

The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club July 1, 2024

President Ken Jagodzinski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 107 members in attendance.

Gag Grouper season openings

President Ken shared that the Gag Grouper season in the Gulf of Mexico has been announced. He added that the season will only be 15 days in duration starting September 1st and ending on September 16, 2024. He encouraged members to get their Red Snapper trips booked early as demand for trips will be robust.

Fishing Trip Coordinator reports

Coordinator reports highlighted current fishing reports and openings for July trips. Presenters included Jim Scheer, John Hogan, Joe Cicman, Dave Easton, Bruce Speck and Steve Newman.

Gulf Star Endurance recap

President Ken announced that 3 Club members were on the new long-haul boat out of Tarpon Springs called the Gulfstar Endurance. He read a fishing report provided by the 3 members who could not be in attendance at the meeting.

New Captain introduced

President Ken was pleased to introduce Captain Don Lashley as a new Captain providing fishing charters out of Homosassa and Crystal River. His charter Company is called Artificial Only Charter and will begin offering trips ASAP to Club members. His info is now on the Club's website.

American Patriot raffle

The winner was drawn for the free trip on the Club's private fishing trip on The American Patriot in October 2024. Our guest speaker – Travis Thompson of the Florida Guide Association drew the winning ticket. The winner was Gary Doerfert. Gary was not present to accept his prize but was ecstatic to hear the news from President Ken.

American Patriot – June 2025 long haul trip

President Ken shared that the Club's 4-day deep drop fishing trip is now full. He advised that he would be taking stand-by reservations.

August meeting

Members were reminded that August's meeting would be at the Lake Miona Recreation Center on Monday, August 5th. Same time just a different location.

NEW members

Jeff Neuman advised 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

There were several members that spoke during this Open Forum segment this month.

Financial Report

Treasurer Steve Newman gave the financial report.

Guest Speaker – Travis Thompson of the Florida Guide Association

President Ken introduced Travis Thompson is a 5th generation Floridian from Winter Haven, Florida. He's the Executive Director of All Florida, a non-profit organization focused on conservation. He is a co-owner of Duck Ranchin' the state's largest waterfowl hunting operation.

Travis shared in detail the constitutional Right to Fish and Hunt in Florida (Amendment 2) that will be on November's ballot. He presented his reasons why members should vote YES on this amendment. A Q&A session followed.

100% Raffle

Club member Chuck Ogle led the club raffle of eight (6) \$50 vouchers that can be used on any Club trip. Congratulations to the winners. Chuck also led the second chance raffle.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.