



TAG FLAG

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE **T**OURNAMENT **A**NGLERS **A**SSOCIATION
JANUARY 2008

2007 IXTAPA SAILFISH TOURNAMENT

The 16th annual Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament was held January 13 to 20, 2007. Fifty anglers left the pier in Zihuatanejo, on Monday morning with high hopes.

Judy Franich was the first to hook up and tip a sailfish. Only 7 other sailfish were caught that first day. John Jackson managed to hook and tip 2 sails. John also ended as high point angler for day 1. Steve Lynch tipped the last fish of the day.

Day 2 started with Richard Ziegler tipping the first sail. The day ended with a three-way tie for first place with John Jackson, Judy Franich (1, plus 1 on day 1) and Alan Molle (2). Richard Ziegler ended as high point angler with 150 points. Rod Van Saun caught the last fish.

Although fishing was slow the first two days it improved as the tournament went on. Alan Molle tipped Day 3's first sail. High point angler for that day was Fred Schulzke with 150 points. Richard Ziegler caught the last fish of the day.

By the end of day 3 Alan Molle held a slim lead for overall first place. However, many more sailfish were sighted, baited and lost. Final standings would depend on the last day's fishing.

Day 4 was filled with anticipation. A good score and luck could propel anyone into first place. Craig Cohen caught the first fish of the day and Suzzette Cohen caught the last fish of the 2007 tournament.

Trish Bothmer set a personal best by catching an estimated 200-pound marlin, on 20-pound test tournament line. GREAT catch Trish!

Alan Molle's skill and luck outlasted all other anglers. His score of 3 additional sails (450 points) ended all speculation as to who would be the Tournament Champion.

The only questions remaining were 2nd, 3rd and 4th place finishers, thereby qualifying for the IGFA Offshore Championship for 2008.

Linda Veninga and her cadre of help not only did a stupendous job of scorekeeping but also did it with secrecy. The final results were not revealed until the

awards banquet. Thank you Linda and all who helped.

Final Standings:

Tournament Champion – Alan Molle, 1050 points

2nd place - Richard Schwager, 600 points

3rd place – Kelly Schultze, 590 points

4th place – Smokey Molle, 590 points

Kelly beat Smokey by accruing her points earlier, during the tournament, then Smokey.

Team Standings

1st Place – Alan Molle and Sam Nottage, 1340 points

2nd place – Richard Schwager and Kelly Schultze, 1190 points

3rd place – Richard Ziegler and Bill Crozier, 750 points

4th place – Trish Bothmer and Craig Cohen, 660 points

Fish Totals:

Sailfish - 76

Marlin - 1

Dorado - 12

Tournament Chairman was Mike and Jerilou Hopley. Co-chairing was Brian and Corie Hill. All did an **OUTSTANDING** job.

THANK YOU!!

**RICHARD
SCHWAGER WINS
20TH EASTCAPE**

By Neal McNamara

The 20th Anniversary Eastcape Billfish Tournament was held at Hotel Palmas de Cortez, Los Barriles, Baja California Sur, Mexico June 14-18, 2007.

Thirty members of Tournament Anglers Association (TAA) caught and released 27 striped marlin, in three days of competition. In addition, 10 dorado and 1 yellow-fin tuna were boated and enjoyed in the hotel restaurant by the entire group.

While the fish count was down from 2006 (56), 2005 (62) and 2004 (69), there were plenty of marlin to be seen tailing on the surface. The boat captains noted that the water was quite dirty, cold and that the fish seemed to be gorged with squid. Moreover, strong winds came up by mid-morning and very few fish were hooked after noon.

On day 1, Smokey Molle charged to the front with two releases, followed closely by Bruce Main. Considering Smokey's long winning track record, many feared that they would be fighting now for second place. All told, only

8 marlin were released on day one.

The production on day 2 improved slightly to 9 marlin. , Led by Bill Evans with two stripers. Smokey managed to hold on to first place with a dorado, for 10 points.

The final day resulted in 10 marlin releases and a new leader and champion, Richard Schwager, of Stockton, California. Richard released two marlin, which when added to his one release on day 2, made him the only three billfish angler for the tournament.

It must be reported that yet another member of the Molle family, grandson Chris, was the high point angler on the last day of the tournament. The good news for the other TAA anglers is that Chris is headed for medical school and will not be a regular threat, at least for a while.

For the second year in a row, the members of the Challenge Division out fished the Champions and each received an Iland lure donated by L & S Bait Company of Florida.

Chairman Dale Miles put on another fabulous show with great trophies, 20th Anniversary Tournament shirts, shorts and hats and many other prizes.

Jim Severson and Neal McNamara assisted him. Jim Severson, assisted by Bill Evans, will manage the 2008 Eastcape.

The Eastcape anglers thank our generous sponsors, **Penn Fishing Tackle, Costa Del Mar, Hook & Tackle, Iland Lures, Aloha Lures, Marlin Magic Lures, Joe Yee Lures, Hi-5 Lures, Camelot Sportfishing, West Marine, Cutco Knives, Mister T-Shirt, Melton Tackle, Ande Monofilament and JAK Wind-On Leaders.**

The qualifying Eastcape Team for the 2008 IGFA Offshore World Championship Tournament will be Richard Schwager, Captain, Smokey Molle, Keith Leimbach, and Bill Evans. The first alternate is Darrell Ticehurst and the second is Bruce Main.

Overall Champion - Richard Schwager

Champion Division

- 1st Smokey Molle - 510
- 2nd Keith Leimbach - 510
- 3rd Andy Jacobi - 500
- 4th Dale Miles - 260

Challenge Division

- 1st Richard Schwager - 725
- 2nd Bill Evans - 510
- 3rd Darrell Ticehurst - 510
- 4th Bruce Main - 500

Teams

1st Richard Schwager/Steve Lynch - 975

2nd Bruce Main/Neal McNamara - 750

3rd Chris Molle/Rick Bothmer - 750

High Boats

Day 1 Jack Daniels, Julissa, Tio Tico

Day 2 Tio Pepe, Kahlua, Margarita

Day 3 Whiskey, Tio Tico, La Migra

IN MEMORIUM

During 2007 TAA lost a member, a spouse and a friend.



Andy Jacobi – Andy’s passing, last November, ended not only a fantastic fishing career but also an incredible personal journey.

Winner of many fishing tournaments, both with TAA and other organizations, his last great achievement, with TAA, was winning, back to back, the Ixtapa Sailfish

Tournament in 2003 and 2004.

Who of us does not have a story to tell about Andy?

Andy’s stories about himself, both adventures and especially his misadventures, always made us laugh. He had the capacity to laugh with us.

Andy had 225 TAA lifetime billfish releases.

Let’s remember his memory. Better yet, **“Let’s have a DRRRINK to his memory!”**

We will miss you Andy.

Deana McNamara, wife of TAA co-founder Neil McNamara.

Deana was always supportive of Neal’s fishing adventures and endeavors especially the Tournament Anglers Association.

Connie Stockman, while not a TAA member, was a friend to many of us. She also was a VSP (Very Special Person) to member Dave Plutt.

Connie was very active with the International Roosterfish Tournament.

She authored the *“Hooked on Roosters, the Story of the International Roosterfish Tournament and the People who Fished It the First 25 years”*.

Let’s keep the memory of those who passed by remembering our times with them.

IGFA OFFSHORE CHAMPIONSHIP

The IGFA Offshore World Championships will be held in Cabo San Lucas, May 11 to 17, 2008. TAA will be fielding two teams.

Representing the Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament will be: Captain Alan Molle, Smokey Molle, Fred Schulzke, Kelly Schulzke.

Representing the Eastcape Billfish Tournament will be: Captain Richard Schwager, Dale Miles, Neil McNamara, Chris Molle.

Over 45 national and international teams will compete during the four-day tournament.

For more information on the IGFA Offshore World Championship go to <http://www.igfa.org/tour.asp>

Contrary to previous announcements the IGFA Offshore World Championship will be held in 2009. More information to follow.

Good luck to both of our teams.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



2007 Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament winners: left to right-Alan Molle (1st Champion), Kelly Schulzke (3rd place), Smokey Molle (4th place), Richard Schwager (2nd place)



2007 Eastcape winners: left to right-Smokey Molle (2nd place), Richard Schwager (Champion), Keith Leimbach (3rd place) and Bill Evens (4th place)



TAA secretary Steve Davis honors Smokey Molle, at the 2006 Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament, for his 250 lifetime billfish releases. TAA Billfish Releases only include releases made in TAA sanctioned tournaments. It does

not include other personal releases.

Smokey has since added an additional 7 billfish releases to his count.

Congratulations Smokey!

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

IXTPA SAILFISH TOURNAMENT: Feb. 2 – 9, 2008, Chairman Brian Hill, Tel. 831-484-2060, email toro1@redshift.com.

IGFA OFFSHORE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: May 11 to 17, 2008, <http://www.igfa.org/tour.asp>

EASTCAPE BILLFISH TOURNAMENT: June 5 – 9, 2008, Chairman Jim Severson, Tel. 808-261-5630, email jmspms@aol.com.