



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 49 Issue 8

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Presidents Castings

Captain Chris Rooney

The Beginning of a New Era

As we start to come to the end of the fishing season for the Club, looming in near future is the closure of Snapper fishing and quite possibly the closure of all bottom fishing. But we're far from giving up, the fight to maintain our right to fish will continue. Remember our voices have to be heard so tell all the people you come into contact with, e-mail your whole favorites list, get on the soap box and help stop the SAMFC from taking away the legacy we've built. Amendment 17 in two parts is coming and it will end bottom fishing as we know it.

Now the good stuff, this month tournaments include the ladies classic "The Powder Puff" and Captain Dan Parker's favorite "Light Tackle". Now the first one is anything but a Powder Puff, our ladies have proven over the last few years that they can consistently out fish the men. The winning fish have included a 50 pound class wahoo and a 40 pound class kingfish in the last few years, that's pretty stout competition if you ask me. Our women include the like of Marcie the B-liner Princess, Tina here comes Bubba, Jeanne Smoker King and Charlene the Wahoo Queen. All kidding aside our Ladies are serious anglers and if you think because the tournament is called the Powder Puff, that's what your going to see, boy are you wrong!! I'll bet anybody that some of the largest fish of the year are going to hit the dock during this tournament.

The last Captains cup tournament of the year is the Light Tackle, some of the rules have change this year making it a little more gear friendly so look at the new rules when you sign up. This is Captain Dan's favorite so maybe that last meeting in August we'll get him up to tell us some of the secrets and tricks to light line fishing. Well the editor is on me because I'm late with the Presidents letter yet again this month, so one more thought, take a kid fishing and enjoy the smiles!!!

Capt. Chris

Two Editorials you should read!

This one below, and do not miss Bob Houghton's on the bottom of Page #6 Both are serious food for thought!

Why haven't YOU been going to:

www.keeipoceanfishing.com

and entering a comment to the SAMFC and your congress men & women? Don't you believe that they will actually close our fishing?

I am here to tell you they ALREADY CLOSED California's coast to ALL fishing last year! It hit the California economy to the tune of over \$4 BILLION dollars per year!

They (They = The extreme animal rights groups, Peta, Pew, Ocean Conservancy Etc.) don't care!

This closure will happen unless **YOU** get involved! Go to keeipoceanfishing and enter a comment EVERY DAY. Be a pain to your friends, and hound them to do the same thing. Call and write your County, State, and Federal Representatives and Senators and demand they take action to prevent this unneeded closure that is based on very flawed information given to the SAMFC!

DO IT NOW!

Editor Bill Breen



Rob's Fishing Lore

Tournament Diaries The Prequel

It was decided many many moons ago that the SKA Tournament Trail was for me, at least once in my life. Having fished several Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournaments and the SKA in 2004 under my brother's tutelage, I always dreamed of the day that I would run my boat chasing kingfish along with all the other competitors in hopes of fame and riches. Since those faithful days in 2004, I have been plotting my course and in 2009 the sun, the stars and the moon all came in alignment so that I could run the trail.

The 2004 experience was very informative. I had learned several things on what you need in order to be a successful tournament angler. Now five years later, I took a chance on what I had learned and put it into action. First

things first, what was or is the goal? How would success be defined? Would it be defined by winning any of the five tournaments in Division 5 or would just placing in any of the five division tournaments suffice? No these ideas were not the goal. The goal was just simply to qualify for SKA Nationals. This would define success and anything else was just gravy. In order to do this what must one do in order to qualify? Quickly, it was determined that based on last years point standings that one would need to obtain forty-five points in the twenty-three and under class in order to go to Nationals. Now, the goal was transformed to catching three twenty plus pound fish in the first four tournaments. The fifth hopefully would not be necessary.

Information is a prize unto itself. On the *Florida Sportsman Forum*, a newbie would ask 'where's the big kingfish at?' Needless to say, at least in NE Florida not too many tournament anglers type up there information on where the thirty plus pounders are hanging out. Has anyone every read a Kenny Crawford post on where his favorite number to find the all too frequent forty-five pounder? If so then I have missed it and shame on me. Since very few experienced tournament anglers just pass out fishing spot information you must hunt it down for your self.

With the first tournament arriving on June 11th & 12th, pre-fishing began at the end of May. Since I am working for a living, I could only get three days on the water to help guide my choice on where to fish. On the first fishing mission, HG was chosen as a likely candidate for the Kingbuster 400, however, due to recent weather phenomenon, HG was out. It was found that water clarity and bait were a problem. Additionally, the beaches were totally out of the question at this particular time so logically the next choice was offshore.

The next little adventure found me and my wife, Connie, alone on a Monday running due east from St Augustine inlet to a few bottom numbers. Here we found good clean water, bait and fish. On the day, we caught three dolphin, two bonitos, three sharks, a few cudas and one twenty-four pound kingfish. The fishing was fast and fun besides something big ate the one of the bonito and this made the imagination run wild. The third trip found us on a midline reef out of St Augustine, the desco bottom. Here information was gleamed while attempting to catch kingfish. The only thing found here were cudas and one very large tiger shark. Since catching the shark was so much fun, I had Connie bring this monster not once but twice to the boat before cutting the wire leader just below the swivel.

In order to get information, one must be willing to share information as well. The JOSFC is a rather great place to start because of the family atmosphere we have built here as a club. Even though you receive and give information out to your friends, it does not seem to stop anyone from changing their predetermined course of action. All you can do is hope that the information and your course of action works out the best for you. As such, it was determined that for the Kingbuster 400 that offshore fishing was the better choice vs. beach fishing. With tournament eve approaching, a gear check list is devised so nothing is missed while outfitting the boat for tournament day. Additionally, the months of rig tying was about to pay off and fishing rods and reels were pre-tied. The Kingbuster 400 plan called for running forty miles offshore with prepurchased

Continued on Page 3



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Diaries Continued

blue runners. Hopefully, luck and preparation would be on our side as we make the first of four attempts to catch our twenty plus pound kingfish.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner

PS: next installment:
Tournament Diaries, the 400

Tournament Diaries

The 400

With refrain shouted in precision matter any warrior would be proud of the crew stated, "We are with you captain, for the boat and for glory!" With Spartan like crimson capes and bronze helmets donned, we prepared ourselves for kingfish war. There were about 216 other kingfish boats charging for first place. The crew pledge themselves to the cause: finding a good points fish.

Check out was at 6:30am and the Kingbuster 400 was our first test in Division 5. Quickly, things were learned. One such useful piece of information was how long prepurchased blue runners last in a 5 gallon bucket. They do not last that long! On this day, two buckets held up to 8 blue runners and these runners were held in our buckets while the boat was launched and a dock space became available to pick up the crew. It did not take long for the blue runners to start to loose their friskiness. We learned that one does not pick up your runners until the boat is safely in the water with the live well full of fresh water. One needs to take the upmost care of your \$10 baits so they don't die while waiting for the live well.

Check out went well and our baits regained their healthy attitude. As sea-going warriors, we charged our course due east for forty miles across a gently rolling sea. Was this crazy to make such a run or was this something else: this was Sparta! From our vantage point, we watched those high-powered go fast boats disappear in the distance as they speed toward their secret fishing hole. It took the mighty *Let's Go* just over an hour to arrive at our fishing hole. To our surprise, we were the only boat there.

Our baits were deployed. Instead of using the Spartan Dory to capture our prize, we impaled our baits with bronze treble hooks hoping that a rather large kingfish would impale itself. As promised, the natural bottom ledges showed schools of baitfish hugging the terrain. The fishing pattern went something like this: ribbon fish on the down rigger at 100 feet while one blue runner was place out at a medium distance about 60 feet and run on the opposite down rigger at 40 foot. The third bait out was a blue runner and it was shot gunned way past the transom.

It did not take too long before the drags started to scream. The bait of choice was the blue runner. Our first bait spread did not last more than 20 minutes before the first whack. With heavy pressure and fast screaming drags, we

knew we had found our fish early in the morning. This cagey veteran of fishy battles was not to sub come to mere twenty-pound test tackle and we watched helplessly as the fish popped the line. Quickly we reengaged fishing and quickly the fish accommodated us with quick hard strikes. The fish fought deep and ran hard just like last year's kingfish in the Great Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament. Lots of line was lost in the initial run so we were confident of what we had. Yet, this one was not to be either. The bite analysis was right on target with a major bite occurring at 8:30 am. We fought and lost all eight blue runner over a ninety minute time period. We had four breaks, two cudas plus three sharply cut blue runners whose fish missed the hooks.

As with any battle, a good back up plan needs to come along. Our back up plan consisted of dead cigar minnows and a dead Spanish mackerel. This plan was implemented just before 11am. By this time, three other boats joined us upon the reef one of them being the *Jody Lynn*. The dead bait did not deter any fishing actions; instead, we picked up 2 of 3 dolphins. One dolphin found itself being trolled as exceptional live bait. That did not work to well. As we were passing between ledges, the Spanish mackerel rod came to life. For us, it was the points fish we were looking for. Day 1 of the Kingbuster was fruitful for we put a 20.45 pound fish in the box. As our day wrapped up, the crew decided we needed to upsize our weapons to match our combatants. For Day 2, two 12 T's with thirty-pound line were outfitted upon live bait rods and one TDL 20 with thirty-pound line on a live bait rod was added to the equipment.

Rearmed and ready for action, the *Let's Go* and crew returned to the same bottom as Day 1. On this day, three other boats arrived ahead of us. Once again the typical three bait spread was deployed using two blue runners and an eel. The first past over the reef saw a double hook up. Both blue runners were lost to AJ's and thus we understood what was going on during Day 1. With similar results, we lost all 8 blue runner thus Plan B went into effect. Once again, the dead Spanish mackerel saved the day at least in terms of kingfish. This kingfish turned out to weigh a mere 18 pounds for Day 2.

To add more excitement to the story, the weather Gods decided to bless the fleet with a boomer of a thunderstorm. As the winds howled the seas shed its calm nature by rising to 6 foot without backs. I heard the seas were larger the further offshore one was. Lighten lit the sky while the heavy rains reduce your visibility. With all this excitement passed, the first tournament was over. Our 20.45 pound fish did not hold up in weight for any prizes in fact, the fish allowed us to position us in 14th place in the 23 & Under division for division 5. We got what we came for and now it was forward looking to the next tournament: Tournament of Champions in Fernandina Beach.

Best Wishes
for Fishing,
Rob Darner





Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

Lightning

Recently, I wrote about how to read the weather. This month, I want to remind everyone to be alert, and on the lookout for lightning, one of the weather hazards we face, especially on hot humid days, here in Florida. It is that time of year now when those hot, humid and muggy days sometimes come to an end with menacing, dark clouds gathering on the horizon. In order to make sure that our boating/fishing trip is one that begins and ends safely, we should keep a wary eye on those clouds gathering on the horizon. Boaters should keep an eye on afternoon cumulus clouds in hot weather because they are capable of turning into thunderheads if there is enough moisture in them. If you recognize the changing situation, you may be able to run for safety before there is any danger.

In hazy weather, you may not be able to see the thunderhead forming since haze limits visibility and is ideal weather for a thunderstorm. On such hot, hazy days, you should be alert for static on your am radio, the sound of thunder or the flicker of lightning. On such hot, muggy, hazy days, you should plan on staying close to port so you can run in if necessary.

If, however, you are caught out at sea and a storm forms, you will see the lightning before you hear the thunder because sound travels much slower than light. You can determine the distance of the storm by counting one thousand one to five after you see the lightning. Each five counts tell you that the lightning is about one mile away.

Lightning is a serious boating hazard. It takes place not only between clouds and the water, but also between clouds and within clouds and usually strikes the highest item around the area. When you are out on the water, you may be the highest thing around for miles. Also, the more frequent the lightning, the more severe the storm.

The best way to escape the dangers of lightning is to avoid it. The more weather-wise you become, the less likely you are to be caught out on the water in a thunderstorm. If you should be caught out in a thunderstorm, each person on board should don a life jacket. Next, pinpoint your exact location before the storm arrives because heavy rain will reduce your visibility. Reduce your boat speed and secure all loose gear on or below deck.

Once the storm hits take the first, and usually the strongest, gusts of wind on your bow, not abeam. Try to keep a heading into the wind and approach the increasing waves at a 45% angle that will keep your propeller under water and reduce pounding. Stay low in the boat and keep away from metal objects since a nearby strike could send strong electrical charges into the boat.

You can lessen the danger of lightning damage to your boat by having a grounding system installed if your boat does not have one. A good grounding system neutralizes the difference in

electrical potential between water and air and prevents static buildup. This is the same reason farmers put lightning rods on their barns. There are no guaranteed safeguards against lightning. It is very unpredictable and powerful. Therefore, avoid it if at all possible.

Know before you go, pay attention to changing weather conditions, get off the water as soon as you can when lightning is approaching, and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales



The Dry Dock

For Sale: Frank Grassi is selling his 23' Wellcraft Walk around with Yamaha 225 HP Four stroke, Big Garmen GPS / Fishfinder, with lots of extras included. It will be turn-key ready to fish! Asking \$12,000.

Opening soon:

Jax River City Cafe

Owned and operated by Life Member Frank Grassi and Club Member Rodney Anderson. They will be open for breakfast and lunch with great take out lunches. Located at 4807 North Main Street, 38th St & North Main St.

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, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at:

PH# 904-254-2791 Fax#904-213-9786

beenw@bellsouth.net



Above Mike Miller holds a 21.3 Pound Grouper that he caught.

Below Marcy Summersill holds a nice 18 pound Red Snapper that she caught here off Jacksonville



Bob Houghton with a nice tasty about 30 Lbs COBIA !



Bobby Houghton showing his Dad how to catch Grouper. 27 Lbs Both fish were caught in the Gulf out of St. Marks!

Gary Newman
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<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
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 8:00 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
Matt Ennes	-	536 - 7450	-	Friday through Monday	-	Up to 9:00 pm
Joe Esparza	-	C = 536 - 4114	-	Any Day	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Mike Gyutsisin	-	C = 296 - 3494	-	Any Day	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Ronald Cowart	-	H = 879-4724 C = 469-4618	-	Fri. Sat. Sun	-	Up to 9:00 pm
Phillip Ferdon	-	H = 879-0184 C = 887-6736	-	Fri. Sat.	-	Up to 9:00 pm

Read this !!!

" We a a club need to support those vendors and people that support us. Don Combs, owner of C&H donates to our raffle table, the end of year banquet, and the sailfish pot, yet very few members will fish the Kingbuster 400, which he runs in St.Augustine in June. Don Dingman runs a wonderful Junior Angler tournament the Thursday proceeding the tournament, with a Boat, Motor, Trailer as first prize, and paying 25 places, yet few members fished it in great weather this year. These great tournaments, as well as vender support will not continue unless we as a Club support those that support us. Lets do a better job of letting all our Associate Members know that we appreciate their support, and whenever we need a service, support those that support us. Gary Newman stated it very well at this years Pot Party, let the people, and companies that support our activities know we appreciate it, and lets support them whenever we are in need of services or products. I chastised my neighbor for buying a depth recorder on Amazon.Com, when after shipping etc, he saved pennies over West Marine, where if it doesn't work properly he could return it.(Try that with Amazon)"

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
		August					1
2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6 Club Meeting & Capt. Meeting for the R & H	7	8 The R & H Mayport Masters Sailfish Tourny	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16 The Powder Puff Tournament	17	18	19	20 Club Meeting	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 The Light Tackle Tournament 8 Lb test or lighter	
30	31						

Coming Events:

September we have to elect new officers and board members, start thinking about who you want on your board!

August 6 th - Captain's meeting for R & H Mayport Masters at JOSFC clubhouse.

August 8 th - The Annual R & H Mayport Masters Sailfish Tournament

October 17 th - The Annual Club Awards Banquet

Tournament Schedule for 2009

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate
	Saturday	Sunday
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	----- 16 / 23
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	----- 29 / Sept. 5 -----

Associate Members

•All Aluminum Concepts • Angie's Sub Shop • Atlantic Coast Marine • Avid Angler • B & M Bait & Tackle • Boathouse Discount Marine • • C & H Lures • Capt. Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing • Consignment Boat Sales • Dell Marine • Donovan Heating & Air • Florida Sportsman Live • First Coast Offshore Rodeo • Fish Carvings by Rick & Billy • Fishing Connection • Gary Newman Insurance • Gear 4 Fishermen • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Gene's Seafood • Great Atlantic Outfitters • Hardees • High Roller Fishing Team • Home - Zone Cleaning • International Ropes • Jacksonville Marina • Just-Right Auto Sales • Knight Electric • Lockwood Marine • Mercury Outboards • MacMedia Graphics • Mike's Taxidermy • Mayport Princess • Murphy Communications • Ocean Get Away • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Pepsi Bottling Co. • Penn Tackle Mfg. • Production Drywall • Progressive Insurance • Pier 17 • PGA Tour • Rick's Bait & Tackle • River Marine • Safe Harbor Seafood • Salty Styles • Sea Tow • Sea Dance Charters • Skinner Nurseries • Smith & Sons Tree Service • SOC 7 Productions • Solomon's RV & Boat Storage • Southern Propane • Super Chum Slick • St. John's Seafood & Steaks • Strike Zone Fishing • T.B.S. Jigs & Charter • The Canvas Shop of North Florida • The Haggerty Company • The Outdoors Show • Vic2Fish • W.L.S. Contracting • WebCode Fusion • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • West Marine • Woody Wax • Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing •



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