Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



A Family Oriented Fishing Club Since 1997

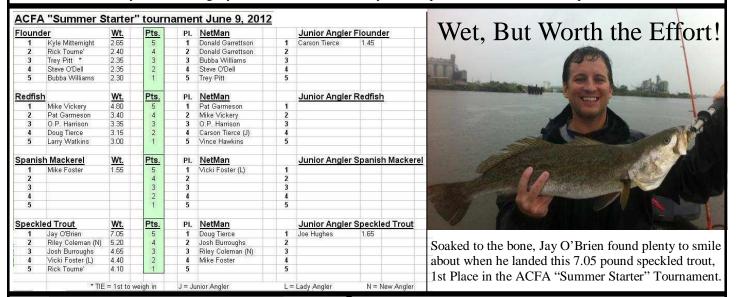
Important Dates

Volume 2012 Issue July Meeting: July 5, 2012 Time: 7:00 PM Place: American Legion Post 88 2663 Halls Mill Road Main Speaker: Capt Richard Rutland — Summer tips, tricks and tactics for summer species In Memorial to Bill Midgette... Quick Hits: David Thornton NO Mini Seminar: "July Junk SALE!"

Saturday July 7: ACFA "Rodeo Warmup" Saturday July 14: Roy Martin YAT @ DI Thursday July 19: ADSFR Liars Contest @ DI Friday July 20– Sunday July 22: ADSFR @ DI Thursday August 2: next ACFA meeting

President:	Patric Garmeson	747-1554
Vice Pres:	Joey Gates	209-1220
Treasurer:	John Erwin	442-4592
Secretary	Bill Perry	661-0129
Membership:	Vince Hawkins	421-4792
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Marty Garmeson	610-4780
Logo Items:	Bill Graves	443-8017
u	Bob Ward	661-3118
Awards:	Gary Tingle	662-0260
Statistics:	David Thornton	458-2775
Newsletter:	David Thornton	458-2775
Webmaster:	Brandon Milam	680-1302
Food Advisors:	Brenda Wilson	513-0313
"	Vince Hawkins	421-4792
Mini Seminars:	Adam Barker	747-1552
Quick Hits:	Bill Midgette	473-4768
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	633-3333

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President's Message:

Our last tournament started out a little wet, well real wet. I fished with fellow club member Mike Vickrey and we worked up and down Mobile River in the pouring down rain in pursuit of redfish and trout. The weigh in was well run by Mr. Charlie Dowdle and Pat Hughes and some great food was provided by ex president Vince Hawkins. Following the weigh in we had great fellowship and fun amongst fellow ACFA members swapping stories. As we were wrapping up I received a call from John Burke saving we had lost Bill Midgette. I was speechless because he was at the previous weighin and now he is gone. Bill has been a huge part to this great fishing club and we will forever miss him. In honor of Bill, I request all of our members to share his or her Bill Midgette stories at the next meeting and or on our ACFA forum. If you can't come up with a shareable story then I ask for short quick hit. Hope to see a big crowd this month and don't forget that prior to the meeting we will have our annual junk sale.

Capt. Patric Garmeson

ACFA June Meeting/Tournament Recap

The meeting kicked off with Patric Garmeson facilitating O.P. Harrison to talk about the life and times of his dear critically ill friend, Bill Midgette. O.P.'s fishing stories and recollections of times with Bill brought many a smile, a bunch of chuckles, and more than a few tears throughout the house all-the-while holding everyone's attention. Bill did so much to shape the ACFA as we know it, and touched many of our lives in so many special ways. Bill Midgette passed away quietly that following Saturday afternoon, (Tournament Day) seemingly in time to stop the rain so he could join his ACFA fishing friends in spirit at the weighin. No doubt his physical presence and friendship will be missed by all of us, but his influence and contributions to the ACFA will remain!

In Memoriam

Maurice William Midgette, Jr. March 18, 1939 - June 9, 2012

Later in the meeting Donald Garrettson (under threat of bodily harm from his longtime padna Rick Torne') gave us his rousing, in-depth view of his personal passion, blackfishing. These guys really 'have it bad' with the preparation and miles they put in to find these elusive fish. No doubt they have fine-tuned the art of blackfishing, evidenced by their numerous placings in that category in ours and other fishing tournaments. So top off the tank and head out for a day of blackfish hunting.

Just about everyone at the weigh in had "how drenched I got" stories to tell, and most even caught fish. And some were VERY good fish like the 7.05# speck caught by Jay O'Brien! As bad as the weather was, the red beans and rice that Vince Hawkins brought sure put some smiles on folks' faces and filled that hollow spot in their bellies. The sausage added just the right kick ;-) There was plenty to eat and plenty of second trips to the pot for a refill. Thanks again Vince! Well done!

ACFA July Meeting Preview

Again, we had some really nice door prizes to give away at the June meeting including this nifty Cajun Fryer (with propane bottle) donated by **Bill Chapman** of Coastal Angler Magazine (yeah, the FREE one). He also donated a pair of Tsunami Fishing Pliers (worth \$30). The lucky winner was Gary Tingle. Are you next? You gotta be there!

The Mini-Seminar will return NEXT month as the July meeting is set aside for the 'July Junk SALE'! This fun activity was a favorite brainchild of the late Bill Midgette as a way to: **1**. Get rid of some of the unwanted/ unneeded items in your tacklebox, boat or shed; **2**. Interact with fellow ACFA members who are buying or selling items; and **3**. as a way to "give something back to the club." Traditionally, 10% of the proceeds are returned to the club to help defer some of the costs. However this year (in Bill's honor) the club will donate it's share of the proceeds to the American Cancer Society (plus any additional donations you wish to make on behalf of the ACFA). Our hope is to help in any way to one day reduce or eliminate the pain and suffering caused by this dreaded disease. Here's an example of how the process works: let's say A. Member has an item he sells for \$20. Well he gives the club 10% (\$2) of that transaction. It all adds up, and in years past we usually raised between \$50 to \$100 for the club to help defer expenses.

Captain Richard Rutland of Cold Blooded Fishing Charters (@ coldbloodedfishing.com) will be our main speaker. Richard enjoys educating anglers and will speak to us on a variety of topics covering summer fishing targets, tactics, tricks and tips for Mobile Bay. Richard is also on the Executive Committee for this year's Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, and he along with other ADSFR officers plan to be at the meeting to speak to the club on behalf of that 'granddaddy' of all Alabama fishing tournaments.

The raffle for this month will be for <u>**TWO**</u> of the 7'2" All Star ASR 865C Redfish rods like we had on the combo in last month's raffle. Valued at over \$60 each they can be yours for the cost of a raffle ticket of \$1. Special this month, 5 tickets for \$5, 10 for \$10, etc. ;-) See Joey Gates at the meeting to purchase your tickets. And good luck! Thanks again Joey for finding these nice items each month!

In true "Bill Midgette" form, the man left me a list of everyone who is to do the 'Quick Hits' segments for each meeting for the remainder of the year. It just so happens I'm next on the list and I vow to continue the tradition and intent Bill had when the idea was first brought to the club as an intrical part for inclusion in each meeting, that everyone "learn at least one new thing each meeting." Those are big shoes to fill, and I pray I'm up to the task, but we wouldn't want it any other way than to carry on with these traditions!

ACFA July Tournament Preview

The ACFA July "Rodeo Warm-up" Tournament will be held Saturday July 7th.

The weigh in (as usual) will be from 3-5pm at the American Legion Post 200 on DIP (Hwy 193) near the Greer's Food Tiger store. The format for July is Speckled Trout Creel (**5** fish), Flounder Creel (**3** fish) for two angler teams (though you may fish alone). Each angler on the team will receive the customary plaques and points for placing. Also Redfish, White Trout and Blackfish will be on the slate this month as the usual single angler entries and in addition, all 5 species are open to our Junior Anglers for their trophies.

Joe Sirmon and Charlie Dowdle plan on providing "hot dogs with ALL the trimmings" (chili, cheese, sour kraut, etc.) at the weigh in addition to chips. PLEASE be sure and patronize the bar at Post 200 as they provide us with the facility at no additional charge!

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Statistics... as of June 23, 2012

Tournament Point Standings after 4 tournaments:

PI	NAME	TOTAL
1	John Fassbender	18
2	O.P. Harrison	17
3	Mike Foster	16
4	Patric Garmeson	15
5	Rick Tourne'	13
5	Trenny Woodham	13
6	David Thornton	12
6 Doug Tierce		12
6	Jay O'Brien	12
7	Tim Pierce	10
8	Donald Garrettson	9
8	Taylor Guy (J)	9
9	Erik Nelson	8
9	Kyle Mitternight	8
9	Mike Vickery	8
9	Vicki Foster (L)	8
10	Chris Pierce	7

The following anglers have...

6 points: Jacob Guy 5 points: Alvin Bell, Bill Perry, Henry Nall, Riley Coleman (N) 4 points: Carson Tierce (J), Jeb Mann, Josh Burroughs, Rudy Baugh, Steve O'Dell, **Trey Pitt** 3 points: Bob Ward, Brad McDonald, Bubba Williams, Eugene Pierce, Joey Gates, Kyle Eckhoff, Pat Sirmon, Tom Brooks, Trevor Wood 2 points: Bill Midgette, Danny Finch, Donnie Howell, George Koulianos, John Burke, Larry Watkins, Marty Garmeson, Michael Nicholas, Pat Hughes, Phillip Guy, Richard Hoffman Jr, Selene Finch (L), Ted Lawson, Theo Koulianos

<u>1 point</u>: Adam Davis (N), Barry Keith, Blake Buxton (N), Bobby McElroy, Christian Howell (J), Dan O'Conner, Ed Greer, Gary Tingle, George Harrison,

Gerald Hatch (N), Gill Singleton (N), Gregory Robinson, Jessica Owens (L),

Joe Hughes (J), Jonathon Law, Katie Mitternight (J), Kenneth Alsbrooks (N)(J),

Kevin Owens, Kristen Mitternight (J), Kyle Woodham, Marcus Lanier,

Matthew Mattox (N), Matthew Morgan (J), Paige Hinton (L), Richard Beech,

Ronnie Dyson, Ryan Hoffman (J), Steve Hawkins, Trevor Harrison (J), Wayne Hawkins

PL	CPR Speckled Trout (in)						
1	George Harrison	27.00					
2	Donald Garrettson	26.00					
3	Donald Garrettson	25.75					
4	Trevor Wood *	25.00					
5	O.P. Harrison	25.00					
6	O.P. Harrison *	24.75					
7	Mike Foster	24.75					
8	Jay O'Brien	24.00					
9	Vince Hawkins	19.75					
10		8 8					
	* tie first entered						



Catch, Photo and Release (CPR) **Speckled Trout Contest Standing** as of July 23, 2012

in each of our 8 club tournaments gives you another chance in our 'PP Drawing' at the end of the year Awards Banquet (held in December).

Keep in mind that EVERY participation point you earn

At least the top 5 place CPR Speckled Trout will receive plaques at the end of the year.

ACFA is a local inshore saltwater fishing club. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month to promote friendship, sportsmanship, and conservation along coastal Alabama.

New: NETMAN (or WOMAN) of the Year Category!

19. Any ACFA angler at the time of their weighing in a tournament fish who declares the eligible member or dependant who actually netted that fish for them (including themselves) will be awarded the same number of points in a separate category called "Netman of the Year". These points will be tallied and kept for the duration of the tournament season and the angler with the most accumulated "net" points will receive this award during the December Banquet.

NOTE: these point totals are entirely separate from the traditional Tournament Point Standings and have no bearing on the Tournament Points or Master Angler

Net Man of the Year Point Standings after FOUR tournaments:

PI	NAME	TOTAL
1	Donald Garrettson	21
2	O.P. Harrison	16
3	Doug Tierce	13
3	Mike Vickery	13
3	Trenny Woodham	13
3	Vicki Foster (L)	13
4	David Thornton	12
5	Mike Foster	11
6	Chris Pierce	10
7	Patric Garmeson	9
8	Phillip Guy	8
9	Alvin Bell	7
9	John Fassbender	7
9	Rick Tourne'	7
9	Tim Pierce	7

If you have any recommendations for area guides you would like to see included in this regular segment or pictures or reports of

ACFA members fishing with area guides ... PLEASE email them to me at pierpounder2001@hotmail.com

<u>Statistics...</u>

as of June 23, 2012

The **BIG** Fish Contest

Mail your 2012 Big Fish Contest entries to: David Thornton 31 Hannon Ave. Mobile, AL 36604 (ph: 251-458-2775)

1	Big Fish Contest Sta Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1			1	George Harrison	3.78	1	John Fassbender	1.90	1	Carson Tierce (J)	6.90
2	¢	1	2	Norman Lewellen	3.59	-	David Thornton	1.77		Trenny Woodham	6.40
3			3	O.P. Harrison	3.17	3	David Thornton	1.44	3	Donnie Howell	6.40
4			4	Marty Garmeson	3.10	4	O.P. Harrison *	1.15	4	O.P. Harrison	6.35
5			5		2	5	Tim Pierce	1.15	5	Trenny Woodham	5.55
6			6			6	Taylor Guy (J)	1.00	6	O.P. Harrison	5.60
7			7		22	7			7	Pat Sirmon	5.55
8			8			8			8	Mike Foster	5.15
9			9		23	9			9		
10	e	1	10		3	10		3 3	10	2	2
50 g	Sheepshead	WT	4	Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	John Fassbender	9.00	1	Vicki Foster (L)	5.15	1	Patric Garmeson	8.05	1	Bill Midgette	2.54
2	Henry Nall	8.70	2	Gabriel Silcox (N)(J)	4.21	2	Bill Graves	8.04	2	O.P. Harrison	2.48
3	Bill Perry	7.45	3	David Thornton	4.19	3	Trenny Woodham *	8.00	3	Marty Garmeson	2.47
4	Vicki Foster (L)	7.15	4	David Thornton	3.97	4	George Harrison	8.00	4	O.P. Harrison	2.00
5	Alvin Bell	6.65	5	Mike Foster	3.85	5	George Harrison	7.78	5	Patric Garmeson	1.86
6	Mike Foster	6.30	6	Mike Foster	3.80	6	O.P. Harrison	7.28	6	Trenny Woodham	1.70
7	Vicki Foster (L)	6.00	7	Vicki Foster (L)	3.75	7	Jay O'Brien	7.05	7		
8			8		3	8	Trevor Wood	7.00	8		
9			9		<u> </u>	9	Trenny Woodham	6.80	9		
10	8	- 98	10		3	10	Jay O'Brien	6.44	10	č.	26 .

<u>Guide Tip of the Month:</u>

Capt. Richard Rutland

Cold Blooded Fishing 251-459-5077 www.coldbloodedfishing.com

With summer time here and the Rodeo on the horizon I always find this a good time to check out my live-well. There are several key things to check before a tournament on your live-well system. I always start with the pump. I like to take it out of the thru-hull and inspect the plastic to make sure there are no cracks. I also check the impeller to make sure there is no trash on it or inside the thru-hull. Electrical connections are also another important part of the system that needs to be inspected. Make sure your connectors in the bilge are shrink wrapped and hung up off of the floor. Checking to be sure your switches are in good working order is also key to keeping your system up and running. I like to spray them down with T9 corrosion and waterproofing spray. Sometimes you can "feel" a switch going out and can change it before it stops working. I also have a bubbler system in my live-well that provides air to your live-well system. I think this goes a long way in keeping baits alive during the hot part of the summer that is approaching. Another trick in the summer is using ice to keep baits more lively. Make sure your live-well is insulated and use a recirculation pump to make this technique effective. There are several ways to cool the water down. Best way is to freeze saltwater blocks or to put ice into Ziploc bags and make sure to recirculate the water, otherwise you lose the cooler water. Never add freshwater ice directly to your bait tank as it will dilute the saltwater. Changing the water temperature on your bait in large doses can kill it so be sure to not cool the water too much. I like the temperature to be just noticeable cooler, that way when you take your bait out of the well and toss it in the water it doesn't go belly up from temperature shock. I hope this helps get the wheels turning for the Rodeo and getting your boat ready. Good luck to everyone fishing the Rodeo and I hope everyone has a good tournament.

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ACFA Members In Other Tournaments



Left to right holding fish, **Jake Markris**, Cullen Jacobs and Kevin Olmstead of team "That's Right" hold several of their five-fish, 19.8-pound creel that claimed the top prize in the category during Saturday's Stormin' Norman Inshore Challenge. Looking on is 2012 Stormin' Norman President Chris Lipscomb. For the seventh year, the event raised money for a local family who'd lost their father and/or husband.

(Photo by Matt Cassitty printed in Mobile Register)



Kyle Mitternight (above) of "Team BKB" claimed the tripletail category and lunker prize with a 10.2pounder. Mitternight, along with fellow team members Frank Mitternight, Donald Garrettson and Rick Tourne, endured a pretty good pounding while searching for blackfish holding on channel markers along the Mobile Ship Channel southeast of Fowl River. (from Mobile Register by Jeff Dute)



219.44



http://www.storminnorman.org/

Our Mission

Our mission is simple. Each year we raise money and services to help area children and their families who are struggling with the loss of a parent. Beyond the heartbreak, these families are often saddled with crippling financial burdens and face dire circumstances.

Donated funds are used to help families begin to recover and provide a brighter future for their children. We help with immediate needs such as rent or mortgage payments, tuition, clothing, food, gas etc. Donated services such as lawn, care, day care, home improvement etc are a blessing to any of these families.

You can make donations anytime @ PO BOX 392 Daphne AL 36526



(above) **Trenny Woodham** 1st place Redfish Creel (3)

Above from left (I think) **Kevin & Jessica Owens** and the guy in the yellow shirt may be **Carl (Joe) Cieutat**.

Scuttlebutt says **Rick Tourne'** and **Trenny Woodham** (left) are buying rounds at the next ACFA meeting ;-)

After the first two tournaments of the inaugural **Alabama Inshore Championship** Fishing Tournament Trail (AIC for short) several ACFA members are still in the running. Preliminary results (pending official verification by polygraph) shows **Kevin Owens** (*Sewer Rats*) in 5th place, **Patric Garmeson** and **Adam Barker** (*Ugly Fishing*) in 7th place, **Erik Nelson** (*Callsign Cooter*) in 8th place, **Donald Garrettson** and **Rick Tourne'** (*Crush Groove*) in 10th place, and **Trenny Woodham** (*Reel Feel*) is in 11th place.

If you have pictures or reports of ACFA members participating in any tournaments please post them on the website or email them to me at pierpounder2001@hotmail.com



Erik Nelson (in black shirt) 3rd place trout



Flounder: Marty Garmeson and Ronnie Reed



Redfish: **Patric Garmeson** (L) and **Adam Barker** (B) and some other guy between them ;-)



Trey Pitt (L) and Bubba Williams Flounder

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From our ACFA Mission Statement:

"Our objectives are to provide a family oriented fishing club, where you can meet new friends while learning to be a more successful fisherman." Nothing does this more than taking the kids fishing.

And Speaking of the Kids ...

(reprinted and rewritten from the ACFA Newsletter Archives from 2002)

One of the goals when taking kids fishing is (of course) catching fish. Certainly there should be plenty for them to eat and drink and be comfortable and safe, but nothing lights the fire in a new fisherman like the excitement of consistently catching fish. Well if you agree, then now may be THE time to put them in 'the zone'.

Anytime from mid May through July and maybe even August, you can expect to find schools of hungry fish under the birds somewhere in the Bay. One prime area for this seasonal occurrence is the Dog River flats stretching from the point near the Buccaneer Yacht Club to the north side of Gaillard Island. In this part of the bay (and other similar places) schools of speckled and white trout gorge themselves on schools of shrimp (usually small to medium size) that are migrating down the bay toward the Gulf. When the fish chase these shrimp (which are usually bottom dwellers) they often herd the shrimp up off the bottom to intermediate depths and (with no where else to go) even to the surface. It is at this point the keen eyed gulls join in and turn the little shrimpies' day into a real nightmare of being eaten from above and from below.

Then the fisherman enters the picture, using the diving birds as a locator for the schools of hungry fish below (occasionally with the aid of binoculars). On a 'good' day (fairly calm surface water) you should be able to find from 2 to 8 of the "bird schools" in the Dog River flats area. Some of the schools are predominately speckled trout of one size or another, while others may be mostly white trout. Usually it's a mix of both to some degree with the specks in the upper portion of the water column and the white trout below or on the bottom.

When you approach a school, do so cautiously from the upwind side so that you may drift into casting range without disturbing the action. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR MOTOR RUNNING as this will scatter the fish and the bait and the birds will leave or sit on the water forcing you to start looking all over again. Sometimes though fish will continue to feed for a good while in the same vicinity where the bait has dispersed. This is especially true of the white trout. A trolling motor is a convenient, quiet way to move around but not entirely necessary with good boat handling.

The preferred baits seem to be artificials such as speck rigs and single or tandem ¹/₄ ounce grubs. Color doesn't seem to be all that important, but you want a lure that can be cast fairly easily and stand up to the abuse of multiple strikes even on a single cast. Throw toward the nearest strikes you see and the fun should begin!

Remember these "bird fish" are often small so this is a good opportunity to show the youngsters proper handling and release for any undersized or unwanted fish. Small trout are better handled (gently) with a bare wet hand, using the 'free' hand to remove the hook with needle nosed pliers or a hook remover. Try to avoid using a towel on the fish as this removes the protective slime that helps the fish avoid infections and aids in swimming. Using a net can also remove some of the slime and cause separations in the tail and fins. The newer rubber nets and those made with small mesh seem to be a bit safer to use for fish you intend to release. Remember, today's runts are tomorrow's trophies! It's a good opportunity to teach them good conservation of the resource so that their children (and grandchildren) can enjoy it too :-)

ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOC. BIG FISH CONTEST ENTRY		
DATE		
MEMBER'S NAME		
FISH TYPE		
WEIGHT	lbs. oz.	
WEIGHED AT		
WEIGHED BY		

ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOC. BIG FISH CONTEST ENTRY			
DATE			
MEMBER'S NAME			
FISH TYPE			
WEIGHT	lbs. oz.		
WEIGHED AT			
WEIGHED BY			

Signature of person weighing the fish

Fill out the above fields, print and have the person weighing the fish sign the form.

Then mail to: ACFA Big Fish Contest c/o David Thornton 31 Hannon Ave. Mobile, AL 36604

The Statistician reminds everyone to please be sure and make a photocopy of your Big Fish Card before entrusting it to the mail.

251-458-2775 cel

Signature of person weighing the fish

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	31 Hannon Ave.
	Mobile, AL 36604

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ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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