



# DIFF CLUB NEWS



## AT THE TOP



Laughlin

### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

The Sanderling is most commonly seen in flocks chasing receding waves on ocean beaches, and running away from them when they return using quick staccato steps. It is found worldwide on tropical and temperate sandy beaches. It breeds in the high Arctic and winters along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts from Canada to Argentina. The Sanderling, a pale small sandpiper, can be a welcome and humorous diversion...especially when the fishing is slow.



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## 23rd Annual Fall Tourney Wet and Wild!

The twenty-third DIFF Fall Surf Fishing Tournament was held September 25 through September 27, 2008. Last year animal grass was our nemesis. This year it was high winds and high water. The ferry service was suspended much of Wednesday and Thursday due to near gale force winds from a no-name storm. Trucks unloaded thru more than a foot of water at the dock. The high tide early Thursday morning and again Thursday afternoon redefined the dune lines all over the island. Many experienced fishermen were astounded by the speed of the intruding tide at the Rock Jetty late Thursday afternoon. Some vehicles barely escaped via ramp 45. Others were trapped for hours between the ocean and the dunes.

A record one hundred ninety-four contestants entered this year's Fall Tournament. The weather made the selection of two named fish categories a big challenge this year. We selected Black Drum because of their reputation for rough water. In desperation, I sug-

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## First DIFF Scholarship Recipient

The DIFF Board of Directors is honored to present our first \$500 B.K. Barringer Student Scholarship to Erin Holcomb. Erin is the daughter of Ernie and Beth Holcomb, and they reside in Yadkinville, North Carolina. Erin attended Forbush High School.

We were pleased that our first scholarship went to such a talented, well-rounded young person. Erin is a scholar who finished at the top of her class and attended the Governor's School for Mathematics. Being a talented artist also, she was nominated for The

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gested a wild-card for the final fish category. This proved to be very interesting and was well received.

The weather on the island moderated Thursday morning for our pre-tournament meeting. I was amazed that most of the entrants were able to sign in on Thursday morning. We waived the normal roll-call and extended sign in time thru Saturday morning in consideration of the weather-related ferry service limitations. I noted the common bond of all DIFF members as a love affair with this island based on our past experiences. The DIFF Fall Tournament is for bragging rights, with prize money used as a way to keep score. Everyone was reminded of our responsibility as leaders to always comply with NPS CALO and NCDMF rules. J. W. Smith again held an adjunct contest for the slot-size Drum with the most spots. Dr. Michael Rickard (NPS CALO senior biologist) addressed the group on endangered species status and the ORV plan progress. Connie Grant offered a prayer of thanks and good fishing. The DIFF members faced the American flag as the *National Anthem* reminded us of how fortunate we are to be in this place. The tournament began with "Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Fishing".

We enjoyed having three youngsters in the Tournament: four-year veteran twelve year-old Tate Wilkinson of Lucama NC, second-year nine year-old Tyler Reavis of East Bend NC and first-year twelve year-old Wilson Eury of Banner Elk NC.

Ed Caskey and Vickie King presented valuable door prizes provided by this year's sponsors. Thanks to Ed and Vickie for a great job coordinating sponsors and door prizes. Steven Baker won the Rock Jetty combo rod and reel raffle donated by Tradewinds Bait and Tackle of Ocracoke and Chris Custom Fence and Decking. Roger Baldwin won the Core Banks Heaver courtesy of Hatteras Jacks and Ed Caskey. Johnny Wells won the "Point" Drum combo donated by Pure Fishing and ABU Garcia. Gene Stewart won the Ramp 41 Sea Mullet combo courtesy of Tradewinds Tackle and Daniel Hefner Plumbing. Sam Lemoind of Concord NC won the Honda 2000i generator raffle donated by Ned Arthur of H&S Roofing in Charlotte. Thanks to everyone for supporting our raffles.

White Swan of Atlantic Beach NC again deliv-



### DIFF goes Hi-Tech

ered the Saturday lunch consisting of Bar-B-Que pork and chicken with all the trimmings. A special thanks to Bill Stiles of Stiles and Company in Statesville NC for sponsoring the tasty lunch.

Scot King and Steven Caskey captured weigh-in data on a computer spreadsheet for the first time. We believe it can speedup our prize calculation process. We weighed 206 fish totaling 506 pounds. There were seventeen Big Red Drum measured and released. The highest fish count was Puppy Drum with forty-seven fish weighed. Flounder was the most scarce species, only eleven were weighed. See the table page 7 for winner details.

Two prizes were donated as memorials to DIFF members. The Yadkin County gang donated a rod and reel to the Flounder winner in memory of John Thomas Powell of East Bend NC.

Chip Everette donated a rod and reel to the Whiting winner in memory of Ro-Ho Barefoot of Dunn NC. Davis Shore Ferry Service donated two pink rods and reels to the top fisherwomen.



**Kevin Davis**



**Ferry landing flooded**

The stories and memories from this tournament will last a lifetime. I attempted to continue my Puppy Drum bragging rights with a nice broad-shouldered 26" Pup. The only problem is I caught it on Tuesday. Ask Adam White about his ferryboat ride on three wheels. Who saw Kelly Fields Williams and Tate Wilkinson being chased by two ferocious ells on the Coast Guard pier? Hint: the wild ells had some help from L.G. Fields. After being skunked in 2007, Kevin Davis was determined to return to his winning ways. Arguably the toughest guy in the tournament, Kevin was stung by a stingray on Monday. He soaked his swollen hand in a hot coffee pot for two hours to reduce the extreme pain. When I met him on Tuesday, he did not have enough grip to shake my hand. Kevin and some of his Yadkin County friends had secured their tent Monday on the North End with two feet of sand to withstand the high winds. By Thursday the high water evicted them from their tent. So, who took first



**Patti Barefoot**

place in Red Drum? Kevin. While many of us were dealing with wind and high water on the island, Andy Riggleman waited patiently for two days to get his truck on the ferry boat Friday morning. Everybody knows that patience and luck are the two most important reasons for fishing success. So, who

took first place in Whiting and the most total prize money? Andy.

Patti Barefoot made a courageous speech about her late husband Robert "Ro-Ho" Barefoot. Ro-Ho was one of the best surf fishermen to ever set foot on Davis Island and a master of Whiting. He willingly shared his fishing knowledge.

The 2008 tournament was a big success thanks to the following team: B. K. Barringer, Ed Caskey, Niles Chumley, the entire Davis Shore Ferry Service staff, Jack Davis, Connie Grant, Hank Hammond, David Holcomb, Scot King, Vickie King, Rich Lambert, Mike Laughlin, J. W. Smith, Robert Wilson, Russ Wilson (NPS, CALO), Roger Wise, Lynn Winstead (NPS, CALO). What a great team!

This was my sixth and final year as your tournament director. During this time the tournament entries have grown by 49% from 130 entrants to 194. The number of winning places has grown by 60% from five places for seven species to seven places for eight species. The total prize money has grown by 60% from \$6,000 to \$9,600. Yet, the \$60 entry fee has not increased. We are extremely fortunate to have a team of hard working individuals that devote unselfishly to make this tournament a success. Please let us know if you can help in any way with upcoming tournaments.



**Mark Weir**

The 2009 Fall Tournament is planned for September 24-26. Start making your plans. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed. Final rules and entry forms will be available at the annual membership meeting in Pineville. Support our current and past sponsors listed at [www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com). If you have never attended a DIFF Tournament, you are missing a fun event for both the novice and veteran. It is a great opportunity to exchange fishing tales and make new friends!



# WINNERS

## 23rd ANNUAL FALL TOURNAMENT



### Red Drum

(L to R) **1st Place: Kevin Davis L+G=65"**; 2nd: Adam White;  
3rd: Bubba Johnston; 4th: Derrick Crater; 5th : Mike Matthews;  
6th: Bruce Watkins; 7th: Diana Holcomb.



### Flounder

(L to R) **1st Place: Jeff C. Ritchie;**  
2nd: Scotty Gordon; 3rd: Don Eury;  
4th: Adam White; 5th: (tie) Bill Parham,  
Ernie Holcomb; 7th: Johnny Eldridge.



### Blue Fish

(L to R) **1st Place: Rick Lyles;**  
2nd: Ernie Holcomb; 3rd: Jim Harley;  
4th: (tie) Allen Rivenbark, Harold D. Smith;  
6th: Randy Parham; 7th: Devin Curtsinger.

# President's Letter

**A**s I rotate off as a board member and as the President of DIFF, I do so with great apprehension. Apprehensive because of what I am going to miss. I think back to 10 years ago when I first got off of the ferry and my first impression. I knew from that day that I was as close to paradise as this ole boy would get while on earth. It was one of those moments in time that you always remember. With me, some of those have been, my wedding day, the day my children were born, my favorite Christmas present as a child, the day JFK died, the day the Challenger exploded, 9-11 and now the day that I stepped foot on the island. Not meaning that my impression of the island was as important as the other things in my life and history but it was memorable, very memorable.

A remarkable thing about this island is that not much has changed over these years as a result of man's hand. We seem to have finally got this one right. We have left it alone and worked to preserve the heritage, the beauty and the fishing that has taken place on this gift for many years. Use of the island has always been foremost with DIFF members, USE being the action word and not ABUSE. I am proud of what DIFF has accomplished over the years and look at DIFF as a guardian of this gift from God. I have seen very little abuse while I have been on the island and commend our members for their effort. This effort can only help to provide this experience for those who follow us. Let no man destroy what God has made.

Another reason for my heavy heart in leaving is the knowing that I leave much work undone. We have so much more to do with different projects and events and I beg you to help. I am truly amazed at what the board members do and what task they have before them. I think back on some of the tales I have heard from BK Barringer about how hard the Board and members worked to get some of the old automobile wrecks off of the island and how they stood up to some pretty serious threats from other groups who just don't understand our fishing.

I think of all the work of members who have since passed away, losing quiet a few here recently.

They have made me proud to serve knowing what the island meant to them.

I marvel at some of the tasks done by the present board members: Mike Laughlin for publishing a professional grade Newsletter; Mark Weir for running a tournament with the precision of a Swiss watch maker. Ed Caskey has met no person that can tell him "NO" when he is out beating the bushes for donations and prizes. Scot King has researched the ORV issues with the same intensity as if working on his doctoral thesis. Niles Chumley working to prove we are more than fishing by awarding our first scholarship to a most deserving young lady. Rich Frank puts on the finest eating meeting at Pineville that has just gotten better year after year. Roger Wise led us through the troubled times with the Blue Water Network with much assistance from Mark and Robert Wilson. Lastly, the outlook of Vickie King who has given us the "other side of the story" made us a more personable board, knocking off many rough edges. She has helped mold each committee she serves and will be an asset at the treasury office. I said this before but I will say it again, I could conquer the world with 100 soldiers like the board that serves you. They do it with heart and ask for nothing in return. Join in when they ask.

Lastly, my apprehension borders emotional knowing that I have met some of the nicest humans that ever walked on God's earth. I have never been denied a single request made to anyone associated with the island. Requests including those to all the fishers on the island, the National Park Service, Davis Shore Ferry and more friends than I deserve. I have shared more laughs and smiles in my short time than I ever expected. I have learned much more than fishing from each of you.

And I have smelled the freshest air, tasted the finest salt spray and seen the most beautiful sunrise and sunset in my 55 years. Until I cast over you,

**Con Grant**



Dear DIFF members: I have enjoyed editing and publishing the DIFF Newsletter for the past five years, however, it is now time to pass those duties to the very capable Mark Weir. I have an abiding love for Core Banks South and all its many moods...from howling winds and rip currents to glassy calm. Davis Island has provided me a place of serenity where I can fully appreciate the grandeur of God's Creation. Here, I can stop... and just be. I will return as often as I can to fish, take critter pix and keep my ego in its proper place. I leave you with some of my favorite memories. **Mike Laughlin**



In Memoriam  
**Bobby Lynn (Roho) Barefoot**  
1955-2008

**John Tate Dunaway, Sr.**  
1936-2008

**James Hildreth Gaither, Jr.**  
1944-2008



**Whiting**

(L to R) **1st Place: Andrew Riggleman;**  
 2nd: (tie) Carol Barefoot, Benjamin Riggleman;  
 4th: (tie) Dennis Pegram, Sr, J.W.Smith,  
 Mike Tart; 7th: Lanier Mitchum.



**Puppy Drum**

(L to R) **1st Place: Calvin Moore;**  
 2nd: Herman Vick, Jr; 3rd: Scotty Gordon;  
 4th: (tie) Barry Harris, J.W.Smith;  
 6th: Todd Moore; 7th: Herman Vick, Sr.



**Black Drum**

(L to R) **1st Place: Sharron Rivenbark;**  
 2nd: Allen Rivenbark; 3rd: Andrew Riggleman;  
 4th: Carol B. Barefoot; 5th: (tie) Lee Hege,  
 Douglas Jones; 7th: Tate Wilkinson.



**Wild Card**

(L to R) **1st Place: Mike Fulkerson;**  
 2nd: John Reams; 3rd: Tommy Johnston;  
 4th: Andrew Riggleman; 5th: Benjamin  
 Riggleman; 6th: (tie) Bill Parham,  
 Dennis Pegram, Sr.



**Jeff C. Ritchie**



**Carol Barefoot**



**Calvin Moore**

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Governor's School of the Arts as well. She has painted five murals for the Yadkin County Courthouse - each mural depicting scenery from Yadkin County. And she has been very active in community work with numerous charitable events. Additionally, Erin is an outstanding athlete in girls' volleyball and soccer. She received the Forbush High School Wendy's Heisman Award.

It is especially gratifying to present our first scholarship to a young person who has enjoyed the beauty of Cape Lookout with her family. As many of you may know, her father, Ernie, is an excellent surf fisherman who usually places in several fish categories at our annual tournaments.

We wish Erin well as she attends The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is planning to major in chemistry or biology. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career as a physician or a surgeon.

The Davis Island Fishing Foundation offer opportunities for three \$500 scholarship. There are two scholarships for high school seniors who are planning to attend a post-secondary school and one scholarship for college seniors to attend graduate school. More information and the applications may be found on the website. If current members have a child or relative who is a high school or college senior and is planning to continue his or her education after high school or college, we encourage you to have him or her apply for one of our \$500 scholarships. This may be done by going to [www.DIFFClub.com](http://www.DIFFClub.com) and following the instructions. The website may also be accessed from a link at [www.drumwagon.com](http://www.drumwagon.com).

The Davis Island Fishing Foundation awards grants up to \$500 for individuals or non-profit organizations who conduct projects that can have a positive impact on the environment, marine or wildlife species, or the community. Unlike the DIFF Scholarship, one does not need to be a DIFF member or a relative of a DIFF member to apply for or to receive a grant. Grant information and applications may be accessed from the website(s) mentioned above.

**Niles Chumley**



## 3rd Annual Family Tournament

**W**OW is all I can say! The third annual Family tournament was a huge success for those that entered. It was truly a remarkable time for all. Many stories, many friends, great weather, and most importantly, many, many fish. For those who could not make it, you missed one of the most memorable trips of my short time on the island. Old timers told me it was like blitzes of the past.

With weather beyond comparison for November 1<sup>st</sup>, we started the tournament with all the teams meeting at the caretaker's cabin, with a short rules meeting and an invocation by yours truly, we started a little after 10:00 am. Many of the contestants wanted to find what, where, when the fish were biting from others that had been on the island before the start of the tournament. Little did they know they were biting almost everywhere on the island and almost all day and night. All teams caught fish of the tournament size requirement with the last place team turning in 45 fish caught in the 27 hour period! This would have been enough fish to win the two previous family tournaments.

Again, the South Carolina boys took their usual taunting from our dear friends to the north in stride and returned the volley in a nice polite manner. Still, the line was drawn in the sand and the challenge was made. With some of our original members occupied with less important things at home, we were able to offer singleton, Ernie Holcomb membership to the Just Fish team. We welcomed him with open arms, knowing that the fishers from the foothills of Yadkin County have been known to catch a fish or 25.

We found out quickly what makes these folks so effective in catching fish, they are tough as nails. In one of the many Blue Blitzes we found up and down the coast, Ernie had the misfortune of driving a treble hook in his communication finger, (middle finger) almost through the fingernail. Not pretty. I told him I was not a doctor but I had stayed in a Holiday Inn Express a time or two. I saw something after this I have only read about in magazines. I held the hook with long nose pliers, braced

on the tailgate of his truck. With much effort he cut with a razor and pulled simultaneously until the hook popped loose. I placed a chair behind him in case he was to get faint, with sweat running down his face, I had to sit down! Blood dripping, peroxide running down his arm, he said, "let's fish".

That we did. We caught blues and more blues until we thought we had enough for the victory. Keeping only enough blues for a fish fry, we were able to release over 175 blues to swim again. Nice fish were caught by Niles Chumley a 4.5 pound trout and young Sam Thompson a nice drum. Ray Coates' team caught some nice whiting and Hank Hammond and Niles Chumley caught over a 100 blues in one blitz. Many fish were caught by the Fish Ambulance, Ray's Auto, and Mebane Group teams. These were of finer quality than the aforementioned Blues. They all had pretty and numerous fish on their stringers.

That being said, the most important aspect of the tournament was a nice, friendly, and relaxed time by all. Many thanks go to DIFF Board members Niles Chumley, Vickie and Scot King, and member Hank Hammond. The tournament success was the result of their work, effort and assistance.

### Con Grant



**Niles Chumley with Citation Speckled Trout and Puppy Drum**

## Family Tourney Results

**1st Place: *Just Fish:*** Niles Chumley, Con Grant, Hank Hammond, Ernie Holcomb.

**2nd Place: *Fish Ambulance:*** Jim Thompson, Clyde Cheek, Sanford Thompson, Sam Thompson.

**3rd Place: *Ray's Auto:*** Ray Coates, Mary Coates, Lindsay Barksdale, Danny Norris.

**4th Place: *Mebane Gang:*** Danny Morton, Tim Doss, David McPherson.

**5th Place tie (2): *Team Taz:*** David Holcomb, Diana Holcomb, Charles Holcomb.

***Reel Action Heroes and Sand Witches:*** Scot King, David Young, Heather Young, Vickie King.

## Fall Tourney Top Ten

<b>1st: Andrew Riggleman</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>
<b>2nd: Kevin Davis</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>3rd: Adam White</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>
<b>4th: Allen Rivenbark</b>	<b>\$437.50</b>
<b>5th: Ernie Holcomb</b>	<b>\$412.50</b>
<b>6th tie: Calvin Moore</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>6th tie: Jeff C. Ritchie</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>6th tie: Mike Fulkerson</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>6th tie: Carol B. Barefoot</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>10th: Benjamin Riggleman</b>	<b>\$375.00</b>

# DIFF Club News

Davis Island Fishing Foundation  
P.O. Box 72395  
Durham, NC 27722

## **Notice**

**DIFF Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, Feb 21, 2008**  
**11:00 AM**  
**“The Hut”**  
**413 Johnston Drive**  
**Pineville, NC**



**Davis Island Fishing  
Foundation**

P.O. Box 72395  
Durham, NC 27722

### **Officers**

Con Grant, President 803 329 1265  
Mark Weir, Vice President 336 751 5135  
Vickie King, Treasurer 919 632 3099  
Mike Laughlin, Secretary 803 328 8915

### **Board of Directors**

B. K. Barringer 704 663 4044  
Ed Caskey 803 285 9025  
Niles Chumley 803 366 5079  
Richard Frank 704 588 4549  
Connie Grant 803 329 1265  
Scot King 919 632 3099  
Robert Wilson 252 235 5141  
Roger Wise 336 766 9473

Email us at: [diff@diffclub.com](mailto:diff@diffclub.com)

**DIFF...Beyond fishing!**

*The Davis Island Fishing Foundation is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the cultural, historic and natural heritage of Davis Island in Carteret County, NC.*

*The DIFF CLUB helps maintain the cabins at the Great Island camp and is involved in projects designed to protect the fish and wildlife population in the portion of Cape Lookout Seashore known as Core Banks South.*

*Club members can fish in annual spring and fall fishing tournaments sponsored by the Club.*

*If you are interested in joining DIFF, visit our website, [diff@diffclub.com](mailto:diff@diffclub.com) for membership form.*

*This newsletter is published quarterly and edited by Mike Laughlin. 803 328 8915.*

