



Fishing Post - September 2009

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

Not Many Anglers Make the Outer Banks Trip, but the Fish Showed Up Anyway

Article by Jace Spencer

Aside from the unpredictable weather, Morehead City (NC) was one of the best fishing trips I've had in a long time. It seems like fish were everywhere - I think NC must be the place where the sonar manufacturers must go to get those cool screenshots showing fish all through the water column. Almost all of our fishing spots were public numbers, but there were plenty of fish everywhere we went.



When planning for the tournament, I made arrangements to hook up with one of the local anglers for a Thursday afternoon inshore trip - just to get a feel for the navigation of the area and an idea of where to look for inshore species if things were too rough to go offshore on Friday or Saturday. Later, Richard Watkins made plans to fish on my boat (*Bad Buoy*s) and I had extended a couple of invitations, hoping to get 1 or 2 of my new NC friends to fish with us too. Even though the tournament was downgraded to an Event, this was still pretty much the plan as I left GA. Well, plans change - sometimes often and quickly. Such was the case once I arrived on Thursday morning.



Shortly after I launched the boat (and before crossing the river to the marina), a thunderstorm moved in and gave me my second soaking of the week (I was in a similar situation down the coast near Wilmington the day before).

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Morehead City, NC - (continued from Pg 1)

That killed the afternoon inshore trip and left me stranded at the marina, watching the storm with no way to get back to my truck at the ramp. To make things worse, Richard called to cancel because of a family emergency. But I perked up when the Last Bastian arrived with coolers full of big amberjacks. Jim Mason and crew had arrived early, fishing Wednesday and Thursday (they had also seen their share of raindrops).

Plans for Friday shifted gears; since it wasn't an official tournament, I accepted an invitation from one of my NC contacts (Roger Mayer) to go offshore fishing on his boat. His Sea Hunt (*Foul Hook'd*) isn't a big boat and is powered by a 150HP Yamaha. But these guys are set up for trolling in a serious way (we had 7 lines out - 6 ballyhoo and a teaser) and didn't hesitate to plot a course which took us about 45 miles offshore. I had my reservations - particularly as I watched the distant lightning while leaving the pass at dawn.



We hooked several wahoo but had some bad luck at boat-side, losing a really nice one just seconds from the gaff. We also briefly hooked (and lost) a sailfish before heading to some bottom spots, where we caught some AJ's (they toss back amberjacks up there, considering them nuisance fish) and some grouper, including a nice 11-lb red. Of course, we slogged back to the ramp during the obligatory afternoon thunderstorm - at that point I'm worried I won't have anything dry to wear the next day. But I was really impressed with these guys - they know what they're doing.

Jim Currin, owner of Eastern Tackle, offered to give me offshore jigging lessons on Saturday. Jim originally contacted the club through the website in order to meet some of our members (Jim might be relocating to the Atlanta area in 2010 and may be a future club member). Zack Chapman was our captain this day (Zack runs Brake Marine Canvas in Morehead City, installing custom boat curtains, canvas, upholstery, enclosures, etc.) Our first stop

(public numbers) produced several amberjack and my first (two) African pompanos, the biggest was 20 lbs. These fish are FUN to catch and rumor has it they are delicious to eat (I'll let you know later, as I brought some fillets back for the freezer). We were dropping Eastern Tackle jigs to these fish, which is a big change from what I'm used to. In fact, almost all of the bottom fish we caught this day were on jigs, with only a couple coming off frozen bait. We even caught grouper on jigs in over 400 ft of water!

We also speed-trolled between bottom spots, boating 2 wahoos in the process. And - wonder of wonders - we made it back to the dock before the rain hit.



The thing that really stood out about this area was the abundance of fish. Menhaden (locally called 'fatbacks') were jumping everywhere. My pinfish trap stayed full just hanging off the dock at the marina. Almost every public number we went to was loaded with several species. Local charters were routinely catching limits of wahoo. But what I will remember most about this trip is the extraordinary generosity and friend-

liness of everyone I met. The staff of the Morehead City Yacht Basin went out of their way to accommodate us; I felt like a VIP at every restaurant I visited. I arrived alone and wasn't sure I'd be able to do much fishing without a crew, but anglers I'd never met in person offered to fish with me. And I practically had to beg these guys to let me pay for my share.



Possibly someday we'll manage to hold a tournament in this area; I really hope so. But I'll be going back anyway - maybe I'll see you there. —Jace

Score Card

Boat of the Year Standings

(As of August 31, 2009)

Boat	WPB	Destin April	Apalachicola	Orange Beach	Destin July	Pensacola	Total
Glory Days		20			20		40
Outlaw		5	20	3	5		33
Two Bills			15		15		30
\$EA\$ICKNE\$\$	20						20
Pam's Competition				20			20
Last Bastian		15	3				18
Bad Buoys				15			15
Sweet Surrender		10					10
Close Cut			10				10
Truffle Shuffle				10			10
Lured Away					10		10
Nikki Girl			5				5
Instigator				5			5
Fifty Cent		3					3
Salt Rocker					3		3

Angler of the Year Overall Standings

Men's Division

1st Place: Norman Bowen 225 pts
2nd Place: Matt Brown 200 pts
3rd Place: Jon Russell 200 pts

Ladies Division

1st Place: Sandra Boynton 250 pts
2nd Place: Annie Woo 200 pts
3rd Place: Dawn Brady 150 pts

Junior Angler Division

1st Place: Jonathan Spencer 275 pts
2nd Place: Daniel Adrien 175 pts
3rd Place: Carrie Springer 100 pts

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



REAL BUMPER STICKERS

- One more repo and I'll be debt-free.
- I'm the quiet neighbor with the big freezer.
- Honk if you do everything you're told.
- Lead Me Not Into Temptation (I know my way).
- Put Down Your Cellphone – You're Blocking My Shot.
- DYSLEXICS UNTIE!
- Disgruntled Employee of the Month
- I do what the voices in my wife's head tell me.
- Women like silent men; they think they're listening.
- In the U.S. a woman gives birth every 12 seconds. She must be found and stopped!
- If a man speaks in the forest and there is no woman to hear him, is he still wrong?
- Good things come to those who wait, but bad things show up right away.
- To err is human. To blame it on someone else shows management potential.
- Logic tells us that Dishonesty is still the second-best policy.
- Politicians, like diapers, should be changed often. And for the same reason.
- If you want my respect, get on your knees and beg for it.
- Never underestimate the power of Stupid People in large groups.
- Idiots of the World, Ignite!
- Stupidity is not a crime. So you're free to go.
- BEER: It's not just for breakfast anymore.
- So you're a feminist...Isn't that cute?
- All men are idiots....and I married their king.
- I(nternal) R(evenue) S(ervice): We've got what it takes to take what you've got.
- God must love stupid people...He made SO many.
- Your kid may be an honor student, but YOU'RE still an idiot.
- Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?
- Squirrels – Nature's Little Speed Bumps
- I Love Animals – They're Delicious!
- If it weren't for physics and law enforcement, I'd be unstoppable.
- Don't Believe Everything You Think
- Men Have Feelings, Too. (just kidding)
- So Many Stupid People... So Few Comets
- PAY YOUR TAXES – 12 Million Illegal Aliens are Depending on You.
- If we're not supposed to eat animals, how come they're made of meat?
- I don't care, and I can't seem to find my way around that.
- If you can't laugh at yourself, let me do it for you.
- I'm glad I'm not judgmental, like all you smug, superficial idiots.
- I may be schizophrenic, but at least I have each other.
- I know right from wrong. Wrong is the fun one.
- Pave the Middle East.

From the Helm to the Cockpit

...“Women and Children first” describes the future of our club and Sportfishing as a whole. The terrific success of our Social committee (headed up by Libby Guntner) has drawn many of our members into attending ASWSC activities and functions that they otherwise may not have participated in. To further enhance participation, we are looking at upgraded venues for some of the tournaments in order to make them more conducive for the family and social activities. One such upgrade will be demonstrated at the next meeting, don't miss it.

Now is your chance to voice your opinion and make yourself heard. We are composing this year's questionnaire and you are urged to submit your ideas and wishes for the next season (submit your ideas now so we can poll the membership about them using the survey): info@aswsc.org. It's also a good time to show your individual willingness to serve within the club in some capacity. The feeling you get from seeing your ideas come to fruition and witness the pleasure of others' successes is both very rewarding and helps to build our club. A small investment of your time and talent will yield a much greater reward.

Historically, opening a new fishing venue has not proven to be an easy task. The adventure of trying something new is a double-sided sword but offers many benefits. We have been approached and would like to have you consider some of these opportunities, but it can't come off without participation. Are we just a fishing club? Or aren't we much more than that? It is in your hands.

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

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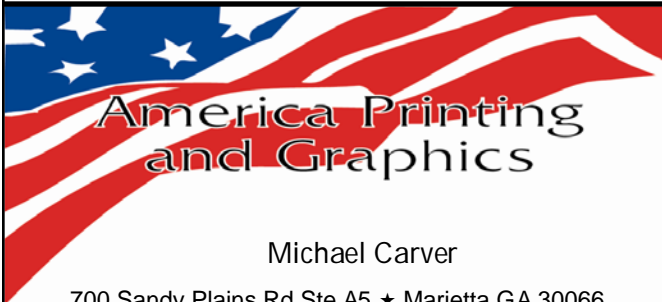
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CONSERVATION NEWS

Gulf Management Council Contemplates Complete Closure for Gag Grouper in 2010
<http://www.newsherald.com/news/gag-75058-grouper-fishermen.html>

Red Snapper Season to Close Early in Florida and Federal Waters
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2009/FB09-030%20Red%20Snapper%20Closure.pdf>

RFA calls for moratorium on recreational closures.
(see news release: http://joinrfa.org/Press/Moratorium_060509.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

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

CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS



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

www.joinrfa.org



Dedicated Solely to Conserving and Enhancing Billfish Populations Around the World.

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

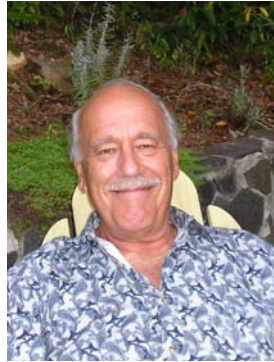
Get Involved!

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

River Float

By Judy Kump

The adventures of the ASWSC continue, as 17 members enjoy tubing on the Cartecay River, in Ellijay, with our delightful hostess, Galen Forbes' home, as our party central. We could not have asked for a more beautiful day and wished more folks could have taken in all of North Georgia's natural splendor. Plus all of the famous Georgia apple houses are near by, you don't get apples fresher than that. The Cartecay River's current ran swift from the area's few days of welcomed rain and on some occasions, the tube's draft exceeded the river's depth, calling for a new official notification "cheeks up", to avoid bumping bottoms on the rocks. Good news was: NO banjo music was heard and NO ONE went home hungry! We were thrilled to have new members, Chuck and Sandra Boynton join us, great to meet you. Vlad Melnik's 2 (well behaved) grandsons joined us also. We all indulged in Galen's smoked turkey, Phil's smoked Boston Butt, Galen's famous "Peaches and Cream" and somehow, her deviled eggs never made it out of the kitchen. We devoured all sorts of other great foods: tossed salad, yummy hash brown casserole, delicious potato salad, wow Asian salad, superb coleslaw, salmon, onions, capers, cream cheese, with smoked King fish dip, chips, corn casserole, topping off with brownies. Vlad brought us all the Famous Terrapin Beer, thank you. Now that I have gotten your mouth watering over all the wonderful food - you all missed a great fun time!!



Galen's patio has a party oriented atmosphere, with lighted palm, hot tub, natural beauty with flowers and birds abound. The overnight crew was treated to breakfast in front of the chiminea fire, on the patio. Our next Club events include:



Low Country Boil at the William's home, Sept 19th and a Chili Cook Off, at the Fritz's Clubhouse Oct., 17th. Please come join us in a non-competitive

event, NO boats to tow, NO gear to fuss over, just fun talking about Fishing. This is how the club's

"Fishing Family" has grown over the years, including those who do not normally get to fish, joining in the fun!



THANK YOU GALEN FOR HAVING US!!!

Atlanta Salt Water Sportsman's Club

Chili Cook -Off

Oct. 17th, Sat., at 3 PM.

Secret Cove Clubhouse
1035 Secret Cove Drive
Sugar Hill, GA 30518

Please bring:

Your favorite Chili recipe already prepared. Bring adult beverages if you wish. Soft Drinks and paper goods will be provided.



Chili Cook Off
Judging at 4 PM.

Winner will be determined by popular vote and a First Place prize will be given.

Directions: From I-985 get off at Exit #4, Turn LEFT (North-West) onto SR 20, US 23, Buford Hwy., go 1.4 miles and Turn LEFT (South-West) onto US 23 and SR 13, go 1.2 miles, Turn RIGHT (North) (second light) onto Old Suwannee Rd. NE, go 0.4 mile, Turn at first LEFT (West) onto Secret Cove RD, go to 1035 Secret Cove Dr.—Clubhouse is on LEFT and parking is in the front.

Please RSVP:
Steve Fritz
With Name of
your Chili or
Boat name
404-702-5558 or
sfreact@aol.com

Atlanta Salt Water Sportsman's Club

Low Country Boil

**Saturday, Sept. 19th
at 3:00 PM**

**John & Pat William's Home
159 Forest Glen Circle
Avondale Estates, GA 30002**



***Please bring your choice of
beverages and ice.
Appetizer or dessert are
welcomed.***

Please RSVP John and Pat:

404-292-4990 home or
404-791-8181 cell or
jwai@mindspring.com

Directions to John and Pat's Home:

From I-285 get off at Memorial Dr. Turn In-
side (this is Right from I-85 OR Left from I-
20). Turn Left on the 1st street (Northern
Ave.). Come to 4 way Stop Sign, Turn Left on
Rockbridge Rd. Approximately 1/4 mile Turn
Left on Forest Glen Circle, 2nd house on
Right.



Upcoming Events, Reminders and Deadlines

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 8th / 7PM

Winfield Hall 3890 Satellite Blvd, Duluth, GA - 770.495.8088

Scheduled Speaker: Debbie Kolar of Bay Point Marriott Golf Resort & Spa



Debbie will give us the inside scoop on this great Panama City Beach destination.



UPCOMING CLUB TOURNAMENT:

Pensacola - Sept 9 - 12

(note that the Pensacola Tournament has been extended to a 'best 2 out of 3 fishing days' format and the Captains Meeting has been moved up to Wednesday Sept 9th.)

(see website for details and application: www.aswsc.org)

UPCOMING CHARITY TOURNAMENT:

Kingfish / Grouper Shootout for Leukemia - Sept 26 - 27

(visit website for details: <http://www.c-quartersmarina.com/>)

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS:

Low Country Boil at John/Pat Williams'

Saturday, September 19th

(see page 11 for details)

Chili Cook-Off at Secret Cove Clubhouse

Saturday, October 17th

(see Page 10 for details)

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