

FLAGLER SPORTFISHING CLUB

THE CHUM LINE



FROM THE HELM - BY CAPTAIN ADAM MORLEY

Hey Flagler Sportfishing crew,

As we set our sights on the horizon of 2024, I can't help but feel a surge of excitement for the angling adventures that await us. The thrill of the chase, the camaraderie on the water—there's nothing quite like it.

This year, our 'kids4reel' program takes center stage. The prospect of introducing more families to the joy of fishing has got us buzzing with anticipation. It's not just about the catch; it's about passing on the legacy of our beloved sport to the next generation. Get ready for some heartwarming moments and the echoes of kids' laughter mingling with the splash of fish hitting the deck.

Tournaments, those battlegrounds where legends are made! As the competition heats up, so does our passion for the sport. It's not just about the biggest catch; it's about the shared thrill of the chase and the tales spun at the weigh-in. Get those reels ready, folks—2024 is going to be a tournament season to remember. Clinics, the classrooms of the sea. Whether you're a seasoned angler or just dipping your toes into the world of fishing, our clinics are the place to be. Sharpen your skills, learn the tricks of the trade, and forge connections with fellow enthusiasts. Knowledge is the bait that hooks the biggest catches, after all.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **1/2 Member Meeting & Chili Cook-Off**
- **1/20 Sheepshead Tournament**
- **Beginning Feb. 2024, our meeting location & day is changing. Please see pg 2 for more info!**

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Follow us on social media for more updates & tips!



FROM THE HELM, CONTINUED

And camaraderie, the glue that binds us as a fishing family. The shared sunrises, the stories swapped over cold beverages—it's these moments that make our club something special. As we embark on a new year, let's cast our lines together, share our triumphs and, yes, the tales of the ones that got away.

So, to my fellow Flagler Sportfishing aficionados, gear up, get ready, and let's make 2024 a year of unforgettable angling experiences. May the fish be biting, the seas be kind, and the memories be countless.

Tight lines and fair winds,

Capt. Adam Morley
President, Flagler Sportfishing Club

Important Announcement:

Beginning February 2024, the meeting location & meeting day for Flagler Sportfishing Club is changing!

Our Member Meetings will now be held on the **1st Thursday of each month.**

The new location will be right next door to the VFW at Club 51/Social Club 51 Old Kings Rd. N, Palm Coast, FL 32137

TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN REPORT BY TIM MILLER



Tim Miller
tdtmiller@yahoo.com

Happy 2024 to all our club members! With the start of a new year, our Annual Tournament starts over. This is your chance to win a prize and bragging rights in one of the 23 species. A change for 2024 will be that fish can only be caught in Volusia, Flagler, or St. Johns counties. See the club web site for complete list of eligible species along with the club rules.

Starting January 1, 2024, the clubs' yearlong results will be housed on a new website. This site has some great new features, including an AI program. You can access the site via "Myweightmaster.com" Once on the site, click Login, Click Create Account. Once you have an account, click Myclub, Click Take me to my club.



The 2023 Annual Catch Photo and Release tournament (CPR) was a success. A total of over 620 legal fish were released back into our waters by 44 anglers. For 2024, let us see if our club can double the number of members releasing fish. Rules for this tournament can also be found on our website. A change for 2024 will be that fish can be caught anywhere in the state of Florida.



Our first tournament will be the Sheepshead Tournament on January 20, 2024. See flyer included in this issue with all the information. With \$700.00 in prize money, this is an opportunity to win money to cover your 2024 dues. Check out the club calendar on our website to see all the events for 2024 so you can plan your year with your Fishing Club.



Would you like to control the food and payouts for a tournament? Sign up to run one of the club free tournaments and you will be in control. Running a tournament is easy and a fantastic way to meet members. Send me an email or talk to me at the next club meeting and I will give you all the details.

Thank you,

Tim Miller
tdtmiller@yahoo.com





SANTA MAKES A STOP AT OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

What a holly, jolly time we had at our annual Christmas party! The festivities were in full swing, and the cheer was contagious as we celebrated the season with laughter, joy, and a dash of holiday magic from local band, Soul Fire.

Our party wouldn't be complete without our legendary raffle, and this year was no exception! From fishing gear to weekend getaways, and delectable homemade treats that could make even Santa's taste buds jealous – our members and sponsors truly outdid themselves!

Many thanks to our holiday party committee and the amazing member volunteers who worked their holiday magic to make the Italian American Club sparkle.

Guess who decided to drop by and spread some holiday cheer? None other than the big man himself – Santa Claus! Our guest of honor made the evening extra special, and everyone snagged fun photos with the man in red.





[Click Here for More Pictures on Facebook!](#)



JANUARY WEIGH MASTER REPORT BY SCOTT ROBERTSON



Scott Robertson
Weigh Master
(407) 373-5994

January's Fish of the Month is Black Drum



****NOTICE** - The overall species Leaders and Full Point Standings are updated at the end of each month on the club website:
flagersportfishing.com
 Then under Fishing click on YearLong Club Standings.

December's fish of the month was Whiting. The winner will be announced at the January 2024 meeting.

January's Fish of the Month is Black Drum. FWC rules for Black Drum are 14" minimum and 24" maximum with one fish over 24" allowed. The total bag limit is 5 fish.

Mark Heffley won November's Fish of the Month with a 2lb 2oz Spotted Seatrout. Congratulations Mark! No one weighed in a Snook.

The CPR (catch, photo, release) tournament for 2023 is over and winners are being determined. The 2024 CPR tournament begins January 1, 2024. Remember just one CPR submission gets you into the CPR drawing at the end of the year and the more photos you submit, the better your chances of winning a great prize are. The Yearlong for 2023 has also ended and final standings are being calculated. Hopefully winners will be announced at the January meeting. If you can't be at the meeting you will be notified by e-mail. You can see the standings for both the Yearlong and CPR tournaments by going to the club web page and clicking on Fishing then Yearlong Club Standings. We have a good supply of our official bump boards available to buy for \$20. If you wish to use your own bump board, it needs to be approved by the club and a sticker attached to be legal.

Don't forget Largemouth Bass is now an eligible species for the CPR yearlong tournament. We have set a minimum size limit of 12". I haven't seen any Largemouth Bass submitted yet so all you freshwater folks need to get busy. Please note this is for the CPR tournament only.

A reminder for everyone fishing in our tournaments. All fish must comply with FWC rules. Fish brought to the weigh-in are required to be measured on the official club bump board before being weighed. Please take your fish to the bump board at the weigh table before putting it on the scale. If you weigh in a fish at a club tournament, I will enter the data in the Yearlong Tournament. There is no need to take the fish to a weigh station.

CPR photos for tournaments must be shown to the weighmaster at the tournament and must include a timestamp on the photo to be eligible to win a prize as noted on the tournament flyers.

If you ever have a problem weighing in at one of our weigh stations, you can call me and come by my home, if I am available.

Yellow Dog Bait Shop at Highbridge is open and is an official weigh station. The boat ramps there are also open so give them a visit.

Thanks for everyone's support, and if you have any questions, please let me know.



FISHING REPORT BY CHRIS CREGO

Flagler County Fishing Report - January 2024

Fishing Report brought to you by Chris with Skinny Water Lures.

As December began and the water temperatures and outside temperature continued to drop, the trout bite picked up around the Long Creek area and other areas with moving current. On low tide, target the deep drop offs and deep-holes. My lure of choice was 3 inch hard twitch bait on a twitch twitch pause action.



Good numbers of mid and upper slot snook were caught around the High Bridge area on the high tide. The snook could not resist the 4 inch Skinny Water Lures paddle tail in the green goblin color, with a steady retrieve.

Additionally, good numbers of redfish were caught the first few weeks of December around the Long Creek area on the outgoing tide. The topwater bite was still slow during this time of the month due to the drop in temperatures, however, the redfish could not resist the bigger profile of the 4 inch paddle tail.

We found with the cooler water temperatures the slow retrieve with several pauses allowing the lure to pause on the bottom for several seconds caught most fish. During these cooler months focus slowing your retrieve down and you will get more bites.

In mid-December the weather continued to cool down, also bringing the water temperatures to a low 66-69 degrees. The weather brought favorable fishing conditions with temperatures in the mid 60s-low 70s. The tides were moderate with an incoming tide during the morning and an outgoing tide in the afternoon. We had a successful mid-December, finding the redfish around the grass flats and oyster beds.

Due to the cooler water temperatures, we found down-sizing to the 3inch weedless SWL creature style bait, worked through flooded grass and around oyster beds and had the redfish chewing. Large schools of under slot and lower slot reds were found this time in the Pellicer Creek area.

Often, the schools of reds were found grouped up inside dead end coves. These coves were surrounded by oyster bars, allowing these redfish to travel from oyster bed to oyster bed. These dead end coves were holding large numbers of baitfish so the redfish had an endless buffet of baitfish. Color of choice for redfish was the SWL green goblin and the Texas-T.

FISHING REPORT CONTINUED

While searching for redfish, we were able to hook into several 18-20 inch flounder in the Pellicer Creek area. Areas of choice were sandy bottom deep drop-offs with moving water. Drag a 3 inch paddle tail or creature style bait across the bottom and you will be sure to pull up a door mat of a flounder.

We found around the High Bridge area the snook had been more active around the low light periods so focus your efforts around dawn and dusk. Try throwing a larger 4-5 inch paddle tail style lure in areas with high current.

Late December, a cold front pushed in making it cold and chilly, but the fish bite was turned up. Due to the cold weather, water temperatures dropped into the mid 60's, causing the early morning bite to be a little slow late December. We noticed once the sun pushed up and started warming the shallow areas the bite picked up. Early morning we focused on the deep holes, knowing the fish would be in the deeper water trying to stay warm.

In the early morning, the fish were very lethargic and slow due to the drop in temperature. During this time we focused working a paddle tail lure on the bottom in a slow retrieve, pausing every few seconds to allow the lure to fall back to the bottom. Most strikes happened as the lure was stationary on the bottom.

Midday, once the outside temperatures heated up, we found more fish pushing out into the shallow flats on the outgoing tide. We focused throwing a creature-style lure or a curly tail grub on a 3/16oz jig-head along the banks that had direct sun. The redfish pushed out of the deeper holes, up onto the flats, and were lying in the direct sun to get warm. Most midday strikes happened along those banks with direct sun.

We were also able to find a few decent speckled trout, mixed with occasional blue fish in the deeper holes with moving water.

During these winter months focus on the deeper holes, slow your retrieve and you will bring the fish to the boat!!

Thanks for checking out this month's fishing report. Tight Lines!!

Chris Crego, Skinny Water Lures
Skinnywaterlure@yahoo.com





'kids4reel' IN THE COMMUNITY

2023 has been a year of progress, engagement and learning in our community for Flagler Sportfishing Club's Junior Angler program, 'kids4reel'. In this, our second 'kids4reel' year, we expanded our 'partner' schools from two in 2022 to five in 2023 – we now have Fishing Clubs established in 4 Elementary and 1 Middle School in Flagler County. 'kids4reel' provided funding, equipment and coaching throughout the year. Funding has been fully supported by donations from members and sponsors, including; Amvets, Fishbites, the Club at Hammock Beach, Florida Surf Tackle, Prata Jewelers, Florida Family Dentistry and Captain's BBQ, as well as proceeds from our annual Christmas Party auction.

In 2024, we are excited to continuing establishing fishing clubs at local schools, to include High School students as well.

As we bid farewell to 2023, we're excited to share the wonderful highlights from our final fishing club outing, which turned out to be a resounding success, thanks to our incredible volunteers and the spirit of our young anglers.

Despite facing some high winds and intermittent rain, our volunteers ensured that the outing was a memorable experience for everyone involved. Their commitment to the 'kids4reel' community is truly commendable and greatly appreciated!

A special mention goes to one young lady (pictured in pink) who not only held her own by catching over 10 fish but also showcased exceptional leadership qualities. She went above and beyond by delightfully teaching other children and exemplifying respect throughout the day. It's moments like these that make our fishing club truly special.

The joy on the young anglers' faces was evident, and a memorable quote from one of them perfectly captured the essence of the day. When asked if he was having fun, a young angler exclaimed, "Are you kidding me, catching fish plus cookies with lunch, heck yeah!" It's these simple pleasures that make our outings so enjoyable for our budding anglers.

In the true spirit of giving, we took the opportunity to spread some holiday cheer. We presented School Administrators with generous holiday gift cards collected over the past couple of weeks from our FSC members, including those provided at our FSC Holiday party. Tim Ruddy, Assistant Principal at Belle Terre ES, graciously accepted the gift cards to be distributed to needy families of students at his school.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our club members, the final tally of donations reached close to \$1,000 in gift cards. These gift cards have been distributed to our five local partner 'k4r' schools.



'kids4reel' IN THE COMMUNITY continued

As we reflect on the successes and joy shared throughout 2023, we're grateful for the support and enthusiasm that each of you brings to the 'kids4reel' program. Here's to more adventures, angling triumphs, and community involvement in the upcoming year!

If you would like to assist in our 'kids4reel' program, either with donations and/or volunteering, please email: kids4reel01@gmail.com or donate easily online with this link: <https://flaglersportfishing.com/product/kids4reel/>



Welcome new k4r volunteers, Tim Beebe & Becca Price



CLUB NEWS

It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a beloved member of our Flagler Sportfishing Club family, Mr. Bruce Bandes. Bruce left us in the beginning of December due to surgical complications.

Bruce was not just a past member of our club; he played integral roles in shaping its legacy. He served as a Vice President, held the position of Membership Director, and contributed significantly to the development of our club bylaws, using his legal experience and expertise. His dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to our community have left an indelible mark.

A valued member and officer, Bruce was always willing to extend a helping hand whenever someone needed assistance. His kindness, combined with his quick wit, made him an essential part of our close-knit community.

A few years ago, Bruce, along with his wife Joanne and youngest daughter, relocated to North Carolina to be closer to family. Despite the physical distance, his impact on our club remained palpable, and his absence will be deeply felt.

We share a photograph below that captures a moment when Bruce served as Vice President, speaking at our New Members Clinic in August of 2015. It serves as a reminder of his dedication and passion for our club.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Joanne, his family, and friends during this difficult time. Let us remember Bruce for the positive influence he had on our club, cherishing the memories we shared and the lessons he imparted.

May Bruce Bandes rest in peace.



Vice President Bruce Bandes recaps the New Members Clinic that was held in August. He encourages new members as well as existing members to participate in this worthwhile event held twice a year.



YouTube



FLAGLER SPORTFISHING CLUB
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday,
January 2nd, 2024

Public
Welcome!

7:00pm Table Discussions
7:30pm General Meeting
7:45pm Break
8:00pm Guest Speaker:
Tim Miller, topic Sheepshead
Fishing

Meeting Place:
VFW
47 Old Kings Rd N
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January 2nd, 2024

CLUB CHILI COCKOFF

Bring Your Best Chili in a crock pot to the
January Club Meeting at 6:30pm



1st Place: \$75
2nd Place: \$50
3rd Place: \$25

**Club will provide
bowls & spoons.





SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT



Saturday, January 20th 2024

Species: Sheepshead, Black Drum
Weigh-in 2-3 Bing's Landing

**50/50
&
Raffles**

Lunch starts at 2pm. Non-members \$10 donation

HEAVIEST SHEEPSHEAD

- 1 \$100
- 2 \$90
- 3 \$85
- 4 \$80
- 5 \$75
- 6 \$70
- 7 \$60

CPR: \$70
"Longest Sheepshead"

CPR RULES: Show photo of released legal fish on club approved bump board to Weighmaster at weigh-in. CPR tie-breaker is first photo shown to Weighmaster.

EVENT RULES

Fishing Starts 6:30AM - FWC Rules Apply—fish from anywhere!

One cash prize per person including bonus.

Any open fish prizes will be filled from a drawing of members that fished and did not win a cash prize.

Tie Breaker—
1st fish weighed in.

Junior Anglers (under 12) fish free with a Member.

Free to members, non member guests are welcome with a donation of \$20 & must fish with a member.

Sign-up: Members may attend the weigh-in whether or not they plan to fish. Total count needed for food.

Attend the January Monthly Meeting to sign up, visit our website, or email Bill Zimmer at bzggolf@pga.com

[Click Here to Sign Up Now!](#)

BONUS
Heaviest Black Drum \$70
Show Up Drawing \$25 gift card

HOW TO PRINT YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

How to Print your Flagler Sportfishing Membership Card



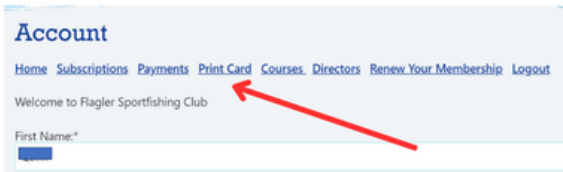
STEP 1: Go to our website at <https://flagersportfishing.com>

Step 2: Sign in with your username or email address & password. (Username = first & last name)



*Click on the 'Members' button on top, right side of the web page to reach the login screen.

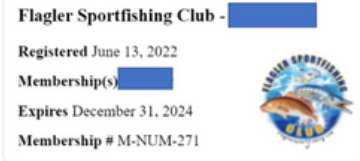
Step 3: From your Account Page, click on the Print Card tab.



Step 4: When you see your membership card on the screen, click the Print Card button on the top, left of the page.

[Print Card](#)

If the "Print Card" above is not working, try printing from your browser instead. Use CTRL + P on Windows or Command + P on a Mac. You may also need to adjust your print dialogue settings to show background images.



*If the "Print Card" button is not working, try printing from your browser instead. Use CTRL + P on Windows or Command + P on a Mac. You may also need to adjust your print dialogue settings to show background images.

Need Help? Please email: fsfcmembership@gmail.com

Quick Tips for FSC

- **The Chum Line** newsletter is delivered to your inbox each month to inform you of all Club activities.
- Visit the **Club website** for valuable up to the minute information on all activities that the club has to offer.
- Connect to other Club Members on our **Facebook page** and **Instagram page**.
- The Club provides Quick Tips Videos on **YouTube** to help introduce our members to the various types of fishing that is available in the area.
- Electronic communications come out every month called the "Fishing Line" with the upcoming events for the Club. □
- A monthly meeting is held at the **Club 51/Social Club on the 1st Thursday** of every month with excellent speakers to improve your fishing knowledge and techniques.
- You can attend wonderful social events like ice cream socials, chili cook-offs, family picnics, holiday parties and so much more.
- You can participate in 10 free fishing tournaments, plus one for-fee charity event during the year as well as a Free Kid's Clinic.
- FSC takes pride in community through FSC's gifting commitment to Veterans' organizations, UF's Whitney Laboratory, Coastal Conservation Association, and other diverse nonprofit organizations.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FLAGLER SPORTFISHING CLUB
2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS JANUARY - MARCH

JANUARY
BLACK DRUM

02 - Monthly Meeting VFW
7:00 PM Meeting & Guest
Speaker Tim Miller, Chili Cook-
Off

20 - Sheepshead
Tournament, Bing's Landing

30 - Directors Meeting,
7:00pm, VFW

FEBRUARY
SHEEPSHEAD

01 - Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM
Meeting & Guest Speaker
Club 51/Social Club

17 - Black & Red
Tournament, Herschel King
Park

29 - Directors Meeting,
7:00pm, Club 51/Social Club

MARCH
SPOTTED SEATROUT

07 - Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM
Meeting, Nomination of
Officers, Swap & Shop
Club 51/Social Club

09 - Member Clinic
Club 51/Social Club

13 - Count the Spots
Tournament, Bings South
(Wednesday)

28 - Directors Meeting,
7:00pm, Club 51/Social Club

