



The Newsletter of the ...

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

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December 2014

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 CAST NET

Tom Darga

December has arrived and Santa is beginning to gear up with his new sleigh and loading it with all of the new 2015 rods and reels. Wahoo is here and many of the club members have already been out and scout fishing for the upcoming Wahoo tournaments. Chris Rooney has been hot with bottom fishing weighing in Beeliners and Triggers. Thanksgiving as always was nice and I would like to take this time to thank everyone who brought in a dish to share with the other club members.

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The Lure Tree

What the heck is the Lure Tree?! It is the JOSFC Christmas tree! We decorate it with new Lures! OK, here is the deal. . . . YOU bring a new lure or 2 or 3 or more and hang them on the Christmas tree. For each Lure you bring, you get a special raffle

ticket. At the end of the night, we draw one (1) and one only ticket. The lucky holder of that ticket wins ALL the lures on the tree!

That is usually about a 5 gallon bucket FULL of good lures! Several hundred dollars worth of lures!

Don't have any extra lures to hang on the tree? See Steve Grant at C & H Lures, I am sure he will be glad to sell you some so he can try to win them for himself at the Christmas Party!



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Presidents Cast Net Continued

On Nov 8th Hook the Future held its annual Fishing Pier tournament. I want to thank all of the members who came out to help support Don and this worthy cause. First place went to one of our own for the second time in three years, Ameila Siegel. Way to go Amiela.

Christmas Dinner and Santa

December 18th will be the annual Christmas Dinner with a visit from Santa. The club will be providing the meat and dessert. If we all ask Bill Breen nicely he may bring his hot smoked butt. Fish Slips - With the fishing boards reopened all fish slips need to be turned in to Greg Wallace by 7:30 to receive your ticket. If the slip is turned in after this time it will be presented to you at the next meeting.

Fishing Tournament

The Nov 22nd Triple Challenge Slam with Flounder, Redfish and Trout being the targeted Species. was postponed due to high winds, we will let you know ASAP when we reschedule it

Tom Darga
 JOSFC President



You may have noticed a couple of subtle hints around this newsletter, but I will come right out and say it.

The El Cheapo is coming!

This is where we get most of the money we use for our operating expenses throughout the year. The more sponsors we have the better the prize structure, SO

If you do business anyplace, not just fishing or boating businesses, but any place see if they want to be part of this great tournament.

The El Cheapo is the LARGEST Saltwater Tournament in the Country with over 400 boats and fishermen and women coming from as far North as New York, Key West to the South, and Texas to the West!

They will get more than their monies worth by sponsoring it.

Check out our website - the El Cheapo tab for information on Sponsoring the El Cheapo!



Rob's Fishing Lore

Up on the T-Top

Up on the T-top the reel does pause,
Onto the gunnels jumps a pair of claws.
Down from the T-top with lots of noise,
Passes the rod with fishing joy.

Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Up on the T-top, clicky click,
Stands the shotgun stick.

First is a lure bag for dear Ol' Dad,
Blues and whites will make him glad,
Fill it with lures which glow and smell
Troll the then now and troll them well.

Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Up on the T-top, clicky click,
Stands the shotgun stick.

Next comes the run for big Ol' Roy
See how it's held with so much joy.
Then turns the boat, giving chase,
Cracking and cracking keeping the pace.

Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Up on the T-top, clicky click,
Stands the shotgun stick.

Ocean splashes fills our wish,
Out in the distance jumps our fish.
Down from the T-Top with lots of noise,
Passes the rod fill with fishing joy.

Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Up on the T-top, clicky click,
Stands the shotgun stick.

We know the reason,
For our grateful fishing season,
So thank him well,
For the fish upon our dish as our belly's swell.

Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Up on the T-top, clicky click,
Stands the shotgun stick.

Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Utt, utt oh, when will you go?
Up on the T-top, clicky click,
Stands the shotgun stick



Wear these, they don't work in the

cabin! OK, I know that some of you won't wear your Life Jacket while fishing, but **PLEASE** at

least wear one while your Boat is underway!

Jacksonville recently lost a boater on a calm day, out alone, his boat came ashore with engines running and no sign of him!





Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

America's Waterway Watch

The US Coast Guard has a 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.



Let's talk about Safety

Just what safety gear do you carry and what have you forgotten?

I will get to your "Ditch Bag" in a minute, but I want to start with your "First Aid" kit. Did you know that lots of antibiotics have expiration dates? You should replace your "Iodine / hydrogen Peroxide / Antibiotic cream or whatever you carry in your kit every 5 years at the latest!

Here is something else you never thought of, a "Heavy Duty Wire Cutter". I can guarantee you that the 6" pair of cutters that come paired with fishing pliers are way to small. Why heavy cutters you ask? Last year about a 4' shark managed to drive an extra-strong #5 hook all the way through my thumb. The standard 6 to 7 inch long cutters were way to weak and soft to cut that barb off so I could back it out. Luckily I had a 14" long crimping tool with a heavy cutter in the side that would cut the hook.

How about carrying a roll of "Duct Tape"? (I carry Gorilla Ttape as it is stronger with better adhesive.) It makes a good splint for broken or badly sprained limbs, can plug holes in the boat, and fix a whole number of problems in emergencies.

I bet that there aren't 5 of you that have bought a bigger better "Fire Extinguisher". That little 2 Lb thing that came with your boat is way to small if you actually have a fire! Again I carry 3 Extinguishers as I have 4 gas tanks and when I run out, I have gas in front of me, on both sides and behind me and want to be able to put OUT a fire ASAP! Fire and Lightning are the only two things that really worry me when I go out.

If you have never used a fire extinguisher, go to your local fire department and have them give you a lesson on proper use, you can't just aim it at the flames and pull the trigger, you have to start at the base of the flames and work up.

Now about that "Throwable Float" required by the USCG. DO you have two? One that is a little heavier and more aerodynamic so you can throw it farther if necessary, and one, like a cushion, that you have about 50' to 75' of line attached to so you can

Safety Continued

throw it and pull the person back to your boat (With your motor in neutral so you don't slice them up with the prop.) or even if you threw them the other one after you maneuver close to them toss them the one with the line and go to neutral and pull them to the boat.

"Water" Yup, Water, Water everywhere and not a drop to drink! Most of us bring some water, soft drinks or beer but we don't stock our boat with enough water for everyone to have about a quart per day for 3 days. A quart is less than you really should have, but it will keep you healthy for 3 or 4 days and keep your kidneys working fine.



Now about that "Ditch Bag" What you don't have one?! The average person, wearing clothes will drown in less than a mile, assuming that the water is warm enough that you

don't get Hypothermia, cramp up and drown in the first quarter mile.

What's IN your Ditch bag? Here are some suggestions.

#1 - An EPIRB or at least a PLB. Yes, you and your fishing buddies lives are worth \$200 to \$500 dollars at the very least.

A hand held VHF radio - to call for help.

A hand held GPS -

Sun screen - there is no shade when you are floating out there without your boat.

Sun Glasses - see above reason.

At least the USCG required flairs (Are your's expired? Check the date!!!!)

Aerial flairs because from the surface you can only be seen from about 2 miles away.

4 Space Blankets - the silver shiny pocket type.

Duct Tape.

Protein Bars

Chemical light Sticks

Hats

A waterproof strobe light.

A waterproof strong flashlight.

Rope to tie everyone together so you don't drift apart.

A quart of fresh drinking water.

Finally a First Aid kit with aspirin in case of a heart attack.

There are other things that you will want or think about to customize your kit, these are just some suggestions.

Again, about your Ditch Bag. When you pull away from the dock, it should be sitting on deck. If it is stowed in the cabin you probably will not have time to go into the cabin and grab it. Same goes for in a locker. It should be sitting on the deck!

You should give everyone on your boat a "Safety Tour" before you get on the ocean. Just in case YOU are the one incapacitated, make sure that at least 1 or 2 people know how to run the boat, and operate the GPS to get their heading back to the shore. Everyone should know where the Fire Extinguishers (Note the plural, ExtinguishERS.) are, and where the extra lifejackets or flotation cushions are. (You really should have everyone wearing a lifejacket at the least while underway.) They should know how to operate the radios and where all the emergency equipment is.

Oh, YOU DID leave a "Float Plan" with someone before heading out didn't you?

Remember the Rule of Thirds! One third of your gas to go out and fish, one third to come back in, and a third for emergencies! I have actually used most of my emergency gas to turn around and go back out to tow a friend in. If I didn't plan well, I would have had to call the USCG to go get him. (Off Eureka Ca. they do not have Boat US, or Sea Tow, the USCG does it all!)

Try to remember that in an emergency you need to actually STOP (That is an acronym for Stop, (Even for half a second) Think, about what you need to do. Observe what is happening. Finally Plan how to react.

Panic and Carelessness are your worst enemy and kill more people that could have survived if they would have just slowed down and used their brain.

As the mailing page says, it is TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE JOSFC!

Why Renew?

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. (Plus WE don't keep hitting you up for more money with "Donation Letters" every other month.)

The JOSFC's year actually runs from October 1st to Sept. 30th, and we run our renewal time up to January 1st which if you have not renewed by then any fish you had on the boards come off, and you loose your club voting rights, and your membership card is no longer valid for discounts at the local stores. (Don't worry, we will still try to get you to renew after that.)

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, or Contacts. JOSFC Breen <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	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 Board Meeting 	2 	3 	4 Club Meeting Clam Chowder Cook Off 	5 	6 
7 	8 	9 	10 	11 Fishing Rules Meeting 7:30 PM 	12 	13 
14 	15 	16 	17 	18 Club Meeting. Christmas Pot-Luck 	19 	20 
21 	22 	23 	24 	25  	26 	27 
28 	29 	30 	31 	<h1>Christmas</h1>		

December 4th - Annual Chowder Cook Off
 December 18th - Christmas Party Pot-Luck
 January 15th - Club Swap Meet
 February 5th - Annual Chili Cook Off



Coming Events

February 21st - Sgt. Bash is Coming!

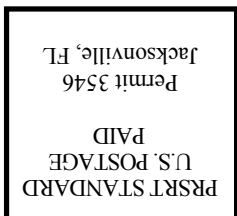


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SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS! THEY SUPPORT US AND FISHING!

It is almost PAST time to renew your MEMBERSHIP!



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