



ACFA

Club Officers and Chairpersons for 2007

President:	Doug Smith	604-4758
Vice Pres:	D.W. Garrettson	599-8701
Treasurer:	Jep Hill	476-1796
Secretary:	Judy Smith	379-7195
Statistics:	Vince Hawkins	452-3899
Membership:	Erik Nelson	331-3804
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:	Chris Massey	422-2518
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

November 2007 Newsletter No. 10

Our last regular meeting of the 2007 season will be held Thursday November 1st beginning at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place) a quarter mile north of McVay Drive. Our guest speaker will be Russell Ladd who has chronicled changes in the Mobile River Delta for the past 60 plus years from the 1940s to the present day. He has some interesting stories, photos and film excerpts of sites in the Delta and reasons for those changes. More can be seen on his website @ <http://www.deltaawareness.com/>

President's Message

What a GREAT YEAR!!!! I want to thank everybody for all the hard work this year.
That's what makes this club the BEST FISHING CLUB Around. Doug

Mini-Seminar...

The idea that launched our popular Mini-Seminar series was "Questions you always wanted to know the answer, but were afraid to ask". Well you will get your chance prior to the November meeting when a panel of ACFA club "experts" will be present to answer any and every question you may have related to fishing and helping you become a better fisherman. With the exception of someone's "secret hole" I suspect ;-) But we want the seminar attendees to feel free to answer questions too, especially when the panel wants to know where YOUR "secret spot" is! So be sure and be there by 6pm to get a good seat! Send comments or suggestions about future seminars to Joe Sirmon joesirmon@bellsouth.net

October 20, 2007: ACFA 'Causeway Classic' Tournament...

was held under ideal early fall like conditions. Clear skies and chilly morning temps of 60 degrees with a light to moderate northerly breeze. Unfortunately the water temp was still in the mid to upper 70s and the fish had just not quite "turned on" yet. Despite the 'spotty' fishing some fine catches were turned in for weighing, the second heaviest redfish of the year and another speckled trout over 6 pounds! The fishers were spread pretty thin too, fishing in just about every nook and cranny from south of the Causeway north to the islands and everywhere east and west in between. But once again the Mobile River seemed to take the majority of the big fish catches though some anglers struggled to even get their 'participation point'. Bill Midgette reported he and his partner Mutt Burke landed several nice specks there and left several even larger ones due to some 'technical difficulties'. Thought there were NO Junior Angler redfish entries it should be noted that Marcus Lanier weighed in an Inshore Slam (speckled trout, redfish and flounder) and placed second in both redfish and flounder. That's NOT an easy feat on any day, much less in a tournament. Congratulations Marcus!

RESULTS:

<u>Speckled Trout</u> (14 entered)	<u>Flounder</u> (8 entered)	<u>Redfish</u> (5 entered)	<u>Sheepshead</u> (7 entered)
1st – Bill Midgette 6.10	1st – Mike Foster 3.25	1st – Richard Rutland? 6.75	1st – Vickie Foster 5.85
2nd – Rick Tourne 4.85	2nd – Marcus Lanier 2.45	2nd - Marcus Lanier 4.50	2nd – Les Smith 4.85
3rd – Cameron Calhoun (J) 4.50	3rd – Kyle Mitternacht 1.95	3rd – Steve O'Dell 2.00	3rd – Patric Garmeson 4.05

*First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler ? Problem w/Membership verification

Afterwards, we had gallons and gallons of chili, they were ALL good too! So good our panel of judges had a difficult time determining just which one of the eight entries was THE best. But in the end "Team Shut-Up & Fish" (Mike & Vickie Foster) won the title. "Team LIVEBAIT" (Doug & Belinda Smith) finished second despite their feeble attempt to bribe the judges with those wonderful mouth watering brownies ;-)
Les & Judy Smith's entry "Team Slipsinker" finished a VERY close 3rd and "Team Mmmmmmm" (Jason & Margaret Miller) came in 4th place. Honorable Mention should go to Mike Lee "cypressshoresdecoys" for those really popular grilled cheese sandwiches.
And **THANKS** to all the other teams who took the time to prepare their chilies and participate in this uniquely fun event. NOBODY went away hungry!

October Meeting Notes...

- 35 to 40 people were present at the beginning of the Mini-Seminar by Bruce Howle Sr. and it looked like twice that many were present when it ended. There was some in-depth discussion on salinity and water temperature and their effect on fish distribution by season. He also talked tackle and tactics from live bait and popping corks to a variety of artificial baits including top water. Great job Bruce!
- The attendees swelled to over 100 when our main speaker Capt. Bobby Abruscato began discussing tackle from live bait rigs to artificial soft and hard baits (including lipped baits and 'jerk baits'). Capt. Bobby, ALWAYS a crowd pleaser! See more@ <http://www.ateamfishing.com/>
- The ACFA Chili Cook-off Challenge was officially announced and 8 teams signed up. The anticipation was high to say the least.
- And as you'd expect, Mike Thompson's 'Quick Hits' left us clapping in approval at his spirited rendition of "giving the A" to fellow ACFA members on the water to let them know it's OK to approach another fishing boat. And he encouraged all members to try and take veteran (and aged) anglers fishing to share in their knowledge and experience, and take pictures for lasting memories.
- It was announced that the slate of 2008 ACFA Chair position candidates has been accepted and most of the 2007 officers agreed to return with the exceptions of two new officer candidates, **Mike Lee** (Membership) and **Chris Conken** (Treasurer).

2008 Chair Nominations:

Officially, nominations for ANY chair position are still open until the 7pm start of the November meeting. See Doug Smith if you wish to be considered, as a vote will be held during the meeting. So far the nominations are: President- **Doug Smith**, Vice President- **Donald Wayne Garrettson**, Treasurer- **Chris Conken**, Secretary- **Angie Howle**, Statistics- **Vince Hawkins**, Membership- **Mike Lee**, Weigh master- **Pat Hughes**, Donations- **Jimmy Quint**, Logo Items- **Alvin Bell**, Awards- **Bryan Hack**, Food- **Randy Wiscaver**, and Newsletter- **David Thornton**. Recently our Membership Chairman, Erik Nelson had to resign for personal reasons. He has served the club well in that capacity for nearly two years (he only joined the club three years ago). **Brian Pugh** and/or **Mike Lee** have stepped up to assist members and guests at the sign in table.

We're Down to the Stretch...

so be sure and continue to sign in to register for our Grand Attendance Prize Package (ice chest full of "goodies" worth in excess of \$200) to be given away at our December awards banquet to a lucky member who has attended at least 8 of the 10 meetings. 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 our membership representative at the check-in table at the back of the meeting room or any club officer.

Congratulations...

to ACFA members Scott Ritter, Paul Smith and especially **Barnie White** (and his dad/partner Steve) who fished in the FLW Redfish Series Championship in Orange Beach October 18-20th. These guys were fine 'ambassadors' of our club and sportfishing community in this high profile venue. The event had some fine press in the local paper (nice job Mike Thompson) and in case you missed that you can catch it on TV on FSN (Fox Sports Net) December 23. From a field of 100 top redfish angling teams (about 85 actually fished), **Barnie and Steve** were in 10th place the first day and jumped to 2nd place at the end of day two to qualify for the Finals on Saturday. Bad weather and bad luck caught up with them the last day though and they finished in 4th place, still good enough for a \$9,360 paycheck. Not bad for doing what you love doing! More info about the Tour and the Series can be found on the internet @ <http://redfish.flwoutdoors.com/>

THIS JUST IN... The IFA Redfish Tour announced their 2008 Tournament Schedule includes a new (central) Gulf Coast Division with dates in Panama City FL, Pensacola FL and Orange Beach AL! More can be seen @ <http://www.redfishtour.com/divisions.html>

And speaking of the IFA Redfish Tour, good luck to the ACFA members who will be fishing the 2007 Championship to be held November 2 & 3 in Panama City, FL. Congratulations and best of luck to Bobby Abruscato and Scott Ritter, **Barnie White**, and to Paul Smith and Kyle Mitternigh, and Bruce Howle Sr and Jr (and my apologies for leaving y'all out of the newsletter last month ;-)

Awards Banquet:

The 2007 ACFA Awards Banquet will begin at 7pm Saturday December 1 at the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway. We've had it there the past two years; inside the building where we have most of the weigh-ins. PLENTY of room for a big crowd! Well over 50 plaques will be presented in addition to other prizes. This year the food will be catered from **Catalina Seafood Restaurants**. Your \$45 membership fee allows you and your immediate family (anyone eligible to fish in the club tournaments) to enjoy the night's festivities courtesy of YOUR fishing club, the ACFA. **Guests are welcome for an additional \$10 per person to HELP cover the cost of the meal.** We **MUST** get an accurate count of how many to expect for dinner at the meeting hall, so RSVP by midnight November 14, 2006 by either signing a sheet that will be passed around at the November meeting or calling 626-2469 and leave a message as to the number in your party (including guests). Provided we get their parole approved, *The Mistifiers* will again be our musical entertainment, that's David Hare and Don Ludlam's band. It's another tradition that members contribute a favorite desert or hors de vors to share with everyone. Hope to see you all there!!

The Red Cross 'Causeway Classic' Fishing Tournament Is Back!

The American Red Cross Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter Causeway Classic Fishing Tournament begins at daybreak **Saturday November 10, 2007**. Anglers may launch from anywhere along Mobile Bay and adjacent state waters, but must weigh in at 'The Swamp Room' at Felix's Fish Camp on the Causeway from 2-4 p.m. Awards, food, fun and (door) prizes will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Entry fee for adult anglers will be \$25 per angler, and youth anglers (18 and under) \$15 per angler.

Adult Anglers will be competing for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in the categories of speckled trout, redfish, and flounder (3 fish creel of each, plus lunker). Junior Anglers will be competing for 1st place in speckled trout, redfish, and flounder (3 fish creel of each, plus lunker).

All funds raised from the Red Cross Causeway Classic Fishing Tournament will stay at the local Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter, (Mobile, Baldwin, Clarke, Monroe, and West Escambia Counties,) to help support the programs and services it provides to the community. These programs and services include: Armed Forces Emergency Services, First Aid, CPR, AED Training, Disaster Services during times of any disaster, whether it is a massive hurricane or a single family house fire, and Community Disaster Education.

To purchase your angler tickets for the American Red Cross AL Gulf Coast Chapter Causeway Classic Trout Tournament please contact the chapter at (251) 438-2571 or check out <http://www.redcrossalacoast.org/Default.aspx?tabid=134> for ticket locations.

At the November meeting we will discuss plans for group sponsorships IF there is sufficient interest among the membership. More details about sponsorship packages can be found @ <http://www.redcrossalacoast.org/Portals/0/CC 2007 Sponsorship PKG FINAL.pdf>

Just In case you missed it...

The new license fee increases (for salt and fresh water fishing, hunting and boating) are now in effect for Alabama.

Additional information can be found on the Internet @ <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/saltwater/license/> or by calling the Alabama Marine Resources Division on Dauphin Island (251) 861-2882 or Gulf Shores (251) 968-7576.

Keep in mind too that a **Freshwater license (required in any river, creek or lake) also increased and expires each August 31st**.

Specific details can be found on the Internet @ <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/license/> or by calling (251) 626-5474.

The ACFA Informal Internal Audit...

Has tentatively been scheduled for sometime in November. Lee Minto and Chris Conken volunteered to arrange a meeting with our current Treasurer Jep Hill (at his request) to view the club's finance books to assure our financial status and fiscal integrity prior to his stepping down.

Old News is...

ALL of our 2006 and 2007 newsletters can be found on the ACFA website @ <http://acfafishing.com/news.htm>

Kudos to Chris Massey (the ACFA Webmaster) for posting those for us. **Check Us Out Online** @ <http://acfafishing.com/>

This is YOUR newsletter! Please address comments, suggestions or corrections to the Newsletter Editor: David Thornton 1711 Jasper Road Mobile, AL 36618 (458-2775) or email pierpounder2001@hotmail.com

Editorial: "Bycatch"

It's one of those catch-phases we most often see associated with commercial fishing practices like shrimp trawling or gill netting. But there is some bycatch with hook and line fishing too. Anything from catfish and croakers to undersized (or oversized) fish of our "target species" can inadvertently end up on our hooks. What we choose to do with that fish, and how it is treated is a matter of conservation and principles. :-)

REMINDERS-

- **Please wear a nametag at the meeting to facilitate getting to know one another**
- **Be sure and sign in (for the Attendance Prize given away later this year)**
- **Donations are needed for the Attendance Prize (see the Membership representative at the sign in table)**
- **Donations are also needed for the Door Prizes (see Jimmy Quint or call 377-5739)**
- **NO SMOKING inside the meeting hall please**
- **NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL at the meeting hall premises (Post 88)**
- **Please be respectful to our speakers and your fellow listeners and talk quietly or outside the meeting room**
- **Elections at the November meeting**
- **NO tournament in November or December**
- **December Awards meeting will be Saturday December 1st at Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway**

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

but entries for the 2007 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 2008 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)**

Big Fish Contest Standings as of October 23, 2007

Blackfish		WT	Flounder		WT	Ground Mullet		WT	Redfish		WT
1	Kyle Mitternacht	22.00	1	Dane Tomberlin	4.11	1	Brittney Howle (J)	1.50*	1	Vince Hawkins	7.40
2	Rick Tourne	20.50	2	Gerald Markow	3.75	2	Jimmy Quint	1.50	2	Richard Rutland (N)?	6.75
3	Kyle Mitternacht	18.69	3	Nick Redding	3.63	3	Daniel Ford	1.47	3	Judy Smith (L)	6.65
4	Brandon Parker	16.65	4	David Hare	3.55	4	Daniel Ford	1.45	4	Mutt Burke	6.50
5	Rick Tourne	16.45	5	Cameron Calhoun (J)	3.53	5	David Hare	1.35	5	John Burke	6.25
Sheepshead		WT	Spanish Mackerel		WT	Speckled Trout		WT	White Trout		WT
1	Henry Nall	12.20	1	Bekki Ludlam (L)	4.35	1	Chris Massey	7.40	1	Adam Barker (N)	2.49
2	Jason Miller	10.90	2	Don Ludlam	4.10	2	Kelly Fulmer	6.83	2	Belinda Smith (L)	2.10
3	Chris Massey	10.65	3	Dane Tomberlin	4.05	3	Tom Duncan	6.50	3	Belinda Smith (L)	1.96
4	Ted Kiefer	10.20	4	Terry Quint	3.94	4	Bill Midgette	6.20	4	Randy Wiscaver	1.80
5	Leslie Smith	10.00	5	Bekki Ludlam (L)	3.00	5	Bill Patterson*	6.10	5	Doug Smith	1.65

*First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler ? Problem w/Membership verification

FINAL ACFA Tournament Point Standings as of October 20, 2007

Pos.	Angler Name	Pts.	
1	Bill Midgette	29	12 points: Richard Suk (N) 11 points: Butch Pierce (N), Marcus Lanier
1	Mike Foster	29	10 points: Brandon Parker, Erik Nelson, Jason Miller
1	Patric Garmeson	29	9 points: Billy Hurd, Brittney Howle (J), Carson Tierce (N)(J), Dane Tomberlin, Del Delchamps, Dewayne Overstreet, Richard Rutland, Theo Koulianos (J)
2	David Hare	27	8 points: Eugene Pierce, Phillip Guy
2	Rick Tourne	27	7 points: Alvin Bell, Daniel Ford, Donnie Fassbender, Pat Hughes, Tommy Pond
3	Belinda Smith (L)	22	6 points: Adam Barker (N), Ted Kiefer, Trey Pitt
3	Chris Massey	22	5 points: Barry Keith, Don Ludlam, Doug Tierce (N), Kim Guy (L), Sam Clark III (N)
3	Henry Nall	22	4 points: Bekki Ludlam (L), Bo Winter, Chris Conken, Doug Houston (N), John Fassbender, Kelly Fulmer, Mike Lee, Mike Tew, Nick Redding (N), Rick Rutland, Shane Ford, Tim Harwell, Tim Pierce (N)
4	Steve O'Dell (N)	20	3 points: Austin Lee (J), Ben Hurn, Brenda Pate (L), Bruce Howle Jr, Donnie Howell, Doug Davis, George Koulianos, Marc Kruse
5	Mutt Burke	19	2 points: Bill Patterson, Billy Pierce Jr (N)(J), Bobby McElroy, Brandie May (N)(L), Gerald Markow, Frank Parker III (J), Jad Pope, Jeff May (N), Jerald Bolen, Joe Sirmon, John Parker (J), Jon Barry (N), Kyle Mitternacht, Lee Minto, Margaret Miller (L), Pete Burns, Scott Godwin, Stephen Laurendine (N)
6	Doug Smith	18	1 point: Allison Pierce (N)(J), Angie Howle (L), Austin Key (N), Barnie White, Betty Harwell (L), Bill Duke, Bill Lawler (N), Bob Ward, Bruce Dyess (N)(J), Bruce Howle Sr, Byron Webb (N), Charlotte Houston (L), Chase Laurendine (N), Cody Pierce (J), David Garrettson, David McNew, David Wright (N), Dewayne Johnson, Donna Keifer (L), Evan Fassbender, Frank Mitternacht, Frank Parker (?), Frank Parker Jr, Gary Tingle, Heath Harwell (J), Jep Hill, Jim Foster, Mike Thompson, John Houston (N), Kirk Hoven (N), Lewis Felis (?), Matt Morgan, Norman Stockman (N), Pete Keith (N), Robert Morgan (J), Russell Schmitz (N), Sam Clark IV (N)(J), Savannah Calhoun (J), Sharon Markow (L), Ted Lawson, Teena Pierce (L), Todd Golomb, Trent Dowell (N), Wayne Garrettson, Wayne Tubb (Ira?), Will Parker (J), Zack Dyess (N)(J)
7	David Thornton	17	
7	Les Smith	17	
7	Randy Wiscaver	17	
7	Vince Hawkins	17	
8	Larry Watkins	16	
9	Judy Smith (L)	15	
9	Mike Pierce (N)	15	
9	Tom Duncan	15	
9	Vickie Foster (L)	15	
10	Billy Pierce (N)	14	
10	Bubba Williams	14	
10	Cameron Calhoun (J)	14	
10	John Burke	14	

(N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler ? Problem w/Membership verification