*November 18, 2024, from David Quarles, Webmaster: Today Jerry Geyer has in a box, all the paper records of the club. Jerry provided me an 18 page document that I have typed into a digital document that can be shared on the Club’s website for the general public to peruse. It is important that we current members have knowledge of those who came before us. Below is my best attempt at transcribing those 18 pages. The reader will notice that some names are probably misspelled year to year, but since I do not know for sure the proper spelling, I made little attempt at correction. Bob Locker joined the club in 1998. Thanks to him for his historian efforts!*

**Cape Coral Tarpon Hunters Club History Overview (**by Bob Locker)

The following is a summary by year that has been assembled by Bob Locker from available original notes, newsletters and articles. It includes available information on activity dates, officers, directors, milestones, organizational activities and fish caught statistics.

Our Tarpon Club was created by Cape Coral residents that were members of the Ft. Myers Beach Club prior to 1970-1971.

We can pretty well establish that they began planning for the Club in 1970 as we have a Cape Coral Daily Breeze article dated October 1991. The picture and story is Dale Robertson, President and Sportsman of the Year, Marie Smith, Lady Angler of the Year and Ron Smith Captain of the Year. The article, by Don Kolson, one of the founding members, says they were ending their 21st season. So 1991 less 21 years equals 1970 which supports all the other notes and files we can find.

1970-1971

Sketchy notes from the stacks of file books and photos along with talking to Harvey Rollings, Ken Holzhauer and several members, indicated they decided they would like to create a Cape Coral Tarpon Club rather than traveling to Ft. Myers Beach for all the Club activities. Some other names that were listed as discussing it were; Harvey Rollings, Ollie Rollings, Ed McClaren and Bruce Brubaker. (There were others that were not specifically named. In 1970-1971 they met informally and became somewhat organized.

1972 Notes say there were about 50 members

Ed McClaren: President

It appears that Ed McClaren functioned as the first official President in 1972. The notes said these members were still members of the Ft. Myers Beach Club in the early 70’s.

1973 There were 49 members

Jim Masters: President

I did not find any information in the files on 1973 activities.

1974

Harvey Rollings: President

Notes indicate they were working on organizing positions, By-Laws, and fishing records

1975 There were 52 members - 11 Fish Total

In 1975 the notes said Bruce Brubaker was General Chairman of a group (nothing in the files describes the group’s activities). Bob Orlando, Richard Orlando, Harvey Rollings, and Ollie Rollings were all listed as the organizers.

1976 There were 44 members - 103 Fish Total

Jack Griesinger: President

Ken Holzhauer: Vice President (Notes were not specific on VP, Ken)

Bob Orlando was the first Secretary as indicated in the notes.

Don Brown: Treasurer, (Notes also said he and Ken Holzhauer acted as Secretary)

March 18, 1976 Voted on the first set of By-Laws.

May of 1976 established codes to identify various fishing locations.

The CB radio was a primary communication means for those who had them.

VHF was not that popular yet.

Weigh-ins established Tarpon catches for the records in 1976.

First mention of the Sportsman of the Year was noted.

Officially 1976 was the year the Hardwick family started Sportsman of the Year and Don Brown was the first to receive it.

Dues were $30 Single and $40 Family.

The By-Laws stated the leader could not be longer than the rod.

The Rookie Hunt and Picnic Weigh-In were held on the same day.

Boneheads: Bruce Brubaker told me about some of the early Boneheads that members were caught at. Ollie Rollings burned both fingers fighting a fish and needed band aids on the water and Bruce went to his aid.

1977 There were 51 members

Don Harden: President

File notes indicate they were very organized and structured.

First discussions of holding a Clinic in February for new members and old.

They had a 50 lb. line maximum rule, 15 feet of leader, 15 feet of double line could be used. But, IGFA rules were 50 lb and over line could be used, leader can be 15 feet and up to 30 feet of double line may be used under IGFA rules then.

First talk about ‘catch and release’.

Sportsman of the Year was Bill Reese

1978 There were 87 members

Don Harden: President

More organized notes and meetings were in the notes.

Senior Citizen award in addition to regular trophies was discussed. (Nothing further was noted regarding a senior citizen trophy)

The notes said they wanted to get member involvement and surveyed the members looking for ideas that the members might have. Established meeting Greeters to greet members as they arrive at meetings.

(George Wyatt caught 66 tarpon.)

1979 There were 107 members - 153 Fish Total

Dick McKenna: President

The By-Laws say gaffing at boat side OK to control the fish, remove the hook and release the dish.

Sportsman of the Year: Bob Orlando

The first mention of Rookies. Co-Rookies were Rich Rex and Mike Wrenn.

The By-Laws say release fish, especially less than 50 lbs.

Hunt releases: Bob Orlando 1, Mike Wren 1

Proper disposal of killed fish!! Is a must!!

1980 There were 92 members - 98 Fish Total

Interesting facts are detailed in the notes from some of the monthly meetings.

April 24, 1980: 7 fish released, 2 fish weighed in (killed). Catfish primary bait.

May 5, 1980: 31 fish released and 3 fish weighed in (killed)

Note: Total fish weight 1,101 lbs for the fish weighed.

Dick Gray, Sundowners Search and Rescue was the program.

Top Anglers this year: 11 Ken Blank, Ken Holzhauer 2nd place, Ed McClearen 3rd place, Bob Orlando 4th place.

Current members 1974 to 1980 were: Bruce Brubaker, Ken Holzhauer, Bob Orlando, Mike Wrenn.

Club Issues: Club Harmony, No sportsmanship, just competition.

Meeting Programs: Sun downers, Marine Patrol, Coast Guard.

Club Committees: Refreshment Committee - Greeters - Membership - Publicity - Banquet and Trophy committee.

Any member to bring in 3 new members would receive a free banquet ticket.

Obviously, the Club was looking for more members.

1981 There were 125 members - 131 Fish Total - 21 weighed in (killed)

Ken Holzhauer: President

Don Brown: Vice President

Robin McClearen: Secretary

Marilyn Blank: Treasurer

Bill Reese, Sr.: Sgt-At-Arms

Rookie of the Year: Jim Croe

Sportsman of the Year: Harvey Rollings

1982 There were 149 members

Don Brown: President

Ed McClearen: Vice President

John & Joan Barlett: Secretary as indicated in the notes.

Bob Orlando: Treasurer

Jim Brockmeyer: Sgt-At-Arms

Boneheads presented by Bill Reese, Bob Orlando, and Bill Townsend: To Pete Peters: pelican bit his toe. Dick Massino lost a rod. John Bartlett’s boat sank. Ken Holzhauer got a manatee ticket.

Directors: Darrell Berendt, Wlson Bayberry, Robin McClearen, Bill Reese Sr., Tom Swift , Bill Townsend

Past President: Ken Holzhauer

1983 There were 144 members - 41 New. 90 Fish caught to August.

Darrell Berendt: President

Bob Orlando: Vice President

Bob Tomasso: Secretary

Joan Bartlett: Treasurer

Bill Reese Sr.: Sgt-At-Arms

Junior Division started under age 15 was established in By-Laws.

Started Club patches for resale at $1.35.

Boat flags to ID club boats were used.

Boneheads: Ken Holzhauer broke an antenna and ran out of gas. Bill Reese was attacked by a shark.

1984

President: Tom Swift

Vice President: John Bartlett

Secretary: Bill & Dorothy Jorgensen

Treasurer: Robert Tomasso

Sgt-At-Arms: Tim McAllister

Past President: Darrell Berendt

Directors: Ken Blank, Bill Austin, Harvey Rollings, Bill Reese Sr., Joan Bartlett, Tom McAllister

Rookie of the Year: Mark Rackay

Sportsman of e Year: Bob Tomasso

Club sponsored a Tarpon Rodeo, May 26-27.

Final hunt was Sept 8th.

Banquet was at the Cape Coral Country Club. Prime rib dinner @ $10/person and guests @ $13.

Joined forces what SWAC (SW Anglers Club) for a grouper hunt on Sept. 21st.

First fish of the year: Randy Czapiga: 86 lb.

Not a lot of fish around this year as noted in notes.

Old Issue: June 1984 SW Florida Water Management brought Lake Okeechobee down to 15.5 feet MSL (mean sea level). Many releases.

1985 There were 141 members - 141 Fish Caught - 7 weighed in (killed)

President: John Bartlett

Vice President: Robert Tomasso

Secretary: Mark & Carol Rackay

Treasurer: Bill Jorgensen

Sgt-At-Arms: Jim Brockmeyer

Past President: Tom Swift

Directors: Joan Bartlett, Ken Blank, Harvey Rollings, Pete Peters, Bill Austin, Rod Smith

May 1985 they surveyed the membership to become a total release club.

Awards Committee: Rod Smith, Ken Holzhauer, Bill Jorgensen

Picnic Committee: Bill Reese, Joan Bartlett, Club advanced $200 for supples.

Banquet Guest Invites: Byron Stout and Jo Hardwick

Notes: Say they are still killing some fish. Fish minimum size to score is 50 lbs.

In May they again surveyed the members to become a total release club. No results of the survey were in the notes.

24 fish were tagged. John Bartlett was also head of Historian Committee and kept the fish count records that year.

By-Laws modified to have the Board consist of 6 persons.

1986 There were 134 members - 268 Fish Caught - 8 weighed in (killed) - 44 Tagged

President: Robert Tomasso

Vice President: Mark Rackay

Secretary: Paul Gley

Treasurer: Tom McAllister

Sgt-At-Arms and Weigh Master: Jim Brockmeyer

Past President: John Bartlett

Directors: Joan Bartlett, Bill Jorgensen, Ken Blank, Harvey Rollings, Pete Peters, Don Smith, Tom Swift

Largest fish weighed in was 186 lbs, caught by Pete Peters.

Most releases: Ralph Ronk with 16 fish.

Boat Captain Award: Ken Blank 6

By-Law Update that hunts would be recognized: First, Last, And Most fish released.

They were still killing some fish. Restated minimum size is 50 lbs.

Top 10: Ralph Ronk 28, Scott McClearen 18, Mike Wrenn 18, Joan Kelly 17, George Wyatt 13, Chuck Browskowski 12, Ken Holzhauer 12, Harvey Rollings 11

1987 354 Fish Caught - 3 weighed in (killed) - 65 Tagged

President: Mark Rackay

Vice President: Tom McAllister

Secretary: Ralph Ronk

Treasurer: Paul Gley

Sgt-At-Arms and Weigh Master: George Wyatt

Past President: Mark Rackay

Directors: Ken Holzhauer, Harvey Rollings, Ron Smith, Joe Mullins

Boat Captain Award: George Wyatt 16, with 35 total releases.

Harvey Rollings also had 35 releases, Tom McAllister 33

1988 396 total fish, 78 Tagged, 3-12 lb

President: George Wyatt

Vice President: Paul Gley

Secretary: Mary Ashuaer

Treasurer: Ken Holzhauer

Sgt-At-Arms and Weigh Master: Tom Seiler

Past President: Mark Rackay

Directors: Harvey Rollings, Ron Smith, Joe Mullins

Boat Captain Award: Bob Orlando 12, George Wyatt 11, Ken Holzhauer 10.

Boat Captain Award: Two members with 12 each (no names in notes).

Tagging Captains: Tom Swift 39, Ron Smith 18, George Wyatt 8.

12 lb: Ralph Ronk 1, Tom Smith 1, George Wyatt 1.

Top 10: Bob Orlando 60

Ken Holzhauer 50

Tom Swift 44

George Wyatt 35

Ralph Ronk 14

Robertson 14

Joe Mullen 11

Ron Smith 10

Buzzelli 8

July 30th 2 day hunt: First-Last-Most: George Wyatt

It was decided to look into making club shirts available.

Bruce Brubaker made a motion to become an all release club. There was a second and I believe most members were releasing their fish.

They tried to get Sanibel Tarpon Club and Ft. Myers Beach Club to have inter-club hunts. Motion was made by Bob Orlando and seconded by Chuck Browskowski to contact the clubs and make plans.

Banquet was held at the Elks Club.

1989

President: Doug Fleming

Vice President: Ralph Ronk

Secretary: Paul Gley

Treasurer: Dave Robertson

Sgt-At-Arms and Weigh Master: Ron Smith

Past President: George Wyatt

Directors: Bob Orlando, Ken Holzhauer, Chuck Browskowski, Joe Mullen, Frank Petelli, Steve Hurley

Plans were made for a 1 day hunt with the Beach Club on May 21st. The Top 10 from each Club would compete. CB radio channel 3 was used. Hours for the Hunt would be 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM with a picnic to follow. The first After Hunt Picnic was at Palm Grove Marina on the beach. Sanibel did not participate. (It was noted that they were a small club).

(Ken Holzhauer caught 65 fish)

1990 222 Fish Released

President: Ralph Ronk

Past President: Doug Fleming

Top 10: Ken Holzhauer 22

Joe Mullen 21

Chuck Browskowski 17

Tom Smith 9

Dave Holzhauer 9

Kim Holzhauer 8

Ralph Ronk 8

Dave Robertson 7

Rookie of the Year: Chuck Rockwood 2

Sportsman of the Year: Tom Swift

Captain Award: Ken Holzhauer 13

Rookie Coordinator: Don Kolson

Banquet at the Elks $12 ticket. Cost $125 Room. $25 Set up fee

Zaks Jewelry donated $500 worth in gifts for $100

Awards by Holzhauer and Ken Plumber

John Myer resigned from the club.

1991 108 Members 135 Fish Released Club’s 21st Season

President: Dale Robertson

Vice President: Chuck Browskowski

Secretary: Paul Gley, Chet Harris

Treasurer: Don Kolson

Sgt-At-Arms and Weigh Master: Tom Smith

Past President: Ralph Ronk

Statistics: Captain Ron Smith

Directors: George Wyatt, Frank Patille, Tom Swift, Dan Rod, Joe DiGregorio, Sunny Williamson, Ken Holzhauer (Historian)

Sportsman of the Year: Dale Robertson

Ladies Division Leader: Marie Smith

Rookie of the Year: Pete Olsen

Junior Angler: Jeremy Olsen

Captain Award: Captain Ron Smith (Don Brown award).

Joe Mullen was the club leader with 14.

Informal End-of-Season Challenge was started with a weigh-in party at Tarpon Marina at 5 PM. Now called the Jug Hunt on the last day of the season.

Special Pops was coordinated by Bruce Brubaker (Notes indicate it was the first outing in 1991).

The Club built the barbecue pits at Tarpon Point Marina for Club weigh-ins and picnics. Notes say: Sunny Williams and a cast of stucco artists built them. They were good for the Club and community and they hoped Avatar would expand the facility so meetings could be held there.

Banquet at the Eagles club coordinated by Joe DiGregorio.

Members were surveyed to see what they wanted at meetings and from the Club. Some suggestions were pre-season pot luck meals before meetings. Off shore grouper hunts. Silent auctions.

The Shootout yielded no fish this year for either club.

Ron Smith was in charge of Club T-shirts. They sold for $9 and collared shirts with logos $16.

Notes say Tom Swift talked about organizing a past presidents club with the help of Ken Holzhauer, Historian. Did not find any further mention of it.

1992 89 Members and 23 New

President: Chuck Browskowski

Vice President: Sunny Williams

Secretary: Chet Harris

Treasurer: Don Kolson

Sgt-At-Arms: Joe DiGregorio

Past President: Dale Robertson

Statistics: Captain Ron Smith (Also T-shirt program)

Directors: John Kinney, Jerry Geyer, Steve Fekete, and Pat Geist were all mentioned as on the Board.

Sportsman of the Year: Jerry Geyer

Fishing report on Radio 10 AM to 1 PM every Friday (called fishing line). Ken Holzhauer was featured several times.

Club hosted a Clinic Feb. 20, 1992 and received 40 applications. 17 New and 27 Family. That is 44, do not know about the extra 4?

(John Kinney and Steve Fekete joined 1992. Jerry Geyer and Pat Geist were members.)

The Board established a patch to recognize members who caught 25 or more fish. Joe DiGregorio created it and it would be presented to members who caught 25 fish and then every 25 fish thereafter (25-50-75-100)

Tarpon weight calculator was instituted.

CB radio was still used.

Life Members this year were Bruce Brubaker and Bruce McNamara.

Club members were encouraged to tag fish for research. Tom Swift was recognized for tagging efforts with the program.

Jerry Geyer caught his Rookie fish and it was the first fish of the Rookie hunt. He was with Joe DiGregori and they were pictured in the Daily Breeze paper.

Weigh-ins at Tarpon at 5:30 PM Club furnished hots, burgers and all the fixens…

Local tackle shops: Lehrs, Tackle Haven, Cape Bait & Tackle.

Rustic Inn sold sea food and fresh mullet and shad used for tarpon bait.

Salt Water Enterprise: fresh & frozen shad and mullet

1993 228 Fish Released 47 Tagged

President: Sunny Williams

Vice President: Pete Olsen

Secretary: Shannon Harris

Treasurer: Joe DiGregorio

Sgt-At-Arms: Jerry Geyer

Past President: Chuck Browskowski

Statistics: Captain Ron Smith

Directors: No names listed.

Rookie Coordinator and Historian: Ken Holzhauer

Rookie of the Year: Bill and Happy Wallis

Top Anglers listed were: George Wyatt 33-most, 6th place Tom Grady 16, 5th place Jerry Geyer 14

1993 they tried a men vs. women hunt for the most fish. Women could captain their own boat or enlist a non-fishing male to run the boat. No results were noted.

Boneheads were handled by Ken Holzhauer and Bob Orlando.

Tom Swift donated a storage shed to the Club this year to store items.

The banquet was at the VFW. Joe DiGregorio coordinated it with them.

This year Tarpon point Marina required $250 for insurance so they moved the Picnic to the CCYC (Yacht Club) Pavilion.

The picnic had a band for music and entertainment.

Our Club won the Shoot-Out with the Beach Club this year.

Club boat flags were made available to identify member boats.

Club hats were available.

Established a Captain Tagging Award.

They talked about a pennant to fly when you release a fish…Like Sail and Marlin fishermen do.

1994

President: Pete Olsen

Vice President: Joe DiGregorio

Secretary:

Treasurer: Jerry Geyer

Sgt-At-Arms: John Kinney

Past President: Sunny Williams

Statistics: Dave Hock

Directors: Tom Grady, Tom Hinkle, Sean McGarry, Ron Smith, George Wyatt, John Mester

Top 10: George Wyatt 32

McGarry 17

Tom Smith 13

Ken Holzhauer 11

Jerry Geyer 11

Tom Grady 10

Joe Mullen 7

Sue Swift 7

Hilda Holzhauer 6

Lady’s Division No. 1: Sue Swift 7

Captain Tagging Award: Captain Rom Smith 16, Tom Swift 15.

Individual Tagged Fish: Tom Swift 10

12 lb: Bruce Brubaker

Catfish were the baits of most success.

1995

President: Jerry Geyer

Vice President: Joe DiGregorio

Secretary: Dave Hock

Treasurer:

Sgt-At-Arms: John Kinney

1996

President: Tom Grady

Vice President: Joe DiGregorio

Secretary: Dave Hock

Treasurer: Joe DiGregorio

Sgt-At-Arms: John Kinney

The Steve Smith Award was started by Happy and Bill Wallis. It recognizes the youngest angler to release a tarpon each year. Many of you know that Happy Wallis passed away and Bill Wallis, in Happy’s name, has expanded this award to be two people. The youngest female and the youngest male. We are very fortunate to have this support.

(Jerry Geyer caught 67 fish)

1997 228 Fish Released 47 Tagged

President: Gary Bonacci

Vice President: John Kinney

Secretary: Steve Fekete

Treasurer: Joe DiGregorio

Sgt-At-Arms:

Directors:

11 Rookies in 1997: Ron Pine, Chris Leetz, Mark Bolduga, Randy and Mike Blusiewicz

Jerry Geyer 22, Tom Grady 10

Kyle Wren Youngest 1 fish (5 years old)

12 lb: Tom Smith 12 fish

Sportsman of the Year: Pat Geist

Last fish caught: John Mester and 1st Rookie Hunt fish

Top Angler in 1997 was John Mester with 61 fish, Pat Geist 45, and Jerry Geyer with 39, Tom Grady had 37.

Don Brown Captain Award was Jerry Geyer with 19 anglers.

1998 352 Fish Released

President: John Kinney

Vice President: Steve Fekete

Secretary: Jack Zink

Treasurer: Joe DiGregorio

Sgt-At-Arms: Roy Bennett

Directors: Capt. Gary Bonacci, Pat Geist, Jerry Geyer, Tom Grady, Capt. Dave Hock, Capt. David Holzhauer

Top 10: John Mester 47

Jerry Geyer 39

Tom Grady 33

John Myers 28

Pat Geist 19

Jack Zinke 15

George Wyatt 13

Greg Bella 11

Ed Youmans 8

Lady’s Division:

Pat Zinke 6

Sue Presley 1

Donna Hock 1

Linda Tison 1

Sue Geyer 1

Patti Kinney 1

Junior Division:

Steve Leetz 7

Kyle Wrenn 2

Brian Kobus 1

Captains Award: Jerry Geyer 15, John Meyer 10, Jack Zinke 6

Most Tagged: John Mester 33, Jerry Geyer 32, Tom Grady 23

Season’s 1st Fish: John Mester

Season’s Last Fish: Bob Nelson

1999 380 Fish Released

President: Steve Fekete

Vice President: Jerry Geyer

Secretary: Jack Zink

Treasurer: Joe DiGregorio

Sgt-At-Arms: Roy Bennett

Directors: Capt. Gary Bonacci, Tom Grady, John Kinney, John Mester, George Wyatt, Ed Youmans

2000 413 Fish Released

President: Jack Zink

Vice President: Tom Grady

Secretary: Ed Youmans

Treasurer: Joe DiGregorio

Sgt-At-Arms: Roy Bennett

2001 Total Fish 240 Club Fish 220 Non-member 20

President: Bob Locker

Vice President: Tom Trakas

Secretary: Dick Bonnell III

Treasurer: John Kinney

Sgt-At-Arms: Gary Goodenow

Past President: Jack Zinke

Directors: Capt. Gary Bonacci (Systems), Steve Fekete (Statistician), Jerry Geyer (Rookie Liaison), John Mester (Special Pops), Joe DiGregorio (Logistics), Tom Grady (Programs)

Welcome to new members: Mark Bonnell, Pat Senna, Jim Whisner, Kermit Simonson, Yevegeny Koleson, Maureen McNeill, Fran Muto, Mal Brown, Tony Conaton, Jim Hinder, Thomas Russell.

At the April 19th general meeting they presented the first Master Tarpon Hunter Recognition Awards for total tarpon caught since joining the Tarpon Hunters Club. Newsletter insert page said the list of members who will be receiving recognition that evening. Total Tarpon Caught and Released Recognition Program sponsored by the Board of Directors.

We are all saddened by the death of a wonderful member, Bev Kuznicki. Rich and Bev have handled the meeting refreshments over the years. Our thoughts are with Rich and the family and we all will miss Bev’s home made cookies.

Top 10: Kyle Wrenn 29

Jerry Geyer 19

Tom Grady 19

Tom Smith 13

Greg Bella 12

Chris Leetz 9

Bob Locker 8

Alex Moriarty 7

Bill Blusiewicz 7

Ron Smith Jr 6

Women’s Division:

Maureen McNeill 5

Patti Kinney 4

Pat Zinke 2

Junior Division:

Kyle Wrenn 29

Shawn Friga

Mark Granger 1

Alexandra Wrenn 1

12 lb: Tom Smith 12, Ron Smith, Sr. 2, Ron Smith, Jr. 6

Captains Award: Jerry Geyer 16, Chris Leetz 8, John Mester 6

Captain Tagged: Jerry Geyer 34, Tom Grady 13, Chris Leetz 12

Angler Tagged: Tom Grady 14, Jerry Geyer 13, Bob Locker 5

Rookies: (23 members) Bernie Burby, Maureen McNeill, Josh Bevington, Jim Hider, Bryan Dollar, Mark Granger, Bill Lacefield, Brian Woodward, Dong Miller, Ken Lutz, Tom Moriarty, Ralph Micelli, Alex Moriarty, Dr. Lee Fredrickson, John Cuba, Stuart Weisburgh, Roger Granger, Mary Locker, Robert Thomas, George Tunison, Ken Fisher, Tim Fisher, Tony DeLellis

2002 Total Fish 334 Club Fish 319

President: Gary Goodenow

Vice President: Stuart Weisburgh

Secretary: Patti Kinney

Treasurer: John Kinney

Sgt-At-Arms: Tom Trakas

Past President: Bob Locker

Directors: Randy Blusiewicz, Bob Pascale, Jerry Geyer, John Mester, Joe DiGregorio Tom Grady

Highlights: As Rookie Coordinator (Jerry Geyer) this year, I thank my fellow officers, directors and veteran members who volunteered to host our rookies in the rookie hunt and participate in our rookie programs. We hope all of our members have benefited from our seminars and workshops and the on water experiences that we share with everyone. We salute those 19 members who are now Ex-Rookies who joined in on our meetings and functions and were successful this year. If you were not one of the lucky rookies to have successfully caught and released a fish this year, please stick with the club and we will work with you one on one next season and help you catch a tarpon.

Top 10: Jerry Geyer 75

Tom Grady 40

John Mester 25

Kyle Wrenn 20

Alex Moriarty 16

Bob Pascale 14

Mark Baldiga 12

Mike Blusiewicz 10

Bob Locker 10

John Kinney 10

Lady’s Division:

Patti Kinney 6

Sarah Morris 5

Denise Walton 2

Lady’s Hunt: Lynn Moriarty

Steve Smith Award, Youngest Angler: Dave Fretter

19 Ex-Rookies: Russ Toops 1, Mary Campbell 1, Kenny Collins 1, Gene Weidemoyer 2, Larry Busch 1, Joe Fretter 2, Lynn Moriarty 1, Sarah Morris 5, Doug Jenkins 1, Dan Griffin 2, Jim Pomerleau 1, Dave Fritter 2, Travis Campbell 2, Monty Sink 2, Richard Singer 1, Matt Lacefield 1, Frank Lawson 1, Jim Bucher 1, Brian Zabkar 1.

4th Hunt: Mike Blusiewicz

McLeren Thomas Challenge (Shootout): (One fish only) caught by Mike Blusiewicz on Sea Locker with Capt. Bob Locker.

Master Tarpon Hunter Program: The following members were recognized for reaching new personal milestones during the 2002 season:

5 Fish Level: Denise Walton, Sarah Morris

10 Fish Bronze Level: Alex Moriarty

50 Fish Gold Level: John Kinney

300 Fish Grand Master Tarpon Hunter: Tom Grady, George Wyatt

400 Fish Grand Master Tarpon Hunter: Jerry Geyer

Congratulations to each of you!

Captains Award: Jerry Geyer 11, Bob Locker 7, George Wyatt

Captain Tagged: Jerry Geyer 71, Tom Grady 27, John Mester 14

Angler Tagged: Jerry Geyer 63, Tom Grady 31, John Mester 14

First Fish Of the Season: Jerry Geyer

Last Fish Of the Season: Joe DiGregorio

A new Club Total Fish Released In One Season Award was established this year by the following members: Jerry Geyer with 75 released fish. This breaks John Mester’s 1997 season with 68 fish and George Wyatt’s previous 1978, 66 fish.

Prior record holders are Bob Orlando 63 in 1988. Ken Holzhauer 65 in 1989. and Jerry Geyer 67 in 1996.

Member Information: One of our “LIFETIME MEMBERS”, George Wyatt, is in need of our thought and prayers. George, a fellow “Jarhead” has had several surgeries to correct conditions that earned him a purple heart during the Vietnam war. Tomorrow (at the time of this writing) he’ll go into surgery again to help stem some infection. I have talked with some of our most accomplished members about their successes, and the common thread has been the lessons they have learned from George. God bless you, George, and get well: Gary Goodenow.

In Memory: We are saddened to inform you that during the Christmas holiday our member Capt. Brian Woodward of Sanibel passed away suddenly.

We’ve signed on for another year with Boat US’s Cooperating Group Program. The Boat US Cooperating Group Program offers our club a special arrangement so you can get 50% off your membership when you join Boat US each year. You pay one-half of the regular $19 membership which is only $9.50 for your membership. Please use our group number GA82472B on your application by writing it in. You can get applications for membership in Boat US from our club Secretary.

2003 Total Fish 149 Club Fish 103 Non-members 19

President: Stuart Weisburgh

Vice President: Dan Griffin

Secretary: Monty Sink

Treasurer: John Kinney

Sgt-At-Arms: Dick Bonnell III

Past President: Gary Goodenow

Directors: Bob Locker, Larry Ryan, Jerry Geyer, Tom Grady, John Mester, Bob Pascale

Statistician: Bob Pascale

Special Pops was coordinated by John Mester.

Rookie coordinator, Jerry Geyer.

Boneheads handled by Capt. Gary Bonacci.

The Kick Off Meeting was tarpon fishing seminars.

Club issues to deal with were the Save the Manatee club’s activities and new boating speed zones.

Tarpon release cards: do not put specific locations on the card as the tackle shops where cards were dropped off were passing out that information to customers. So only put ‘inside’ or ‘outside’ for location the fish was caught. Tackle shops we dropped off card at were: Angler’s Outlet, Del Prado Blvd., Cape Bait & Tackle, Cape Coral Pkwy., Cape Tool & Tackle, Pine Island Rd., Chiquita Bait & Tackle, Chiquita Blvd., Capt. Rob’s Bait & Tackle, Del Prado Blvd.

Fishing Results: Top 10: Kyle Wrenn (30), Tom Grady (18), John Mester (9), Bernie Burby (6), Travis Campbell (6), Vince Parkinson (6), Greg Bella (6), Mark Baldiga (4), Chuck Rockwood (3), Mike Wrenn (3), Phyllis Pascale (1), Mary Campbell (1), Lynn Moriarty (1), Travis Campbell (7), Mike Wrenn (6), Tom Moriarty (4).

Tagged Capt: Tom Grady (9), John Mester (6), Jerry Geyer (1).

Tagged Angler: Tom Grady (9), John Mester (5), Jerry Geyer (1).

1st Hunt: Mark Baldiga (2), Kyle Wrenn

2nd Hunt: Bernie Burby, Greg Bella (3), Stu Weisburgh, Kyle Wrenn (30), Dave Fretter (1).

Season’s 1st Fish: Tom Grady

Rookie Fish: Greg Campbell, Ron Penta, Mike Marina, Bob Jenson, Mark Bonnell, Art Litogett, Ray Dzwil, Larry Kelly, Charlene Groom, Dan Ross, Bill Simon, Steve Bako.

As time goes on the club Historian will continue to update this yearly summary of key yearly club activities.

June 1, 2012

Capt. Bob Locker

Historian