



# *Fishing Post* Jan 2016

## Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

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

### Christmas Party Makes A Great Finale for 2015

By Dan French

More than 70 club members attended our great party held at the Hilton in Peachtree Corners. This was one of the best in recent memory; Steve Fritz and his committee worked many hours to be sure it ran flawlessly - and it did! Great Job Fritz!

The silent auction items this year were outstanding. Whether you were an art critic or a martini connoisseur, our selection was sure to interest most everyone.



The quality of the custom rods and reels in the "big" auction was top drawer! These were procured by our own kilted Cefus McRae. Not every man can get away with a skirt, but it certainly was in good taste. Cute knees, Brother "C"!

Then there's the "Gambler" Tom Holt, who generously donated the majority of the Small Raffle items. Keep up the good work Tom; we need ya.

Quick thanks to K.C. the DJ, he kept the tunes flowing. Anyone who chose to HIT the dance floor (you know who you are) found all you needed to do was let the music man know what you wanted to hear, and he spun the disc.

The wonderful folks at the Hilton, Sandy, Michael and staff, provided tasty morsels for us to enjoy, also gifted us an extra hour of open bar that was very well received (and consumed) by the revelers. Thanks again!

#### 2015 Award Winners

##### Robert Lynn Award:

Steve Fritz, for many years of behind-the-scenes service.

##### Boat of the Year:

Persevere, Captain Mark Mleczeko

##### Angler of the Year / Junior Division:

Parker White

##### Angler of the Year / Ladies Division:

Wendy Coates

##### Angler of the Year / Men's Division:

Norman Bowen



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## 2015 Christmas Party (continued)

The 2016 Officers were officially announced during the festivities as well:

**President:** Ken Barnhart  
**Vice President:** Cefus McRae  
**Secretary:** Jace Spencer  
**Treasurer:** Steve Guntner  
**Tournament Chair:** Norman Bowen

### THANK YOU TO CONTRIBUTORS:

Galen Forbes & Hattie Duro: reception desk, collecting money and selling tickets.

Judy Kump: assistance in organization and being a huge help to Steve Fritz

Tom Holt: donation of raffle items; ticket sales

Manuel Magana: donation of 6 dinners from his restaurant, El Torero

Bob & Nancy Michael: donation of silent auction items

Dan French: donation of silent auction items

Ward Lane: donation of silent auction items

Jace Spencer: donation of silent auction items

Cefus McRae: procurement of high-end rods and reels for the raffle at a great price

Mike Springer: donations; storage of bulky club items such as tables, signage etc...

Keith Mozena: hospitality suite & bouncer

Rick Martin: contribution to the "after party"



# Tournament Score Card

## Boat of the Year Standings

(2015 Final)

BOAT	WPB	Apalachicola	Orange Beach	Morehead City	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

(2015 Final)

### Men's Division

ANGLER	POINTS
1ST   NORMAN BOWEN	600
2ND   JOHN ROCHE	400
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



# ON THE HORIZON

Warmer weather will be here soon, eagerly anticipated by many of our members, myself included. My friends and I are busy making fishing plans and getting our gear ready for the approaching season. The economy is far from healthy, but seems to be holding its own for the moment. As we book our reservations and sharpen our hooks, it's a good time to reflect on why we joined the Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club, and what we hope to achieve through our membership in the coming year.

Most of our members have "day jobs" and responsibilities which limit the amount of time we can dedicate to club activities. There's no denying that providing for our families takes priority over fishing, regardless of how much we enjoy it. Still, the opportunities presented by the club should not be discounted simply because they are not essential to our physical survival. Quite a few of us plan our yearly vacation schedule around club events & tournaments, because the benefits are extremely important to us. Even serious workaholics need a break, and most of us joined the club because we can't think of a better way to spend that time than on the ocean with a rod in our hands.

Where else can you get together with a large group of friends to experience so many of the things you enjoy most in life? Think about how the club enables us to share expenses and experience, allowing us to achieve so much more than we could on our own. Think about what you've learned, the memories you've created, the beautiful sights you've seen, the friends you've made, and the skills you've developed. Think about how you've gained a new appreciation for the natural world, teamwork, and responsibility. Being able to pass these things on to our children is an invaluable bonus for parents like myself.

The only way the club continues to provide these benefits is through the efforts of individual members. We've all heard the speculations that things will never be as good as they used to be, back when gas was cheap, you could keep more of the fish you caught, and our members were just a bunch of guys struggling together to figure out what they were doing. I concede that the club will never be the *same*, but I believe it can be as good or even better. We have virtually unlimited possibilities through the collective knowledge and experience of our members; an analogy comes to mind...we are like the human brain (only using a tiny percentage of the potential power available). Sure, we're all busy making ends meet, but let's work together and make the club better, for ourselves and for each other. If we all chip in, the time demands will be small for each of us. Our club is worth the extra effort.

So, as you prepare for the coming season, I urge you to get involved. Volunteer to help with club activities or management. Volunteer to help organize an event or tournament. Consider an administrative position. Make a point of fishing with at least one member you've never fished with before. Get to know more of your fellow members; make new friends. Attend more events. Fish more tournaments! Think of ways for the club to provide enhanced opportunities. Volunteer to present a topic at a club meeting. Keep alert for chances to help other members. Share your knowledge and learn from others. Resolve to become a better angler and a better person. Invest a little more of your attention in the club and harvest the benefits for years to come.

Jace Spencer

## West Palm Beach Tournament Report

Despite a less-than-encouraging forecast, four boats made the long haul to West Palm Beach for the annual sailfish tournament in late January. Three of the boats were veterans (Keith Mozena's *Where to Next?*, John Roché's *Chillin & Reelin*, and Steve Guntner's *Easy Does It; Persevere*, captained by Mark Mleczo, was the only rookie in the competition. It should be noted that several of the *Persevere* crew were not rookies, though; Darrin Maietta, Bill Hesketh, and Jace Spencer had all previously crewed on winning sailfish teams.

Several boats arrived early to get some practice in. *Persevere* made the trip south on Monday, with the goal of using Tuesday and Wednesday to streamline procedures and allowing the hodge-podge of crew members to learn how to work with each other. Tuesday's weather wasn't ideal, but it wasn't raining; that would soon change. *Persevere* took advantage of the window and used the day to gain ground on a much needed learning curve. The weather Wednesday was dismal, to put it mildly. Rain was extremely heavy at times, and there was even a tornado warning in the afternoon. Some of the *Persevere* crew, along with guest Ben Lazar, braved the elements and did some trolling. Although they raised some sailfish, none were caught. the most optimistic report of that activity: they made it back with no injuries.

The tournament officially got underway Wednesday evening with the Captains Meeting, held at one of the dockside suites. Rick Martin provided some of his legendary BBQ and Laura Lazar brought her awesome Cowboy Beans; no one left hungry. Despite the weather, this was a very enjoyable gathering. Several members were reunited for the first time in many months, and all were looking forward to fishing the first club tournament of 2016. Tournament Director Keith Mozena gave us all the tournament info, and gifted each participant with a premium aluminum club coozie, provided by member John Roché of Top Dog Awards.



The forecast Thursday wasn't a huge improvement over Wednesday, but that didn't stop any of our boats from fishing. *Chillin & Reelin* got things rolling early in the morning with the all-important tie-breaking first sailfish of the tournament. The crew of the *Persevere* looked on as Ryan Howard fought the sailfish for 8 hours (okay, okay, it was probably only 15-20 minutes, but it seemed a lot longer). As it turns out, despite everyone fishing hard all day long, that was the only sailfish caught on Thursday, leaving *Chillin & Reelin* firmly in first place at the end of Day One.

Friday was the best weather for sailfishing. *Persevere* was first on the board Friday, Craig Antonio catching his first sailfish; the memory wasn't preserved due to a camera malfunction (operator error), but luckily there was another photo op later that day when Craig caught his second sail. Greg Wilmoth, aboard the *Easy Does It* also got his first sail, again while the *Persevere* crew watched. Wendy Coates aboard *Chillin & Reelin* boated a sail as well, leaving the outcome wide open at the end of Day Two. *Chillin & Reelin* was in first place ahead of *Persevere* by virtue of having caught the first fish, with *Easy Does It* hot on their heels. Unfortunately, *Easy Does It* developed some engine trouble and was not able to fish at their full potential.



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# West Palm Beach Tournament Report

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Saturday was probably the worst sailfishing weather of the tournament, with light wind in the morning, tapering off to dead calm in the afternoon. *Persevere* took a page from *Chillin & Reelin's* playbook and sprinted out to get a line in the water immediately. Within seconds of the flatline hitting the water, Mark Mleczo was hooked up with his first sailfish. Helium balloons were required after the wind died, but it was so calm it was difficult to keep a kite up even with a balloon. Tension was high in the afternoon, as captains were glued to their VHF radios awaiting word of another sailfish release. But once again, this turned out to be a one-fish day, with the winning fish caught within the first few minutes.

The big surprise during this tournament was the absence of a single sailfish release by *Where to Next?*, which won the sailfish tournament for the previous three years in a row. The crew struggled with operational difficulties and just plain bad luck, drowning multiple kites. Sometimes you're just in the wrong place at the wrong time. At the next club meeting, Capt Steve Gunter of *Easy Does It* humorously presented Capt Keith Mozena of *Where to Next?* with a **Conservation Award** for not stressing any sailfish with the trauma of being hooked.

Saturday evening was the Awards Dinner at the Sailfish Marina restaurant. Great food, lots and lots of laughs, and good time for everyone. The winning *Persevere* team was presented with a stunning trophy and each of the crew received a beautiful insulated First Place mug - all provided by Top Dog Awards.



Above, *Persevere* Crew (L-R): Jace Spencer, Craig Antonio, Capt Mark Mleczo, Bill Hesketh, and Darrin Maietta.

After dinner, anglers catching their first sailfish were pushed into the pool for the traditional celebratory dunk.

This trip was absolutely great fun and a super start for our tournament year.



Right, sailfish newbies after a traditional dip in the pool at Sailfish Marina.

	<b>Boat</b>	<b>Captain</b>
<b>1ST PLACE</b>	<i>Persevere</i>	Mark Mleczo
<b>2ND PLACE</b>	<i>Chillin &amp; Reelin</i>	John Roché
<b>3RD PLACE</b>	<i>Easy Does It</i>	Steve Guntner



# Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

## 2016 Officers



**Ken Barnhart**



**Cefus McRae**



**Steve Guntner**

### 2015 Officers

Ken Barnhart, President  
[dareme007@msn.com](mailto:dareme007@msn.com)

Cefus McRae, Vice-President  
[cefus@nutsandboltsfishing.com](mailto:cefus@nutsandboltsfishing.com)

Steve Guntner, Treasurer  
[guntner@mindspring.com](mailto:guntner@mindspring.com)

Jace Spencer, Secretary  
[jks@nmsmail.com](mailto:jks@nmsmail.com)

Norman Bowen,  
Tournament Committee Director  
[norman.bowen@sprint.com](mailto:norman.bowen@sprint.com)



**Jace Spencer**



**Norman Bowen**

# Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

Saturday, March 12th, 2016

At Liquid Handling Specialists, Inc.

3160 Lenora Church Road, Snellville, Ga



## Swap Meet & BBQ Cook-Off



Awards  
Presented  
For  
Best BBQ  
and  
Best  
Brunswick  
Stew

Starts  
at  
12:00pm

BBQ & Stew  
Judging  
at 3:00pm

**11:00 AM Set Up for Swap Meet Exhibitors and Cook-off Competitors**  
Exhibitors should bring a table to display their stuff

**Come SELL or BUY fishing tackle, boat or boating gear.**  
**Sell any items old, new, hated or held dear; someone's trash is another one's treasure.**  
**Come join in our fun, it would be our pleasure!**

### Please bring:

Your favorite BBQ and/or Brunswick Stew dish, already prepared (in a crock pot or warming tray). Bring your own beverages. Paper goods will be provided. You are welcome to bring desserts or side dishes.

**PLEASE Call Steve Fritz and let us know what dish(es) you will be preparing, and with any questions you have concerning the cook-off.**  
**404-702-5558**

**Directions to Liquid Handling Specialists, Mike Springer's warehouse:**  
Go I-285 from North or South and take Exit# 39B (going North East) on to US-78 also SR-10, go 14.1 miles. Turn Right (South) onto Henry Clower Blvd., SW, go 0.5 mile and Turn Right onto Lenora Church Rd., SW. go 1.7 miles, to 3160  
If you get lost, call Mike: 678-873-3273

# Spring Fling Striper Event & Luncheon

It's time to unwrap the boats and burn some gas. Get ready for the upcoming season by joining us on Lake Lanier!

## Saturday April 23, 2016

**Striper Fishing** - 7:30am to 11:30am. This will be a catch and release event. Sum of the total length of all your legal stripers combined wins!

You can launch from any ramp of your convenience on Lake Lanier. Many will be launching from **Aqualand Marina**, 6800 Lights Ferry Road, Flowery Branch, GA 30542.

**Lunch will be at Fish Tales Restaurant** at Hideaway Bay Marina, 6334 Mitchell Street, Flowery Branch, GA. Come by car or by boat.

GPS coordinates by boat - Lat: 34°11'147, Lon: 83°56'2036

Lunch will be at 12:00 noon, Rain or Shine

This year will also include the 2nd Annual **Cast Net Competition** at Fish Tales. Those with cast-netting skills will provide instruction to those wanting to learn, to be followed by an informal net-casting contest.

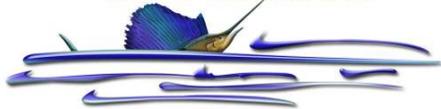
Feel free to join us for fishing or just lunch. If you plan to attend the event, please email to let us know how many will be in your party: [info@aswsc.org](mailto:info@aswsc.org)



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## Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

### UPCOMING 2016 CLUB ACTIVITIES

February 20	Get Together at El Torero Duluth
March 8	Monthly Club Meeting at Hilton Atlanta Northeast
March 12	Swap Meet & BBQ Cook Off
April 12	Monthly Club Meeting at Hilton Atlanta Northeast
April 16	Get Together at O'Shucks Winder
April 23	Spring Fling Striper Contest & Luncheon at Lanier
May 1 - 3	Middle Grounds Charter Trip
May 7	Cinco de Mayo Picnic on Lanier
May 10	Monthly Club Meeting at Hilton Atlanta Northeast
May 19 - 21	Tybee Island Tournament

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)