

# Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



A Family Oriented Fishing Club Since 1997

Volume 2013 Issue June

## June Meeting

Date: June 6, 2013 Time: 7:00 pm  
Place: American Legion Post 88 2663 Halls Mill Rd  
Main Speaker: Joe Dear  
Mini Seminar: Casting Contest!  
Quick Hits: Joe Sirmon

## Important Dates

June 8, 2013: Summer Starter Tournament  
June 21, 2013: First Day of Summer  
June 22, 2013: Second Alabama Inshore Championship Tournament

## CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2013

President	Patric Garmeson	747-1554
Vice President	Joey Gates	209-1220
Treasurer	John Erwin	442-4592
Secretary	Charlie Dowdle	622-0054
Membership	Gary Tingle	662-0260
Weighmaster	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations	Marty Garmeson	610-4780
Logo Items	Bill Graves	443-8017
"	Bob Ward	661-3118
Awards	Jay O'Brien	379-1420
Statistics	David Thornton	458-2775
Newsletter	Mike Vickrey	680-4503
Food Advisor	Kyle Eckhoff	259-2357
Mini Seminars	Rick Tourne'	623-9409
Quick Hits	O.P. Harrison	476-8379
Advisor	Mike Thompson	633-3333

*Be sure to tune in 105.5 for WNSP Outdoors every Thursday at Noon and FM Talk 106.5 Outdoors every Saturday Morning at 7am!*

## President's Message:

Summer is unofficially here but the heat is already here. Most species of fish have already adjusted to the early stages of the summer pattern and our normal inshore pelagic's are showing up in good numbers.

Last month was our speckled trout challenge between the old salts and young guns. David Hare and partner John Howard declared war on the less experienced group of anglers and vowed to help bring victory this year. They could not have been more right, not only did they declare war they also brought in the fish they needed to help the more experienced group take victory.

Please continue to keep fellow ACFA member John Burke in your prayers as he still is recovering from his recent health problems. Our own Mike Thompson has been keeping us up to date on John's status on the ACFA forum and Mike was also kind enough to interview John for this months meet the angler section.

Capt. Patric Garmeson

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- This months main speaker is Joe Dear, a veteran of fishing the Mobile Bay area. Don't miss it!
- Raffle Item: Handheld Marine VHF Radio
- Meagan Schrandt from the University of South Alabama Department of Marine Sciences. Will discuss possible ACFA involvement in a study of two area saltwater fish species.
- This month instead of a typical Mini-Seminar we will be having a casting contest! Bring your best casting rod and reel combo and come prepared to hit some targets!!

# June Meeting

Our June meeting will take place on Thursday June 6, 2013 at American Legion Post 88 in Mobile. This month for our main speaker we have yet another veteran area fisherman, Captain Joe Dear. Joe has been fishing the waters of Mobile Bay and the waters around Dauphin Island for at least 25 years. Joe began fishing with his Grandfather when he was around 10 years old and spent most weekends of his youth fishing the Dauphin Island area both inshore and offshore to about 30 miles. Joe has won or placed in many area tournaments and the rumor is that he has been lucky enough to win a couple boats in his tournament fishing career! Joe really enjoys taking people fishing and showing them what this fishery has to offer! During his seminar, Joe will be discussing fishing in the Dauphin Island area and the near shore rigs for the month of June. He will also cover some tips on snapper fishing on the wrecks and rigs in the Gulf. Don't miss it!!

Meagan Schrandt from the University of South Alabama Department of Marine Sciences will be coming to the meeting to discuss the possibility of the ACFA participating in fish studies. The studies will involve Spanish Mackerel and Florida Pompano and are geared toward finding out where the fish stocks are coming from and maintaining a healthy and sustainable fishery.

Just for fun, our mini seminar portion of the ACFA meeting will be a casting contest! Be sure to bring your favorite casting setup and test your casting accuracy against the best the ACFA has to offer! The details haven't been set in stone yet but the contest will include targets for accuracy and possibly a range for distance casting. See you there!!!



*Captain Joe Dear with a nice mess of specks and a Blackfish.*

## SUMMER STARTER TOURNAMENT

The ACFA "Summer Starter Tournament" will be held on Saturday June 8, 2013 and marks the half way point of the ACFA tournament season. The weigh-in location will be American Legion Post 250, Fowl River. This month is one of the tournaments where there are **five different species** to compete for. Categories will be **Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Ground Mullet and Spanish Mackerel**.

Last year this tournament was one of those where the weather didn't cooperate and soaked everyone to the bone. But, in the end, some great fish were weighed in. Hopefully this year we will have some nice weather and hopefully see some good fish too! One thing to look forward to is the food at the weigh-in. Our very own Mr. Charlie Dowdle and Mr. Joe Sirmon have volunteered their time and expertise to prepare their specially seasoned hot dogs for the ACFA anglers at this months tournament weigh-in. Everybody be sure to give those guys a pat on the back and a thank you for their time and effort!

### JULY JUNK SALE

**Just an early reminder that our annual junk sale will be taking place at the meeting on July 11, 2013. That's just a little over a month away so if you have any fishing or outdoor related items that you could live without think about bringing it with you in July. (10% of sales go to the ACFA)**

If you do much fishing around the inshore areas of south Alabama, you are bound to have run into an unmistakable angler on the water. This guy, known for his signature bright chartreuse shirts, will normally be seen piloting an equally un-mistakable boat called the 'Concrete Thing.'

ACFA member, John Burke is a 49 year old father of two. Born into a fishing family, John Burke is the son of fishing legend Mutt Burke, one of the charter members of ACFA and Miss Linda Burke. Thrust onto the fishing scene at four years old, John Burke has plenty of fishing memories to share.

"When I was just a 'whippersnapper,' I would beg my father to take me along fishing. In the same method he dealt with my Mother, Daddy set up targets in the back-yard. Once I could cast and hit the targets with regularity, I was ready to go," Burke explained.

Some of John's first memories of the outdoors were the duck hunting trips he took with his Dad and Uncle Bill. Uncle Bill was the life-long friend and fishing partner of Mutt Burke. He learned a lot about the outdoors from Uncle Bill (Bill Midgette) and his Dad. However, at the time his dad owned a 14-foot Stauter Boat. Hardly big enough for more than the two fishing buddies.

With a love for fishing instilled at an early age, John Burke and his good friend David McNew followed the cobia run in spring.

They fished from Panama City to Gulf Shores in search of cobia. Following that theme of fishing without a boat, Burke and McNew scaled the rocks at Perdido Pass, catching huge bluefish on homemade broom stick lures. As Burke became old enough to be trusted with the family Stauter Built boat, he would often follow his Dad and Uncle Bill on their trips, learning along the way. It was during this time period that Mutt Burke instructed his son to start keeping logs on his fishing trips.

"Dad would tell me to record tides, winds, and temperatures, as well as the results of the trip. He made sure to see that I would record my bad trips as well as the good ones. This would be helpful in planning future trips," Burke said. As Burke grew older, he would leave his beloved Mobile. In 1984 he moved to Texas to attend college. In Texas he would often fish the beaches of Galveston, where he learned much about live bait fishing.

After marriage and starting a family, John Burke transferred from his job with the Corps of Engineers to St. Louis, Missouri. This was done to ensure that his daughter could attend a school that specialized in teaching deaf students. In 2,000 Burke's family moved to Atlanta Georgia to take advantage of another school that dealt with deaf children. In 2010 the family moved again, to Orlando, Florida, where John's daughter could attend a high school that specialized in deaf students.

After not being able to find a job in Florida, John Burke was able to land a position with the Corps of Engineers in New Orleans. This required him to be split with his family. He made the best of the situation and things turned out OK. A four day work week allowed Burke to make the two and a half hour drive from New Orleans to Mobile. Being able to fish his home waters was a blessing. Eating his Mama's home cooking was just a bonus!

## MEET THE ANGLER



### John Burke



**"I love to catch speckled trout. Nothing compares to them. My favorite bait to catch them on is a pink Rapala Skitter Walk SSW9."**

*Continued from page 3: Meet the Angler*

Looking back on his fishing career over the last 40-years, Burke has many memories that stand out. One in particular seems to top them all.

"Daddy and I were fishing John's Bend on the Causeway in fall. We were below the Interstate, fishing the Delta Special worm, along with Bagley's Bang-A-Lures. We caught specks, bass, flounder and redfish all along the grass. It was incredible!" Burke said. "The water was gin-clear, so I tied on the favorite lure in my tackle-box. It was a Cordell Red Fin. I cast it out and Daddy said: "He's right there, under it. Twitch it!" "Well, I twitched it and the redfish came up and blasted it. A quick fight ensued and he broke my line...taking my Red Fin with him. My memory is foggy, but I think I cried." While John lamented the loss of the Red Fin, he did reveal his favorite fish and bait for your enlightenment: "I love to catch speckled trout. Nothing compares to them. My favorite bait to catch them on is a pink Rapala Skitter Walk SSW9."

John Burke is currently recovering from a severe illness at Providence Hospital. While his recovery is slow, his desire to get back on the water burns strong. Let's all hope we see John and the 'Concrete Thing' on the water real soon!

*Mike Thompson, , ACFA founder*

## YETI COOLER GIVEAWAY FROM SKEETER BOATS

By taking a test ride on a Skeeter Boat you will be entered into a drawing for this 65 quart Yamaha yeti cooler. Numerous club members took a test ride with Patric Garmeson at the May ACFA tournament weigh-in on the causeway. Rides will be available at the next two AIC weigh-ins at Tacky Jacks on the Causeway. We will also be striving to have

test rides available at our September tournament weigh-in. Be sure to take a ride on one of the best riding boats you have ever been on and get your name in the hat for the yeti.  
"Warning you will want one these boats once you take a ride!"



### ACFA Guide Tip of the Month Captain Joe Dear

Fishing around Dauphin Island has been really good the past few weeks and it should only get better. Specks are on the shoals and on the rigs in the south part of the bay. Many flounder are migrating out of the gulf and are being caught at the east end. Lots of speckled trout in the MS sound in the shallow bays and on submerged wrecks and the rigs near the Katri-na cuts. Some triple tail are migrating in and their numbers should increase as the waters continue to get warmer. Nearshore there are lots of spanish and pompano on the beaches as well as a few cobia showing up. the rigs South of Dauphin Island are holding plenty of snapper and cobia and King mackerel are showing up and should get better throughout the month of June.



# “SPECKLED TROUT CHALLENGE”

**MAY 4, 2013**

**“Old Salts” vs. “Young Guns”**

**34**

**21**

The ACFA “Speckled Trout Challenge” is the annual competition where the “Older” and “Younger” members of the club put their skills to the test to see which group has what it takes to bring home trophy speckled trout. The weigh-in for this event is held on the causeway and coincides with the United Cerebral Palsy tournament that is held on the same day. Last year the weather was pretty nice and team “Young Guns” brought home a 38 to 17 win over the “Old Salts”. But, this year, the weather didn’t exactly cooperate and the ACFA members who participated had to endure high winds and chilly temperatures throughout the day. The “Old Salts”, after last years defeat showed up in force, and ready to claim the bragging rights for the next year. At the end of the day the Old Salts won it 34 to 21. Congratulations to the “Old Salts” on their victory!

The weigh in location for this tournament is the causeway and traditionally there is a fish fry every year. This year, to change things up a little, there was a causeway style crawfish boil. And thanks to Legendary Marine and Skeeter Boats, Patric Garmeson was able to give numerous club members rides in a Skeeter boat. The Skeeter Boat rides are something that we will try to have more of at future ACFA tournament weigh-ins. Don’t pass up the opportunity to take a test ride in one of these Skeeter boats, they have a really great ride that will have you thinking about an upgrade when you get back to the dock! If you did take a ride in the Skeeter your name was added to the drawing for the YETI cooler. See page 4 of the newsletter for more info.

**NOTE:** If you took a test ride on the Skeeter boat with Patric at the May tournament weigh in your name was entered in the Yamaha Yeti Cooler give-away mentioned on page 4 of this newsletter!

May 4, 2013 ACFA Speckled Trout Challenge

Place	Weight	Angler	Y points	O points
1	5.30	John Howard		10
2	4.50	Ronnie Reed	9	
3	4.20	David Hare		8
4	4.00	Doug Tierce		7
5	3.55	Rick Tourne'	6	
6	3.40	Trenny Woodham		5
7	3.20	Jay O'Brien	4	
8	2.35	Mike Foster		3
9	2.30	Lee Day (N)	2	
10	2.25	Brad McDonald		1
		Totals	21	34

\* tie first to weigh in

Y = "Young Guns" less than age 40   O = "Old Salts" age 40 or more

#### **Junior Angler Category**

- 1st----- Kenneth Alsbrooks -----1.75 lbs
- 2nd---- Noah Barker -----1.55 lbs
- 3rd---- Kaleb Barker -----1.45 lbs



*John Howard, one of the “Old Salts” with the biggest speckled trout of the day.*

**Statistics**  
as of May 24, 2013

# The BIG Fish Contest 2013

Mail your 2013 Big Fish Contest entries to: David Thornton 31 Hannon Ave. Mobile, AL 36604

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1			1 Patric Garmeson	4.02	1 Kyle Mitternight	2.39	1 Bill Perry	5.95
2			2 Vicki Foster (L)	3.40	2 Henry Nall	2.26	2	
3			3 Daniel O'Conner (N)	3.30	3 Brian Mygrant (N)	2.14	3	
4					4 Brian Mygrant (N)	1.90	4	
5					5 MartyGarmeson	1.80	5	
6					6 David Thornton *	1.75	6	
7					7 David Thornton *	1.75	7	
8					8 MartyGarmeson	1.75	8	
9					9 John Fassbender *	1.73	9	
10					10 Mike Thompson	1.73	10	
	Sheepshead	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Vicki Foster (L)	9.30	1 David Thornton	3.50	1 Trenny Woodham	7.52	1 Jay O'Brien **	3.58
2	Eddie Greer	8.70	2 David Thornton	3.30	2 Kevin Owens	7.22	2 O.P. Harrison	2.95
3	Richard Hoffman Jr	8.50	3		3 Kyle Mitternight	6.90	3 Marty Garmeson	2.63
4	Mike Foster	8.30	4		4 Bill Graves	6.80	4 O.P. Harrison	2.61
5	Doug Smith	8.10	5		5 Doug Tierce	6.58	5 Marty Garmeson	2.52
6	Leslie Smith	7.85	6		6 Henry Nall	6.54	6 Ronnie Reed	2.43
7	Henry Nall	7.55	7		7 O.P. Harrison	6.50	7 John Howard	2.22
8	Jay O'Brien	6.98	8		8 Richard Hoffman Jr	6.00	8 John Howard	2.15
9	Richard Hoffman Jr *	6.65	9		9		9 Trenny Woodham	2.00
10	Richard Beech	6.65	10		10		10 Ronnie Reed	1.93

\*\* NEW CLUB RECORD \* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

\*\*\*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

Tournament Points Totals			Net Man Points Totals			Catch - Photo - Release		
PI	NAME	TOTAL	PI	NAME	TOTAL	PL	CPR Speckled Trout (in)	
1	Trenny Woodham	15	1	Henry Nall	13	1	Doug Tierce	26.75
2	Richard Hoffman Jr	14	2	Mike Foster	12	2	Jay O'Brien	26.50
3	Mike Foster	13	3	Trenny Woodham	11	3	Doug Tierce	26.25
4	Vicki Foster (L)	12	4	Vicki Foster (L)	9	4	Patric Garmeson	26.00
5	Jay O'Brien	11	5	Doug Tierce	8	5	Donald Garretson *	25.00
6	Brian Mygrant (N)	8	6	Brian Mygrant (N)	7	6	Alvin Bell	25.00
6	Marty Garmeson	8	6	Marty Garmeson	7	7	Bill Graves	25.00
7	Pat Garmeson	7	7	Eddie Greer	6	8	Rodney Thompson (N)	25.00
8	Doug Smith	6	7	Les Smith	6	9	Donald Garretson	24.88
8	Eddie Greer	6	7	Phillip Guy	6	10	Taylor Guy (J)	24.88
8	Jacob Guy	6	7	Richard Hoffman Jr	6			
8	Kyle Mitternight	6	7	Rick Tourne'	6			
8	Michael Nicholas Jr	6	7	Summer Williams (L)	6			
8	O.P. Harrison	6	8	Bob Ward	5			
9	Bill Graves	5	8	O.P. Harrison	5			
9	Henry Nall	5	9	David Thornton	4			
9	Lori Tourne' (L)	5	9	Doug Smith	4			
9	Michella Cain (N)(L)	5	9	Jacob Guy	4			
9	Phillip Guy	5	9	Jonathan Byrd (N)	4			
9	Taylor Guy (J)	5	9	Rodney Thompson (N)	4			
10	David Thornton	4	10	Alvin Bell	3			
10	Donald Garretson	4	10	Bill Graves	3			
10	Doug Tierce	4	10	Donald Garretson	3			
10	Leslie Smith	4	10	Taylor Guy (J)	3			
10	Rick Tourne'	4						

NOTE: No Net Man points were recorded during the May 2013 "Speckled Trout Challenge"

## ACFA Tournament Plaques Sponsored by Skeeter



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4012 Dauphin Island Parkway  
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