



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 52 Issue 12

December 2012



Merry Christmas



*Here is wishing you Tight Lines and Smooth Waters, for all of you,
from your crew at the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club*



PRESIDENTS CASTINGS Capt. Paul Gallup

Well December is upon us and I hope everybody had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. If you missed the annual Thanksgiving dinner at the club house, well you missed out. Thank you Will Aitken for preparing the turkeys and Gerry Del Rio for preparing the ham. Also thank everyone else that brought something for sharing your family recipes with our family at the club. Every thing was fabulous. The new board has taken over and so far the transition has been smooth. Over the next couple of months we will be preparing for our biggest event of the year, the El Cheapo tournament. It will and always has been a huge undertaking and we will need as many volunteers as possible to make it happen.

Continued Page 2

Presidents Continued

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Christmas party coming up as well, that means the “Lure Tree”. Bring a new lure, hang it on the tree, get a raffle ticket and get lucky!! If you are going to be bringing kids to the party, please get with Tina Proescher at 442-1479 with there ages, boy or girl and how many you are bringing so we can have something there for them. On the fishing front, I’ve herd some good reports of flounder and sheepshead being caught with the cooler weather. Offshore there are some Wahoo and some Blackfin being caught to the south of St. Augustine. Pick your days, be safe and don’t forget to file a float plan.

Until next time, tight lines and following seas.

Capt Paul Lello



Junior Angler Patrick Gallup getting his Board Awards from Capt. Don Dingman and Past Pres. Danny Del Rio.



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Loud Hailings

Newsletter Editor
 Bill Breen



Our Program Director, Will Aitken 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 him 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 E-mail me your pictures at: breenw@bellsouth.net Ph. # 904-254-2791 Don't forget to include your name spelled correctly and the fish weight, and names of anyone in the Picture!

Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News just send or give it to me at any time.



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

America's waterway watch And Boat Handling In Rough Seas

The US Coast Guard has a relatively new program called America's Waterway Watch, which is a public outreach program encouraging participants to simply report suspicious activity on the water to the Coast Guard and/or other law enforcement agencies.

As a recreational boater, the US Coast Guard wants your help in keeping the waterways safe and secure. You can do this by participating in its waterway watch program. The program is a nationwide initiative similar to the well-known and successful Neighborhood Watch program that asks community members to report suspicious activities to local law enforcement agencies. However, unlike some neighborhood watch programs, you do not join the organization, there are no meetings, or membership requirements, and you do not need to be a member of the Coast Guard or other law enforcement agency.

As a person who spends time on or near the water, you already know what is normal and what is not. You are well suited to notice suspicious activities, which may indicate a threat to our nation's homeland security. As a participant in America's Waterway Watch, all you have to do is adopt a heightened sense of awareness toward unusual events or individuals you may encounter in or around ports, docks, marinas, riversides, beaches, or waterfront communities. To report any activity you think is suspicious call 1-877-249-2824. If you think the activity requires immediate action, call 911.

Now, to the subject of boat handling in rough seas. With the advent of cooler weather and fronts moving through our area, everyone should be aware of the need to take proper precautions when boating in heavy weather and rough seas. A boat can capsize quickly and you will not have time to put on your life jacket. So, wear it at all times in rough seas.

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 roll). 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 "zigzag" course taking the seas broad on your bow for a while 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

**You can only fish for so long, before
you just have to throw a stick of
dynamite in the water!**



The undisputed, best time of the year

Anytime I'm not sweating, is a good time of year for me. But that's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking inshore fishing at its best. Now that it's December, we're already two months into the "best of the best."

Believe me, being in the full-time inshore fishing

charter business for 16 years has taught me one thing. "People go fishing when they can, instead of going fishing when they should."

The best inshore fishing of the entire year in Jacksonville is, October through April.

Not in July!

As many people think, in the rest of the country. The people that do more than one hot and sweaty day searching for a decent bite in July, quickly find out. As soon as they come back in the fall or winter, it's a whole different ball game!

So here we are in December, it's going to be a nice calm weekend. You want to just relax and hang inshore. What should you do?

Well, I'll be perfectly frank with you. I don't Sheepshead fish! At least not right now, and not intentionally.

That's sacrilegious, you say? "Yeah, whatever"..... is what I say?

I pull into the gas station and while sitting on my bait well with the pump nozzle in hand I've had up to three people in one 20 minute pumping session ask me, "How's the Sheepshead biting?" I reply, "Good, I guess...."

Instead, I'm addicted to what I believe is a traditional way of fishing in N.E. Florida and up through Georgia, and maybe a little past St. Augustine. It worked 30 years ago, and still works today. It's called Float-rigging, around here. But other's that do it may call it "slip floating".

I catch them all. Trout, Redfish, Sheepshead, Black Drum, Flounder, Weakfish, Pompano, Bonnet head Shark, Jacks, Ladyfish, Whiting, Spanish Mackerel, Bluefish, Mangrove Snapper, Black Margate, Ringtailed Porgies, Seabass, Tripletail, Croaker, and even Tarpon!

And I never ever, feel the bite! I just watch my float go down.

And when it does, I reel fast, lift my rod tip, and FISH-ON!

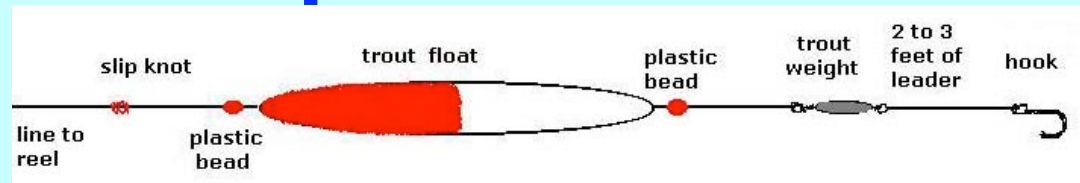
The misconception is that when I say, "float rig" people think I'm talking about a popping cork. When a

popping cork is a fixed concave top Styrofoam float, used in 3' or less of water that's "chugged" or "popped" to attract fish via the sound.

Many think the "float-rig" is just for Trout fishing. But that's not all the super versatile "slip float", can do. The best description of it all is, "Versatility".

We have current, and many times way too much of it. Thanks to the St. Johns River, from the inlet to down town, being completely man-made, and dredged to China. So, with that there's never a lack of current to deploy the float-rig and send your live shrimp over structure.

The key to the whole system is the stopper knot that goes on your line. Preferably the new super Braided lines. Because they float on the surface of the water, rather than mono that sinks. The stopper knot is what's used to "set your depth". The next key feature is the



weight. The correct size weight has to be used to hold your bait down, while the slip float rides up your line and hits the stopper knot. Off the weight, is where you tie a length of mono leader, preferably no longer than 24" inches, and then the hook is tied to the leader.

The hook needs to be small enough so that a live shrimp can swim about unencumbered, and look as natural as possible, and sharp enough to easily pierce through the base of the shrimps horn, while not making a huge hole. I use the deadly sharp Matzuo #1 sickle bend hook. But a common hook used is a #4 or #6 Eagle Claw, Kahle style hook.

When I anchor up, I already know where the structure is that I want to drift over. Or where the bottom has a drop in depth, where the fish may be staged looking for a morsel to come swimming by.

Always start a drift, by setting the depth of the float per the depth you're in. If the sounder says 10 feet, set your depth at 9 feet. And if you hang a high spot behind the boat, shorten up in short increments (about 6-8") till you can make a snag free drift.

Now you're set. The rule of thumb is a foot or so off the mean average depth behind your boat.

Yes, Trout love to feed UP. It's how they are designed by Mother Nature. Eyes high on their head, and a mouth that's straight in front of their eyes. It's a known fact that top water lures are deadly for Trout, because they can so easily take a bait above them.

Continued from Page 4

But for starters a foot off the bottom is a good place to start your drifts. The nice thing about the float-rig is you can easily set the depth shorter or longer just by sliding the stopper knot on your main line.

So how do you catch Redfish and other species on a float-rig. Real simple, if the bait goes in front of a Redfish, it's gonna eat that shrimp, too. Same goes for Flounder. As long as your live shrimp isn't drifting over the structure too shallow, it will get noticed. Biggest mistake all new float-riggers do is skimping on the needed tackle, and not setting their depth correctly.

A popping cork set up to slide up and down your line and a 1/2 ounce egg sinker may catch some fish in really slow, shallow current. But that's not really what that cork is intended for.

Believe me, I have seen it all! The best thing to do is to use the proper float and weight combination that does the job no matter the current or the depth. I use a float made to be used with a 2 ounce weight. And the 2 ounce weight is a sinker style made for fishing with a float. Not an egg sinker, sitting atop a swivel! But rather a torpedo shaped sinker, with swivels on both ends.

I use a length of 15 to 20 pound leader material, and the smallest hook I can get away with. That'll still catch a giant Redfish, or give me at least a chance at holding on to a small Tarpon along the jetties in the first week of June.

The leader on a float-rig is 100% sacrificial. And needs to be!

You want it to break if you hang a high spot, or a rock. Again, the use of braided line helps you bring that float back, but allows you to pop that leader off. As a float-rigger you always want your float to come home. When I'm fishing very snaggy areas, I'll use the 15# leader. If it is the first week in June, and I see nice 32" Tarpon rolling on a school of glass minnows behind my boat at the jetties. I'll bump my leader up to maybe 25# test. 99% of the time, the float-rig is for fishing live shrimp. There are times when I have used small Pogies, or a small Mullet. But, most of the time no matter what the fish are feeding on, a spunky live shrimp going by is like

a wounded Gazelle in front of a Lion. The Lion isn't gonna pass up this easy meal!

I have a saying, "Every fish around here will eat a shrimp. If an 18" Shrimp could be trolled for Marlin, I'm sure you could catch one using a live shrimp!"

Like other types of fishing, there are ways of stepping it up a notch. I like high speed low profile reels like a Shimano Citica or Curado, with a 6:1 gear ratio, at least. This makes for fast line retrieval, and take up of any slack. I also feel the reel is more important than the rod. There are certain qualities that I can only find in a \$30.00, 7'6" Ugly Stik Medium Light rod, that no other rod affords me. That is "suppleness". I don't want my over zealous bass fishing customers to pull the lips off a Speckled Trout, or bend the hook straight in the jaws of a 10 pound Sheepshead either. So the parabolic nature of the Ugly Stik, and forgiveness of its action works for Float-rig fishing with braided line. The line has NO stretch. So I make up for it with the slow action of the rod. The 7'6" length is good for "mending the line" when drifting the float. Like a long fly rod, the rod's length is used to control the line as it drifts along with your float.

"But Dave, you're talking bait casting rods and reels, right? I'm a spinner guy."

Well, you're right. I use only bait casting tackle for Float-rig fishing. In my opinion, spinning tackle has NO place in the world of float-rigging. If you want to know why, it'll be my pleasure to have you aboard the Jettywolf for a day, and I'll show you why!

Remember, in the beginning of this article I mentioned using the proper float and weight? Same goes for rods and reel.

For more info on setting up a proper float-rig, please visit this video tutorial on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRpVBlmpFs&feature=plcp> or to view more inshore video's to include float-rig fishing, my YouTube channel address is: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BLM26CC?feat=www.captives.com> ure=mhee
See ya on the river.

Seriously, Why not Renew?

It is the best value for your money you will get around here.

First it is dirt cheap to belong to our club. Individual membership is only \$40.00 / Year, and a family membership is only \$50.00 / Year.

That is for a full YEAR!

Here are some of the benefits, for your \$40.00 or \$50.00 per YEAR, you get:

- 1 - 24 FREE meals for you and your family and any friends you bring to a club meeting.
- 2 - Your Membership card is good for 10% to 15% off your purchases at several of our local bait, tackle and boating shops around Jacksonville. (Just pull it out and ask!)
- 3 - You can always find someone that will help pay for gas & bait and go fishing with you.
- 4 - You can find free or discounted help working on your boat from several members.

5 - You will benefit from programs and seminars that bring fishing knowledge from area experts, revealing secrets they share only with JOSFC members.

6 - When you post a fish to the boards you get a \$5.00 fish slip to spend at local bait & tackle shops or for club merchandise. Post 10 fish, and you have paid for your family membership!

7- You will be able to help maintain and enhance the most prolific artificial reef program in the U.S. (Over 270 drops in the Club's 52 years)

8 - Last but not least, the CLUB is constantly fighting for your right to fish, and the more members we can say we represent when we get up to testify the louder our voice is to the SAMFC. Even if you have not been an active member, if you fish, and want to continue fishing, you need to join at least one organization that is fighting for your right to fish! The JOSFC is doing just that. Every member we have adds weight to our words at the meetings we attend. Our combined voice is beginning to be heard. **WE NEED YOU!**

You can renew by going to our Web-Site www.jaxfish.com Click on the "About" tab, scroll down to "JOSFC Membership" and click on the "Existing Members Renew" OR fill out and mail the below form to the address on the back of the Newsletter OR come to one of our fun meetings and renew with Tom Darga our Vice President who is standing in for our membership Director Rob Darner, in person.

Please Renew and come on out to the meetings and have some fun! If you have NOT been getting the Up-date and reminder of the meetings E-mails, let me know. Also make sure you have this E-mail address in your address book. JOSFC <breenw@bellsouth.net>

This club is a legacy we must preserve for our children and grandchildren and sometimes we have to work /volunteer overtime to ensure just that.



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)

Individual Member \$40.00

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 _____

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			December			1 
2 	3 Board Meeting 	4 	5 	6 Club Meeting 1st annual Chowder Cook-Off 	7 	8 
9 	10 	11 	12 El Cheapo Planning Meeting 7:30 PM 	13 	14 	15 
16 	17 	18 	19 	20 Club Meeting Christmas Party! 	21 	22 
23 	24 	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 	26 	27 	28 	29 
30 	31 					

Coming Events:

Sgt. Bash is coming! 

Dec. 6th - Decorate the Club, and 1 st Annual Chowder Cook-Off.

Dec. 12th - Planning Meeting for El Cheapo.

December 20th - The Club Christmas Party, Complete with Santa for the kids! Don't forget the "Lure Tree"!

Jan. 17th - The Annual Club Swap Meet.



Associate Members

• Academy Sports • *Adam Nichols Artworks* • Advantage signs • *All Aluminum Concepts* • Amelia Island Bait & tackle • *Angie's Sub Shop* • Atlantic Coast Marine • *Atlantic Engraving & Graphics* • Available Angler • *Avid Angler* • B & M Bait & Tackle • *Beach Plaza Auto Care* • Best Western Mayport • *Boat U. S./Angler* • Boathouse Discount Marine • *Boattronics* • BOCA Bearings • *Bonefish Grill* • Bowen Upholstery • *Brown's Creek Fish Camp* • C & H Lures • *Capt. Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing* • Catchin' A Buzz Fishing • *Coastal Angler Magazine* • Common Ground Lawn & Landscaping • *Consignment Boat Sales* • Copperhead • *Dell Marine* • Custom Marine Components • *Dandee Foods* • DOA Lures • *Doherty Brothers Marine Construction* • Donovan Heating & Air • *First Coast Powersports* • Fish On • *Fish Carvings by Rick & Billy* • Fishing Connection • *Fishing Nosara.com* • Florida Sportsman Live • *Ft. George Island Marina* • Freedom Boat Club • *Gary Newman Insurance* • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • *Great Atlantic Outfitters* • Hardees • *Home - Zone Cleaning* • Hook The Future • *Hulihan Territory Irrigation Systems* • In River or Ocean • *International Ropes* • Island Electric of the first Coast • *JaxFlats Fishing Apparel* • Julington Creek Carpet Care • *Knight Electric* • Knot-to-Worry • *Kona Skate Park* • Magic Tilt Trailers • *MarineMax* • Mercury Outboards • *Mike's Taxidermy* • Morningstar Marinas at Mayport • *Murphy Communications* • Nosara Paradise Rentals • *Ocean Waves Sunglasses* • Paradise Resort • *Pepsi Bottling Co.* • Pier 17 • *Proctor Ace Hardware* • Progressive Insurance • *Pure Fishing* • Reel Fish Deals • *Rick's Bait & Tackle* • River Marine • *Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service* • Safe Harbor Seafood • *Salty Charters of Jacksonville* • Seadance Charters • *Sea Tow* • Sea Angler Gear • *Schaeffer Manufacturing Co.* • Skate Station Funworks • *SOC 7 Productions* • Solomon's RV & Boat Storage • *Southern Propane* • Singelton's Seafood Shack • *Still Just fishing Show* • Strike Zone Fishing • *Styles Smith Plumbing* • Sumo Design Studio • *Sun Deli* • SweetWater Brewing • *Tait's Bait & Charter* • Taylor Concrete Services • *T.B.S. Jigs & Charter* • The Haggerty Company • *The Ice Man* • The Outdoors Show • *The Spot Tournament* • The Water's Edge • *Towboat US of Jacksonville* • Trout River Fish Co. • *Vic2Fish* • West Marine • *Wild Adventures* • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • *Windsor Park Golf Club* • WLS Contracting • *Woody Wax* • Zaxby's



Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club

P.O. Box 331185
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

PRSRT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit 3546
Jacksonville, FL

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