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**Heard on The Beat**

NEWS FROM KEY COVERAGE AREAS IN OUR COMMUNITY

**CAST A LINE AND FIND SOME FRIENDS AT THE VILLAGES DEEP SEA FISHING CLUB**

If you're looking to cast a line with friends, The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club might be for you. The group meets on the first Monday of each month at Everglades Regional Recreation Complex, while also holding occasional outings. Visit the club online at [deepseafishingclub.org](http://deepseafishingclub.org). (Ryan Weiss, Daily Sun)

**FLOUNDER SEASON CLOSES, TO REOPEN AGAIN IN DECEMBER**

Recreational harvest season for flounder in the state of Florida and federal waters closed Saturday and reopens Dec. 1. The annual closure was approved in December 2020 to help repopulate the fish after declining populations were found on the Atlantic coast of Florida and other south Atlantic and Gulf states. (Ryan Weiss, Daily Sun)

TODAY'S TOPIC  
**FLORIDA TRENDS**

**Deep Sea Fishing Club keeps drifting south, now at Everglades Recreation so that they can fit all the new members who have joined the school of anglers.**

By **RYAN WEISS**  
 Daily Sun Staff Writer

At the start of 2022, The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club called Paradise Regional Recreation Complex home for its monthly meetings.

However, the club was already a little cramped for the space and over the course of the year the club grew by so much Paradise was too small for the club. They moved to Eisenhower Regional Recreation Complex, only to find that room also was too small for their growing membership.

As of this month, the Deep Sea Fishing Club calls

Everglades Regional Recreation Complex home — hopefully for the foreseeable future.

"It's a really nice setting," said Dean Hooker, a club member since 2013. "More ample and relaxed. People can really move around, especially when you go sign up for the fishing trips. We don't have that cluster of people around the tables. So it's really a great move."

At Paradise and Eisenhower, it was clearly apparent there wasn't enough room for everyone to have an acceptable amount of personal space, let alone a place to sit.

Not only did the club need more space, but there was a second reason behind the move. Being at Everglades gives the club a higher profile



Submitted photo

The Villages Deep Sea Fishing club members (from left) Tony Lause, Charlie Pryde, Dean Hooker, Gary Coleman, Ken Jagodzinski onboard the American patriot at Pulley Ridge, roughly 100 miles off the coast of Key West in May.

to attract newcomers in the growing south.

The club has brought in new members at a rapid pace. New member coordinator Dave Easton, who volunteers for the club as someone who talks to new members at meetings, said the club recently had

a month where they gained 28 new members.

"Sometimes there wasn't a seat (in the room)," said Easton, of the Village of Chitty Chitty. "Every meeting (club president Ken Jagodzinski) would ask the new members to stand up. And it was astonishing to see

the number of people that stood up." With that many new members also comes new opportunities. One thing about being such an active club is it makes them a reliable place for charter captains. A Deep Sea Fishing Club in central Florida means anglers have to travel for ocean fishing, but it also gives them a chance to travel to each coast and multiple cities.

"The captains are flowing to us," said Hooker, of the Village of Hemingway. "Because they have a market with us." Having the hub in the south also makes it easier to attract southern residents. Easton said he's met some of his neighbors in Chitty

Chitty thanks to the club moving south.

The other opportunity that comes with new members is new friends. Camaraderie in the Deep Sea Fishing Club is already high and bringing in new members who are active and want to be a part of the club only makes it easier to share passions with fellow residents.

"It's exciting to be involved in a club that I'm really interested in and didn't just want to try," Easton said. "And to meet (people) with similar likes like sport fishing and be able to socialize with them."

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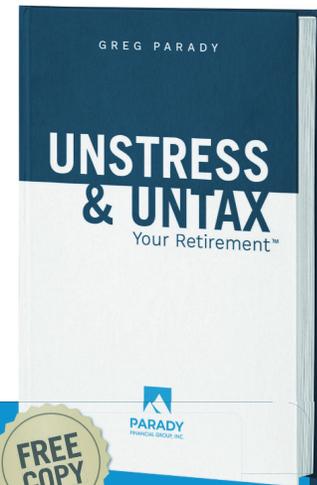
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