The Acute Angler

February, 2022
Volume 55, Number 2

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

February Hot Shot

Never too Cold to Catch Fish!

What better way to spend a cold winter morning than on the water fishing. Mike Dumas proves once again that even in tough conditions the fish will bite if you know where to go and what to throw.

Dawn Cross was with Mike when he pulled in this 32" red on a 30-40 degree morning. Mike caught the fish on a red & white Rebel plug on an incoming tide.

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President's Corner

By Ross McElroy

GOFC President

Well for once, COVID wasn't the problem. This time the weather did us in. The Oyster Roast had to be postponed. Now, we are tentatively rescheduled for April 15 at the Crapo's home south of Micanopy. We still have a busy schedule of upcoming events. First up, February 25, the Awards Banquet at the Ironwood Golf Club Banquet Hall on 39th Ave. NE, Gainesville. If you have not responded to the RSVP, please do so and pay your 2022 dues. Best event of the year!! Lobster, Jumbo Shrimp, Crabs, Clam Chowder. We furnish the melted butter, grits and all the condiments, plus water and sodas. REMEMBER YOU CANNOT BRING YOUR FAVORITE ADULT BEVERAGE TO THIS ONE!! Ironwood is on city property and they have a very reasonably priced cash bar. Bring any side dish you want to share and don't forget the $100 prize for best homemade dessert. Don't forget to bring something to crack the crab legs with. We start at 6:30 pm and wind down at around 9:00 pm.

Next up, is the Sheepshead Shootout scheduled for March 5, 2022, launching from Cedar Key. Weigh-in will be at Robinson's Seafood, where you can get a bite to eat before heading home.

Our first scheduled Speakers Meeting will feature Danny Allen, who guides primarily in-shore out of Cedar Key. He should be able to put us onto more reds, trout, flounder, etc. This one is scheduled for March 22 at our usual site at

(cont'd on p2)

President's Column (cont'd)

the Vet School. Pizza and drinks at 7:00 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We will certify scales at this meeting.
If you've been lucky enough to get on the water and not hamstrung by the wind and cold water, there are some nice fish being caught. Good reports coming in from Cedar Key, Steinhatchee, as far up as Keaton Beach. Reds, trout, blues, sheepshead and even a few Spanish have all been reported.

Be safe!! See you on the 25th at the Virgil, Tim and Dale show.

February is a good to renew your GOFC Membership!

It's now easier than ever!

Just go to the "Join now!" tab on the GOFC website.

(http://www.gofc.us/wp/join-now/)

Then fill out the form online and pay using PayPal.

From the Editor

By Jeff Gartland

GOFC Editor

Spring is starting to arrive on the Nature Coast and thoughts are turning to fishing. So many memories are made on our fishing trips. If we're lucky some of our best times are captured in photographs. With the ubiquity of the camera phone, there should be an abundance of fishing photos out there. Which brings me to my point.

All members are encouraged to submit photos to the GOFC website. Here's the link: Photo Submission Form. Submitted photos will be displayed on our Hot Shots page: GOFC Hot Shots. If you want to show off a catch, a new boat, capture a fun trip, or just get your fishing buddy or family on the website here's your chance.
Please don't hesitate because you think it's "not good enough". If you like it, that's all that matters.

Hot Shot photos are automatically entered in the year end photo contest and eligible to win up to $100. Easy money so send 'em in!

The winners of the 2021 Photo Contest are featured in this issue. Look it over. Maybe you'll win 2022. Worst case, you'll be sharing a memory.

I look forward to hearing from you (newsletter@gofc.us) and sharing the tremendous depth of knowledge and experience within the GOFC membership.

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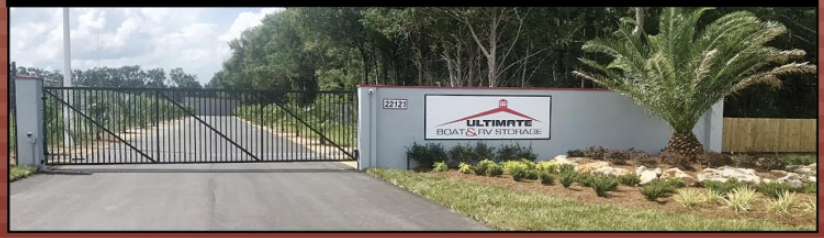

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Upcoming Events

February 25, 2022 - Annual Awards and Seafood Banquet. Ironwood CC. Please RSVP.

March 5, 2022 - Sheepshead Shootout Tournament/ Cedar Key

March 22, 2022 - Speakers Meeting. Danny Allen– Cedar Key guide. Meet at Veterinary Academic Building .Fellowship begins at 7:00 pm . Watch your email for more information.

April 15— GOFC Oyster Roast. Rescheduled from January 21, 2022. Look for announcements.

April 30, 2022 - Mac Attack tournament/Cedar Key

May 14, 2022 - Spring Big 10 Species Tournament/ TBD

October 22, 2022 - Fall Big 10 Species tournament/ TBD

November 17,2022—Ellett Auction

December 5, 2022 - Redfish/Trout Roundup Tournament/Steinhatchee

Monthly Meetings—Upcoming meetings will be announced by email. Typically we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Veterinary Academic Building .Fellowship begins at 7:00 pm and the meeting proper begins at 7:30.

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Upcoming Events

Annual GOFC Oyster Roast—Rescheduled for April 15 at the home of Ed and Sheila Crapo. Look for future announcements.

Annual Seafood and Awards Banquet

When: February 25th, 2022, 6:30 PM—9:00 PM
Where: Ironwood Golf Course, 2100 NE 39TH Ave, Gainesville, Fl 32609
Cost: FREE to MEMBERS who have paid their 2022 dues (members will be able to pay for their dues during the event, as well)
Come celebrate GOFC award winners with great eats and good company. The menu includes, lobster , snow crab, jumbo shrimp, clam chowder, grits and baked beans.
What to bring: A side dish and/or a dessert to share. **Best dessert wins $100**. GOFC will supply soda and bottled water. Ironwood GC will have a bar available to purchase beer, wine and cocktails.

Because of all the COVID problems and the skyrocketing prices (especially for seafood) it is imperative that we get an accurate estimate of attendance for the event in advance.

Please use the following link and complete the form as soon as possible.

Seafood Awards Banquet RSVP

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Upcoming Events

Sheepshead Shootout Tournament

When: March 5, 2022, First safe light —4:00 PM

Where: Launch at Cedar Key . Weigh in is at Robinson's Seafood, 6991 SW State Road 24, Cedar Key, FL

Cost: FREE to MEMBERS who have paid their 2022 dues.

Check your email for all the details.

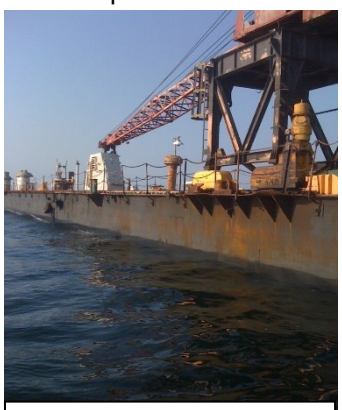
Chic's "Nothing but the Truth" Fishing Report

by Chic Hinton

Gator trout, redfish, and sheepshead top the list of targeted species this time of the year.

Now is the time to begin pre-fishing in preparation for the GOFC Sheepshead Shootout, Saturday, March 5, out of Cedar Key. The early indications are that the sheepshead are running a bit larger than in previous years.

The most popular areas for sheepshead are the Drydock, GOFC reefs 1 & 2, Steel Tower, and the Pit. For those who haven't been to the Drydock, it's debris covers an area about the size of a football field. Be forewarned that Drydock loves to steal your tackle, anchor and rope. If you're a member in good standing and want coordinates for any of these locations send me an email (newsletter@gofc.us).



Drydock prior to sinking

March 1 will signal the opening of snook season in the Big Bend area. According to Mike Allen, Director of the Nature Coast Biological Station, a recent cold snap came close to the minimum temperature for snook survival. There were some reports of a small number of dead snook but the majority survived the cold bullet. The UF/IFAS station has a number of GPS tracking tags on snook and they all seem to still be active in the Suwannee River.

March will also see the start of trout moving on the grass flats along with a few small Spanish mackerel.

If you are new to the area or club feel free to contact any of the officers or directors to assist you in locating and catching bigger fish. The officers and directors are listed on the website (gofc.us) on the Contacts page.

Anchors and Bycatch

By Tom Jaworski

Part I

As the 4 amigos set out on the 1st Appearance, a 26ft Seahunt powered by twin 150 Yamaha's and equipped with a 87" shafted Rhodan trolling motor, they couldn't have asked for a more picturesque day to try their luck hunting Amberjacks. Setting out on this October day, the seas were just less than 2' in the morning with a slight breeze.

In quest of the AJ's, the anglers headed to the reliable Seahorse Reef to roust up some pinfish for tasty bait. Surprisingly, without chum bags deployed, the live wells were filled in short order with lively specimens. As they were ready to head out to AJ territory, the seas were starting to develop, 2 footers and steady, and the Rhodan held them in place on the reef, but with the GPS alarm starting to beep indicating intermittent signal and position holding strength.

With a full live well and anticipation in the air, the Seahunt plowed through the rollers at 26 mph, heading for the infamous "Barge." Along the way, the group tried its luck at a spot provided by another GOFC member, but no one was home this time. Always keep that sonar on as you move along and you might be surprised what you might find.

Within an hour, the boat slowed as it reached its destination, the "Barge." As big as life, there it was on the sonar on the first pass. As Captain Tom puttered around the exact location couldn't be relocated so it was decided we were close enough and it was time to start fishing.

The seas were getting close to 3' by now and not likely the trolling motor would hold the location, someone suggested to deploy the easily retrievable windlass anchor. I've used my Lewar windlass three times before, but never at the barge. So in 60 feet of water, down it sank. It held us steady just like a trolling motor would have kept us on the spot. And with just the push of a button, up it would come.

Within 30 minutes, Ariel had hooked up and landed a 23lb AJ. Nice first fish in the box. Floating a live pin fish, Jeff Gartland had FISH ON about 10 minutes later! If you haven't caught an AJ before, there is a reason they are call reef donkeys. 30 minutes later and two complete trips around the 26 ft boat, passing his rod under the taught anchor rope both times, finally a gaff pulled out from the depths and rewarded the patient angler with a 33lb AJ.

Two fishermen with their limits in the boat, two remained without their fish. With only a week left in the season, and the highly coveted Ellet award in the wings for one of the fisherman if he could only land an AJ, the fishermen doubled down.

A big strike for Tom and the fish shook and pulled fiercely. Feeling confident that he would be the next to land an AJ, he was able to at last pull the fish up and through the surface. Surprised by the sight of a gag grouper breaking the plane, he was even more surprised by the mighty thrashing of the tax man chomping off the gag just below his gills. One couldn't tell if it was a shark or barracuda but likely the later as the crew caught 4 barracudas a little while before the gag. The gag had some decent sized cheeks but unfortunately the fish must be harvested whole to take them. It was kind of eerie that the head was still moving, prompting one member to exclaim "the talking head." Not the kind of catch and release one hopes for while fishing.

F.A.C. 68B-14.006 Other Prohibitions and Exception

(4) Landed in Whole Condition Requirement – Except as provided elsewhere in this rule, all fish harvested from Florida or adjacent federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters pursuant to the requirements of this chapter **shall be landed in a whole condition**. The possession, while in or on state waters, on any public or private fishing pier, on a bridge or catwalk attached to a bridge from which fishing is allowed, or on any jetty, of such fish that have been deheaded, sliced, divided, filleted, ground, skinned, scaled or deboned is prohibited. Mere evisceration or "gutting" of fish, or mere removal of gills from fish, before landing is not prohibited. Preparation of fish for immediate consumption on board the vessel from which the fish were caught is not prohibited.

The two remaining fishermen had several hookups after this talking head was released. Chic and Tom had at least a dozen hook ups between them and short battles with the reef donkeys before being cut off. Between the two, they used 80lb mono leaders on 65lb braid, switching to steel leaders to 100lb mono leaders. But the donkeys made asses out of the fisherman, as not one was to be landed by either. One hook up almost spooled Tom but again the battle was lost.

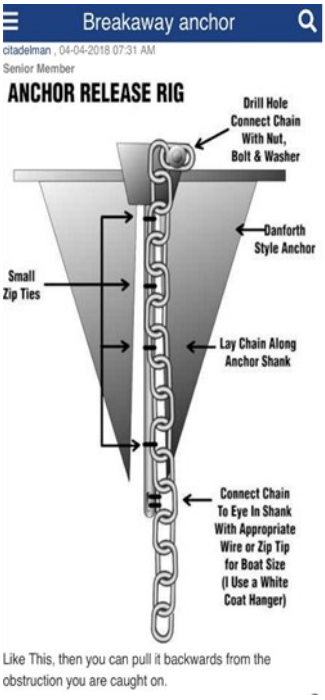
(cont'd on next page)

Anchors and Bycatch

(cont'd from p 7)

Part II

Tired and sore and with only the two AJ's to account for and the seas topping 3', the captain called it quitting time. "Hoist the anchor"- rrrrrrr- rrrrrr-rrrrrr. Nothing doing. The windless would not budge. Ultimately, the 45 amp breaker popped and no more rrrrr. The anchor rope was as taught as a tight rope and the crew couldn't move it. After about 45 minutes of circling around the anchor, going to and fro, and calling upon the anchor release gods, nothing doing. I was amazed at how sharp the knife was that easily cut through the rope that separated the anchor line from the boat and set us adrift. Coordinates were noted of the exact location of the sunken treasure as we pulled the boat directly above the line leaving no slack. The stainless steel Lewar and 15' galvanized chain now provides a shiny trinket to the goliaths and other predators below. Back on shore, and the reality of an expensive anchor gone, sad and sullen, a lesson was gained from all of this. On his next voyage out Captain Tom will make sure he has a breakaway rigged anchor. It's also prudent practice to have a spare anchor with chain on board.



The above is a photo from an article I found on The Hull Truth website. The Hull Truth is a decent website to look for answers to a question you may have about boating, fishing etc.

On the Monday morning following this Sunday adventure, Captain Tom walked into the elections office where he serves as chair of the canvassing board. As he approached the counter, one of the employees who knew of Tom's plans of going fishing over the weekend casually asks, "How was fishing" Tom says "We went to the Barge." The employee responds, "So did you lose an anchor?" How the bloody heck did she know? The employee informed me that when they go to the Barge, they always take two anchors. Now I know why.

Part III

I made inquires of various GOFC members who are also divers and our immediate past president agreed to make a dive and retrieve the anchor for me. Great. This being my first boat, and a shiny anchor lost, I'm ecstatic Mark Haberman is going to help. As the days pass, the water is getting colder and the days growing shorter, so we hurry to find a good day to go.

With a date selected, the crew leaves Cedar Key and heads directly out the Barge. No catching bait, we're on a strictly rescue mission. This time, as luck would have it, the doggone trolling motor decides not to work. Well, a diver cannot go down with a boat adrift so we use our manually deployed backup anchor. Heck, if it gets stuck, we rationalized that the diver is already down there so he could retrieve it. Plunk, 60 feet the anchor descends.

After about twenty minutes of searching and watching the diver's bubbles, Mark emerged, empty handed. It seems the anchor was too entangled and not enough oxygen for him to rescue it. Mark reported that he did come face to face with a rather large goliath while down there and an assortment of other fishes guarding my anchor.

If you haven't watched it yet, there is a video on the GOFC website taken underwater of the barge. It is certainly a worthwhile flick to watch for anyone venturing out to the Barge.

The Barge video

Well, since we were there, and it is a good fishing spot, the rescue team decides to try its luck. Floating a gulp on a jig, Captain Tom caught a reef donkey but not one large enough to keep. A few minutes later, while floating the same gulp on the same jig, wham, FISH ON! -- thinking for sure it was an enormous AJ.

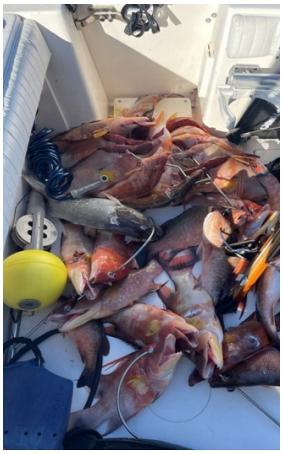
(cont'd on next page)

Anchors and Bycatch

(cont'd from p 8)

Pulling line off my reel and running deep, I shouted to the mate to hoist anchor and follow the fish. I was nearly spooled again. This time I decided not to try and muscle the fish up, and if it got caught up below, I'd wait him out. After a 20 plus minute battle, what did my wondering eyes sees, not a reindeer but a 16lb American Red Snapper. But it was no better than a lump of coal for it was not in season.

Also while at the spot, Chic Hinton hooks up with a keeper grouper! You might notice that in the photo below its throat is slit. Some anglers think it's a good practice to bleed out the fish before icing it down.



Part IV

Sharing the disappointing news of the unsuccessful recovery of the anchor with the employee previously mentioned at the elections office, a new friend emerged. It seems her husband, a former GOFC member, John Stork, gave Captain Tom the name of an **ardent** spear fisherman. Giving this diver the details of the attempt to retrieve the anchor along with the coordinates, it was an early Christmas for Captain Tom. The anchor was recovered and delivered to Captain Tom's about a week later.

While extremely grateful, it seems that that the anchor recovery could almost be considered bycatch from the divers expedition, as not only did the pay it forward friend send pictures of the recovered anchor, but also photos of the spear fishermen's bounty from the trip.

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The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

2021 Photo Contest Results

Forty photos were entered in the 2021 photo contest. The winners were determined by a panel of judges over a two-week period ending January 28. What does it take to have a winner in the annual phot contest? Three things help a great deal: action, emotion and composition.

Here are the 2021 winners with judges' comments. See if you agree. All entrants can be found at GOFC Hot Shots. Only 2021 photo were entered.

1st Place "Sunrise at Cedar Key" by Dale Reed – This photo displays the soft texture of a Gulf Coast sunrise on a calm morning. The author appears to have paused from the busy boat launch routine to savor the moment and the promise of the upcoming day.

2nd Place "Hooked Up" by Dale Reed – This photo too captures the Gulf in a quiet mood while the emotions on the boat are anything but. This family is seen at a special moment. The photo will be referred over the years evoking fond memories.

3rd Place "Anxious for Shrimp Dinner" by Ed Ellett – The word "fun" kept coming up in the judging of this photo. It's also a nice display of a GOFC shirt.

Honorable Mention "Dinner" by Dale Reed

Honorable Mention "Steinhatchee King" by Donald McArthur

Hooked on Grouper Fishing!

By Erich Horn

I learned to fish Florida's inshore salt water as a kid in an old canoe with my father. The further you paddled, the less time you had to fish. The further you paddled, the more tired you got. Consequently, we targeted inshore sea trout and redfish, and sometimes caught flounder, Spanish mackerel, sand trout, catfish, ladyfish, and French grunts. Not surprisingly, I never caught grouper. I moved back to Florida a few years ago, joined GOFC and got a boat, but still targeted inshore fish. With an outboard motor, it was a lot easier to get further away from the launch to fish and much easier to move around, looking for fish, but I still never fished for grouper.

Until December 15, just a few weeks before the end of gag grouper season. Friend and member Dominic Greco called me to say he'd been invited to fish and couldn't go. Would I be interested to join Mark Rustemier and Ed Ellett on a grouper trip? I had the day off from work and I couldn't wait to go. Long before sunrise, Ed and I got to Bronson and met Captain Mark, whose boat, "Fishslayer" was stocked and ready. Ed had brought frozen sardines and squid for bait. I brought Christmas cookies and a lot of questions. How do you catch grouper? I was going to find out.

From Cedar Key, we motored past Seahorse Key in the Main shipping channel and SSW past the steel tower. Seas were rougher than the predicted 2'. Four to 5' was more like it. We bounced some heading out to 40' of water. Captain Mark's Fishslayer is a Boston Whaler, sturdy and comfortable and didn't have any trouble with the waves. We kept dry and warm. We headed to a spot Mark had scouted on an earlier trip. Rocky bottom and enough structure to hold fish. He's a diver and had checked out the spot himself—it didn't just look promising on the depthfinder and sidescanner, it LOOKED promising close up! We anchored and got ready to fish. He and Ed showed me how the sliding 3-ounce sinker works over a 6-0 circle hook, and I had a new rod from the GOFC auction to try out. I learned how to rig a sardine—cut the tail off diagonally with some of the belly and pass the hook through the bait's eyes. It flutters more naturally and doesn't spin on the way to the bottom. Reel up a turn or two and wait.

Within a few minutes, Ed had hooked a nice fish. He worked hard to get it up out of the rocks and brought it to the net. I thought, we're going to need a bigger net, but the 24"+ gag grouper came in the boat just fine. I think I hooked the next one. The strike was hard, and for the first 15 seconds it wasn't clear if the fish was coming up or I was going down. The new rod and reel worked fine, my knots held, and the fish came up to the net. It was about the same size as Ed's and went into the fish bag in the cooler.

We moved, trying other deeper areas Mark had scouted and anchored again. Ed caught another keeper gag grouper, larger than the first, and Mark hooked a good fish, but it cut the monofilament leader in the rocks and got off. We had used up the first box of sardines and started to use cut bait, large grunts we were catching in between the grouper. Grunts are cannibals and grouper like them too. The fillets held up well in the water. A couple of times, Ed and Mark baited with a fish head and hooked something big, (very large grouper, shark?) but we didn't see it.

(cont'd on p10)

Hooked on Grouper Fishing! (cont'd)

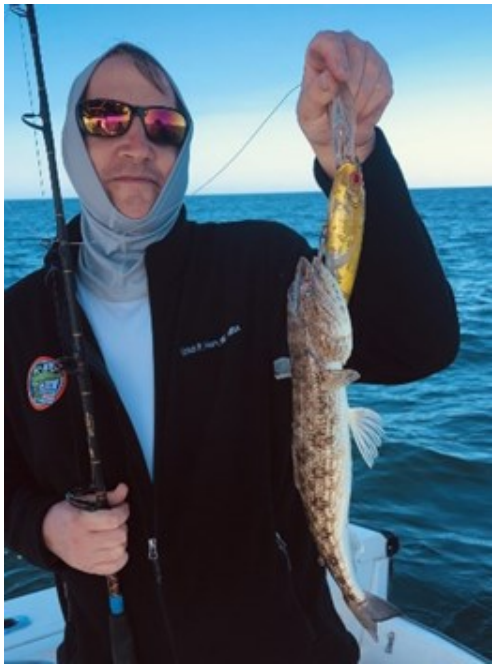
Around lunchtime, my rod tried to jump overboard. I was holding onto it with both hands and had the butt under my armpit. I thought I'd hooked a diving submarine! I think Ed and the captain thought it was the bottom the way the rod was bent. I kept pulling and reeling and the weight started to move. After a few minutes' fight, it was in the net, a 36" grouper. (See picture with Captain Mark Rustemier). We caught a few more grouper and a bunch of grunts then tried trolling with colorful, big-lipped deep-water plugs, which dive to 20'-30'.

The sea was calmer now. The waves really were 2'-3' and the wind had moderated. Trolling at 4-5 knots we caught a small grouper and 4 large lizardfish—really large, 16''-19" and up to 2 pounds. I didn't know they grew so big, having only seen them in the 6"-8" range attacking a jig or a Mirrolure on grass flats. At any size, they're remarkably aggressive fish!

All day, we'd seen just one other fishing boat (we had seen one stone crabber tending lines of pots). I learned a little bit about fishing etiquette. The best way to keep a fishing spot secret is never to fish there. Your boat will be seen. If you're seen to be catching, your spot will be marked, sometimes by a boat motoring at high speed right off your stern to get the tightest GPS coordinates. This is poor etiquette. A little subtlety is nice. It'd be better if other boats came back later, did a little scouting themselves with their bottom scanners to find a likely spot. It's a big Gulf out there, and there's plenty of water to explore without crowding.

All told, we'd caught five keeper grouper for the boat, grunts, a toadfish, large lizardfish and we'd had a lot of fun. I learned two techniques to catch grouper and fished with two experts who generously shared hard-won knowledge and experience with a novice. These were my first grouper and I am hooked!

The trip back to Cedar Key was a lot smoother than the trip out and took half as long. Captain Mark had the boat on the trailer and us underway back to Bronson in just a few minutes, where we divided up the fish, helped pay for gas and shook hands. What a great day! Ed took me



back to his house, where he showed me the best way to fillet and skin a grouper. He also weighed my big fish (2476; we thought 24.76 pounds!). Ed thought this might be an annual record for the GOFC, so he encouraged me to go to Northwest Seafood the next day for an official weigh in. I got my son to do that while I was at work—15.3 pounds on a certified scale. By that time, Ed had already figured out his home scale had been recalibrated in ounces—247.6 ounces is a little over 15 pounds, but not a 24.76 pounder. Record or no, it was a remarkable day and great tasting fish.

Thanks to Mark and Ed for taking me on a private grouper "learnathon". What great teachers!

2021 Ellett Contest Results

Rules

Ellett Angler of the Year

- A year-long contest in which points are awarded (based on weight) for each of the Big 10 Species an angler catches.
- The angler with the most Ellett Points at the end of the year wins the coveted Ellett Award for fishing excellence.
- The winner of the Ellett Angler of the Year is not eligible for the Top Inshore Angler of the Year or the Top Offshore Angler of the Year

Top Inshore Angler of the Year

- A year-long contest in which points are awarded based on weight) for bluefish, flounder, redfish, sheepshead, and trout
- The angler with the most Ellett Points at the end of the year wins the Top Inshore Angler of the Year award

Top Offshore Angler of the Year

- A year-long contest in which points are awarded for amberjack, cobia, grouper, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel
- The angler with the most Ellett Points at the end of the year wins the Top Offshore Angler of the Year award

Elite Angler of the Year

- Structured like the Ellett Angler of the Year contest.
- Reserved for Elite Anglers (three-time winners of the Ellett Angler of the Year contest) The Elite Angler with the most Ellett Points at the end of the year wins the Elite Angler of the Year award

Winners

MEN'S DIVISION ELLETT CONTEST WINNERS

GOFC member	Amberjack	Bluefish	Cobia	Flounder	Grouper	King Mack	Redfish	Sheepshead	Span Mack	Trout
Reed, Dale	38.00	2.4	16.62	1.90	14.68	13.44	4.68	4.70	4.30	3.90
Pedersen, Tim	40.00	4.26		1.10	10.10	17.49	7.89	3.06	4.30	5.42
Hinton, Chic		1.19			16.05	17.38	6.44	2.85	4.38	3.63

ELITE DIVISION ELLETT CONTEST WINNER

GOFC member	Amberjack	Bluefish	Cobia	Flounder	Grouper	King Mack	Redfish	Sheepshead	Span Mack	Trout
Cooper, Virgil	45.0	3.1		1.23	10.27	6.20	6.73	3.76	1.47	5.36

INSHORE DIVISION ELLETT CONTEST TOP 10

GOFC member	Bluefish	Flounder	Redfish	Sheepshead	Trout
Pedersen, Tim	4.26	1.10	7.89	3.06	5.42
Horn, Phil	3.13	2.06	6.59	3.31	4.75
Cooper, Virgil	3.10	1.23	6.73	3.76	5.36
Ellett, Ed	2.52	3.28	6.26	3.70	2.88
Reed, Dale	2.40	1.90	4.68	4.70	3.90
Hinton, Chic	1.19	0.00	6.44	2.85	3.63
Knopf, Ken	2.49	0.81	4.79	0.00	4.04
Ellett, Marcia	0.00	0.00	7.88	3.00	2.90
McElroy, Ross	0.00	0.00	6.10	2.65	3.00

OFFSHORE DIVISION ELLETT CONTEST Top 3

GOFC member	Amberjack	Cobia	Grouper	King Mack	Span Mack
Reed, Dale	38.00	16.62	14.68	13.44	4.30
Pedersen, Tim	40.00	0.00	10.10	17.49	4.30
Hinton, Chic	0.00	0.00	16.05	17.38	4.38

The Acute Angler

February, 2022
Volume 55, Number 2

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Dale Reed

Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

2021 John Ellett Top Angler Award Winner

Men's Division

Amberjack 38.0	**Bluefish 2.4**	**Cobia 16.62**	**Flounder 1.9**	**Grouper 14.68**
King Mack 13.44	**Redfish 4.68**	**Sheepshead 4.7**	**Span Mack 4.3**	**Trout 3.9**

A –
Angler you most admire: My grandson, he has his whole life to fish.

B – Biggest strength you have in fishing sport: Always open to new ideas and methods of fishing.

C – Chasing the 2021 John Ellett, Top Angler award was …. An adventure, but very rewarding.

D – Dream Fishing Trip: My dad and I anywhere.

E – EPIRB, cell phone, VHF radio or Guardian Angel for safety, and why?: All of them, safety first.

F - Favorite fishing trip of 2021: With Mike Saincome, caught 11 over slot snook, groupers and cobias.

G - Getting the John Ellett, Top Angler award means: I've worked very hard and got a little lucky – honored!

H - Hardest species of the Big Ten to catch: Kingfish this year, caught two in the month of December.

I - Idol: Carey Chen – fishes all over the world, and is an amazing artist.

J – Juice, milk, coffee, Dramamine or a banana in the morning before your fishing trip : None, 1 Mountain Dew then water, water, water.

K - Kind of shoes you wear on fishing trip: Huk boots.

L - Last time you laughed out loud: Today and every day.

M - Movie you love: Batman.

N - Nickname: Dale the Whale.

O - Off the water hobby you enjoy: Golf and spending time with my grandson.

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Dale Reed

A-Z Profile (cont'd)

P - Pre-fishing trip ritual: Making a plan A, B, C, go to bed early and not sleep.

Q - Quirky habit: Two of everything – always safety first!

R - Rivalry at GOFC contest: Tim Petersen and Chic Hinton.

S - Song you sing in the shower that could go to number 1 on the charts: I wouldn't put anyone through that – I can't sing at all.

T - Tarpon, Triple tail and Tuna – what do these, non Big Ten, non John Ellett Top Angler Award species mean to you: Tarpon – a war, Triple tail – opportunistic and fun, Tuna – I'm probably in the Keys, fun fight!

U - Useless fact about you: I don't get much sleep, 6 hours a day.

V - Vocal GOFC fishing club member: Mike Saincome.

W - Worst fishing experience of 2021: Coming back in from grouper fishing, weather turned bad, 4-6 footers – 1 guy on knees praying to get back in - soaked

X - X rays, cuts, human hookup fishing experiences: Hook in finger to the bone, cut off plug – fished from 8:30 -4:30, helped for a bit weighing in fish then went to urgent care. Head surgeon said I need to go to Shands so went by ambulance, eventually cut it out.

Y - Your best fishing buddy: Mike Saincome.

Z - Zany thing this year's President, Mark Haberman, or a GOFC Board Member said to you: Chic called and said he took over 2nd place but didn't know I had caught my kingfish.

100 Hour Motor Maintenance Learnament

January 22, 2022

By: Chic Hinton

On a cold Saturday morning seven GOFC members gathered around a fire behind Mark Haberman's boat for an outboard motor "learnament".

It was all hands on deck as Mark demonstrated how to drain the lower unit and replace it with fresh fluid.

Next he removed the lower unit and secured it to a pair of sawhorses so he could remove the impeller and housing and replace with a new water pump impeller and housing.

Then it was on to removing and replacing the six spark plugs, draining and replacing the engine oil and filter.

Mark likes to do his 100 hour maintenance in January when the fishing season slows and before the Springtime bite is on. The entire job took about 3 hours and saved several hundred dollars.

After watching Mark and asking questions, several members commented that they felt confident they

could complete the job on their own motors. Thanks for sharing Mark!

If you have an idea for a learnament, either as a participant or a teacher, send it to newsletter@gofc.us

February is Also Membership Renewal Month

It's time to renew your membership!

Your $50 membership includes:

- Six tournaments, free to members, with cash prizes.
- Three or more dinner events free to members and their family including January's Oyster Roast, February's Seafood awards banquet (king crab, shrimp and lobster) and November Ellett auction and shrimp boil.
- Monthly meetings featuring guest speakers such as local guides and fishing knowledge experts.
- A chance to make new friends and improve your "catching".

Renew your GOFC Membership!

It's now easier than ever!

Just go to the "Join now!" tab on the GOFC website.

(http://www.gofc.us/wp/join-now/)

Then fill out the form online and pay using PayPal.

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There has been a change to the GOFC official rules relating to King Mackerel (Kingfish)

To all GOFC Members. Please be aware of the following changes:

These changes were made and approved in January's GOFC Board meeting on 1/11/2022.

Change #1 = GOFC Webpage - https://gofc.us/rules/

Last bullet item in the section titled - *"Fish Entry Conditions" Now states:*

"Amberjack **and King Mackerel** can be entered all year long regardless of closed seasons with the requirement that they be released unharmed if caught during a closed season. Amberjack **and King Mackerel** will be entered and scored based on overall length measured from the tip of the jaw or tip of the snout with closed mouth to the center of the fork in the tail. **Entries must include a photo with the complete length of the fish**. Amberjack **and King Mackerel** can still be entered by weight for club record purposes as long as the fish was caught during an open season."

Change #2 = GOFC Webpage - https://gofc.us/about-tournaments-and-contests/

Sections 3 and 5

First bullet item in section 3 titled - ***"Ellett Angler of the Year (Official Contest Weigh Slip)" Now states:***

• A year-long contest in which points are awarded (based on weight) for bluefish, cobia, flounder, grouper, redfish, sheepshead, spanish mackerel, trout and (by length) for amberjack and king mackerel

First bullet item in section 5 titled - ***"Top Offshore Angler of the Year (Official Weigh Slip)" Now states:***

• A year-long contest in which points are awarded (by weight) for cobia, grouper, spanish mackerel and (by length) for amberjack and king mackerel

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Recent Catches January 1, 2022 - February 17, 2022

Angler	Species	Date Caught	Weight (lbs)	Location	Lure/Bait
Tim Pedersen	Flounder	2/17/2022	1.68	Keaton Beach	Shrimp
Dale Reed	Sheepshead	2/12/2022	3.46	Cedar Key	Shrimp
Jay Peacock	Seatrout	2/12/2022	4.48	Steinhatchee	Lure
Mark Rustemier	Seatrout	2/12/2022	1.50	Suwannee	jig
Tim Pedersen	Seatrout	2/12/2022	5.09	Keaton Beach	Lure
Tim Pedersen	Bluefish	2/12/2022	2.53	Keaton Beach	Lure
Phil Horn	Seatrout	2/12/2022	3.12	Keaton Beach	Mirrolure
Carl Vining	Seatrout	2/10/2022	2.06	Keaton Beach	Rapala
Ed Ellett	Seatrout	2/10/2022	2.94	Keaton Beach	Mirodine
Ed Ellett	Flounder	2/10/2022	1.76	Keaton Beach	Morodine
Dale Reed	Redfish	2/8/2022	4.35	Cedar Key	Shrimp
Stephen DeGraff	Redfish	2/5/2022	5.81	Steinhatchee	Johnson spoon
Stephen DeGraff	Seatrout	2/5/2022	3.62	Steinhatchee	Paddle tail jig
Tim Pedersen	Seatrout	1/31/2022	5.42	Keaton Beach	Lure
Stephen DeGraff	Seatrout	1/27/2022	2.31	Keaton Beach	Jig\Shrimp
Stephen DeGraff	Redfish	1/27/2022	5.94	Keaton Beach	Spoon
Elaine Turner	Seatrout	1/15/2022	1.59	Barnett Creek	Shrimp
Jay Peacock	Seatrout	1/15/2022	3.97	Steinhatchee	lure
Jay Peacock	Redfish	1/15/2022	4.20	Steinhatchee	Spoon
Tim Pedersen	Sheepshead	1/15/2022	3.40	Cedar Key	Shrimp
Carl Vining	Redfish	1/15/2022	5.04	Wacasassa Bay	Lure
Staci Sanders	Redfish	1/15/2022	5.12	Wacasassa Bay	Bait
Staci Sanders	Sheepshead	1/15/2022	3.00	Wacasassa Bay	Lure
Ken Knopf	Sheepshead	1/15/2022	3.45	Cedar Key	Shrimp
Tim Pedersen	Redfish	1/14/2022	4.30	Keaton Beach	Lure
Tim Pedersen	Seatrout	1/14/2022	4.82	Keaton Beach	Lure
Tim Pedersen	Bluefish	1/14/2022	2.33	Keaton Beach	Lure
Chic Hinton	Sheepshead	1/13/2022	2.63	Cedar Key	Shrimp
Tom Jaworski	Sheepshead	1/13/2022	3.50	Cedar Key	Shrimp
Ed Ellett	Sheepshead	1/13/2022	4.32	Cedar Key	Jig/shrimp
Ed Ellett	Redfish	1/8/2022	6.40	Preachers Hole Suwan-nee	Shrimp
Dale Reed	King Mackeral	12/28/2021	13.44	Cedar Key	Trolling plug
Chic Hinton	Grouper - Gag	12/23/2021	16.05	Cedar Key	Sardine