

August 2014 Newsletter



This Month's Program

Our speaker for the Wednesday, August 13th will be Robert Schneider from Phenix Baits. He will speak about fresh and saltwater bass fishing and display and sell calico bass baits

Contact: dpgiuliani@aol.com or 323 810-3958 cell

August 2014 President's Message

Well anglers the year is passing swiftly. If you have not been out, you are missing some of the best fishing I have seen in years. The stories and pictures should be flooding into Sam.

On a serious note, the Bluefin bite as good as it is was shut off in Mexico and reportedly in the US. To voice your concerns please go to Americananglersportfishing.com and let your voices be heard.

There will be a Board of Director's meeting on Wednesday August 20, 2014 at Robin's Restaurant in Pasadena. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. Some topics of discussion will be dues renewal, the awards banquet, and what category Talapia fit into as we are seeing tilapia caught and turned in. If you have an opinion, and who doesn't, please let a board member know or come to the meeting to express your views. We will continue our support of Friends of Rollo and sponsor the annual raffle. I look forward to speaking with Tim and assuring our kids trip next year. Getting a little ahead of myself here but this awards banquet will have fewer small prizes and feature rods and reels. We will have a "losers bucket" beginning at the January meeting. You will print your name and phone number on the back of your ticket stub. At the Awards Banquet, a trip or valuable prize will be given to someone from this bucket. So do not throw both tickets or none into the monthly drawing bucket, sign them and place them in the designated bucket.

As always, your 2015 renewals will be mailed out in September, giving you three months and two meetings to renew your memberships. Look for them in the mail next month.

As discussed, T shirts have been received and are available. Next Year the order will be made by the February meeting, avoiding the Fred Hall delay. Hopefully we will have our T-shirts by March and can wear them to Fred Hall.

I have not purchased large quantities of hooks and small items. I am also looking at buying smaller spools and more braided line from Izorline instead of the large 3000 yard spools. It appears some do not like the large spools. Again your input is welcome.

We have filled most of our trips but some remain open. As a fishing club we should be fishing and with as many members we should not have empty seats on a boat. In order to get bigger trips we must prove we can fill the smaller ones. Again your input is solicited in getting the most enjoyable trips for our club. I'd really like to see more charters and possibly a trip to San Clemente on the schedule but we need to file our charters in order to expand to bigger and better things.

It has been a month full of Kids fishing. In addition to the regular Dan Hernandez fishing club meeting, we had a lake event, and Fishing in the City had several events including a trout tournament in Mammoth. They had several pier events at Belmont and Seal Beach is scheduled. If you have or know kids, the opportunity to introduce them to fishing fresh or saltwater is readily available. Just takes some time and planning. I had the experience of taking Rachel and some of her friends of a Twilight trip. I hope they had as good a time as I did. Don and Denise helped with the fishing. As always, I promote and push kids fishing as a way of passing on the traditions, knowledge and expertise we have gained from others when we first began our angling hobby.

Hope to see you on the water, hear your stories and see you at meeting soon.

Your President
William L Davis

Treasurer's Report

Report is available from Kaili Chang

Welcome New Members

The club currently has 59 paid members.

Club Calendar

Club Meetings

Date	Speaker
1/08	Brandon Hayward
2/12	
3/12	Wade Cunningham and Bobby Katula
4/09	Charles Villafana of NOAA
5/07	

Fresh Water Events

Event	Date	Location
1		
2		
3		
4		

Whopper Board Standings

FINAL YTD STANDINGS 2013

Fresh Water

Trout

1st	Randy Mindoro	2.4
2nd	Allison Ige	.68
3rd		

Surf/Pan Fish

1st	Don Merrill	2.3
2nd	Ron Hall	1.44
3rd	Denise Williams	.51

Large / Small Mouth Bass

1st	Laney Hackman	7.06
2nd	Rich Jenkins	1.5
3rd		

Striped Bass

1st	Karl Penson	6.06
2nd	Ernie Branch	4.06
3rd	Rich Jenkins	1.1

Catfish

1st	Rich Jenkins	6
2nd	Allison Ige	3.38
3rd	Jose M Dominguez	3.22

president@turnersrodandreelclub.com

Salt Water Charter Update

2014 Salt Water Charters

Trip	Date	Landing	Boat	Departure	Price	Spots	Open Spots
7	08/08	Oxnard	Island Tak	04:30 am	\$110	11	2
8	09/12	Oxnard	SeaJay	04:30 am	\$120	11	7
9	11/22	Oxnard	Island Tak	04:30 am	\$130	11	5

Charter Master

Ernie Branch

(626) 357-0064 Home

(626) 233-7117 Cell

chartermaster@turnersrodandreelclub.com

Fresh Water Event Update

Here's the fresh /surf water schedule for the year

Trip	Date	Location
7	08/16	Pyramid Lake
8	09/20 or 09/21	Surf at Huntington Harbor
9	Oct	Open Trout Fishing all month
10	11/15	Parris Lake

These are the tentative dates but weather or lack of participation dictates the outcome,

Mike Maurizio

freshwater@turnersrodandreelclub.com

SECRETARIES REPORT

BREAKING NEWS

The 2014 Turners Rod & Reel Club shirts have finally arrived and will be distributed at Wednesday's meeting.

If you ordered a long sleeve shirt please bring the cash to pay for the extra charge. Please show up to get your shirt this month.

DINNER MEETINGS

We are still able to meet at Mimi's Restaurant in Monrovia. It becomes more and more difficult to find meeting space as time goes on. We have strived to make this relationship work.

In order to maintain a good working relationship with Mimi's each member needs to continue to purchase food at our Dinner meetings. Yes, these are dinner meetings. Mimi's has accommodated us with separate checks, an open menu, and they start taking orders as we arrive. (As early as 6PM sometimes.) We want to keep this in balance.

If you are unable to purchase dinner please consider dessert and a beverage at least if you eat dinner at home. Also please remember that your check no longer includes the tip so you need to add on the tip. And please be generous in your tip.

Salt Water

Calico / Sand Bass

1st	Bill Sullivan	6.7
2nd	Dick Giuliani	5.6
3rd	Rich Jenkins	4.2

Bonito / Barracuda

1st	Karl Penson	7.2
2nd		
3rd		

Yellowtail / Dorado / White Sea Bass

1st	Laney Hackman	25.81
2nd	Dick Giuliani	20.06
3rd	Rich Jenkins	13.6

Tuna

1st	Rich Jenkins	174
2nd	Glenn Bummer	154.5
3rd		

Bottom Fish

1st	Luke Fitzpatrick	11
2nd	Mike Maurizio	10.5
3rd	Bill Green	9.2

Final Angler of the Year Salt Water 2013

#	Name	Points
1	Rich Jenkins	450.2
2	Laney Hackman	347.58
3	Glenn Bummer	286.1
4	Karl Penson	237.7
5	Don Merrill	206
6	Rone Hall	200.48
7	Dick Giuliani	192.24
8	Bill Sullivan	134
9	Luke Fitzpatrick	88
10	Mike Maurizio	84

MEETING LOCATION

Mimi's Cafe
500 W Huntington Drive
Monrovia CA 91016
626-359-9191

Meeting will start at 7:15 pm.

Invite a fisherman to the next meeting or bring a friend. Get involved in our monthly raffles and sign up for our monthly charters and our monthly freshwater events. There is always a lot going on at the Turner's Rod and Reel Club. Come early and have dinner or a dessert before the meeting.

See you there!

2014 Membership Drive

The 2014 Membership Drive is on!!!!
Pierre will have **pre-printed forms**
Just bring your check or cash and

We are not the easiest group to work.

RAFFLE NEWS

Is it true there are more raffle winners in the summer months or does it just seem like it because attendance is down for those months? There were extra prizes to go around thanks to the generous donation from our Speaker, Bob Ito of Johnnies Tackle Shop in Pasadena.

Some of the lucky Raffle Winners for July included:

Warren Harper
Mike Maurizio
Bob Greene
Florencio Mendoza
Laney Hackman
Dylan Harper
Randy Mindaro
Pierre Sycip
Ron Hall
Alex Perez-took the Mystery Prize

The big winner of the evening was Jose Dominguez who took home a new Avet reel.

Thank you to everyone who supports these raffles!

The second quarterly drawing for meeting attendance was won by Warren Harper at the July meeting. He was presented with a Turners Outdoorsman gift card.

The quarterly drawings are held for those members who have attended all 3 Club meetings in the prior 3 months. Pierre Sycip, our Membership Chairman, keeps careful track of who attends each month and names are entered into the drawing.

Another reason to support your Club and attend the meetings.

Congrats Warren!

CLUB ROSTER/Membership

Club Rosters should be available from Membership Chairman Pierre Sycip if you need one. Just ask Pierre for an updated 2014 Roster.

MEMBERSHIP

From the Secretaries Office of Denise Davis
secretary@turnersrodandreelclub.com

FISHING TACKLE SWAP MEET

Got some tackle to sell? As a Fundraiser for the DH Youth Foundation there will be a tackle swap meet on Saturday August 9 in the Seal Beach West Marine parking lot. It features both new and used fishing items. The Foundation has booths available for \$50. All fees for the booths go to the Foundation for Kids' Fishing events. It starts at 7 a.m. but set-up is 6a.m. Ends by 1PM. Call Monica at 562-865-3764. Maybe share a booth with a buddy with gear to sell? Or you can stop by and do some "window shopping." Address: 251 S Marina Dr, Long Beach. William Davis will have his famous chicken sausage sandwiches available for a limited time also, with all proceeds donated to the Foundation.

validate your personal information on the pre-printed forms. The data on the pre-printed forms comes from the club database. This is the best time to verify and update your information. (Please make every effort to use the pre-printed forms rather than fill out a blank form. I have had instances when people supplied "new" or "revised" information (or I couldn't read their writing), only to have to change the information back at a later date! Thanks for your consideration and cooperation.)

The dues for 2014 are the same as last year: \$45 for an individual and \$60 for a family membership. **That entitles you to one T-shirt for individuals and 2 T-Shirts for family members.**

Membership Card Reminder

All members are reminded that your club membership entitles you to a 10% discount on NON-SALE fishing tackle items at Turner's Outdoorsman stores. This discount is not available for guns or ammo. You are also reminded that after January 1 2014, your 2013 membership card is void. In order to receive the discount, a current 2014 membership card will be required. All store managers aware of this and there are **NO XCEPTIONS.**

Website Update

All of the updates have been entered into the Website. If you have anything you would like to add, e-mail it to newsletter@turnersrodandreelclub.com.

Members Reports

Island Tak Trip 07/26

By
Jim Clough

Friday evening I arrived at the landing just before 9 pm. headed down to the boat. Warren and Chuck were out on deck. I put my stuff away and talked for a while. Then Ron, Dan and Dennis came back from dinner. Said good night and went to bed. Smooth ride over to Santa Cruz Island. Every one up an out to fish. Coffee for breakfast. No donuts on this trip. Steve anchored the boat and we started fishing. Calicos began to wake up and were coming onto the boat. I was not getting bit. Then Captain Steve tied a piece of small fluorocarbon on my line. Then I proceeded to catch a limit of calicos. I think everybody caught 5 or more cormorants. They were everywhere. Some rockfish were caught. Ron caught a nice ling and a jackpot sheephead. I had the jackpot calico. We then tried other places. We ended our day at Anacapa Island. fish count 37 calico, 18 rockfish, 2 sculpin, 4 opaleye, 7 sheephead, 1 ling cod. Steve Kelley was throwing a Shimano SP Minnow and getting many bass. It was a great day fishing with Florenzi, Alex, David, Chuck, Russell, Glen, Warren, Dennis, Ron, and Dan



You Should Have Been Here Yesterday!

By
Ron Coleman

No! I actually mean you really, *really* should have been here yesterday. As everyone on the Coleman 2-day charter was gathering on the evening of July 9, the excitement level and anticipation level was at the max. We were going on a 2-day trip on the Pacific Dawn, leaving at 9 pm. The open-party trip with 24 people fishing that day had had full limits of 72 white sea bass by 8:30 am. Hearing this news we had high expectations of having to buy extra ice chests for the bounty. Well...The next morning as the boat was set up in the exact same spot as the 72-group, we soon learned it was a different day. We struggled to catch our 16 WSB with 3 bonus halibut. We left there to go find the bottom-grabbers with the plan to come back to fish the evening bite. The rock fishing was great; Skinny put us on some great spots and it didn't take long for everyone to have the first-day limit. On our return to the WSB area Mother Nature had change our plans. The wind was up and the current was going the opposite direction. Time to go hide from the wind and make the best of the afternoon!

Highlights of the Day: Our soon-to-be new member, Carolyn Duncan, caught her first white sea bass and a very nice 25-pound halibut! You can see her BIG smile in the photo.

Day 2 started out with *more* wind. We started at Eagle's Nest for nada, zip, zilch! We moved up the island to Johnson's Lee, and looked at some very promising calico bass areas. By now the wind was howling out of the north, and the current was ripping out of the south. NOT what you call ideal conditions.. After catching only a few calicos and fighting the wind to keep the boat in position, we were done with surface fishing.

We then headed off-shore for a very short distance and Skinny said, "Get ready with the dropper loops; I just went over a nugget."

After 5-6 drifts over the nugget, we were done with our second day's limit of straight reds.

Everyone on the trip had a great time and some people were trying to give me money for their spots for next year's Ventura 2-day trips. (Sorry, Charlie, I am *not* doing bookkeeping for a whole year!) I was one of the lucky people who caught one of the white sea bass; it was a fun trip!

Ron Coleman



**5 Day San Diego Trip
By
Jim Clough**

Saturday morning July 5 Jerry Watkins and I left early for San Diego. We were booked on a 5 day trip on the Independence. Got to San Diego and found a parking spot . Went and breakfast. Then unloaded car and waited for Judy to open. Then realized I did not have my passport. I called my wife Berta. She got up and found it. She then drove to San Diego to deliver it. We got checked in. Loaded the boat. Set up rods. Left the dock at 9 am. Filled the bait tanks and headed south. Next morning started trolling all the way to Benito's. No tuna seen. Fished all afternoon for yellowtail. We all caught some. Next morning more yellowtail. Most fish caught yo-yo with heavy iron. Shared some with sea lions. Went over to Cedros. More yellowtail caught. Next morning went back to Benito's. Shared about half with locals {sea lions}. At one time we counted 10 sea lions. Headed northwest to look for tuna. Trolling all the way. Finally did a few drifts for bottom dwellers. Lings and reds were caught. Then packed it up and headed home. Good time. Met new friends. Good food. Good crew. Everybody seemed to know about my passport debacle.



**Hat Tric
By
Karl Penson**

Three weeks on three consecutive Fridays we have gone out after the invaders from the south. For three weeks we have been successful! Today we went out of Dana and headed for the the 14. As usual, we don't actually head to the 14, it more like we head out for about three miles and then head for the 14. It is an attempt to travel on virgin water. Today it worked again, we found some virgin kelp it was holding and no one found us. We were picking at it for hours. Today's were 6-9" macks, no deans, no choives. I got the farmer of the year award today. I farmed at lest 5 YT and only put one on the boat. It was sad, on at least two of them the drag was screaming when they spit the hook! It seems I never let them eat the mack long enough! I also farmed them on the slow troll. It not all bad, I did put the screws to another Dodo. Todays jumper was a 20 female! She was a handful on 30 string. Joe landed six tails while I was farming. All of today's fish were on the 30 string on a set two small paddies about 8 miles out of Dana in 72F water. The radio sounded great today. It seems there was some mad action down south. Next time we run, we will be running out of San Diego



Friday Friday Friday.

By
Karl Penson

The plan was to get up ridiculously early to beat the cattle boats to the bait receivers in Dana. Run out to the 267 – 209. Catch limits of YFT, YT, maybe BFT, Dodos! Get home by 4pm. The report:

We arrived at Dana about 4:30 and met the world famous Rubber Ducky at the dock. I was fishing with Joe in his 18ft Greger (now named The Punisher!). We got our bait just before the cattle boats arrived. We picked up one scoop of choives. They baited us up right, but their bait was mostly chum! It did hold up all day, but most of it was about 2.5" We left under the cover of darkness we elected to pass on making bait. We did not see the pole in the darkness anyway. We headed out on a course of approximately 180 for the 267. That was our first problem. My GPS said it was 43 miles! Nice the Fat Finger Fumble strikes again! Note always recheck your data entry! New plan, just follow the lights of the boats that seem to be heading to the 267. It was not that bad out there we were doing about 17 MPH in that vicious little tin boat. We were getting spanked but, not that bad. It was still dark. The temperature slowly increased 70, 71, 72, 72.4 Things are looking up! Later the sun is up some, we are about 10 miles out, and there is the Rubber Ducky trolling. Sounds good so we troll south, and troll. Nothing, No kelp, and no strikes! The ducky leaves and we troll on. I punch in the numbers for the 209. They are good. We decide to pull up stakes and run south. We find one paddy, but no signs of life. We found the flotilla, we can see 20 boats! This is either really good or really bad. We have found the party. The boats are in clusters, We troll by and notice a single boat on a paddy and join them. They were hooked up. We went to work. There were no tuna, but the small tails were loads of fun. Crappy bait, Tiny hooks, light line, YT and kelp near by, it's party time! We caught some, and lost some. Later The Ducky showed up, but these boys wanted live bait! We manage to put eight YT from 8-10 pounds on the boat before too many interlopers showed up and put down the bite. We are all such a bunch of claim jumpers! There was a nice sport fisher on that paddy when we showed up, so we can't complain. Dudes when some little YT drags you ass into the kelp, please resist the temptation to drive the boat on top of the thing to get the fish! IT TENDS TO F UP THE BITE. Just cut him loose and tie on another hook. We left and trolled toward the Dooms, we more boats on a paddy, and stopped and fished a while. New problem, someone had better bait and it was not us! These boys wanted deans, and all we had left were tiny choives. We watched as the boats with the good bait had all the fun! We trolled on toward the barn. About 12 mile outside of Dana we had fish braking! They were all ours. Birds, and fish breaking it was game on! No, we trolled toward them they moved away and then sunk out. Crap not today. That's it boyz. See ya on the water.

Rubber Ducky did you guys find the right kind today?

Friday Topless on the water.

By
Karl Penson

I went out on my boat today with Joe and Robbie. After reviewing all of the intel that I could scrounge up. The plan was to head to the 14 by a route less traveled, get to the warm water and put in the jigs! The plan was to get bait before the cattle boats show up at the bait receiver. WE planed to drag all of the exotics home for the grill.

The results are a bit different as usual. We are in the water at 5AM a bit late. The first cattle arrived as we joined the line. This year the bait receiver is doing a better job than in the past. They continued to bait up the PB while baiting the cattle boats. The bait was a bit better as well, no deans, but larger choives. We ordered up a scoop and received three passes. I do not know who got our forth pass, they got all of our 35 bucks! They did say that they had deans on the way! They would be here in an hour of two! We passed on the deans.

We took off on a heading close to 240degs, water was 68F. Most of the boats seemed to be heading for the 209 Soon the water was in the 70s! I said we could put in the trollers. No body bit, so we continued at 19 knots. We were taking shots over the bow, but Topless rides nice in this slop. It is not the driest of boats. So much nicer than Joes tin can, but we were only getting 2Knts/gal. The water temp continued to increase to 72.4F. At about three short of the 14 Robbie earns her keep by spotting the first paddy! It was game time and the yallars were up for a fight! Robbie managed to put the first two fish on the boat. She is no joke! We had or on personal paddy for a few hours. We could see boats at the 14. We pulled 14 tail off that kelp before another boat pulled in. We left them with bent rods! Near the 14, there was a nice paddy with two party boats and about a dozen PBs. The Pursuit and a BP were bent and that nice paddy was between the two party boats. We went around to setup a drift, but could not find the paddy! Then we spotted it, it looked like the Pursuit has gaffed it and were going to put it into someones sack. It was time to leave. We trolled out and around for nada. Then we headed for the barn. This time I spotted the paddy. There were fish boiling there, and we picked up one more yellow. The next one was dry. Someone mention the wayback, so I put one out there, and Robbie chose the color for the swimbait. About 20 min later we were about 8 mile out of Dana and the way back was bit! It was on the 40 string. Nice, you got to love a screaming reel! After a bit of cranking it flew out of the water, Dodo baby. He was a gorgeous and weighed in at 20lbs. So very nice! Those things blow up like butts when you gaff them! It was beating the heck out of every thing! We picked up a few small bones on the way home as well. Next problem, at Dana people park just any old way! We had to disconnect the trailer to get the truck out, and then move the trailer by hand to get the boat back. WTF I was totally boxed in!

That's it for today's report.

PS don't wait to the end of the day to remember to fish the wayback, and use a swivel dam it!

KP



Florida 2014 part 3

By

Denise Davis

Day 7 finds us in Fort Myers. The plan was to hit Sanibel Island early in the morning, stroll the beach for a few shells & then head down to the Keys. That was MY plan. William finally decided he had a sinus infection so we headed over to an Urgent Care to get some antibiotics into him before the flight home. By the time we got to Sanibel Island the beaches were full & parking did not exist. Ok so we saw it, stopped, had breakfast & headed south down I-75. Florida does things a bit different than California. You don't need a Fishing license when you fish with a professional Captain on his boat. He provides a cooler and ice for your drinks & food. And all the ones we went with had all the gear and bait we would need. I didn't miss lugging the gear at all.

We crossed the State on Alligator Alley and then headed south. I had been to the Keys as a child in the early 60's. I was really looking forward to the 7 Mile Bridge, the vast expanses of water and the little patches of land here and there. Although I had no exact memory of Key Largo, it wasn't like I remembered. Totally lined with small businesses and tourist traps, calling it junky would be a compliment. Where was the ocean? Further down into the Keys it started looking better & I was relieved when we pulled into the Guy Harvey Islander Resort in Islamorada. Single story buildings, looking older than I expected but definitely Florida style. Check in was a bit slow but we got our spot on the beach even with the AAA discount. We were on the Atlantic side of the island, so to see a sunset we'd have to cross the street. I had already scouted the restaurants online, the Concierge hunted up a Captain while we had lunch delivered to our room. Meanwhile I was still trying to contact 1 captain I wanted but he was at a Tournament in the Bahamas until Monday PM. The concierge found us Captain Dave Wilson. The next day we met him at the Lorelei Restaurant across the street. This soon became my favorite place to eat. Situated on the Bay side in a cove, (they don't say Gulf), this place was simple & practical. While the decks sported plastic tables & chairs & the food came out on plastic as well, the atmosphere, food & service more than made up for it. The locals gather there & some of the captains dock & meet their clients there. At 8 a.m. sharp Capt. Dave is done with his breakfast and we are off. I didn't particularly like climbing onto the front of the skiff to board it but after that we were good. The shallow turquoise waters were beautiful this a.m. and we could sight fish. We pulled up a variety of snappers for a while, and then wanted a larger target. We fished for live bait & headed to the

Atlantic for Tarpon. I was amazed to find out that because of the live bait, they used large bobbers. Once again we were in clear blue water with a sandy bottom. To our left was a line of rocks under the water, a definite demarcation. We quietly watched as a really large Tarpon left the rocks headed for our bait. The Captain said 60 lbs. He came closer and closer to our baits. We were so ready. We didn't move a muscle watching him, just waiting for the hit. He kept swimming right past our baits. That hurt. Later it got too warm & we called it a day. No tarpon.

Meanwhile we had heard from Captain Randy Towe & had him booked for the next evening. That evening I enjoyed the musician at the Lorelei restaurant while waiting for our dinners to go. The chicken picatta was perfect. The sauce was rich but a lighter version by texture & color. Wm had a steak or chops.

That left us the next day to explore a little bit. We checked out Bud N Mary's Marina, an old landmark and I knew I had made the right decision for our stay elsewhere. Across a bridge we found Robbie's of Islamorada, another marina but more importantly a fine tourists' location for the kids. At Robbie's for just \$3 you can see & feed Tarpon right at the dock. Wm did the feeding while I took photos as I didn't want to get my hands dirty from the dead fishies. I was lucky enough to see a manatee right under the dock too. Outside in a treed area was a souvenir swap meet type of place with a variety of booths selling a good many things you don't need. We spent plenty of time there & they were very happy we stopped as it was a slow weekday for them. We planned to ship it all home ahead of us.

Of course we checked out the Bass Pro there, a really lovely smaller more elegant store than Rancho Cucamonga. Yes I have some souvenirs from there too. Next door was the original Islamorada Fish Company Restaurant. We headed back to the room to relax before fishing that evening. I had already noticed how friendly and helpful everyone was in Islamorada. Even other tourists at the Resort.

At 1:20 PM I got a call from Capt. Randy that he had injured his arm and needed to go to the ER. (On another Key of course.) He said it wasn't broke but something was seriously wrong. He offered to find us another Captain for that evening. I really never expected him to pull it off but he did. We were told to go to LaFiesta Marina & wait for Captain Andy at the bar for a 5PM start time. Andy would return from his day trip, and go back out for us. We got to the Marina and looked and looked for the office. We gave up. The large Tiki Bar was up a floor so we just settled into a table. Later we learned that the Bar IS the Marina office too. Andy showed up and he had a nice Bay & Lake boat for us & fresh bait. We started off with fishing the backcountry again. My best was a "Blue Flyer" and William got Snappers again. We moved over near one of the bridges. It was time to put away the spin reels and when I saw his Avets come out I knew it was time for the big boys. Tarpon time! The season was in full swing for tarpon. We set up, again with giant bobbers and waited. The sun was starting to set when we got the first hit. Being the gentleman that he is, William gave me the first strike to reel in. The guys knew what I had before I did. It put up a nice fight but it was no Tarpon. Andy pronounced it a 50-70 lb. nurse shark and released it at the side of the boat. The sun set and there were no more bites after that. We were back at the dock in 10 minutes or less. By the way, even if we had gotten a Tarpon, Florida does not let you board them any longer. you must release them while still in the water. If you want your photo with the fish you must get into the water with it. Weights are computed by measurements.

The next morning we again headed to the Lorelei for breakfast. Wm had his usual, (Bacon servings were huge) and I gave in & had the shrimp & grits. OMG. I wanted to bring it home. On the road again, Key West was about 2 hrs. away. I missed the 7 Mile Bridge. The longest open stretch of just bridge was about 3 miles maybe. Man or nature has filled in a lot of ocean down there. We checked into the Doubletree Resort & headed to Duval Street in Key West. No fishing today. I wanted to show him the town as I had seen it as a child so we boarded the Conch Train for 1.5 hr. Tour. Pure Tourists. Did I mention that at the end of April/first week of May how warm and humid Florida was? I would advise the trolley w/ AC next time. So much of Key West has changed too. Much less open Beach areas, no little wrecked boats from the Haitians crossing over & no tour of the Navy base anymore. I guess Duval Street has kept its party atmosphere but I was glad we stayed slightly out of town. We did a little more shopping, ate a quick lunch at Mallory Square and drove back to our haven. We ventured out for dinner to a BBQ joint that was so so. It was time to wind things down.

Our last day we drove just a few hours from Key West back to Fort Lauderdale, stopping at the Guy Harvey Corporate HQ & shop. William scored a couple of new shirts there. We kicked back and had room service again that night. It was time to pack.

There were few things I missed on this trip. I forgot to stop at 7/11 for the Jamaican meat pies. Mmmm. I could have eaten more Cuban sandwiches & more Grouper sandwiches. And we would do some offshore fishing as well.

Unsolicited advice: I used my neck scarf/sun hoody every fishing trip and I loved it. If you don't have one, you want one. If you're headed to Key West book way ahead of time. The moderate priced hotels were all under renovation or just being built. Otherwise even late in the spring season it will run you \$400/night. Next time I will fish for Tarpon in the daytime so if I have to get in the water I won't have to worry about the gators. Except in the Keys they are crocs.

And William said we can do it all again, this time fishing twice as much.



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