



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 55 Issue 8

August 2015



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Darga

July and August

Hot Temperatures and Hot Fishing.

Kingfish are running, Sharks on the beach and everywhere else. Bee-liners in 120 ft of water, Mango Snappers (good eating by the way.) Grouper hard to find. Oh what a time of the year it is. Leave early in the morning and be back before afternoon thunderstorms and you had a great day. If you do not have radar like me listen or call George on the Mayport Princess or Scott on the Majesty if you are heading out deep. Both Captains watch out for all of us and I mean all boaters on the water.

This year for the 2nd year in a row JOSFC headed up the Greater Jacksonville Dock Tournament. This year we sponsored both dock tournaments. The Down on the Dock was held the week before the Junior Angler Tournament. JOSFC is in sponsorship with the Northeast Florida Down Syndrome for children. The response we had for volunteers was overwhelming with our members taking vacation days to come out and support. I know for many of you it was your first time and I believe that you all came away with a smile yourself as you watched all of the children smile, laugh and just have a great time as it is supposed to be.

Compliments and more compliments on how you all worked with the kids and how patient everyone was. Many of the parents and guardians felt pride and enjoyment because of what their children were doing and the enthusiasm that they were showing. Every time a child caught a fish we all cheered and high fives were given on the way to the measuring station. I think that anyone who was there can agree that when the blue crab was caught it became the center of attention. Children in wheelchairs, some needing help to walk to the weigh station, it did not matter because you all worked together to make sure that this was a day that they would not forget. Tears from pride on the faces of the adults that accompanied their children as they were all given a medal (except one little girl who was mad because she had to leave and wanted to keep fishing eventually when she was assured she could do it again she excepted the medal) was enough to show that it was a great day. After fishing hot dogs, chips and drinks were served also by our hospitality crew.

The second dock tournament was held for junior anglers from the inner city where approximately 30 to 40 children showing up. They were worried and a little scarred why? As one little one asked me "what do I do with this" again our members were patient as we showed each one on how to bait and how to push the little black button on the Zebco 202 to drop the line. Of course the bait hit the water and 5 seconds later I got one was being yelled by everyone as the frantically reeled up the line. A lot of I lost it was then the explanation.



Wear these, they don't work in the cabin! OK, I know that some of you won't wear your Life Jacket while fishing, but PLEASE at

least wear one while your Boat is underway!

Jacksonville recently lost a boater on a calm day, out alone, and his boat came ashore with engines running and no sign of him!



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I have already been approached and asked if we would sponsor again next year. I said yes because with the clubs support it is a wonderful thing and time for everyone.

A special thank you for everyone who participated including the tying of the rigs at the clubhouse. Oh yea next year we are tying the rigs at sisters creek. That is a whole different article of what transpired the day of.

Tom Darga
JOSFC President

Gary Newman
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Lightning

First, Yes, I am certifiable, but that aside, there are only two things that scare me out on the water. Fire, and LIGHTNING!

As this is lightning season here in Florida, I am reprinting Top Ingram's safety article on just that, Lightning.

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About this time each year all individuals who go offshore fishing must be concerned about sudden thunder storms forming and creating a sudden burst of lightning which can be deadly. Lightning kills about 2,000 people worldwide each year. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from any rain or storm cloud. Recently 2 teens were killed by a lightning strike with the local sky clear and blue. A witness said that the nearest storm clouds were at least 5 miles away. From news accounts, I think we all know that Florida is the lightning capital of the United States.

When a thunder storm or lightning is forecast, the 3 most dangerous places to be are in the water,

under a tall tree or in an open boat on the water. Remember if you are out in your boat fishing, you are the tallest object around and lightning seeks the tallest object. So, it is important that you crouch low and try to stay below some item of your boat. Obviously, the safest place to be is ashore and in a building.

Two fishermen from Saint Johns County are lucky to be alive after being struck by lightning recently. In this case they had spent the day fishing the creeks off the intracoastal waterway. About 1pm the sky turned black and a thunderstorm moved their way. They headed North and tried to outrun the storm. Unfortunately, they had just started to move when the lightning bolt struck the two and the boat. Also, fortunately, the motor was disabled by the lightning and when the two regained consciousness the boat had drifted onto the shore. Needless to say, these two fishermen were extremely lucky.

Bill Breen recently wrote under the heading: "Some nice to know information" that with lightning "5 seconds between Flash and Thunder = 1 Mile". As Bill indicated, 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. If your count shows that the storm is less than 10 miles, you should head for safety since data shows that lightning can strike out 10 miles in front of a storm where the sky may even be clear. The comment that if you can hear the thunder, head inside or for shelter is so true.

Since all modern radios have a weather channel, listen to the VHF weather warnings and head to port if a thunderstorm is predicted.

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

Lightning Continued

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.

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, if not wearing one already.

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

Better Boating Tips

I know that some club members tow their boats down south, so here is a great tip. Before a long tow (Specially through "Love-Bug" country) wipe your boat with liquid dish soap, (No dont' wash it off yet.) and after you get where you are going, bugs and tar will come right off!

If you have a really bad tar or scum line, Easy Off oven cleaner will remove it and sticky residue from stickers, without damaging your gell coat.

Instead of using BLEACH to clean your boat, try a cup of VINEGAR in a gallon of water to make a great cleaner that is both environmentally safe, and it destroys orders better than bleach!



OK members, have **YOU** found or lined up a new sponsor for next year's EI Cheapo? They don't have to be fishing related, they will get advertising at the BIGGEST fishing tournament in Florida much less the Jacksonville area!

Here are some cooking tips you might like.

* - Always get your pan sizzling HOT before you put any meat in it. If you put your Steak, Pork, Fish, or Chicken in a cool or even just warm pan, it will stick to the pan even if you use a spray oil.

Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.

Microwave garlic cloves for 15 seconds and the skins slip right off.

Microwave limes for 40 seconds before squeezing, you'll get twice the amount of juice.

* - Add 1 tablespoon of Vinegar to the fat in which you are going to deep fry. It will keep the food from absorbing too much fat or oil and eliminate the greasy taste. This is for a Frying Pan amount, for a deep Fryer use 1/4 cup of Vinegar. OH, another lesson I learned the hard way. Add it BEFORE you bring it to heat!

Seafood is very easy to over-cook! Always WATCH your seafood carefully as you cook it and watch your recommended times! Overcooked seafood will be hard, dry, rubbery or chewy, and not very tasty.

Clams and oysters will be simple to open if washed with cold water, then placed in a plastic bag and put in the freezer for an hour.

Thaw fish and shellfish in milk. The milk draws out the frozen taste and provides a fresh caught flavor.

Take the Fish out of the Refrigerator 30 minutes before cooking to allow to warm to room temperature.

* - Try soaking fish in 1 cup vinegar / 3 cups water for 15 minutes before cooking for a sweet tender taste.

Quick, Easy and Tasty Fish Filets in a Pan

This recipe is for any white flesh fish. (It will even make Tilapia taste great!)

Ingredients:

4 - 1/4 Lb or bigger Filets, skin and bones removed.

1/4 - Cup Butter

1/4 - Cup White Wine a Chardoney (Probably spelled wrong) is perfect for this.

1/2 - Teaspoon Rosemary

1/2 - Teaspoon Thyme

1/2 - Teaspoon Basil

How To:

Take the Fish out of the Refrigerator 30 minutes before cooking to allow to warm to room temperature.

Melt the butter in a large frying pan, at a medium heat. Then pour in the Wine. Add the spices, crushing them between your fingers as you add them, or grinding them finely just before adding.

Stir everything briefly, then add the filets. Cook for about 5 minutes per side, or until white and easily flaked with a fork.

Serve while still piping hot.



Loud Hailings

Newsletter Editor
Bill Breen

I really like to feature Pictures of members with some good catches. (Like Mike Watts did.) 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 or the name of the person in the photo. (spelled correctly) and the fish weight.

Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News, just send or give it to me at any time. Hint, Photos of KIDS get priority!



COBIA

According to some Scuba divers that have been out several times this last week, 7/5 - 12 /15 every wreck and reef has a lot of Cobia on them.

One good fisherman I know, has great luck catching Cobia using vertical jigs, hitting bottom then jiggling in the first 2 to 8 feet over the bottom.

Of course they love Eels and from my experience they will eat a Ribbon fish in a second. Go get them while they are here!



The Atlantic spadefish





















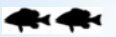
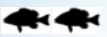


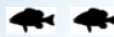



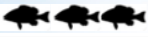

(*Chaetodipterus faber*) is a species of marine fish endemic to the western Atlantic Ocean.

While we don't have this fish on the boards, it is usually found in good number off Jacksonville, and really is a good eating fish! You get some nice tasty white meat filets off even an average school.

Hook size is based on the size of the spadefish in the area. They all have relatively small mouths. For average fish a #6 hook will work while you may be able to use a #1 on large fish. These fish pull hard and their mouths tear easily. They also straighten many hooks and can break your line on the nearby structure or by rubbing the line on the other spadefish in the school. They are really fun to catch on light tackle. 20lb leader is about as heavy as you need to go. Because of their mouths and the small hooks, you are limited in the amount of drag you can apply.

Pick the largest and strongest hook that you can get away with and tie it to a short (18-24 inch), 20lb leader. The other end of the leader is tied to a swivel which is tied to your main line. An egg sinker about a half of an ounce, depending on the current, is threaded on the line above the swivel. The baited rig is lowered to the level of the fish, not to the bottom. Depending on the depth of the water, lower the bait 10-20 feet. Set the rod in the rod holder and wait for the fish to hook itself. If you are holding the rod, don't set the hook. You may feel the the fish nibble for a while before it gets hooked. If the bite stops, reel in, your bait is gone. Vary the depth of your lines to find what level the spadefish want to feed at.

Bait? Use small pieces of shrimp, squid or clam for the best results, and if you can, just use the baited hook and no weight and drift the bait back to the school and you should have some good fish for dinner!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<h1>August</h1>						1 Ladies Tournament 
			2 	3 	4 	5 
8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 
15 	16 	17 	18 	19 	20 Club Meeting. 	21 
22 Light Tackle Tournament 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 
29 	30 	31 	 COMING EVENTS: Aug. 1st - Ladies Tournament Aug. 3rd - Board Meeting Aug. 6th - Club Meeting Aug. 20th - Club Meeting Aug. 22nd - Light tackle Tournament Sept. 5th - Bottom Tournament			



Tournament Schedule for 2015

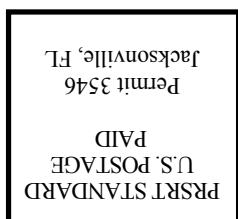
Tournament - - - - - Month - - - - - Date / - - - - - Alternate
 - All are on Saturday -

The Ladies Tournament - August - - - - - 1 - - - - - 8 - - Greg Wallace
 The Light Tackle Tournament - August - - - - - 22 - - - - - 29 - Jack Ogin
 The Bottom Tournament - September - - - - - 5 - - - - - 12 - Rob Cripe
 Triple Challenge Tournament - October - - - - - 5 - - - - - 12 - Steve Shaw

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