



Punta Gorda Isles

Fishing

club

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Volume III March 2007

NEW CITY MARINA COMPLEX ON FAST TRACK

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CCMAC • *Bill Bergman*
CCA REP. • *Tom Parsons*

Skinny Waters



Well, March 11th at 2am we'll set our clocks ahead one hour to observe Day Light Savings time, and things

will start to warm up, including the fishing, we hope. It's been a long winter season with low and uncooperative tides, cold water and a lot of wind hampering fishing efforts in the Fishing Capitol of the World. So change your clocks, grab your socks and let's go fishing!

As I get ready for the spring fishing season, a new heavy duty spinning rod and reel for the tarpon hunt was on my list. I got lucky in a Super Bowl pool and the rod and reel are now in my growing arsenal. This is a good time to begin your annual equipment maintenance: clean, oil, and grease all your reels, and check your rods for any damage, especially the eyes, for any burrs, rust or rough surfaces that might cause chafing of the line as it moves through the eyes.

As part of my maintenance program, I keep track of when I put

See **SKINNY** on page 8



The City hopes to open up the Park sometime in March. At this time, only "Marina Park LLC has submitted a proposal for Laishley Park Phase II, to include marina management, ground lease, construction of a restaurant and other amenities (interactive fountain, parking, open air vendors). The city is developing contract(s) to accomplish all of the tasks mentioned and will present them to the CRA within 2 weeks.

Marina Park LLC consists of Ron and Chris Evans, Bruce Laishley, Chris McMillan, Doyle McBurnett and Robbie Sifrit. ↗



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PROGRAMS • Rich Brennan



Capt. Ben Chancey, creator and host of the Chew On This TV series (UPN Saturdays at 8:30am), will be our March speaker.

Capt. Chancey is a licensed captain and specializes in reeling in those big Reds and snook from his 24 foot lake and bay boats.

You can see him on www.chewonthis.tv

Cpt. Chancey can give you the best tips on tackle, bait and rigging than you've ever heard before.

You won't want to miss our March meeting.



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50/50 DRAWING WINNERS

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Tom Parsons | \$70.00 |
| Rudy Gray | \$40.00 |
| Mike Quinn | \$31.00 |



Former Fishing Club President **Tom Parsons** displays (with a grin) his 50/50 drawing first prize of \$70.00.

Tom was asked if he would share his good fortune by picking up the tab at the Friday Morning Breakfast" and Tom, gracious guy that he is, replied NO WAY JOSE! We talked to the cook...Tom, you may want to check your breakfast meal very carefully!

HOT NOTICE

Captain Joe Currier of Custom Rod Service will discount his services to all club members. Just show your membership card. If you have a rod that need refurbishing of any kind Call Joe Currier for a free estimate.



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SOCIAL EVENTS • Donnie Brennan



The social event of the year is April 14th and it's going to be our Annual Picnic. And it's full of surprises!

Surprise #1 FOOD — Tired old burgers and dogs are out! This years picnic will be

catered by **KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN!** Including a few side dishes. The club will provide soft drinks and bottled water. Feel free to BYOB if you prefer something different. We're asking volunteers to bring a few snacks to share (potato chips, Doritos, chips & dip – whatever, it's a picnic so keep it simple.

Surprise #2 ENTERTAINMENT — A local talented singer/guitarist will entertain us with songs from Jimmy Buffet, Jim Croce, The Eagles and others.

Surprise #3 GAMES & PRIZES — We'll have the usual games; beanbag toss; horseshoes; casting contest; etc. A new game added this year is "Anchor Tossing", you'll hear more at our March meeting.

LOCATION — Our 1st choice is Ponce de Leon Park, but if the shelter in not completed in time the picnic will be held at the PGICA center, where our new outdoor pavilion will be located. Updates on location to follow...Picnic begins at Noon & ends when you go home.

FINAL SURPRISE — The cost for members is: (drum roll) **NOTHING! ZILCH! ZIPPO! NADA!**

PLEASE GET YOUR FREE TICKETS EARLY...(A nonmember guest ticket will cost only \$6.00). **CUT OFF DATE FOR TICKETS IS APRIL 10th. NO LAST MINUTE SURPRISES PLEASE.**

For more information call me. (L3th@comcast.net) Thanks and have a great day. Donnie.

MEMBERSHIP • Bob Rand





PGI Fishing Club dues paid membership is 137 members. PGI Fishing Club meetings and newsletter provides timely and exclusive fishing and boating information for our members. Please bring your neighbors or friends to our next meeting. A family membership (member &

spouse / significant other) is only \$20 per year. You must be a member of the PGI Civic Association to be a member of any PGICA club. We meet at 7 PM, the second Tuesday of each month, at the PGI Civic Association, 2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950.



**JACK GARDNER
RICHARD ILARDI
MACK SCHLEIF
DAVID SEGAL
JOHN WELLS**

LET'S GO FISHING!

| | |
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FISHING EVENTS • Marty McCaffrey



This month I want to encourage all of our members to participate in our Ladder of Angling Achievement Program. It's quite easy to get started. Just take a picture of the fish you catch and on the back print your name, fish species, date caught, length of the fish and sign your signature. You can turn the

picture in at the monthly meeting, give it to the office at the Civic Association or e-mail me a copy at martymccaffrey@attglobal.net. Pictures must be turned in within three weeks of catching the fish.

The first level of achievement, the Bronze Level, can be achieved by catching five species (of 20 possible) of fish. They can be of any size. And no points (awarded for larger fish) are required. There is no time limit for any of the levels of achievement. Your totals are accumulated and maintained over the years. The club awards you a Bronze Pin in recognition. Right now less than 20 per cent of our members have achieved the Bronze Level. I know there are many of you who have met the criteria over the last year but never entered the fish. I encourage all of you to participate, one fish at a time! Larger fish will automatically be entered into the Master Angler and Gold Cup tournaments.

Spin Casting Class: The date is Thursday, March 15th at 1:15pm at Gilcrest Park. Kel Krotzer has volunteered to lead this class. Last year's event was a big success. We will take a poll at the March meeting to ensure adequate numbers. If you can't be at the meeting please send me an e-mail or call me at 639-5445 to let me know you would like to participate.

Tight Lines!

CITY WATCH • Bill Guenther



BOAT SINKS IN CANAL... FOLLOWUP

The following article was received from Captain Mike DeGenaro of Charlotte Harbor SeaTow.

"Just the other day I was opening my PGI fishing club

newsletter when I noticed a 31' Silverton sunk on the cover and thought it looked a bit familiar. Shortly after, I contacted the editor and expressed an interest in writing a follow up to last months story. The most important fact had already been mentioned concerning the importance of checking batteries, bilges and all fittings for water intrusion after Relaunching any vessel.

Another issue often over looked is the importance of hull insurance. I have unfortunately had many boaters contact us for recovery work with no hull insurance. Their usual reply is "the boat was only worth \$800". Leaving a vessel sunk anywhere, is certainly not an option! Whether salvage or wreck removal; refloating a sunken vessel requires the same amount of effort and liability regardless of a vessels value.

The value of a vessel does not determine the cost of a recovery effort. A vessels value usually only comes into play in a "pure salvage" situation. Another factor to consider is pollution due to oil, gas or diesel leaking into the water. Hazardous Material clean ups can be extremely costly, therefore it is important to make sure your policy covers pollution in addition to other coverages. Also worth mentioning is most salvers will not even touch a sunken vessel without insurance or the guaranty of payment. Understandably this is an extremely overwhelming experience for most boaters. If you

See **BOAT SINKS** page 10

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PGI Fishing Club Ladder of Angling Achievement Program

RULES:

| LEVEL | NUMBER OF SPECIES | SIZE LIMITS | POINTS NEEDED | EARNED AWARD |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| BRONZE | 5 | NONE | NONE | BRONZE PIN |
| SILVER | 5 | LEGAL | 300 | SILVER PIN |
| GOLD | 7 | LEGAL | 700 | GOLD PIN & CLUB HAT |
| LIFETIME | 9 | LEGAL | 1000 | SNOOK PIN |
| LIFETIME LEVEL 2 | 13 | LEGAL | 1400 | REDFISH PIN |
| LIFETIME LEVEL 3 | 16 | LEGAL | 1700 | TARPON PIN |
| GRAND MASTER | 20 | LEGAL | 2000 | CLUB SHIRT W/LOGO |

THE FOLLOWING FISH AND POINTS EARNED (BASED ON LENGTH OF ENTRY) QUALIFY:

NOTE: ALL ENTRIES MUST COMPLY WITH THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S FISHING REGULATIONS, WITH REGARD TO SIZE.

| POINTS EARNED | 100 | 200 | 300 | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|-----|--|
| SPECIES | SIZE IN INCHES | | | |
| Amberjack | 32-39 | 40-45 | 46+ | |
| Black Bass | 20-21 | 22-23 | 24+ | |
| Cobia | 3-39 | 40-43 | 44+ | |
| *Grouper | 24-27 | 28-31 | 32+ | |
| King Mackerel | 32-35 | 36-39 | 40+ | |
| Redfish | 28-29 | 30-35 | 36+ | |
| Seatrout | 21-22 | 23-24 | 24+ | |
| Shark (Any Species) | 40-49 | 50-59 | 60+ | |
| Snook | 29-35 | 36-41 | 42+ | |
| Spanish Mackerel | 21-22 | 23-24 | 25+ | |
| Tarpon (Any Size) | | X | | |

***The Grouper classification is restricted to Black, Gag and Red Grouper.**

NOTE: No points awarded for other species.

STANDINGS

BRONZE

Donnie Brennan • Rich Brennan • Bob Busler • Dick Doster • Harold Hall • Jim Hoffman • Margie Hoffman • Kel Krotzer • Joanne Landaker • Steve Landaker • Joe Maillet • Pete McGregor • Tom Parsons • Bob Rand • Bevan Rucker • Jack Spies • Gary Sblendorio • Ed Verminski • Russ Brown • Jim LaRocca • Karen Lodge • Missy Becker

SILVER

Donnie Brennan • Rich Brennan • Bob Busler • Harold Hall • Jim Hoffman • Margie Hoffman • Kel Krotzer • Joanne Landaker • Joe Maillet • Pete McGregor • Tom Parsons • Bob Rand • Bevan Rucker • Gary Sblendorio • Ed Verminski • Russ Brown

GOLD

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LIFETIME

Donnie Brennan • Rich Brennan • Bob Busler • Jim Hoffman • Margie Hoffman • Joe Maillet • Pete McGregor

LIFETIME LEVEL II
LIFETIME LEVEL III
GRAND MASTER

GOLD CUP TOURNAMENT

The Gold Cup fishing contest between PGI Fishing Club, Burnt Store Isles, Burnt Store Anglers and the Isle Yacht Club began on February 1, 2007 and ends November 15, 2007. Our club has won the event the past two years but there has been close competition. We are counting on all our members to contribute photos of their big fish catches. All entries must be submitted within three weeks of being caught and November entries must be received by November 22, 2007.



| | BURNT STORE ISLES | PGIFC | ISLE YACHT CLUB | BURNT STORE ANGLERS |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| SNOOK | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| REDFISH | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| TROUT | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| SPANISH MACKEREL | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| GROUPE | 00 | 28.5 | 00 | 00 |
| TARPON (40" MAX) | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| COBIA (40" MAX) | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| SHARK (40" MAX) | 00 | 00 | 000 | 000 |
| BONUS POINTS | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| TOTAL POINTS: | 0000 | 28.5 | 0000 | 0000 |



SUNSHINE LADY

If you know of a member who is ill, in need of a word of encouragement, or a member who has lost a loved one, **notify Rose Makara at 637.7555**

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PGI FISHING CLUB 2007 MASTER ANGLER TOURNAMENT LEADERBOARD

Certificate Awards-Will be given to the 1, 2, and 3rd place winners in all species that are equal to or exceeding the following minimum lengths: Redfish 25", Trout 22", Snook 30", Cobia 38", Grouper 26", Shark 40", and Spanish Mackerel, 24".

| | Grouper | Trout | Redfish | Snook | Cobia | Shark (All) | Spanish Mackerel |
|----|--------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------------|------------------|
| 1 | Bev Rucker 28.5" | | | | | | |
| 2 | Rose McCaffrey 28" | | | | | | |
| 3 | Margie Hoffman 27" | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | |

Point Leaders: T=Ties:

Bev Rucker 10pts; Rose Ann McCaffrey 7pts; Margie Hoffman 5pts;



I caught this linesider flipping a jerkbait under a Naples dock. I somehow managed to horse him out from around the barnacle

encrusted pilings and got this shot of him, a 20 pounder my largest ever! Submitted by Jennifer Wolter.

Reprint courtesy Saltwater Sportsman Magazine.



Jim Larocca hooked up with this 25" Redfish while fishig over on the West Wall of Charlotte Harbor.




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SKINNY From page 1

new line on my reels and change it depending on the amount of use the reel gets during the year. There are a few things I do before any fishing outing; I'll check my knots, I'll run my fingers down my leader to check for nicks and I always check my drag settings, I learned the hard way. The last thing I want is to lose a fish any fish due to equipment failure. Now I'm ready for a great spring fishing experience.

Here are the best fishing dates and times for this month as suggested by the lunar feeding tables. I find the information helps me; maybe it will work for you.

| DATE | DAY | START TIME | FINISH TIME | START TIME | FINISH TIME | MOON PHASE |
|------|------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 3rd | Sat | 10:00am | 3:00pm | 10:30pm | 12:00am | Full |
| 4th | Sun | 12:00am | 3:30am | 11:00am | 4:00pm | |
| 17th | Sat | 1:00am | 4:00pm | 11:00pm | 12:00am | |
| 18th | Sun | 12:00am | 4:00am | 11:30am | 4:30pm | New |
| 25th | Sun | 5:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm | 11:00pm | 1st Qtr |
| 26th | Mon | 6:15am | 11:15am | 6:45pm | 11:45pm | |
| 27th | Tues | 7:00am | 12:00pm | | | |

I hope to see all of you at the Tuesday night Mar. 13th at 7:00PM general meeting. Bring a new member, or bring a guest, and join us for fishing stories, information, great door prizes and, most of all, the camaraderie of your fellow fishermen.

Here's to good fishin',

Jack Spies, PGI Fishing Club President

BEST THINGS ANYBODY EVER SAID

It's the responsibility of the media to look at the president with a microscope, but they go too far when they use a proctoscope.

Richard M. Nixon

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| Bob Speck | 833.9283 | w4mpj@strato.net | XXXX | | |
| John Brkich | 833.0229 | johnbrkich@hotmail.com | XXXX | | |
| David Tincher | 639.1285 | | | XXXX | |

MEMBERS LOOKING FOR A FISHING PARTNER & WILLING TO SHARE EXPENSES W/BOAT OWNER

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| Jim LaRocca | 575.8237 | astra1005@earthlink.net | | | XXXX |
| Dave Tinchar | 637.1285 | | | | XXXX |
| Richard Ilardi | 505.1371 | | | | XXXX |

SEAFOOD RECIPE SPICY GRILLED TUNA

INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ cup olive oil
- ½ Tsp. Salt
- ½ tsp. cayenne pepper
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 shallot, minced
- ½ tsp. cumin powder
- ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 lbs. tuna fillet



COOKING DIRECTIONS: In a small mixing bowl, combine olive oil, salt, cayenne, lemon juice, garlic, shallot, cumin and cilantro. Place tuna in a glass or ceramic dish. Pour marinade over tuna and marinate one hour in refrigerator, turning once. Brush grill with vegetable oil and heat to medium. Grill fish 4 to 5 minutes on each side. Garnish with cilantro sprigs and lemon wedges. Serves 4.

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SHRIMP HARVEST IN ESTUARIES NEEDS BETTER MANAGEMENT AND TIMING

The following article by:

E.M. "Skeet" Lores, Ph.D

Bycatch is the term that applies to all of the unintended casualties caught in shrimp nets. It's composed mostly of juvenile fish such as spot, croakers, menhaden and hardhead catfish. Only occasionally do any of the sportfish species that most recreational fishermen seek ever make the "top ten" list of fish caught as bycatch. However, given the typical bycatch ratio of 5 pounds of fish for every pound of shrimp caught and the massive numbers of fish caught in shrimp nets, the number of sportfish lost can be staggering! Even fish that make up less than 1 percent of the bycatch can represent a significant loss. In addition, in order to grow to trophy size or even keeper size, sportfish need to feed on the forage fish that are typically caught as bycatch. Without forage fish, many of the sportfish we catch both inshore and offshore simply can't survive. Although most don't die of outright starvation, they become susceptible to disease or predation or their reproductive potential is reduced when food supplies are affected.

Actually there are even more important reasons to reduce bycatch—reasons that can be summed up in a phrase used by ecologists—"Ecosystem Function." In layman's terms, ecosystem function is the sum of all the processes that occur in an ecosystem, in this case an estuary.

Among the most productive ecosystems in the world, estuaries function as a giant food chain turning tiny algal cells into food such as fish, crabs, oysters, and shrimp. Estuaries provide this function with very little effort on our part; all we have to do is harvest the product. However, we cause all kinds of problems when we overharvest the product.

For example, many of the estuaries around the country are in trouble because of excess nutrients in the system. These nutrients increase the turbidity in the water making it difficult for seagrass plants to get the sunlight that they need, plus excess algae is produced which sinks to the bottom and uses up the dissolved oxygen in the water. As a result we lose important habitats such as seagrass beds, oyster reefs, and even mud bottoms. The reduction of our fisheries is making the problem even worse because there are fewer fish to consume the nutrients. Rebuilding all components of the fisheries in our estuaries (shrimp, oysters and fish) will increase the capacity of the system to assimilate the nutrients and in the long run will increase the productivity.

We can do a much better job of managing our resources by learning to harvest the benefits without destroying the function. For example, we need to avoid inshore shrimping in the spring when bycatch ratios of shrimp to finfish are at their peak, sometimes exceeding a 10 to 1 ratio. Instead, we need to do most of the shrimp harvesting in the fall when fish are generally leaving the estuary. This would allow fish and shrimp to complete their function (consuming the productivity of the estuary) during the summer when estuaries are more prone to nutrient problems. Plus, shrimp harvested in the fall are larger and more valuable. In other words, we don't have to eliminate bay shrimping, just postpone the harvest.

This was basically the idea we proposed to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in 2003 for Pensacola Bay. However, when the FWC held a workshop on reducing bycatch, the only option acceptable to the shrimpers was an endorsement program that would freeze the current number of licenses while allowing existing shrimpers to continue. When they quit the business their license would not be transferable. Such a program, which would eventually reduce the number of shrimpers, would also reduce the bycatch.

I still believe that improved timing of the shrimp harvest in the estuaries is the better management choice, however, anything we do that reduces inshore shrimp bycatch will significantly help our fisheries and the water quality of our estuaries. It's even more important that we act soon because when NOAA begins limiting the shrimping in the Gulf to reduce the red snapper bycatch, it will increase the pressure on inshore shrimping.

E.M. "Skeet" Lores, Ph.D., is a retired marine scientist who worked for the U.S. EPA for over 30 years. He was a lead researcher on effects of nutrients in estuaries and on seagrasses.

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do find yourself in need of assistance of this kind it is important to ask questions. Keep in mind a price can be agreed upon before any work commences on a recovery effort. A standard contract "No cure No pay fixed fee" is exactly what it sounds like and can protect you against any unscrupulous salvers.

As for the recovery of the 31' Silverton, the vessel had just returned from having a complete paint job and both engines were recently replaced. The vessel was tied to a neighbors dock overnight until the owners lift could be repaired the following day. Early the next morning the vessel was observed listing heavily to port.

We received the call at our local office approximately 9:10 AM and by 9:30 AM we had a captain on scene with additional staff, trash Pumps, Absorbent boom for oil leakage and salvage equipment. By 11:30 AM the vessel was refloated and towed to a local ramp for haul out. It is equally important to make arrangements to have the motors pickled and the vessel dried out as soon as possible to preserve the asset. All in all this was considered a very successful operation and no additional damages were done to the vessel or the environment. Salvage always seems to be boaters number one concern and there are many myths and misconceptions out there to add to the confusion.

I hope this article helps educate all boaters to the importance of hull insurance. I also hope this begins to take some of the mystery out of salvage operations as well. If you do have any questions regarding this or any service or salvage please do not hesitate to contact me at our local Sea Tow office located in the Punta Gorda Marina.

Captain Mike DeGenaro
SEATOW Charlotte Harbor

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FISHING WORLD?

For several years, there has been a grouper closure in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico from February 15 to March 15, but the closure has only affected commercial grouper fishermen. This year, the closure has been extended to include recreational grouper fishermen.

Beginning today and running through March 15, recreational anglers fishing in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico are not allowed to keep any red, black or gag grouper they catch. The season remains open for other grouper, though in this region about the only other species of potentially keepable grouper encountered by recreational anglers are scamp and goliath grouper. Scamp which measure over 16 inches may still be harvested during the closure, but goliath grouper are currently classified as a protected species and may not be harvested at any time.

By the way, Florida has NOT enacted a closure for recreational grouper fishermen in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This means anglers who are fishing within 9 nautical miles of shore in the Gulf and who land legal-sized grouper are free to keep their legal limit during the time of the closure for Federal waters of the Gulf. A position 9 nautical miles offshore from Boca Grande would place an angler in approximately 50-feet of water and would be just about the distance offshore that land is no longer visible on a clear day for an angler standing on the deck of a small boat. A word to the wise: Do not catch and keep grouper in state waters and then move further offshore into federal waters. If you're found fishing in federal waters with grouper aboard during the closure, it will be assumed you caught the fish in federal waters and you may be cited.

Jack C. Spies

President PGI Fishing Club



PGI FISHING CLUB FISHING PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN SIMPLIFIED

All three of our fishing programs this year have been simplified. All you do is take a photo and on the back of the photo print your name, species of fish it is, measurement in length according to the FL state regs, date it was caught. Then turn it into Marty McCaffrey at the next club meeting or Friday morning breakfast or leave it off at the PGICA building and they will put it in our mail box and Marty will get it. Marty in turn will take your photo and enter your fish in the programs it will fit into per the programs species.