

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume I, Issue 8 September 2008

Next Meeting: September 4, 2008 **Time:** 7:00 pm
Place: American Legion Post 88 Halls Mill Road
Presentations:
Guest: Vernon Fox / Fox's Trolling Motors
Quick Hits: by Patric Garmeson
Mini Seminar @ 6pm Tarpon Fishing?

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

A 'Grand Slam' of a Tournament!

An unseasonable August "cold front" treated the ACFA 'Grand Slam' Tournamenters to a few hours of pleasant temperatures before the breeze faded and the blazing August sun reminded us it was still mid summer along the Gulf Coast. Still it was a great tournament with some fantastic results, and an even better reward at the members' appreciation shrimp boil during the weighin. The brisk north wind seemed to hurt the fishers in the south end of the Bay trying the rigs and those looking for blackfish, but the Mobile River seemed to be THE place to be as it produced some really nice specks. I doubt anyone did much better that day than the team of **O.P. Harrison** and his grandson **George Harrison** who weighed in the first and third place speckled trout. Though relative 'newcomers' in the club, O.P. and George are certainly no rookies when it comes to catching big trout. That was proved on this weekend when they entered an astonishing 5 speck creel of 28.70# Saturday and a very respectable 17.92# creel on Sunday to take first place in the Conde Cavaliers Mardi Gras Fishing Rodeo Speckled Trout Jackpot and swept the top three places in speckled trout along the way. Congratulations guys. Very well done, and we are certainly glad to have you aboard the ACFA! **Rick Tourne** is another persistently producing club member who not only entered the sole blackfish of our tournament, but his 13.64# tripletail took first place in that category in the Conde Rodeo too. So our congratulations and admiration go out to you all!

Again this year several members came mighty close to scoring a 'Grand Slam' in our August tournament, some even placing in two of the three GS species. But in the end no one closed the deal by placing in all three species. However, **Henry Nall** came closest by placing in redfish and flounder and weighing a speckled trout to qualify him for our first "Largest Grand Slam" Plaque. Congratulations to Henry for accomplishing a feat that seems to elude most of us more 'ordinary' anglers (including me ;-)

With the nice weather and promise of mounds of delicious boiled shrimp we had a great turnout for the tournament with at least 67 entries. But about twice that many folks showed up to partake in the boiled shrimp feast prepared by our cooking crew (below). Besides the +200# of large shrimp there were piles of corn, potatoes and cabbage (IF you haven't tried that yet you've missed a treat). And speaking of treats, the sampling of mushrooms and sausages in the mix made it worth digging through the pile ;-)

Once again our ACFA cooks have outdone themselves in providing a top notch feed for us all after a hard day of fishing...

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Our 'HOT' Shrimp Boil Cooks: (L to R) **Doug Smith, Bruce Howle Sr, Marc Kruse and Randy Wiscaver**. Thanks guys!



Speaking of cooks, my apologies for misnaming the cooks at our July meeting: **David Hare** and **Marc Kruse**. They tended the coals over that delicious sausage feast that almost preempted the second half of the meeting. Thanks again guys!

August Meeting Highlights...

Our meeting August 7th literally kicked off with a 'bang' as a heavy thunderstorm dumped rain in that part of town just as the meeting was about to begin. That delay plus our featured speaker not showing up prompted us to request Capt Yano Serra who was to participate in the Mini Seminar, to instead do the main guest speaker presentation. Yano talked in great detail about his 'stand up jig' presentation and tactics that have worked so successfully for him. We sure appreciate his stepping up with the change in the weather (as it were). If you'd like to find out more about Capt Yano, or book a trip with him call 251-610-0462 or 233-3452. Or you can email him @ captainyano@hotmail.com and check out more about (or order) the 'stand up jig' (and read the recent Mobile Register article by Jeff Dute) on his website @ <http://www.specktacklelure.com/>. Jigs are also available from Southern Bama (471-4939) and Jemison's (873-4695).



And thanks to Ken Osborne from the management team of the new Bass Pro Shops in Spanish Fort for coming by to tell us about their new store 'soft' opening August 13th. The store will feature Tracker Boats and Mercury outboards but will offer full service outboard motor work on other brands too. And at a 10% discount to ACFA members! Howabout that... They want to know what items anglers would like 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.

In case you haven't heard, one of our founding members **Mutt Burke** is still in the hospital and has been there for some time. His condition is still serious with some slow improvement. Please keep Mutt (and his family) in your thoughts and prayers.

August Tournament Results:

This was about our best tournament so far this year for the weather, quality of fish and overall participation at the weighin!

<u>Speckled Trout</u> (25 Total)	<u>Flounder</u> (16 Total)	<u>Redfish</u> (8 Total)	<u>White Trout</u> (17 Total)
1st - O.P. Harrison (N) 6.65#	1st - Daniel Ford - 3.35#	1st - Mike Foster 5.95#	1st Jim Foster 1.55#
2nd - Bill Graves 6.35#	2nd - Henry Nall - 2.70#	2nd - Tommy Pond 4.40#	2nd Sidney Foster (N) 1.15#
3rd - George Harrison (N) 5.25#	3rd - Vince Hawkins - 2.60#	3rd - Henry Nall 4.00#	3rd Bob Maclay .95#
4th - Chris Conken - 4.90#	4th - Bubba Williams - 2.45#	4th - Bill Perry 3.90#	
5th - Vince Hawkins - 4.70#	5th - Mike Lee - 2.20#	5th - Margaret Rowell (N)(L) 3.80#	

<u>Jr Speckled Trout</u>	<u>Jr Flounder</u>	<u>Jr Redfish</u>	<u>Jr White Trout</u>
1st - Tye Jordan 1.75#	1st - Carson Tierce 2.15#		1st - Robert Morgan .60#
2nd - Carson Tierce 1.70#	2nd - Tye Jordan 1.70#	-NONE-	1st - Matthew Morgan .60#
3rd - Robert Morgan .90#	3rd - Lindsey Hawkins .95#		2nd - Carson Tierce .50#
			3rd - Jacob Guy .40#

Blackfish: 1 total (NO Jr anglers) 1st **Rick Tourne'** 13.55#

67 total fish entries, 10 Junior angler plaques will be awarded

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

ACFA September "End of Summer" Tournament...

will be held on Saturday September 6th from 5am till 5pm, with the weigh-in from 3-5pm at 'the usual place' behind the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway just two drives south of the Greer's Foodtiger store.

Once again this month we will offer trophies and points for five species: **speckled trout, flounder, redfish (16" - 26")**, **white trout** and **SPANISH MACKEREL** in 1st through 3rd places for each species. The Junior Anglers will again be eligible to win plaques in ANY of these species, so go get em kids! I haven't heard what's on the menu, but that will be announced at the meeting. Surely it will be good as always ;-)

A Storm Statement...

was added to our by-laws after some busy hurricane seasons interrupted our fishing season. With all the recent attention to Tropical Storm 'Fay' it seemed timely to republish this in what is traditionally the busiest part of the hurricane season.

NOTE: IF a named tropical storm or hurricane is predicted to strike the Gulf Coast within approximately 140 miles east or west of Mobile Bay (including the area between New Orleans, LA and Panama City, FL) on or close to a scheduled ACFA Saturday tournament, that tourney will automatically be postponed until the following Saturday (unless that Saturday falls on the weekend of the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo in which case it will be postponed 2 weeks later).

Additional note: IF a hurricane is immediately threatening our area or a curfew is in effect in the City of Mobile (following a hurricane landfall) at the time of our scheduled monthly meeting, that meeting will be cancelled (and not rescheduled).

All business pertinent to that meeting (plaque presentations, etc.) will be done at the next scheduled meeting the following month.

Hopefully we won't ever have to implement this plan, but we wanted everyone to be aware of our procedures in the event of a hurricane.

Speaking of the Chair Positions...

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 over 250! Without a doubt the ACFA is THE premier fishing club in our area, and it got that way with continued support of members who stepped forward to fill these positions and those who help out even in small ways. We must have a slate of names by the October meeting and elections for the 2009 chair positions will be held at the November meeting. This includes Newsletter Editor! To help everyone out, each of the chair persons is given a folder and calendar that outlines what their specific duties are. 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 2008 chair or see Doug Smith. IF you volunteer we guarantee plenty of experienced help until you feel secure at what you are doing in that position (believe me, because after 3 years I STILL seek advice from my predecessor ;-)) Thanks Bill!

Redfish Tournament News...

A lot has been happening this summer on the Redfish Tournament scene, but the biggest news seems to be the announcement that the FLW Saltwater Series (including the Redfish Tour) will end with the 2008 season. Gulf Coast redfishers are confident however, that more regional or local venues (like the IFA or even the Team Trails) will more than fill the gap for tournament anglers.

There is also 'scuttlebutt' that Ranger Boats may pick up sponsorship for the Redfish Series in 2009, but so far that's unconfirmed.

Still the ACFA can be proud of it's members who have logged many fishing hours (and many driving miles) in pursuit of their spot-tailed quarry. No doubt they represent some of the finest qualities in angling abilities and dedication to the sport they love so!

Some notable recent results:

FLW April 10-12 Port Lavaca (97 boat field) 1st **Scott Ritter**, 20th **Barnie White**

FLW June 10-12 Venice LA (105 boat field) 26th **Paul Smith/ Pat Reichley**, 34th **Scott Ritter**, 38th **Barnie White**

IFA June 21 Navarre FL (27 boat field) 2nd **Scott Ritter / Bobby Abruscato**

IFA April 26 Lafitte LA (99 boats) 10th **Scott Ritter / Bobby Abruscato**, 13th **Barnie White**, 15th **Pat Reichley**

IFA August 16 Grand Isle LA (76 boats) 17th **Barnie White**, 19th **Larry Kirby**, 23rd **Scott Ritter / Bobby Abruscato**,

28th **Donald Wayne Garrettson / Mark Wright**

Team Trails Pascagoula MS (8 boats) 1st **Scott Ritter / Bobby Abruscato**, 2nd **Jason Miller / Barnie White**

Team Trails Delacroix #1 LA (20 boats) 1st **Paul Smith**, 5th **Scott Ritter / Bobby Abruscato**,

Pearl River (15 boats) 1st **Scott Ritter / Bobby Abruscato**, 2nd **Erik Nelson / Mark Wright**, 3rd **Jason Miller / Barnie White**

Delacroix #2 (15 boats) 1st **Scott Ritter / Bobby Abruscato**, 3rd **Jason Miller / Barnie White**, 4th **Paul Smith**

Golden Meadows LA (20 boats) 2nd **Barnie White**, 3rd **Paul Smith**,

**** Scott Ritter & Bobby Abruscato named 'Anglers of the Year'.**

Congratulations to you all, I hope I haven't overlooked anyone placing 'high up', and good luck in your future competitions!

We're Coming Down the Stretch...

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 for \$5 each will be on sale early at the September meeting. See **Patric Garmeson** or **Mike Lee**.
- Junior Angler Division plaques: for 3 places in EVERY tournament
- 'Special' Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout division (5 plaques) continues until Nov 14th
- '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 (or call) **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. HEY, DID YOU HEAR? 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.
- The October Tournament will be Saturday October 4th (instead of the traditional 3rd Saturday in the month). Roll Tide!

Statistics... After six tournaments the point standings are: follows:

Members with 8 points: Alvin Bell, Bobby Abruscato, Dane Tomberlin, Doug Smith, John Fassbender, Lauren Rea (N)(L), O.P. Harrison (N), Vince Hawkins

Members with 7 points: Jarrod Yeend (N), Leslie Smith, Sidney Foster (N)

PI	Name	Points
1	Jim Foster	35
2	Henry Nall	28
3	Donnie Howell	23
4	Tommy Pond	22
5	Rick Tourne	19
6	Chris Massey	18
7	Billy Hurd	17
7	Daniel Ford	17
7	Rick Yeend	17
8	Mike Herring	16
9	Mike Foster	15
9	Phillip Guy	15
10	Dave Growden (N)	12
11	Adam Barker	11
11	Bo Winter	11
11	Chris Conken	11
11	George Harrison (N)	11
12	Jimbo Miller	10
12	Tim Pierce	10
12	Vicki Foster (L)	10
13	Steve O'Dell	9
13	Trenton Pitt (J)	9

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

Members with 6 points: Bill Graves, Bill Midgette, Bill Perry (N), Brittney Howle (J), Bruce Howle, Sr, David Thornton, Shane Ford, Theo Koulianos (J)

5 points: Bob Maclay (N), Justin Peacock (N), Mike McDonald, Patric Garmeson

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

Members with 3 points: Bill Duke, Bob Ward, Gerald Bolen, Jerry Bolen (N), Larry Watkins, Mike Lee, Robert Brewer (N)

2 points: Brooks Lee (N), David McNew, Donna Schantz (L)(N), Dwain Mangold (N), Frank Parker, Jason Miller, John Burke III, Keith Kenney (N), Lindsey Hawkins (J), Margaret Miller (L), Margaret Rowell (L), Ronnie Dyson, Tye Jordan (J)

Members with 1 point: Andrew Clark (N), Barry Keith, Bekki Ludlam (L), Belinda Smith (L), Blake Michaleski, Brenda Wilson (L), Bruce Howle, Jr, Bryan Hack, Cameron Calhoun, Carson Tierce (J), Chip Cummings, Christian Howell (J), Craig Newton, David Hare, David Montgomery, Del Delchamps, Dewayne Overstreet, Don Ludlam, Donnie Fassbender, Doug Houston, Doug Tierce, Frank Mitternight, Frank Parker III (J), Gary Tingle, Gerald Markow, Howie Galloway (N), Jacob Guy (J), Jarred Kelly (N), Jerry Donoghue, Jerry Torrans, Jim Glass, Jimmy Rowell (N), John Parker (J), Josh Woolums, Judy Smith (L), Kelly Fulmer, Kim Guy (L), Lucille Watkins (L), Matthew Morgan (J), Mutt Burke, Pat Hughes, Patti Fassbender, Richard Hoffman (N), Rileigh Hawkins (J), Robert Morgan (J), Sam Clarke III, Scott Godwin, Sharon Markow (L), Steve Laurendine, Ted Kiefer, Timmy Bradley (J), Todd Golomb, Tommy Devery, Trevor Wood (N), Trey Pitt, Will Parker (J)

'CPR' Speckled Trout standings as of August 22, 2008: 1st Tom Duncan 25 1/2", 2nd Bill Midgette* 25", 3rd Adam Barker, 25" 4th Richard Suk* 24 3/4", 5th Patric Garmeson*+ 24 3/4" WOW! What a tight competition!

This is a fun contest that will hopefully help protect the resource we enjoy so much. Let's get some more pictures folks!

The BIG Fish Contest

Current

22-August-08

** NEW RECORD .

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1	Kyle Mitternight	21.47	1	Gerald Markow	4.86	1	Bill Perry	2.45**	1	Erik Nelson	7.45
2	Rick Tourne	18.55	2	Gerald Markow	4.69	2	Shane Ford	1.80	2	Henry Nall	6.70
3	Frank Mitternight	17.90	3	Daniel Ford	4.35	3	Daniel Ford	1.65	3	George Koulianos	6.55
4	Rick Yeend	13.70	4	Rick Tourne	4.18	4	Frank Mitternight	1.59	4	Jason Miller	6.45
5	Rick Tourne	13.55	5	George Koulianos	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	Jim Foster	1.55
5			5	Don Ludlam	3.35	5	O.P. Harrison	6.65	5	Lauren Rea (N)(L)	1.50

* 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)

Poonapalooza Report...

After months of preparation and pages of internet hoopla, the second annual ACFA tarpon fishing expedition got under way about 6 am Saturday August 16th with the sounding of ceremonial Viking horns bellowing under the Dog River Bridge! Resembling more a modern day Viking 'snipe hunt' on water 9 boats of our club members ventured forth from west, east and north into Mobile Bay to scour and chum the mysterious waters between the "RED X" and "RED DOT" for any sign of Poon. As (bad) luck would have it bait was hard to find, the weather threatened, no tarpon were hooked (but a good number were seen). And the 'catch of the day' was reported to be BIG hardhead catfish with a smattering of gafftops, long-nosed gar, and the illustrious jack crevelle. A veritable 'garbage can slam if ever there was one (or many ;-)' It sounds like a good time was had by all with no casualties except a few donated circle hooks (blue cans are considered "acceptable losses"). Can't wait till next year folks! You can read the full reports, comments and find many more pictures in the "MEMBERS ONLY" section of the ACFA forum.

REFLECTIONS ON POONAPALOOZA: By David Hare

- 1- VIKINGS ROCK!
- 2- IF SOMEONE CALLS AND ASKS YOU WHERE YOU ARE, "JUST OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE" IS NOT SUFFICIENT INFORMATION.
- 3- NO MATTER HOW MANY TARPON YOU SEE, IF YOU DON'T WEAR THE VIKING HAT YOU WILL BE SEEN AS AN OUTSIDER.
- 4- GARS ARE REALLY JUST LIKE A TARPON WITH A REALLY POINTED NOSE.
- 5- JACKS ARE REALLY JUST LIKE TARPON WITH HEPATITIS.
- 6- CATFISH ARE PUT ON THIS EARTH TO REMIND US OF THE DEBIL.
- 7- IF YOU TALK VERY LONG TO THE GUY WHO COLLECTS THE MONEY AT THE LAUNCH RAMP AT DOG RIVER, YOU WILL COME TO REALIZE WHY HE IS THE GUY WHO COLLECTS THE MONEY AT THE LAUNCH RAMP AT DOG RIVER.
- 8- CHUM BAGS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE AT SPEEDS OVER 40 MILES PER HOUR.
- 9- IF IT RAINS ON THE WAY HOME, IT IS LIKE A FREE BOAT CLEANING.
- 10- IF YOU SEE 10 FRIENDS ON THE WATER IN A DAY, IT IS WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION!

"Burl Minnow" blows the ceremonial Poon-horn.



Quotable Quotes from the ACFA forum:

'Fishead' (**Terry Quint**) wrote: "If we're giving away prizes I vote:

Best directions - 'Burl Minnow' (**David Hare** see #2 above)

Best post (report) - Very close between 'Burl' and 'Jason M' (**Miller**), but give the nudge to Jason based on the video

Best hats - not even close, 'Siren Of the Sea' and 'Iceman' (**Bekki & Don Ludlam**).

I was thinking some aliens ,might be dropping from those nasty arse clouds at any minute, but the hats kept them at bay

Best horn blowing - based on the video, 'Burl' edges out the math guy ('Accountability' aka **Chuck Baldrige**)

Most gas \$ per pound of pogies caught - ME"

Quotes of the Day: 'Hawk' (**Vince Hawkins**) wrote "I never knew a 12 inch hardhead could eat a hand sized pogey."

"Eat the one with the hook in it you stupid bastage!" - 'Jason M'

Jason (Miller) wrote: THERE ARE NOT MANY THINGS IN THIS LIFE YOU CAN COUNT ON, BUT WHEN A TRUE VIKING SAYS HE IS GOING TO SAIL..... COUNT ON IT!

