FROM THE HELM

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



JANUARY 2025

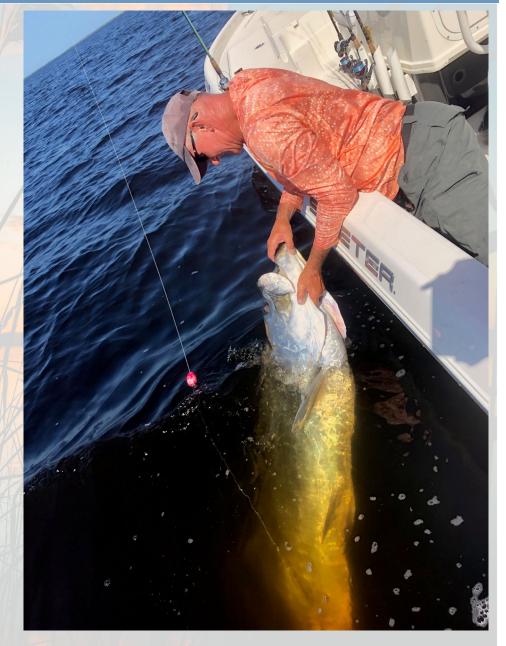
The Amazing Abundance of Charlotte Harbor

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:

Richy Kale, a long time member, is following his heart out of the area after 10 years or so fishing our waters. An impressively productive and talented angler, he brought much enthusiasm to our fishing community. We wish the best for him and his wife Julie as they set out on a new adventure. See the Fishing Report herein.

ALSO: The 2024 Trophy Race Results are in!

Next Meeting is: Tuesday January 14 @ 6 pm at PGI-CA



FROM THE HELM

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





Fishing Club

PGI Fishing Club membership@pgifishingclub.org

DECEMBER 2024

We welcome you to experience what our club has to offer. It's the largest and one of the most active clubs within the PGICA umbrella. The club is open to all. We have members with expertise levels that run from beginner all the way to expert class. Many of our experienced anglers enjoy and embrace helping others learn from their knowledge base. We also have a vigorous social structure within the club to keep those "part time anglers" happy too. Visit our website (www.pgifishingclub.org) and look through our recent newsletters to get a feel for our activities.

The Fishing Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the PGICA auditorium. At each meeting we have a subject-matter expert speak on various topics. We tap local charter captains, FWC representatives, as well as environmental issue management experts. The meeting forum allows for a healthy exchange of information, including lures, tackle, locations, and techniques. Each meeting is concluded with a small soda and cookie social where our experienced anglers make themselves available for questions and maybe even arranging trips with you.

The club also meets for a "happy hour" every Wednesday evening at 5 pm at the Ice House. It's a great forum to talk serious fishing intel!

Our annual calendar has several club fishing tournaments, picnics, seminars, and our big bash in December is our Holiday Party where we get to dress up a bit.

Contact us (membership@pgifishingclub.org) or simply attend a monthly mee	eting. You won't regret it. See you there!

Next Meeting is: Tuesday January 14 @ 6 pm at PGICA

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By Richy Kale

It was 11am December first 2014, I had just unloaded the F250 with household items for the move to PGI had been completed. As I slipped the Ranger I boat off the trailer and into the water of Charlotte harbor I realized that my life long dream and quest was about to begin. I thought to myself 'Richy you did what other people needed you to do for 36 years, now it was my time'. I promised myself that for the next ten years I would spend as much time fishing and learning about a different type of eco system than a Jersey boy is used to and that my body and mind would allow and could handle. Well boys and girls that ended up to be about 1500 hours a year. You do the math. So with that much time floating around this harbor I often wondered did I find Mecca. I really don't know but what I do know is that I found a fish-filled harbor that was so diff from my northern species, that for the next 10 years my brain would thirst for the knowledge that each day would bring. The excitement of the chase and the culmination of the catch and release of these beautiful under water scarlet jet knibblers was so gratifying that I woke well before the alarm each day longing for the special secrets of the harbor that the harborman would release to me that day. The cherished secrets of the harbor that did flow my way were so full of information that it was jaw dropping. Of all that came to me the most profound one was to become one with the eco system don't ever try to over power it. Then and only then will the harbor mysteries no longer baffle you and will become clear as day to you . And now here is insight to what I have learned, so maybe you to can have the great success that I had in SWF. Here is a short paragraph on my 6 favorite species. 1) Snook, an ambush predator with eyes high and forward with a long muscular body and an oversized tail, it's attack is straight forward and vicious. With an oversized mouth it has no problem catching and eating large prey. Look for snook around ambush points, current breakes and drop offs, a night feeder by design, fish low light conditions for best results. 2) Redfish is a heavily should red thick body fish with a mouth more under than forward, which means bottom feeding is its main pattern. Look for these fish on the grass flats or bars right adjacent to the flats. They also inhabit deep Channel runs and are also in the surf. Bottom jigs and spoons work great as does shrimp crabs and minnows ... a lot of scent feeding here. 3) Triple tail - yum yum what a fish - , with a body more like a large pan fish, a small mouth and small eyes up high and front makes for a short burst feeder. This fish likes to hang around floating debris were it can easily capture its prey that is attracted to the same debris. Crabs, shrimp or small minnows are

(Continued, next page)

4

(Continued)

the food of choice. The crab trap lines in the gulf is a great place to start - what great and exciting site fishing. 4) Trout. This slender large head big mouth full of teeth with eyes up high and forward means for another ambush feeder. This predator lives in the shallows of the harbor, it's range is from 5 ft. to 1 ft. Trout live in weed beds, flats, drop offs and deep Channels. Bigger fish seem to go deeper with shrimp crabs and minnows filling their bellies most of the time, The dark greens or black backs and silver speckled sides make for a beautiful fish. 5) Cobia. Here is a fish that was built for excitement. With a long slender body oversized tail large head and a mouth full of sandpaper teeth makes for a great pelagic swimming and eating machine. This fish travels alone, in mating packs, and in large schools. Crabs eels and baitfish make up most of its diet. There are 2 different runs of Cobia in our harbor, spring and fall. The spring fish tend to stay shallow and cruise the shallow bars and out to about 7 feet whereas the fall runs find the fish deeper on the reefs and bridges. Either time of year look for cruising fish, what fun site fishing for big fish. Pull hard on this one. 6) Tarpon. What can I say about the fish that controlled my life for the better part of 7 years? With a deep muscular body, large head and mouth and a tail that seems 3 times to big for its body and big red eyes this fish will eat anything it can catch. The fights is long and brutal with magnificent jumps, long hard runs and down-deep slugfests. I personally can't even think of another fish when the silver king is present. I would like to personally thank Rick S for showing me the insight to these wonderful fish . I will remember the battles for the rest of my life. Thanks much Rick!

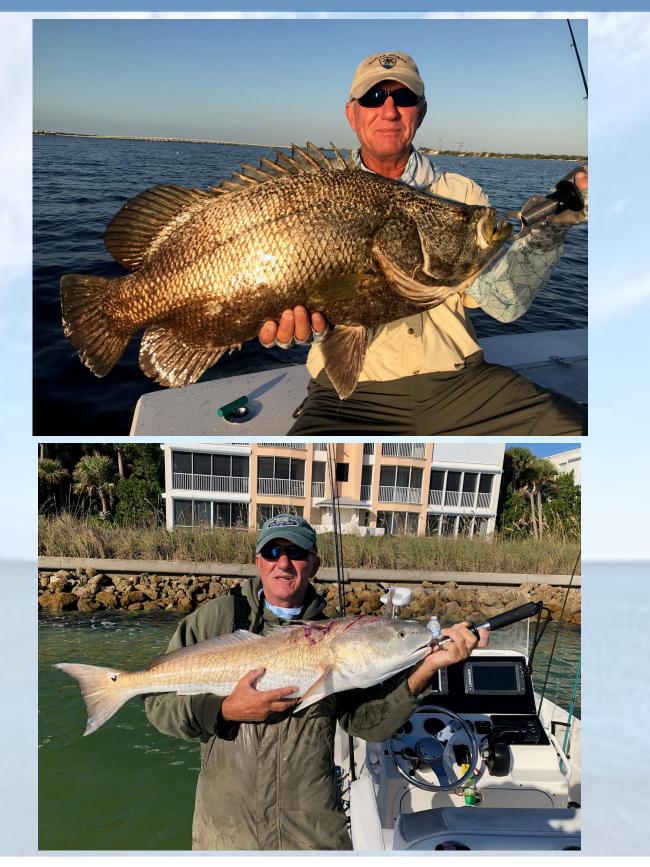
Well buckos and buckerooze it is time for me to say so long. For the longing of the semi sad eyes of a yellow and the clip clop clip clop of horse hooves in the barn pull hard on my innards and the smile apron my brides face when perched high on her mount is just too much to ignore. So the house goes on the market 1/31/2025 and our quest to find the perfect spot will intensify. But now till the move I will spend as much time as I can on our harbor. So if you see me floating come tie up and chat a bit or go by and just toot. I would like to thank all those that graced the deck of my boat or I on theirs for the comradery and conversations that go along with the Day of fishing

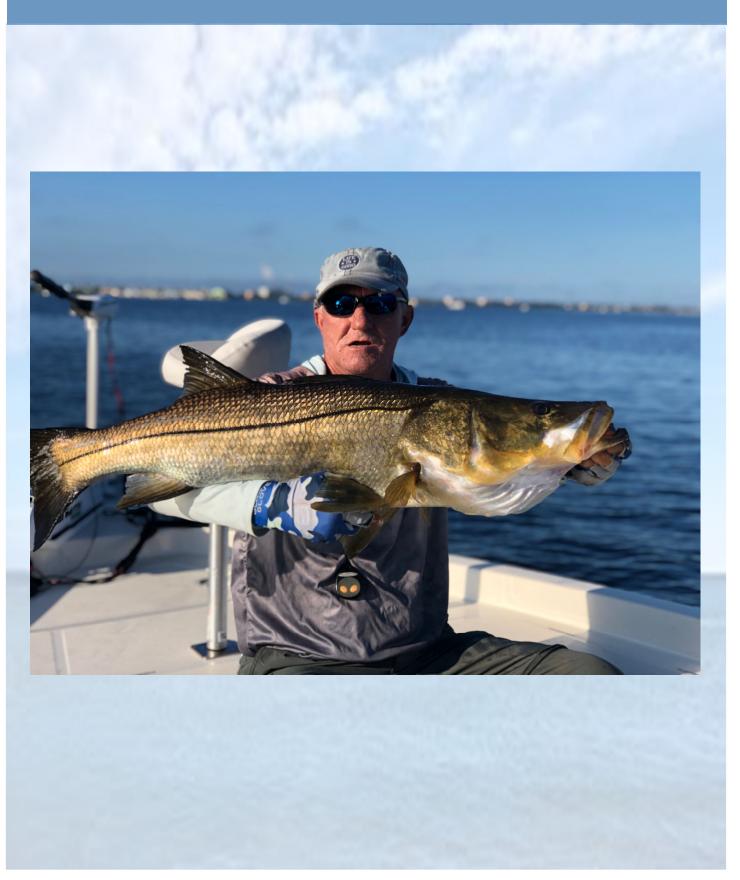
The one thing that I do ask of you is to keep me a happy memory at least till I hit Rte 75 North. Tight lines - Richy Kale

PS: Fish outside the box for there are no real rules out there and it doesn't cost anything to jerk good luck. [Editor: Richy's photos follow on the next few pages.]









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



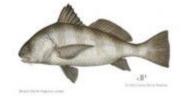




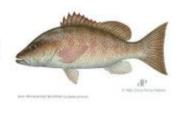














Fine Print: See "Fish of the Month Contest Rules" here: <u>http://pqifishingclub.org/wordpress/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2020/02/Fish-of-the-Month-Contest-Rules-Rev-7-021220.pdf</u>

Fish of the Month For JANUARY 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 the feed on off the bottom.

Locations:

- Any place where there are crustations; 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 crustations 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 under estimate the strength of the hook.
 Copied from a submission by Cathy Hunt

DECEMBER FINAL RESULTS Club & Individual Fishing Statistics



FOM (SEA TROUT)

Women

1st - Jenny Goodell, 21.0"

2nd - None

Men 1st - Randy Douet - 19.5" 2nd - Fred Benson - 18.0" Tie- Glenn Ranfos - 18.0" 3rd - Bobby Bretts - 17.5"

Interesting Tidbits

With the busy traveling season of the holidays this month, fewer anglers were able to get out on the water. Those that did found our Fish of the Month, Seatrout, very cooperative with more than half of our reported catches being that species. The other species of note was the arrival of Sheepshead just in time as our FOM for January. Congratulations to anglers Fred De Mella and Randy Douet who both earned another GMA Star this month – number 5 for Fred and number 6 for Randy!

ISLES TROPHY WINNERS!

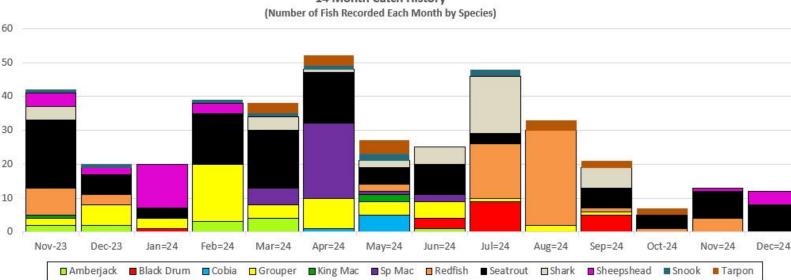
Men – Mike White – 59.0" King Mackerel = 113.5% of Club Record

Women – Cathy Hunt – 33.5" Grouper = 90.5% of Club Record

Club Hat None Silver Pin None Snook Pin None Tarpon Pin None GMA Star FRED De MELLA- #5 RANDY DOUET - #6 Bronze Pin None Gold Pin None Redfish Pin None GMA None

ACHIEVEMENTS!

WHAT'S BITE'N



14 Month Catch History

Recorder's Data

Monthly Performance

	October	November	Decembe	r
Anglers	4	10	10	\Leftrightarrow
LOA Awards	0	1	2	Ť
Fish Recorded	7	18	15	¥
Points Recorded	600	1,400	1,400	⇔

TROPHY RACE (Men)

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCH- ES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2024 LENGTH in INCH- ES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF REC- ORD
x	Amber Jack	Joe Udwari	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	Jeff Barnhart	39.5	9/12/24	76.7%
X	Cobia	Rich Kale	66.0	2022	John FitzGerald	38.0	5/1/24	57.6%
x	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	Rick Brown	34.0	3/17/24	87.2%
х	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012	Mike White **	59.0	5/25/24	113.5%
Х	Redfish	Mike White	47.0	2020	Rick Brown	31.0	11/10/24	66.0%
x	Seatrout	Rich Brennan Aaron Wag- ner	29.0 29.0	2009 2012	Mike White	24.5	2/28/24	84.5%
Х	Sheeps- head	Mike White	26.0	2022	Mike White	24.0	2/26/24	92.3%
Х	Snook	Mike White	49.0	2023	Carl Cucco	39.5	5/25/24	80.6%
x	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012	Joe Esposito	25.0	4/14/24	83.3%

This Year's WINNER in BLUE

★★ Denotes New Club Record New Entries This Month are in RED

TROPHY RACE (Women)

					T			1
OVERALL CLUB REC- ORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2024 LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF REC- ORD
	Amberjack	Darlene Madsen	40.0	2017	Roxie Trost	35.0	3/5/24	87.5%
	Black Drum	Christine Fontaine White	52.0	2022	Cathy Hunt Donna Sullivan	42.0	6/17/24 6/4/24	80.8%
	Cobia	Joanne Lan- daker	50.0	2008	Diana McKenna	26.0	5/3/24	52.0%
		Marilyn McGregor	50.0	2013				
	Grouper	Dianne Bu- kowski	37.0	2018	Cathy Hunt	33.5	6/7/2024	90.5%
	King Mackerel	Nancy Pear- son	40.0	2022				0.0%
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan Missy Beck-	38.0	2008	Cathy Hunt	22.0	11/10/24	57.9%
		er	38.0	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Lan- daker	26.5	2011	Donna Sullivan	22.0	5/19/24	83.0%
	Sheeps-head Dianne I kowsk		22.5	2021	Cathy Hunt	19.5	4/6/24	86.7%
	Snook	Missy Beck- er	42.0	2013	Donna Sullivan	26.5	4/4/24	63.1%
	Spanish Mackerel			2007	Theresa Fitz- Gerald	24.0	4/19/24	85.7%
		Reeves	28.0	2019				

This Year's WINNER 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 Madsden
2010	Kel Krotzer, Margie Hofman	2018	Joe Udwari, Dianne Bukowski
2011	Greg Chestnut, Joanne Landacre	2019	Joe Udwari, 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 Madsden, Margie Hofman	2022	Rich Kale, Christine White
2015	Bob Mays, Karen Lodge	2023	Mike White, Wanda Zimka
2016	Gary Reeves, Rose Ann McCaffrey	2024	Mike White, Cathy Hunt

		DECEMBE	R RESULTS— L A	DDER OF ACHIE	VEMENT		
BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	LIFETIME LEVEL I SNOOK	LIFETIME LEV- EL II REDFISH	LIFETIME LEV- EL III TARPON		STER ANGLER TOTAL STARS
Andy Athens	Jeff Bellairs	Gary Adams	Paula Arnold	Doug Arnold	Frank Barrett	Jeff Barnhart	***
Sherry Barrett	Joanna Boeckl	Jack Botbyl	Carl Cucco	Mark Cummins	Rick Brown	Ron Baxter	
Trudi Baxter	Marc Boeckl	Steve Fritz	Mark Cummins	Mike Dougherty	Dick Conant	Fred Benson	
Tori Brown	Todd Brooks	Ken Garden	Mary Heins	Doug Du Fresne	Marv Dyrstad	Larry Benz	*
Bob Critchfield	Anne Careau	Dale Hall	Chuck Henry	Jenny Goodell	Theresa FitzGerald	Rich Brennan	******** **
Colleen De Mella	Don Cummins	Bill Hess	Tom Hunt	Bill Guenther	Ed Girzi	Donnie Bren- nan	*
Ron Deroche	Ron Deroche	Karen Lodge	Larry Kissner	Ken Hardesty	Bob Mays	Bob Bretts	******
Tom desEnfants	Yvette Du Fresne		Michael Knipe	Jack Howarth	Diana McKenna	Elaine Bretts	******
Sharon Dyke	Kathy desEnfants		Jim LaRocca	Julie Kale		Dianne Bukowski	
Mike Endres	Tony Destefano	Cheryl Panetta	Marie LaRocca	Jonathan Landon	Nancy Pearson	Joe Bukowski	
Richard Farmer	Tamara Dillman	Glenn Ranfos	Tom Lodge	Mark Lee	Lynn Reeves	Jim Crawley	*
Steve Fritz	Joanell Dyrstad	Gary Selzer	Sherry Moerke	Marty McCaffrey	Jack Spies	Fred De Mella	****
Chris Gibbons	Richard Embury	Steve Trego	William Neff	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Mark Storm	Mark Dillman	
Frank Grazier	Gary Frost	Greg Widney	Gary Selzer	Dennis McKenna	Gretch Sunderland	Dick Doster	
Renee Gibbons	Tim Gibbons	Sheree Wolfinger	John Simonieg	Gary Moerke	Karen Udwari	Randy Douet	*****
Bob Giffin	Art Goodell		Ed Verminski	Chip Peterson	Allen Wade	Dave Dyke	
Sheryl Hatch	Jim Gregory		TWierzbanowski	John Saitta	Rich Willingmyre	John Fitzgerald	
David Hatch	Randy Hall			Paul Whiting		Christine Fontaine	*
Tom Hay	Roz Hickey		RED = Awards	Joseph Zurad		Bob Gariepy	**
Scott Hutchins	Jack Hinnenthal		This Month			John Gettinger	***
Jack Jonaitis	Larry Hofmeister				J	Mike Gilger	**
Dennis Jones	Dave Joe			1		Tom Hickey	*
Fran Krausman	Lisa Kellythorne		Club Hats			Jim Hoffman	*
							*
Buddy Krauss	Mike Knipe					Margie Hoffman	
Jim Kunard	Ron Kruse		None			Jan Holm	
Patti Kunard	Denys LaChance					y	****
Richard Larson	Kevin LaPointe					Bud Johnston	
Tim Locke	John McFarland					Cindi Johnston	
Bob Mueller	Mike Nalipi					Rich Kale	****
Patricia Nalipi	Wayn Nelson					Dennis Krausman	****
Ann Northen	Randy Page					Kel Krotzer	***
Connie Nowicki	Kim Pflaum					Carl Leicher	
Tony Nowicki	Paul Robinson					Joe Maillet	
Chuck Pearson	Hezzie Samons					Pete McGregor	**
Bruce Peterson	Mike Sandling					Jude Panetta	****
Chris Pflaum	Deb Sarkisian	1				Tom Parsons	**
Chris Pollinger	Tom Schmitt					Gary Reeves	
Doug Salminen	Gary Skillicorn					-	*****
Mark Schruer	Lynne Stockinger					John Stockinger	
Alan Schulman	Don Taylor					Donna Sullivan	
Jess Searle	Mike Trost					Ron Topper	*****
Miriam Taylor	Roxie Trost					Joe Udwari	*****
Patti Topper	Mike Wagner					Aaron Wagner	
Beth Watkins	Stella Wagner					Mike White	****
Joanne Widney	Greg Widney	1				Jeff Wilson	*
Wanda Zimka	S Wierzbanowski					John Wolfinger	
	Tom Youngblood					<u>J_</u> _	
L	Lenny Zimka					(BOLD star = ear	ned this year)
		1				12012 3tal - eal	

Wanda Zimka

DECEMBER RESULTS MASTER ANGLER

MASTER ANGLERS TOURNAMENT, 2024 STANDINGS

	AMBE JACK		BLACI DRUN		СОВ	AI	GROU ER	P-	KING MACH EREI	۲-	RED FISH		SEA TROL		SHEEI -HEA		SNOC	ж	SPANISH MACKERE	
1st Place	Tim Locke	37.0	Cathy Hunt	42.0	John Fitz -gerald	38.0	Rick Brown	34.0	Mike White	59.0	Rick Brown	31.0	Mike White	24.5	Mike White	24.0	Carl Cucco	39.5	Joe Esposito	25.0
	Bill Muir	37.0	Donna Sullivan	42.0																
	Fred De Mella	37.0																		
2nd Place	Glen Ranfos	36.0	Jeff Barnhart	39.5	Larry Kissner	36.0	Cathy Hunt	33.5			John Fitzgerald	27.0	Ken Balkovic	22.0	Fred De Mella	22.0	Mike White	39.0	Theresa FitzGerald	24.0
											Tim Locke	27.0	Randy Douet	22.0					John FirzGerald	24.0
													Gary Selzer	22.0						
													Donna Sullivan	22.0						
3rd Place	Jeff Barnhart	35.0	Jeff Wilson	36.0	Ron Deroche	34.0	John Get- tinger	33.0			John Fitz- Gerald	27.0	Anton Benvin	21.0	Cathy Hunt	19.5	Bobby Bretts	36.0	Fred Benson	23.0
	Roxie Trost	35.0									Tim Locke	27.0	Bobby Bretts	21.0						
													Elaine Bretts	21.0						
													Jenny	21.0						
													Glenn Ranfos	21.0						

Membership Report For DECEMBER 2024

At the end of the year, the Club enjoyed having 309 members from 160 households. Starting the new year, we have 160 members who had renewed their membership from 82 households.

New members for December:

Bradley Sheehan Brian and Shelly Domino David and Catherine Stevens

Please welcome them to the Club!

Regarding Membership Dues, renewal funds for the 2025 calendar year are now past due,. However, 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. 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

Tim Locke, Membership Director



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	Vacant	president@pgifishingclub.org
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT	Glenn Ranfos	vicepresident@pgifishingclub.org
TREASURER	Linda Ross	treasurer@pgifishingclub.org
SECRETARY	Vacant	secretary@pgifishingclub.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ADVERTISING	Fred De Mella	advertising@pgifishingclub.org
COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSN	Bob Mayes	cca.cmac@pgifishingclub.org
FISHING EVENTS	Greg Widney	fishingevents@pgifishingclub.org
GREETERS	Yvette DuFresne	greeters@pgifishingclub.org
MEMBERSHIP	Tim Locke	membership@pgifishingclub.org
NEWSLETTER	Jim Kunard	pattijimk@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

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



Its 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

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

FISHING CONTEST RULES: http:// pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?page_id=30

<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>: http:// pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?pageid=101



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