

# Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume 1, Issue 3 April 2008

## 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	

**Next Meeting: April 3, 2008**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Place: American Legion Post 88  
2663 Halls Mill Road**

**Mini-Seminar: @ 6:00 pm**

**Quick Hits: Vince Hawkins**

**Main Presentation: Marine Resources**

## Upcoming Events:

- April 3 next meeting
- April 5 2nd Tourney

## 'March Madness' Tournament

Our first tournament of the 2008 season was held under much less ideal conditions than we'd hoped for.

The influx cold fresh water down the rivers coupled with dense early morning fog and strong south to southwest winds up to 25 knots put a damper on the enthusiasm of many of our potential anglers. No one braved to fish the nearshore rigs as the Gulf waves were in the 6 to 8 feet range, and that was probably a good decision ;-). Many anglers (like myself) had no luck even catching a fish to weigh in and many more struggled to even get their 'participation point'. As always there were a few who solved the fish riddle for the day and put some nice fish in the boat. Donnie Howell placed first in sheepshead and ground mullet with fish he said he "ordinarily wouldn't have bothered to weigh in." It was THAT bad folks! Most anglers chose to fish the Theodore Canal (or other protected waters) and piddled around. But a trio of intrepid anglers (or just plain fish-crazy) had another plan (crazy like a fox ;-). Patric Garmeson, Adam Barker and Jim Foster ventured out early in the fog only to run aground on the Dauphin Island Shoals. Not to let a single opportunity get by, the three (never-say-quit) anglers waded fished around their stranded boat while waiting for the rising tide to free them and caught some nice trout and ground mullet in the process. After freeing the boat they proceeded to their choice (secret ;-). destination and proceeded to put a 'working over' on the redfish and sheepshead. Still not finished, the group caught even more fish within talking distance to a couple of us in Little Dauphin Bay which seemed to me that day should have been renamed the DEAD SEA! Well I guess some days ya got it, and some you wind up eating the bait ;-). At least we were all rewarded at the weighin with some great fellowship and treated to Randy Wiscaver (Bigun's) fine BBQ with beans and coleslaw. That there was worth the early rise!

## Our next Tournament: Saturday April 5 is the "Spring Breakout"...

Again we will have four species:

Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet. And again the club will be offering plaques to the top three Junior anglers who weigh in fish for each of these categories. In addition we will give plaques (but NO tournament points) to the anglers who bring the top three pompano to scales. Let's hope we have better weather this time around! P.S. you have to come to the meeting to find out what's on the menu ;-)

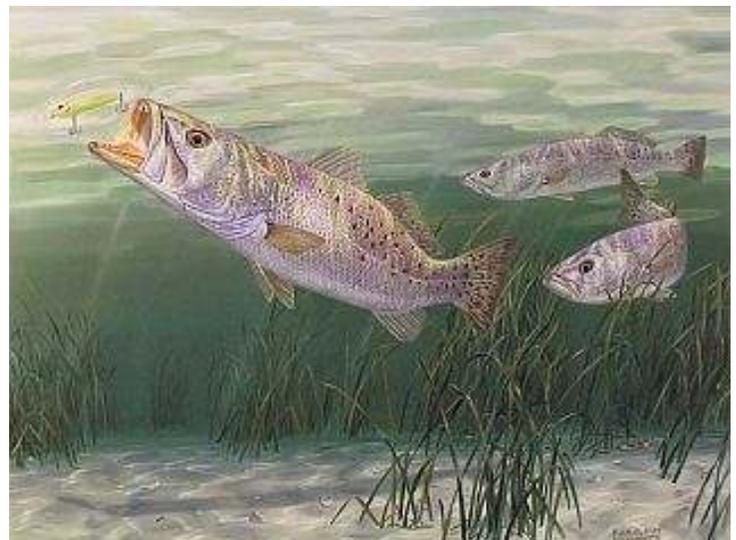
## President's Message

Thanks to all for a great tournament and a great turnout  
I hope we have better weather this month than we had last year  
Keep what you can use and release the rest to fight another day!!

Doug

## Inside this issue:

Old News (recap of our March meeting)	2
Logo Items	2
Cornucopia and new stuff	2-3
Jubilee!	3
Reminders	3
March Tournament Results	4
Statistics	4
2008 ACFA Big Fish Contest Entry Form	5



**NEW for 2008! ACFA T-Shirts which feature this print 'Fast Lane' by wildlife artist Randy McGovern.**

See page 2 for details and prices...

### Old News: March Meeting Recap

Our second meeting of the 2008 season featured the always enjoyable Dr Bob Shipp, who gave a rundown on fish stocks and fielded questions from an overflow crowd. Over 50 more folks paid their membership and at least 10 were new members. Total membership is again over 200! Jerald Bolen did the "Quick Hits" segment on battery maintenance, something he has obviously put a lot of time and effort into. Thanks Jerald!

### Enjoy Your LAST Newsletter ...

That's right, IF you have NOT renewed your membership this will be the last ACFA newsletter you receive. Newsletter mailings (to over 270 paid and former members) represent one of the largest line item in the ACFA yearly budget and non-paying members' names have to be purged by the end of April. It's not too late to renew by mail (to Mike Lee below) and all mailed memberships postmarked before April 1 will be eligible for the TWO "Treasurer's Treat" Awards (a refund of your yearly membership cost \$45) to be drawn at our April meeting.

### 2008 Memberships are Due and ...

Even though they do a fine job processing new members, wouldn't you like to avoid the crowding at the Treasurer's Table at the next meeting? You can mail in your \$45 membership fee along with your name, address and telephone number to:

**Mike Lee 4451 Nicholl Dr. Mobile Alabama 36619**

This will go a long way to alleviate some of the confusion at the meetings and leave more room for NEW members to sign up.

The form can be found in the previous newsletter or on the club website at <http://acfafishing.com/membership/form/meb.pdf>

IF you've already renewed your membership, give a form to a friend you'd like to join the club and have them check you as a referral.

As incentive ANY member who refers at least one new member (by April 1st) is eligible for a drawing to refund their \$45 membership fee! Remember, the ACFA will draw TWO names of members (at the April meeting) who renewed by mail and refund their \$45 membership fee!

### NEW! ACFA T-Shirts & Logo Items

Alvin Bell, our Logo Item Chairman has been working hard to get this new T-shirt design featuring the Speckled Trout print "Fast Lane" by renowned wildlife artist Randy McGovern in time to go on sale at the April meeting. You can check out Randy McGovern's fine work online @ <http://www.fish-prints.com/> The shirts will be \$14 (SML-XL), \$16 for XXL and \$18 for XXXL. Get em while they're biting! He also still has the 'new design' ACFA hats and visors and a limited supply of items to sell from last year. (long sleeve T-shirts, T-shirts and hats) in limited colors and at the same price except the ACFA towels are now \$3 each. Plus some of the latest (2007) issue Top Spot Maps. These are courtesy of Barry Keith at Keith Map Service @ 60 Schillinger Road (ph 633-5588).

The April meeting will likely be your only opportunity this year to get the ACFA logo embroidered on your favorite Magellan type fishing shirt, for only a \$10 fee. At the same time you can order your name to be monogrammed on the other breast pocket for an additional \$2. Simply bring your shirt to Alvin Bell at the meeting with a business card or print your name on a paper pinned in the pocket, plus the money. The shirts will be returned at the next meeting in May. This is a very popular program to accessorize your fishing wardrobe.

### The Mini-Seminar Continues...

Patric Garmeson tells me the Mini-Seminar for the April meeting will have a theme of "Tips and Tactics for Motorless Fishing". With warmer weather (and water) he wanted to plan a discussion (and visual aids) on various aspects of kayak, wade and shore-bound fishing. These 'alternative' fishing methods have a special place for anglers to get back to the basics of fishing and discover (or maybe rediscover) the simpler times and methods that often produce quality catches. So come on in at 6pm and listen in or bring your questions and participate as much as you'd like in the discussions with our panel and others who'll share their experiences and expertise. In addition Pat said he would like to hear from you about what other topics (and facilitators) you would like to see discussed along the lines of "questions we'd like to hear answered, but were afraid to ask." You can pass your ideas on to Pat at the meetings. We hope to see you at 6 pm.

### Courtesy Boat Inspections

ACFA believes in safety on the water. We have again this year, arranged for representatives of the Coast Guard Auxiliary to speak at the April meeting and provide FREE (voluntary) non-binding safety inspections of our boats during the hours of the weigh-in at our April Tournament. Last year about 20 ACFA boats were inspected, and we'd like to see even more than that this year. All you have to do is after you pull your rig into the parking lot at the weigh in site, and ask one of the USCG Auxiliary members to have your boat inspected. It is non-binding with no follow up or any penalties. Even if you don't fish the tournament, you can come by and get a free inspection (and eat ;-). If your rig passes you will be given a (free) U.S.C.G.A. sticker for display on your boat. NOTE: the presence of an up to date sticker on your boat could preclude a whole lot of hassle should you be checked on the water in the future. ACFA encourages this "boat check-up". And did you know that with a passing certificate you can purchase any regular safety item at participating marine stores and receive a 10% discount on your purchase.

### Don't forget to patronize our sponsors.

CANVAS PRODUCTS, SOUTHERN BAMA BAIT&TACKLE, SAUCY Q, L&S TACKLE/MIRROR LURE, GRADY MARINE, ACADEMY SPORTS AND OUTDOOR, WEST MARINE, A-TEAM FISHING ADVENTURES, MO-FISHING in Orange Beach, AL. And we want to say a special THANKS and welcome back to Great Days Outdoors Magazine as a sponsor. Alan White, the magazine's editor has offered discount subscriptions to all ACFA members and even given us some FREE subscriptions for door prizes at the meetings.

**Sign-In and WIN!**

Those that attend and check in to at least 8 of our 10 regular club meetings (Feb-Nov) will be eligible for our 2008 Grand Attendance Prize Package to be given away at the 2008 ACFA Awards Banquet in December (**worth in excess of \$700 last year**).

So be sure to see Mike Lee at the sign-in table at the meetings and please wear a name tag. 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 and make new friends. Don't let "the BIG one get away" ;-)

**This is YOUR Newsletter...**

You are receiving this newsletter compliments of the ACFA, THE premier inshore fishing club of coastal Alabama.

We recognize the importance of getting this news to our members as quickly and efficiently as possible (the week prior to meetings) and always endeavor to do so. Membership dues (\$45) are now due for 2008 and MUST be paid in full for you and your family members to compete in the club tournaments. Mailing this newsletter represents one of the most expensive line items in the ACFA yearly budget. After the April mailing, non-renewing member's names will be purged from the mailing list. IF you would like to save the club some money (about \$5 per member per year) you can request to have your name removed from the postal mailing list by signing a "NO MAIL" waiver that will be passed around at the meetings or by asking any Club Officer to add your name (and email address) to the list or by adding your name to the list on our website to receive the mass email postings of the newsletter or read the newsletter online. We will try to have all the newsletters emailed and available on our website during the week they are mailed out. In addition a limited number of printed newsletters will be available at meetings and we'll try to maintain an archive of newsletters on the website for general use and referral @ <http://acfafishing.com/news.htm>

We welcome any comments or suggestions. Address comments, suggestions or corrections to the Newsletter Editor:

David Thornton 1711 Jasper Road Mobile, AL 36618 (458-2775) or email [pierpounder2001@hotmail.com](mailto:pierpounder2001@hotmail.com)

**New Member Sponsors**

In our twelfth year, and dues remain at \$45 (unchanged since the birth of ACFA.)

We're still the best fishing deal around!

That price includes spouses and children (under the age of 16 on Feb 1) to fish in our tournaments and to attend all ACFA functions including meetings, cookouts, weigh-ins and banquets. And why not talk to your friends about joining the ACFA? Even if they don't fish much, the food benefits alone are less than a single family seafood dinner at a local restaurant. And be sure that any new members you get to sign up put your name down as their sponsor in order to qualify you for the drawing of a FREE Dinner for two at a local restaurant. And again the member who sponsors the most new memberships will automatically win a free dinner for two as the Membership Sponsor Award for 2008 to be drawn at the April meeting. Be there!

**Donations are Needed ...**

For our monthly door prizes and for the 2008 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Please see, or call Jimmy Quint (377-4879) to donate or make arrangements.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks to the folks at West Marine who again this year donated the large ice chest to be used as the collection container for our Grand Attendance Prize Package which will be given away to a lucky member at the December Banquet.

**Kudos and THANKS!**

To the endeavorous team of Bill Midgette and Mutt Burke who recently marked the channel from the Chocolatta public ramps through Pass Picada to the Tensaw River. It was reported they have done this every year for quite some time. So next time you see those 3 inch white PVC pipes sticking up around the Causeway marking the safe way, say a little prayer of thanks for these good guys who did that for us all!

**Upcoming Tournaments...**

How would you like to make a contribution to a VERY worthy cause WHILE FISHING?! Well you'll get your chance in early May when United Cerebral Palsy will host it's first annual inshore fishing tournament in conjunction with the ACFA/WBFC Speckled Trout Challenge. Tickets are \$25 for each angler and will be available at Southern Bama, Tackle This, and at the ACFA meeting in May. They are offering some great prizes (donated by area tackle shops) like Calcutta reels, Ambassadeur rod & reel combos, gift certificates, coolers, life jackets and more. The species will be Flounder, Speckled Trout and White Trout. More details are pending at the April and May meetings so stay tuned!

Or you can check with Chris Conken (Treasurer) at the meeting, look online @ [http://www.ucp.org/ucp\\_local.cfm/160](http://www.ucp.org/ucp_local.cfm/160) or call the UCP office (near Dauphin St. @ Sage Ave.) Phone: (251) 479-4900 Fax: (251) 479-4998 or E-Mail: [info@ucpmobile.org](mailto:info@ucpmobile.org)

At the last meeting Barnie White reported the DDBRFC (Down Da Bayou Red Fish Club) wanted a rematch with the ACFA to avenge their loss to us in last year's redfish challenge match (the ACFA won in a 'squeaker'). It seems these guys will be gunning for us this year and the ACFA needs to muster any and all to participate in a fun times, fish-filled weekend in Louisiana for the Challenge to be held Memorial Day weekend. See Barnie White for details about accommodations, etc., check our website or <http://www.downdabayouredfishclub.com/>

The IFA Redfish Tour announced it will expand this year to include a Gulf Coast Division with stops in Panama City Beach, FL (May 10), Pensacola, FL (June 21), and Orange Beach, AL (Sept 13). This coupled with the Louisiana Division stops in Lafitte, LA (April 26), Grand Isle, LA (Aug 16), and Venice, LA (Oct 11) will give our area redfish anglers twice as many opportunities to qualify for the 2008 Redfish Series Championship to be held later in the fall. It's a great chance to learn tactics, tackle and talk (or just 'hang') with some of the best inshore anglers in the nation. See Barnie White or Paul Smith at the meetings for more details or check online @ <http://www.redfishtour.com/>

This week (March 27-30) the FLW Redfish Series will be in New Orleans, LA for the Pro-Am Louisiana Sportsman's open tournament.

IF any of our area anglers are fishing it (i.e. D.W. Garrettson), we wish them well. The tournament offers \$318,500 in prizes!

Other nearby stops on the FLW Tour are Panama City Beach, FL (May 1-3) and Venice, LA (June 12-14).

And the Championship will be held in Biloxi, MS (Oct 30– Nov 1, 2008).

You can get more details (and updates) online @ <http://redfish.flwoutdoors.com/schedule.cfm?cid=9>

"Go get 'em cuz!"

## ‘March Madness’ Tournament Results: March 15, 2008

	Sheepshead (13)	WT		Speckled Trout (20)	WT		Ground Mullet (5)	WT		White Trout (7)	WT
1	Donnie Howell	5.55	1	Bobby Abruscato	3.95	1	Donnie Howell	1.10	1	Trenton Pitt (J)	0.75
2	Jim Foster	5.15	2	Jimbo Miller	3.50	2	Leslie Smith	0.85	2	Doug Smith	0.60*
3	Mike Foster	4.90	3	John Fassbender	3.40	3	Alvin Bell	0.80	3	James Roushmi	0.60

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

Approximately 50 anglers weighed in 45 fish.

Junior Angler Trenton Pitt will receive first place points and plaque for his white trout.

Junior Angler Timmy Bradley will receive plaques for his speckled trout and sheepshead. No points here, but let's get more kids involved!

Donnie Howell and Patric Garmeson weighed in slot sized redfish for the Big Fish Contest.

Remember, redfish can be weighed in ONLY during ACFA Tournaments.

Some fish weighed in the tournament did not meet minimum requirements to post in the Big Fish Contest (refer to Rules: Minimum Weights)

Be sure to mark or tag YOUR fish to easily distinguish them from your partners during a tournament to avoid embarrassment or confusion.

Bobby Abruscato weighed in his first place speckled trout at 4:50 pm still alive, and I heard later released it. THAT's conservation in action!

## Tournament Point Standings as of March 15, 2008

PI	Name	TOTAL
1	Donnie Howell	15
2	Bobby Abruscato	8
2	Trenton Pitt (J)	8
2	Doug Smith	6
2	Jim Foster	6
2	Jimbo Miller	6
2	Leslie Smith	6
3	Alvin Bell	4
3	James Roushmi	4
3	John Fassbender	4
3	Mike Foster	4

Tied for 4th Place with 1 point each:

Adam Barker, Bill Midgette, Bryan Hack, Cameron Calhoun, Chris Massey, Dewayne Overstreet, Frank Mitternight, Gary Tingle, Jerald Bolen, Henry Nall, Brenda Wilson (L), Jarrod Yeend (N), Jerry Bolen (N), Justin Peacock (N), Mike Herring, Mutt Burke, Patric Garmeson, Phillip Guy, Richard Schantz (N), Rick Yeend, Robert Brewer (N), Scott Godwin, Steve O'Dell, Tim Pierce, Timmy Bradley (J), Tommy Murray, Vince Hawkins

\*\*\*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.\*\*\*

# The BIG Fish Contest

Current		18-Mar-08									
	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1			1			1	Donnie Howell	1.10	1	Donnie Howell	6.05
2			2			2			2	Patric Garmeson	5.95
3			3			3			3		
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1			1			1	Bill Patterson	6.80	1	Vicki Foster (L)	2.43
2			2			2	Bill Patterson	5.96	2	Michael Foster	2.09
3			3			3			3	Theo Koulianos (J)	2.03
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		

\* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

Statistician Vince Hawkins wants to remind everyone to please be sure and make a photocopy of your Big Fish Card before entrusting it to the mail.  
Better safe than sorry! **Mail to: Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611 (452-3899)**

## REMINDERS

- A raffle for a full day inshore redfish sight fishing charter trip for two anglers in LA marsh with Bruce Howle Sr (aka TOPDAWG).
- A raffle for a bass fishing trip on exclusive Steelwood Country Club Lake (near Stapleton, AL) see Patric Garmeson
- Junior Angler Division plaques: for 3 places in EVERY tournament
- 'Special' Pompano Division: added to our April tournament (3 plaques)
- 'Special' Tarpon C&R Tournament (Tarpoonapalooza) in August (with plaques)
- 'Special' Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout division (5 plaques)
- 'Mini-Seminars': to be given prior to the 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.
- 2008 dues are due now, pay by mail to avoid crowds and qualify for drawings to held at the April meeting.
- 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 and 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.



ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOC. BIG FISH CONTEST ENTRY	
DATE	
MEMBER'S NAME	
FISH TYPE	
WEIGHT	lbs.      oz.
WEIGHED AT	
WEIGHED BY	

ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOC. BIG FISH CONTEST ENTRY	
DATE	
MEMBER'S NAME	
FISH TYPE	
WEIGHT	lbs.      oz.
WEIGHED AT	
WEIGHED BY	

Signature of person weighing the fish

Fill out the above fields, print and have the person weighing the fish sign the form.

Then mail to:      Big Fish Contest  
C/O Vince Hawkins  
112 Barataria Drive  
Mobile, AL 36611

Signature of person weighing the fish

Fill out the above fields, print and have the person weighing the fish sign the form.

Then mail to:      Big Fish Contest  
C/O Vince Hawkins  
112 Barataria Drive  
Mobile, AL 36611

Shamelessly plagiarized from the archives @ <http://www.ncfisheries.net/fishfind/index.html>

# Troutasaurus Caught!

April 1, 2008

Scientists with the Alabama Division of Marine Resources were stunned when an unnamed local angler landed this 354 pound speckled trout while fishing from a boat launch pier on the Hwy 90 Causeway. The giant speck - scientific name "*Whooperus unbelievableus*" was caught on 2 pound test line after a fight lasting more than 6 hours in which the angler was dragged from the pier, out into Mobile Bay, past the Sea Buoy, and halfway to the Gulf stream. The angler was assisted by a passing freighter which used it's cargo crane to pluck him from the water still fighting the huge fish from a pair of floating 2' X 4' s he used as skis. The crane was later used to lift the mighty beast onto its deck and return the determined angler and his prize catch to the Port of Mobile. The angler was last seen at the military surplus store looking for a nuclear powered frying pan rumored to have been developed as part of project "X". He said he plans to donate it for the next ACFA fish fry!

APRIL FOOLS :-)

