrocution accidents are not limited to marinas and shore power; they can also occur when people are swimming near any boat that is using an electrical generator or DC-AC inverter, if a fault exists in the electrical system. Because the body is most often completely submerged in water, the tell-tell burns of a traditional electrocution are nowhere to be found. Unfortunately, without the tell-tell sign of an electrical burn of a traditional electrocution; an electricity-related fatality can be very difficult to classify because there is nothing to see, touch, or smell.

While paralysis and/or ventricular fibrillation are usually the cause(s) of death, drowning is what often appears to be the most reasonable explanation. In some cases, drowning is actually the cause of death because even relatively low levels of electric current can result in paralysis, which renders the swimmer unable to stay afloat.

There is a haunting similarity among most reported incidents of electrocutions at, and around, marinas. Witnesses to such events have told of being unable to assist the victim

because, upon approaching them, the would-be rescuer was overwhelmed by a tingling, numbing sensation in their extremities. More often than not, the indication was not an outright "shock". If you should find yourself in this situation, exit the water immediately.

We hear a lot about the problem with electricity in the water around commercial docks and marinas, but one area that is not well publicized is the private home dock or lift. A private home owner recently discovered that his electrical line from one side of his lift motor ran under the water to the opposite side lift motor. This is a very dangerous type installation that could emit an electrical charge into the water around his dock and be fatal to an unsuspecting swimmer. Also, we must be aware of dock lights and electrical outlets that can be immersed in water at flood tide.

Recreational boaters must be constantly vigilant and aware of their responsibility for the safety of themselves and their passengers and crew. As with all other boating safety issues, the most effective thing we can do is to create an awareness of the dangers of marine electrocution. By far the best rule to follow is: Never swim in, or around a marina. It is simply not worth the risk.

Top Ingram

Fish Tales

Father Son Continued

turn on the rod and the Cobia was his fish. This did not sit too well with the angler on the rod besides, possession is 9/10s of the law and he did not have the rod. Dutifully, he cleared the lines and raised the downriggers, while the angler ran the boat for the next few minutes chasing the fish down. Finally, it dawned on me that Byron was going to have to have the rod because he doesn't know how to gaff yet so the rod was passed and he was happy. We agreed to share the fish. The first attempt to gaff the fish only made the fish angry thus it fled. Ten or so minutes later, the fish came broadside to the boat. The gaff was stretched out to snatch its victim from the water when the hook missed the fish but found the free swinging wire of the double Pogy rig. Promptly, the lead hook impaled itself in the safety spring of the gaff. Now, I had a mad fish by one hook and the gaff by the other hook. All I could do was to desperately lunge at the fish in hopes the hook would find its mark. Instead, the fish flipped itself over and dove for the deep bending out the bronze hook thus freeing itself. Byron could only stare helplessly at the missing fish and I could do nothing but blame him for not bringing the fish in closer. Needless-to-say, this did not sit too well with him and he informed me that the next time we go out fishing that spring will be removed from the gaff.

You know he is right. The very next trip out that safety spring went missing; it was replaced with a tennis ball so no one accidentally impales themselves upon the pointy hook part of the gaff. As a result, our next trip out, the next Cobia ate one of the two bait fish on the double rig and the gaff found its mark and the gaffer did not have any fear of entangling the missing spring.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner



I know that it is hard to see in this picture, but you are looking at a school of 30 to 40+ pound Redfish! Thousands of them! This was taken off Fernandina Beach last month by a non-member's friend. Sorry I don't have a name to give him credit.



Brian Kiel sent me this from May 31st.

Here's a shot of the 37.5 lb ling I caught this afternoon. Left our dock at noon and ran out of St Augy running the beach looking at pogy pods. The ling photo is not the best as I had it on a timer-I was fishing by myself. That was interesting gaffing that one handed. Almost lost the gaff. Caught off a pogie pod using a live pogie.



Associate Member of the Month !



If you didn't know it They have moved to a new Showroom down on N. 3rd Street, just a couple of blocks North of Beach Blvd.

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

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:

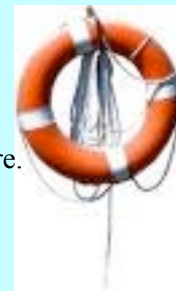
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Instant Crew, Just Add Water

<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		Nearly any day		Up to 10:00 PM
	C =	610-3855				
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 Day		Up to 9:00 PM




THE RACE FOR CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>CAPTAIN</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
1 -	Greg Wallace	29
2 -	AJ Proescher	27
3 -	Steve Kalaitzis	21
4 -	Tom Meyer	10
5 -	Tom Cavin	16
6 -	Jeff Deyton	15
7 -	Chris Rooney	9
8 -	Ray Chancey	8
8 -	Jeff Altman	8
9 -	Paul Gallup	7
9 -	Will Aitken	7
9 -	Rob Darner	7
10 -	Butch Ogini	6
10 -	Rob Cripe	6
11 -	Eddie McGowan	5
12 -	Tony Thompson	4


This is an important change to the Fishing Rules

(Thanks to SAMFC & NOAA {{ NOT! }})

Effective June 22, 2011 the limit on Sea Bass is reduced to (5) Five per Person.

Remember to have the LATEST copy of the Rules & Regs with you when you go fishing so you can avoid an unpleasant meeting with the FWC.

Check them the evening before you go as the SAMFC likes to change them without much or any notice and what was legal yesterday may not be tomorrow!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		July			1	2 Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament
3	4	5 Board Meeting at Club house	6	7 Club Meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Club Meeting	22	23
THE A T & T GREATER JACKSONVILLE KINGFISH TOURNAMENT						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Coming Events: July 2 - The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament! July 18th through 23rd - Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament August - TBA the R & H Sailfish Masters Tournament October 22 - Annual Awards Banquet					


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Tournament Schedule for 2010

Tournament	-	-	Month	-	-	Date / Alternate
						Saturday - Sunday
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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