



## APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

WOW! What an awesome first tournament! The 2010 season of the Florida Flatsfishing Association started out with a bang in the "Free for All" tournament on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Capt. Hiram's in Sebastian. The redfish were nothing but "big" at the scales. We'll get into that later in the newsletter.

First up, we have one rule change that everyone needs to know. The PFD rule is being changed. Basically, it will be changed to read that all team members must have their PFD on prior to the boat jumping on plane. So, when the vessel is not on plane, the PFD doesn't need to be on the team anglers.

Secondly, some more good news! We now have a new sponsor in the 2010 FLFA. Please welcome JL Marine Systems Inc., the makers of Power-Pole Shallow Water Anchoring Systems, as a Titanium Sponsor. What we are doing for you is that the FLFA Team of the Year is now being called the "Power-Pole Team of the Year." The winning team will acquire a complete Power-Pole PRO 6ft unit with remote control! AND we are working on getting the installation taken care of!

### The first tournament

The Florida Flatsfishing Association opened up their 4<sup>th</sup> season on March 19<sup>th</sup> with their "Free for All" Inshore Tournament at Capt. Hiram's Resort in Sebastian. All teams that paid their membership fee were entitled to fish the "Free for All" tournament for free. Forty-three 2-adult teams registered for the 2010 season, which included 18 additional junior anglers. The tournament took place on March 20<sup>th</sup> with beautiful weather and the new rule of allowing junior anglers to catch trout and redfish for the team effort paid off big for one team in the Redfish division. Junior angler Bryson McElroy was the one that caught the 1<sup>st</sup> place Redfish on tournament day! The winners of the FLFA's "Free for All" inshore tournament are-

#### 1<sup>st</sup> place Spotted Sea Trout

Darren House/Doug Smith – 6.51 lb. - \$750.00

#### 1<sup>st</sup> place Redfish

Ian McPherson/Kevin Brostek/Bryson McElroy (jr. angler) – 7.64 lb. - \$750.00

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> place Spotted Sea Trout

Shawn Williams/Joe Ortiz – 6.01 lb. - \$375.00

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> place Redfish

Shawn Williams/Joe Ortiz – 7.41 lb. - \$375.00

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> place Spotted Sea Trout

JC Henderson/Bob Martin – 5.61 lb. - \$185.00

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> place Redfish

Scott Lockhart/Darren Frost – 7.33 lb. - \$185.00

#### 2-fish heaviest aggregate winner (trout/redfish)

Shawn Williams/Joe Ortiz – 13.42 lb. - \$500.00

#### Junior angler winners

Gage Pollard – 1<sup>st</sup> place Jack Crevalle (2.75 lb.) & 3<sup>rd</sup> place Ladyfish (0.91 lb.)  
Branson Troska – 1<sup>st</sup> place Ladyfish (1.65 lb.) & 2<sup>nd</sup> place Jack Crevalle (0.82 lb.)  
Colin Willis – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Ladyfish (1.57 lb.) & 3<sup>rd</sup> place Jack Crevalle (0.77 lb.)

### **Morning Checkouts-**

The morning checkouts went extremely well with teams having the option of checking out at one of four locations in the morning. We were able to take care of some potential problems before they became a serious concern. Cut-off lanyards not properly hooked up and several cut-off buttons were “stuck” to when the lanyard was pulled off, the engine did not cut off as it should.

### **Conservation-**

All team anglers did extremely well with presenting “very lively fish” at the weigh-in. FLFA board member Capt. Larry Walter got “beat up a bit” with the lively fish at the scales, but the Rejuvenade did its job! Out of the 24 trout/redfish brought to the scales, teams release ratio from the tournament was “23 released, 1 eaten” giving us a 95.83% released fish percentage. Good Job Teams!

### **Next Tournament up...**

Next tournament up is the FLFA’s “The Back Country Artificial Only Inshore Tournament”, with team registration on April 9<sup>th</sup> at The Back Country. They are located at 1800 U.S.1 in Vero Beach. Parking will be at the Albertson’s Supermarket parking lot off of U.S. 1, just south of The Back Country.

It’s our one “artificial only” formatted tournament, stepping up the skill levels a bit for our teams. This is an FLFA-run tournament, which makes it one of the three required tournaments if your team wants to make it into the end of season fish-off without placing in the top-20. The owner of The Back Country, Capt. Eric Davis is also telling me that each team that spends 30 bucks on Friday night is in on an additional big fish category for the chance at a \$150.00 store credit card from The Back Country.

The weigh-in will be held at the “Dockside Grille” located at 41 Royal Palm Pointe in Vero Beach. Please refer to the FLFA website for directions to get to the weigh-in by land and water, or use this link to get to the tournament info - <http://www.myflfa.com/back-country-tournament.htm>

And as always, when making any kind of purchases, remember your sponsors of the FLFA. Without them, you wouldn’t be having this much fun!

“Dragonfly Boatworks” in Vero Beach  
“Dr. Connie Lawrence-Willis” in Sebastian  
“Boats N Motors” in Vero Beach  
“Palm Bay Beef-O-Brady’s.”  
“Rejuvenade Livewell Additive.”  
“EDB Architects” in Vero Beach.  
“O’Fishly Hooked Charters.”  
“Fishtales Scale Service.”  
“Surfside Pavers” in Vero Beach  
“Capt. Hiram’s Resort” in Sebastian,  
“Dockside Grill” in Vero Beach  
“Treasure Coast Scripps Newspapers.”  
“Capt. Richard Willis”

“The Back Country” in Vero Beach  
“Power-Pole Shallow Water Anchoring Systems”  
“Home Works Realty & Auctions” in Vero Beach  
“Sebastian SeaTow.”  
“Mount This! Fish Company” in Merritt Island.  
“Reel Life Charters” in Vero Beach.  
“JC’s Indian River Fishing Charters.”  
“All About Lawns” of the Treasure Coast  
“3D Fencing” in Vero Beach  
“Riverside Café” in Vero Beach,  
“Loggerhead Club & Marina” in Vero Beach.  
“Treasure Coast Coastal Angler Magazine.”  
“John Dobbins”

Please refer to the FLFA website for all tournament info, sponsor info, special discounts for FLFA members, and the rules... Feel free to e-mail any of us with ANY of your questions on the 2010 FLFA series at this e-mail address - [myflfa@yahoo.com](mailto:myflfa@yahoo.com) See you at the next tournament!

Capt. Jeff Brauer - 2010 FLFA Executive Director  
Capt. Larry Walter - 2010 FLFA Director of Operations  
Capt. Eric Deleon - 2010 FLFA Director of Events

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