

Key Colony Beach

FISHING AND BOATING CLUB



From the Helm

WOW.... what a wonderful clam bake!

I want to shout out to our captains, all those who donated, and the legion of volunteers who came together to make this such a successful and fun-filled event. Another sellout and once we have the finances reviewed, we will let you know how much we raised which I am certain will be significant.

The proceeds help us support our communities and not-for-profits and we make those decisions in April. One of my priorities will be to build our reserves back so look for more on this topic at our upcoming board meetings.

I also want to recognize Joe Duggan who came forward to sponsor this month's newsletter. Please join me in thanking Joe when you see him. We are still seeking additional sponsorships to promote our mission in future issues. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please let me know.



Commodore Sue Redding and Trooper

© Photo by Sandra Lee Photography

Next Meeting

Friday, April 7, 2023

HH 4:30, Meeting 5:00
KCB Public Works
Maintenance Bldg.
8th Street

Please remember to wear
your member ID Badge



Mission Statement

The Key Colony Beach Fishing and Boating Club is dedicated to providing boating, fishing, and good fellowship among members.



Key Colony Beach
Fishing and Boating Club

P.O. Box 510877
Key Colony Beach
FL 33051

keycolonyfishing.com



Captain Tim is looking forward to the two best months of fishing ahead in March and April and we encourage you to sign up for

our tournament and wet your lines. He is offering a new incentive – check it out. I'll see you along with the other 52 golfers at our upcoming tournament.

Keep on Fishin, Commodore Sue Redding



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Joe Duggan

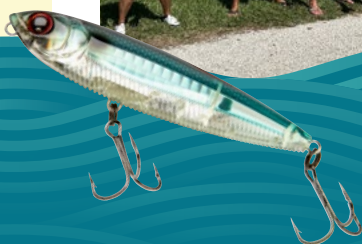
Sponsor of March's newsletter



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© Photo by Sandra Lee Photography

Tournament News

Wow, March already. The February weigh-ins reflect the windy month we just went through. While we enjoyed above average and record temperatures, we also had to tolerate the winds that followed. But on the other side, while we basked in the sun, most other states and countries dealt with severe weather

conditions. Blessed and thankful we should be. March madness is upon us. March sponsored tournaments are:

HAVANA JACKS YELLOWTAIL / MANGROVE SNAPPER MIX (havanajacksocceanside.com)

Combined weight best percentage of State Records
1st and 2nd Place Both Divisions – can be caught on different days

KEY COLONY INN MANGROVE SNAPPER (kcinn.com)

1st and 2nd Place Both Divisions

Don't forget we also have our Season Long Tournaments:

MARATHON GARBAGE SERVICE ANGLER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Biggest Fish of the season to percentage of state record
This award will not be combined with Inshore Angler of the Year Award

CAPTAIN PIP'S MARINA & HIDEAWAY INSHORE ANGLER OF THE YEAR AWARD (captainpips.com)

Biggest Inshore Fish to Percentage of State Record
This award will not be combined with Angler of the Year Award-Entry in one tournament only

WHOLESALE MARINE CASUAL ANGLER OF THE YEAR AWARD (wholesalemarine.com)

This cash award is open to ALL club members who are casual anglers and who are not entered in the club's fishing tournament

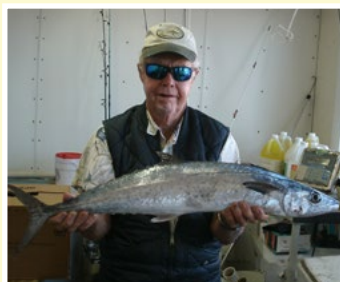
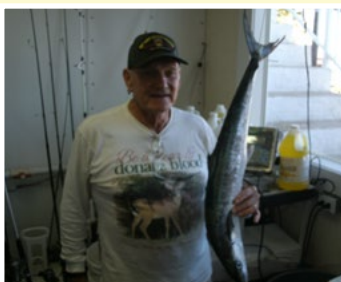
A big **THANK YOU** to all that donated fish and volunteer time to make our 2023 Clambake Festival the success it was.

For those sitting on the fence on whether to join the tournament or not, March and April represent the best fishing months of our 6 month season. **Enter NOW and it will only cost you \$45 to join.** A win of one fish in our monthly tournament will not only pay for your entry fee but also leave \$5 towards the bar. A win/win for sure.

Should you or someone you know wish to be a **TOURNAMENT SPONSOR**, we are always looking for additional sponsors and, in my opinion, the positives far exceed the cost.

Tim Husel, Tournament Director

Tournament Catches



2023 TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM

Key Colony Beach

FISHING AND BOATING CLUB



Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Cell _____ Email _____

\$70 Entry fee
includes all 2022/23
tournaments

Bring this tournament entry form to the next meeting or mail it in with a check to:
 KCBF&BC, POB 510877, KCB, FL, 33051-0877

Tim Husel, Tournament Director, tim.husel@gmail.com, 780-490-8832

One time only discount fee of \$45 for March and April, best fishing months of the year

Fishing & Boating Club Fishing Tournament Results

JANUARY MONTHLY \$50 FISH WINNERS

Angler	Fish	Weight	%
Dave Burnett	Yellowtail	4lb 8oz	42.6%
Valerie Linderborn	Mutton	13lb 7oz	44.3%
Valerie Linderborn	Mangrove	2lb 6oz	14.0%
Jim Lutz	Cero	6lb 4oz	36.5%
Ron Svee	Spanish	4lb 6oz	36.5%
Kimberly Stewart	King	10lb 2oz	11.2%
No Entry	Blackfin Tuna	-	-
Paula Hart	Dolphin	11lb	13.6%
No Entry	Cobia	-	-
No Entry	Wahoo	-	-
Kimberly Stewart	Amberjack	5lb 5oz	3.7%
No Entry	Sea Trout	-	-
Out of Season	Grouper	-	-

FRUHMORGANS KEYS RENTAL BY OWNERS MYSTERY FISH BY DRAW \$50 WINNERS

Steve Buckeridge	Yellowtail Snapper	2lb 8oz
Jan Pflueger	Lane Snapper	0lb 4oz
Richard Pflueger	Mangrove Snapper	0lb 4oz
David Hammer	Spanish Mackerel	2lb 8oz
Valerie Linderborn	Porgy	1lb 0oz
Steve Buckeridge	Grunt	0lb 2oz

JANUARY TOURNAMENTS

CAPTAIN HOOKS MARINA MACKEREL CHALLENGE

	Angler	Mackerel	Weight	% of State Record
Champions Division				
1st Place	Jim Lutz	Cero	6lb 4oz	36.49%
2nd Place	Ron Svee	Spanish	4lb 6oz	36.46%
3rd Place	Steve Buckeridge/ Dave Hammer	King	6lb 1oz	6.77%
Talechasers Division				
1st Place	Donna Marconi	Spanish	2lb 3oz	18.33%
2nd Place	Richard Pflueger	Spanish	2lb 2oz	17.50%
3rd Place	Kimberly Stewart	King	10lb 2oz	11.20%

FLORIDA KEYS AIR CONDITIONING OFF SHORE / INSHORE MIX

	Angler	Weight	Weight	% of State Record
Champions Division				
1st Place	Dave Burnett	4lb YellowTail	6lb King	49.40%
2nd Place	Steve Buckeridge	10lb Mutton	6lb King	40.50%
Talechasers Division				
1st Place	Kimberly Stewart	10lb King	5lb Amberjack	14.90%
2nd Place	No Entry	-	-	-



Pigeon Key: Marine Science, History, and the Future Generation



BY MAIA GRIFFITH, MARINE EDUCATION COORDINATOR AT PIGEON KEY FOUNDATION

The future of our planet and its ecosystems depends on people all over the world working together, collaborating toward a brighter tomorrow. Inspiring and engaging the next generation of scientists, policy makers, and engineers is a key step in making progress. Here on Pigeon Key, we utilize hands-on

activities along with classroom learning to provide an overview of marine science topics for visiting school groups, and daily historical tours highlight the importance of honoring the past while looking to the future.

Students from all over the country, and sometimes internationally, come to Pigeon Key for an immersive marine science experience. We take them on a comprehensive journey during their stay with us, from learning about marine habitats of the Florida Keys to performing their first ever dissection to learn about squid biology. Our desire is to foster a collaborative and engaging learning environment in which students are encouraged to ask questions and dive in (sometimes literally) to the ocean environment.

After learning about reef fish species and coral reefs, the students put that knowledge to practice during a snorkel trip to Sombrero Reef, where they can see first hand the beauty of coral reef ecosystems. We also challenge their perceptions of misunderstood creatures like sharks, helping them understand the vital importance they play in the ocean. Hopefully, they are inspired to protect those vulnerable reefs, the creatures that depend on them, sharks around the world, and more, even after they leave Pigeon Key.



In addition to environmental education, Pigeon Key has been working toward reducing our footprint on the world around us. We installed a



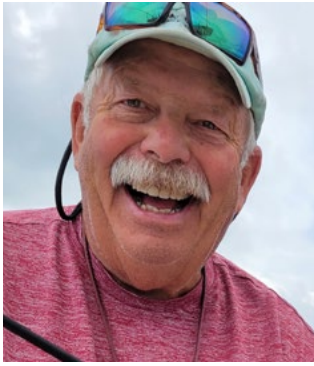
solar array, replacing our diesel-run system, in 2021. The island now gets around 97% of its power from renewable solar energy. Various research projects over the years have utilized the island and its many habitats, including shark research in our saltwater pool and coral propagation research in the shallow hard bottom habitat surrounding the island. We have also worked with MANG apparel company to plant over 1,000 red mangroves to replenish those lost to Hurricane Irma!

Through immersive environmental education, we hope to inspire the next generation to work toward a better future for the world and its oceans, as well as challenge them to try new things and learn new skills. With partnerships among other organizations, Pigeon Key has been able to have a positive influence on our island's ecosystem and the broader marine world. Historical tours engage the public with the significance of this tiny island and educate them on what we are working toward today. If you or anyone you know wants to get involved, any donations made on our website (<https://pigeonkey.net/how-to-help-our-non-profit-organization/donate/>) go directly to improving our marine science facilities and preserving the history and environmental well-being of Pigeon Key.



 Pigeon Key Foundation Interns





Tips from Ron Teke

Tips and Techniques for Yellowtail Snapper

It is no secret that yellowtail snapper are the “bread and butter” fish for Keys anglers. It is our most often “go to” fishing venue here, and more money, time, chum and effort are consumed for this fish than any other. That being said, it can also be the most frustrating fish to catch. Some days it just doesn’t happen. Either conditions on the reef limit your success or the fish are just not there. But let’s look at some tricks and techniques you can use to help you catch your limit of yellowtails and hopefully some big flags as well.



With luck, you can find somewhat cloudy water with good current pushing to the rear of the boat and over the reef. Clear water makes for very difficult catching as the fish see your line much more easily. Two things can destroy a yellowtail trip. Having crystal clear water or wind and current opposed (current up the anchor line). With no current at all, you might as well just go do something else, as fishing for yellowtails will not be successful. You can try moving around to find better current like in front of major bridge channel openings, but sometimes “it is what it is” and changing your game plan may have to happen.

cut some bait. Don’t start fishing right away. Why, you ask? Yellowtail, especially the big ones you are after, need to get comfortable with the chow line that is coming at them. Everything you do should be oriented toward stealth. If you bombard them with multiple hooked baits flowing back immediately, they will get wise and scatter. If you can...give it a 15-20 minute free feed time.

The night before you will have thawed out a block of chum and mixed it up the next morning with some rolled oats (horse feed). Go buy a 50# bag of oats from the major fish houses or bait shops. If you fish hard here for even a full week, you will be ahead of the game. I take a full 5 gallon bucket of oats for each yellowtail trip. I then mix it up in an 18 gallon plastic tote with some sea-water and fish oil. Each time an angler drops back his free lined bait, put the bait into a cloud of this slop you pitch into the water. As you can imagine...this can be really messy, so have the rinse down hose and wipe rags handy. Sandballing is a variation of this technique. A ball of wet oats, chum and sand are formed around your bait and dropped into the water after wrapping the line several times around the ball. It is somewhat controversial, so make your own decision to use.

Ok...let’s say you’re anchored up on your spot and have good current and moderate water clarity. What next? Get the chum going and I suggest that you run two bags with a large mesh size. Bring 2-3 blocks of chum for every hour you plan to fish. The commercial guys burn a pound of chum for every pound of fish they catch. The normal chum bags sold around the Keys are not what you want. I make my own using a long, very large net mesh with an 18” plastic hoop at the top. A few local bait and tackle shops will sell a similar product produced by Du-Bro Products.

Their chum net is actually a small boat landing net with a plastic hoop.



Another easy trick is to take a disposable water bottle and fill it with fish oil. Place it in your chum bag, pierce a small slot in it with your knife and then barely loosen the cap. It will act like an IV drip bag creating a fine oil slick on the water. After the chum starts flowing you wait. What, you say....do nothing? Have a refreshing drink, rig your tackle,

Here is a tip that will be very hard to do, especially with a large group that wants to just get hooked up and have action. Only have one angler drift back at a time. Yes, only one at a time. That angler should hook up on every drift. Once hooked, the next angler can do his flat line drift. Repeat...repeat...repeat.

It is very hard to teach the proper yellowtail techniques to inexperienced anglers. Don’t try to re-invent the wheel, just go with the flow. You must let your bait go with the flow. Never stop the bait. Pull line off of your reel at the same speed as the

continues on next page



Ron’s wife, Tania, of 49 years loved to fish for yellowtail and passed away unexpectedly two years ago.



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Yellowtail Tips continued from page 5

current. Do not stop...I repeat, do not stop. Once you get that bite, I like to close the bail immediately, wind up until coming tight on the fish, then lifting and setting the hook.

Here are other things to consider. Keep your rod tip pointed down next to the water. If high, the wind will blow a big loop of line raising your bait or slowing its drift. Once you find the fish, most of your hits should come at about the same distance back. Use long 8' fluorocarbon leaders. Bring 8, 12, 15 and 20# test fluoro with you. Use a line-to-line knot for the leader and not a swivel. Use small, short-shank hooks. Have #1, 2, 4, and even small #6 hooks in your box. The #4 is what I use the most for stealth. I like the less expensive Mustad #9174 and try to sharpen each before use. Have a selection of small split shot to add if strong currents are present. Have some of the small yellowtail jigs as well in 1/32 and 1/16 ounce. It sounds crazy, but local shops sell a brightly tied yellowtail fly commonly called a "Cy fly" after a mate from the Marathon partyboat Marathon Lady. You normally want stealth, but those flies really work sometimes. My theory is that the fish see the fly as a small baitfish feeding on the chum (your



bait piece) and go for the combo meal.

Bring a variety of fresh baits: ballyhoo, glass minnows, squid, shrimp, etc. Some like silversides which are a frozen minnow from Canada, but I find them mushy and not prone to stay on the hook. A fresh bonito caught onsite is also a good bait.

Upon hook-up, fight your fish aggressively to the boat to discourage predators from eating your fish. This happens a lot. I have tried to swing my rod from side to side as I fight to make it difficult for the predator to catch the fish...but this happens and you will lose fish to the toothy critters.

Upcoming Events

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH F&BC MEETING

March 3, 2023

Bar opens at 4:30 - Meeting starts at 5:00
Public Works Building on 8th Street

MARCH BARRACUDA RACES AT KCB DAYS

March 5, 2023, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

7th Street Park

SUNSET/FULL MOON RAFT UP

March 7, 2023, join Ron Teke and Friends for a full moon raft up at sunset at 6:28 PM and moonrise at 6:47 PM. Meeting in Vaca Cut, in the calm waters off of 12th and 13th Streets.

BLOOD DRIVE

March 9, 2023, Mobile Blood Drive in Key Colony, near old post office from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

March 11, 2023, 8:00 AM to Noon

\$50/person entrance fee
KCB Golf Course



ANNUAL MEMBER'S DINNER

March 27, 2023, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

Moose Club

Limited seating to first 75 members

APRIL F&BC MEETING

April 7, 2023

Bar opens at 4:30 PM - Meeting starts at 5:00 PM
Public Works Building on 8th Street

Next Meeting Friday, April 7, 2023

HH 4:30, Meeting 5:00, KCB Public Works, Maintenance Bldg., 8th Street

Please remember to wear your member ID Badge