

FROM THE HELM

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

MAY 2024



Greetings to all !

Glad to announce that Robert from Fishing Franks will be at our May 14 meeting. He will be talking about Cobia, which is our fish of the month.

It was nice that the wind improved for a few days towards the end of April and most of us were able to get out. Red tide is no where to be found and the sea grass seems to be coming back strong. Greater Amberjack is open May 1, although Snook is closed May 1. Went off shore a few weeks ago and only caught under slot. How ever we fished Alligator reef the other day because the Charlotte harbor hole was filled with boats fishing for tarpon. As luck would have it, we caught a 33in Cobia. I will bring to the meeting, just how silly a rig I caught it on. You might be surprised. By popular demand we will be bringing back one door prize to add to our 50/50 and name that fish. We will also be having a major club discussion of how you feel about the direction of the club and member participation in help in applying for vacant positions on the board. Bill Muir and I will be available after the meeting to discuss anything the members want.

Good Fishing

Ron



Next Meeting: Tuesday May 14, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

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FISHING REPORT – MAY

Submitted by RICHY KALE

It was 6am Monday April 8th 2024, when the backyard gate swung open and my fishing partner and guest for the day, was the birthday girl Donna S. We share the same birthday, so it is a yearly trip. Our target species: the silver king of course, throttle forward, Skeeter jump, bank left and the search begins. The silvers were playing ghost fish that morning. The constant wind of this April made it just a little bit harder to locate our buddies. Idling down the break line east of the north hole, the side scan lit up - show time - we swung the Skeeter around, and set out the 2 danglers. Before we could pick up the cracking rods, the purple down rod slammed into the back of the rod holder and the tarpon launched at what little of the moon was left in the sky. Donna fought and landed that tarpon like she has been doing it every day. I put this day truly in the great day category. Donna ended 4/ for 7 that day and I also bent the rod.

Now for my tarpon vacating the harbor the last week of April. It's now an outer barrier islands and a Boca Pass thing now. Crabs, threadies, and bait busters are the baits of choice. Play the tides for them and the low light hours.

Inshore with the water already in the low 80's and the gulf 2 degrees warmer than ever you, may want to think of checking your June spots.

As for the snook, reds, and trout, they seem to have set up in their warm water homes already. Again low light hours and shade cover seems to work for me.

Regarding Cobia, these rascals have taken up residence in our harbor again this year. The large fish seem to have left but the smaller fish seem to be everywhere in the upper harbor (lots of crabs means lots of cobia). Again low light and cast at the schools of threadies. Give it a try.

(Continued, next page)

FISHING REPORT



MAY 2024

(Continued)

A little added bonus this year is the amount of Spanish Mackerel in the harbor. A silver Hopkins or spoon dragged behind the boat often pays off, just ask Fred.

Offshore with the constant winds of April the offshore fishing fleet got limited time, talking to Bob G. and Mike W and a few others when you could get out, you caught good! The grouper and snapper fillets on the door step was proof positive, thank you for them. A little butter salt and pepper WOW thanks again.

As for harbor moments my only thoughts is that the harbor water seems very clear for this time of year. I would advise long leaders, lighter main line and fish low light and slightly deeper, a little smaller on your presentation and all should work out. Let's hope for less wind this month.

So once again I must bid you good night for the semi sad eyes of my yellow beacons me for her evening walk. So remember it's easy pull left when they pull right. So please, please, please go out and fish our fish-filled harbor.

Tight Lines Richy Kale

P.S. ask Donna about her tarpon, if in need of a big smile that day!

Sent from my iPad

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://pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fish-of-the-Month-Contest-Rules-Rev-7-021220.pdf>

Fish of the Month For MAY

Location, Description, Tips, Tackle and Bait

COBIA



Gear, Tackle, and Rigging:

- Medium/heavier rod 12 – 25 with a 3,000 or 4,000 spinning reel is ideal if you hook into the big one. Can go lighter.
- 20-to-30-pound braid tied to 40-pound leader will get the job done.
- Jig head with a shrimp or large gulp works as well as a bucktail with a long gulp. Whitebait, crabs, and cut bait will get a bite.

Locations:

- Channel markers, reefs in the harbor, structure in the harbor, as well as drop offs from sand bars are some of their cruising areas.
- They are known to follow schools of rays and be mixed in with schools of tarpon. If you see a school of rays go by, be ready to throw something this time of year.

Additional Information:

- Minimum length 36" to the fork in state and federal waters.
- Daily bag limit: 1 per person per day or 2 per boat; whichever is less.
- They hit hard and immediately make a run, run again, and again. Get away from any structure and let them run; wear them out before bringing them to the boat. Likely another cobia or two will follow the cobia up. Bringing a green cobia into the boat can cause damage to the boat and people. Wear the fish out in the water and get it in the ice box immediately.

FISHING TOURNAMENT

TWO SPECIES TOURNAMENT RESULTS

TARGETED SPECIES: Grouper, Spanish Mackerel

WHEN: The tournament Dates: were April 18th to 21st

WINNERS::

Spanish Mackerel Winners

Women		Men	
Theresa Fitzgerald	24"	Fred Benson	23"
Diana McKenna	19"	Mark Storm	22.5"
Gretchen Sutherland	14"	Mark Lee	20"

Grouper Winners

Donna Sullivan	17"	Tony Nowicki	29.5"
Joanne Widney	15.5"	Jeff Barnhart	25.5"
Gretchen Sutherland	14"	Greg Widney	19.5"

Submitted by **Greg Widney, Fishing Events Coordinator**

APRIL RESULTS

Club & Individual Fishing Statistics



REPORTED CATCHES as of 4/1/2024 and FISH OF THE MONTH (FOM) RESULTS

60 total fish turned in (5100 points) by 28 different anglers

FOM (SNOOK)

Women

1st - Donna Sullivan - 26.5"

2nd - None

3rd - None

Men

1st - Carl Cucco— 36.0"

2nd - Fred De Mella - 28.0"

3rd - None

Interesting Tidbits

Our FOM, Snook, had a meager reporting with only 3 fish noted. Perhaps our recent fishing tournament, which targeted other species, drew our anglers' attention since 25 of the 60 reported catches occurred during that event. Numerous Spanish Mackerel (22) were reported this month along with 9 grouper, mostly reds. Again, let me remind our anglers, please be aware that we need you to state your measurement for all fork length measured fish as such. There are several fish in our list of 29 species that do require a fork length measurement including our Fish of the Month for May, Cobia, which has a minimum **36"** fork-length requirement to be legal size. While most of our seasoned anglers are aware of which fish need to be measured in this way, some of our newer anglers may not be aware of this requirement. Our club website as well as the commonly used app, Fish Rules, states which species require such measurement. We need ALL anglers to state the length and that these fish were measured to the fork of the tail. Something as simple as "Cobia – 37" to the fork" will suffice. Species that are measured at the fork from our list include: Amberjack, Bluefish, Cobia, Jack Crevalle, King Mackerel, Permit, Pompano, Shark (estimated at side of boat), Spanish Mackerel, and Tarpon (estimated at side of boat).

Seatrout continued to cooperate inshore as a reliable species with 15 reported catches up to 21". 3 Tarpon were also reported, and they will be even more abundant in the coming months.

Club Hat

Anton Benvin

Silver Pin

None

Snook Pin

None

Tarpon Pin

Theresa FitzGerald

GMA Star

Bronze Pin

Tony Nowicki

Gold Pin

Glenn Ranfos

Redfish Pin

None

GMA

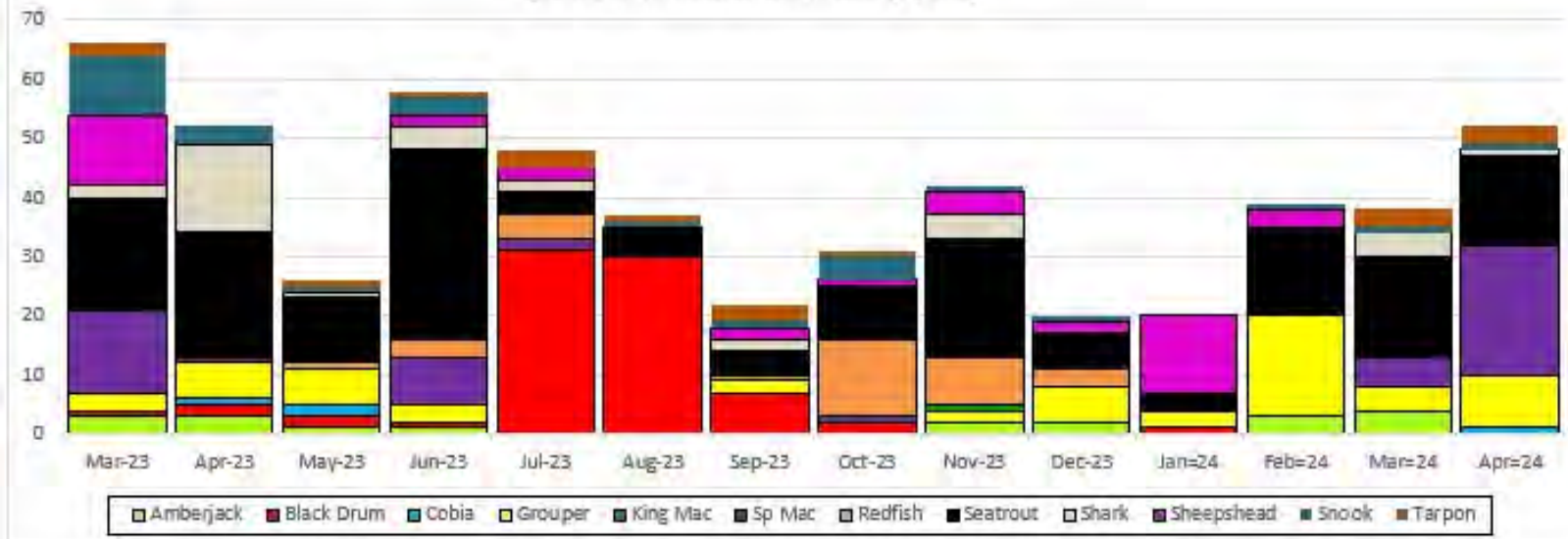
None

ACHIEVEMENTS!

WHAT'S BITE'N



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



Recorder's Data

Monthly Performance

	February	March	April	
Anglers	16	21	28	↑
LOA Awards	7	2	4	↑
Fish Recorded	44	42	60	↑
Points Recorded	5200	5,200	5,100	↓

TROPHY RACE (Men)

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2024 LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
X	Amber Jack	Joe Udvari	53.5	2019	Tim Locke Bill Muir Fred De Mella	37.0	3/3/24 2/15/24 3/3/24	69.2%
X	Black Drum	Mike White	51.5	2019	Fred De Mella	34.0	1/13/24	66.0%
X	Cobia	Rich Kale	66.0	2022	Larry Kissner	36.0	1/30/24	54.0%
X	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	Rick Brown	34.0	3/17/24	87.2%
X	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012				0.0%
X	Redfish	Mike White	47.0	2020				0.0%
X	Seatrout	Rich Brennan Aaron Wagner	29.0 29.0	2009 2012	Mike White	24.5	2/28/24	84.5%
X	Sheepshead	Mike White	26.0	2022	Mike White	24.0	2/26/24	92.3%
X	Snook	Mike White	49.0	2023	Mike White	39.0	2/26/24	79.6%
X	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012	Joe Esposito	25.0	4/14/24	83.3%

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	2024 LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
	Amberjack	Darlene Madsen	40.0	2017	Roxie Trost	35.0	3/5/24	87.5%
	Black Drum	Christine Fontaine White	52.0	2022				0.0%
	Cobia	Joanne Landaker	50.0	2008				0.0%
		Marilyn McGregor	50.0	2013				
	Grouper	Dianne Bukowski	37.0	2018	Donna Sullivan	17.0	4/18/24	45.9%
	King Mackerel	Nancy Pearson	40.0	2022				0.0%
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan	38.0	2008				0.0%
		Missy Becker	38.0	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Landaker	26.5	2011	Elaine Bretts	20.0	3/29/24	75.5%
	Sheeps-head	Dianne Bukowski	22.5	2021	Cathy Hunt	19.5	4/6/24	71.1%
	Snook	Missy Becker	42.0	2013	Donna Sullivan	26.5	4/4/24	86.7%
	Spanish Mackerel	Missy Becker	28.0	2007	Theresa Fitzgerald	24.0	4/19/24	85.7%
		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	2017	Rich Kale, Darlene Madsen
2010	Kel Krotzer, Margie Hofman	2018	Joe Udvari, Dianne Bukowski
2011	Greg Chestnut, Joanne Landacre	2019	Joe Udvari, Lynn Reeves
2012	Jim Quorollo, Rose Ann McCaffrey	2020	Mike White, Dianne Bukowski
2013	Steve Landacre, Missy Becker	2021	Rich Kale / Tim Gibbons, Dianne Bukowski
2014	Vinnie Madsen, Margie Hofman	2022	Rich Kale, Christine White
2015	Bob Mays, Karen Lodge	2023	Mike White, Wanda Zimka
2016	Gary Reeves, Rose Ann McCaffrey	2024	

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

RED = Awards
This Month

Club Hats
<i>None This Month</i>

(BOLD star = earned this year)

APRIL RESULTS

MASTER ANGLER

MASTER ANGLERS TOURNAMENT, 2024 STANDINGS

	AMBERJACK	BLACK DRUM	COBIA	GROUPER	KING MACKEREL	REDFISH	SEATROUT	SHEEPSHEAD	SNOOK	SPANISH MACKEREL
1st Place	Tim Locke 37.0 Bill Muir 37.0 Fred De Mella 37.0	Fred De Mella 34.0	Larry Kissner 36.0	Rick Brown 34.0			Mike White 24.5	Mike White: ###	Mike White 39.0	Joe Esposito 25.0
2nd Place	Glen Ranfos 36.0		Ron Deroche 34.0	John Gettinger 33.0			Ken Balkovic 22.0 Randy Douet 22.0	red De Mell: 21.0	Carl Cucco 36.0	Theresa FitzGerald 24.0
3rd Place	Roxie Trost 35.0			Mike White 32.0			Anton Bervin 21.0 Bobby Bretts 21.0 Elaine Bretts 21.0	Cathy Hunt: 19.5	Allen Wade 28.5	Fred Benson 23.0

New this month are shown in Red



APRIL MEETING NOTES



Location: PGICA Auditorium

Date: April 9, 2024

Start time: 6:00 pm

President: Ron Deroche

Members in attendance: 54

Treasurer: Balance at end of March \$11,249.20

50/50 Winners: \$61 – Jack Botbyl \$31–Jim Hoffman \$30 – Jack Botbyl

Social: a fall picnic is being planned; there will be a scarecrow- making contest so bring any old/ unused clothing to any upcoming general meeting to help dress the scarecrows; Christmas party scheduled for Wednesday, December 11; reminder of Happy Hour every Wednesday at the Elks.

Speaker: Fishin' Frank

Fishin' Franks Bait & Tackle 941-625-3888

4200 Tamiami Trail

- April – June Snook love white bait and when colder, shrimp; mullet also great bait especially when left to decay.
- Canals are full of snook, more so than in the harbor especially when there has been a lot of rain

Fishing Events: FOM **March** Winners (Spanish Mackerel)

Women: None

Men: \$35 1st - John Gedding \$25 2nd – Al Wade 3rd – Mark Cummins

Fishing Achievements:

- Bronze Pin – Tim Locke
- Silver Pin – Roxy Trost

April Fishing Tournament - April 17 & 18: Grouper and Spanish Mackerel - check your email for more details

Meeting adjourned 7:00

Submitted by Nancy Pearson

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	<i>Position is Vacant</i>	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	Greg Widney	fishingevents@pgifishingclub.org
GREETERS	Yvette Du Fresne	greeters@pgifishingclub.org
MEMBERSHIP	Bill Muir	membership@pgifishingclub.org
NEWSLETTER	Jim Kunard	pattijmk@comcast.net
RECORD KEEPER	Paul Whiting	recordkeeper@pgifishingclub.org
SOCIAL EVENTS	Jennifer Huey	socialdirector@pgifishingclub.org
SUNSHINE LADY	Paula Arnold	sunshine@pgifishingclub.org
WEBMASTER	Richard Embury	website@pgifishingclub.org

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



At the end of April the club enjoyed having 305 members from 158 households. Our membership numbers usually reflect about 10% of the PGICA overall membership. Our current numbers are slightly lower at 9.2%, but the year is less than ½ over and we expect additional members to join throughout the year. The PGICA's overall membership is also down about 10% from the previous year, which also reflects in our numbers being down from previous years. Nevertheless, this year so far, we attracted 50 new member to our ranks which demonstrates the continued popularity of our club to the fishing community.

New members for April include

Paul and Sharon Bigin residing on St Davids Island Ct

Jill and Six Duran residing on Wood Thrush Dr

Please welcome them to the PGICA Fishing Club or better yet, take them fishing!!

We hope to see you and all our members at the next Fishing Club social this Wednesday, 5pm at the Elks Club. Remember, you do not need to be a member of the Elks to join the fun. Most members of the Club are also Elk's members and can order drinks and food for you.

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

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



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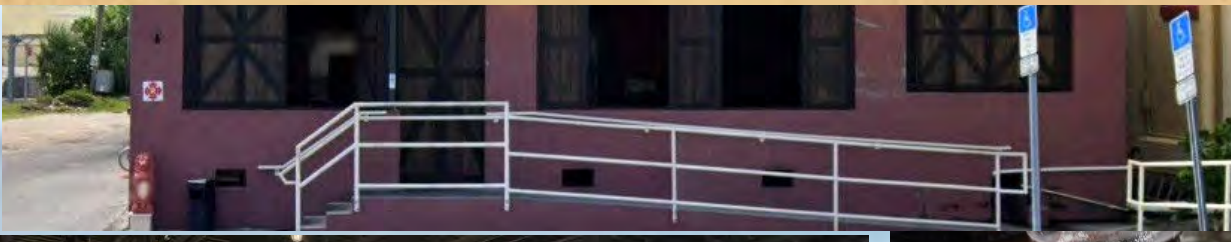
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An advertisement for 'Zen Art Den' featuring a background of pink and white flowers. The text reads: 'Zen Art Den', 'Renee Gibbons, Artist', 'Art* Gifts* Fused Glass* Pottery* Jewelry', and '1133 Bal Harbor Blvd #1151 Punta Gorda FL 33950'.

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Give **Southern Charm** a call—see their ad on the next page



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