



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:	Angie Howle	479-2911
Statistics:	Vince Hawkins	452-3899
Membership:	Mike Lee	665-4445
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	

December 2007 Newsletter No. 11

President's Message

I would like to thank everybody in the club for making this a very memorable year for myself and the whole club and a big thanks to all the board members who made it all happen this year. Thanks, Doug

AWARDS BANQUET

Our final meeting of the 2007 season will be the Awards Banquet to be held **SATURDAY** December 1, 2007 @ 7pm at the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (the usual weigh in spot near Greer's). Well over 50 plaques and trophies in addition to other prizes will be awarded. And another first for the club, **this year the whole meal will be catered from Catalina Seafood Restaurants.**

The menu includes fried fish, shrimp and chicken strips, roast beef, gumbo, green beans, mashed potatoes and coleslaw. Iced tea should be included, but we'll need to BYOB or buy from the bar any other drinks you might want. As is our custom, members are asked to bring a favorite dessert or hors-de-vors to share with everyone. Your paid membership entitles you and your immediate family (anyone eligible to fish in the tournaments, that is you, your spouse or guest and your children under the age of 16) to the dinner. **Additional guests are welcome for a \$10 per person fee.**

We aren't making money off that, but at \$16 a head it will help to defer some of the deficit cost with the additional folks.

So IF you did not sign the sheets passed around at the November meeting, or haven't called Doug Smith yet with

the number of people you are bringing, you need to contact him now (626-2469) so we can adjust the total number expected for the dinner.

We're trying to get an accurate count as possible of those planning to attend. We hope to see you and your family there!

ACFA Rule-of-100 and Rule-of-125

In the not too distant past when our club had fewer than 100 members, only the 8 people in 1st place of each category in the Big Fish Contest received plaques. After the membership reached 100 members that number was expanded by the board of directors to include plaques for places 1st thru 3rd in each category. And after the membership exceeded 125 it was decided to provide plaques for the top 5 finishers in each of the Big Fish Contest categories. That rule continues this year with up to 40 plaques given away at the banquet for the winners.

A word of further explanation- although each member can place two fish in each category of the Big Fish Contest we will award only one plaque per angler for each species. For example: John Doe finishes the year with the 1st and 3rd place speckled trout and the 2nd place redfish. He will receive ONE 1st place plaque that reads "for the 1st Place Speck X.X pounds and 3rd Place speck Y.Y pounds" in addition to the 2nd place plaque for redfish. So be sure and look over the FINAL Big Fish Contest Standings at the end of this newsletter to see if you will be getting a plaque (or plaques) at our Awards Banquet. Congratulations to all the finalists!

And There's More...

Besides the Big Fish Contest winners for each of the 8 fish categories, we will award plaques for the top 4 'overall' point getters in the Big Fish Contest and the top 5 places in Tournament points. Plus we'll name the Big Fish Contest Champion, the Tournament Point Champion(s), our overall Master Angler and we will also crown a Lady Angler Champion and a Junior Angler Champion*. And we'll honor the Member of the Year with the Founder's Award. And the last award to be given out is our Grand Attendance Prize Drawing. An ice chest filled with 'good stuff' worth in excess of \$300, to be given away to some lucky club member who attended at least 8 of the regular club meetings!

*A bit of ACFA History...

There needed to be a way to compare placing in the tournaments (based on 3, 5 and 7 points) with the Big Fish Contest (based on 1 through 5 points). Somewhere along the line, some brilliant member (Jennifer Mitternight?) came up with the formula we use to reduce the two lists to the top 20 finishers in each list. We assign 20 points for 1st place down to 1 point for 20th place and by adding the totals of each person together we get an overall champion who is crowned as the Master Angler for that year.

So as mind bending (and close) as those calculations are you'll just have to come to the Awards Banquet to see who the 2006 Master Angler will be.

November Meeting Notes...

- Mr. Russell Ladd spoke and showed his short film on changes in the Mobile River Delta. See more @ <http://www.deltaawreiness.com/>
- It was announced that the slate of 2008 ACFA Chair position candidates had been accepted and as most of the 2007 officers agreed to return with the exceptions of three new officer candidates **Mike Lee** (Membership), **Chris Conken** (Treasurer) and **Angie Howle** (Secretary).
- It was announced that the slate of 2008 ACFA Chair position candidates had been accepted and as most of the 2007 officers agreed to return. Voting was belayed because the members present expressed their approval of the candidates with no objections raised.
- Doug Smith spoke on the status of his tagging experiences (over 60) and encouraged others to try it (see past newsletters for details)
- Just over 50 members and guests attended the meeting, possibly due in part to the delay in getting the newsletter to most of the members

IF this is what happened to you I apologize and offer this credo. As the newsletter editor, I am responsible to see that you get your newsletter on time (at least one week prior to meetings). This goal will be tops on my list during the coming 2008 season.

- OUTGOING CHAIRPERSONS are reminded to forward their booklets to their successor.

2007 Milestones

- New Membership Record (234)
- Food provided at ALL tournament weighins
- Retained the trophy in the Speckled Trout Challenge "BoMB"
- Numerous members competing in pro Redfish circuits
- Hosted our first ever "Chili-Cookoff"
- Held our second "Tarpoonapalooza"
- Junior Angler category plaques offered in EVERY tournament
- Expanded the highly popular "Mini-Seminars" prior to most meetings
- Numerous members placing in local tournaments
- Won the redfish challenge with the Louisiana redfish club
- Encouraged members to participate in fish tagging program

Congratulations...

Well as luck would have it, the ACFA members who fished the 2007 IFA Redfish Tour Championship (held November 2 & 3 in Panama City, FL) had very little good luck. Paul Smith and Kyle Mitternacht each persevered to weigh in fish for both days of the tournament, but with the stiff competition managed a 36th place. Still be sure and congratulate them along with other club members Bobby Abruscato and Scott Ritter, Barnie White, Donald Garrettson and Erik Nelson, and Bruce Howle Sr and Jr when you see them. They all fished hard and carried the banners of our club and region with the highest standards but in the end came up short, this time :-). Better luck next year guys!

Speaking of next year, the IFA Redfish Tour announced their 2008 Tournament Schedule includes a new (central) Gulf Coast Division with dates in Panama City FL, Pensacola FL and Orange Beach AL! More can be seen @ <http://www.redfishtour.com/divisions.html>

What Happened???

IF any ACFA members placed in the American Red Cross "Causeway Classic" Fishing Tournament held Saturday November 10 congrats to you too. The results were never published in the newspaper and as yet I've not heard from anyone who fished in it and knows who won.

Logo Items:

Alvin Bell (455-5739) said to be sure and call him IF you're looking for any ACFA logo items during the next few months. He still has a good supply of hats, t-shirts, etc and has plans for some additional items next year. Let him know if you need any or have an idea.

Donations...

For the ACFA Grand Prize Attendance Drawing, door prizes, etc. will be accepted year round by Jimmy Quint (377-4879).

Cynoscion nebulosus

Cynoscion means doglike, probably referring to the large canine teeth.

Nebulosus means spotty, referring to the dark spots found along the sides of the body.

Locally known as "speck" or speckled trout, the spotted seatrout is distinguished by small spots arranged in oblique rows along the upper sides and back and by the presence of large canine teeth. **ADULT SIZE:** 10 to 24 in (254 to 610 mm). [The state angling record](#) (12 lb, 4 oz) caught in 1980.

REMARKS: The spotted seatrout is an extremely important game fish in the [Mobile Delta](#). Malvestuto et al. (1983) report that anglers and commercial fishermen landed 108,361 pounds in the fall of 1980 and 1981. In 1985 the Alabama legislature declared Spotted Seatrout a gamefish.

From <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/fish/drum/seatrout/>

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

Winter...

The dictionary would define 'winter' as the coldest season of the year, running from December 21st to March 21st in the Northern Hemisphere. The term 'winter' can also mean a place where animals spend the winter season. As in "Snow birds like to 'winter' in the south. Many outdoor oriented folks in our region like to hunt during the winter. Many more just seem to hibernate like the bear and gator. But a few brave souls break out their insulated clothes and venture forth to catch fish that 'winter' in our area. Speckled trout, redbfish, sheepshead, white trout, ground mullet, and flounder are still available to anglers throughout the winter season IF you know when and where to look for them. Some of the answers might surprise you and I've learned a LOT about these fishes' cold water habits from my friends and acquaintances in the ACFA. Many club members actively fish during the winter "off-season", even preferring it's cold solitude to the warmer times of the year. In fact for years there have been 'unofficial' wintertime artificial bait only "grub tournaments" planned by ACFA members and friends. IF you're interested in participating in one of these tournaments, or just to widen your seasonal fishing horizons ask around. These are openly discussed on the ACFA forum as well.

So look for the club logo, give the big "A" sign and you'll likely be waved on in where the fishing is great! Type to ya next year!

Current ACFA Record		as of November 2007	
Blackfish	24.40	Del Delchamps	1999
Flounder	7.80	Darin Grizzle	1997
Ground Mullet	2.32	Bruce Howle, Jr.	2004
Redfish (16"-26")	7.75	John Fassbender	1999
Sheepshead	12.80	Doug Smith	2004
Spanish Mackerel	7.88	Bekki Ludlam	2000
Speckled Trout	9.65	Bobby McElroy	2005
Speckled Trout/ (5 fish Creel)	18.45	Todd Golomb	2006
		Hal Scheurich	2006
White Trout	3.15*	Todd Golomb	2006
	* tie	Vicki Foster	2007

REMINDERS-

- **December Awards meeting will be Saturday December 1st at Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway**
- **Master Anglers (Men, Ladies and Juniors) will be awarded during the banquet**
- **All 2007 Big Fish Contest winners will get plaques**
- **the Grand Attendance Prize will be given away during the Awards Banquet**
- **NO SMOKING inside the meeting hall please**
- **NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL at the meeting hall premises**
- **Next regular meeting in 2008 will be held Thursday February 7th, 2008**
- **NO tournament in December, January or February**
- **Next newsletter will be mailed in late January**
- **Call Doug IF you haven't already to let us know how many to expect at the banquet !**

The 2008 Yearlong Big Fish Contest is underway...

Any entries received now will be entered in the 2008 Big Fish Contest, which runs until midnight Friday November 14th, 2008.

All fish caught, or processed after 12:01 am Thursday November 15, 2007 will be entered in the 2008 Big Fish Contest.

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 Notes:

The flounder and white trout really started biting well after the last tournament and both categories in the Big Fish Contest were upended several times by entries in the last few weeks. In fact Vicki Foster actually TIED the ACFA club record with her 3.15# white trout (called "Big Edie").

The current ACFA record white trout (affectionately called "Big Eddie") was caught last year by Todd Golomb. Because the record was tied and not "broken", no 'bonus points' could be awarded for the catch. However, both anglers will now be credited with the record weight of 3.15#. This is the first time a tie has occurred for a record fish since we began keeping records over 10 years ago.

Another remarkable thing was Vicki's fish was kept in a live well, weighed ALIVE (at Shirley's on the Causeway) tagged and then released by the Fosters. Mike later told me, IF he'd known how tasty those 'filet able' sized white trout were he might not have let it go! Oh well... LOL!

Anyway, we finished up a really fantastic year the club has had fishing since the near state record sheepshead was caught in March, the eye-popping 25# speckled trout stringers in the spring, and the unprecedented 8 blackfish and fine Spanish mackerel landed in August up to now.

This goes to show the versatility and fishing expertise possessed by members of our club. And so, we end then begin again...

FINAL Big Fish Contest Standings as of November 15, 2007

Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1 Kyle Mitternacht	22.00	1 Louis Felis	5.48	1 Brittney Howle (J)	1.50*	1 Vince Hawkins	7.40
2 Rick Tourne	20.50	2 Kyle Mitternacht	4.74	2 Jimmy Quint	1.50	2 Richard Rutland (N)	6.75
3 Kyle Mitternacht	18.69	3 Sam Clark III	4.51	3 Daniel Ford	1.47	3 Judy Smith (L)	6.65
4 Brandon Parker	16.65	4 Rick Yeend	4.44	4 Daniel Ford	1.45	4 Mutt Burke	6.50
5 Rick Tourne	16.45	5 Dane Tomberlin	4.11	5 David Hare	1.35	5 John Burke	6.25
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 Vicki Foster (L)	3.15
2 Jason Miller	10.90	2 Don Ludlam	4.10	2 Kelly Fulmer	6.83	2 Mike Foster	2.89
3 Chris Massey	10.65	3 Dane Tomberlin	4.05	3 Tom Duncan	6.50	3 Mike Foster	2.77
4 Ted Kiefer	10.20	4 Terry Quint	3.94	4 Bill Midgette	6.20	4 Pat Garmeson	2.64
5 Leslie Smith	10.00	5 Bekki Ludlam (L)	3.00	5 Bill Patterson*	6.10	5 Adam Barker (N)	2.49

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

FINAL ACFA Tournament Point Standings as of October 20, 2007

Pos.	Angler Name	Pts.	
1	Bill Midgette	29	12 points: Richard Suk (N) 11 points: Butch Pierce (N), Marcus Lanier
1	Mike Foster	29	10 points: Brandon Parker, Erik Nelson, Jason Miller
1	Patric Garmeson	29	9 points: Billy Hurd, Brittney Howle (J), Carson Tierce (N)(J), Dane Tomberlin, Del Delchamps, Dewayne Overstreet, Richard Rutland, Theo Koulianos (J)
2	David Hare	27	8 points: Eugene Pierce, Phillip Guy
2	Rick Tourne	27	7 points: Alvin Bell, Daniel Ford, Donnie Fassbender, Pat Hughes, Tommy Pond
3	Belinda Smith (L)	22	6 points: Adam Barker (N), Ted Kiefer, Trey Pitt
3	Chris Massey	22	5 points: Barry Keith, Don Ludlam, Doug Tierce (N), Kim Guy (L), Sam Clark III (N)
3	Henry Nall	22	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	Steve O'Dell (N)	20	3 points: Austin Lee (J), Ben Hurn, Brenda Pate (L), Bruce Howle Jr (J), Donnie Howell, Doug Davis, George Koulianos, Marc Kruse
5	Mutt Burke	19	2 points: Bill Patterson, Billy Pierce Jr (N)(J), Bobby McElroy, Brandie May (N)(L), Gerald Markow, Frank Parker III (J), Jad Pope, Jeff May (N), Jerald Bolen, Joe Sirmon, John Parker (J), Jon Barry (N), Kyle Mitternacht, Lee Minto, Margaret Miller (L), Pete Burns, Scott Godwin, Stephen Laurendine (N)
6	Doug Smith	18	1 point: Allison Pierce (N)(J), Angie Howle (L), Austin Key (N), Bernie White, Betty Harwell (L), Bill Duke, Bill Lawler (N), Bob Ward, Bruce Dyess (N)(J), Bruce Howle Sr, Byron Webb (N), Charlotte Houston (L), Chase Laurendine (N), 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, Mike Thompson, John Houston (N), Kirk Hoven (N), Lewis Felis (?), Matt Morgan, Norman Stockman (N), Pete Keith (N), 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)
7	David Thornton	17	
7	Les Smith	17	
7	Randy Wiscaver	17	
7	Vince Hawkins	17	
8	Larry Watkins	16	
9	Judy Smith (L)	15	
9	Mike Pierce (N)	15	
9	Tom Duncan	15	
9	Vickie Foster (L)	15	
10	Billy Pierce (N)	14	
10	Bubba Williams	14	
10	Cameron Calhoun (J)	14	
10	John Burke	14	

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