

April Newsletter!

The next general membership meeting is Tuesday, April 9th. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00.



From the March meeting:



John Kungl

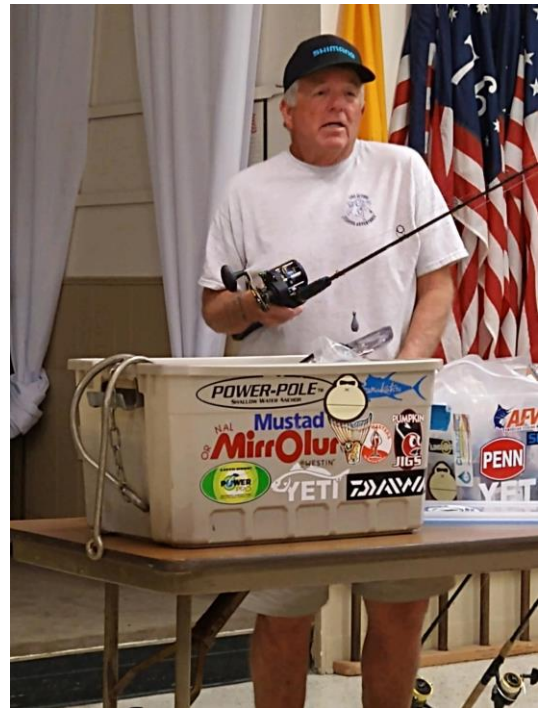
Please welcome new member John Kungl



Also from the March meeting



Our guest speaker -- Captain Dave Blanchard



Captain Dave in action with a great presentation and answering questions from the membership.

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### Tournament updates

Free to play

Longest trout **OR** redfish **OR** snook caught. 1st/2nd/3rd -- \$25/15/10 payout

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And let's not forget about this one...

**A SPECIAL, ONE-DAY tournament on May 4th
(rain date May 11)**

**The May Mish-Mash Mixer
To restate:**

Two Objectives:

1. To get captains to experience fishing with other members of the club who may or may not have a boat.
2. Catch the longest fish, any specie (excluding sharks)

Entry Fee: \$10 per person

Captains: Agree to take fellow FOC members on your boat.

Passengers: Agree to fish with your assigned captain on their boat.

Process:

- **Captains:** Pay the fee and sign up for the tournament and indicate on the sign-up sheet how many passengers you will take with you.

- **Passengers:** Pay the fee and sign up for the tournament.

- Mike Spanhel and John/Lori Grieder will draw passengers names and assign them to a captain. First come first served, if we have more passengers than spaces on boats then the ones signing up last will be dropped from the tournament.

"Weigh in": 4PM sharp at Mike Spanhel's house, 5657 Westshore Dr, NPR (Gulf Harbors). Late entries will NOT be considered. **Do not bring fish, only a picture of your entry and its length is required.** Hot dogs and chips will be provided for those who enter the tournament. BYOB. Participants may arrive at the weigh-in between 3 and 4 PM.

Payout: 1st, 2nd, 3rd -- \$25/15/10.

The entry fee will be used to cover food costs.

Any extra \$ will be added to the payout.

Here's a great letter from one of our members:

At our annual dinner (at the After Holidays Party) I bid and won a day on the water with Terry Reelitz. I understood that this was not per-say a normal type charter, but rather Terry taking out some time to do this on his own.

On March 13th I took my 12 year old grandson Zack who was visiting, as my fishing mate for the day.

I wanted to drop you (executive committee) an e-mail to tell you what a great day we had on the water with Terry. We were fortunate to have a sunny day, and while the fish didn't really co-operate in the early part of the day, by days end we did well. Terry was very kind and patient with Zack and took lots of time to explain certain aspects of the kind of fishing - bait - lures we were using and type of fishing we were doing.

I wanted to drop you guys a note to say how fortunate it was that Terry offered this day for the Wish To Fish charity.

Zack has since headed back "north" but I know it was a memorable day for a 12 year old that will stay with him a lifetime.

Thank you Terry, and to the executive (committee) feel free to post this in the next Fish On newsletter.

Tight Lines

Member - Joe Fiume



Nice catch, Zack - way to go!



Our Wish to Fish subsidiary sponsored a fishing charter for Hope Children's Home.



General Membership Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Morningstar at 7:00pm

We welcomed new member John Kungl from Tarpon Springs.

The next social will be March 19 at Leaning Tower of Pizza, 5202 Grand Blvd., and will be limited to 25 people.

Wish to Fish update – Dave Diehl, president, stated that WTF was in good shape and that charters were scheduled for March 21 and also one in May.

Chet introduced our guest speaker for the evening: Captain Dave Blanchard from Live Action Fishing Adventures. Captain Dave told us all about fishing offshore and inshore. How he uses mostly cut bait; how he hooks it; how he rigs it; how he fishes with it; what rods/reels he uses and where he fishes, including all his 'hot spots'. A great discussion! He easily fielded all questions and even had a raffle/drawing and gave out 'prizes' to everyone in attendance. Once again, all members are encouraged to come out and listen to the experts on something we love to do – fishing! These guest speakers keep on getting better and better meeting after meeting.



February free-to-play tournament winners: 1st place - tied between Frank Bellizio (L) and John Grieder (R) trout - 16.5"; 3rd place Butch Kaelin - 15.5".





50/50 winner Terry Reelitz (r) and Tarpon Fishing Outfitters gift certificate winner Mark Morningstar (l).