

Sea Trail Fishing Club Member's Meeting – March 19, 2026

Pink Palace, Sea Trail Plantation, 295 Rice Mill Circle, Sunset Beach, NC

The meeting was called to order circa 6:30 PM by President, Mike Shannon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 51 members and guests in attendance.

New members Rodney Long, Chuck Riley, and Doug Harmonson were welcomed to the club.

Four guests, Capt. Rick Roberts, Mike O'Grady, Jon Horne, and Arthur Gerry were also welcomed.

The Meeting Agenda was presented and approved without change.

Minutes of the February 19th Member's Meeting were presented and approved by the members in attendance.

Treasurer, Nick Leb gave a brief update on Club finances. Nick's presentation was well received and the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. Cash balance was \$9,392 with current liabilities of \$1,300 (2026 tournament awards). There were 141 club members as of the date of the meeting.

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, Mike Shannon provided highlights of recent Board actions which//included the introduction of a Junior Membership program to solicit interest of younger people to get engaged in fishing. The program offers membership at a reduced rate (\$10). Mike also reviewed the status of membership cards. Due to the cost of postage, the cards will no longer be mailed to members unless they provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope with their dues. The remainder of the cards will be distributed during club meetings or in person as people sign up to join the club.

Buddy next went over the status of the Club's apparel offerings. He will order tee shirts with the club logo (front and back) for \$20, any color desired, as long as he gets the minimum number (10) required by the vendor. Buddy also discussed the upcoming Meet the Captains event hosted by Dave's. He said that the Club was purchasing several youth fishing rods to be raffled at the event. If interested in supporting this effort, donations were being accepted.

Steve Pendergras introduced Rick Roberts and Mike O'Grady who were representing the "Those Who Served" non-profit organization. Rick gave a brief overview of his organization's goals and objectives which is to take veterans fishing. The organization has purchased a pontoon boat in support of this initiative which has been retro-fitted to be handicapped accessible and is moored at Cricket Cove Marina. There are currently two captains involved. There are several upcoming events and club member Bob White is actively involved as a member of the

organization's Board of Directors. Mr. Roberts's presentation was very well received by the membership in attendance.

Next, Speaker Captain Chris of Coastal Marsh Charters presented a seminar on flounder fishing. Some points discussed include:

- * Flounder can only be kept if caught and taken out in South Carolina (SC). Flounder caught in South Carolina cannot be taken into North Carolina when fishing across the borders.
- * SC released 10,000 flounder recently in Murrels Inlet.
- * There are three types of flounder available in local waters including Southern Flounder, Summer Flounder (fluke), and Gulf Flounder. They can be distinguished by their markings.
- * Chris prefers using a Carolina rig with a small (12") leader and $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 oz weight and a 3/0 – 4/0 kale hook.
- * When looking for flounder, the salinity of the water is critical. Fishing near inlets is productive.
- * When looking for flounder, identify if there is bait in the area.
- * Weather is also critical, paying attention to changing frontal systems.
- * Look for moving water, or establish a drift. Flounder do not typically prefer standing water and baits.
- * Fish the wind protected banks for best results.
- * Live bait (menhaden, finger mullet, shrimp) is by far preferred.
- * Hook live bait through the lips from the bottom up.
- * If fishing artificials, he prefers 3" – 5" Zman paddle tails with a red or chartreuse jig head.
- * Water temperature needs to be above 65 degrees for best results. The warmer, the better.

Chris finished his presentation and fielded numerous questions. Coastal Marsh Charters is out of Cricket Cove Marina in SC.

Mike Sutton explained the fish fry was this coming Saturday and he passed around a sign-up sheet to facilitate who would be in attendance, and what they were planning on bringing. Setup was scheduled for 10:00 AM, serving begins at 11:30 AM, and cleanup and venue closure by 2:30 PM.

Mike Sutton also reviewed the upcoming Meet the Captain sponsored by Dave's on April 12th. Setup for that event will begin at 7:30 AM. He passed around a signup sheet to ensure sufficient coverage of the Club's table for the duration of the event.

Brian Brumbaugh reviewed the fishing events and recognized the committee that oversees this aspect of the Club's operation. Specifically:

- * There are 23 members signed up for the annual tournament so far.
- * A Spanish Mackerel event will be hosted on the pier April 24th with a prize pool of \$200.
- * A speckled trout tournament will be planned for the pier, pending the lifting of the current closure and if trout are still being taken at that time.
- * A red drum boat tournament is being planned.
- * A flounder tournament will be held in September.
- * A bull drum tournament is planned for October
- * A training session to cover fishing basics is planned for April 27th at the Pink Palace.

Steve Heins covered the upcoming Sunset Beach Town event on May 9th. The event theme will be "Green Wave" and will be ecology focused. The Club has been asked to have a presence and Steve is looking for ecology related ideas as they pertain to the Club. He is also looking for volunteers to assist with this event.

Alan Trojan spoke next. Alan is attempting to restart a local chapter of the CCA (Coastal Conservation Association). They are meeting the second Monday of each quarter at Sunset Prime.

Bob White discussed the upcoming "Those Who Served" fund raising event scheduled for April 28th. Bob also continues as the Club's coordinator for surf fishing events. If you have an interest in surf fishing, see Bob to get on his list of contacts. Bob also reviewed the recent Club member trout fishing trip to North Wilkesboro, NC.

Steve Heins said there was an upcoming memorial brick laying in honor of recently deceased Club member Larry Hershall.

Mike Shannon closed by saying the Club is seeking team members to assist in various functions such as events planning and the Club is also still seeking a volunteer to handle public relations (e.g., photography, publishing, etc.).

A door prize, donated by Dave's, was awarded to Mark Scarpo.

The 50:50 Drawing was won by member Jim Nolan and was \$108. The Club retained \$107.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted: Jim Baumgartner, STFC Club Secretary