



## Fishing school set for mid-March

### FROM NEWS REPORTS

**S**outh Carolina Sportsman and North Carolina Sportsman magazines are sponsoring a saltwater fishing school in conjunction with the Cape Fear Wildlife Expo in Wilmington, N.C., on Saturday, March 19, that will feature top guides and charter captains from both Carolinas, as well as experts in a number of fields related to saltwater fishing.

The fishing school and Expo will be held at the new Wilmington Convention Center in downtown Wilmington. The school will run from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m., with hourly seminars from captains and guides on offshore and inshore fishing, rigging, electronics, chart-reading, knot-tying and cast-net throwing. On-site registration for the school will begin at 7:30 a.m.

All sportsmen who attend the fishing school will receive a 3-day pass to the Cape Fear Wildlife Expo, a catered lunch, a package of manufacturer's samples, a year's subscription (or renewal) to *South Carolina Sportsman* and an entry into door-prize drawings, including one for the grand prize: a fishing trip for two to Costa Rica. Also, the first 100 adults to register for the school will receive a spinning rod from Star rods. Cost for the school is \$100, with additional family members costing \$60.

Leading seminars will be guides, including J.R. Waits of Fish Call Charters in Isle of Palms, Rod Thomas of Capt. Ponytail Charters in Georgetown, Capts. Jimmy Price and Butch Foster of Southport, N.C., Jerry Dilsaver of Oak Island, N.C. (a former national king mackerel tournament champion), Capts. Rick Bennett and Lee Parsons of Wrightsville Beach, N.C., Capt. Ricky Kellum of Jacksonville, N.C., Capt. Rick Patterson of Morehead City, N.C., Capt. Ray Massengill of Harker's Island, N.C., Capts. George Beckwith and Greg Voliva of New Bern, N.C., and Capt. Ken Dempsey from Hatteras, N.C., knot-tying expert John Knight, map specialist Chip Berry and lure manufacturer Jody Gay.

Seminars will be held in different classroom areas, with multiple sessions each hour. Seminars are designed to put an instructor in front of a relatively small group of fishermen, with question-and-answer sessions a major part of each seminar. Instruction will meet the needs of fishermen ranging from novices to advanced.

In addition to seminars on fishing techniques specific to certain areas and species, instructors will also teach on marine electronics, basic safety and navigation, knot-tying, trailers and towing, cast-nets, fly-fishing and surf-casting.

The fishing school is a part of the 3-day Cape Fear Wildlife Expo, which features wildlife art and decoy displays, book-signings by regional authors, hunting and fishing products, boats and accessories, truck and ATV displays, fly-fishing and decoy-carving demonstrations, conservation exhibits and booths featuring hunting and fishing guides and outfitters. ➔



**Rod Thomas of Capt. Ponytail Charters in Georgetown is one of a handful of guides and charter captains scheduled to be instructors at the South Carolina Sportsman/North Carolina Sportsman saltwater fishing school.**

CAPT. ROD THOMAS