

Sea Trail Fishing Club Member's Meeting – April 16, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President, Mike Shannon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 57 members and guests in attendance.

New members Virginia Gerry, Karen Capalbo, Dave Sampler, and Sandy Lemons were welcomed to the club.

No guests were in attendance.

The Meeting Agenda was presented and approved without change.

Minutes of the March 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 \$1,370 (2026 tournament awards). There were 153 club members as of the date of the meeting including 36 new members and 117 renewals.

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, Mike Shannon introduced guest speaker Gary Massey of the Sunset Beach Pier. Gary and his wife Teresa have run the pier for the last 6 years. They both grew up in Western NC and have been coming to Sunset Beach since 1982. Gary explained that currently there is some on-going maintenance work underway at the pier with an anticipated completion date in May. Fishing and / or parking at the pier remains \$10 per day for one rod and \$15 for two rods. They serve breakfast and lunch at the pier house and host music on the pier every Thursday evening in the summer.

Gary shared some insights on fishing from the pier including:

- * A 7' rod is considered optimal and he suggested nothing over 8' is needed.
- * A 2 drop bottom rig is preferred for most species with a 2 – 3 oz weight.
- * A sabiki rig is recommended for Spanish Mackerel as well as "Gotcha Plugs".
- * Shrimp is the preferred bait for most species. Gary prefers no shell, no tails.
- * Live shrimp are best for Red Drum.
- * Sand Fleas are also a go-to choice for bait.
- * Gary is not a fan of braided lines on the pier but it is permitted.
- * A Carolina rig is also used when fishing from the pier.

- * When fishing for black drum and sheepshead, Gary said to look for holes around the pylons.
- * Gary suggested a #3 or #4 size hook for bottom fishing and a 3/0 – 4/0 for drum.
- * The active bits begins once the water temperature reaches 70 degrees.

Gary wrapped up his talk at 7:20 and he was very well received by the members in attendance.

Mike Shannon called for a brief 10-minute break so members could take advantage of the soft drinks, water, and snacks provided by the Club. The meeting was reconvened at 7:30.

Mike Sutton covered the status of the Events Team. There were 37 members in attendance at the March fish fry sponsored by the Club. There were limited leftovers, but what was left was shared with the Pier Staff and Sunset Beach Firehouse. A second fish fry will be planned for later in the year. Mike Griffen was acknowledged for his continued support as the “Club Chef” and frying all the fish members volunteered to provide for the event.

The Captain’s Meet and Greet at Dave’s was a great success for the Club with seven new members joining. The Club also donated \$240 towards 4 rod / reel setups that were raffled to kids in attendance.

Steve Heins said the Club has been asked to host a table at the upcoming Greenway event held by the Town at the Sunset Beach Park on May 9th. Steve is looking for volunteers to staff the table and plans on setting up a live tank. Club members interested in volunteering to help out should contact any of the BOD members.

Brian Brumbaugh covered fishing tournament / events next. The Spanish Mackerel pier event is planned for May 8th (subject to change, depending on fish availability). The prize pool is \$200 (\$100 first place, \$60 second place, and \$40 third place).

Brian explained there were 23 members signed up for the annual tournament (!37 entries, \$1370 award pool).

Brian said a fishing fundamentals training session was planned at the Pink Palace on April 27 between 6:00 and 8:30. The focus will be on rod and reel setups for each of the four primary species sought in the area.

A speckled trout event will be hosted at the pier once the current species closure is lifted.

Brian said a red drum contest will be hosted in late August with specific dates TBD.

Mike Shannon closed by saying the BOD was considering future charter raffles as a result of the great results at the Annual Banquet in January. As a result, there is a possibility of a fishing charter at a future Club meeting. Mik went on to explain that 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, a tackle bag donated by Dave's, was awarded to Frank Hanzel.

The 50:50 Drawing was won by member Steve Pendergras and was \$114. The Club retained \$113.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted: Jim Baumgartner, STFC Club Secretary