



MARLIN TALES

June 2009

It was somewhere in the late '80's as that beautiful 44' Topaz, **NAVIGATOR**, slid out of the marina in St. Augustine. The forecast was a little sporty but nothing that boat couldn't handle with ease. In those days, the best way to see what the weather was like was to poke your nose out in the ocean and see it first hand. So out they went and the farther they went, the sportier it got. Now this captain and this crew were not in-experienced fishermen but they were about to come face-to-face with a once in a lifetime fish. Seas were maybe as high as 8', certainly enough to imprint into your memory. The captain and his wife rode the bridge with friend Liz while Al, Don and Nita worked the "pit". As most fish strikes happen, this one came as a surprise and all of a sudden. Don was in the fighting chair and fought this fish for a very long time before seeing the leader for the first time. But it quickly disappeared into the blue. Over and over the leader got close until finally, the big blue came up everyone saw how big this big blue momma really was. She was a true monster. Al grabbed the leader and was doing his best to control this brute but was having a hard time so the captain left the bridge to come help. Nita took control from the lower helm and watched these 2 strong men being pulled all over the boat like a small child being drug behind the family dog. Nita remembers thinking they looked like "rag dolls" being thrown around. Leadering this truly big fish was a battle and the 8' seas were not helping matters.

Every time it looked like the fishermen were getting the upper hand, the fish would drag them to the other side of the boat. Finally, the fish came up on the port side for all to see and it was a monster. This was no 300-400 lb marlin but a fish of great proportions, maybe even approaching grander status. After a long fight both on the reel and then on the leader, she was tagged and released. The crew packed it in and headed back to port.

Most of you haven't heard this story. Neither had I. I am sure there are many more like this and I will try to find them in the months to come. If you haven't put a name to the players yet, the boat...**NAVIGATOR** was owned by Worth and Ann Turner, long time, and current, members of the Northeast Florida Marlin Association. Maybe Worth can tell us one day the story about the Mako shark that took a piece of his boat off! Or maybe Ann can tell us why she would go out of her way to send all the fishing and "Gator" news, for 4 years, to a serviceman spending years away from home during the first Gulf War. That serviceman is also a long time NEFMA member.

The crew members mentioned are Al Greenhalgh, Don Burchfield, Liz Rose and Nita Padgett. I thought this story was a small but fitting tribute to the only husband/wife team to each win Boat of the Year and their crew.

BLUEWATER INVITATIONAL – It's done! It's over! And the 2009 Bluewater Invitational Champion is Capt. Brad Bishop and crew on the **GET SHORTY**. Fishing wasn't hot. There were a few blue marlin caught but the key was that kicker fish, that other fish that would put you ahead of everyone else. **GRAND SLAM** was in the lead by time with a blue marlin. There were a few boats with a chance to win the whole thing but **GET SHORTY** found their kicker fish on the last day, a dolphin weighing better than 49 lbs. Joey Verdine was the angler on the blue marlin and Jeanette Moore was the angler on the big dolphin. The Bluewater is a qualifying event for the IGFA World Championships in Cabo San Lucas. The crew of the **GET SHORTY** has the right to go to that tournament which will be in May of 2010 and represent the Northeast Florida Marlin Association. Congratulations to Capt. Brad Bishop and the crew of the **GET SHORTY**.



FISHING – Congratulations to Michael Kassab Jr for his 3rd place finish as Top Angler in the Treasure Cay Billfish Tournament. Michael caught a blue while fishing on father Paul Kassab's **REEL XCAPE**.

Notable catches from May were plentiful. **LIT UP** won the Open Invitational in mid-May with another blue marlin caught by angler Corey Maire. **DOUBLE TROUBLE** was second and **PEZ VELA** was third place.

In the Bluewater, **GET SHORTY** was the champ followed by **CURTISEA** and **C-FAN**, all with a blue marlin catch.

The June 6th Open Mini Event was won by **SHARK BAIT** followed by **TREE HOUSE** and **LIT UP**. It was a slow day...there were only 3 fish caught that met the 20 lb minimum. It looks like the summer doldrums are here.

The only fish registered outside of a mini was a swordfish release on the **LIT UP** and a sailfish release on the **ZULU CANU**.



***2009 Boat of the Year** current leader is:

1 st Place:	PEZ VELA	1605 pts
2 nd Place:	LIT UP	1300 pts
3 rd Place:	GET SHORTY	710 pts

*** Championship Series** current leader is:

1 st Place:	SHARK BAIT	925 pts
2 nd Place:	LIT UP	850 pts
3 rd Place:	GET SHORTY	800 pts

***2009 Angler of the Year** leader is **Joey Verdine**.

2009 CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES SCHEDULE – The next event is the Lady/Junior Angler Mini Event on July 18th. **Please RSVP the number of junior anglers you will have fishing during the event. RSVP to: Tim Martin 904-674-4552 or Jagsare1@hotmail.com

THE BILLFISH FOUNDATION Release Awards – We have a unique opportunity. We have been offered the chance to participate in a pilot program for The Billfish Foundation. This program is a tag and release program offering awards within our club. The available awards are TOP CAPTAIN, TOP ANGLER and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place boats. These awards are over and above any awards from NEFMA. There are 2 stipulations for these awards. First, you must be a member of NEFMA. Second, you must be a member of the Billfish Foundation. TBF membership can be had for as little as \$25 and it allows you to get free release certificates for your catches.

We can start this contest July 1 or wait until the first of the year. I am a TBF member and personally would enjoy starting this program immediately. I believe it is important that we participate because we have been offered an opportunity that only 1 other fishing club on the east coast has been offered. I would like to hear you feedback. Tim Martin 904-674-4552 or Jagsare1@hotmail.com.

****IMPORTANT** – We are no longer accepting the “catch cards”. You will need to register your fish on-line through the NEFMA website. It is very easy and Tim Martin is available to help you do that. If you need his help, call him at 904-674-4552 or email at Jagsare1@hotmail.com.

**Please take a few minutes to go to your profile on www.nefma.com and update anything that needs updating. If you cannot remember your password, send me an email at Jagsare1@hotmail.com and I will send that information to you. A lot of information is disseminated via email so I encourage you to add one if you have an email address.

Please use the NEFMA website to log your fish catches instead of using the cards. You will find it to be very easy and it will help us keep the points up to date in a timely manner. Simply go to www.NEFMA.co and click on the left side where it says “SUBMIT CATCH**”. Fill in the blanks and click on ENTER and you are done.

**** If you do not have an email address in your profile on the NEFMA website, I highly recommend you add one.** This will allow you to get fishing reports via email and you can still hide the email address if you want. Call me for passwords and website access.

******Please forward any and all news that affects our club to me for inclusion in future newsletters. I really do need your help in making this newsletter interesting to read.**

Tim Martin

Jagsare1@hotmail.com

904-674-4552



2009 CALENDAR

- ✓ June 18th - Speaker and social mixer. Don't miss this one. Global Warming and its effect of offshore fishing. Food will be served. Doors open at 6PM.
- ✓ July 17th – Steak Cookout. **Please RSVP and tell me the number in your party so we can purchase the appropriate number of steaks. RSVP to:
Tim Martin 904-674-4552 or Jagsare1@hotmail.com
- ✓ July 18th – Lady/Junior Angler Mini-Event(Don't forget to RSVP to Tim Martin with the number of juniors you will have)
- ✓ August 1st/2nd – 2 Day Open Mini(Weather Date – Aug 8th/9th)
- ✓ August 9th – Plan ahead. This is Marina Day at Camachee. 10AM to 2PM. Activities for kids, safety demonstrations from Revere showing use and inflation of their life rafts and inflatable vests, dingy races and a **NEFMA Flea Market** at the clubhouse and a lot more. Tables for NEFMA members are free. Non-members can get a table for \$25. Now is the time to sell all of your fishing gear you want out of the house!
- ✓ August 19th - General Membership Meeting – Proposed Fishing Rules Change
- ✓ September 17th – Business Meeting
- ✓ September 19th – Indian Summer Sailfish (weather date September 20th and 26th)
- ✓ October 17th – Sailfish Shoot-out (weather date October 18th or 24th)
- ✓ November 12th – General Membership Meeting
- ✓ November 14th/15th – 2 day Open Mini(weather date 21st/22nd)
- ✓ December 9th – Christmas Party
- ✓ TBA – Year End Banquet