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The 2004 billfish tournament season kicks off on May 15th with the alphabet soup gang's first club tournament. The South Texas Big Game Fishing Club or STBGFC for short, has been hosting a series of billfish hunts for three decades that run from May through October. And I find this hard to believe but the cheap ass publisher of this here rag has been cuttin' a rather large check for the custom made flag we give to the top boat goin' on ten years now. Ya ought to hear the boy wail when he gets the invoice. It's quite a sight to see a grown man cry. You'd have thought somebody had stolen his vegetable patch.

Anyhow, this is a fun group of folks that share one thing in common and that is the sight of a big blue marlin makin' a leap fifty feet off the transom of a boat. A sight you have to see to believe, a body ten feet long hangin' in the air eye level with the bridge, then reentering the water with barley a splash like an Olympic diver. It's no wonder these folks spend the outrageous amounts of money they do for the privilege of getting up before the crack of dawn to make a forty mile run, then trollin' for ten hours for a shot, just one shot at a mother blue that'll be released unless there's big money on the line which there is only during Mansfield and TIFT. They'll usually catch fish other than billfish like wahoo, tuna and dorado but the stick is what they seek, so they can return to the dock with the pride of a tag flag flyin' from an outrigger.

This season has brought some changes to the club. For the first time since I've been fishin' the Port Mansfield Fishing Tournament is no longer considered a bastard stepchild, both days will now be sanctioned just as with the Texas International Fishing Tournament the next week. As they said in the newsletter, thanks Charlie. The other change is they're finally gonna retail the club t-shirts at the Sea Roach Marina thanks to the enterprising Daniel Bryant. They'll be available at Breakaway Cruises later this month.

After speakin' with the head high dragon, Keyes Ramee, there is a tentative soiree Friday evening the 14th at Louie's in the local's bar. This'll be a great opportunity to register or just shmooze and hear war stories from the past and your kiddos are welcome. One thing I will say, some of these folks are lookin' for reasonable folks to share some of the obscene expense related to billfish huntin'. It's well worth your while to make a pass.

Tournament Schedule:

First Tournament- May 15

Blake Bunk Memorial Day – May 29&30

Mid-June- June 12

Forth of July- July 3&4

Mid-July- July 17

Mansfield- July 30&31

TIFT- August 6&7

Mid-Aug- August 21

Labor Day- September 4&5

Mid- September- September 18

End of the Tour- October 2

All these dates are subject to cancellation cuz of weather and how badly the "Mosquito Fleet" boys are a feelin'. That's the cool thing about the club. It's cool if ya have a fifty-foot mistress, but they look after the l'il guys cuz they have a better bounce.

DOCK TALES

Though we've requested they not, the Fish Lobby has just weighed in with their views and endorsement in the local Alderidiot race. They've gone and annointed Fred Mallet as their pick for the board. Their reasoning is not based on socially tortuous mumbo-jumbo and they apologize for pissing anybody off but they see an interesting trait in Fred. In their opinion the gent ain't like the usual gladhander that pursues public office. He's somebody that understands the difference between subjective reasoning and objective reasoning when it comes to problem solving. As the saying goes rap sessions can be fun and those involved come away feeling better but no closer to solving the problem because problems can only be solved in an objective manner.

They feel that Fred uses the objective approach, probably because of his background in IT (Information Technology). They reason that if a gent that charges and regularly gets an hourly fee that some lawyers would drool over wants to take a thankless job like Alderidiot on the Sandspit for a buck a year they want that person on the board. Who knows they reason? Maybe he'll be able to find the old engineering schematics that prove the current City Hall was designed and built with the idea that an extra story or two could be added to handle the growth in City government.

We welcome your fishin' photos. Drop them by 2600 Padre Boulevard on the Island, or mail them to I.B. Hooked, c/o Coastal Current Weekly, P.O.Box 2429, South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Be sure to include the name of the angler, weight and type of fish, where caught, and name of boat if applicable. Photos with SASE will be returned.