

MSC Tackle Box

<http://www.marcosportfishingclub.com/> Keith Wohltman – President



Dedicated to Safe Fishing in and around Marco Island

President's Message for May 2024



Fellow Anglers,

May unfolds like a fisherman's dream on Marco Island. Sunny skies, balmy air, calming waters – it's no wonder fishing is phenomenal. Warmer water temperatures entice a variety of species, while the island breathes a sigh of relief with fewer crowds and less boat traffic. Offshore enthusiasts benefit from the removal of crab traps and buoys after Stone Crab season ends on May 1st.

Last month was a busy month! We successfully hosted Backwater, Offshore, and Picnic events. We added month four of the Offshore Slam to the books and another thrilling backwater Buddy Trip. Unfortunately, the Kayak event needed to be rescheduled due to rough waters, but safety always comes first. We'll keep you updated on the rescheduled date.

Speaking of exciting events, Mark Milici's "Man Bites Shark" tournament found a refreshing new home in April. Cooler temperatures attracted both anglers and sharks, with some impressive catches. You can find Mark's full report in this issue. The event also doubled as a fantastic picnic with everyone's enjoyment of grilled shark! Special thanks to Guy Riordan's sponsorship of this unique event.

Offshore, Jim Scarpa's annual Super Grouper encountered some challenging weather, but his quick adaptation by extending the competition ensured safe trips out to the Gulf for grouper enthusiasts. Be sure to check out Jim's report for details.

Our April meeting featured two informative presentations. Captain Ken Chambers offered expert tips on backwater fishing for Snook and Tarpon, while Mark Milici shared his shark-catching wisdom, including catch preparation techniques for our picnic feast.!

May kicks off with a fiesta! Join George and Maryann Wittmann for our "Uno de Mayo" picnic, on May 1st at Sarazen Park, featuring a delicious Mexican Fajita Bar by Pedro from Imperial Meats of Naples.

A heads-up that May 1st also marks the closing of Snook season in our Southwest Florida region as part of the FWC's snook regionalization efforts. This closure remains in effect until October 1st. The Southwest Region encompasses all inland waters and extends from Vanderbilt Beach Road in Collier County (roughly 26°15' N) south down through the Florida Keys to the Monroe/Miami-Dade county line, including Everglades National Park.

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Portfolio Associate

Marco Island Office: 928 N Collier Blvd., 3rd Floor, Marco Island, FL 34145 239-393-2903

Naples Office: 8889 Pelican Bay Blvd., Suite 300, Naples, FL 34108 239-449-7859

The Backwater event for May is the "Spring Slam," targeting the dynamic trio of Redfish, Snook, and Seatrout. This is prime time for these species to be feeding aggressively, offering a chance to catch all three and claim bragging rights in the first backwater slam event of 2024!

Offshore anglers can continue their quest in month five of the Offshore Slam. With calmer seas and weather predicted, this is your chance to get out there and climb the leaderboard.

National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) is May 18th-24th. While many parts of the country are cleaning the snow, ice, and dead leaves off their boats and are just getting started with their boating season, here in paradise we're already casting lines! But, safety first! NSBW is a great reminder to give your boat some TLC. Do those maintenance checks, replace any worn-out safety gear (especially life jackets!), and take advantage of seasonal sales to stock up. This month's meeting gets even better as Flotilla 95 Vice Flotilla Commander Mike Massey from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be there for a boating safety review. He'll cover everything you need to ensure your boat is ship-shape and ready to take you to haul in those summer catches!

As a reminder, Jersey and his team will bring more of Capt. Pete's gear to this meeting.

In the backwater, Howard Laskau's group of kayak anglers will head to the Isles of Capri Paddle Park for some relaxing fishing close to home once a suitable 'reschedule day' has been selected. May will have two kayaking events as a result. The regularly scheduled event is on May 28th and features a launch from the Caxambas Boat Park – to fish the south end of Marco. Contact Howard if you want to join this group.

Join us for a fantastic month of fishing, camaraderie, and learning! We look forward to seeing you on the water or at our upcoming events.

Share your Marco fishing adventures with us! Send us pictures of your catches – don't forget to hold the fish closer to the camera to make it look bigger!

If you can – get out and fish!!

Tight Lines

Keith

LEADER BOARD & Fish of the Month Updates

Get updates using the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Wm8PkKUIR02WOj6whtgE5xwfbnVn0Dcg7aCqPYN77mA/edit#gid=0>

Rods, Reels and Tackle Sale Part Deux

We still have some left from Pete's. Things we didn't have room for last month. We also had a donation from Rose for some of the left over stuff from her late husband Tom. And a few other things from us.

Again bring CASH (**SMALL BILLS**).



May General Meeting

Thursday, May 2nd, 2024



ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Parish Hall

Captain Mike Massey – Boating Safety Review

Mike grew up on a lake in New Hampshire and started boating at about age 10. Upon retirement and after owning a number of sail and power boats, Mike earned his Master 100 ton Captain's license. In the summer he operates a passenger launch and landing craft for lighthouse tours on the Coast of Maine when he is not on his Cape Dory Trawler.



During the winter, you will find Mike training vessel operators and crew members at Rookery Bay Research Reserve, taking Veterans and people with disabilities out for therapeutic times on the water or performing Vessel Exams for the USCG Auxiliary Marco Island, where Mike serves as Flotilla Vice Commander and Marine Safety Officer.

Sign Up Tables
50/50 drawing
Doors open at 6:30



Offshore Update – May 2024

What's Happening Offshore...

Red Grouper will be closing in the gulf June 30, 2024 with a “possibility” of a short season late in the year...get yours while you still can. Gag grouper is scheduled to open Sept 1, but this may not happen due to the controversy over 2023 catch estimates. Winds offshore continue to be strong most days, we did manage to get a few decent days to fish during the Super Grouper tournament window. Red Grouper are out there on live / hard bottom, with the larger fish in the deeper water (100'+). Snapper can be caught at all depths (bigger fish usually being in deeper water) near reefs / wrecks / towers and on ledges / live bottom. You can drift for them, but best method (in my opinion) is to locate them and anchor / chum. Kingfish may be around structure and can be a by-catch while Snapper fishing, if you get bit off on the initial strike in the chum slick (not the second “upgrade” strike) put out a Kingfish rig with wire and see what happens. Cobia are migrating north. Keep a jig or live bait at the ready in case a Cobia swims up to the boat. African Pompano can be found typically near structure in the 100-120' range, sometimes shallower. AJ's are still everywhere right now, typically around structure and have been on some of the grouper bottom in 105' and deeper (look for them to stick around until season opens), they are fun to bend a rod if you are looking for a great fight. Keep an eye out for Bonito and Spanish Mackerel feeding on the bait schools, look for surface activity and working birds to locate them, they are lots of fun on light tackle – don't forget the wire leader for the Mackerel! Trolling lures or drifting larger live baits on the outer edges of the Spanish Mackerel schools may find a hungry King too. Permit are back, look for them on the higher elevation reefs and towers, they cannot resist a small live crab, try a live shrimp if you don't have a crab..

Pick a calm day and get out there and have some fun...and be safe.

Offshore Events...

MSC Offshore Slam 2024, proudly sponsored by Rose Marina

The 2024 Offshore Slam event flyer and sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter and can be found on the MSC website. The format will be identical to 2023 and entry deadline will be June 30, 2024, but you cannot enter a fish caught prior to entering, so sign up today! We already have 6 Slam's completed and some great fish caught...get in on the fun. The current standings are below and on the MSC website with real time updates by following this link https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZNn7cDHdLh2jucT1Ss_QYLEksCiL8zk6192wYUP8OKQ/edit?pli=1#gid=0

Please show your appreciation to the great team at Rose Marina by giving them your business...and use your MSC membership card to get your 10% club discount on fishing tackle / bait too.

Super Grouper – Spring 2024

We managed to get 3 or 4 decent wind days in our 16 day fishing window. We had some decent fish caught as well with the largest red grouper at 33.5", we even had a keeper black grouper caught. Congratulations to the winning captains and their teams – Steve Jacobs (80') and Mike Mueller (120'). Final results follow below.

Other Important Stuff...

Check out the Offshore Fishing reports on the MSC website, they are on the Offshore Homepage.

Offshore Captains – Don't forget to send me your Offshore Fishing Reports and photos of any remarkable catches when you return from fishing!

If you fish offshore and want to be added to our offshore email distribution, please send me a request via the link on the Offshore Fishing homepage and I will gladly add you to this exclusive team.

If you have any ideas, or want to volunteer to help with offshore events, feel free to contact me anytime.

Tight Lines!

Jim



Super Grouper Spring 2024

The annual Super Grouper Tournament had a total of 35 anglers fishing on 9 boats. We managed to get 3 or 4 decent wind days to fish during the Saturday April 6 through Sunday April 21, 2024 fishing window. Each captain was allowed to pick their own crew and could fish on one day during the fishing window. There were two divisions, 80' max and 120' max. For the 80' division, the combined length of the largest 2 grouper were entered, and for the 120' division the combined length of the largest 3 grouper were entered. All but one of the fish entered were Red Grouper with the largest being a 33.5" trophy fish (see photo below), we also had a 26" Black Grouper.

Thanks to all of the captains and crew for participating and congratulations to our winners – Steve Jacobs (80') and Mike Mueller (120').



Photo: Captain Bill Canty and Russ Roe with a trophy 33.5" Red Grouper

80' Division				
Place	Captain	Total Length	Prize \$	Note
1	Steve Jacobs	48.75	\$ 179	
2				
3				
120' Division				
Place	Captain	Total Length	Prize \$	Note
1	Mike Mueller	88.00	\$ 426	
1	Jack Facciolo	82.25	\$ 256	
3	Bill Canty	80.25	\$ 170	
Notes:	Prize Pool \$1,031			



Spring Slam

(Ver 1 2024)



Fishing Dates: Tuesday, May 14th through Sunday May 19th, 2024

Capt.'s Meeting: Monday, May 13th, 4:00pm at the Sand bar

Fishing Day and Hours: You pick the day and the 6 hours that you want to fish

This event is open to powerboat and kayak anglers

Event Target Fish: Snook, Redfish, Spotted Sea Trout

Prizes: Team prize – 1st thru 5th – Total inches of one each Snook, Redfish and Trout

The focus is on the “Slam”. An entry of all three species beats an entry of one or two species regardless of total length

Individual Prizes awarded for each of the longest Snook, Redfish and Trout caught during the event

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per MSC angler, \$15.00 per non-member

Prize amounts determined by number of anglers participating PLUS up to \$300 in club funds

EVENT RULES

Captains of all boats must be a MSC Member. - **“No Guide” Rule & “2-Line” Rule** Apply
MSC backwater boundaries apply. South, only to Everglades National Park boundaries. (Camp Lulu)
Notify Charlie Schwalje of the day you choose to fish no later than 9:00 am of the day you fish
Photos required for all fish entered for team & individual prizes - Measure fish to nearest ¼”
Turn in Tally Sheet, and photos, to Charlie Schwalje, no later than 5:00 PM, the day after you fish.

For questions regarding the event, and to submit pictures/tally of your catch:

Charlie Schwalje

Email- c.schwalje@comcast.net

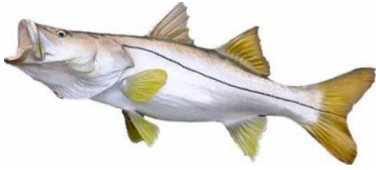
Cell- 732-570-8450

Enter by mail, at the May membership meeting or at the Captain's Meeting

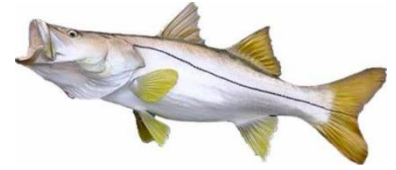
Charlie Schwalje

418 Driftwood Ct

Marco Island, FL 34145



Hook That Snook



SIGN UP via mail – Mail your entry form and
check made out to **MSC** to:
Ron Linn 844 Milan Ct. Marco Island, Fl. 34145

Date: Tues, June 18th

Backup Date: Wedn, June 19th

(Entry form/fees must be **received** by Ron **no later than the Captains meeting on Monday the 17th at The Sand bar 4:00 PM**)

Fishing Hours: 6 hour “*flex fish*” – fish any 6-hr slot between sunrise and sunset

Prizes: Will be determined at the Capt. Meeting depending on amount of entries.

Boat – Two largest Snook inches caught by boat, Kayak...

Up to **\$300.00 additional Club money.**

Prizes to be given out at the July Meeting.

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per MSC angler, \$15.00 per guest, due no later than Monday, June 17th.

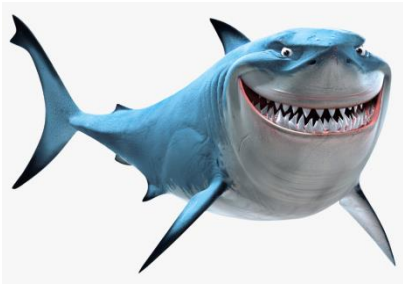
EVENT RULES

- Captains of all boats must be a MSC Member.
- MSC boundaries apply. South, only to Everglades National Park boundaries.
(Camp Lulu)
- “**No Guide**” Rule applies. – “**2-Line**” Rule Applies
- Photos of the 2 largest fish recorded for Team & Individual Prizes are required. Measure to nearest 1/4”
- E-mail Tally Sheet, and photos, to Ron Linn, by 5:00 PM, the day after you fish the event.
- Even if you have no fish to report, please let Ron know as a courtesy, thank you!
- Final “rule” is be safe, & HAVE FUN...☺

Backwater Events Coordinator
John Baker and Ron Linn ronlinn1@gmail.com
Cell: 239-227-9503

Click here to register.

<https://www.marcosportfishingclub.com/Flyers/2024-0618-HookThatSnook%20REGISTRATION.pdf>



MAN BITES SHARK 2024 EDITION

Marco Island Sport Fishing Club held its annual shark fishing tournament on Wednesday, April 17th followed by a picnic on Friday the 19th. Fishing for the Man Bites Shark Tournament started at 8:00 AM. There was a stiff breeze from the south that morning resulting in choppy and slightly turbid water but that didn't deter the sharks. They were there in numbers and certainly were not shy about hitting the baits. The first Black Tip was boated by 8:13 AM and by the time the day was over at 3:00 PM, 93 sharks were caught. It was at times, chaotic with a number of double hookups and often little time between bites. There were Black Tips, Atlantic Sharp Nose, Hammer Heads with 13 being harvested as table fare for the following picnic. All in all, it was an epic day fishing.

Friday's picnic was a great success. Marinated shark on the grill is a delicacy and there was just enough to go around for the 65 or so people attending. Shark was complimented with typical picnic favorites such as hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, salads and brownies. The extra treat was the home-made mango salsa prepared by a few of the anglers. Prizes were awarded for 1st and 2nd Black Tips caught, 1st and 2nd Sharp Nose caught, 1st Hammer Head or Tiger caught and most sharks caught. Everyone enjoyed the picnic and there was considerable enthusiasm for next year's event.

A special thanks goes out to our event sponsor, Guy Riordan

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Guy Riordan P.A.
C.N.E. REALTOR®

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Marco Island, FL 34145

(239) 919-2500

GuySellsMarco@gmail.com

Buddy Trip April 25, 2024

This was a perfect day for a Buddy outing. The weather was beautiful with warm temperatures and gentle breezes. The trip started with three boats from the north end of Marco meeting an additional three boats from the southern part of the island early in the morning (9:30 AM), 500 yards short of Coon Key. A total of 18 anglers were on the six boats. We fished the Coon Key area for a while without a lot of luck. We then moved on to the vicinity of Cape Romano. Other areas fished were Blind Pass, Sugar Bay, and Pompano Point.

Among the fish caught were spotted sea trout, jacks, lady fish, pompano, bonnethead sharks, Spanish mackerel, and more catfish than we cared to count.

That evening the day ended with a wonderful feeling of relaxation and camaraderie when 27 people met for cocktails and dinner at Paradise Found Restaurant. It was a wonderful ending to a perfect day of fishing and dining with friends. The food was good, and the fellowship was fantastic.

This was the last Buddy Trip of the season. Have a great summer and we will fish again next season.

Any questions or comments or if you wish to join the Buddy List contact Joe Perino rivpress@aol.com.





Here is the link:

<http://www.marcosportfishingclub.com/yardsale.htm>

- 1) 16 ft' Boat Trailer Very good condition \$250
- 2) Seafox 24' 2015 & JetDock Yamaha 250HP \$49,000
- 3) 2021 Pursuit S288 \$255,000
- 4) Pinfish Cage & Pinfish trap - \$75 for both
- 5) Gun Safe – holds 12 Long guns and more. \$450
- 6) Bait Keeper 18” by 18” - Round
- 7) 2004 World Cat 3300TE- New Suzuki 300 Dual Prop engines – approx. 20 Hours, 2nd owner
- 8) 2018 Key West 239FS – Yamaha 200HP(20 hours)

See Website for more information. Click on the business tab to bring up the For Sale tab or the link above.

May 2024 Fish of the Month

King Mackerel



14th Annual STEAK PICNIC

TUESDAY, June 11, 2024, @ Sarazen Park, 12 Noon



\$16 (\$21 Guests) Each

NO WALK-INS: We don't buy extra steaks

Steak, Baked Potato and Salad

Water Included, Bring your own beverage

Questions? Call Dolores 610-639-9753

RESERVATION for Steak Picnic [Cut here](#)

MEMBER'S NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

Number Attending: ____ @ \$16/21 each \$ _____

FINAL CUTOFF DATE IS JUNE 4TH

Mail check made out to **MSC** to:

Dolores Constanzer

1571 Buccaneer Ct

Marco Island, FL 34145

If dropping off, put under door mat, **NOT Mailbox**

Man Bites shark pg. 2





ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SEASON OF GIVING FOOD DRIVE!

Thank you for sharing with your neighbors in need!

- * Pasta
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- * Peanut Butter
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- * Canned Chicken
- * Canned Meats
- * Mac & Cheese
- * Mayonnaise
- * Box Meals
- * Baby Food
- * Cereal
- * Dessert Mixes
- * Boxed Crackers
- * Canned Soup
- * Canned Tuna
- * Canned Tomatoes
- * Canned Beans
- * Canned Vegetables
- * Coffee
- * Boxed Cookies

Please drop off your food donation to St. Mark's Episcopal Church Office Monday thru Thursday 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Up North? No Problem. Cash is always needed to purchase food for immediate distribution.

Just send your check payable to St. Mark's Episcopal Church (write Food Pantry in the memo line) and mail to:

MSC Quartermaster
Gloria M. Robertson
8225 Xenia Lane
Naples, FL 34114

Thank you for your donation.....Every little bit HELPS!

Marco Sportfishing Club Sponsors

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VALID UNTIL DECEMBER

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Email us a picture of your grill for a free quote

Tyler Scarpa
marcogrillcleaning@gmail.com
Marco Island, Florida
1+ (321) 252-8875

Make sure they know you're a member of the Marco Sportfishing club and saw their ad in our Newsletter

Marco Sportfishing Club

April 21, 2024

2024 Board of Directors (* MSC Officers)

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Triple Crown Coordinator	Dave Schott
Redfish Team Coordinator	Ed Vesely
Leaderboard/FOM Month Coordinator	George Wittmann

2024 Activity and Event Directors, Committee Chairs and Assistants Fishing related activities:

Fishing Committee Chair/Shark Tournament	Mark Milici
Backwater Events Coordinator/Redfish 2man	Ron Linn
Backwater Events Coordinator	Charlie Schwalje
Baiting Beauties Coordinator	Cathy Erickson
Buddy Trips & Whack a Whiting	Joe Perino
Kayak Events	TBN
Offshore Events Coordinator	Jim Scarpa
Redfish Team Event Coordinator	Ed Vesely
Sheepshead Tournament Coordinator	Dale Rod
Smoked Pork Cook-off Picnic Coordinator	Jerry DeFibaugh
Triple Crown Tournament Coordinator	Dave Schott

Other Activities

Assistant Secretary	Dave Schott
Assistant Treasurer	Marvin Nathanson
Leaderboard/FOM Coordinator	George Wittmann
Membership Chairman	Jim Gloster
MSC Email Editor	J. Ryckman/Tom Obermeier
MSC Historian-Name Tags-50/50- Equipment/Storage Manager-Ad Manager- Summer Picnics-Street Parade Coordinator	John Baker
MSC Feasibility Project Lead	Anne Marchetti
MSC Newsletter Editor/Social Media Chair	John Ryckman
New Member Liaison	Jay Terzis
Picnic January 2024	Brent Paulson
Picnic February 2024	Dave Walsh
Picnic March 2024	Cathy Erickson
Picnic April 2024	Mark Milici
Picnic May 2024	George Wittmann
Picnic June 2024	Dolores Constanzer
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Community Outreach	Howard Laskau
Quartermaster/Fundraiser	Gloria Robertson
Reporter	Dave Walsh
Speaker Committee Chair	Jim Scarpa
Webmaster	Ed Crane
Web Designer	Frank DeVito

Want to put a face to that name? <https://www.marcosportfishingclub.com/Officers-2024.htm>

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.

