

# Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume 1, Issue 6 July 2008

**Next Meeting:** July 3, 2008 **Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** American Legion Post 88 Halls Mill Road  
**Presentation:** **Joey Abruscato** "Summer Tactics"  
**Quick Hits:** by **Jimbo Miller**  
**NO Mini Seminar, July 'Junk Sale' instead**

## 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

## LATE SPRING SPECKtackular!



During the ACFA June 7, 2008 Tournament **Adam Barker** (L) and **Jim Foster** (R) landed back-to-back 5# plus specks. A little while later Adam caught another speck over 5# that earned him 3rd Place in the June Tournament, while Jim's 5.60# trout finished in First Place! These three, plus **Chris Massey's** 5.5# speck were the first time since June 2006 the top 3 place speckled trout were over 5 pounds. And with **Doug Houston's** 4.95# trout it's likely the first time in the club's history 5 specks of this size were entered in a tournament on the same day!



Fishing a top water bait along with his longtime "padna" **Rick Tourne'** early Saturday morning on May 31st, **Donald Wayne Garrettson** (R) landed this huge speck. His 'personal best' trout, it's 27" long and weighed 6.91#.

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### Will they know where you are?

Suppose you're overdue from a fishing trip (for whatever reason). Would your family know where to tell the Coast Guard and AL Marine Police where to start looking for you, or even be able to give them an accurate description of the boat they are looking for?

Possibly one of the most important pieces of safety gear is a piece of paper. IF you fill out (and file) a US Coast Guard Float Plan then a detailed description of you and your boat is readily available for your family to give the officials who will be on the water trying to bring you home quickly and safely. See the last page of this newsletter for a copy, **AND USE IT!**

### Next Meeting Highlights...

Our July 3rd meeting will be at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place). There will be **NO Mini-Seminar** this month. Instead we will host the "**ACFA July Junk Sale**". What is that you might ask...? Just get to the meeting hall a little early (6-6:30 pm) and bring any unused or unwanted items you'd like to part with. There will be tables set up near the front of the room where you can spread your wares. Better get there early before Bill Midgette though ;-). We will try to have labels on hand for you to put your name and the amount you're asking. ALL we ask in return is 10% of the proceeds for the club treasury. It's as simple as that! Remember the ole saying, "One man's 'trash' is another man's treasure"!

So how does this work? Let's say "John Fisher" has several used lures, several packs of plastic baits he's never opened, and an old anchor. He keeps a record of the transactions and sells them all for a total of \$18.50. At the end of meeting he simply takes 10% of what he got for his stuff (\$1.85) and gives that (or ANY more) to the club Treasurer (**Chris Conken**). Even the small amounts add up as this sale usually has several hundreds of dollars changing hands, some old gear gets sold and the club nets \$50 or more. **So please come early (6-6:30) to sell and buy, bring your items, and small bills and change** (to speed the transactions).

### The July "Rodeo Warm-Up" Tournament

will be held Saturday July 5th from 5am to 5pm, and the weighin (from 3pm-5pm) will be at "the usual place", behind the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (Hwy 163) just south of the blinking light by the Greer's Food tiger store. Five species (**Speckled trout, Flounder, Redfish, White trout and Blackfish**) are on the slate this month with a twist. The Speckled trout category will be a **5 fish creel** for two angler teams (though a single angler may fish and enter 5 specks by them self if they wish). And don't forget we will be awarding plaques for the 3 heaviest of these 5 species caught by junior anglers. So go get 'em kids! Let's hope and pray we have good weather for a change!

Just a reminder that redfish can **ONLY** be weighed in at ACFA weigh ins to ensure compliance with the 26" maximum length. Fish are measured on the same rule with the tail pinched. This complies with AL DCNR MR standards.

### June Tournament Recap:

Again the weather failed to cooperate for our "Summer Starter" Tournament held Saturday May 3rd, 2008. None of our tournaments have had good weather this year and the participation (and size of the fish) has really suffered. Still ACFA members will not be deterred by adverse conditions and five speckled trout of 5 pounds or better were weighed in. That's a FINE showing!

**Speckled Trout** 26 total (3 Jr anglers) (1st **Christian Howell** 2.00, 2nd **Theo Koulianos** 1.50, 3rd **John Parker** 1.45)  
1st **Jim Foster** 5.60, 2nd **Chris Massey** 5.50, 3rd **Adam Barker** 5.40

**Flounder** 15 total (2 Jr anglers) (1st **Will Parker** 2.10, **Theo Koulianos** 1.70)  
1st **Daniel Ford** 4.35, 2nd **Mike Herring** 2.45\* (tie), 3rd **Shane Ford** 2.45

**Redfish** 11 total (2 Jr anglers) (1st **Rileigh Hawkins** 2.95, 2nd **Lindsey Hawkins** 2.45)  
1st **Phillip Guy** 4.05, 2nd **Vicki Foster (L)** 3.70, 3rd **Donald Garrettson** 3.05

**Ground Mullet** 4 total (the only Jr angler placed 3rd overall)  
1st **Tim Pierce** 1.05, 2nd **Donnie Howell** .75, 3rd **Savannah Calhoun (J)** .55

56 total entries, 7 Junior angler plaques will be awarded, **NO spanish mackerel** entered!

IF you missed out on the grilled chicken and delicious scalloped potatoes plus the other fixins provided by **Brenda and Steve Wilson**, then you really missed a treat. Those two can cook, and cook and cook! And it's ALL good ;-). Thanks again folks!!!!

Many thanks to **Jason and Margaret Miller** (assisted by **Frank Parker III**, along with his brothers **John and Will Parker**) for their tireless work (and plenty of laughs) at the weigh in table. Also, special thanks to Ken McCrae and Bill Lauber of the USCG Aux. For their help in inspecting and certifying over 20 boats. IF you missed OUR safety check you can still catch them the next time @ the Chocolata Public Ramp (on the Causeway) Saturday July 19th from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Thanks again guys!

### DBRC / ACFA Club Challenge Results - DBRC Wins Rematch

Well the DBRC (Down Da Bayou Redfish Club) brought the team and the marching band to the 'grudge challenge' with the ACFA in Hopedale, LA for the rematch on Saturday May 31st. We mustered 9 teams (most are ACFA members) and the DBRC had 24 teams. Not surprisingly, they beat us 31 points to 24 points. But that's not a bad showing considering we were outmanned almost 3:1 Thanks and congratulations to all those who made the trek over to compete with some fine fellows and fishing.

**(2nd) Paul Smith & Kyle Mitternacht, (3rd) Erik Nelson & Dane Tomberlin, (6th) Vince Hawkins & Pree Middleton/Bart McCory, (9th) Bobby Abruscato & Scott Ritter, Bruce Howle Jr & Larry Kirby, Pat Reichley & Sid Jackson, Doug Smith & Bruce Howle Sr, Barnie White & Steve White.** Congratulations to you all! We'll get 'em back next year ;-)

## Ye OLDE News:

80% of the fishermen catch 20% of the fish. We all want to be in the 20% that catches 80% of the fish! That's the theme that motivates the "Blue Can Brigade" to fish so hard. **Jim Foster** and **Adam Barker** carried the blue can for **Patric Garmeson** (who was delayed at work) for the June Mini Seminar. The guys talked about choosing their fishing spots and other pre-tournament planning. And trying different baits and tactics to locate and stay on a good bite. With an assist from **Joe Sirmon**, they talked about tagging speckled trout and their catch & release preparations to make the process as quick as possible for the fish's welfare.

Ed Lamberth, the CCA AL Government Relations man talked a bit about their efforts to end gill netting in Alabama waters. The recent legislative efforts did bring us closer to that goal, but with a compromise that allows the present resident net permit holders to continue netting for the rest of their lives. However, Ed reported that 70 of the 104 resident gill netters had inquired with the state Dept of Conservation about the VOLUNTARY buyout that will go in effect March 1, 2009. We'll see what happens then! Until then we all can petition the Commissioner (Barnett Lawley) to act on the CCA proposals made to the Department to ban monofilament gill nets, close certain areas to netting and protect the migratory species along the gulf beaches. Write to him!

The venerable **O.P. Harrison** had some tips and tales to tell, along with a bit of history about the use of slip cork rigs and 'bobber stoppers' (crediting Ed Dobson with using it here first in the early 1970s). He discussed fishing the tides and fishing the passes during slack tidal periods and NEAP tides. Also he talked about using the slip cork rig drifting in the current (at different depths) to locate feeding trout in the vicinity of structure BEFORE dropping the anchor. That's a great tip! Thanks O.P.

And kudos to Ken McCrae and Bill Lauber of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary for coming to the meeting to discuss the details of what the CG Auxiliary does and give details about their free inspections (again) offered at the June weigh in. At the meeting Bill explained how most boaters will bear no expense for their rig and fishing gear, yet scrimp on their safety equipment. He urged us to think in terms of "the worst case scenario." A sobering thought indeed! With that in mind a copy of the US Coast Guard Float Plan is included at the end of this newsletter. A good idea, but it does you no good UNLESS YOU FILL IT OUT and file it! Hopefully, it will never need to be accessed, just like the other safety equipment in your boat. But some day, ...

## ACFA's in Other Tournaments...

Yellow Jacket Open: June 7th **Doug Houston** 3rd place Speckled Trout 4.93#

Ineos Phenol: June 7th **Terry Quint** 2nd place Speckled Trout 4.94#

WNSP/92ZEW: June 21st **Chris Massey** 3rd place Speckled Trout 5.07#

Stormin Norman: June 21st **Adam Barker, Jim Foster, Patric Garmeson** 2nd place Flounder (3) 5.8#

just bumping **Vince Hawkins** and his team to 3rd place Flounder (3) 5.6#

This is just a partial list, my apologies to anyone missed this month. PLEASE let me know and I'll put you in the next newsletter.

## 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) in August (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.
- The ACFA '**Junk Sale**' at the **July** meeting. Start rounding up all your old gear. (Details on page 2)

PI	Name	Points
1	Donnie Howell	22
2	Jim Foster	21
3	Mike Herring	15
4	Phillip Guy	13
5	Chris Massey	11
5	Dave Growden (N)	11
6	Jimbo Miller	10
7	Adam Barker	9
7	Rick Yeend	9
7	Tim Pierce	9
8	Bobby Abruscato	8
8	Dane Tomberlin	8
8	Daniel Ford	8
8	Steve O'Dell	8
8	Trenton Pitt (J)	8
8	Vicki Foster (L)	8
9	Doug Smith	7
9	Henry Nall	7
9	Jarrold Yeend (N)	7
9	Leslie Smith	7
10	Alvin Bell	6
10	John Fassbender	6
10	Mike Foster	6
11	Justin Peacock (N)	5
11	Rick Tourne'	5

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

## Statistics...

As of June 7th (after four tournaments) the point standings are as follows:

**The following members have 4 points:** Austin Lee (J), Bill Midgette, Chris Conken, David Thornton, Donald Garrettson, James Roushmi, Patric Garmeson, Savannah Calhoun (J), Shane Ford

**The following members have 3 points:** Bill Duke, Billy Hurd, George Koulianos, Tommy Murray, Tommy Pond

**The following members have 2 points:** Bill Perry (N), David McNew, Dwain Mangold (N), Frank Parker, Gerald Bolen, Jason Miller, Jerry Bolen (N), John Burke III, Margaret Miller (L), Richard Schantz (N), Robert Brewer (N), Theo Koulianos (J), Vince Hawkins

**The following members have 1 point:** Blake Michaleski, Bob Maclay (N), Bob Ward (N), Brenda Wilson (L), Bryan Hack, Cameron Calhoun, Christian Howell (J), David Hare, Del Delchamps, Dewayne Overstreet, Donna Schantz (L)(N), Donnie Fassbender, Doug Houston, Doug Tierce, Frank Mitternacht, Frank Parker III (J), Gary Tingle, Howie Galloway (N), Jarred Kelly (N), John Parker (J), Josh Woolums, Judy Smith (L), Keith Kenney (N), Kim Guy (L), Larry Watkins, Lindsey Hawkins (J), Mike Lee, Mike McDonald, Mutt Burke, O.P. Harrison IV (N), Pat Hughes, Richard Hoffman (N), Rileigh Hawkins (J), Ronnie Dyson, Scott Godwin, Ted Kiefer, Timmy Bradley (J), Todd Golomb, Will Parker (J)

'CPR' Speckled Trout standings as of June 20, 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 23-May-08

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1			1	Gerald Markow	4.69	1	Donnie Howell	1.10	1	Erik Nelson	7.45
2			2	Daniel Ford	4.35	2	Tim Pierce	1.05	2	George Koulianos	6.55
3			3	Rick Tourne	4.18	3			3	Jason Miller	6.45
4			4	George Koulianos	3.90	4			4	Donnie Howell	6.05
5			5	Doug Houston	3.79	5			5	Patric Garmeson	5.95
	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	Don Ludlam	3.35	3	Bill Patterson	6.80	3	Theo Koulianos (J)	2.03
4			4	Bobby McElroy	3.34	4	Bill Patterson	6.80	4		
5			5			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)**



Fill out this form and file a keep copy in your home (with family knowledge) in case you are overdue and a search becomes necessary.



www.cgaux.org

# FLOAT PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this plan before you go boating and leave it with a reliable person who can be depended upon to notify the Coast Guard, or other rescue organization, should you not return or check-in as scheduled. If you have a **change of plans** after leaving, be sure to notify the person holding your Float Plan.

Do **NOT** file this plan with the Coast Guard.



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## VESSEL

### IDENTIFICATION:

Name & Home Port \_\_\_\_\_  
 Doc. / Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year & Make \_\_\_\_\_  
 Length \_\_\_\_\_ Type **PWR** Draft \_\_\_\_\_ (inch/CM) Hull Mat. **Fiber**  
 Hull Color(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prominent Feature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

Radio Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
 DSC MMSI Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Radio-1: Type **VHF-FM** Ch / Freq. Monitored \_\_\_\_\_  
 Radio-2: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Ch / Freq. Monitored \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pager \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPULSION:

Primary - Type **Gas IO** No. Eng. \_\_\_\_\_ Fuel Capacity \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auxiliary - Type **none** No. Eng. \_\_\_\_\_ Fuel Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

### NAVIGATION: (Check all on board)

Maps  Charts  Compass  GPS / DGPS  
 Radar  Loran C  Sounder  \_\_\_\_\_

## SAFETY & SURVIVAL

### VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS:

Day Only type  
 Night Only type  
 Day & Night type

### AUDIBLE DISTRESS SIGNALS:

Horn / Whistle  
 Bell  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER GEAR / SUPPLIES:

Lifeboat / Life Raft  Flashlight / Searchlight  
 Dinghy / Skiff  Signal Mirror  
 Food / Water  Drogue / Sea Anchor

### PFDS: (Do not count Type IV devices)

Quantity on board \_\_\_\_\_

### GROUND TACKLE:

Anchor - line length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

### OTHER GEAR / SUPPLIES:

EPIRB **none**  
 Foul Weather Gear

## PERSONS ON BOARD

### OPERATOR:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vehicle (Year, Make & Model) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Where will trailer be parked? \_\_\_\_\_

Age M/F Notes (Special medical condition, Can't swim, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Experience: w/Boat  w/Area   
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vehicle License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trailer License No. \_\_\_\_\_

### PASSENGERS:

Name & Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. \_\_\_\_\_

Age M/F Notes (Special medical condition, Can't swim, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach Supplemental Passenger List if additional passengers on board.

## ITINERARY

	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	MODE OF TRAVEL	REASON FOR STOP	CHECK-IN TIME
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						

Attach Supplemental Itinerary if additional space required.

Contact 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a genuine concern for the safety or welfare of any persons on board this vessel, who have not returned or checked-in within a reasonable amount of time, then follow the step-by-step instructions on the Boating Emergency Guide included with this plan, or on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.uscgaux.org/~floatplan/BoatingEmergencyGuide.htm>