



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 49 Issue 12

December 2009



Presidents Castings

Captain Chris Rooney



December Remembering the Legacy

Well this has been a great year for the Club, we've seen the membership increase, the El-Chepo reach new heights, and the banquet gave us the chance to honor the best fishermen and women of the year. Our legacy for the Reef Building program has restarted with a bang, the Spike and culvert drops will bring us pleasure for years to come. These are just a few of the things we do as an organization that provide a legacy to pass down to our kids and grandkids. One large part of that legacy is

Continued on Page 2

In Memory of Our Good Friend



Greg Molloy

September 7, 1946 - November 5, 2009



Thank you for all the Red Snapper Recipes, they are great! Remember this is a booklet of OUR fish recipes. Each month I will ask for how YOU cook a different type of fish that we catch here off Jacksonville.

You can E-mail your way of cooking your catch to me at breenw@bellsouth.net, or fax it to me at 904-213-9786 or snail mail them to me at Bill Breen, 684 Tropical Parkway, Orange Park, FL 32073, or hand it to me at the meetings. This month the featured fish is the Grouper. Thanks Bill

Presidents castings Continued

Sportsmanship, it's the set of values that make our club special and teach our kids those values.

The legacy for promoting conservation in our sport, through 50 years of artificial reef building is known and emulated up and down the Atlantic coast. It's the reason, in my mind, the South Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council thinks they have to close part of the Ocean off Jacksonville, to save the Snapper. December is a good month for the Legacy of the club, our Christmas party celebrates the end of the year with a visit from old Chris Cringle himself. The Lure Tree will be loaded with everything from a Mister Big to a TBS jig, and some lucky angler will go home with enough lures to fill a new tackle bag.

The fight for our fishing rights is going to escalate and come to a head, in the coming year. This month should be a quiet month to spend time with family and friends, but we need to remember its not over yet. The Florida Congressmen and Senators need to hear from all of us. The necessary legislation to make the SAMFC

slow down and do the necessary work for an accurate Stock Assessment has been introduced in Congress. It will make the changes required to current law allowing them more time to determine the true biomass and where we need to go from here. The members who were with us at the hearings know the council was just there because they had to be by law. It didn't really seem to me they were listening.

Well I'm sure Bill is looking for this and just about ready to shoot me yet again, for it being late and the fish are biting. Remember the legacy!!



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Rob's Fishing

The Holy Rod

It tis' the Season and soon Saint Nick will arrive. But the season is just more than rods and reels and the fish we catch. For Christmas is bigger than it and us is a time to look inward and toward our fellow man. Everyone hears of items that posses certain mystical powers that may heal the sick, transform non-believers and alter lives just have those items come into their presence. Well, I do not know if the Holy Rod is a life altering experience but I do not doubt its power. For the 'Holy' Rod was born with something special in mind.

A couple of Christmas' ago I received a rod as a present. The rod was to go with the reel I received for my birthday a few weeks before that. The rod and reel combo was specifically designed for live bait fishing. The rod was 7-footer with a light flexible tip. The rod was unremarkable in make for it truly is just one of many. My reel of choice is the TDL 20 by Shimano and the reel came with six hundred yards of Berkley 20 pound Big Game Green mono. Needless to say, during the winter months the rod and reel combo did not see much action. I can tell you that it did not make the boat nor did it touch the water until the day had arrived. This day was to prove altering in the creation of the 'Holy' rod.

It was a spring day much like many others here on the First Coast. The only exception to this being just a normal day is that we decided to participate in the Blessing-of-the-Fleet. The Blessing-of-the-Fleet took place downtown at the Landings. A Greek Orthodox priest conducted the ceremony. On a lark, I decided to take my new rod and reel with me so we could get Dad's old *High Roller* blessed. We put in at the Lion's Park in Arlington and traveled downstream. We waited in line with the rest of the fleet so we could have our turn and be blessed. The rod and reel was set in the port rod holder closer to the priest. As our turn came and went, the priest blessed us. In typical fashion, the priest sprinkled Holy Water on the vessel. Some of the Holy Water touched the boat, it touched the people inside and more importantly it touched the rod. Knowing what had just happened, my Dad and I coined the phrase 'Holy Rod'.

As time has gone by, the mystical powers have seemed to grow. The presence of the Holy Rod has been felt. The Holy Rod has performed some miracles of what is now part of Rob's fishing lore. During last year's club Non-Live Bait Tournament, fishing was slow. The Holy Rod sang out first and we boated the first of three Kingfish to take the tournament. While fishing with Bill Wilarodder, we spoke of the rod's mystical powers. Within ten minute of finishing our spiel on the rod, it went off. It was on the downrigger when the fish struck. As Bill fought the fish the power of the

rod shined through. For example, the rig was a single #2 live bait hook with a #6 stinger hook attached by 43- pound wire. Bill just had to make three quick strikes just like one would set the hook on any Sailfish or Tarpon. For small hooks this is generally the kiss-of-death; however, it would not be so for the Holy Rod. After a prolong fight and general guessing to what the fish was it turned out to be a 6 to 7 foot Black Tip Shark which we estimated to weigh 120 plus pounds. Another such testimony comes from fishing with my wife on a fine June weekend. We were down in Mantazas prefishing for Kingfish when a 90-pound Tarpon struck. The fish did all it could to throw the hooks and ditch its captures but it was no use. The Holy Rod won out! The fish was released alive to fight another day. And even if you still doubt it spiritual powers we can add this to the mix. In the GJKT '04, our only Kingfish came off the downrigger, which contained the Holy Rod. The rod did not produce a winning Kingfish until the '05 GJKT. That fish came only after, the mighty *Let's Go* team blew its first chance at a large Kingfish using the Penn 12T. I guess now the Holy Rod may grant redemption if the spirit so moves it.

By now you know the story behind the Holy Rod. As such, I am a believer and the Holy Rod only enforces the faith that I have. What has started out as a funny comment has grown into the lore of Rob's fishing fables. It is enough to make one wonder if it is just coincidence or is there something more? I can only image what other wonders this rod has in store for our fishing adventures. For what ever it is, I am sure it will be wonderful.

It is my pleasure and from the Darner Family, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday to all.

Best Wishin' for Fishin'
Rob

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Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram
Safety Officer**

Boat Handling In Rough Seas

With the advent of cooler weather and fronts moving through our area, I think it is time to remind everyone of the need to take proper precautions when boating in heavy weather and rough seas. You may recall the incident, offshore Mayport, where a 21 foot Hydra Sport capsized in rough seas.

As cold weather fronts begin moving through our area over the next couple of months, we can expect to encounter more severe weather and rougher seas when we head out to our favorite fishing spot. Also, I would like to remind everyone that the Captain of a vessel is responsible for the safety of his/her vessel and the crew.

Boating and fishing is usually done in fair weather. Over the winter months the seas and weather can be very dangerous. However, if you should consider going out in your boat in rough deteriorating weather, my advice is "don't do it". There are times, however, that you may be out and get caught in bad weather before you can return to port. An understanding of the principles of heavy weather seamanship is helpful if this should happen to you.

Heavy weather, in itself, does not place a small boat in danger. A solid boat, operated by a knowledgeable skipper is usually equal to the task. In fact, your boat can probably take more adverse weather conditions than you can. If the sea state increases and you must run into the wind, the bow of your boat will plow into the waves instead of lifting up over them. This will not only cause your boat to take a tremendous pounding, but your propeller will rise out of the water causing your engine to race wildly one moment and load the next as it falls back into the water.

If you find yourself in this situation, slow your boat so the bow can lift with the waves. Then, instead of running directly into the waves, take them at about a 45 degree angle. Your boat will go up and down on its long axis and up and down sideways (pitch and role). Pitching and rolling are easier on you and your boat than the pounding caused by going directly into the waves.

In heavy seas, you may have to run a "zig-zag" course taking the seas broad on your bow for awhile then off your quarter in order to reach your destination. If you find it difficult to make headway under these conditions, recommend you lay to. That is, use only enough power to keep your bow headed into the wind. Adjust your speed so that you are making neither headway nor sternway.

If you find yourself in a situation with a following sea in heavy weather, you have to be concerned about broaching or pitchpoling. In deep water a following sea is usually not as much of a problem as in shallow water. In a following sea, the

force of the water can cause your boat to yaw wildly from side to side. The greatest danger occurs when your boat rises on an overtaking wave, its propeller comes out of the water and you no longer have control. At this point it may be thrown broadside into the trough and rolled over (broached) by the next wave. To avoid a broach, you must keep your motor or outdrive in the water by adjusting your speed to stay just behind the crest of the wave in front of you and ahead of the wave behind you. Once a broach has started it is almost impossible to stop.

Should you lose power and find yourself in danger of broaching, throw out a sea anchor to keep your bow into the wind. If you do not have a sea anchor, a bucket or other object can be used. As a last resort, if depth permits, drop your regular anchor. Never, I repeat, never anchor by the stern of your boat.

If you don't stay behind a wave's crest, you may find yourself racing down the forward face of the wave at a greatly increased speed. Your boat can then plow into the trough burying its bow in water. The next wave may pick up your stern and flip your boat end over end (pitchpoled). Follow these simple suggestions and may you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram
Fish Tales



Loud Hailings Newsletter Editor Bill Breen

Butch Ogin, 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 Butch 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.



This is your last month to renew before your membership expires!

Just to remind you, if you have a fish on the boards, and have not renewed by January 1, 2010, Off it comes, and does not get put back on when you renew. Your Kid have one on the boards? It comes off also. You have to go catch another bigger one! After the February Newsletter, you will be taken off the mailing list, and miss out on this Fantastic, informative, beautiful, newsletter! (OK, so I might be a little bias about my newsletter.)

Aside from all the great free meals, the fantastic raffles, and great fish stories, we kinda like your company, so

RENEW NOW BEFORE IT IS TO LATE!



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Renewal)

The JOSFC invites the participation of all area fishing enthusiast 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

(Husband, Wife, & Children under 16)

Annual Associate Member\$100.00

(For Business Concerns)

Life Member Individual \$250.00

Life Family Membership \$300.00

Individual Member \$40.00

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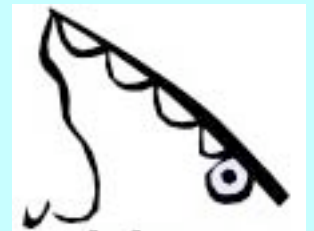
(Applicable to NEW Members or if renewing over 6 months late)

Total Remittance

Signature _____ Date _____

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
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369	-	Weekends	-	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

***Need some extra Cash?***

A friend of the Del Rio's will be at the Club at the December 3 rd meeting, and he will be buying old Gold and Silver jewelry and coins. They will analyze and weigh what you bring, and make an offer right there. If you choose to accept the offer you will get CASH right there!

They are Buy-Gold-Jacksonville, a local company and at this event they will be offering TOP Prices! Bring in your old broken or unused stuff, and get some extra cash for Fishing, or Christmas presents!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Club Meeting Cash for Gold at the meeting	4	5
6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 El Cheapo Planning Meeting 7:30 PM	16	17 Club Meeting Annual Club Christmas PARTY	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<h1>December</h1>	

Coming Events:

December 3 rd - Cash for gold at the meeting, a friend of the Del Rio's will be there for us, buying old gold jewelry and Silver and coins. Need some cash for fishing?

December 15 th - El Cheapo Planning meeting at the Club House at 7:30 PM.

December 17 th - The Club's Annual Christmas Party at the Club House at 7:30 PM.

January 21st - The Club's Annual Swap meet.



February 27, 2010



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It is time to renew your membership and join the fun!