



Fort Myers Beach Tarpon Hunters Club

TARPON TALES

Club Member Newsletter

www.fmbthc.com

June 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We Win! Again!!

If you didn't hear by now, the Club was crowned the winner of the 2017 McClaran-Thomas Shootout. This is our fourth consecutive win over the Cape Coral Club. The victory was made sweeter as we defeated them by recording two releases. Congratulations to Steve Johnson and Aaron Virnig for their timely first releases of the season and thanks to all those who participated. The club hosted the awards dinner at our club house with dinner catered by our friends at Bonita Bills.

I was asked by Wink News to take out a reporter to shoot a little tarpon fishing segment the Wednesday following the interclub hunt. No pressure there! I can only assume they were having a hard time finding any guides available or anglers who weren't pre fishing for the Ding Darling Tournament. Long story short: I did what all good fishermen do after an almost three year dry spell of releasing a tarpon. I managed expectations. After anchoring and getting the chum and baits out I was asked to do an interview. I had just gotten wired for sound and started to answer a few questions when the rod went off. Watching the video back I was surprised how quickly I reacted to the sound of line peeling off the reel. Luck would have it that a small tarpon had taken the bait and I was able to bring it to the boat quickly. It's been a while since I've had a release and I couldn't think of a better time.

We also had a very well attended weigh in for the Al Jackson / Al Thomas Memorial Day Hunt. Congratulations to Pete Maastricht for landing a fish for the long weekend hunt and breaking a three year dry spell. Unfortunately, Pete called his fish in at 3:45 on Monday and was unable to make the deadline for the official hunt. (Feet on the dock at 4:00)

Our monthly meeting will be held Wednesday the 7th at Bonita Bills. Important topics to discuss are the final preparations for the club picnic on Sunday June 11th and our Up North Hunt at Cabbage Key on June 23 – 25. I want to thank Kim Owens for all her hard work putting the Up North hunt together.

We also have a Team Hunt to coordinate for Saturday the 17th. This hunt encourages members to team up and fish together. Let's try to get some of our wallflowers out fishing again.

With the winds mitigating from the stiff winds of May, many are reporting great action north of redfish pass. We may only have a short window to get out there and put some numbers on the board before the summer months are upon us. Get out there and make us proud. We currently have eight anglers with releases. The next fish released by one of these members will put them in the lead for angler of the year points. Good luck to all.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Kevin

2017 OFFICERS

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2017 BOARD of DIRECTORS

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MATT PONZIO ~ 239-549-3474

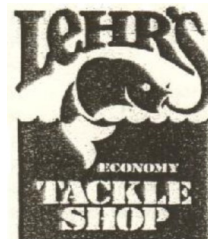
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Anderson's
ROD & REEL REPAIR

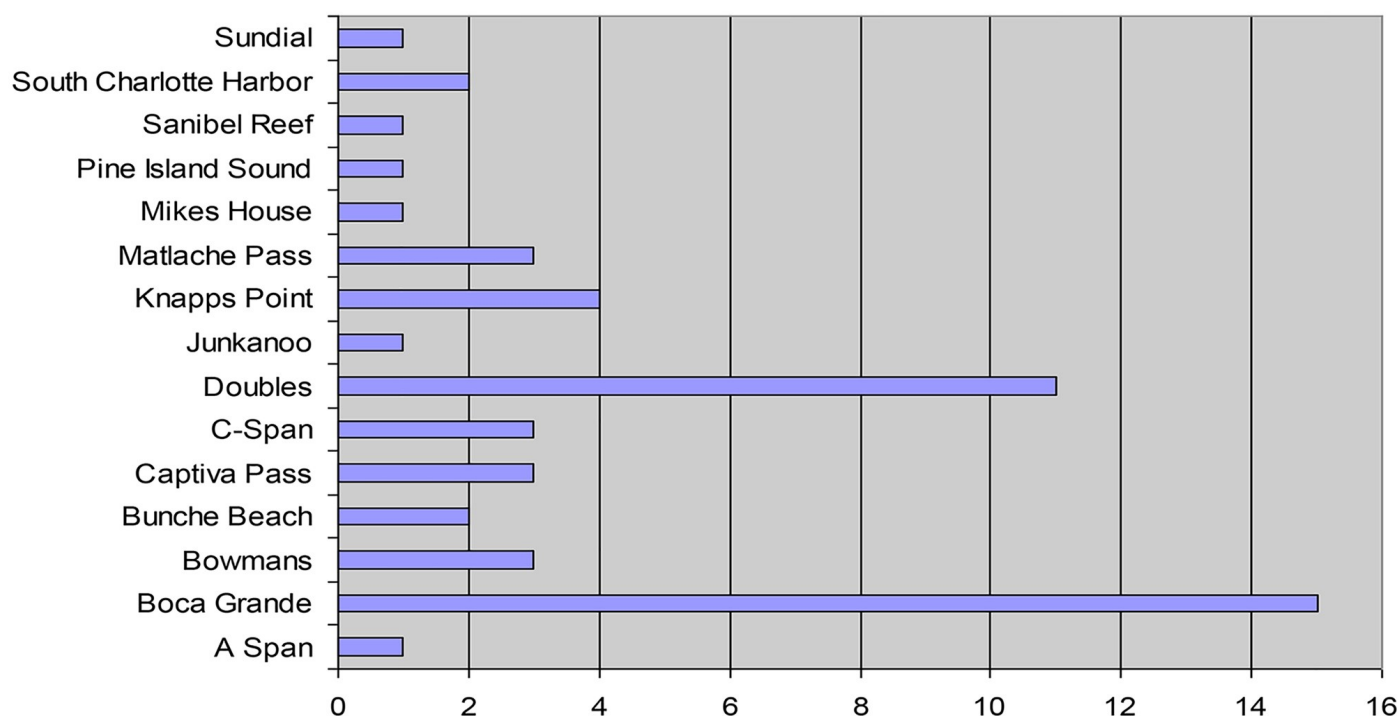


Current Fish Count 2017

Rank	Name	Tarpon	Date of first fish	Time of first fish	Date of last fish	Captains pts.
1	Jerry Stephenson	1	3/10	8:45		
2	John Zupanovich	1	4/19			
3	Warren Teigen	1	4/30	8:45 Pm		
4	John McDaniel	1	5/12			
5	Steve Johnson	1	5/13			
6	Aaron Virnig	1	5/13			
7	Kevin Vertesch	1	5/17			1
8	Pete Maastricht	1	5/29	3:45 Pm		1
	Totals	8				

Historical Catch Locations for the Month of June.

Thanks to Don Taylor



UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Picnic, June 11th
 SW Florida Coastal Information Day, Saturday June 17th
 Team Hunt, Saturday June 17th
 Up North Hunt, Sat./Sun. June 24-25th
 Dean-O Hicks / Bonita Bills Kids Fishing Day, Sat. July 1st

Be sure to visit our Sponsors and let them know we appreciate all they do for us!

A Special Thanks to **Bill Semmer** for his continued hospitality for letting us meet at Bonita Bill's.

Check out our NEW WEBSITE: www.FMBTHC.com

Safety on the Water

Matt Ponzio

In case you haven't heard we've had a few accidents over this last Memorial Day weekend, one was even tragic resulting unfortunately in a death. As you probably already know things tend to happen quicker on the water, and as captain in charge of your boat you are responsible for not only yourself and the occupants of your vessel but the people around you. I have attached a checklist for Keeping your boating experience fun and safe from the USCG I would urge you to review check it off and sign it. I have also included the Boating Safety Guide, Vessel & Equipment check list a departure list and a float plan.

I would also recommend everyone has a VHF radio not only to communicate with other members on the water but to be able to call for help or to be able to give help to someone near by who is in need of assistance. Don't depend on using a cell phone service may not always be available. When purchasing a new VHF radio get one that DSC (Digital Selective Calling) this will allow anyone on your boat call for help simply by pressing a button BUT you must register the MMSI number for this to work (Boat US will do this for FREE on their website) and your radio must be wired to your GPS. There are many radio's today that have GPS built into them, even handhelds they are a little more money but when you need it to work you want it to work.

Remember when on the water:

1. Keep a constant eye out for hazards, watch 360 degrees around you boat (appoint someone as a watch to assist)
2. Be courteous to other boats.
3. Know your wake, you are responsible for any damages caused by it.
4. When approaching some one head-on make you turn wide so the y can clearly see your intensions.
5. Wear a life jacket, yes I said it. Today's inflatables are inexpensive and actually pretty comfortable.
6. Use your Kill Switch lanyard, if you fall off the boat don't let it take off without you.
7. Make sure your boat has all of the required safety items on board and that the are in good condition (not Expired)

Keep in mind the life you save maybe your own or a member of your family, safety first. I hope this helps. If your interested in more information our local USCG Aux offers monthly boaters safety education courses and has free vessel safety check. Let me know if you need more information.

Be Safe, Have fun and catch some Tarpon

Matt Ponzio



Three Day Memorial Hunt Weigh-in

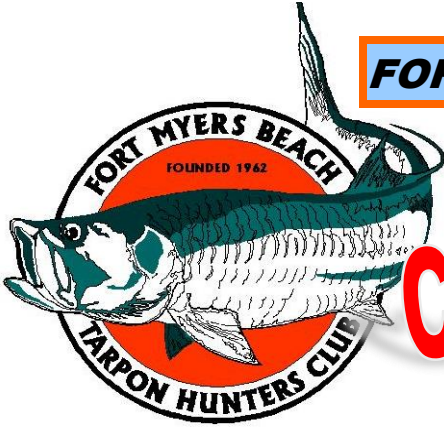
At Bonita Bills

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FORT MYERS BEACH TARPON HUNTERS CLUB



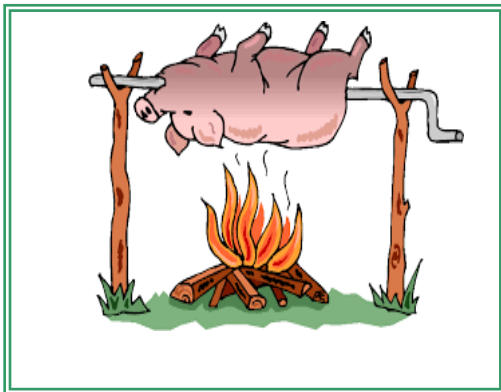
Club Picnic-June 11th

Picnic on Sanibel Causeway *Sunday* June 11th 11am to whenever it rains!

Same location as last few years

Directions – Fort Myers to Sanibel Causeway, to the second island, go just past the restrooms on the left and park on the right (West) side of the road – facing Pine Island.

Don Cook will be up early securing the area and placing the direction signs- thanks once again Don.



Club will provide the Food and soft drinks. For all other beverages, use coosie cups or drink containers and be discrete NO Glass. Bring beach chairs.

**Don't miss Phil and Lois Lemke's
Pig Roast!**

Small gifts of snacks or deserts would be appreciated.

Over \$500.00 in Raffle Prizes!

Feeling Lucky?

We will have great raffle prizes, rods, reels, etc. so bring plenty of \$\$\$\$

***This Picnic is open to all Members & Sponsors
Come, bring the family and enjoy the fun***

Warning – If you come by boat, wear shoes when coming ashore, rip rap, rocks etc.

Club Rules – Tarpon don't count if released during the picnic – so party – don't fish