



**October 2005**  
**Volume 1, Number 7**  
**Upperkeysfishingclub.com**

**Upper Keys Fishing Club**  
**P.O. Box 370484**  
**Key Largo, FL 33037**  
Founded February 16 2005

## **Dock Talk**

### **The Upper Keys Fishing Club Newsletter**

**Next meeting** – Wednesday October 5, 7:00 PM, Yellow Bait House,  
Mini-seminar – line to hook knots, Rob Stewart

**Upcoming events** - Tortugas fishing trips – Dec. 9 –11, Jan. 16-18

#### **President's message** by Capt Doug Jeffrey

It is 6 a.m. my time [in Malaysia] and 5 p.m. in the Florida Keys. As I look out my bedroom window I can see the seas are calm and there are birds working just over the reef line. These flocks of birds cause both pleasure and pain for me. Pleasure because they signal the presence of the schools of tuna below. Pain because I am having trouble catching them. The tuna sit just off the island and feed all day, no lure in my bag seems to interest more than the occasional lone fish. My brother on the other hand seems to get great delight in hooking up these 20 to 30 pound tuna on his tackle. Maybe that is really what is causing my pain. I am using a state of the art rod with AFTCO butt and guides, a new Shimano TLD 30 2-speed and the latest lures. Nonoy, my brother-in-law, is using his standard tackle, an old broken up yoyo I sent him a few years ago, some recycled 30-pound line I discarded last year when I was here and a simple lure he made out of a hook and some chicken feathers he plucked from a unlucky chicken. He is catching fish five to my one.

Every day here is a learning experience. If you do not have something you had better figure a way to do with out it. The nearest town with electricity is 37 miles across open ocean. No matter how well you plan you always seem to forget some item that would have been really nice to have. I brought 80 pounds of tackle to fish with and somehow forgot to bring snap swivels - well, it is not the end of the world but they sure would be nice. This little fishing village of about 750 people is so relaxing with no cars, no motorcycles, no horns, no loud stereos. It seems so peaceful. Each morning neighbors walk around to just say hi to each other. In the evenings they trade the day's extra catch. If you were not able to catch fish today some one will make sure you have fish to eat. Tomorrow it may be you feeding them. This creates a kind of dependence that really seems to bond the island together. If a fisherman's boat is broken down, he will get countless offers to fish on other boats. Then, when the day is over, several people will pitch together to ensure his boat is running for tomorrow. I guess when we depend on each other, we tend to treat each other a little different. You would be a little more

interested in the lives of your neighbors and their families, if there were no cell phone, no VHF radio, nor Sea Tow to come and get you in case you had problems. Here, everyone comes in at 3 p.m. If a boat does not return by 4, there is a conference of families. If by 5 you have not returned, it is a small navy that searches for you. It is something to see 150 to 200 boats all going out at one time with one simple purpose find that missing neighbor, and friend.

Until next time may you enjoy Fair winds and following seas and as always I hope to see you on the water.

### **Offshore Fishing Report**



As Doug is away in the Phillipines, we will have to rely on stories from our members. Rob Stewart caught plenty of dolphin and small blackfin as did Marty Miller and John Ohlsson (pictured above). Some wahoo have also been caught under floating weeds or debris. Action for dolphin should slow as fall progresses but the blackfin should improve. A few sailfish are starting to be caught, but few are targeting them yet. The deep-droppers have been pulling up silkies and some snowy grouper. Deep-dropping may be a good strategy during the fall transition.

### **Reef Fishing Report**

There was a lot of dirty water out to about 400 feet following the hurricanes, but conditions are slowly improving. There are reports of flag yellowtail in 180' in front of the Elbow. The off-color water may even help the bite, but you will still be catching 10 blue-runners for every yellowtail. The sharks are also thick out there right now. There are also some reports of cobia migrating through Hawk Channel. As fall progresses, the inshore mackerel fishing should start to heat up with ceros, spanish and some kings.

## **Back-country Fishing Report**

As the water is cooling, the back-country fishing is hot as evidenced by John Pieklo's catch of seatrout, jacks, and ladyfish. Smaller tarpon are also abundant close to the mangrove shores as are the alligators which have moved down from the 'Glades with the fresh water. Rob Stewart had to quickly land a 20# tarpon to keep it out of the jaws of a one-eyed gator. The fall snook bite is also on, as the mullet run progresses. The creeks in eastern Florida Bay will be boiling with big jacks and snook as the sun goes down. Be sure to wear long pants and sleeves as the bugs will also be thick.

## **Upper Keys Fishing Club News**

September meetings and activities have been a little sparse because of hurricanes and the absence of a few members who have taken this slow time of the year to vacation. Rob Stewart gave two seminars, one on the bead-chain rig for ballyhoo and one on the Albright mono to steel leader connection for kings.

The most exciting news are the upcoming Tortugas trips. 3 boats are reserved and almost filled for the December trip and one boat is reserved with the possibility of two more for the January trip. If you are interested contact Doug Jeffrey [captdougj@terranova.net](mailto:captdougj@terranova.net) or Rob Stewart at 305-853-1173 or [robstew@bellsouth.net](mailto:robstew@bellsouth.net).

[www.upperkeysfishingclub.com](http://www.upperkeysfishingclub.com)

Besides Capt. Ed Stell, the Upper Keys Fishing Club website is dependent upon you. In order to keep things fresh and new, Ed needs stories and pictures to keep the site interesting. Unfortunately we are still showing pictures from the spring. If this sounds identical to last month's website update, that's because it is. We need your input. Capt. Ed is doing a great job posting our newsletter, membership forms and tournament entry forms, but he needs help from all of us. Please email Capt. Ed at [ejstell@a-zwww.com](mailto:ejstell@a-zwww.com) with your pictures and any other contributions.

## UKFC Fishing Tournament Summer Tourney Results by Capt John Ohlsson

### UKFC Summer Fishing Tournament Results

Yellowtail –	Open -	Capt. Doug Jeffrey	4# 3 oz. – 5/27
	Light tackle -	Capt. Doug Jeffrey	4# 3 oz. – 5/27
	Ladies -	Beverly Rowe	3# 2 oz. – 6/22
Dolphin –	Open -	Sally Stribling	24#5 oz. – 6/18
	Light tackle -	Open	
	Ladies -	Sally Stribling	24#5 oz. – 6/18
Mangrove snapper –	Open -	Gary Stills	7#5 oz. – 7/6
	Light tackle –	Open	
	Ladies -	Open	

Junior angler – all categories open

Winter tournament is now open in all categories – kingfish, wahoo, grouper. be sure to weigh your fish in at the Yellow Bait House and fill out the entry form available at the bait shop or online at [www.upperkeysfishingclub.com](http://www.upperkeysfishingclub.com). Any questions contact Capt. John Ohlsson at 305-451-3667.

### Catches of the month – Tarpon – Rob Stewart, Seatrout – John Pieklo

#### Honorable mention – “Freddy” the one-eyed alligator



John Pieklo



Rob Stewart's tarpon



Freddy

## **Fish of the month – Bonefish- *Albula vulpes***

As the fall approaches and the waters cool, bonefish will be spending more time on top of flats. Bonefish are found worldwide throughout the tropics and subtropics and are world-renowned for their blistering runs with the drag screaming or peeling fly line through mangrove seedlings after they inhale a “Crazy Charlie”. Bonefish are also known as the silver ghosts because they are so well camouflaged against the light carbonate sand bottom. Spotting bonefish is a learned skill. Bonefish are so spooky, especially the “schooled” ones that take a lot of fishing pressure on the Islamorada flats, that, by the time you see them, they see you, and the game is over. Oftentimes you are just looking for that subtle “V” in the light chop or just something in the water that doesn’t quite fit in with the general pattern. If you are patient and spend enough time on the flats, you may be privileged to see “tailing” bonefish feeding in shallow water with the top of their silver tail flopping above the water. As evidenced by their down-turned mouths, bonefish are bottom feeders and their favorite foods are shrimp and crabs that hide among the turtle grass.

## **Bait of the month – Pink shrimp – *Farfantepenaeus duorarum***

We live at the center of the habitat of the pink shrimp *Farfantepenaeus duorarum*. Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay and the Ten Thousand Islands are the nursery areas for pink shrimp who mature within the seagrass meadows and mangroves. In the 1950s, Key West fisherman struck “pink gold” off the Dry Tortugas and since then pink shrimp has been in the top commercial catches along with spiny lobster for the state of Florida. For many of us, a pink shrimp was probably the first bait we learned to put a hook on. For the rest of us, pink shrimp may be most often thought of as tasty tablefare. Keys anglers often wonder why the bait shrimp are so small in the summertime. These are not different species, they are just juveniles that are caught by the bay trawlers in Biscayne Bay. Juvenile pink shrimp mature within the estuaries during the summer and fall months and large shrimp are rare during these times because the adults have left the estuaries having already headed for the offshore spawning areas (e.g., Tortugas grounds) in winter and early spring. They often time their departure with strong spring tides and the approach of a cold front. During these times, spectacular shrimp runs can be witnessed at night using spotlights in the cuts and passes that lead to ocean waters.

## **Fish Feast – Recipes from the Deep**

We are seeking recipes for upcoming newsletters. Please send these to Tom at [frankovich@virginia.edu](mailto:frankovich@virginia.edu).

## **For Rent**

Buttonwood Bay condo – 2 Bedroom/ 1.5 Bath, available year-round or seasonal. Contact Dick and Bette Mead for prices and details at [thegoaweigh@juno.com](mailto:thegoaweigh@juno.com) or 631-734-6787

If any club members have items for sale that would be of interest to fellow anglers, please send these to Tom at [frankovich@virginia.edu](mailto:frankovich@virginia.edu) for future inclusion.

## **Tip Corner – Tripletail for the taking**

Fall is also the time for a trip just outside of Everglades National Park on the western side of Florida Bay to target the tripletail hanging around the crawfish pot bouys. Tripletail can be spotted sunbathing and napping on their sides below the shade of trap bouy often with a Pina-Colada with ua pastel umbrella in one of their fins. Sight fish for the tripletail while on plane (make sure everyone is in the cockpit), and when one or two are spotted, idle back to the bouy and cast a live shrimp or some tipped jigs. A 15# spinning outfit is fine. If you use jigs, white 2/0 bucktails or nylon jigs tipped with some shrimp or ballyhoo steak is ideal. Extra strength hooks are preferred, if you want to use the jigs more than once. The tripletail have mouths as tough as their skin. Remember tripletail must be 15”

## **Special Thanks to our members and friends that have supported our activities**

Kallis Ford	207-338-1300
MacDonald Marine	1-800-482-7910
Ludington Charter Service	1-877-272-0688
Ice Group	1-800-605-3545

**"The Yellow Bait House"**

**Charters**  
**Guide Service**  
**Live Bait & Tackle**



MM 101.7  
 Key Largo, FL 33037  
 yellowbaithouse@bellsouth.net

Gary & Barbara Stills  
 305-451-0921  
 Fax 453-3724

**Ballyhood**  
**TOP GUN LURES™**  
*Big Game Trolling Lures*



**Darrell Primrose**

714/545-0196  
 2261 S. Ritchey St.  
 Santa Ana, CA 92705

fax 714/545-0197  
[www.ballyhood.com](http://www.ballyhood.com)  
 sales@ballyhood.com

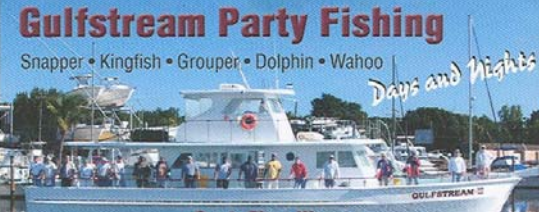
SHARON SMITH  
 ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER  
 TRADEWINDS



101433 OVERSEAS HWY. • KEY LARGO, FL 33037  
 (305) 451-3033 • FAX (305) 453-7808  
 EMAIL sharons@keysbank.com

**Gulfstream Party Fishing**

Snapper • Kingfish • Grouper • Dolphin • Wahoo



Days and Nights

Capt. Chan Warner

Tel: 305-451-9788  
 Email: [Gulfstream1@aol.com](mailto:Gulfstream1@aol.com)  
[Fishfloridakeys.com/Gulfstream](http://Fishfloridakeys.com/Gulfstream)

Ocean Bay Marina  
 Key Largo, MM 99.5

**Ludington Charter Service**



**ENCORE**  
 Lake Michigan