



Fishing Post - October 2008

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

ASWSC Greets Hurricane Gustav At Destin Tournament



They say fishing is all about timing - it certainly played a major part in the Destin Tournament (Aug 28-31). Fishing was *tough* as Hurricane Gustav approached, but the weather was absolutely beautiful and the seas calm. Until Sunday, that is. Things started to get ugly early in the morning and only 1 of our boats ventured outside of the pass that day. There were even radio reports of boats being swamped inside the bay. But there were no casualties amongst our anglers - everyone showed good judgment and played it safe.

Sadly, the threat of nasty weather and evacuation traffic forced a cancellation of the Awards Dinner Sunday evening. Several participants headed north that evening to avoid the high winds and traffic on Monday. The weather could have been better, but things really turned out okay. Fish were caught and we shared lots of laughs, smiles, & companionship. Our thanks go out to Pirates Bay Condominiums, Half Hitch Tackle, the Ft Walton Sailfish Club, and all of the other great local folks who make it possible for us to have such a good time in Destin/Ft Walton. .



Although fishing was slow and most boats returned to the weigh-ins with empty fish boxes, Lured Away and Last Bastian managed to find some fish and sweep the tournament. Jonathan Spencer, a junior angler, pulled off a real coup for Bad Buoy, which took third place (with a grand total of 15 points) after Jonathan brought a single flounder to the weigh-in on the final day of the tournament; this also turned out to be the Junior Angler Big Fish of the tournament (see photo in *Lenny's Report*, page 3).



DESTIN TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st	Lured Away, Frank Nicoletti
2nd	Last Bastian, Jim Mason
3rd	Bad Buoy, Jace Spencer

Superb Fishing at Pensacola

The last tournament of 2008 rounded out a pretty good tournament year. Aside from a few setbacks due to fuel prices, we really have no room to complain. Mother Nature was pretty easy on us - better than most years and a LOT better than some years. And this was especially true at Pensacola. Last year, rough seas kept several boats inshore; this year, you couldn't ask for better conditions.



- as well as the crew of Outlaw - pitched in and presented him with \$100 each. Way to go, Lenny - great to see you get a little return on your generosity for a change (use the dough to buy yourself some more colorful boat shoes!). Club Thanks to Outcast Bait/Tackle, Island Cove Marina, Wingman Lures, Ashton Inn & Suites, Pensacola Big Game Fishing Club, Shrimp Basket, and all of our supporters who made this great trip possible.

Anglers took advantage and caught a wide variety of species. Two Bills caught tuna trolling - and even caught tuna while bottom fishing! Lady Loretta II caught, tagged, and released a white marlin; they also brought a 66-lb yellowfin tuna to Saturday's weigh-in. The Last Bastian and Lil' Ti brought in this year's biggest wahoos - in addition to several other great catches - and Nikki Girl took home several coolers full of white snapper, vermillion snapper, and other delicious species. Outlaw pulled off yet another win and ran away with the points (Hey Mike - throw us a bone, will ya? Sleep late or go golfing one day. All kidding aside, congratulations on another great season, Mike.) Among the many fish they brought to the weigh-in were dolphin, tuna, mackerel & amberjack. All in all, the fishing was outstanding. Curiously, ALL anglers reported catching (and therefore releasing) incredibly high numbers of the elusive Red Snapper (this fish is so rare that many of you may never have seen one before - unless of course you're one of those rebels who puts a hook on the end of your line - bait is optional). These fish are currently under protection in federal waters and all harvest is prohibited. Based on their abundance during this tournament, it's hard to imagine them being in much danger of extinction.

At the Awards Dinner, hosted again this year at the Shrimp Basket, Lenny Pisarski (who has sponsored the Big Fish award since most of us were teenagers - just kidding, Lenny!) was presented with the Big Fish award for the first time. And of course it wouldn't do for Lenny to pay himself the \$100 prize, so his crewmates aboard the Lady Loretta II



PENSACOLA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st	Outlaw, Mike Springer
2nd	Lady Loretta II, Jeff Bergeron
3rd	Two Bills, Bill Rhodes
4th	Lil' Ti, Richard Watkins
5th	Nikki Girl, Pat Thai

Destin - Good Times & Good Friends

by Lenny Pisarski

Well, what can I tell you about Destin this year? We had a good time - but anytime we can get some fishing in we have a good time..... The highlight of the Tournament was the great meal put on by Steve and Libby Guntner for the Captains meeting. The fishing was hard - and with snapper closed in Federal waters, it was slim pickins.

I fished with Frank Nicoletti on board his boat, *Lured Away*, along with his son Doug, Tom Holt, and Bill Woodcock (Woody). We had a pre-fish day and managed to get a few snappers as well as some Red Pogy and a few Triggers. Good eating but not much for a weigh-in.



At the Captains meeting, the water reports were all too familiar. No blue water to be seen less than about 100 miles out. But we all had great expectations and started out at first light. Jim Mason's crew was nice enough to share some pinfish with us so we had plenty of live bait. We headed out to the Nipple, 60 mile ride. Shortly after crossing the 100 fathom line we picked up on a small group of birds following a school of fish. As we got in close, I pitched a spoon into the school. We couldn't see the fish but I had a hook-up after just a few casts. The fish was running out my drag and looked like we might have some stink in the box shortly. But after a few minutes, he got off.....Well time to start putting out our spread. Frank said they hit Cedar plugs, so we put out five lines, 4 with cedar plugs and one blue & white jet head. We kept dragging the lines to intercept the school. Yes, they sound a lot and you just need to be patient. Well, it paid off and Frank had the first one on the line and brought it to the boat in short order.

We picked up 2 more before we lost the school. We

continued out to the Nipple another 7 miles and started trolling again with no luck. So we decided to head back in and look for birds again. We found them again - with Tommy on the Radar, we were able to pick out the small flocks. We set out our spread and in short order we had a triple hook-up. We were all able to bring fish in, but Woody's turned out to be a Bonita. By this time we had to run in to make to weigh-in. So went our first day and looking good in first place.

On Saturday we decided to hit some new numbers and bottom fish. We had some equipment failures, like our marker buoy had a few snags and we couldn't get anchored over the numbers. So we tried drifting but the current was just too strong. We moved on to other numbers and did manage to put a few fish in the boat before the end of the day.

On the way in at the pass the DNR guys had to stop us, as they did other fishing boats coming through at that time. We passed their inspection and were on our way. After the weigh-in we cleaned up the boat just ahead of a big thunder storm. Bill and Tommy had to clean fish with ponchos on.

With Gustav heading in, we pulled the plug on fishing Sunday and the Awards Dinner was cancelled. As Frank said, a bad day on the water beats a good day at the office.



We ended up in first place and Jim Mason's crew in second. The \$100 big fish award went to Frank for the 18.4 lb. Blackfin and Jonathan Spencer picked up the \$50 Bob Lynn Junior Award with a 16-inch Flounder, nice going.

Big thanks to Steve and Libby Guntner for putting it together. And another thanks to the Ft. Walton

Sailfish Club for the use of their facilities.

I have always liked Destin, as it was the first Club tournament I attended in 1997.

Good times and good friends - that's what it's all about....

Regards, Lenny

Pensacola Dreaming

by Lenny Pisarski

Was it good for you? It was great for me.

If you didn't make it to Pensacola this year, too bad for you. You missed some great fishing. The weather was just what the doctor ordered, mid 80's and light winds.

I fished on Lady Loretta II, along with Capt Jeff Bergeron, Doug Warhola, Randy Fetzer and Frank Nicoletti. Jeff keeps his boat in Orange Beach so we motored over to Island Cove Marina in for the Captain's Meeting (great facility provided courtesy of the Pensacola Big Game Fishing Club). Steve Guntner, Norm Bowen, Dawn Brady and Mike Springer cooked up and served a great meal. Norman had some homemade smoked fish spread that hit the spot too.

Outcast Bait and Tackle sponsored our tournament along with Wingman Lures, thanks to our president Scott Rowe. So we had an assortment of prizes for our raffle, along with a Penn rod & reel the Club purchased.



We had 2 speakers from Outcast Bait and Tackle give us the low down on the fishing. "The rigs are covered up with Black Fin and Yellow Fin Tuna. Bottom fishing is great with many grouper being caught and kings are everywhere." Everyone was ready, and with this being the last Club tournament for 2008, we all wanted to catch fish.

We headed out right after the meeting, with plans to fish 24/7 till the weigh in on Saturday. By 10 P.M. we were on our way with a course laid in for the Canyons. We set

up our night watches and by first light we were 25 miles south of the Spur. Randy, Doug and Frank put out our spread with five 50's and two 80's, along with a bird down center on a 30.

No action for the first couple of daylight hours. About 7:50 I was up at the helm with Jeff when we had a fish in the spread. He first hit the starboard short rigger, than the long rigger and followed to the long center shotgun. No hook-ups but I headed down to help clear lines anyway. About the time I got on deck the short rigger on the portside went off and I grabbed it. It was a solid hook-up and the fish leaped about a 100 yards off the stern. It looked like a Billfish but no sail. Randy helped me into the fighting chair and hooked me up. All the time giving me direction like a boxer's coach---- It was a tug-of-war for next 40 minutes, with Jeff adjusting the boat position and taking video, Randy kept me and the chair aligned with the fish. As we gained line on him we set up our duties: Randy on the bill, Frank on the leader, and Doug on the Tag stick. As the fish planed out we finally saw this beautiful billfish, a White Marlin. We quickly had him boat side, tagged and released, but not before I had a chance to pet him good-bye. We all went up in Cheers !!!!, for me it was my first Marlin and every bit as exciting as Bob Michael had said it could be. Just a priceless memory! Now that's the way to start a fishing adventure.

We spent the rest of the day heading south without ever seeing

another boat or getting a hit. At 8 P.M., Jeff plotted a course for an oil rig so we could chunk for Tuna. We arrived at 1 A.M. at a rig known to us as M.O.B. There were 2 boats already working it and we could see Tuna jumping. We rigged up to chunk bait and Frank started chumming, nasty job. I asked for the Stella spinning rod loaned to us by Jeff's daughter's boyfriend Arien.

I hooked on a Diamond jig and started tossing it. After about 15 minutes I had a hook-up, and a good one. I fought it for 5 or 6 minutes until it got off. As I checked the lure you could see why - it had opened up one of the treble hooks. I quickly changed to a single hook diamond that Randy had set up with a strong single hook. We could see some big Yellows completely clearing the water as they chased flying fish. I had a hard time getting any distance on my casts with all the rods and guys in the back of the boat and decided to get out on the bow. With the bow pitching it was a challenge to just stand in place but I managed. It looked like the bigger fish were staying more into the dark, away from the rig's lights. To see one of these big yellows clear the water was a treat in itself. On my first cast the lure hit the water at the same time as a big fish came out of the water after a flying fish and he took the jig. I had a solid hook-up. I could see color and figured we could gaff him off the bow, Randy convinced me otherwise and we passed the rod to the stern. About the time I got into a belt and worked the fish I could see it wasn't going to be easy or fast. He just kept pulling drag and pulling drag. After a while I said to myself, I'm never even going to see this guy!!! But Arien had the drag set correctly and the 80 pound braid did its job too. After 40 minutes we saw color, about the time the fish saw the boat and took off again. Jeff and the others ragged me on taking so long with this "Little Fish". All the time he's driving the boat and taking video too. Well we finally got him up and Randy took the leader with Doug gaffing him onto the deck. Wow!--- he was a lot bigger than I thought. Doug had to subdue him with a billy before we could get him in the box....Wow, what a day, in 18 hours I had my first Marlin and the largest meat fish I have ever caught - can't get any better than that.

For the next 3 hours everyone on board took turns catching some nice Black Fins. They were so thick that we even foul-hooked a few while retrieving our rigs.

About 4:30 we headed for the Ram Powell, worked it for a bit and then onto the Marlin and the Petronius. We picked up a couple more Blacks but that was it. We still had a 4 hour run on plane back to the weigh-in, so we reluctantly pulled lines at 1:30. We got to the docks at 6 P.M., a tired and happy crew.

I don't have the stats on the other boats but nice catches were everywhere, including a 33 pound Wahoo caught by Mark Mlec-zko on Jim Mason's boat The Last Bastian.

At the awards dinner Mike did the honors and I had my time in the spotlight. In the 6 seasons I have sponsored the Big Fish Reward this was the first time I got the Big One. My Tuna came in at 66.1 pounds. My crew donated the \$100 reward I usually do and to top it off Mike Springer's crew also added another \$100. Wow !!! how great was that? Thanks guys!!!!

We all know how our sport has been costing us more and more but you can't put a price tag on the memories and friendships we have developed. My mom had a Polish Proverb, "You can kiss a dollar bill, but it won't kiss you back."

So ends another season, with great expectations for next year, Lord willing we will do it again.....

Regards, Lenny

News Bites



Club Mourns the Loss of Another Lifetime Member

Mary Virginia “Ginger” Rogers Lynn passed away on September 19th. Ginger became a widow last year after the sudden loss of our long-time member & good friend, Robert “Bob” Lynn. Services were held on September 21st at Sandy Springs Chapel. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Lynn family.

2008 Boat of the Year Standings (Final)

Boat	WPB	Apalachicola	OB #1	OB #2	Destin	Pensacola	Total
Outlaw	15	20	20	20		20	95
Lured Away		3	15		20		38
\$EA\$ICKNE\$\$	20		5				25
Two Bills		15				10	25
Truffle Shuffle			10	10			20
The Last Bastian		5			15		20
Lil Ti				15		5	20
Glory Days	5	10					15
Bad Buoys				5	10		15
Lady Loretta II						15	15
Easy Does It	10						10
Bokat			3				3
Fishtale Too				3			3
Nikki Girl						3	3

Share Your Knowledge

One of the great benefits of our club is the opportunity to become better anglers by pooling our knowledge. We need volunteers to man a 20-minute “How To” table during one of the upcoming club meetings. This can be about any fishing or boating related topic. You don’t need props or a fancy presentation - and you don’t need to be an expert. Just be willing to spend a few minutes sharing information with your fellow club members.

To volunteer, contact Scott Rowe or Tom Adrien. Or email to: info@aswsc.org

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: aswsc@nmsmail.com

Angler of the Year Standings (Final)

OVERALL STANDINGS											
	Ladies Division		POINTS		Mens Division		POINTS	Junior Division		POINTS	
1ST:	Dawn	Brady	625		Bill	Rhodes	175		Daniel	Adrien	175
2ND:	Patty	Wilkins	250		Matt	Brown	150				
3RD:	Annie	Craig	150		Lenny	Pisarski	150				

LADIES DIVISION

AMBERJACK					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Brady	Dawn	Outlaw	29	100
2nd	Brady	Dawn	Outlaw	28.4	50
3rd	Brady	Dawn	Outlaw	27.5	25

GROUPER					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Craig	Annie	Truffle Shuffle	15	100
2nd	Wilkins	Patty	Fishtale Too	7.9	50
3rd	Wilkins	Patty	Fishtale Too	7.8	25

SNAPPER					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Wilkins	Patty	Fishtale Too	9.5	100
2nd	Wilkins	Patty	Fishtale Too	7.5	50
3rd	Wilkins	Patty	Fishtale Too	7.5	25

COBIA					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Brady	Dawn	Nikki Girl	15.7	100

MACKEREL					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Brady	Dawn	Outlaw	8.5	100
2nd	Brady	Dawn	Outlaw	7.5	50

DOLPHIN					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Brady	Dawn	Outlaw	13.6	100
2nd	Craig	Annie	Truffle Shuffle	1	50

TUNA					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Brady	Dawn	Outlaw	25.9	100

JUNIOR ANGLER DIVISION

SNAPPER					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Adrien	Daniel	\$EASICKNE\$\$	3.5	100
2nd	Adrien	Daniel	\$EASICKNE\$\$	2	50
3rd	Adrien	Daniel	\$EASICKNE\$\$	1	25

MEN'S DIVISION

AMBERJACK					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Zuber	Bill	Outlaw	51.5	100
2nd	Springer	Mike	Outlaw	36.3	50
3rd	Bowen	Norman	Outlaw	35.8	25

GROUPER					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Brown	Matt	Outlaw	12.5	100
2nd	Bohlayer	Dan	Outlaw	11.8	50
3rd	Gibbons	Denny	Un Reel	11.7	25

SNAPPER					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Rhodes	Bill	Two Bills	11.3	100
2nd	Woodcock	Woody	Lured Away	8	50
3rd	Rhodes	Bill	Two Bills	7.3	25

COBIA					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Howland	Jack	Nikki Girl	39.5	100

MACKEREL					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Blackwell	Jack	Fish Tale	25.7	100
2nd	Spencer	Jace	Bad Bouys	25.6	50
3rd	Rhodes	Bill	Two Bills	13.9	25

WAHOO					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Mlezzko	Mark	Last Bastain	33.4	100
2nd	Jones	Jason	Lil TI	26.6	50
3rd	Watkins	David	Lil TI	26.4	25

DOLPHIN					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Holt	Tom	Lured Away	20.5	100
2nd	Brown	Matt	Outlaw	7.6	50
3rd	Springer	Mike	Outlaw	4.5	25

TUNA					
	ANGLER		BOAT NAME	WEIGHT	POINTS
1st	Pisarski	Lenny	Lady Loretta	66.1	100
2nd	Watkins	Richard	Lil Ti	35.4	50
3rd	Rhodes	Bill	Two Bills	25.2	25

BILLFISH RELEASE

ANGLER	BOAT	POINTS	ANGLER	BOAT	POINTS		
Spencer	Jace	\$EASICKNE\$\$	50	Browning	Kerry	Outlaw	50
Springer	Mike	Outlaw	50	Dubose	Ted	Glory Days	50
Lynn	Keith	Outlaw	50	Fritz	Steve	Easy Does It	50
Michael	Bob	Outlaw	50	Pisarski	Lenny	Lady Loretta	50

From the Helm to the Cockpit

Not long ago ASWSC finished the 2008 tournament season with a big bang. The adjustments to the points matrix once again made proof positive that the bottom fishers are on level ground with the blue-water trollers. The second place team tagged & released a White Marlin and brought home a 66 pound Tuna while the first place team took the 1st Place plaque with multiple bottom species. One boat brought in this year's largest Wahoo and a nice Blackfin, but didn't even place in the tournament standings. All I can say is WOW!!

ASWSC is your club. Becoming active in some way gives you the opportunity to improve our organization as well as mold its future. I'm quite sure that between the questionnaire and the ballot you can find a place to "join in" making our club better. All of your suggestions will be considered, along with your willingness to become (or continue being) an "active member" to move us forward. With only two more meetings and what is shaping up to be a great Christmas Party, the time has come to review our successes and shortcomings in planning the 2009 year. Ya' Falla Me?

With the promise of no long speeches at this year's Club Party, I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to have served the club as your president in 2008. My hopes are that we continue moving forward on what I consider this very successful path.

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

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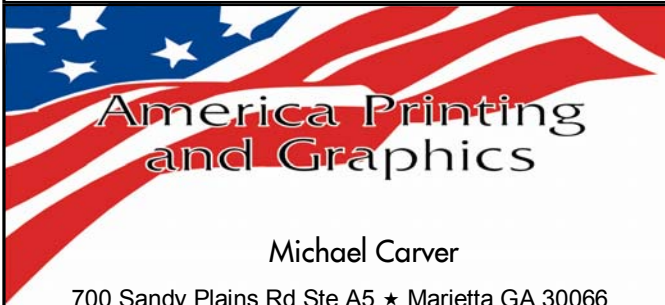


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CONSERVATION NEWS

LOOK FOR MORE LENGTH & BAG LIMIT CHANGES IN 2009

Adoption of an interim rule, effective Jan 1, 2009 sets bag limit for Gag Grouper at 2 fish and extends the closed season through March in Federal Waters. Florida has preliminarily indicated that they will follow suit (final decision to be made in December); however, Florida is also considering raising the red grouper limit from 1 to 2 fish per angler.

In August, length requirements for Amberjack and Gray Triggerfish changed in federal waters: Amberjack minimum length is now 30" and Triggerfish is now 14" (both measurements to fork). Florida will probably follow suit at year end (final decision pending in December).

Florida Wildlife Commission has put consideration of Vermillion Snapper rule changes on hold pending review of the most recent data. We should know more by year's end.

Spotted Seatrout harvest closes in the South Region of Florida effective Nov. 1, 2008 and re-opens on Jan. 1, 2009. (South Region is Atlantic waters from Flagler/Volusia county line to Fred Howard Park Causeway in Pinellas County).

More proposed rule changes for South Atlantic region include gag, black, & red grouper. For more information on Florida saltwater fishing regulation changes : www.myfwc.com/marine

CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS



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

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www.billfish.org

Coastal Conservation Association



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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, October 14th / 7PM

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

Scheduled Speaker: Lanny Deal of Mann's Bait Company

2009 Officers/Committee Members will be nominated at the October meeting. It's YOUR club - show up to have a say in how decisions are made. Or better yet, make a difference by putting your name on the ballot.

Tickets will be available at the Oct Meeting for the big Rod/Reel Raffle (to be held at the Christmas Party). Tickets are \$10/each - only 200 tickets will be sold. There will be TWO winning tickets this year (each winner will receive one of the new model Penn 100 TRQ LD reels and a custom rod by Skip James. Total value of each combo = \$898)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

December 13th / 7:00PM / Winfield Hall

Tickets \$10 - Everyone is Welcome

Local Hotel: Country Inn Suites / 678-405-2900
(for special \$72 club rate, use Code ASWSC-1)

For more information or to lend a hand, call Bob Michael: 770-616-9938

To donate raffle items, call Tom Holt: 770-453-9338

NEXT TOURNAMENT

Annual Sailfish Tournament at West Palm Beach

(January 2009 - exact dates & details to be announced soon)

SIGN UP FOR THE FORUM

This is a useful and powerful FREE communication tool that enables members to find fishing partners and share ideas, photos, documents, information, create polls, and much more. Just drop Tom Adrien an email asking to join and he will email you back an invitation.

Tom's Email Address: theseasickness@yahoo.com

Forum Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/atlantasaltwater/>

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.

For latest club information check out www.aswsc.org