



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	

October 2007 Newsletter No. 9

Our next meeting will be held Thursday October 4th at the American Legion Post 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 for the evening will be none other than the ACFA's own Captain Bobby Abruscato (founder of A-Team Charters).

Bobby will be discussing fall fishing techniques, offering some 'new' methods and how to 'read the water' when looking for new fishing spots.

Besides seeing and hearing Capt. Bobby on his weekly radio and TV segments, you can check him out @ <http://www.ateamfishing.com/>

And Mike Thompson (our club founder) will do the 'Quick Hits' segment, sharing some of his tips. Sounds like a good night for fishtalk!

President's Message

Well this is it, the last tournament!!!! It has been a pleasure this year and I just hate to see it end.

The bite on the causeway should be 'on fire' for the "Causeway Classic" and the chili cook-off will be fun too. Doug

Fall Fishing Mini-Seminar...

Our highly popular Mini-Seminar Series this month in the theme of Fall Fishing tips and tactics will be presented by TOP DAWG, alias Bruce Howle, past ACFA president. If they're out there, this Dog can hunt them up and he might also teach you how to 'Walk the Dog' for more fish! Bruce is one of our finest fishermen; so don't miss it if you ever wanted to learn something new about fishing during this great time of year.

And 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

ACFA September "End of Summer" Tournament...

was held on Saturday September 8th during less than typical summer like conditions. A stiff northeast to east wind played havoc with the middle and lower bay, rendering most spots virtually unfishable. Despite the adverse conditions some members persevered and as David Hare put it "face THE BEAST". Still weigh master Pat Hughes managed to catch a very nice speck while throwing a top water bait from the dock at his parents' home on the Sound side of Dauphin Island. Meanwhile at the other end of the bay several boats fishing near the mouth of the Mobile River with live shrimp did well by getting out of the wind and into some fish though they were 'spotty'. In fact "Team LIVE BAIT" swept the white trout category without catching a single keeper speck. And my fishing partner and I, just across the river found some nice specks but not much else (unless you count catfish and ladyfish). Nearby Pat Garmeson landed the top flounder and Mike Foster the first place redfish.

It was not a great day for fishing (or catching) but overall considering the strong winds we did OK.

The nasty winds and seas also prevented any Spanish mackerel from being caught. And we only mustered two entries in Jr. White Trout,

1st - Cameron Calhoun - 1.35 and 2nd - Brittney Howle - .50

<u>Speckled Trout</u> (14 entered)	<u>Flounder</u> (11 entered)	<u>Redfish</u> (6 entered)	<u>White Trout</u> (12 entered)
1st - Dewayne Overstreet - 4.25	1st - Patrick Garmeson - 3.20	1st - Mike Foster - 5.75	1st - Belinda Smith - 2.10
2nd - Patrick Hughes - 4.15	2nd - Donnie Fassbender - 2.95	2nd - Judy Smith - 5.60	2nd - Randy Wiscaver - 1.80
3rd - Tommy Pond 4.00	3rd - Doug Smith - 2.60	3rd - Alvin Bell - 4.90	3rd - Doug Smith - 1.65

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

Special thanks to our cooking crew headed by Randy Wiscaver who fried up a mountain of grouper filets at the weigh in along with some great cole slaw and those delicious cheese grits. Everyone wanted to know the recipe; we'd heard it involves "LOTS of butter." Thanks again folks!

• September Meeting Notes...

- More than 30 people attended the Mini-Seminar by Bill Midgette about the inshore reefs and reef fishing. There were some great handouts and stories with details about each reef. A limited number of reprints will be available at the October meeting. Great job Bill!
- Our guest speaker for the evening, local guide Captain Dan Kolenich donated a big bag of assorted artificial baits for door prizes. He covered a good variety of fishing methods including great details and insights into using artificial baits more effectively. Thanks again!
- It was announced that longtime member Mutt Burke (Bill's regular fishing partner) had been in the hospital with a possible blood clot. Mutt has since been allowed to come home and is reportedly doing much better. We wish him well and a speedy recovery. Please keep Scott Godwin in your thoughts and prayers too, as he continues to deal with medical problems. Get well soon, Fly!
- Mr. Jerald Bolen wanted to say "the fish that was donated by the club members in May and used in a fund raiser fish-fry, was deeply appreciated by the 8 and under Travel Softball Team. They played in the ASA Softball 8 and under League World Series in Panama City, FL going undefeated through 9 games and were crowned world champions." Wooo Hooo. Way to go kids!
- The "out-of-towner, out-the-door" prize was won by Chas "Kendall" Bush, a new member from Grove Hill, AL. Congrats to you 'kbush'!
- Treasurer Jep Hill announced that Lee Minto has agreed to review the books, and asked for another volunteer (not a club officer) to assist him. This is to assure that all the clubs financial dealings are legitimate and open to the scrutiny of the club membership. Thanks again!!
- Kudos to Brian Pugh 'Nature Boy' who filled in (with very short notice) for our Membership Chairman Erik Nelson "TIC".

Fresh Fish Collection...

At the September meeting, Doug Smith announced that in lieu of a fish collection at the September weigh in (as a conservation measure) the club should instead donate a case of the grouper filets (like we had at the September weigh in) for Post 88 to use with their fish fries for disabled veterans at the Post and the WF Green State Veterans Home at 300 Faulkner Drive in Bay Minette AL. ACFA would like to thank member Charlie Dowdle who has spearheaded this worthwhile project for some time and we hope for sometime more! Thanks Mr. Charlie, God bless our Vets ☺

October 'Causeway Classic' Tournament:

The third Saturday in October is reserved for time honored Southern traditions like (college football and) prime Delta fishing. This year, Saturday **October 20th** is the date of the last ACFA tournament for the 2007 season. And it's your last opportunity to earn tournament points for the year. The top 5 anglers in tournament point totals will earn a trophy or plaque to be given out at the Annual Awards Banquet in December. Note that a few things are different for this tournament...
The weigh-in this time around will be held at Scott's Landing just north of the Hwy 90/98 Causeway (aka Battleship Parkway) on the east bank of the Blakely River nearest to Spanish Fort. Just ask anybody where it is...

Secondly, for this tournament the fishing hours run from **6am** to 5 pm, and the weigh-in will be from 3pm till 5 pm (as usual.) We will have 3 plaques (and points) for 4 species. Those categories are: speckled trout, flounder, redfish (16"- 26" tail-pinned) and sheepshead. And we will have a special redfish category awarding plaques for any junior angler weighing a legal redfish (slot sized 16"-26"). C'mon kids!! You can fish anywhere you want to (in Alabama waters), but the rule is you **MUST LAUNCH AND RETURN** from somewhere on the Causeway. You don't have to use Scott's ramp. IF you haven't launched there before be aware that parking is limited and we must "park very smart" to maximize the space available. In fact unless you launch from there, it is recommended that you make arrangements to park your rig elsewhere and drive a single vehicle to the weigh-in site to minimize the traffic. And be aware Scott's has only limited drink selection and restroom facilities. Lastly the food at this weigh in will consist of a "Chili Cook-off" featuring teams or individuals who bring a pot (2-3 gallons) of chili to be warmed, judged and consumed. The judging team headed by Randy 'Bigun' Wiscaver will select the three best chili recipes that will receive a plaque at the November meeting. Our president Doug Smith will have more to say on this at the October meeting. We need more teams to cook!!!



Return Shirt Night...

Alvin Bell will have the shirts (with the ACFA logo embroidered) that were collected in September at the October meeting. In addition Alvin says he will have some ACFA logo items (long-sleeve Ts and hats) for sale at the October meeting, and will have some of the most recent Top Spot Maps of Mobile Bay (at cost of \$10) courtesy of Barry Keith of Keith Map Service @ 60 Schillinger Road (ph 633-5588). In addition he will have a limited number of the Inshore Reef handouts Bill Midgette made up for the seminar at the September meeting. (NOTE: a \$ small donation to the club in Bill's name for these copies would be appreciated ;-)

Congratulations...

To the ACFA members who successfully competed in the IFA Redfish Tour September 15th in Venice, LA. And especially those who placed high enough to qualify for the 2007 Championship to be held November 2 & 3 in Panama City, FL. Congratulations and best of luck to Bobby Abruscato and Scott Ritter, Bernie White, and to Paul Smith and Kyle Mitternacht.

In case you missed it...

The new license fee increases are now in effect for Alabama. These have been touched on in recent newsletters, but additional information and specific details can be found on the internet @ <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/saltwater/license/> or by calling the Alabama Marine Resources Division in 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.

Coming Down 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 chairman Erik Nelson 'TIC' at the check in table.

Speaking of the Chair Positions...

A slate of names for the 2008 chair positions will be declared at the October meeting and elections will be held at the November meeting. Have YOU thought about giving of your time and talents to help the club out? Even in the capacity of a co-chair or volunteer to help lighten the load on our club officials to help things go more smoothly, especially now that our membership is well over 200!

Without a doubt the ACFA is THE premier fishing club in our area, and it got that way with continued support of members who have stepped forward to fill these positions and those who help out even in small ways.

To help everyone out, each of the chairpersons is given a folder and calendar that outlines what their specific duties are.

And when you volunteer we guarantee it will be lots of fun and you will have plenty of experienced help until you feel secure at what you are doing in that position (believe me, because I STILL seek help from my predecessor ;-) Thanks Bill!

IF you have ANY questions about specific chair duties, or wish to serve as a chairperson, co-chair, or volunteer please talk to the person on the 2007 chair or see Doug Smith.

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: New Faces...

In case you haven't noticed, there have been a LOT of new faces (and names) at the meetings this year. In fact at last count, 35% of our membership (over 70 folks) this year is comprised of new members. This influx of 'new blood' and ideas has helped the club continue to grow and shows the need of the fishing public to get more out of their time on the water. I urge everyone to take advantage of the opportunities presented at the meetings to get to know each other and assist one another in the spirit of fishing fellowship in accordance with our Mission Statement both on and off the water. The only thrill bigger than catching a good fish is helping someone else catch one!

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 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)**
- **Please be respectful to our speakers and your fellow listeners and talk quietly or outside the meeting room**
- **The October Tournament is the Causeway Classic. Weigh-in and 'chili cook-off' at Scott's Landing**
- **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**
- **A separate Junior Angler category for redfish in the October Tournament (plaques will be awarded for all places)**

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 September 21, 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	Judy Smith (L)	6.65
3	Kyle Mitternacht	18.69	3	Nick Redding	3.63	3	Daniel Ford	1.47	3	Mutt Burke	6.50
4	Brandon Parker	16.65	4	David Hare	3.55	4	Daniel Ford	1.45	4	John Burke	6.25
5	Rick Tourne	16.45	5	Cameron Calhoun (J)	3.53	5	David Hare	1.35	5	Butch Pierce (N)	6.15
	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

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ACFA Tournament Point Standings as of September 8, 2007

Pos.	Angler Name	Pts.	
			10 points: Brandon Parker, Cameron Calhoun (J), Erik Nelson
1	David Hare	26	9 points: Billy Hurd, Brittney Howle (J), Carson Tierce (N)(J), Dane Tomberlin Del Delchamps, Dewayne Overstreet, Jason Miller, Theo Koulianos (J)
2	Patric Garmeson	25	
3	Henry Nall	22	8 points: Eugene Pierce, Phillip Guy
4	Belinda Smith (L)	21	7 points: Alvin Bell, Daniel Ford, Donnie Fassbender, Pat Hughes, Tommy Pond, Vickie Foster(L)
4	Bill Midgette	21	6 points: Ted Kiefer, Trey Pitt
4	Chris Massey	21	5 points: Adam Barker (N), Barry Keith, Don Ludlam, Doug Tierce (N), Kim Guy (L), Sam Clark III
4	Mike Foster	21	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	Rick Tourne	21	
5	Mutt Burke	18	
6	David Thornton	17	3 points: Austin Lee (J), Ben Hurn, Brenda Pate (L), Bruce Howle Jr (J), Donnie Howell, Doug Davis, George Koulianos, Marc Kruse
6	Doug Smith	17	
7	Larry Watkins	16	2 point: Bill Patterson, Billy Pierce Jr (N)(J), Bobby McElroy, Brandie May (N)(L), Pete Burns, Frank Parker III (J), Gerald Markow, Jad Pope, Jeff May (N), Jerald Bolen, Scott Godwin, Joe Sirmon, John Parker (J), Jon Barry (N), Lee Minto, Margaret Miller (L), Stephen Laurendine (N)
7	Randy Wiscaver	16	
7	Steve O'Dell (N)	16	
7	Vince Hawkins	16	1 point: Allison Pierce (N)(J), Angie Howle (L), Austin Key (N), Barney White, Betty Harwell (L), Bill Duke, Bill Lawler (N), Bob Ward, Bruce Dyess (N)(J), Bruce Howle Sr, Byron Webb (N), Charlotte Houston(N)(L), Chase Laurendine (N)(J), 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, John Houston (N), Kirk Hoven (N), Kyle Mitternacht, Lewis Felis (?), Matt Morgan, Mike Thompson, Norman Stockman (N), Pete Keith (N), Richard Rutland, 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)
8	Mike Pierce (N)	15	
8	Tom Duncan	15	
9	Billy Pierce (N)	14	
9	Bubba Williams	14	
9	John Burke	14	
9	Judy Smith (L)	14	
10	Les Smith	12	
10	Richard Suk (N)	12	
11	Butch Pierce (N)	11	

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