

FROM THE HELM

THE PGI FISHING CLUB IS A CLUB OF THE PUNTA GORDA
ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2023



Greetings from the President,

Easter is approaching and some or most of our snowbirds will be heading north. Sorry to see you go as you have been such an addition to our great club. Hurry back in the fall!! I don't want to be the only one here for the Hurricane season, haha.

Wow, what a great month. Low to no red tide in our area. Fishing has been fair to good in most areas of Charlotte harbor, Boca Grande, Pineland, Bull and Turtle Bay, East and West Walls, in the Canals and the sand bars off Pirate Harbor. Catches of Spanish Mackerel, Reds, SNOOK!!, Trout, cobia etc.

My neighbor just received his 27ft Sea Hunt and Sunday the 26th we broke it in on a big Gulf trip. The Bayronto, and the Mohawk. All we caught was, get this, **Goliath Grouper** (see Page 44). At least 4, too bad we had to release them. Some never made it to the boat. No smaller grouper to keep. School Bus had a few Porgeys, and such. Still a great day on the water. Remember to fish on the reef you need a State Reef Angler rider, no charge, and to keep a snook, a snook permit, I believe \$10.

Anyway, Have a great fishing day before you snow birds leave, I will be out on the water Wednesday.

Good fishing,

Ron Deroche



Next Meeting: Tue, Apr 11, 2023 6:00pm - 9:00am, PGICA Auditorium

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CLUB LEADERSHIP



Officers:		
President	Ron Deroche	president@pgifishingclub.org
Vice President	Cathy Hunt	vicepresident@pgifishingclub.org
Treasurer	Daryl Reynolds	treasurer@pgifishingclub.org
Secretary	Nancy Pearson	secretary@pgifishingclub.org
Newsletter	Pending Candidate	

Committee Members:

Fishing Events	Chuck Pearson	fishingevents@pgifishingclub.org
Social Events	Christine White	socialdirector@pgifishingclub.org
Membership	Bill Muir	membership@pgifishingclub.org
Record Keeper	Paul Whiting	recordkeeper@pgifishingclub.org
Web Master	Richard Embury	website@pgifishingclub.org
Advertising	Chip Peterson	advertising@pgifishingclub.org
CCA	Bob Mayes	cca.cmac@pgifishingclub.org
Past President	Randy Douet	pastpresident@pgifishingclub.org
Sunshine Lady	Paula Arnold	sunshine@pgifishingclub.org
Greeters – Lead	Yvette Du Frense	greeters@pgifishingclub.org

MARCH MEETING MINUTES



President: Ronald Deroche Location/Time: PGICA auditorium, 3/14/23, 6:05 p.m.

Attendees: 72 New Members: 4 Notes By Nancy Pearson, Secretary

1. Treasurers report: \$12,705.00 in the bank
2. Social Update: Working on finding places for monthly, large-group dinners; March 28 is Bunco, April 22 is Murder Mystery at the PGICA, the 2023 Christmas Party will be on December 19, and Cast for Kids will be coming in the near future; all events can be registered for on the PGICA website; reminder – Happy Hour is every Wednesday evening at 5:00 at the Elks
3. Name that Fish Winner: Lenny Zimka
4. 50/50 Winners: 1st and 2nd Sandy Wierzbanski 3rd Rosanne Kruse
5. Fish of the Month (FOM). February's fish was Grouper.
 - Women: 1st: Cathy Hunt 24.5", 2nd: Nancy Pearson 24", 3rd: Donna Sullivan 22"
 - Men: 1st: Bob Gariepy, Joe Udvari 29", 2nd: Jeff Barnhart, Dave Dyke 26", 3rd: Rick Brown 25"
6. Ladder of Achievement (LOA):
 - Club Hat – Wanda Zimka
 - Silver Pin – Don Cummins
 - GMA Star: Mike White (#5)

MARCH MEETING MINUTES



Meeting Notes (continued)

7. Speakers: Jim McCarty, Mike from Ingman, and Fishin Frank
- Dr. McCarty stated that 16 people have taken the CPR/1st aid training and that kits are still available for \$30; contact Cathy Hunt if you are interested. As long as people are interested in training, he will continue to teach
 - Mike Brimer informed us that Ingman partners with the CCA, donating for local funds, helping with the restocking of nearby grasses; also, the money from the upcoming CCA banquet goes toward oyster bed restoration.
 - Fishin' Frank spoke on ways to catch snook. A few good takeaways: troll snook with rattle traps or the Rapalla XR10 at a depth of about 8-9' against the current at about 2 mph and with current 4 mph (in harbor); in canals, troll 3-5 mph best with 1 rod and 1 lure at a time, mounted on right side of boat where it can be seen, and on the shadow line. Snook have excellent hearing, smelling, and sight so going to a quiet place or at night is best so fish can hear the lure.



RAFFLES



SANDY WIERZBANOWSKI (1st and 2nd!)

ROSANNE KRUSE (3RD)

MARCH RESULTS



REPORTED CATCHES as of 3/31/2023 and FISH OF THE MONTH (FOM) RESULTS

79 total fish turned in (3,800 points) by 35 different anglers

FOM (Spanish Mackerel):

Women

1st – Gretchen Sunderland – 22.5"

2nd – Nancy Pearson – 22.0"

3rd – Sharon Dyke – 21.0"

Men

1st – Mark Storm – 21.5"

2nd – Fred Benson – 20.0"

3rd - Mark Dillman – 19.5"

Interesting Tidbits

Thanks to the recent Fishing Contest, our participants and reports well exceeded our prior month's totals with 79 fish turned in by 35 different anglers. Most of our fish were caught in-shore due to windy conditions offshore most of the month. Our FOM, Spanish Mackerel, were cooperative with 14 reported catches. Seatrout also were readily available with 19 reported catches. The Sheepshead, especially at the phosphate docks, were still chewing with 12 reported catches and 10 snook also were reported including a respectable 37" snook caught by Donna Sullivan and an NEW CLUB RECORD 49" snook landed by Mike White – what a monster fish!

Club Hat

Doug Salminen, Joanna Salminen

Silver Pin

Don Cummins

Snook Pin

Larry Kissner

Tarpon Pin

NONE

GMA Star

NONE

Bronze Pin

Scott Hutchins

Gold Pin

NONE

Redfish Pin

NONE

GMA

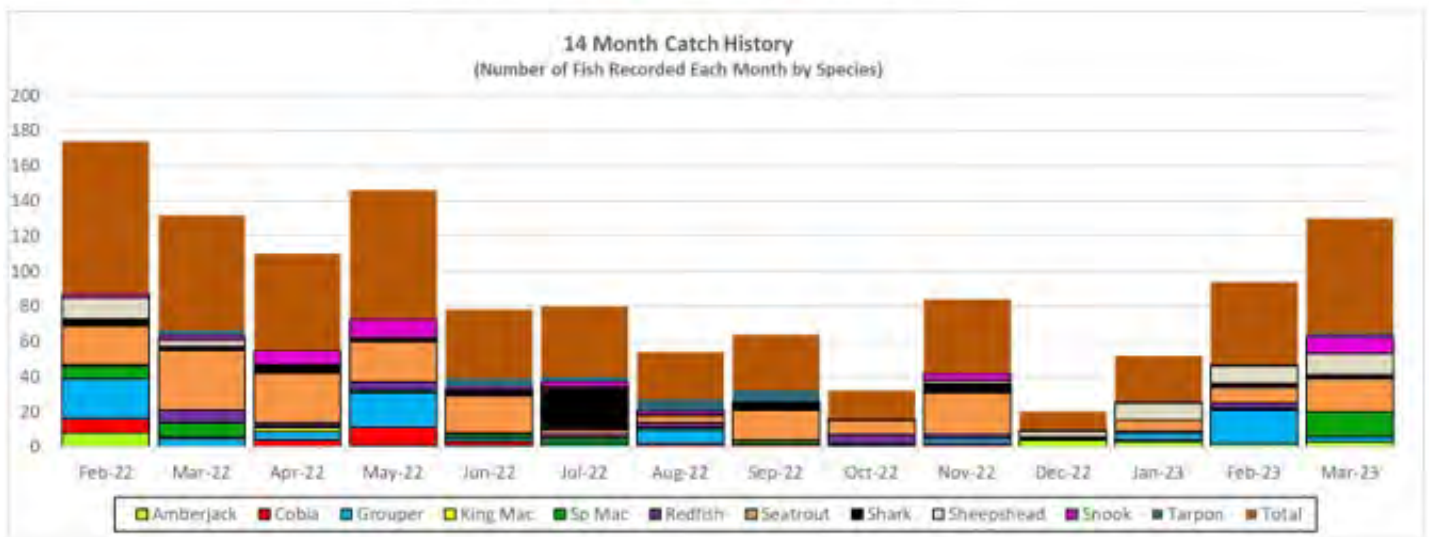
NONE

ACHIEVEMENTS

WHAT'S BITE'N



What's Bite'n Chart



Recorder's Data

Monthly Performance

	January	February	March	
Anglers	24	22	35	↑
LOA Awards	4	3	4	↑
Fish Recorded	32	54	79	↑
Points Recorded	2400	6,100	3,800	↓

TROPHY RACE



ISLES TROPHY RACE 2023 STANDINGS (MARCH)

MEN'S DIVISION

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2023 LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
X	Amberjack	Joe Udvari	53.5	2019	Jeff Barnhart	46.0	2/29/2023	74.8%
X	Black Drum	Mike White	51.5	2019	Mike White	32.0	1/29/2023	82.1%
X	Cobia	Rick Kite	88.0	2022				0.0%
X	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	36.0	2003	Bob Gariepy Joe Udvari	28.0	2/21/2023 2/20/2023	74.4%
X	King Mackerel	John MacLennan	52.0	2012				0.0%
X	Redfish	Mike White	47.0	2020	Allen Wade	39.0	2/22/2023	83.2%
X	Seatrout	Rick Brennan Aaron Wagner	29.0 29.0	2009 2012	Mike White	26.0	2/2/2023	89.7%
X	Sheepshead	Mike White	28.0	2022	Mike White	24.5	2/2/2023	84.2%
X	Snook	Vinnie Madson Tim Gibbons	45.0	2014 2021	Mike White ***	45.0	2/11/2023	100.0%
X	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012	Wayne Blum	21.5	3/22/2023	71.7%

WOMEN'S DIVISION

OVERALL CLUB	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2023 LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
	Amberjack	Darlene Madden	40.0	2017	Joanne Widney	27.0	1/10/2023	87.5%
	Black Drum	Christine Fontaine White	52.0	2022	Christine Fontaine	33.0	1/29/2023	83.5%
	Cobia	Joanne Landaker Marilyn Magregor	58.0 50.0	2006 2013	Sonia Nelson	46.0	1/10/2023	96.0%
	Grouper	Dianne Bukowski	37.0	2018	Cathy Hunt	36.5	2/21/2023	88.2%
	King Mackerel	Nancy Pearson	46.0	2022				0.0%
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan Misty Becker	38.0 33.0	2008 2006				0.0%
	Seatrout	Joanne Landaker	28.5	2011	Christine Fontaine	26.0	1/9/2023	75.5%
	Sheepshead	Dianne Bukowski	22.5	2021	Cathy Hunt	21.0	2/4/2023	93.3%
	Snook	Misty Becker	42.0	2013	Donna Sullivan	37.0	2/21/2023	88.1%
	Spanish Mackerel	Misty Becker Lynn Reeves	28.0 28.0	2007 2019	Gretchen Sunderland	25.5	3/20/2023	89.4%

This Year's LEADER is in BLUE

** Denotes New Club Record

New Entries This Month are in RED

MARCH RESULTS

LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2023 STANDINGS (MARCH)

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	LIFETIME LEVEL I SNOOK	LIFETIME LEVEL II REDFISH	LIFETIME LEVEL III TARPON	GRAND MASTER ANGLER GMA	TOTAL STARS
Sherry Barrett	Jeff Bellairs	Gary Adams	Paula Arnold	Doug Arnold	Frank Barrett	Jeff Barnhart	★★
Trudi Baxler	Joanna Boeckl	Ken Garden	Mary Heins	Mike Dougherty	Rick Brown	Ron Baxter	
Tori Brown	Marc Boeckl	Dale Hall	Chuck Henry	Doug Du Fresne	Dick Conant	Fred Benson	
Bob Critchfield	Jack Botbyl	Bill Hess	Tom Hunt	Theresa FitzGerald	Dave Dyke	Larry Benz	*
Colleen De Mella	Todd Brooks	Karen Lodge	Larry Kissner	Jenny Goodell	Marv Dyrstad	Rich Brennan	★★★★★★
Tom desEnfants	Anne Careau	Sonia Nelson	Michael Knipe	Bill Guenther	Ed Girz	Donnie Brennan	*
Sharon Dyke	Carl Cucco	Cheryl Panetta	Jim LaRocca	Ken Hardesty	Bob Mays	Bob Bretts	★★★★★
Mike Endres	Don Cummins	Gary Selzer	Marie LaRocca	Jack Howarth	Diana McKenna	Elaine Bretts	★★★★★
Richard Farmer	Yvette Du Fresne	Steve Trego	Tom Lodge	Julie Kale	Bill Muir	Dianne Bukowski	*
Steve Fritz	Kathy desEnfants	Sheree Wolfinger	Sherry Moerke	Jonathan Landon	Lynn Reeves	Joe Bukowski	★★
Chris Gibbons	Tony Destefano		William Neff	Mark Lee	Jack Spies	Jim Crawley	*
Frank Grazier	Tamara Dillman		Nancy Pearson	Marty McCaffrey	Mark Storm	Fred De Mella	★★★
Renee Gibbons	Joanell Dyrstad		Chip Peterson	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Gretchen Sunderland	Mark Dillman	
Bob Giffin	Richard Embury		John Simonieg	Dennis McKenna	Karen Udvari	Dick Doster	
Sheryl Hatch	Gary Frost		Ed Verminski	Gary Moerke	Allen Wade	Randy Douet	★★★★
David Hatch	Tim Gibbons		Paul Whiting	John Saitta	Rich Willingmyre	John Fitzgerald	
Tom Hay	Art Goodell		Ted Wierzbowski			Christine Fontaine	*
Scott Hutchins	Randy Hall		Joseph Zurad			Bob Garipey	★★
Jack Jonaitis	Roz Hickey					John Gettinger	★★★
Dennis Jones	Jack Hinnenenthal					Mike Gilger	*
Fran Krausman	Larry Hofmeister					Tom Hickey	*
Buddy Krauss	Dave Joe					Jim Hoffman	*
Richard Larson	Lisa Kellythorne					Margie Hoffman	
Bob Mueller	Mike Knipe					Jan Holm	
Patricia Nalipi	Ron Kruse					Cathy Hunt	★★★
Chuck Pearson	Denys LaChance					Bud Johnston	
Chris Pflaum	Kevin LaPointe					Cindi Johnston	
Chris Pollinger	John McFarland					Rich Kale	★★★★
Mark Schruer	Mike Nalipi					Dennis Krausman	★★★★
Alan Schulman	Wayn Nelson					Kel Krotzer	★★★
Jess Searle	Randy Page					Carl Leicher	
Miriam Taylor	Kim Pflaum					Joe Maillet	
Patti Topper	Paul Robinson					Pete McGregor	★★
Mike Trost	Hezzie Samons					Jude Panetta	★★★★
Roxie Trost	Mike Sandling					Tom Parsons	★★
Greg Widney	Deb Sarkisian					Gary Reeves	
Joanne Widney	Gary Skillicom					Rick Sarkisian	★★★★★
	Lynne Stockinger					John Stockinger	*
	Don Taylor					Donna Sullivan	*
	Mike Trost					Ron Topper	★★★★★
	Mike Wagner					Joe Udvari	★★★★★★★
	Stella Wagner					Aaron Wagner	
	Sandy Wierzbowski					Mike White	★★★★
	Tom Youngblood					Jeff Wilson	*
	Lenny Zimka					John Wolfinger	

RED = Awards This Month

Club Hats

Doug Salminen
JoAnna Salminen

(BOLD star = earned this year)

PGI FISHING CLUB LADDER OF ANGLING ACHIEVEMENT

LEVEL	NUMBER OF SPECIES	SIZE LIMITS	POINTS NEEDED	AWARD
Initial Entry	1	None	None	Club Hat
Bronze	5	None	None	Pin
Silver	5	Eligible Size	300	Pin
Gold	7	Eligible Size	700	Pin
LifeTime Level I	9	Eligible Size	1000	Snook Pin
LifeTime Level II	13	Eligible Size	1400	Redfish Pin
LifeTime Level III	18	Eligible Size	1700	Tarpon Pin
Grand Master	23	Eligible Size	2000	Club Shirt
Grand Master Star	-	-	2000	Star

For complete Ladder of Angling Achievement Program rules, detailed information on eligible angler achievement species, and point earned based on length, please see the PGI Fishing Club Website (www.pgifishingclub.org) Ladder of angling achievement page.

MARCH RESULTS



MASTER ANGLERS PUNTO GORDA ISLES FISH CLUB

MASTER ANGLER TOURNAMENT 2023 STANDINGS (MARCH)

	AMBERJACK	BLACK DRUM	COBIA	GROUPE	KING MACKEREL	REDFISH	SEATROUT	SHEEPSHEAD	SNOOK	SPANISH MACKEREL
1st Place	Jeff Barnhart : 40.0	Christine Fontaine W : 33.0	Sonia Nelson : 48.0	Bob Gariepy : 29.0 Joe Udvari : 29.0		Allen Wade : 30.0	Mike White : 26.0	Mike White : 24.5	Mike White : 49.0	Gretchen Sunderland : 22.5
2nd Place	Joe Udvari : 36.0	Mike White : 32.0 Jan Holm : 32.0		Fred De Mella : 27.0		John Fitzgerald : 27.0	Ron Kruse : 25.0 Joe Zurad : 25.0	Cathy Hunt : 21.0 Allen Wade : 21.0	Tom Schmitt : 37.0 Donna Sullivan : 37.0	Nancy Pearson : 22.0
3rd Place	Mark Cummins : 30.0	Larry Kissner : 26.0		Jeff Barnhart : 26.0 Dave Doyle : 26.0			John Fitzgerald : 21.0	Mark Dillman : 20.0 Dennis McKenna : 20.0 Donna Sullivan : 20.0	Allen Wade : 31.0	Mark Storm : 21.5

New this month are shown in Red

2009	Rich Brennan, Christine Jordan	2016	Gary Reeves, Rose Ann McCaffrey
2010	Kel Krotzer, Margie Hofman	2017	Rich Kle, Darlene Madsen
2011	Greg Chestnut, Joanne Landacre	2018	Joe Udvari, Dianne Bukowski
2012	Jim Quorollo, Rose Ann McCaffrey	2019	Joe Udvari, Lynn Reeves
2013	Steve Landacre, Missy Becker	2020	Mike White, Dianne Bukowski
2014	Vinnie Madsen, Margie Hofman	2021	Rich Kale / Tim Gibbons, Dianne Bukowski
2015	Bob Mays, Karen Lodge	2022	Rich Kale, Christine White

SOCIAL EVENTS



Happy April and the month we start to bid farewell to our Snowbirds and start seeing the town become a little bit quieter. We will miss you all until the fall, and we hope that you will have the opportunity to join us at one of our events before you go so we can bid you a fond farewell!

We have formally moved our general meeting to start at 6pm, with Happy Hour from 7-8pm. Beer, wine, soda and snacks will be served. Please join us for an informative meeting and come share some fishing stories over cocktails. We've even seen a movement from cookies to some nice appetizers and that is very welcome by the club. Feel free to bring an appetizer, or dessert to share- it is greatly appreciated. We have had some HH's with lots of members staying behind to socialize and meet new folks!

I will be out of town for the April meeting so if you are able to assist with set up and clean up for the Social Hour, it would be greatly appreciated- please send me a message if you are able. Lots of hands will make it easy work. Of course, just showing up and pitching in works as well.

As you know, we have moved our Happy Hour to the Elks club every Wednesday at 5pm- We have had some great turnouts and it is great to see old friends and meet new ones. You do not have to be a member to attend, and Elk members will wear their Elks nametags as well so they can help aid in getting drinks. They do have food there (order by 6:30) and many members stay for some great music and dancing. We hope to see many of you there in the future.

28 of our Fishing Club members had a wonderful day at Solomons Castle and enjoyed some great lunch at the Moat in the Boat. A BIG THANKS to Rosanne Kruse for coordinating that for our members.

SOCIAL EVENTS



Join us April 22nd for Murder/Mystery: Murder by Bingo! It's a DEADLY BINGO NIGHT!

Rosanne Kruse and I met with the troupe and it promises to be a riot! The story line: The assistant Hotel Manager, BILL DING is doing his best to make everyone happy. He is checking in everyone as fast as he can with the bell boy's, OLIVER SUDDEN, assistance. Hotel guests include - ANNIE BUDDYHOME and ROYAL PAYNE. They are both very anxious to see FAYE SLIFT's performance that evening.....or do they want to see her for a different reason? Let's hope Faye Slift doesn't disappoint anyone, including her manager EARL E BIRD. (Bingo is played through the night,)

It will be at the PGICA Auditorium and Ziti will be served as our main meal as part of the cost, \$30's per person and yes, cancellations will be allowed. Members will be asked to provide a salad, bread, appetizer or dessert. Please sign up for one of the choices so we can ensure we have the right amount of each item and not too much of one.

BYOB Club will provide water.

This is guaranteed to be a really fun event and we anticipate that we will meet our maximum pretty quickly so do not hesitate to sign up ASAP to avoid disappointment!

We have some promising ideas already in the works for 2023 but we can always use more involvement as well. We are committed to ensuring we meet the needs of our members so please supply feedback on what events you would like to try. Please reach out to me with your invaluable input. My email is chf0729@aol.com and my phone is 443-534-7890. If you would like to get involved and help with the social committee, the more the merrier.

Christine White

SUNSHINE LADY

THE PGI FISHING CLUB IS A CLUB OF THE PUNTA GORDA
ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



We care! If you become aware of someone in the club that needs a card for any reason, please let me know. I can also provide a meal for or visit someone who is in need. Please call or email me

Paula Arnold

724-504-5347

1207swanct@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Welcome new and existing members to the 2023 Fishing Club. The number of members this year is 317. For March our totals are on the upswing, with a number of late renewals continuing to this date. I think IAN is causing major distractions to a large number of our club. However, we have 28 new members so far this year. Please welcome our newest members to the Fishing club:

Daniel & Josette Peterson, Kittiwake Drive

Lyle & Lisa Ross, Bal Harbor Boulevard

Greg White, Bonaire Court

Respectfully,

Bill Muir

PGI Fishing Club Membership Director

FISHING REPORT



The white butterflies have been around for several weeks and that's a sign the tarpon are here. Oh yeah. There have been reports of tarpon in the harbor as well as Boca Pass. Fishing for tarpon in Boca Pass is not for the faint of heart; it's combat fishing. Last May I decided I wanted to learn to fish the Pass for tarpon. I have always been intimidated to fish for tarpon in the pass as there can be 40 boats within 5 feet of each other, and questioned my ability to maneuver the boat in such close proximity. I decided my best bet was to hire a local well-known guide to teach me the ropes. He set the plan and we were in the pass before dawn. He set up the short drift, we put the crabs on a 7/0 circle hook attached to an 8' leader with 2 ounces of lead and dropped to the bottom. In a matter of minutes, we were hooked up as well as 6 boats around us. What could go wrong with 6 boats hooked up within 5' of each other fighting the silver king in the dark..... You can imagine it was a shit show, but a successful one. Boats were handing off rods to get the lines uncrossed and getting the right rod back to the boat to continue fighting the fish, boats with fish on were trying to get out of the herd of boats, and boats not hooked up were in full awareness of their surroundings making room for boats to get out of the herd. The only reason it was successful was due to the skill and experience of the captains. After that experience I decided to leave tarpon pass fishing to the professionals. I'll wait for them to come into the harbor.

Be familiar with FWC rules and regulations for fishing Boca Pass April, May and June. Regardless of species targeted only 3 lines can be out per boat; there are several more regulations to know.

Hill Tides will be here soon. Hill Tides are when the outgoing tide is so strong it flushes the crabs out of the grass and into the pass (hence the tarpon are here to feed). It occurs 2 days before and after the new and full moon and lasts until July. It can be fun to bring a crab net along that time of year to try to get a few crabs; makes for great Cobia and Redfish bait.

FISHING REPORT



Spanish Mackerel – they have been on the move and biting on spoons when the tide is moving, trolling speed of 4.8 – 5.5 mph in ~6 feet. Even using a swivel there can/will be line twists. They have been coming and going from marker 5 to Cape Haze, Bokeelia bar, and Jug Creek Shoal. By middle of April, they will make their way up harbor and by late April/May will be in rivers too.

Sheepshead – the season is ending soon. However, for the Great Catch Tournament mid-March there were some nice ones caught by the phosphate docks. There were several points Sheepshead caught and turned in.

White bait – it's here. Get the cast nets out and start practicing. Having white bait will certainly increase the number and size of fish caught. If you don't know how to throw a net, stop by **Fishin Franks** for some education. It'll be worth your time. The biggest question will be how many nets does one need to buy? I don't think one is enough.... Captain Teds Tackle and Fishin Franks has the best selection of cast nets at the moment; I was at both places late March and prefer to buy local. If you stop by their shops, thank them for advertising with our club.

Cathy Hunt—VP

FISH of the MONTH

JANUARY: SHEEPSHEAD



FEBRUARY: GROUPER



MARCH: SPANISH MACKEREL



APRIL: SNOOK



MAY: COBIA



JUNE: JACK CREVALLE



JULY: SHARK



AUGUST: TARPON



SEPTEMBER: SEATROUT



OCTOBER: REDFISH



NOVEMBER: MANGROVE SNAPPER



DECEMBER: BLACK DRUM



Fish of the Month For APRIL

Location, Description, Tips, Tackle and Bait



Fish of the Month – Snook

Identification:

- Large mouth, lower jaw extends to the eye
- Split dorsal fish
- Black lateral line to the tail



Technique:

- Fishing Frank gave an in-depth talk on how and where to catch Snook trolling in our March meeting.
- Fishing Fish Lights: This time of year, many people fish the "lights" at night. By fishing the light, you are really fishing the dark area outside the light not casting directly into the light. Baits that work well: very large shrimp, small Rapala count down lure, white bait, and small Wild Eyed Storm Shads. Cast under the dock and to the sides of the light, in the dark area. The snook don't bite in the bright of the light, but will follow your lure.
 - If you hook someone's light, be polite and cut your line immediately. Don't retrieve their light to save your line.
 - Club members that don't have a fish light should get one. Go to Underwater Fish Lights in Port Charlotte; they make the best lights, offer a discount to members, advertise with our club, and are local.
- Big baits equal big fish. White bait, ladyfish, and mullet have yielded some large catches. Plan accordingly for gear choices.

Club record:

- March 2023 Mike White killed the club record catching a 49" snook from his dock. I think he used a large live bait.
- The previous club record was a 45" tie between Vinnie Madsen in 2014 and Tim Gibbons 2021. I believe Tim caught his large snook on a ladyfish while tarpon fishing.
- The theme seems to be: big bait, big fish...

FISHING EVENTS



Fish Events Updates—March 2023

RESULTS

GREAT CATCH TOURNAMENT RESULTS—SIX SPECIES

The first club fishing tournament of 2023 was held March 20 – 23. **There were 28 anglers registered with a total fish count of 44.** Every species was caught except Lane Snapper.

Because it was so windy as the tournament kicked off, a last-minute decision was made to substitute the closer-in species Snook for off-shore Amberjack.

Eleven participants entered more than one fish. Jen Goodall, and Larry Kissner had five fish each! Notable catches included: Gretchen Sunderland's largest of the tournament (22.5") Spanish Mackerel, and a 18.5" Sheepshead caught by Mike Dougherty. Some sizable, sporty snook were landed by Donna Sullivan (37" and largest of the tournament), a 35" by Mike White, and a 29" by Mark Lee.

Cash Winners: \$35 1st, \$25 2nd, \$15 3rd

Sheepshead- Women 1st Jenny Goodell (18")

Men 1st Mike Dougherty (18.5"), 2nd Art Goodell (15.5")

Spanish Mackerel Women 1st Gretchen Sunderland (22.5"), Nancy Pearson (22")

Men 1st Mark Storm (21.5"), Fred Brown (20")

Mangrove Snapper Women 1st Cathy Hunt (13")

Men 1st Al Wade/Rick Brown (tie) (11")

Snook Women 1st Donna Sullivan (37"!)

Men 1st Mike White (35"), John Fitzgerald (19")

Spotted Seatrout Women 1st Diana McKenna (17")

Men 1st Larry Kissner (18"), 2nd Mark Lee (16.5")

Lane Snapper None Caught

FISHING EVENTS



Tournament Results, Continued

Thanks everybody for participating and supporting great fishing in and around Charlotte Harbor. **The next tournament is planned for June 2-5 and will be a three-species (Mangrove, Jacks, Trout) event.** The Three-Species Tournament will require participants to catch at least two of the three to compete for \$35 first prizes. There will be winners in Women's, Men's, including new member categories. Registration will open the week prior. Stay tuned for further information.

Chuck Pearson

Fishing Events Coordinator



FISHING EVENTS



PGI Fishing Club

2023 Upcoming Fishing Tournaments

THREE SPECIES Tournament (June 2 - 5, 2023) Catch at least 2 of 3 required species. Mangrove Snapper, *Jack Crevalle, Spotted Seatrout

FIVE FISH Tournament (October 27 – 30, 2023) (note new dates)
Winners for longest fish in each species for Women, Men, New Members. Five species: Redfish, Mangrove Snapper, Snook, *Permit, Yellowtail Snapper.

HOLIDAY Tournament- 3 FOR 30 (November 25 – 29, 2023) Catch three different species for total of at least 30". Six species: Mangrove Snapper, Spotted Seatrout, Redfish, *Jack Crevalle, *Shark, Grouper.

TOURNAMENT PARTICULARS:

All events award three categories- Women, Men, New Members Men & Women (joined since 9/15/21)

1st, 2nd and 3rd places for each category (\$35, \$25, \$15 gift certs)

Registration closes at 11:59 the night before the tournament.

All fish pics must be submitted by 4:00PM the last day of tournament.

Weigh-In: not a true weigh-in, do not bring dead fish. You in your fish photo is proof of your catch.

Max of one award per member per event.

PGIFC members only, no charter caught entries please, fish caught within 50 miles of Charlotte Harbor. Event dates subject to conditions.

Fish of the Month entries count as tournament entries.

*Fork Length- From FWC *"Fish regulated by fork length are measured from tip of the jaw or tip of snout with closed mouth to the center of the fork in tail."*

Questions, Concerns, Comments – Contact Events Director,
Chuck at chuckpearson431@gmail.com

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



It's fun to succeed! **One of the great things about our club are the members we have who are willing to take new members out for a day of fishing to help them learn our waters.** Below is a list of members that are willing to host you for a fishing trip in our local waters:

- **Gary Burgess (Harbor Only), g2873477@hotmail.com**
- **Gretchen Sunderland (Harbor Only, especially for beginner women), gretchensun2@gmail.com**
- **Fred De Mella (Inshore or Offshore) fdemella@gmail.com**



Contact them through email to arrange a trip.

Members, if you want to take another member out on your boat, please send your contact information to: editor@pgifishingclub.org

CLUB LINKS

THE PGI FISHING CLUB IS A CLUB OF THE PUNTA GORDA
ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



CLUB WEBSITE: <http://pgifishingclub.org>

CLUB FACEBOOK: <http://facebook.com>, then
search for pgi fishing club

FISHING CONTEST RULES: [http://
pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?page_id=30](http://pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?page_id=30)

GENERAL INFORMATION: [http://
pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?pageid=101](http://pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?pageid=101)

CLASSIFIED ADS



2010 Grady White 366 Canyon, \$250,000

2010 Grady White 366 Canyon Located in Punta Gorda. LOA = 36.7', Beam is 13.2". T350 Yamaha, cruising speed 32 mph at 4200 rpm, max speed is 45 mph, 420 Gal fuel, 60 Gal water, 2 auto bilge pumps self bailing cockpit, 6 SS thru hull drains, Anchor windlass with remote switches at helm and bow, Batt charger and select switches, Bow Thruster, Cleats flush mount pop-up, cockpit shower, fresh & seawater washdown, Fish boxes 2-263 qal at bow 1-291 qt across stern use as fridge or storage, Alum T-top with vented windows and spray shields, 3 seats under hard top with boosters and foot rests, Double screen GPS and fish finder with 1000 watt transducer. Auto Pilot, Ship-to-shore, Epert, all safety equipment, 6 off shore life jackets and 6 reg, self inflating 6-man covered life raft, Gen, Stereo, stand up vacu-flush head elect pump out, TV, Micro-w, Refrig, 2 berths, sink & shower, AC in cabin and helm, 2 live wells, sink between them for bait prep, rod holders above them and 15 around boat,, tackle drawers, and Lure holders. NO out riggers or Radar, Very good rough water Boat. Free use of lift in Punta Gorda Isles for at a least a year maybe more, 20 years of #'s in Charlotte Harbor, and Off shore of Boca Grande. Its ready to fish for Red Snapper with the #'s..



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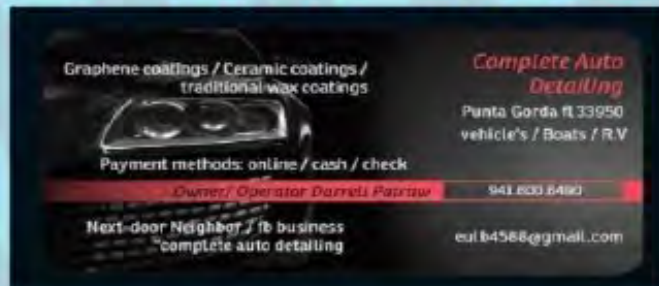


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* See Note 1

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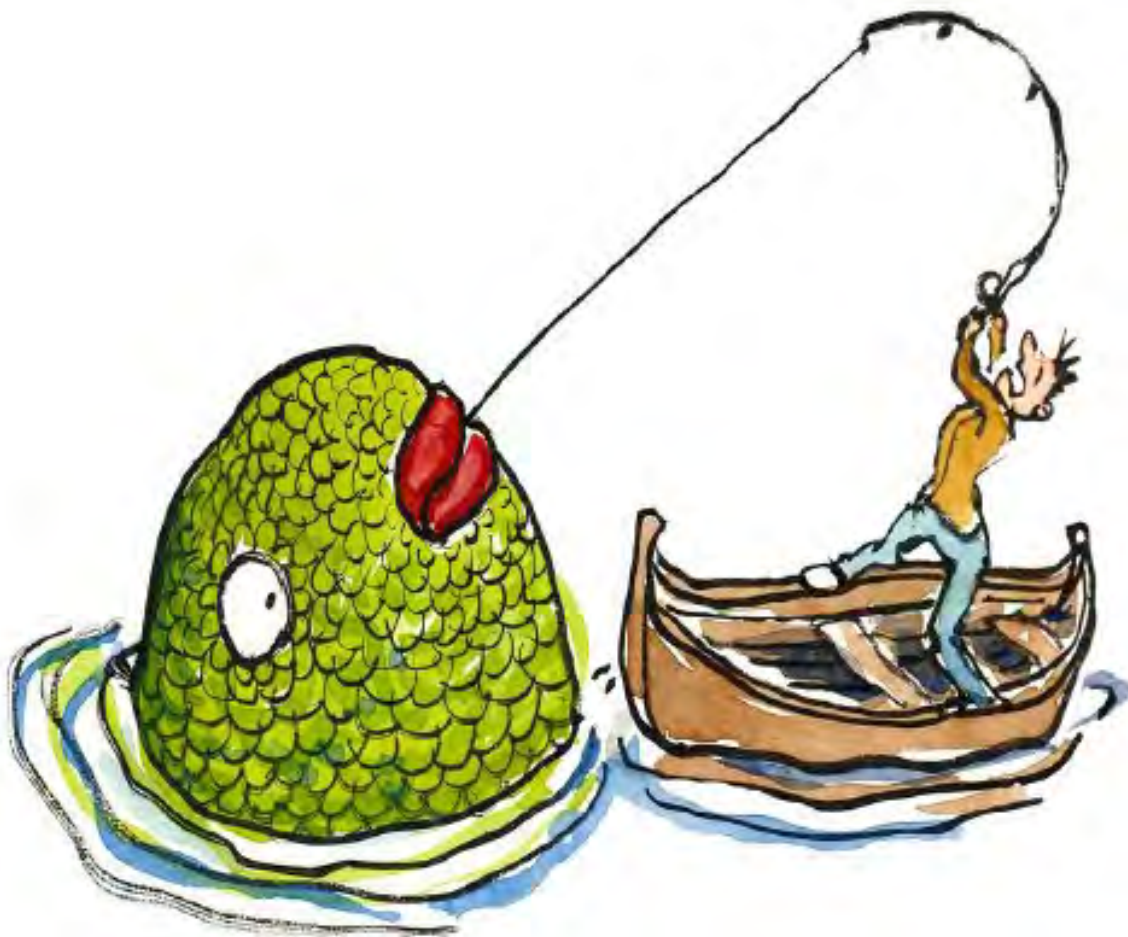
FISHING GUIDES



RECOMMENDED FISHING GUIDES

The following few guides are referred by our members – they are honest, reliable and will give you a great fishing experience! By using a guide, you can learn about some great fishing spots. Guides can also help you refine your technique and teach you the best bait/lures to use with various species of fish.

Give them a call and find out their specialties!



FISHING GUIDES



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PUNTA GORDA ISLES FISHING CLUB

Captain Steve Phillips – Southern Charm Charters



Fish the beautiful waters of Charlotte harbor and enjoy the local wildlife! Southern Charm Charters is here to show you the variety of fish species you can find in the area and, more importantly, how to catch them. Captain Steven has been in the business long enough to know all of the tricks you won't find in any tutorial. Learn from an experienced guide and fill out your bucket with the tastiest fish meat!



"From the time we stepped on the boat until the time we stepped back on the dock, Captain Steve and his mate Paul were great. Set expectations early and fulfilled them all. Would highly recommend!!" Tracy S.

"Best charter we have ever been on. They made sure our grandson caught the 1st fish. Very knowledgeable and great guys." Eric H.

"Captain Steve is very knowledgeable of places to fish and works hard to put fish in the boat had a great time caught Snook, Tarpon and Jacks" Rich P.

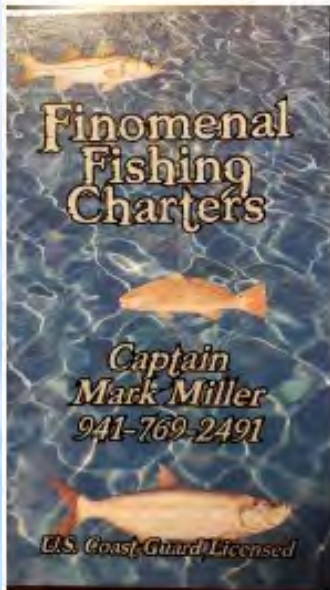
FISHING GUIDES



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PUNTA GORDA ISLES FISHING CLUB

Captain Mark Miller – Finomenal Fishing Charters



About Your Captain – Captain Mark Miller will do all in his ability to give you the saltwater fishing experience of a lifetime! Captain Mark has lived his entire life in Punta Gorda and has spent most of that time fishing every inch of the Charlotte Harbor area. He has competed in most of the local tournaments and many national tournaments, which has only expanded his experience and area knowledge.

"I believe that there is no such thing as a bad day on the water, and I pride myself in giving a calm, relaxing, and fun day of fishing for all!"

About the Equipment – Captain Mark's boat is a Bay Skiff customized to meet all your fishing and comfort needs. All rods and reels are able to meet or exceed any angling situation.

Types of Fish Encountered – Snook, Redfish, Trout, Cobia, Tarpon, Snapper, Shark, Jack, Crevalle, Kingfish, Spanish, Mackerel, and Flounder. These fish are all encountered at various times of the year.



FISH PHOTOS MARCH



AMBER JACKS



Joe Udvari



Mark Cummins,
Crevalle Jack

Scott Hutchins



FISH PHOTOS MARCH



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FISH PHOTOS MARCH



SEA TROUT



AL WADE



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Bottom 4:
BOB BRETTS



FISH PHOTOS MARCH



SEA TROUT, CONTINUED



Elain Betts



Jonathan Landon



Jess Searle



Nancy Searle



Lawrence Kissner

FISH PHOTOS MARCH



SEA TROUT, CONTINUED



Mark Dillman



Randy Douet



Mark Lee



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FISH PHOTOS MARCH



SHARKS



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FISH PHOTOS MARCH



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MANGROVE SNAPPER, CONTINUED



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Al Wade



Al Wade



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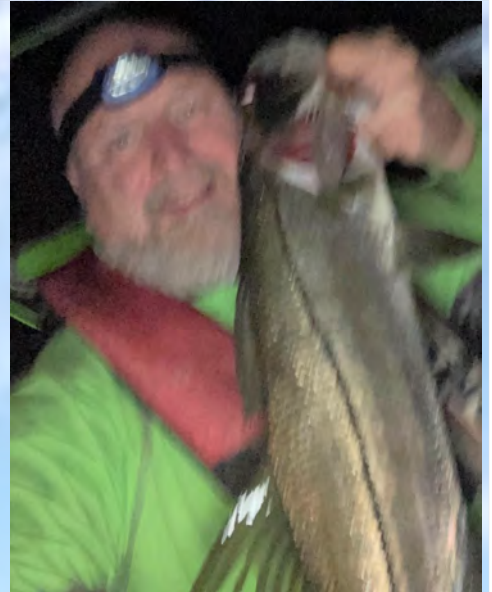
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SNOOK



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FISH PHOTOS MARCH



CATFISH



DOUG AND JOANNE SALINEN



GRUNT