



Fishing Post - February 2012

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

Miami Boat Show Report 2012 by Keith Mozena



I've been going to the Miami International Boat Show (MIBS) off and on for 30+ years. (Impressive since I'm only 39. What? Don't you believe me?). If you have never been, make plans to do so one year soon. It is an awesome event & toy store for saltwater fanatics like us. I have to say this year was one that stands out as impressive for all kinds of interesting new stuff I came across while at the show for 3 days. Let me give you a list of some of the cool stuff I came across: custom painted outboards of every design and color, outboards powered by propane, centralized fresh water flush manifold for all outboards on your stern, more 19-42ft fishing boats from more manufacturers you've probably not thought or heard about, 7 Marine's 557HP V8 outboard in a boat for test rides, joystick controls for mechanical outboards to provide you dynamic control of your traditional outboard boat in ways you only have read about for pod drive systems, and the granddaddy of them all – Hull number 1 of a the baddest fishing machine I've ever seen, ridden on, or driven – the Release Boatworks 46 Walkaround.

I flew in on Thursday afternoon, the day of the February club meeting. I heard the Holiday Inn was a little confused but Dan Reese did a great job educating all on techniques of kite fishing. While that was going on, I was mapping out my plan of attack for the MIBS. Day 1, early morning check out the *in the water* show at Sea Isle Marina just behind the Marriott Biscayne Bay and decide what I need to talk my way onto for sea trials, then 10am off to the convention center for the main body of the show. First go for the vendors in the upper levels, hit the Big Game Room, and search through their displays for stuff I can't leave the MIBS without. Day 2 go for the main show floor and check out the fishing machines on display. Midday, take advantage of a sea trial or two. Afternoon of Day 2 make sure to study the electronics displays from Furuno, Garmin, Raymarine, Simrad and others. Day 3 focus on more sea trials and then pack to head back to Hot'lanta.

Day 1 I am walking through the Big Game Room at the Miami Convention Center and I turn a corner and there is Capt Woody Woods, one of our guest speakers for the March club meeting, working a booth to help one of his sponsors, Pelagic Sportswear. We chat for a bit and talk about what the club may want to hear about fishing out of Venice, La. It was good to see him but I had to run to see what else was out there. I swing through several rooms, run into Frank Abruzzino, VP of Sales at Ocean Tamer, meeting him face to face for first the time. Some may know that several members just ordered 10 Ocean Tamer bean bag chairs with a club group-buy discount. Frank's a super nice guy and had a cool display in one of the 2nd floor rooms. I'm not a paid endorser, so take my opinion as you want, but they make a high quality product and the group buy was a great way to get a very good value.



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Miami Boat Show Report 2012 (continued from Page 1)

I also swung by some other vendors I know and picked up some cool stuff, including a new rod from Connley Fishing. While I was walking through one room, I noticed a large poster advertising a new propane powered outboard. This I haven't seen before but it makes perfect sense. I was so curious, I headed straight down to the main show floor to check it out. A company I've not heard of previously, Lehr, but an interesting alternative to burning gasoline or diesel. These guys are focusing on small motors first which use a "dry fuel" carburetor and a small, portable propane tank. Check out <http://www.golehr.com/> They make several claims to the benefits:

- Up to 50% lower fuel cost and more cost effective to use and maintain;
- No gasoline polluting the water;
- No ethanol or fuel related issues;
- Zero evaporative emissions; and
- No choke, no priming, no carburetor gum-up & no winterizing.



After leaving the Lehr guys, while I'm walking the show floor, I start noticing how many boat builders have begun custom painting their outboards. It seems that a plain, factory colored outboard is just not enough "bling" for a major boat show like Miami. I was told by a couple different manufacturers that they'll paint an outboard for \$1500 to \$2000. Ok, that is good sum of money which can be spent buying stuff to catch fish. Heck, unless you're trying to impress the ladies, I just don't think painting your merc outboards in a black tux motif is gonna' make a difference. Check out these examples on center consoles from: 41 Bahama, 39 Nor Tech, 39 Deep Impact, and 41 Cigarette



Yeah, that Cigarette had four 350Mercs, I guess that's why they put the word BOSS across the motors. Since 350HP is never enough for some, there are "relatively new" 557 HP outboards from 7 Marine. Announced last year at MIBS but this year performance numbers were announced and in the water sea trials were available. Cool to have 7 Marine bring two motors with see-through covers over brightly painted engine blocks and lower units. These suckers reminded me of the wild color schemes of muscle cars from the early 70's. Who doesn't remember the wild purple hemi Cudas or the lime green Roadrunners. Heck, these marine-ized, supercharged, fuel injected V8 is definitely an example of the American entrepreneur muscle. But when I saw one painted the ugliest baby blue on a 29 Sea-Hunter at the in-the-water show all I could think of was baby blue dinosaur from some little kids show. Whoever chose that color should be shot, in my opinion. However, the 7 Marine V8 motor sounded very cool leaving the dock with over the water exhaust and the boat was fast with a single 557HP engine. But at something over \$65K per motor, this is a unique motor for unique people.



(continued Page 3)

Speaking of strange and something for unique people, how about twin 300HP outboards on a 30ft triple tube pontoon which has two lazy boy recliners, a full wrap around couch up front, a full end-to-end bimini top, and a wet bar with bar-b-que grill. Heck, doesn't everyone need a 60mph outdoor living room?



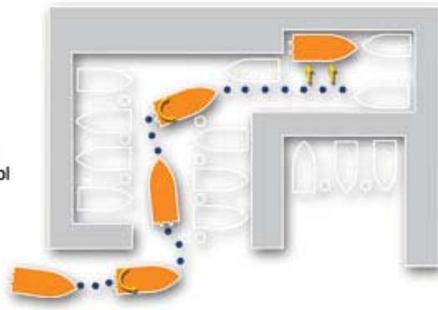
Getting back to the boat show floor, I was impressed with the number of cool color schemes of the hulls and interiors. The manufacturers are definitely trying everything to sell their product. Some brought boats with very cool wraps on the hulls. The detail, stunning quality, and vibrant colors makes me curious about what's going to come next. I do know that at some point, sexy women or pirate schemes on boats help sell 'em. These are just a handful of the boat wraps which caught my eye.



The coolness didn't stop just at impressive painted motors and impressive wrapped hulls. The introduction of joystick control from Teleflex, they call it Optimus and Optimus 360, for mechanically controlled outboards was darn cool to experience. I drove a 32ft center console with twin 250 Suzuki 2-strokes that I could fully control with immediate confidence in a cross wind and a 3 knot tide current moving through the marina. The system has separate hydraulic pumps which are controlled by a computer which has redundant everything and even allows for full mechanical (as opposed to smart electronics over hydraulic) controls in event of multiple system component failures of the electronics. I've heard that Yamaha and Mercury are working on such systems themselves but this is the first one on the market and the system works well. Optimus controls shifting, throttle, and independently steers each motor based upon the joystick input you provide at the helm. I will say it looks pretty strange to see outboards pointing different directions; it is disconcerting.



Independent Engine Control



See the left most photo.

Tell me that isn't really strange looking!

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Miami Boat Show Report 2012 (continued from Page 4)

The Release Boatworks 46 Walkaround has one of the most beautiful profiles I've seen on a new production boat in a long, long time. This boat came out of the collaboration between a big guy with money, Jim Turner, and a very creative naval architect, Erwin Gerards. Gerards had spent years working at Rybovich & Sons in West Palm Beach as an in-house designer. When Jim Turner decided he wanted to create his new boat line and company, it just happened that Erwin was looking for a new challenge. A marriage made between two guys who shared a common vision. Turner also owns the Casa Vieja fishing lodge in Guatemala. This is a world class lodge from all I've read but definitely shows Turner has money. Heck, he restored 3 or 4 classic sportfish boats (think Rybovich, Merritt, Whiticar, and Gamefisher) to build a unique fishing fleet for Casa Vieja. After restoring several of these classics, one of the captains working for Turner at Casa Vieja, planted the seed by asking, "Aren't you tired of restoring these old wooden boats?" In my conversation with Jim at the dock before I jumped on the 46 for a sea trial, he told me that question got him thinking "why not build my own classics". That is how this bear of a man got this new business started.



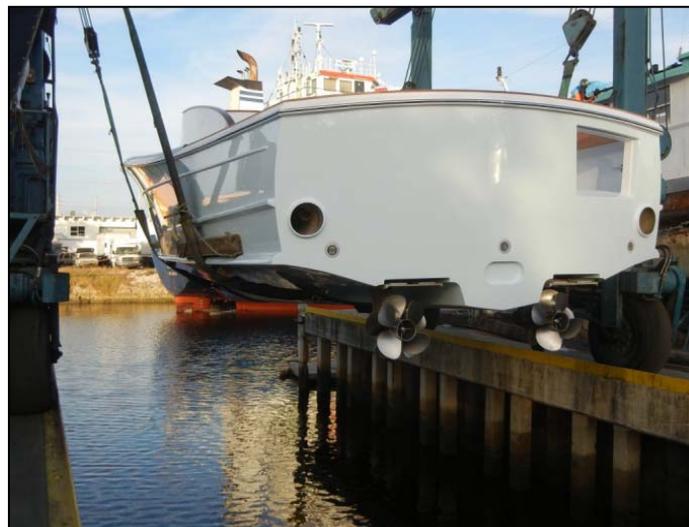
Erwin Gerards and the craftsmen Jim Turner has hired have turned Jim's vision into reality. Gerards spent a year working up the design from a blank CAD screen and he designed it specifically to take advantage of the new Zeus system from Mercury Cummins. If you can believe it, these guys let me drive this beautiful boat and it is AWESOME. I can't believe Darrin Maietta chose not to join me, something about \$18 for a boat show ticket on our last day. His loss. I have to say, this is the most incredible fishing machine I've ever seen and experienced, ever. This big boat, weighing in at only 33.5K lbs, is quick with twin 700HP turbo diesels reaching well over 40mph for top speed. She's also fuel efficient, but during the sea trial, at full throttle, the captain put the helm hard over and she executed a 360 turn in approximately 100 feet. The boat didn't slip, slide, skip, slow down much or even heel over much. Deadrise at the stern is a mild 12 degrees. I can only share that this experience was like driving a tournament waterski boat.

The helm has a light feel and you can adjust that with system configuration but they had this boat set up for finger tip control. I found the Zeus joystick has incredible feel in its feedback which allowed me to push the boat in reverse up to 12 kts and change direction in reverse with incredible immediate response. By immediate, I mean as soon as I provided joystick input to change direction, even while backing down, it happened in a nano-second. There is no delay, there is no general shift in the direction you want. Nope, this hull and drive system changed direction like you were reading measurements off a protractor. "I want 32 degree turn, in reverse, right now", "Yes Sir!" is the response from this beautiful machine.

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Miami Boat Show Report 2012 (continued from Page 5)

Here are a couple photos I pulled from the web from when they splashed this hull #1. Very impressive hull design. Finally, I'll offer that the whole boat is finished beautifully: the cabin, the helm station, the fishboxes, the live wells, the bilge and even way up under the gunnels. Everything is finished smooth and painted or gel-coated.



Now I don't consider myself as someone who could afford a boat like this in my lifetime. Shoot, unless you're a MegaBall lottery winner, you'd better have a trust fund, just sold your private business for million\$, or have found a few million laying by the side of the road to buy this quality of boat. However, Jim Turner doesn't believe a big sportfish is really needed. He's got his team working to build a 43 ft'r and a 34ft'r as well. The 34 will have a power option to be driven by a single turbo diesel and a bow thruster. That package could be very, very interesting, highly fuel efficient, and could be a dream boat for many of us. Check out Release Boatworks at <http://www.releaseboatworks.com/>

I realize this article may not interest all in the club, but the MIBS is so huge, you can spend all 4 days and still not see and learn all you want. Heck, I completely avoided all the cruisers, trawlers, dingy's, and sailboats. There is so much to see, I don't think I can write a brief article which will cover even 1/32'd of what's displayed. The electronics display could be a whole article just in itself. However, to provide something practical which all could benefit from, here's one cool little gizmo/tool I found which any of us could use and afford, the Fugu. This little guy is made from stainless and helps you tighten your knots on terminal tackle:



I found it at one of the fishing tackle store booths and bought it for \$7 or \$8.
<http://www.kingkazproducts.com/fugu.html>

I will finish by suggesting that you plan on going one year. It is a very fun long weekend which this year lined up with President's Day on Monday. Next February, 2013, could be your year.

Tight Lines, Keith

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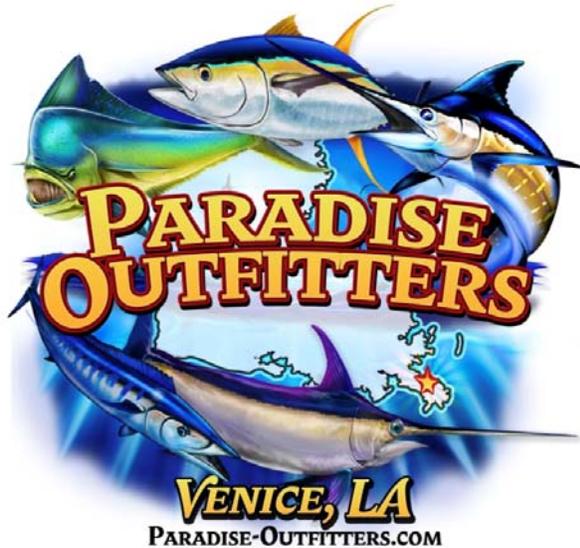
2012 Tournament Schedule

- January 11 - 14** **West Palm Beach Sailfish Tournament (3-Day)**
(Tournament Director: Bob Michael)
- May 2 - 5** **Venice, LA Tournament (3-Day)**
(Tournament Director: Mark Mleczo)
- June 7 - 9** **Apalachicola, FL Tournament**
(Tournament Director: Dan Reese)
- July 8 - 14** **Orange Beach, AL Tournament (Week Long)**
(Tournament Director: Mike Springer, Mark Mleczo)
- Aug 30 - Sep 2** **Destin, FL Tournament (Best 2 out of 3-Day)**
(Tournament Director: Steve Fritz)
- October 18 - 20** **Fort Morgan, AL Tournament**
(Tournament Director: Marty Miller)

Tony Vazquez is working on a potential overnight charter out of Panama City Beach, FL. Dates TBD.

Note: Tournament Schedule is Subject to Change Without Notice.
Check website for updates or e-mail for more information: info@aswsc.org

Come Meet Capt Woody Woods from Paradise Outfitters, Venice La



With the ASWSC planning to hold our May club tournament in Venice La this year, we thought we'd get the inside scoop on how to prepare, what to plan for, where to fish, and what to expect from a guy who knows what he's talkin' about. Capt. Woody Woods is a creative, energetic, and successful young captain who relishes the hunt for fish as well as stoking his passion by sharing what he's learned. Woody has run the decks of the Iona Louise, a 60' Bertram sportfish hailing from Orange Beach, Al since 2007. During his tenure, Woody has been the man in "the pit" who's set the trolling pattern, rigged the baits, gaff big fish, and has been a key part of a team that has over \$200,000 in tournament winnings in the last 4 years. During this same time, Woody has chosen to continue his personal education by attending Auburn University and is majoring in finance. This commitment to personal improvement and preparation for success is something Woody brings to everything he does.

Seeing that type of attitude, Captain Hunter Caballero agreed to partner up with Woody in early 2009 to operate Paradise Outfitters in Venice, Louisiana, and it has been a successful step forward in the reputation of both. Together they have built a well-respected, record-setting partnership, which is a top referenced fishing charter operation in a very popular fishing destination. In their first year, Woody and Hunter caught the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Bigeye Tuna (197 lbs, 194 lbs, and 173 lbs) state records for Louisiana. This ability to find, bait, and catch big fish also has provided Woody the opportunity to boat multiple Yellowfin Tuna in excess of 200 pounds, once catching four 200+ lbs Yellowfin in one month with Hunter. Woody has also had great success chasing and catching other pelagic species: Mahi Mahi, Wahoo, Swordfish, White and Blue Marlin, as well as Sailfish. Woody has caught Wahoo in excess of 100+lbs and several Blue Marlin, with the largest estimated to be between 500-600 lbs. All this success comes from preparation and study. Woody's knowledge of what techniques work and which are less productive is a key to his success whether he's trolling or jigging.

Woody's future remains very bright as he works to finish up his undergraduate degree at Auburn. Using what he's learned in college and life experience to date, Woody has successfully built his financial assets to the point that in the spring of 2012 Woody will take delivery of his own 36 ft Yellowfin center console. This will allow Woody to run his own boat for charter and tournaments. He will continue with Paradise Outfitters in 2012 and looks forward to fishing with all who dream of chasing big fish in the prolific waters off of Venice.

Woody is endorsed and on the prostaff of: Illander lures, Canyongear lures, Pelagic, and Braid products. Come meet him at our next club meeting on March 13th.

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Kevin's just like all of us amateur saltwater fishermen. He has a regular job, as a pharmacist, but when he gets a chance to go fishing, he wants it to be productive. Yeah, it's great to get out on the water and relax with some friends or family fishing, but *catching* is much more fun. Please make sure to join us at the Atlanta Saltwater Sportman's Club March meeting (3/13 at 7pm, Gwinnett Place Holiday Inn) to learn about Kevin's approach to offshore trolling and catching the fish you hunt.

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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT NEWS

New Federal Policy Will Destroy Gulf Reefs

http://keepamericafishing.salsalabs.com/o/6394/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=4048

Gulf of Mexico 2012 Gag Grouper Season Set for July 1 - Oct 31

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2012/FB12-010_FR_Gulf_Reef_Am_32.pdf

Gulf Council to Convene Red Snapper Advisory Panel

http://gulfcouncil.org/news_resources/Press%20Releases/RedSnapperAP112.pdf

Gulf Council Announces Public Hearings for Reef Fish Amendment 35 for Greater Amberjack

http://gulfcouncil.org/news_resources/Press%20Releases/RF35_Spiny11_PH2012.pdf

More Amberjack Restrictions Heading Our Way - see page 1; Red Snapper Update - see page 4

(Gulf Fisheries News - Volume 33, No. 5; November - December, 2011)

http://www.gulfcouncil.org/news_resources/Newsletters/NEWSLTR-12-2011.pdf

Gag and Red Grouper Regulations in Place for 2012 - see page 4

(Gulf Fisheries News - Volume 33, No. 4; August-Sept, 2011)

http://www.gulfcouncil.org/news_resources/Newsletters/NEWSLTR08-2011.pdf

Visit www.aswsc.org for links to State and Federal Fisheries Management Agencies websites.

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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.

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Upcoming Club Events, Reminders and Deadlines

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

Tuesday, Mar 13, 2012 / 7PM

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

See website for directions: www.aswsc.org

Scheduled Speakers: Capt Woody Woods (Paradise Outfitters) & Kevin Deane (Voodoo Lures)

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT:

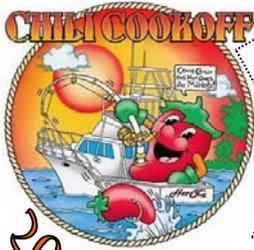
Swap Meet and Chili Cook Off
March 17, 2012

Location: Liquid Handling Specialists, Inc
(Mike Springer's Warehouse)
3160 Lenora Church Road
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Club Supplies
Hot Dogs and Soft
Drinks
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Swap Meet &

CHILI COOKOFF



2012

Setup
11AM
Noon Start

3PM Top
Chili Award



GRANDERWATCH

FISHMONSTER
MAGAZINE

5th Grander of the year caught—<http://granderwatch.fishmonster.com/>

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

Venice, LA Tournament (3-Day):

May 2 - 5, 2012

(Tournament Application Coming Soon)

Apalachicola Tournament:

June 7 - 9, 2012

(Tournament Application Coming Soon)

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