

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



February 2009

Next meeting: February 5th
American Legion Post 88,
2666 Halls Mill Road, Mobile.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Don Ludlam-
Reel Maintenance and Repair

Quick Hits: David Hare

Mini-seminar: None this month

Next tournament: March 14th

Club Officers for 2008

President:	Vince Hawkins	452-3899
Vice Pres:	Jimmy Quint	377-4879
Treasurer:	Chris Conken	209-2726
Secretary:	Vicki Foster	621-9113
Statistics:	Joe Sirmon	605-5811
Membership:	Mike Lee	665-4449
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Alvin Bell	455-5739
Logo Items:	Justin Peacock	550-7532
Awards:	Bryan Hack	510-4196
Food:	Brenda Wilson	367-3499
Newsletter:	Jason Miller	490-3221
Webmaster:	Brandon Milam	680-1302
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

President's Message

Deer and Duck seasons are winding down and it is time to start thinking about fishing (I know there are many of you that never stop thinking about fishing). The rivers in the area are getting back to normal levels and with any luck; the fishing will only continue to improve. There are many exciting changes planned for the upcoming year and I appreciate all of the work from members and the board that make the ACFA an outstanding organization and one that I am excited to lead. We will once again have MINIMUM weights for ALL species in the Big Fish category. We had a great first year with the Catch, Photo and Release category last year and look forward to more photos this year. Please also take a minute to inform your friends about the ACFA and invite them to meetings and hopefully join the club. Clean the reels and sharpen the hooks, the first tournament will be here before we know it. The Board also voted to honor a special member of the ACFA. Mr. Charlie Dowdle will now be the club's second "Lifetime Member". Many of you that have been in the club since it's inception know Mr. Charlie and all of the many things he has done for the club. There is no way to list everything that he has done, but we will list a few: served as a board member and/or advisor from day one; cooked at Christmas parties and weigh-ins; collected door prizes; served as weigh-master; and basically done whatever has been needed. In short, the club would not be what it is without Mr. Charlie.

Important Newsletter News:

This is the second to last newsletter you will be receiving via the U.S. Mail. Beginning with the April 2009, newsletter, we will only mail the newsletter to members who specifically request it. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter via mail, you must check the box requesting the newsletter via mail on the Membership Application Form you will fill out when you renew your membership and pay your dues. Otherwise, the monthly newsletter will be available via the website at: www.acfafish.com. Click the newsletter link at the top of the page, and there you will find the most recent newsletter, as well as an archive of previous newsletters. Webmaster Brandon Milam will also be setting up a link on the webpage where you can sign up to receive the newsletter via e-mail. The reason for the change is to save \$\$\$\$\$! With the large size of the club, mailing the newsletter out costs the club over \$1,200 a year just in stamps!



Vicki Foster, and proud husband/captain/ net man, Mike, display some of the loot Vicki took home from the ACFA Awards Banquet.

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Dues are due!

With the start of a new year, membership renewal dues are now due. Fill out the enclosed Membership Application and mark the appropriate box if you still want the newsletters mailed to you, and send your check to: Mike Lee 4451 Nicholl Dr. Mobile Alabama 36619. It beats waiting in line at the meeting! And if you mail in your dues, your name will be entered into the drawing where TWO members get their dues refunded. Dues must be paid prior to the March tournament in order to participate in the tournaments, and if you have a fish on the 2009 Bigfish board, your dues must be received by the end of February to keep it there. Finally, if you haven't paid your dues by the April mailing of the newsletter, you're no longer a member, so don't delay! With 10 informative monthly meetings with multiple speakers; 9 monthly tournaments with great food provided at each one including several fish fries and the Member Appreciation Shrimp Boil; and the year end Awards Banquet; all for you, your spouse, and children under 16, \$45 is still the best fishing buy you can get anywhere. Your membership also includes exclusive access to the "Members Only" section of the ACFA webforum as well as the "Classified" section where you can hock your unwanted gear. Just like Ebay, only different!

12th Annual Awards Banquet Recap

December 5th was the 2008 ACFA Awards Banquet at The Grand Hall. After a great dinner provided by Catalina Seafood, and the awards presentation, many ACFA'ers stuck around late into the evening to enjoy music provided by The Mistifiers. A great time was had by all. A pile of plaques was also handed out to the following winners:

2008 Big Fish Champions were:

Blackfish: 1st Frank Mitternacht (22.16 lbs), 2nd & 5th Rick Tourne, 3rd & 4th Kyle Mitternacht

Sheepshead: 1st Theo Koulianos (9.11 lbs)

Flounder: 1st & 2nd Gerald Markow (7.80 lbs), 3rd Mike Herring, 4th Josh Woolums, 5th Daniel Ford

Spanish Mackerel: 1st & 4th Bekki Ludlam (6.55 lbs), 2nd & 5th Don Ludlam, 3rd Mike Lee

Ground Mullet: 1st Bill Perry (2.45 lbs), 2nd Shane Ford, 3rd & 5th Daniel Ford, 4th Frank Mitternacht

Speckled Trout: 1st Donald Garrettson (6.91 lbs), 2nd Erik Nelson, 3rd & 4th Bill Patterson, 5th Bill Midgette

Redfish: 1st Erik Nelson (7.45 lbs), 2nd Henry Nall, 3rd George Koulianos, 4th Jim Foster, 5th Jason Miller

White Trout: 1st & 2nd Vicki Foster (3.83 lbs), 3rd Mike Foster, 4th Theo Koulianos, 5th Bill Perry

Catch, Photo and Release Speckled Trout: 1st & 3rd George Harrison 26.75", 2nd Tom Duncan, 4th Bill Midgette, 5th Adam Barker

The Big Fish Championship winners: 3rd place- Gerald Markow, 2nd place - Bill Perry, and the 2008 Big Fish Championship was awarded to: Vicky Foster.

The Tournament Point Champions: 5th place - Tommy Pond, 4th Place - Vicki Foster, 3rd -Rick Tourne, 2nd Place-Henry Nall, and the ACFA Tournament Champion was Jim Foster.

2008 Junior Angler Trophy: Theo Koulianos.

2008 ACFA Lady Angler and 2008 Master Angler: Vicki Foster. Congrats Vicki!

The "Founder's Award" is awarded to the individual who is considered to have advanced the club by giving time and effort beyond expectations. David Thornton received the **2008 Founder's Award** for his tireless work delivering fantastic newsletters as well as numerous other contributions to the club.

A very important part of the success of the ACFA is the support of individuals, businesses and organizations who help make it all possible. At the end of each year the club tries to reward the most deserving of them (in a small way) for their contributions with a plaque of recognition. In 2008, the ACFA recognized **Post 250, The American Legion** (tournament weigh in site), **Scott's Landing** (Causeway Classic weigh in site), **Grady Marine** (financial support throughout the year), **Charlie Crawford and Souther-N-Bama Bait & Tackle** (Big Fish Contest plaques and monthly door prizes). Thanks again Charlie!

The last award of the evening was the **Grand Attendance Prize** drawing that went to our new president Vince Hawkins. Something smells fishy!

ACFA Rule of 250

ACFA membership has consistently numbered over 200 for the past several years. Just what is the "Rule of 250" exactly? Simply put, more members means more plaques! The club will again award 1st-3rd place plaques and points for at least 4 species at every tournament (with the exception of the aptly named May Speckled Trout Challenge), with four tournaments awarding 1st -3rd for five species. Also an additional plaque will be awarded to the angler in the August "Grand Slam" Tournament weighing in the heaviest "Grand Slam" (combined weight of that angler's Speckled Trout, Redfish, and Flounder) whether or not any or all of their "Grand Slam" fish place in the top 5 of those species. Any angler placing in the top 5 of all 3 of the designated "Grand Slam" species for this tournament will still receive a bonus 5 Tournament Points.

And once again an anonymous donor has graciously made a cash donation to the club earmarking those funds for the junior anglers. Junior anglers will receive plaques for 1st - 3rd place at each tournament for the same categories as the grownups. And should a junior angler's fish place with the big kids, that junior angler's plaque will "pass" to the next placing junior angler. For example, if the top finishing junior angler's sheepshead places 2nd in the adult category in the March tournament, the 2nd place junior sheepshead winner then moves up to 1st place and so on.

The Catch, Photo and Release ("CPR") Speckled Trout Bigfish competition will also return. Mail a photo showing your alive and healthy speckled trout, and its length to the nearest 1/4" to Joe Sirmon, or post it on the website, and give the angler and date of catch. If reasonably possible, also include a pic of the fish being released. We are also working on obtaining an official ACFA measuring stick designed by club member Bill Midgette.

In summary, the tournament categories and plaques awarded will be the same as 2008, with a few new wrinkles that will make the year long Tournament Champion and Big Fish competitions even more competitive and exciting. Tournament points will now be awarded in each category at each tournament for 1st-5th place. The tournament point system will be as follows: 1st -5 points, 2nd -4 points, 3rd -3 points, 4th -2 points, and 5th 1 point. (Plus one participation point). Plaques will still only be awarded for 1st-3rd. A similar change has been made for the Bigfish competition. Bigfish points will now be awarded for Bigfish categories from 1st-10th place, with yearend plaques going to the 1st-5th place winners in each category. These changes will make for more exciting yearlong competitions and give more anglers a chance to compete, with no extra cost to the club.

Have a question? Check the newsletter archive!

The newsletter is the source for club related information. Many of the answers to your questions during the year can be found right here. So, if you continue to receive the newsletter by mail, keep your old newsletters handy and it will answer many of your questions that may come up over the year. The rest of us can go to the club website www.acfafish.com, click the newsletter link, and find previous newsletters from earlier in the year. You can even find newsletters for years past for taking that stroll down memory lane, or comparing “new” newsletters to old newsletters to see just how often your newsletter editor plagiarizes off previous newsletter editor’s hard work. Just kidding! Any similarities are purely coincidental. I assure you.

Mini-seminars are back

Patric Garmeson has volunteered to keep the hugely popular mini-seminars going. The mini-seminar series will return with the March meeting. If you have a topic you would like to hear about from one of our resident club experts, please let Patric know. Let him know at a meeting, or contact him at: 747-1554

Logo items

Justin Peacock is the new Logo Items Chairman and will be selling the usual assortment of ACFA shirts, hats, fish towels, etc. at every meeting. This year the ACFA will also be offering ACFA beverage huggers.

Sign-In and win stuff

Those that attend and check in to at least 8 of our 10 regular club meetings will be eligible for our 2009 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Be sure to see Mike Lee at the sign-in table and please wear a nametag. It’s a great help to new members in associating names and faces and for all club members to get to know one another quicker.

Donations are needed

Donations are needed for our monthly door prizes and for the 2009 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Alvin Bell has been involuntarily drafted and put in charge of donations. See Alvin, or call him at 455-5739 to make or arrange for donations. Please help Alvin as much as you can before he figures out we can’t make him do it! Alvin will need as much help as possible getting freebees given the current economy.

New Member Sponsors

The more the merrier! Be sure to suggest ACFA to your fishing friends and acquaintances. As mentioned earlier, you can’t find a better fishing deal. Remember to have any new members you get to sign up to put your name down as their sponsor in order to qualify you for the drawing to have your annual dues refunded. Any member that signs up at least one new member is eligible. And again the member who sponsors the most new memberships will automatically win a free dinner for two and receive the Membership Sponsor Award for 2009.

This is your club, and your newsletter

Your new newsletter editor is looking forward to serving this year, and only hopes he can do half as good a job as his predecessor. If there is anything you feel that is newsworthy and related to the club, or fishing in general, please don’t be shy about suggesting it be included in the newsletter. I can be reached at 251-490-3221, or jasonmiller1974@yahoo.com, or on the website under my clever secret identity “Jason M”.

ACFA’ers in other tournaments

Every year ACFA’ers can be found on the leader boards of just about every local tournament, and even some tournaments that aren’t so local. We will continue to recognize those anglers every month in the newsletter.

Even during the offseason, there is fishing competition available for those brave enough or crazy enough to brave the elements. For years club members Bruce Howle, Sr. and David Hare have been conducting informal, wintertime, all artificial bait, speckled trout tournaments known as “Battle of the Grubs.” This year there have already been two such battles, with another set for February 7th, 2009.

The first Battle of the Grubs this winter (or “BOG” for short) was held December 5th. Club 1st place went to Bruce Howle, Sr. and Jimmy Quint with a five trout stringer weighing in at 15.7 lbs. 2nd place went to Keith Varden and Mike Foster with a 15.35 lb. bag, and 3rd place went to David Hare and Del Delchamps with 14.95 lbs. The lunker trout award went to Jimmy Quint with a 5.65 lb beauty, and Barnie White took home the redfish side pot with a 6.5 lb. slot red.

The second BOG occurred January 10th. 1st place went to Donald Garretson and Rick Tourne 18.25 lb, 2nd place Jimmy Quint and Al Mead-17.65 lbs., 3rd place- Bruce Howle, Sr & Jr.-13.6 lbs., Lunker-Jimmy Quint-Al-Mead-515 lbs, Slot Red- 7.0lb.

Numerous ACFA'ers also competed in the GCAA Redfish Trail tournament in Hopedale, LA on January 24th. Club members Paul Smith and Kyle Mitternight finished in 3rd place and Bobby Abruscato and Scott Ritter finished in 4th place to round out the money winners. The next GCCA redfish tournament is February 21, also out of Hopedale. If you think you might like to give tournament red fishing a try, go to www.gulfcoastanglersassociation.com for more information.

BOG- Part III

David Hare and Bruce Howle Sr. will be having another "BOG" on February 7th. Registration is at the Waffle House on Hwy 90 near I-65 from 5:00-5:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$25 for single angler, \$50 for two man teams, and \$10 per man for the redfish side pot. Weigh-in is from 4:00-4:30 p.m. at the River Shack on Dog River. Artificial baits only-5 trout creel, and 1 slot red (pinched tail). Why wait for March to get the competitive fishing juices flowing?

License tags here! Get your FREE license tags!

Members of CCA-Alabama will be at our February meeting to say a few words about CCA's vehicle license tag campaign and sign those interested up for CCA's "Fish Alabama" specialty license tag. CCA is seeking the 1,000 commitments needed in order to have the state print specialty license tags. The specialty license tags will cost \$50 annually, with a few dollars going to the state for administrative costs, and the rest going to saltwater conservation projects. In order to obtain the needed 1,000 commitments, CCA will pick up the tab for the first year of the license for those signing up until 1,000 commitments are reached. As an additional incentive, those that sign up within the first 1,000 commitments and pay \$50 for the tag will have their names entered in a drawing for a brand new 19' Blazer Bay boat, powered by a 115 HP Yamaha 4 stroke. CCA will be displaying the boat at the meeting.

2009 Bigfish Standings

	Blackfish	Wt	Flounder	Wt	Ground Mullet	Wt	Redfish	Wt
1 st								
2 nd								
3 rd								
4 th								
5 th								
	Sheepshead	Wt	Spanish Mackerel	Wt	White Trout	Wt	Speckled Trout	Wt
1 st					O.P. Harrison	2.29		
2 nd								
3 rd								
4 th								
5 th								

CPR Speckled Trout: 1st -Jim Foster 28.25", 2nd-Patric Garmeson-25.5", 3rd-Jim Foster-24.25"

Reminders

2009 dues are due now, pay by mail to avoid crowds and qualify for prizes.

NO ACFA tournament in February.

2009 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2009. Our Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch.

Fill out and send Bigfish cards to: Joe Sirmon 3831 BEBEE POINT DRIVE THEODORE, AL 36582 (605-5811)

Dues MUST be paid by the end of February to retain a fish on the Big Fish Board.

Please remember, NO SMOKING in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment.

And PLEASE be respectful of our speakers (and members who want to hear them) by refraining from any unnecessary talking or moving about during the presentations. And we ask that you save your questions until the end of their talk.

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

ACFA---We catch fish---Get the net!!

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.

OFFICIAL ACFA 2009 Calendar

Meeting Date
 Tournament Date
 Newsletter Due Date
 Newsletter Mail Date

January 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NO Jan Meeting or Tourney

February 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

NO Feb tourney

March 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mar Tourney later...

April 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May = ST Challenge

June 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Tourney moved from July 4th

August 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

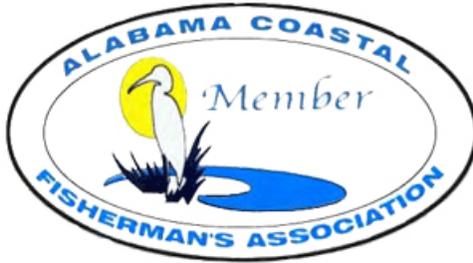
Big Fish Ends Nov 14th

December 2009

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Dec Awards Dinner

NO Dec Tourney NO Jan News



Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Membership Application Form

mail to: Mike Lee 4451 Nicholl Dr. Mobile Alabama 36619

Date _____

First Name/Middle Initial _____ M.I. _____

Last Name _____

(Please use your common name (nickname, Sr, Jr, III, etc) that you will use in the Tournaments and wish to have printed on memberlist and in the newsletter to help avoid confusion.)

Street Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

First Time Member Yes No

Newsletter by postal mail? Yes No

(Note: If you select No, your newsletter will be emailed to you, or you can pick it up on the web site)

Online Screen Name _____
(if registered on the online forum)

Boat Type/Make _____

Boat Name _____

% Time Fishing With Artificial Bait _____ Live Bait _____

Topics you would like to hear discussed at meetings

% Of Time Targeting	Speckled Trout	_____	Redfish	_____
	Flounder	_____	Sheepshead	_____
	White Trout	_____	Spanish Mackerel	_____

Referred to Membership or Sponsored by _____

Other family members who qualify to fish tournaments on your membership:
Spouse (First Name): _____
Children under age 16 **before** February 1st (including step-children)
First Name(s): _____