

The Brooks Fishing Club Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2017



1. President's Report: Jim Holmes

Jim called the meeting at the Enrichment Center to order at 9:00AM and requested that all cell phones be silenced. There were 37 members in attendance. Jim briefly discussed not expanding the size of the club, keeping next season's budget the same as this season's, and confirmed that club dues will remain at \$65 per year. In addition, Jim outlined the purpose of today's meeting.

2. Secretary's Report: Roger Whited

Roger called for the approval of the March 14, 2017 meeting minutes, which were approved by the members. The approved minutes will be posted on the BFC website.

3. Treasurer's Report: Mike Gleysteen

Mike reported that the BFC bank account has a balance of \$ 6,237. Jim and Mike also presented Tom O'Dea with an award for his past BFC service.

4. Guest Speaker: Leigh Simmons, Lee County Division of Natural Resources

Leigh Simmons was in attendance to present a Lee County Certificate of Appreciation to the BFC for its outstanding volunteer effort to place a Lee County Water Quality medallion on all 686 storm water drains in The Brooks. She recognized that this will not only help the water quality within The Brooks, but will also help contribute to the overall downstream water quality of Estero Bay.

5. Speakers Bureau: Keith Kromer

Keith would appreciate suggestions for speakers related to fishing, fishing captains, environmental issues, etc. Please send your ideas to Keith.

6. Offshore Charters: Jack Paster

Jack indicated that there will probably be price increases next season for all of the offshore charters that the club utilizes, which we will post to our website when known. For next season we will utilize the following: Findictive: new boat, accommodates 5; Capt. Marvel: older, more comfortable boat, accommodates 6; and Cuda: newer boat, accommodates 6. All of these vessels will need volunteers to manage trips and act as an assistant manager / coordinator.

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7. Back Bay Charters: Phil Ferrara

Phil indicated that the Pine Island Sound fishing has been much better than Estero Bay, which has had a lot of water problems. Next season: Capt. Bill Russell: new boat, good prices, good trips out of Matlacha; and Capt. Tony Fontana: very flexible, good trips out of Naples. Phil would appreciate any additional suggestions or ideas.

8. Beach Fishing: Phil Ferrara

Phil indicated that the beach fishing has been a good bridge for new members, as well as the wait listed fishermen who want to try out fishing. Same for next season, looking to additional areas, and open to suggestions.

9. Pontoon Fishing: Tom Heaton

Tom related that he had 11 trips with 125 participants this season. While prices for next season are still unknown, he still expects PM trips in January and February; with AM trips March and April. While the Estero Bay isn't as good as it used to be, the fishing is still not too bad.

10. Saltwater Fishing Classes: Tom Heaton

Tom indicated that the saltwater fishing classes with Capt. Rob Modys were so well attended that he plans to run them again next season.

11. Bass Fishing: Larry Winston

Larry announced that this season's tournament ended with Joe Kallial and Tom Heaton splitting the prize for the largest stringer of fish, with Joe Kallial taking the prize for the largest fish,

12. Outdoor Meetings: Gordon Kreth

Gordon is looking for another good outdoor meeting event for next season. Please send any ideas and/or suggestions to Gordon.

13. Social Events: Bob Seidell

Following a very successful season of instructional lunches, Bob plans are for instructional lunches at SWCC and the Rookery next season, with maybe Real Seafood or Roy's added. Any other suggestions should be sent to Bob.

14. General Feedback

There was some general discussion regarding this season's Annual Dinner, which was not as well attended as some in the past. Several members offered suggestions regarding location, timing, and menus for next season, all of which will be taken into consideration by the BOD.

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15. Status of Volunteers: Jim Holmes

Jim held an open discussion with the members regarding their need to “step up” as volunteers if the club is to continue to be successful. While some members have suggested expansion to allow more wait list people, who might be more willing to serve as volunteers (or could be required to serve as volunteers), expansion would require the club to find different and larger meeting locations. Jim has prepared handouts with outlines of the duties of various volunteer positions, which need to be filled (copy to be made available to all members via the website). Several other ideas and suggestions were discussed, as well as being an active vs. passive member and what that might mean to the club.

16. Summer Activities: T.J. Wright

T.J. has volunteered to coordinate the summer fishing activities for those who are here this summer. Please email your interest to T.J. if you would like to participate in any fishing activities this summer.

17. BFC Raffle Winner: Dan Decesare

18. Next Meeting: 9:00AM, Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at the Common Club’s Enrichment Center.

Minutes submitted by Roger Whited, Secretary