



# MARCH SPEAKER

## Capt. Jay Withers



**MARCH 23RD  
7PM  
CHARLOTTE HARBOR  
EVENT CENTER  
75 TAYLOR ST  
PUNTA GORDA, FL**



**CAPT. JAY'S TOPIC THIS MONTH WILL BE ON ALL ASPECTS OF TARPON FISHING FROM RIGGING TO BAITS & HOW AND WHERE TO FIND THEM. HE WILL EXPLAIN FISHING TECHNIQUES FOR CATCHING OTHER SPECIES WHILE FISHING THE HARBOR FOR TARPON.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME-YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND  
THERE WILL BE SOME GREAT RAFFLE ITEMS TO BE WON  
SO BRING A FRIEND & ENJOY A GREAT EVENING**

### Charlotte Chapter March 2010

NEXT MEETING WILL BE  
March 23, 2010 AT 7 PM  
AT THE CHARLOTTE  
HARBOR EVENT &  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
75 TAYLOR STREET  
PUNTA GORDA, FL

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### Mission Statement

The stated purpose of CCA is to advise and educate the public on conservation of marine resources. The objective of CCA is to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of these coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public

TO JOIN CCA JUST COME  
TO THE MEETINGS  
IF YOU WANT TO GET  
INVOLVED CALL  
TOM AT 941-661-0580

## President's Message



Hello Everyone,

Well the weather certainly has been consistently inconsistent. That means most of us have been kept in port (except those who fish for a living and a tough one at that). At least it's starting to grudgingly warm up. It'll probably just suddenly pop into summer and all will be right with the world again.

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Charlotte Chapter banquet was held recently and if you missed it, you missed a pretty darn good one! We fed 284 people, nearly 50 more than last year, a very good sign. A couple years back we had 400 attendees, but given the realities of today it's still rough out there and I don't mean on the water.

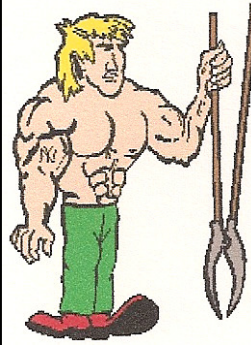
I'd like to thank everyone who participated: the guides who donated trips; the sponsors who bought ads; the tackle shops who donated merchandise; the companies who supported us during the solicitation part of our operation; and last but not least, the Directors without whose support and hard work we'd never have been able to get it all done. I also owe a debt of gratitude to the CCA Florida staff who assisted us in obtaining many of the items for the silent and live auctions, and the Charlotte Harbor and Events Center for their support and can-do attitude throughout the planning and execution of the event.

At a recent Board meeting we critiqued our banquet and, as always, found a few things we can do better next time. Overall we were satisfied that it was a great evening. If any members have suggestions, ideas or concerns regarding the banquet we'd be happy to hear them.

Without all of the individual and corporate help we would not have been able to contribute much-needed funds to continue our intention to protect and defend your recreational fishing rights, whether you are a charter captain, licensed guide or simply a fisherman whose joy is to be out there catching fish with friends. The battles are many, expensive to fight, and hopefully we'll prevail in the long run.

We are planning to participate in the Guy Harvey Ultimate Shark Tournament scheduled in late spring with CCA Directors acting as observers on participating vessels. Mote Marine will also be aboard to tag and satellite sharks to enhance their knowledge about where sharks range, feed, migrate, and other data necessary in making good management decisions concerning these apex predators. The tournament is all catch and release. Sharks provide an important niche in the balance of the sea and their existence is critical to maintain that balance. My thanks to Captain Robert Moore for the opportunity to participate in this interesting event.

Continued on Page 5



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**MARK'S OF DISTINCTION**

**CCA Florida - Charlotte Chapter**  
**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CAPTAINS FOR THEIR**  
**DONATIONS**

**The fishing guides listed below have donated trips to our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. Our Chapter members wish to express their gratitude to them for their generosity. Please patronize these captains whenever you are considering a guided trip in area waters. Each Captain will do their best to give you a great day of fishing.**

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# March Fishing Report



4265 Tamiami Trail  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
 (941) 625-2700 FAX (941) 625-1040  
 www.westmarine.com

N26°57.989'  
 W082°04.776'



## Gulf of Mexico

It's just about time for the spring mackerel run to get underway. During most years we see at least the beginnings of this major fishing event sometime prior to the end of March but this year, with a cooler than normal winter, things may run later than normal. The key: a water temperature which stays in the upper 60's. When it happens, it can happen in a big way with mixed bags of Spanish mackerel, bluefish, bonita and king mackerel taken around offshore bait schools. March is also when shark fishing usually begins to pop just off the beaches, just make sure that you check the new shark rules if you plan to keep a shark or two for supper. Bottom fishing remains strong on ledges and patches of flat rock. Sheepshead, mangrove snapper, hogfish and porgys have been good on ledges or breaks in as little as 30 feet of water. Move out deeper to 60 feet or more and you can expect to do well on lane snapper too. Wrecks and artificial reefs in 75 feet of water or deeper are holding amberjack.

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## Charlotte Harbor

As our water temperatures begin to climb (finally!) we'll see trout moving out on the flats, redfish will get more active among the islands and along mangrove shorelines, and a few cobia will begin to show on the bars on both sides of the harbor. Sheepshead spawning season is in full-on full-bore gangbusters mode with these striped fish stacked up on most inshore docks, piers, reefs, rocks and pilings. Look for this fishing to stay strong until around the first of April. Spanish mackerel and bluefish will blitz in and out of the passes and will at times range many miles inland. Here's the big question: what about snook? By month's end when many snook will be out on the flats we'll begin to gain an idea of how they fared during the historic January freeze. Our prediction: more snook survived than some folks thought.

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### Notes:

Snook season closed December 1 opens September 1  
 Grouper season closed February 1 opens April 1  
 New Florida shark regulations became effective Jan. 19  
 Silky sharks and Sandbar (brown) sharks are now protected species in state waters. New size limit of 54



**Capt. Missy Becker**  
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Continued from page 2

The snook issue is another item on the agenda for stock assessment after the cold snap in order to determine whether the fall season should be opened. We will keep you posted.

One a final note, your VHF radio checks can now be done using channel 24. They are called Automated Radio Checks (ARC). Key your mike and make your inquiry, and it will immediately play back your inquiry exactly as transmitted. We have two active sites in Charlotte Harbor: at Burnt Store Marine and Punta Gorda Marine. This will eliminate the overuse of Channel 16 for radio checks and free it up for its intended purpose. The feature is available 24/7, so feel free to test your radio's efficiency anytime.

Live Long and Prosper,

Tom Kasprzak, CCA Charlotte President

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# CCA MEMBERS WANTED

From now through May 28, 2010 CCA Florida is running a Member Get A Member Campaign. For each new member/associate or renewing expired member/associate you bring in you will be given an entry to win one of 10 great prizes. The more members you bring in the more chances you have to win. It couldn't be any easier and there are some great prizes on the line.

*\*In addition each new/renewing member you sign up will be entered to win a pair of Costa Del Mar Sunglasses\**

## **Grand Prize - Pura Vida Abaco Bahamas Getaway for Four**

Enjoy a 4-day, 3-night getaway to the beautiful Pura Vida Waterfront Cottages in the Bahamas. Your trip also includes 2 half days of offshore fishing - Retail Value \$3,400

## **2nd Prize - CCA Life Membership**

Become a Life Member the easy way! - Retail Value \$1,000

## **3rd Prize - Weekend Getaway for Two**

Full day guided inshore fishing trip for 2 with Capt. Kyle Messier out of Crystal River and 2 nights' accommodations at the Crystal River Resort - Retail Value \$700

## **4th Prize - Hi-Tech Carbon Fiber Composite Push Pole**

Choice of length up to 20' - Retail Value \$500

## **5th Prize - Costa Del Mar Sunglasses**

Pair of his and hers Costa Del Mar Sunglasses - Retail Value \$400

## **6th - 10th Prize - "Gorilla Pliers" and Lipper Tool**

Evolution Products Aluminum "Gorilla Pliers" and a 26# Lipper tool - Retail Value \$180



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