



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 48 Issue 8

August 2008

Finally!

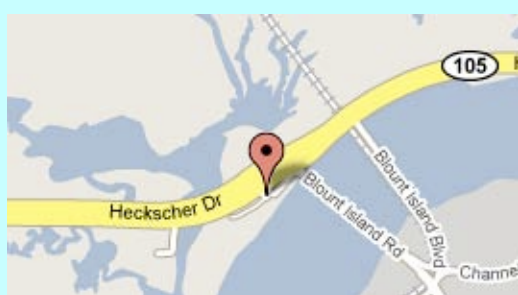
The JOSFC is finally, after years of waiting for all the red tape to be undone, back in the business of putting down artificial reefs and enhancing the fishing off North Eastern Florida!

We have an old TugBoat, the Spike, to put down as an artificial reef. It needs some prep-work before we can sink it, Windows have to be taken out, anything loose has to be taken off and in general some clean up. The engines etc. have already been removed, so the heavy work is done, but we need to get the work done and the tug sunk before **NOVEMBER!**

It is **WORK PARTY** time. We have scheduled two days to work on it, Friday, August 29th and Saturday August 30th. We need as many of **YOU** to turn out as we can to finish stripping it on those two days. Bring your destruction tools and be prepared to get dirty!

The Spike is at the Safe Harbor Boys Home at 4772 Safe Harbor Way, Jax. FL 32226 That is just off Heckscher Dr. by the Blount Island turnoff, and the Tug can be seen from Heckscher Dr.

For more Info, call Chuck Darner at 233-1387.



We look forward to seeing everyone that signed up at the meeting, and anyone else that wants to help!



The Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club offers our condolences to Pam & Jim Rosenberger on the passing of Pam's father Richard (Dick) Whittington

You all know Jim as the voice of the AT&T kingfish tournament on the VHF radio. Our prayers are for Pam's father.

Time to think **SAFETY!** Check all your hose fittings and make sure they are tight. If any show wear or signs of being old, replace them. They are cheaper than even the deductible on your boat if the below picture happens to you!

Check your flairs and other safety gear!
Bill Wilderoder took this picture this year in the Keys!



Fishing Reports & Other Tall Tales

August brings us to the last quarter of the fishing season for this year. The Powder Puff and the light tackle tournaments are this month. There should be plenty of fish out there to be caught for both tournaments. IF... you can find pods of bait near the beach or the party grounds you should be able to catch a Kingfish, Bonita or maybe even a Wahoo during these tournaments. Offshore, the best fishing should be on the bottom. If you can make the over night trip on the full moon the Mangrove Snapper will be spawning and the bite should be excellent.

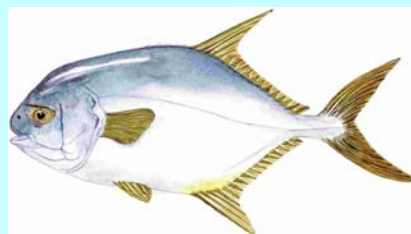
If you go, check the weather, file a float plan, and have a buddy boat if at all possible. Also make sure that you are keeping an eye out for ships while you are fishing. It is much easier for you to see them than it is for them to see you.

Farther offshore the striking fish are hit or miss.

In the river, reds, flounder, and trout should still be pretty consistent. The pattern remains as it has for the last few months, lighted docks at night and early morning/evening top water plugs for trout, creek mouths on outgoing tides and docks in the river for flounder and mudflats and

early morning/evening top water plugs for tailing reds. You can also anchor under the Dames point for croakers when the tide is moving.

On the beach it is a mixed bag. All of the seasonal species can be caught, but not in huge numbers for any given species. If the tide is outgoing, fish on the outside of the bar. If it is incoming, fish on the inside of the bar. If you aren't catching anything, try closer to the water's edge than you normally do and you might be surprised at what you catch.



Rob's Fishing

Pandemonium Rules

Now days healthy bait pods of poggies seem only to be plentiful during the early days of June along the First Coast coastline. This once common occurrence now seems just like a once a year phenomena. Never the less, poogy pods are a very welcome sight to fisherman and fish alike. As the pods take up their temporary residence along our shore line, popular fishing holes such as the Southeast Hole will fire off with predatory fish of all makes and stripes. The word was getting out that the Southeast hole had fired off during the midweek with kingfish, jacks and possibly a few tarpon. A simple game plan was put forth. It called for running out the jetties and heading South along the beach till the pods showed themselves. We would run no further than the pier to capture our bait and then run out to the Southeast Hole.

The plan was put into action and implement beautifully first thing in the morning. As by design, the boat engine cranked and the hull floated off the trailer thus we would be off as soon as my wife parked the Ford with the trailer. Sometimes, we take the simple things for granite. It was time to run out the jetties and greet the morning. According to our plan, we rounded the jetties making a sharp right turn thus heading for the beach. Several boats were milling around the North tip of Hannah Park. Coming off plane, we saw several boats that were idling, looking and waiting for the pods to show themselves. Occasionally, a netter would toss his net causing the majority of the bait fleet to pivot toward the tossed net. After a period of time, no pods were to be found



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and true to our plan we ran south. Next stop was the Sea Turtle Inn. No poggies pods were seen. Finally, we picked it up and ran toward the pier. A small bait fleet was milling just north of the pier. Here, we caught a glimpse of a pod and capture nearly seven large sized poggies. As if by magic, the pod disappeared from sight and from the water's surface. It took awhile to wait out the pods to discover where they were hiding but we found them. Others who stuck it out at Hanna Park found pods appearing before us. Never the less, we filled out live well with several large size poggies. As for our plan, we could add an invisible check next to the category of 'catch bait'.

Next, it was a long run out to the Southeast Hole. It was an entire three and a half miles away from our location. Upon arriving, I realized this was the maiden voyage of the 'new' Let's Go for live bait fishing. We were the only ones setting up on this spot. A four bait spread was initiated. Two on the down riggers and two up. One silver eel was fished near the bottom while the other down rigger placed its bait half way down in the water column. A single Poggy was dropped back on the shotgun line and a double Poggy rig was used for a medium bait. Within five minutes of putting out the baits, something took a run at the shotgun bait. It amazes me still that a fish could strike a bait with a hook through its nose and a razor sharp treble hooks as a stinger and still not get hooked up. By the time the bait was retrieved and reestablished, a second boat arrived at our location. The second boat was a nineteen-foot Scout bow rider model with two men aboard. The had some mismatched rods and a single downrigger. Where we trolled they trolled. Our courses were parallel in some instances and nearly seventy-five feet separated us on some occasions. As they looked us over and us them the double rig reel screamed to life. A long fast blistering run seemed to indicate a kingfish. The crew of the Let's Go came to life. Kids pitched in reeling in rods and raising downriggers. Connie was on the rod and going to make short order of the running fish. As our chaos was happening, the shotgun line came alive with a striking fish of its own. Quickly, we had a double up and just that quick the double faded away as the shotgun line fish freed itself. Oh, what fun! Everyone was involved and we were catching fish. Our first fish was a snake kingfish. Next, we were going to do it again. As if by a cue, the Scout boat reappeared and we began fishing once again. It took no longer than ten minutes when the shallow downrigger rod and reel sounded off. The crew scrambled into action while the other boat watched in amazement. Downriggers and rods had to be reeled in while pivoting the boat toward the running fish plus retrieving the sea anchor. As the activity was occurring, Byron's rod sprang to. As he was cranking in his bait, a five pound Spanish mackerel hit it. Now we had a double on and the boat came to rest in the ocean while two anglers fought their fish. Each fish was fought to the gaff and put in the fish box. Another kingfish and a pretty big Spanish. The GPS showed our plotted where we had been and it was where we were going once

again. The fishing was hot here in the Hole at least for us on this particular day. We had plenty of misses and a few more strikes. The folks on the Scout boat seemed to be aware of our activity. We watched them the best we could and hoped they were having success. As we trolled near each other, shrugs were what we saw from them. One could just kinda hear what they had to be saying, "How could a family type boat being doing this?" Soon, the kingfish gave way to sharks and after three small black tips plus one large hammerhead searching for something behind our transom it was time to move. Our tally on the spot was three kept kingfish, two other releases, one Spanish mackerel and three or so misses plus three blacktip sharks.

Our move took us to JW. As we arrived, a small fleet was assembled upon the reef. There were at least two distinct reef locations as outlined by the two groups of circling boats. We were motoring toward the closest of the two groups when we spied a random bait pod splashing on the surface. As the old saying goes, 'fish were the bait is' and that is exactly what we did. It did not take too long before one of the lines snapped to. Once again, the crew came to. Down riggers were being retrieved, reels were being cranked in and the sea anchor was hauled. As the chaos set upon us, a second rod came to life and a third reel sounded off excitedly. Things were starting to get a little crazy in the back of the new Let's Go. The first fish showed itself and almost immediately we were initially disappointed because it looked like a shark. However, the shape gave way to a much more appealing form of a cobia. The cobia ran from port to starboard and back to port again. Madyson and Byron were on the other rods when the three anglers realized that the one cobia had become tangled up in all three lines. Beside the cobia was a few of his other buddies. There were at least two others free swimming beside it. Our only other free rod had the double rig on it and quickly it was gathered and a single Poggy was attached and tossed into the sea. The captured cobia was gaffed just about the same time a free cobia ate the other bait. Once tossed on the deck the other reel started to scream. Connie took the rod while I attempted to clear the cobia from its fishing line shackles. As the cobia laid upon the deck, it appeared small. A fish stick was unveiled and thus the fish measured a whopping thirty-one inches. The fish had to be returned. As this was going on, Connie frantically was yelling about the other free-swimming cobia around the boat and getting another bait after that one or the other one. All three lines were tying up the cobia, what would you do? Slashed and burn and retie was the only remedy and thus the fish was set free. With more fish surrounding the boat, I was hurriedly searching for rigs to retie to another rod. With the kids moving around, a fish running plus other cobias swimming along side, pandemonium ruled! We did get another shot at one of the free swimming cobias but it was only temporally hooked up. The forth and fifth cobia choose not to eat another pitched bait. All in all, we landed two of five fish with one being legal and weighing in at nearly thirty pounds. With all this action by 12:30, we decide we had enough and headed back toward the dock. It was a good day!



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram

VHF RADIO

Should you encounter problems while boating/fishing offshore, there is no better way to communicate your situation to the proper authorities than your VHF Radio. Recent stories about sailors being saved from sinking vessels off our coasts, because they were able to communicate with the Coast Guard, prompted me to remind you about the importance of having a radio on board your vessel. It has been said that a man's best friend is his dog, and that may be so for a landlubber, but a boater's best friend may be his/her radio. Although not required on recreational boats, unless carrying 6 or more passengers for hire, you should have a radio on your boat as it could save your life in a time of distress. "COAST GUARD RESCUES FIVE FROM SINKING BOAT" was a recent headline in the local paper. A Coast Guard spokesman said, "the good thing is he had a VHF radio and was able to notify us that he was in distress".

Having a radio on board and knowing how to use it properly could be a lifesaver. Also, selecting the appropriate channel and proper use of your radio will prevent interfering with someone else in distress trying to contact the Coast Guard for assistance. You can purchase an all channel radio, which has 73 channels or cheaper models with fewer channels. Your radio should have at least the following 6 channels: Channel 6, intership safety; channel 9, alternate calling for non-commercial vessels and bridge; channel 16, distress, urgency, safety and calling for commercial vessels; channel 22A, Coast Guard Liaison; channel 68, non-commercial working, and a weather channel. In addition to channel 68, channel 69, 71, 72 and 78 are assigned working channels for recreational boats. Channel 23 and 83 are Coast Guard working channels only.

New radios on the market today offer DSC (Digital Selective Calling) capabilities. If you have a DSC capable radio, it must be registered to effectively use the DSC function. If the device is not registered, the Coast Guard will not know what vessel is calling. Many boaters assume that the radio comes ready to use; i.e. registered and able to transmit its location. In order to transmit its location, the radio must be connected to a GPS unit. All new DSC capable radios have GPS status icons that indicate whether the GPS is successfully passing location information to the radio.

To check this, turn on the GPS and radio and see if the radio's GPS icon indicates a good connection. You may, also, want to carry on board a second portable handheld radio for use in case you lose your main power on the vessel and your installed radio would be inoperative. I have had to use my handheld radio on many occasions when my main antenna connections became corroded.

As a recreational boater, when your radio is turned on and not scanning, you should stay tuned to channel 9 and use it

to call other boaters or shore stations. After initial contact is made on channel 9, you should switch to a working channel to converse. Do not remain on the calling channel to chat. Channel 16 is the calling channel for commercial vessels, and is to be used for distress, urgency, safety and calls to the Coast Guard if needed. Although channel 9 is the designated calling channel for recreational boaters and 16 is the designated channel for commercial vessels, common usage has made 16 the calling channel for all vessels. So, you may want to monitor 16 all the time.

The FCC promulgates rules regarding the use of marine radios. The FCC and the Coast Guard work closely together and have direction finding equipment to locate offenders. The misuse of channel 16 is a class D felony with a \$5,000 fine plus all costs incurred as a result of the misuse. You should guard your set against misuse as you are responsible for it.

Your VHF radio is a "line of sight" system and reaches only a little way beyond the horizon. Therefore, the height of your antenna is more important than the power of your set. A 25-watt VHF set will reach as many stations as it could with more power. A more powerful radio would only send its signals farther out into space. It is extremely important, however, that you have a good solid connection between your antenna and your transceiver. Some connections are soldered and some are pressure fitted. You should check periodically to make sure the connection is still solid if it is not soldered.

In case of an emergency, if you have a new DSC capable radio, just press the red button on your radio to send out a distress signal. If you still have the old type radio, you should be prepared to send out a "Mayday" message without even thinking about it. The first few seconds of your message could provide the critical information that saves your life. A "Mayday" message contains Mayday 3 times, name of boat, latitude and longitude if known or location, nature of distress, number of persons on board and condition of any injured, seaworthiness of boat, description of boat and end with name of boat.

The following is a sample "Mayday" message: "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday. This is Fishtales. About 20 miles, 090, East of Mayport. Crew member symptoms of heart attack, need medivac helicopter. 3 POB (persons on board). Vessel 23 foot Proline cuddy cabin white outboard. This is Fishtales on channel 16". Listen for an answer. If no answer, make sure your set is on, is on high power, is on 16 and the squelch is not turned up high. After this check of equipment, and no answer, repeat your "Mayday" message.

If you do not receive an answer, continue to transmit in the blind since your set is both a transmitter and receiver you may be transmitting ok but just not receiving. It happens on a routine basis where a vessel may transmit or receive, but not both. May you never have to send one of these messages and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fishtales





Above is Leigh Davis with a nice Bull Dorado!

Associate Member
of the Month!

Gary Newman
INSURANCE
Family Owned & Operated

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- Auto
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67 E. Sailfish Dr. • Atlantic Beach, FL
241-0777

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



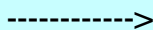
Above are the Darner's, Chuck & Rob with Chuck's Sailfish he caught last month.

Far right is Vern Summersil with the approximately 40 pound Cobia he caught on July 5th

Near right is a young one looking at Danny Del Rio's 70 pound Whahoo!

He caught it on 20 Lb test mono on a Kingfish rod & reel. It took him two hours to boat it. Do you think he cares that it wasn't a Kingfish? It was during the club's Kingfish Tune-up Tournament.

Smile Vern!



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
Gene Fulgham	-	641-9970	-	Any day	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Dale Karg	-	451-2251	-	Most weekends	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Sara Meier	-	H= 786-5608 C= 812-322-1519	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Perry Arnold	-	H = 304-521-5987 C = 904-379-1189	-	Any day	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Richard Fisher	-	H = 221-9629 Cell 738-1010	-	Nearly every day	-	Up to 8:00 PM the day before.
John Porcella	-	610-3855	-	Nearly any day	-	Up to 10:00 PM
Bob Calfee	-	C = 472-9957	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Matt Ennes	-	536 - 7450	-	Friday through Monday	-	Up to 9:00 pm
David Brown	-	962 - 3787	-	Saturdays & Some week days	-	Up to 11:00 pm



Captain of the Year Race

NEWS FLASH!!!

Eddie is NOT in Second Place, but actually in First Place --- for now. Gary, Andy, and Tom, are all in position to move up and knock Eddie out of First if he slacks off. We still have the Powder Puff, and Light Tackle left to go!

Eddie McGowan	-	-	47
Gary Newman	-	-	46
Tom Meyer	-	-	43
Andy Proescher	-	-	39
Don Cook	-	-	26
Rob Darner	-	-	20
Chris Rooney	-	-	14
Rob Cripe	-	-	14
Greg Wallace	-	-	11
Lyle Rose	-	-	10
Chris Bernacki	-	-	10
Randy Ralston	-	-	10
Sam McJunkin	-	-	10
Bob Hovey	-	-	9
Vernon Summersill	-	-	8
Paul Gallup	-	-	8
Jim Cantrell	-	-	2
Anthony Thompson	-	-	2
Ron Carr	-	-	1

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
		<h1>August</h1>				1	2
3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7 Club Meeting	8	9	
10 Club Powder-Puff Tournament	11	12	13	14	15	16 The H&R Annual Sailfish Tournament	
17	18	19	20	21 Club Meeting	22	23 Club Light Tackle Tournament	
24	25	26	27	28	29 Clean-up work party on the Tug Spike	30 Clean-up work party on the Tug Spike	
31							

Coming Events:

Sunday, August 10th - Powder-Puff club tournament.

Saturday, August 16th - The Annual H&R Sailfish Tournament.

Saturday, August 23rd - Light Tackle club tournament.

Friday, August 29th - Club Work Party to clean up the Spike for sinking as a Reef.

Saturday, August 30th - Day 2 of Spike clean-up work party.

Saturday, September 20th - The NEW fun "Luck of the Draw" Tournament.

Saturday, October 18th - The Club's Annual Awards Banquet!

Associate Members

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Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club

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