

# Punta Gorda Isles Fishing Club Newsletter

Volume 21

Issue 03



**Picnic Saturday**

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**Florida Sportsman Expo Recap**

*Pages 18 - 20*



# PGI Fishing Club Newsletter

# FEATURES

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March 2013

[Check your Club Web site:  
www.pgifishingclub.org](http://www.pgifishingclub.org)

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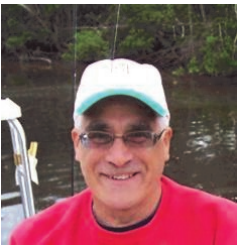
**NEXT CLUB MEETING**  
**Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.**



Find us on  
**facebook**

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

**ON THE COVER**—A "weighty" (note the white  
knuckles) 44-inch black drum caught and released  
under the Charlotte Harbor Hwy 41 Bridge.



Nice to see the warmer weather approaching. Not that I have very much against the cooler weather after all, it does bring in some really good fishing but I'm really not too happy about layering on several different types of clothing just to stay warm and then peel off layer after layer as the morning sun breaks into an afternoon heat wave. But, this is Florida and it is what it is and that's what makes fishing interesting. You just never know what you're gonna catch.

In my last article, I wrote about the red tide. I just want to reiterate for a minute and remind everyone that when you're outside, whether in the yard or on the boat, if your eyes start to burn or itch and you begin coughing, you'd better consider getting inside. These are signs of high bacteria in the air caused by the red tide. If you have any kind of respiratory ailment and being outside bothers you, please stay indoors as much as you can. No fish is worth getting sick over. Always check your computer or newspaper for the latest news in the red tide before you venture out.

It was good to see my buddy, Rich back fishing and at breakfast. For a while, I thought we'd have to rent out his boat and seat at Elena's. From what I hear, the fish took a vacation while he was recovering. Guess they figured why bother coming out to play when their playmate wasn't around.

Several members have been inquiring about the fishing seminars we'd been holding in the spring months. Seems they were very popular and people want to see them come back. Well, folks, we're working on it so stay tuned as we work out the kinks. I have no doubt we'll put together another 3-day seminar for anyone who's interested. When things are coming together, I'll ask our email contact person (Donnie) to send out emails notifying everyone of the dates, times and places, then I'll ask

for names of those who plan on attending. So as I said, stay tuned for more details.

Now...I know our Editor, Jim and our Veep, Tom have been asking for articles for our newsletter. So far, few of you have come forward. Maybe it's because you don't really read every page in our newsletter so I'm going to take the chance hoping you read my article. Please, folks, I know we have many great anglers in our club...men and women...so I'm asking you to write something for the newsletter. Don't worry about grammar or spelling. Jim Q has promised he'll clean up anything you write should it need editing. So let's hear from you.

Speaking of hearing from our members, please be sure to read the emails we send you. Very often, you'll receive news regarding our club that you need to know before the newsletter is available. Sometimes, you might get two or three in a month but keep in mind, those emails are to keep you up-to-date with what your Board is working on. We do our best not to leave anyone in the dark but unless you read the emails, the lights won't be turned on.

Now, speaking of lights, Day Light Savings time will end at 2:00 AM on March 10 so please mark that date on your calendar and be sure to turn your clocks AHEAD one hour that night before you hit the sack. After all, I'd hate to see you show up for our meeting that Tuesday an hour earlier than necessary. The doors to the PGICA would still be locked.

We have some really great news going on in the club so be sure to read each article. You don't want to miss anything. Sherry has the latest information on our picnic and with the few changes she's made, you really shouldn't miss her article.

Want to read the latest standing on our contests? John has them posted. Our members are really out

*(Continued on page 4)*



### Good Table Fare?

Wonder how many of our members keep (for their table) what they catch? I know many do from listening to them talk at our meetings and at the Friday morning breakfasts. But other club members are strictly catch and release.

You have probably gathered from my comments in this newsletter that I'm both a "keeper" and "releaser." If I know a catch is great eating, not just edible, and it's legal to keep, it goes into the cooler. I have a philosophy much like Rube Allyn, the author of the book which is the source for some of our Recipes of the Month, who says, "In addition to catching fish I especially like to cook them."

Ah, but how do you know which of our local area fish are good/better/best on the table and not just edible or inedible? There are many sources on what fish are the best eating, including the opinions of PGI Fishing Club members. Here's mine (and you know what they say about opinions...) on some of the Charlotte Harbor inshore fish that have been on our table:

- **Cobia**—very good grilled, baked or fried
- **Flounder**—one of the best, great fried, broiled
- **Grouper**—maybe the best, can be caught inshore on occasion, delicious fixed any way
- **Mangrove (Gray) Snapper**—hard to beat as table fare, fried, fish chowder, about any way
- **Pompano**—another delicious/best fish, grilled, broiled, fried...if legal size, keep it
- **Redfish**—very good, especially grilled, but panko fried "redfish fingers" are a new favorite of mine
- **Sheepshead**—more difficult to clean but worth it, fried, baked, fish chowder
- **Snook**—if ever legal again, one of the very best eating fish in the harbor
- **Spanish Mackerel**—fresh caught, broiled or grilled, good
- **Spotted Seatrout**—fresh caught, fried, broiled or grilled, good

Those are some of my experiences cooking local Charlotte Harbor fish. Let's hear yours. Email [editor@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:editor@pgifishingclub.org). Also, is anyone interested in an article on cleaning fish in preparation for cooking...filleting, steaking, scaling, skinning, de-boning, etc.?

*(Continued from page 3)*

there catching fish so be sure to get your pictures in.

How? Okay, while most of you know where to send them, we have so many new members that I'm going to post it again:

**[fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org)**

All you need to do is set your camera to delay-shot so you can get in the picture with your fish. Take the shot. Send it to that address with the name of the species, the length of the fish, date caught and your name. Can't make it any easier. If you're not too computer literate, then print your picture, write the pertinent information on the back of it and drop it off in the Fishing Club folder in the front office of the PGICA. Our folder is located in the credenza

along the wall on your right as you walk in the front office. If you're still not sure where it is, Margie Hall or the volunteer at the front desk can show you. We really can't make this any easier so let all those photos come in. We love to see them and love it even more to print them in the newsletter.

Well, I guess that's about all I have for this month.

Oh! 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. And also, okay, so two more things, be sure to read Cris' article about where the Lady Anglers are headed for lunch and what their plans are for LNO (Ladies' Nite Out)

So, have fun and I'll see you at the next meeting.

Aaron





Well March was a good example of why it's called "fishing" and not "catching". I think the unusually warm weather we have had this winter has the fish confused. In years past, seatrout have been very abundant this time of year. It was not unusual to go out catch 20, 30 or 40 seatrout in one day. Maybe a lot of them would be on the small size, but they were abundant. Not so much this year. On the flip side, Spanish mackerel and bluefish have been showing up already. Pretty unusual in February; it's usually March/April when they start showing up. I've also heard reports of members seeing tarpon already. So when you go out and think you're going to catch a lot of fish in those spots that have worked well in the past, you need to re-think things when they aren't there.

Our Fish of the Month for February was SPOTTED SEATROUT. Last year we had 24 entries but this year they dropped to 14. They were much tougher to find this year, but we did finish the month of February with 6 winners! (*winner photos and fish next page*)

- Ron Topper, First place tie (\$35 gift certificate)
- Mark Storm, First place tie (\$35 gift certificate)
- John Solinger, Second place tie (\$25 gift certificate)
- Joe Udvari, Second place tie (\$25 gift certificate)
- Karen Udvari, Third place tie (\$15 gift certificate)
- John Gettinger, Third place tie (\$15 gift certificate)

Congratulations to all of the winners! Thanks go out to the members that submitted pictures of their SPOTTED SEATROUT 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 March Fish of the Month will be the PGI SLAM: SPOTTED SEATROUT and REDFISH. It gets tougher this month. In order to qualify, you must catch one fish of each of the two species. The winner will be the member with the greatest total length of the two fish. They do not have to be caught on the same day, but they

must both be caught in the month of March. So, if you catch a HUGE seatrout in March but you haven't caught a redfish, get out there and catch a redfish before the end of the month so you qualify. Both of these fish are TOTAL LENGTH; tip of the nose to the tip of the squeezed tail. If you catch them, take a photo of yourself with the fish and submit it along with the length, species, date caught and your name to [fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org). As always, fish caught using a paid in-shore guide do not qualify for this contest.

The upcoming April Fish of the Month will be SPANISH MACKEREL. It's really hard to believe April is already so close! In the past things really start to break loose in April as temperatures climb and we can see big schools of mackerel in the harbor. These fish are good fighters and fun to catch. In addition, April brings the beginning of tarpon season, baitfish start to show up, cobia will be making appearances and all-around fishing improves.

Also, on April 1 the season for red grouper opens. These are great offshore fish and if you keep them for the table (which most people do), you can keep 4 at least 20 inches. Gag grouper remains closed for now so don't keep these.

Red tide is still concerning me. I'm sure you've seen the reports on TV. It seems like the worst is down around Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel and Pine Island Sound. I've seen pictures of the fish kills at Sanibel and it is really sad. I have a friend that lives at the beach in Sanibel and because he has asthma, he hasn't been able to stay at his place lately. Now, aren't you glad you live in Punta Gorda Isles where we are red tide free? Let's all hope it stays that way!

Make sure you attend the March 12 general meeting. At that meeting we will be voting on how our fishing contests operate. The choices will be to: 1) leave it as is, 2) allow the use of guides everywhere, or 3) eliminate the use of guides everywhere. An e-mail was sent to all member households explaining the vote so if you haven't seen it yet, maybe your spouse has the copy. Ask to see a copy and think about it prior to the meeting.

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

**February, 2013  
Fish of the Month Contest  
Spotted Seatrout**



Mark Storm, 1st Place Tie (\$35 gift certificate), 22-inch seatrout.



Ron Topper, 1st Place Tie (\$35 gift certificate), 22-inch seatrout.



John Solinger, 2nd Place Tie (\$25 gift certificate), 21-inch seatrout.



Joe Udvari, 2nd Place Tie (\$25 gift certificate), 21-inch seatrout.



John Gettinger (above) and Karen Udvari (right), tied for 3rd Place (\$15 gift certificates), 20-inch seatrout.

**Fishin' Babe  
of the Month  
With one of March's  
Two 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>GROUPE</b>
December	<b>BLACK DRUM</b>

**Congratulations to our winners!**





## Programs

John Simonieg

Our February speaker, Mark Miller of [finofish@gmail.com](mailto:finofish@gmail.com) spoke about the catch and proper release of spotted trout. His presentation was well received and at least ten people stayed behind to discuss his suggestions.



Captain Mark Miller, February guest speaker, receives a certificate of appreciation from John Simonieg.

Captain Jay Withers of Summertime Charters, is our speaker for March. We will have our Fish Slam, Redfish and Snook. Captain Jay has been one of our best received speakers over the years, and has always offered quite a few recommendations for catching these fish. You will definitely get some excellent advice for the month.

Be sure to attend.



## Ladies Liaison

Cris Scheib

March may be known for St. Patty's Day, but we'll be dining on seafood and having fun with Fresh Pasta this month!

"Out to Lunch" will be held at one of our newest restaurants, Tortuga Seafood Restaurant located in Towles Plaza. Tortuga was opened by Maralee McGowan, owner of Harbor Seafood in Port Charlotte. Early reports of her new place suggest that we should have an excellent lunch! She also has small fresh seafood shop located on one side of the restaurant. We'll be meeting on Monday, March 18 @ 11:30 am. Please sign up by Thursday, March 14.

Our Girl's Nite Out should be a fun evening! Meet at Pies & Plates on Thursday, March 28 @ 6 PM for a Hands-On cooking class of "Italian Today." Culinary director Beth Lanni will tell us how to make fresh pasta, but we will actually make the dough and roll it. We'll also get to eat it, so don't worry about having dinner first! Since we can't eat it plain we will also make a Basic Marinara sauce that can be modified 3 ways for completely different sauces: Puttanesca, Pink Sauce and Arrabbiata. You can make a large batch of the basic, freeze it in smaller containers and use it different ways to impress your friends.

The pasta will be served with salad and a Lemon Posset for dessert. Cost of the class & meal is \$40. We need at least 10 people to make this happen. Please sign up by Thursday, March 21. You can email me or sign up online @ [www.piesandplates.com](http://www.piesandplates.com). Just go to "Private Party" on March 28.

Last month the Fish Girl's enjoyed lunch at the Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Grill. The rain kept some people from coming, but the ones who made it really enjoyed the food and service!

In April we will be lunching at Burnt Store Market and kicking things up at the Slip Knot on Girl's Nite Out.

RSVP, Questions and/or Suggestions. Just email me with "Fish Girls" in the subject line. Remember, I'm new at this, so let me know what you would like to do!

Thanks! Cris ~ [pastadiva@comcast.net](mailto:pastadiva@comcast.net) 941-661-1288



Cathy Engimann, Mary Harucki, Donnie Brennan, Cris Scheib, Gail Morris, Maureen Butt  
(Standing is Michelle, owner of The Golden Krust)



## Membership

Donnie Brennan

Just as I predicted, as history has a way of repeating itself, we had several members, for one reason or another leave our club. It happens every year, some members move, others lose interest, others feel they're just too old to fish anymore. Although that last reason boggles my mind but it's their decisions so we always wish them well and ask them to always stay in touch.

However, while we may lose a few, we always gain several. We still have a total of 256 household memberships giving us a whopping number of 489 individual people in our club.

We must be doing something right!

I don't know about you but I think the PGI Fishing Club is the greatest club around. Not because of our membership, not because we have so many members, and definitely not because I'm your Membership Director. It's what I've learned through the years and the friends I've made that, to me, make this club so special.

When we first moved here in 1998, we knew absolutely nothing about fishing in the SW Florida waters. Look at us now: both Grand Master Anglers. And it's because of what we learned from the Fishing Club that has helped us reel in all those awesome fish.

That's why I'm always saying, if you see someone new in your area, don't hesitate to bring them to

our meeting. There is always something new to learn.

So, now, without future ado, let me introduce to you our newest members:

DENNIS & ELIZABETH HEPBURN

MEL & ANGEL EDEN

RALPH TEMPLE & PEG BONACUSE

RON & CONNIE KOT

RICK & KELLY O'DONNELL

PETE & SUE FONTAINE

RICK & SARA FARMER

AL ENGLEHART

These members, as well as the new members from a few months ago will have blue stars on their badges. Please go out of your way to welcome them to our club. Shake their hands. Introduce yourselves. Make a friend. Take them fishing.

Never forget that you were once new, too and looking to make friends and learn to fish.

Now, I really need to end this and get it to Q for publication Plus the doorbell just rang so I really gotta go.

Have a great month and happy fishing!

Donnie

### Note from Donnie

I'm in the process of making a nice LARGE poster using photos of members and their catches. If you'd like to have your photo (or two) on this poster, please email it to me (or leave it at the PGICA office in an envelope marked to the attention of 'Donnie.' Don't forget to add your name so I'll know how to mark the photos. Thanks so much.





I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been keeping me informed as to those who they feel need a bit of sunshine in their lives. After all, that's what I do.

There are so many times when someone feels a bit "under the weather" or maybe has had the unfortunate reason to undergo surgery. Often, we know of someone who has just lost a loved one, a family member, maybe even a close friend or even a beloved pet.

Those are the people I'd like to try and cheer up a bit. Those are the people who need to know that others are thinking of them and caring enough to send a card.

Since our last newsletter, I've sent two get well cards: one to my husband Rich and the other to Paul Land who'd just undergone by-pass surgery. Paul, by the way, is taking a year off fishing to recover so we won't be seeing him at the meetings until next year. Our thoughts and prayers are with him during his convalescences.

A sympathy card was sent to Gary Ingman who'd just lost his mother.

So you see? I'll more than gladly send a card to someone if you'd only tell me who. Everyone can always use a bit of sunshine.

You can call (575-8808) or email me (L3th@comcast.net) the name of the person you have in mind and I'll do the rest.

I can also send a humorous birthday card to someone who has just turned a huge milestone and isn't quite sure how he (or she) feels about that BIG birthday.

Just remember, smiles are free and I love to pass them along.

No smile is too small to share so just keep those emails and calls coming in.

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

Donnie



### 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

I hope that you can all make it to the annual picnic Saturday, March 9th. It will be held from noon to 4:00 PM at the Civic Association pavilion. The rain date is Sunday March 10th. The menu will include fried chicken, potato salad and coleslaw. Soft drinks and water will be provided. Please bring either an appetizer or dessert, whichever is printed on the back of your ticket. Remember to bring your food on a disposable dish. You are welcome to bring your own alcoholic beverages if desired.

Sharpen up your skills! The games will include bean bag toss, hoop casting and anchor toss. A rod and reel will be awarded to the winner of each game at the end of the picnic. There will also be a 50/50 drawing and two door prizes. The door prizes will be gift certificates for Tortuga's Restaurant in Punta Gorda. You must put your name on your ticket and bring it to the picnic to be entered in the drawing for the door prizes.

If you have not purchased your tickets yet there is still time. Please contact me at 639-0337 or email me at [sgmoerke@embarqmail.com](mailto:sgmoerke@embarqmail.com) to make arrangements to get your tickets. The cost is \$5 per household and \$10 for a guest.

Sherry Moerke  
Social Director

## Recipe of the Month

This recipe is adapted 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.

*(I tried this recipe twice in the past month, first using seatrout fillets and the next time using half snapper fillets and half sheepshead fillets. Both times it was delicious. Great choice on a cold Punta Gorda night...there were two of those sometime last month?)*

### New England Chowder with Clams and Local Fish of Your Choice

- 1 16-oz can clams (I used baby clams)
- 1 pound of boneless fish (fillets or steaks)
- 4 slices bacon
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup diced potatoes
- dash pepper
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 cups milk (I used 1 cup milk, 1 cup half & half)
- chopped parsley
- oyster crackers

Drain clams, reserving clam liquor; dice. Cut fish into ½-inch cubes; set aside. Fry bacon until tender. Remove bacon, crumble it and return to pan. Add clam liquor, potatoes, onion, seasoning, clams and fish cubes. Add water if necessary so that seafood and potatoes are just covered by liquid. Cook for 15 minutes over medium heat until fish is cooked and potatoes are tender. Add milk and heat thoroughly. Garnish bowls of hot chowder with parsley and crackers. Serves 6.



### REXFORD R. KOCH, CPA

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# Last Month's Drawing Prize Winners

## DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

FIRST PLACE	~	Terry Bandel	Redbone Spinning Rod
SECOND PLACE	~	Joanne Landaker	Calico Jack Spinning Rod
SECOND PLACE	~	Jerry Morningstar	Okuma 30B Spinning Reel
THIRD PLACE	~	Fred Lamon	Fishing tackle bag
THIRD PLACE	~	Nate Cantrell	\$25 Gift Certificate to Terminal Tackle



FIRST PLACE  
Terry Bandel



SECOND PLACE  
Joanne Landaker



SECOND PLACE  
Jerry Morningstar



THIRD PLACE  
Fred Lamon

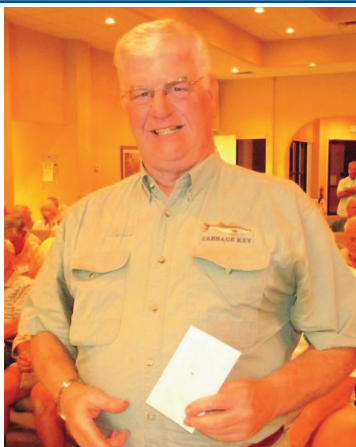


THIRD PLACE  
Nate Cantrell



## 50/50 WINNERS

<p>FIRST PLACE WINNER Jerry Peal \$90</p>	<p>SECOND PLACE WINNER Joannell Drystad \$70</p>	<p>THIRD PLACE WINNER Ron Topper \$45</p>
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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

REVISED 3/1/2013						
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
Karen Lodge	Kathy desEnfants	Bill Guenther	Ed Verminski	Bob Rand	John Gettinger	Rich Brennan
Dick Nieberline	Pete Ferguson	Joe Longo	Jim LaRocca	Missy Becker	Pam Solinger	Bob Busler
Jessica Poe	Mike Gulvezan	John Simonieg	Marie LaRocca	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Tom Hickey	Jim Hoffman
Darryl Pricco	Christine Jordan	Ray Brunner	Carl Leicher	Dick Doster	Joe Udvari	Margie Hoffman
Ron Stafford	Larry Okray	Bill Bonham	John MacLeman			Kel Krotzer
Joe Tassia	Mike Sandling	Karen Udvari	Aaron Wagner			Joanne Landaker
Rodger Will	George Remick		<b>Marv Drystad</b>			Steve Landaker
Sheree Wolfinger	Ron McKinnon					Joe Maillet
Sherry Moerke	Fred Bensen					Pete McGregor
Bill Stringer	Jim Quorollo					Mike Quinn
Mark Kline	Mark Storm					Bev Rucker
Barbara Brunner	Gary Moerke					John Solinger
Deny LaChance	Ron Topper					John Wolfinger
Fred Lamon	<b>Joanell Drystad</b>					Tom Parsons
Bob Mayes						
John Morehouse						
Janice Wiscombe						
Paul Land						
Alan Schulman						
Randy Hall						
Tom Lengauer						
Walt Zink						
Mike Gilger						
Bud Johnston						
<b>Cindi Johnston</b>						

RED = Award This Month

Club Hat for First Fish: None this month.



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# Isles Trophy Race 2013



## PGI FISHING CLUB'S ANNUAL ISLES TROPHY STANDINGS

REVISED 3/1/2013

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	LENGTH IN INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
X	Amberjack	John MacLeman	45.5	2012				
X	Cobia	Bob Busler	54.0	2007				
X	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	Aaron Wagner	30.00	01/30/13	76.92%
X	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012				
X	Redfish	Bob Busler	42.0	2005	Rich Brennan	27.00	02/22/13	64.29%
X	Seatrout	Rich Brennan	29.0	2009	Ron Topper	22.0	02/07/13	75.86%
		Arron Wagner	29.0	2012	Mark Storm	22.0	02/20/13	75.86%
X	Snook	Jim Qurollo	44.5	2012	Ron Topper	27.00	01/07/13	60.67%
X	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012	Fred Benson	19.00	02/05/13	63.33%

### 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	Cindi Johnston	16.00	01/16/13	48.48%
	Cobia	Joanne Landaker	50.0	2008				
	Grouper	Margie Hoffman	31.0	2006				
		Bev Rucker	31.0	2008				
	King Mackerel	Margie Hoffman	37.0	2007				
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan	38.0	2008				
		Missy Becker	38.0	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Landaker	26.5	2011	Pam Solinger	23.00	01/09/13	86.79%
	Snook	Missy Becker	41.0	2006				
	Spanish Mackerel	Missy Becker	28.0	2007				

This Year's Leaders are in RED

New 2013 Records this Month are in BLUE

\*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**





## Member Catches



Bob Mayes with seatrout and pompano caught early in the month.



Fred Benson and a 19-inch Spanish mackerel which put Fred into the Master Angler Tournament lead for Spanish mackerel.




Hank Butt, 16-inch flounder



Jerry Morningstar, 21.5-inch redfish

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# Member Catches



Jim Crawley with two trout on one lure. Competition is tough.



John Gettinger, 24-inch redfish.



Pam Solinger, 19-inch seatrout.



John MacLeman and a nice mangrove snapper.



Mark Storm, 27-inch black drum.

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## Member Catches



Rich Brennan with 26 and 27-inch redfish. Not the same fish (unless maybe Rich changed shirts). The 27-inch fish is now leading the redfish category of the Master Angler Tournament.



Steve Landaker, 19.5-inch seatrout.



John MacLeman and Triggerfish.



Mark Storm and another good 21.5-inch seatrout. This one would have taken 2nd place in FOM, but he already had a 22-inch to tie for first.

John Solinger, 22-inch snook.



...and John again with a 19-inch seatrout.

## Local Area Fishing Tips

### 2013 Florida Sportsman Expo Recap

*by Joe Udvari*

John Gettinger and I headed to Florida's alleged biggest and best outdoor Expo the day before Super Bowl XLVII thinking we'd learn a few new things about fishing. We tried to get some others from the PGI fishing club to join us but everyone we asked or thought about asking had excuses. Rich Brennan was planning his escape from the hospital, Aaron Wagner and Ron Topper were checking out the Harbor on official business with rods in hand, Jim Qurollo was busy putting the finishing touches on our Newsletter, and a few other people we asked (will remain nameless) couldn't get the green light from their spouses. So we headed to Ft. Myers on our own, and decided to share our experience with you in case you missed the 21st Expo.

On the way down, we developed our strategies for covering as many inshore and offshore presentations as was humanly possible. John made sure to let me know this was an all-day affair and there was no leaving early. Since he was driving, what could I say? A full day it was!

We arrived 10 minutes before the gates opened and waited to get inside with a throng of others. I thought John had met a few of his long lost buddies since he was talking about basketball, fishing and all sorts of other stuff with them. Once inside the exhibit hall, John chatted it up with Mark Sosin while Mark's wife was trying to sell us Mark's latest fishing memoirs. I was convinced John and Mark were old friends since John joked around with him using a slightly irreverent tone while mostly ignoring Mrs. Sosin's sales pitch. Turns out, John never met him before, nor the guys he was talking with outside. I sheepishly slithered away from Mark's booth feeling guilty for not dropping \$20 on the memoirs. Never knew that John could be so entertaining.

Before the first seminar, John had already bought a hand full of D.O.A. soft plastic baits, and a spiffy pair of boat shoes. I on the other hand loaded up on all sorts of freebies from FF&WC (your tax dollars at

work). I pretty much now have all of NOAA's charts for the Gulf of Mexico from Marco Island to Tampa. Just wish I had an offshore boat.

There were plenty of boats for sale, but we were there to learn new tricks of the trade so we didn't spend too much time drooling over them. As we headed over to our first scheduled talk on "Stalking Silver Kings", we bumped into Tom Parsons, Fred Benson and their friend. Sorry guys for not chatting longer and rushing onwards since we had things to learn and were on a tight schedule. As we intently listened to the speaker, we began to realize that everything we thought we knew about tarpon fishing was either wrong, or just different from the way people fish for tarpon in Lee County. Examples: 7/0 or smaller J-hooks only, never circle hooks; mullet or threadfins, never ladyfish; relatively light gear seemingly more suitable for big snook than heavier gear appropriate for quickly landing tarpon, etc. The one thing that seemed remotely plausible based on my musky fishing experience was to turn them upside down (on their backs) to keep them calm while unhooking them and snapping a photo. You just have to grab them by the lower jaw when they're not too green. I'll let you know how that works when I catch my 200 pounder.

We decided to cut out early on the next seminar, "Making Tides Work for You", since the speaker was from Jacksonville and we figured Atlantic Coast tides and Gulf of Mexico tides were significantly different enough to really mess us up if we stayed and listened. We left 5 minutes into the talk and decided to have lunch. The soft drinks were the highlight. The burger I had and John's pulled pork sandwich must have been cooked the week before in preparation for the anticipated onslaught of attendees. Somewhat rejuvenated after forcing down the mummified fries, we made it to the 1 p.m. presentation on "Finding and Fishing Shallow-Water Wrecks".

This speaker, it turns out, fishes mostly Ten Thousand Island backwater using fly rods, so he was

*(Continued on page 19)*



## Local Area Fishing Tips

*(Continued from page 18)*

eminently qualified to lecture us on offshore fishing, right? He actually was an entertaining speaker, and if you can believe it, had some thought provoking morsels of intel based on his diving experiences during a prior life. That is, the really big fish hang off of the main wrecks at smaller nearby debris piles that form during major storms. These piles are usually within a hundred yards or so of the main wreck. His theory is that the big fish get away from the angling pressure at the main wrecks for which everyone has coordinates. So poke around next time you're out there and see if this works. Just be sure to share it with the rest of us. Oh yeah, the speaker also had lots of luck catching reef fish using sand bombs consisting of poorly graded coarse sand and ground up chum (40/60 mixture). Make a few dozen of these baseball size miracle balls the night before, and when you get to your spot, chuck them over every now and then. As they sink, they disperse and induce the fish to rise off the bottom and wallah, you can just about catch them off the surface. It was news to me, but John was familiar with these things, but hasn't used them since he was in high school. So I'm guessing they're not worth the effort for catching mangrove snappers, even if they are HUUUGE snappers! I'm thinking 0 for 3 at this point since we now introduced baseball analogies.

Even though John and I agreed it was pretty much a bust up until then, we were extremely excited to hear the next talk which was a "Cobia & Tripletail" presentation. I need both species for my Ladder of Angling Achievement, and as most of you may know, John has been chasing tripletail, without luck, for over three years. Well this was going to be the talk that would help us out immensely and put us within arm's length of Master Angler status. We even took out our pens and notepads for this one. Could you believe that the scheduled speaker was a no-show, and his fill-in talked mostly about snapper fishing, and a little about trolling for king mackerel and cobia. Really, trolling for cobia? He wasn't from SW Florida either so again, very little relevance for us. We did learn that if you spend what I would estimate approximately \$500 dollars on

chum, consisting of a witch's brew of ingredients, you could attract a lot of fish to your boat. We figured the 55 gallon container wouldn't exactly fit on our boats. Now we were at 0 for 4 with two more shots at redemption. After all, 2 for 6 is a good batting average in baseball.

Was the talk on "Topwater Plugging" going to put us back on track? Only time would tell. We didn't get a warm and fuzzy feeling when we sat down on 2 of the 100 or so empty chairs with only a few other onlookers nearby. Maybe the rest of the Expo's attendees didn't know what they were about to miss, or did they? In a vain attempt to draw more people to this presentation, the speaker made us hoot, holler and clap every few minutes in a futile attempt to draw in more listeners. Besides the ear shattering feed-back from the microphone and the incessant rebel rousing, the speaker gave a decent presentation. Only problem, I heard it before, word for word about a year ago at Lashley Marine. Since the speaker represents Bomber lures and invented the low pitch Badonk-A-Donk, that's what he pushes, along with the Bomber popping cork/float. He has a 5 and out rule. No fish at a spot after 5 minutes of fan casting, he moves on. He professes that these things draw in fish like magic, when they're nearby, so he doesn't feel the need to hang around too long if there's no action. He also noted that Rapala's Skitter Walk even makes a lower pitch sound than the Badonk-A-Donk, which is better at calling in fish. I agree since I've tried them both, and I find the Skitter Walk is also way easier to work. If you asked a question at the end of the talk you were given a free Badonk-A-Donk. John and I didn't ask any questions, and scurried off to our final talk. 0 for 5.

The next talk was on "Snapper and Grouper". We briefly listened to this speaker about 5 hours earlier in the day while walking past his hands-on bottom rig making session. He seemed like a dynamic speaker with lots of experience and war stories to tell, so we gave his talk a chance. Besides, John wouldn't let me leave early and he was my ride.

*(Continued on page 20)*

## Local Area Fishing Tips

(Continued from page 19)

What little we heard earlier was mostly a verbatim repeat, and we were also becoming somewhat nauseated, literally. The ballyhoo he was using in his rigging presentation 5 hours ago was really ripe by now, and the air was wafting in our direction.

Anyway, we buckled down and listened. He's also from Jacksonville and used to catch snapper and grouper commercially there. He discovered that the really BIG fish hang back from a wreck (corroborates earlier speaker's observation noted above) and wait for smaller fish to be caught. As these smaller fish get reeled in, they typically regurgitate their last meal and up come the big fish for a free snack as these morsels sink back towards the bottom. So he developed what I would call a slider rig as follows:

- He first snells a circle hook (7/0 to 5/0 depending on the size of bait and species he's after) to a 8 to 10 foot long fluorocarbon leader (60 to 80 pound test). He never uses a loop or clinch knot to tie on the hook since he says it can foul the hook and pull it out of a fishes mouth under tension
- He then puts a 1/8 to 1/4 ounce egg sinker on the leader before tying the other end of the leader to one side of a barrel swivel, and runs his main line through the other eye of the swivel.
- Next he ties a weight to the bottom of his main line, and puts a dead cigar minnow on the circle hook. The bait has to be dead or it won't descend properly. He runs the hook through the mouth of the bait and then puts it through its back. He then stuffs the weight in the bait's mouth and secures it to the leader with a toothpick.

He deploys the main line while holding on to the bait until the weight hits bottom. Then he tosses the cigar minnow overboard and it slowly works its way to the bottom, imitating a regurgitated morsel that the big fish have been accustomed to seeing and feeding on.

He swears it works, so let's give it a try and set a new Club grouper record. We decided we might have learned something here so we scored the talk as a bunt single. 1 for 6, which is well below the Mendoza line. Ouch!

As John drove home, we exchanged thoughts about what we learned, re-learned or just plain wanted to forget, and planned our next fishing outing. He was driving cautiously but on the fast side of 70 since he had a dinner engagement later that evening. After a while of driving north on I-75, we noticed Exit 182 for North Port. Driving even faster on the fast side of 70 to make up time for our unplanned 36 mile detour, he made it home at a reasonable enough time to still make his planned dinner outing, which I understand was better than our Expo experience. So that's what the lucky guys and gals who didn't join us missed.

Can't wait until next year's Expo. Anyone want to go with us?

**Editor's Note:** I did manage to make the Expo later in the weekend. Like Joe and John, the few "talks" I stopped for were not very relevant to my fishing. But, the freebies were good and there were some great prices at the fishing tackle displays.

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