



Fishing Post - May 2009

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

Members Tough It Out at Destin

Article by Norman Bowen



Although Destin is one of our favorites and always an annual destination, this was the first time we have tried Destin in April for the famous cobia run. April in the Panhandle can be tricky and this trip was no exception. A dominate high pressure system to the east and low pressure to the west, made for less than ideal conditions but we made the best of what mother nature handed us.

The Captain's meeting was at the Fort Walton Beach Sail Fish Club clubhouse. Steve Guntner put on a Cuban style dinner that will not be forgotten. Black beans, yellow rice, mojo pork and all of the sides were devoured by 35 hungry anglers. Captain Pat Dineen, charter boat captain and regular contributor to Sport Fishing Magazine and a regional expert on the Sunsport Networks Chevy Florida Fishing Report TV show spoke with the club about the current conditions and best bets.



(Continued Page 2)

Destin April Tournament

Continued from Page 1



Day one the club's eleven boats met 20 knot winds and 4 to 6 foot seas. Many Spanish and a few kings made the scales but no cobia showed. Outlaw released a redfish over 25 pounds on their secret numbers and had a limit of Spanish mackerel. At the end of the day The Last Bastian was in first place and had big fish with a 20 pound king. They also had a near club record 5.6 pound Spanish mackerel. Maggie Taylor on Salt Rocker toughed it out to be our tournament's top lady angler with a nice catch of Spanish mackerel.



Day two was even worse with seas pushing 8 feet offshore. Most boats stayed close to home however Lured Away and Outlaw stuck their nose out and got it smacked. Even if you could get offshore it was just too windy to fish and you couldn't get past the big red snapper. Most stayed close to the inlet or along the beach following the bait pods. Sweet Surrender, captain Evans Peters, weighed in the only cobia of the tournament along with a nice king. They had engine trouble on day one and did not make weigh-in which may have cost them the tournament.

The Last Bastian weighed in another good catch of kings and Spanish and had a firm control of the lead. The crew of Glory Days, Ted Dubose, Captain, played it cool until the last minute and weighed in a near club record 42.2 pound king mackerel to take the lead, big fish and tournament championship. That fish by the way was caught on a red and white Mann's Stretch 30.



The awards banquet was again at the Sailfish Club and the Outlaw crew didn't let anyone down with dinner plans. Steak, potato and salad served up by Steve Guntner and Steve Fritz and cooked to order. I overheard one member say that it was worth the trip just for the food.



Tournament Results:

1st Place	Glory Days	Ted Dubose	245 points
2nd Place	The Last Bastian	Jim Mason	225 points
3rd Place	Sweet Surrender	Evans Peters	200 points
4th Place	Outlaw	Mike Springer	140 points
5th Place	Fifty Cents	Dennis Daniel	75 points

**Lenny's Report
Apalachicola**



Another great Club Tournament.....and good weather too! If you couldn't make it this year, sorry!!!! We had 10 boats and 38 members doing what they love best - catching fish and sharing stories.

I fished with Frank Nicoletti on board the *Lured Away*, along with Tom Holt and Bo Dunn. Frank keeps his boat in Destin, so we motored the 116 miles on the Intra-Coastal to Apalachicola. That run is an experience in itself. The Captain's meeting was held at Papa Joe's, where we love to gather and eat their well-known oysters. Scott Rowe contacted our sponsors, Blue Water Outriggers and Half-Hitch Tackle, which donated 2 rod and reel combos for our raffle, along with five \$25 gift certificates. Scott also took this opportunity to present Dawn Brady with her Angler of the Year trophy for 2008 along with her 6 certificates for the different species awards. Congratulations, Dawn !!



The fishing and weather reports were good for the tournament, with seas running at 2 to 3 and plenty of fish to be caught. The only downer was the red snapper closure, which is a long story in

itself. The next morning, after picking up some live bait from the bait man, we headed for the Empire Mica. Fishing was good, but the number of large keeper Red Snapper we had to release was incredible. We managed to boat some nice amberjacks and gray (Mangrove) snapper, along with a few other species. Bill Rhodes (Two Bills) was also on the Mica and he loaded up on the grays, too.



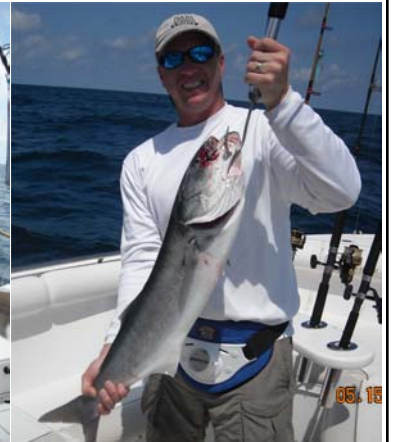
Back at the weigh-in, most all boats had nice catches of kings, snappers and grouper. Only 2 boats didn't have fish to weigh. Mike Springer's *Outlaw* Fishing Team called in that they had lost an engine and would be running late. Well, it was worth the wait when they did make it in...they had the largest total catch of any boat I have ever seen at a Club tournament. It was fun just watching them unload, I mean AJ's so big one person couldn't lift them, a mess of keeper grouper, a huge bluefish, (new club record 10.2 lb) gray snapper, a lonely dolphin and other miscellaneous by-catch. Their luck wasn't all good as they lost the port engine about 13 miles out, but I'm sure they enjoyed the slow ride anyway.



Continued Page 4

Lenny's Apalachicola Report - continued from Page 3

Saturday's weather was a little less than perfect and a ride southeast from the pass meant you would be getting wet. Well, we went south to the "C" tower and managed to catch a fair amount of fish. I had the set-up for lane snapper and was pulling them up left and right. We also caught a bunch of short grouper but Tom was able to get one keeper out of the bunch. Later we motored to the "S" tower, (wet ride) in hopes of hooking up with a nice AJ or cobia but that didn't happen - just one lesser amberjack.



As I said another great tournament with lots of fish!!!!!!
At the Awards Dinner, Matt Brown did the honors.



Tournament Results:

1st Place	Outlaw	Mike Springer	1375 points
2nd Place	Two Bills	Bill Rhodes	680 points
3rd Place	Close Cut	Steve Anglin	520 points
4th Place	Nikki Girl	Pat Thai	400 points
5th Place	Last Bastian	Jim Mason	300 points

Back at the weigh-in, again most teams had nice catches. Pat Thai's team on Nikki Girl managed to pick up a good catch of red grouper. Steve Anglin's team on *Close Cut* did the same fishing on hard bottom and also caught the only wahoo of the tournament. Holding 3 kings would be a great hand in poker and was a nice catch for Jason,



I had the pleasure of giving out the Big Fish Reward \$100. First I called Norm Bowen up and announced that he had set a Club Record with his 64 pound AJ. I handed him the \$100 and then pulled it back. You see, Norm held that record for only 6 minutes - that's when Matt Brown hooked up and landed a *new* club record AJ: 76 pounds. Nice going, guys. Matt doubled up on club records with a 10.2 pound bluefish. I told you they had a good catch, didn't I?



Brandon and Annie Craig on *Truffle Shuffe*. Of course Bill Rhode's team on "Two Bills" had another good catch on the second day.



Well so goes another fun and safe Club Tournament. Pictures will be shown at next meeting on June 9th. A BIG thanks to the Tournament Committee for putting it together and to all of our local supporters.

Regards Lenny

Social Events

CRAWFISH BOIL



May 2nd: Members had a great time and enjoyed some great meals at the Guntner's home. Aside from the delicious food, the main entertainment attraction was the "Nascraw" Races, which proved to be a spirited competition this year. It is unknown (except by those fortunate enough to attend) whether the racing crawfish were released or eaten.

Upcoming Social Events

FLORABAMA NIGHT

Tuesday, June 16th, 7:30pm
FloraBama Restaurant Lounge
(Orange Beach Tournament event)

RAFT UP AT ORANGE BEACH

Wednesday, June 17th, 12 noon
Meet at Cotton Bayou to begin trip
(Orange Beach Tournament event)

CLUB PICNIC

Saturday, July 4th, 12 noon
(Location and Details Coming Soon)

News Bites



Call to Arms for Georgia Saltwater Anglers

A group of concerned anglers is trying to organize the Georgia saltwater sportfishing community to combat the ill-conceived red snapper closures/limitations (the season has been drastically shortened in the Gulf and a 6-month closure is proposed for Atlantic waters). A public meeting is scheduled for May 29th / 7pm at the *Two Way Fish Camp*, just south of Darien, GA on Hwy 17. While the short-term objective of this meeting is to fight the snapper closure, the long-term goal is to get organized and give Georgia anglers a stronger voice in the fisheries management decision-making process. This is a chance to become involved and make your voice heard. For more information:

Captain Danny Ashley -- PH: 478-290-7411 / email: captdash1@yahoo.com
Paul Durham -- PH: 912-282-6962 / email: paulbdurham@gmail.com

That Time of Year Again...

Make sure your fishing licenses and boat registrations are up to date.

Georgia Boat Registration: http://www.gofishgeorgia.com/boatregistration_boating.aspx

Florida Licenses: <https://www4.wildlifelicense.com/fl/start.php>

Alabama Licenses: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/saltwater/license/>

North Carolina Licenses: <http://www.ncfisheries.net/recreational/NCCRFL.htm>

HMS/Tuna Permit Renewal: <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/initialapp.asp>

FL Fishing Retreat for Sale

Lenny's Double-wide "Tindaminium"
9181 Griggs Road, Englewood FL 34224
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Condo association fee = \$45/mo.

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Free storage for boat/trailer

\$59,900 (includes land)

**For more info & photos,
contact Lenny Pisarski: 678-472-6608**

Need to Buy or Sell?

Check out the club's website forum. There is a new category:

Wanted / 4 Sale / Swap Trade

Club Members can list items for sale (or post a "Wanted" listing) - and it's **free!**

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

Score Card

Boat of the Year Standings

(After Apalachicola Tournament)

Boat	WPB	Destin April	Apalachicola	Orange Beach	Destin July	Outer Banks	Pensacola	Total
Outlaw		5	20					25
\$EA\$ICKNE\$\$	20							20
Glory Days		20						20
Last Bastian		15	3					18
Two Bills			15					15
Sweet Surrender		10						10
Close Cut			10					10
Nikki Girl			5					5
Fifty Cent		3						3

Angler of the Year Overall Standings

(After Apalachicola Tournament)

(See website for individual/category standings)

Men's Division

ANGLER		POINTS
1ST	Norman Bowen	225
2ND	Matt Brown	200
3RD	Jon Russell	125

Ladies Division

ANGLER		POINTS
1ST	Dawn Brady	200
2ND	Margaret Taylor	175
3RD		

Junior Angler Division

ANGLER		POINTS
1ST	(no entries yet)	
2ND		
3RD		

Off The Hook

Zen Thoughts for the Day

- The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.
- It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
- No one is listening until you make a mistake.
- Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.
- If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of mortgage payments.
- Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- Duct tape is like *The Force*: it has a light side & a dark side, and it holds the universe together.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Will You SHUT UP?!!

A police officer pulls over a speeding car. The officer says, "I clocked you at 80 mph sir."

The driver says, "Gee, officer, I had it on cruise control at 60; perhaps your radar needs calibrating."

Not looking up from her knitting the wife says sweetly, "Now don't be silly dear, you know that this car doesn't have cruise control."

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, "Can't you keep your mouth shut for once?"

The wife smiles demurely and says, "You should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did."

As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Darn it, woman, can't you keep your mouth shut?"

The officer frowns and says, "And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic \$75 fine."

The driver says, "Yeah, well you see officer, I had it on, but took it off when you pulled me over so I could get my license out of my back pocket."

The wife says, "Now dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving."

As the police officer is writing out the third ticket, the driver turns to his wife and barks, "*WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHUT UP?!?*"

The officer looks over at the woman and asks, "Does your husband always talk to you this way, ma'am?"

"Oh heavens no, officer. Only when he's been drinking."

From the Helm to the Cockpit

...Finally, Red Snapper is in season (6/1/09). Along with all the heartbreaking stories we have heard about the fifteen to twenty pound beauties we have released and not being able to “get through” the Snapper in order to bring legal, in season, fish to the boats, the season opens. Hooray!!!

As the season comes into full swing the club has already seen several points of teams coming together. The Out-law crew has set a very high standard with their one day catch amounting to 1375 points (club record), two more club records for species, and a boat that limped in on one engine not being able to run on the second day and still taking first place tournament honors. WOW!! New teams with great catches becoming “contenders”, while seasoned teams pulling together are shaping this year up to meet or exceed what ASWSC is all about. I can just see Bob Lynn with that big smile on his face, expressing how proud he is of us and saying “Let’s go catch-em up!” “Ya Falla Me?”

Orange Beach (Bob’s favorite venue) is a couple of weeks away. Kids are out of school, fish are hungry and the Tournament and Social Committees are doing a great job to make this a super week. As always, our vendors, speakers and sponsors will be providing key information and raffle prizes. Don’t forget to mention ASWSC when you are supporting them. We hope to see everyone there.

Tom Hilton of Hilton’s Offshore and Realtime-Navigator will be speaking at the June meeting. This is one you don’t want to miss.

Tight Lines,
Scott Rowe
Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman’s Club
2008-2009 President

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CONSERVATION NEWS

RFA disagrees with CCA's proposed non-reusable tag approach to red snapper management (see RFA news release online: http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/PrivatizedFish_042909.pdf)

USA is world's largest importer of billfish for food. Learn more about how to stop the slaughter: <http://www.takemarinoffthemenue.org/home>

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council requests an interim 180-186 day complete closure of the red snapper fishery for NC/SC/GA/FL Atlantic coasts. Article: <http://www.safmc.net/News/NewsReleases/NewsReleaseMarch92009/tabid/606/Default.aspx>

Yet another recent study disputes the science behind federal snapper legislation: http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/RedSnapperRelease_030409.pdf

For more information on FL saltwater fishing: http://myfwc.com/RECREATION/Saltwater_index.htm

For information on Federal Gulf of Mexico fishing regulations: www.gulfcouncil.org/

CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS



Protecting the interests of saltwater anglers and working to sustain our nation's fisheries.

www.joinrfa.org



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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!

Upcoming Events, Reminders and Deadlines

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, June 9th / 7PM

Winfield Hall - 3890 Satellite Blvd, Duluth, GA - 770.495.8088

Scheduled Speaker: Tom Hilton of *Hilton's Offshore and Realtime-Navigator*

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS:

Tuesday, 7:30pm, June 16th: Flora-Bama Night

Wednesday, Noon, June 17th: Raft-Up

(These 2 Social Events take place at the Orange Beach Tournament)

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

Orange Beach Week-Long Tournament - June 14 - 19

(see website for details and application)

Duel at Destin - July 15 - 18

(see website for details and application)

IMPORTANT: Room space is limited for these tournaments, so make your reservations asap.

Website Poll Results

The last website poll asked visitors, "What is your favorite method of fishing?" The answers:

- 1) **Trolling** - 48%
- 2) **Casting** - 26%
- 3) **Bottom-Fishing** - 17.4%
- 4) **Drift Fishing** - 4.3%
- 5) **Fly Fishing** - 4.3%

Current Poll: *What is your favorite way to prepare fish for eating?*

(Deep Fried, Pan Fried, Grilled, Baked, Smoked, Blackened, Broiled, Soup/Chowder, Raw/Sushi, Ceviche, Gumbo, Other, I Don't Eat Fish)

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

ARE YOU IN THE LOOP? If you are not getting emails from the club, please be sure to send your current email address to info@aswsc.org. We'll add you to the mailing list so you can receive the latest information as quickly as possible. Don't forget to list us a SAFE sender to avoid SPAM problems.

For latest club information check out www.aswsc.org