The Acute Angler

September, 2021
Volume 54, Number 9

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

September Hot Shot

Florida Man wears blue shirt... attracts blue fish!

Tom Bacsik shows off a nice 2 lb plus bluefish he caught in Cedar Key this month.

Submit your photos on http://www.gofc.us/wp/ph

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President's Corner

By Mark Haberman,
GOFC President

GOOD NEWS!!
We have been cleared by the University of Florida Veterinary Medicine School to resume in-person meetings in the VAB auditorium.

Doors open at 7pm on September 28th with pizza and drinks while it lasts.

There will be an opportunity to win some great raffle and door prizes too!

Best of all, Rick Ryals will be our guest speaker.

Rick has tons of fishing stories and a tremendous amount of experience fishing all over Florida and the world. Rick is very entertaining and everyone will have a chance to learn something from a true Florida fishing legend.

Be sure to tell your friends and family to join us, even if they're not members of the club, our monthly meetings are free to the public. As always, watch your email, Facebook, and our website for more details.

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Upcoming Events

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 28th, 2019

Fellowship starts at 7:00 PM
Meeting proper starts at 7:30

Speaker: Captain Rick Ryals
Captain Rick Ryals has been fishing Florida for more than 50 years and is one of the most respected anglers in Northeast Florida. He is a host of Florida Sportsman Radio and is co-host of Florida Sportsman Best Boat TV. Ryals has also authored and co-authored several books pertaining to fishing.

Location: UF Veterinary Medicine Auditorium
1937 SW 16th Ave
Gainesville, FL

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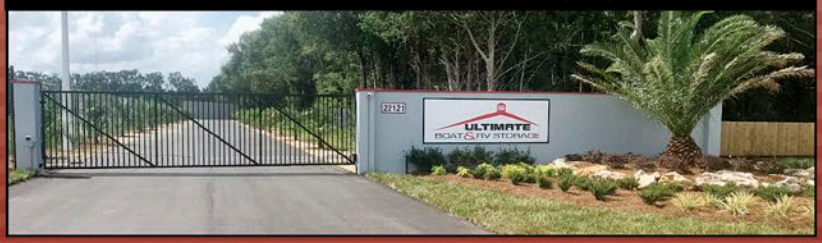

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In Pursuit of Fun Through... Trailer Maintenance

By Mark Robinson

I like to believe we are all in search of balance in life. We love fun days on the water, fishing, diving, spending time with family and friends. This is not that story. This is the tale of being hot, dirty, and buggy… and happy to be in my yard and not on the side of a highway or worse. My project started as a preventive maintenance and turned into a major overhaul.

Preparation:
The goal was to restore my trailer to like new, road worthy condition. I also wanted to change the bolt pattern so I could share wheels from another trailer or my truck. I started by confirming what I was working with and what parts were needed. In this case I was working on a 2001 Boatmaster trailer model 2830-TH, with electric over hydraulic brakes, 12" rotors (discs brakes), and 6000 pound torsion axles. As I disassembled, I inspected everything, including the hydraulic lines, axles, and wiring. On inspection I found the front axle mounting points were significantly deteriorated. The rear axle was in better shape, but I elected to replace both axles rather than repair the mounts as they come factory galvanized, and 20 years of salt water service seemed good enough. I chose to use Dexter torsion factory galvanized axles and Kodiak brand parts to replace the rotors, calipers, and pads.
In addition to the replacement parts and tools, I used brake cleaner, brake fluid, brake lubricant (for the calipers), lug nuts, bearing grease or oil, caps, and hub nut pins/clips.

Safety first:
I should mention there are several good trailer shops in Gainesville and Ocala, and as you crawl under your rig you may decide the safest option is to pay professionals to do this work. That said, the steps are fairly straightforward and you can very likely find a you tube walkthrough video specific for your trailer configuration. With this in mind I will only touch on the highlights and share some lessons learned.
I was working on top of crushed limerock instead of concrete, so I gathered some scrap lumber to place under the jackstands and prevent them from sinking into the limerock. I jacked up the boat and trailer, made sure everything was stable, then got to work.

In a nutshell the process is: slightly loosen the wheel lugs, raise the trailer, remove wheels, loosen the calipers, remove the grease/oil cap, retaining pin, hub bolt, rotors and bearings.

I use a bucket to keep tools and parts in and I cover the ground with cardboard and/or drop cloths. These two small steps keep me clean, organized, and a lot more comfortable than i'd be working directly on top of the gravel.

Bungee cords are helpful to hold up the calipers. Be careful to minimize stress on the brake lines. Clean the hubs, replace and pack bearings with grease as needed and reassemble in reverse order. Remember to lubricate the calipers and bleed brakes (from the top) per manufacturer recommendations.

For the Road:
I took the opportunity to add a few items to my travel tools which now consists of the following: tire iron, scissor and hydraulic jacks, a jack stand, a couple pieces of 2x8 board, a breaker bar with a socket for lug nuts and a socket that fits the hub nut, spare lug nuts, brake fluid, spare brake lines, brake line plugs (e.g. steel pipe plug - Hex Head - 3/16 In), and a grease gun. The plugs can be used if you need to temporarily plug a portion of your system.

Why?
You can't put a price on safety… right? On reflection I think this expense likely approached the original cost of the trailer 20 years ago, but with the major components updated it should be ready for many more years of service.

Ed Ellett, CPCU, CLU, CIC

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24th Annual Boat Owners Tournament Winners

LARGEST BASS:
1st place - Houston Swearingen 1.88lb
2nd place - Greg Swearingen 1.77lb
3rd place - Jerry Brown 1.67lb

BASS STRINGER:
1st place - Greg Swearingen 8.35lb
2nd place - Tommy Turner & Crew 6.17lb
3rd place - Jerry Brown & Crew 5.83lb

LARGEST TROUT:
1st place - Andrew Fagan 2.44lb
2nd place - Brad Rohrbacher 2.33lb
3rd place - Tyler Jacobs 2.06lb

TROUT STRINGER:
1st place - Brad Rohrbacher & Crew 7.47lb
2nd place - Kyle Hill & Crew 7.05lb
3rd place - Vince Pilcher & Crew 5.94lb

LARGEST REDFISH:
1st place - Russell Dingman 5.99lb
2nd place - Tyler Jacobs 5.50lb
3rd place - Andrew Fagan 5.48lb

LARGEST GROUPER:
1st place - Luke Hahn 10.67lb
2nd place - David Bozeman 10.27lb
3rd place - John King 9.35lb

LARGEST SPANISH:
1st place - John Hayes 1.86lb
2nd place - Joe Sprouse 1.70lb
3rd place - Will Peebles .97lb

GROUPER STRINGER:
1st place - Luke Hahn & Crew 19.99lb
2nd place - David Bozeman & Crew 18.86lb

KIDS DIVISION:
1st place - Evan Peebles 4.55lb Redfish
2nd place - Kaedric Molitor 2.33lb Bass

SLAM AWARD:
Brad Rohrbacher - Trout, Reds, Spanish
Burt Pilcher & Crew - Trout, Reds, Spanish

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FWC Updates

NOAA Fisheries Closes Recreational Harvest of Gray Triggerfish and Red Grouper

What/When:

• Recreational harvest of gray triggerfish and red grouper in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) will close at 12:01 am, local time, on September 15, 2021.

• Recreational harvest of gray triggerfish will reopen March 1, 2022, following the 2022 January and February seasonal closure.

• Recreational harvest of red grouper will reopen on January 1, 2022.

Why These Closures are Happening:

• The 2021 gray triggerfish recreational annual catch target is 274,323 pounds whole weight. Projections indicate that recreational landings of gray triggerfish have met the annual catch target.

• In accordance with the regulations, NOAA Fisheries must close recreational gray triggerfish harvest when the annual catch target has been or is projected to be met.

• Landings information received from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center indicates that the 2021 red grouper recreational annual catch limit of 1,000,000 pounds gutted weight was met as of June 30, 2021.

• In accordance with the regulations, NOAA Fisheries must close recreational red grouper harvest when the annual catch limit has been or is projected to be met.

• These closures are needed to prevent overfishing of gray triggerfish and red grouper (annual catch rates are too high).

During the Closures:

• During the recreational closures, the bag and possession limit are zero for gray triggerfish and red grouper in or from federal waters of the Gulf.

• The prohibition on possession of Gulf gray triggerfish and red grouper also applies in Gulf state waters for a vessel issued a valid federal charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is* NOAA *Fisheries announcing today about the Gulf of Mexico recreational red grouper season?

• NOAA Fisheries is announcing the closure of the Gulf of Mexico recreational red grouper season.

• The closure becomes effective September 15, 2021.

• This is the first time we have closed the recreational red grouper sector in-season since 2015.

• The season will reopen January 1, 2022.

Why is the Gulf of Mexico recreational red grouper season closing?

• Red grouper recreational catches in early 2021 were substantially higher than catches during the same time periods in recent years.

• Preliminary landings data we received in early September indicate recreational landings had exceeded the recreational quota by nearly 60,000 pounds as of July 1.

• The recreational annual catch limit was set by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

How is the Gulf of Mexico commercial red grouper sector managed?

• The commercial harvest of red grouper is managed under an Individual Fishing Quota system and will remain open.

What is NOAA Fisheries announcing today about the Gulf of Mexico recreational gray trigger fish season?

• NOAA Fisheries is announcing the closure of the Gulf of Mexico recreational gray triggerfish season.

• The closure becomes effective September 15, 2021.

Why is the Gulf of Mexico recreational gray triggerfish season closing?

• NOAA Fisheries estimated the gray triggerfish recreational annual catch target set by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council was met.

How is the Gulf of Mexico commercial gray triggerfish sector managed?

The commercial harvest of gray triggerfish is managed through trip and size limits, with an annual closure in June and July.

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Recent Catches

Angler	Species	Weight	Date Caught	Location	Lure/Bait
Virgil Cooper	Spanish Mackeral	1.47 lbs	9/6/2021	Cedar key	Lure
Tim Pedersen	Spanish Mackeral	2.36 lbs	9/6/2021	Cedar Key	Lure
Tim Pedersen	Flounder	1.1 lbs	9/6/2021	Cedar Key	Live bait
William Mundt	Spanish Mackeral	2.5 lbs	9/6/2021	Crystal River	Gulp
William Mundt	Redfish	4 lbs	9/6/2021	Crystal River	Cut bait

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Saltwater Fishing Report - September 3, 2021

By Gary Simpson

For many avid fans of outdoor sports, this is hunting season … pure and simple. Possibly even more would-be anglers postpone their casting due to football season. But those who keep a grip on their rods while others grab guns and foam fingers know that the fall season brings very good things for anglers.

Spring might be best season for all-around fish-catching, but the springtime action comes with a considerably larger crowd on the water and at boat ramps. One of fall fishing's big positives is the dependable reduction in fishing pressure.

Autumn's on-the-water bounty is already ramping up. There are always less-than-ideal fishing situations here and there, but aside from some persistent flooding on the upper Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers and rain-darkened inshore shallows along the salty gulf coast, overall fishing conditions are quite good.

For instance, the annual run of shrimp up the St. John's River is starting to look far more promising. Most cast-netters now say there are sufficient shrimp near Palatka to make a cast-netting trip there worthwhile. Speckled perch are starting to bite well in most lakes near Gainesville. And the gulf's shallows seem to be producing better each week.

Dan Orr took a Labor Day drive to the gulf coast, "just knocking around". Along the sightseeing ride, the Gainesville angler visited Shell Mound in the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge around mid-morning. There, he noticed several people on the fishing pier. The tide was high and rising, and he didn't have to wait long before someone pulled in a fish. Orr happened to have his granddaughter's little spinning outfit with him, and he also had a Ziplock pouch of Fishbites E-Z Flea … a synthetic alternative to natural bait that's produced in St. Augustine and is very popular with surf fishers.

He walked about halfway down the pier, noticing that everyone else was armed with considerably heavier equipment and most had "great looking bait like live shrimp and fresh, cut ladyfish". He took out the pouch with the Fishbites bait, cut off a small piece of the Sand Flea formula, hooked it, and flipped it out. Orr proceeded to watch the better-equipped fishers catch silver perch, croaker, catfish, sting rays, and even a couple of small sharks. When his first bite came, it was a redfish … a hair too short to keep, measuring 17.5-inches. Still, it was the first red he had seen. The next bite was a heavier and stronger foe that he battled tooth-and-nail. Finally, the angler vanquished the crowd-pleasing redfish that measured just over 24-inches.