



# TAG & RELEASE

<http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov>



DNR

Volume 14, No. 5 December 2009



GREYSTAR

## 22nd Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Proposed 2010 Tournament Schedule...

### May 12 - 15 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

Contact: Bryan Richardson  
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd  
Johns Island, SC 29455  
(843) 768-1280, FAX 768-3481  
Dockmaster@Bohicket.com

### May 26-29 43rd Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Contact: John Horton  
P. O. Box 1704  
Georgetown, SC 29442  
(843) 546-1776, FAX 546-7832  
jhorton@georgetownlandingmarina.com

### June 23-26

Contact: Deidre Menefee  
1625 Savannah Hwy  
Charleston, SC 29407  
(843) 345-0369, FAX 406-4671  
dm@FishCBC.com

### Carolina Billfish Classic

### July 7-10 HMY/Viking MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

Contact: McKenzie Estes  
P. O. Box 759  
Charleston, SC, 29402  
(843) 278-4920, FAX 577-7704  
mestes@megadock.us

### July 28-31

### Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament

Contact: Becca Smith  
3702 Docks Road  
Edisto Beach, SC, 29438  
(407) 463-2082, FAX (843) 869-3738  
smithbeccae@gmail.com

### For more information, contact:

Amy Dukes  
SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator  
843-953-9365  
dukesa@dnr.sc.gov <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>



Mike Larrow (center) owner of the Micabe accepts award for 2009 Outstanding Billfish Conservationist.

## Series Reflections

I want to start out by thanking those of you who were able to attend the Awards Reception in Columbia on September 20. It was with great pleasure that we awarded the Series trophies to all the winners in the various categories, but I was especially touched to present the top Series award, Outstanding Billfish Boat, to Mike Larrow and the crew of the *Micabe*. While I have only been directly involved with the Series for two years I have long been aware, through my wife Nan, of Mike's reputation as a true gentleman and sportsman. Nan thought the world of him and would have been happy to see him win. We all shed a tear during Mike's acceptance speech. As usual, the festivities were great and we need to thank the Governor and his family for allowing us to have this event at their home during the last five years. Hopefully we will be there again in 2010.

As many of you may know, a lot has happened since our last newsletter. First, in August we received a bid at the Tournament Committee meeting for a new tournament, The Carolina Billfish Classic, to enter the Series. This tournament is being formatted similar to that of the wildly successful Big Rock tournament and will be based in Charleston but will allow fishing out of several ports. The

concept was endorsed by the Tournament Committee and later by the Advisory Board and the dates of June 23-26, 2010, were approved.

At our October meeting, representatives from the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina were present and requested that they be allowed to host and own a Series tournament in the future. While this request is on hold for the present, it is encouraging that interest in hosting Series events remains strong. The recent listing in *Marlin Magazine* of Charleston as one of the top ten billfishing spots in the country can only help keep the Series' future bright.

Currently three proposed rule changes are making their way through the Committee process. The first is to go to a one page affidavit for reporting all billfish releases from a particular boat at the end of a day of fishing. This change was proposed



Kathy Baxley accepts 2009 Outstanding Female Angler award.

by the folks at Mega Dock and should cut down on paperwork for the boats as anglers will only have to sign once for all billfish caught that day. Second is a new requirement for all tournaments in the Series to require digital images of each fish released. This proposal should also improve the quality of the tournaments and be helpful in resolving any protests that may arise. Finally, the Tournament Committee proposed lowering the minimum size for a landed blue marlin

from the present 110 inches LJFL to 105 inches LJFL. Had we operated under these rules during the last two years 11 fish could have potentially been landed, with seven potentially being landed at Georgetown in 2008 alone. It is ironic that this proposal comes at a time when we had finally begun to see the release category awarding more prize money than the kill category. The jury is still out on this proposal and it will be discussed again at the upcoming Tournament and Advisory Board meetings after the first of the year. At that time, we

will decide what is best for the Series and best for the fish. In the interim you can voice your opinion by contacting members of either Committee or Amy and me. Contact information is listed on our website <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>. Until next time have a great holiday and we are looking forward to the 2010 season.



Wallace Jenkins

## Advisory Board Elects New Chairman

During the early days of the Series the Chairman of the Advisory Board generally served terms of up to four years. In recent years, the trend has moved in the opposite direction with most choosing to serve one to two years. In August, Chairman Graham Eubank chose to step down and give one his associates the chance to serve. Nominations were made and after some discussion A. Foster McKissick, III was unanimously elected Chairman. Foster, a graduate of the Citadel, has served on the Advisory Board since 2007 and is President of Fairway Ford in Greenville. Foster brings a long history of not only competing in his former boat "Overspray" but also fishing with others during Series events. Foster's experience as a tournament participant and his commitment to the Series exhibited by his near perfect attendance at Board meetings indicate that he will be an active Chairman who will continue the tradition of excellence the Series is known for.

Species	Edisto	Georgetown	MEGADOCK	Sailfish Slam	Additional Reported Releases	All
Blue Marlin	11	12	5	1	27	56
White Marlin	0	9	8		25	42
Sailfish	2	2	138	88	419	649
Total	13	23	151	89	471	747

### WANTED - Billfish Catch Reports Only 1 Month Left!

Attention SC Billfishing Anglers, please report released billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2009 fishing season. Anglers who release a billfish will receive a SCDNR Billfish Release Certificate. Who will be named this year's "TOP CONSERVATIONIST BOAT OF THE YEAR" by reporting the most billfish releases...will it be you! To report billfish releases or to request billfish release cards, please contact Amy Dukes at 843-953-9365, or email [dukesa@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:dukesa@dnr.sc.gov). The winning boat will receive a special award to be presented at the end of the 2009 fishing season. *Good Fishing!*



**PALMETTO  
PROPS LLC**



**Prop Scan®** Technology for Performance Propellers

**FREE** Measurement & Analysis  
Computer Accurate Tuning & Repair  
Distributor for **VEEM** and **AUSTRAL** Propellers

Serving the CAROLINAS & GEORGIA  
from  
4893-C Savannah Hwy  
Charleston SC 29470  
**843-889-9212 or 888-699-1250**  
email: [palmettoprop@msn.com](mailto:palmettoprop@msn.com)

We're **NOT** your  
traditional prop shop!






## Pete Loy Elected to Advisory Board

We would like to extend our belated congratulations to Mr. Peter Loy of Mt. Pleasant who was elected in early 2009 to complete the remainder of Mr. Steven Chryst's term. Mr. Chryst resigned last year after he and his family moved to Florida. Pete is the owner of the "Lil Bit" and regularly fishes Series events; he is also active with CCA and an avid outdoorsman and community leader. Pete, a 1987 graduate of the Citadel, is president of Citadel Enterprises a Mt. Pleasant construction firm that specializes in home remodeling. He is married to the former Elizabeth Griffith and has two boys, Peter and Griffie, all of whom love to fish. Pete was recently re-nominated to serve his own three year term which will begin in July 2010. Again, congratulations to Pete and we look forward to working with him during the coming years.



Jeff Dennis

Pete Loy and sons enjoy a day offshore on board Lil Bit.

Blacksheep owners Lee Arnett (left) and John Murdaugh (right) celebrate winning 2009 Blue Water Conservation award with family members.



## 2009 South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Final Standings

<b>Outstanding Billfish Conservationist</b>	<b>Micabe</b> Owner: Michael Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings 1 blue marlin and 9 sailfish released Points: 2,475	<b>Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place</b>	<b>KIKI</b> Owner/Captain: John Walpole Angler: Will Gould 29.4 pound dolphin
<b>Outstanding Billfish Boat</b>	<b>Micabe</b> Owner: Michael Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings 1 blue marlin and 9 sailfish released Points: 2,475	<b>Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place</b>	<b>Blacksheep</b> Owners: John Murdaugh and Lee Arnett Captain: Lee Arnett Angler: Buster Murdaugh 26.8 pound dolphin
<b>Blue Water Conservation</b>	<b>Blacksheep</b> Owners: John Murdaugh and Lee Arnett Captain: Lee Arnett 11 dolphin (tagged and released) Points: 550 points	<b>Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place</b>	<b>Bench Mark</b> Owner: Steven Davis Captain: Bobby Garmany Angler: Boyce Campsen 25.6 pound dolphin
<b>Outstanding Dolphin</b>	<b>Rapid Pace</b> Owners: Sam Schirmer and Trey Banks Captain: Sam Schirmer Angler: Trey Sires 52.6 pounds	<b>Outstanding Billfish</b>	<b>None landed</b>
<b>Outstanding Tuna</b>	<b>Christy II</b> Owner: Thomas Pierce, III Captain: Hank Higgins Angler: Trey Pierce 27.9 pound yellowfin	<b>Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place</b>	<b>El Tejano &amp; Flybuoy</b> Owners: John Hill & Gary Davis Captain: David Reed & Todd Baxley Angler: Kathy Baxley 2 white marlin, 1 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released
<b>Outstanding Wahoo</b>	<b>Brainstorm</b> Owner/Captain: Daniel Davis Angler: John Jameson 69.9 pounds	<b>Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place</b>	<b>Fin-Addict</b> Owner: Danny Massalon Captain: Jim Bost Angler: Tara Asbill 2 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released
		<b>Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place</b>	<b>Rameseas</b> Owner: Terry Wells Captain: Rock Wells Angler: Rebecca Wells 3 sailfish released

## Blue Marlin Dragged Through Streets!! Could It Happen Here?

As most of you are aware by now, the 26th Annual Pirates Cove Tournament in August was marred by the actions of a 21 year old man and three teenagers who pulled a 755 pound blue marlin that had been landed earlier by the "Sea Hag" through the streets behind their vehicle in the wee hours of the morning of August 13. While the "Sea Hag" won \$173,000 for their catch, it is ironic that the actual fish was only valued at \$600 and the suspects were charged with misdemeanor larceny. I guess the real questions are how much would that fish have been worth as a contributor of millions of larvae annually to the population over the remainder of its life or conversely how much damage was done to the image of billfishing by this act of vandalism and complete disrespect for the fish. The answer to both is priceless. Certainly groups like PETA and others who are not fond of sportfishing to begin with

will use this incident to further their agenda and how we can blame them. While two of the suspects were South Carolina residents it is good to know that because of the rules of the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series the opportunity for this type of incident being repeated here is unlikely. Our founders in their wisdom created a rule that states "Boats guilty of wanton waste of fish taken in a Series event will be disqualified from earning points in that event." What this means is that the billfish would not have been left hanging overnight to begin with during a SC Governor's Cup tournament without there being a substantial penalty for the boat up to and including the loss of the \$173,000 in prize money. As far as the definition of wanton waste goes it is complicated but to paraphrase Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart "I know it when I see it" and a fish left hanging overnight without refrigeration would easily qualify.



Outgoing Chairman Graham Eubank accepts Chairman appreciation award from DNR Executive Director John Frampton and DNR Board Chairman Mike McShane.

## Adopt a Tag Program

Several years ago funding provided by the Charleston Bump project was used to buy a number of satellite archival tags for tracking the movements of billfish. During the project SCDNR biologists rode on local boats and deployed tags. During this project, 15 blue marlin, 18 white marlin, 55 sailfish and 39 swordfish were tagged and released. A massive amount of data was collected on the latitudinal and longitudinal movements of billfish as well as the diurnal temperature and depth preferences of each species. Over the course of the study more sailfish were tagged than any other species, primarily because of their increased frequency of occurrence. We remain interested in tagging additional blue marlin and as luck would have it there are 10 tags left which could be refurbished and deployed. The original cost of the tags was around \$4,500 each. Since they have been on the shelf for several years they need to have new batteries installed at a cost of \$800 each. Finally, the cost of downloading the data recorded from the Argos satellite would require approximately an additional \$500. So for the one time only, low low price of \$1,300 you could have a tag refurbished to deploy into a blue marlin from your boat. Training on tag deployment would obviously be required but there are a number of captains out there who have had enough experience from assisting biologists during the previous project that we could turn them loose to tag the fish for us. It takes several months to get the tags refurbished so if you are interested contact Amy or Wally by January 30, 2010, so that the tags can be back in our hands in time for the spring blue marlin bite.



Beaufort, NC

### Winter Storage Specials

**20% discount** on haul-out, storage and electric for vessels being hauled for storage for 3 months or more. Half price power wash included!

**10% discount** on labor and materials for work performed by our staff while vessels are in storage.

Offers valid September 1, 2009 - May 1, 2010 for vessels up to 120' and maximum 30' beam.



**JARRETT BAY**  
BOATWORKS

ICW MM 198 - 34° 48' 20" N, 76° 41' 07" W  
530 Sensation Weigh, Beaufort, NC  
252-728-2690 - [www.JarrettBay.com](http://www.JarrettBay.com)



**George A.Z. Johnson, Jr., Inc.**



*Engineers • Planners • Land Surveyors*

F. Steven Johnson, PLS    Michael Z. Johnson  
F. Steven Johnson, Jr., PE, CFM

6171 Savannah Highway  
Ravenel, SC 29470

**(843) 889-1492**  
Serving the Lowcountry for 35 years!  
email: gajohn@aol.com

**HARVEST MOON**



*Lowcountry Grille*

**889-1000**

6165 Savannah Highway  
Ravenel, South Carolina

**Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner**

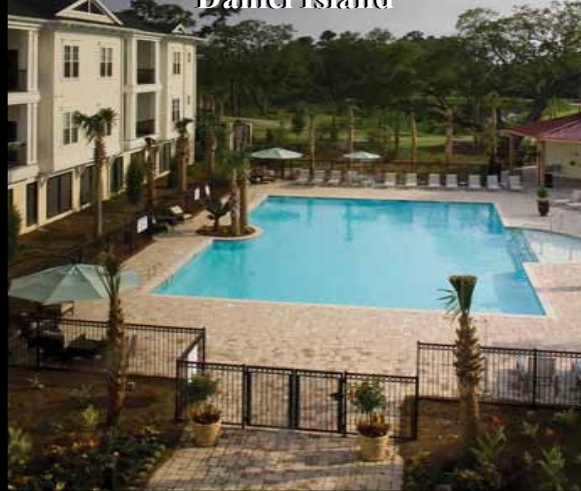
*'Casual Dining at Its Finest'*

Monday - Saturday 6:00 am - 9:00 pm

## Greystar Daniel Island Village

Luxury brand new 1, 2 & 3  
Bedroom apartment homes

455 Seven Farms Drive  
Daniel Island



Luxurious apartment homes overlooking lush courtyards graced by tranquil ponds and moss-draped oaks. Greystar Daniel Island Village beckons you home to a simpler, more carefree time. Discover the joys of living in an island town surrounded by natural beauty. Come home and enjoy a relaxing walk along the trails that crisscross the island's marshes and wetlands. Or perhaps, visit our clubhouse for a game of Wii, workout in our state-of-the-art fitness room then relax by our resort-style pool. Your retreat from the world awaits you!

Choose from a variety of 1, 2 & 3 bedroom floor plans. Floor plans have

dramatic nine and ten-foot ceilings with crown molding, built in computer niches, private balconies, washer and dryer provided, 2-inch faux wood blinds, black GE appliances, built in microwaves, upgraded 42-inch custom cabinets, walk-in closets, oversized garden tubs and many more features! The townhome style floor plans are over 1600 sq. feet and very private with 2 levels!

Community Features include: distinctive low country views, lushly landscaped courtyards and green spaces, swimming pool, fitness center, clubhouse with fireplace and pool table, coffee bar, summer kitchen with barbecue grill, playground area, on-site nature preserve, spacious outdoor patio with Wi-Fi connectivity. Conveniently located right next to the Daniel Island walking trail with over 30 miles of trails, public parks and work out stations! Call or stop by today for your personal tour 843-849-1849, or visit our website at [www.greystardanielislandvillage.com](http://www.greystardanielislandvillage.com).



**Check it out!**

**The November 2009 Marlin Magazine featured an article boasting "The 10 Best Spots to Find a Billfish in the Good Ol' U.S. of A" and we are proud that Charleston, SC was number 7! The article highlights the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and the awesome fishing right off our coast. Get your copy today!**



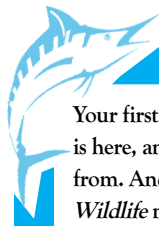
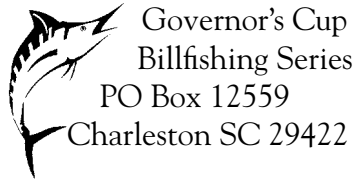
Top left: Will Gould and his mom accept award for 2009 Outstanding Youth Angler. Top Right: The hospitality offered by the Governor and the Mansion staff was extraordinary. Bottom right: Elizabeth Miller accepts an appreciation award for her dedicated service to the Series during the last 2 years.



## Major Sponsors



**GREYSTAR**



## The South Carolina Wildlife Shop

Your first stop for holiday gifts is as close as your mailbox. The new SC Wildlife Shop catalog is here, and just in time for Christmas. Featuring hundreds of outdoor-themed gifts to choose from. And best of all, each purchase you make helps support the award-winning *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine, helping educate South Carolinians about their natural heritage for more than 50 years. Visit [www.scwildlife.com](http://www.scwildlife.com) online or call 1-888-644-WILD (9453) for a free catalog.

**Haddrell's Point**  
Tackle and Supply

(843) 573-3474	(843) 881-3644
West Ashley	Mt. Pleasant
M-F 7am-7pm	M-F 7am-7pm
Sat 7am-6pm	Sat 6am-6pm
Sun 7am-3pm	Sun 7am-5pm

Protecting Your Freedom to Fish

**JOIN CCA**  
Coastal Conservation Association

Join the Coastal Conservation Association  
1-800-201-FISH  
[www.joincca.org](http://www.joincca.org)

First for Anglers

1-888-JOIN-RFA

**FAIRWAY**  
Ford  
[www.fairwayford.com](http://www.fairwayford.com)

Bergen and Bergen, P.C.

Legal Holiday  
Offshore Charters

**Blanchard**  
POWER SYSTEMS  
**CAT**  
**MARINEPOWER**

**PALMETTO**  
LINCOLN Ford MERCURY

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental laws.

**The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.**

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202.

Total cost - \$457.00  
Total copies - 1,518  
Total cost per copy - \$.30

Printed on recycled paper. 09-6830