



Fishing Post - July 2010

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

Back to the Bahamas

Tournament Report by Norman Bowen



After a year of planning and countless hours of research, ASWSC members arrived in Ft. Pierce for the first club trip to Abaco in a dozen or so years. Boats were loaded, final provisioning completed and, after a last check of the weather forecast, we eased out of Harbour Isle Marina for the 110 mile, five hour run to Walkers Cay. The one-to-two foot chop built into a three-to-four foot quartering head sea as we got into the Gulfstream. After the sixty-one mile pounding, we arrived at the Bahama Bank. There are not words to describe the color of the water at White Sand Ridge where the blue Gulfstream water meets the white sand of the Bank. After a quick lunch break, we continued on to Walkers.

Little remains at Walkers. The power plant, air strip and customs office is about all that's left; everything else destroyed or abandoned. The island is for sale; hmmm, new club island? Once cleared (which was a long and miserable process) we made our way to Rosie's Place on Grand Cay. I've heard Rosie's Place described as rustic or charming. I'm not sure those are the words I would choose, but it is unique and definitely laid back and I'm glad to have experienced the out-island culture. There is a gazebo and picnic tables in the center of the marina where the locals and boaters gather in the evenings. Six dollars will get you a heaping bowl of conch salad made to order. Having sampled the conch fritters on five different Abaco Cays, I can say that Rosie's are by far the best.

Saturday morning, after fueling up, icing down, and confirming reservations for our return trip, we departed Grand Cay for the southern Abacos. The eighty-mile run was mostly uneventful. Several boats stopped at Green Turtle for lunch at the Green Turtle Club. We headed for Marsh Harbour to Curly Tail's for lunch and to pick up our crew flying in. We reconvened at Great Guana Cay. *Where to Next?* at Orchid Bay Marina and *Outlaw, Easy Does It* and *Glory Days* were all at the same private dock. It was after 5:00 by the time we got the boats unloaded and picked up our golf carts. Three days of work to get there; we had finally arrived. Guana Grabbers, dinner and dancing to rake and scrape at Grabbers Bar and Grill to celebrate Ted DuBose's birthday.

Sunday we did a snorkel trip to the north side of Guana, then on to the world famous wild pig roast at Nippers. We never got to see the pig, but after a couple of frozen Nippers it really didn't matter. The highlight of the day was the Italian sausage and spaghetti dinner at the Guntner's beach cottage, Shore Crest II.

Power in the Bahamas is known to be unreliable, but the issues exceeded all expectations. No power from Sunday night till Tuesday. We learned that a house with a working generator is a must.



(continued Page 2)

Back to the Bahamas

(continued from Page 1)

Monday was our first fishing day and we decided to go all in. We made the run out to Jurassic Park, the Mushroom, and Little Abaco Canyon. Beautiful cobalt blue water and weed lines in depths over 15,000 feet. No one home to play. *Glory Days* picked up some groupers and triggers on the reef to save the day. Steak and potato or roast beef tenderloin and wild mushroom risotto dinner at Calypso Cottage.



The plan for Tuesday was to go out north to Man-O-War cut, fish the drop off Elbow to the south, come in to Tilloo and raft up for burgers. A huge thunder storm was sitting over Elbow Cay for most of the day, so we changed up and ran north to the beach off north Guana. Lunch was at 4:00 but hey, we're on island time. We snorkeled off the Whale passage for some conch for salad. We celebrated Bo and Kathy Dunn's anniversary with a nice dinner at Calypso Cottage.

Wednesday the plan was to marlin fish off Elbow. We were met with four to six foot seas and fifteen knot winds. Change of plans; we're island hopping. Man-O-War Cay is a quaint village with a well protected harbor. The main attraction is the sail shop and Albury's shipyard. We had lunch at Hope Town on Elbow Cay, walked the village, the beach, and of course the shops. We reconvened with the rest of our crew and *Easy Does It* and went to Green Turtle for fuel, conch fritters and drinks at the Bluff House. The excursion was cut short; no power on Green Turtle.

On Thursday, *Glory Days* and *Where to Next?* went fishing and *Outlaw* went diving. Both were great choices. *Where to Next?* caught their first ever blue marlin and a nice dolphin; Keith Mozena was captain and angler on the blue. *Glory Days* had a nice assortment of reef fish and the only tuna of the trip. Darrin Maietta's blackfin tuna weighed in at 14 pounds. The diving on the Fowl Cay preserve was spectacular. The reef extends from the sea floor at about 20 feet to the surface. There are many caves and under cuts in the reef to explore and lots of very cool fish. Some of us took the golf carts up to Bakers Bay for dinner and Lisa Maietta prepared an Italian feast at Top Shelf.

Friday was our final shot at a billfish. The Boat Harbor Billfish tournament was going on and there were many reports of blues whites and sailfish on the radio. *Outlaw* jumped off a small blue and *Glory Days* jumped a huge blue. Keith Mozena of *Where to*

Next? caught the big fish of the tournament: a 20 pound dolphin. *Outlaw* weighed in three nice dolphin as well.

The awards banquet was at Calypso Cottage featuring Calypso Coolers, blackened Mahi, bacon-wrapped tuna, and clean-out-the-refrigerator side dishes. The pigeon pea bacon cheeseburger pork and beans were a hit. After the presentations of the trophy and the \$100 Lenny Pisarski big fish reward, Keith was initiated into the club with a swim in the Sea of Abaco.

Saturday was a sad day as we dropped the crew off at the ferry dock and loaded the boat for the return trip. To break up the trip, we decided to stop off at Treasure Cay for fuel and a cold Kalik on the beach, then on to Spanish Cay for lunch. We note for future reference that the customs office at Spanish is in the air conditioned bar. We spoke with the marina manager about rates for a potential future club trip, then off to Grand.

About 10 miles into the trip, *Easy Does It* developed engine issues. Looking like we'll be late getting into Rosie's, *Glory Days* called on the sat phone to confirm we'll have rooms. Only one room available; back to Spanish sooner than we had hoped. The marina manager at Spanish Cay went overboard accommodating us for the evening. We got a late start on Sunday due to trouble-shooting what turned out to be bad fuel and reloading the boats. You couldn't have asked for better conditions for the crossing. We had a light breeze to our back and a one foot following sea the whole way. Of course we saw a school of mahi feeding on a weed line and two free-jumping billfish out in the Gulfstream.

This was a trip of a lifetime and the stories will be relived and retold for years to come. We made new friendships and experienced many "firsts" together. We explored new territories, experienced new cultures, and overcame the elements and dangers of a 200-mile boat ride across the Atlantic. Each of the different islands in the Abacos have their own unique personality and all are beautiful. There is still so much more to see and do. We hadn't even made it back to the US before we were already planning our next trip.



Tournament Results:

1st Place	<i>Where To Next ?</i>	Keith Mozena	1115 pts
2nd Place	<i>Glory Days</i>	Ted DuBose	185 pts
3rd Place	<i>Outlaw</i>	Mike Springer	150 pts

Meat In The Middle

Middle Grounds Charter Event, Report by Jace Spencer

29 members and guests braved the heat and showed up at Hubbard's Marina in Madeira Beach on Sunday, June 20th for the Middle Grounds Charter trip. After an orientation meeting by our host Leslie, and a quick safety seminar, we boarded the 72-ft cat hull charter boat, *Florida Fisherman II*, loaded our live bait, and got underway about 15 minutes earlier than the 8pm scheduled departure time. Most of us managed to get a little sleep during the 8-hour nighttime ride to the fishing grounds; those too restless to sleep stood at the railings and watched for squid and flying fish.



The boat finally slowed around 4:30am Monday morning and anchored up over the first fishing spot. Lines went out with bait and came back with fish. Repeat. Over and over again. After an hour or two, the captain called for lines up, weighed the anchor, and moved to a new spot. For the most part, that's how it went for the rest of the day.

There's no telling how many fish were caught. Suffice it to say that it was in the hundreds. We had to deal with a wicked current which unfortunately was very unpredictable and often perpendicular to the wind, but it didn't keep us from catching fish. Our mates, Will and Kelvin, were pretty busy putting fish on ice (and untangling lines).

Our younger anglers were busy as well. Aside from a lot of other nice catches, Chad Nelson managed to wrestle in a sailfish. Tyler Koston showed us some impressive skills and hooked a huge (king?) that had him racing down the length of the boat before finally breaking off. Jonathan Spencer caught what would turn out to be the largest bottom fish of the trip, a 22-lb. grouper. Kendall Spencer showed his dad & brother how to bottom fish by boating at least 7 snappers before their first fish came over the rail.

Aside from the one sailfish and a several grouper, other fish caught included red snapper, mangrove snapper, creole snapper, beeliners (vermillion snapper), king mackerel, amberjack, and porgies. Several anglers limited out on vermillion snapper (20 per person).



Our chef and hostess on the boat, Tammy, cooked a hearty breakfast Monday morning, as well as a delicious lunch and dinner. She also kept us supplied with snacks & drinks.



About 9:15pm Monday evening, the captain called a halt to fishing and we stowed our belongings for the trip back to Madeira Beach. Many of us grabbed a quick shower and a change of clothes before heading to our bunks for some much-needed rest. I'd like to say the ride back to the marina was pleasant and uneventful, but things were a little rough. We were all tired and eager to get a little sleep; however, it was tough to do with the boat lurching and plunging. A couple of folks were tossed from their bunks and landed hard (now we know why we had to sign those waivers before boarding).

Most everyone seemed to have a good time and was looking forward to the next adventure. A great big Thank You to the captains and crew of the *Florida Fisherman II*, as well as the land-based employees of Hubbard's Marina.

Score Card

2010 Boat of the Year Standings

Boat	WPB	Apalachicola	Abacos	Orange Beach	Pensacola	Destin	Carrabelle	Total
Outlaw	10	20	10					40
Glory Days		10	15					25
Easy Does It	20							20
Where to Next			20					20
Bo Kat	15							15
Two Bills		15						15
Fish Dancer	5							5
Bad Buoys		5						5
Last Bastian		3						3

2010 Angler of the Year Overall Standings

(After Apalachicola Tournament)

(See website for individual/category standings)

Men's Division

1st Place: Mike Springer 300 pts
2nd Place: Steve Fritz 175 pts
3rd Place: 3-Way Tie 150 pts

Ladies Division

1st Place: Margaret Taylor 350 pts
2nd Place: Nancy Dunbar 50 pts

Junior Angler Division

(no entries yet)

(see website for individual & category standings: <http://www.aswsc.org/scoreboard/>)

News Bites



Contaminated Fish Not Limited to Ciguatera

Scombroid poisoning accounts for 46 percent of seafood-related food-borne illnesses. It typically occurs through improper handling of fish, such as not promptly putting fish on ice and letting them get too warm after they are caught. It is rarely lethal, but can be extremely scary and uncomfortable. Primary symptoms include flushing and cramps. If your fish has an oddly peppery flavor, it could be scombroid poisoning. Avoid this monster by making sure you properly ice down your catch until it is cooked or safely in the freezer. As always, take steps to avoid contamination.

Parasites are present in most types of fish. Most parasites are rendered harmless by thoroughly cooking. For raw fish consumption (i.e. sushi), freeze fish for several days before serving to kill the parasites, like sushi bars do.

Mercury? You hear lots of scary stories, but it's not usually an issue for the average seafood consumer. The health benefits of eating fish far outweigh the minimal risks of mercury poisoning. If you ate fish several times each week, it might be worth some research on your part. For most of us though, we'd be hard pressed to consume dangerous levels of mercury. The environment is constantly changing though, so keep yourself in the information loop.

Safety Tips: First and foremost, keep fish COLD, preferably packed in ice, until ready to prepare or freeze. Eliminate as much air as possible when freezing fish. Some good options include: vacuum-sealing, glazing, or freezing inside clean, water-filled milk cartons. Eat fish within 1 - 3 months of freezing. Thaw frozen fish in the refrigerator; microwaving, or thawing in water or on the counter could allow bacteria to grow and multiply. Never re-freeze thawed seafood.

July Tournament Venue Changed to Apalachicola

Based on unanimous consensus amongst participating captains, the location of this month's tournament has been moved from Carrabelle to Apalachicola. The dates have not changed.

The location of remaining tournaments for 2010 is still undecided.

Had Enough Yet?

I never would have guessed, while writing the editorial for the last issue, that BP and the government would still have failed to plug the hole in the world at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico spewing out millions of gallons of brown goo. Yet that is the situation as I write now, over a month later (and almost 3 months after the leak began). And apparently all other efforts have been abandoned until the relief wells are completed (sometime in August). Offshore fishing has been closed from LA to Cape San Blas, FL. Residents and businesses on the remaining coasts of FL, and even up the Atlantic coast as far as NC, are wondering if and when it will be their turn for the oil to invade their beaches and destroy their lives. Prayer vigils on the beaches are suddenly commonplace. President Obama has made several trips to Louisiana to publicly express his concern (I sure sleep better knowing that he cares so much...I hope that didn't sound as sarcastic as I actually meant it).

Meanwhile, the rupture continues to spew and the oil continues to spread, but everyone seems focused on the symptoms, not the cause. We don't hear much on the news about it any more either (yesterday's headlines don't pay tomorrow's bills). Businesses up and down the various coasts worry about the economic impact and loss of tourism; others worry about the long-term effects to the marine life and the resulting reduction (or elimination) of sportfishing opportunities. Politicians from every coastal state are falling over each other trying to convince the public that their beaches are magically unaffected by the oil spill. Still the leak continues. What if the first two relief wells don't work? At what point does the nightmare even *begin* to go away? As a friend of mine pointed out the other day, "We can put men on the moon but we can't plug a hole in the ocean floor." Unbelievable. Maybe it's time we started on our own prayer vigil.

– JS, Editor

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CONSERVATION NEWS

Current federal fisheries closure area due to oil spill:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm

Should we be worried about misguided agencies and environmental groups closing fishing down?
<http://www.saltwatersportsman.com/article/Species/Creeping-Protectionism>

Recreational and Commercial Fishing Interests to March on Washington - Feb 2010
http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/UnitedWeFish_121609.pdf

Amberjack Closed In Gulf - Oct 2009
http://myfwc.com/docs/RulesRegulations/saltwater_GreaterAmberjackClousure.pdf

South Atlantic Red Snapper Fishing Closed Indefinitely / RFA Files Suit to Overturn
http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/RedSnapper_120409.pdf

RFA Says 'Fatally Flawed' Science is Killing America's #1 Outdoor Pastime
http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/RFA_MRFSS.pdf

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

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www.billfish.org

Coastal Conservation Association



Committed to the preservation of marine resources.

www.ccaga.org



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.

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

Get Involved!

It's up to anglers like us to preserve the future of sportfishing!

Atlanta Salt Water Sportsman's Club



Luau — Picnic



Sat., July 31st at 1:00 PM

On Lake Lanier—Club Island

See below, chart and directions

Club Supplies:

Meat and paper goods
Tarps will be up for
rain or shine!!

Please Bring:

An appetizer or snack or
dessert to share.
Your beverage of choice,
Ice, lawn chairs and table.

Fri. night we camp
on our boats, so
please bring your
own food for that
night only. We will
have a grill available.



Please call **Judy Kump** **at:
770-477-7500 or **404-824-
6307** to **RSVP**. **Let me know**
if you need a ride to Club Is-
land, we will have a shuttle
from Harbor Lights Restaurant

Directions to Club Island: Go under
Brown's Bridge, to the NW, on left are 2 is-
lands with **marker #29**, go NW, passing their
North side. The next point on your left will be
the entrance to Club Island cove. Picnic will
be in the back inside cove, on the left.
Please anchor bow out and bring a stern line
and an anchor for the beach.
Approximate GPS Coordinates:
Latitude 34.15.90, Longitude 83.57.75

Land and boat ramp directions on separate
page. Please call Judy Kump** for any ques-
tions and please **RSVP!!!**



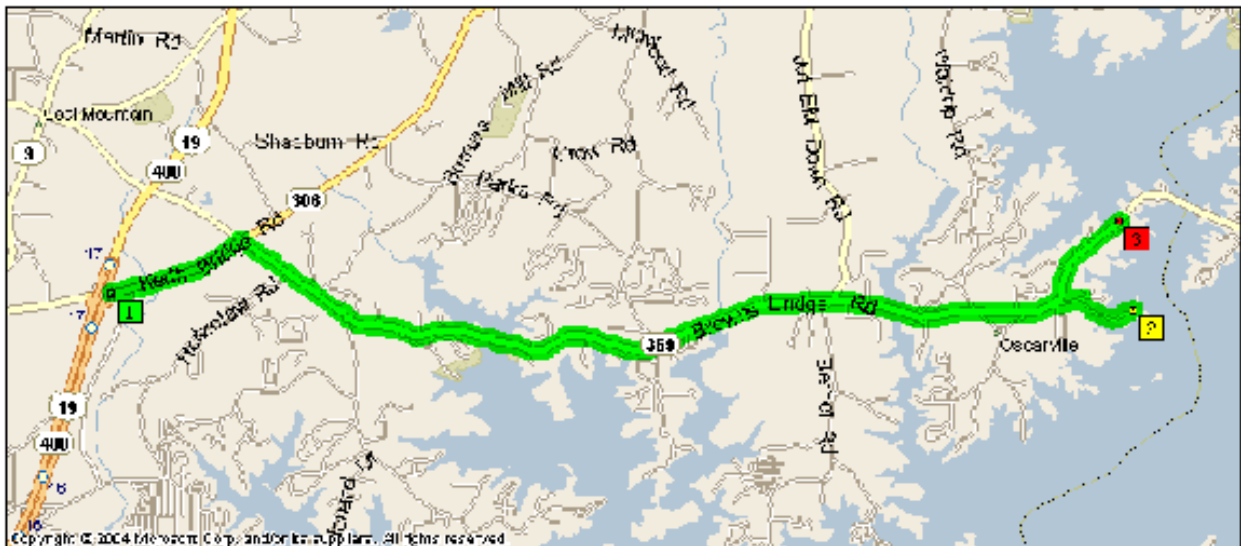
Directions to Picnic on Club Island, Lake Lanier

Directions from GA 400 at exit #17
to Harbor Lights Restaurant
9420 Browns Bridge Rd., Gainesville, GA
Parking and Boat Dock and also
Port Royale Marina
9200 Lan Mar Rd., Gainesville, GA.

Summary: 9.7 miles (16 minutes)

Time	Mile	Instruction	For	Toward
9:00 AM	0.0	Depart Keith Bridge Rd, Cumming, GA 30040 on SR-306 [Keith Bridge Rd] (East)	1.1 mi	
9:01 AM	1.1	Turn RIGHT (South-East) onto SR-369 [Browns Bridge Rd]	6.5 mi	
9:09 AM	7.5 ***	Turn RIGHT (South) onto Lan Mar Rd	0.2 mi	
9:10 AM	7.8 ***	Turn RIGHT to stay on Lan Mar Rd	0.5 mi	
9:12 AM	8.2***	At 9200 Lan Mar Rd, Gainesville, GA 30506, return South-West on Lan Mar Rd	0.7 mi	
9:15 AM	8.9***	Turn RIGHT (North-East) onto SR-369 [Browns Bridge Rd]	0.8 mi	
9:16 AM	9.7	Arrive 9420 Browns Bridge Rd, Gainesville, GA 30506		

***Omit the turn on Lan Mar Rd. if just going to the Harbor Lights Restaurant



Upcoming Events, Reminders and Deadlines

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, July 13th / 7PM

Winfield Hall 3890 Satellite Blvd, Duluth, GA 770.495.8088

Scheduled Speaker: Steve Johnson - Sea School

How To Sessions:

Offshore Rigging and Tactics - Randy Fetzer

Deep Jigging - Bill Rhodes

See website for directions: www.aswsc.org

NEXT CLUB TOURNAMENTS / EVENTS:

Apalachicola, FL: July 15 - 17

Picnic / Club Island, Lake Lanier: July 30 - 31

More info available on website:

<http://www.aswsc.org>

OIL SPILL NEWS LINKS

<http://jeffmiller.house.gov/deepwater/>

<http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/>

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

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