



## STUART SAILFISH CLUB HISTORY

Contributed by Cindy Mumford

According to an article written by Jan Fogt the Stuart Sailfish Club had its beginnings on a lazy afternoon in 1935 at Speedy's Inn, which later became known as the Lighthouse Restaurant. Ed Gluckler, club historian and publicist for the city of Stuart said a group of Stuart Jaycees came up with the idea of a fishing contest to "awaken the old village and pump some money into the economy that was broke then from the depression. From that tournament which first ran in 1936 sprang the Stuart Sailfish Club. For all its promotional interests the club's members were more interested in conserving the numbers of sailfish offshore for the enjoyment of future fishing generations.

The tournaments were re-numbered when they changed the rules to light tackle use and release rules. All boats participating in the Light Tackle Tournament flew Stuart Sailfish Club pennants on the bow of their boat. There is a sample of one of these pennants at the Stuart Heritage Museum. In the beginning the tournament was a contest between individual Anglers or Anglerettes – not teams. All sailfish were to be released except those brought in to mount or those 7'9" and over which were eligible for the special points awarded for the "longest fish trophy." The Stuart Sailfish Club had their own fleet (Whiticar Fleet???) which was available for charter for the tournament. The original 7 boats making up the Whiticar Fleet were: "Northwester", "Gannet", "Hobo", "Skipper", "Gulfstream", "HowDee", "Capadd" (sp?). 10, 20, and 30 lb. test line was used and scoring was as follows: 10# - 100 points, 20# - 75 points, and 30# - 40 points. Daily awards were presented to top "male" angler and top "female" anglerette. Tournament headquarters and the official weigh and measure station were held at the Sunrise Inn. (brochure and pictures in album). Curt Whiticar designed the release pins. They were white enamel on yellow gold. The pin had a gold sailfish leaping against the blue of the Gulf Stream dotted with fluffy white clouds enclosed in a silver band.

Added by Curt Whiticar  
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In addition to the Whiticar Fleet in the Stuart area available for charter were a few single charter boats such as the Gean Dare, operated by Capt. Earl Dare and a couple of others from time to time. Others that come to mind were Ray Young, Bob Fulford, Harold Johns, and Toley Engebetsen of Toley Boat Yard in Salerno who had three charter boats.

Also, there were a few seasonal charter boats docked at The Lighthouse just north of the bridge. These four or five boats came south for the winter from New Jersey, mostly from the Briells Inlet area, which was their home base. Most of these came down after the war, not before.

In the early days before the war, some of these boats were available for charter, and with the local boats constituted most of the Stuart Sailfish Club's issuing of citations and pins, along with a few private boat owners. After the war, the tournaments were entered by boats foreign to the Stuart area. Many came from the Palm Beach area, some were charter boats, but more were privately owned boats. Many of these more luxurious private boats were also available for charter.