

FROM THE HELM

THE PGI FISHING CLUB IS A PART OF THE
PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION (PGICA)

JANUARY 2024



I want to thank all who came to our Christmas Party. It was a hit!! Also thanks to all who brought gifts for our Toys for Tots drive. The food and company was memorable.

The weather has somewhat been favorable for fishing lately. Red Grouper opened January 1 and if the wind and weather holds up it looks to be good. I heard recently someone caught a slot Cobia off of the new SunSeeker resort.

Don't forget our monthly meetings are the second Tuesday of the month starting at 6pm. We are still in need of a Fishing Events Director and a Social Events Director. If no one steps up we will have to curtail our fishing and social events, even our post meeting Happy Hour.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a happy New Year

Good Fishing
Ron Deroche



Next Meeting: Tuesday January 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

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FISHING REPORT

JANUARY 2024



Southwest Florida “winter fishing” is here. The cold fronts, winds, and low tides have prevailed in December and let’s hope they are less prevalent in January. As the water temperature drops and the tides are lower, fish the deeper drop offs and pot holes. The white bait is gone for the most part and if you can find it, the fish are aren’t taking them.

Sheepshead are active and being caught. A lot of catches are being reported in the intercoastal waters on structure, the PGI canals, and reefs. The Placida Trestles are loaded with keeper sheepshead, but nothing of great size. Large sheepshead are cruising our canals, not biting; hopefully the bite picks up.

Are you hearing a low pitch thumping in your house at night when things are quiet? That’s male black drum fish trying to get the attract a mate. They aren’t schooled up this time of year in the canals, but they are here and will eat a shrimp. There are reports of slot black drum being caught in port charlotte canals, and large ones have been sighted in PGI canals, but not chewing.

Spotted seatrout bite has been consistently good for several months. The best bite is in Pine Island Sound. The East Wall and near the “Doctors House” has also produced notable catches. Randy Douet has published many articles about fishing for seatrout and suggests during cold fronts to fish the deeper pot holes and always look for good grass with a moving tide.

There were a LOT of tarpon in the pass in December; hundreds of them. Very odd for this time of year and only a few reported catches. They were rolling and stacked up in numbers that were close to what you would see in May; not as many, but close. There weren’t many caught, but the ones caught were on pinfish, squirrel fish, crabs, and LARGE shrimp. Hopefully they stick around when the shrimp flush out of the harbor on an outgoing tide early 2024. If you decide to target tarpon, try it late January and into February, with the biggest shrimp you can find on a 2-ounce sinker with ~7’ leader. Pick the day that has a strong outgoing tide.

FISHING REPORT

JANUARY 2024



—continued from previous page—

We fished for King Mackerel using the techniques Gary shared during the October fishing seminar. We had no luck. We did two long slow trolls with a blue runner and cigar minnow in ~47' of water. We marked 4 nice fish at ~25', but no takers. We used an egg sinker to get our bait at what we thought was the desired depth with a very long leader. Part way through our trolling we added a third line; a top water, again no success..... The day wasn't a complete waste. We decided to fish the pass (knowing tarpon were there) and saw spotted eagle rays jumping out of the water, not just one to two, but well over a dozen. What a beautiful thing to see. I was more interested in looking for the spotted eagle rays jumping vs fishing the pass; those that know me understand how spectacular it was for to put down my rod. 😊

Be safe and hope to see you on the water!

Cathy Hunt

FISH of the MONTH

JANUARY: SHEEPSHEAD



FEBRUARY: GROUPER



MARCH: SPANISH MACKEREL



APRIL: SNOOK



MAY: COBIA



JUNE: JACK CREVALLE



JULY: SHARK



AUGUST: TARPON



SEPTEMBER: BLACK DRUM



OCTOBER: REDFISH



NOVEMBER: MANGROVE SNAPPER



DECEMBER: SPOTTED SEA TROUT



Fine Print: See "Fish of the Month Contest Rules" here: <http://pqifishingclub.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fish-of-the-Month-Contest-Rules-Rev-7-021220.pdf>

Fish of the Month For DECEMBER

Location, Description, Tips, Tackle and Bait

SHEEPSHEAD



Identification:

- Sheepshead can be confused with smaller black drum. They both have white and black stripes.
- The biggest difference is their teeth; sheepshead have teeth that resemble molars. Sheepshead also have a continuous dorsal fin vs split with the black drum.
- Black drum also have “whiskers” on the bottom of their mouth as they feed on or off the bottom.

Locations:

- Any place where there are crustaceans; look for structure.
- Near shore reefs, any pilings with barnacles, reefs in the harbor, and mangroves.
- Interesting note (at least to me), I have seen nice size sheepshead following schools of mullet. Makes sense as sheepshead are feeding on crustaceans that come off the sandy bottom with mullet (like redfish do).

Technique:

- Need a sensitive rod to feel the nibbles. The bite is soft, keep the line tight, and a finger on the line helps too. Don't set the hook until you feel the fish has committed. They are known to strip your hook clean and it can be frustrating.
- Mangrove crabs, fiddler crabs, and small shrimp on a small strong hook will work. They have a small mouth.
- They bend the rod given their slim bodies and broad tail; nice fight given their size.

Misc:

- A very clean good eating white flaky fish.
- Are tough to fillet given the dense scales and slim body.
- Sheepshead use their “molar like” teeth to crush shells, barnacles, etc. to get to the food inside. Don't underestimate the strength of the hook.

30 for 30 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Results – 3 For 30 Fishing Tournament November 25-29, 2023

- 28 Participants (11 Women) (17 Men)
- 3 Women and 4 Men (7 total) submitted at least three species totaling more than 30 inches

Women

1st Cathy Hunt (49.5") Seatrout-15", Redfish-19", Jack Crevalle-15.5"

2nd Donna Sullivan (42") Redfish-14.5", Mangrove-11.5", Seatrout-16"

3rd - Tie

Rosanne Kruse (39") Mangrove-10", Seatrout-10", Redfish-19"

Jan Holm (39") Mangrove-10", Seatrout-17.5", Redfish-11.5"

Men

1st Art Goodell (57") Seatrout-15", Redfish-16", Jack Crevalle-26"

2nd Ron Kruse (44") Seatrout-14", Redfish-19", Mangrove-11"

3rd Mark Lee (37.9") Seatrout-19.5", Mangrove-10", Jack Crevalle-8"

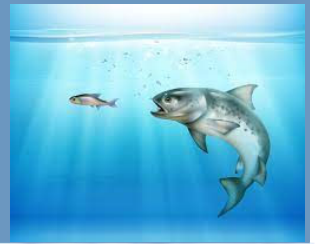
Prizes were awarded at the Elks Fish Club Happy Hour on Wednesday December 6, 2023

Thanks for entering, everyone!!!

Chuck Pearson (Past) Events Director

DECEMBER RESULTS

Club & Individual Fishing Statistics



REPORTED CATCHES as of 11/1/2024 and FISH OF THE MONTH (FOM) RESULTS

26 total fish turned in (2700 points) by 13 different anglers

FOM (SEATROUT)

Women

1st – Donna Sullivan—18.0"

2nd – Gretchen Sunderland—15.0"

3rd – None

Men

1st - Glenn Ranfos — 20.0"

2nd - Fred Benson —18.5"

3rd - Randy Douet— 18.0"

Interesting Tidbits

The persistent wind and rain of cold fronts along with the expected travel and holiday plans for Christmas and New Years greatly diminished our participants this month. Those lucky enough to find an open date and weather window found our Fish of the Month – trout - still cooperating with 6 reported catches up to 20". Jeff Barnhart got offshore and had fun releasing several red grouper in the 26-30" range. Allen Wade still mastered the redfish with 27" and 31" catches, along with Joe Lombardi who reported a 29 incher. Fred De Mella reported a nice 21" sheepshead, a sign of good things to come for January when they become our FOM. Christine White was able to go offshore and wear herself out on a couple of 34" AJs. Two Grand Master anglers were able to close out the year with another GMA Star – Jeff Barnhart with his third star and Randy Douet with his fifth star. Altogether, there were 11 Grand Master Anglers who earned another GMA Star in 2023 – Congratulations to them!

Club Hat

None

Silver Pin

None

Snook Pin

None

Tarpon Pin

None

GMA Star

Jeff Barnhart—#3, Randy Douet—#5

Bronze Pin

None

Gold Pin

None

Redfish Pin

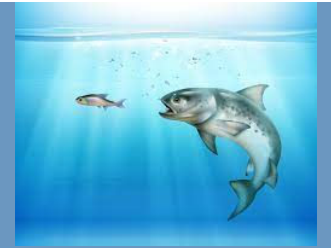
None

GMA

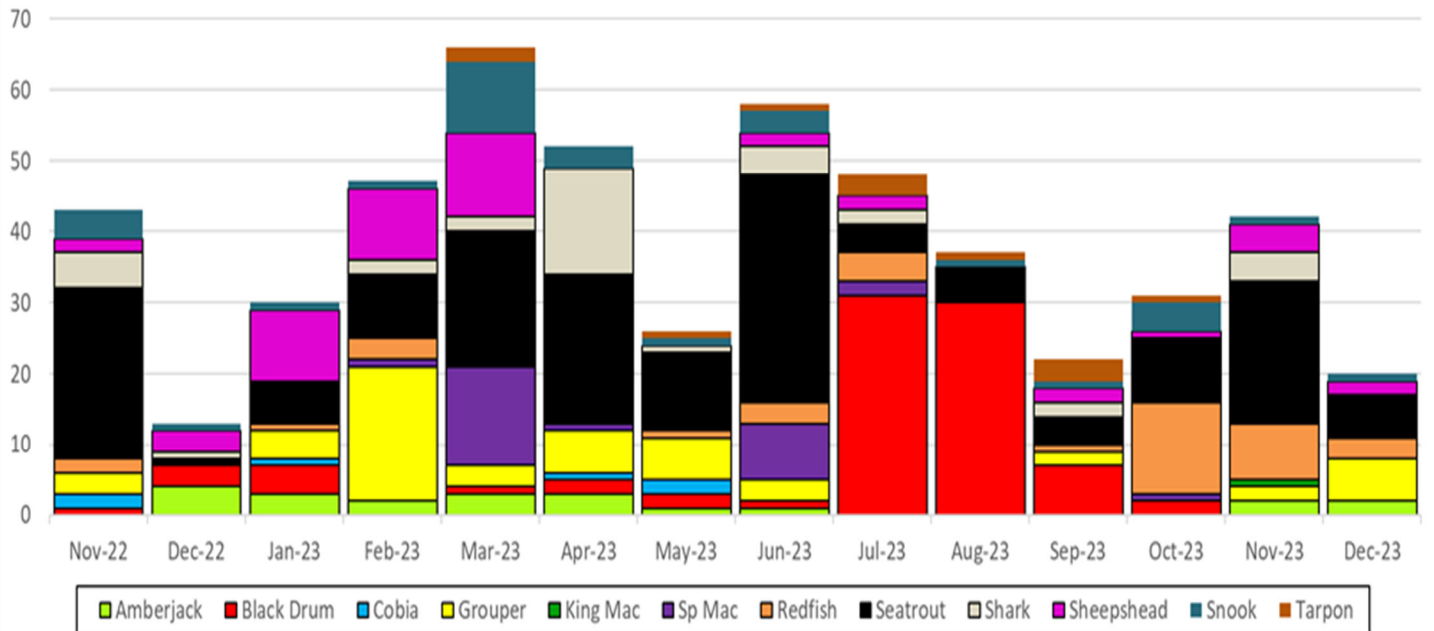
None

ACHIEVEMENTS!

WHAT'S BITE'N



14 Month Catch History
(Number of Fish Recorded Each Month by Species)



Recorder's Data

Monthly Performance

	October	November	December	
Anglers	21	26	13	↓
LOA Awards	6	5	2	↓
Fish Recorded	40	64	26	↓
Points Recorded	1900	2,700	2,700	↔

TROPHY RACE (Men)

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2023 LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% O RECORD
X	Amber-jack	Joe Udvari	53.5	2019	Jeff Barnhart	40.0	2/28/2023	74.8%
X	Black Drum	Mike White	51.5	2019	Paul Whiing	42.0	7/7/2023	81.6%
X	Cobia	Rich Kale	66.0	2022	John Fitzgerald Mike Trost	35.0	4/6/2023	53.0%
X	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	Gary Selzer	32.0	6/10/2023	82.1%
X	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012	Carl Cucco	43.0	11/8/2023	82.7%
X	Redfish	Mike White	47.0	2020	Carl Cucco Allen Wade	31.0	10/10/2023 12/8/2023	66.0%
X	Seatrout	Rich Brennan Aaron Wagner	29.0 29.0	2009 2012	Bobby Bretts Mike White	26.0	7/17/2023 2/2/2023	89.7%
X	Sheeps-head	Mike White	26.0	2022	Mike White	24.5	2/2/2023	94.2%
X	Snook	Vinnie Madsen Tim Gibbons	45.0	2014 2021	Mike White **	49.0	3/11/2023	108.9%
X	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012	Joe Bukowski Jim Gregory Greg Widney	23.0	6/24/2023 6/9/2023 6/14/2023	76.7%

This Year's LEADERS are in BLUE

★★ Denotes New Club Record

New Entries This Month are in RED

TROPHY RACE (Women)

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2023 LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
	Amberjack	Darlene Madsen	40.0	2017	Christine White	34.0	12/3/2023	85.0%
	Black Drum	Christine Fontaine White	52.0	2022	Jan Holm Donna Sullivan	42.0	5/7/2023 8/1/2023	80.8%
	Cobia	Joanne Landaker Marilyn McGregor	50.0 50.0	2008 2013	Sonia Nelson	48.0	1/10/2023	96.0%
	Grouper	Dianne Bukowski	37.0	2018	Cathy Hunt	31.5	4/2/2023	85.1%
	King Mackerel	Nancy Pearson	40.0	2022				0.0%
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan	38.0	2008	Cathy Hunt		10/19/2023	
		Missy Becker	38.0	2008	Diana McKenna Nancy Pearson	28.0	6/27/2023 10/30/2023	73.7%
	Seatrout	Joanne Landaker	26.5	2011	Elaine Bretts	23.0	5/12/2023	86.8%
	Sheeps-head	Dianne Bukowski	22.5	2021	Wanda Zimka	22.0	11/23/2023	97.8%
	Snook	Missy Becker	42.0	2013	Donna Sullivan	37.0	3/21/2023	88.1%
	Spanish Mackerel	Missy Becker	28.0	2007	Gretchen Sunderland	22.5	3/20/2023	80.4%
		Lynn Reeves	28.0	2019				

This Year's LEADERS are in BLUE

★★ Denotes New Club Record

New Entries This Month are in RED

PAST WINNERS OF ISLES TROPHY RACE

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

DECEMBER RESULTS—LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT

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 Baxter	Joanna Boeckl	Jack Botbyl	Mary Heins	Mike Dougherty	Rick Brown	Ron Baxter	*
Tori Brown	Marc Boeckl	Mark Cummins	Chuck Henry	Doug Du Fresne	Dick Conant	Fred Benson	*
Bob Critchfield	Todd Brooks	Carl Cucco	Tom Hunt	Theresa FitzGerald	Dave Dyke	Larry Benz	★
Colleen De Mella	Anne Careau	Ken Garden	Larry Kissner	Jenny Goodell	Marv Dyrstad	Rich Brennan	★★★★★★★★
Ron Deroche	Don Cummins	Dale Hall	Michael Knipe	Bill Guenther	Ed Girzi	Donnie Brennan	★
Tom desEnfants	Yvette Du Fresne	Bill Hess	Jim LaRocca	Ken Hardesty	Bob Mays	Bob Bretts	★★★★★★
Sharon Dyke	Kathy desEnfants	Karen Lodge	Marie LaRocca	Jack Howarth	Diana McKenna	Elaine Bretts	★★★★★★
Mike Endres	Tony Destefano	Sonia Nelson	Tom Lodge	Julie Kale	Bill Muir	Dianne Bukowski	★
Richard Farmer	Tamara Dillman	Cheryl Panetta	Sherry Moerke	Jonathan Landon	Nancy Pearson	Joe Bukowski	★★
Steve Fritz	Joanell Dyrstad	Gary Selzer	William Neff	Mark Lee	Lynn Reeves	Jim Crawley	★
Chris Gibbons	Richard Embury	Steve Trego	John Simonieg	Marty McCaffrey	Jack Spies	Fred De Mella	★★★★
Frank Grazier	Gary Frost	Sheree Wolfinger	Ed Verminski	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Mark Storm	Mark Dillman	
Renee Gibbons	Tim Gibbons	RED = Awards This Month	Ted Wierzbowski	Dennis McKenna	Gretchen Sunderland	Dick Doster	
Bob Giffin	Art Goodell			Gary Moerke	Karen Udvari	Randy Douet	★★★★★
Sheryl Hatch	Jim Gregory			Chip Peterson	Allen Wade	John Fitzgerald	*
David Hatch	Randy Hall			John Saitta	Rich Willingmyre	Christine Fontaine	★
Tom Hay	Roz Hickey			Paul Whiting		Bob Gariepy	★★
Scott Hutchins	Jack Hinnenthal			Joseph Zurad		John Gettinger	★★★
Jack Jonaitis	Larry Hofmeister					Mike Gilger	★★
Dennis Jones	Dave Joe	Club Hats (None)				Tom Hickey	★
Fran Krausman	Lisa Kellythorne					Jim Hoffman	★
Buddy Krauss	Mike Knipe					Margie Hoffman	
Jim Kunard	Ron Kruse					Jan Holm	
Patti Kunard	Denys LaChance					Cathy Hunt	★★★★
Richard Larson	Kevin LaPointe					Bud Johnston	
Bob Mueller	Joe Lombardi					Cindi Johnston	
Patricia Nalipi	John McFarland					Rich Kale	★★★★★
Ann Northen	Mike Nalipi					Dennis Krausman	★★★★★
Connie Nowicki	Wayn Nelson					Kel Krotzer	★★★
Chuck Pearson	Randy Page					Carl Leicher	*
Bruce Peterson	Kim Pflaum					Joe Maillet	*
Chris Pflaum	Paul Robinson					Pete McGregor	★★
Chris Pollinger	Hezzie Samons					Jude Panetta	★★★★
Glenn Ranfos	Mike Sandling					Tom Parsons	★★
Doug Salminen	Deb Sarkisian					Gary Reeves	
Mark Schruer	Tom Schmitt					Rick Sarkisian	★★★★★★
Alan Schulman	Gary Skillicorn					John Stockinger	★
Jess Searle	Lynne Stockinger					Donna Sullivan	★★
Miriam Taylor	Don Taylor					Ron Topper	★★★★★
Patti Topper	Mike Trost					Joe Udvari	★★★★★★★★
Mike Trost	Mike Wagner					Aaron Wagner	
Roxie Trost	Stella Wagner					Mike White	★★★★★
Joanne Widney	Greg Widney					Jeff Wilson	★
Wanda Zimka	Sandy Wierzbowski					John Wolfinger	
	Tom Youngblood						
	Lenny Zimka						
	Wanda Zimka						



DECEMBER RESULTS

MASTER ANGLERS TOURNAMENT, 2023 STANDINGS

	AMBER-JACK		BLACK DRUM		COBIA		GROUPER		KING MAC-KEREL		REDFISH		SEATROUT		SHEEPSHEAD		SNOOK		SPANISH MACKEREL	
1st Place	Jeff Barnhart	40.0	Jan Holm	42.0	Sonia Nelson	48.0	Gary Selzer	32.0	Carl Cucco	43.0	Carl Cucco	31.0	Bobby Bretts	26.0	Mike White	24.5	Mike White	49.0	Joe Bukowski	23.0
			Donna Sullivan	42.0							Allen Wade	31.0	Mike White	26.0					Jim Gregory	23.0
			Paul Whiting	42.0															Greg Widney	23.0
New this month are shown in Red																				
2nd Place	Joe Udvari	38.0	Cathy Hunt	41.0	John Fitz Gerald	35.0	Cathy Hunt	31.5			Dennis McKenna	30.0	Jim Crawley	25.0	Wanda Zimka	22.0	Rick Sarkisian	40.5	Gretchen Sunderland	22.5
					Mike Trost	35.0							Ron Kruse	25.0						
													Joe Zuad	25.0						
										Joe Lombardi	29.0									
3rd Place	Chip Peterson	34.5	Jeff Wilson	40.0	Jan Holm	31.0	Jeff Barnhart	30.0					Elaine Bretts	23.0	Fred De Mella	21.0	Tom Schmitt	37.0	Bill Muir	22.0
															Cathy Hunt	21.0	Donna Sullivan	37.0	Nancy Pearson	22.0
															Allen Wade	21.0				

SOCIAL EVENTS

FC Ladies Bunco Night January 16th, 2024 5:30 pm

Come join us for Bunco- always a great time. No experience needed to play. Log into your PGICA account and register. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, BYOB, and \$5 for prize money.

When: Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 5:30 PM
Where: Home of Debra Guido
105 Bayshore Court
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Contact(s)
Christine White (Past) Social Director
Phone 443-534-7890
Email chf0729@aol.com

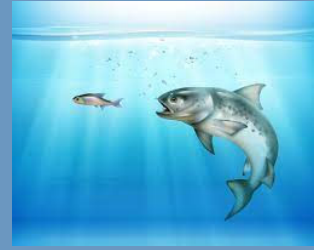
Registration is required and will be maxed at 16.

Join us at Ladies Bunco Night. Debra Guido has graciously offered to host us again in her lovely home- please arrive by 5:30pmpm so we can get started. No experience is needed- just a fun night with a great group of ladies! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, along with your beverage of choice. Please bring \$5 for prize money- low bills are welcome if possible!

Any questions, please reach out to Christine at 443-534-7890

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

CLUB LEADERSHIP



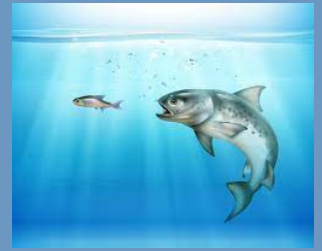
OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	Ron Derouche	president@pgifishingclub.org
VICE PRESIDENT	Jeff Covert	vicepresident@pgifishingclub.org
TREASURER	Daryl Reynolds	treasurer@pgifishingclub.org
SECRETARY	Nancy Pearson	secretary@pgifishingclub.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ADVERTISING	Chip Peterson	advertising@pgifishingclub.org
COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSN	Bob Mayes	cca.cmac@pgifishingclub.org
FISHING EVENTS	<i>Position is Vacant</i>	fishingevents@pgifishingclub.org
GREETERS	Yvette Du Fresne	greeters@pgifishingclub.org
MEMBERSHIP	Bill Muir	membership@pgifishingclub.org
NEWSLETTER	Jim Kunard	pattijimk@comcast.net
RECORD KEEPER	Paul Whiting	recordkeeper@pgifishingclub.org
SOCIAL EVENTS	<i>Position is Vacant</i>	socialdirector@pgifishingclub.org
SUNSHINE LADY	Paula Arnold	sunshine@pgifishingclub.org
WEBMASTER	Richard Embury	website@pgifishingclub.org

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



At the end of December we had 341 members from 177 households. Starting the new year we had 121 members who renewed their membership from 64 household.

New members for December.

David and Lisa Morgan with home on La Costa Island, PGI

Please welcome them to the Club

Annual Membership Dues.

Annual Dues for the 2024 calendar year are now past due, but there is a 10 week grace period ending mid March. Members who have not paid their dues are encouraged to do so before the grace period runs out.

Annual Dues will remain at \$30/household. Remember that PGICA dues and Fishing Club dues are separate and paid at different times. PGICA dues are based on your join date whereas Fishing Club dues are due at the end of each calendar year.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit cards for dues at this time because of administrative issues.

Please make your check payable to the "PGICA Fishing Club" and send to:

PGICA Fishing Club, C/O Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
2001 Shreve Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Tight Lines
Bill Muir
Membership Director



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**

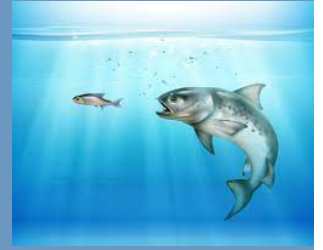


Contact them through email to arrange a trip.

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

CLUB LINKS

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ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



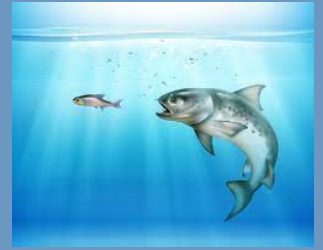
CLUB WEBSITE: <http://pgifishingclub.org>

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

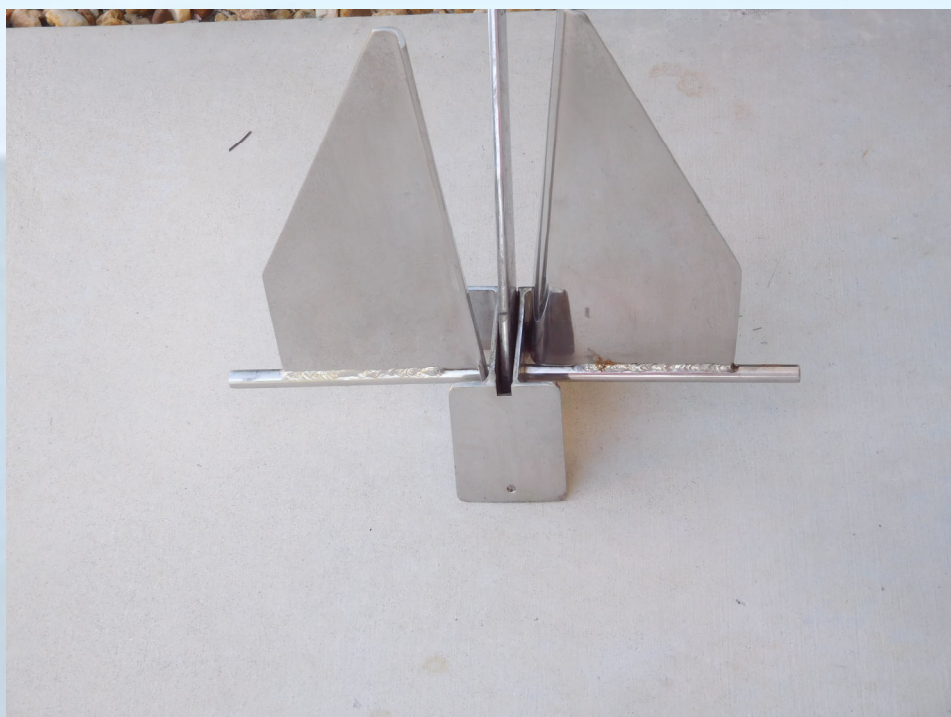


DANFORD ANCHOR - \$225

ALMOST NEW, STAINLESS STEEL DANFORTH ANCHOR.

IT IS HIGHLY POLISHED NUMBER 316 STAINLESS CE AISI 316 36KG DCN2403. (THIS INFORMATION IS STAMPED ON THE UNIT.)

EMAIL IS MGILGER@AOL.COM OR MY CELL IS 610 996 5375



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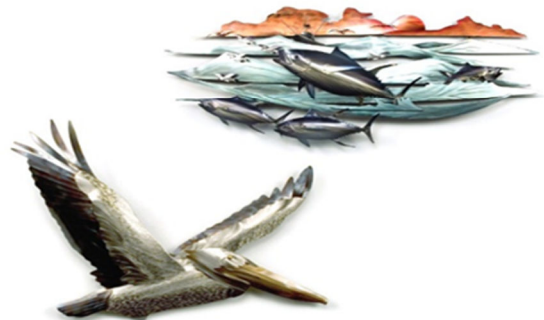
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* See Note 1

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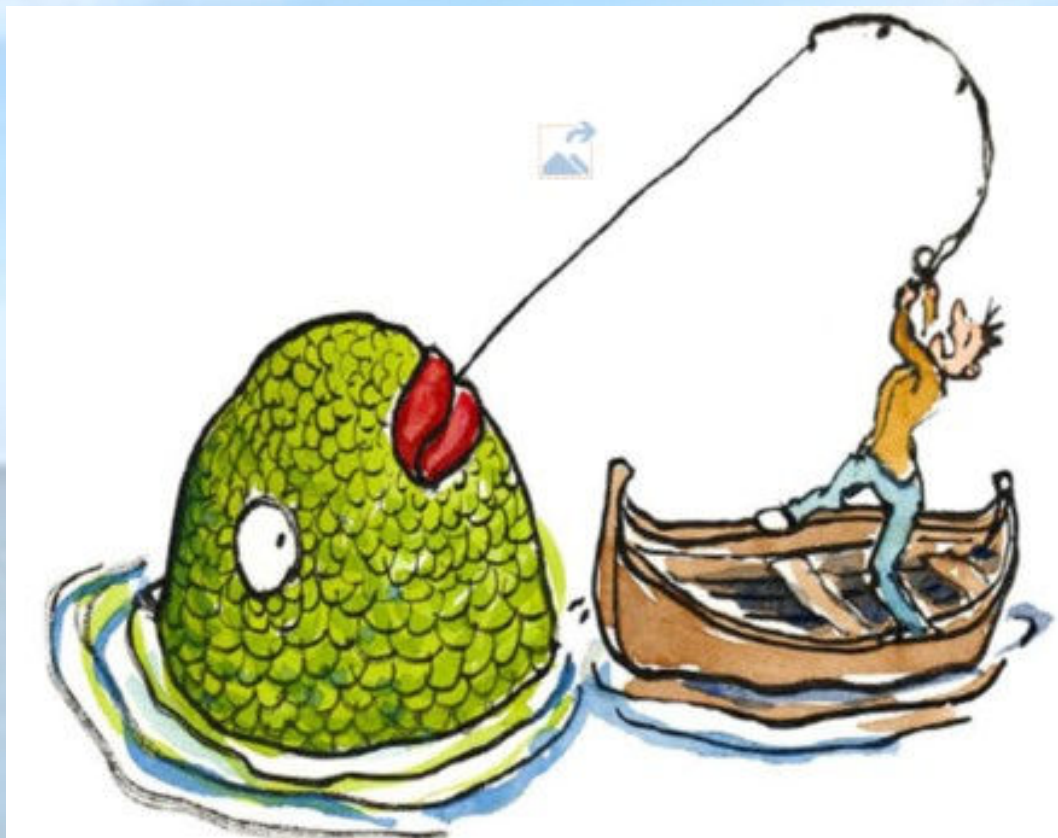
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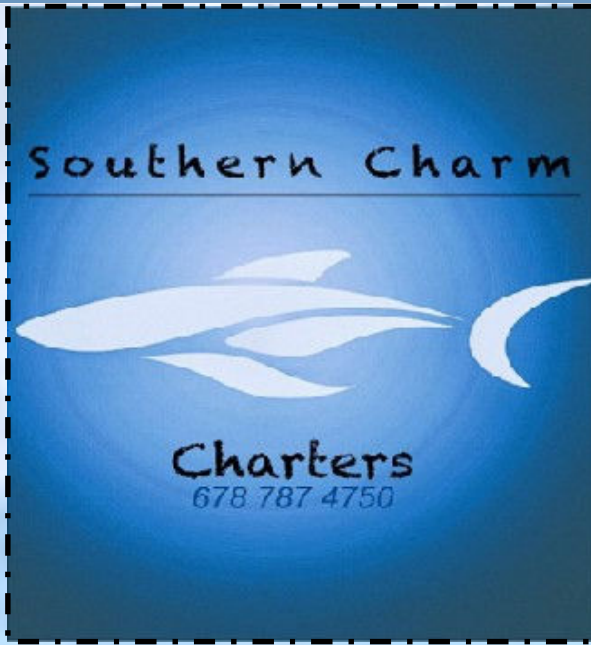
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