

Minutes
The Villages Deep Sea
Fishing Club February 5, 2024

President Ken Jagodzinski called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 197 members in attendance.

March Meeting – update

President Ken reminded everyone that the March meeting will be at the Lake Miona Recreation Center – **NOT** Everglades. The date is Monday, March 4, 2024. The start time will remain unchanged at 6:00 PM.

April Meeting – update

President Ken informed everyone that the speaker for the April meeting will be Congressman Daniel Webster. The April meeting will be at the Everglades Recreation Center. The date is Monday, April 1, 2024. He asked for a strong member attendance at this meeting.

Swap Meet update

John Holloway, Coordinator for the Spring Swap Meet, gave an update on this event. John said there were just a couple of tables available to members if still interested. He shared details on check-in for the event start time parameters. John asked for anyone interested to contact him via email at johnbholloway@gmail.com

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. Tickets will be available at the next 2 Club monthly meetings.

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.

Fishing Trip Coordinator reports

Coordinator reports highlighted current fishing reports and openings for February trips. Presenters included Steve Newman, John Hogan, Bruce Speck, Jim Scheer, Gaylon Thompson, Ray Moses and Dave Easton.

NOAA comments

President Ken advised that the Club's Government Affairs Committee had filed comments with NOAA regarding the 2024 Gag Grouper fishing season. He shared that the Club's comments were filed from "the recreational angler's perspective". Specifically he said that the comments strongly disagreed with NOAA's leaning towards a 2-week Gag Grouper season for 2024. Rather, he said the Club's comments asked NOAA to consider a "license" program for anglers to obtain a Gag Grouper permit to catch Gags. Such a program gives certainty to anglers booking a Gag fishing trip and allows NOAA to manage harvest limits by limiting the number of permits issued. Ken suggested this was an "innovative solution" to a difficult issue.

American Patriot June 22-25 trip signups

President Ken advised the Club that we have reserved another 4-day deep drop trip on The American Patriot. To give everyone a chance to participate, he said that signups would begin at the April 1, 2024 meeting. The trip is limited to 20 members and is on a first come basis.

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

Dave Easton handled the new member business and asked David Eoff the number of new members. He responded that there were 12 new members that signed up at the meeting. All new members were asked to stand and introduce themselves. Dave invited the new members to stay for a brief orientation meeting following the regular meeting.

Open Forum

One member praised his recent trip on The Waterproof and shared the day's highlights. He said they caught Amberjack, Black Fin Tuna and other species in what was a "great day of fishing".

Financial Report

Treasurer Steve Newman gave the financial report.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was Captain Carl Robinson out of Cedar Key. Carl talked about airboat fishing and what happens after March when it becomes too warm to fish from the airboat.

Members were shown an 8 minute video of a recent Club airboat trip with Carl. The presentation was followed by questions.

100% Raffle

The club raffled off nine (9) \$50 vouchers that can be used on any Club trip. Congratulations to the winners.

Next meeting is Monday, March 4, 2024 at Lake Miona Recreation Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.