

Jacksonville Reef Research Team (JRRT) Meeting
June 18, 2008
6:30 – 8:00 PM
Jacksonville Public Library – Gate Parkway Branch

Attendees: Sue Wilcox, President
Genny Gunsolus, Vice President
Bill Lindholm, Treasurer
Phil Harville, Public Relations
Rob Bronson, Webmaster
Jim Davis, Safety Officer/REEF Coordinator
Denise Hughes
Joe Kistel
Jessica Weatherby
John Baxter

1. City of Jacksonville (COJ) Updates – NONE
 - a. COJ submitted artificial reef construction grant application to FWC in March 2008.
 - b. FWC typically announces grant recipients by the end of June.
 - c. Contract between the State and City would then be expected to be executed sometime in July/August.
2. The Bylaws are being formatted for print by a volunteer at Guana that Mike Barnes works with. Once that document is final and ready, it will be posted to the JRRT website and hardcopies will be made available to members.
3. The secretary position is open and volunteers are welcome.
4. 2006-2007 FWC Monitoring Grant updates – The submittal of the final report is due to FWC by June 30, 2008. The team needs to complete the following side scan sonar validation work to be included in the submittal:
 - a. Verify GPS numbers.
 - b. Dive the location and document what is/is not there.
 - c. Photos of the dive location.The information must be completed for inclusion in the June 30, 2008 submittal. If the side scan sonar validation work cannot be completed by that date, JRRT will request reimbursement of only what has been completed to date.
5. Fish count data needs to be submitted to Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF). There are approximately 55+ dives at 2 dive site locations. All the data obtained needs to be transferred to REEF. The folder Sue Wilcox has contains all the data except a couple of surveys that Rob Bronson has already entered. Jim Davis has agreed to enter the data and contact REEF to see if the data can be lumped into abundance groups or has to be submitted based on each individual/single diver.

6. Upcoming Events

- a. The Ships-2-Reefs bill was signed by the governor. This bill authorizes grant funding to be matched and allow drops for artificial reefs. <http://www.ships2reefs.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=7>
- b. July 7-11, 2008 – 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, Ft. Lauderdale <http://www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/>
- c. July 22 – 26, 2008 – King Fish Tournament: Need volunteers for measurements of fish. Contact Sue for more information.
- d. July 2008 – REEF Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC) <http://fishcount.org/> : To become REEF certified you must do the following:
 - i. Join REEF
 - ii. Level 2 requires – Complete 2 surveys/2 dives
 - iii. Level 3 requires – Pass the Fish ID test with 80% and have 25 counts completed
 - iv. Level 4 requires – Have 35 to 50 counts completed
- e. REEF Calendar of Events http://www.reef.org/gafc_events/
 - i. July 19 2008 - Biscayne National Park GAFC Event
- f. August 26, 2008 – COJ Environmental Symposium: JRRT has been asked to present on artificial reefs. Volunteers should contact Sue Wilcox.
- g. August meeting – have a guest speaker on International Coastal Cleanup
- h. September 20, 2008 – Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup Day http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=press_icc
- i. End of 2008 – Florida Sportsman Show <http://www.floridasportsman.com/>

7. Training Updates

- a. Panama City has requested assistance from JRRT to set up a RRT program
- b. Mike Barnes and Beth Strawbridge would be best to assist with this effort

8. Treasury Updates – Bill Lindholm

- a. No changes
- b. Mike Barnes and Bill Lindholm have set up a JRRT account with Good Search. For each hit, JRRT earns \$0.01, so spread the word.
- c. Bill will register the JRRT at a Federal grant site.

9. Public Relations Updates – Phil Harville

- a. JaxSpots book: need to order more for demand in stores, but determine what JRRT wants to sell them for. Last year the book sold for \$17.00. Phil will find out what JRRT's cost is and get back with group on the sale price.
- b. Jacksonville Landing has sent Phil a survey on Earth Day 2008. Please forward any suggestions of improvement to Phil.
- c. Adopt-A-Highway (Betty Carter) program – Phil has looked into several areas along A1A, but nothing is available. SR 105 between mile markers 4.0 and 6.0 is available on both sides. SR 105 is near Hecksher Drive and Little Talbot Island. The clean up efforts are 4 times a year.
- d. Rent-A-Boat – Phil contacted the Freedom Boat Club. Open house is June 20th 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Freedom Boat Club is off Beach Boulevard.

- e. Donation of a boat was discussed and at this time, JRRT may want to consider the insurance, liability, maintenance, storage, registration fees, trailer, and additional costs that are occurred with owning a boat.
- f. Phil has extra JRRT shirts for sale.

10. Website Updates – Rob Bronson

- a. Rob has resolved the issue with the JRRT website.
- b. Rob has begun updating the website, so if you have anything that might need to be added, please forward to Rob.

11. Safety Updates – Jim Davis

- a. A new Dive Safety Officer (DSO) is needed since Jim Davis is stepping down from this position.
- b. Jim Davis will ask Larry Davis if he is still interested in becoming the new DSO.
- c. NAUI rule of halves for safety stops has been changed. Now a 3 to 5 minute stop should be made at the half-way point, and a 1 minute stop should be made at 15 to 20 feet.

12. Meeting Adjourned

Jacksonville Reef Research Team (JRRT) Meeting
27 August 2008
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Jacksonville Public Library – Gate Parkway Branch

Attendees:

Sue Wilcox, President	Jose Zouain
Bill Lindholm, Treasurer	Mike Zounkawicz
Phil Harville, Public Relations	Tiffany Wray
Mike Barnes, Training Officer	Jessica Weatherby
Jim Davis, REEF Coordinator	Katie McCallion
Mary Jo Davis	Kristen Anderson
Denise Hughes	Chris Miller
Daniel Hughes	

1. Recent events
 - a. City of Jacksonville (COJ) – Environmental Symposium 26 August 2008
 - i. JRRT (Joe Kistel) and the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club (Rob Darner) presented on artificial reefs.
 - ii. JRRT had a booth.
 - b. COJ application to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for a artificial reef construction grant
 - i. COJ submitted the grant application March 2008.
 - ii. Unofficial word has been received that COJ will be awarded the grant.
 - c. “Spike” – U.S. Coast Guard tugboat on land at the Safe Harbor Boys Home proposed for placement offshore Jacksonville
 - i. Cleanup to meet the Coast Guard inspection criteria – JOSFC coordinating cleanup (Labor Day Weekend); this has been cancelled for now.
 - ii. It has been discovered that the hull is in bad shape and the tug may not float once placed on the water. Now need to look into placing the tug on a barge to move offshore.
 - iii. Proposed deployment site is at Harms Ledge.
 - d. JRRT’s FWC 2006-2007 Monitoring Grant
 - i. Final report was submitted to FWC 30 June 2008.
 - ii. Have not heard back yet from the State of Florida on revisions or timeframe for reimbursement for the work.
 - iii. Fish count data needs to be submitted to REEF. Jim Davis needs REEF form data with fish counts sheets – Sue will follow up
 - e. The revised by-laws are being printed – Mike Barnes is working on them.
 - f. FWC 2009-2010 Monitoring Grant applications are due mid-March 2009.
2. Upcoming events
 - a. 20 September 2008 – Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=press_icc
 - b. End of 2008 – Florida Sportsman Show <http://www.floridasportsman.com/>
3. Training Updates
 - a. Class last week.

- b. Upcoming scientific photography and fish count classes.
 - c. No updates on Panama City's request for assistance from the JRRT to form a new artificial reef research team.
4. Treasury Updates – Bill Lindholm
- a. No changes.
 - b. Mike Barnes and Bill Lindholm have set up a JRRT account with Good Search. For each hit, JRRT earns \$0.01, so spread the word.
 - c. Fundraisers – look at Café Press to sell Jax Spots books and with each book sold, JRRT will make money. Café Press will print books and deliver to customer – nothing for JRRT to do, just sign up for free and start advertising.
5. Public Relations Updates – Phil Harville
- a. JaxSpots book
 - i. An order has been submitted for a new print job.
 - ii. Phil requested a check for \$1,200 to pay the print company for books.
 - iii. Consider selling books at Wal-Mart, Gander Mountain, Stike Zone, etc.
 - b. Waterproof sheets for JRRT's fish identification/count list – Jim Davis has been coordinating with REEF on this.
 - c. Adopt-A-Highway (Betty Carter) program
 - i. JRRT is now responsible for SR 105 between milemarkers 4.0 and 6.0, on both sides of the road. SR105 is near Hecksher Drive and Little Talbot Island.
 - ii. The clean up efforts are four times a year. Before we do this, each member must watch the safety video - go to www.dot.state.fl.us and click on doing business w/FDOT, then click on Maintenance, then click on Adopt-A-Highway, and then click on Safety video.
6. Safety Updates – Jim Davis
- a. A new Dive Safety Officer (DSO) is needed since Jim Davis is retiring from this position.
 - b. Jim Davis will ask John Perkner if he is still interested in becoming the new DSO.
7. Guest Speaker – Vivian Harrell, COJ – International Coastal Cleanup 20 September 2008
- a. COJ's Clean It Up, Green It Up program has partnered with the Ocean Conservancy on the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.
 - b. The JRRT is signed up to be Site Captain at the Helen Cooper Floyd Park (Little Jetties), 3600 SR A1A (9:00 am – 11:00 am).
 - c. Two volunteers are needed at the registration table.
 - d. No preregistration is required.
 - e. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
 - f. Volunteers will receive a Scout/Community Service Certificate.
 - g. A sign in sheet will be available.
 - h. JRRT will also have divers collecting debris on reefs. Anyone wishing to volunteer diving for trash should contact Phil Harville or Mike Barnes.
8. Next Meeting
- a. Wednesday, 17 September 2008, 6:30 pm at the Southeast Branch Library.

Jacksonville Reef Research Team (JRRT) Meeting
17 September 2008
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Jacksonville Public Library – Gate Parkway Branch

Attendees:

Genny Gonsolus, Vice President	Mike Zounkawicz
Phil Harville, Public Relations	Tiffany Wray
Denise Hughes	Jessica Weatherby
Linda Daley	Monica Weatherby
Aaron Rouse	Chris Miller

Sue Wilcox, President, has been deployed to Texas for hurricane duty due to Hurricane Ike.

Revised JRRT By-laws

- The by-laws are posted on www.jaxrrt.org. JRRT team members are to read the revised by-laws and then sign the acknowledgement form in the back of the by-laws.

City of Jacksonville (COJ) and the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup – 20 September 2008

- http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=press_icc
- <http://www.coj.net/Departments/Environmental+and+Compliance/Clean+It+Up+Green+It+Up/2008+Florida+Coastal+Cleanup.htm>
- The JRRT is signed up to be Site Captain at the Helen Cooper Floyd Park (Little Jetties), 3600 SR A1A (9:00 am – 11:00 am).
- Phil talked about supplies for the beach clean up.
- Those who want to volunteer need to sign and deliver at the site.
- Will speak with Vivian Harrell, COJ's Clean It Up, Green It Up program, at the site. She has the supplies, gloves, shirts, etc.
- Linda spoke with Diane Shlesing - trash cans were donated by the Scubonauts and also at the little jetties (where we are picking up the trash).

Jax Spots Book

- Phil is selling the books to shops - \$15 each or \$12.50 each for 25 books.
- Will be sold at Diver Supply, Bait & Tackle, and First Coast Divers. Look into also selling at Gander Mountain.
- Aaron suggested we look into selling the books at the King Fish Tournament. Or on the website Café press. Café press can also make team T-shirts and may be cheaper than what we pay now.

Website

- Genny has been experimenting with Yahoo groups for JRRT member use.
Jaxrrt.yahoogle.com

Training

- Training class is the first Wednesday of the month.
- Meet at the Library: 10599 Deerwood Park Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida.
- Free to members.
- Next class: 01 October 2008.
- “Cold Read Fish”
- Water Skills Workshop
 - 25-26 October 2008.
 - Dive in St. Andre’s State Park (Panama City, Florida).
 - Camping, water skills class, map skills, navigation skills.
 - Hotel - Monterey has a suite, kitchenette, \$60.00/night, allows dogs. Obtain information from Tiffany/Mike.

Other

- Joe Kistel did presentation “symposium” Mon night \$100 for the night.
- Symposium is to present environmental protection boards.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, 15 October 2008, 6:30 pm at the Southeast Branch Library.

Jacksonville Reef Research Team (JRRT) Meeting
19 November 2008
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Jacksonville Public Library – Southeast Regional Branch

Attendees

Sue Wilcox, President	Larry Davis
Genny Gonsolus, Vice President	Jessica Weatherby, Secretary
Phil Harville, Public Relations	Monica Weatherby
John Baxter	Jose Zouain

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Monitoring Grant 2006-2007

- The Final Settlement Agreement was signed by Sue 15 October 2008 and by FWC 28 October 2008.
- Sue received the reimbursement check 05 November 2008 from FWC for grant work completed. The work completed included all tasks in the grant proposal/application.
- Check was deposited into the JRRT account in the amount of \$10,900.00.

FWC Monitoring Grant 2009-2010

- Grant applications are due mid-March 2009.
- We need to decide if we want to apply for a grant this upcoming year and, if so, begin thinking of proposals.

Tugboat Spike Update

- The City of Jacksonville is still working on the Spike as a possible new artificial reef.
- The City is working with the Corps to modify the existing permit.
- The City and FWC are still coordinating on the stability analysis of the tug.

FWC Request for Goliath Grouper Data

- FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) is gathering data on Goliath grouper sightings in Florida in preparation of a population assessment.
- FWC has asked the JRRT to provide them Goliath grouper data for northeast Florida.
- Sue has emailed the JRRT, asking members to provide information on Goliath grouper sightings. The information needs to be compiled and submitted to FWC 01 December 2008.

Treasurer Report

- Bill Lindholm was not able to make the meeting, but provided the budget via email.
- There is ~\$6,000 in checking and ~\$6,100 in a CD.
- Phil has sold more JaxSpots books – \$190.00 will be deposited soon.

City of Jacksonville and the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup – 20 September 2008

- Phil showed pictures from the event.
- The event was a success.
- Phil thanked the volunteers.

- The participants cleaned up ~³/₄-ton of trash, including tires, flat bed truck accessories, and full beer bottles.

Florida Sportsman Fishing & Boat Show – 08-09 November 2008

- JRRT had a booth at the show.
- Thank you to all the volunteers, especially Phil Harville.
- The turnout was not as good as previous years. The show is normally held in the Spring.
- The JRRT had an awesome booth with video and sold \$190.00 worth of JaxSpots books!

Adopt-A-Highway

- The JRRT sign was put out on the roadway, but it was put in the wrong place.
- The signs will be moved and should be in the correct location before the end of 2008.
- We need volunteers to sign up and help keep the area on A1A between Little Talbot Island and Fort George Bridge clean.
- JRRT is responsible for picking up litter 4 times each year; it is recommended the clean ups be conducted quarterly.
- Trash bags and safety vests are provided. Volunteers must obtain their own gloves. JRRT must have a 1st Aid kit available during the clean up.
- Those wishing to volunteer must first watch the safety video. The video (~5 minutes long) can be viewed at: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/statemaintenanceoffice/aah.shtm>.

Training

- Mike Barnes will start a new training class January 2009.

Website

- Happy Applewhite of Nassau Web Designs has offered to take over and update our website, and give it a fresh look.
- Sue got Rob Bronson and Happy in contact with each other.
- No word back from Rob yet on the status.

Dive Trips

- Larry announced there is a 14 February 2009 trip to St. Croix on a live aboard.
- \$1,795 per person (airfare included); Saturday to Saturday.
- Contact www.nektoncruises.com.

Next Meetings

- December 2008 – no regular monthly meeting due to the Holidays.
- Thursday, 04 December 2008 – Fun social with Dive Buddy.
 - 6:00 pm at Seven Bridges – Southside & J. Turner Butler Boulevards.
 - Bring an unwrapped toy to donate to the Toys For Tots program.
- Wednesday, 21 January 2009, 6:30 pm at the Southeast Branch Library.