

December Newsletter



An Active Club of the Punta Gorda Civic Association

Volume 23 Issue 12

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For new members with questions please call **New Member Liaisons:** John & Lynne Stockinger Email: new-member-liaison@pgifishingclub.net

John-931-215-7896

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See you at the Christmas Party"



Vinnie Madsen, President

Welcome to the November Newsletter. November proved to be a challenging month for fishing with the winds turning our harbor into a washing machine. That said, many members continued to submit some really nice catches.

As 2015 draws to an end I want to again emphasize our need to fill the Editor position. Let's get this position filled so we can go into 2016 at full strength.

See you at the Christmas party.

January Club Meeting Tuesday 1/12/16

Tiki Hut every Wednesday @ 5:30 Please note we are exploring other options and some members may go to another venue. To get on the Wednesday Night gathering email please contact Ellen Wagner at ew1536@hotmail.com



Men's Breakfast @ Elena's every Friday Morning @ 6:30 am

Annual Christmas Party is December 8th at the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

Ladies Lunch at Trabue on DECEMBER 17th at 11:30 am

> Next CLUB MEETING: Tuesday, January 12th @ 7:00 PM *Arrive at 6:45 to make sure you get your raffle and 50/50 tickets



January's meeting will feature awards and achievements of our best anglers



Hello and Season Greetings from your new Fishing Events Director.

As I look at the past two years of information that Joe Udwari provided me, to understand what the job entails and help me get up to speed, I am stunned. Just how much Joe has accomplished, and the amount of time he must have put into being your Fishing Events Director is absolutely amazing. The only thing I can say is: "Gee Whillikers, how did I ever let Joe talk me into this? "He after all, is a very accomplished fisherman, (Grand Master with two stars) and has such an immense wealth of fishing knowledge. You may ask, what are my

qualifications? Well I received my hat a few months ago, and last month I received my bronze pin. I am presently working on my silver. I know that's not very impressive, but I was fishing for bluegill, catfish and bass in the lakes of Ohio since I could walk, and I have caught a few nice fish over the years. There are not many things I would rather do than fish. So with that said, I look forward to being your Fishing Events Director, and John McFarland, your Fishing Events Record Keeper, has to do all the heavy lifting. Also, Joe will keep advising me.

Let's talk fish! The November fish of the month was Grouper and in the Men, the awards go to:

1st place - John Gettinger (30")

2nd place - Dennis Krausman (24")

3rd place - Max Achtau (22")

Only one Grouper was reported for the ladies:

1st place- Dianne Bukowski (14")

November was an unbelievable month for catching tarpon, in which 44 were reported totaling 12,700 points. The Tarpon man, Rick Sarkisian accounted for 2,800 of the Tarpon points. I understand that one tarpon even jumped into his boat, to try to even the score. We have 19 awards for November, including multiple awards each for Tamara Dillman, Mark Dillman, Dianne Bukowski and Joe Bukowski. Better look out for these people! Noteworthy this month in the Master Angler Standings was a 47 "monster" Cobia caught by Joe Maillet.

Remember, no club meeting in December, and for club information and rules, go to our website pgifishingclub.org. Please send your fish pictures, with you and your fish in the picture (except for sharks, you don't have to be in the picture with the shark), and list your full name, length and type of fish, date caught and note if you had a paid guide, and send it to <u>fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org</u> May you enjoy the best of a Holiday Season!



Frank Barrett Fishing Events Director



December FOM is Black Drum Just as a note the Fish of the Month in 2016 will stay the same, as we had in 2015, so we will be starting once again with sheepshead in January.

Things-to-Know

1. <u>Federal Waters</u> - An in-season closure for greater amberjack and red grouper is in effect through the end of the year for recreational anglers. Red snapper season closed on June 11, and gag grouper season closes December 3. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council publishes rules governing recreational fishing in federal waters (9 nautical miles off the west coast of FL). Check their rules and updates periodically to stay current with seasons and limits for harvesting all saltwater fish at:

http://www.gulfcouncil.org

2. <u>State Waters</u> - FWC has not closed the red grouper season but also decided to close the greater amberjack season for recreational anglers. Snook season closed on December 1 and gag grouper season closes December 4. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) governs recreational saltwater fishing rules in state waters. Check FWC rules and updates periodically to stay current with seasons and limits for harvesting all saltwater fish at: http://www.myfwc.com

3. <u>No-Harvest Fish</u> - Members should be aware that there are numerous species in our waters that are legally protected and designated as no-harvest fish. Familiarize yourselves with both state and federal regulations governing such species. One is not allowed to remove such species from the water when dehooking them. Also refer to our website for articles concerning proper handling of fish intended for release, which PGIFC encourages.



Our new Ladies

Liaison



Dianne Buckowski

Please welcome our newest volunteer! Dianne has graciously stepped forward to continue our Lady Angler get togethers.

Outgoing Ladies Liaison Cris Scheib

We would like to thank **Cris** for all her hard work for the past three years! She has been a real asset to the club and has worked tirelessly to bring the women in the club together month after month.



Fishing Program Report

Randy Burchaki

Robert Lugiewicz, general manager of Fishin' Franks Bait and Tackle, gave an informative and entertaining talk on catching Gag Grouper. Robert stated that Gags are running near the close in reefs in the Gulf. He likes to use Stretch Lures and tries to keep them 5-10 ft off the bottom. Robert likes the Rapala stretch lures but added that Manns and Bomber are acceptable. He likes to troll in circles about 100-150 ft away from the reefs. His trolling speeds

are 4-6 knots. His favorite colors are natural, greenback or red/white lures. He uses 80 lb monofilament line with a ballbearing swivel. Besides the reefs, Robert added that he fishes the Boca Grande Pass and stone crab traps for Gags. In the pass he likes to troll along the edge of the drop-off on the north side. For the traps, he likes to troll parallel to the lines. He also mentioned that King Mackerel are running in the Gulf and can be caught with similar methods as Gags.

Special thanks to Randy Burchaki for all the hard work he put in to ensure we had great informative speakers throughout the year. Job well done!

Ladies Liasion



Happy Holidays, FISHGIRLS ! It's been a fun year! Here are a few laughs to help you make it through the Season.





We have one OUT TO LUNCH left this year. It will be held at TRABUE.

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 17 - 11:30 am TRABUE on Marion Please RSVP!



Don't miss the FISH CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY on Tuesday, December 8th.Get ready to have some fun at our UNLIMITED PHOTO BOOTH!





Be sure to welcome the new Ladies Liason - Dianne Bukowski HAVE A SAFE & FUN FILLED HOLIDAY! LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE GOOD TIMES IN THE NEW YEAR.



AWESOME JOE UDWARI



I've lived in Punta Gorda just shy of 5 years and came down here thinking Spring time is tarpon time in this area. As I became more familiar with tarpon fishing and saw or heard of anglers catching tarpon in Charlotte Harbor during Summer and Autumn months, I was relieved to think I might be able to catch a silver king away from the mostly discourteous masses in the passes without a guide. Although I hooked several and even caught a few over the last 3 years, I am in awe of what I and our many Club members experienced this Fall. Even some of my more experienced tarpon chaser friends believe what we witnessed this year was awesome, and perhaps not soon to be repeated. Perhaps a story to be told and retold to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, with embellishment of course as the years pass by. After all, we are fishermen and fisherwomen.

I remember last year, my first year as the Club's Fishing Events Director, a good number of tarpon were in the upper Harbor in September, and stayed until Halloween. But to hang out in our back yard until Thanksgiving this year in big schools of quality fish is rare (I think). What's even crazier, they were mostly aggressively feeding probably due to the abundance of bait, warm water and tardy cold fronts. And what's even more special, information regarding the location, bait of choice and time of the bite was readily shared amongst those members expressing an interest to be kept in the loop. Thanks to Rick Sarkisian for creating and coordinating this loop and everyone who willingly and promptly shared (via texts, phone calls and emails) their on the water experience. Thanks also to Rick for infecting many of our members with his passion for catching tarpon and willfully sharing his knowledge on the howto from soup to nuts (i.e., gear, rigging, presentation, etc.). I doubt any of these participating members (which I now affectionately call the tarpon nuts) can say they didn't get their money's worth for their \$30 PGIFC family membership (not to mention all our door prizes and regular give-aways at Club functions). Remember, I was an engineer, so before I close this out I have to leave you with some statistics and graphs of tarpon caught by members in our area (including tarpon caught by guests fishing on members' boats and members fishing with paid guides). As you know, fish caught with paid guides do count towards your Ladder of Angling Achievement record, so we track these as well. Also, I am aware that all members do not report their tarpon catches, but these are typically the same members so the effect from year to year is likely a wash and omitting these serves to impart a lower bound estimate of our Club's catches.

In all of 2012, seven (7) tarpon were caught based on a review of historical data available to me.

In all of 2013, eleven (11) tarpon were caught based on these historical data. Rick joined PGIFC in 2013.

In all of 2014, forty-eight (48) tarpon were caught. None (0) were caught in January through April, or in November and December.

In 2015 thus far (through November 22), eighty-five (85) tarpon have been caught, with forty-four(44) just from November 1 through 22. That's amazing! Since the cold front here now will linger a while, the non-resident tarpon will likely migrate south soon. The distribution of tarpon caught per month in 2015 is shown below, and is followed by histograms for the other points species caught this year.

I hope this is of some interest to you, and those interested do encourage John McFarland and Frank Barrett to continue the recording of these catch data. It's a lot of work, but maybe when we look back in several years from now we'll learn more about what factors cause these glorious fish to hang out in our back yard late into the year.







17,000	2015	Total Cu On	Total Cummulative Points = 79,200 with 447 fish. (~177 pts/fish average) Only fish eligible for points are shown in histogram						_ 17,000				
16,000					•								16,000
15,000											15,300		_ 15,000
14,000													_ 14,000
13,000													_ 13,000
12,000													_ 12,000
11,000													11,000
10,000									9600				10,000
9000			9000	8800							Tarpon		9000
8000_									Redfish				8000
7000			Grouper	Grouper		6900				6900			7000
6000	5500							F 400		Tarpon			6000
5000				Snook		Grouper		5400		Tarpon			_5000
4000_		4200		SHOOK	4300 Grouper			Tarpon	Tarpon				_4000
3000	Grouper		Sp. Mack	Redfish	Grouper	Redfish	3300	Grouper		Redfish			3000
2000		Grouper		Shark	Snook	Snook	Tarpon		Grouper	Trout	Cobia Sp. Mack		_2000
1000	Shark		Snook	Sp. Mack Tarpon	Tarpon	Tarpon Shark	Shark Redfish	Shark	Shark	Snook Shark	Redfish Snook Grouper		_1000
0 points	Redfish Snook	Redfish Trout	Shark	Trout Amberjack	Shark Trout	King Mack*	Grouper King Mack*	Redfish Snook	Trout	King Mack*	Shark		0 points
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
			'P	oints F	ish' Sp	oecies	Breakd	-					
		Grouper 10/11	Redfish 10/11	Shark 10/11	Snook 9/11	Tarpon 8/11	Trout 7/11	Amberjack 5/11	Sp. Mack 5/11	King Mack* 4/11	Cobia 2/11		





Donnie Brennan Membership

I can hardly believe how quickly this year has flown by. Another Christmas party is just around the corner....are you ready to have fun? Ready to dance the night away and have an awesome dinner? Yeah, me, too. This will be Sandy's final party as our Social Events Director and I just know she'll go out with a bang!! We'll miss you, Sandy but I do want to thank you for the tremendous work you've done in hosting some fantastic parties for our club.

BRAVO, SANDY ROSEN!!! WELL DONE.







Remember each new member's badge has a star. Please go out of your way to say hello and make them feel welcome.

JUST A REMINDER.....

There is NO regular meeting this month. December 8 is our Christmas party instead. AND because it's a party, there will be NO badges given out. You can still get your badges, however before the next meeting in January. Here's how: Send me a SELF-ADDRESSED-**STAMPED** ENVELOPE and I'll be glad to mail them to you or you can drop by my house (1601 Suzi St) and pick them up Just be sure to call first (626-4903) if you plan on picking them up.

That said, Merry Christmas to all and ... well, you know the rest.

Oh, one more thing::::::remember:

"That new friend you make just might be your next new best friend."



CELEBRATION TIME, COME ON! There's a party goin' on right here. A dedication to last throughout the year. So bring your good times and your laughter too We're gonna celebrate and party with you.

Every time I write this article, I feel like breaking out in song singing happy birthday to you. I just enjoy making people smile – that's my personality. Okay first of all, I have two belated birthday wishes...

MARGIE HOFFMAN

PETE McGREGOR

Sorry about being late. I didn't know until just a few weeks ago about your birthdays.....so, better late than never. And now for our December honorees. Happy birthday to:

PATTI TOPPER

KAREN UDWARI

Let's all wish them healthiest and happiest.....and many more to come.

Remember if you would like to see your name, the name of your spouse or the name of your friend, just email me their names and the months in which they were born. I'll be sure to do a shout out in the appropriate month.Now, remember - if you want to send a birthday or anniversary wish to someone, just email me (<u>sunshine@pgifishingclub.org</u>) and I'll be sure to get it. All I need is the name and birth month.Just keep in mind, that while this year is almost over, I still need names to fill my calendar for next year. So email me those things and months and I will be sure to get them in the newsletter.

ONE MORE REMINDER

The PGI Fishing Club is on Facebook. If you'd like to catch what's going on, look me up and "friend" me. I'll get you on. Or just send me an email and I'll send you a request to join. Either way is fine with me. Yes, you need to be a (free) member of Facebook but it's a great way to see all the activities and pictures the club has to offer. You can find me on Facebook by looking up: Donnie Harucki-Brennan

You can also email me:

Sunshine@pgifishingclub.org





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Winners circle

Gina Misasi-Wood Fran Krausman Joe Bukowski Cathy Engiman Jack Chopp

Raffle Tickets And 50/50

Some of the Winners









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sea huni

Maverick





FISH OF THE MONTH

January	Sheepshead	July	Shark
February	Spotted Seatrout	August	Mangrove Snapper
March	Redfish Spotted Seatrout	September	Tarpon
April	Spanish Mackerel	October	Redfish
May	Cobia	November	Grouper
June	Snook	December	Black Drum 🔶



November Fish of the Month Winners

Male Anglers





John Gettinger





Dianne Bukowski



Dennis Krausman







Max Achtau

Ladder of Angling Achievement

Club Hat First Fish

Esther Achtau Sandy Edwards Mike Maples Chuck Henry

New this month in RED

Bronze	Tom desEnfants Dick Nieberline Jessica Poe Darryl Pricco Ron Stafford Rodger Will Mark Kline Barbara Brunner Deny LaChance Fred Lamon John Morehouse	Paul Land Alan Schulman Tom Lengauer Walt Zink Cindi Johnston Jerry Morningstar Anne Careau Janice Anderson Peter Meier Bill Damour Gary Skillicorn Patti Topper	Duane Hilgendorf Gretchen Sunderland Don Taylor Mike Peters Randy Burchacki Trudi Baxter Andy Nikitich Sandy Nikitich Sandy Wierzbanowski Kathleen Stevenson David Hatch Alan Hall	Mike Petkus Miriam Taylor John Bothwell Dennis Krausi John McFarlar Frank Barrett Tamara Dillma Dianne Bukow	man nd nn
Silver	Marie D'Ambrosio Kathy desEnfants Mike Gulvezan Christine Jordan Larry Okray Mike Sandling	Joanell Dyrstad Janice Wiscombe Ron Stenberg Hezzie Samons Ted Perrin Jane Stenberg	Randy Hall Bud Johnston Bob Gariepy Roz Hickey Ted Wierzbanowski Lynne Stockinger	Ed Stevenson Randy Douet Deb Sarkisian Joe Bukowski Dianne Bukowski Tamara Dillman	
Gold	Joe Longo Gary Adams Sheree Wolfinger Don Ross	Karen Lodge Dave Dyke Sherry Moerke Tom Hunt	Bud Johnston Ken Hardesty Mary Heins Bud Johnston	Ken Hardesty Mary Heins Lynn Reeves Mark Dillman	Dianne Bukowski Joe Bukowski

Ladder of Angling Achievement, cont.

Lifetime Level I Snook	Tom Lodge Ed Verminski Jim LaRocca Marie LaRocca	Marv Dyrstad Ray Brunner Matti D'Ambrosio John Simonieg	Gary Reeves Mark Dillman
Lifetime Level II Redfish	Marty McCaffrey Missy Becker Rose Anne McCaffrey Bill Guenther	Ron Baxter Fred Benson Elaine Bretts Mark Storm Karen Udwari	George Remick Bob Mayes Gary Moerke
Lifetime Level III TARPON	Jack Spies Bob Rand John MacLeman Carl Leicher	Rick Sarkisian Jim Crawley Karen Udwari Elaine Bretts	



New this month in RED

Nov 2010 pic of AJ Babe of the Month Margie Hoffman

Grand Master Anglers

	Donnie Brennan	(200)
$\star\star$	Rich Brennan	(4300)
	Bob Busler	
\bigstar	Jim Hoffman	(2200)
	Margie Hoffman	(600)
**	Kel Krotzer	(3000)
	J. Landaker	(100)
	Steve Landaker	(400)
A	Joe Maillet	(300)
1	Pete McGregor	(2000)
	Mike Quinn	
	Bev Rucker	
	John Solinger	(1900)
	John Wolfinger	
	Tom Parsons	
$\star\star$	Joe Udwari	(6600)
$\star\star$	John Gettinger	(6300)
	Pam Solinger	
	Bill Bonham	(200)
	Tom Hickey	(1100)
	Aaron Wagner	(600)
	Jim Qurollo	(700)
4	Dick Doster	(600)
	Mike Gilger	(2000)
	Vinnie Madsen	(1700)
×	John Stockinger	(2300)
	Ron Topper	(2000)
	Bob Bretts	(1100)
	Darlene Madsen	(100)

(points earned 2015)

Revised 12/2/15



- ► your name
- ► date caught
- ► fish species
- ▶ length
- ▶ indicate if you used a guide
- ►Email:

fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org

2015 Master Angler Standings

Revised 12/01/15



2015 ISLES TROPHY RACE

THE YEAR-LONG ISLES TROPHY RACE ALLOWS THE MALE AND FEMAILE ANGLER WINNER TO OBTAIN THE TRAVELING "ISLES TROPHY" FOR ONE YEAR



	PGI	ISHING CLUB'S TR	AVELING T	ROPHY RE	CORDING SPREAD	SHEET		
Revised 12/01/1	5		MEN'S DIV	ISION				
OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
Х	Amberjack	John MacLeman	45.5	2012	Tom Lodge	38.0	04/16/15	83.52%
					Joe Udwari	38.0	10/10/15	83.52%
Х	Cobia	Bob Busler	54.0	2007	Joe Maillet	47.0	11/16/15	87.04%
Х	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	John Gettinger	33.5	04/01/15	85.90%
х	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012	John Gettinger	41.5	06/18/15	79.81%
Х	Redfish	Bob Busler	42.0	2005	Bob Mayes	41.5	10/15/15	98.81%
Х	Seatrout	Rich Brennan	29.0	2009	Rich Brennan	25.0	05/15/15	86.21%
		Aaron Wagner	29.0	2012	John Gettinger	25.0	09/08/15	86.21%
Х	Snook	Vinnie Madsen	45.0	2014	Jerry Morningstar	41.0	01/06/15	91.11%
Х	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012	John Gettinger	26.0	03/09/15	86.67%
			WOMEN'S	DIVISION				
OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
	Amberjack	Margie Hoffman	33.0	2010	Karen Lodge	38.0	04/16/15	115.15%
	Cobia	Joanne Landaker	50.0	2008	Dianne Bukowski	35.0	11/30/15	70.00%
		Marilyn McGregor	50.0	2013	Elaine Bretts	33.0	05/23/15	66.00%
	Grouper	Margie Hoffman	34.0	2014	Elaine Bretts	29.0	04/01/15	85.29%
	King Mackerel	Karen Lodge	38.0	2014				
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan	38.0	2008	Nan Qurollo	33.5	8/29/15	88.16%
		Missy Becker	38.0	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Landaker	26.5	2011	Darlene Madsen	22.0	02/28/15	83.00%
	Snook	Missy Becker	42.0	2013	Lynn Reeves	36.0	10/15/15	85.71%
	Spanish Mackerel	Missy Becker	28.0	2007	Roz Hickey	26.0	04/13/15	92.86%
	This	s Year's Leaders are ir	RED		New 2015 Records t	his Month a	re in BLUE	

Past Isles Trophy Winners

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Rich Brennan	Kel Krotzer	Greg Chestnut	Jim Qurollo	Steve Landaker	Vinnie Madsen
Christine Jordan	Margie Hoffman	Joanne Landaker	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Missy Becker	Margie Hoffman

The following pages show just some of the members who shared some extraordinary days of fishing.



Sarkisian Family Tarpon Outings. Just 4 of the dozen tarpon landed by Rick, Deb and their daughter. One was so happy to see Rick it jumped in his new boat and left a slimy mess.

1. 1









Joe Udwari & his son Alex getting a workout catching nice tarpon & a few









Silver Pin-Tamara



Gold & Snook - Mark



Mark & Tamara Dillman are doing great as 1st year PGIFC anglers (caught multiple tarpon, shark, Sp. Mackerel & cobia this month)

Gary & Sherry Moerke Fishing

Inshore (with big tarpon and snook & perfect bait sized ladyfish)









Frank Barrett catching eligible species & bait fish while offshore with John Gettinger





Sand Perch (aka squirrel fish)





Frank & Jackie Wyatt fishing at the beach while soaking up the sun









Red Grouper

Dennis Krausman fishing in the pass to add to his species list

Blue Runner


Karen Udwari's memorable sunset cruise catching her 1st tarpon courtesy of Rick & Deb Sarkisian (survived several jumps & multiple runs under the boat)

Tom Hickey getting them inshore & offshore





29 & 30.5" redfish



30" bonito



5'+ tarpon

Mike Gilger fishing while on Neighborhood Marine Watch???

(photo credits to John Stockinger)



Mike's lizard fish caught trolling







John Gettinger sharing the bounty with friends Mike Gilger and Ron Topper, while saving pixels on photos.

<u>Note to self:</u> Stowe lures with big treble hooks properly.







Max & Esther Achtau racking up species

(blue runners, mangrove snapper, ladyfish, red grouper & striped mojarra)





Ron Baxter with two of his November tarpon and a tarpon sized jack crevalle @ 35"



This one landed by Capt. Mark Dillman on his boat





Bob & Elaine Bretts with big tarpon, shark and snook.



Joe & Dianne Bukowski with 2 November tarpon each, plus lots of other species (see next page). Also collected a bunch of LOA pins, both getting up to Gold.











(bonito, blue fish, seatrout, sheepshead, grouper, Sp. mackerel, mangrove snapper & oyster cracker)



The Bukowski fishing machines in action





One of Bob Busler's 2 Tarpon, a 5'+ fish (landed with broken rod)



Dave Lafo w/ Tarpon









John Stockinger 32" Cobia

Jim Crawley 33" Cobia





Mark Dillman 31.5" Cobia

Joe Maillet and Bob Busler with 47" & 45" Cobia, respectively.





Linda Bahr 26" Snook



Elaine Bretts 30" Snook



Pete McGregor & 32" GMA Star Snook





D. Krausman 28" Snook







Mark Storm 17" Barracuda



Mike Maples 40" Shark



Mike Maples 20" Seatrout



Sandy Edwards Red Grouper (1st Fish)







Chuck Henry w/ 15" Flounder & 31" Redfish



Anonymous December Stocking Stuffer





Dianne Bukowski's 35" Cobia dinner on 11-30-15

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PGI NEIGHBORHOOD MARINE WATCH

The Punta Gorda Isles Neighborhood Marine Watch (NMW) group is alive and doing well. Since it's inception more than five years ago, this group of totally dedicated community volunteers has

grown to over 80 members, many of which, roll out of their warm beds in the middle of the night, grab a hot cup of coffee, get on their boat and head out into the darkness to patrol and observe, reporting to the Punta Gorda Police Dispatcher all boating activity taking place during their night and early morning patrols of the nine inlets leading into the waterfront community of Punta Gorda Isles.

Talk about volunteers being dedicated to serving their community! Not many communities can boast about a group that has formed a community alliance with their local police department to be the eyes and ears to help in keeping their community safe from illegal activities that might include boat theft, the taking of marine equipment and illegal netting activity.

The Punta Gorda Isles Neighborhood Marine Watch Group mission is to provide an "Observe & Report Surveillance" service for all PGI resident home owners. The group's policy of "No contact – No confrontation" with suspected illegal activity is a policy that is strictly adhered to by all members. PGI Marine Watch members while on patrol are in communications with the Punta Gorda Police Department dispatcher and is directed by the dispatcher as to further action, if any, that should be taken.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and boat for 2-hours each month to this worthwhile program, contact: Bill Guenther — Neighborhood Marine Watch program coordinator: Email: (radioman3029@comcast.net)



