



The Marlin Club
Since 1931

The Gaff Line



December 2008

From the Helm

by Art Ponce, Club President

Hello club members, I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday. The current U.S. and global economic conditions are stressful for all of us, so let's keep a positive attitude that things will improve in the year to come. I would like to thank Wayne Slahor for submitting the information concerning marlin on restaurant menus and fish markets. This is a very serious problem, so I encourage all of you to be informed about the world harvesting of marlin and sailfish, and be knowledgeable about what we can do about it.

November means only one thing for serious saltwater sportsmen, long range fishing in Mexico. I have had the opportunity to fish some of the many great spots on my way south to Puerto Vallarta in the past, but this year, I was fortunate to assist Fred Larson on "Squared Away" for a close up look of the waters around Magdalena Bay. A long range trip to Magdalena will challenge even the most seasoned crews and vessels. The rewards can be remarkable however, because you can acquire ten years of fishing experience in just one week. We were fortunate enough to time the action perfectly as the Stripped Marlin were massing in great numbers, just 8 miles south of the entrance. The marlins were constantly feeding on huge quantities of bait in the area. Yellow fin tuna, Dorado, porpoise, birds and Humpback whales all joined in the action. We observed some amazing feeding frenzies involving all of the above. We had the pleasure to fish alongside some Marlin Club members, who were participating with the Riviera Club. Some of these boats had 100+ releases for the week. All the fish caught during this period were hooked on bait with circle hooks, and all were released to fight again. All the fish we encountered were strong fighters for their weight. Perhaps it's the water temp or food supply, but they literally brought some of our anglers to their knees. (Angler shall remain unnamed)!

All euphoria of the action is quickly lost when you are faced with the reality that you are 600 nautical miles from home and you have to cross two large spans of open water with nowhere to get relief, if you encounter a problem. If you are patient, and time your crossings when the seas are favorable, it can be semi-enjoyable, but the apparent wind will always be 15-20 knots and the seas 3-4ft. on the best of days. One item of note, just when we were within a few hours from home, and the seas had calmed down to 1 ft. we were halted by an awful sound and engine shudder that means only one thing - fouled props. Traveling on a dark night with no illumination, no objects on the radar, and 8 miles from shore you don't expect to run into anything. We were halted by what I thought was an errant rope floating on the surface. After a few hours waiting for assistance we discovered that the vessel was anchored to the bottom by virtue of a 3 inch line that was marked by a 24 inch ball fender. There was no radar reflector, just a ball with a loose 20 ft section of rope floating on the surface. This is a serious hazard to navigation as it lies directly on the rhumb line to SD from areas to the south. It has come to my attention that other vessels have suffered the same misfortune as we did. These anchor buoys are apparently being placed by the tuna pen operators. They place these buoys in deep water (400 ft) so that the tug boats can anchor while they transport pens and or take them for a swim. This buoy was placed on the upper end on the finger bank, 38 miles from SD. I will file a complaint with the Ensenada Port Captain, about the inadequate manner that this buoy was deployed.

Arthur J. Ponce

Gift Ideas on the internet



www.fun-christmas-ornaments.com/fishing.htm



www.vineyardvines.com/index.cfm



www.seawear.com/jewelry/blue-marlin-jewelry.html



www.tofaith.org/Kosei-Exquisite-Jewelrv.html



www.gonauticalgifts.com/vendor.cfm/505



www.aspencountry.com



www.cauticalmarinejewelry.com/



www.kathleentricocci.com/other2



www.fish4fun.com/silverstar.htm



www.guyharveyart.com



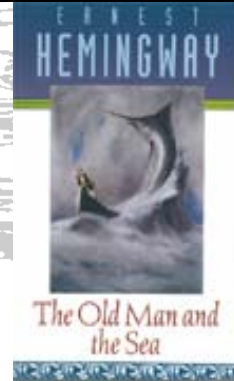
www.donrayart.com



www.reellifeart.com/FineArt/Offshore.html



www.cartattooartist.com/services



www.amazon.com



www.saltwatertackle.com

Gift Ideas from The Marlin Club Call for information

Mens & Womens T-Shirts and Sweatshirts	Mugs and Flags
	
	

Restaurants serving Marlin

I had inquired with several agencies in regards to "Restaurants serving Marlin" and I received a reply from the [National Coalition for Marine Conservation](http://www.nationalcoalitionformarineconservation.org). They sent a link to a form letter that anyone can use to ask a restaurant to stop serving Marlin [http://www.takemarinoffthemenu.org/Sample letter](http://www.takemarinoffthemenu.org/Sample_letter)

This link is also to their website and is a wealth of information about Marlin and the efforts to conserve the species.


I have included another link that can be used to receive e-mails informing you of their Marlin campaign progress - http://www.savethefish.org/action_items_email_network.cfm.

This site and their actions are endorsed by the [IGFA](http://www.igfa.org) and the [Billfish Foundation](http://www.billfishfoundation.org).

Hopefully, with everyone's help, we can insure that the fisheries that we love will be there in the future.

Thanks
Wayne Slahor

P.S. some other related links:

 <p style="text-align: center;">Take Marlin Off the Menu</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.takemarinoffthemenu.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">http://yubanet.com/life/Take-Marlin-Off-The-Menu.php</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.marlinmag.com/news/news/new-web-site-marks-official-launch-of-take-marlin-off-the-menu-campaign-1000067043.html</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind focus_story&STORY=/www/story/11-19- 2008/0004929193&EDATE=</p>
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2009 Board Of Directors

Three positions open – Vote for 3

Ballots for current active members should be out by December 15, 2008

Carl Demelo, active 7/27/06
William Le Master, active 10/02/04
Jon Pendarvis, active 9/15/06
Steve Pitts, active 8/26/05
John Plaziak, active 8/31/07
Wayne Slahor, active 9/04/93



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The Marlin Club of San Diego
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Phone: 619-222-8677 Fish Report: 619-222-2502
www.themarlinclub.com

Words of Wisdom

"Last year I went fishing with Salvador Dali. He was using a dotted line. He caught every other fish."

Steven Wright

DATES TO REMEMBER for 2008

Awards/ Trophy Dinner	February 9, 2008
General Membership Meeting	April 1, 2008
Club Clean Up Day	April 12, 2008
Open House/Day at the Docks	April 20, 2008
Sundowner	May 4, 2008
Spring Shootout*	May 24, 2008
Don Blackman Memorial Halibut Derby*	June 7, 2008
Juniors' Tournament	August 16, 2008
Presidents' Tournament	August 23, 2008
Labor Day Tournament	August 30-31, 2008
ILTT Tournament & Dinner Awards Banquet	September 12-13, 2008
Small Boat Tournament*	September 27-28, 2008
Sundowner	October 26, 2008

*Open to the public



THE MARLIN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO
2445 SHELTER ISLAND DRIVE
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