



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 48 Issue 11

November 2008



Presidents Castings

Captain Chris Rooney

Transitions in the 50th Year

Well this is the year the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club turns 50, it's been a long time coming. I'm just a young buck in the face of an organization that established itself long ago to be at the forefront of the saltwater fishing community. Names I've heard in the yarns told by Charlie Hamaker or Captain George of the old Monty's Marina and people like Paul Mains and Linden Heston, make me humble to serve as the President of the JOSFC in this anniversary year. We have an opportunity this year to accomplish some great things, the reef replenishment program is back and our people are hard at work to make new drops happen. Also it looks like a fall offshore bottom tournament has come back to Mayport and "The Fishing Frolic" could become an important event for the community and the Offshore Club once again.

This also marks Edwina's retirement to the fold and maybe the meetings will start on time. In all seriousness Mr McGowan's council will be used and abused this year by myself and the board. We all thank him for taking the reins these last two years, his presence will be missed at the podium.

The first order of business is the revision of the fishing rules which starts before this letter is published and marks the beginning of the fishing year. As we get into November everyone keep an eye on our all female fishing team headed by Trina Polkey, wouldn't it be great to see them bring back the SKA National Championship. This first news letter is going to be rather short and hope I made some points that all of you wanted to hear. I have an open window for your suggestions at christop.rooney@comcast.net I'll read every one you send and respond to all I can. Lets go Fishing!!!!

Here are your New Officers & Board for our 50th Year as the JOSFC!

OFFICERS:

- | | | |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| President - | - | - Chris Rooney |
| Vice President - | - | - Don Cook |
| Secretary - | - | - Jennifer Davis |
| Treasurer - | - | - Tina Proescher |

BOARD:

- Randy Ralston - Special Events
- Frank Grassi - Books & Charts
- Andy Proescher - Hospitality
- Derik Segal - Fishing Coordinator
- Bill Breen - Newsletter & Website Contact
- Tony Thompson - Membership
- Eddie McGowan - Advisor to President

The 2008 JOSFC Annual Awards Banquet



If you were not there, you missed a Great Party! Everyone had a good time, and plenty of good food.

The food was really well prepared and a good variety. We had Roast Pork, Swordfish, Prime Rib,

Potatoes, Rice, Vegetables, Salad and Rolls. Needless to say, no one went home hungry.

For those of you who don't know the story, our Past President Eddie McGowan AKA Edwina, was trying for Captain of the year for several years, and about the 5 th year in a row that he came in second, or the "Brides Maid" he had made a bet that he was going to win or he would wear a Brides Maid Dress. Well he came in second and had to wear a dress, that is where we got Edwina. Well this year he won! As part of his original bet, he said if he won, he would wear a Brides Veil.

Marge Hackbart E-mailed me, from Germany, reminding me of his agreement. Charleen Parker brought a veil and when Eddie was awarded his Captain of the Year Reel and Plaque, true to his word, Eddie wore his Bridal Veil! (Picture on page 6)

There were tons of great raffles, and I doubt if anyone went home empty handed.

We had two Tiagra 30 Wide Reels on matching rods in the raffle and they were both won by Charlie Hamaker! Now that is one lucky guy!



Of course everyone was awarded their plaques, reels and certificates for winning their respective boards, or having caught the largest fish of each species for the year.

As I said at the beginning, this was a great Banquet. Start making plans to attend the 2009 Awards Banquet, It will be a big 50th year celebration for the JOSFC!



Chuck Darner (above) and Bill Wilderotter (Below) each hold up BIG redfish that they caught and released about a mile south of the jetties at the end of September. They said that the fish were fighting to get on their hooks, with double hook-ups and non-stop action!



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- President Chris Rooney
- Vice President Don Cook
- Secretary Jennifer Davis
- Treasurer Tina Proescher
- Newsletter Editor Bill Breen
- Newsletter Staff Bill Breen, Greg Molloy
- Layout & Design Bill Breen

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Rob's Fishing Lore

Rob Darner

Thanksgiving Fish

Thanksgiving is a holiday based on reflection of what was. As this holiday roles closer and closer, one can not help but reflect on the events of the year. So far, this year has been a whopper with all the trials and tribulations surrounding my family. Through it though, there have been some Constance's such as family, friends and fishing. Although my days spent fishing has decreased for 2008 for obvious reasons, it does not mean there has been a lack of some stories surrounding the adventures of the *Let's Go* boat and crew. It is because of our current trials and tribulations that I now treasure these weekend adventures much more than I use to.

There are three such instances that seem to stand out to me from 2008. The first of these I would classify as a fishing folly while the second is a more serious adventure while the third is something completely different. During 2008, I was lucky enough to find the time to fish the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament. It was the events surrounding the second day which causes me a few chuckles when I remember it. On that particular day, the not so mighty *Let's Go* could not run and gun with the go fast boats. When we arrived to our once secret spot, there were forty plus boats trolling around a small half mile reef patch. All these boats were testing there skills against one another for that all important 'grandma' kingfish. After spending ninety minutes or so here without much to show for it, we pack up our blue runners and headed off. It was our third spot that we had all alone. It was on this spot that we caught one teenage kingfish and thus we stuck it out right here till our deadline approached. Just like Day 1, we had blue runner trouble. Our trouble came in the form of the blue runners sprinting toward the boat and wrapping the prop in mono and wire. This was very old and tiresome by Day 2. For our trouble, we brought in all the fishing lines except for the shotgun line. The *Let's Go* boat drifted helplessly fifty miles out at sea as both Dad and I took turns trying to unwrap the prop. As we were concentrating on the task on hand, the shotgun line took off. Mike was fighting the fish from a dead boat while the prop became free. Just like the last scoring drive in a college football game, time mattered. We were approaching our deadline. Maximum pressure was applied and applied and the fish would not budge. After an hour, the fish surrendered to the gaff. In our minds, we had a prize winning fish. The boat was packed up and we ran hard homeward. The fish ended up weighing only 26.6 pounds but we had thought the fish was about ten pounds heavier. That ninety minute run was one

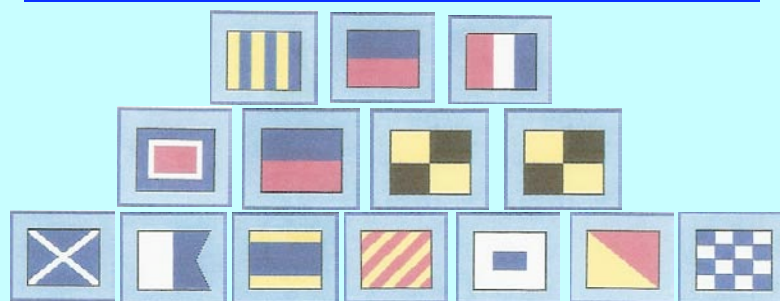
of constant excitement measuring time and distance against what we might have won. It was this excitement just believing we had a possible winner that made the whole episode special.

Recently, Madyson restarted her chemotherapy for the third time. Her current regiment calls for a big blast of chemo once every four weeks. It is remarkable how well she tolerates the chemo; however, she still has some of the common side effects. It was Friday night near 3 am in which the nausea and sickness overcame her. She was up dealing with the ill effects and I was up helping her. Between bathroom trips, she looked up at me with big brown tired eyes and a pale complexion. She asked me to take her fishing that morning. How would you have answered her? How could I say no to that request? Even though I wanted to fish the Offshore Rodeo's snapper tournament, I would have had a lifelong regret if she stayed home. Instead, she came along with Grandpa and her cousin Brian to try her luck at croaker fishing. It took us nearly four hours to use up one and half pounds of fresh dead shrimp and four dozen live shrimp on fifty to sixty croakers. A few sand and yellow mouth trout were thrown in for good measure. I believe the total was Brian & Madyson, 25 while Dad and Grandpa had 24. They won!

Something, I doubt I will likely never forget occurred on September 27. September 27 was Casino Night. It has been estimated that nearly two hundred and sixty people showed up. It was a truly amazing spectacle to behold. Family and friends abound in the auditorium all to show love and support for Madyson. A vast majority of these high rollers emerged from their boats just to throw dice, spin a ball or count to twenty-one while betting on her to succeed. When it comes to this event, I am a poor writer because words escape me to properly express my gratitude to each and every one of you. Even if I did not have a couple of adult beverages too many, the smile would not have left my face because of the honor you have shown to me and my family. Simply a THANK YOU will have to do.

The Pilgrims sat down with the Indians to give thanks. Together they ate turkey and gave praise to the Lord for bring them through the year. Every time I go fishing nowadays, I give thanks for just having the opportunity to live a dream others want to enjoy. It does not matter weather the fish is a tournament winner or just a simple croaker, it is all good. I am thankful for having the opportunity to be there and find enjoyment out of such an exciting sport.

Best Wishes for Fishing,
Rob Darner





Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

Anchoring

Each boat captain, in order to maintain the perfect position over that honey hole of grouper or snapper, 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, Northhill 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 Yatchman'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 Northhill 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



He's on his way,



The Dry Dock

For Sale:

Boat Slip and Lift

A locked, gated Boat Slip and Lift on the south side of the St. Johns River Reduced from \$45,000 to \$35,000 (\$33,500 to JOSFC member) - call Bill Breen

Associate Member of the Month

Boathouse Discount Marine

5615 Blanding Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32244-1922
904 - 778 - 7775

Boathouse Discount Marine has all the parts that you need to Fix, Repair, Modify, Update, Outfit, or just get your boat ready for the water. If they don't have it, they can order it for you!

Derek Seigal our current fishing director works there, and is always glad to help anyone out. The entire crew there are just as helpful as Derek, and most have been working there for a long time, so they know their inventory, and what you need to get that old engine or boat working.

Look for their big yellow sign just south of 103rd street on the east side of Blanding Blvd.

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



The EL CHEAPO IS COMING!

It is time to start working on our contacts for the El Cheapo Sheepshead tournament. This is our club's 50th year, and we want to make it the biggest and best year yet.

Now with things being tough all over, we need to start working on any one that YOU know, reminding them that we will need support and Raffle prizes come February. Ask them, no, tell them to start setting a little aside each month, for the next 4 months, so they can give something really nice come the end of February.

Remind them that we hand out thousands of entry brochures that will have their name on it as advertising, and that they can write it off as advertising at the end of the year.

We have 4 levels of sponsors. Presenting Sponsors (Major Prizes), Platinum Sponsors (over \$500.00), Gold Sponsors (\$300 to \$500) and Silver Sponsors (Under \$300).

Remind them that this is a major event, 300 boats with an average of 4 fishermen per boat, the BIG Fish Fry with the fishermen and their families and Live Radio covering the event as well as lots of pre-advertising by the club.

Remind them of the Captains Bags, anything they can donate with their name on it like key rings, stickers, coupons etc. For 300 bags or 100 Junior Angler Bags.



Loud Hailings

Newsletter Editor Bill Breen

Randy Ralston, our Program Director, says that if you have a suggestion for a guest speaker or know anyone he can trick into giving a talk at the club, be sure to give him their name so he can contact them. Lets help Randy out!

I really like to feature PICTURES of club members with some good catches. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting (I will return it to you) or Phone, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at: PH# 904-254-2791 Fax#904-213-9786 breenw@bellsouth.net Don't forget to include your name 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.



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
Ken Roach	221 - 7212	Any Day	Up to 8:00 pm the day before.



The 2008 Awards Banquet was a huge success! Eddie had to wear a Bridal Veil for FINALLY winning Captain of The Year. LOTS of great raffle prizes and Great Food!



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
		November					1
2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6 Club Meeting	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20 Club Meeting	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							

Coming Events:

December 9, 2008 - The Committee Heads meeting for the El Cheapo at the club house 7:30 PM

December 18, 2008 - The club's Pot Luck Christmas Party

January 15, 2009 - The club's Annual Swap Meet, start putting together a box of fishing gear and other things you don't use, to swap or sell.

January 29, 2009 - The Full Volunteers meeting for the EL Cheapo at the Club House 7:30PM

February 5, 2009 - The club's Chili Cook-off Contest. Set aside some venison or whatever special ingredients you use to make the world's best Chili!

Finally - But not least. February 28th is THE EL CHEAPO SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT!

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 •



**Jacksonville Offshore
Sport Fishing Club**

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