



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 48 Issue 10

October 2008



Captain of the Year!!!

**Congratulations
to.....**

**Eddie McGowan
"Bite This"**



**You Don't Want To Miss The
JOSFC
Annual
Awards Banquet!**

October 18, 2008

Saturday

6:00PM - Until?

At the Marriott Hotel

4670 Salisbury Rd, Jacksonville

Tickets \$30.00 each, available from any JOSFC Board member.



Just a small part of the great raffle that we have at the Annual Awards Banquet.

See Map to Awards Banquet on page 6.



Club President Eddie McGowan presenting last year's Captain Of The Year Chris Rooney with his Tiagra 30 Wide!

Come to the Awards Banquet and watch this picture get reversed, as Chris will be our new President, and Eddie is the 2008

Captain Of The Year!



Here are a couple of Photos of just some of the great raffle prizes that we have at the Annual Awards Banquet.

This is the one great party that you really don't want to miss! As you can see, not a coat & Tie affair but everyone dresses nicely, Good food and GREAT and Plentiful raffle prizes!



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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:
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Rob's Fishing Lore

A Right Of Passage

My wife thought she found a special get away. A place far removed from the trappings of the hustle and bustle of busy city life in downtown Jacksonville. The place where we have normally vanished to, the Florida Keys, has all grown up in the last fifteen years or so. It seems life has become so commercialized down there and its so hurry up so you can slow down. Well, it appears that we may have a new get away so together we can truly get away from it all. From what I understand this area just received a nearby cell phone tower so you now can make cell phone calls. Before this you need to stand on the overpass to gain altitude in order to catch a strong cell phone signal. This small town is so pleasantly typical with just one road in and one road out. There are no Burger Kings, no McDonalds or even a Wal-Mart to offer you the cheapest price known to man. It's a place where the locals brag that you don't have to lock your cabins doors because nobody here steals a thing. The more I have bragged about our visit the more I have found out just how many people have spent time in Steinhatchee, FL.

From July 1st through September 14th is approximately when scallop season runs. Scallop season is the perfect way just to do something when you really need to do nothing. From Jacksonville, Steinhatchee is just three hours away when towing a boat. The town has limited commercial development. There are a few marina lodges for any would be anglers to camp at. Yes, I would recommend one go with a camp style mentality. We choose the Sea Hag Marina and would be lodge. The accommodations are more like a 'line shack' right out of the 'old west'. Its not the creature comforts we came here to enjoy. With our friends who stayed there with us, we had one of the larger cabins. Our cabin had one bathroom, two double beds, one refrigerator and a makeshift kitchen of sorts.

However, we did not come for the accommodations, we came for something else completely. The Sea Hag Marina is one first rate marina and dockage facility. Anything you need you can likely find here when it comes to fishing and boats and this includes friendly fish advice on how to and where to.

Our get-a-way, started off just fine when Frankie-the-Yankee helped me splash the mighty Let's Go about 7:30am Saturday morning. By 9am the crew was ready to turn in a full day of scalloping. Since I have never ever scalloped before and was anxious to do it, I thought it best to follow the examples of others. The Darner party managed to tag along with the Grassi's in search of the elusive sea scallop. We followed the NY Yankee out



to the end of the Steinhatchee channel and made a hard left turn to run south. Frank did caution me the night before about running in shallow water and he was not kidding. As we made our way, I notice the depth finder keep losing depth until I could not stand it anymore and opted west for deeper water. I changed depth from 2.2 feet to 3.8 feet of running water. Our destination was nearly a whole eight miles south. I don't know if held enough gas to make the run. I guess filling up the tank on Friday was not such a good thing since it added unnecessary weight to the boat in light of the shallow depth. A half tank of fuel would have been more than enough to the two days of scalloping.

Scalloping happens in depths ranging between 2 to 4 feet of water. Scalloping is nothing more than the sea's version of a huge Easter Egg hunt. One only needs to look for muddy eggs hidden among the grass. The underside of the shell is a pale white and the top shell matches the mud color bottom. Steel cobalt blue eyes dot the entire length of the scallop shell. Sometimes if you



Connie Darner with the elusive Scallop!

are lucky, you will encounter one of these strange-shelled creatures jetting through the water column. The only specialized equipment you need is a mask & snorkel and a bag to place the booty in. Fins are recommended but not completely necessary. In one good spot it is possible to take several dozen scallops while an average spot may yield a dozen plus.

With the crew fully equipped, Connie, Bailey and Byron could not wait to splash in and start the hunt. Frank's first spot was right on the money. The water was clear and the current was light and the scallops were plentiful. It took only ten or so minutes to identify what we were looking for. Bailey and Byron took to finding scallops like a barracuda takes to your hooked kingfish. Both kids wanted to take off on their own but Connie and I did not think this was particularly wise. Instead, we circumnavigated them around the boat while they scoured the bottom. It was more productive to have two pair of eyes looking for scallops than just one pair. Madyson joined the search sporadically. While Bailey and Byron seemed at ease in the water, Madyson seemed more cautious about venturing too far from the boat. They found nearly two-dozen between them and were always on the prowl for more. Madyson, however, did not have much success until her final trip with myself.

I was praying that Madyson and myself would happen upon a scallop waiting there for the taking. I was even contemplating of planting one of the scallops already in my bag for her to find. Just before we found our scallop, Madyson raised her head out of the water to tell me that she wanted to return to the boat. I was

becoming worried because she had not found a scallop and I did not want her to go away from this experience discouraged. As it was to work itself out, our journey back to the boat proved to be fruitful. There it was resting is a mossy grass that floated at the top of the turtle grass canopy. It was the perfect scallop for her. I pointed the shellfish out and without any more prompting, Madyson made a beeline for the scallop. Under she went. Her right arm stretched out. She was closing on the scallop and began to slow down. I knew she starting to run out of breath so I placed my hand on her back and gave her a momentum boost toward her prize. It was just the right amount of force for she was able to grasp the scallop in her hand. With the scallop in her hand, she promptly dropped it. I scurried toward the bottom to recapture the creature and return it to her. After gaining her breath she exclaimed that the scallop bit her causing her to let go. Never the less, she had a scallop and a story to tell.

The more I have spoken about this the more I have realized that the Darner clan is following in a great tradition. Steinhatchee is Northeast Florida's best-kept get-a-way secret. Scalloping is truly doing something when you want to really do nothing. For doing nothing all day Saturday and Sunday, I was disappointed that I was not able to partake in the wonderful Sea Trout fishery out of Steinhatchee. Oh well, I'll save that one for another story.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner



A live well full of DINNER!



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

TOWING CHECKLIST FOR THE ROAD AND RAMP

You can never be too safe when towing your boat. Just as any good pilot goes over his safety checklist before taking off, it's wise to do the same when towing. Here's a list of important items you need to address every time you head to the water.

PRE-TOWING :

- Check cold tire pressure on the tow vehicle and trailer.
- Make sure you are towing the trailer in a level position.
- Verify that lug nuts on the tow vehicle and trailer tightened to the correct torque setting.
- Stow all required U. S. Coast Guard equipment in the boat.
- Secure outboards or stern drives in the full-up position.
- Securely tighten the boat cover if it is used when towing.
- Secure the coupler. Insert a bolt or other locking device into the coupler so it does not pop open.
- Connect the trailer lights and check to make sure they are working properly.
- Secure the safety chains and emergency brake cable.
- Raise the trailer jack and lock it in place.
- Ensure that the boat is snug against the bow stop and secured with a winch strap, plus a safety chain or tie-down.
- Make sure the transom tie-downs are tight.
- Properly secure all equipment inside the boat.
- Adjust the tow-vehicle mirrors as needed.

BOAT PRE-LAUNCH (IN PARKING AREA OR READY LANE):

- Remove tie-downs.
- Remove engine support.
- Disconnect trailer wiring from tow vehicle.
- Load and stow gear to be carried on board.
- Check all boat systems: engine, bilge pump, lights and horn, etc.
- If equipped, turn on the engine compartment blower.
- Make ready all dock lines, fenders and boat hook.

And, last, DO NOT FORGET TO INSTALL THE DRAIN PLUG.

BOAT LAUNCH (ON THE RAMP)

Back down the ramp far enough to allow engine cooling water to be picked up.

Set the emergency brake, put the vehicle in park, and block the rear wheels. Do the same when retrieving the boat.

On stern-drive or outboard boats, lower the drive into the water.

Start the engine and let it warm up.

Disconnect the winch hook. From the bow eye.

Proceed to launch.

Enjoy your outing and have a safe trip.



Chris and crew with their catch from 9/13/08. Below a local kid admiring Chris's catch as it was unloaded from the Driftin-n-Dreamin.



Instant Crew, Just Add Water

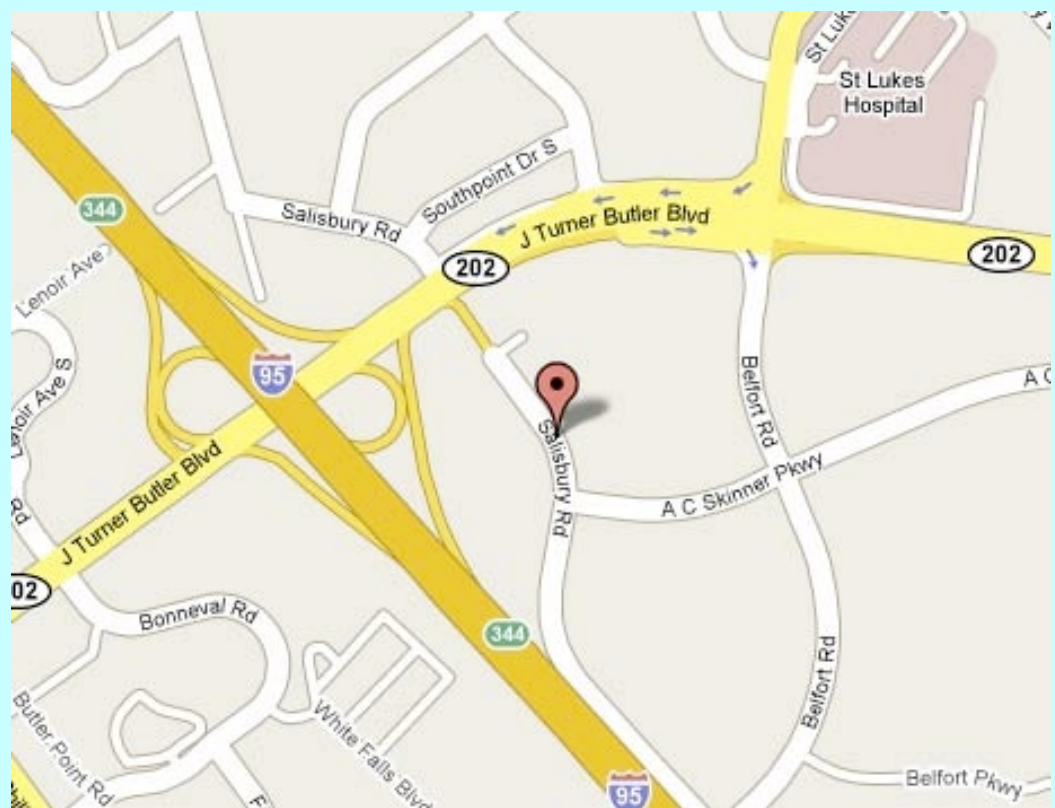
<u>Name</u>	-	<u>Phone</u>	-	<u>Availability</u>	-	<u>Can call the Night before.</u>
Pete St.Laurent	-	220-9199		Most weekends		Up to 8:00 pm
Gene Fulgham	-	641-9970		Any day		Up to 8:00 pm
Dale Karg	-	451-2251		Most weekends		Up to 10:00 pm
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369		Weekends & Some days		Up to 8:00 pm
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



Awards Banquet Location

October 18, 2008 -
The Annual Club Awards
Banquet at The Marriott
Hotel 4670 Salisbury Rd,
Jacksonville.

Tickets \$30.00
available form any Board
Member.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
October			1	2 Club Meeting	3	4
5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Club Meeting 7:00 PM Jr. Angler Awards Party Voting for Officers & Board	17	18 Annual Awards Banquet!
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Coming Events:



October 1st - The Fishing Boards open for the 2008 / 2009 year, Clean Boards, no fish yet!

October 2nd - Regular Club Meeting

October 16th - Club Meeting, AND the Junior Angler Awards Party!
Because of the Kids and School this meeting starts at 7:00PM

October 16th - At this meeting you vote for your new Officers and Board members. Either send for your Absentee Ballot, or show up to VOTE!

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

November 8 & 9th - The Florida Sportsman Fishing Show at the Prime Osborn Center.

Associate Members

• Advance Marine • All Aluminum Concepts • Angie's Sub Shop • Atlantic Coast Marine • Avid Angler • B & M Bait & Tackle • Beaches Florist • Boaters World • 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 • Float Tech • F.W.C. • G & W Marine • Gary Newman Insurance • Gear 4 Fishermen • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Gene's Seafood • Great Atlantic Outfitters • Hardees • Hubbard's Marina • High Roller Fishing Team • Home - Zone Cleaning • International Ropes • Jacksonville Marina • JaxKayakFishing.com • Just-Right Auto Sales • Knight Electric • Land Roofing • Loadmaster Trailers • 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 • Readyforyoutravel.com • Rick's Bait & Tackle • River Marine • Riggers Plus • Safe Harbor Seafood • Salty Dawg Marine • Salty Styles • Sea Tow • Sea Dance Charters • Skinner Nurseries • Smith & Sons Tree Service • SOC 7 Productions • Seafood Galore • 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 • Three brothers Marine • Vic2Fish • W.L.S. Contracting • WebCode Fusion • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • West Marine • Woody Wax • Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing •



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