FROM THE HELM

THE **PGI FISHING CLUB** IS A PART OF THE

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION (PGICA)



MAY 2025

By BILL MUIR

From the Helm

I hope this finds everyone doing well and enjoying the start of what's shaping up to be a fantastic fishing season. We've had a few great weeks in and around the club, and I wanted to share a few highlights to keep that community spirit reeling strong.

First off, a big thank you to Jennifer Huey for organizing such a memorable social! The picnic was a hit—Wally's smoked brisket was every bit as good as promised, the orange crush bar was a refreshing favorite, and plenty of lucky folks went home with fishing shirts and other fun prizes. The casting contest brought out the competitive side in just about everyone, and I have to say, watching people try to hit that bullseye was just plain fun.

On the home front, it's good to see local traffic calming down again. Dinner outings are back on the table—no reservations needed most nights—which is a sure sign we're easing into the quieter season. Everywhere seems to be slowing down a bit... everywhere but the water, that is.

Fishing continues to be lively! At our last monthly meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing from the one and only Josh Olive—better known as "The Fishing Coach." Josh shared some sharp insights on landing snook, and if you weren't taking notes, you missed a goldmine of tips.

The harbor's water has turned crystal clear lately, thanks to a stretch without rain. Without that usual flow of tannins, the brownish tinge has lifted. While it makes for beautiful sights—you can spot fish left and right—it does make the catch a bit trickier since the fish can see you, too. Still, that hasn't stopped us from reeling in some impressive ones. We've seen Spanish mackerel, grouper, snook, redfish, and sea trout turned in lately—quite a variety and some real size among them!

So, here's to the fish, the fun, and the friendships that keep this club thriving. Tight lines, everyone!

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 13, at 6:00 p.m., Followed by social time with drinks and snacks.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MAY 2025 Club Newsletter		PAGE
COVER - FROM the HELM	-	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	-	2
FISHING REPORT	-	3
FISH OF THE MONTH - COBIA	-	5
LOCATION, DESCRIPTION, TIPS, TACKLE AND BAIT	-	6
CLUB & INDIVIDUAL FISHING STATS		
APRIL RESULTS - WINNERS	-	7
MONTH IN REVIEW - WHATS BITE'N	-	8
TROPHY RACE STANDINGS MEN	-	9
TROPHY RACE STANDINGS WOMEN	-	10
LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT	-	11
MASTER ANGLER SUMMARY	-	12
SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT	-	13
GENERAL MEETING NOTES - April	-	14
MEMBERSHIP REPORT - April	-	16
SUNSHINE LADY	-	17
CLUB LEADERSHIP	-	18
MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS	-	19
CLUB WEB LINKS	-	20
CLUB SPONSORS		
INGMAN MARINE	-	21
PROBLEM SOLVED PEST CONTROL	-	22
TOW BOAT US	-	23
ICE HOUSE PUB		24
LICENSED TO CHILL SWFL	-	25
CHARLOTTE COUNTY FORD	-	25
MARINE TRADING POST		26
ELENA'S RESTAURANT	-	26
DISCOUNT LIQUORS	-	26
MEMBER CATCHES FOR THE MONTH	-	27

FISHING REPORT For APRIL

By: Fred De Mella

Offshore:

Anglers have made their way out to the 100 foot plus depth for some Red Grouper action. Although the action has slowed a bit, multiple fish were returned to the dock for most trips. Red grouper, Vermillion Snapper and Lane Snapper were the most encountered species. Some Mangrove Snapper also have been reported. Fish were tricked on dead baits, live baits and jigs. Remember to have a descending plan for those fish that don't meet the minimum Red Grouper 20 inch size limit for harvest. The best method is to actually descend the fish using one of the descending devices. By law, you must have this equipment on board and use it. Also note that grouper are not the only fish that require descending, Lane Snapper caught at depth will also experience barotrauma. This trauma can be minimized by reeling fish in slowly if you suspect the fish will be returned. African Pompano have also made for some good action.

Amberjack are providing some off-shore action. These fish are fun to catch and are really good fighters. You'll want to have the appropriate gear which may include a two-speed reel! AJs can be caught with a variety of methods but best using live bait and artificial lures. Slow pitch jigs, vertical jigs, top water plugs can all produce. Actually changing tactics while fishing for amberjacks will increase your chances of catching multiple fish. Make sure your knots are good and drag set appropriately!

Inshore:

Tarpon have arrived. After a slow start the Fish Club's Tarpon fleet have had some good reports. The pass remains active especially with the spring tides flushing crabs out. These fish should be available all summer so if you can stand the heat, go for it. The normal pattern is for the schools to move into the deeper holes during the warm weather.

Continued Next Page

FISHING REPORT For APRIL

(Continued from previous page)

Snook and Mangrove Snapper have been good lately in the canals and inlets. Multiple reports of nice size snapper caught on small live bait. A few flounder have also been caught in Turtle Bay. Flounder are best tricked during moving water, using a jig with either a strip of bait, shrimp or gulp.

Spanish Mackerel have been providing some good action in the mid harbor. Schools can many times be located with bird/bait activity. Trolling small spoons can make for some good catching. Fish up to twenty inches, fork measurement are not uncommon. Try casting for them when the fish are concentrated for some fun. Silly jigs, spoons and hard swim baits are favored; soft plastics will get torn up. Consider using a wire bite leader. Fishing near shore Gulf may produce larger fish with the possibility of some Kings and even Bonita. Using an in-line sinker or small planer board will allow for fishing different depths.

Jacks have been hit or miss, but there sure have been some big ones! I like tossing hard plastics or spoons into the schools when they show up. Have a rig set up and be ready for some pullage!

Submitted by Fred De Mella



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, Bait 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.

Copied from Previous years

MARCH RESULTS

Club & Individual Fishing Statistics



REPORTED CATCHES as of 4/30/2025 and FISH OF THE MONTH (FOM) RESULTS 54 total fish turned in (4100 points) by 30 different anglers

FOM (SNOOK)

Women Men

1st - Jan Holm, 28.0" 1st - Gary Selzer, 28.0"

TIE - Britt Saitta, 28" 2nd - Ted Wierzbanowski, 25.0"

2nd - Donna Sullivan, 23.0"

Interesting Tidbits

Snook, our Fish of the Month for April, did not disappoint with 6 reported catches up to a 28". Four of the six snook turned in where from our Lady anglers – way to go, Ladies! The ever-present seatrout amassed a total of 15 catches reported up to a "gator sized 25" fish caught by Mike White and a 24" fish by Donna Sullivan. Those able to get offshore when the April winds briefly calmed found 5 reported Red Grouper up to a respectable 30" beauty wrangled by Rick Brown. Large American Red Snapper, AJs and African Pompanos and gags were also released well offshore (see photos on our facebook page). Inshore the Spanish Mackerel continued to show their toothy grin amassing 7 catches. Sharks both in shallow and deep waters were reported with 4 different species of sharks being caught. Tarpon time is now upon us, and we had 3 reported catches this month. Joe Esposito earned both his Bronze and Silver Pins in the same month with some nice catches.

For those of you looking forward to chasing American Red Snapper, The Governor has announced the longest recreational season yet with 126 days beginning Memorial Day Weekend from May 24-26 and reopening June 1 through July 31. The fall season will include the following dates: Sept. 1-14; Sept. 19-21; Sept. 26-28; Oct. 3-5; Oct. 10-12; Oct. 17-19; Oct. 24-26; Oct. 31-Nov. 2; Nov. 7-9 & 11 (Veterans Day); Nov. 14-16; Nov. 21-23; Nov. 27-30 (Thanksgiving weekend); Dec. 5-7; Dec. 12-14; Dec. 19-21; Dec. 25-28 (Christmas weekend)

Achievement Categories

Club Hat **Bronze Pin**

None Joe Esposito. Don Harter

Silver Pin Gold Pin

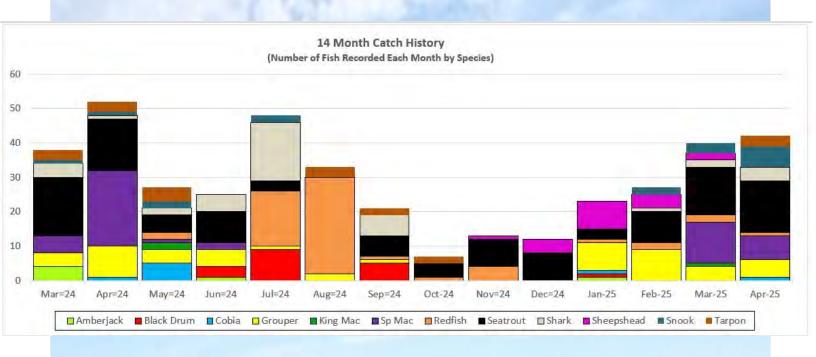
ACHIEVEMENTS! Joe Esposito None Redfish Pin **Snook Pin**

None None Tarpon Pin **GMA** GMA Star, None

None None

WHAT'S BITE'N





Monthly Performance								
	February	March	April					
Anglers	17	23	30	1				
LOA Awards	3	7	3	1				
Fish Recorded	36	54	54	\iff				
Points Recorded	3200	2,600	4,100	1				

TROPHY RACE (Men)

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCH- ES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2025 LENGTH in INCH- ES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF REC- ORD
X	Amber Jack	Joe Udwari	53.5	2019	Fred De Mella	30.0	1/29/25	56.1%
	Black Drum	Mike White	51.5	2019	Mike Dougherty	15.5	1/28/25	30.1%
Х	Cobia	Rich Kale	66.0	2022	Allen Wade	32.0	1/16/25	48.5%
Х	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	John Saita	33.0	3/25/25	84.6%
Х	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012	Mark Cummins	26.0	3/13/25	44.1%
Х	Redfish	Mike White	47.0	2020	Bobby Bretts Mark Dillman	28.0	2/18/25 2/18/25	59.6%
x	Seatrout	Rich Brennan Aaron Wag- ner	29.0 29.0	2009 2012	Mike White	25.0	4/28/25	86.2%
Х	Sheeps- head	Mike White	26.0	2022	Jim Gregory Carl Leicher	19.0	1/28/25 1/29/25	73.1%
Х	Snook	Mike White	49.0	2023	Allen Wade	34.5	3/18/25	70.4%
Х	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012	Bobby Bretts	23.0	3/19/25	76.7%

This Year's Leaders in BLUE

★★ Denotes New Club Record

New Entries This Month are in RED

TROPHY RACE (Women)

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				0
Х	Black Drum	Christine Fontaine White	52.0	2022				0
	Cobia	Joanne Lan- daker	50.0	2008				0
		Marilyn McGregor	50.0	2013				
	Grouper	Dianne Bu- kowski	37.0	2018	Donna Sullivan	31.0	2/2/25	83.8%
	King Mackerel	Nancy Pear- son	40.0	2022				0
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan Missy Beck-	38.0	2008	Beth Watkins	15.0	1/5/25	39.5%
		er	38.0	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Lan- daker	26.5	2011	Donna Sullivan	24.0	4/17/25	90.6%
	Sheepshead	Dianne Bu- kowski	22.5	2021	Elaine Bretts	13.0	1/30/25	57.8%
	Snook	Missy Beck- er	42.0	2013	Donna Sullivan	36.0	2/22/25	85.7%
	Spanish Mackerel	Missy Beck- er Lynn	28.0	2007	Britt Saitta	21.0	4/15/25	75.0%
		Reeves	28.0	2019				

This Year's LEADER 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

1	T	T		Γ	Γ		
			LIFETIME	LIFETIME LEV-	I IEETIME I EV-	GRAND MA	STER ANGLER
BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	LEVEL I		EL III TARPON	GMA	TOTAL
			SNOOK				STARS
Andy Athens	Jeff Bellairs	Gary Adams	Paula Arnold	Doug Arnold	Frank Barrett	Jeff Barnhart	***
Sherry Barrett Trudi Baxter	Joanna Boeckl Marc Boeckl	Jack Botbyl Steve Fritz	Carl Cucco Mark Cummins	Mark Cummins Mike Dougherty	Rick Brown Dick Conant	Ron Baxter 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 Brennan	*
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	Sonia Nelson	Jim LaRocca	Julie Kale	Bill Muir	Dianne Bukowski	*
Mike Endres	Tony Destefano	Cheryl Panetta	Marie LaRocca	Jonathan Landon	Nancy Pearson	Joe Bukowski	**
Joe Esposito	Tamara Dillman	Glenn Ranfos	Tom Lodge	Mark Lee	Lynn Reeves	Jim Crawley	*
Richard Farmer	Joanell Dyrstad	Gary Selzer	Sherry Moerke	Marty McCaffrey	Jack Spies	Fred De Mella	****
Steve Fritz	Richard Embury	Steve Trego	William Neff	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Mark Storm	Mark Dillman	
Ted Flanders	Joe Esposito	Greg Widney	Gary Selzer	Dennis McKenna	Gretch Sunderland	Dick Doster	
Chris Gibbons	Gary Frost	Sheree Wolfinger	John Simonieg	Gary Moerke	Karen Udwari	Randy Douet	****
Frank Grazier	Tim Gibbons		Ed Verminski	Chip Peterson	Allen Wade	Dave Dyke	
Renee Gibbons	Art Goodell		TWierzbanowski	John Saitta	Rich Willingmyre	John Fitzgerald	
Bob Giffin	Jim Gregory			Paul Whiting		Christine Fontaine	*
Sheryl Hatch	Randy Hall		RED = Awards	Joseph Zurad		Bob Gariepy	**
David Hatch	Roz Hickey		This Month	•		John Gettinger	***
Don Harter	Jack Hinnenthal				<u>'</u>		
Tom Hay	Larry Hofmeister			1		Mike Gilger	**
Scott Hutchins	Dave Joe	1				Tom Hickey	*
Ray lannucci	Lisa Kellythorne		Club Hats			Jim Hoffman	*
Shep Johnson	Mike Knipe					Margie Hoffman	
Jack Jonaitis	Ron Kruse		None			Jan Holm	
Dennis Jones	Denys LaChance		None			Cathy Hunt	****
Fran Krausman	Kevin LaPointe					Bud Johnston	
Buddy Krauss	John McFarland					Cindi Johnston	
Jim Kunard	Mike Nalipi					Rich Kale	****
						Dennis Krausman	
Patti Kunard	Wayn Nelson			1			
Richard Larson	Randy Page		LADDER			Kel Krotzer	***
Tim Locke	Kim Pflaum		OF			Carl Leicher	
Bob Mueller	Paul Robinson		ACHIEVEMENTS			Joe Maillet	
Patricia Nalipi	Hezzie Samons					Pete McGregor	**
Ann Northen	Mike Sandling		APRIL			Jude Panetta	***
Connie Nowicki	Deb Sarkisian		2025			Tom Parsons	**
Tony Nowicki	Tom Schmitt]		-		Gary Reeves	
Chuck Pearson	Gary Skillicorn	1					*****
Bruce Peterson	Lynne Stockinger	1				John Stockinger	ļ
Chris Pflaum	Don Taylor	1				Donna Sullivan	
Chris Pollinger	Mike Trost	1				Ron Topper	****
Doug Salminen	Roxie Trost					Joe Udwari	*****
Mark Schruer	Mike Wagner	1				Aaron Wagner	
Alan Schulman	Stella Wagner					Mike White	****
Jess Searle	Greg Widney					Jeff Wilson	*
Craig Setter	S Wierzbanowski					John Wolfinger	
Miriam Taylor	Tom Youngblood					(2015)	<u> </u>
Patti Topper	Lenny Zimka					(BOLD star = ear	rned this year)
Beth Watkins	Wanda Zimka						
Joanne Widney			1	1			

Wanda Zimka

APRIL RESULTS MASTER ANGLER

MASTER ANGLERS TOURNAMENT, 2025 STANDINGS

PLACE	AMBER JACK		BLACK DRUM		СОВІА		GROUP- ER		KING MACK- EREL		RED- FISH		SEA- TROUT		SHEEPS- HEAD		SNOOK		SPANISH MACK- EREL	
1st	FRED DE MELLA	30.0	MIKE DOUGH- ERTY	15.5	ALLEN WADE	32.0	JOHN SAITTA	33.0	MARK CUMMINS	26.0	BOB BRETTS	28.0	MIKE	25.0	JIM GREGORY	19.0	DONNA SULLIVAN	36.0	BOB BRETTS	23.0
											MARK DILLMAN	28.0			CARL LEICHER	19.0				
2nd					GLENN BANFOS	28.0	DONNA SULLIVAN	31.0			ALLEN WADE	25.0	DONNA SULLIYAN	24.0	BOB GARIEPY	18,5	ALLEN WADE	34,5	FRED BENSON	21.0
							JIM KUNARD	31,0		III									FRED DE MELLA	21.0
																			CRAIG SETTER	21.0
					h E								1_21						BRITT SAITTA	21.0
3rd							FRED DE MELLA	30.0			BETH WATKINS	15,0	ELAINE BRETTS	20,0	BOBBY BRETTS	18,0	JAN HOLM	28.0	MARK STORM	20.5
	1						RICK BROVN	30.0									BRITT SAITTA	28.0		
	1																GARY SELZER	28.0		

NEW THIS MONTH SHOWN IN RED



SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 2025



AT THE ICE HOUSE EACH WEDNESDAY AT 5 P.M.

That magical time we spend being happy, swapping stories, catching up on everything—together



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES APRIL 2025

PGI Fishing Club April 8, 2025

Location: PGICA Auditorium

Start time: 6:20 pm

Past President: Bill Muir

Members in attendance: 57

Speaker: Josh Olive

- Local Guide, writes for Water Line Magazine
- Beginning fishing classes \$65.00 for 6 sessions
- Website bit.ly/LetsFish060425
- Suggests download Fish Rules app and allow location to always know what's in season and sizes required to keep
- April FOM is **SNOOK** open season in March & April and the fall:
 - a. They are ambush predators, feed out in the dark, down current
 - b. Use lighter tackle, in-line circle hook
 - c. Measure overall length
 - d. Start as male, turn female when big
 - e. Big mouth (eats like Bass)
 - f. Good handling key hold by mouth & bottom near back fin

Door Prize: \$25.00 gift card to Fishin' Franks was awarded

50/50 Winners: \$62.00 & \$42.00 generously donated back to club

Membership Report – Financial Report – Social info Provided in Handouts

(Continued Next Page)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES APRIL 2025

(PGI Fishing Club April 8, 2025 meeting, Continued)

FOM MARCH winners (Spanish Mackerel)

Women: 1st – Beth Watkins 20.0"

2nd – Cathy Hunt 19.0"

3rd – Sandra Wierzbanowski 16.0"

Men: 1st – Bobby Bretts 23.0"

2nd – Fred Benson 21.0" & Fred DeMalla 21.0"

3rd - Mark Storm 20.5"

AWARDS

Club Hat – Ted Landers, Don Harter, Ray Iannucci, Craig Sutter

Bronze Pin – Ted Landers, Ray Jannucci, Craig Sutter

Silver Pin – Roxie Trost

Gold Pin - none

Snook Pin – none

Redfish Pin - none

Tarpon Pin - none

GMA Star - none

Meeting adjourned: 7:25 pm

Submitted by Patti Kunard

Membership Report For April — 2025



We are gaining new members and last years members are renewing. We still have some of the 2024 members who have not renewed. Currently, 47 past members have not renewed from 2024. The non-renewing members will be dropped from the club membership, and so their tournaments and Ladder of Achievement gains will unfortunately be stopped.



The household cost is \$30 per year and you get all the benefits, tournaments, ladder of achievement, fishing contest, great social activities and education at our general meetings.

Questions or corrections? Contact the Fishing Club Membership Director: **Tim Locke**Membership@pgifishingclub.org, Cell 816-392-9889

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	
VICE PRESIDENT	Vacant	
PAST PRESIDENT	BILL MUIR	president@pgifishingclub.org
TREASURER	LISA ROSS	treasurer@pgifishingclub.org
SECRETARY	PATTI KUNARD	pattijimk@comcast.net

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ADVERTISING	FRED DE MELLA	advertising@pgifishingclub.org
COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSN	BOB MAYES	cca.cmac@pgifishingclub.org
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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

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

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

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



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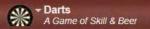
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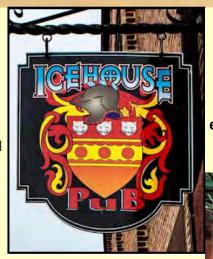


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About The IceHouse

Built in the 1890s, the structure was used as an ice plant for the fishing industry. Hurricane Charley all but destroyed the building when it tore the roof off and the south wall collapsed, but the building's owner's refused to demolish this South Florida landmark pledging to rebuild it and-they-did.



If an English pub-style meal is what you crave, then the <u>Ice House Pub</u> should be your dining destination, with a full British themed menu of such staples as Fish 'n Chips, Cottage Pie, Bangers and Mash and the American favorites Cheese Burgers. Steak Sandwiches and Giant Salads.

"God made beer because he loves us and wants us to be happy" Benjamin Franklin







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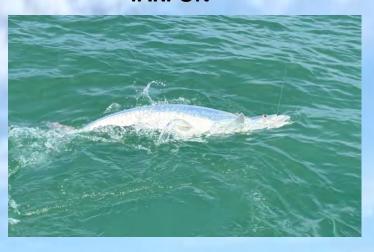


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