

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume 1, Issue 9 October 2008

Next Meeting: October 2, 2008 **Time:** 7:00 PM
Place: American Legion Post 88 Halls Mill Road
Presentations:
Guest: Read Hendon GCRL "Tripletail Tagging"
Quick Hits: by Don 'Iceman' Ludlam
Mini Seminar: Bruce Howle Sr "Fall Fishing"

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

"Ill Winds" Spare ACFA Tournament

September Tournament Recap:

The weekend of September 6-7 was bracketed by two very nasty Gulf of Mexico hurricanes and fortunately we were spared the worst (Thank You Lord!). In fact the weather was as nice as we've had all year, and certainly the most cooperative we've had for a club tournament in a while. Perhaps being the first Saturday of 2008 College Football or the uneasiness about the tropics seemed to keep a lot of folks off the water. But for the ACFA members who ventured forth from the Delta southward into the Gulf it was a great day to be fishing. The fish cooperated for many, though some folks (especially on the Mobile River) struggled to even catch a fish to weigh in. **Don & Bekki Ludlam** pronounced the weather, water and fishing "PERFECT" and they brought in a box of the nicest looking spanish mackerel we've seen in a long time and rewrote the Big Fish Contest for that species in the process. They along with **Mike Lee** and **Austin Lee** fished a rig a few mile south of Fort Morgan and swept the spanish mackerel category for the tournament. Very well done. Congratulations!



The fishing was even kinder to the 'motorless fishermen'.

New member **Danny Adkins** and **Josh Woolums** fishing in their kayaks near the Dauphin Island Bridge caught some nice white trout and school specks before Danny landed a larger speck on a top water lure that later became the first speckled trout from a kayak weighed in an ACFA tournament. Not to be outdone, Josh fishing a Gulp pogy hooked "a behemoth flattie that surfaced next to the boat and made me dirty up my underwear" ;-) LOL...

Well that flounder ended up in his box and 1st place in the tournament becoming the first kayak caught fish to win an ACFA plaque! Congrats "*Stinky Hooker*" (continued on page 5)



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October Meeting Guest Speaker : J Read Hendon

Read Hendon is the Assistant Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). He will be speaking on the sportfish tagging programs with emphasis on the Tripletail (aka Blackfish) tag & release program which has gotten national press attention. Find more information @ <http://www.usm.edu/gcrl>



September Tournament Results...

At least 45 fish were weighed in (with 5 Junior anglers earning plaques):

Speckled Trout: 17 total (1 Jr angler) (**Christian Howell** 2.70#)

1st **Chris Conken** 4.75#, 2nd **Adam Barker** 4.05#, 3rd **Tommy Pond** 3.80#

Flounder: 6 total (1 Jr angler) (**Christian Howell** 1.15#)

1st **Josh Woolums** 4.50#, 2nd **Henry Nall** 2.10#, 3rd **Bill Perry** 1.85#

Redfish: 4 total (NO Jr anglers)

1st **Jim Foster** 6.20#, 2nd **Henry Nall** 5.65#, 3rd **Trevor Wood** 5.45#

White Trout: 13 total (3 Jr anglers: **Austin Lee** 0.80#, **Major Grifton** (N) 0.65#, **Christian Howell** 0.55#)

1st **Bill Perry** 1.90#, 2nd **Patric Garmeson** 1.35#, 3rd **David Thornton** 1.00#

Spanish Mackerel: 3 total (NO Jr anglers)

1st **Bekki Ludlam** #6.55, 2nd **Don Ludlam** 5.30#, 3rd **Mike Lee** 5.10#

The club members were treated to sandwiches (provided by Team 'LIVEBAIT'). Thanks to **Doug & Belinda Smith**, and **Bruce & Angie Howle** for procuring the eats, setting up and cleaning afterwards. We sure appreciate the efforts folks!

September Meeting Recap:

Our September 4th meeting started off on a somber note with the announcement that **Mutt Burke** (one of our founding members) had passed away early that morning. We were pleased to see that his son **John Burke** and two daughters felt up to making the meeting. Many condolences were passed on and a card was passed around to sign, but the highlight was hearing the tales of tribute to Mutt from his friends who shared them with us. The delightful stories rendered by **Mike Thompson** and **Bill Midgette** (Mutt's life long friend) were especially helpful to those who hadn't had the opportunity to get to know him as well and shared with those who have admired his sporting exploits and gentile spirit. It was fitting to see that Mutt's name was added to the meeting attendance record as he was certainly with us throughout the evening. Maybe that's how John won a door prize ;-)

Many thanks to **Vernon at Fox's Trolling Motors** (661-7033) 4401 Government Blvd (Hwy 90) for the great information on trolling motors, battery connections, and the new "power poles" for fishing in shallow water. That man knows 'his stuff'! Also thanks to **Patric Garmeson** who did a great job with the 'Quick Hits' spanish mackerel strategies and chumming tips.

So all-in-all it was very good meeting, with lots of good folks having good times. Sorry if you missed it, see you in October!

December Awards Banquet Announcement...

Doug Smith announced a change in the venue for our December Awards Banquet. This year it will be held at "The Grand Hall" on Halls Mill Road (just west of I-65 in the building formerly known as "Austin's Country Palace"). The Banquet will be on FRIDAY night December 5th at 7pm. Catering will again be provided by **Catalina Seafood**. Thanks for setting this up Doug!

November Tournament Announcement...

After the meeting our founding president **Mike Thompson** contacted presiding president **Doug Smith** (who polled the other members of the ACFA Board of Directors) to propose in honor of Mutt Burke's contributions to the club we change the name of the "Causeway Classic" to the "**Mutt Burke Causeway Classic**". The motion was approved unanimously! Great idea Mike and a fitting tribute to a man who exemplified the spirit of the ACFA to "promote friendship, sportsmanship, and conservation along coastal Alabama." So the November ACFA tournament will be now be know as the "**Mutt Burke Causeway Classic**".

Logo Items...

Alvin Bell says we still have a good number and selection of white and blue long sleeved ACFA T-shirts, hats and towels that he will have at the October meeting. Supplies of short sleeved shirts are limited in most colors and sizes, so if you want anything he assured me it's OK for anyone to give him a call to check about availability or to arrange a meeting to purchase items.

Also, we still have a few of the Top Spot Mobile Bay fishing maps donated by **Barry Keith** of Keith Map Service. With the Fall and Winter fishing just around the corner you probably want to have one of these. See Alvin at the meeting or contact Barry at Keith Map Service (633-5588) 60 SCHILLINGER RD. NORTH, between Airport Blvd and Tanner Williams Rd. Or on the internet @ <http://keithmaps.com/> Thanks again Barry for supporting our club by providing these maps at your cost!

Your ACFA 2009 Board of Directors...

Are being nominated and will be voted on at the November meeting. With over 250 members we should have a plethora of individuals willing to offer of their time and talents in the capacity of chairpersons or helpers to keep our club growing. If you are so inclined (or know of someone you'd like to see on the board or as a helper) please contact a current Chairperson.

The October 4 "Autumn Fallout" Tournament...

features **Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder and Sheepshead**. Points and plaques will be awarded for places 1st through 3rd for each species. Again the Junior Anglers can earn plaques for weighing in any of these four species. Barring any unforeseen 'Biblical type weather events' the bay area should be setting up for some ideal fall pattern fishing. With two tournaments left to go in this season, who will prevail as Tournament Champion is still very much undecided. Anything can happen down the stretch. Besides the opportunity for some great fishing competition and fellowship the ACFA will offer a classic fish fry with the usual trimmings according to Food Chairman **Randy Wiscaver**. Hopefully it'll be his cheese grits and coleslaw. So don't miss that! This will be the last weigh in we have this year at the Post 200 on Dauphin Island Parkway (Hwy 193) by the Greer's Foodtiger. Fishing hours are still from 5 am till 5 pm and the weigh scales will be open at 3pm until 5 pm. We hope to see you there!

Fish or Golf?...

Billy Hurd won the drawing for his choice of an 8 hour bass fishing trip or 18 holes of golf at Steelwood Country Club located near Stapleton, AL. So what's it gonna be Billy? I'm sure someone has some clubs you could borrow ;-)
Thanks to **Patric Garmeson** for setting this up. The raffle raised several hundred dollars for the club. Thanks to everyone!

ACFA Members in Other Tournaments...

Between the tropical cyclones and other distractions, folks must not be fishing a whole lot lately. The biggest news on the local scene was that **Rick Tourne** entered the only blackfish in the Sertoma Family Rodeo which was delayed from Labor Day weekend until September 6 & 7. Congratulations Rick! His was the only ACFA member name I recognized on the final results list. It is sure a good cause and Rick said "they took good care" of him as he imbibed in the evening's festive celebration ;-)

And the only other recent tournament I've heard of that involved ACFA members was for the IFA Redfish Tour rescheduled from Saturday September 13 to Sunday September 14th out of Lulu's in Gulf Shores, AL.

Paul Smith "*Moondoggie*" and **Kyle Mitternacht** finished in 4th place overcoming some VERY tough competition and fishing conditions featuring strong winds and much higher than normal tides due to Hurricane Ike. Thank goodness it was 250 miles away! Well done guys, and good luck in the Championship to be held November 7 & 8 in Panama City, FL.

PLEASE Pick up your Plaques...

President Doug Smith told me we still have quite an inventory of unclaimed Tournament Plaques from earlier this year. If you placed in a tournament and have not picked up your plaque Doug still has them. At least for the time being. Unclaimed plaques at the end of the year will be 'recycled', so you don't want to wait until the last minute. He will have a box with the plaques at the front table during the meetings.

Last Chance This Year...

IF you haven't already gotten your FREE USCG Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check then Saturday October 18 at Little Billy Goat Hole on Dauphin Island is your last chance. Successfully passing this free and non-binding inspection will get you a "VESSEL SAFETY CHECK" decal that could prove invaluable in case your boat is ever stopped by the Coast Guard or other law agency. And having the proper gear onboard just might save your life (or your passengers) should you be subjected to the worst situation!

REMINDERS

- Junior Angler Division plaques in EVERY tournament
- '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 and Top Spot maps on sale at the meetings. Call **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.

Statistics... Tournament point standings after seven tournaments :

PI	Name	Points
1	Jim Foster	43
2	Henry Nall	39
3	Tommy Pond	26
4	Donnie Howell	24
5	Rick Tourne	20
6	Chris Conken	19
6	Chris Massey	19
7	Billy Hurd	18
8	Adam Barker	17
8	Bill Perry (N)	17
8	Daniel Ford	17
8	Rick Yeend	17
9	Mike Foster	16
9	Mike Herring	16
10	Phillip Guy	15
11	Dave Growden (N)	12
11	George Harrison (N)	12
12	Bo Winter	11
12	Patric Garmeson	11
12	Vicki Foster (L)	11
13	David Thornton	10
13	Jimbo Miller	10
13	Tim Pierce	10

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

Members with 9 points: Alvin Bell, Bekki Ludlam (L), Josh Woolums, Steve O'Dell, Trenton Pitt (J)

Members with 8 points: Bobby Abruscato, Dane Tomberlin, Doug Smith, John Fassbender, Lauren Rea (N)(L), O.P. Harrison (N), Vince Hawkins

Members with 7 points: Don Ludlam, Jarrod Yeend (N), Leslie Smith, Mike Lee, Sidney Foster (N)

Members with 6 points: Bill Graves, Bill Midgette, Brittney Howle (J), Bruce Howle, Sr, Shane Ford, Theo Koulianos (J)

Members with 5 points: Austin Lee (J), Bob Maclay (N), Bubba Williams, Justin Peacock (N), Mike McDonald, Richard Schantz (N), Trevor Wood (N)

Members with 4 points: Donald Garrettson, George Koulianos, James Roushmi, Richard Suk, Savannah Calhoun (J), Tommy Murray

Members with 3 points: Bill Duke, Bob Ward, Donna Schantz (L)(N), Gerald Bolen, Jerry Bolen (N), Larry Watkins, Robert Brewer (N)

2 points: Barry Keith, Brooks Lee (N), Christian Howell (J), David McNew, Doug Tierce, Dwain Mangold (N), Frank Parker, Jason Miller, John Burke III, Keith Kenney (N), Lindsey Hawkins (J), Margaret Miller (L), Margaret Rowell (L), Ronnie Dyson, Tye Jordan (J)

Members with 1 point: Andrew Clark (N), Belinda Smith (L), Blake Michaleski, Brenda Wilson (L), Bruce Howle, Jr, Bryan Hack, Cameron Calhoun, Carson Tierce (J), Charlie Dowdle, Chip Cummings, Craig Newton, Danny Adkins, David Hare, David Montgomery, Del Delchamps, Dewayne Overstreet, Donnie Fassbender, Doug Houston, Frank Mitternight, Frank Parker III (J), Gary Tingle, Gerald Markow, Howie Galloway (N), Jacob Guy(J), Jarred Kelly(N), Jerry Donoghue, Jerry Torrans, Jim Glass, Jimmy Rowell(N), Joe Sirmon, John Parker (J), Judy Smith (L), Kelly Fulmer, Kim Guy (L), Lucille Watkins (L), Major Grifton (J)(N), Matthew Morgan (J), Mutt Burke, Pat Hughes, Patti Fassbender, Richard Hoffman (N), Raleigh Hawkins (J), Robert Morgan (J), Sam Clarke III, Scott Godwin, Sharon Markow (L), Steve Laurendine, Ted Kiefer, Timmy Bradley (J), Todd Golomb, Tommy Devery, Trey Pitt, Will Parker (J)

'CPR' Speckled Trout standings as of September 20, 2008: 1st Tom Duncan 25 1/2", 2nd George Harrison 25 1/2", 3rd Bill Midgette* 25", 4th Adam Barker, 25" 5th Richard Suk* 24 3/4", 6th Patric Garmeson*+ 24 3/4" WOW! What a tight competition! This is a fun contest that will hopefully help protect the resource we enjoy so much. Let's see more!

The BIG Fish Contest

Current

20-Sept-08

** NEW RECORD .

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1	Kyle Mitternight	21.47	1	Gerald Markow	4.69	1	Bill Perry	2.45**	1	Erik Nelson	7.45
2	Kyle Mitternight	21.03	2	Gerald Markow	4.86	2	Shane Ford	1.80	2	Henry Nall	6.70
3	Rick Tourne	18.55	3	Josh Woolums	4.50	3	Daniel Ford	1.65	3	George Koulianos	6.55*
4	Frank Mitternight	17.90	4	Daniel Ford	4.35	4	Frank Mitternight	1.59	4	Jim Foster	6.55
5	Rick Yeend	13.70	5	Rick Tourne	4.18	5	Daniel Ford	1.50	5	Jason Miller	6.45
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	Theo Koulianos (J)	9.11	1	Bekki Ludlam (L)	6.55	1	Donald Garrettson	6.91	1	Vicki Foster (L)	2.43
2			2	Don Ludlam	5.30	2	Erik Nelson	6.90	2	Mike Foster	2.09
3			3	Mike Lee	5.10	3	Bill Patterson	6.80	3	Theo Koulianos (J)	2.03
4			4	Bekki Ludlam (L)	5.05	4	Bill Patterson	6.80	4	Bill Perry	1.90
5			5	Don Ludlam	4.95	5	O.P. Harrison	6.65	5	Jim Foster	1.55

* 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)

Kayaking as a sport has been described as “experiencing explosive growth in popularity over the past 6 to 8 years.” No doubt it is a popular and leisurely way to fish, and as we have recently seen VERY effective!

Kudos to **Danny Adkins** (right) for entering the ACFA’s first speckled trout caught from a kayak. He was fishing during the September tournament with **Josh Woolums** (below) and another kayaking friend near the Dauphin Island Bridge. Danny is Vice President

of the fast growing Mobile Bay Kayak Fishing Association (MBKFA). He along with **Matt Seese** joined the ACFA this year

and co-hosted a mini seminar on kayaking back in April. Both are active on the ACFA forums (as *flounderpounder01* and *yak-n-fish*) respectively. You can find out more about their club and general kayaking information at our meeting or by checking out their website @ <http://www.mbkfa.com/>



Josh Woolums “Stinky Hooker” didn’t let this 4.5# flounder get away! And it earned him 1st place in the Sept ACFA Tourney.

