



# DIFF CLUB NEWS



## AT THE TOP



### Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

The largest, deepest diving, and most migratory and wide ranging of all sea turtles. Adults can reach 4 to 8 feet in length and 500 to 2000 pounds in weight. Its shell is composed of a mosaic of small bones covered by firm, rubbery skin with seven longitudinal ridges or keels. The skin is black with varying degrees of pale spotting including a pink spot on the dorsal surface of the head in adults. Main diet is jellyfish, sea urchins and squid. Females nest 5-7 times/year laying 70-80 eggs at a time preferring steep, sandy beaches.

Status: Endangered.



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## Second Annual Spring Tournament

As I was preparing for the 2007 Spring Tournament, I had ideas that we would sign up 25 new members and have 70 participants in this year's events. I was way off with my estimations and my expectations. While we registered only 40 fishermen for this year's tournament I, being semi-pessimistic and see half empty glasses, began to feel a sense of disappointment.

Although, this sense of setback did not last long, after a final count, we had 39 fishermen in the event making up 10 teams. We registered 5 new members to the DIFF club and saw the excitement grow with these "newbies" to our sport. We started the spring tournament with a few words concerning the tournament format from yours truly followed with some reports from three DIFF Board of Directors present for this year's event. Vickie King shared with us the procedures of sponsorship of the Fall Tournament. Scot King invited all members to speak with him if they had any items or ideas that needed to be discussed with the board and the Long Range Planning Committee. Finally, Niles Chumley had everyone's attention with information concerning the grants and scholarship plans. Shortly after 10:00 a.m. we started the second annual DIFF Spring Tournament.

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## 22nd Annual Surf Fishing Fall Tournament

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Fall Surf Fishing Tournament will run from Thursday September 27 through Saturday September 29. If you've never attended, you are missing a fun event for both the novice and the alleged expert. It's a great opportunity to exchange fishing tales and make new friends!

Tournament registration is from 8:00 to 11:00 AM on Thursday September 27 at Cabin 10. The mandatory pre-tournament meeting begins there at 11:00 AM. Expected guests include concessionaire Great Island Cabins and Ferry Service and representatives of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Lee Paramore of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries plans to participate by examining fish carcasses, providing fish

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As I rode the beach during the tournament, I realized how wrong I was about my disappointment in the numbers of entrants. I was amazed at the relationships and respect developed within our Club. As my team drove past each participant, they either wanted us to stop and talk or they signaled their progress to us. We had families fishing together and working towards a common goal. We had very friendly competition between friends that we only see once or twice a year. We had the opportunity to make new friends and learn new techniques for the pursuit of the big one. We had 28 hours of fun, good food, humor, and by far some of the best folks on the east coast. I am proud to be a part of such a great group of folk and folk that I gladly call friends.

Weigh-in was a treat for all of us. After much ribbing about the finer qualities of the South Carolina fishermen and the not so fortunate numerous neighbors to the north, the Tarheel bunch proved that it is their state and they are still the champs of CALO. The gang from South Carolina left the island with our tails tucked and just happy that we are allowed to visit the northern paradise of Cape Lookout, thank you.

The Family team, "Reel Action Heroes", came away with the victory. Scot, Vickie, Jason and Lauren King turned in 30 points as a result of Jason fishing all night to catch 8 "countables" before daylight Saturday. With the fear their truck would fall victim to the high tide wash-over on the point, all he could do was fish as he watched 6 to 8 inches of water run under his truck on the South Point. Congratulations to the Reel Action Heroes, real fishermen, real heroes, real friends, and a real story behind their name to be heard if you just ask them.

Second Place went to a three member team that started at a disadvantage and pulled in 29 fish. Friends from Mebane, Tim Doss, David McPherson, and Rick Dodson caught some nice fish and unceremoniously handed over their winnings to the DIFF Club with the understanding it be used to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Spring Tournament. Thank you Mebane team for your understanding the Diff mission.

Last years winners, "Fish Ambulance", worked hard and probably had the prettiest stringer of fish with many drum, pompano, and whiting, all nice table fare. Members Clyde Cheek, Sanford Thompson, James Thompson, and of course, young Sam Thompson decided to use their winnings to give back to the DIFF club in hopes that we can continue to find ways to pull families and young folk to the island.

Although stated earlier that the Sandlappers did not back up the boastful talk before the tournament, the "Has Beens" from York and Rock Hill did manage to show some promise. Last years dynamic father and son duo of Josh and Johnny Williams added first time DIFF Club members, father/son-in-law team mates, Tim Robinson and Charlie Hayes to their team and finished with 17

points. As I said so long to the Williams, Sunday afternoon, they said, "We will definitely be back next year".

Finally, it would be impossible not to take some time to talk about the lunch provided by DIFF and prepared by Mickey and Helen Wynnberry. What a great opportunity it was for me to talk with them as they spent their time working first, outside, then inside trying to out-guess the rain. Everybody ate more than they should and enjoyed a couple of hours of talking and recounting the tournament. And just as the Williams said Sunday, "DIFF will definitely be back next year".

Stand Fast,

**Con Grant**



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## Membership Survey Results

The 2007 DIFF Member Survey form was distributed at the February Annual Meeting in Pineville and was included in the Spring newsletter.

Our Long Range Planning Committee has reviewed the results of returned questionnaires to date. The DIFF Newsletter has the highest level of importance and satisfaction followed by the Fall Tournament. We plan to continue these cornerstones of DIFF. ORV access advocacy also ranked very high on importance. DIFF will be vigilant on this topic as communicated in our President's Letters in the DIFF Newsletter. The DIFF website had the highest level of dissatisfaction. Actions are underway to improve it.

We will have additional survey forms available at the Fall Tournament for anyone who has not submitted one. The Board values your comments and feedback.

**Mark Weir**



**First Place**

Jason, Scot, Lauren & Vickie King



**Second Place**

Tim Doss, David McPherson & Rick Dodson



**Third Place**

Clyde Cheek, Sanford Thompson, Sam Thompson & James Thompson



**Fourth Place**

Charlie Hayes, Johnny Williams, Tim Robinson & Josh Williams



**Half of Spring Tournament Registrants**

Photos: Josh Williams

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tagging kits, and educating us with the latest fishery resource management information.

The fish weigh-in is from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Saturday September 29. Lunch, door prizes and tournament winner presentations should wrap-up by 2:00. Plan your boat reservations accordingly.

Vickie King and Ed Caskey are the contacts for tournament sponsors this year. Contact Vickie or Ed if you know of any sponsor's interested in donating cash or merchandise. Mark Childress of GIC&FS is making the arrangements for our Saturday lunch. Check out our current and past sponsors at [www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com) and support them with your business.

Attached are five raffle tickets for the Honda generator. Mail the short stubs with a check for \$25.00 to DIFF before September 1, or bring it to the Tournament. You do not have to be present to win.

The Fall Tournament has continued to grow, reaching a record 180 entries last year. The DIFF Board of Directors recognizes the burden this places on GIC&FS and the pressure on some of the preferred fishing spots. We decided to not cap the number of entrants for 2007, but we do ask for your patience and common courtesy in dealing with the large number of people at the tournament. Please hurry to complete the enclosed 2007 Tournament Rules and Entry Form. All entries must be post-marked no later than July 31. The normal \$60.00 entry fee is required and your \$20.00 annual membership dues must also be paid. Mail it to DIFF, PO Box 268, Mooresville NC 28115. The rules are also posted at [www.diffclub.com](http://www.diffclub.com).



Mark Weir

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## Cast away (Core Banks Style)

If you've never seen the movie *Cast Away*, you have missed a wonderful film starring Tom Hanks. Hanks does a remarkable job in this movie as he does in most of his films. In *Cast Away*, he portrays a FedEx trainer obsessed with his job and keeping the FedEx packages moving on time. He must leave his girlfriend on Christmas Eve to fly to a distant locale to help set up a FedEx hub. En route his plane encounters

a fierce storm and the plane crashes into the South Pacific, leaving Hanks, the sole survivor of the crash, to wash ashore upon a deserted island. As he comes to his senses, he collects various FedEx packages that also have washed onto the beach, opening the packages in hopes of finding useful items to aid in his survival. Among the packages he recovers is a "Wilson" volleyball. While trying to start a fire, Hanks injures himself and in a fit of rage hurls the volleyball into the jungle. Later he retrieves the ball and discovers that his bloody handprint has imprinted (with a little imagination) the image of a face onto the surface of the Wilson volleyball. Thus Hanks' companion "Wilson" is created. Over the next four years wherever Hanks goes, so does Wilson. Hanks carries on conversations with Wilson, asking Wilson for advice, discussing how to escape the island with Wilson. When Hanks does manage to escape, Wilson goes too, only to be lost overboard in rough seas. There is really a lot more to the story, but you've got what you need for "MY" story. Rent *Cast Away* for this weekend, you won't be disappointed. Now on to *Cast Away*....Core Banks Style!

On the Thursday before Thanksgiving 2006, I was fortunate enough to be "marooned" on the Island. On this particular day it was rainy and very windy, the water was really unfishable so I decided to hunker down in my camper, watch a few movies and relax by myself. True, others were on the Island, including Mark Weir, Mike Laughlin and Glenn Green, to mention a few, but I felt isolated, alone, in the camper. It was rather ironic that for the afternoon matinee I selected none other than *Cast Away*. Just as I got to the part where Hanks' plane crashes, the wind really started howling and the rain was falling in sheets. Talk about special effects! As an unfortunate side note, this was the same storm system that spawned the fatal tornadoes that affected the Regalwood area near Wilmington. As I finished watching *Cast Away*, I checked in with my wife, Vickie and my parents who were in Emerald Isle at the time, fixed some supper and went to bed.

The next morning I drove to the North end in search of some fish as the water was still stirred up from the foul weather. Mark Weir showed up and we talked about the previous day's storm and after a while I decided to go South in search of better water. As I drove down the beach I noticed something strange on the beach in the distance....strange but oddly familiar. It was white and round and looked unbelievably much like a.... volleyball! As I got closer it really appeared to be Wilson... uh, I mean a volleyball. I stopped the truck, jumped out and discovered that my treasure was not a volleyball but was actually a soccer ball! I could hardly believe the coincidence of what had just happened. To add even yet another layer of irony the ball was an "Admiral" brand soccer ball! What better place than

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next to the sea, for one to find an “Admiral”. I know that a “Wilson” volleyball would have made for a better story but that was “Hollywood” and this is real life. Just goes to show you, you can never tell what you may experience out on Core Banks!

### Scot King



**Wilson**



**The Admiral**

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## President's Letter

Previously I have talked about the need for DIFF to get involved in other organizations which have similar interests to our own. Instead of waiting until the end, I will say now, it is in my opinion that it is imperative we continue to stay very active in other organizations, especially those focusing on beach access with national exposure. The bottom line is that WE CAN win in our defense against lawsuits attacking our rights to beach access if we work together. Working together means contributing within our own organization as well as joining forces with other groups to provide financial, moral and legal support. The tendency is to watch out after “our own”; however, what happens at other parks or lands around the country will greatly affect what happens in our own back yards. You have a choice of accepting the need to support such organization or loose the very rights we are entitled to.

Having said the closure of this article first let me get to specifics.

I attended a quarterly meeting of the United Mobile Sport (UMS) on March 3 of this year in Salisbury Maryland, hosted by the Assateague Mobile Sportfishermen Association (AMSA). The meeting was held at the Civic Center there in conjunction with their annual fishing expo. Delegates from clubs all over the country with concerns and goals exactly like DIFF's, except differ-

ent beaches, made up the attendees.

I have always been aware of other organizations through regular contact with people within our own club and internet websites, but, was never fully aware of the efforts each organization has made to enable them to use their beaches in other states. Simply put, I walked away with a more thorough understanding of the need for a cohesive effort from all groups within the United States to fight frivolous lawsuits that attack our sport and access rights. These very clubs have had the same problems we are just beginning to experience at the island. We however, have the good fortune to learn from their efforts and apply that knowledge ourselves. If we support them, we learn from them and they support us.

I intend to recommend to the Board of Directors that we continue our membership in the UMS and other groups with interests aligned with ours. To you, I recommend the continuance of your membership of DIFF and spend sufficient time on the internet looking at the UMS and Outer Banks Preservation Society web site. Join these organizations too because the membership fee is small. While you are surfing the web, visit the Bluewater Network and see the garbage they spew regarding Cape Hatteras and ORV usage. Hopefully this will be motivation to make small donations to worthy causes such as these organizations I just mentioned.

Also, remember to get your membership dues and Fall Tournament applications in early. The cut-off is very near! If you are aware of others who may have let their membership lapse, prod them along. We need to grow in strength and in numbers...our very sport depends on it.

### Roger Wise



# DIFF Club News

Davis Island Fishing Foundation  
P.O. Box 268  
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## Officers

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Robert Wilson 252 235 5141

*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, see the membership form inside.*

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



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