

THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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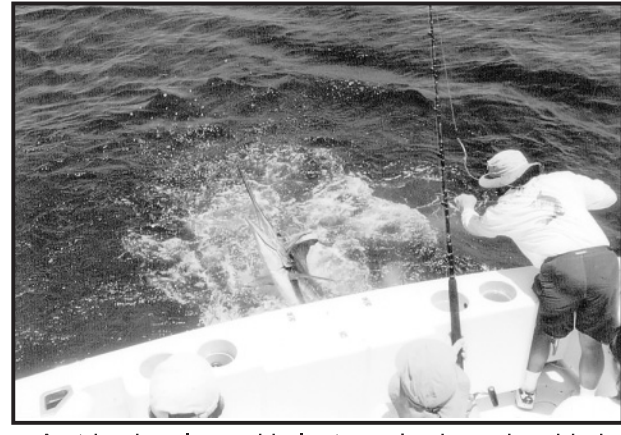
Looks like it's gonna be a great weekend to get out there and feed the economy, and may I suggest that one of the better places to spend those hard earned tax refund checks is right here on the Sandspit.

Darrel Golden and Jeff Woodard have teamed up to bring ya'll the 1st Annual Rio Grande Valley Outdoor & Sportsman Show at the Isle Convention Center. Knowin' these two it should be quite a circus and the deals to be negotiated will probably be a bloody steal cuz neither of these gents want the hassle of haulin' all their wares back to their home showrooms. Sooo, if you're in the market for a hole in the water of various shapes and sizes, a crotch rocket, an ATV brush buster, a gas guzzlin' oversized pickup truck, a sleek sporty car or a go real fast wave runner, go to the show and put the squeeze on'um.

The sideshow of this mess will be of an educational opportunity ya can't miss out on. They'll be offerin' free fishin' seminars taught by a gaggle of folks from west of the Mississippi. Ya got Captain Randy Rodgers from the Sandspit, he'll probably talk about bay fishin' and tarpooooonin' around the jetties, he's a past Top Gun winner. Ya got

Captains Lanny Phillips, George Foulds and Jack Conway from the Coastal Bend. From Electronic Lunckerland ya got an ol' coon by the name of Cajun Phil, a celebrity among the swamp rats in the bayou. There'll be plenty of other exhibitors sellin' everything from fishin' tackle to improper beach attire. Don't miss it.

The other I'il jewel that's ready to go public concerns the upcoming season for the South Texas Big Game Fishing Club and a schedule modification. Thanks to the Bunk family and South Padre Boat Sales, the Blake Bunk Memorial Shootout fished May 28-29 out of the Sea Roach Marina is officially a ROLEX/IGFA qualifying event for the Offshore Championship series. This is a prestige series of tournaments fished the world over. The winning team from each event receives an invite to Cabo San Lucas to compete for the title. The winning team from the big show receives a bunch of real fine art work plus engraved ROLEX watches at one hell of a party. The winning team from last year at Cabo was Team TWAT cuz the qualifier they won was the Texas Women Anglers Tournament out of Port Aransas in 2003. They'll be back to defend their title in Cabo next month.



A stripy is released in last year's championship in Cabo by Team Fintastic. Thought we didn't win anything but a well-earned hangover, we did finish at the bottom of page one of the standings or twentieth out of sixty-five teams.

The details of how this show's gonna be run are still being formulated but I suspect it'll be open to teams of up to four anglers per boat, with both a pre-registration and an onsite registration at the soiree the Friday evening prior to the event. The only thing set in stone is that you'll need to be a member of the International Game Fish Association, an associate membership for fifteen bucks a pop will be included in the registration fee. More on this later.