

5th Annual Labor Day Weekend Fishing Tournament

LGPOA held its 5th Annual Labor Day Weekend Fishing Tournament 8/31/13-9/1/13 and as in years past, the events were a great success! With 102 Anglers fishing from 36 boats, everyone had a great time and was able to share in some really great prizes and donated items in their goody bags. The Tournament Committee also changed the format for the Kid's Event this year. For the Saturday Kid's event, Linda Soderquist and Rob Hill, Jr. created an outdoor classroom at Hideaway Bay where they netted items from the bay and explored them in the wading pool and newly acquired "creature peepers". The kids and the adults loved. In the end, 32 kids signed up and got to really explore the diversity of life that is contained in our bay and inland waters. They all received a completion certificate and fishing rod for their participation.

We also welcomed this year some local dignitaries to our Island Tournament. Sheriff Bill Prummel and his son Andrew fished in the tournament and also attended the Island wide BBQ/ Pot Luck Dinner Sunday night. The Sheriff caught a few oversized redfish and, of course, he followed all of the fishing rules and only kept a photo! We were also happy to welcome our District 3 County Commissioner Bill Truex who also fished in the tournament. Commissioner Truex also had a great time and enjoyed taking part in our Island event. Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch also attended the event and got a chance to try some of the great food at the BBQ Sunday night. Commissioner Deutsch is our District 4 representative and also wanted to show his support for the island through the tournament. It was really great to see our elected officials taking such an active role in supporting our island!

The tournament saw 27 anglers walk away with cash prizes for their catch. As in years past, the tournament pays back 100% of the entry fees to the winning anglers. Our gracious sponsors provide the funding to put the tournament on and supply the good bag items and supplies for the tournament cookout. We could not have done it without the support of our Sponsors in making this tournament revenue neutral for the POA.

This year, we also added a new item at the Tournament and provided a silent auction to benefit the On Island Fire and Rescue – EMS services. As the EMS services are not supported by the non-ad valorem tax that islanders pay, the EMS function is funded by grants, private donations and fund raisers. This is a very important function on the island and one that is critical for islander's safety. We collected over \$8200 in donated items for the silent auction and will end up with over **\$2,600** in funds (once all payments have been received) to be given to the EMS function on the island. Thanks go to all of the Tournament staff and the Fire Department for helping to acquire auction items and for manning the auction booth.

The BBQ / Pot Luck Dinner was well attended by tournament participants and Islanders alike and looked to be over 200 people enjoying fried fish, hush puppies, hot dogs, hamburgers and a wealth of islanders dishes. Kenny Rose, a local favorite, also returned to serenade the party with his Island Sounds. We were

almost able to finish handing out the awards for the anglers when our typical afternoon rain storm came through and cooled everything off.

All in all it was a very successful event for the Island and a great way to get out and see your Island friends and neighbors!

Sincerely,

Your Tournament Committee

David Haynes
Robert Hill, Jr.
Linda Soderquist
Capt. Dennis Doome
Bill Sanderson
Reed Nielsen