



Fishing Post - April 2011

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

You Want To Do *What?*!

Fishing Report by Tom Holt



The weekend of March 19th-20th proved to be an exciting and fruitful fishing trip for the crew of Pam's Competition II. All the conditions were right – 1-ft seas, light winds, warm days, cool nights, and one of the brightest full moons in 20 years. On the morning of March 19th, the boat and crew departed the launch site at Dauphin Island, AL and headed 65 miles offshore. About 10 miles out, we were pulled over by the Coast Guard for an inspection. They had just finished inspecting some freighters anchored offshore and we were the only boat around. After the inspection, we continued offshore and upon arriving at the Petronius oil rig, we beheld a site not often seen by fisherman – the tuna were jumping everywhere around the rig. We initially tried trolling to different areas as the tuna would jump here, then there, then over there, and so on. We soon realized that we were spending too much running to different areas so we decided to just troll around. As we trolled, we realized what the tuna were doing. There were hundreds of Portuguese Man-of-War jellyfish in

the water and under each jelly, there was a small school of minnows seeking the protection of the trailing stinging nettles. The tuna were busting around the jelly's in an attempt to scare the minnows away and thus get eaten. Anyway, as we trolled, Frank Nicoletti was casting a small jig on light tackle around the boat. Then, all of a sudden, Frank was hooked up and the battle was on. He soon realized he was in trouble, as he was losing line in a hurry. Frank was not able to put a lot of pressure on the fish since he had only 20-lb test line on the reel and the fish was very strong. Talk about bringing a knife to a gun fight. The trolled lines were brought in and the chase was on. After about 20 minutes of keeping tight on the fish, it decided it had had enough and started heading straight down to the bottom. Frank was desperate at this time and started yelling "He's going to spool me and there's nothing I can do about it!" From the helm came the calm command: Take one of the large open face reels, tie the line to the bottom of Frank's rod and loosen the drag on the large rod and tighten the drag on Frank's reel and then throw his rod and reel overboard and give the large rod and reel to Frank. The reply from the anglers in back was almost in unison – "*You want to do what?!*" After another calm but firm command from the helm to "just do it", the anglers in back did as instructed and Frank's expensive rod and reel were soon sinking into the depths of the Gulf of Mexico, out of sight and maybe never to be seen again. Frank now had the larger open face and the fight continued. After several more minutes of the continuous epic battle, the fish realized his bluff had failed and he had no more cards to play.

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You Want To Do *What?*!

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Frank gained line with each turn of the handle and soon, up from the depths from which it had been cast into (with great hesitation), came his rod and reel with fish still attached. His small open face was handed back to him and the fight continued, but with more ease. After about a quarter of the spool filled with his 20 lb line, the large line was detached and Frank continued until the fish came to the boat, was gaffed and brought aboard. It was a 30-lb yellowfin tuna. High fives all around.

That's the end of that story but not the end of the fishing trip. We continued trolling, catching tuna until too dark for trolling. Switching on the underwater lights, we started jigging, first near the rig and then further away as we slowly drifted. J.R. figured out how to catch the tuna: simply put the line in free spool; when the line stops falling, jerk because you have a fish on. It was that simple. If the jig continued falling for a minute with no strike, simply reel back in the line and drop again. About every 5 to 6 drops, there was a fish on. Bringing in the fish was a different matter. This continued until about midnight when we headed into 250 feet of water, dropped anchor and went to sleep. At 5 am, we got up, retrieved the an-

chor and headed back to the rig. We trolled for about another 2 hours, bringing in a couple more tuna. We then headed to another spot in 220 feet of water and went through about 15 amberjack before we had our 5 keepers. It was 9:30 am and time to head back to port to get back home in time to clean fish and the boat and head back to Atlanta.



The catch was 25 tuna, 5 amberjack and 1 vermillion snapper. It was a heck of a fishing trip.

- Tom Holt

President's Message

As members of ASWSC, we generally share lots of fun and exciting stories about our fishing experiences. Included in this newsletter are a few of those stories. My message this month, however, focuses on the recent loss of two of our long-standing members. It is only appropriate to give them recognition and to wish them well in the great fishing grounds of Heaven. Leon Brown has written a short article about Walt Lamb and Judy Kump has outlined some memories about John Williams. Thanks to you both for bringing these gentlemen to our hearts and memories. Note: As you all know John Williams a long standing member of ASWSC recently passed away. His wife Pat is in early stages of Alzheimer's and is in need of constant care. As was previously mentioned ASWSC will be making a donation in support of Pat's care. If you wish to further donate to her care, you can send a check made out directly to Pat Williams, address:

P.O. Box 510
Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Regards,
Frank

Walt Lamb: A Life Worth Remembering



When I started this club in 1987, there were a few members I could count on to show up and contribute at just about every meeting and every tournament. One of those members was Walt Lamb. As you probably know, we lost Walt last week at the age of 82, but his contributions to getting ASWSC off the ground and sustaining it throughout the years will not soon be forgotten. I don't know if I've ever met anyone with as much zeal for our style of tournament fishing as Walt. If you were ever lucky enough to be a member of his crew for a tournament, you quickly found out that this was not to be a leisurely jaunt out to the fishing hole while consuming a few adult beverages with an early return to the dock. No, when you fished with Walt, you left the dock *well* before the crack of dawn. You then made a long, sometimes dangerous, run in the pitch dark out to a spot predetermined by Walt through satellite research, sometimes for days in advance of the tournament. When the lines went out, it was all business. And the "business" continued long after every other boat in the tournament was at the dock enjoying sundowners at the local water hole. The good thing was that, more often than not, all this dedication and work paid off in terms of fish, quality fish, weighed in at the dock. By quality fish, I mean billfish (releases) and tuna, but especially wahoo and dolphin – I don't think anybody in the club will ever equal Walt's knack for catching big wahoo and dolphin in ASWSC tournaments.

When he finally did return to the dock, you would think that the only thing on Walt's mind would be getting a good night's sleep in order to recharge for the next day's fishing. After all, Walt was one of the oldest members of the club, and I can tell you, us old folks need our sleep. If you thought this, however, you would be wrong! You see, the only thing as important as fishing to Walt was the partying afterward. And I don't mean having a few drinks at the bar and then retiring. I mean dancing! Actually, dancing the night away until, low-and-behold, it was time to go fishing again. I don't know how many times at Destin, West Palm and other locales that Walt and his crew left the party and boarded the boat for another day of piscatorial pursuit. His adventures left most of us amazed, but also envious of his energy level and his penchant for joyous living!

There are some of us who would have given pretty good odds that Walt Lamb would never have made it to the ripe old age he did. You see, I have never met anybody more determined to end his life in a tragic boating accident than Walt. The list of misadventures is long, but includes at least two onboard fires at sea, a near (*very* near) sinking in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico, an offshore grounding at, I think, Cedar Key Florida, a grounding in Venice Louisiana, several mishaps running over floating ropes that dislodged or bent his shafts, hitting a channel marker in the Keys and others that simply slip my mind. There were so many that I wrote a song about them for the Christmas party one year entitled "Sink the *Uno Mas*," played to the tune of "Sink the Bismark." (The *Uno Mas* was Walt's 34-foot *Stamas*) The ironic thing is, about a year later, the *Uno Mas* actually was sunk by Hurricane Opal in Destin Harbor.

Throughout all this, Walt never lost his sense of humor. One time I complained to him about fuel costs by saying, "It seems like every time I go out, it costs me \$150 in fuel." Walt replied by laughing and saying, "Hell, that's nothing. It seems like every time I crank my engines, it costs me \$20,000 dollars in repairs, a month of down time, and an insurance policy cancellation!"

Although Walt was not very active with the club the last few years, I can assure you he was as happy as he ever was. A few years back, Walt, a widower, married his soul mate Betty and they split time living between the mountains of North Carolina and Destin. Some say Walt had slowed down because of age, but this is not true. Walt calmed down because of a deep satisfaction he found in his life with Betty. And I know that the last few years were the happiest days of his life. If you never knew Walt Lamb, I'm sorry for you, because those of us who did, know that we've been touched by someone who knew how to live, *REALLY LIVE*, his life to the absolute fullest. And we're better for it!

- Leon Brown

John Williams: Good Bye to a Dear Friend

May 18, 1943—April 6, 2011

John Williams was a loyal club member since joining in 1991. He has lived in Avondale Estates, Ga with his wife Pat and has a second home in Orange Beach, Alabama, where he loved to fish. He has been refurbishing their home in Ga and has done a terrific job on it.



Sept. 2009, the Club enjoyed a fabulous Low Country Boil at John and Pat's home, where 14 of us indulged in a wonderful fare of seafood cooked by John and Pat. We all had a wonderful time with them, as we have always enjoyed all our previous events with John and Pat.

John always enjoyed fishing and tournaments with the club, fishing off his boat "Gusto", but after selling his boat, he enjoyed the social events the most. John has been on the Tournament Committee in the past, also on the 2009 & 2010 Social Committee with me and we believed that the club grew in its early years because of entire families joining in the club's social events, like the picnics at the lake. John and Pat enjoying the 2009 Chili Cook-Off (below)



Orange Beach fishing and tournament winner.



John was always a hard working guy in what ever he did, he was very creative and an amazing handy man. He was the type of guy who would see you working and not ask if he could help - he would just pitch in and HELP you!! We have enjoyed many years together with John and Pat and a Christmas party will not be the same without you. We will miss you very much, our dear friend, John; our prayers go out to Pat and your family.

By Judy Kump, your friend of 20 years.

April 2011 Member Profile: Tom Holt



Say Hello to Tom Holt, our April featured member. Tom, as many of you might know, has given many hours of service to the club helping with raffles, cooking for various club events, and setting up and working our booth at the Atlanta Boat Show. Tom joined the club in 1997 and sports around in a 30 foot express Baha Cruiser. Tom retired from the military as a major after spending 20 years serving our country.

Tom first started fishing when he was 16 years old and his favorite fishing grounds are the waters off Dauphin Island. To date, Tom's largest catch has been a 350-lb. bull shark and a 73-lb wahoo. If he had a choice, he would fish amberjack all day long. Like many of us, if you fish long enough you get a chance to too experience situations on the water. Tom had the opportunity to rescue a couple stranded on a range marker in Mobile Bay in 1999. Besides fishing, Tom enjoys frequenting a casino or two whenever he gets a chance. In 2009 Tom won the club's Orange Beach Tournament. His favorite food is Mexican and will rarely turn down a strawberry daiquiri. Tom will be quick to advise you to get to know club members, to enjoy life to the fullest and not to wait until you get too old to do so.

Be sure to introduce yourself to Tom at one of our up and coming meetings if you have not done so already.

- Member Profile by Frank Nicoletti

Welcome New Members!

Geoff Gruenewald & Candy Flesch

Score Card

2011 Boat of the Year Standings (after West Palm Beach)

Boat	WPB	Apalach	Orange Beach	Penscola	TBD	Destin	Total
<i>Vannish</i>	20						20
<i>Easy Does It</i>	15						15
<i>Where to Next?</i>	10						10

AOY Standings as of March 2011

(7-Way Tie Between Paid Members Catching Sailfish at WPB):

Steve Guntner	50
Jim Vann	50
Brian Newsome	50
Jon Russell (J.R.)	50
Scott Rowe	50
Keith Mozena	50
Steve Kundl	50

Club Caps Still Available

If you'd like to buy one (\$16/each), call Jace Spencer at 404-931-2292 or send an email to info@aswsc.org.

100% of the proceeds go to the club.



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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT NEWS

Gulf Council still hasn't decided about Summer closure for Amberjack

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2011/FB11-022_Reopening_of_Comment_Period_on_GAJ_Season_Proposed_Rule.pdf

Gulf Council considers delayed opening (Sept 16th) for Gag Grouper in 2011

http://www.gulfcouncil.org/news_resources/Press%20Releases/FebruaryUpdate.pdf

Gag Grouper closed in Gulf (federal waters) until June 1, 2011 (see pg 5 of Regulations)

http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/rec_brochure_2011.pdf

Sportfishing Industry Applauds EPA's Decision to Reject Lead Ban Petition

http://www.keepamericafishing.org/news_epa_rejects_ban.html

Should we be worried about misguided agencies and environmental groups closing fishing down?

<http://www.saltwatersportsman.com/article/Species/Creeping-Protectionism>

South Atlantic Red Snapper Fishing Closed Indefinitely / RFA Files Suit to Overturn

http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/RedSnapper_120409.pdf

CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS



Protecting the interests of saltwater anglers and working to sustain our nation's fisheries.

www.joinrfa.org



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www.billfish.org

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If you're not already a member, you should be! visit www.igfa.org for more information

The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.

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www.guyharveyoceanfoundation.org

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www.keepamericafishing.org

Upcoming Club Events, Reminders and Deadlines

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 / 7PM

Holiday Inn Gwinnett Place / 1948 Day Drive, Duluth / 770-814-2800

See website for directions: www.aswsc.org

Scheduled Speakers: Lanny Deal of Mann's Baits & Maggie Whitcomb of Fight Line

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT:

Dancin' On Depot Street

June 25th, 2011 / 3:30PM

Hartwell, GA

See website for additional information: <http://www.aswsc.org/social-events/>

NEXT CLUB TOURNAMENT:

Apalachicola, FL

May 12 - 14, 2011

Application and Tip Sheet available on the website:

<http://www.aswsc.org/tournaments>

NEXT CLUB FISHING EVENT:

Middle Grounds Overnight Charter Trip

Departs Sunday Evening July 24th

Returns Tuesday Morning July 26th

Information/Application available on the club website:

<http://www.aswsc.org/tournaments>

Something Missing?

We welcome your input, photos, news items, and suggestions about the content of the ASWSC *Fishing Post* Newsletters. Forward your information or digital photos to: info@aswsc.org

For latest club information, check out www.aswsc.org