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# TAG FLAG

## Eastcape Billfish Tournament



### Next Up Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament

January 17-24, 2009

Rod Van Saun is feverishly working around the clock (the sun never sets in Alaska this time of year) to prepare for January's tournament. Rumor has it that he has the Sailfish enrolled in a school that is teaching them how to hit bait.

Applications are available from Rod or you can download one from our website. Mark your calendar and pack them rods, because it's bound to be better fishing than last year.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Eastcape Billfish Tournament was again held at Hotel Palmas de Cortez, Los Barriles, Baja California Sur, Mexico. The tournament dates were June 5-9 with 26 TAA members participating in the three day competition. This years billfish count was similar to the fish count of our 2007 tournament, with 27 Marlin and 1 Sailfish caught and released. In addition, 24 Dorado were boated and served up in the hotel

restaurant for all of our anglers to enjoy. Again this year, there seemed to be a lot of bait (mostly squid) available, so the billfish count was lower than experienced in past years. Our anglers reported seeing fish, but getting the "bite" was somewhat difficult. Two days prior to the tournament, strong winds came up and affected our catch the first day. However, the seas calmed down and the second and third day's catch was much improved.

**see Eastcape page 2**



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**EASTCAPE**

On day one, Rich Bothmer, Greg Ogle, Paul Steigerwald, and Joan Vernon all caught one Marlin each, which earned each of them the maximum points. However, Rick surged out in front with an additional Dorado, and claimed top angler for the day.

Day two, eleven Marlin were caught, and Greg Ogle easily went ahead with 500 points for two Marlin caught in the minimum time. However, due to the time of the releases, Brian Hill also caught two Marlin and claimed the second daily prize.

On day three, the fish count went up again with eleven Marlin and one Sailfish caught. Paul Steigerwald claimed the daily prize with two Marlin and one Dorado caught, for a total point count of 510.

This made Paul the TOP angler of the tournament with 770 points (three Marlin and two Dorado), followed closely by Greg Ogle with 760 points (three Marlin and one Dorado), revealing how important it is to “bag” that additional game fish!

For the THIRD year in a row, the Challenge Division out fished the Champions, and received Iland Lure as prizes.

The Eastcape Billfish IGFA Offshore World Championship Tournament Team will be represented by Paul Steigerwald, Captain, Greg Ogle, Brian Hill and Rick Bothmer, with Darrell Ticehurst, 1<sup>st</sup> alternate, Danny Brooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate and Bill Evans, 3<sup>rd</sup> alternate.

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## TAA represented on Mt. Whitney

Sorry for the later press release of the TAG FLAG, its publishers were busy this summer in the high country sailing, fishing and biking.

We spent time back packing and ended up climbing Mt. Whitney. At 14,500 feet, the air gets a bit thin.

We were lucky enough to catch and release several Golden Trout on fly. What an event!

The logo on my shirt is that of the '06 Ixtapa tournament.



Judy and Rocky Franich

The Roosterfish Committee pulled the dates into early June and it was a very interesting year at Punta Colorado....For the first time in many many years there was a good abundance of 35 to 50 pound Roosters....Schools of dozens of large fish were seen daily near the Punta Arena lighthouse and in Frailes Bay...Several TAA members represented our group well and Rocky managed to catch 6 Roosterfish in the three day tournament....3 smaller fish and 3 Grandes...The Roosterfish Tournament uses 12 lb line and there was an abundance of broken lines and several overtime fish....All in all it was a great tournament...the weather was beautiful and the fellowship abundant....TAA members should know that the Roosterfish Tournament is usually scheduled to make it convenient for TAA members to fish in both the

## From the Board

### After 32 years Rocky Franich WINS the International Roosterfish Tournament!!!

Eastcape and Roosterfish tournament with one lay day in the the middle to transfer hotels...If you are interested in fishing the 2009 tournament talk to the "oldtimers" like Neal McNamara, Bill Evans or Rocky.

Rocky has been on the board for several years and has been a shining beacon in the direction of TAA today.

We congratulate Rocky on this momentous occasion. As you may remember, Rocky was the "Man of the Year" not too long ago in his home town of "Whatsthatville".

I just caught up with Rocky before he left on his next fishing venture. In his own words "I'm taking off tonight for Madeira to fish with Wayne....I will send you his blog." Rocky, what a life!!!!

<http://tightlinefishing.blogspot.com/>

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#### YOU MAKE THE CALL

If an angler is working a fish and his second rod takes off, does the other angler have to ask permission to fight the second fish?

Answer on page 5



## Eastcape, cont

We want to recognize our three new TAA anglers who signed up for the tournament this year. They are: Harry Kersten, Greg Ogle and Jack Richardson (who took Dale Miles' place at the last minute). We welcome them into our TAA family!!!

*Last-but-not-least*, we want to sincerely thank our sponsors for providing us with another GREAT tournament. This year, we were especially blessed with a new sponsor, Grey Taxidermy. They provided trophies for all of our winning individual and team anglers. We thank them so much for their generosity! Also, again this year, we thank Penn Fishing Tackle, Costa del Mar, Iland lures and Bass Pro Shops for their sponsorship! Without all of these sponsors, our Eastcape Billfish Tournament would not be the high quality fishing tournament that it is. Please visit us at our website: "<http://www.fishtaa.com>"

Jim Severson turns over the helm of this tournament to Bill Evans for our 2009 tournament. Please extend your help to him and let's make next year's tournament even BETTER. The dates for next year's tournament are June 22 through 26, with fishing dates the 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

# Eastcape Final Results

Overall Champion – Paul Steigerwald – 770 points

## Champion Division

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Brian Hill – 510 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Joan Vernon – 460 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mike McElroy – 270 points

## Challenge Division

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Paul Steigerwald – 770 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Greg Ogle – 760
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Rick Bothmer – 510 points

## Team Event

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team – Paul Steigerwald and John Zehnder – 995 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team – Joan Vernon and Bill Evans – 930 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team – Greg Ogle and Keith Leimbach – 770 points

**NEW ANGLER PROFILE- CHRIS HALL**

Hometown: Modesto, CA

Occupation: Small Business Owner

Questions and answers with Chris Hall

Q: Who is your TAA connection?

A: Darrell Ticehurst

Q: What is your favorite type of fishing?

A: Tuna

Q: What is your favorite place to fish?

A: The West Coast of Baja on long range trips

Q: What is your most memorable catch?

A: A 267 pound yellow fin on 40 pound line

Q: Do you belong to other angling organizations?

A: Yes, Coastside Fishing Club, The Billfish Foundation, and IGFA

Q: What did you like best about fishing the Eastcape Billfish Tournament?

A: TAA embodies everything I think is important in fishing. It was a great experience learning from veteran anglers. Conservation is the key, so our kids will have an opportunity to enjoy what we have.

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**YOU MAKE THE CALL answer**

**No, no, no.**

In the event that two fish strike both rods of one angler, that angler must **immediately** decide which rod to pick up. After the angler makes a decision and picks up the rod, he or she may not change, even if the fish gets off in a few seconds. Once the angler picks up a rod and starts to fight the fish, the second angler must pick up the other rod and fight that fish. For this purpose, a “strike” occurs when a fish has taken the bait. It is not a “strike” if the fish is merely following the bait or “slapping” at the bait with its bill. Until there is a “strike”, the angler may alternate between both rods before deciding which to take.



# Let's go fishing



New rule:

While in Mexico, no business transactions allowed unless TAA gets a cut.

Membership in TAA is open to all persons who subscribe to good sportsmanship, fair play and angling by the rules, as established by The International Game Fish Association ("IGFA"). TAA is a club member of IGFA and anglers must be members of IGFA in order to fish in TAA sanctioned tournaments.

## Calendar

**Get your application in for Ixtapa. The deadline has passed- but there possibly could (if there's a full moon) still be space.**

**Jan 17-24, 2009  
Ixtapa Sailfish  
Tournament**

**Eastcape Billfish  
Tournament June  
22-26, 2009**



Tournament Angler's Association

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