

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume I, Issue 10

November 2008

Next Meeting: November 6, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: American Legion Post 88 Halls Mill Road

Presentations: Sea Tow

Mini Seminar: ?

Quick Hits: by **David Thornton**

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	

October "Fallout" Tournament Recap:

The weather of Saturday October 4 was as nice as any ever had for an ACFA tourney. Clear skies and light winds prevailed all day and our members fanned out from the Delta

into the Gulf of Mexico. The day started for me and fishing partner **Dewayne Overstreet** "Rusty Hook" meeting up with **Blake Michaleski** "Gumbo" south of the Dauphin Island Pier for some wade fishing. Within a few minutes after this picture (below) was taken Blake landed the tournament's 1st Place Speckled Trout on a topwater lure.

He put on 'a clinic' in the art of fishing hard baits for speckled trout, landing 5 fine specks in an hour and a half.

About that same time, **Jim Foster** "Hollywood" (below right) was on the Mobile River with his usual 'Blue Can Brigade' fishing partners **Patric Garmeson** "Ugly Stick" and **Adam Barker** "D.O.A." and landing the tournament's First Place Redfish.

There was some fine fishing to be had by the few members who participated. No matter what the excuses why participation was down, (football, gas etc.) the weather was not one of them! The food was excellent too, as our Food Chairman **Randy Wiscaver** "Bigun" and **Cevin Cormier** "Doc" fried up piles of grouper filets along with fried grits (yummy!), cheese grits and cole slaw. Thanks guys!!!



Blake Michaleski earnestly works his topwater lure in Pelican Bay as the sun rises over Fort Morgan.

October Tournament Results: (NO Jr Anglers entered fish)

Speckled Trout: 11 total

1st - **Blake Michaleski** - 3.85

2nd - **Larry Watkins** - 3.55

3rd - **Vince Hawkins** - 3.45

Flounder: 8 total

1st - **John Fassbender** - 4.00

2nd - **Henry Nall** - 3.20

3rd - **Rick Yeend** - 2.50

Redfish: 8 total

1st - **Jim Foster** - 5.95

2nd - **Rick Tourne** - 5.50

3rd - **Dewayne Overstreet** - 4.85

Sheepshead: 3 total

1st - **Vicki Foster (L)** - 3.40

2nd - **Jim Foster** - 2.25

3rd - **Henry Nall** - 1.30

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Jim Foster (r.) maintained his status atop this year's Tournament Point Standings by virtue of consistently placing in most of the tournaments so far. True to form he finished in 1st Place Redfish and 2nd Place Sheepshead in the October Tournament. With one more tournament to go it will take an atom bomb (or 1st Place by **Henry Nall**) to unseat Jim. And the battle is still on for plaques and points to determine the rest of our Tournament winners.

Complete Tournament Point Standings are on page 4.



October Meeting Recap:

At the mini seminar, **Donald Garrettson** filled in for **Bruce Howle, Sr** and did a fine job talking about topwater and hardbait fishing tips and techniques. Variety is often the key to success and widening your choices of purchases to cover the basic sizes, brands, profiles, etc. is a proven way to be prepared. And as he said "Just keep the hooks sharp. The fish will do the rest."

Our guest speaker Read Hendon had a great presentation about the Gulf Coast Research Lab's Tripletail Tag & Release Program. There is still a LOT to be learned about this fish and the only scientific catch data available is provided by volunteers who tag & release these fish. Several ACFA members have been active in the study; **Rick Tourne**, **Kyle Mitternight** and **Michael McDonald** have tagged about 20 tripletail so far and Rick said it sure is an enjoyable (yet demanding sport). Anyone who participates and turns in 5 tags will receive a neat Tripletail tagging T-Shirt (like Rick was wearing at the meeting). IF you'd like to learn more about the program talk to one of these guys or contact Read Hendon @ 703 East Beach Drive Ocean Springs, MS 39564. You can find more information @ <http://www.usm.edu/gcrl> or email Read at read.hendon@usm.edu

We'd like to thank **Charlie Crawford** @ Souther-N-Bama for the 'Live Shrimp' coupons, Chad Dufrene for the plastic baits and **Brenda Wilson** @ Bass Pro Shops for the t-shirts. We had a BUNCH of door prizes for the last meeting ;-) Thank you all!!

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!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT will be provided this year by "The Mystifiers". In case you're not aware the band features ACFA members **David Hare** "Burl Minnow" and "Iceman" **Don Ludlam**. So bring yer dancin padna and shoes! We're gonna rock!

We will pass a 'sign up list' around during the November meeting to get an accurate count of how many people to expect. At the October meeting Doug mentioned the cost of the catered food is \$16.50 per person and we will NOT be overbooking! So IF you're planning on attending it's imperative to get your name on this list. **Names cannot be added after November 15th.** Make your plans to attend now, and we hope to see you there. There'll be great food, fun and entertainment!

November Tournament...

At the beginning of this year the ACFA Board of Directors unanimously decided to add a ninth tournament to the club's schedule and have it in early November on the Causeway. And just last month, after **Mutt Burke** (one of our founding members) passed away the Board declared (also unanimously) to rename that tournament in his honor. So the ACFA's inaugural November

"Mutt Burke Causeway Classic" will be held on Saturday November 8, 2008.

The species this month will be **Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder** and **White Trout**. Again points and plaques will be awarded for 1st through 3rd place and Junior anglers are eligible for plaques in ANY of these 4 species.

There are a few things different about this tournament, so listen up! The fishing time is from **6** am to 5 pm, you **MUST** launch from somewhere on the Causeway (though you can fish where ever you want in Alabama waters) and the weigh in will be from 3 pm to 5 pm at Scott's Landing. IF you're not familiar with Scott's Landing, the parking is 'limited'. You might want to make plans to park your rig at another location to ease the crowded parking there. We did OK last year despite it being a busy day for them at the site because some folks did park off site.

Crabby Road

12-6-07



*This Christmas I'm askin'
Santa just to leave me a reindeer.
Love that venison chili!*

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We would like to do the 'Chili Cook-off' again (like last year) but if you plan on participating you must let Doug know by the November meeting so he can tell the other contestants how much each of them needs to bring so there will be enough for everyone (a gallon or so?). Plus we need some volunteers to bring drinks. Remember restroom facilities are classified as 'fisherman essential' only.

Already last year's winning chili team "Shut Up & Fish" has declared they will defend their title against all comers. ;-)

Plaques will be presented for places 1st through 3rd (?) maybe more depending on the number of entries we have.

With the weather cooling down the fishing Should be as hot as some of the chili entries! Plan on being there and bring your hungry ;-)



2009 Chair Nominations:

Officially nominations for ANY chair position are open until the 7pm start of the November meeting. See Doug Smith if you wish to nominate someone or to be considered, as a vote will be held during the meeting. Vote early and vote often ;-)
So far the nominations are: **President: Vince Hawkins, Vice President: Jimmy Quint, Treasurer: Chris Conken, Secretary: Vicki Foster, Membership: Mike Lee, Weigh master: Pat Hughes, Logo Items: Justin Peacock, Awards: Bryan Hack (?), Food: Brenda Wilson, Webmaster: Brandon Milam and Newsletter: Jason Miller. Statistics: Joe Sirmon (?),**
Donations: ?

As you can see, there are still some positions yet to be filled. There is no reason why this should happen with our club membership well over 250. Time to step up folks. Several of us have served for three years, and now it's YOUR turn to give some back!

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.

ACFA Members in Other Tournaments...

Well ACFA members have continued to make 'noise' on the pro redfishing circuits. At the FLW Redfish Series in Venice, LA held September 25-27 **Barnie White** (and his dad **Steve**) finished in 4th Place and **Scott Ritter** (and his partner) in 5th. This was some stiff competition in a grueling 3 day tournament and the guys sure earned their winnings for this one.

At the IFA Redfish Tour held in Venice, LA on October 16 **Scott Ritter** and **Bobby Abruscato** finished 11th and the team of **Paul Smith** and **Kyle Mitternacht** were just behind them in 13th in a tight pack of teams with over 15# brought to the scales. Let's wish these guys well at the IFA Championship to be held November 7-8 in Panama City Beach, FL!

In addition there were a 5 or 6 teams with ACFA members competing in the Team Trails in Delacroix, LA at the time of this writing, but no final results have been posted on the club's fishing forum as yet. So we'll just have to wish them all success ;-)

I never saw the results of the River Shack Open Fishing Tournament held at the old Beachcomber Saturday October 11, so I'm not sure if any ACFA members placed in that one. And unfortunately, the Red Cross Causeway Classic was CANCELLED due to Saturday October 18 having a Small Craft Advisory in effect. (wusses ;-)) Just kidding, that's a good cause anyway!

The Yearlong Big Fish Contest Continues Until November 14th...

but entries for the 2008 Big Fish Contest must be weighed prior to midnight Wednesday November 14th, and if mailed must be received by **Vince Hawkins** (with the Nov 14 postmark) no later than Friday November 16th. Better not to chance the mail IF it's close! Call: **452-3899**
All fish caught, or processed after 12:01 am Thursday November 15, 2007 (with the above exception) will be entered in the 2009 Big Fish Contest. Your Big Fish entry must be made within 30 days of the catch and please be sure and make a photocopy of your Big Fish Card before entrusting it to the mail service. Better safe than sorry! **Mail to: Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611 (452-3899)**

Sign In and WIN!

Be sure to sign in at the Membership Table at the back of the meeting room. Members who are present for 8 or more of the 10 regular monthly meetings automatically qualify for our Grand Prize Drawing (**worth several hundred dollars**) at the Year's End Awards Banquet. So far 28 members have qualified and 17 more could IF they come to this next meeting too. That's good odds!

REMINDERS

- Junior Angler Division plaques offered 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 eight tournaments :

PI	Name	Points
1	Jim Foster	56
2	Henry Nall	48
3	Rick Tourne	26
3	Tommy Pond	26
4	Donnie Howell	24
5	Rick Yeend	21
6	Chris Conken	19
6	Chris Massey	19
6	Vicki Foster (L)	19
7	Adam Barker	18
7	Billy Hurd	18
8	Bill Perry (N)	17
8	Daniel Ford	17
8	Mike Foster	17
9	John Fassbender	16
9	Mike Herring	16
10	Phillip Guy	15
10	Dave Growden (N)	12
10	George Harrison (N)	12
10	Vince Hawkins	12
11	Bo Winter	11
11	Patric Garmeson	11
12	David Thornton	10
12	Jimbo Miller	10
12	Tim Pierce	10

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

* denotes weighed in first (tiebreaker)

Members with 9 points: Alvin Bell, Bekki Ludlam (L), Blake Michaleski, Josh Woolums, Larry Watkins, O.P. Harrison (N), Steve O'Dell, Trenton Pitt (J)

Members with 8 points: Bobby Abruscato, Dane Tomberlin, Doug Smith, John Fassbender, Lauren Rea (N)(L), Sidney Foster (N)

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

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

5 points: Austin Lee (J), Bob Maclay (N), Bubba Williams, Dewayne Overstreet, Donald Garrettson, Mike McDonald, Richard Schantz (N), Trevor Wood (N)

Members with 4 points: 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, Jason Miller, Jerry Bolen (N), Larry Watkins, Robert Brewer (N)

Members with 2 points: Barry Keith, Brooks Lee (N), Christian Howell (J), Craig Newton, David McNew, David Montgomery, Doug Tierce, Dwain Mangold (N), Frank Parker, 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), Brenda Wilson (L), Bruce Howle, Jr, Bryan Hack, Cameron Calhoun, Carson Tierce (J), Charlie Dowdle, Chip Cummings, Chuck Baldrige, Danny Adkins, David Hare, Del Delchamps, 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 October 17, 2008:

1st Tom Duncan 25 1/2"* , 2nd George Harrison (N) 25 1/2", 3rd Bill Midgette* 25", 4th Adam Barker, 25" 5th Richard Suk* 24 3/4"

The BIG Fish Contest

Current

20-Sept-08

** NEW RECORD .

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1	Frank Mitternight	22.16	1	Gerald Markow	4.95	1	Bill Perry (N)	2.45**	1	Erik Nelson	7.45
2	Rick Tourne	21.50	2	Gerald Markow	4.86	2	Shane Ford	1.80	2	Henry Nall	6.70
3	Kyle Mitternight	21.47	3	Josh Woolums	4.50	3	Daniel Ford	1.65	3	George Koulianos	6.55*
4	Kyle Mitternight	21.03	4	Daniel Ford	4.35	4	Frank Mitternight	1.59	4	Jim Foster	6.55
5	Rick Tourne	20.88	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 (N)	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)

Spotted Seatrout Facts

Scientific Name: *Cynoscion nebulosus*
Speck

Common Name: Speckled Trout,

Alabama State Record: W. A. Ducharme Orange Beach, AL 05/06/80 12 lb 4 oz

Range & Habitat: Found Gulf wide from deep interior estuaries out to 30 feet of water offshore. They are a schooling species, especially when small. They are not particularly attracted to hard bottoms or structure, but tend to be found in areas of current discontinuities.

Identification & Biology: Spotted seatrout have a streamlined body that is dark silvery gray on the back, shading to white below. The upper parts of the fish have an iridescent sheen and have a few to many black spots. The dorsal and tail fin are always spotted. Occasionally, a spotted seatrout is captured with spots only on the fins and not the body. Their mouth is often, but not always, splashed with yellow pigment on the edges and interiors, and 1 or 2 large sharp canine teeth are located at the front of the upper jaw.

That speckled trout move within an estuary on a yearly basis is well known. Typically, they spend their summers in the high-salinity areas in the lower part of an estuary and their winters in the lower salinity waters of the upper estuary. But how far speckled trout move from estuary to estuary or bay to bay is not well known by most fishermen.

Speckled trout tend to live in or near the same bay system all their lives. In 1979, Louisiana researchers tagged over 2,600 specks. Of the 30 returns that they got, 20 came from the tag and release site. Similar Louisiana research published in 1980 and 1982 showed that 90% of tag returns came from within one mile of where the trout were tagged, although another researcher in 1982 noted that two speckled trout tagged in Calcasieu Lake were recovered 96 miles to the east in Atchafalaya Bay.

Texas research results were similar. Results of 20,912 trout tagged in bays between 1975 and 1993 showed 84% of the returns came from the same bay as release. The longest distance traveled by any tagged speckled trout before recovery was 131 miles. Of 588 trout tagged in the Texas Gulf surf, 12 were recovered in the Gulf and 2 in Texas bays.

Other states show similar research results. In Mississippi, 7,423 specks were tagged, with 221 recovered, and 90% of these were recaptured within 5 miles of their release location. In Alabama, 53% of tagged speckled trout showed no movement and the longest distance traveled was under 20 miles. Multiple studies in Florida showed that speckled trout seldom move over 30 miles and that most fish never left the estuary, although one fish tagged in the Apalachicola, Florida area was recovered 315 miles away near Grand Isle, Louisiana.

Spotted seatrout do move seasonally within a bay system, however. During the pre-spawning period of February to early April, speckled trout are scattered throughout the system. By spawning season, May to September, almost all the fish large enough to spawn are concentrated in the higher salinity waters of the lower bays. In October, with the onset of cool fronts, spotted seatrout retreat inland into lower salinity estuaries, where they typically remain well into January or February.

During spawning season, males form drumming aggregations which can number in the hundreds or even thousands of fish. Within these aggregations, each male vibrates his air bladder, producing a croaking sound. When combined with the many other males' sounds, the result sounds like drumming or roaring. The sound attracts females ready to spawn. Both drumming aggregations and spawning take place in areas 6-165 deep with good tidal flow, such as passes and channels. Spawning begins at sunset and is usually over by midnight.

Speckled trout spawning activity depends on environmental factors such as currents, salinity and temperature. Most spawning activity seems to take place in salinities of 17-35 parts per thousand (ppt). Full strength seawater is 35 ppt. The two most important factors that determine when speckled trout spawn are water temperature and day length. Egg development begins to take place as days become longer in spring. Water temperatures of 68°F seem to trigger spawning, which continues as water temperature increases. Peak spawning takes place between 77°F and 86°F. The cycle of the moon also seems to affect spawning, with spawning peaks occurring on or near the full moons of the spring and summer months. Females may spawn every 7 to 14 days during the April to September spawning period. Young spotted seatrout grow rapidly, reaching 8 inches by their first birthday and over 12 inches by age 2. Spotted seatrout can live to over 12 years of age. Male trout grow slower and don't live as long as females. Males don't reach 14 inches long until 3 or 4 years old. Few males live over 5, so virtually all spotted seatrout 5 pounds and larger are females.

Spotted seatrout are voracious predators, especially in the summer when high spawning activity creates tremendous metabolic demands. Fish under 12-14 inches eat a variety of foods, but more shrimp and other crustaceans than anything else. As they grow, they shift their food preference to fish, first to smaller fish such as silversides and anchovies, then later to larger prey fishes such as mullets, croakers and menhaden.