

# THE FISHIN' INSIDER

by I.B. Hooked  
Member Outdoor Writers Association of America and  
The Texas Outdoor Writers Association

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I have to admit that I'm a fan of beef jerky and Oh Boy! O'Berto is one of my favorites, a hell of a lot better than Dirty Al's foray into the business a decade ago when he decided to try to market his infamous Squid Jerky. Talk about some nasty stuff, even he couldn't eat it and that boy will eat anything including his own bait.

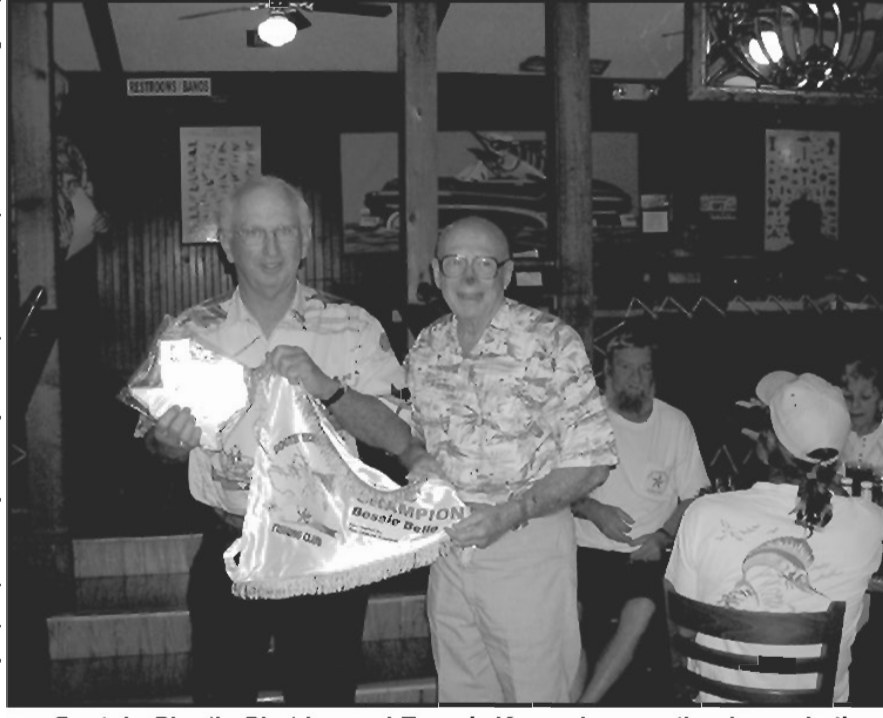
The Oh Boy! Oberto Redfish Championship circus comes to the Sandspit this weekend and our very own Jack and Charlie Barton are in the finals. The format has been altered somewhat cuz of the Gulf coast storm season. Instead of the top twenty-five teams the top forty will have a two-day fish off to set the final five field that'll fish for the glory and bucks on Sunday. The Sunday final five will be filmed by ESPN for broadcast in early 2006. It should be a real hoot. Go by Fish Bones Pier & Grill for the festivities.

The Alphabet Soup Gang better known as the South Texas Big Game Fishing Club or STBGFC for short concluded the 2005 season with a banquet at Blackbeard's last Saturday evening. The sparse attendance was likely due to the fact that it was also the opening of deer huntin' season. For the first time ever the infamous Coastal Current Rusty Skillet ended up in a dead heat between Blue Pursuit and Seaasta. The honor has been

bestowed since 1993 to the boat with the least number of points for the season, better known as last place on the board. We'd like to thank the sponsors of this mess for their understanding and their generosity for havin' to pony up twice this year: Texas Moon, Kelly's Irish Pub, Blackbeard's, Louie's, Salty Dog's Café, Dirty Al's Bait2go, Cameron's Seafood Kitchen, La Quinta/ La Copa and Scamp's.

It was one weird season with billfish catches commin' in bunches followed by skunk days and obscenely high diesel prices. A couple of years back diesel was sellin' for 70 cents a gallon so a marlin hunt for us cost less than a c-note per trip. This past season we were lucky to get by on three of them babies. Hopefully next year will see some sanity return and the billfishing will be a bit more consistent. The top four

boats were: Bessie Belle- 2275 points, Queen B- 900, Gone South- 863 and Wahoo 800-points.



Captain Charlie Sheldon and Francis Knapp bag another honor in the 2005 South Texas Big Game Fishing Club season. Bessie Belle and crew won their fourth Champions Flag in the ten years this rag has been sponsoring the bloody thing. Earlier in the season they won the Blake Bunk Memorial ROLEX/IGFA Tournament and an invite to the 2006 Championship in Cabo.

*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.*