



Fishing Post - February 2011

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

Sails in the Wind, WPB Style

Tournament Report by Keith Mozena



Ok, how crazy are you about fishing? Tough question because most of us would answer, "it depends." It has been 25 yrs since I was sailfishing in south Florida, back when I had hair and a six pack of abs (instead of looking like I've drunk too many six packs), and I went fishing in all kinds of weather on a 22ft center console with no T-Top or cover at all. You could ask Steve Fritz; he told me and I quote, "I hope we have 8-10's and 30 kt winds." You could ask Jim Vann, who brought his 40ft Cabo up to West Palm, "Hell, I'll fish in any weather, I've got a great

boat, IPS drives, I have a hot and cold margarita machine that auto fills adult beverage cups with lids on board!" Well, suffice it to say, all of us were crazy to catch sailfish. On Thursday, the winds were honking out of the North to Northwest at 25 kts and the seas were 5-7 ft's. Of course, Steve Fritz was disappointed but he made do. Unfortunately, the weather in Atlanta was crazy as well - crazy cold, crazy ice-y, and basically shut down the city. So Ted Dubose's "Glory Days 2", Skip James' "Salt Rocker", and Jim Mason's "The Last Bastian" couldn't leave early and beat the weather. So they had to miss the tournament. We did have four club boats make the trip: Jim Vann's Cabo - "Vannish", Steve Gunter's Grady Sailfish (aptly named model) - "East Does It", Bo Dunn's Grady - "BoKat", and Keith Mozena's Pursuit - "Where to Next?"



On Wednesday evening, tournament coordinator extraordinaire Bob Michael cooked up a down home meal for the tournament participants, laid out the rules, and guaranteed we would all catch sailfish during the event. Well, Bob did not lie. We woke on Thursday to a pretty dang cold morning which had the water temp so much warmer than the air temp that there was a very eerie steam coming off the water. Even out off the coast there was steam and it was being whipped around by the previously mentioned 25-kt winds. Bob must have set his alarm early for team "Easy Does It" because they were away from the dock before 7am and called in the first sail of the tournament at 7:07am. Heck, at that time, team "Where to Next?" was trying to figure out how to build team unity since Mozena had imported two New Yorkers for this shin-ding. Steve Kundl, who is one of our ASWSC members from Dale, NY and Ken Legge,

(Continued Page 2)

Sails in the Wind

(Continued from Page 1)

a work friend of Keith's, who lives east on Long Island in the NYC metro. We decided we start singing a sea shanty to get the day started right.



Steve Kundl (left) and Ken Legge

A quick sidebar on Steve and Ken. These two guys are crazy for fishing, whether it be for sailfish or any fish. Kundl told us multiple stories of fishing on the frozen lakes up north where it's so cold you have to chip the ice out of your guides on the rod, and Legge had us shaking our heads with stories of getting up at 4am, dressing in 4 layers of clothes to go surf fishing at 4:45am. He is passionate about catching the changing tide to nail some winter blues or stripers or anything else that comes swimming by. Steve K had never been sailfishing and Ken L had been pacific sailfishing with Mozena previously, but that seemed so much warmer in our memories.

Anyway, Thursday turned out to be the hot day of the tournament. Vannish went 5 for 10, "Easy Does It" went 5 for 8, "Where to Next?" went 3 for 7, and "BoKat" decided to stay tied to the dock since they had intended to fish out of Ft Pierce and the "good sailfish bite" was a bit further offshore than down in West Palm. I will tell you that watching "Easy Does It" bob around on a drift, flat-lining live goggle-eyes in between 40-65 ft charter boats was a sight. Heck in between the 7 footers, I would lose sight of them all together. All three boats chose to head south out of the West Palm/Ft Worth inlet and fish between 100' and 200'. I think all the sailfish caught were in the 120' to 180' deep water. We tried to fly a kite, but in 25kt winds, even with a high wind kite (it is smaller in size) it is a whole new experience. The wind knots you can create in half a nano-second are impressive. They are only surpassed by the wad of a fishing line knot a pissed-off sailfish can make out of a four, flatline spread on a slow troll (1-2mph). I spent 30min unknitting my kite line early in the day and decided to put the kite back in the bag. When our first sailfish decided to run crazy through our flat lines on "Where to Next?" around 10:30am, we had no patience for figuring out how to clean up the mess, and broke out the fishing pliers to cut all the lines and stuff the tangled line in the trash bag. At least we were on the board even if we had 4 lines to re-rig while fighting the waves. However, by

this time on Thursday morning, both "Vannish" and "Easy Does It" had boated two sailfish each. They were off to a fast start. Unfortunately, the "Where to Next?" team was playing catch-up. "Vannish" kept their performance up and boated another sail



around lunchtime and "Easy Does It" was quick to follow them up. My crew on "Where to Next?" was asking me why I couldn't put them on the fish. I told them they were all around us, and that it was their rigging of the live baits which was causing us the problems. Now, I have to tell you, I had to dust off my 25 yr old memories of live goggle-eye rigging. I taught both Steve and Ken what to do and how to do it, so they were only doing



what I showed them. Anyway, as the afternoon drug on, we watched charter boats fighting multiple fish, with constant action. Heck, at one point in the afternoon, "Where to Next?" was slow trolling with the bow pointed North. "Easy Does It" was on their southerly drift. We saw "Easy Does It" get a hard strike and Steve Fritz made a good hook-set on the fish. Unfortunately for Steve, there was a charter boat close by fighting another sail and was backing down hard on their fish. "Easy Does It", who was not in gear, sat helpless as the twin screw sportfish spun even closer. We watched as the mate on the charter boat yell at

(Continued Page 3)

Sails in the Wind

(Continued from Page 2)

the Steves (Guntner and Fritz), Randy Fetzter, and Bob Michael about getting out of the way (like they were thinking of moving?) as his captain backed down over Steve Fritz's line and cut him off. In the whole scheme of things, that was a very important fish. Read on. Right after that fiasco, we had a double header knockdown on "Where to Next?". We only had three people on the boat, so it was a great bit of team work to get Steve Kundle's fish to the boat first, which looked to be a good sized Atlantic sail I'd estimate at 90-100lbs. I can say that with some confidence since he jumped completely out of the water 5 feet from the side of the boat. With Steve's fish caught and released, we shifted to helping Ken Legge get his fish to the boat for a clean release. Unfortunately, I lost my wife's camera to the Atlantic as I was trying to take a picture of Ken's fish while Steve K grabbed the leader. Did I tell you it was rough out there? Well, the boat rolled hard one direction, I lost my footing, and bounced my forearm (the same forearm as the hand I was holding the camera in) off the gunnel, and dropped the camera into the blue. I can only imagine the photos the sailfish are taking with that sucker. Needless to say, Kelly was pretty mad since it was her camera. Here's one photo we were able to get before I lost the camera:



Well, that double header was the last sailfish "Where to Next?" would see for the rest of the tournament. "Easy Does It" and Vannish both boated some more sailfish in the afternoon on Thursday. So they both came off the water with 5 releases for the day. There was some trash talking at the dock when we got back, but most of us were so beat up from the sea conditions, we just wanted to get the boats cleaned up, get some food in the belly, and enjoy some adult beverages to catch a cool buzz. As we walked by the charter boat docks, there were several boats flying 25 sailfish or release flags. To say this was an epic sailfish bite of the last 20 years is probably an understatement.

Friday and Saturday the weather changed dramatically with the winds dying off to 5-10kts from the East. The weather shift was so strong, the bite turned off for us and everyone else. Charter boats only were scrapping in 1-3 sailfish. Unfortunately, the ASWSC crews got skunked on sails but we did catch some other fish: shark, mahi, and bonita. On Saturday, "Where to Next?" and "Vannish" headed north on calm water and a great sunrise to fish off of Jupiter; "BoKat" trailered south and fished off of St Lucie, and "Easy Does It" hung to the south once again. We were all trying different techniques to get something started. "Vannish" did a great job of feeding the sharks early off their double kite rig but had to pick up and move a time or two so they could get away from them. "Where to Next?" and "BoKat" alternated between a slow troll and kites. "Easy Does It?" stayed laid out on a slow drift for the day. Everyone got a great suntan because the weather was beautiful. Not many of us caught fish due to the east winds. Finally, late in the day, the radio rang out with "Vannish" calling in they had boated their first sail of the day. As it turned out, that sail won them the tournament. "Easy Does It" couldn't charm another sail to play with them on Saturday and placed 2nd. As you may have concluded, neither "Where to Next?" nor "BoKat" could make a significant move on Saturday so the 3rd and 4th places were locked in. All of us who made West Palm wish more of our club could have broken free of the ice and snow to join us. Bob Michael did a great job pulling this tournament together once again; we all thank him for his commitment.

I knew it was time for Jim Vann to point "Vannish" south and back to Lighthouse Point, his dockage for this winter, when I saw him on his cell phone Sunday morning ordering more margarita mix. He told me after he got off the phone that his crew could really put away the cold drinks while fishing and he had to restock. I think we can all learn from Jim and his crew – commitment, patience, and a bottomless cooler of drinks. Congrats to Jim and his team: JR, Scott Rowe, Brian Newsome.



The bulls-eye is on your back for next year!

- Capt Keith Mozena

Tournament Results:

1st Place	<i>Vannish</i>	Jim Vann
2nd Place	<i>Easy Does It</i>	Steve Guntner
3rd Place	<i>Where To Next ?</i>	Keith Mozena

February 2011 Member Profile: Randy Fetzer



Our featured member for February is Randy Fetzer who joined the club in 1997. Randy has spent his career in the electric supply and distribution business for the past thirty three years, 28 of which have been in the sales arena. Randy is an avid fisherman and is meticulous when it comes to regulations, rigging, and deep sea tackle. His favorite area to fish is the Gulf Of Mexico from De Soto to the Mississippi Canyons. Now forty-eight, Randy has been fishing since he first was introduced to the sport by his mother and father at the age of five. While his favorite fish to track is the mighty Blue Marlin, he readily admits he loves to fish all pelagic species. Thus far the largest fish he has landed is a 150 lb. Yellow Fin Tuna. Randy was on the winning boat for the *Duel at Destin* in 2002 when their team released a Blue Marlin. Randy, along with his sister and brother-in-law, teamed up for the catch on Randy's boat "*FREQUENSEA*".

Randy remembers one instance when it was questionable who was fishing for whom. A five foot barracuda jumped over the cockpit, beam to beam, about six feet high while bottom fishing a reef off St. George Island. It would have hit Randy if he had not just seconds before knelt down to retrieve something on the deck. Two other crew were startled as they too were only a couple of feet from the Barracuda. Randy's favorite food is steak and he loves to tip a cold Budweiser. I know first hand. Randy crewed with me on a trip to Port Lucaya, Bahamas and when we met up in West Palm Beach for the trip over Randy showed up with a small duffle bag of clothes and ten cases of Budweiser for the seven day trip. When asked for general advise, Randy is quick to recognize that the club has been a great place to meet people that for him have become true lifelong friends. Randy said that anyone who is willing to meet, mix and participate in club activities will have a super opportunity to develop great friendships.

Randy has a number of favorite fish sayings, two of which are "NEVER LEAVE FISH TO FIND FISH" and "FRAYED LEADERS AND RUSTY HOOKS ARE A RECIPE FOR DISASTER".

Please be sure to introduce yourself to Randy at one of our up and coming meetings, as I am sure Randy can be found to be very helpful about many of the fishing questions you may have.

- Member Profile by Frank Nicoletti

Welcome New Members

ASWSC welcomes recently joined new members:

**Frank O'Brien
Brian & Kim Newsome
Jim & Elizabeth Vann**

**Be sure to introduce yourself to these new members at
your first opportunity and make them feel welcome.**

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 February 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.



Pass the Salt, Please

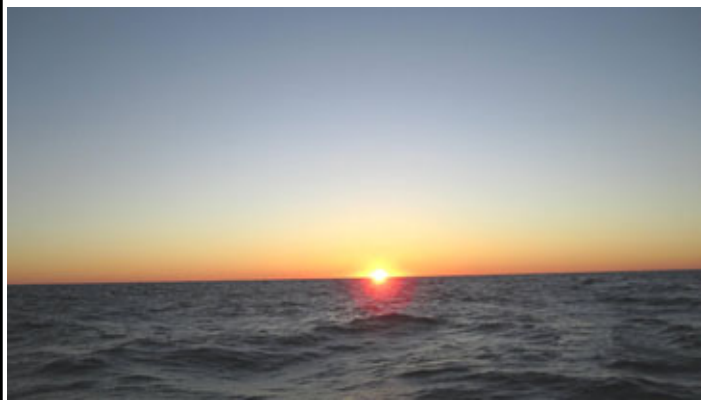
freelance fishing article by Jim Mason



Here it is February--"man it's cold!"--we've got to go somewhere! Well, the boat's still loaded for West Palm, so I suppose I may as well call Linda at Cotton Bayou to see if I can get a condo for \$100 a night. I got the answer we wanted, so the wheels started turning. For a good start, my first mate, Mark Mlezcko, was more than willing. Then to fill the crew of 4. Mike Carver answered the call, along with a young rookie--20 years old and very green--but what else can a captain ask for? A full crew!

The adventure began on February 10th, 3:00 a.m. I woke up at 2:00 to find 2" of snow on the boat, but clear roads. We pulled the usual all-nighter to make Orange Beach by early a.m. "Wow, it's as cold down here as it was in Atlanta! We dropped the boat and set up gear, as well as the pin fish trap, only to find that the bait went south for the winter. Hey, we came down here to fish, so the first plan of attack was to find some kings. This has always been our forte, but -go figure- they decided to go south for the winter, too. About 1:00, we called it a day. Time to relax, go out for the early bird special and re-formulate our plan.

Friday morning, 4:00 a.m. was the wake-up call. So by 5:30 we



were headed out the pass. One more futile attempt at the kings and then on to the live bottom yielding only 2 fish: one grunt and 1 undersized snapper. We could have gotten really bummed if not for the fact that we were out there and you weren't. With our hats in our hands, we headed back in for a nice warm dinner and shower.

Day 3: Mark had been pushing to make the run to the rigs since we left home, and with serious reservations I agreed. After all, it's February, with no risk of those ripping storms like the summer months. Mike decided he'd had his fill of this kind of fishing, so I gave him the keys to the van to make the 2-1/2 hour drive and go gambling. The remaining crew set out for the "Petronius" at 3:00 a.m., a 4-hour ride on my boat. First we made a call to the Coast Guard on the radio to file a verbal float plan of our trip, and we were on our way. It was good and cold



with a glaze of ice over the boat from the day before. It's a crystal clear sky with a wonderful blanket of stars, but it seemed like the sun would never rise. With good light, we were finally able to see the rig about 15 miles out.

(continued Page 7)

Pass the Salt, Please

(continued from Page 6)

Once we got there, we set our spread--2 skirted bally's, 1 red and white Stretch, and 1 pink Stretch. After about 10 or 12 laps around the rig, we decided that it wasn't happening, so we reeled them in. We re-set two Wahoo Whackers and headed for the next rig, B.P. Oil (White Marlin).



With the previous spread we made 1 or 2 passes before I decided to go below to make lunch. I think the fish must have smelled me cooking, because this always seems to happen. One reel goes off screaming. It was on the rookie side! It's on, but I've got a boiling pot, so I let Mark handle the rookie. 5 seconds later, the 2nd stretch goes off and the Chinese fire drill begins. I'm trying to tutor the rookie, drive the boat, and belt Mark, but it wasn't enough. The new kid dropped tension on the line and with a little air time, the fish threw the hook. A nice Wahoo! Still scrambling to keep the boat straight I let Mark work the fish, but it's going straight down near the engine. Forget the long lines, neutral and to the gaff. I'm seeing color, and then back down again. The next lift of the fish got the big hook in range, and...bull's eye!

Holy crap! I couldn't lift him! I braced the gaff on the gunwale, reached forward and dragged him over. It was hard to keep my eyes in my head. This was the biggest fish ever on my boat, a 110-pound Wahoo. The rest is just bragging, but if you don't mind, *would you please pass the salt again?*

--Jim Mason
Captain, Last Bastian





Off The Hook

Kids (and Adults) Say The Wildest Things

When the mother returned from the grocery store, her small son pulled out the box of animal crackers he had begged for, then he spread the animal-shaped crackers all over the kitchen counter. “What are you doing?” his mom asked.

“The box says you can’t eat them if the seal is broken,” the boy explained. “I’m looking for the seal.”

The grandmother was surprised by her 7-year old grandson one morning. He had made her coffee. She drank what was the worst cup of coffee in her life. When she got to the bottom, there were three of those little green army men in the cup. She said, “Honey, what are these army men doing in my coffee?”

Her grandson said, “Grandma, it says on TV ‘The best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup!’”

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a new litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother that there were two boy and two girl kittens. “How did you know that?” his mother asked.

“Daddy picked them up and looked underneath,” he replied. “I think it’s printed on the bottom.”

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, a man usually took his four-year-old daughter along on his afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age - particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day he found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As he braced himself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, “The tooth fairy will never believe this!”

In the supermarket was a man pushing a cart that contained a screaming bellowing baby. The man kept repeating softly, “Don’t get excited, Albert; don’t scream, Albert; don’t yell, Albert; keep calm, Albert.”

A woman standing next to him said, “You certainly are to be commended for so patiently trying to soothe your son Albert.”

The man looked at her and said, “Lady, I’m Albert.”

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, a minister overheard the intoning of a prayer. Apparently, his five-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box of cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister’s son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: “Glory be unto the Father...and unto the Son...and into the hole he goes.”

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. “I’m just wasting my time,” she said to her mother. “I can’t read, I can’t write, and they won’t let me talk!”

The bus driver stopped the bus to pick up a young boy for school, and noticed an older woman hugging him as he left the house. “Is that your grandmother?” he asked.

“Yes,” the boy said. “She’s come to visit us for Christmas.”

“How nice,” the driver said. “Where does she live?”

“At the airport,” the boy replied. “Whenever we want her, we just go out there and get her.”

President's Message

Not much longer and we should start to see trees beginning to bud and be able to listen to the delightful rhythm of the robin's song of spring. While these are pleasant experiences, the reality is that these signs mark the beginning of the 2011 fishing season. Someone once told me that the secret to successful fishing was in the actual preparation required prior to getting out on the water. Planning is becoming ever more important with the many restrictions we are confronted with. Tighter restrictions on size and limits, permits, the price of gasoline, venting tools, hook removers, non stainless/circle hooks - you name it, not to mention hurricanes and oil spills. All the more reason to be thoroughly prepared for the few times you are able to spend on the water. Now is the time to start going thru your fishing tackle and to get gear in order and organized. Might want to think about replacing any line that has been on your reels for more than a year. And speaking of reels, you might want to consider a good cleaning and lubrication. All too often I have witnessed lost fish because of faulty gear. Lastly, if you are a boat operator, now is the time to take care of all the deficiencies you discovered last season. I have already taken care of all necessary lubrication and have applied for renewal tuna permits and boat registration and fishing licenses.

Our time is limited, so all the more reason to be in a ready-set-go situation, so that when daylight arrives on the morning of your first trip out, you are totally prepared. Don't put yourself and your team in a position of being left at the dock waving goodbye to your friends as they head to the fishing grounds.

Don't be one of those who may get the "LEFT AT THE DOCK AWARDS IN 2011"

Regards,
Frank

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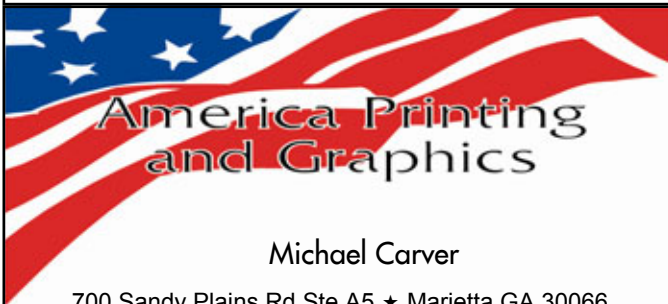
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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT NEWS

Gulf Council considers summer closure for Amberjack

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2011/FB11-003%20Proposed%20Rule%20to%20Establish%20a%20Fixed%20Closed%20Season%20for%20Recreational%20Greater%20Amberjack.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/GMFCWeb/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

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www.joinrfa.org



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www.billfish.org

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www.ccaga.org



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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.

Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation



The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation funds inspired scientific research and innovative educational programs to encourage conservation and best management practices for sustainable marine environments.

www.guyharveyoceanfoundation.org

KEEP AMERICA FISHING

The Voice of the American Angler

www.keepamericafishing.org

MISS JUDY CHARTERS Remaining 2011 Class Schedule

INSHORE CLASS / IN THE CLASSROOM (Cost = \$100/Person):

At Tubby's (see below for address)

March 12, 2011 - 8:00 AM till 2:00 PM

OFFSHORE CLASS / IN THE CLASSROOM (Cost = \$100/Person):

At Tubby's (see below for address)

March 5, 2011 - 8:00 AM till 2:00 PM

Classroom Class Details:

Location: Tubby's Tank House 2909 River Drive,
Thunderbolt, Georgia 31404

Each one day class includes breakfast and lunch.

INSHORE CLASS / ON THE WATER (Cost = \$125/Person):

Boat Departs from Miss Judy Charters Dock
(3 to 4 fishermen in an inshore boat)

March 13, 2011 - 8:30 AM till 2:30 PM

OFFSHORE CLASS / ON THE WATER (Cost = \$125/Person):

Boat Departs from Miss Judy Charters Dock

March 6, 2011 - 8:30 AM till 2:30 PM

On The Water (In a Boat) Class Details:

Capt Judy will provide boat, bait, tackle, ice, & licenses. Fishermen will need to bring food and drink.

Call 912-897-4921 now for reservations.

Please sign up as soon as possible! There is limited space available!

www.missjudycharters.com

Captain Judy's email fishjudy2@aol.com

Capt Judy's Cell 912-429-7671

FAX: 912-897-3460



Coastal Conservation Association Lanier 2ND ANNUAL BANQUET & AUCTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011 - 6pm

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<http://www.cooconest.com/>

For info, email: banquet@ccalanier.org

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All proceeds go towards protecting Georgia's coast.

Upcoming Club Events, Reminders and Deadlines

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 / 7PM

Winfield Hall 3890 Satellite Blvd, Duluth, GA 770.495.8088

See website for directions: www.aswsc.org

SWAP MEET

Winfield Hall

Tuesday, March 8th / 6PM

(just before the monthly club meeting)

Come to Buy: Pick up some great deals on used & new fishing/boating gear, rods, reels, tackle, electronics, accessories, clothing, and much more.

Come to Sell: Pick up some extra cash by selling your extra or un-needed gear.

NEXT CLUB TOURNAMENT:

Apalachicola, FL

May 12 - 14, 2011

Application and Tip Sheet coming soon to the Tournaments Page on the 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