

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



May 2009

Next meeting: May 7th
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Speakers: Casi Callaway-LNG update/ Capt. Paul Smith-redfishing
Quick Hits: O.P. Harrison
Mini-seminar: Capt. Paul Smith-redfishing(in more detail)
Next tournament: May 9th west of Chocalotta Public Boat Ramp

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
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

President's Message

The April tournament conditions were brutal, but as usual, some great fishermen found a way to catch some great fish (I would not be included in this category). On days like this, I am just thankful for great food at the weigh in!! Since the water along the causeway is still not conducive to a great Speck bite, there will be many folks fishing unfamiliar waters for the BOMB. As a first year President, I really do not want to lose, so help your fellow club members out if you find some fish. Thanks to everyone for buying merchandise at the last meeting and a special thanks to all of the speakers we had for making this a great meeting (thanks also to Mr. Quint for presiding in my absence as well). Everyone also please remember that there are often young children at the meetings and weigh in's and to keep things family oriented. Best of luck in the BOMB and also the Hopedale Redfish Challenge

April meeting recap

A huge crowd turned out to hear Capt. Bobby Abruscato give tips on springtime trout fishing, and how to make the wind work for you, instead of it just be something to cuss at. The U.S.C.G. Auxiliary gave tips on safe boating, and D.W. "Daktari" Garretson gave the Quick-hits on an array of fishing knots. Prior to the meeting, past president and expert angler Doug Smith gave the mini-seminar on techniques for sheephead fishing.



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Bill Midgett shows off two whopper trout- including the April tournament winning trophy that tipped the scales at 6.85 lbs. Bill also scored a 7.71 lb trout recently for the Bigfish Board.

April Spring Breakout tournament results

Once again Mother Nature didn't make ACFA tournament day easy with a blistering east wind, but that didn't stop a whole bunch of folks from getting out and wetting a line, and bringing in a few fish. Club chef Brenda Wilson and helpers cooked up a pile of burgers, and the usual suspects hung around way after the weigh-in officially ended to exchange fishing stories, and plenty of other tales not fit to print.

Speckled Trout

1. Bill Midgette	6.85 LBS
2. Richard Suk	5.40
3. Jerry Torrans	5.00
4. Adam Barker	3.70*
5. Jim Foster	3.70

Sheephead

1. Tommy Devery	1.55 LBS
2. Austin Lee(J)	1.50
3. Adam Barker	1.15
4. Mike Lee	0.90

Flounder

1. Marty Garmeson	2.45 LBS
2. Tom Duncan	1.90
3. Sam Clark III	1.70
4. Chase Maxwell(J)(N)	1.35*
5. Patsy Garmeson(L)	1.35

Ground Mullet

1. Donnie Fassbender	1.00 *LBS
2. Steven Laurendine	1.00
3. John Fassbender	0.75*
4. Evan Fassbender	0.75
5. Dane Tomberlin	0.75

*First to weigh in
J= Junior angler
N= New member
L= Lady angler

May tournament "Speckled Trout Challenge"-May 9th

Its that time of year again-the time of year when the "West Siders" and the "East Siders" square off again for the Speckled Trout Challenge, also known as the "Battle of Mobile Bay", or simply "the BOMB." For those new to the club, since shortly after its inception, the ACFA has challenged other local fishing clubs to friendly contests of speckled trout angling supremacy. For many years, the ACFA battled with the Saltwater Sportsman Association before they finally declared "no mas." The Weeks Bay Fishing Club ("WBFC") then picked up the torch. ACFA's record against the WBFC is a perfect 5-0, but the WBFC guns for the ACFA hard every year, and has been gaining ground. The WBFC has some fine anglers in it, so put on your game faces and get ready to rumble.

The format is as follows: One weighmaster from each club will weigh one speckled trout brought in by each participating angler. Anglers will declare their club affiliation at the time they weigh-in their fish. By weighing in their fish, each angler is attesting to the fact that their fish was caught in Alabama waters during tournament hours, and otherwise complies with club tourney rules. Anglers must be in line to weigh-in by 5 pm, or their fish will not count. (The usual weigh-in time of 3 pm to 5 pm applies). "Check" weights will not be allowed. After the weigh in, the weighmasters will tally the top 10 heaviest fish, using a point system. The 1st place trout receives 10 points, the 2nd place trout 9 points, and so on. Points will be assigned to each club according to which club each of the top 10 anglers belong to. The club with the highest point total wins the Speckled Trout Challenge trophy, and bragging rights for another year.

The weigh-in will be held under the old Exxon gas station canopy just west of the Chocalotta Ramp on the Causeway. As usual, the ACFA will be frying up fish, served with various sides to feed the anglers and angler's families from both clubs. Even if you think your speck might not be "worthy" or if you land the dreaded skunk, come on out anyway and enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that can be experienced at every ACFA event. We need as many people as possible fishing for that one big speck. Break out your secret lunker lure, and make plans to get to your honey hole early. Club pride is at stake.

United Cerebral Palsy Tournament- also May 9th

The United Cerebral Palsy Tournament will be held at the same time as the Speckled Trout Challenge, and the weigh-in will be held right next to the Challenge weigh-in site. Tickets are \$25 per angler, and proceeds go to benefit United Cerebral Palsy. Categories include: Speckled Trout, White Trout, and Flounder, and prizes are awarded for 1st -3rd place in each category. Why not fish in both tournaments? You can weigh any lunker speck you catch in both tournaments, and its for a good cause. Tickets can be purchased from club Treasurer Chris Conken at the meeting, or at UCP's office in Mobile at 3058 Dauphin Square Connector. Contact Chris Conken for more information.

Fishing reports

One of the best aspects of membership in the ACFA is being part of a large network where at least a few people have been on the water lately. Those people can usually steer you in the right direction to catch a few. Every meeting members are invited to give a report of where they have been lately and how they have done. Even if a person reports a big fat zero, that is still helpful for telling folks where not to go. Don't be shy during this portion of the meeting. No one expects exact GPS coordinates or you to reveal that secret bait, but even general information can be very helpful for putting fellow club members on some fish, and undoubtedly one day the favor will be returned.

ACFA Logo Items-huggers are here!

Never risk your favorite fishing beverage getting hot again. The ACFA now offers official ACFA insulated beverage huggers. See Logo Items Chairman Justin Peacock at the back of the meeting room at the next meeting to stock up on huggers, as well as other ACFA logoed items such as t-shirts and hats. Look sharp, and help the club's coffers while you're at it.

Get your favorite fishing shirt embroidered with the ACFA logo

In years past, the club has collected fishing shirts from club members at a couple of meetings a year to take them and have the ACFA logo embroidered onto them at special prices. Those prices are now available to ACFA members all year long. ACFA members can now have the ACFA logo embroidered onto their shirts by taking them to: American Embroidery, at 8115A Moffet Road, Semmes, AL 36575, for only \$10 per shirt. You can also have your name embroidered for only an additional \$2 per shirt.

Invite a friend!

Most likely due to the economy, ACFA membership numbers are down slightly this year compared to last year. Having strong membership allows us to do things like feed the anglers and their families at every weigh-in, award plaques for 1st -3rd in every category of at least four species per tournament, and cater the Christmas Party with a delicious all you can eat seafood buffet, among other things. Please take a minute to suggest the ACFA to a fisherman or fisherwoman you know who might be interested. The more the merrier, and sharing our common love for inshore fishing is what the ACFA is all about.

ACFA'ers in other tournaments

On April 24, 2009, club members O.P. Harrison and George Harrison fished the Homebuilder's Association Tournament out of Fowl River. The Harrisons took first place with a 5 fish creel that weighed in at 19.6 lbs. George also took lunger with a 4.4 lb trout, and O.P. took second with a 4 lb fish. Congrats to both Harrisons.

Don't be shy. Be sure to let the newsletter editor know about any tournaments you, or other ACFA members do well in.

Outdoor News

Orange Beach Red Snapper World Championship

The Orange Beach Red Snapper World Championship has been running since March 15, 2009, and runs until August 15, 2009. Categories include speckled trout and sheephead, as well as several offshore categories. Tickets can be bought for \$10 per angling day, or \$300 for every day of the tournament. The tournament pays cash or prizes through 10 places, with \$3,000 to the first place winner for both trout and sheephead. Tickets can be purchased at numerous locations including Southern Bama, Dog River Marina, and Dauphin Island Marina, as well as numerous locations in Baldwin County. Log onto the web at: <http://www.redsnapperworldchampionship.com/OBS/index.cfm> for more information. Proceeds are used to expand both inshore and offshore artificial reef habitat.

Coast Watch Seminar

Don't forget-Alabama Marine Resources Division will be having a Coast Watch Seminar on May 14th, at the Original Oyster House on the Causeway, in the Delta Room, from 6p.m.-8 p.m. The program, which is sponsored by CCA-Alabama, teaches attendees how to spot, and report fishery laws violations. It is well worth your time, and has been an extremely successful program. More "eyes on the water" for AMRD means they can do a more effective job of enforcing fishery laws which protect the valuable resource we all love and enjoy.

Jemison's update

The county's proposed plan to cancel Jemison's lease and replace the old bait shop with a park and boat ramp has resulted in quite the uproar. The story has been picked up by the local media, and it appears the county is at least now considering a change of heart, and possibly finding somewhere else to put the park and boat ramp.

Redfish Club Challenge*

As reported in the last newsletter, the Redfish Club Challenge is being held in Hopedale, LA on May 16th. If you would like to try marsh fishing for Louisiana's plentiful, large, and often not-so-smart redfish, this is the time to do it. Last year the DDBRC outnumbered the ACFA by 2 to 1, but still barely scraped out a victory. Club member, and expert redfisherman Paul Smith will be giving a crash course on how to catch them at the next meeting. If you think you might be interested in participating in the challenge, contact club member Bernie White ("Bernie" on the ACFA webforum), Vince Hawkins, or any of the redfish tournament regulars in the club, for more details.

*The club challenge is not an official ACFA tournament.

2009 Tournament Point Standings

10 pts- Dane Tomberlin;
9 pts- Bryann Sullivan (J);
8 pts- Adam Barker;
7 pts- Chase Maxwell(J)(N); Vicki Foster (L);
6 pts- Austin Lee (J), Bill Midgette, Chris Nelson(J), Donnie Fassbender, Frank Mitternacht, Marty Garmeson, Tom Duncan, Tommy Devery;
5 pts- Gary Tingle, George Koulianos, Kyle Woodham (J), Richard Suk, Steve Laurndine;
4 pts- Bryan Sullivan, David Thornton, Jerry Torrans, John Fassbender, Phillip Guy, Sam Clark III;
3 pts- Donnie Howell, Doug Houston, Evon Fassbender, Jim Foster, Les Smith, Mike Lee, Ted Lawson;
2 pts- Bubba Williams, George Harrison, O.P. Harrison, Patric Garmeson, Patsy Garmeson (L);
1pt- Alvin Bell, Billy Hurd, Bob McClay, Bud Barr, Dale Roberts, Dave Growder, Donald Garrettson, Donna Schantz (L), Doug Tierce, George March, Greg Walker (N), Jackson Hughes (J), Jared Kelly, Jimbo Miller, Keith Kenney, Kyle Doster, Larry Watkins, Lindsey Hawkins (J), Mike Foster, Patrick Hughes, Richard Hoffman, Rick Tourne, Ronnie Dyson, Steve Odell, Theo Koulianos (J), Tim Pierce, Tommy Pond, Tracy Ainsworth (N), Vince Hawkins.

2009 Bigfish Standings

	Blackfish	Wt	Flounder	Wt	Ground Mullet	Wt	Redfish	Wt
1 st					Dane Tomberlin	1.95	Luke Flenikan(N)	6.50
2 nd					Bryann Sullivan (J)	1.05	Mike Foster	5.80
3 rd					Donnie Fassbender*	1.00	Dane Tomberlin	5.20
4 th					Steven Laurendine	1.00	Theo Koulianos(J)	5.10
5 th								
	Sheephead	Wt	Spanish Mackerel	Wt	White Trout	Wt	Speckled Trout	Wt
1 st					O.P. Harrison	2.29	Bill Midgette	7.71
2 nd							Bill Midgette	6.85
3 rd							Trenny Woodham	6.33
4 th								
5 th								

*First to weigh in.

CPR Speckled Trout: 1st -Jim Foster 28.25", 2nd -Patric Garmeson-25.5", 3rd -Jim Foster-24.25"

Reminders

- *2009 dues are due.
- *2009 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2009. Our Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch.
- *Fill out and send Bigfish cards to: Joe Sirmon 3831 BEBEE POINT DRIVE THEODORE, AL 36582 (605-5811)
- *Please remember, **NO SMOKING** in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment.
- * PLEASE be respectful of our speakers (and members who want to hear them) by refraining from any unnecessary talking or moving about during the presentations. And we ask that you save your questions until the end of their talk.
- *Justin Peacock, Logo Items Chairman, will be selling the usual assortment of ACFA shirts, hats, fish towels, etc. at every meeting.

- * Meeting check-in-Those that attend and check in to at least 8 of our 10 regular club meetings will be eligible for our 2009 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Be sure to see Mike Lee at the sign-in table and please wear a name tag.
- *Donations are constantly needed for our monthly door prizes and for the 2009 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Please see Alvin Bell if you would like to contribute, or have any leads on possible donation sources.
- *Remember to suggest ACFA to your fishing friends and acquaintances. The member who sponsors the most new memberships will automatically win a free dinner for two and receive the Membership Sponsor Award for 2009.
- * **ALCOHOL NOT PURCHASED FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION MAY NOT BE BROUGHT ON TO THE LEGION'S PREMISES.**
- *Please support our sponsors. ACFA sponsors include: Academy Sports + Outdoors, A-Team Fishing Adventures Canvas Products, Great Days Outdoors Magazine, L&S Bait Company/ MirrOlure, Mo Fishin Bait & Tackle, Saucy Q Bar B Q Southern Bama Bait & Tackle, and West Marine.

Corrections

*Last month's newsletter failed to properly credit Junior Angler Chase Maxwell for his 0.85 lb 3rd place ground mullet. Congratulations to Chase, and sorry for the mix-up.

Check Us Out Online @ <http://www.acfafish.com/>

ACFA---We catch fish---Get the net!!!

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.