

The "artificially intelligent" Man-U-Trol sculler, first produced in Powder Springs, GA, and later in Jacksonville, FL by Universal Projects, Inc.



# Florida-Made SCULLERS

BY BILL STUART

(including minor embellishment by the editor, with Bill's permission)

My friend, mentor and personal protector from all things mechanical, Bill Bryan, was the first to introduce me to the sculler and the art of sculling. Although not inherently a mechanical thing, he assumed, and it appears rightly so, that its mastery was well beyond my abilities.

would have been covered with leather or canvas to reduce noise. A piece of soft rope would have been used to attach the oar to the boat or oarlock.

If you will consider for just a moment, the art is two-fold, in that multi-tasking is involved. First, you have to quietly work the oar, then ship the oar, meaning to bring it inboard sufficiently that it would not fall back into the water of its own account, and secondly, you had to fish. By attaching the oar to the boat in one way or another and muffling the process, it helped silence the operation and alleviated the need to ship the oar.

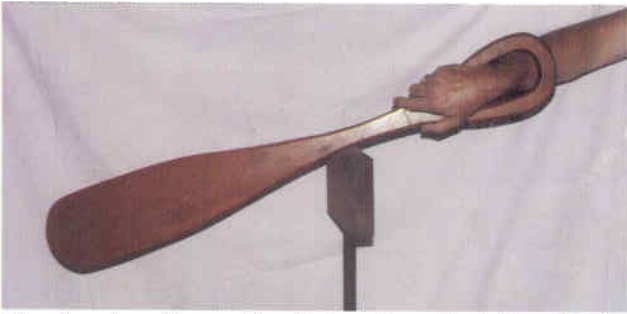
About the same time this evolved, another approach was taken, which was to make the oar so that your arm could pass through it. This was accomplished in several different ways. One was to either make a wooden crotch that attached to the end of the oar, and another was to make the oar out of a flat board where the end could be cut into a crotch. In either case, a leather or rope thong was strung from one side of the crotch to the other, permitting you to insert your arm. The Scull Master products shown here illustrate how this was done.

I am confident that you have read (and if per chance you have not, you certainly should have) the story beginning on page 443 of Vol. II, *Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures*, on William Mack Bryan. If you did, you would know that he had bartered a lure that he had hand made in exchange for lessons in the art of sculling deep in the Okefenokee Swamp. While all of this is most interesting, at least to me, this is not the purpose of this story. My aim is to share a brief survey, of those "store boughten" or manufactured devices made here in our Sunshine State for the purpose of sculling a boat both gently and quietly.

The first scullers were probably just oars or long paddles, and I will refer to all of them as oars for use in this article. These oars were converted for sculling and manipulated from either the rear or the side of the boat to both propel and steer the boat along. Eventually, these were fastened either to the boat, but more probably to a converted oarlock. The oarlock



These photos of the Scull Master, an Arkansas sculler manufactured by Ben Pearson (the archery company) in Pine Bluff, provide another variation with which to compare the four known Florida scullers.



A hand made sculling paddle utilizing a through-hole design for the sculler's arm to pass through. This paddle was made in Florida.



The Ger. Rauglas, Inc. Scull-Ez, made in Minneola, FL from 1946.



Martin's Fishtail Propeller yoke, cast with the Lovell Enterprises, Blue Ridge, GA inscription.



Martin's Fishtail Propeller yoke, recast with Florida Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co. Inc.'s Barracuda Brand inscription from St. Petersburg, FL.

Yet another innovation was to make the oar handle out of a flat board and cut a hole in the flat area into which you could insert your arm. All of these arrangements were actually manufactured, although I am not aware of either of the two Scull Master types being made in Florida. The latter one with the hole in the handle was handmade here in the state.

The earliest known sculler made in Florida was the Scull-Ez, which was manufactured in Minneola by Ger. Rauglas, Inc. It was advertised as "Automatic with Reverse." Rauglas relocated to Aroma Park, Illinois, from whence he advertised the Scull-Ez in 1956. The ad line reads, "Unequaled for Fishing, Duck Hunting, E-Z Trolling – Weedless, Noiseless, Fully Automatic with Reverse. Est. 1946. Used by U.S. Govt. Fully Guaranteed, Dealer or Direct." Note that the sculler was established in 1946, making it the earliest to be made in Florida.

Martin's Fishtail Propeller was the second Florida sculler and was advertised in the August 1947 issue of *Field & Stream* by Florida Fishing Tackle Manufacturing Co., Inc. A full page in their 1948 catalog was devoted to the sculler. It was referred to by Barracuda as "A Fisherman's Pal" and sold for \$24.95 delivered. A copy of that page is shown on page 11 of our FATC News, Vol. 21, Number 4. In unadulterated English, that means the last issue of 2007.

Martin's Fishtail Propeller was originally made in Blue Ridge, Georgia, a small town located on the northern border of the Chattahoochee National Forest, some eleven miles south of the Tennessee state line, southwest of Murphy, North Carolina. It was a patented product, first made by Lovell Enterprises of Blue Ridge, Georgia, and has this information, as well as the U.S. and Canadian patent numbers, in raised letter on the yoke. This lettering indicated that the yoke was cast that way. I assume they were subsequently manufactured by Florida Fishing Tackle in St. Petersburg, possibly under license from Martin's, since FFTMC's catalog ad refers to it as Martin's Fishtail Propeller in small print. However, it is also possible that they were made for FFTMC in Georgia, with Barracuda as jobber/distributor. We do know that at some point, the yoke was cast anew, showing that they were manufactured by FFTMCo., Inc., Barracuda Brand Fishing Tackle in St. Petersburg. FFTMC may have bought the rights and retained the original brand name for market recognition.

The third sculler, the Florida Sneaker Blade, U.S. Patent #2,696,797, was manufactured by Whidden's Welding Works of 915 Benbow Street, Jacksonville, Florida. In ads, brochures, etc., it was sold by either Whidden Products, Inc. or Whidden's. The sculler was designed to be mounted on either the bow or the stern. The drawing in the ad from *The Fisherman's Handbook* for 1955 shows the Sneaker Blade mounted on the bow.

The Sneaker Blade folded in the middle, making it easy to carry. In 1956, it won the "The Sportsman's Club of America Award, for Product Excellence in Design, Craftsmanship and Utility!" About 10 or 12 years ago, I purchased the remnants of the company, which amounted to 4 or 5 prototypes of the mechanism, and that many or more blade shapes. I can personally attest that the difference between the prototypes and the finished product was more than a quantum leap.

The last sculler that I know of is the Man-U-Trol, which was manufactured by Man-U-Trol Motors, Inc. Other information that was cast in the mechanism's housing was that the patent was pending. This sculler was originally made in Powder Springs, Georgia. At some point, I believe to be in the late 1950s, the company was purchased and the operation moved to Jacksonville, Florida. An applied metal label on the housing, obviously covering previous information, reads: "Manufactured by Universal Projects, Inc., 4845 River Basin Drive S., Jacksonville, Fla.

From my research, it appears that the Man-U-Trol was the last sculler to be manufactured. It is, at least to this non-mechanical mind, a marvel of engineering. You operate it with a pump type handle. When you raise the handle, the propeller turns clockwise through the water, and then when you lower the pump handle, the propeller continues to turn in the same direction. My question, in politically correct English, is, "How does it know to do that?" I am reminded of the well worn joke about the three country bumpkins debating over the greatest technological advances of the 20th century. As the joke goes, the first bumpkin submitted that the automobile was greatest, and the second bumpkin argued in favor of the airplane. The third bumpkin, then loudly professed that it must be the Thermos bottle. He said "it keeps cold things cold, and it keeps hot things hot". The other two bumpkins scratched their head and said "yeah, that is cool, but how do it know?" In any event, I overheard someone opine aloud that the Man-U-Trol did that because it had a pinion gear in the shaft, whatever that is and or means... ?

An acquaintance loaned me a Man-U-Trol for the Museum of Fishing in 1988, which he was still using, taking it along on the flight every year for his annual fishing trip to Canada. I was able to return it to him some years later when I was fortunate enough to purchase one NIB. It is currently on display at the Polk County Historical Museum in Bartow.

There are perhaps other scullers made in Florida, but I have not learned of them in the past umpteen years. In the beginning, not in the bible, but in my story, I told you that Bill Bryan was multi-tasking "when we was using" the sculler. I realize that the word is inclusive, but I should note that he was actually doing three things at the same time. First, he was operating the sculler; secondly, he was making sure that my cast (bait, fly or spinning) could not quite reach the weed line; and thirdly, he was catching more fish than I. Bill would never have allowed me to operate any of the above listed mechanical devices!



The cast inscription for the housing of the Man-U-Trol. What made the Man-U-Trol so smart was the mysterious pinion gear referenced by Bill Stuart.

*A fishermans pal*

**FISHTAIL PROPELLER**

HERE'S ONE OF THE NEWEST PIECES OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE SPORTSMAN THAT WILL GIVE HIM WORLDS OF PLEASURE...

MARTIN'S FISHTAIL PROPELLER IS AN IMPROVED MECHANICAL ADAPTATION OF THE SIMPLEST AND CERTAINLY THE MOST EFFICIENT PROPELLING METHOD KNOWN IN WATER, THAT OF THE FISHTAIL ITSELF.

MANUFACTURED FROM TOP GRADE MATERIAL TO GIVE YOU YEARS OF SATISFACTORY SERVICE--THE INITIAL COST IS THE ONLY COST AND THERE IS NO UPKEEP...

RETAILS AT 24<sup>95</sup>

Martin's Fishtail Propeller advertisement, first introduced in the 1948 6P and 1948 7P FFTMC Barracuda Brand catalogs, with Carl Reynolds at the helm.

**FLORIDA SNEAKER BLADE**  
AUTOMATIC SCULLING

PAT. PEND

IT PROPELLS AND STEERS YOUR BOAT WHILE YOU ARE FISHING

OPERATES... ON BOW OR STERN

No More Taking Turns At The Oars Or Paddle --- Because Every Sport Fisherman's Dream Has Come True In The Sneaker.

Endorsed By Angling Experts. Write For Literature.

**WHIDDEN'S**  
917 BENBOW ST. JACKSONVILLE 9, FLA.

This Florida Sneaker Blade advertisement ran in the 1955 issue of *The Fisherman's Handbook*. Manufactured by Whidden's Welding Works of Jacksonville, FL, the Sneaker Blade won "The Sportsman's Club of America Award, for Product Excellence in Design, Craftmanship and Utility!" the following year.

GREENE # 709  
930 N TAMIAHI TRL.  
SARASOTA, FL 34236

WEST PALM BEACH FL 334

A note of thanks and appreciation  
to all members of our great "Florida  
Antique Tackle Collectors Club."  
Never in all of my 90+ years have  
I ever been associated with a finer  
group of Ladies and Gentlemen. You have  
stood by me in times of sorrow and  
stress and I have always been the better  
for your caring ways. And you have  
also enriched my pocket from time to  
time.

Now the time has come for me  
to sit back and enjoy my declining  
years. So with that in mind, I am  
selling my home of 26 years, my Van  
and RV and moving to a apt. in  
Sarasota. No more stress, no taxes etc.  
I will be near my sister who lives just two  
floors above me at 930N Tamiami Trl.  
Sarasota FL 34236 # 709 no phone  
as yet. I hope to be able to attend a few of  
the tackle meets from time to time.

I wish every one of you Health, Wealth  
and happiness and may God bless each and  
every one of you.

With all sincerity I am  
Bill Greene



**Plymouth Barracuda/Cuda Owners Club.**  
Recognizing all Barracuda/Cuda cars 1964-  
74. Excellent bi-monthly bulletins, pictures of  
member cars, membership roster, advertis-  
ing. Information free to members. Sample  
bulletin \$2. Dues \$16 per year U.S., Canada  
(\$20 per year foreign). Must remit U.S. funds.  
Plymouth Barracuda Owners Club, 36 Wood-  
land Rd., East Greenwich, RI 02818-3430

MUSCLECAR ENTHUSIAST 89

Bob Baugher offers an  
update of the mystery  
Barracuda Patch shown  
in Volume 21, Number  
3. The patch and the  
club have now been  
revised to include  
"Cuda" owners as well.

Hi Steve

I was getting a oil  
change on my truck &  
reading a musclecar Magazine  
from the rack in lobby and  
ran across this in the back  
pages.

Bob

## Past & CURRENT

NOTES OF INTEREST

...CONTINUED

◀ Left: Long time FATC member, Bill Greene, and his heartfelt note of thanks to FATC for all the good times. We wish Bill well in his new home, and hope to see him at future FATC meets.

## Stop the Presses! Late Breaking News!

After negotiations fell through with Bass Pro Shops, Lloyd Jett and Mr. Devoe Moore of Tallahassee, have cut a deal... Mr. Moore has acquired Lloyd's entire Florida Lure collection, thought by many advanced collectors to be one of the most extensive and complete Florida Lure assemblages currently available. Mr. Moore is the owner of the Tallahassee Antique Auto Museum, where last year's FATC Spring Show was held. Mr. Moore has been expanding the Museum with a new, two-story building, and Lloyd's contribution will be a wonderful asset. The good news is that we will still be able to enjoy viewing Lloyd's collection, and the bad news is he has no traders available! Knowing Lloyd, he's probably already amassing another collection, and I can't wait to see it... congratulations to Lloyd and Devoe!

Steve

# Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures Vols. I – VI

price for US delivery Vol. I – V, \$42 includes ph&i (Vol. VI, \$49 includes ph&i)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Florida Lure Want List

- Eger Pork Rind Bottle
- Eger Reel
- Eger Rod
- Eger Spool of Line
- Jim Pfeffer Sunfish
- Jim Pfeffer Pigfish
- Jim Pfeffer Mullet
- Porter Gator Bait
- Porter Orange Box
- Early Period Robinson Lures
- Early Robinson Fly Rod lures
- Dazzy Vance Wooden Box
- Dazzy Vance 2pccb Box
- Dazzy Vance Lures

## Fly Rod Lure Want List

- Francis Fly Co. Catalog & other information
- E. H. Peckinpaugh Flies/Lures:
  - Alma bug NOC
  - Fish Getter Hopper Fly NOC
  - Jake Scott Twin Hook Pattern
  - Hickman Fly Pattern NOC
- Floating Night Bug w/ single hook
- Dick Splain Bone Fish Fly NOC
- Dick Splain Salt Water Fly NOC
- Skitter Frog NOC
- Mousie w/ cork body & Rub. Legs
- Froggie w/ cork body & Rub. Legs
- Ted Williams Spin-Pop & Fly-Pop Flies
- Peckinpaugh Doodle Bug (a.k.a. Lucky Bug)

Pony (any breed)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Bill Stuart

The Museum of Fishing  
PO Box 1378  
Bartow, FL 33831

tele: 863-533-7358

Bstuartmof@aol.com

# Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ANGLING HERITAGE

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc. (FATC) is a non-profit, educational corporation, incorporated in the State of Florida. The purpose of 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 to 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 more about the history of angling in Florida and elsewhere. FATC sponsors four exhibitions, open to the public, annually at different Florida

locations. At the exhibitions members display their collections, interact with the public, and engage in other activities in keeping with the purpose of FATC. FATC publishes a newsletter quarterly, and an annual membership directory. FATC is not affiliated in any way with the National Fishing Lure Collector's 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, \$40 Canada, \$45 Foreign or \$700 (Domestic) Life Membership, \$800 (Canada) Life Membership, and \$900 (Foreign) Life Membership (20x annual dues). Please direct membership inquiries or applications (with your dues) to the FATC Secretary listed below.

<b>F A T C  A D R A T E S</b>	<b>Classified "Tackle Box" ads</b>	<b>\$3.50 1x</b>	<b>\$12.00 4x</b>	<b>E F F E C T I V E  2 0 0 8</b>
	<b>Business Card ads (black &amp; white)</b>	<b>10.00 1x</b>	<b>36.00 4x</b>	
	<b>¼ page black &amp; white ads</b>	<b>50.00 1x</b>	<b>160.00 4x</b>	
	<b>½ page black &amp; white ads</b>	<b>90.00 1x</b>	<b>285.00 4x</b>	
	<b>Full page black &amp; white ads</b>	<b>160.00 1x</b>	<b>512.00 4x</b>	
	<b>½ page color horizontal</b>	<b>200.00 1x</b>	<b>600.00 4x</b>	
	<b>Outside back cover – color (horizontal only)</b>	<b>275.00 1x</b>	<b>825.00 4x</b>	
	<b>½ page color (Contents page only – vertical)</b>	<b>300.00 1x</b>	<b>900.00 4x</b>	
	<b>Full page color (except covers or center)</b>	<b>375.00 1x</b>	<b>1,200.00 4x</b>	
	<b>    Inside front or back cover</b>	<b>525.00 1x</b>	<b>1,575.00 4x</b>	
<b>    Single center page</b>	<b>450.00 1x</b>	<b>1,350.00 4x</b>		
<b>Centerfold (No vertical center gutter)</b>	<b>850.00 1x</b>	<b>2,550.00 4x</b>		

The FATC News is the quarterly publication of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

President

**Larry Lucas**, 386-254-5179, porterman@cfl.rr.com

Vice President

**Mike Mais**, 352-622-2868, mmais68569@mindspring.com

Secretary

**Ed Bauries**, 561-358-1132 (Cell), tara\_ed@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

**Lloyd and Sally Jett**, 850-442-9084, lsjett@aol.com

Auction Chair

**Jay Zuhlke**, 321-749-0615 (Cell), candyz@bellsouth.net

Awards Chair

**Chuck Heddon**, 407-862-7562, cheddon@mpinet.net

**Ed Weston**, 561-622-9282, enotsew@hotmail.com

Directors

**Chuck Heddon**, 407-862-7562, cheddon@mpinet.net

**Ed Weston**, 561-622-9282, enotsew@hotmail.com

**Don Morrow**, 727-856-1534, wor2rom@verizon.net

**Mike Sims**, 954-565-3740, alfossboss@hotmail.com

**Norm Pinardi**, 841-792-1671, njpinardi@aol.com

**John Mack**, 205-591-7205, jlmack@bellsouth.net

**Paul Snider**, 850-458-2111, paulsinder@cox.net

**Dennis McNulty**, 757-576-6221, macslure@cox.net

**Ed Pritchard**, 561-748-7508, reeltackle@aol.com

**Ron Gast**, 407-933-7435, rkgast@cfl.rr.com

FATC Newsletter Editor

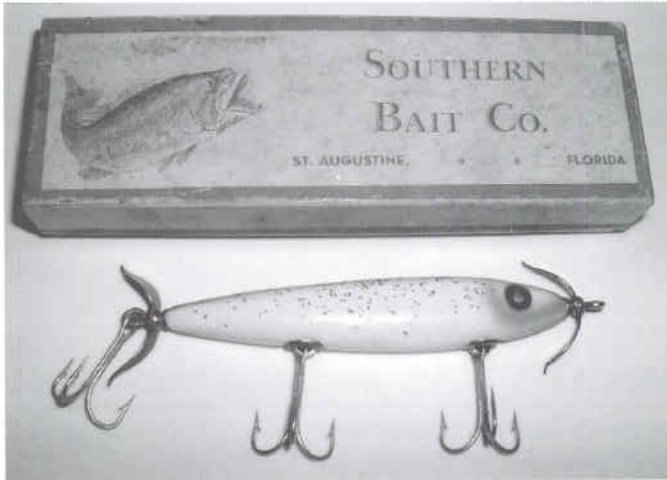
**Steven W. Cox**, P.O. Box 288, Panama City, FL 32402  
850-769-5594 (H), 850-769-5585 (W), 850-784-3829 (F),  
econfinatackle@knology.net, or swcoxclu@knology.net



## WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE

**SOUTHERN BAIT COMPANY,  
FLORIDA LURE BOXES, LURES OR  
LITERATURE**

Frank Carter, Tallahassee, FL  
850-574-9718 email: fandi@comcast.net



**WANTED:**  
FOR CASH OR TRADE  
BENDER & FLYNN AND TOUGH  
COLOR BENDER BAITS AND  
EARLY BOXES;  
ALSO,  
NICE BARRACUDA GLASS AND  
PAINTED EYE LURES/BOXES  
STEVE COX swcoxclu@knology.net  
or econfinataackle@knology.net  
850-769-5585 (O) 850-769-5594 (H)

## HELP WANTED:

Need information, ads, catalogs,  
fly lures, etc. on Basil Gilmore; the  
Naturalure Bait Company of Kansas,  
Missouri; Gilmore Tackle Company  
of Windsor, Missouri and the  
Natural Fly Company of Windsor,  
Missouri. Your help and assistance  
will be gratefully appreciated.

Ralph Hecht  
1-561-848-2922  
email: krhet@aol.com

Ron & Judy Schelfo invite you to visit ...



**RON'S TACKLE BOX, LLC**  
*The Old Angler's Antique Gallery*

Fishing Licenses  
SOLD HERE

380 S. Lake Shore Way  
Lake Alfred, FL 33850

Phone: (863) 956-4990

Fax: (863) 956-2525

Email: tackleguy@tampabay.rr.com

"Full Service Bait & Tackle"  
Live Bait - Cast Nets - Tons of Tackle!  
*Antique/Collectible Tackle Specialists*  
Beautiful Game & Fish Mounts  
Novelty Gifts - Décor - Clothing

**OPEN**

Mon - Sat 6am-6pm

*The Old Angler's  
Antique Gallery*

**CENTRAL FLORIDA'S BEST SELECTION OF  
ANTIQUE/COLLECTIBLE FISHING TACKLE & LURES**

Artist Original Carvings & Prints.

Collector Knives & Other Specialized Collectibles

Beautiful Game & Fish Mounts

**Secure Dealer Space Available**

*Great Opportunity for Specialized Dealers to Display in a "Uneek" Environment*

*In addition to The Old Angler's selections, RON'S TACKLE BOX, LLC offers a huge inventory of older collectible "new in the package" lures, along with a fantastic assortment of clothing, novelty gifts, and decorative items sporting a fishing/hunting/outdoors theme. FATC Members receive a 20% discount on RETAIL PURCHASES ONLY when mentioning this ad. Hope to see you soon!!!*

# The Origins and Early History of

## PART 1

Our long time former President, Secretary, Co-Founder, and current Board Member, Ron Gast, delivered an 8" stack of files containing the early history of FATC to me at the Daytona meet this February. These files represent a wealth of information about the origins of FATC, beginning with the first organizational meeting, masquerading as an NFLCC regional meet at Larsen's Lodge in Kissimmee, May 22nd and 23rd, 1987. From the documentation included in Ron's files, it seems that the insurgents from Florida met with more than a small amount of resistance from the National Club, but that's another story for another issue of FATC news.

### NFLCC #1 May 22nd and 23rd, 1987

**Larsen's Lodge, Kissimmee** **Host:** Ron Gast  
(NFLCC Meet/Florida collectors pitch the concept of Florida being its own NFLCC region)

39 NFLCC members registered  
Tables were \$5.00, 30 tables sold (Ed Weston had 4 of them!)  
**Rooms:** \$29  
No mention of an auction...  
**Meet profit:** \$40

### NFLCC #2 November 6th and 7th, 1987

**Orlando, Hotel unknown** **Host:** Ron Gast (probably)  
(Cool reception to a separate Florida region by NFLCC, first serious rumblings of a Florida Club)

24 NFLCC members registered, plus 58 non-members and "casual accumulators"  
**Auction:** \$1,300  
**Meet profit:** \$124 to benefit the Orange County Historical Museum



AUCTION  
ACTION  
HOT, HEAVY

Don Morrow shows form with pair of baitcasters. Top plugs brought \$550, \$650 in member-only auction. Next one set for May 6-7.

This photo, from the Vero Beach Show, appeared in the April 1989 Newsletter.



For our purposes in this article, I have attempted to compile a list (in chronological order) of the first five years of FATC's regional meets and auctions. While informative, the list does suffer from gaps in available data, and I urge any of the participants, show hosts, attendees, etc. to jump in and provide the missing info whenever possible. Subsequent issues of FATC News will continue the story of our club.

*Steve*

### FATC #1 February 27th and 28th, 1988

**Larsen's Lodge, Kissimmee** **Host:** Ron Gast  
(FATC organizational meet)

41 registered, 45 attended  
Tables were \$10, 27 tables sold  
**Rooms:** \$55 doubles only, due to peak season  
**Auction:** \$1,100  
**Meet profit:** unknown

Three consecutive auctions were held.

- #1 Items brought in by general public
- #2 Items donated by collectors
- #3 Items auctioned by club members

A trader board was first attempted, where lures could be pinned to the board in bags and traded on the honor system for single or multiple lures of equivalent value!

A club store was available for the purchase of hook protectors, collector books, display cabinets, etc., with net proceeds retained by the club.

### FATC #2 May 28th and 29th, 1988

**Radisson Plaza Hotel, Orlando** **Host:** Steve Fussell

# registered unknown  
Tables were \$12 (Wall) and \$8 (Aisle), tables sold unknown  
**Auction:** \$5,000  
**Meet profit:** \$1,000

Auction highlights included a Cox Tampa Bay Minnow which sold for \$500, a new high — the two previous ones sold at prior auctions brought \$150 each! A glass eyed Eger Grass Frog sold for \$300 and a glass eyed Florida Special sold for \$100. Chuck Heddon picked up a Heddon #20 in goldfish scale for \$20, after accidentally outbidding his own prior bid of \$15!



**FATC #3** *August 20th and 21st, 1988*

**Orlando Marriott, Orlando** Host: unknown

31 FATC members registered, plus 22 guests  
 Tables were \$10 (Wall) and \$8 (Aisle), 44 tables sold  
Auction: \$1,600  
Meet profit: \$300

**FATC #4** *December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1988*

**Sheraton Harley Sandcastle Hotel on Lido Beach, Sarasota** Host: Norm Pinardi

52 FATC members registered, plus 147 guests!  
 Table price unknown, 52 tables sold  
Rooms: \$60 special rate  
Auction: \$5,300  
Meet profit: \$150 plus \$674.55 for the Florida Conservation Association

A walk-in Chapman Allure-type Spinner brought \$150 at the auction and the gentleman claimed to have an additional 8 or 10 back home, along with written documentation from Mr. Chapman.

**FATC #5** *February 26th and 27th, 1989*

**Holiday Inn West, Vero Beach** Hosts: Charlie and Gwyn Price

50+ FATC members registered, guests unknown  
 Table price unknown, 58 tables sold  
Rooms: \$46 single, \$52 double  
Auction: \$7,900  
Meet profit: \$1,400

This meet was the sight of FATC's first annual banquet, business meeting, and awards dinner. The menu included fried chicken, honey glazed ham, whipped potatoes, rice pilaf, mixed veggies, corn, assorted dinner rolls and breads, a variety of desserts and choice of beverage, all for \$10.25 per person, with children @ half price. A cash bar was available during the buffet!

Top auction items were 2 Shakespeare Muskie Wooden Minnows with see-through hardware at \$650 and \$550 each, and Clyde Harbin's first known Blue Springs Humpy Dumpy in the box for \$240.

During the business meeting, new officers were elected, and membership had increased to 170, including 26 life members.

**FATC #6** *May 6th and 7th, 1989*

**Holiday Inn - Bay Meadows, Jacksonville** Host: Richard Look

46 FATC members registered, plus 64 guests  
 Table price unknown, 49 tables sold  
Auction: \$8,100  
Meet profit: \$250

An NIB "Lulu" made in Jacksonville in the 1970s sold for an unbelievable \$40, only because it was a Florida bait. Subsequent "Lulus" did not fare so well, as everyone in attendance was scrambling to find this cheap bait and turn a quick profit, thereby flooding the market with "Lulus" and invoking the classic economic principle of supply and demand, seasoned with a touch of unmitigated greed! The first test of the new FATC rules on street tackle brought into the show was a success, and the incident was resolved in a honorable fashion. The club passed the test with flying colors!

**FATC #7** *September 2nd and 3rd, 1989*

**St. Petersburg Hilton, St. Petersburg** Host: Randall Glenn

60 FATC members registered, plus 165 guests  
 Table price unknown, 63 tables sold initially, expanded to 75  
Auction: \$8,700  
Meet profit: \$950

Auction highlights featured a glass eyed feathered Torpeduca in frog spot that sold for \$450 and a 1931 Orlando Bait Company "Ocala Bugler" in a well worn box, which brought a price previously unheard of, \$500!

**FATC #8** *November 17th, 18th, and 19th, 1989*

**Jenkins Civic Auditorium, Flagship Inn, Clermont** Co-Hosts: Steve Fussell Wade Holt

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
 Tables were \$12 (Wall), \$10 (Aisle), tables sold unknown  
Rooms: \$22 Single / \$26 Double  
Auction: results unknown  
Meet profit: unknown

This show was heavily advertised and well attended, although records are currently unavailable.

Clyde Harbin moderated a special presentation on the history of the Heddon Family, including Chuck Heddon, his father Jim, and Carl Stokes, whose home was formerly owned by W.T. and Laura Heddon. At the time, this was the most elaborate educational session attempted by FATC for its membership.



◀ Left: The first two FATC embroidered patches. On the far left, the Flood "Shinner" from November, 1990, made its debut at the Fort Myers show. On the immediate left, the Jim Pfeffer patch, was introduced at the Bartow show in January, 1992.

**FATC #9** *February 25th and 26th, 1990***Holiday Inn, Vero Beach** **Host:** Charlie Price

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Table prices and number sold unknown

**Auction:** results unknown**Meet profit:** unknown

Charlie Price's whereabouts also unknown. Has anybody seen Charlie Price?

**FATC #10** *June 9th and 10th, 1990***Holiday Inn, Palm Beach Gardens** **Host:** unknown

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Table prices and number sold unknown

**Auction:** results unknown**Meet profit:** unknown

Details lost in the Twilight Zone...

**FATC #11** *August 25th and 26th, 1990***Deland Hilton, Deland** **Host:** unknown

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Table prices and number sold unknown

**Auction:** results unknown**Meet profit:** unknown

Steve Fussell had resigned as FATC News editor, and a gap in the newsletters occurred during this time in the club's history. Bill Stuart Jr. is elected as editor, and the board adopts a new auction reserve policy.

The FATC logo committee adopted the new (current) FATC logo at this meet.

Reels were highlighted in this auction, with a Keiper fly reel selling for \$725, a Jack Welch reel bringing \$450, a Horton Meek #3 Tournament Reel coming in third at \$410, and an early English Pin Reel a close fourth at \$400.

**FATC #12** *November 10th and 11th, 1990***Sheraton Harbor Place, Fort Myers** **Co-Hosts:** Jim Supej  
Fred Kerr

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Tables were \$15, 76 tables sold

**Auction:** \$15,000 +**Meet profit:** unknown

As of 10/22/90, membership level was at 279. With new members recruited at this show, total membership then exceeded 300. A hospitality room was featured on Friday evening, November 9th, and fishing tackle raffles were held both days of the show. A Meek Reel raffle resulted in a happy Bob Bebee of Tennessee, winner of the Meek. One couple consigning a large quantity of tackle to the auction, left almost \$9,000 richer! The first FATC embroidered patch (Flood Minnow) was introduced and 89 were sold at \$5 each. One week after the show, Bill Stuart's Museum of Fishing opened on November 16th, 1990.

**FATC #13** *February 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1991***Holiday Inn, Riverfront, Bradenton** **Host:** Norm Pinardi

FATC member and guest attendance unknown, but a large crowd was evident by the auction results.

Table prices and number sold unknown

**Auction:** \$18,501.25**Meet profit:** \$744

Don Morrow oversaw this 9 hour marathon auction, where a B.C. Milam reel raised \$1,000, a Talbot sold for \$500, and a Pflueger All-In-One brought \$290. A \$350 bid was required to take home the rare 1860 Orvis with the handmade case.

**FATC #14** *May 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1991***Holiday Inn, Central Park, Orlando** **Host:** Jim Strickland

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Tables were \$12 (wall) and \$10 (Aisle), tables sold unknown

**Rooms:** \$52 single / \$58 double**Auction:** \$13,192**Meet profit:** \$1,507

A two-session auction was held with a number of nice reels selling at impressive prices. A Talbot Niangua from Nevada, Missouri commanded \$600, and an Edward Vom Hofe open wire frame reel brought \$300. A very unusual "A.B. Shipley and Son" 2:1 multiplying fly reel in No. 3 size turned up as well.

On the lure front, two extremely rare Pflueger rubber baits, an 1892 7" Muskellunge Minnow, and a fish spearing decoy reported selling for large, but undisclosed sums.

**FATC #15** *August 9th, 10th and 11th, 1991***Steinbrenner's Yankee Ramada Inn, Ocala** **Host:** Ron Gast

FATC member and guest attendance unknown, but HUGE!  
Table prices and number sold unknown

**Rooms:** \$42 single, \$46 double**Auction:** \$24,300**Meet profit:** unknown

The Ocala show raised the largest total proceeds up to that point, for an FATC auction!

Charlie Price resurfaced with a Creek Chub "Flip Flap", which was sold or traded by him 5 separate times within 48 hours, each time at a profit!

FATC's new membership directory was first available at this show. The idea for a Carolina club and show emerged in Ocala, and CATC's first show was held six weeks later on September 27th - 29th in Spartanburg, SC.

**FATC #16** November 15th, 16th, and 17th, 1991

**Civic Center, New Port Richey** Host: Don Morrow

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Table prices and number sold unknown

Auction: results unknown

Meet profit: unknown

Don Morrow hosted as well as serving as our Auctioneer. The auction continued to be very long, with increasing numbers of tackle lots being consigned. Bill Stuart was assigned the task of streamlining the auction process for future shows.

**FATC #17** January 17th, 18th, and 19th, 1992

**Civic Center, Bartow** Host: Bill Stuart, Jr.

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Table prices and number sold unknown

Auction: results unknown

Meet profit: unknown

The first attempt at a silent auction by FATC apparently occurred in Bartow. Bill also established the first guaranteed Saturday slots for consignors so that they could be assured to have some of their items in the first auction, Saturday evening, rather than having to wait until the second auction on Sunday afternoon. It had been recognized for some time that the final day auction was not as lucrative or productive as the earlier one(s), if for no other reason than the difficulty many members had scheduling their stay for the length of time required to attend.

FATC's second embroidered patch (Jim Pfeffer) was introduced at the show.

**FATC #18** March 20th and 21st, 1992

**Mini Swap Meet, Larsen's Lodge, Kissimmee**

No attendance records available  
No auction held

This, the first FATC "Mini-Meet", was reportedly a great success for room trading.

George DeBay brought a huge cache of tackle and Wade Holt turned up with his gigantic Flood "Shinner" find.

**FATC #19** May 29th, 30th and 31st, 1992

**Howard Johnson's, Daytona Beach** Co-Hosts: Ray Heffington  
Issy Mervin

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Table prices and number sold unknown

Auction: results unknown

Meet profit: unknown

Our first "Daytona Show", but not the first International! The Ho Jo was awarded the "hotel with the slowest elevator" prize. The auction was large and long, but longer than necessary, with over 100 lots selling for less than \$25 each, and another 100 selling for less than \$50 each. This further illustrated the concept of the silent auction for these lower priced lots. However, at least one couple from Oklawaha was happy with the results, having previously turned down an offer of \$500 at a flea market, then consigning their tackle box and contents to the auction, where it grossed nearly \$2,800 by itself!

**FATC #20** August 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 1992

**Florida Expo Center, Hampton Inn, Margate (Ft. Lauderdale)** Co-Hosts: Mike Sims  
Ed Weston

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Table prices and number sold unknown

Auction: results N/A

Meet profit: unknown

This was the show that could very well have been the **last** show, as Hurricane Andrew (with its 165 mph winds) caused all in attendance to scatter, thereby cancelling the rest of the show and the Sunday auction in its entirety. Several club members were forced to make unexpected renovations to their homes after uninvited guest Andy plowed through south Florida.

**FATC #21** November 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 1992

**KOA Campground Convention Center, Okeechobee** Host: Issy Mervin

FATC member and guest attendance unknown  
Table prices and number sold unknown

Auction: results unknown

Meet profit: unknown

The Okeechobee show resulted in more new member applications than any other show at the time. Per president Charlie Price's newsletter message, a young lady "waltzed in with a small tackle box containing two plastic Hula Poppers, a Rebel, and a C.1910 Shakespeare Minnow in the correct box. When it fetched \$375 in the auction, I thought I was going to have to call an ambulance for her." Jim Wiley handled the auction, with Don Morrow assisting, and some of the top items were: a Shakespeare Evolution, which raised \$375, a 1/2 Horsepower ELTO outboard at \$280, a Shakespeare 722 Underwater Minnow for \$450, a 9" Hardy Fortuna reel and matching Hardy rod bringing \$1,200, a Tycoon Bimini King rod at \$300, and a five treble hook Shakespeare Underwater Minnow in the correct box for \$350. The sale of the day occurred when one member literally stole a \$37.50 display case donated to the club, for the very reasonable price of \$110!

*After five years the die was cast; it was now apparent, this club would last!*

**Stay tuned for Part 2!**



Published by the Florida  
Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.  
Send Dues check or  
money order payable to:  
FATC, P.O. Box 2877,  
Jupiter, FL 33468-2877



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Lang's Spring Auction**

April 25, 26, 2008  
The Holiday Inn, Boxborough, Massachusetts  
Phone: (978) 263-8701 - Route 495 Exit 28

### **FATC Spring Show**

May 2 - 4, 2008  
Mark W. Lance National Guard Armory, St. Augustine, FL  
Show Host: Mike Hall, flalake@aol.com  
904-725-0785 or 904-727-5011

### **FATC Summer Show**

August 22 - 24, 2008  
Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Petersburg Beach, FL  
Show Host: Ron Gast, rkgast@cfl.rr.com  
407-933-7435

### **FATC Fall Show**

October, 2008 (exact date TBA)  
Crystal River, FL  
Show Host: Mike Mais, mmais68569@mindspring.com  
352-622-2868

### **NFLCC Regional Meet Calendar**

April 19, 2008, Effingham, IL... 217-644-2294 or 217-868-2427  
May 3, 2008, Kansas City, MO... 816-350-0255  
July 10, 11, 12, 2008, The National, Peoria, IL... 309-853-8439  
August 23, 2008, Rochester, MN... 763-557-9313 or 262-632-4735  
September 26 - 27, 2008, Decatur, AL... 256-355-6726 or 256-565-8191  
October 4, 2008, Wisconsin Dells, WI... 715-877-3328  
Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 2008, Kelso, WA... 360-274-8045 or 206-526-5814  
November 7 - 8, 2008, Osage Beach, MO... 573-480-3939 or 573-793-3303  
January 9 - 10, 2009, Pigeon Forge, TN... 615-449-5431

### **CATC Fall Show**

October 10-11, 2008  
Days Inn Conference Center, Southern Pines, NC  
Show Hosts: Ralph and Chris Acker  
cracker4121@embarqmail.com  
910-949-2342



### **The FATC News**

P.O. Box 288  
Panama City, Florida 32402

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO 33  
PANAMA CITY FL