

FORT MYERS BEACH TARPON HUNTERS CLUB.



TARPON TALES

CLUB MEMBERS NEWSLETTER www.fmbth.com

March 2011

Congrats. "Keg" McLucas 1st Tarpon of 2011

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With lots of effort from our club members the Tackle Clinic was a great success, where do these fisher people (pc) come from, year after year? About 85 sat and took in the information given out by our own club members. Up first, after my long introductions was **Jerry Stephenson** who thankfully woke the crowd up, talking on what he does best, fishing with light tackle. Then **Rick DuJardin** took over, at the other end of the spectrum, heavy conventional tackle, 50lb line, 150lb leader and horse that sucker boat side, no messing about. Then fly fishing finesse in the shape of **Ryan Bryant**, captivated our audience telling us how to catch a Tarpon on fly. That's something most of us would love to do. The double act of **Don Cook** and **Billy Ratterree** of Guts an Glory tackle store covered the various baits we use. Time was when it was almost impossible to get Billy to talk in public..... **Carl Keutgen** was up next, explaining our boundaries and where the Tarpon "should" be and are often not! After the break, "**Keg**" **McLucas** gave the crowd details of the courtesy to follow when coming in on fish and how we communicate ---- VHF Ch 6 giving vague or coded information, and cell phones for the facts to fellow members.

Weighmaster **Gary Danis** talked on recording your releases, the more details you can give him, the more accurate records he will compile over the years, because Gary, doing such a great job, is going to be our Weighmaster, forever! Gary also covered some of our rules and regulations, although some of our guests fell back asleep by then! DNA sampling was covered by **Matt Ponzio**, who also talked about facebook – whatever that is? **Terry Walsh** gave a very eloquent talk on being a lady club member, proudly displaying her Tarpon scale from a fish nearly caught and a photo of a huge Tarpon she did catch.

Kevin Vertesch straight from releasing a Sailfish on an east coast trip gave the final talk on "From the tower" Kevin having one of the few tower boats left, even after crashing into bridges! At the end of his talk on sighting fish, he gave us a fine testimonial to Tarpon fishing, telling us that the sail he released was no match for a battle with the mighty "Silver King"

We would to thank **Bill Semmer** for letting us have our "club house" at Bonita Bills and to all the club members who donated raffle prizes that evening. **Gary Danis** and **Rick DuJardin** (RD) are always first up to help the club, **Kevin V.** also donated as well as yours truly. The club purchased some of the fishing tackle via **Ben Alderman** from **John Anderson's** new tackle store at 15675 McGregor Blvd –we wish you good luck in your new venture John. **Dale Johnson** also found us a new sponsor in "Shack Baits" at Punta Rassa and we truly thank them for their donation of raffle prizes. See the sponsor list.

Thanks must go to **Terry Walsh**, my wife **Corinne** and **Gary Danis** for selling the raffle tickets as fast as they could, **Phil and Lois Lemke** staggered away with the majority of the prizes, but as I said at the time, if you buy that many tickets, then the chances are you're going to win that many prizes!

Ray Lister – Just Lookin' no fishing, still doing my taxes!

First Tarpon of our season released at the old standby – Marker 4

As you could see from our title banner and press release over the internet, "**Keg**" **McLucas**, that larger than life, jovial, bar hopping fisherman beat all comers to release the first club Tarpon of this 2011 season. Keg released his fish on March 20th inside, at marker 4 This is a well known spot for Tarpon early in the season. Bait of choice was a fresh cut catfish. Keg told me over the winter that he was going to abandon his recliner and really fish this year and what a way to start. But will the lure of the creature comforts of the said recliner overcome Tarpon fever in the dog days of summer – only time will tell. Congratulations Keg from all of us.... Well most of us, others are just jealous. **Rick DuJardin** (RD) released the 2nd Tarpon of the season the next day – same place. (But a day late and a dollar short) RD was also using cut bait – as normal.

Club Clothing & Hats

We are offering, again this year, to organize embroidery of our club logo on most articles of clothing. Fishing Shirts, golf shirts, jackets, etc (no thongs, clean or dirty) Cost \$7.00 per Logo.

Bring the clothing to the meeting, – Mark item with your name – or if it's a medium size, mine! Our range of hats @ \$15 and visors at \$12 each are still available for sale at this April's meeting.



2011 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: RAY LISTER
481-2201 Cell-850-3275
raylisters@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: RICK (RD)
DuJARDIN 482-5129 910-4308

SECRETARY: DON COOK
395-3459

TREASURER: JOHN JAY
466-7624

WEIGHMASTER: GARY DANIS
848-5370 (Ask Gary)

2011 BOARD of DIRECTORS

ANDY HEROLD ~ 947-6271

CARL KEUTGEN ~ 543-1966

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437-2487

CRAIG (KEG) McLUCAS
848-6349

BOB REED 283-4427 344-6697

JERRY STEPHENSON
463-1745

KEVIN VERTESCH ~ 425-5672

Dean-O Hicks – Kids Hunt Sunday June 5th

Phil and Lois Lemke have kindly offered to organize the kids hunt that we have each year to honor our dear friend and sponsor Dean-O Hicks of Reels Inc.

Dean-O was a great one for taking kids fishing so when he passed away, we renamed this hunt after him. The club has run this event for about 5 - 6 years with mixed results. The kids fishing must not belong to the Tarpon club.



Phil and Lois have contacted the Big Brothers – Big Sisters Organization and they are very keen to have children in their program come out fishing with us, for a few hours on that Sunday. The club will provide food and sodas at Bonita Bills after the fishing. We need a number of Captains willing to take out these kids. Each child would be accompanied by a big brother or big sister. So Captains, please offer your boats, for what we hope will become a great event in our calendar. It would be nice to give something back to the community and perhaps get these kids interested in fishing which was what Dean-O always wanted. – could be a future Tarpon club president amongst them! We will have an update at the April meeting and discuss this further.

Perhaps if a Kid releases a Tarpon, we could give the Captain bonus points in the “Captains Cup”

Any questions or comments contact Phil and Lois at Llemke1@comcast.net or phone Phil at 239-281-1239

News from the Club.

Saturday 19th March, Don Cook and Mike Ydavoy represented our club at the Cape Tool and Tackle store on Pine Island Rd. They gave a joint talk on Tarpon fishing tackle, how to find the “Silver King” and details of our club. They got clean away without being lynched by members from the Cape Tarpon club. Thanks guys for representing our the FMBTHC in such hostile territory.

Photos from the Tackle Clinic

Courtesy of Gary Danis

Wednesday March 2nd 2011



If you have joined our club this year, we welcome you. Try to attend our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month during Tarpon season (March to October) If you're a novice at fishing for the “Silver King”, you may learn a lot from these meetings, we discuss techniques, baits and the all important details or where the Tarpon are, or were. Look at the club schedule, even if you're not able to fish in many of the hunts, come to the weigh-in's after a 2 or 3 day hunt. We meet at 3pm at Bonita Bills at the back of the bar next to the docks. Make friends and hear the stories of Tarpon released or lost. We hope, like most of us you catch “Tarpon Fever” Visit us at www.fmbth.com.

Club Schedule for April

	Sat.	2 nd	One Day Hunt	<u>All one day hunts 5am to 5pm</u>
	Wed.	6 th	Monthly Meeting	7pm Bonita Bills
	Sun.	10 th	One Day Hunt	
	Sat/Sun	16 th & 17 th	Two Day Hunt	<u>All two day hunts 5am Sat to Sun 3pm</u>
	Sat.	23 rd	Orientation Hunt	With food, 3-5pm at Bonita Bills
May	Sun.	1 st	One Day Hunt	
	Wed.	4 th	Monthly Meeting	7pm Bonita Bills

Orientation Hunt – Sat. April 23rd

This hunt is a onetime deal for new members; the object is to get as many club members – new and old, together on the water. New members will be matched with veteran anglers for “newcomers” to gain experience of Tarpon hunting and fishing. Rods, bait etc. can be provided. Boat space is limited, more details at the April meeting.

Officers for 2011

If you haven't realized already, it is a status quo, there has been no change of officers for this year, and you pay for what you get, the same old crowd. I'm forced into being President for one last year, as Rick DuJardin (RD) says, I have to remove my boat trailer from his property if I resign. RD as Vice President is afraid he might have to take over my position if I leave or, I am forced to resign my post for some bizarre reason!.

Thanks to Matt Ponzio for mailing this newsletter/email. Visit Matt at his UPS store – 16970-3 San Carlos Blvd. Matt is also a drop off point for the Tarpon DNA sample program