

# Punta Gorda Isles Fishing Club Newsletter

Volume 21

Issue 02



*Dine In or Carry Out*  
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**2012 Awards**  
*Pages 16-18 & 20*

**How Many Rods?**  
*Pages 25 & 26*

# PGI Fishing Club Newsletter

# FEATURES

## Officers

President: Aaron Wagner—916.9470  
president@pgifishingclub.org

Vice President: Tom Lengauer—639.5335  
tlengauer@embarqmail.com

Treasurer: Rex Koch—637-0262  
rex@kochcpas.com

Secretary: Gary Moerke—639.0337  
gmoerke@embarqmail.com

## Committee Members

Editor: Jim Quorllo—347-8467  
editor@pgifishingclub.org

Advertising: Missy Becker—833-4236  
missybecker@remax.net

Membership: Donnie Brennan—575-8808  
L3th@comcast.net

Programs: John Simonieg—637-1838  
johnsimonieg@yahoo.com

Social Director: Sherry Moerke—639-0337  
socialdirector@pgifishingclub.org

Fishing Events: John Wolfinger —  
224.330.8758 fishing@pgifishingclub.org

Fishing Events Record Keeper: Bob Rand—  
637-4848 bobrand@embarqmail.com

Past President: Joe Longo  
CCMAC: Mike Quinn  
CCA: Tom Parsons

Ladies Liaison: Cris Scheib  
pastadiva@comcast.net

Sunshine Lady: Donnie Brennan—575-8808  
L3th@comcast.net

Volume 21 Issue 02

February 2013

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**NEXT CLUB MEETING**  
**Tuesday, February 12, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.**

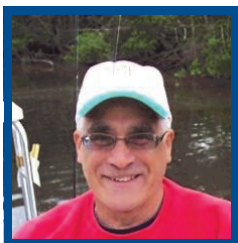


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Go to your facebook page, search for  
PGI Fishing Club, join the group.

**ON THE COVER**—Thirty club members enjoyed the  
Friday breakfast meeting at Elena's on a cool January  
18th morning. Photo taken by Jack Spies.





## From the Helm

Aaron Wagner

Hey, how about those cold spells we've been getting, huh? I might not be too happy about cold weather but I can't argue that some

of the fishing has been better. A friend of mine keeps nagging her husband to go out catch some sheepshead. It's her favorite food and not always available. So when he came home a few days ago with a very large one, she almost jumped for joy. She would have jumped if it weren't for the foot surgery she just had.

But that's one thing the cold weather will bring us. Good tasting sheepshead. And yes, it really is a good tasting fish and I'm sure I can be counted with the majority when I say that I'm glad the red tide hasn't put them at risk.

The red tide has been really bad around the Englewood area. Those who have gone fishing in the Gulf have seen hundreds of fish floating in the water. While we're doing our best to let the snook population increase, the red tide is doing its best to wipe them out. So remember, practice catch and release if you snag one of those beauties. So what exactly is red tide? For our newer members who aren't familiar with it, I'll explain.

Red tide or harmful algal bloom is a higher-than-normal concentration of a microscopic algae. In Florida (and Mexico), the species that causes most red tides is *Karenia brevis* and is commonly called the Florida Red Tide.

Mote Marine Labs and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission work together to continuously monitor Southwest Florida waters for the organism that causes Florida red tide. Very often the bloom takes on a brown or red color. There are cases where the red tide doesn't color at all. The discoloration depends on the density of the algae bloom.

The most conspicuous effects of the red tides are the associated wildlife mortalities of marine and coastal fish, birds, marine mammals and other organisms.

Red tide can also affect humans. Some people experience respiratory irritation (coughing, sneezing, teary and itchy eyes and or throat) when the Florida red tide is present and winds blow onshore.

Swimming is usually safe for most people but it has been reported that some people suffer skin irritation and burning eyes especially if they swim where dead fish are seen.

It seems that every year we get our share of red tide but each year the density changes and each area is affected in a different way. At this time, Englewood has the most concentration while Charlotte Harbor's density isn't as bad.

Will the density change? No one really knows for sure. Mote Marine Labs is working diligently to figure all this out but with a tide that changes from year to year, their job isn't easy.

My suggestion is that if you see a patch of dense red tide (red or brown), call the FWC and they, in turn will notify Mote. That's the best we can do to help them and perhaps even help our waters and the fish that live in them. The FWC has a "Fish Kill Hotline" (800-636-0511) you can use to report red tide, fish kills, or other unusual problems with fish you might catch.

Now, moving on...

We had quite a grand turn out at January's meeting. Very impressive, even if I do say so myself. It was nice to see so many new faces. I know Donnie will tell you just how many people we have in the club so I'm looking forward to reading her article.

And speaking of articles, Don't forget to read John Wolfinger's article to see who won all of last year's awards. There were some great catches and a lot of surprises. As your president, I am always impressed at the fish our members reel in. The pictures prove that we must be doing something right. Check them out and see for yourself.

We're still hoping that some of you will contribute an article to our newsletter. It's really easy. Just write what you want to talk about, sent it to Jim Q at [editor@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:editor@pgifishingclub.org) and he'll edit the grammar and spelling before placing it in the newsletter. Donnie is also willing to proof read your article. So you have two choices. Let's hear from you. There are so many great anglers in our club so I'm sure someone or some two have something interesting to say. I'm waiting.

One more thing...everyone is invited to our Friday Morning Breakfast Club. We meet at Elena's every Friday morning at 6:30 – if you can roll your butts out of bed that early.

See you there!

Aaron



# Red Tide Brochures Provided by Your FWC

## RED TIDE

### PUBLIC HEALTH

#### Is it safe to swim during a red tide?

Yes, for most people. However, for some people, red tide can cause skin irritation and burning eyes. Use common sense - if you are particularly susceptible to irritation from plant products, avoid red tide water. If you experience irritation, get out and thoroughly wash off. Do not swim among dead fish because they can be associated with harmful bacteria.

#### How is red tide related to respiratory irritation?

People experience respiratory irritation (coughing, sneezing, and tearing) when the red tide organism (*K. brevis*) is present along a coast and winds blow its toxic aerosol onshore.

**CAUTION:** People with severe or chronic respiratory conditions (such as bronchitis, emphysema or asthma) are cautioned to avoid red tide areas. Generally, symptoms are temporary and disappear within hours (once exposure is discontinued). Most people find air-conditioned facilities decrease symptoms quickly. Since the red tide toxin is particulate matter when airborne, wearing a particle filter mask may lessen effects while on the beach.

### SEAFOOD SAFETY

#### Is it safe to eat seafood in restaurants during a red tide?

Yes. Commercial seafood from local restaurants and grocery and seafood stores must be harvested from red tide-free waters. This includes shellfish.

#### Can I fish for seafood during a red tide?

Yes and No! Shellfish must be avoided. There have been no reported human illness from eating filleted fish caught during a red tide.

#### Is it okay to eat shellfish during a red tide?

No. If a shellfish harvesting ban is in effect, it is not safe to eat mollusks (e.g., clams and oysters) and gastropods that feed on bivalves (e.g., whelks). However, edible parts of other animals commonly called shellfish (e.g., crabs, shrimp and lobsters), are not affected by the red tide organisms and can be eaten.

#### What shellfish are included in a shellfish harvesting ban?

Harvesting of bivalve mollusks such as clams, oysters and coquinas is banned during red tides.

#### Is it okay to eat fish, crabs or shrimp during a red tide?

Yes, because the toxin is not absorbed in the edible tissues of these animals. However, use common sense! Harvesting distressed or dead animals is not advised regardless of the cause of death or distress.

#### Does cooking destroy the red tide toxin?

No.

To order cards call 1-800-711-6245

1/03

## RED TIDE

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is Florida red tide?

A red tide is a higher-than-normal concentration of a microscopic alga (plant-like organisms). In Florida, the species that causes most red tides is *Karenia brevis* (*K. brevis*). This organism produces a toxin that can affect the central nervous system of fish. At high concentrations (called a bloom), the organisms may discolor the water. However, red tides are not always red. They can appear light to dark green to brown. Or, the water can remain its normal color.

#### Do red tides occur anywhere else?

Yes. Although the organism that causes Florida's red tide is found almost exclusively in the Gulf of Mexico, blooms have been found off the east coast of Florida, and a bloom was detected off the coast of North Carolina in 1987. Scientists believe the Florida Current and Gulf Stream Current carried *K. brevis* out of the Gulf of Mexico, around south Florida, and up to the Carolina coast. Other types of micro-organisms cause different kinds of red tides (now called harmful algal blooms or HABs) in other parts of the world as well. HABs occur in both saltwater and freshwater.

#### How long does red tide typically last?

It can last days, weeks, months and it can change daily due to wind conditions. Thus, contact your local area for accurate and current conditions or visit [www.floridamarine.org](http://www.floridamarine.org).

#### Is red tide a new phenomenon?

No. The first official reporting of red tide in Florida was in 1844. Government officials documented discolored water and massive fish kills.

For red tide health information or questions call:

**Marine and Freshwater Hotline 1-888-232-8635**

To report red tide or fish kills, contact:

**FWRI at 800-636-0511 or [aquatichealth@fwc.com](mailto:aquatichealth@fwc.com)**

For red tide updates, visit: [www.floridamarine.org](http://www.floridamarine.org)

*RedTideOnline.com* is provided as a service to Florida businesses by The Red Tide Alliance of the FWC-Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, Mote Marine Laboratory and Solutions to Avoid Red Tide in cooperation with the Florida Department of Health.



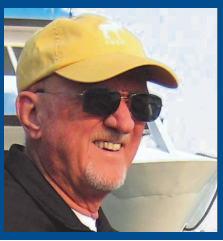
Solutions to Avoid Red Tide, Inc.

**You can pick up one these brochures at our February meeting (while supplies last).**

### Web Site News

If you haven't visited the PGI Fishing Club Web site, you should check it out. It has new items and pages. There is now a page titled "Member Inputs and Comments" which we can use to post items of interest. If you have something, email [editor@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:editor@pgifishingclub.org). And, the Photo Gallery page is growing all the time.





### Some Good Causes

**W**ould you like to participate in some worthwhile

happenings around our community? With a little volunteer time or effort many opportunities are available. How about these two?

**Peace River Wildlife Center.** If you haven't visited the Peace River Wildlife Center at Ponce de Leon Park, you owe it to yourself to visit. Nan and I take our grandsons by the Center just about every visit they make to Punta Gorda. They love it, we enjoy it each time and there is no entry fee (but there is a suggested minimum donation jar at the entrance).

The Center's mission is to treat and rehabilitate injured and orphaned native Florida wildlife (except venomous snakes) and, if possible, return them to the wild. If they cannot be returned to their natural habitat due to sustained non life threatening physical limitations, the Center will provide a permanent home for the wildlife. You can read and hear all about the Center on their excellent Web site at <http://www.peaceriverwildlifecenter.com/>.

The Center is staffed primarily by volunteers, so if you want to help with this mission you might volunteer and get first hand experience with the wildlife. But, there are also unique ways, as regular Charlotte Harbor fishermen, that we can help.

Many of the injured birds the Center supports eat bait fish...a lot of bait fish! We often return from a fishing trip with left over bait, and I often end up

releasing the bait into the canal at my dock. But, in the future, I'll try to stop at the Ponce Park dock, call the Center at (941) 637-3830, tell them I have bait fish available and they will send a staff member to the dock to collect the bait.

If you forget or can't for some reason stop at Ponce, you can put your extra bait into plastic bags, freeze it and drop it off at the Center anytime Ponce Park is open. They have a special freezer available outside where you can put the frozen or bagged fresh bait. *(I did this with 26 lb. of bagged, frozen bait a week or so ago, and it works great.)*

So, left over bait is a simple way for most of us to support a very good cause. And, if you look at the Wildlife Center Web site you'll see that they accept various other kinds of donations like aluminum cans, used ink cartridges and monetary donations if you are so inclined.

*(The next page shows an example of work the Wildlife Center does.)*

**Annual PGI Canal Clean-Up.** My understanding is that on February 23rd, the canal clean-up volunteers will use their boats to patrol a section of the PGI canal near their home. They will collect any trash or foreign objects, such as coconuts, Styrofoam, plastic bags, etc. This is a low key affair with no briefings or detailed instruction. There will be maps provided with some instructions and reminders. To volunteer or get more details you can contact Bill Schardt at email [catnap892@comcast.net](mailto:catnap892@comcast.net) or call him at 443-852-0105. See flyer info below.

#### **Annual PGI Canal Clean-Up**

**Join your neighbors in keeping our canals beautiful and clean!  
Saturday February 23, 9:00 am to 11:30 am**

Join your friends and neighbors for a morning to keep our wonderful canal system beautiful and trash free. PGI residents take great pride in their homes and their canals and this is your chance to give back to your community. Even if you don't own a boat, there are opportunities to volunteer for this annual event.

The PGI Islanders are heading up this event with support from the Punta Gorda Boater's Alliance and its many members. Fishermen, kayakers, sailors and power boaters will all join together for a morning of community service. There will be a lunch provided by the PGICA at the pavilion at 12:30 for all volunteers that participate in the event.



## Burned Eagle Recovering at Peace River Wildlife Center



Dr. Robin Jenkins (on right) and Peace River Staff member examining Phoenix.

*This news article and photos were taken from the NBC-2 Website <http://www.nbc-2.com/story/20755658/burned-easgle-recovering-at-wildlife-center> posted: Jan 28, 2013 5:40 PM EST. If you missed the fascinating video, it may still be available at the NBC-2 Website above.*

**F**ound shocked, burned and unable to fly, a bald eagle is now making quite the recovery.

The Peace River Wildlife Center in Punta Gorda is nursing the bird back to health thanks to donations from the public.

Phoenix still can't fly. The female bald eagle is missing most of the feathers on the right side of her body.

"The right wing, the feathers were just burnt down to the quills. There was nothing left," explains Dr. Robin Jenkins, a veterinarian who volunteers at the Peace River Wildlife Center.

Jenkins thinks the eagle was shocked by a power line and caught on fire before she ended up at the center.

"I saw the bald eagle down there in the green grass," says Joe Smock.

The Punta Gorda Isles resident remembers finding the eagle across the street from his house two weeks ago. "It didn't make any sense that she was down here on the ground. As I got a little closer I could see she was hopping funny and I realized she had a broken wing," says Smock.

Hoping to get the animal some help, neighbors made sure she came to the Peace River Wildlife Center and now Phoenix is expected to make a full recovery.

"The wing itself is not damaged, just the feathers," Jenkins points out.

Phoenix almost didn't get a shot at a second chance. Last year, the Peace River Wildlife Center was struggling to bring in donations and thought it might have to shut down the rehabilitation wing.

Donations have picked up and the center is continuing to care for the animals. "We can sigh a little bit of relief and concentrate on what we do which is saving the animals," Jenkins says.

The center isn't out of the woods yet. Jenkins says volunteers are scarce during the summer, one of the busiest times of the year, and the center would like to continue helping birds like Phoenix return to the wild.

"It's great when you get to release an animal that was injured that otherwise would have died. There's no better feeling."

Phoenix will stay at the center through the summer. Jenkins is hopeful the feathers will grow back and Phoenix can return to the wild.





The month of January sure was a warm one. I remember going out fishing earlier in the month and the water temperature was 62 degrees. About a week later I went out again and it was 74 degrees. That is really unusual for this time of year. Those warm temperatures can really change how and where we fish and the type of fish we catch. A good example is our January Fish of the Month: sheepshead. They tend to follow the cooler water so finding them in January was more difficult than years past. Many members did find some, but it was more of a challenge.

As I mentioned above, our Fish of the Month for January was SHEEPSHEAD. Many members were able to catch some but the number caught and the size was less than what we have seen in the past. We had a total of 12 entries for the SHEEPSHEAD contest, but I'm sure if you talk with our members, they were more difficult to find and catch. The month of January finished with four winners:

- John Wolfinger, First place (\$35 gift certificate) 20.5" sheepshead
- George Remick, Second place (\$25 gift certificate) 19.5" sheepshead
- John Gettinger, Third place tie (\$15 gift certificate) 18.5" sheepshead
- Rich Brennan, Third place tie (\$15 gift certificate) 18.5" sheepshead

Congratulations to all of the winners! Thanks go out to the members that submitted pictures of their SHEEPSHEAD catches. If you caught one and didn't submit it, you may have missed out on a great gift certificate. It's easy to submit entries; just e-mail a picture of you with the fish along with your name, date caught, length and type of fish to the club's NEW e-mail address for submissions, [fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org) or drop off a picture with the same information at the PGICA office.

Our February Fish of the Month will be SPOTTED SEATROUT. This is one of the favorites for our members to catch so this will be a very competitive month. These fish are TOTAL LENGTH; tip of the nose to the tip of the squeezed tail. Seatrout are a great winter fish for us but with this warmer weather, they have not been showing up in great numbers like they have in

the past. You may need to look for them in different places than you have in the past. Flexibility is key here! If you catch one, take a photo of yourself with the fish and submit it along with the length and information to [fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org). As always, fish caught using a paid in-shore guide do not qualify for this contest.

Make note of where you catch those February seatrout because when we get to March, our Fish of the Month will be the PGI Slam. That will be the total length of two fish: SPOTTED SEATROUT and REDFISH.

Red tide is still affecting our area and just does not seem to go away. There are reports of red tide all along the southwest Florida coast so if you see the bait in your live well dying or your throat getting irritated, move on to somewhere else.

Grouper season closed February 1 for southwest Florida. There were a lot of us hoping that the season might stay open, but that didn't happen. So if you like to fish for grouper, the season will not open again until April 1; and that is open for red grouper. Gag grouper season is not scheduled to open again until July 1.

If you are a new member and have questions about how our club's contests work, go to <http://pgifishingclub.org/> for the rules for our four contests: Ladder of Achievement, Fish of the Month, Master Angler Tournament and Isles Trophy Race. Our monthly Newsletter also provides the information on progress for these contests.

We now have 42 members on our PGI Fishing Club Facebook page. It's a great way to share information, photos and even brag a bit! Our page is "closed" to non-members which means only those club members participating can see what is posted. So, if you are a Facebook member and want to join our page, it's easy. Simply type "PGI Fishing Club" in the search line for Facebook. When it brings up the PGI Fishing Club line, click on that. It will then say this is a closed page and it will display "Ask to join". Click on that and a note will come to Donnie or me and we'll add you. It's easy!

Now take advantage of living in one of the best fishing areas in the country and GO FISH!



**January, 2012  
Fish of the Month Contest  
Sheepshead**



John Wolfinger, 1st Place (\$35 gift certificate),  
20.5-inch sheepshead

**Fishin' Babe  
of the Month  
With a February  
Fish of the Month**



**Fish of the Month 2013 Schedule**

January	<b>SHEEPSHEAD</b>
February	<b>SPOTTED SEATROUT</b>
March	<b>PGI SPRING SLAM—REDFISH &amp; SPOTTED SEATROUT</b>
April	<b>SPANISH MACKEREL</b>
May	<b>COBIA</b>
June	<b>SNOOK</b>
July	<b>SHARK</b>
August	<b>MANGROVE SNAPPER</b>
September	<b>TARPON</b>
October	<b>REDFISH</b>
November	<b>GROUPER</b>
December	<b>BLACK DRUM</b>



George Remick,  
2nd Place (\$25  
gift certificate),  
19.5-inch  
sheepshead.



Rich Brennan (left) and  
John Gettinger (above),  
tied for 3rd Place (\$15  
gift certificates),  
18.5-inch sheepsheads.

**Congratulations to our winners!**



## Programs

John Simonieg

Our February speaker is Capt. Mark Miller, a life long resident of Punta Gorda and the Isles as long as it has existed. Mark has been an active backcountry tournament angler for the past 16 years. He has competed in Tarpon, Grouper, Red-fish, FKA, Extreme, and Many Flatsmasters Tournaments of which he has been in the final top ten competitors many times.

Mark has used the knowledge from these tournaments to put his clients on to hot fishing spots while guiding. His previous talks at our club have received high marks from your board and we encourage all members to attend the February meeting.



## Ladies Liaison

Cris Scheib

Hello, Fish Girls! We're off to a great start for the year! Twenty-two girls gathered for a fun "Out To Lunch" at the newly opened Big Cheese Eatery. What a great turnout!



"Girls Nite Out " was at The Creative Circle Studio and Gallery where we got to work on our "creative side" with pottery and paints, plus enjoying some snacks and sips. Our projects were being fired when this went to press, but we'll have some pics up at the next meeting.

We'll be going from the Islands to the Harbor this month. The Golden Krust Grill & Bakery will welcome us with their friendly service on Thursday, February 14 at 11:30 am. Michelle will be offering a few specials for us that day that sound delicious, as well as her regular menu of authentic Jamaican meals and patties. Don't worry, there are mild dishes as well as spicier ones! I'll be sending you their menu with my signup email, or check it out at our meeting.

Enjoy our beautiful harbor with a background of piano music when we visit The Captain's Table at Fisherman's Village for GNO on Wednesday, February 27 at 6:00 pm. They offer an extensive menu and all of the freshly prepared entrees come with the Captain's Salad Bar and made to order Caesar Salads. When I went there with a group of girls from work we all thought the meals were delicious. View the menu at [thecaptainstable.com](http://thecaptainstable.com)

Next month we'll check out another new place for lunch, Plaza Mexico in Port Charlotte ([plazamexicobarandgrill.com](http://plazamexicobarandgrill.com)). Girls Nite Out will get a little rowdier when we visit the newly improved Slip Knot with it's expanded menu ~ yummy lobster bisque! ~ and some music. Questions? Suggestions? Just email me with "Fish Girls" in the subject line. ([pastadiva@comcast.net](mailto:pastadiva@comcast.net))

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## Membership

Donnie Brennan

When I took over the role of Membership Director, I had two goals. I wanted

to be as proficient as Bob Rand when he had the job and I wanted to see if I could increase the number of our membership. I'm hoping I succeeded with the first because let's face it, Bob was awesome at this job so I had some very large shoes to fill - and I know without a doubt, I succeeded with the second.

I became your Membership Director in 2009 and at that time, we had about 167 household memberships. Keep in mind that a household membership can be one single person or two people at the same address.

As of today, (I'm writing this on January 20<sup>th</sup>), we have 260 household memberships!! WOW!!

I realized this increase is not all because of me. Many members joined because their friends were members. Others joined because they're new to the area and they want to learn about fishing in the Southwest of Florida.

But, no matter the whys or the hows, we are certainly growing in number. Here is the list of the members who have joined in January. Please be sure to welcome:

JANICE & PAUL ANDERSON  
JIM & PAT CRAWLEY  
BILL DAMOUR & WANDA WOOD  
STEVE FERRA & LINDA ESSEX  
TIM & FRAN FARRIS  
ERNIE & DIANE GARCIA  
BUD & CINDI JOHNSTON  
PETER MEIER  
TIM & LINDA MITCHELL  
JERRY & BRENDA MORNINGSTAR  
BOB & KAY PIERRO  
BOB & WENDY RIZZA  
TERRY & KAREN SCHWARCK  
GERTHCEN SUNDERLAND & KEITH WRIGLEY

As I said.....WOW!!

Now, I mentioned before that these new members bring us to a total of 260 household memberships BUT.....are you ready for this?.....drum roll, please.....!!!

We have a total of A WHOPPING **501 MEMBERS!!!**

Can you imagine that?

We must be doing something right!

I am so impressed and in awe of being part of such a huge and magnificent club and that's one of the reasons I work just as hard as your other Board members to make this the best fishing club ever created.

I can't help but wonder what Ben Ugoretz, Bob Kennedy, Russ Smith, Hank Olsen and Jack Moran might be thinking as they look down on the club they created. What began as a small gathering of five friends and their wives has certainly grown. How I wish these five men were still around so we could thank them and invite them to one of our meetings. And yet, I'm sure they know what we've done to their club. And likewise, I'm sure their grinning from ear to ear.

Another thing we've done with their club is the new-member recognition. We do that by placing a star on each new member's badge. When you see a new member, go out of your way to say hello; make a new friend. It really only takes one hello to start a friendship.

This club is known for their camaraderie so at the next meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>, play nice. Say hello. Make a friend. Let's make all the new members feel welcome. After all, we all were new members once.

Okay enough for another month. I'll close by saying that if you have a new neighbor, invite him/her to our meeting or give me the neighbor's name and address. I'll do the inviting. After all, that's what I do.

Have a great month and happy fishing!  
Donnie



## Sunshine Lady

Donnie Brennan

**W**ow, what a busy month January was. I sure hope the flu season is well over when you read this.

I know I've been busy sending out cards so I can't even imagine how busy doctors and pharmacies have been.

Joe Kohrman received a Get Well card hoping it will shed a bit of sunshine on his recovery from surgery. Chuck Scheib received one because of his surgery. All others were down with the flu (as far as I know).

Those who received cards from the PGI Fishing Club were:

Shirley Ferguson, Pete Ferguson, Stan Rosen, Darlene Rosen, Joe Kohrman, Rich Brennan, Ann Marie Cronin, and Chuck Scheib.

Please help me to wish them well.

I want to thank everyone who has called me to let me know of those who need a bit of sunshine.

In a way, I hope to never have to send out another card. I really want people to stay healthy but in this reality, sickness will fall on one of us like a ton of bricks. When that happens, I really hope you'll let me know so I can hopefully bring a smile to the face of the ill.

Remember, I'm the eternal optimist. No smile is too small to share.

(((((big hugs))))))

Donnie

**Late entry:**

A card was "hand delivered" to Rich Brennan who was taken (by me) to Peace River ER on Sunday morning, January 27th. The diagnoses was severe pancreatitis. He was admitted for further testing and treatment.

The determination was to keep him for a few days to help settle and reduce the inflammation of the pancreas. Once that's accomplished, he will be released for further rest and healing after which surgery to remove the malfunctioning gall bladder will take place. That date is TBD.

Rich and I both want to thank everyone who has visited, called and emailed. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated more than words can say.

*(As we "go to press" news from the club's Facebook page says Rich is home and doing well!)*



## PGI NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Punta Gorda Isles Neighborhood "Marine" Watch program  
Is looking for a few good men and/or women.



**YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE MARINE WATCH PROGRAM IS ONLY 2-HOURS EACH MONTH, AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE FROM A SPREAD OF DAYS TO PERFORM YOUR PATROL. I WILL GO OUT WITH YOU ON YOUR INITIAL PATROL. YOU CAN ALSO ACT AS "CREW" DURING ANY OTHER MEMBERS PATROL.**

If you are interested in volunteering a couple hours each month to this worthwhile program, contact: Bill Guenther — Neighborhood Marine Watch program coordinator — Home Phone: 941.505.5099 Cell Phone: 941.661.9702, or email at: [radioman3029@comcast.net](mailto:radioman3029@comcast.net)





## Social Events

Sherry  
Moerke

The annual picnic will be held Saturday March 9th from noon to 4:00 at the civic association pavilion. The rain date is Sunday March 10th. Food and beverages will be provided to members at a cost of \$5.00 per household. The menu will include fried chicken, potato salad and coleslaw. Soft drinks and water will be furnished. All you need to bring is an appetizer or dessert to share (the category will be listed on the back of your ticket). Please remember to bring your food on a disposable dish. You are welcome to bring your own alcoholic beverages if desired.

The games following lunch will include bean bag toss, hoop casting and anchor toss. Prizes for the winners will be awarded at the end of the picnic. There will also be a 50/50 drawing.

The civic association has tables and benches under the pavilion. You may want to bring a more comfortable chair to sit in after the games.

Tickets will be available at the February 12th meeting. You may also call me at 941-639-0337 or email me at [sgmoerke@embarqmail.com](mailto:sgmoerke@embarqmail.com) to make arrangements to purchase the tickets anytime after February 12th.

I would appreciate volunteers for setup, serving, cleanup as well game leaders. Please contact me or I will have a sign up sheet at the monthly meeting.

We are planning a fun day. I hope you all can make it.

Sherry

## Recipe of the Month

This recipe is from a book titled "How to Cook Your Catch" by Rube Allyn. Rube wrote a daily outdoor column called "On the Waterfront" for the St. Petersburg *Times* newspaper from 1932 to 1957. He liked to catch fish. He also liked to cook them. You will probably see more of his recipes for our local area fish in the coming months.

### Spanish-Style Sheepshead

1/4 cup chopped onion  
2 tbsp. butter  
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour  
2 16-oz. cans tomatoes  
1/4 cup chopped green pepper  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. sugar  
pepper to taste  
1 bay leaf  
1 whole clove  
2 lbs. sheepshead fillets (skinned and deboned)

Cook onion in butter until tender. Blend in flour. Add remaining ingredients except fillets and cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Remove bay leaf and clove; discard.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Arrange fillets in a shallow, well-greased baking dish and cover with sauce. Bake 25-30 minutes until fish flakes easily.

Serve immediately. Serves 6.



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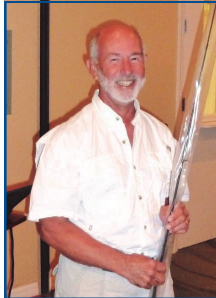
# Last Month's Drawing Prize Winners

## DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

SPECIAL	~	Sheree Wolfinger	Fishin' Franks Donated Rod/Reel Combo
FIRST PLACE	~	Bill Schardt	Redbone Spinning Rod
SECOND PLACE	~	Marty Skuya	Calico Jack Spinning Rod
SECOND PLACE	~	Hank Butt	Okuma 30B Spinning Reel
THIRD PLACE	~	Harry Ensley	Fishing tackle bag
THIRD PLACE	~	Fran Farris	\$25 Gift Certificate to Terminal Tackle



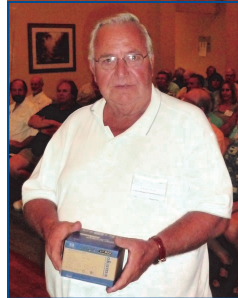
SPECIAL  
Sheree  
Wolfinger



FIRST PLACE  
Bill Schardt



SECOND PLACE  
Marty Skuya



SECOND PLACE  
Hank Butt



THIRD PLACE  
Harry Ensley

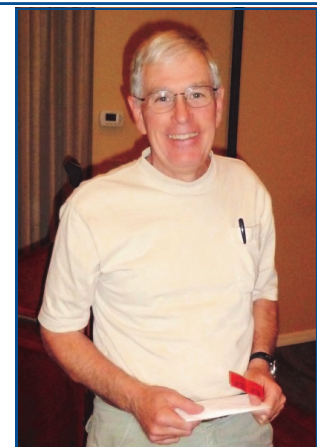
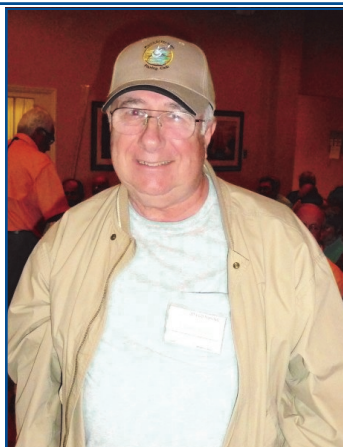
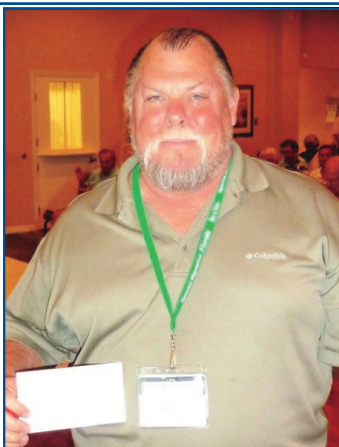


THIRD PLACE  
Fran Farris



## 50/50 WINNERS

FIRST PLACE WINNER Ron Davis \$70	SECOND PLACE WINNER Charlie Kratz \$50	THIRD PLACE WINNER Rick Sluzewski \$40
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## PGI Fishing Club Ladder of Angling Achievement Program

LEVEL	NUMBER OF SPECIES	SIZE LIMITS	POINTS NEEDED	EARNED AWARD
FIRST FISH	1	NONE	NONE	CLUB HAT
BRONZE	5	NONE	NONE	BRONZE PIN
SILVER	5	LEGAL	300	SILVER PIN
GOLD	7	LEGAL	700	GOLD PIN
LIFETIME	9	LEGAL	1000	SNOOK PIN
LIFETIME LEVEL II	13	LEGAL	1400	REDFISH PIN
LIFETIME LEVEL III	18	LEGAL	1700	TARPON PIN
GRAND MASTER	23	LEGAL	2000	CLUB SHIRT W/LOGO

**For complete Ladder of Angling Achievement Program rules, detailed information on eligible angler achievement species and points earned based on length, please see the PGI Fishing Club Web site ([www.pgifishingclub.org](http://www.pgifishingclub.org)) Ladder of Angling Achievement page.**

### Ladder of Achievement Awards Summary

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	LIFETIME LEVEL I SNOOK	LIFETIME LEVEL II REDFISH	LIFETIME LEVEL III TARPON	GRAND MASTER CLUB SHIRT
Tom desEnfants	Marie D'Ambrosio	Mattie D'Ambrosio	Tom Lodge	Marty McCaffrey	Jack Spies	Donnie Brennan
Joanell Drystad	Kathy desEnfants	Bill Guenther	Ed Verminski	Bob Rand	John Gettinger	Rich Brennan
Karen Lodge	Pete Ferguson	Joe Longo	Jim LaRocca	Missy Becker	Pam Solinger	Bob Busler
Dick Nieberline	Mike Gulvezan	John Simonieg	Marie LaRocca	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Tom Hickey	Jim Hoffman
Jessica Poe	Christine Jordan	Ray Brunner	Carl Leicher	Dick Doster	Joe Udvari	Margie Hoffman
Darryl Pricco	Larry Okray	Bill Bonham	John MacLeman			Kel Krotzer
Ron Stafford	Mike Sandling	Karen Udvari	Aaron Wagner			Joanne Landaker
Joe Tassia	George Remick	Marv Drystad				Steve Landaker
Rodger Will	Ron McKinnon					Joe Maillet
Sheree Wolfinger	Fred Bensen					Pete McGregor
Sherry Moerke	Jim Qurollo					Mike Quinn
Bill Stringer	Mark Storm					Bev Rucker
Mark Kline	Gary Moerke					John Solinger
Barbara Brunner	Ron Topper					John Wolfinger
Deny LaChance						Tom Parsons
Fred Lamon						
Bob Mayes						
John Morehouse						
Janice Wiscombe						
Paul Land						
Alan Schulman						
Randy Hall						
Tom Lengauer						
Walt Zink						
Mike Gilger						
Bud Johnston						

RED = Award This Month

Club Hat for First Fish: Janice Anderson, Paul Caminiti, Jim Crawley, Bill Damour, Bud Johnston, Cindy Johnston, Jerry Morningstar, Don Ross & Bonnie Verminski

## REMINDER

A photo is your entry form for all club fishing events (Master Angler Tournament, Ladder of Achievement Program, Fish of the Month Contest, and Isles Trophy Race). The photo of you with the fish, your name, fish species, length and date caught noted on the back of the photo, or in the body of your email will be your official entry form.

Eligibility for each program will be determined by the Club's appointed recorder.

**All entries should be emailed to [fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org), or dropped off at the PGICA facility for placement in the fishing club's folder, or handed in at one of the monthly club meetings.**

**(If you see an error, please contact the Fishing Events Director at [fishing@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishing@pgifishingclub.org) or Newsletter Editor at [editor@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:editor@pgifishingclub.org))**

[illegible]

**Certificate Award** — Three awards will be given for each fish species. The first will be the first place angler with the longest length fish in species. The second award will be for the next longest and third place for the angler with the third longest. **Important Note:** Only pictures of the caught fish are accepted for entry into the Master Angler or Ladder of Angling Achievement competition.

## PGI FISHING CLUB FISHING PROGRAMS ARE EASY TO ENTER

Entering our fishing programs is simple. Just email a photo of you and your fish along with your name, date caught, fish species, and length to [fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org), or drop off a photo with this information printed on the back at the PGICA office (they will place it in the Club's mailbox).

## GOOD THINGS SOMEBODY SAID


**We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress.**

- Will Rogers


**Walt And Marge Thompson**  
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# 2012 Master Angler Contest Winners



(Ed Verminski and Rose Anne McCaffrey)

## Cobia Winners

- 1st Place:** Rose Anne McCaffrey ~ 43.5" Cobia, \$50 GC for Laishley Marine
- 2nd Place:** Joe Maillet ~ 43.0" Cobia, \$35 GC for Rio Villa Tackle
- 3rd Place:** Ed Verminski ~ 42.0" Cobia, \$25 GC for Capt. Ted's Tackle



(Pam Solinger and John Solinger)

## Redfish Winners

- 1st Place:** Bob Busler (page 17) ~ 36.0" Redfish, \$50 GC for Rio Villa Tackle
- 2nd Place:** John Solinger ~ 35.0" Redfish, \$35 GC for Capt. Ted's Tackle
- 3rd Place:** Pam Solinger ~ 33.5" Redfish, \$25 GC for Laishley Marine



(Marty McCaffrey, John Gettinger, Joe Udvari and John MacLeman)

## Grouper Winners

- 1st Place:** John MacLeman ~ 34.0" Grouper, \$50 GC for Laishley Marine
- 2nd Place:** Marty McCaffrey ~ 33.5" Grouper, \$35 GC for Rio Villa Tackle
- 3rd Place:** John Gettinger & Joe Udvari (tie) ~ 33.0" Groupers, \$25 GC Fishin' Franks & Rio Via Tackle

# 2012 Master Angler Contest Winners



(Rich Brennan and Aaron Wagner)

## Seatrout Winners

- 1st Place:** Aaron Wagner ~ 29.0" Seatrout (tied club record), \$50 GC for Fishin' Franks
- 2nd Place:** Rich Brennan ~ 28.0" Seatrout, \$35 GC for Rio Villa Tackle
- 3rd Place:** Pete McGregor ~ 26.0" Seatrout, \$25 GC for Fishin' Franks



(Karen Udvari and Jim Qurollo)

## Snook Winners

- 1st Place:** Jim Qurollo ~ 44.5" Snook (new club record), \$50 GC for Laishley Marine
- 2nd Place:** Pete McGregor & Bob Busler (tie) ~ 37.0" Snook, \$35 GC for Capt. Ted's Tackle & Fishin' Franks
- 3rd Place:** Karen Udvari ~ 36.0" Snook, \$25 GC for Laishley Marine



(John MacLeman, Jim Hoffman and Gary Moerke)

## King Mackerel Winners

- 1st Place:** John MacLeman ~ 52.0" King Mackerel (new club record), \$50 GC for Fishin' Franks
- 2nd Place:** Gary Moerke ~ 33.0" King Mackerel, \$35 GC for Laishley Marine
- 3rd Place:** Jim Hoffman ~ 31.0" King Mackerel, \$25 GC for Rio Villa Tackle



# 2012 Master Angler Contest Winners



(Walt Zink and John MacLeman)

## Spanish Mackerel Winners

**1st Place:** Carl Leicher ~ 30.0" Spanish Mackerel (new club record), \$50 GC for Capt. Ted's Tackle

**2nd Place:** John MacLeman ~ 27.0" Spanish Mackerel, \$35 GC for Laishley Marine

**3rd Place:** Walt Zink ~ 22.5" Spanish Mackerel, \$25 GC for Capt. Ted's Tackle



Presentation to Bob at our 1/11/13 Elena's breakfast "meeting" as

**1st Place** Redfish and **2nd Place** Snook winner (tie)

(No photos of the other winners from last month's meeting)

In addition to the Gift Certificates, each of the Master Angler Contest Winners received a framed Master Angler Tournament Winner Certificate prepared and donated by Bill Guenther, and a selection of tackle donated by Fishin' Franks.



# Isles Trophy Race 2013



## PGI FISHING CLUB'S ANNUAL ISLES TROPHY STANDINGS

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2013 LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
X	Amberjack	John MacLeman	45.50	2012				
X	Cobia	Bob Busler	54.00	2007				
X	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.00	2003	<b>Arron Wagner</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>01/30/13</b>	<b>76.92%</b>
X	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.00	2012				
X	Redfish	Bob Busler	42.00	2005	Jim Crawley	18.00	01/16/13	42.86%
X	Seatrout	Rich Brennan	29.00	2009	Jim Qurollo	19.00	01/28/13	65.52%
		Aaron Wagner	29.00	2012				
X	Snook	Jim Qurollo	44.50	2012	Ron Topper	27.00	01/07/13	60.67%
X	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.00	2012				
WOMEN'S DIVISION								
OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2013 LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
	Amberjack	Margie Hoffman	33.00	2010				
	Cobia	Joanne Landaker	50.00	2008				
	Grouper	Margie Hoffman	31	2006				
		Bev Rucker	31	2008				
	King Mackerel	Margie Hoffman	37.00	2007				
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan	38.00	2008				
		Missy Becker	38.00	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Landaker	26.50	2011	<b>Pam Solinger</b>	<b>23.00</b>	<b>01/09/13</b>	<b>86.79%</b>
	Snook	Missy Becker	41.00	2006				
	Spanish Mackerel	Missy Becker	28.00	2007				
This Year's Leaders are in RED								

\*PGIFC MEN'S and WOMEN'S records are based on eight of the "measured" points scoring fish in the Ladder of Achievement.

## ISLES TROPHY RACE LEADERS FOR 2013

### MEN

**Aaron Wagner**

### WOMEN

**Pam Solinger**







# ISLES TROPHY 2012 Winners



**2012 "Isles Trophy" Race  
Male Angler Winner**  
**Jim Qurollo**  
**44.5" Snook**  
**105.95 Point Fish**  
**(105.95% of Men's Existing  
Snook Record-New Record)**



**2012 "Isles Trophy" Race  
Female Angler Winner**  
**Rose Anne McCaffrey**  
**30.5" Grouper**  
**98.39 Point Fish**  
**(98.39 % of Women's Existing  
Grouper Record)**

In addition to their names engraved on the traveling Isles Trophy, each of the Winners received a framed Isles Trophy Winner Certificate prepared and donated by Bill Guenther, and a selection of tackle donated by Fishin' Franks.



## Member Catches



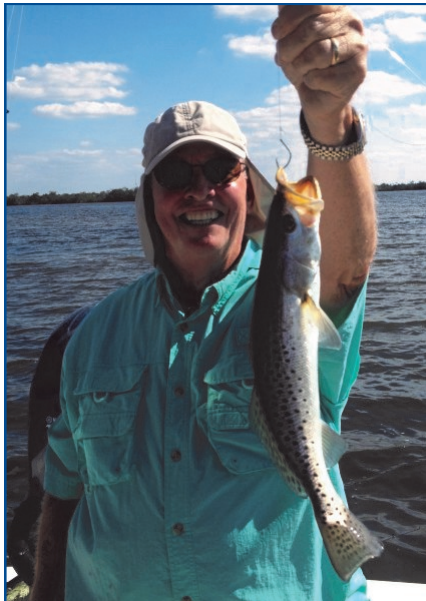
I'll bet Aaron and Ron needed some heavy tackle to get these two blue runners to the boat!



Bill Bonham with a 22-inch black drum. Too bad he didn't catch this one in December.



Bonnie Verminski with another great eating sheephead. Too bad they're not as easy to clean as trout!



Don Ross and one of February's Fish of the Month...a nice trout.



The Verminskis are going to be enjoying some of the best fish in the Harbor. Here's Ed with a 14-inch flounder.



Janice Anderson with her "first fish" entry, a 16-inch black drum.



Jerry Morningstar with a gag grouper.



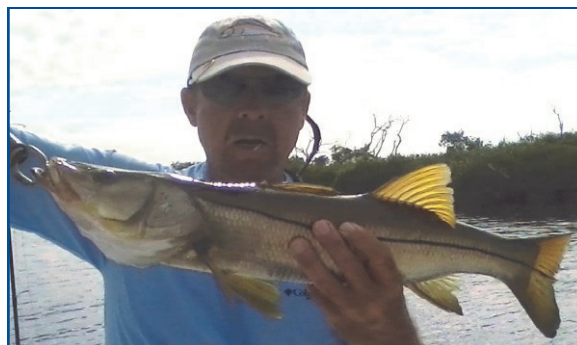
Sheree Wolfinger and one of her keeper sheephead.



## Member Catches



Jim Hoffman with some of his red grouper fishermen: Dave Ellacott, Charlie Vlabel, Rich Brennan...and catch.



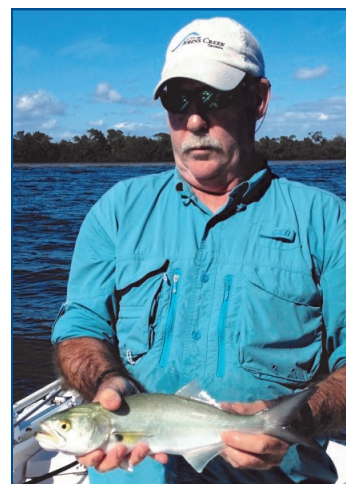
Ron Topper with a 27-inch snook which is leading the snook category of the Isles Trophy Race.



Jim Quorollo with a hard pulling off-shore amberjack.



Jerry Morningstar and Triggerfish.



Tom Hickey and a 14.5-inch bluefish.



Karen Udvari with a 17-inch sheeps-head that was nearly a Fish of the Month winner...



...and Joe Udvari with his 12.5-inch sheepshead.



Rich Brennan with a nice 29-inch gag grouper he caught on the rod and reel that Santa brought .



## Member Catches



An almost photo of Jim Crawley with his 18-inch redfish that is currently leading the redfish category of the Isles Trophy Race.



Ron Topper is getting serious about his Ladder of Achievement.



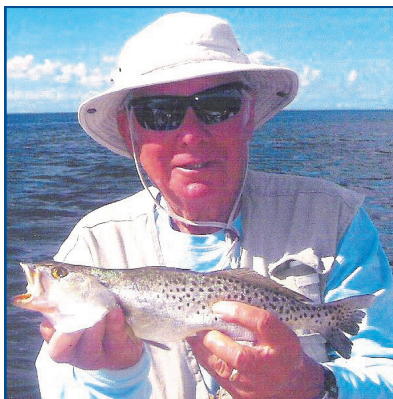
Cindy Johnston with a 20.5-inch keeper red grouper.



Looks like Bill Bonham caught this 16-inch pompano in unusual SW Florida weather



Don Ross and a ladyfish.



Paul Caminiti and 15-inch seatrout.



Jim Hoffman, Aaron Wagner, Rich Brennan and Ron Topper after another successful red grouper trip.



Bud Johnston and another nice size 17-inch flounder.



## Member Catches



Rich Brennan and another nice sheephead. This one was 17.5-inches.



Ron Topper again, but this time with a 12-inch jack crevalle.



Our Fishing Events Director, John Wolfinger, was sure into the sheephead this past month. Here's a 17-incher.



Mark Kline with a 12-inch blue runner...great king mackerel bait.



Cindy Johnston with an 11-inch blue runner.



Bud Johnston and his 16-inch sheephead



Bill Bonham with a whiting.



Jim Qurollo and seatrout. Largest one, 19-inches, currently leads the trout category of the Isles Trophy Race

## Local Area Fishing Tips

Reprinted from *Waterline* with permission of the author.  
Edited and submitted to the PGI Fishing Club Newsletter by  
Tom Lengauer

### How Many Rods Do You Really Need?

By Robert Lugiewicz

I'll bet you've got a fishing buddy who has a garage full of rods – seemingly one for every occasion. He may even use them all, but does he really need all of them? Or, more importantly, how many rods do you need?

Would it surprise you if I said three? That's the magic number. With three carefully chosen rod and reel combos, you can catch practically any fish that swims on the west coast of Florida. Of course, there's no law that you have to stop at three – you can customize or specialize yourself into owning dozens of rods. But three is all it takes.

However before the three, there should be just one. A lot of guys (and gals) move to Florida for their golden years, and a lot of them have it in their heads that they are going to spend those years fishing. Unfortunately a lot of their equipment ends up getting sold at garage sales, barely used. Good fishing tackle isn't cheap, and cheap fishing tackle isn't good.

When people buy their first rod for Florida fishing, they often get the wrong one. You've probably seen these folks – they're the ones at the Venice jetties or El Jobean with an 11 foot surf rod and a reel the size of their head. It's not really their fault; they're simply misinformed about saltwater fishing. They don't realize that it's mostly a light-tackle game.

Which brings us to the first of your catch anything trio. Fully 90 percent of Southwest Florida fishing can be done with a 6.5 to 7.5-foot medium rod, matched to 3000 or 4000 size spinning reel spooled with a 12-pound monofilament or 20 pound braid. This outfit will handle snook, trout, redfish, sheepshead, small tarpon, jacks and most other inshore

duties. Adding to its versatility, you can use this combo for freshwater bass and take it out on the Gulf to catch bait, Spanish mackerel, bonito, and snapper.

Next in the lineup: A bigger spinning reel spooled with 25-pound mono or 40-pound braid, paired with a heavy-action rod. I strongly recommend a dual-drag reel here—it's much more versatile. This is your big fish rig, and you can use it for tarpon, cobia, midsize sharks,, big snook, and bull reds inshore. Or take it offshore to catch grouper, big snapper and kingfish. If you ever find yourself on the east coast of Florida, this outfit is good for lighter bluewater fishing for dolphin, wahoo and sailfish.

The third rod is a heavy-duty conventional outfit. The reel can be a star drag or a lever drag, about the size of a 4/0 Penn Senator. Fill the spool with 60 pound mono and attach it to a 5.5-or 6-foot stand-up or jigging rod. This combo will handle fish that outclass even the heaviest spinning gear, which in our area means big grouper and larger sharks. Since such fish are relatively uncommon, your conventional gear will probably not see a lot of action—but when you need it, nothing else will get the job done.

The actual order in which you get your three all-purpose rods depends on the type of fishing you plan to do. Obviously, if you are going to go for grouper, don't go out there with just a light spinning outfit. But no matter what type of fishing you intend to do most, to make the most of your fishing opportunities it's best to have at least these three options available to you.

Of course, once you immerse yourself into our local angling, you may decide you want to specialize in a particular type of fishing. For example, some folks get the biggest kick out of catching trout. In that case, although the light spinning combo described above will certainly catch trout, gear that is a bit lighter yet will be a lot more fun. Or you may de-

(Continued on page 26)



## Local Area Fishing Tips

(Continued from page 25)

cide you want to target dock snook. For that, a beefier rod will help you muscle those fish away from barnacle-incrusted pilings. Or maybe you'll get bit by the redfish bug, in which case it makes sense to have two combos with similar reels, but with different rods—one for lures and one for bait.

It certainly can be overwhelming to walk into a tackle shop and be confronted by hundreds of different rods and reels. Picking the right one can be tough, but that's what a good tackle shop is for—they're there to be helpful. Talk to them about what you want. Tell them what you are going to fish for and where, and be sure to tell them how

much you're looking to spend. At a decent shop, you should be able to match up multiple rods to a single reel (or vice versa) until you find a setup that's right for you. It's very personal, so be sure it feels good in your hands.

You work hard for your money, and wasting it is no fun. Try not to get frustrated, and don't buy a bunch of stuff you don't need. And remember, it's not a bad thing to dip your toe in before you take the plunge.

*Robert Lugiewicz is the manager of Fishin Frank's Bait & Tackle, 4225-D Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.*



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22' CC

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19' CC Bay Boat

Jim Quorllo  
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