

# VOLUME 35 NUMBER 1



UNKNOWN FLORIDA MAKER



SAM GRIFFIN IS HONOR



SAM GRIFFIN'S 911 SPECIAL



THE "JIM BO" LURE



# THE LOWLY BOBBER



"FISH'N CLUB"

### FATC MEMBERSHIP DUES [PLEASE READ]

Over the years we have received membership dues from existing members, and new members in a variety of ways and locations. Some have been sent to officers and directors of the club, some have gone to the presidents and an increasing number have been paid through PayPal. On occasion, some of these payments have been misplaced or not received at all, frustrating our new members and existing members alike. As a result members were not receiving any information or newsletters from the FATC.

To resolve this issue and smooth out our process, we would like all new and existing membership dues sent to one location. Send it to this address [shown below]. This is our Treasurers address, and if your paying by "Check" [Please make checks payable to the FATC]. "PAYPAL" will also be accepted and is the preferable way to pay, [see the FATC website].

Also, in order to get everyone into the directory, who wants to be listed in the directory, we are requiring that all membership dues be paid by, [March 1st of each year], so we can include your information in the directory for the second newsletter that's sent out in April. THANK YOU for your help in these matters and we're looking forward seeing all of you at the next show!

### **MAIL CHECKS TO:**

FATC 485 Marsh Creek Rd. Venice, Florida 34292-5314



### PAY THROUGH PAYPAL AT THE FATC WEBSITE:

www.fatc.net

# Thanks to all who helped with my collection!







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# FATC NEWS THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS INC.

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Cover:

Sam Griffen & Charles Davis, 911 Special, Unknown Lure, Jim Bo, Fishing Club, Lowly Bobber

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# FATC PAST SHOW MEMORIES



# **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Mike Mais

### Hello FATC Members

After much thought and conversation with; Larry Lucas, Ed Weston, Bill Premaza and myself, we have decided to cancel the 2021 Daytona show. It was a tough decision, but with the pandemic, and the hotel only allowing us only 150 members into the show at one time, and with

this the hotel not willing to work with us on the number of rooms that we had to guarantee, and last, with table registration being cancelled almost daily, we had no other choice

Anyone that has sent a payment for tables or registration will receive a refund. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

# FATC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday - October 16, 2020

Meeting held using video conference call Mike Mais calls meeting to order at 7:10 PM

~Larry Lucas updated the board on the status of what the Plaza Hotel requires the FATC to do to proceed with the 2021 Daytona Show.

~Attending Board members discuss their options whether to cancel the show or proceed with the show as planned and revisit the discussion at the first of the year, If something else arises.

~Attending Board members voted to proceed with the 2021 Daytona Show

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Board Members in Attendance; Mike Mais, Bob Coon, Jeff Windisman,

Ron Gast, Mike Hall, Ed Weston, Chuck Heddon, Larry Lucas



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### **EDITOR NOTES**

Jeff Windisman

Well it's 2021, and as we all know by now, the 2021 Daytona Show has been cancelled. It's been a tough 2020 with this pandemic. But I'm pessimistic that by the spring we will have some tackle shows to attend, and things, I hope, will get back to a some what normality. Till then, keep looking for those tough tackle finds!

On this new year I'm making my request for some tackle stories for our news letter. It can be on anything that you collect or what you have researched, it doesn't matter, we love anything tackle related. I'll give you a for instants, were there any minnow [bait] bucket makers in Florida?

In this issue, Charles Davis, a longtime member of the FATC, sent a great story on Sam Griffen, who was inducted into the Fishing Hall Of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin [page 7]. Larry Lucas sent one about a bobber made by the Porter Bait Co. and Joe Yates sent another one of the unknown Florida makers, a neat looking bait. Charlie Tanner has the "Fish'N Club, which is a golf club with a reel on it.

One last thing, our featured member page has changed. In the hopes of making it easier for our members to respond, you only have a few question to answer. Please if I send this format of questions to you, let me know if you will participate in our Featured Members page. Thanks



The Dalton Man



# FATC AWARDS CRITERIA

It has come to our attention that many of our FATC members are not aware of the various benchmarks used to judge the exhibits at our FATC shows. The following is a synopsis of the criteria used to reach our decision.

1-Educational Information
2-Identification & Labeling
3-Rarity
4-Completeness
5-Condition
6-Overall Presentation
7-Uniqueness and/or Originality

An exhibitor who wins a major award at one show is not eligible to win another major award for a period of one year. The exhibitor however, may win a major award within this time period, if they display an exhibit that is entirely different.

Exhibit cards with the name of the exhibit and the owners name, should be displayed prominently on their exhibit. These cards can be obtained at the registration desk.

THANK YOU

Awards Committee Rick Vaughn & Paul Snider

# SAM GRIFFIN HONORED

Charles Davis

My name is Charles Davis and I'm a member of the; FATC, CATC, and the NFLCC, however, I hate to admit it, but I am not as active as I would like to be in the lure clubs. Between my wife's [Celine] and now my health problems, we have spent a lot of time in 2019 and 2020 going to Doctor Appointments, laboratories, drug stores and rehab centers. My very own definition of the "Golden Age" is; "The time of your life doctors and Druggists are trying to take the last of your gold. Enough of this!

The real purpose of this article is to inform the membership that an Honorary member, Sam Griffin was inducted into the "Freshwater Hall of Fame in Hayard, Wisconsin. The induction ceremony was held near Lake Okeechobee. This was the proper place to hold the ceremony, for Sam was born on a house-boat on the lake.

I have known Sam for thirty-plus years and have spent many hours fishing with him on Lake Okeechobee. Sam started his own lure company and his lures soon became very popular with the fishermen throughout the southeast of Florida. Most of his lures were topwater baits, and Sam also had his own guide service, with the reputation of being the number-one guide on the lake for many years. I remember one fishing trip with a good friend of mine, Mr. Louis Kespohl. We had planned a fishing trip on Okeechobee, just five days after a major hurricane had passed through the lake and the water was really stirred up. Lou and I could not get a hotel room in Okeechobee City and finally found one at Roland Martin's Marina on the south end of the lake. I called Sam and told him where we were staying, he replied



Sam Griffin and myself, holding his induction plaque to the Fishing Hall of Fame.

that's good, because I have located fish in that area. The next morning, we had breakfast at the marina and a guide from the marina asked us if we needed a guide or were we going on our own. I informed him we were going out with Sam Griffin and he replied, if any boat brings in fish, it will be his boat, because he knows this lake. I would estimate we caught and released over seventy bass that day, with several being in the six to seven pound range. Griffin Lures were so popular in the southeast, he received the nickname; "King of the Pop".

In the 1970s Sam was elected to the county commission for several years and was instrumental in getting more launch ramps, parking and flashing beacon lights at canals and ramps around the lake . At one time the Kissimmee River was a meandering stream and was the main water supply for Lake Okeechobee. In all their wisdom, the Corps of Engineers decided to straighten the river. The results was all of the fertilizers and chemicals roared into the lake, instead of being filter by the many oxbows. With being in the county commission, Sam helped to convince the state of Florida to restore the Kissimmee River back to it's natural flow It is still a work in progress to this day, but is being done.

In 1987 Sam sold his Griffin Lure Company to Luhr Jensen, and was hire to help setup their factory in Mexico. After being retired for a couple of years, Sam got tired of sitting around. So he went to work and started a new company and called it; "Custom Lures by Sam", which he still makes in limited quantities to this day. [Continued on page 10]

# **UNKNOWN FLORIDA MAKER**

Joe Yates



A Florida buddy who knows that I like Frenchy baits sent me this lure. It was found in the general area of St. Petersburg, Florida.

The lure [left] shares characteristics of both Frenchy Chevalier lures and also the Leapin'Lil lure invented by Dr. John Pinkham of Madeira Beach, Florida.

Like many Frenchy trout baits, it has flat sides that angle from the top to the bottom of the body. It has a paddle type tail very much like Pinkham's lure [shown on the right].

Despite the similarities to Frenchy and Pinkham's lures, this one is very much different. The eyes are made using metal brads, something not seen on either of the others. Though the tail resembles that of the Leapin'Lil, all of Pinkham's lures seen to date have rounded bodies. None have flat sides.





The hook hardware on the belly of this lure is simple screw eye of what strikes me to be a rather large size and also fairly recent vintage. I am not aware of either Frenchy or Pinkham using a screw eye hook hanger on the belly of their lures.

The lure body measures just a bit less than 4" inches. It is fairly heavy, weighing in at exactly one ounce. There is no discernible belly weight. I do not know for certain what material was used to form the body. It appears to be wood, but it is hard to know for sure. It could easily be made of some type of synthetic material.

I am fairly confident that neither Frenchy nor Pinkham made this lure. It is an interesting hybrid of their work and I bet it would be a real fish catcher in the right hands.

So, whodunit?

# FATC FEATURED MEMBER PROFILE

Mike Hall

### Tell us some history on yourself?

Born and raised in Miami Florida, there was always a place to fish and swim growing up in south Florida. Freshwater canals everywhere, we would walk miles down the banks of the canals to fish, swim, sometimes with manatees. Fishing the piers, Haulover and Newport was a 15 cent city bus ride each way. Tackle box and rods in hand for a full day at the pier. After high school, Miami High, I enter the US Army and served three years in Colorado Springs. After the service, I worked at Pflueger Marine Taxidermy in Hallandale,



Florida in the mounting department, because I wasn't good at skinning the fish. Later I received my merchant marine document and sailed out of Port Everglades, Ft Lauderdale traveling the eastern coastlines and Caribbean. Finally deciding on a career in aquatic vegetation control, I started Florida Lake Management here in Jacksonville, Florida. Maintaining lakes and ponds in Northeast Florida for aquatic weed control. After 30 years in the pond business, I'm retired now and everyday is Saturday.

### What got you into collecting old fishing tackle and when did you join the FATC ?

The year was about 1983, a friend gave me a bucket with a lot of old tangled lures inside. We split them up between us, he was more interested in the fishable stuff. I kept about a dozen lures just because they looked cool. A few years later at my first FATC show here in Jacksonville, WOW. I learned a lot about the lures I had at home! 3-single hook Picaroon's, a few Plenty Sparkles lures, and some Polly-Wogs and some other lures. I joined the FATC that weekend!

### What is one of your best memories being a club member ?

During my years of membership, I've been honored to hold several position in the club, many great memories and friends over the years.

### What is one of your most memorable tackle finds ?

One of my best finds was at the St Augustine flea market. Walking down the aisle with fellow collector, Roth Kemper, to check out a lure vendor he wanted to show me, I was telling Roth the guy probably didn't have anything special. Then he pulls a Superstrike Shrimp in the Box, Wow. Roth was standing right there over my shoulder, I could tell he was excited too. A week later at a show, roth owned the combo. He deserved it, I was trespassing on his flea market.

### Your thoughts on where our club needs to go into the future ?

Although all clubs are going through some rough times right now with cancellations, and social distancing, we are all hungry for a show. I am optimistic shows will continue this summer. Seems like a long time, so lets go fishing. Be safe, and have a great 2121!

### [continued from page 7]

When I started collecting lures, I already had several Griffin lures and when he open his "Custom Lures by Sam" I purchase one each, of every model, size and color that he produced. After he had been selected for the; "Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame", I sent the Griffin lures and the; "Custom Lures by Sam" to the Fishing Hall of Fame to be put on display. I donated all of my Heddon lures to the Heddon Museum and all others manufacturers went to the Fishing Hall of Fame. If you collectors have spare lures, I'm sure these two museum's would appreciate them.

With the help of Bill Stuart, we put together a very informative package and sent it to Mr. Emmitt Brown, director of the Freshwater Fishing Hall Of Fame in late 2017. A member of the NFLCC was selected for the 2018 honor and Sam was elected in 2019. Mr. Brown informed me when all votes were in, every voting member had voted for Sam Griffin.

One thing particular that prompted me to submit Sam's name for consideration, was the fact that Sam made a special commerative lure, the "Moonshine Special", numbered, "911 Special". He made the this lure to honor the people that were killed on 9/11. It was painted in the colors of the American Flag, Sam made {19} of this lure, but then decided not to produce it to sell. He was afraid some people would think he was making profit on this tragic event. I Am proud to have owned one of the {19}. This is the reason that told me, Yes, Sam Griffin, belongs in the Hall Of Fame.

I called Bill Stuart and asked him if it was ok to use some of the information from the biography that he had written on Sam. Bill assured me, that it was ok and he would send me some additional information that he had learned since he wrote the biography. We combined our work and were very happy with the outcome.

Bill really wanted to attend the award ceremony and I was going to pick him up, but unfortunately, God must have needed a good lure maker in the great beyond, for Bill passed away.

I made the presentation to Sam on December 14, 2019, and I let the attendance know how much Bill Stuart had contributed to make that night possible.



The "Moonshine Special", numbered '911 Special' Sam Griffin only made nineteen models of this lure. [Color picture is on the cover]

FATC PAST SHOW MEMORIES



### THE "LOWLY" BOBBER A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF A FLORIDA-MADE SUBSURFACE BOBBER

Larry Lucas

UN SUGGESTIONS SUGGESTIONS SUGGESTIONS SUGGESTIONS No Not shange length of the leader on the FLAME-BALL. Yarv the length of pyramid sinker is control depth Substitution outces on the one-inch FLAME-BALL. So Try the FLAME-BALL, strip, baited. three to flue bet behind a seel sinker for trolling. PORTER BAIT COMPANY BAYTONA BEACH. FLORIDA



Thanks to Max Boales, I have an original Flame-Ball in the package [above]. But in the interest of preservation, I decline to open it. Fortunately, fellow FATC member, Doug Brace provided me with a photo of the paperwork used in this article.

It sure pays to have knowledgeable friends in this hobby!

Introduced in the 1950s by the Porter Bait Company of Daytona Beach, Florida, the "Flame-Ball" was unique to other bobbers of the period. It was designed to suspend underwater rather than float on the surface, and it was intended for coastal surf fishing. The illustration at left, shows how it functioned.

This rig was anchored by a pyramid weight, which hung from a short leader tied to the bottom of a three-way swivel. The main line was tied to a free corner of the swivel, while the bobber and hook were fastened to the remaining free corner. By applying an appropriate amount of weight, the bobber would keep the bait off the bottom where catfish roam. And in front of any potential gamefish swimming through the water column.

I received these Porter Flame-Balls from my good friend, Max Boales. He found them in a box of old tackle belonging to his late father, Max Boales Sr., who was the Secretary Treasurer of the Porter Bait Company from 1953 until the early 1960s. The only reference I have seen for the Flame-Ball is on a Sea Hawk card from the mid-1950s.

It is my belief that Max Boales Sr. designed this unique float sys-

tem for Dick Porter's company. And since very few examples have been found in the field, It's safe to assume not many were produced or sold to the public. I have examples in several colors, including red [left] bright yellow and lime green. Other colors may exist, but I have yet to see them.





[Above] Shows the red bobber with paperwork.

[Left] I work in a tackle store that sells a very similar bobber made by Sea-Striker in Moorehead, NC. It functions on the same principle-keeping your bait off the bottom.

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BAIT

### EDWARD G. JONES A SOFT RUBBER 1939 BAIT

Edward G. Jones of Paisley, Florida, filed an application, Serial No. 197,250 for a patent on March 21, 1938 on was issued patent No. 2,149,054 on February 28, 1939.

Jones was from Paisley, Florida which is about 17 miles west of DeLand. Unfortunately Jones's daughter, who was in her 90s passed away at about the time we received a copy of the patent.

The lure consisted of a metal harness with a line tie and places to attach six single hooks each of which only slightly protruded from the soft rubber body. The



Note the valve in the top of lure for adding air

body was to be formed or molded in two halves and then attached with an adhesive of some sort around the harness.



Also in this process a cavity was to be formed in each half so as to make a chamber in the top of the lure. The purpose of the chamber was to hold air that could be added through an opening in the chamber. A valve was inserted through which the air could be introduced into the chamber.

Eyes could either be painted or attached to the surface of the lure and any desired decorative color could be added to the

molding compound.

Obviously the shape of the lure could be changed to imitate the shape of the bait fish in any given local area. The disposition of the hooks was designed to make the lure as weedless as possible.

We do not have any evidence that this lure was ever manufactured.

# FATC PAST SHOW MEMORIES



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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# **"JIM BO" LURE**



A March 1954 ad in *Hunting & Fishing Magazine* introduces Jim O. Bryans new **JIM BO** lure. The ad notes that patent is pending and modestly refers to the Jim Bo as, "the most sensational invention in the History of fishing, the lure sensation of the 20th century and the lure of all lures"! The functional claim was that the lure would swim by a unique process of balance and gravity as long as it was left in the water. It was offered in one color, silver leaf plastic, [top left] accomplished by putting glitter in the plastic. The patent had been

applied for on June 17, 1952, by Jim Bryan of Largo, Florida and was granted on April 14, 1959, as patent number; 2,881,549. The object of this invention, according to the patent application, were to provide a fish lure which would [1] move through the water on a plane above the bottom and remain horizontal during movement or allowed to remain stationary [2] not lean or turn sideways across a moving current of water [3] be life-like in it's movement through the water [4] maintain any predetermined height above the bottom of

the water or float upon the surface if desired.

The patent drawing [right] shows how this was to be accomplished by the attachment of the lure to a weight which rested on the bottom while the lure floated up from the weight.



<u></u>

The plastic Jim Bo was 3" inches in length and weighed 3/8oz. and came with painted eye detail and two treble hooks, with a swivel connected to the line tie. Later colors seen for the Jim Bo were; brown, red, green yellow, black, blue silver and gold. It seems that Jim Bryan only mail-ordered his lure or he sold them to individuals, because 90 percent of boxes seen have a mailing label on them. The box was either 3 5/8" x3/4"x2 3/8" or 4 1/8"x3/4"x3", two-piece cardboard in yellow color. Boxes were Stamp "JIMBO" on both end flaps and, note the use of one word.



Some time between 1957 and 1959 Jim Bryan move to Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and started another company for the Jim Bo lure. He named this company "Bryan Manufacturing Company". But now, through an ad in the Outdoor Life Magazine it shows a smaller size bait, and now has a fabric fin above and below the tail. On this ad it also shows that his patent has been granted.

Its not clear if Jim Bryan moved back to Largo, Florida, but he open another company called the "Star Bait Company" and was operating another bait company called the "Star Bait Co." also of Largo, Florida. We do know he was running both the J&R Tackle Co. and the Star Bait Co. at the same time. The J&R Tackle still only offered the three inch, silver flash type lure, while The Star Bait Co. had the Jim Bo with the fabric tail, which was 2 1/8

inches long and Weighed 1/4oz. A little later Star Bait introduced the "Wee Willie", also 2 1/8" and weighed 1/4oz. [right] and came with a fabric tail. The Wee Willie in later catalogs shows that it came with no fabric tail [left] and come in colors; silver, blue silver, gold, silver yel-



low, silver red, and black silver.

The lures were priced at a dollar each or you could buy five lures for four dollars or ten lure for seven dollars and the prices included postage. In addition to the catalog that was with each boxed bait, which talked only about the one lure, there



were four other advertisements in the box. One for a sinker mold from "Reading Instrument Co. of Reading, PA, another was a credit slip which evidently accompanied lures that were sent on approval and indicated there was a five day grace period to either remit one dollar or return the lures. The third insert announced the addition of a new color, black silver. The note read "the best for cloudy days". And the last ad was for a book that Jim O. Bryan wrote; *All the Lords Images*.

A later catalog offers the lure with the name hyphen, Wee-Willie, and with the price increase to \$1.50 per lure or \$12.50 per dozen. The lure in this box is painted; gray scale/yellow belly/black stripes and red splashes at the top fin, the side fins, the tail and chin. The Jim Bo is also offered in this catalog and offers the same colors which leads us to believe that the color described above, is not one of the colors listed in the specifications. The interesting thing about this catalog, is that it shows eight other lures for sale. They are all products of Florida Fishing Tackle-Barracuda Brand. They are listed with Star Bait Co, in bold lettering and Barracuda's name in parenthesis: POE GO [Spark-A-Midget], LO CO [Spark-A-Wiggle], BO BO [Florida Pee Wee], MOM BO [May Wes], SOM BO [Bull Nose Jig], BABY-JO [Baby J Jig], JO JO [Dude] and the PLATO [Dude Fly].



### **"FISH'N CLUB"**

### Charlie Tanner

Over the years I kind of built a small collection of unusual antique reels and a large amount of steel rods. I like to fish and play golf, and thought it would be fun to come up with an item that covered sports as well as playing into tackle collecting. I saw somewhere displayed, a reel that was attached to a golf club, I thought I Could build on this idea and keep within the antique field. I have plenty of old reels that weren't quite considered as rare collectibles. These along with old wood shafted golf clubs that I found at a flea market, got me started on a little business adventure.

I wound agate guides on the wood clubs and attached the reels, and even made a few baits made from a golf ball. I sold quite a few. You could find them in lawyer's office's, restaurants and in the "International Game Fish Museum". The manager of the museum asked me for one which they hung in the E.K. Harry library. One young lady was my first customer at a yard sale. She bought it for her husband for his birthday, and several were bought as gifts for that golfer-fisherman guy. I displayed the "FISH'N Club" a many of the FATC shows, and it received a lot of attention. I guess it was different and funny to see at our shows.



[T] The Golf club pictured is a "SpaldinG", ["G" capitalized on the club] iron called "Thistle" on a wooden shaft. The reel is an Abbey & Imbrie "Duplex" reel.



[L] A letter from the Fishing Hall of Fame thanking me for the "Fish'N Club".



[T] Baits made from golf tees



[T] Advertisement for the fish club

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### **{FATC AD RATES} EFFECTIVE 2020**

Classified "Tackle Box" Ads [Black & White]	\$3.50	1x	\$10.00	3x
Classified "Tackle Box" Ads [Color]	\$5.00	1x	\$12.50	3x
Business Card Ads [Black & White]	\$10.00	1x	\$29.00	3x
Business Card Ads [Color]	\$15.00	1x	\$40.00	3x
1/4-Page Ads [Black & White]	\$50.00	1x	\$120.00	3x
1/4-Page Ads [Color]	\$75.00	1x	\$200.00	3x
1/2-Page Ads [Black & White] "Horizontal"	\$200.00	1x	\$450.00	3x
1/2-Page Ads [Color] "Horizontal"	\$300.00	1x	\$679.00	3x
1/2-Page Ads [Black & White] "Vertical"	\$160.00	1x	\$380.00	3x

### **FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS, INC.** A NOT-FOR-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ANGLING HERITAGE

Florida antique Tackle Collectors, inc. [FATC] is a not-for-profit educational corporation in the state of Florida. The purpose of the FATC is educational through the collection and distribution of historical and technical data regarding fishing equipment, its development, its inventors and manufacturers from the earliest times through the present day and to assist other groups and individuals having a similar purpose. In order enhance the knowledge of these subjects, the collection and preservation of examples of fishing tackle is to be encouraged for the benefit of present and future generations.

FATC was founded in 1987. the founders felt that a statewide organization would provide additional opportunities for residents of Florida and others to learn about the history of angling in Florida and elsewhere. FATC sponsors three exhibitions, open to the public, annually at different locations. At the exhibition members display their collections, interact with the public and engage in other activities in keeping with the purpose of the FATC. The FATC publishes a newsletter tri-annually and annual membership directory. FATC is not affiliated in any way with the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club [NFLCC] or the Old Reel Collectors Association Inc. [ORCA] but encourages FATC members to support those organizations.

FATC annual membership dues are \$35 domestic, \$40Canada, \$45 foreign or \$700 life membership [domestic], \$800 life membership [Canada], \$900 life membership [foreign] 20x annual dues. Please direct membership inquires or applications [with your dues] to the FATC membership director listed above. For membership applications, visit our website at: www.fatc.net



2020 FATC CLUB PATCH



THE 2021 PATCH IS CAPT. JIM STRADER'S DIAMOND EYE LURES "DIAMOND RATTLER"

PATCH WILL BE IN NEXT NEWSLETTER

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE 30TH ANNUAL FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUE FISHING TACKLE SHOW

THE 2021 DAYTONA SHOW HAS BEEN CANCELLED