



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 49 Issue 10

October 2009



Presidents Castings

Captain Chris Rooney

Rocktober and the Reckoning

This is the month I like to call Roctober, the first of the fall cold fronts start coming through in force and change the fishing. The weather cools off for the first time in six months and its time for us to get together and have some fun, honor the best/luckiest anglers among our rank and file and see who can still cut the rug! The 2009 JOSFC Banquet is Saturday the 24th starting at 6:00 pm at the Southpoint Marriott; we've gone back to the old format with a DJ spinning vinyl, prizes for the raffle, and all the entertainment that can come with the end of the year festivities. The Tickets are only \$30.00 Per Person for a night including a Prime Rib or Swordfish dinner and dancing the light fantastic, see one of the 2009 Officers for your tickets.

The fishing this month will be nothing short of phenomenal, there have been a lot of grouper on the inshore grounds and the snapper are off the charts still!! On the 17th we have a fund raising tournament to help the legal efforts being made to stop the closure of our fishing grounds. This brings up the other half of the title for this article, a reckoning is coming when the bottom fishing in NE Florida is going to get very slim. Our legislators in their wisdom are trying very hard to take away our right to enjoy the fishing we've built in NE

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

October 24, 2009

Saturday

6:00PM - Until?

At the Marriott Hotel

4670 Salisbury Rd, Jacksonville

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

Great Dinner, of course the Awards, an Outstanding Raffle, and this year we have a

D.J. & DANCING!

See some pictures on Page 6 & Map on Page 7

Florida over the last 50 years and we need to continue to fight back. Call Them!! Write to Them!!! E-Mail Them!!! Vote them Out of Office if they don't want to support the Cause!!! We have a voice as American Anglers and we need to use it!!!

I hope with all my Heart that sooner or later they will listen! Take a kid fishing I'll bet they'll Love it!

Captain Chris Rooney, JOSFC President

It is time to renew your membership in this great club. Don't put it off until your membership is expired on 1/1/10, go to Page 5 and fill out the form and mail it to the address on the back of this Newsletter

Gary Newman

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Just opened by two of our JOSFC members, Life Member Frank Grassi and Rodney Anderson. Stop in and have breakfast or lunch there!

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
breenw@bellsouth.net





Rob's Fishing Lore

Rob Darner

The Cay

It's a rare moment that I find myself inside a bar but on this particular occasion I ended up here after a long day at a week long sales meeting for work. I am no longer accustomed to dim ceiling lights, blaring big screen TV's and the sultry atmosphere of hard core drinking. Never-the-less, this is where I was and I just could not help to overhear a nearby conversation. Being my father's son, I just could not help but add to the nearly impossible fishing tale that was being spun right before my very ears yet I could do little more than to listen. To me it sounded like a trip of a life time. The three of them were going to enter the Bahamas via West End and travel south down the Little Bahamas' Bank toward Nassau. From here the journey would take them downward Exuma Sound to Long Island and Crooked Passage. The plan was idyllic from here on out, over the next few days he and his buddies were going to look for unexplored reefs and hunt for virgin bone fish grounds and look for undiscovered ship wrecks.

The trip to West End was uneventful. The end of Spring announced good weather conditions and the beginning of a remarkable fishing season. He recounted that the three of them fished nearly each and every night for their dinner. They dined on the very freshest of snapper and when no one was looking, a lobster or two. The next day he remembered on the way to Crooked Island Passage they saw a man in skiff fishing on the edge of the reef. The man was alone seemingly in the middle of nowhere tending a hand line. It was something about this scene that caused the three friends to stop and offer assistance to the lone fisherman.

As the story went, the man refused the help because he didn't need it. Obviously, he thought we needed help and offered us assistance. Upon seeking advice for a sheltered cove or reef to spend the night the man could only manage a warning for the three of them. His storyteller's eyes began to stare at the wall across from him and his voice became bland as he retold the man's warning. He even tried to imitate in the best Jolly Mon voice he could the warning.

"Do not take from the sea and the sea will not take from you. Only one night at Deadman's Cay and then best be on your way." He repeated the phrase not once or twice but three times.

As if his trans was broken, he looked around and continued. We thought the old man was crazy he explained and besides, Deadman's Cay the name invited us there just on principle. The water was maculate he remembered. They

could see the fish swimming between the coral outcroppings nearly twenty five feet down. The reef complex was perfect to tuck a modest troller safely away. True to form, the fishing was easy thus snapper and grouper were on tonight's menu. The twilight swim started it all. It was here he knew they should have listened to the old man but they didn't.

Lobster and crabs covered the coral walls making them easy to catch. It was our last lobster when it was found. It was back inside the coral ledge where the last lobster was taken. The precious metal was dulled by years underwater but it came aboard their boat anyway. The crud was knocked off revealing a Spanish doubloon.

The next morning all three of us took to the water in search of more doubloons. The search for more gold took them into the next evening. It was the subtle changes they should have noticed he reminded all of us listeners. Changes in the clouds and the wind were occurring but he paid no such heed to the signs. Dinner that night was even more feverish than the previous night for more doubloons had been recovered. Eight gold pieces were accounted while three silver pieces were brought up. Will all three of us more stoke up for tomorrow's search.

Sleep was not too much of a problem with the amount of swimming that went on for the day but sleep is anything but what we got. It was just past midnight when we could hear the thumping of the waves against the reef. The water rushing through the reef rocked the boat from side to side. The distant thump grew louder and louder and soon we could feel the vibration coming through the hull like several hands slapping at the water line. Now, he recalled that between the hulls slapping a voice could be heard. The voice was yet another warning in which was lost on deaf ears.

A plan was conceived the night before went into action for the next day. He now realizes this was a mistake and we should have had left but we didn't. The next day more gold was recovered and brought aboard. The weather turned even nastier causing us to abandon our search. It was like evening came early as the light left the sky. The rains came. It came in sheets, dark sheets. Again the hull slapping returned but instead of howling winds we heard voices. The hull began to rock violently from side to side and we began to spin on the anchor line. Slapping and more slapping was echoing through the hull. The slapping gave way to a sharp loud banging at the door. The muffled voices became clear. It demanded what was taken from the sea but the violent rocking slung the gold from our grasp. Angry forces spun the boat and soon the boat came to crash into the reef. The voices grew louder, stronger in their demands. Again, the boat momentum stopped upon the reef shelf. The voices were only strangely silent for us to hear the cracking of the fiberglass. The voices repeated themselves and repeatedly flung the boat upon the reef. Soon the cracking glass splintered all the way through allowing water to rush into dry spaces. Over the rushing water the voices cried returned to the sea.

His eyes gave a glassy stare for he let on that the boat was lost and it was breaking up. It was only by a miracle that all they escaped. The lighting lit their path. They swam toward a small sliver of a coral rock called Deadman's Cay, a glance



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram

Anchoring

Because of two recent tragic accidents in the area, I want to remind everyone to wear your life jacket when you are in a boat underway or anchored. In case you may have missed the news, a young man drowned in Julington Creek when he fell out of his boat and a 13 year old drowned when he went into the water from a boat to retrieve a bait bucket that fell overboard. Neither of these individuals was wearing a life jacket.

In order to maintain the perfect position over that honey hole of grouper or snapper, each boat captain, needs to master the art of anchoring for protection, safety and the enjoyment of hoisting the big ones off the bottom. There are several types of anchors and the type used should depend primarily on the type of bottom in which you plan to anchor. Also, some anchors have greater holding power than others. The most commonly used anchors today are the Danforth, Yachtsman, Mushroom, Grapnel, Northill and the Plow.

The most popular anchor for small recreational boats is the Danforth. It is a lightweight anchor with long, narrow twin flukes that dig into the bottom. The Yachman's anchor has a shape that makes it awkward to stow and is carried mainly by long range cruisers for use as a storm anchor. The Mushroom anchor, when embedded, has tremendous holding power. It can hold a boat well in mud or sand in calm, protected waters and is popular with fishermen. The Mushroom anchor does not work well, however, in grassy or rocky bottoms. The Grapnel anchor is used primarily in rocky bottoms. The Northill anchor is an all purpose anchor with sharp bill points that dig into the bottom as soon as there is a pull on the anchor line. The Plow anchor is an efficient anchor but clumsy to handle and stow. It is used most often on large sail boats.

Your boat should carry at least two anchors. One anchor should be small and lightweight for use in good weather when anchoring in protected waters, or for short stops while fishing. The second Anchor should be larger and heavier for use such as overnight anchoring or when in a situation where your boat might drag its anchor.

The type of anchoring equipment "ground tackle" you carry should depend on the type, weight and length of your boat. For instance, if you are using a standard working Danforth anchor and your boat length is 15 feet, the recommended anchor is 4S. For a 16 to 25 foot boat the size is 8S, a 26 to 30 foot boat 13S, a 31 to 35 foot boat 22S and a 36 to 40 foot boat the size is 40S. Check with your local marine store to match the rest of your "ground tackle" (shackle, chain, line) with the proper size anchor. Also, the characteristics of the bottom and depth of the water in which you will anchor are important considerations in choosing

the proper "ground tackle". To be adequate, your "ground tackle" must hold your boat securely under the most adverse conditions.

The anchor line and chain is called the rode. The best combination consists of about 4 to 6 feet of heavy chain, a shackle, a thimble and a nylon line. The chain helps the rode lie flat on the bottom enabling the anchor to dig in. It also protects the rode against chafing in rocky bottoms. Nylon is the recommended anchor line as its elasticity eases the shock of the boats movements on the anchor. Your anchor will hold best when the pull of the rode is as nearly horizontal as possible. For this reason, holding power increases as you increase the length of the rode.

The "scope" of an anchor rode is the ratio of its length to the depth of the water. The normal scope for holding a boat is 7:1, or 7 feet of rode for each foot of water. A scope of 5:1 is marginal and a scope of 3:1 is poor unless you have excellent weather and a bottom good for anchoring. A 3:1 scope is usually OK for short stops to fish in good weather.

The first step in anchoring is, obviously, to check the depth and nature of the bottom. If the circumstances for anchoring are satisfactory, head your boat into the wind or current, make sure your anchor rode can run free, reverse your engine and lower the anchor carefully as you move astern. Do not drop the anchor or throw it over the side as it can fowl and will not hold. Also, make sure you have tied the "bitter" end of the anchor line securely to the anchor locker, or you will have a very "bitter" feeling as you watch the end of the line leave your boat.

After you have determined that you have sufficient line out, and the anchor has dug in and is holding, secure the line to a bow cleat and turn off your engine. NEVER, I repeat, NEVER tie off your anchor to the side or stern of your boat. It may be easy and convenient at times but it is also very dangerous. Large wakes from passing vessels or "rogue waves" can swamp a boat when it is anchored by the side or stern. In a strong current, boats can be pushed under the water by the force of the current if anchored by the stern.

When you are ready to leave an anchorage, always start your engine before taking in "weighing" the anchor. To take in your anchor, move your boat ahead slowly, taking in the rode slack as you go, to a position directly over the anchor. Usually the anchor will break free of the bottom when you are directly over it. If it breaks free, raise it and stow it. If the anchor does not break free, tie the line to the bow cleat and run your boat slowly in a wide circle around the anchor with the line tight to free it. Follow the above simple suggestions for easy anchoring and continue to enjoy pleasant and safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales

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The Cay Concluded

back at their boat revealed it being torn apart and sunk. The seas were brutal causing each to swallow seawater. It was only a half mile swim and yet it seemed it took them nearly all night long to make the distance. It was only after the troller disappeared beneath the wave that the lost soles from centuries gone by began to show themselves in the face of each wave. Disfigured features hauntingly tracked them. Again these lost soles began to demand return it to the sea. Rick and Kevin frantically began to shout at one another. They realized their very lives were at stake. 'Give what to the sea' was their obvious question but I knew what it was they wanted. Disfigured faces plus arms and hands burst from the waves. Rick and Kevin seemed not to be bothered by these lost soles but for me it was a different story. Their fingers cut like coral does when it encounters flesh and they reached for me. Hands grasped my legs causing me to struggle. I could hear the voices rise louder and louder in my head. Return to the sea, return to the sea was repeated and repeated. Hands grasped my torso, my shoulders and arms. Each hand added weight and impeded my progress toward Deadman's Cay. Slowly, they were taking me toward the bottom. I knew what they were after. I felt my flesh rip as I struggled to get my arm free of their grasp. My hand reached into my pocket clutching a gold doubloon. Stonily hands grasped mine towing me under the sea. As his

lungs burned for oxygen, my grasped relaxed causing me to let go of the last piece of gold. The hands upon me released freeing me.

His story continued but for only a brief moment. The three of them spent three days on Deadman's Cay seeking shelter and water from the British water cistern placed there in the 17th century for marooned sailors. He recalled that at their feet laid a fortune in gold and silver surrounding the cistern and all that treasure remains.

For me his story seemed tough to swallow until I shook his hand. It was only then I could see scars tracing down his forearms. I could only then understand their pain.

Happy Halloween,
Rob Darner

On a sad note, long time past member **Wendell Brooks** passed away on August 21, 2009.

Our condolences to his family and friends
We need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

*May his waters be calm, the boat ride short and smooth, the fish be biting, and big.
He will be missed.*



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Renewal)

The JOSFC invites the participation of all area fishing enthusiasts and is dedicated to conservation, preservation and fellowship with our membership.

NAME _____ HOME PH. _____
 SPOUSE'S NAME _____ WORK PH. _____
 ADDRESS _____ CELL PH. _____
 CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ OCCUPATION _____
 BOAT NAME _____ MAKE _____ LENGTH _____

Family Membership \$50.00 Individual Member \$40.00

(Husband, Wife, & Children under 16)

Paid Junior Member \$5.00

Annual Associate Member \$100.00

(For Business Concerns)

Application Fee \$25.00

(Applicable to NEW Members or if renewing over 6 months late)

Life Member Individual \$250.00

Life Family Membership \$300.00

Total Remittance

Signature _____ Date _____



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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



Just a couple of pictures of the out of this world raffle prizes that we have for our Awards Banquet



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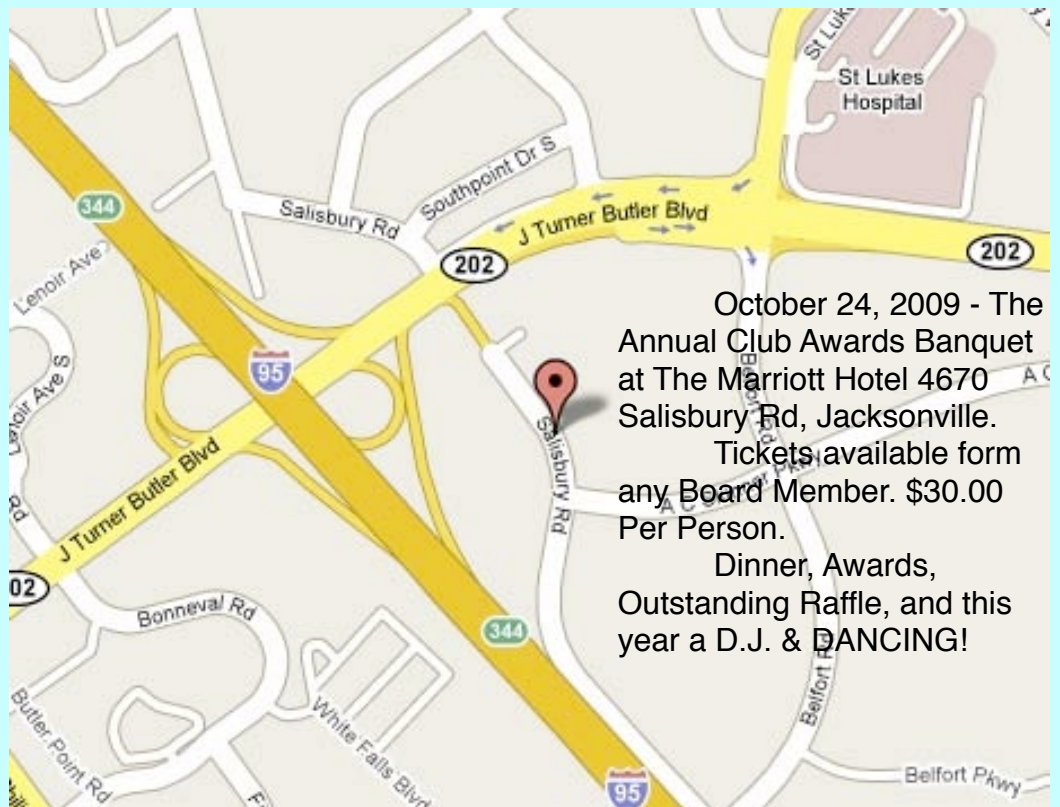
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 20px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">October</div>				1 Club Meeting Voting for the new Board & Officers	2	3
				4	5 Board Meeting	6
11	12	13	14	15 Club Meeting Jr. Angler Awards starts 7:00 PM	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 The JOSFC Annual Awards Banquet!
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Coming Events:

October 1, 2009 - The fishing boards re-Open

October 15, 2009 - JR. Angler Awards @ Club starting @ 7:00 PM

November 7 & 8, 2009 Florida Sportsman fishing Expo. @ Prime Osborne Center



October 24, 2009 - The Annual Club Awards Banquet at The Marriott Hotel 4670 Salisbury Rd, Jacksonville. Tickets available form any Board Member. \$30.00 Per Person. Dinner, Awards, Outstanding Raffle, and this year a D.J. & DANCING!

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 • www.southernpropane.net • 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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It is time to renew your membership and join the fun!