

# Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume I, Issue II      December 2008

**Awards Banquet:** Friday Dec 5, 2008  
**Place:** "The Grand Hall" on Halls Mill Road just  
**Time:** 7:00 PM- until... west of I-65  
**Food Catered by:** **Catalina Seafood**  
**LIVE music:** by **"The Mystifiers"**  
**ACFA Members and 1 guest FREE!**

## 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

## The Mutt Burke Causeway Classic...

We Saved the 'Best' for Last!



The finest fishing weather of the year greeted the ACFA members who ventured from the Mobile Bay Causeway on Saturday November 8th in our first ever November Tournament. Speckled trout were the mainstay of the day, as has been the case lately. Finding specks was the easy part. They were under the birds south of the Bayway and Causeway for **Jason Miller** and me, but finding the size trout it would take to place in this tournament proved a lot more difficult. Still we had a great time catching triple digit numbers of trout on grubs and DOA lures. Most anglers ventured up into the delta looking for that tourney winner. How sweet it was that **Bill Midgette** not only landed the biggest speck of the day, but the heaviest trout weighed in any tournament this year! Do you think his ole partner **Mutt Burke** may have had a hand in that? ;-)  
 First year club members **O.P. Harrison** and his grandson **George Harrison** had another fine day on the river too, landing the second and third place specks. O.P. has stated IF you place in speckled trout in this club you know you have to fish against the best! Folks he wasn't bragging, just stating the facts. This club ROCKS! Our distance winners of the day had to be **Rick Tourne** and **Adam Barker** who made a run down the bay to fish Galliard Island and the Theodore Canal. With few fish in the box and time getting short they returned to the Causeway area where Rick scored the first place redfish and third place flounder. \*\*Full tournament results: Page 2\*\*

O.P. Harrison congratulates Bill Midgette on his 6.70# first place speckled trout in the inaugural ACFA Mutt Burke Causeway Classic held November 8, 2009

## And We Had FINE Grub too...

Our Second Annual Chili Cook-Off was the perfect ending to the perfect day (well, that and a Bama O.T. victory over LSU ;-)  
 Sorry about that Bigun, M, Doc, Gumbo, etc.  
 Anyway again this year the chilis were outstanding and the judges had the enviably arduous task of deciding the BEST of the best. Again this year our top chili was from **Team Shut Up And Fish**, **Mike Foster** and **Vicki Foster**. Second place (in a 'cornbread' tie-breaker) was **Team M's** "M\*@^#% ^ Chili" made up by **Margaret Miller** and served up by **Jason Miller**. It was fine!  
 Third place was **Team Hawk's** "Venison Chili" **Vince Hawkins**. Fourth (but not least) was **Austin Lee's** "Chicken White Chili".  
 They were all great and everyone had a fun time trying them, comparing notes and recipes. The comradre really made the end of the day one of those you just hate to see come to close. Alas, all good things have to come to an end like any good day spent fishing, with friends, or in this case both. Good times !

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It has been a great ride for me as your ACFA President these past three years, but now the time has come to pass the rod and reel in whatever lies ahead for us. The Good Lord willin, and the creek don't rise 2009 will be even better! Thanks, Doug

**November Meeting Recap:**

Our last regular club meeting for 2008 kicked off with the 'mother-of-all' Mini-Seminars by **Bobby McElroy** affectionately known as "The Brain". "Spearmintin" and fishing hard baits isn't just a past time for Bobby, it's a passion! Few fishermen have truly achieved his level of expertise in understanding the how, when, where & why these baits catch fish. It's an art form with him and a pleasure to hear!

Thanks to the ladies from Sea Tow who came by to explain what their service does and doesn't cover. They also cover trailer towing and offer discounts to ACFA club members. For \$149/year it sounds like good 'insurance'. For more info call: 973-0345

To say this has been a record-breaking year for the ACFA would be a gross understatement. Shattering is more like it! Not only is our membership at an all-time high (259), but about half of the club fishing records have been rewritten this year (see bottom left of this page). From **Bill Perry's** 2.45# Ground Mullet and the fine 20.55# 5 speckled trout creel caught by **Tommy Pond** and **Billy Hurd** in July, to October when **Gerald Markow** tied the Flounder (our 'oldest' standing) record and **Vicki Foster** landed a 'football' 3.38# White Trout. And then on Nov 16th our newly established Catch, Photograph and Release (C-P-R) Speckled Trout record was rewritten by **Jim Foster** who upped the bar to 28 1/4". Congratulations to you all. Well done!

**Results of the "Mutt Burke Causeway Classic" held Saturday November 8, 2008:**

	<u>Speckled Trout</u>	<u>Redfish</u>	<u>Flounder</u>	<u>White Trout</u>
1	<b>Bill Midgette</b> - 6.70	<b>Rick Tourne</b> - 6.35	<b>Gerald Markow</b> - 4.00	<b>Vicki Foster</b> - 2.05
2	<b>O.P. Harrison</b> - 5.35	<b>Gerald Markow</b> - 4.50	<b>Mike Lee</b> - 3.80	<b>Donna Schantz</b> - 1.60
3	<b>George Harrison</b> - 3.85	<b>Adam Barker</b> - 4.25	<b>Rick Tourne</b> - 2.80	<b>Vince Hawkins</b> - 1.15
<b>Jr</b>				
1	<b>Carson Tierce</b> - 2.70	<b>Robert Morgan</b> - 2.35	<b>Austin Lee</b> - 1.65	<b>Robert Morgan</b> - .65
2	<b>Austin Lee</b> - 2.30		<b>Jackson Hughes</b> - 1.40	<b>Carson Tierce</b> - .45
3	<b>Christian Howell</b> - 1.10		<b>Robert Morgan</b> - 1.35	<b>Austin Lee</b> - .30

**Club Officers for 2009:**

President:	Vince Hawkins	452-3899
Vice Pres:	Jimmy Quint	377-4879
Treasurer:	Chris Conken	209-2726
Secretary:	Vicki Foster	621-9113
Statistics:	Joe Sirmon	605-5811
Membership:	Mike Lee	665-4449
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Alvin Bell	455-5739
Logo Items:	Justin Peacock	550-7532
Awards:	Bryan Hack	510-4196
Food:	Brenda Wilson	367-3499
Newsletter:	Jason Miller	490-3221
Webmaster:	Brandon Milam	680-1302



^ **Jim Foster**  
28.25" C-P-R  
Speck

**FINAL** Results of the first ACFA Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Tournament (length in inches \* = tie)

1. <b>George Harrison</b>	<b>26.75</b>
2. <b>Tom Duncan</b>	<b>25.50*</b>
3. <b>George Harrison</b>	<b>25.50</b>
4. <b>Bill Midgette</b>	<b>25.00*</b>
5. <b>Adam Barker</b>	<b>25.00</b>

Below right:  
**Vicki Foster's**  
3.38# White Trout



**ACFA Club Records as of November 20, 2008**

<b>Blackfish</b>	24.40#	Del Delchamps	1999	
<b>Flounder</b>	7.80#	Darin Grizzle	1997	
	*tie*	Gerald Markow	2008	Oct
<b>Ground Mullet</b>	2.45#	Bill Perry	2008	Jul
<b>Redfish (16"-26")</b>	7.75#	John Fassbender	1999	
<b>Sheepshead</b>	12.80#	Doug Smith	2004	Mar
<b>Spanish Mackerel</b>	7.88#	Bekki Ludlam	2000	
<b>Speckled Trout</b>	9.65#	Bobby McElroy	2005	Jun
<b>White Trout</b>	3.38#	Vicki Foster	2008	Oct
		Tommy Pond	2008	Jul
<b>Speckled Trout (5 fish Creel)</b>	20.55#	Billy Hurd	2008	Jul
	28.25 in.	Jim Foster	2008	Nov

### December Awards Banquet Announcement...

Our outgoing club president **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 (1/2 mile west of I-65 in the building formerly known as "**Austin's Country Palace**"). The Banquet will be on **FRIDAY** night December 5th from 7pm to midnight. Catering will be provided by **Catalina Seafood**. Thanks for setting this up Doug! Nice touch that we are NOT competing with the SEC Football Championship game ;-)

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 stick around after the awards as the fun could last till...?

There is no bar at the facility so drinks are BYOB. The ACFA will provide ice and a limited number of soft drinks and iced tea. As is our custom, members are asked to bring some of their favorite hors-de-vors and/or desserts to share with everyone.

IF you did not sign the list passed around during the November meeting, or added your name online in the 'December Awards Banquet' thread in the 'Club Announcements' Forum on the club's website and you intend to go, PLEASE call Doug ASAP. At the meetings 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 so we can accurately plan the number to expect.

Your paid membership allows for you and ONE guest to attend free of charge (wife, girlfriend or mermaid of your choice ;-)  
**We request any additional guests pay \$10 each** to help us recoup some of the cost and to pay the band so they will play and not eat all the food. So make your plans to attend now, as we hope to see you there. There'll be great food, fun and entertainment! We have well over 50 plaques and trophies in addition to other prizes to hand out, including our "GRAND ATTENDANCE PRIZE PACKAGE (100 quart ice chest) filled with hundreds of dollars worth of great fishing "stuff". It just might be yours!

### ACFA Rule-of-100 and Now, Rule-of-250!

In the not too distant past when our club had fewer than 100 members, only the 8 people in 1st place of each category in the Big Fish Contest received plaques. After the membership reached 100 members that number was expanded by the board of directors to include plaques for places 1st thru 3rd in each category. And after the membership exceeded 125 it was decided to provide plaques for the top 5 finishers in each of the Big Fish Contest categories. That tradition continues this year with up to 40 plaques given away at the banquet for ALL the winners. So be sure and look over the FINAL Big Fish Contest Standings on page 4 of this newsletter to see if you will be getting a plaque (or plaques) at our Awards Banquet. Congratulations to all the finalists!

### And There's More...

Besides the Big Fish Contest winners for each of the 8 fish categories, we will award plaques for the top 4 'overall' point getters in the Big Fish Contest and the top 5 places in Tournament points. Plus we'll name the Big Fish Contest Champion, the Tournament Point Champion, our overall Master Angler and we will also crown a Lady Angler Champion and a Junior Angler Champion\*. And we'll honor the Member of the Year with the Founder's Award. And the last award to be given out is our Grand Attendance Prize Drawing. An ice chest filled with 'good fishing stuff' worth in excess of \$600, to be given away to one of the 30 club members who attended at least 8 of the regular club meetings! Someone's dedication will pay them BIG dividends...

### \*A bit of ACFA History...

There needed to be a way to compare placing in the monthly tournaments (based on point accumulation) with the year-long Big Fish Contest (based on position points). Somewhere along the line, some brilliant member came up with the formula we use to reduce the two lists to the top 20 finishers in each list. We assign 20 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place down to 1 point for 20<sup>th</sup> place and by adding the adjusted totals of each person for the two contests together we get an overall champion who is crowned as the Master Angler for that year. So as mind bending (and close) as those calculations are you'll just have to come to the Awards Banquet to see who the 2008 Master Angler will be, or wait until the February 2009 newsletter comes out ... ;-)

There will be a printed copy of the comparison available for viewing so you can see how you ranked in the yearly standings.

## REMINDERS

- The December Awards Banquet will be held **FRIDAY** December 5, 2008 at the 'Grand Hall' on Halls Mill Road.
  - Plaques for the November Tournament winners (including the Chili Cook-off) will be awarded at the December meeting.
  - Please remember, **NO SMOKING** in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment.
  - Drinks at the December Awards Banquet are BYOB. Please drink sensibly and drive carefully. We want you back next year!
  - The ACFA 2009 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2009. Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch.
  - Our 'Special' Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout division is in effect for 2009 for the same period.
  - IF you have a fish in the 2009 Big Fish Contest (or CPR) you MUST renew your membership by the end of February 2009.
  - The first regular meeting for 2009 will be held Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the American Legion Post 88 (Halls Mill Rd)
  - NO regular ACFA tournament in December, January or February.
  - The next ACFA newsletter will be mailed out the last week in January 2009
- Call Doug IF you haven't already to let us know how many to expect at the December 5, 2008 Awards Banquet !

# Statistics...

FINAL as of November 8, 2008  
 - after nine tournaments:

PI	Name	Points
1	Jim Foster	57
2	Henry Nall	48
3	Rick Tourne	37
4	Vicki Foster (L)	27
5	Tommy Pond	26
6	Donnie Howell	25
7	Adam Barker	22
8	Rick Yeend	21
9	Chris Conken	19
9	Chris Massey	19
10	Bill Perry (N)	18
10	Billy Hurd	18
10	Daniel Ford	18
10	Mike Foster	18
11	George Harrison (N)	16
11	John Fassbender	16
11	Mike Herring	16
11	Vince Hawkins	16
12	O.P. Harrison (N)	15
13	Phillip Guy	15
14	Bill Midgette	14
14	Gerald Markow	14
15	Mike Lee	13
16	Dave Growden (N)	12
16	Patric Garmeson	12

<b>Members with 11 points:</b> Bo Winter, David Thornton
<b>Members with 10 points:</b> Jimbo Miller, Larry Watkins, Tim Pierce
<b>Members with 9 points:</b> Alvin Bell, Bekki Ludlam (L), Blake Michaleski, Donna Schantz (L)(N), Josh Woolums, Lauren Rea (N)(L), Steve O'Dell, Trenton Pitt (J)
<b>8 points:</b> Bobby Abruscato, Dane Tomberlin, Doug Smith, Sidney Foster (N)
<b>Members with 7 points:</b> Don Ludlam, Jarrod Yeend (N), Leslie Smith, Shane Ford
<b>Members with 6 points:</b> Austin Lee (J), Bill Graves, Brittney Howle (J), Bruce Howle, Sr, Justin Peacock (N), Richard Schantz (N), Theo Koulianos (J)
<b>Members with 5 points:</b> Bob Maclay (N), Bubba Williams, Dewayne Overstreet, Donald Garrettson, Mike McDonald, Trevor Wood (N)
<b>Members with 4 points:</b> Bill Duke, George Koulianos, James Roushmi, Jason Miller, Richard Suk, Savannah Calhoun (J), Tommy Murray
<b>Members with 3 points:</b> Bob Ward, Christian Howell (J), Doug Tierce, Gerald Bolen, Jerry Bolen (N), Keith Kenny (N), Robert Brewer (N)
<b>2 points:</b> Barry Keith, Brooks Lee (N), Craig Newton, David McNew, David Montgomery, Carson Tierce (J), Dwain Mangold (N), Frank Parker, John Burke III, Lindsey Hawkins (J), Margaret Miller (L), Margaret Rowell (L), Robert Morgan (J), Ronnie Dyson, Tye Jordan (J)
<b>Members with 1 point:</b> Andrew Clark (N), Barbara Foster (L), Belinda Smith (L), Brenda Wilson (L), Bruce Howle, Jr, Bryan Hack, Cameron Calhoun, Charlie Dowdle, Chip Cummings, Chuck Baldrige, Danny Adkins, David Hare, Del Delchamps, Donnie Fassbender, Doug Houston, Frank Mitternacht, Frank Parker III (J), Gary Tingle, Howie Galloway (N), Jackson Hughes (J), Jacob Guy (J), Jarred Kelly (N), Jerry Donoghue, Jerry Torrans, Jim Glass, Jimmy Rowell (N), Joe Sirmon, John Markow (J?), 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), Rileigh Hawkins (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)
(N) New Member (J) junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

# The BIG Fish Contest

FINAL

15-Nov-08

\*\* NEW RECORD .

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1	Frank Mitternacht	22.16	1	Gerald Markow	7.80	1	Bill Perry (N)	2.45**	1	Erik Nelson	7.45
2	Rick Tourne	21.50	2	Gerald Markow	5.80	2	Shane Ford	1.80	2	Henry Nall	6.70
3	Kyle Mitternacht	21.47	3	Mike Herring	4.89	3	Daniel Ford	1.65	3	George Koulianos	6.55*
4	Kyle Mitternacht	21.03	4	Josh Woolums	4.50	4	Frank Mitternacht	1.59	4	Jim Foster	6.55
5	Rick Tourne	20.88	5	Daniel Ford	4.35	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)	3.38**
2			2	Don Ludlam	5.30	2	Erik Nelson	6.90	2	Vicki Foster (L)	2.43
3			3	Mike Lee	5.10	3	Bill Patterson	6.80*	3	Mike Foster	2.09
4			4	Bekki Ludlam (L)	5.05	4	Bill Patterson	6.80	4	Theo Koulianos (J)	2.03
5			5	Don Ludlam	4.95	5	Bill Midgette	6.70	5	Bill Perry (N)	1.90

\* First to weigh in

(N) New Member

(J) Junior Angler

(L) Lady Angler

Note that we have a new club Statistician for 2009!

Mail your 2009 Big Fish Contest entries to: **Joe Sirmon** 3831 BEBEE POINT DRIVE THEODORE, AL 36582 (605-5811)



A tardy report from October 4th, when **Matt Seese** scored a 7.71# slot redfish to take 1st place in the 3rd Annual Fall N Tide tournament in Bootheville, La. The event was hosted by the Bayou Coast Kayak Fishing Club.

### Be sure and check us out on the www...

If you get the chance you'll want to check out the club's official website @ [www.acfafish.com](http://www.acfafish.com)

There are links to just about all the pertinent club info we could think of (like a newsletter archive) in addition to our forums. Just about anyone can join but paid ACFA members are entitled to additional posting privileges, access to our gallery and classifieds (for Sale) sections and the exclusive 'Members ONLY' forum (hip waders optional ;-)

### ACFA Recipe Book

One idea on the club forum that has gotten a good deal of positive attention is to gather up a group of our favorite fish cooking recipes and publish them. The book would give credit to each member who submits a published recipe and would be available to members for a nominal fee (as yet determined) to help recoup the printing costs. Our incoming **Logo Items Chairman Justin Peacock** is spearheading the idea with the support of several forum members already. Please contact him if your interested in helping or participating with a recipe.

### ACFA Members in Other Tournaments...

You catch 'em and we'll brag on ya ;-)

No pictures, but congratulations to the ACFA members who fished in the IFA Redfish Tour Championship in Panama City Beach, FL on Nov 7 & 8. In a field of 119 boats vying for skittish redfish in clear water **Scott Ritter** and **Bobby Abruscato** finished in 8th place less than 2 1/2 # out of 1st. The team of **Mark Wright** and **Donald Garrettson** finished just short of 'the money' in 27th place but they had a very good tournament too! Other club members who participated were **Paul Smith**, **Kyle Mitternight** and **Barnie White**. We admire your dedication and wish you all the best of luck!

### Oops!

We threw an inadvertent curve ball at our **Awards Chairman Bryan Hack** with the change of name to the October Tournament. IF you would like to have the plate restruck (or you have ANY misspellings, etc.) Bryan said to just take it to Angel at ABC Trophies 1212 Azalea Road (660-7565)

### And Speaking of Plaques...

The November Tournament Plaques will be given out at the December Awards Banquet. We still have a plethora of unclaimed Tournament Plaques that will be made available for pickup (for the LAST time) at the December Awards Banquet. Make arrangements to pick up your plaques then. All unclaimed plaques will be 'recycled' next year.

### EVOLUTION...

Is defined as development: a process in which something passes by degrees to a different stage (especially a more advanced or mature stage). In just twelve years this club has 'evolved' from a concept out of angling frustration into a viable force in unifying inshore anglers for the better enjoyment of the resources we are entrusted with. It has been my honor and a privilege to be a part of that growth process as your Newsletter Editor. The next stage in our club's evolution will be the product of those who have been chosen to lead us, and the rank and file fisherman who can do all in their power to uphold our Mission Statement.



1st Annual Red October Redfish Tournament at The Dock in Gulfport, MS Nov. 1, 2 **Mark Wright** "Mojo's Revenge" **Erik Nelson** "Lunatic Fringe" won this 2 day tourney (4 fish, 2 each day) with 31.74 lbs 1st place by almost 4 lbs. 5K\$ will buy a LOT of Gulps ;-). Congratulations, and well done guys!