



Fishing Post - May 2011

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

Apalachicola Hard Bottom Classic

Tournament Report by Norman Bowen



Traditionally, ASWSC has made the first spring event in the Big Bend area of Florida; somewhere between Mexico Beach and Homosassa. This year, seven boats and thirty three anglers made the trip to Apalachicola for the Hard Bottom Classic. This is typically one of our largest tournaments and in years past regularly had over thirty five boats participating. With gas over four dollars a gallon and grouper and red snapper off limits, it has really taken a toll on our sport.



Steve Guntner with Record Warsaw Grouper and Trigger Fish

We kicked things off at Boss Oyster Bar for the Captains Meeting on Thursday evening. Blue Water Outriggers and Half Hitch Tackle sponsored our tournament and donated some nice items for our raffle.

Day one at first light our club boats were making way down Scipio Creek toward the offshore waters. *Lured Away* and

crew went deep but struck out on the deep water jigging. They came back in to hard bottom to save the day by releasing some big red snapper and kept a few trigger fish, mangrove snapper and a bluefish.

JoySea had a little engine problem and stayed in close. Tyler Kostun was hoping a catfish tournament would break out, but no such luck.

Nikki Girl had the hot hand on red grouper. Pat, Geoff and Steve all had some nice grouper in the six to seven pound range. Geoff also had a trigger fish near the club record.

Two Bills had a nice assortment of red grouper, vermilion snapper, amberjack and trigger fish. Mike Rhodes had the big AJ on the boat at 25.8 pounds.

Outlaw also went deep and scored. Steve Guntner broke two long standing club records with a 55.9 pound warsaw grouper and a 6.8 pound trigger fish. Steve proved that big baits catch big fish. The large grouper was caught on a 10 oz. blue and white jig with about a pound of cut bait.



Mike Springer with Big AJ

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Apalachicola Report

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Outlaw weighed in four amberjack between 40 to close to 60 pounds and topped off the fish box with a bunch of nice triggers, vermillion and mangrove snapper. Many red snapper in the 20 pound range were released, as well as gag grouper up to 25 pounds.



Steve Fritz with a Nice Grouper

Andy Durden on *All In* reported that they caught some nice red fish on the Franklin County Reef; the largest of which was 30 inches. Obviously a very nice catch that was released.

Friday night a front passed through and we awoke to thunder storms, wind and rain. *Lured Away* and *Two Bills* went out but quickly realized you can't fish if you can't stand up. Seas

kicked up to a steep & close five-foot chop. It was also quite comical to see *Outlaw* flats fishing in a 35' boat. Needless to say, there wasn't anything caught on Saturday worth reporting.

We wrapped things up back at Boss for the awards presentations. Lenny Pisarski, Jace, and Tom Holt presented the big fish award to Mike Springer for his 59.9 pound amberjack.



"Second Place Bill" Rhodes and Crew

Tournament Results:

Fifth place	Fifty Cent	30 points
Fourth Place	Lured Away	45 points
Third Place	Nikki Girl	275 points
Second Place	Two Bills	440 points
Tournament Champion	Outlaw	1,505 points

President's Message

Those of you who were at our recent ASWSC meeting had a chance to hear Bob Black from the Georgia Chapter of The RFA speak. Apparent very quickly was Bob's passion for the political issues facing all current and future saltwater anglers. The RFA has a monumental challenge in front of them dealing with Washington DC and all of our elected politicians. "The RFA needs our support." At the meeting, we handed out RFA memberships and hopefully you see fit to spend the \$35 to join. The money is for a good cause and anything they can do to stay, or even reverse, the current trends on fishing restrictions will only go a long way in protecting the investment we have all made in the sport we so dearly love and enjoy.

We just finished the Apalachicola Tournament and while we enjoyed the fishing, the food, and camaraderie, Mother Nature did not see fit to provide accommodating weather for the entire trip. More importantly, no one took any chances and tried to fish the poor conditions.

One of the things I mentioned this past meeting and would like to reiterate is to support the vendors who provide us raffle items. Please be sure to visit them and to be prepared to support the goods and services they have to offer, for as much of your fishing supplies as you may need. As all of you know, the business associated with the marine industry and sport fishing is slow and support of our sponsors is a great way of showing our appreciation of all their contributions to our club.

Regards,
Frank

Pass the Salt Again

freelance fishing article by Jim Mason



It had been a while since our last run to Orange Beach, so I set the wheels in motion for another run before the Apalachicola Tournament. Our best window fell on the week of Easter, to leave midweek and return Sunday, but that was simply not acceptable for a couple of the crew wives! Never a crew to pass up the opportunity to fish, we bumped the trip back a day to allow the Easter Bunny to arrive as scheduled.

The next question was, "Where to go??" I have personally been begging to go to Venice since Bob Lynn planted the seed with me. (To refresh your memory, the Club planned a trip there a few years ago but cancelled due to weather. My crew and I were stoked, but the trip was not rescheduled.) So I worked on Mark (Mleczko) for a while trying to change his mind, but he still had stars in his eyes from the last trip to Orange Beach and wanted to go back out to the rigs. After a few days of being showered in printer paper containing fishing reports from the rigs off of Orange Beach, I caved in on Venice and placed a call to Cotton Bayou. If you don't already know, Cotton Bayou is \$100 per night in the off season but rockets up to \$125 per night during the summer. With a clear view of the economies, the reservation was made and we were ready to go.

Our adventure began on April 19th with our typical over night drive. This may seem brutal, but think about it, it gives you another whole day of fishing!! The first day of fishing yielded us a few kings but it took the stink off the boat and we needed a short day in order to plan our future attack.

Now, allow me to talk about the crew for a moment. Of course there was myself and my first mate Mark. Additionally, with stars in his own eyes, was Mark's cousin Robert from Poland. Robert had just flown in and had a bad case of

jet lag and had a difficult time keeping his eyes open for fishing. I quickly nicknamed him Rip Van Polak, particularly for his snoring. Robert owns a boat and fishes the Baltic and, as Mark says, "This boy is a jigging fool!" The fourth crew member was Ken Cook from Snellville, another avid and natural fisherman. We put him to the test and he more than met our demands. Enough about the crew, let's fish!

Day Two started at first light with another kingfish run but the bite died with only one 20lb fish in the box, so we moved on to live bottom. Hoping for some good legal reef species, we ended up with a five gallon bucket of grunts. Hey, these are great for chunking! We headed back early to re-group for the night out. First, top off the fuel and fill extra cans as well as eliminate excess gear to make room. With everything prepped and ready, we headed out on a direct route to the Petronius. I say direct, but it took us six hours as we were pushing 3 to 5 foot head seas. We tried pulling wahoo whackers for about the last ten miles but had no luck due to the lack of blue water.



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Pass the Salt Again

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Upon our arrival, we set our trolling spread with two skirted Ballys and (2) stretch 30's, one pink and one red/white. FYI, tuna like hot pink regardless of top water or diving baits. After a few minutes, we got our first hook-up, a nice blackfin tuna.

The next hit came on one of the Ballys. The third hook up was something large and toothy and cut my heavy steel leader and stole the red and white stretch. We switched baits to a pink stretch 40 magnum and believe me, you had better have on your fighting belt just to deploy and retrieve this lure with nothing on it. After pulling the pink 40 for a short while, the big lure went off screaming. I had the chance to answer this one and started winching! By the time I got him up, we discovered that this was a 6-foot long mako with about an 8 inch grin. Mark took a shot with the gaffe and only got a little skin which quickly tore loose. I worked him back up, and the next gaffe shot was solid. Well, what now? Hey, I want my rig back! So, as we were fumbling and the fish was trying to chew through my boat he turned and bit through the leader leaving the stretch floating. We grabbed a net, and retrieved the lure in the dark.



Next, Mark decided to try and jig for the blackfins and after a couple of hook ups we decided to move to the up-current side of the rig. According to recent fishing reports, this was supposed to be the sweet spot. Oddly enough, the current caused us to have very little movement toward the structure. We held our position, and started jiggling with a fairly consistent bite. It was good and dark, but the Petronius was lit up like a Christmas tree. Don't kid yourself, trying to gaffe these quick little tunas in the dark ain't easy. Later, around midnight, 10-12 large Six Pack charters showed up. We held

our spot as we listened to their chatter on 16, but they had no interest in talking to me! After a while, one Captain declared that this was "nothing special" as they had been catching only black fins. Another captain answered back, "they'll be here at 4:00am". Mark and I were laughing saying, "Yeah, we really believe that!". At 3:50am I saw a pod of Dolphins swim by the boat, and Mark thought they were Yellow Fins. I said, "they never get this close" and he settled down. Twenty minutes later there was another rush of water at the surface and we both said, "Those ain't dolphins!". Mark quickly rigged a top water popper and started throwing without a hit. Back to jiggling, and the first yellow fin bit, the only yellow fin of the night, a 35 pounder.



With daylight approaching, the bite began to die, and we reeled them in after sunrise. With all of the other boats dispersing, we reset our trolling spread and pointed the boat back towards Orange Beach. About a quarter mile from the rig, one of the stretches went off and, luckily, it was my turn up! I went to work and finished the day's fishing with a 55-lb yellowfin. The only problem was that there was no more cooler space and the beer was tasting a little fishy for the ride back. The seas were 1-2 following swells, and we all agreed that this was one heck of a trip! But if you don't mind - "Would you pass the salt *again*, Please?"

--Jim Mason
Captain, Last Bastian

May 2011 Member Profile: Jim Tatum



Our featured member for May is Jim Tatum. Jim has been a member since 2010 and is a resident of Buford Georgia. He has a son 20 years old and daughter aged 25. Jim is a director of private label sales for H.P. Hood. In addition to his enjoyment of fishing, Jim is an avid runner and enjoys hunting whenever he gets a chance. Jim has spent a lot of time in the Orange Beach area and that was where he developed his love of the sport. Thus far the largest fish he has caught is a 50 lb. Halibut while fishing Sitka, Alaska. Going forward, he would like to target Billfish, Wahoo, and Tuna. One of Jim's notable fishing adventures was the catch of 21 different species on a combined trip to Orange Beach and Alaska. He also remembers the excitement of being chased by a water spout while fishing Perdido Beach in an open 18-foot single engine boat.

When asked about his favorite food, Jim was quick to admit that there were very few foods he would walk away from and, if it were not for his routine of running, he would weigh a lot more than he currently weighs.

Jim believes that it is always important to remember who you are and how you act whether you are representing the club, your family, or whatever organization you are affiliated with. Jim also strongly feels that, in order to continue the success of The ASWSC, we need to endeavor to get a younger generation involved in Sport Fishing. He is quick to remind those around him that life is a participation sport.

Please be sure to meet and say hello to Jim at one of our up and coming meetings.

- Member Profile by Frank Nicoletti

Score Card

2011 Boat of the Year Standings (after Apalachicola)

Boat	WPB	Apalach	Orange Beach	Penscola	TBD	Destin	Total
<i>Vannish</i>	20						20
<i>Outlaw</i>		20					20
<i>Easy Does It</i>	15						15
<i>Two Bills</i>		15					15
<i>Where to Next?</i>	10						10
<i>Nikki Girl</i>		10					10
<i>Lured Away</i>		5					5
<i>Fifty Cent</i>		3					3

AOY Standings as of May 2011

Men's Division

ANGLER	POINTS
1ST Steve Guntner	150
2ND Mike Springer	100
3RD Matt Brown	100

Ladies Division

ANGLER	POINTS
(no entries yet)	

Junior Angler Division

ANGLER	POINTS
(no entries yet)	

See Website for Complete Breakdown by Category

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.





Off The Hook

MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE

THIS IS WHAT YOU WILL HEAR WHEN YOU DIAL OUR MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE:

Hello, and welcome to the Mental Health Hotline.

If you are obsessive-compulsive, please press 1 repeatedly.

If you are codependent, please ask someone to press 2 for you.

If you have multiple personalities, press 3, 4, 5 and 6.

If you are paranoid, we know who you are and what you want. Stay on the line so we can trace your call.

If you are delusional, press 7 and your call will be transferred to the Mother Ship.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a small voice will tell you what number to press.

If you are a manic depressive, it does not matter which number you press, no one will answer.

If you are dyslexic, press 9696969696969696.

If you have a nervous disorder, please fiddle with the * key until a representative comes on the line.

If you have amnesia, press 8 and state your name, address, phone number, date of birth and mother's maiden name.

If you have post traumatic stress disorder, slowly and carefully press 000.

If you have bipolar disorder, please leave message after the beep, or before the beep, or after the beep. Please wait for the beep.

If you have short term memory loss, press 9. If you have short term memory loss, press 9. If you have short term memory loss, press 9.

If you have low self esteem, please hang up now. All of our operators are too busy to talk to you.

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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT NEWS

FL plans to close Gulf Gag on June 1; Fall season will be Sept 16 - Nov 15
http://myfwc.com/media/1367589/HotSheet_MAY2011.pdf

2011 Gulf Red Snapper season set for June 1 - July 18 (see pg 1 of Regulations)
http://www.gulfcouncil.org/fishing_regulations/regulations_matrix/Site/Regulations_Matrix.html

Gulf Amberjack officially closed during June/July 2011 (see pg 12 of Regulations)
http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/rec_brochure_2011.pdf

Gag Grouper closed in Gulf (federal waters) until June 1, 2011 (see pg 5 of Regulations)
http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/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

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

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

CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS



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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



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Upcoming Club Events, Reminders and Deadlines

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, June 14, 2011 / 7PM

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

See website for directions: www.aswsc.org

Scheduled Speaker: Lanny Deal of Mann's Baits

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT:

**Dancin' On Depot Street
June 25th, 2011 / 3:30PM
Hartwell, GA**

See website for additional information:

<http://www.aswsc.org/social-events/>

NEXT CLUB TOURNAMENTS:

**Orange Beach, AL
June 4 - 11, 2011**

**Pensacola, FL
July 7 - 9, 2011**

Applications and Tip Sheets available 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