



Greetings Members,

If you missed last night's meeting, here are the minutes. As always, I welcome your comments.

May Club Meeting (May 5, 2025)

One hundred two (102) members were in attendance. We were joined by Captain Dan Shannon, who was attending his first-ever Deep Sea Fishing Club meeting. Captain Dan was filling in for his Coordinator, who could not attend the meeting. There was the usual camaraderie and mingling as members signed up for charter trips. We welcomed seven new members.

Highlights:

Thanks to Dave Easton - Ken thanked Dave Easton for covering for him at April's meeting.

American Patriot raffle—Members were encouraged to buy tickets for the Club's private trip in June. The raffle will be held at June's monthly meeting on Monday, June 2nd.

Advocacy — Ken spoke about "Shark Depredation" and its impact on the recreational fishermen. Shark Depredation is when a predator picks off an easy meal of a fish hooked and being reeled in by an angler. He advised that a recent bill introduced in Congress by Congressman Rob Wittman's [Supporting the Health of Aquatic Systems through Research, Knowledge, and Enhanced Dialogue \(SHARKED\) Act](#) was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. The *SHARKED Act* will establish a task force to work with fisheries management groups to address the problems posed by increased shark depredation and identify research and funding opportunities for improving the current conditions of shark depredation. Ken shared that the Club is working to secure a speaker to talk to the Club about this issue for a future meeting.

Fishing Reports: Our Club's Coordinators shared April activity and upcoming trips for May and beyond.

Ken encouraged members to sign up for the first-ever Club trip on the Gulfstar Endurance, departing on August 5th. The 44-hour trip to the Gulf Middle grounds will target American Red Snapper and numerous other species. Ken said, "It's a great trip at a great price."

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Fishing in the Florida Keys—Member Charlie Pryde talked about a recent April trip to Key West, FL, with 6 Club members on the Lauren Jean. He described this trip as unique because the group opted to fish without a mate. Instead, the group decided to handle those tasks themselves. He showed his latest 10-minute video {[CLICK HERE](#)} to view the video.



NEW CAPTAIN INTRODUCED The Club welcomed Captain Katie Jo Davis as the newest Captain to the Deep Sea Fishing Club team.

Vice President Gaylon Thompson introduced Captain Katie and shared that she has a wealth of fishing experience and is a terrific addition to our Club.

Captain Katie Jo spoke about her history and passion for fishing. She said, "I'm honored and excited to offer charters to The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club."

Watch for charter dates on our website.

Until next month,
Ken