The Acute Angler

Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Volume 48, Number 7

NOVEMBER 2015

It's now easier than ever to renew. Just go to the "Join now!" tab on the GOFC website (http://www.gofc.us/wp/join-now/), fill out the form online and pay using PayPal, only $50 gets you a full membership through 2016 if you have not joined yet or are renewing.

If you'd prefer to support the US Post Office, complete the NEW MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL form (download from the website) and mail it to the GOFC Treasurer.

Debby Knopf, Treasurer
Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club
3324 W. University Avenue
PMB #337
Gainesville, FL 32607

Please make your check payable to GOFC.

Or just bring cash, a check or a credit card to the next club meeting and pay Debby at the meeting.

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WHO'S WHO AT GOFC

PRESIDENT:
LEROY HOLMES

VICE-PRESIDENT:
HAL WILSON

SECRETARY:
JAY PEACOCK

TREASURER:
DEBBY KNOPF

GOFC News

GOFC Events:

There are no club events in December, but President Elect, Hal Wilson is working with the board to put together some great speakers and events. As usual, club meetings will be the fourth Tuesday of each month, at the new auditorium in the Vet School. Plan on bringing your scales to the first couple of meetings to have them certified.

If there's a topic you'd like to see covered at one of the monthly meetings, or a particular speaker you'd like to have present to the members, contact one of the club officers or board members with suggestions.

Also stay posted for information on the Oyster Roast and Seafood/Awards Banquet that will be held in January and February of 2016.

Membership Dues:

Although renewing members don't need to pay 2016 dues until January; if you'd like to take care of this before the year end, payments ($50) made in November and December will provide membership benefits for 2016. See column on the far left of this page for directions.

Christmas Gifts:

If you're looking for last minute stocking stuffers, contact Lou Graf (louisgraf@aol.com) about a GOFC cap, long or short-sleeved fishing shirts.

2016 GOFC Officers

Hal Wilson – *President*

Justin Magnifico – *Vice President*

Debby Knopf – *Treasurer*

Jay Peacock – *Secretary*

Leroy Holmes – *Immediate Past President*

2016 Board of Directors

John Byatt (*Newsletter Editor*)

Lou Graf

Mike Hinkel

Ken Knopf

Richard McDavid

Ross McElroy

Michaela Mertz

Carlos Morales (*Webmaster)*

Dale Reed

Nick Reed

Russ Roy

Allen Turner (*Records Keeper*)

GOFC Auction:

The annual club auction was held November 13th. As usual, hosts Ed and Marcia Ellett arranged for some great weather— dry, and just cool enough that the mosquitoes laid low soon after dark! A big thanks also goes out to club members Richard and Elliot McDavid for cooking up a great spread of Fogmore stew along with burgers, dogs and all the fixings.

Some great stuff was donated by club members for sale. Besides some very good fishing and boating gear, there were trips and services donated by club members. Thanks also to Texas Trailers for donating $200's worth of services and P&J Marine for the brand-new hand-held VHF radio.

Besides being a fun, family friendly social event (see pictures in this newsletter), the auction raises money for the club. Hope to see you next year.

IMPORTANT GOFC CONTACTS

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The mission of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club is to promote and support recreational saltwater fishing in the Big Bend area; to provide educational and recreational experiences for its members of all ages; and, to promote responsible conservation of saltwater resources.

Fall Tournament (October 24th) Results

What great weather we had for the last two tournaments of the season. The redfish round up and fall tournaments were both a success. We had a good turn out of club members and the fish showed up also.

This year we had a tournament committee consisting of Ross, Hal Dale and myself with the purpose of getting more members to fish in the tournaments. In 2016, I will be taking over as tournament director. Something new to look forward to will be start of the tournament championship. This will be an award for the angler with the highest point total combined for all five tournaments. If you fish in any of the tournaments, be sure to weigh your fish, because even if you don't win or place in this tournament, that fish will count towards the overall Tournament Championship. I would also like to encourage those members without boats who are interested in fishing in the tournaments to contact me to see if they can be accommodated. Jmagplmb@gmail.com

Justin Magnifico.

Master Angler

Marcia Ellett (first)				
	Flounder	2.59lb	25.00	
	Redfish	2.30lb		21.34
	Spanish mackerel	2.59lb	18.24	
		Total	***64.61***	
Carlos Morales (second)				
	Redfish	2.69lb		25.00
	Trout	2.21lb		25.00
	Spanish mackerel	0.80lb	5.63	
		Total	***55.63***	
Nia Haynes (third)				
	King mackerel	6.98lb		6.20
	Spanish mackerel	1.69lb	11.90	
	Trout	1.58lb		17.87
	Redfish	1.70lb		15.79
		Total	***51.76***	

Inshore Angler

Carlos Morales (first)				
	Redfish	2.69lb		25.00
	Trout	2.21lb		25.00
		Total	***50.00***	
Marcia Ellett (second)				
	Flounder	2.59lb	25.00	
	Redfish	2.30lb		21.34
		Total	***46.34***	
Nia Haynes (third)				
	Trout	1.58lb		17.87
	Redfish	1.70lb		15.79
		Total	***33.66***	

Offshore Angler

Michaela Mertz (first)				
	King mackerel	28.15lb	25.00	
	Spanish mackerel	0.85lb	5.98	
		Total	***30.98***	

Scott D. weighed a 12.13lb gag grouper and Jack Cutright caught a 3.55lb Spanish mackerel, both good for 25 points, but neither had another offshore species, so they tied for second.

Redfish Roundup (October 10th) Results

The GOFC Tournament Committee managed once again to select the perfect weekend for the redfish roundup. Seven boats and thirteen members turned out for slick calm conditions most of the day. All boats managed to find examples of the target species, with many fish in the 3 - 4 lb range being brought to the weigh-in. However, the two fish caught by Carlos Morales (7.1 & 6.8 lb) were at least a couple of pounds heavier than the next largest fish. Carlos took honors for first and second, with the check for the third heaviest fish (at 4.6 lb) going to Virgil Cooper; just edging out Mike Browning and Travis Creamer, who both caught 4.5 lb reds.

Picture to left shows GOFC President, Leroy Holmes weighing the winning redfish.

Picture below shows the collection of fish brought to the weigh-in by Travis Creamer and crew. Also, in the background, Dale Reed's boat. Dale and crew had problems getting close enough to shore in his offshore boat, but still had a great day on the water.

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Message from Capt. Russ Roy

I'm going to make a change in the "Fishing Reports" that we run in our Big Bend Angler and GOFC newsletters. True fishing reports should come out in a timely enough manner to be useful. It is often two or three weeks after writing one that members actually get these. Instead I will deliver pieces more on technique and useful information on helping fishing be more successful. I also want to get these pieces, and ones on GOFC history, placed on our GOFC Website, so that new members will have access to them. For this issue of the Newsletter, I typed out a piece by Dick Bowles. Dick was a charter member of GOFC, which grew out of a UF faculty fishing club. He was also a music professor and the Director of the UF band. I fished with Dick a number of times (He and his wife had a place at Suwannee on a canal.) and always enjoyed these trips. He also wrote a weekly fishing article for the Gainesville Sun, called "A Pinch of Salt" and you can see that he was a very good writer.

Russ

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Ed Ellett, CPCU, CLU, CIC

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Fishing Skills Richard Bowles July 2004, Big Bend Angler

I took a friend to the East Pass of the Suwannee, targeting redfish. I positioned the boat so we could cast close to the bank where there were lots of rocks. My friend was using spinning tackle and whanged the jig perhaps 100 feet into the woods.

The point is that he had never gone into the back yard and practiced his fishing. The advent of spinning tackle made it possible for anglers to fish all day and never have a backlash.

There are many situations where casting tackle is a better weapon than spinning. For example, when trolling slowly for mackerel, the angler can free spool, keep the thumb on the spool, drop the lure back, touch the spool, drop it back, etc., until he loses tactile with the lure. Yes, it is possible to do that with spinning tackle by reeling backwards, but that is awkward and can result in tangles.

Casting tackle is a better choice when fishing a jig from an anchored boat. An excellent technique is "flowing" a jig. You cast, watch the line until slack shows the jig has reached bottom; instantly, raise the rod to lift the jig off the bottom, and free spool until the line again is slack.

Many of you knew Otis Boggs, the Voice of the Gators. Relatively few knew that Otis also a talented angler. One wintry day 'way back there, Otis and I were fishing Crystal River. We were going up the River and saw several guide boats clustered together in a school of big reds. The tide was coming in strongly, and we anchored well out of their way. With casting tackle, we could flow our jigs until they were actually under the other boats and drag big redfish right out from under them.

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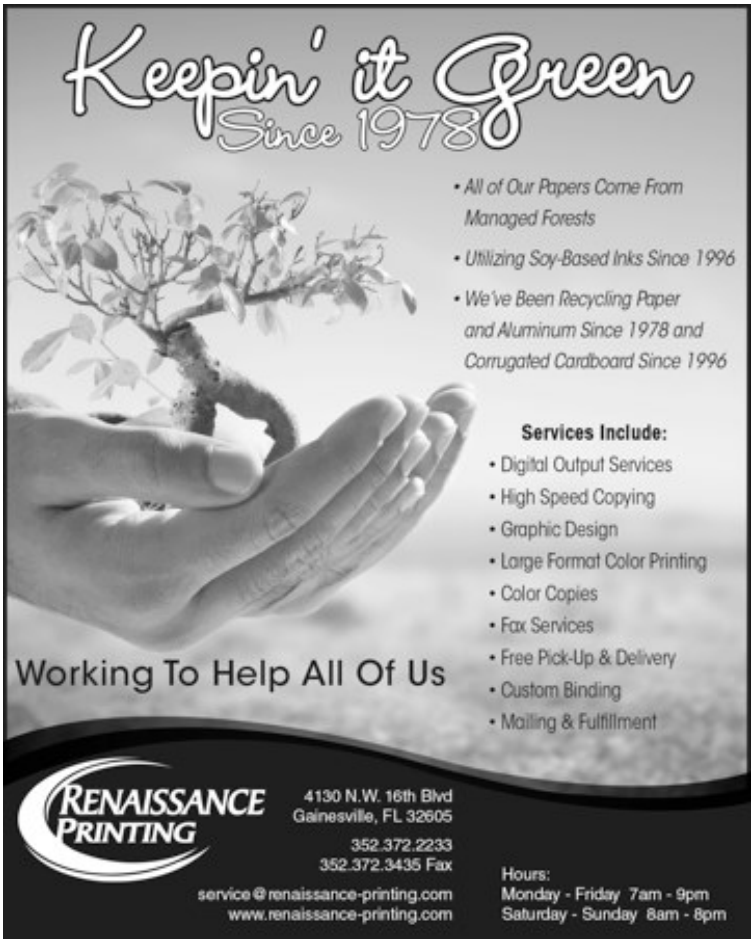

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Fishing Skills - continued from page 7

Cobia hang next to channel markers, and the angler needs the skill to deliver the lure near the marker. When a tarpon surfaces to take a gulp of air, you need to throw your lure right where the gulp occurred.

If you want to hone your skills, invite a tournament bass angler to fish with you. Fishing with Gary Simpson is a real pleasure. Even better, go to one of Dick Reed's (Tackle Box) seminars. Dick can drop a lure into a bucket from 30 feet– every time.

At the Outdoor Writers Association of America, there are skill competitions. The long-cast competition is always done with casting tackle, not spinning. I don't remember the actual length of their casts, but it was more than 800 feet, throwing sinkers of two ounces, rods eight to ten feet long.

There are other casting contests, this one with fly rods. The contestants stand 80 feet from a slow moving pick-up truck that has a washtub in its bed. The idea is to make a splash. Many of you probably know Mark Sosin, who always places.

I have been fortunate enough to fish with Al Pflueger, who is probably the most skillful angler today. Bill Sloan, a past president ot GOFC, and I fished with Al out of Key West. He wanted some live baits and gave Bill and me some small jigs for catching blue runners. While Bill and I got two or three, Al filled his live well.

While driving the boat, with one hand he tied an Albright knot. He anchored just back of a sunken barge, which was loaded with fish. In the gin-clear water we could see snappers, 'cudas, and all those tropical fish that look like butterflies. A big cobia appeared. Al was using

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Fishing Skills - continued from page 9

12 lb spinning tackle and dropped a jig within five feet of it. The fish gobbled it instantly. The barge had one rusted piece of metal that stood up about 10 feet, like a metal fence post. The cobia ran around it. Al took his time, and carefully led that fish back around the metal and we eventually gaffed it. He said, "when you pull, the fish pulls and goes the other way; when you don't, it can come right toward you."

Later, we anchored in about 80 feet of water. He used a casting rod with 17 lb mono, and dropped one of the blue runners to the bottom. He landed a 22 lb black grouper and never really worked hard. He said, "You have to sort of 'gentle' them off the bottom."

Go out in your back yard, tie on a practice plug, measure 30 feet and put a bucket there. If you can put the plug in the bucket one time out of eight, you can beat me. More fun, mocking birds will often chase the practice plug.

Skill will bring you more fish.

Set up crew for the GOFC Auction—You don't want to mess with these guys!

A close up shot of one of the main attractions—Richard McDavid's Frogmore Stew

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More Pictures from the GOFC Auction

Ed Ellett couldn't get enough of the banana cream pie. One of the great desserts brought by members.

Auctioneer Charlie Courtney and assistant Ken Knopf anchored the event.

The auction is a great event, enjoyed by young (Magnifico family) and old(er) - Jack Cutright and Jack Hesketh

Cary Crutchfield is now the proud owner of……..well, a lot of good stuff for which he was the high bidder.

Liz Reed kept tally of who ended up with the winning bids and collected money at the end of the evening.

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