

The Brooks Fishing Club Meeting Minutes – November 14, 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 73 members in attendance. Jim introduced the newly printed 2017-18 Member Books, briefly reviewing the club's use of email, as well as this season's dues payment rules. In addition, Jim also welcomed all the new members in attendance with a BFC logo cap and briefly discussed the need for volunteers for certain key areas.

2. Secretary's Report: Roger Whited

Roger called for the approval of the October 10, 2017 meeting minutes, which were then unanimously approved by the members to be posted on the BFC website. In addition, Roger stressed the importance of keeping the club rosters up to date with current member email addresses and phone numbers.

3. Treasurer's Report: Mike Gleysteen

Mike reported that the BFC bank account currently has a balance of \$14,286.

4. Guest Speaker: Capt. Daniel Andrews, Captains For Clean Water; Punta Rassa, FL

Capt. Daniel Andrews is a full time local fishing guide, born and raised in Southwest Florida, who fishes for tarpon, snook and redfish from Sanibel Island to Boca Grande. While providing his guide services over the past several years, he has witnessed first hand the decline of the Caloosahatchee estuary due to the destruction of the Everglades in general and the mismanagement of Lake Okeechobee in particular. Daniel therefore founded Captains For Clean Water to bring people together on an important issue that has plagued Southwest Florida his entire life.

Captains For Clean Water is a 501(c)3 non profit organization that started out as a group of fishing guides who "had enough" of Florida's poor water management practices and decided to advocate the elimination of harmful large-scale Lake Okeechobee discharges into the Caloosahatchee by restoring the natural flow in order to save our estuaries. Much more information about the goals and successes of Captains For Clean Water, as well as how to join this important and dedicated group at www.captainsforcleanwater.org.

5. Offshore Charters: Jack Paster

1. Findictive II – (Paster & Jamieson) – the October and November trips have been cancelled. The December 18 trip needs 5 fishermen, and will be announced via gmail (\$270 each all in for 5 fishermen.)

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2. Cuda – (Wickens & Denesha) – the November 13 trip had to be cancelled, and is rescheduled for November 20. January 12 is the next trip, and will be announced via gmail (\$235 each all in for 6 fishermen.)

3. Capt. Marvel – (Holmes for Shannon & Asst. needed) – the November 29 trip is full, while the December 14 needs 6 fishermen, and will be announced via gmail (\$250 each all in for 6 fishermen.)

6. Back Bay Charters: Phil Ferrara

1. Capt. Russell – (Ferrara & VanKampen) – Capt. Bill Russell trips are scheduled for November 30, December 5 and 18 (\$150 each all in for 3 fishermen.)

2. Capt. Fontana – (Ferrara & VanKampen) – Capt. Tony Fontana trips are scheduled for December 1, 11 and 19 (\$150 each all in for 3 fishermen.)

7. Beach Fishing: Phil Ferrara

November 17 is the next opportunity for fishing at the beach at Lover's Key State Park.

8. Pontoon Fishing: Tom Heaton

The morning of November 28 is the next pontoon fishing trip (\$30 each for members, \$45 for all others.) As a side note, Tom also indicated that he recently used a new place to have embroidery done: Everglades Shirt Factory, 4281 Bonita Beach Road, 239-948-0085, (west on BB, south side near Wylds Café). Cost to have BFC logo embroidered on your shirt is \$12. Tom currently has a jacket there now, so stay tuned to see how it turns out.

9. Instructional Saltwater Fishing Classes: Tom Heaton

Capt. Rob Modys will be teaching the next sessions of the free saltwater fishing classes at the Bass Pro Shops in the near future, with the date soon to be announced.

10. Bass Fishing Derby and Freshwater Fishing Clinic: Larry Winston

Full information regarding this season's Bass Fishing Derby are included at the end of these minutes. Also, mark your calendar for January 9 when, as an added bonus, Larry and Tom Heaton will conduct a freshwater fishing clinic immediately following the BFC meeting.

11. New Member Orientation: Bob Lienesch

January 30 at 9AM is when the next New Member Orientation session will be held at the Common Club's Enrichment Center.

12. Lake Okeechobee: Bob Lienesch

Bob is trying to put together a Bass fishing trip to Lake O, and will announce full details at the next meeting.

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13. Instructional Luncheons: Bob Seidell

The three Instructional Luncheons this season are on January 16 at SWCC, February 8 at Real Seafood, and March 15 at the Rookery. Reservations are limited and will only be taken via Gmail which will be announced in advance of each luncheon.

14. BFC Raffle Winner: Ken Gundersen

Next Meeting: 9:00AM, Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at the Common Club's Enrichment Center.

Minutes submitted by Roger Whited, Secretary

BASS FISHING DERBY RULES (2017-18)

This year's Derby have basically the same format as last year's in order to make certain that everyone who enters has a good chance to actually win a prize.

ANNUAL CONTEST: As was the case last year, there will be the Annual Derby with prizes for the LARGEST BASS of the year, and a second annual prize for the fisherman who enters three fish during the contest year whose combined lengths are the largest entered. That fisherman will become our ANNUAL DERBY CHAMPION.

MONTHLY DERBIES: As an incentive to get our members out in our communities fishing for the wonderful largemouth bass, the Club will hold FIVE monthly MINI- DERBIES awarding prizes for the biggest group of 3 fish caught in any one calendar month. By offering a monthly prize, it is hoped that a very large fish caught early in the season by a member will not dampen other members' enthusiasm for the rest of the year as they can always win a monthly prize or even the Annual Derby Champion Trophy if their largest three fish for the year are longer than another member's largest. And three good fish caught in any month can win the next monthly prize for the largest 3 fish!

Since we will have five mini-contests, hopefully before the grand prizes are awarded there should be healthy competition going on all season with a fair chance to win in any month.

HOW WILL IT WORK:

1- Mini Derbies:

For this year, the competition will be broken down into five monthly mini-derbies with prizes awarded to each of the monthly winners for the 3 longest bass caught during that month. Prizes will awarded for fish caught in each of the months of November thru March (6 months), being the months when most members are in Florida. The contest starts right after the Club meeting on November 14, 2017 and ends the last day of March 2018.

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The prize for each month will be a \$25.00 Gift Card from Bass Pro Shops. To be eligible, a member must actually enter three fish in that month. In addition, an angler can only win one of the 5 monthly derby prizes. However, a monthly winner can keep adding to his 3 overall longest fish in an effort to win one of the two grand prizes awarded at the end of the year (see below).

2- Annual Derby

The Annual Derby will be essentially unchanged. There will be two prizes, (a) one for the fisherman who catches the longest fish during the entire five month contest period and (b) one for he who has entered three fish whose sum of their combined lengths is the greatest. The prize for the largest fish will be a \$50.00 Gift card to Bass Pro Shops and the winner of the longest three fish will win a \$100.00 gift certificate at Bass Pro Shops. Both Annual winners receive a handsome engraved trophy commemorating their fishing skills and their respective gift cards accompanied by thunderous applause from their fellow club members at the last meeting of the year in April!

3- Rules of the Contests

Duration of the Derbies: Both the Annual Derby and monthly contests will start this year following the Brooks Fishing Club's meeting of November 14, 2017 and end at midnight on March 31, 2018. This will give the Derby Master time to buy the trophies and have them engraved with the winner's names in time to award to them at the April 10, 2018 Member meeting.

Allowable Tackle: The fish must be caught on rod and reel and that can include casting, spinning, fly rods and reels and even hand lines and cane poles! They can be caught on live bait or any kind of lure used on one of those types of tackle. No crossbows or explosives are permitted!

Where can you fish: All of the fish entered must have been caught by a Club member from any pond, creek, lake, stream or puddle on the properties including those in Shadow Wood, Copperleaf, Lighthouse Bay, Spring Run and the big lake adjoining the Commons Club.

How to enter fish into the contest: To be entered in the contest you must take a clear digital camera photo of the fish next to a readable steel measuring tape, preferably one that is 1" wide so that the judges can clearly see the actual length of the fish. No cloth or other "soft" types of measuring devices can be used. The tape should start at either the nose or tip of the tail of the fish and measure the length of the fish with the measuring device flat on the ground (not laying on the body curve of the fish) for it to count. The photo should be sent to Larry Winston at gpljw@aol.com who will edit the photos to improve clarity for easy judging. At the end of the contest period several Club members who do not have entries in the contest will judge the fish to determine the winners. Getting a clear photo of the fish next to the tape is vital as in past years the Derby's winners were decided by a quarter or half inch so accuracy counts.

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Here is an example of how a photo submission should be made so it can be fairly judged:



Ties: If there is a tie for a longest fish in a Monthly or the Annual Derby, the tie will be broken by examining the photos to see which of the fish in question has the largest mass. That would mean, for example, that a fat fish of 24.2 inches beats a thin fish of 24.2 inches.

Misc: The same person can win both of the Annual Derby prizes and one monthly prize and winners of a monthly contest are also eligible to win either or both of the Annual prizes.

Sportsmanship: One of the main goals of the contests is to get Club members fishing more and to give useful information to those who are not doing well and could use a hand. To help foster that flow of information, if you submit a photo for judging, it would be greatly appreciated if you would provide a brief narrative as to the Brooks community in which it was caught, time of day and what lure was used so that the info might be passed along to fellow Members. Larry Winston will disseminate that information through the website and email updates and will provide a monthly compilation for all to see so they can (a) mimic what the successful anglers are doing, (b) know who is winning and (c) understand what sized fish they have to beat to win the monthly or the annual contests.