



IFA Charleston Event Avoids Weekend Storms

While Friday's weather set the perfect background for the IFA Atlantic division season opener, everyone knew the storms were headed for Charleston. Luckily the thunderstorms held off and hit as the Saturday weigh-in was wrapping up. One team that the storms could not scare away was the winning team of Jon David Halker and Josh Cruze, who weighed in a total weight of 8.54 pounds and took home the first place prize of a fully-rigged Ranger Banshee, valued at \$20,000 as equipped with a 40 HP, 4-stroke Yamaha outboard, Loadmaster trailer, Power Pole shallow water anchor, Minn Kota trolling motor and Humminbird electronics.

The two anglers, Jon David from Ridgeland, SC and Josh from Coosaw Island, SC, caught three redfish all day after running 45 minutes to their home waters and fishing in a protected area. Jon David and Josh pre-fished three days over a one and half week period and caught their three fish on spinner baits and jerkbaits.

“What an awesome win! It was a tough day of fishing and it has been a long time coming. We have been close several times, but this time it was our turn” said Jon David Halker, speaking about the win. “We would like to thank everyone for their support.”

Also finishing in the top five for the tournament were: second place – Ben Alderman and Jeremy Mehlhaff with 8.46 pounds; third place – Jeffrey Cronk and Mike Taylor with 7.94 pounds; fourth place – Legare Jones and Frank Gaston with 6.92 pounds; and fifth place – J.R. Waits and Hylan Furniss with 6.58 pounds.

The third place team of Cronk and Taylor pocketed the \$750 Ranger Cup Powered by Yamaha check by owning and fishing from a Ranger Boat powered by a Yamaha outboard. (for Ranger Cup and Yamaha incentive program details, visit www.rangerboats.com).

The big fish of the tournament was a 4.85-pounder caught by the team of Ben Liebetau and Logan Seamon. They were awarded a \$500 check for the accomplishment.

The Solar Bat contingency award of \$100 and the newly introduced Sperry Spotted contingency award of \$100 are awarded to the team that wears and recognizes their Solar Bat's and their Sperry Topsider Shoes during the weigh in. Both of these \$100 checks went to the team of Paul Franken and John Queen. To find more information about the contingencies and more visit <http://www.redfishtour.com/contingency.html>.

The Charleston tournament was the first of the new Inshore Fishing Association (IFA) Redfish Tour Atlantic Division. The two remaining events in this division will be in Surf City, NC on June 7th and Savannah, GA on July 12th.

Other divisions include Texas, Florida East Coast, Florida West Coast, Gulf Coast, Louisiana and Texas. All are one-day events with three tournaments in each division. Teams that fish in any three events qualify to compete in the two-day, no-entry-fee IFA Redfish Tour Championship scheduled for November 7-8, 2008.

IFA Redfish Tour sponsors include Cabela's, Ranger Boats, Yamaha Outboards, Minn Kota, Humminbird, Loadmaster, Sebile Lures, Jax Wraps, Power Pole, Solar Bat, Pioneer Beef Jerky, Sperry Topsider Shoes, DriGrip Sunscreen, CW Crab and Charter Lakes Marine Insurance.

For more information about the IFA Redfish Tour tournaments, visit www.redfishtour.com, call (478) 836-4266 or email info@palmerconrad.com.

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