Minutes

The Villages Deep Sea

Fishing Club April 1, 2024

President Ken Jagodzinski called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 161 members in attendance.

**Congressman Daniel Webster**

President Ken informed the members that we would change up our normal agenda to accommodate the schedule of our guest speaker. He advised the normal business portion would follow the speaker. Ken introduced Congressman Daniel Webster, currently serving Florida’s 11th Congressional District. President Ken advised of the Congressman’s membership on 2 House sub-committees pertaining to the Florida fisheries. The Congressman shared with members his thoughts on NOAA’s current actions regarding setting fishing seasons in the Gulf of Mexico. He advised the critical need for NOAA to “get it right.” When pressed for specifics he advised it is still a work in progress that these Committees are watching and said “we will get it done, and we will get it right.” The 20 minute presentation was followed by a brief Q&A session.

**Everett Belter “Memorial Fish Fry” luncheon**

Ida Donnegan announced that tickets were on sale for this event to honor Everett. The date is Monday, April 29 at the Rohan Recreation Center. She advised the cost is $15 per person and reservations were required as the fish portion of the meal is to be catered and counts are necessary. The event is open to members and their immediate other – no guests. Members are asked to bring a pot-luck dish like prior years’ picnics. Water and soda will be provided. The event is BYOB for alcoholic beverages. Ida advised that to date only 70 tickets had been sold and shared that this was “disappointing.” President Ken reiterated that this was a long standing tradition of the Fishing Club and encouraged members to support this event.

**Fishing Trip Coordinator reports**

Coordinator reports highlighted current fishing reports and openings for April trips. Presenters included Jim Scheer, Gary Doerfert, Joe Cicman filling in for Jaye Wolfe and Jeff Newman filling in for Dave Easthon.

**American Patriot raffle**

President Ken announced that tickets are now on sale to win one (1) seat on the Club private trip on The American Patriot in October 2024. Ticket cost is $5 for 1 ticket or $20 for 5 tickets. The drawing will be at the Club meeting in July.

**American Patriot – June 2025 long haul trip**

President Ken shared that the Club has contracted for another 4-day deep drop fishing trip. The dates are June22-25, 2025. He advised that signups are now underway. He asked anyone interested in this trip to see Ken for more details.

**Dues renewal**

Ken shared that dues renewals were slower than previous years and he encouraged members to renew at first chance. Any member who has not renewed after the April 1st meeting will be dropped from the membership role.

**NEW members**

Jeff Newman handled the new member business and asked David Eoff the number of new members. He responded that there were 6 new members that signed up at the meeting. All new members were asked to stand and introduce themselves. Jeff invited the new members to stay for a brief orientation meeting following the regular meeting.

**Open Forum**

Ken Jagodzinski shared that Freshwater fisherman, who are part of the Freedom Boat Club, have been disappointed with the removal and the lack of boats on the Harris Chain.  He asked by show of hands, how many Deep Sea Fishing Club members are a part of FBC. Apparently there been a similar decrease in the types of shallow water angling boats at Homosassa and Crystal River.  This has generated significant negative feedback from Freedom Boat Club members. If anyone was interested in sharing information they were asked to speak David Larsen of the Freshwater Fishing Club.

Another recent new member advised he has a charter for April 11th out of Ponce Inlet and was looking for 2 more anglers to join him if interested.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer Steve Newman gave the financial report.

**100% Raffle**

The club raffled off eight (6) $50 vouchers that can be used on any Club trip. Congratulations to the winners.

Next meeting is Monday, May 6, 2024 at Everglades Recreation Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.