

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS Wayne Berry (left) and Doug Ledgett make some adjustments on the leader board Saturday as the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament comes to a close. One adjustment not

necessary was at the top spot where Michael Clemmons ran away from the field with his 49.05-pound



U.S. OPEN WINNERS Michael Clemmons (right) and Butch Benton, both of Southport, display the \$25,000 winning king mackerel and the first-place trophy after

Saturday's final round. Clemmons caught the 49.05-pounder during Friday's competition and waited nervously until the final results were posted Saturday.

Southport's Clemmons Wins Record-Setting U.S. Open

BY DOUG RUTTER

Michael Clemmons of Southport wasn't even going to enter this year's U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament. He thought it would be a waste of money.

But the first-place trophy and check for \$25,000 were more than enough to convince him he did the right thing.

Clemmons won this year's event going away as his 49.05-pound king caught during last Friday's second round held up through Saturday's final hours of competition.

Although the winning king did not surpass the tournament record of 50.40 pounds set last year, the number of boats entered established a state saltwater fishing tournament record

According to 1988 Tournament Chairman Richard Nubel, 544 boats entered this year's U.S. Open, surpassing the previous state record of 505 set at the Hardee's Atlantic Beach Fishing Tournament held earlier this year.

The second-place prize of \$10,000 went to Danny Juel of Little River, S.C., who caught a 42.10-pound king aboard "Brittany Nicole."

Carolina Beach's David Franklin took third place and \$5,000 aboard "Moody Blue" with a king mackerel which weighed 40.55 pounds.

Other Brunswick County fishermen finishing in the top 20 were Davey Herring of Southport, who won the eighth-place prize of \$1,200 36.65-pound king; Charles Wilson Jr. category.

squadron, begins Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at

M & J Marina located at Somersett

"We need everybody-all

boaters," Whann said, adding that

anyone can sign up for the classes.

However, he said children should be

And he emphasized that a student

"If you just have an interest in

boating, you can take the course," he

The course, which will be taught by

local Squadron members, will consist

does not need to own a boat to take

Landing off N.C. 179.

at least 12 years old.

the classes.



of Yaupon Beach, who won the 13thplace prize of \$850 aboard "Eazy Times" with a 34.70-pounder; and Kyle White of Shallotte, who won the 19th-place prize of \$550 aboard "Oil Slick" for his 32.05-pound king.

Brunswick County also had three winners in the tournament's daily aboard "Cap'n Boo" with a three-fish aggregate weight



Chip Maree of Shallotte took the first-place check of \$1,000 Thursday with 68.50 pounds. He was fishing aboard "Tarheel Baby."

Luther Dishman of Southport won \$750 for second place Thursday with an aggregate weight of 57.90 pounds caught aboard "Just One."

Dale McDowell of Bolivia, fishing aboard "Dalee," won \$500 for third place Saturday with an aggregate weight of 56.35 pounds.

Other top 10 winners in the largest fish category were: Holt Trotman of Wrightsville Beach, 4th, \$2,500, 39.75, "Joint Custody;" Dean Porter of Wilmington, 5th, \$1,500, 39.05, "Reel Thrill;" Gary Reich of Winston-Salem, 6th, \$1,400, 38.50, "Gary's Grady;" James Hines of Wilmington, 7th, \$1,300, 36.90, "Baby Jane:" Farrell Scott of Wilmington, 9th, \$1,100, 36.35, "Marilyn;" and Stacy Prestwood of Wilmington, 10th, \$1,000, 35.05, "Miss Grace."

Rounding out the top 20 were Eddie Taylor of Wilmington, 11th, \$950, 34.95, "Got-Cha;" Daniel Casino of Jacksonville, Fla., 12th, \$900, 34.85, "Casino Royale:" Jerry Allgood of Wilmington, 14th, \$800, 33.60, "Janice

Faye:" Roger Canady of Wilmington, 15th, \$750, 33.00, "Lead Foot:" Doug Rochelle of Wilmington. 16th, \$700, 32.30, "Canuaslack;" Dr. E. Canomer of Richlands, 17th, \$650, 32.20, "The Peg;" Norman Farrow of Wilmington, 18th, \$600, 32.20, "Double Exposure;" and Mike Henry of Carolina Beach, 20th, \$500, 31.65. "Sea Filly."

Six Brunswick County fishermen were among the next 20 finishers who received \$500 each. They were Thomas Bowmer of Long Beach, 23rd, 31.10; John Dosher of Southport, 28th, 28.50; Thomas Morgan of Supply, 30th, 28.45; Boyce Broadwell of Long Beach, 31st, 28.35; Bill Ross of Southport, 32nd, 28.35; and Ray Woodside of Yaupon Beach, 40th, 25.75.

Safe Boating Is Squadron's Goal

BY RAHN ADAMS "Boating is fun. Safe boating is more fun.

That's what a group of Shallotte area residents-all members of the U.S. Power Squadron-hope to get across to boaters in an upcoming series of free boating safety classes.

And according to Milton Whann, the classes are a step toward organizing support for a Power Squadron in Brunswick County.

Whann, who is a past commander of the Charlotte Power Squadron, said at least 15 members of the Charlotte squadron alone own homes in the Shallotte area.

At least 25 persons must express interest in a local squadron in order to form one here; however, membership is by invitation only, he said.

Whann said he thinks there will be enough interest to form a local squadron within a year.

The U.S. Power Squadron (USPS) is a boating fraternity made up of people who want to learn more about boating through self-education, Whann said.

He said the organization began in the early 1900s as a motorboat club within the New York Yacht Club. Squadron members, who had learned strict rules of navigation, were called on to help teach U.S. Navy sailors about boat handling during World War I and World War II.

Some 13 squadrons currently operate in North Carolina, with Wilmington's Cape Fear Power Squadron covering this area.

The upcoming boating safety course, sponsored by the Cape Fear





It didn't take long for Thomas Ryan of Raeford and Ed Binson of Long Beach to find out how "rough" last week's U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament in Southport could be.

Thursday, on the first day of competition, Ryan and Binson's 22-foot boat capsized in rough seas off Lockwood Folly Inlet, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard station at Oak Island.

Thursday around 8:40 a.m. approximately three to four miles from

visory was in effect, with 25-knot winds and four to five foot waves at the time of the accident.

Fisher said Ryan, 51, and Binson, 49, were participating in the tournament when the bilge pump on their craft malfunctioned. The pair were headed back toward port when the boat's port engine

also faltered, allowing the craft to capsize in heavy seas, Fisher said. The men were able to put on life jackets and jump from the boat before it capsized.

Long Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad personnel. Fisher said neither man required hospital treatment.

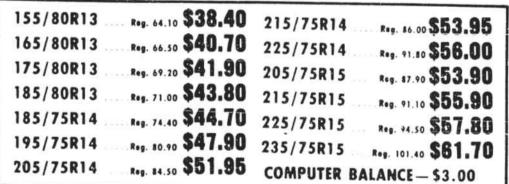
ed it to port.

Boat Capsizes In U.S. Open

Neither fisherman was injured in the mishap, which occurred

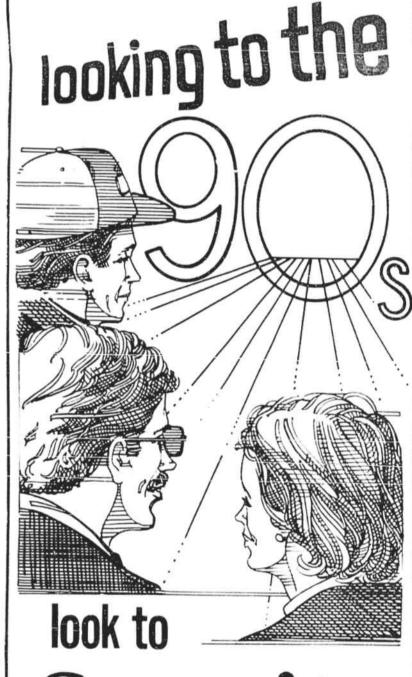
Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Kenneth Fisher said a small craft ad-

of 12 lessons. Whann said topics will include "rules of the road," equipment, trailer boating, aids to naviga-Ryan and Binson were picked up by another competitor, William tion, the compass, safety afloat, Houston of Charlotte, aboard the "Celia Ann." Marlinespike seamanship and chart After being returned to shore, the two men were checked out by The classes are offered at no charge, except for a small book fee. He added that the Coast Guard retrieved the capsized boat and tow-For more information on the boating safety course, contact Whann or Joe Huber at 579-6440. **BFGoodrich ALottaTire** for the Money LIFESAVER XLM **OUR BEST CONVENTIONAL** WHITEWALL STEEL BELTED RADIAL



DYKES' TIRE CENTER

Main Street, Shallotte, 754-6333



Securi

In the business world...on the farm ... whatever your occupation... looking ahead means taking stock of your own financial future. We believe that careful planning and knowledge are the first steps in building a solid foundation for the coming years. It has been our aim to work with you in helping to fulfill your financial goals, and offer concise services geared to meeting your needs... now and tomorrow as well.







Southport Leland 371-6546 754-4371 ·Calabash ·Long Beach 579-3595