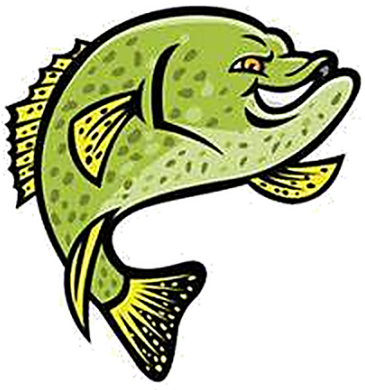


Explorer

User Manual

Fishing solunar, shrimping, weather, maps and catch log in one app

The Crappie Cracker | www.crappiecracker.com

Android app version 1.0 series

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1. Getting Started

What the app is

Explorer is the Crappie Cracker Explorer on your Android phone. Tapping the Explorer icon opens the Explorer page from crappiecracker.com in a Chrome window, so the information you see is the same live data as the website, and it is always current.

Installing

- On your phone, open the GitHub Actions run for the latest build and download the artifact named **Explorer-debug-apk**. It arrives as a zip file.
- Unzip it and tap **app-debug.apk**. If Android asks, allow your browser or Files app to **install unknown apps**, then tap Install.
- When it finishes, the **Explorer** icon (the happy crappie) is on your home screen or app drawer.
- Updates install over the old version. You keep your settings; no need to uninstall first.

First launch

Tap the icon. A start screen titled **Explorer** appears and the page opens in a Chrome window a moment later. If it does not open by itself, tap the **Open Explorer** button on the start screen.

Logging in and access

The site decides who may use the Explorer. Members whose access level is Explorer, Admin or Sysop get in. New users are allowed a 14-day trial counted from their first call. Anyone else sees an **Access Denied** page. If the site asks you to log in, use your usual Crappie Cracker account. Chrome can remember the login for you.

Pricing

Plan	Price
Monthly	$15.00 per month
Yearly	$45.00 per year

The first 14 days are free. No payment is needed during the free trial.

Terms of use

The first time the page loads on a device it shows the End User License Agreement. Read it and accept to continue. It is remembered on that device.

> Tip: add the page to Chrome's recent tabs or pin it. To return to the app any time, tap the icon again.

2. The Hub

The main screen is the **Hub**, a grid of large tiles. Tap a tile to open that screen full size, then tap **Back to Hub** to return. Weather, Video Log and Utilities open a small sub-menu of their own.

- Fishing
- Shrimping (only in shrimp season, July 15 to November 15)
- Log Catch
- Nav Maps
- Weather
- WinsChat Video
- WinsChat Voice
- Crappie Cam
- Video Log
- Utilities

Choosing a lake or river

A picker at the top selects the home location, the lake or the river waypoint that every screen (solunar clock, weather, tides, radar) is based on. Change it any time and all screens follow.

3. Fishing

Tap the Fishing tile. A circular solunar clock shows today's rating, the moon phase and the Major and Minor feeding windows for the selected location. Green bands are Major periods (longer) and amber bands are Minor periods (shorter). A condensed 4-day strip below the clock helps you plan a few days out.

Fishing Rating

Ratings run from Slow through Fair, Good and Very Good to Excellent. The rating blends traditional moon-based theory with current local conditions into a simple at-a-glance read for each day.

Fishing Calendar

Tap Fishing Calendar for a full month for the selected location. Each day shows its moon phase and a colored dot for the rating. Tap any day to see its Major and Minor windows. Weather for the location appears below the calendar. To view a different lake, close the calendar, change the picker and reopen it.

Jig Color Guide

Tap Jig Color Guide for a quick-reference card: suggested jig colors by water clarity (Clear, Stained, Muddy) and light (bright or overcast), plus how moon phase should shift your approach. It is angler folklore and general observation, not a data feed. Use it as a starting point and let the fish correct you.

4. Shrimping

The Shrimping tile appears during shrimp season (July 15 to November 15) for the home location and the 12 “St. Johns River at…” waypoints. Outside the season, or at other lakes, the screen tells you shrimp times are not available.

- Moon darkness — percent of the moon lit, with moonrise and moonset. Darker nights are traditionally better for cast-netting under a light.
- Tides — today's High and Low tide times, with outgoing tide stretches marked, since a falling tide sweeping past a lighted dock is the classic setup.
- Cooling front note — flags an approaching cooling front, which is folklore for a possible shrimp run.

A clock on the tile shows the same information: blue bands for outgoing tide and small dots for moonrise and moonset. The Shrimping Calendar button shows the month with moon phase and a rating for each day. Days near a new or full moon carry a small wave icon for stronger tidal flow. Tap a day for details.

5. Log Catch

Tap Log Catch to record a catch. The screen has two columns: what you enter, and what is recorded for you.

What You Enter

- Species — the only required field. Suggestions include Black Crappie, White Crappie, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish and Largemouth Bass.
- Length, weight, depth, water temperature, lure or bait, and notes are optional. Water temperature fills in from the latest reading when one is available; you can change it.
- Add Photo opens the camera. Tap Capture, review the picture, and retake or discard it. If no camera is available you can choose a photo file instead.

Recorded Automatically

Date and time, the selected lake, air temperature, pressure, wind, sky, today's fishing rating and moon phase, and your GPS position. If GPS cannot get a fix, the selected lake's position is used and the note says so.

Saving and Reviewing

- Tap Save Catch. A confirmation appears when the catch is saved.
- Catch Record lists every saved catch, newest first, with its photo and details. You can open a photo or delete a catch from here.
- Export Catches downloads all catches as a GPX file that opens in Google Earth, most chartplotters and other mapping apps. Each catch becomes its own waypoint.
- Catches are stored on this device. A status line shows when everything is saved.

Each saved catch also appears as a fish pin on the Nav Maps screen. Tap a pin to see its details.

6. Nav Maps

Tap Nav Maps for a pan-and-zoom map (OpenStreetMap) with animated radar on top. It centers on the selected lake and shows the national radar composite for the last 4 hours. Playback starts automatically; drag the timeline slider to look at a particular moment and it resumes a few seconds after you let go. The frame list refreshes every 5 minutes.

Buttons Along the Bottom

- Wind shows wind direction and speed arrows for every listed location. Tap or hover an arrow for the exact reading. Arrow color shows speed: your theme color under 10 mph, amber 10 to 19 mph, red 20 mph and up.
- Chart shows a NOAA nautical chart overlay (depth soundings and contours) for locations that have chart coverage.
- Radar shows or hides the radar overlay.
- Track Route follows your GPS and draws your path on the map with live distance and elapsed time. Tap again to stop. Tracking keeps running while you use other screens, and your drawn route survives a restart; tap Track Route again to keep adding to it. Weak GPS fixes are skipped so they do not draw false jumps.
- Export GPX downloads your drawn route as a GPX file (at least two points needed).
- Export Catches downloads logged catches as a GPX file.
- Clear erases the drawn route after you confirm.

Fish pins mark logged catches. Tap a pin for its details or to delete it. Tap anywhere on the map itself (not a button) to fill the screen; tap again to shrink it back.

Important: the NOAA chart overlay is not an official navigational product and does not replace official NOAA charts.

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7. Weather

Tap Weather on the Hub to open a sub-menu with five tiles: Conditions, NWS/NOAA Maps, NOAA Weather, Barometer & Tide and Storm Tracker. Each is explained on its own tab in this Guide. Back to Hub on any of them returns you to the sub-menu, and the sub-menu's own Back button returns you to the main Hub.

8. Conditions

Tap Conditions in the Weather sub-menu for everything about the selected location in one place:

- Alerts — active NWS watches and warnings, or a note that there are none.
- Weather — at the home location, an hourly Morning, Afternoon and Evening breakdown followed by Today, Tonight and Tomorrow. Other lakes show a current reading (temperature, feels-like, sky, high and low, wind, humidity, UV, sunrise and sunset) plus Tomorrow.
- Tides — today's highs and lows, with the next one in bold. Home and the 12 “St. Johns River at…” waypoints only. Other lakes are not tidal.
- River and lake level — the St. Johns River at Welaka and Crescent Lake, home location only. A colored banner appears if either reaches an actual flood category.
- Water temperature — shown next to the barometer. A reading marked (live) comes from a NOAA sensor. One marked (est.) is an estimate based on recent air temperatures, since most small lakes have no water-temperature sensor.

9. NWS/NOAA Maps

Tap NWS/NOAA Maps in the Weather sub-menu. Three tabs run across the top:

- NWS/NOAA Map scrubs back through the last 4 hours of radar frames. It plays automatically and picks back up shortly after you use the slider.
- NOAA Loop shows NOAA's own animated loop.
- Latest Frame shows the single most recent frame.

The station buttons North, West, East and South switch radar stations, since one station covers only part of the state. Changing the lake or river picker selects the closest station for you. Tap the radar image to fill the screen; tap again to shrink it.

10. NOAA Weather

Tap NOAA Weather in the Weather sub-menu for a spoken weather broadcast read aloud through your phone's speaker. It reads what is already loaded for the selected location: current conditions, tomorrow's outlook, barometric pressure and trend, the 72-hour pressure outlook, and any active alerts.

- Play starts the broadcast. Tapping it again while it is talking restarts it from the top.
- Stop cuts the broadcast off immediately.
- Volume jumps to the volume control without leaving this screen first.

The moving bars are decorative and are timed to roughly how long the broadcast should take.

11. Barometer & Tide

Tap Barometer & Tide in the Weather sub-menu. The gauge shows current pressure with color zones that reflect typical fishing quality: moderate pressure tends to fish better, while very low (stormy) or very high (bluebird) readings tend to mean a tougher bite. The trend line matters as much as the number itself. Falling pressure ahead of a front is often a strong bite window, even when the needle sits in the red.

72-Hour Outlook

A small chart of where pressure is headed, with a marker on the steepest drop and a note when a front is approaching. The same forecast can nudge the rating on the Fishing Calendar up or down for the days it covers.

Tide Curve

A curve of today's tide for the home location and the 12 St. Johns River waypoints. NOAA publishes only the day's High and Low points, so the curve between those points is a smooth estimate. A dashed line marks the current time.

12. Storm Tracker

Tap Storm Tracker in the Weather sub-menu. It lists every active Atlantic tropical cyclone from the National Hurricane Center: name, classification (Tropical Depression, Tropical Storm, or Hurricane with its category), sustained wind, pressure, and heading and speed. Distance and bearing are measured from the selected lake or river.

- Each card shows the storm's 5-day forecast cone on a map, without leaving the screen.
- Full Advisory opens the NHC's complete text bulletin for that storm in a scrollable panel. It appears once the text has been fetched.
- When nothing is active, a line summarizes the NHC's 2-day and 7-day Tropical Weather Outlook.

The screen refreshes every 5 minutes, and the “as of” line turns amber when the data is more than a few hours old. If a fetch fails, the screen says so plainly rather than showing an old “all clear.”

13. Video/Voice Calling

WinsChat Video & WinsChat Voice

Two separate Hub tiles open a video caller and a voice-only caller, each in its own tab. They connect you to other users and do not depend on the lake picker.

Signing In and Calling

Your name fills in from your login. Tap Connect to sign in. A live Online now list shows who can be reached; tap a name to call. Anyone grayed out with a text only label has no camera or microphone and cannot take a call. If a person is not listed, the Call someone box reaches them by name. An incoming call rings with the caller's name; accept or decline from there.

During a Call

Video calls add camera and snapshot controls. Both call types share record, mic mute, speaker, invite (up to 3-way for video and 6-way for voice) and end call.

Record captures both sides of the call; tap again or end the call to stop. The recording is saved to your phone's Downloads folder, where Video Viewer can play it. Voice calls save as audio only. If the camera is not available, the video caller falls back to an audio-only call and shows the reason on screen.

A Hub button in the top bar returns you to the Hub. It appears only when the caller was opened from a Hub tile.

14. Video Log

Tap Video Log to open a sub-menu with two tiles: Record Vlog and Video Viewer.

Record Vlog

The camera opens in the app. Tap Start Recording, then Stop Recording. Type a file name (the date and time are filled in for you) and tap Save, or tap Discard and record again. A saved vlog goes to your phone's Downloads folder and appears in Video Viewer right away.

Video Viewer

Lists every video in your phone's Downloads folder, including vlogs, call recordings and anything else copied onto your phone. Tap a video to play it full-screen. Tap the screen during playback to bring up the player's controls, including stop. When playback ends you return to the list.

Delete

The button asks for confirmation, then removes the video for good. There is no undo, so save anything worth keeping first.

15. Utilities

Tap Utilities to open a sub-menu. After using any tile you return to the sub-menu.

- **Crappie Cam** opens a broadcaster page in its own tab and starts your camera going live. A live count shows how many people are watching. Anyone can watch from the live page on crappiecracker.com with no login. Tap **Stop Broadcasting** to end the session for everyone.
- **Volume, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi Setup** were built for the boat display. On your phone, use the phone's own volume keys, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi settings instead.

16. Permissions

Android asks for permission the first time a feature needs it. You can change these later under Settings > Apps > Chrome > Permissions.

- **Location** for My Location, Track Route, the GPS position saved with each catch, and nearest radar.
- **Camera** for Add Photo, Record Vlog, WinsChat Video and Crappie Cam.
- **Microphone** for WinsChat calls, Vlogs and recordings.
- **Notifications and storage** only if you choose to download exports such as GPX files.

17. Troubleshooting

The page does not open when I tap the icon

Tap the **Open Explorer** button on the start screen. Make sure you have a signal; the page needs the internet. Try opening www.crappiecracker.com directly in Chrome.

I see Access Denied

Your account does not currently have Explorer access (or the new-user trial has ended). Contact the Sysop.

A blank or white screen

Close the Chrome tab and tap the icon again. If it persists, clear the app's data under Settings > Apps, then reopen.

Weather or radar looks old

Pull down to refresh the page, or reopen it. Radar frames refresh about every 5 minutes; storm data every 5 minutes. A line turning amber means the data is a few hours old.

An update will not install

Uninstall the old app only if Android says the app conflicts, then install the new apk. Check the version under Settings > Apps > Explorer.

GPS or route tracking stops

Chrome must keep running. Track Route does not run while the phone is locked or Chrome is closed. Keep the screen on while tracking.

> Fishing information is an aid, not a guarantee. Weather, tide and chart data come from third parties. Always use official sources and good judgment on the water.