

MSC Tackle Box

www.marcosportfishingclub.com Keith Wohltman - President

Dedicated to Safe Fishing in and Around Marco Island



President's Message for April 2020



REMINDER - **no general meeting on Thursday, April 2nd.**

March began with great enthusiasm as we had a full load of exciting events planned. The Coronavirus, COVID-19, ground that to a halt just as we anticipated one of the most jam-packed weeks in our annual calendar!!

The potential spread of the disease brought new vocabulary to us all: "Social distancing"; "novel virus"; "presumed positive"; "abundance of caution"; and "flatten the curve", to name a few. As the scope of the virus impact spread, we were cautioned to cancel gatherings of more than 250 people, then more than 50 people and finally more than 10. Restaurants closed or only offer take-out. The bars and finally even our own beaches were closed.

The club quickly cancelled our social gathering events, Captains' meetings, and picnics. It looks like this will run into our April schedule as well.

We've already cancelled the April general meeting and April Picnic. The first ever "Kayak Slam Tournament" scheduled for April 9th, has been put on hold until the fall.

Our March fishing events were still held, as we fish from low capacity personal vessels. The club Board is investigating teleconferencing for our Board meetings and an increased use of email.

Hopefully, through all of this, you, our club members and friends, have remained healthy. For those still here on Marco, we are adjusting to the new reality. For those members off-island, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe and bearing-up under your local restrictions.

We did manage to hold a Buddy Trip fishing event, a Trout Spotacular fishing event and the Baiting Beauties 7 fishing event. We look forward to "Super Grouper / Snapper", an Offshore Tournament in late April, if at all possible.

I am continuing to monitor the CDC guidelines and guidance from our local health professionals. E-blast communications will be sent as needed, to keep you informed.

April's fishing quote: "**When nothin' is goin' right. Just go fishin' "** – Earl Dibles Jr.

Tight Lines,

Keith

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Naples Office:
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Naples, FL 34110
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BC007 CRC 2187362 07/18

LEADER BOARD Updates as of March

Get LEADER BOARD updates using the link below.

[Link to LEADER BOARD](#)

Fish of the Month (FOM) as of March

Get FOM updates using the link below.

[Link to Fish of the Month](#)



Offshore Report



EDITORS' NOTES

Offshore activities will and are being eblasted through the website. Jim Scarpa was going to coordinate the up coming Super Grouper/Snapper event, thanks for stepping up Jim. Unfortunately the event has been canceled. Keep and eye on the website for up dates.

Naples Kids Clinic **March 7, 2020**

The weather might have started out a little cool and there was a pretty good wind blowing, but that didn't stop more than 200 kids and their parents (and 10 MSC volunteers) from showing up at the Naples Pier on Saturday morning, March 7th for the Naples Kids Clinic. This annual event allows local kids to go through various learning stations and spend some time finding out about the fish they might catch, how to tie knots, what to put in their tackle box and how to think about the environment and become a "good angler." Once they completed all their learning assignments they went to the beach to practice casting as a last step before putting what they learned to the test. Thanks to the event sponsors, all the kids received fishing rods and tackle boxes that they could take home with them after fishing. With rods in hand, and eager to fish, the kids and their parents went up on the pier and dropped their lines in the Gulf. It didn't matter if they caught a catfish or a seatrout. The excitement was the same. For many of the kids who attended, it was their first time fishing and most likely, they're hooked now and will be back for more!



Future Fishermen





March 2020 Trout Spotacular Results

Submitted by Mike Larsen

Our annual Trout event was held on Friday, 3/20. Unusually warm water temps scattered the fish, resulting in a tough bite. Winds were brisk early in the day, settling down into mid-day/afternoon. Some decent numbers of small trout were tallied, but in general the larger ones remained elusive. Jay Jones caught the largest trout of the day at 19"! Here are the results...

- 48 Anglers initially registered, however 6 formally cancelled prior to the event Those 6 angler's registration fees will be refunded per standard event policy.
- Initially 20 teams registered, 3 cancelled, so we had 17 teams fish the event.
- 42 anglers: – 40 members – 2 non-members for a total of \$430.00 in entry fees
- Club funds- \$200.00 – Total Net Prize Pool minus the \$60 in refunds = \$630.00

Team Awards:

- 1st- David Dodd, Mike Larsen – 6 trout - 87.75" - \$120.00
2nd- Skip Endicott, Ed Brown, Mark Tanner – 6 trout - 86.0" - \$100.00
3rd- Dick Yeaton, Phil Madonia, Bill Welter – 5 trout – 73" - \$90.00
4th- Pete Arcidiacono, Jim Mueller – 4 trout – 68.25" - \$80.00
5th- Jeff Erickson, Cathy Erickson, John Rafes – 4 trout - 59.5" - \$70.00
6th- Jay Jones, John Marchetti – 3 trout – 53" - \$60.00
7th- John Mueller, Don Richards – 4 trout – 51" - \$50.00

Individual Largest Trout Award:

1st Place – Jay Jones – 19" - \$60.00

Total Prize Pool = \$630.00 --- Total Prize \$ Awarded = \$630.00

Thank you to everyone who participated! Our monthly backwater events continue to be well supported by our active fishing members. The next "regularly" scheduled event is Snooky Hooky in May. However, with the Covid-19 crisis guidelines, the status of future events is uncertain at this time. Updated info will follow as the situation evolves. Be well everyone!!



Wow, I hardly even know where to start with this summary of the 2020 Baiting Beauties. So, I think it only fitting to start back at the beginning. On behalf of the BB7 committee I would like to thank the MSC Board for their continued support of this event. The input, encouragement and financial contribution that they provide continues to demonstrate their commitment to MSC's women members, whether they be experienced anglers, novices, or those who just want an opportunity to get out on our beautiful waters and learn. I have no doubts that, despite this year's challenges and setbacks, this event will return bigger and better in 2021.

I also want to thank all those who chose to participate this year. While the cancellation of the Awards Picnic was not in doubt as the health emergency emerged and increased so rapidly, the decision to still allow the fishing part was not as clear. There were those who - for all the right reasons - decided not to fish and were given refunds. There were also those who did fish, reduced their boat capacities - many to just husband and wife - and were able to "escape" for a bit of peace and relaxation. At the end, we had 17 boats and 30 Lady Anglers participate. To all of you, your patience and understanding as we maneuvered through these new circumstances was appreciated!

	1 st Place - \$25	2 nd Place - \$20
<u>MANGROVE SNAPPER</u> -	Chris Laimbeer 12"	tie- Casey Erickson, Bobbie Ordija, Andie Battaglia, Carol Schwalje 10"
<u>REDFISH</u> -	Judy French 21.25"	tie - Anna Hutchings, Andie Battaglia 21"
<u>SHEEPSHEAD</u> -	Bobbie Ordija 12"	Susie Day 11.5
<u>SNOOK</u> -	Susie Day 20"	Chris Laimbeer 17.75"
<u>SPOTTED SEATROUT</u> -	tie - Casey Erickson, Ann Marchetti 17"	Anna Hutchings 15"
<u>POMPANO</u> -	Cathy Erickson 12.25"	
<u>WHITING/</u>		
<u>SILVER TROUT</u> -	Elizabeth Weimer 11 fish	Stacey Wrenn 6 fish
<u>OTHER</u> -	tie - Kim Heinemann, Carol Schwalje, Rose Kraemer 14 fish	Betsy Wohltman 9 fish
	3rd Place - \$15	Stacey Wrenn 7 fish

Congratulations to all the winners and my most heart-felt thanks to Tricia Burdette, Lynn Nathanson, Anna and Chris Hutchings and Carol Battye for their time and efforts.

Stay well everyone!

Chris Laimbeer

Baiting Beauties 7 Event Leader

Buddy Trip March 16, 2020

Seven boats with 22 fishermen left the dock. Three boats from the north side of the island traveled south to meet the other four boats near Coon Key. The group fished the area without too much luck.

After the group fished the area surrounding Coon Key it scouted areas all the way down to Turtle Key. The fishing was rewarded with only a few keepers. However, the anglers caught a good number of small snappers, ladyfish, spotted seatrout, whiting, jacks, small sharks, and of course the menace of the sea, catfish.

That evening 46 people were disappointed since we had to cancel the cocktail/dinner party that always follows the Buddy Trips. The coronavirus was the blame for the cancellation.

If you have any questions/comments or wish to be added to the Buddy List contact Joe Perino rivpress@aol.com



L-R: Marvin Nathanson and
Matt Weimer



L-R: George Wittmann Keith
Wohltman and Joe Perino

Photo by Barry French: Part
of the group with Joe Perino's
boat in the foreground





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April 2020		Fish of the Month: Red Grouper
Date	Event	Information & Comments
April 2	General Meeting Speaker Captain Bellington w/Raffle	CANCELED
April 6	Board Meeting	8:30 Coast Guard Auxiliary Station Caxambas Park
April 9	Kayak Tournament	Postponed Until November
April 15	Picnic "Taste of Italy"	CANCELED
April 16	Pied Piper	E-mail to be sent out to Pied Piper Group Shortly
April 18-25	Offshore Event	CANCELED

May 2020		Fish of the Month: King or Spanish Mackerel
Date	Event	Information & Comments
May 7	General Meeting Fishing Round Tables	7:00PM Rose Hall Auditorium Doors Open 6:30
May 11	Board Meeting	8:30 Coast Guard Auxiliary Station Caxambas Park
May 13	"Eaten Chicken" Picnic	See Attached Flyer For Details
May 18	Lizard Slam Captains Meeting	See Flyer this Newsletter
May 19	Lizard Slam Fishing Day	
May 20	Lizard Slam Alt. Fishing Day	
May 26	Kayak Trip Stoppers Creek	See Website for Details
	All Meetings and Events	
	Are Pending CDC Guidelines	

June 2020		Fish of the Month: Permit
Date	Event	Information & Comments
June 4	General Meeting Shark Discussion	7:00PM Rose Hall Auditorium Doors Open 6:30
June 3	Steak Picnic	Details to Follow
June 8	Board Meeting	8:30 Coast Guard Auxiliary Station Caxambas Park
June 17	Hookey-Snookey Captains Meeting	Details to Follow
June 18	Hookey-Snookey Fishing Day	
June 19	Hookey-Snookey Alt. Day	
June 25	Kayak Trip Fakahatchee Strand State Park	See Website for Details



Update from the Editor March 2020

We are all experiencing a once in a lifetime event, which unfortunately has nothing to do with fishing. My wish to everyone is follow the guidelines, stay positive and we will all get thru this. I also want to thank Jay Jones and Allan Bristow for the "good news" article that follows.

If you have any comments or wish to submit a photo with a short "fishtale", I can be reached at pfwanzenberg@yahoo.com.

MSC opens dialog with Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Club members Allan Bristow and Jay Jones met with Kali Spurgin from Florida FWC on March 12. Our purpose was to follow up on Marco Sportfishing Club's concerns regarding the "Catch and Release" regulations banning the harvest of Snook, Redfish, and Spotted Seatrout on the west coast of Florida. Early last year, by executive order, the FWC imposed a temporary ban on harvest of these species due to the biological effects of a prolonged Red Tide event that occurred from late 2017 to early 2019. This type of "closed season" has proven successful to aid in the recovery of a devastated fishery, as was proven following the cold winter kill of snook in 2010. The Catch and Release regulation is a result of a series of FWC short term management changes for snook, red drum, and seatrout that were implemented through Executive Orders and included all coastal waters beginning at the north border of Pasco County extending to the Gordon River in Naples (7 counties). It was to expire in May, 2020, but last month (February 2020) the FWC Board of Commissioners made the decision to extend the regulation until May 31, 2021.

About last June, our club's board was aware that many of our members were concerned with a noticeable increase in fishing pressure, boat traffic, and "strangers' guide boats" plying the local waters. While, understandably, we realize several anglers are searching for better fish populations and harvestable fish, there is a concern that our already weakened fishing conditions are suffering. As most of us would like to claim that anglers are among the strongest conservationists, several individuals and our board, as a voice for MSC, embarked on a campaign to encourage the FWC to include the waters south of Gordon Pass to Everglades National Park in it's "Catch and Release" regulations.

We've gained an education and learned several things with this endeavor. Politics, funding, limited human resources, regional & divisional limitations, and science are only some of the challenges. FWC studies its own scientific data, data from other agencies, and needs and desires of a variety of stakeholders to establish the regulation. But, the closest fisheries monitoring, surveying, or impact studies for our region was done in Charlotte Harbor (well to our North). Realizing that FWC feels a need to provide some areas for recreational sportfishing in Florida waters, and that the 10,000 Islands did not record the same prolonged high levels of Red Tide as others, it is more understandable why we were left out of the ban. Even so, our local fishery and our waters are not healthy! Marco Island's poor water quality, lack of grass beds, damages from Hurricane Irma, proliferation of green slime and dead zones, fewer slot and "over slot" breeder fish, overfishing-- all have an effect! Our 10,000 island paradise feels like the lonely stepchild--we've been left out of the care and protections afforded to other areas.

Allan and Jay recently met with Kali Spurgin. Kali is a biological scientist with the Division of Fisheries Management of the Florida FWC. She's recently assumed the newly created role of Southwest Region Biologist—we now have a region and a person we can call ours! She's very receptive to our concerns, is a great source of information, and should be an invaluable asset for public interests as well as the FWC. Our brainstorming session with Kali included history and ways MSC can help going forward. More science in our area, fish surveys, water testing, coordination with Rookery Bay efforts to name a few. Kali will soon relocate to Punta Gorda (mid-point of her region) and is willing to introduce herself and her job to our club. After her dust settles, we'll look forward to knowing her better!

Jay

Allan and Jay meet with FWC Biological Scientist Kali Spurgin

They are tall--she is short





Spring "Lizard Slam" Backwater Event

Fishing Date: Tuesday, May 19th, 2020

Backup Date: Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 (if necessary due to weather)

Captains Meeting: Monday, May 18th – 3:30pm at The Crazy Flamingo – Marco Town Center

Fishing Hours: 6 Hour "Flex Time" – Select any 6-hour window between sunrise - sunset

Tide Info at Coon Key:

Low Tide:	6:37 AM	(1.0')
High Tide:	12:28 PM	(3.6')

Solar-Lunar Activity: Major Period: 11:16 AM to 1:16 PM (Very High Activity)

Event Target Fish: Redfish, Snook, and Spotted Seatrout

Prizes: - This is a team event - goal is to catch one each of Redfish, Spotted Trout, and Snook

Team/Boat Prize: 1st - 7th Place - Total Inches of one each of target species

Individual Angler Prize – Bonus! Largest Lizard Fish – Measured closed mouth to tip of tail

- Prize amounts will depend on the number of participants, **plus** \$200 in club funds.
- Prizes to be given out at the June General Meeting.

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per MSC angler, \$15.00 per non-member, due by no later than the Captain's meeting.

EVENT RULES

- Captains of all boats must be a MSC Member. – **"No Guide" & "2-Rod" rules apply to this event.**
- MSC backwater boundaries apply except SOUTH, only to Everglades Nat. Park Boundary.(Camp Lulu)
- Photos of all fish submitted for prizes required - Measure fish to nearest ¼"
- Turn in Tally Sheet, and photos, to Mike Larsen, by 5:00 PM, the day **AFTER** the event.
- Largest ONE each of Snook, Redfish, and Trout combined for total inches per boat for team prize.
- 3 of target species score higher than 2 of target species regardless of total inches. Focus on **"the slam"**
- For questions, and to submit your documented results:

Mike Larsen

Backwater Events Coordinator mike_larsen@keysight.com - Mobile: 239-315-9235



May 2020 Lizard Slam Registration Form

1 Snook/1 Redfish/1 Trout – Total Inches + (Bonus Prize - Largest Lizard Fish!)

Fishing Day: Tuesday, May 19th (Backup due to weather - Wed. May 20th)

Entry Fee:

\$10 for MSC Members - \$15 for non-MSC Members

- **Non-members only allowed if fishing on a MSC members boat, no individual non-member boat or kayak entries accepted**

Captain's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Crew #1: _____

Crew #2: (if applicable) _____

Crew #3: (if applicable) _____

- **See the event flyer for specific rules and event times including Capt.'s mtg. and fishing day/time.**



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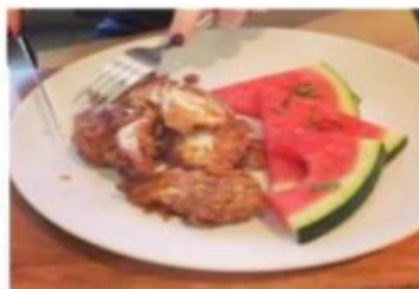
Mother's Day

Memorial Day or Father's Day.



MSC "Eatin Chicken"

Picnic



Wed., May 13th 12:00 high-noon—Sarazen Park

Fried Chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, beans, _____

Bring your own DRINKS

Make Checks Payable To Marco Sportfishing Club (MSC) and mail to:

Jay Jones, 276 Rockhill Ct., Marco Island, Fl. 34145

Any questions, call Jay 394-0048

Members attending & phone # _____

Guests attending _____

Members: _____ @ \$6.00 each _____ @ \$9.00 each After May 8th _____

Guests: _____ @ \$9.00 each _____ @ \$12.00 each After May 8th _____

ADD 'EM UP TOTAL \$ _____

PICNICS

The first two picnics of the season were well attended and had no major hiccups. We had a lot of picnic virgins (never attended a picnic before) so I wanted to highlight some first timer tips. The main chickee hut is usually full by 11:30 (Yes, picnic officially starts at noon), so unless you want to sit in one of the outer chickee huts, you should bring chairs. Please identify yourselves as new members and join one of the groups sitting at a picnic table or in their chairs. If you don't have a MICA pass, see Parking Tips. Also review the below notice to all members.

Note to all Members:

We actually had a small profit on the \$10 Cuban picnic only because of the 50/50 and the late and walk-in fees (otherwise we would have lost money). Most members graciously pay the fees, but in order to avoid them keep in mind all Marco to Marco mail goes through either Ft. Myers or St. Petersburg, and takes 2-3 days. And some days the delivery of the processed mail is late and misses the Marco delivery. Sometimes I will get 10 checks one day, zero the next and 20 the day after that. To be on the safe side assume 5 days Marco to Marco delivery.

Do not hassle the parking guard. MICA is very generous in allowing us to use Sarazen Park at no cost and we don't want to lose that privilege because there are not comparable alternatives. Everyone should be aware that beach parking in Collier County is problematic. It affects MICA because the County lot next door fills up early on a good day in season, and those who have valid County parking stickers that can't get in try to park in the MICA lot. If you do not have a valid MICA ID do not try to talk your way into the lot. The guard has probably already had a dozen confrontations from unauthorized people who feel they have a right to use the MICA lot, so he maybe a little testy. If you ignore the parking rules you may not be towed, but you **will be banned from all future picnics.**

It hasn't been an issue lately but climbing over the fence from the County lot will get you evicted from the picnic with no refund (liability issues and possible loss of insurance policy). Beside that it is illegal since there is an ordinance that says that lot is **for beach parking only.**

Sitting on one of the beverage coolers because you don't have a chair is strictly forbidden, and moving a beverage cooler away from the cooler area is even worse.

Following these few simple rules will result in a smooth running picnic which everyone can enjoy.

Please check out the Photo Album for all the pictures of the January picnic.

Dave Walsh

Picnic Chairman

Marco Sportfishing Club

2020 Board of Directors

Keith Wohltman	President *
John Baker	Vice President *
Donna Deeter	Treasurer *
John Baker	Secretary *
Ed Vesely	Fishing Committee Chair
	Offshore Events Coordinator
James Gloster	Membership IT Coordinator
Dave Schott	Membership Chair
Michael Richards, Jr	IT Department Chair
George Wittmann	Leaderboard/Fish of the Month Coordinator
Pete Arcidiacono	Immediate Past President

* MSC Officers

Marco Sportfishing Club

2020 Activity and Event Directors, Committee Chairs and Assistants Fishing related activities:

Fishing Committee Chair	Ed Vesely
Backwater Events Coordinator	Mike Larsen
Buddy Trips	Joe Perino
Kayak Events	Howard Laskau
Pied Piper Trips	Howard Laskau
Baiting Beauties	Chris Laimbeer
Triple Crown Tournament Director	Ron Sriver
Sheepshead Tournament Director	Gloria Robertson
Offshore Events Coordinator	

Other Activities

Quartermaster	Gloria Robertson
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Vines
Assistant Secretary	Dave Schott
IT Department Chair	Mike Richards
Leaderboard/FOM Coordinator	Geo Wittmann
MSC Historian/Name Tags/50 50	John Baker
Membership Chair	Dave Schott
Membership IT Coordinator	Jim Gloster
MSC email Editor	Keith Wohltman
MSC Equipment/ Storage Manager	John Baker
MSC Newsletter Editor	Phil Wanzenberg
Public Relations/Community Outreach	Howard Laskau
Picnics	Dave Walsh
Summer Picnics/ Street Parade Coordinator	John Baker
Webmaster	Ed Crane

Member Privacy Statement

Marco Sportfishing Club's Board of Directors has established a privacy policy concerning the distribution of its members' contact information. For security and confidentiality reasons...phone numbers, email and physical addresses will be distributed only to MSC board members and event leaders. The club roster will never be sold or provided to any individual member, sponsor, outside organization or business.

March 09, 2020

