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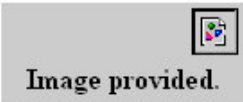
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Reel 'er in!

Catch-and-release tourney offers live and silent auctions, along with an open bar

By **MELISSA SCHNEIDER**,
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A new addition to the Fort Myers Beach community, Ron Riley and the Caloosa Catch and Release Presented by Maverick and Yamaha Fishing Tournament have been fishing by the shore since Thursday. The Pink Shell has begun hosting the tournament and its organizers, after the group recently changed venues from its prior location at the South Seas Resort on Captiva Island.



“We’re so very, very pleased with the people and businesses of Fort Myers Beach for being so supportive and welcoming us to their community,” tournament founder and organizer Ron Riley said. “The Pink Shell was the superb location. It’s a perfect partnership because (the resort and its staff) really know how to do it right.”

Up until Saturday evening, 65 teams of tournament anglers on all levels (including a lady and youth division) are tactfully fishing the local waters for snook, redfish and trout, all on a catch-and-release basis, determined to carry home one of the winning titles, such as “biggest bait” and a daily mystery fish.

“The best times to catch the most boats and most fish coming in will be Friday and Saturday, between 2:30 and 5 p.m. when the teams bring in their catches at the weigh station, which is on the bayside area of the Pink Shell,” Ron said.

Going once,

going twice...

Aside from the actual fishing part of this tournament, Ron and his crew are eager to announce the live and silent auctions scheduled Saturday evening for all to join in on – whether you participated in the catch-and-release part or not.



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“We really want the public to join in on the fun – especially during the live and silent auctions,” Ron said. “Our prize donations went really, really well and we have lots of great items up for bidding.”

Since the day after the last catch-and-release tournament, Ron and his team of 20+ volunteers have been working on adding a long list of quality merchandise to the auction’s line-up.

Of the more than 200 items up for bid, just a few of the prizes available during the auction are a 17-foot Maverick micro-poling skiff with Yamaha motor and Boatmaster trailer; a fully-rigged motorized kayak; a 9-week-old yellow lab puppy; two custom solid-gold ladies’ pendants by Bradley’s Jewelers (Danny the Dolphin and Stu the Spoiler Snook); about 15 or more destination resort packages, about 20 “really, really nice” pieces of framed artwork, “tons” of guided fishing packages, 30 to 40 rods and reels, and “tons” of fishing-related products, as well as plenty more items.

Ron said the cost to participate in the live and silent auctions is \$25, which also gets you up to the open bar.

For \$75, attendants can enjoy an open bar, auction participation and a Pink Shell Resort dinner.

“This is a fabulous, quality 4-1/2-star dinner, complete with carving tables and all the works,” said Ron. “This isn’t your typical tournament BBQ.”

Doors to the auction and dinner service will open around 6/6:30 p.m. Saturday evening, with the dinner beginning at 7:30 p.m. and the live auction at 8 p.m.

I’ll be back

After 19 years of holding local tournaments throughout the area, Ron’s proud to now call Fort Myers Beach and the Pink Shell home for the Caloosa Tournament series. He and his organization plan to be around the Beach area for a while, organizing three special tourneys a year, from now on calling Pink Shell home base.

“I’ve got signed contracts until 2010 with the Pink Shell,” he said. “We’ve got the Summer Slam in September and the Grand Championship in November.”

To register ahead of time for the tournament auction, or for more information, questions or to donate items to the auction, contact Ron Riley at 671-9347 or visit the official Web site, [CaloosaCatchAndRelease.com](#).

As he concludes, “We’re just so very pleased with Fort Myers Beach and its businesses, including the Smokin’ Oyster Brewery, Pete’s Timeout, the Yucatan Bar and Grill and the Shipwreck Hotel. This is our first time having the tournament on the Beach and everyone’s been so supportive in getting us established. We’re so appreciative of all this help and support.”



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