

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STAR Tournament on Fire!

For the first time in history, the CCA Texas STAR Tournament has the first Blue Tag and Green Tag Division winners! First up is Patrick Fisher of Cypress in the brand new Green Tag Division. He caught his new 19 Shoalwater Cat, Mercury motor, and McClain trailer, thanks to a thunderstorm. During a family getaway he made the call to sleep in instead of taking the boat out in the morning storms. Luckily, his desire to fish was still strong and decided he would head down to the dock and try to at least catch something. Catch something he did!



Dorothy Neal of Houston, holds the honor of first ever CCA Texas STAR Blue Tag Division winner! She and her husband were just looking for some relaxation and dinner when they decided to head down to a very popular local fishing spot. While they may not have caught dinner, they did catch a 22' Mowdy, Mercury motor, and McClain trailer package! Blue and green tagged redfish are not the only tagged redfish being caught though!



This morning Randall Laurrell of Port Aransas, became the first winner in Texas Ford Dealers Red Tag Division. Here is the story as told by the angler: “Two years ago, my Dad’s best friend gave me a 1980 model 14 foot Alumacraft with a 10 horse motor that he inherited from his Dad. That was the start of the adventures of the tiny, but mighty fishing vessel in Port Aransas. My wife Amy and I spend as much time fishing as we can, we love it. Last summer, my Dad suddenly passed away from cancer. After he passed, I got busy with work and life. I still went fishing every chance I could, but it was hard not having him to call every day to report my daily catch. Everybody always jokes with me and my wife about being careful so we don’t die every time we take the boat out, so I have been boat shopping for a while, just never could find the exact one I wanted. Two weeks ago, my Step-Mom told me the boat I needed would “fall from the sky when it was the right time”. Friday, I had to come home from work early to meet a repair man at the house, my daughter Lyndy and her boyfriend Wyatt came down to visit. As soon as the repairman left, Wyatt insisted we needed to go fishing NOW, so we did. We left the house around 3 pm, got on the water and ready to fish around 3:30. It only took a couple casts and I caught the fish of a lifetime. Wyatt helped me net the fish, then video the tag removal and release of the fish. I was so excited, my stepmom was right-it was all falling into place. Now I will have a boat big enough for the whole family and friends to take fishing and I have God to thank for it all. Thank you CCA, Texas Ford, Haynie, Coastline and Mercury for such a generous donation of a grand prize.”

Last but certainly not least, 15 year old Andrew McRay of Pearland, made history in the newly formed STAR Youth Scholarship Division. Andrew will be the recipient of a \$30,000 scholarship, sponsored by Academy Sports + Outdoors, adding to the total STAR scholarships of \$7,150,00 given to date. With the McRay family boat in shop, Andrew convinced his mom to drop him off with Captain Jason Bartlett for an afternoon of fishing. After trying a couple spots they ended up in a popular Galveston area shoreline. Andrews first cast at the new spot proved to be a \$30,000 cast.

Don't forget, you can still register for the STAR Tournament anytime! There are still 16 boats, 5 trucks, 4 Polaris Rangers, and \$295,000 in scholarships up for grabs this summer! Adult entry is only \$25 with their \$35 CCA membership, and youth anglers' ages 6-17 fish STAR FREE with a \$10 membership. Sign up at www.startournament.org, calling 713-626-4222, or visiting any of our weigh stations!

Major sponsors for the 32nd Annual CCA Texas/STAR Tournament include Texas Ford Dealers, Tilson Home Corporation, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Whataburger, Shiner Bock, Hoffpauir Polaris, MustangCAT, Kryptek, Mercury Marine, Haynie Boats, Mowdy Boats, Dargel Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Texas Fish & Game Magazine, Coastline Trailers, McClain Trailers, and Chris's Marine.

For more information, including a list of weigh-in stations, instant-entry registration locations in your area and weekly leader board updates, go to www.startournament.org.

CCA Texas is a nonprofit organization of sportfishing enthusiasts and conservationist working to save the natural resources of Texas coastal waters. CCA Texas' Web page can be found at <http://www.ccatexas.org>.

