



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	

May 2007 Newsletter

Our fourth meeting for the 2007 season will be held on Thursday May 3rd at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place). That's 1/2 mile north of McVay Drive on Halls Mill Road.

President's Message

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work on the food and the weighin.

Now it's time for the BOMB, I would like to see everybody in the club come out and fish.

Doug

ACFA April 7, 2007 'Breakout' Tournament Results

Our second tournament was held under brutal conditions for April, with near record cold morning temperatures in the middle 40s and windchills near freezing, due to a bonafide Small Craft Warning in effect with gust to 30 knots! But over 50 ACFA members would not to be deterred by Easter egg hunts or a 'little chilly wind and dingy water'. Especially Chris Massey and Henry Nall who parked their boat, and were fishing the Dauphin Island Pier when I arrived there at 6 am. We all caught some decent specks, but they were just biding their time until the winds abated enough around midday to make a run to the rigs for some of those patented 4'-6' sheepshead. And it paid off well for them! Officially there was a total of 55 tournament fish weighed in, plus some nice redfish. But alas, again NO pompano ☹ We did have a Junior Angler Groundmullet entry though: Billy Pierce Jr (N) will get the 1st place Jr plaque (0.65#).

	Sheepshead (11)	WT		Speckled Trout (13)	WT		Ground Mullet (5)	WT		Flounder (26)	WT
1	Henry Nall	9.25	1	Mike Pierce (N)	5.05	1	Eugene Pierce	0.80	1	Erik Nelson *	2.10
2	Chris Massey	7.80	2	Tom Duncan	4.95	2	Steve O'Dell * (N)	0.70	2	Pat Garmeson	2.10
3	David Thornton	4.30	3	Kelly Fulmer	4.55	3	Billy Pierce (N)	0.70	3	Phillip Guy	2.00

(N) NEW member for 2007

* First to weigh in

Some great "hot off the grill" hotdogs with baked beans and coleslaw were provided to the members at the weighin site, thanks to Brenda Pate assisted by Mike Lee. And that grilled deer sausage was a huge hit. Thanks again!

And a big 'thank you' to the members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Mobile Power Squadron for providing the non-binding boat inspections for our members at the April weigh-in. Again this year, about 20 ACFA members took advantage of this opportunity and had their rigs inspected and approved. The ACFA promotes safe boating and encourages all members to take advantage of this free and non-binding inspection when it is offered in the future.

Just a reminder: our host site for the weigh in (American Legion Post 250) does NOT charge us for the use of their facilities. They use our donated fish (in the donation cooler) to fry for veterans. And ask only that we respect the premises by patronizing their bar as much as possible and PLEASE leave no trash on the ground, or fish carcasses in the cans or dumpsters. Thank you!

And More Thanks...

In addition to donating the igloo cooler for the end of the year Grand Attendance Prize, Marc Brazelton of West Marine (3747 Government Boulevard) donated the rod & reel combo for the last door prize at the April meeting. Thanks again!

The Speckled Trout Challenge: May 5th, 2007

aka **Battle Of Mobile Bay** (or **BOMB**) originated some years ago when Mike Thompson, founder of the 'upstart' ACFA fishing club challenged the established Saltwater Sportsmen's Association (SSA) to a speckled trout tournament in May. After six years of friendly competition (and usually ACFA victories) the SSA 'opted out' of the competition in 2004. At that time the newly formed Weeks Bay Fishing Club (WBFC) challenged the ACFA to continue the series. The ACFA has prevailed the first three years and retained the trophy which rotates to the winning club for each year. But the WBFC is a determined group of fine fishermen who would like nothing better than to upset our plans of an unprecedented 4th victory and avenge 2005's 'sweep' by the ACFA.

For the benefit of those members who may not be familiar with this tournament, the format is as follows: Speckled trout caught **ONLY** during the competition hours (**5am to 5 pm Saturday May 5th**) by currently paid members, or qualified family members (spouse or children under age 16) of the competing clubs may be entered.

Live or artificial baits are allowed, but all specks **MUST** be caught on hook and line (NO net caught fish).

All contestants must launch and fish in Alabama waters **ONLY**. Remember, you're on your honor!

The weigh-in will be from 3 pm to 5pm (Sat May 5th) at Scott's Landing on the Highway 90/98 Causeway just east of the Blakely River Bridge (same place we had the 2006 Causeway Classic last October. Parking is an issue at Scott's, so please remember to "park smart" to allow as many folks as possible access to the launch and tournament weigh-in area. Park off premises IF possible and be sure to secure your equipment from theft.

Weigh masters representing both clubs will be present with one digital scale to weigh the fish. An official weight log will be kept with notations of the time, angler's name, weight of the fish and club affiliation. By weighing in a speckled trout the angler is testifying that he/she caught it by legal, sporting means in Alabama waters during the tournament hours. Each angler is allowed to weigh in **ONLY** one speck (NO weight checks will be allowed on the official scales). Anglers **MUST** be in the weigh in line by 5pm or risk disqualification.

As soon as the scale officially closes after 5pm, the fish weights will be assessed and points awarded for the top 10 specks (10 points for 1st place, down to 1 point for 10th place). Example: the 4th heaviest is worth 7 points and the 8th heaviest 3 points. The 55 available points will be divided up according to the club affiliation of the anglers weighing in those 10 specks. The club with the most total points is declared the winner and will be awarded the Challenge Trophy at a future meeting (not to mention the 'bragging rights') for another year.

So we need **ALL** our ACFA members to fish hard for that elusive big speck and maintain our domination in what has become a premier event in local speckled trout fishing.

NOTE: to avoid any confusion as per what will constitute an ACFA 'participation point', Tournament Rule #16, posted on the ACFA website @ <http://acfafishing.com/ACFA2007TourneyRules.pdf> states "the Speckled Trout Challenge is NOT a regular club tournament." Thus, **only members weighing in a legal (at least 14" TL) speckled trout will receive a tournament participation point.**

The weigh master will accept (at his convenience) redbait, and any of the other 6 fish species for weighing in the yearlong Big Fish Contest, but **ONLY** speckled trout will get ACFA participation points for this tournament. ACFA members who weigh in a speck finishing in the Top 10 of the Speckled Trout Challenge will be awarded a plaque plus **TWO** additional points in the 2006 Tournament Standings (for a total of 3 points to members with a Top 10 speckled trout). Any questions can be addressed at the May meeting.

Also, there is a separate Junior Angler category for Speckled Trout in the Speckled Trout Challenge. Plaques will be awarded for 3 places to ACFA Junior Anglers who weigh in a speck. Get after 'em kids!

From our mission statement:

"... Promoting friendship, sportsmanship, and conservation along coastal Alabama. Our objectives are to provide a family oriented fishing club where you can meet new friends and learn all about being more successful while pursuing your hobby / sport." This tournament and weigh in are great opportunities to have fellowship with members of another fishing club with which we share a similar dedication and passion. ACFA members are encouraged to participate in the competition and festivities in order to become better anglers and neighbors. Please proudly display your ACFA logo items (to help identify you with our club) and win or lose, let our motto of "promoting friendship and sportsmanship" prevail.

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.

Well, Ya GOTTA eat!

There are no kitchen facilities at the weigh in site (Scott's Landing) on the Causeway, but Food Chairman Randy "Bigun" Wiscaver said he will be present with his roving 'meals on wheels' and stage a fish fry (with fixins) of epic proportion. However, Randy asks that a few volunteers step forward at the May meeting to commit to being there early to set up, help with the cooking and layout, and afterwards clean up. We sure want to be invited back in October, and we want Randy to have PLENTY of help ;-). Details will be discussed further at the May meeting.

The Mini-Seminars Continue...

Doug Smith, President of the ACFA will be our moderator at the next seminar meeting. The topic is "Top spots to fish". The popular Top Spot fishing maps will be on each table to allow participants to follow Doug as he "tells all" from his years of experience fishing the Bay area. Maps are courtesy of Barry Keith (Keith Map Service @ 60 Schillinger Road 633-5588), a member of our club. We will also have 30 additional maps available with the latest updates for \$10. Be at the meeting hall early as the seminar will begin at 6pm.

It's Raffle Time...

Donnie Garrettson (ACFA VP) has graciously donated a brand new Kistler / Abu Garcia rod & reel combo (**worth almost \$400**) to be raffled off during the June 7th meeting. Tickets will be \$5 and available at the May & June meetings.

New Member Sponsorship Prizes...

will be awarded during the May meeting. TWO dinners for two (each a \$50 check) will go to the member who has sponsored the most new members. Who will win this year? Also, a name will be drawn from the list of those members who sponsored at least one new member this year. Good work & good luck!

The "Treasurer's Treat"...

TWO lucky current ACFA members who mailed in their dues to Treasurer Jep Hill by April 1st will have their names pulled out of the hat during the May meeting. They will be reimbursed their \$45 dues for 2007. All this fun FOR FREE!?! Somebody pinch me ;-)

YOU can Help...

Our devoted Treasurer, Jep Hill has requested that two (non board) members step forward to review the books. Please contact Jep to request an appointment (BEFORE he goes to Bermuda ;-). Yes, that was a joke!

Alvin Bell will be selling ACFA logo items at the May Meeting!

He still has a good supply of caps, T-shirts, towels, etc. so shop early while the selections are still there.

Be sure and wear your ACFA apparel to the Speckled Trout Challenge weigh in.

- ACFA T-shirts in Navy Blue, Forrest Green, and Natural; in sizes Med-XL are \$9 and XXL or XXXL are \$11
 - ACFA 'Grand Slam' T-shirts (w/pocket) in White only; sizes M-XL are \$10 XXL or XXXL are \$12
 - ACFA Ladies T-shirts (in White only) are \$10 for all sizes; and
 - ACFA Long-Sleeved T-shirts are \$13 for M-XL and \$15 for XXL and XXXL
 - ACFA caps in Navy, Khaki, Olive and Stone are \$7; and this year's HOT item, ACFA Visors are \$6; and the ACFA Hand Towels are \$3.50 each or 2* for \$5
 - ACFA embroidered patches will be available too, small patches are \$2 each or 3 for \$5, large patches are \$6
- We ask that you **please bring the correct change**, or pay by check to facilitate the sales.

REMINDERS-

- **Donations are needed for the Grand Attendance Prize (see Eric Nelson 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)**
- **A Separate Junior Angler category for Speckled Trout in the Speckled Trout Challenge (plaques will be awarded for 3 places to Junior Anglers who weigh in a speck)**
- **A raffle will be held in June – July for a full day inshore (marsh) redfish sight fishing charter trip for two lucky anglers with Captain Paul "Moondoggie" Smith. See Erik Nelson for tickets (\$5) and details.**
- **Call CCA (251-478-3474) or visit www.BanGillNets.com for information about the proposed bill to ban gill nets in Alabama waters.**

Help us check!

Our club Statistician wanted to remind everyone to please check the spelling and weights by your name in the Big Fish Contest and Tournament Results and Point Standings to see they are indeed correct. We aim to please!

Also, your Big Fish entry must be made within 30 days of the catch and to 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 April 10, 2007

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1			1	Erik Nelson	2.10*	1	David Hare	1.20	1	Mutt Burke	6.50
2			2	Pat Garmeson	2.10	2	Ted Kiefer	1.05	2	Phillip Guy	6.00
3			3	Phillip Guy	2.00	3			3	DeWayne Johnson	4.30
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	Henry Nall	12.20	1			1	Bill Midgette	6.20	1	John Burke	1.10
2	Jason Miller	10.90	2			2	Bill Patterson	6.10	2		
3	Chris Massey	10.65	3			3	Kelly Fulmer	5.93	3		
4	Ted Kiefer	10.20	4			4	Mike Pierce (N)	5.05	4		
5	Leslie Smith	10.00	5			5	Mutt Burke	4.95*	5		

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

ACFA Tournament Point Standings as of April 7, 2007

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Angler Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	Henry Nall	16
2	Chris Massey	10
3	Bill Midgette	9
3	David Hare	9
3	Jason Miller	9
3	Mike Pierce (N)	9
4	Erik Nelson	8
4	Eugene Pierce	8
4	John Burke	8
5	Mutt Burke	7
5	Patric Garmeson	7
5	Theo Koulianos (J)	7
6	Steve O'Dell	6
6	Ted Kiefer	6
6	Tom Duncan	6
7	Billy Pierce (N)	5
7	David Thornton	5
7	Del Delchamps	5

The following members have 4 points:

Bo Winter, Kelly Fulmer, Phillip Guy

The following members have 2 points:

Alvin Bell, Austin Lee (J), Barry Keith, Bill Patterson, Billy Pierce Jr (N)(J), Bubba Williams, Butch Pierce (N) (?), Dane Tomberlin, Donnie Howell, George Koulianos, Mike Foster, Mike Tew, Rick Tourne, Tim Harwell, Tim Pierce (N), Trey Pitt, Vickie Foster (L), Vince Hawkins

The following members have 1 point:

Adam Barker (N)(?), Allison Pierce (N)(J), Austin Key, Barney White, Bekki Ludlam (L), Belinda Smith (L), Billy Hurd, Brenda Pate (L), Bruce Dyess(?), Cameron Calhoun (J), Chase Laurendine (J), David Garrettson (?), Don Ludlam, Donna Keifer (L), Donnie Fassbender, Doug Smith, Evan Fassbender, Frank Parker (?), Frank Parker III (J)(?), Frank Parker Jr (?), Gary Tingle, Jad Pope, Jim Foster, Joe Sirmon, John Fassbender, Kim Guy, Kirk Hoven (N), Larry Watkins, Lee Minto, Les Smith, Marc Kruse, Margaret Miller (L), Mike Lee, Nick Redding, Norman Stockman (N), Pete Burns, Pete Keith (?), Randy Wiscaver, Russell Schmitz (N), Sam Clark (N), Scott Godwin, Stephen Laurendine (N), Tommy Pond, Wayne Garrettson, Wayne Tubb (Ira?), Zack Dyess (J)(?)

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

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

This is YOUR newsletter. Please address comments, suggestions or corrections to the Newsletter Editor: David Thornton
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