

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume I, Issue 7 August 2008

Next Meeting: August 7, 2008 **Time:** 7:00 PM
Place: American Legion Post 88 Halls Mill Road
Presentations:
Guest: Read Hendon GCRL "Tripletail Tagging"
Quick Hits: by "Fowl River" Todd Golomb
Mini Seminar @ 6pm

Club Officers for 2008

President: Doug Smith 604-4758
 Vice Pres: D.W. Garrettson 599-8701
 Treasurer: Chris Conken 209-2726
 Secretary: Angie Howle 479-2911
 Statistics: Vince Hawkins 452-3899
 Membership: Mike Lee 665-4449
 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: Brandon Milam 680-1302
 Advisor: Mike Thompson

RECORD BREAKING TOURNEY!

July Tournament Recap:

Some great early summer weather graced the ACFA July Tournament held on July 5th. Despite the holiday weekend crowds good numbers of really fine fish were caught, especially at the lower end of the bay around the gas rigs and the 'Shoals'. Just 15 minutes after the scales opened **Bruce Howle, Sr** and his daughter **Brittney Howle** weighed a 5 speckled trout creel of 18.45# tying the 2006 record set by **Todd Golomb** and **Hal Scheurich**. And only a few minutes after that **Tommy Pond** and **Billy Hurd** entered an incredible 20.55# creel that smashed the former record by over 2 pounds. Well done!! Wish we had a picture... A total of 43 anglers entered speckled trout in the tournament, our best showing by far for this year. Other fish weren't slacking either, as (even though they weren't a category this month) some really nice ground mullet (Southern Kingfish) were entered in the Big Fish Contest by **Shane Ford** and his son **Daniel Ford**. But those were eclipsed by **Bill Perry's** 2.45# record catch (below). And the fun didn't end with the fishing either. The 'hotdogs' that **Brenda** and **Steve Wilson** cooked (with helper **Marc Kruse**) were some of the extraordinary sausages we got to sample outside at the July meeting. Thanks to our cooking and cleanup folks!

August Meeting Guest Speaker: J Read Hendon

Read Hendon is the Assistant Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). He will be speaking on the sportfish tagging programs with emphasis on the Tripletail (aka Blackfish) tag & release program which has gotten national press attention.



New ACFA member **Bill Perry** caught this 2.45# Ground Mullet (Gulf Kingfish) to establish a new ACFA club record. He was fishing with his friend and partner **Alvin Bell** near Fort Morgan during the July ACFA Tournament. Bill's ground mullet replaces the old record of 2.32# caught by **Bruce Howle, Jr** in 2004.

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July Meeting Highlights...

Our July 3rd meeting featured Capt. **Joey Abruscato** of the "A-Team Fishing Adventures". Joey gave us a rundown of tackle, tips, and tactics he uses to target speckled trout during the summertime. He also reported trout fishing in the lower part of Mobile Bay has been good of late (a point proven by our tournament winners a couple of days later ;-). Thanks again Joey! You can check out more "A-Team" fishing tips and reports or even book a charter @ (251) 661-7696 or online @ <http://www.ateamfishing.com/>

And thanks to the management team from the new Bass Pro Shops in Spanish Fort for coming by to tell us about their new store (opening August 13th). They want to know what items anglers in the area want to see carried and they will have 'bragging boards' for catches of note or notification of upcoming events. They even said they'd post this newsletter on their bulletin board. Contact **Brenda Wilson** for details about the store.

Also, thanks to **Brenda** and **Steve Wilson** for their hard work in cooking the meats and sausages (and providing other treats) outside during the July meeting. So many folks piled out of the meeting hall during the break that practically no one was left inside for **Jimbo Miller's** quick hits, so he and Doug just cancelled it. Jimbo said he took no offense and that he was kind of glad to 'get out of it' and get some of the tasty treats for himself ;-). Everyone really enjoyed the great cooking and the fellowship!

July Junk Sale Recap:

We had some unique items along with the expected plethora of fishing items and generated sales well over \$500. Be sure and give 10% of your proceeds back to the club (NO one as yet has). A check in the proper amount can be made out to the ACFA and given to our Treasurer **Chris Conken** or President **Doug Smith** at the meeting. Thanks to everyone who participated in the selling and the buying. It was a LOT of fun!

July Tournament Results:

This was our best tournament so far this year for the weather, quantity of fish and overall participation!

(5) Speckled Trout Creel 25 teams total (2 Jr anglers participated) (**Trent Pitt** and **Theo Koulianos**)

1st **Tommy Pond & Billy Hurd** 20.55#**, 2nd **Bruce Sr & Brittany Howle (J)** 18.45#, 3rd **Chris Conken & Bo Winter** 16.55#

Flounder 17 total (1 Jr angler) (1st **Tye Jordan** .95#)

1st **Bo Winter** 3.90#, 2nd **George Harrison (N)** 3.20#, 3rd **Henry Nall** 2.80#

Redfish 7 total (1 Jr angler) (1st **Theo Koulianos** 3.65)

1st **Henry Nall** 6.70#, 2nd **Chris Massey** 4.75#, 3rd **Richard Suk** 4.30#

White Trout: 7 total (1 Jr angler **Tye Jordan** .70#)

1st **Lauren Rea** 1.50#, 2nd **Jim Foster** .90#, 3rd **Theo Koulianos (J)** .85#

Blackfish: 3 total (NO Jr anglers)

1st **Rick Yeend** 13.70#, 2nd **Rick Tourne'** 10.35#, 3rd **Michael McDonald** 9.90#

81 total fish entries, 5 Junior angler plaques will be awarded

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

And many thanks to our cooking crew, **Brenda** and **Steve Wilson** along with **Marc Kruse** (and others whom I missed with the cleanup crew). The hot dogs and sausages (with beans & fixins) were a great success, as was the 'warm-up' at the meeting.

WOW! Was that ever good. We almost had to cancel the second half of the meeting so many folks were outside sampling.

The members really appreciate the efforts of the cooking crew, but they appreciate at least the offer to help out. Thanks to all!

"Uncle" Mutt Update ...

Most everyone who attended the July meeting signed the 'Get Well' card for one of our founding members, **Mutt Burke**.

Unfortunately Mutt is still in the hospital and has been there for quite some time. His recovery has been dreadfully slow and wrought with complications and setbacks. He is in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) and cannot have visitors except for his family who have asked that we keep him in our thoughts and perhaps join them in prayer to the Good Lord to heal Mutt soon. So please keep Mutt (and his family) in your thoughts and prayers!

For those who don't know him, Mutt is a well liked and respected member of the ACFA. He is dedicated to his family and friends and noted for eagerly sharing with many a fisherman his knowledge about inshore fishing, especially the Mobile Bay Delta. He and his longtime fishing partner **Bill Midgette**, have for years marked some of the most difficult channels to navigate above the Causeway (like the Chocolatta Bay run) and even gone as far as to draw detailed maps to share with other fishermen showing the channels and many of their traditional fishing locations. Odds are the next time you see one of those white 3 inch PVC pipes sticking out of the water marking a safe channel near the Mobile Bay Causeway, these gentlemen are to thank for it!

ACFA August 'Mobile Bay Grand Slam' Tournament and Membership Shrimp Boil...

will be held on Saturday August 9 with the weigh-in from 3-5pm at the usual place, behind the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (Hwy 193) just south of the Greer's Foodstore.

The ACFA recognizes **speckled trout, redfish, and flounder** as the three species comprising a Grand Slam for Mobile Bay and its connecting waterways. Catching fish of all three species in a single day is considered a fine accomplishment among inshore fishers and to do it during a tournament is even more outstanding and deserves of special recognition.

So to 'sweeten the pot' as it were the ACFA is awarding plaques and points for 5 places (1st through 5th) for these three species. In addition any angler who completes the Grand Slam **and places in each** of these three categories (1st -5th) will be awarded 5 additional (bonus) tournament points! To the best our knowledge this has only been accomplished three times since 1997, the last time was in 2004 by Bill Midgette. To clarify, an angler can do this with even 3 fifth place fish!

And again this year, the ACFA will give a plaque of recognition (with no additional points) to the angler who catches the heaviest combined weight of the three 'Grand Slam' species (even if none of them place in their respective categories).

White trout and **blackfish** will be the other two species eligible for plaques and points and (again) the Junior anglers will compete for plaques in all five species. So good luck to you all, fish hard and get your share of the action.

In appreciation of ALL our members, the ACFA is planning a Shrimp Boil 'feed down' at the weigh-in site.

All paid members, their spouses and children are invited to attend and partake in the boiled shrimp, potatoes, corn and sausage that our fine cooking crew (headed by **Randy Wiscaver** 'Bigun') has assembled. So when you bring your fish to weigh in, bring your 'feed bag' (appetite) and the family for an afternoon of good eats and good company compliments of YOUR fishing club, the ACFA.

NOTE: as always guests are welcome. But PLEASE if you bring someone not eligible for ACFA benefits (anyone other than a spouse and/or child dependant), make a \$5 per person donation to help the club cover the cost. Thank you for your cooperation.

It's about "Tarpoonapalooza" time...

More than a few members on the ACFA website have expressed interest in getting together again this summer for a day of fun and tarpon fishing slated for Saturday August 16th. Last year's get together was marked by some stifling heat, giant gafftop catfish, a few rod bending jack crevelle, a couple of tarpon sightings, and at least one catch, tag and release bull redfish. Alas no tarpon (nor anyone else thank goodness) were injured or killed in the making of this great fishing story. See **Jason Miller** "Jason M" or **Rick Gaines** "Red October" at the August meeting for details pertaining to this "official" event or logon to our website in the 'Members ONLY' forum @ <http://www.acfafish.com/cms/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=3560> We hope to see you there!

We're Over Halfway Through The Season...

so be sure and continue to sign in to register for our Grand Attendance Prize Package (ice chest) to be given away at our December awards banquet to a member who has attended at least 8 of the 10 meetings. See **Mike Lee** at the membership table. 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 or contact **Jimmy Quint** or **Doug Smith** about donations.

REMINDERS

- A raffle at the September meeting for a bass fishing trip for 2 (or 18 Hole Golf) on exclusive Steelwood Country Club Lake (near Stapleton, AL). Tickets will be on sale at the July, August and September meetings. See **Patric Garmeson** or **Mike Lee**.
- Junior Angler Division plaques: for 3 places in EVERY tournament
- 'Special' Tarpon C&R Tournament (Tarpoonapalooza) tentatively scheduled August 16th (with plaques)
- 'Special' Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout division (5 plaques)
- 'Mini-Seminars': to be given prior to most meetings on popular subjects (see **Patric Garmeson** about future topics)
- Streamlined sign-in and more seating at the meetings (additional chairs are available) PLEASE find a seat, or offer one.
- Logo items on sale at the meetings. See **Alvin Bell** for details of what is available.
- Please remember, **NO SMOKING** in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment.
- **STATE LAW prohibits any outside alcohol at the meetings.** PLEASE support Post 88, purchase your drinks from the bar.
- Parking is quite limited at Post 88. There would be additional spaces if vehicles parking behind the hall would back well into the grass to allow other vehicles to 'double park' in front of them. **Please 'park smart'**, and come early!
- And **PLEASE** be respectful of our speakers (and the members who want to hear them) by refraining from any unnecessary talking or moving about during the presentations or during the mini seminar prior to the start of the meeting. Thank you!
- And we ask that you save your questions until the end of the talks unless prompted by the speaker.
- The ACFA 2008 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2008. Statistician **MUST** receive cards within 30 days of catch.

PI	Name	Points
1	Jim Foster	27
2	Donnie Howell	22
3	Henry Nall	18
4	Chris Massey	17
4	Rick Yeend	17
5	Billy Hurd	16
5	Mike Herring	16
5	Tommy Pond	16
6	Phillip Guy	14
7	Bo Winter	11
7	Dave Growden (N)	11
7	Rick Tourne	11
8	Adam Barker	10
8	Jimbo Miller	10
9	Daniel Ford	9
9	Tim Pierce	9
9	Trenton Pitt (J)	9
9	Vicki Foster (L)	9
10	Bobby Abruscato	8
10	Chris Conken	8
10	Dane Tomberlin	8
10	Doug Smith	8
10	Lauren Rea (N)(L)	8
10	Steve O'Dell	8

(N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

Statistics...After five tournaments the point standings are as follows:

Members with 7 points: Alvin Bell, Jarrod Yeend (N), John Fassbender, Leslie Smith, Mike Foster, "George" O.P. Harrison IV (N)

Members with 6 points: Brittney Howle (J), Bruce Howle, Theo Koulianos (J)

Members with 5 points: Bill Midgette, David Thornton, Justin Peacock (N), Mike McDonald, Patric Garmeson, Shane Ford

Members with 4 points: Austin Lee (J), Donald Garrettson, George Koulianos, James Roushmi, Richard Suk, Savannah Calhoun (J), Tommy Murray

The following members have 3 points: Bill Duke, Bill Perry (N), Gerald Bolen, Jerry Bolen (N), Richard Schantz (N), Robert Brewer (N), Vince Hawkins

Mms. 2 points: Bob Ward, David McNew, Donna Schantz (L)(N), Dwain Mangold (N), Frank Parker, Jason Miller, John Burke III, Larry Watkins, Margaret Miller (L)

The following members have 1 point: Bekki Ludlam (L), Belinda Smith (L), Blake Michaleski, Bob Maclay (N), Brenda Wilson, Brooks Lee (N), Bryan Hack, Bubba Williams, Cameron Calhoun, Chip Cummings, Christian Howell (J), Craig Newton, David Hare, David Montgomery, Del Delchamps, Dewayne Overstreet, Don Ludlam, Donnie Fassbender, Doug Houston, Doug Tierce, Frank Mitternacht, Frank Parker III (J), Gary Tingle, Gerald Markow, Howie Galloway (N), Jarred Kelly (N), Jim Glass, John Parker (J), Josh Woolums, Judy Smith (L), Keith Kenney (N), Kelly Fulmer, Kim Guy (L), Lindsey Hawkins (J), Mike Lee, Mutt Burke, Pat Hughes, Richard Hoffman (N), Rileigh Hawkins (J), Ronnie Dyson, Sam Clarke III, Scott Godwin, Sharon Markow (L), Sidney Foster (N), Steve Laurendine, Ted Kiefer, Timmy Bradley (J), Todd Golomb, Tommy Devery, Trey Pitt, Tye Jordan (J), Will Parker (J)

'CPR' Speckled Trout standings as of July 26, 2008: 1st **Bill Midgette*** 25", 2nd **Adam Barker** 25" 3rd **Richard Suk*** 24 3/4", 4th **Patric Garmeson*** 24 3/4", 5th **Jason Miller** 24 3/4" WOW! What a tight competition!

This is a fun contest that will hopefully help protect the resource we enjoy so much. Keep those pictures coming folks!

The BIG Fish Contest

Current

26-July-08

** NEW RECORD .

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1	Kyle Mitternacht	21.47	1	Gerald Markow	4.69	1	Bill Perry	2.45**	1	Erik Nelson	7.45
2	Rick Tourne	18.55	2	Daniel Ford	4.35	2	Shane Ford	1.80	2	Henry Nall	6.70
3	Rick Yeend	13.70	3	Rick Tourne	4.18	3	Daniel Ford	1.65	3	George Koulianos	6.55
4	Rick Tourne	10.35	4	George Koulianos	3.90*	4	Frank Mitternacht	1.59	4	Jason Miller	6.45
5			5	Bo Winter	3.90	5	Daniel Ford	1.50	5	Donnie Howell	6.05
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	Theo Koulianos (J)	9.11	1	Bekki Ludlam (L)	4.97	1	Donald Garrettson	6.91	1	Vicki Foster (L)	2.43
2			2	Bekki Ludlam (L)	4.15*	2	Erik Nelson	6.90	2	Mike Foster	2.09
3			3	Ed Greer (N)	4.15	3	Bill Patterson	6.80	3	Theo Koulianos (J)	2.03
4			4	Shane Ford	3.71	4	Bill Patterson	6.80	4	Lauren Rhea (N)(L)	1.50
5			5	Don Ludlam	3.35	5	Henry Nall	6.60	5		

* First to weigh in

(N) New Member

(J) Junior Angler

(L) Lady Angler

Statistician Vince Hawkins wants to remind everyone that **redfish can ONLY be weighed in at ACFA tournaments** to assure length verification.

Mail your other Big Fish Contest entries to: Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611 (452-3899)

ACFA Members in Other Tournaments

Belated congratulations to the ACFA club members who placed in the Salt Water Sportsman's Memorial Day Tournament. Repeated requests for the full results of the tournament have gone unfulfilled so we don't have the weights. Anyway congratulations to **Jerry Markow** 3rd Place Speck Jackpot, **Bobby Abruscato** 2nd Place Speck Jackpot, **Doug Houston** 2nd place White Trout and **George Koulianos** 1st place Flounder @ 3.9#. Also to Danny Adkins (N) for 2nd Place Ground Mullet in the Ineos phenol Tourney and to Trevor Wood (N) for 1st place flounder 4.8# in the Mobile County Wildlife Conservation Association Tournament. If I've left anyone out please let me know or post it on the ACFA website forum under Club Announcements @ <http://www.acfafish.com/cms/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=3139>

ADFSR

One local tournament that is well publicized is the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo. Much of the reason is the fine coverage the Mobile Register carries and most of that is thanks to the efforts of one of our club's past presidents Jeff Dute, along with articles by our club founder **Mike Thompson**. Now most of us know Mike can tell a good story, but this year Mike started the ADSFR with a 'walkoff' victory in the Liar's Contest held on the Thursday night prior to the beginning of the Rodeo start on Friday.

Mike's tale, complete with props (seen at left) was about Captain T-Bone's quest to discover the secret of the prowess of his recently deceased fishing mentor 'Captain Willy' (Willie Matthews).

The full story can be found in the Friday July 18, 2008 edition of the Mobile Register or online @ <http://www.al.com/sports/press-register/index.ssf?/base/sports/121637255286990.xml&coll=3>



JEFF DUTE/Outdoors Editor

John Mike Thompson entertains the crowd with his winning story during Thursday night's Liars Contest on Dauphin Island.

Several ACFA members had their names on the big board of the ADSFR for a while on Friday (and even into Saturday) but larger fish eventually 'bumped' theirs' off.

But one member had his best luck on Sunday!

Chris Conken finished in 3rd place in Speckled Trout @ 5.89# and 2nd place in the Speckled Trout Jackpot. Chris wouldn't say exactly where he caught the big trout, only that it was on some structure in Mobile Bay and on a big live croaker.

He didn't say how much he won in the jackpot either, but it has been suggested that at the August meeting, the drinks are on him ;-). Just kidding Chris, well done and congratulations from your fellow ACFArs!

ACFA CLASSIFIEDS:

WANTED: Members interested in seeing the traditions of the ACFA continue to grow and prosper. NO experience necessary! Apply to any ACFA board member position or volunteer to help in any capacity.

Every year in November the ACFA holds elections for the board member positions listed at the top of the first page of each newsletter. For the last three years many of those positions have been filled by the same members. However this year most of them are stepping down, so we need some 'new blood' to step up and 'take the wheel'.

IF you would like to help the club in any of these capacities, or know of a member who would do well in any of these positions PLEASE talk to the president or any of the board members. Incoming officers will have the support and any assistance from the outgoing officers and the undying admiration and respect from the club as a whole, not to mention great pay and benefits. All right, the "great pay" part is a bunch of 'hoo-wee' but you will have the club's respect and admiration, and assistance.