

Minutes

The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club March 4, 2024

President Ken Jagodzinski called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 182 members in attendance.

Volunteer thank you

President Ken thanked all members who graciously volunteered their time to assist at both the Swap Meet and Outdoor Expo in February. He specifically thanked John Holloway, Coordinator for the Spring Swap Meet, who did a terrific in making this first-ever event a success. Thank you mentions were also extended to those that volunteered at the 2-day Outdoor Expo. In total, over 40 new members were signed up at these events. Great job!

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.

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 April Club monthly meetings. President Ken encouraged members to support this event.

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 June 22-25, 2025. He advised that signups will begin at the April meeting. He asked anyone interested in this trip to see Ken for more details.

Fishing Trip Coordinator reports

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

Dixie County Artificial Reef Grant proposal

President Ken advised that the Club's Government Affairs Committee had filed a letter of support regarding Dixie County's efforts to secure a grant to deploy reef building material at the AC Artificial Reef site. The comments expressed that this initiative "is a proactive and forward-thinking approach to marine conservation and resource management." The GA Committee also encouraged the agency to explore additional reef deployment efforts in/near Crystal River and Cedar Key.

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 7 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

Jim Scheer asked members NOT to call him after 6 PM to book a charter or ask questions. He shared that he is receiving "late evening" calls and it is impacting his personal life. Sounds like a reasonable request!

Financial Report

Treasurer Steve Newman gave the financial report.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was Adam Miller, Chief Operating Officer of the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida. CCA is a non-profit group dedicated to the conservation of Florida's marine resources. Members were shown a short video of CCA's activities. Mr. Miller spoke of the 5 "pillars" upon which CCA activities are driven. The presentation was followed by questions.

100% Raffle

The club raffled off eight (8) \$50 vouchers that can be used on any Club trip. Congratulations to the winners.

Next meeting is Monday, April 1, 2024 at Everglades Recreation Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.