



# *Fishing Post* Aug 2015

## Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

[www.aswsc.org](http://www.aswsc.org)

## Summer Tournament Season Kicks Off With Great Turn-Out at Apalachicola

The Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club held their split date tournament in Apalachicola Florida, May 29-June 1, and June 3-6, 2015. In total we had eleven club boats entered into the tournament. Apalachicola is one of the club's favorite locations for catching lots of fish. Whether it's offshore, inshore, or in the bay, it is always a favorite. This year's tournament did not disappoint our anglers. A wide variety of fish were caught and plenty of them.



On the first day of week one, the seas were pretty rough. The winds had been blowing 15 to 20 knots out of the southeast for seven days prior to our arrival. While the seas were kicked up and made our run to the fishing grounds miserable, it brought absolutely the best water quality I have ever seen in Apalachicola. The blue water was absolutely gorgeous. (Being fishermen, you learn to take the good with the bad). On the second day of the first week, the winds subsided to 5 - 8 knots. The seas laid down to around two feet for the rest of the trip.

Someone must have told Bill Rhodes and the crew of *Two Bills* we were having a King Mackerel Tournament. They slayed the kings with an awesome catch at 30, 28, and 24 pounds. When they off loaded their catch on the next day they had more kings at 31, 24 and 20 pounds. Great catches, guys!

*Outlaw* had the biggest catch of red snapper in the tourna-

ment with fish weighing in at 17.1, 17, 16.3, 16 and 13 pounds. Other catches included amberjack at 48, 46, 40, 35, 33 and 31 pounds. Several small dolphin were in the mix as well.



*All In* weighed in a variety of kings, snappers and amberjacks.

(continued next page)

# Apalachicola Tournament Report (continued)

The second half of the Apalachicola tournament got off to a great start at the captains' meeting Wednesday evening outside one of the cabins at Bay City Lodge. Mark Mleczeko cooked burgers and hot dogs for everyone; in addition to enjoying lots of good food, cold beverages, and laughter, everyone was eager to get started fishing.

Day 1: Not all of the boats had arrived yet, but the club was well represented on the first day of fishing by *Chillin & Reelin* (Capt John Roché), *Loophole* (Capt Ward Lang), *Sea Explorer* (Capt Steve Smith), *Persevere* (Capt Mark Mleczeko), and *Bad Buoys* (Capt Jace Spencer). The weather was great and the seas calm. It turned out to be a very enjoyable day for all. *Chillin & Reelin* brought in a nice assortment of groupers and snappers, as



did *Loophole*. *Bad Buoys* also brought in some good-looking snappers, including a new club record 9.1 lb Mangrove Snapper, caught by Kendall Spencer.



Day 2: Three additional boats arrived for the final two days of fishing: *Close Cut* (Capt Steve Anglin), *Nikki Girl* (Capt Pat Thai), and *Last Bastian* (Capt Jim Mason). Weather was beautiful again for Day 2 and it was an awesome day to be on a boat, at least until later.

The weigh-in process was hampered by a severe thunderstorm, but drenched anglers saw plenty more snappers and groupers, along with some mackerels and *Sea Explorer* even found a seatrout. *Close Cut* and *Nikki Girl* brought in some beautiful red groupers, which got a lot of envious attention from those of us at the dock. Both of those boats weighed in a limit of red snappers and even managed to find a few dolphin as well. *Loophole* also brought in some red snappers for the freezer.

Day 3: For the third straight day, we had great seas. Some Blackfin Tuna were brought to the weigh-in courtesy of *Chillin & Reelin*, which was apparently an unusual occurrence for that area; some of the locals didn't even recognize the fish and commented that they'd never seen such big bonitas (little tunny). *Bad Buoys* brought in some more snappers, as well as a few sheepshead, including another club record (4.1 lbs) caught by Paul Kindzia. *Nikki Girl* produced another impressive catch of huge red groupers & snappers. *Loophole* brought in another limit of snappers, too. Fishing was so good on the *Close Cut* that Capt Steve Anglin opted to miss the weigh-in and keep fishing; we don't have a record of his catch, but I'm sure it was impressive.



Although there was no Awards Dinner at this tournament (because of the split-week format), most of us ate at the Bay City Lodge restaurant after fishing (some of us were too tired to venture out further in search of dining opportunities), which was a very convenient way to enjoy some good food and good company. Speaking of which, *Many Thanks* to the Bay City Lodge folks for doing their usual great job of taking care of us.

Final Standings:

	<b>Boat</b>	<b>Captain</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1ST PLACE</b>	<b><i>Outlaw</i></b>	Mike Springer	1380
<b>2ND PLACE</b>	<b><i>Two Bills</i></b>	Bill Rhodes	1225
<b>3RD PLACE</b>	<b><i>Nikki Girl</i></b>	Pat Thai	845
<b>4TH PLACE</b>	<b><i>Close Cut</i></b>	Steve Anglin	455
<b>5TH PLACE</b>	<b><i>Chillin &amp; Reelin</i></b>	John Roché	305

# New Competition Added to This Year's Spring Fling on Lake Lanier

The forecast called for rain on the day of the Spring Fling event, which makes at least one time that an inaccurate forecast worked out in our favor. Not many fish were caught on Lake Lanier by participants, but over thirty people showed up and had a great time. Cefus McRae caught several spotted bass, but no stripers. Steve Anglin caught the only striper and won the fish-catching part of the event. It started sprinkling later, but not heavy enough to dampen the cast net throwing competition. President Ken Barnhart was



master of ceremonies and donated a cast net as grand prize for the competition. Member John Roché donated a plaque for the winner as well. It was a fierce competition and for a while it looked like one of our junior members, Parker White, might beat out the adults. But Brent Christopher kept his cool and edged out Parker for the win. Lunch was optional at the Fish Tales restaurant in Hideaway Cove, adjacent to the cast net competition; the food and atmosphere is always great there.



Thanks go out to Pat Thai for helping set up the cast net contest and with the judging. This was a fun local event that both anglers and non-anglers can enjoy.



## B B Q Cook Off and Swap Meet March 14, 2015

The party, cooking, and grilling began the night before, with Rick Martin's motor coach camping out in the warehouse parking lot, with a few souls and the aroma of B B Q in the air! When



Thanks also goes to Steve Fritz and Steve Guntner for always stepping up to help put on the event!!! Great job, thank you!!!



Lots of fishing gear was sold and traded, just a fun good time for everyone with great food!

we arrived the day of the event, you wanted to eat the air, it smelled so wonderful!! The dishes were judged in two categories, B B Q (meat) and then Brunswick Stew. It was a very tough contest and I for one had a rough time deciding.



Rick Martin won with the "Kick Butt B B Q" and Jim Mason won the Brunswick Stew with "Nothing But BS", great cooking guys!!! The fine awards



plaques were supplied by, John Roche' of "Top Dog Awards" [www.topdogawards.com](http://www.topdogawards.com), 770-218-8287. Thank you very much, John - the Plaques were awesome! The crowd was the surprise of the day; we had 50+ attend and not-so-pleasant weather. We are very appreciative of Mike Springer having us again, opening his warehouse for us and supplying tables and electrical services, along with all the space to put on such an event.



(more swap meet photos on next page)

# Cinco De Mayo

The most beautiful day dawned on May 2, for our Cinco de Mayo celebration at Lake Lanier. About 25 folks shared in a wonderful day. Our fantastic Chefs, Steve Fritz and Steve Guntner, prepared the best Mexican feast to die for! Great job all the way around! We had fajitas, tamales, & burritos with all sorts of fillings, Spanish rice and pinto beans, all sorts of delicious hot and mild sauces, and dips to please everyone's palate! Thank you guys for a super delicious meal!! We even had a chocolate fountain to service our dessert needs, with every imaginable type of "dippable chocolate covered dream" item. Thank you again Steve Fritz and Steve Guntner - - wonderful food!



## More Swap Meet / Cook off Pictures



# Tournament Score Card

## 2015 Boat of the Year Standings

(after Morehead City NC Tournament)

BOAT	WPB	Apalachicola	Orange Beach	Morehead City	Port Eads	TOTAL
<i>Persevere</i>			20	20		40
<i>Outlaw</i>		20	15			35
<i>Chillin &amp; Reelin</i>	15	3	10			28
<i>Where to Next?</i>	20					20
<i>Two Bills</i>		15				15
<i>Easy Does It</i>	10					10
<i>Nikki Girl</i>		10				10
<i>Close Cut</i>		5				5
<i>Bad Buoys</i>			5			5

## Angler Of The Year Standings

(after Morehead City NC Tournament)

### Men's Division

ANGLER	POINTS
1ST NORMAN BOWEN	600
2ND JOHN ROCHE	275
3RD STEVE FRITZ	200

### Ladies Division

ANGLER	POINTS
1ST WENDY COATES	400
2ND ALLISON MLECZKO	175
3RD LAURA LAZAR	50

### Junior Angler Division

ANGLER	POINTS
1ST PARKER WHITE	150
2ND NICKY MLECZKO	25
3RD	

# Orange Beach Tournament Report



Green water and jellyfish didn't stop the captains and their crew from having a great time in Orange Beach. This year's week long tournament was held in Orange Beach Alabama July 5 - 11. The weather was hot and the seas were calm. Unfortunately the blue water wasn't anywhere to be found. For the beach-goers, there were plenty of jellyfish around to put a little zing in your life.

The Hilton's real-time navigator satellite imagery was not looking good for blue water this trip. Heavy rains and storms were causing flooding conditions on the Mississippi river. Muddy water was ripping down the river out into the Gulf of Mexico. We knew it wasn't good when we saw fresh water lily pads forty miles offshore. Some of the boats ventured offshore and spent the night out on the oil rigs in hopes of a tuna bite that just wasn't there. Very unusual to have green water so far offshore. *Persevere* did manage to get another swordfish bite, but lost the fish at the boat.

At the weigh in on day one, *Outlaw* owned the scales with four kings and a 29.7 pound Cobia caught by Norman Bowen. *Chillin & Reelin* scored with four snapper and a Blackfin tuna of 14.3 pounds.

On day two of the tournament *Outlaw* weighed in a new club record 24.2 pound Almaco Jack caught by Captain Mike Springer,



along with Norman Bowen's catch of two gag groupers of 17 and 14 pounds. *Bad Buoys* had a nice variety of king mackerel, almaco jack, scamp grouper and vermillion snapper. *Chillin & Reelin* showed up with an almaco jack and some vermillion snapper. Meanwhile, *Persevere*

came in from their overnight with their a nice 18.1 lb. Blackfin Tuna, three kings, two tilefish, vermillion snappers, and some scamp groupers.



Continued Next Page

# Orange Beach Tournament Report (continued)

for

*Outlaw* had a commanding lead until *Persevere* showed up on the dock the final weigh in. It was the bottom of the ninth and two outs for *Persevere*, but they hit a home run, weighing in four gag grouper, four kings, three snappers and three tilefish. *Bad Buoys* had a nice catch of four kings, three snappers, and two groupers. *Chillin & Reelin* finished up with four kings, an almaco jack, and two snappers. *Outlaw* weighed two kings, and three snappers, but it wasn't enough to hold off *Persevere*.

The total count of fish the club caught for the tournament is pretty impressive considering the nasty water conditions: 24 snapper, 12 grouper, 25 kings, 2 tunas, 1 cobia, 4 jacks, five tilefish, and a 175-lb telephone pole by Mark Mleczeko. ( Ask Mark for details ).

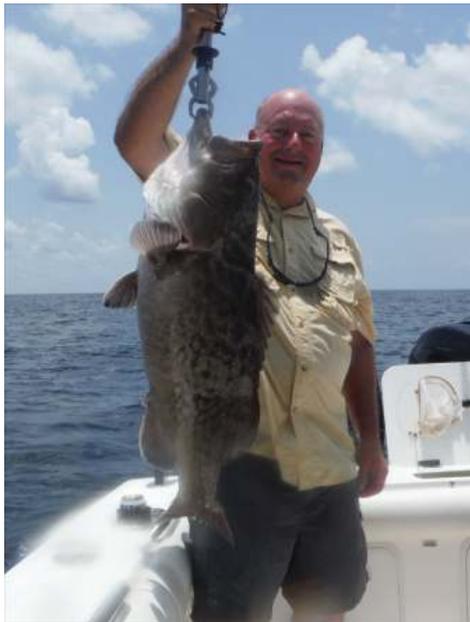
Notable individual catches were:

Norman Bowen: 29.7 lb Cobia and a 17 Lb Gag Grouper

Mike Springer: new club record 24.2 lb Almaco Jack

Daniel French: 18.1 lb Blackfin Tuna

John Roché: 14.3 Blackfin Tuna



The boats wrapped up their trip by motoring down to Pensacola to watch the Blue Angels Air Show. This never gets old. What a show. After the show, a raft up at the Sugarbowl was in need, where we swam and got stung by jellyfish. A great trip by all. Wish we had the blue water that we had in Apalachicola a month before, but despite the conditions the anglers and their captains did a great job.

By: Mike Springer



	<b>Boat</b>	<b>Captain</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1ST PLACE</b>	<b><i>Persevere</i></b>	Mark Mleczeko	750
<b>2ND PLACE</b>	<b><i>Outlaw</i></b>	Mike Springer	555
<b>3RD PLACE</b>	<b><i>Chillin &amp; Reelin</i></b>	John Roché	335
<b>4TH PLACE</b>	<b><i>Bad Buoys</i></b>	Jace Spencer	295

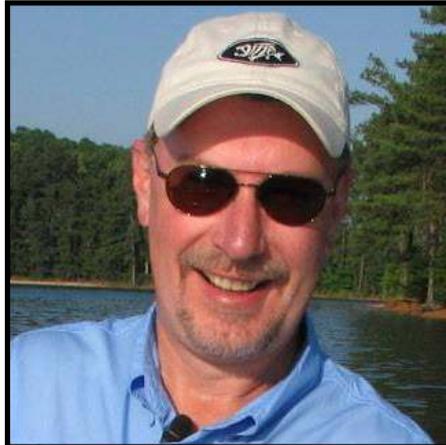


# Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

## 2015 Officers



**Ken Barnhart**



**Cefus McRae**



**Steve Guntner**

### 2015 Officers

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Mike Springer, Tournament Committee Director  
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**Jace Spencer**

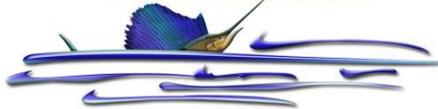


**Mike Springer**

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## Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club 2015 CLUB CALENDAR

September 8 (Tuesday)	Club Meeting / Holiday Inn Gwinnett Center
September 23 - 26	Venice LA Tournament
October 12 ( <b>Monday</b> )	Club Meeting / Holiday Inn Gwinnett Center
October 18 - 20	Middle Grounds Charter Trip
November 10 (Tuesday)	Club Meeting / Holiday Inn Gwinnett Center
December 5 (Saturday)	Holiday Party and Awards Banquet

### Note:

Club Calendar is subject to change. Keep up to date with club activities, tournaments, and events on the club's official website:

[www.aswsc.org](http://www.aswsc.org)