



# TAG FLAG

## Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament



4th- Dave Holland 3rd- Neal McNamera 2nd-Smokey Molle

### Grand Champion- John Jackson

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual TAA Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament started off with a bang. The Dorado Pacifico staff had the banquet room looking incredible. Co-Chairman Ed Lynch and his wife Shana had put together an awesome prize table featuring

product from Shimano, G-Loomis, Costa Del Mar, Island Lures and other various sponsors. Gray Taxidermy donated beautiful trophies. Not only did the hotel have the room looking

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Eastcape Billfish just around the corner

June 22-26, 2009  
Hotel Palmas de Cortez

Although the March 10th deadline has passed, it may not be too late to enter one of the more premier billfish tournaments in the world and a qualifying event for the offshore championships in Cabo held every May.

Contact Bill Evans  
974 Bailey Ana Road  
Hillsborough CA 94010



### OFFSHORE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS PREPARE

TAA will send two teams to the Offshore Championships this year representing the Ixtapa sailfish and the Eastcape Billfish tournaments.

The Ixtapa team is lead by Mike Leach with team members Steve Davis, Dale Miles and Smokey Molle.

The Eastcape team will be lead by Paul Steigerwald with team members

Neal McNamara, Jack Richardson and Alan Molle.



Joan Vernon will be with the PCCA El Salvador team. Bill Gillisie and Roger Comstock will be with the Roosterfish team.

We wish all anglers huge success and look forward to the stories and pictures, especially those on the podium.



NEW ANGLER PROFILES-GARY FLETCHER AND JACK RICHARDSON



Name: Gary Fletcher  
Hometown: Gold Beach, OR  
Occupation: Contractor

**Questions and answers with Gary Fletcher**

Q: Who is your TAA connection?

A: Paul Parlee

Q: What is your favorite type of fishing?

A: Drift fishing for steelhead on the Hunter River.

Q: What is your most memorable catch?

A: When I was about 10 years old, and I caught a 34" white surgeon on the Columbia River. My dad tried to talk me out of the rod, but I wouldn't give it up. I landed it in 5-10 minutes.

Q: What did you like best about fishing the Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament?

A: The Camaraderie of the anglers, and the sound of the reel screaming.

Name: Jack Richardson  
Hometown: Santa Rosa, CA  
Occupation: Retired

**Questions and answers with Jack Richardson**

Q: Who is your TAA connection?

A: John Jackson

Q: What other types of fishing do you enjoy?

A: I fish about 10 times a year in Mexico, I also fish trout in Wyoming, and salmon in Alaska.

Q: What is your most memorable catch?

A: My first 10" abalone

Q: What are some of your other pastimes?

A: I enjoy hunting, abalone diving and cooking. I love to cook, I have traveled to Mexico to learn how to prepare authentic Mexican dishes.

Q: What did you like best about fishing the Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament?

A: It's definitely the people. I found that many of the anglers and I have common friends, it's a small world. The positive attitudes of the members really gives me a lift.



**IXTAPA SAILFISH**

great, but the food was amazing. Early in the evening, anglers and guests were entertained by a dance squad from the hotel while a DVD provided by the World Championship was shown. Watching the incredible underwater footage of striped marlin taking baits was good motivation before wetting our lines. The evening was capped off with a solo by one of Dorado Pacifico's own door men, Freddy. Freddy did a wonderful job singing traditional Mexican music. We even had the benefit of seeing Ed Lynch and Jerry Yahiro swing a young senorita on the dance floor.

Last year our anglers had the misfortune of experiencing a slow bite. Everyone was hoping for good numbers this year.

Numerous anglers took to the water prior to the tournament with some catching as many as 4 sails in a day. Most anglers caught at least one or more and all reported some kind of action. Hopes were high for good numbers during this tournament.

DAY 1: While waiting for their boat on the morning of opening day one, fishing partners John Jackson and Smokey Molle heard a number of jests from the other anglers. "Looks like a lack of experience on this boat", "This

has to be a fix" and "Who paired these two?" John and Smokey did not disappoint. John landed 6 sails and Smokey landed two. After day 1 John led all anglers with 900 points earning top daily angler. Fish totals for day 1 were 34 sails. Daily first fish went to new angler Gary Fletcher. Last fish of the day went to Neal McNamara with just two minutes left in fishing time.

DAY 2: After a good day one we were excited about the prospects of another strong day on Tuesday. Turns out on Monday night the area had experienced a number of earthquakes centered off the coast south west of Ixtapa. The earthquakes clearly impacted the fishing with only 9 sails landed on day 2. Top angler for the day was Dave Holland with 3 sails earning 450 points. Dave also caught the last fish of the day. First fish went to Smokey Molle.

Wednesday the tournament hosted a Sunset Social in the Master Suite. A number of anglers were kind enough to donate their dorado to the cause. Jerry Yahiro prepared his amazing Sashimi and Poki. The hotel's chef, Daniel prepared battered dorado. With hotel employees Gregorio and Enrique bar tending and all the anglers and guests attending, it was quite a party. Thanks to everyone who contributed and participated.

DAY 3: There was much discussion in the day off about how the earthquake impacted the bite. Apparently this had happened during this tournament before. Anglers were hopeful the bite would return to what it had been on day one. Smokey Molle landed 3 sails and a dorado for 460 points to lead all anglers. Smokey also landed the last fish of the day. First fish went to new angler Jack Richardson. Fourteen sails were landed on day 3. There were reportedly two marlin hooked this day with both resulting in broken line.

DAY 4: The final day of the tournament produced 15 sails. Dale Miles 300 points took the daily high point. Nine minutes into his day, Jim Gill secured first fish of the day. With just 5 minutes left to fish, Dick Wallace caught the last fish of the tournament.

The fish totals landed for 2009 were 72 sailfish released and 6 dorado and 2 tuna.

At the end of the final fishing day the anglers and guests gathered at the El Mirador Restaurant to honor our captains and award the captain prizes. The overall Champion for the captains was Jose on the Angeles. Jose also received a Lamiglas rod for being the top captain on day 1. Other daily top captains were



Miguel Jr. on Rebelde, Jaime on the Albatros, and Jose on the Reigna Del Mar.

This year there was a special prize category for anglers fishing with Shimano Reels. Shimano, our main sponsor, donated two Tyrnos Reels to be given away in a Shimano specific prize category. The first reel went to new angler Gary Fletcher who caught the first billfish in the tournament on a Shimano Reel. The second went to Danny Brooks who caught the last billfish of the tournament on a Shimano Reel. Congratulations to these anglers and huge thanks to Shimano.

Congratulations to John Jackson, the 2009 Champion of the TAA Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament. John is a founding father of TAA. Previously he has won the East Cape Billfish Tournament 3 times in 95, 96 and 98. John also won the Tournament of Champions in 1983 and the International Roosterfish Tournament in 1986. Joining John in the winners circle was 2<sup>nd</sup> place Smokey Molle, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Neal McNamara and 4<sup>th</sup> place Dave Holland. This was a team of fine representatives of TAA for the 2010 World Championship.

I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped out this year. The success of the tournament is in huge part due to the contributions of the participants and guests. The Dorado

Pacifico staff does an amazing job every year taking our tournament to a new level. Their commitment to constant improvement and first class hospitality is very much appreciated.



Ed Lynch will be Chairman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament to be held January 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. As this is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this prestigious event, both Ed and the Staff at the Dorado Pacifico have some real excitement in the works. Please mark your calendar as it is going to be one to remember.

**YOU MAKE THE CALL**



How many times during the Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament can the song "One Ton Tomato" be sung before we're allowed to get the **HOOK**?



**THE BOARD ADDS SOME NEW LUMBER**

In a fierce election process, the board of directors has confirmed the addition of three new members to the board.

Ed Lynch, Dave Holland and long term member and advocate Neal McNamara have accepted the responsibility of being bored.

**The Officers Consist of:**

President- Jim Gill

VP-Jerry Yahiro

Sec.-Steve Davis

Treasurer-Neal McNamera



**Balance of Members Include:**

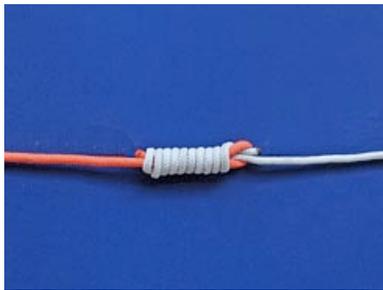
Pete Davis, Rocky Franich, Dale Miles, Gary Lucas,

Darrell Ticehurst, Bill Evans, Ed Lynch and Dave Holland

**New Venue Committee:**

Rocky Franich, Pete Davis.

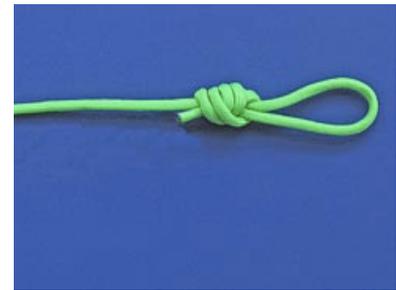
We look forward to seeing where in the world we can fish next!!



**1**



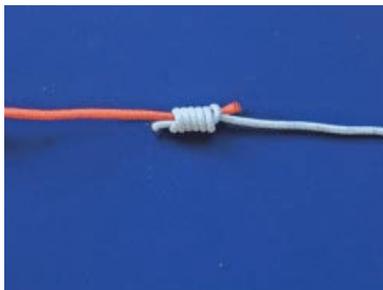
**2**



**3**

**NAME THAT KNOT**

Lets see how good you really are.  
Funny how we all seem to be able to tie something on, but that doesn't mean we'll actually land something.  
Answers on back page.



**4**



**CHANGES TO YOUR EMAIL AND/OR SNAIL MAIL ADDRESS?**

If you have been moving or sailing around a bit.

For those of you that have a new email, snail mail or any other pertinent info on how to get a hold of you, please email Steve Davis @ [sdavis51@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdavis51@sbcglobal.net).

# How we miss this picture



Of all the pictures I receive from the Ixtapa tournament, this has to be the most common. For good reason, as many of us have had a nice glass of wine as we were mesmerized by this sunset.

Answers to the knots:

1. Albright Knot
2. Perfection Loop
3. Surgeons Loop
4. Nail Knot

## *Calendar*

**May 11-15, 2009**  
**Offshore**  
**Championships, Cabo**  
**San Lucas**

**June 22-26**  
**Eastcape Billfish**  
**Tournament**

**July 1, 2009**  
**Applications for**  
**Ixtapa available**

**January 9-16 2010**  
**Ixtapa Sailfish**  
**Tournament**

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