



Greetings Members,

Here is our electronic transmission of last night's meeting. As always, I welcome your comments.

March Club Meeting (March 3, 2025)

Two hundred seven (207) members were in attendance. The room was packed as many new members that the Club signed up at the Outdoor Expo attended the meeting. The highlight of the evening was the activity around the three (3) FREE trips that were being raffled. Our guest speaker for the evening, Captain Paul Forsberg of the Gulfstar Endurance, donated the trips and included one (1) 44-hour middle grounds trip and two (2) 12-hour trips. All raffle proceeds will be donated to Honor Flight in The Villages. Thank you to all members who bought tickets to help benefit this noble charity.

Highlights:

The Villages Outdoor Expo held this past weekend was a huge success for our Club, as we signed up 50 new members. I thanked all the volunteers who helped man the Club's booth at the Expo, including Pete Liebig, Joe Divoti, Al Anderson, Gaylon Thompson, Jeff Newman, and David Eoff.

Fishing Reports: Our Club's Coordinator's shared February activity and upcoming trips for March and beyond.

NOAA Secretarial Amendment—An update on NOAA's latest proposal was presented. **The** proposal recommends a 3-month bottom fishing closure in the Atlantic and a (slight) increase in the American Red Snapper fishing season of 5 to 9 days in 2025. Club member Brad Pressman shared his experience advocating for public policy issues and agreed to help the Club with this issue. He shared that the size of our Club, the large number of fishing charters that our Club runs, and the significant population of The Villages give us an important voice that needs to be heard. The Club will reach out to elected officials to voice our concern and initiate an action plan to accomplish that. Members will also be welcomed to help craft a proposal to help reduce the "dead kill releases" that NOAA contends is the crux of the overfishing problem.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the Gulfstar Endurance was our guest speaker. Paul shared his many years of experience, his family legacy, and his presence in Tarpon Springs, FL. He also detailed the types of trips his fleet can offer our members. There was strong interest from members who engaged in an active Q&A session. The Club will work to establish a business

relationship with Captain Paul and arrange charters for our members. Stay tuned for more specifics.

Until next month,
Ken

