

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume I, Issue 5 June 2008

Next Meeting: June 5, 2008 **Time:** 7:00 PM
Place: American Legion Post 88 Halls Mill Road
Main Presentation: O.P. Harrison on specks
Quick Hits: Joe Sirmon
Mini Seminar: "Blue Bullet Brigade" @ 6pm
Guest Speaker: Edwin Lamberth of CCA

Club Officers for 2008

President: Doug Smith 604-4758
 Vice Pres: D.W. Garrettson 599-8701
 Treasurer: Chris Conken 209-2726
 Secretary: Angie Howle 479-2911
 Statistics: Vince Hawkins 452-3899
 Membership: Mike Lee 665-4449
 Weighmaster: Pat Hughes 422-6992
 Donations: Jimmy Quint 377-4879
 Logo Items: Alvin Bell 455-5739
 Awards: Bryan Hack 510-4196
 Food: Randy Wiscaver 662-3628
 Newsletter: David Thornton 458-2775
 Webmaster: Brandon Milam 680-1302
 Advisor: Mike Thompson

BoMB: ACFA too Strong for Weeks Bay !

In the 2008 Speckled Trout Challenge the ACFA overcame the weather and a determined group of Weeks Bay Fishing Club members to clinch the Battle of Mobile Bay for 2008.
 (See the full detailed report on page 2)



WBFC President Rick Parsons (Left) congratulates ACFA President Doug Smith (Right) on the results of the 2008 Speckled Trout Challenge which saw the ACFA prevail 48-7.

President's Message:

What a great turnout for the BoMB after the bad weather early in the day.

Thanks to all who fished, cooked and helped clean up afterwards!

Doug

JR Angler Speckled Trout

1st - Frank Parker III

(ACFA) - 1.60*

2nd - Theo Koulianos

(ACFA) - 1.60

* tie and first to weigh in

OFFICIAL RESULTS:

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- 1st - Rick Tourne' (ACFA) - 5.85
 - 2nd - Tommy Pond (ACFA) - 4.15
 - 3rd - Phillip Guy (ACFA) - 4.10
 - 4th - Billy Michalopoulos (WBFC) - 3.35*
 - 5th - Justin Peacock (N)(ACFA) - 3.35
 - 6th - Jimbo Miller (ACFA) - 3.20
 - 7th - Adam Barker (ACFA) - 3.15
 - 8th - Billy Hurd (ACFA) - 2.95
 - 9th - Chris Massey (ACFA) - 2.90
 - 10th - Bill Duke (ACFA) - 2.65
- * tie and first to weigh in

Next Meeting Highlights...

Our fifth meeting for 2008 season marks the 'halfway point' through the season and will be held on Thursday June 5th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place). Our main speaker for the evening will be the venerable aficionado of speckled trout in our area **O.P. Harrison**. No matter your level of expertise in fishing you can learn something from this man. And "Fowl River **Joe**" **Sirmon** will be doing the 'Quick Hits' segment later in the meeting.

Patric Garmeson "Ugly Stik" said his planned speaker for this month's Mini-Seminar had not followed up with him (it happens). So it's likely that he, **Jim Foster** "Hollywood" and **Adam Barker** "D.O.A." will discuss some of their tactics that have consistently produced tournament finishes for them in the past few years. These guys catch fish from one end of the bay to the other and spots in between, and have fun doing it! **So check out the "Blue Bullet Brigade" @ 6pm for the Mini Seminar.**

Speakers..

Edwin Lamberth, Chairman of CCA Government Relations Committee, has asked to speak to us to explain the gillnet goings on. IF you didn't see the article in the Mobile Register about what CCA proposed at the conservation advisory board meeting, suffice to say CCA is not about to let up on the gill nets despite the legislative efforts falling short of a mandatory buyout. Welcome Ed!

The June "Summer Starter" Tournament

will be held Saturday June 7th from 5am to 5pm, and the weighin (from 3pm-5pm) will be back at "the usual place", behind the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (Hwy 163) just south of the blinking light by the Greer's Food tiger store. A bunch of tournament points and 15 plaques (for first through third place) will be awarded for **Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Ground Mullet** and **Spanish mackerel**. And don't forget we will be awarding plaques for the 3 heaviest of these 5 species caught by junior anglers. So go get 'em kids! Let's hope and pray we have good weather for a change!

Also representatives of the **US Coast Guard Auxiliary** will be at the weighin site to provide **FREE Courtesy Boat Inspections**. They are NON-BINDING and no follow up or penalties. IF your boat passes inspection you get a **FREE USCG Aux. Sticker** to display on your boat which could delay a more rigorous inspection by the Coast Guard while you are on the water.

May Tournament Recap:

Thunderstorms and strong winds greeted those who fished early in The Speckled Trout Challenge Tournament Saturday May 3rd, 2008. None of our tournaments have had good weather this year and this may have been the worst so far. Still ACFA members did what they could to fish when and where the weather allowed and gained an overwhelming victory at the end of the day. The 36 or so participants were joined by many members who 'opted out' from trying the weather and enjoyed a great feast of fried grouper filets, baked beans and coleslaw prepared by **Randy Wiscaver** and a complement of volunteers who pitched in to cook and clean up. I heard the celebration lasted into the evening and even included a Causeway wandering minstrel. What a day!

The 1st Annual UCP Tournament (**United Cerebral Palsy**) was held the same day and there too the ACFA dominated the final board. **Rick Tourne**'s 5.86# speckled trout was again 'the star of the day, taking first place in that tournament also. I heard it was the only trout he caught all day. And ACFA members swept the other two divisions in the tournament. Way to go ACFA'rs!!

Flounder: 1st **Tim Pierce** 3.12#, 2nd **Chip Drago (N)** 2.56#, 3rd **Dwain Mangold (N)** 2.47#

And in white trout: 1st **Theo Koulianos (J)** .93#, 2nd **Alvin Bell** .74#, and 3rd **Patric Garmeson** .63#

Congratulations to the winners and to UCP for a successful tournament. For more info see <http://www.ucpmobile.org>

ACFA'rs in other tournaments...

Apparently several ACFA members made the final Top 10 in the Inshore Division of the Inaugural 2008 Orange Beach Saltwater Series World Championship. **Henry Nall** placed 7th overall with a 6.60# speckled trout. **Erik Nelson** was in 9th place with a 7.23# redfish. And **Chris Massey** finished in 10th place with his 6.75# sheepshead. Honorable mention goes to **Bill Patterson** who was the Speckled Trout Daily Shootout Winner for April 29th with a 5.95# speck. Congratulations to you all!

The Smack Talk has Started...

With the DDBRC (Down Da Bayou Redfish Club) in their 'grudge challenge' to the ACFA. Those boys are out to avenge last year's loss to a much smaller ACFA contingent fishing in Louisiana waters. Let's wish our representatives well as they again carry the ACFA banner to Hopedale, LA for the rematch on Saturday May 31st. Best of luck to our teams : **Barnie White & Stephen Newsome**, **Steve White & Johnny Newsome**, **Bobby Abruscato & Scott Ritter**, **Paul Smith & Kyle Mitternacht**, **Bruce Howle Sr & Bruce Howle Jr**, **Erik Nelson & Mike Jones**, **Donald Garrettson & Brandon Parker**, **Lynn & Lane Debrow**.

Hey, Where'd Everybody Go?

A few weeks ago we had a change of address for the ACFA website and forums. IF you've missed us try our NEW URL @ <http://www.acfafish.com> Our Webmaster **Brandon Milam** tried to get word to everyone registered on the site prior to the server change. Hopefully he can make the meeting and give us a rundown on the website and some of the new features he's implemented for ACFA members to get more out of THEIR website! Thanks again Brandon for keeping us online!!

Ye OLDE News:

Over 40 folks attended last month's (unpublicized) Mini Seminar on kayak fishing as an alternative fishing method. New ACFA members **Matt Seese** and **Danny Adkins** did a great job discussing the many positive aspects of one of the nation's fastest growing outdoor activities. They showed some of the specialized modifications and custom features that make fishing in these small craft easier and more comfortable. You can check them out online in the ACFA forum @ <http://www.acfafish.com/cms/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=8> or with the Mobile Bay Kayak Fishing Association @ <http://www.mbkfa.com/> Thanks guys!

Special thanks to **Robbie Loper** of Middle Bay Boat Company who spoke on outboard motor maintenance. He discussed new marine innovations and gave great tips and details about gas, oil and batteries and how they affect your engine's performance. Robbie business is located at 6110 Rangeline Road in Theodore. Phone: 251-443-6020.

And **Pat Sirmon** did a bang up job with his 'Quick Hits' segment: "Recipe for FUN!" He talked a bit about ramp etiquette, water safety and accident prevention. Plenty of good advice with the waterways and entry points getting crowded this summer.

Our special guests for the May meeting were several representatives of the Weeks Bay Fishing Association. It was great to meet **Rick Parsons** (President), **Trey Tindle** (Vice President), and **Stan Hallford** (Board Member) who not only came to the meeting to issue a formal challenge to the ACFA for the Speckled Trout Challenge, but liked us enough to join our club. These are great guys who share with us the same passion for good inshore fishing in Mobile Bay. If ya can't beat 'em... ;-)

If you didn't get a chance to check out the fine deals that Marc and the representatives from **West Marine** (one of our sponsors) had on the table at the May meeting, be sure and go by their store. They even donated a rod and reel combo as a door prize!

Lucky Dog Day...

In case you didn't hear about **Tom Duncan** the day of the May meeting. He caught a 27" speckled trout, won a door prize and then won the drawing for the rod and reel combo. After the meeting he was last seen getting on I-10 heading for the boats ;-)

Raffle for Diamondback ...

At the May meeting **Terry Quint** procured a rod and reel combo to raffle off as a fund raiser for one of our ACFA forum and club members (**Mack Clay**) whose daughter needs a kidney transplant in June. The generosity exhibited by the club members who participated was to say the least overwhelming. Over \$1000 was raised in that single night. God bless you and yours Clay!

We're Halfway Through The Season...

so be sure and continue to sign in to register for our Grand Attendance Prize Package (ice chest) to be given away at our December awards banquet to a member who has attended at least 8 of the 10 meetings. See **Mike Lee** at the membership table. We would appreciate any appropriate items to add to the prize package or as door prizes for the meetings, or (IF you wish) make a cash donation that we can buy items with. See or contact **Jimmy Quint** or **Doug Smith** about donations.

Plaque pickup...

Rick Yeend, Mike Herring, Jarrod Yeend, Henry Nall, James Roushmi, John Fassbender, Donnie Fassbender & Kyle Mitternacht Doug will have your plaques at the June meeting. These are plaques NOT picked up from previous tournaments.

REMINDERS

- A raffle at the September meeting for a bass fishing trip for 2 (or 18 Hole Golf) on exclusive Steelwood Country Club Lake (near Stapleton, AL) Tickets will be on sale at the July, August and September meetings. See **Patric Garmeson** or **Mike Lee**.
- Junior Angler Division plaques: for 3 places in EVERY tournament
- 'Special' Tarpon C&R Tournament (Tarpoonapalooza) in August (with plaques)
- 'Special' Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout division (5 plaques)
- 'Mini-Seminars': to be given prior to most meetings on popular subjects (see Patric Garmeson about future topics)
- Streamlined sign-in and more seating at the meetings (additional chairs are available) PLEASE find a seat, or offer one.
- Logo items on sale at the meetings. See Alvin Bell for details of what is available.
- Please remember, **NO SMOKING** in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment.
- **STATE LAW prohibits any outside alcohol at the meetings.** PLEASE support Post 88, purchase your drinks from the bar.
- Parking is quite limited at Post 88. There would be additional spaces if vehicles parking behind the hall would back well into the grass to allow other vehicles to 'double park' in front of them. **Please 'park smart'**, and come early!
- And **PLEASE** be respectful of our speakers (and the members who want to hear them) by refraining from any unnecessary talking or moving about during the presentations or during the mini seminar prior to the start of the meeting. Thank you!
- And we ask that you save your questions until the end of the talks unless prompted by the speaker.
- The ACFA 2008 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2008. Statistician **MUST** receive cards within 30 days of catch.
- **The ACFA 'Junk Sale' is coming to the July meeting.** Start rounding up all your old gear. Details in the next newsletter.

| PI | Name | Points |
|----|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | Donnie Howell | 16 |
| 2 | Jim Foster | 13 |
| 3 | Dave Growden (N) | 11 |
| 4 | Jimbo Miller | 9 |
| 4 | Mike Herring | 9 |
| 4 | Rick Yeend | 9 |
| 5 | Bobby Abruscato | 8 |
| 5 | Dane Tomberlin | 8 |
| 5 | Trenton Pitt (J) | 8 |
| 6 | Doug Smith | 7 |
| 6 | Henry Nall | 7 |
| 6 | Jarrold Yeend (N) | 7 |
| 6 | Steve O'Dell | 7 |
| 7 | Alvin Bell | 6 |
| 7 | Leslie Smith | 6 |
| 8 | Adam Barker | 5 |
| 8 | Chris Massey | 5 |
| 8 | John Fassbender | 5 |
| 8 | Mike Foster | 5 |
| 8 | Phillip Guy | 5 |
| 9 | Austin Lee (J) | 4 |
| 9 | Chris Conken | 4 |
| 9 | David Thornton | 4 |
| 9 | James Roushmi | 4 |
| 9 | Justin Peacock (N) | 4 |
| 9 | Rick Tourne' | 4 |

Statistics...

After three tournaments the point standings are as follows:

The following members have 3 points:

Bill Duke, Bill Midgette, Billy Hurd, Patric Garmeson, Tommy Pond

The following members have 2 points:

Bill Perry (N), George Koulianos, Gerald Bolen, Jerry Bolen (N), Robert Brewer (N), Tommy Murray, Vicki Foster (L), Vince Hawkins

The following members have 1 point:

Blake Michaleski, Brenda Wilson, Bryan Hack, Cameron Calhoun, David Hare, David McNew, Del Delchamps, Dewayne Overstreet, Donnie Fassbender, Dwain Mangold (N), Frank Mitternight, Frank Parker, Frank Parker III (J), Gary Tingle, Howie Galloway (N), Jarred Kelly (N), Jason Miller, John Burke III, Kim Guy (L), Larry Watkins, Margaret Miller (L), Mike Lee, Mike McDonald, Mutt Burke, O.P. Harrison IV (N), Pat Hughes, Richard Hoffman (N), Richard Schantz (N), Ronnie Dyson, Scott Godwin, Theo Koulianos (J), Tim Pierce, Timmy Bradley (J)

(N) New Member (J) junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) be responsible for the welfare of any members, guests or equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge.

‘CPR’ Speckled Trout standings as of May 23, 2008: 1st **Bill Midgette 25"**, 2nd **Richard Suk 24 3/4"**, 3rd **Jim Foster 24"**, 4th **Patric Garmeson 23"**, 5th **Patric Garmeson 22"**

This is a fun contest that will hopefully help protect the resource we enjoy so much. Keep those pictures coming folks!

The BIG Fish Contest

Current 23-May-08

| | Blackfish | WT | | Flounder | WT | | Ground Mullet | WT | | Redfish | WT |
|---|--------------------|------|---|------------------|------|---|----------------|------|---|--------------------|------|
| 1 | | | 1 | Gerald Markow | 4.69 | 1 | Donnie Howell | 1.10 | 1 | Erik Nelson | 7.45 |
| 2 | | | 2 | Doug Houston | 3.79 | 2 | | | 2 | George Koulianos | 6.55 |
| 3 | | | 3 | Mike Herring | 3.15 | 3 | | | 3 | Jason Miller | 6.45 |
| 4 | | | 4 | Tim Pierce | 3.12 | 4 | | | 4 | Donnie Howell | 6.05 |
| 5 | | | 5 | | | 5 | | | 5 | Patric Garmeson | 5.95 |
| | Sheepshead | WT | | Spanish Mackerel | WT | | Speckled Trout | WT | | White Trout | WT |
| 1 | Theo Koulianos (J) | 9.11 | 1 | Bobby McElroy | 3.34 | 1 | Erik Nelson | 6.90 | 1 | Vicki Foster (L) | 2.43 |
| 2 | | | 2 | | | 2 | Bill Patterson | 6.80 | 2 | Michael Foster | 2.09 |
| 3 | | | 3 | | | 3 | Henry Nall | 6.60 | 3 | Theo Koulianos (J) | 2.03 |
| 4 | | | 4 | | | 4 | Chris Conken | 6.31 | 4 | | |
| 5 | | | 5 | | | 5 | Bill Patterson | 5.96 | 5 | | |

* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

Statistician Vince Hawkins wants to remind everyone that **redfish can ONLY be weighed in at ACFA tournaments** to assure length verification.

Mail your other Big Fish Contest entries to: Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611 (452-3899)

From our ACFA Mission Statement:

“Our objectives are to provide a **family oriented fishing club**, where you can meet new friends while learning to be a more successful fisherman.” Nothing does this more than taking the kids fishing.

And Speaking of the Kids ...

(reprinted and rewritten from the ACFA Newsletter Archives)

One of the goals when taking kids fishing is (of course) catching fish. Certainly there should be plenty for them to eat and drink and be comfortable and safe, but nothing lights the fire in a new fisherman like the excitement of consistently catching fish. Well if you agree, then now may be THE time to put them in ‘the zone’.

Anytime from mid May through July and maybe even August, you can expect to find schools of hungry fish under the birds somewhere in the Bay. One prime area for this seasonal occurrence is the Dog River flats stretching from the point near the Buccaneer Yacht Club to the north side of Gaillard Island. In this part of the bay (and other similar places) schools of speckled and white trout gorge themselves on schools of shrimp (usually small to medium size) that are migrating down the bay toward the Gulf. When the fish chase these shrimp (which are usually bottom dwellers) they often herd the shrimp up off the bottom to intermediate depths and (with no where else to go) even to the surface. It is at this point the keen eyed gulls join in and turn the little shrimps’ day into a real nightmare of being eaten from above and from below.

Then the fisherman enters the picture, using the diving birds as a locator for the schools of hungry fish below (occasionally with the aid of binoculars). On a ‘good’ day (fairly calm surface water) you should be able to find from 2 to 8 of the “bird schools” in the Dog River flats area. Some of the schools are predominately speckled trout of one size or another, while others may be mostly white trout. Usually it’s a mix of both to some degree with the specks in the upper portion of the water column and the white trout below or on the bottom.

When you approach a school, do so cautiously from the upwind side so that you may drift into casting range without disturbing the action. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR MOTOR RUNNING** as this will scatter the fish and the bait and the birds will leave or sit on the water forcing you to start looking all over again. Sometimes though fish will continue to feed for a good while in the same vicinity where the bait has dispersed. This is especially true of the white trout.

A trolling motor is a convenient, quiet way to move around but not entirely necessary with good boat handling. The preferred baits seem to be artificials such as speck rigs and single or tandem ¼ ounce grubs. Color doesn’t seem to be all that important, but you want a lure that can be cast fairly easily and stand up to the abuse of multiple strikes even on a single cast. Throw toward the nearest strikes you see and the fun should begin!

Remember these “bird fish” are often small so this is a good opportunity to show the youngsters proper handling and release for any undersized or unwanted fish. Small trout are better handled (gently) with a bare wet hand, using the ‘free’ hand to remove the hook with needle nosed pliers or a hook remover. Try to avoid using a towel on the fish as this removes the protective slime that helps the fish avoid infections and aids in swimming. Using a net can also remove some of the slime and cause separations in the tail and fins. The newer rubber nets and those made with small mesh seem to be a bit safer to use for fish you intend to release. Remember, today’s runts are tomorrow’s trophies!

It’s a good opportunity to teach them good conservation of the resource so that their children (and grandchildren) can enjoy it too :-)



| ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOC. BIG FISH CONTEST ENTRY | |
|--|---------------|
| DATE | |
| MEMBER'S NAME | |
| FISH TYPE | |
| WEIGHT | lbs. oz. |
| WEIGHED AT | |
| WEIGHED BY | |

| ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOC. BIG FISH CONTEST ENTRY | |
|--|---------------|
| DATE | |
| MEMBER'S NAME | |
| FISH TYPE | |
| WEIGHT | lbs. oz. |
| WEIGHED AT | |
| WEIGHED BY | |

Signature of person weighing the fish

Signature of person weighing the fish

Fill out the above fields, print and have the person weighing the fish sign the form.

Fill out the above fields, print and have the person weighing the fish sign the form.

Then mail to: Big Fish Contest
C/O Vince Hawkins
112 Barataria Drive
Mobile, AL 36611

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