

## 2007-2008 Tournament Recaps

### JEB BUSH FLORIDA CLASSIC BILLFISH TOURNAMENT: DECEMBER 12-13, 2007

One day tournaments usually turn out to be a great deal of fun and this years Jeb Bush Classic did not disappoint. It is a do-or-die format that tests the mettle of anglers and captains alike. This one day shoot-out was no exception.

Fishing off the Ft. Lauderdale coast, *Reely Tight* showed just how tough they were. Releasing 8 fish during the one-day tournament was enough to secure the 2007 crown. Second place honors went to the always contending *Miss Britt II* with 7 releases and *King's Ransom* out of Clearwater, Florida rounded out the top 3 with 5 releases.

The Jeb Bush is looking to expand into a 2-day format for 2008 which could add more excitement and help their charity cause: The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



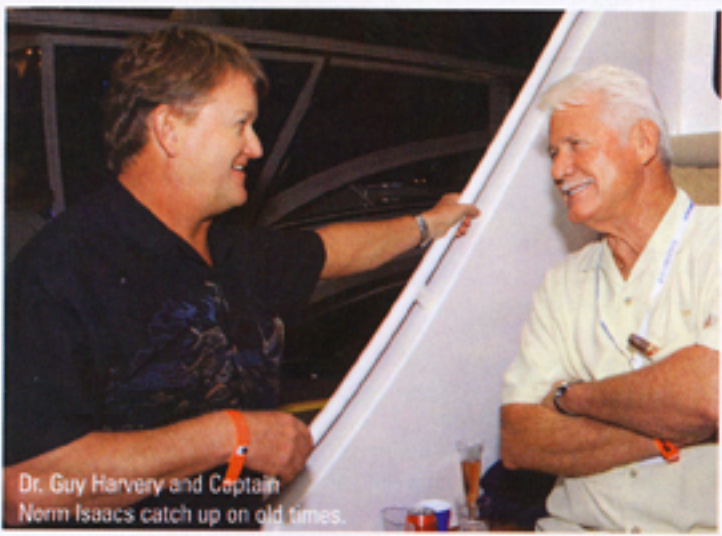
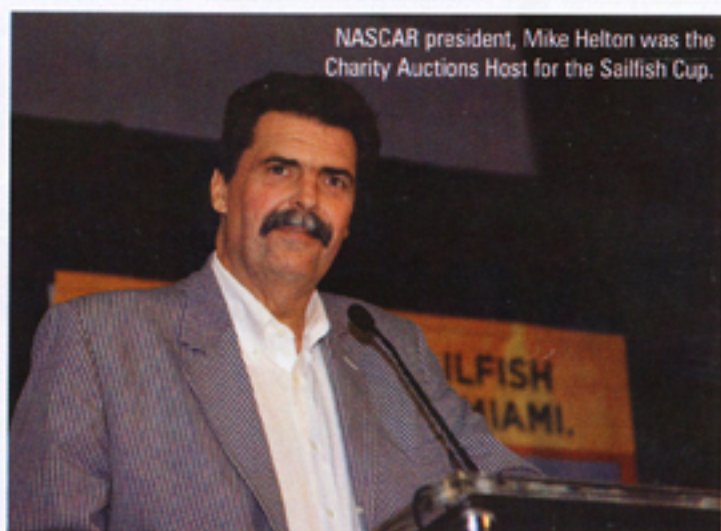
The *Reely Tight* Team holding the perpetual and first place trophies.



Country music star, Jolie Holliday performed throughout the event.



NASCAR president, Mike Helton was the Charity Auctions Host for the Sailfish Cup.



Dr. Guy Harvey and Captain Norm Isaacs catch up on old times.



Second place winners, Reely Tight, showing off their well earned winnings.

The winners of the SRE (Simulated Racing Experience) and the Cruzin Cooler races were determined. The evening wound down as fishing teams settled in to prepare for day two of the competition.

### THE HOME STRETCH

Despite the previous night's festivities, all teams headed out bright and early for the final day of competition. As everyone knows, just because you are ahead on day one, does not mean you will be the winner at the end of day two. So many factors, including just plain luck, can change first place to no place in a blink of an eye. The wind had died down and changed direction. Day two was going to be a whole different ball game.

The fishing started off with a flurry and after a couple of hours it slowed to a snails pace. The teams that were behind started feeling the pressure of too little, too late. Day two saw some new names on the call-in sheets, crews that had been in the middle of the pack charging to the lead then slipping away. The lead changed many times, but four teams consistently called in fish as the day dragged on. *Wound Up* caught 8 sails on day two, *Catch One* caught 6 sails while *Steel Magnolia* came on strong in the end catching 5 sails, and *Reely Tight* finished out their hard fought battle with 4 sails. The return to the docks at the end of a tournament was filled with congratulations on the radio for those who did well; with the subtle undertones of "just wait till next year, I'll be back." Everyone is friends but they all love to compete. The teams took a minute to lick their wounds and think of how they can do better next time. The boats arrived at the dock and the competitors quickly turned to friends and drinking buddies to

spout stories of the days fishing and the things that just went wrong.

That evening the Sailfish Cup's spectacular finale, held at Parrot Jungle, was hosted by NASCAR's President, Mike Helton. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were enjoyed by everyone as they viewed the many items up for bid in the silent auction. Parrot Jungle staff cruised around the room with many of the exotic animals, including a python and baby twin orangutans.

Dinner boasted Maine lobster and filet that melted in your mouth. Jolie Holliday opened up the live auction with an original song while a slide show highlighted the many children who have benefited from the Speediatrics Unit at Homestead Hospital. Lively bidding wars began for such items as an all-inclusive fishing trip to Los Suenos and many NASCAR experiences including one for the final NASCAR race weekend with Mike Helton. When concluded, the live and silent auctions raised over \$135,000 for The NASCAR Foundation and Speediatrics!

But the evening was not over yet. The top three tournament teams eagerly awaited their time in the lime-light. First, second, and third place teams won \$125,000 in prize money. The one who got the most? *Catch One*, who aced out second place *Reely Tight* by one fish and took home the \$100,000 first place purse. *Midnight Blue* finished out the tournament by taking the third place spot.

Not a bad way to start out the 2007-2008 Sailfish Season. It would be safe to say, Sailfish Cup will be back in '08, bigger and better. Although it's going to be a tough spot to fill.