



Fishing Club!
New Port Richey, FL

January 2016 News Letter

General membership meeting: 41 established members and two guests attended the 1 December meeting. The members gathered at 6:30 pm at the Gulf Landings Clubhouse to socialize, eat pizza and swap fishing and boating supplies.

Dues are due: Please pay your \$35 dues at the January meeting or send them to: Mike Spanhel, 5657 Westshore Dr, New Port Richey, 34652.

Election of 2016 Officers: 2016 Club officers will be voted on at the February meeting. Nominations were open to the floor. Nominations so far are Chet/President; Jim Soper/Sgt. Arms; Bill Herr/Member at large. Nominations will open again at both the January & February meetings. Please talk to one of the current club officers if you want to become more involved in the club or if you would like to consider a position on the Board.

Upcoming Speaker Information:

Our Speaker for the January meeting will be the one and only Capt Dencil of "Ragun Canjun" Charters out of Bayview. <http://www.rajuncajunfishincharters.com/saltwater> Please CONTACT Capt. Dencil Powell at 352-279-3633 to book an exciting day on the water.

Important Information

Membership dues are coming due and must be paid prior to the "After" Holiday Party. Dues are \$35 and the dinner is \$10 each or \$20 for a couple. This is a great deal and a major benefit of membership. See attached file for details. **You will need to pay our treasure (Mike Spanhel) in advance along with letting him know your meal choice (Prime Rib or Chicken Marsala).** When paying our treasurer at the 5 January meeting he asks that you have the exact amount or pay by check.

"After" Holiday Party:

When: Saturday January 23, 2016 (**Date was changed due to double booking**)

Where: Timber Greens Clubhouse - Cocktails 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM (**Cash Bar**)

Silent Auction Bidding time

Dinner at 6:30

Meal Choices: Oven Roasted Prime Rib OR Chicken Masala
(See attached document for details)

This party is a very relaxed, classy and fun event. We will have a silent auction with the proceeds benefiting our Children's Wish-to-Fish outing.

The real fun part is our Chinese Gift exchange. This is where each "couple" that brings a "wrapped" gift worth approximately \$15 - \$20 receives a number they draw from a hat. The MC will call a number and have the couple holding that number select a gift from either the gift table **OR** from one of the gifts already opened by previous couples. This turns out to be a lot of fun. This is a nice time to get to know fellow members and spouses.

Old Business and Past Events:

In place of a guest speaker in December we had our annual **fishing / boating** equipment **FLEA MARKET**. Many members bought and sold tackle and boating supplies. The pizza from Morty's Pizza was excellent.

New Business and Upcoming Events:

General Membership Meetings - Next meeting 5 January 2016 at 6:30pm
Meetings are the FIRST Tuesdays of each month

Monthly Dinner Socials: Reminder there are **no** dinner socials in December or January. **Wednesday February 17, 2016 dinner social will be at the VFW 4412 at 9734 Dick St. Hudson, (727)697-1602**

Monthly Breakfast Socials:

Breakfast Socials are temporarily postponed due to lower attendance with our snow-bird members gone for the summer. We will restart them at some time in the future.



Ken J. with a nice Jack Crevalle caught in December



Jim McCarthy with a nice redfish caught in December. See the fishing report on the Website for more information.



Rick Ullafussy with a nice 41" Cobia caught 16 December. See the full report on the FOC site. 3 inch pinfish was the bait for this bruiser.

ATTENTION all fishermen! Members LIKE FISHING REPORTS!

PLEASE submit a report EVERY time you return from fishing, even if nothing was caught. The more fishing information shared with your fellow members helps us all become better fishermen. Information like time of day, tide movement, weather conditions, general fishing locations, species & size caught, and bait used..

Picture(s) would be great. Even if nothing spectacular was caught this information would let other members know what is or isn't going on.

[Fishing Reports](#) ← Click this Link to see fishing reports and [to SUBMIT](#) your report on our website.

Ongoing Fishing tournaments:

[Targeted Species Rules](#) ← click this link to see detailed rules

The fish for the month for November was Snook

The fish for the month for December is: Redfish

The fish for the month for January will be: Red Grouper

2016 Fish of the Month species will be:

Jan – Red Grouper

Feb – Redfish

Mar – Trout

Apr – Any Mackerel

May – Any Jack
Jun – Any Snapper
Jul – Snook
Aug – Trout
Sep – Flounder
Oct – Redfish
Nov – Gag Grouper
Dec – Any Mackerel

[Fish of the Month Tournament Rules](#) ← click this link to see detailed rules.

Year Long Tournament: Mike Spanhel went over the rules and discussed that it is \$5 per type of fish to enter. You must be signed up and paid before you catch the fish to enter. You should provide date fish was caught, type of fish and length to Mike Spanhel via email or phone within 24-48 hours of the catch. Pictures are not required but we love to have pictures of our members with their prize catches. *Click this link to see detailed tournament rules:* [Year Long Tournament](#)

[Members Area](#) ← click her to go to members only area to see our members. If you have trouble getting to Members area or need the password call Frank Belizzio at 727-597-0741

Website Update: Frank Bellizio has worked hard on the website www.fishonclub.us and has been adding recipes, merchandise and fishing videos. Check it out.

fishonclub.us Is a great place to direct people interested in knowing more about our club. Lots of information is available for anyone to see BUT if you go to the **Members Area** and put in your password there is much more information available. If you forgot the password you can call Chet @ 727- 816-8991 or Frank @ 727-597-0741.

Fishing Regulations – Jack Hexter

NOAA Fisheries announced changes to greater amberjack management measures in the Gulf of Mexico have now been published. The final rule to implement the changes in the Gulf of Mexico will be effective Jan. 4.

The rule will decrease the total annual catch limit from 1.78 million pounds to 1.72 million pounds, set the commercial annual catch limit at 464,400 pounds, and the recreational annual catch limit at 1.25 million pounds.

It will also reduce the commercial trip limit from 2,000 pounds whole weight to 1,500 pounds gutted weight.

The biggest change is the increase in the minimum recreational size limit from 30 inches fork length to 34 inches fork length.

A 30-inch fish is 2 years old, and fish of that size generally have not reached sexual maturity. Research shows 85 percent of 34-inch fish have reached sexual maturity, but only 11 percent are estimated to reach sexual maturity at 30 inches.

Additionally, increasing the size limit is expected to lengthen the recreational fishing season.

Fish Bags for Your Catch – Florida Sportsman

Handy fish bags make preserving your catch a cinch.



Dolphins fit easily into most offshore bags.

Just zip it up! Using a fish bag is that simple. Of course, you'll have to add fish and ice. But, that's all the technical know-how required to keep your catch fresh and cold. Tasty, too, no matter how big or small your boat.

Fish bags are handy tools. Once primarily utilized by tournament fishermen, these soft-side, portable coolers are becoming commonplace as more anglers add the bags to their must-have tackle list.

The history of fish bags is kinda vague, but general consensus has it that they first popped on the tournament king mackerel scene. Back then just like now, insulated fish bags filled the bill when storage space is at a premium and fish boxes aren't large enough to accommodate your catch and you're determined to keep your fish in top condition—fit for any dinner table or tournament weigh-in.

Construction-wise, bags seem fairly similar, although individual manufacturers are sure to disagree. Most have waterproof PVC or vinyl sides and interior compartments for repelling stains surrounded by some type of insulating material such as closed-cell foam to keep the chill in and the heat out. Generally, a heavy-duty zipper runs down three sides of the bag, which allows you to open it fully for cleaning. Some bags come equipped with drain plugs so you can vent excess water without unzipping and others "leak" melted ice water through the seams when tilted a hair. Webbed nylon hand and shoulder straps for easy carrying round out the package.

Bag lengths and widths vary, and this bodes well for anglers. Size selection allows you to pick a bag or bags tailored to the fish you catch. For instance, if you plan on packing one with spotted seatrout or rigged ballyhoo baits, a shorter, beamier bag is in order. On the other hand, if your prey is smoker king macks, bull dolphin or wahoo a longer, skinnier bag makes more sense. And, if you truly pursue big gamefish such as tuna, there are bags on the market made to accommodate your catch, up to 400 pounds if need be, that measure an expansive 40 by 84 inches when zipped. Billfish bags come even bigger and some are advertised to hold billfish weighing up to 1,200 pounds. Something to consider before heading out on the next swordfish expedition.

What advantages do bags offer over traditional coolers? First off, they're convenient. You can stow bags below decks until needed or use one of the swifter tricks I've seen—hang 'em under the gunnel. All you need is a couple of J-hooks (rod racks will do if they match the bag's handles) positioned to hang the bag vertically—zipper up—above deck.

This keeps it handy and out of the way. If your gunnels aren't high enough to hang the bag, don't fret. A flats boat skipper said that storing a folded bag in a locker negates the need for carrying a second cooler to keep drinks and food separated from fish destined for the table. He just takes a bag of ice from the drink cooler, adds fish and leaves the bag stretched out on deck until he reaches the ramp. Then he totes the bag to the cleaning table. How's that for utility?



Bait bags are handy for travel.

Price advantage also goes to bags. Bags are generally cheaper than comparable capacity hard-side coolers. They're also portable, important when transporting that 70-pound wahoo, 30-pound dolphin or 40-pound king to the weigh station or cleaning

table. And, while you're busy filleting, bags keep your fish cool, in peak condition. Retail prices do vary, so it pays to shop around for a bag that meets your needs. On average, bait and small fish bags start around \$100 and models large enough to hold yellowfin and bigeye tuna run between \$225 and \$450. That 1,200-pound marlin or swordfish bag—two 5- by 9-foot bags that attach—will also set you back about \$450.

Some folks seem amazed that anglers fishing aboard bigger boats employ bags when built-in fishboxes could easily accommodate the catch. One reason is that the bag protects fish by preventing them from receiving bruises and bangs caused by constant jostling in the hard-side box on the run home. Hence, soft bags keep your fish in better condition. Bags are also much easier to clean than your standard in-deck insulated box. Once you've removed the fish, just zip it completely open and give it a good scrubdown. Blood and scales rarely stick to slick fish bag material. After you finish, hang it up to dry. No clogged macerators to keep you occupied.

There are several ways to chill fish in a bag. The easiest and simplest is to use a couple bags of ice and replenish as necessary. You can also choose a bag that has sewn-in compartments that accommodate synthetic Techni Ice packets. This reusable dry ice substitute developed in Australia has many commercial food shipping applications and manufacturers advertise that bags equipped for the product can keep fish and bait cold for up to a week (for more info look up the product on the Web).

Bags do have one drawback—hooks. Never throw a thrashing hooked fish into a bag. That's a recipe for disaster. Whenever a mad fish tosses a hook, it's bound to snag the bag's PVC or vinyl lining and ruin it. Don't worry about king mackerel or wahoo dentures. To the best of my knowledge, there's never been a report of fish chewing through a fish bag.

Some bag uses are not as plainly visible or advertised. They could be extremely valuable in emergency situations. That same R-factor that keeps cool in and heat out could be reversed to keep you warm if you use it as a blanket. Bags could also be used to flag passing vessels or for makeshift beds.

One more thing bound to please the fashion conscious: You can custom order most fish

bags with your boat logo inscribed on the side. Besides looking good, no one will make the mistake of claiming your fish.

<http://www.fishbagsandstuff.com/home.html>

50/50 Raffle: No raffle was conducted during the December meeting

Club Officers:

President: Chet Jasak

Vice President: Frank Bellizio

Treasurer: Mike Spanhel

Advisory Council – Jim McCarthy and Jack Hexter

Secretary: Mike Brumley

Sergeant at Arms: Mike Kaplan

Member at Large: Russ Thompson

2015 Committee Chairpersons:

Wish-to-Fish – Mike Spanhel

YMCA Fishing Festival – Chet Jasak

Main Street Clean-Up – Bernard Zanetti

After Holiday Party – Russ Thompson

Club Picnics/Bfst social – Dave Taylor

Dinner Socials – Ernie Philippi

Club Tournaments – Jack Hexter

Fund Raising – Fred Morin

If you want to help on any of these committees, see or call the chairperson.

They can use the help. Get involved in the Club Activities!!