



ACFA

Club Officers and Chairpersons for 2006

President:	Doug Smith	604-4758
Vice Pres:	Bud Barr	602-1982
Treasurer:	Jep Hill	476-1796
Secretary:	Margaret Miller	476-4142
Statistics:	D.W. Garretson	599-8701
Membership:	Erik Nelson	331-3804
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Jimmy Quint	377-5739
Logo Items:	Alvin Bell	455-5739
Awards:	Bill Midgette	473-4768
Food:	Randy Wiscaver	662-3628
Newsletter:	David Thornton	458-2775

Advisor: Mike Thompson

February 2006 Newsletter

Our first meeting for the 2006 season will be held on Thursday February 2nd at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place). Entering into our tenth year, the ACFA continues to grow in membership and accomplishments.

Kyle Mitternight will do the 'quick hits' for the first meeting of the year.

President's Message

Well, here we go again. I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the first meeting in February!

THANKS, DOUG

Keep Your Newsletters on File

If you haven't already started, keeping these newsletters in a file will help answer most of your questions (and maybe answer someone else's too). Over the course of the year the details of all our club's activities will be published here, so STAY TUNED and STAY INFORMED! Like with this important information below ...

2006 Meeting Schedule

(all meetings start at 7pm)

February 2	April 6	July 6	October 5
March 2	May 4	August 3	November 2
	June 1	September 7	December 2

A GOOD Time Was Had ...

by nearly 200 members and guests who attended our Awards Banquet held Saturday night December 3rd, 2005 at the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (our usual weigh-in site.) 55 plaques and 5 trophies were awarded to members and friends in an expanded format reflecting the increase in membership during 2005. Let's keep it growing!

Our Tournament Champion was (no surprise) David Hare being the "grounder pounder" extraordinaire, but 2nd Place was a tie between Bill Midgette and Kyle Mitternight. 3rd Place went to Trey Pitt and 4th Place to Rick Tourne. 5th Place was a 3-way tie between Phillip Guy, Brenda Mashburn, and Jimbo Miller.

Our Big Fish Contest Champion was also a tie shared by John Fassbender and Bobby McElroy, proving that sometimes it ONLY takes one big fish to win BIG ;-)

Keeping pace with the ties, Bruce Howle Sr and David Thornton shared 2nd Place while Bill Midgette was alone in 3rd Place. But that, with a 2nd Place finish in Tournament Points was enough to help Bill snag the ACFA 2005 Master Angler Award.

Brenda Mashburn was awarded the Female Angler of the Year and Jep Hill, Jr received the Junior Angler of the Year.

Mike Thompson (our founding member) awarded the 2005 Founder's Award trophy to our incoming president Doug Smith. Also, a plaque of "Appreciation for Service to the Club" was given to Bruce Howle, Sr for his two great years as president.

Recognition Awards were presented to those special friends of the ACFA who helped out in 2005:

***D.P. Screen Printing Inc** – Phil Gill

***Post 250, American Legion** – weigh-in site

***Liz's Haven** – Speckled Trout Challenge "Battle of Mobile Bay" weigh-in site (RIP)

***Grady Marine** – yearlong door prizes

***South-N-Bama Bait & Tackle** – Charlie Crawford door prizes and Big Fish Contest plaque sponsorships

Alvin Bell earned a repeat as our Membership Sponsor Award (6) and wouldn't you know it, Bill Midgette's name was pulled in the Grand Attendance Prize Drawing (worth about \$200). Bill had to have help toting all his 'loot' away.

Congratulations to our award winners and good luck to all in 2006!

Can't Forget

Special thanks goes to Randy 'Bigun' Wiscaver and his cooking crew Kevin 'Doc' Cormier and Erik 'tic' Nelson for those delicious smoked hams and Boston butts and to those who brought the many scrumptious side dishes and delightfully sinful deserts. Absolutely a feast for the eyes and the tummy, NOBODY left hungry!

And for the LIVE entertainment provided by "The Mistifiers" which include ACFA members David Hare and Don Ludlam and also featuring some of the other ACFA members' musical talents such as Jimmy Quint on harmonica. They are "the rage".

Congratulations!

We've been trying to keep up with our ACFA members as they place in the various local public tournaments, but for fear of leaving a deserving individual out we must defer to a general "well done" for all of you winners. You make us all very proud and bring only good publicity to our club. Way to go! Feel free to contact the newsletter editor for inclusion in our next issue.

2006 Memberships are Due and ...

Wouldn't you like to avoid the crush at the Treasurer's Table at your first meeting? You can mail in your \$45 membership fee along with your name, address and telephone number to Jep Hill 61 Williams Court Mobile, AL 36606. This will go a long way to alleviate the crowding and confusion and leave more room for NEW members to sign up.

As added incentive the ACFA will draw TWO names of members who renew by mail and refund their \$45 membership fee!

And remember, those who already have fish entered in the 2006 Big Fish Contest MUST have renewed their membership by the end of February, or their Big Fish Contest entry will be removed.

Sign-In and WIN!

Those that attend and check in to at least 8 of our 10 regular club meetings (Feb-Nov) will be eligible for our 2006 Grand Attendance Prize Package (worth in excess of \$200 last year). Don't let "the BIG one get away" ;-)

So be sure to see Erik Nelson at the sign-in table and please wear a name tag. Believe me, this is a great help to new members in associating names and faces and for all club members to get to know one another quicker.

Donations are Needed ...

for our monthly door prizes and for the 2006 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Please see, or call Jimmy Quint (377-5739) to donate or make arrangements.

New Member Sponsors

In our tenth year, and dues remain at \$45 (unchanged since the birth of ACFA.) We're still the best fishing deal around!

That price includes spouses and children (under the age of 16 on Feb 1) to fish in our tournaments and to attend all ACFA functions including meetings, cookouts, weigh-ins and banquets. And why not talk to your friends about joining the ACFA? Even if they don't fish much, the food benefits alone are less than a single family seafood dinner at a local restaurant.

And be sure that any new members you get to sign up put your name down as their sponsor in order to qualify you for the drawing of a FREE Dinner for two at a local restaurant. Again, the member who sponsors the most new memberships will automatically win a free dinner for two and receive the Membership Sponsor Award for 2006. Can Alvin Bell three-peat?

Also Coming in 2006

- Another rod raffle: (Aug?) custom Billy Stix rod donated by Billy McDaniel <http://www.flanaturecoast.com/bilystix/about.htm>
- An inshore charter fishing trip: (May?) with Captain Joey Abruscato of A-Team Fishing Adventures (251) 478-8283
- Junior Angler Division plaques: for 3 places in White trout and Ground Mullet in our June and July tournaments
- And more programs and fishing opportunities for kids in our tournaments (Junior categories)
- 'Special' Pompano Division: added to our April tournament (3 places)
- ACFA 'family' photo albums: pictures taken at ACFA functions (see Belinda Smith for details)
- Magazine Subscription drive: with prizes
- 'Mini-Seminars': to be given prior to the meetings on popular subjects
- Streamlined sign-in and more seating at meetings and over 115 plaques to be awarded in our 2006 tournaments

All this (and more) brought to you by your 2006 Board of Directors. Please see them for comments and suggestions.

Reminders

- 2006 dues are due now, pay by mail to avoid crowds and qualify for prizes.
- NO ACFA tournament in February, all 2006 club tournament dates will be announced in the March Newsletter.
- Alvin Bell (455-5739) will be selling ACFA logo'd items at the March meeting
- 2006 Mobile Boat Show at the Mobile Convention Center March 30 - April 2, 2006
- 2006 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2006. Our Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch. Fill out and send cards to D.W. "Donald" Garretson 3811 Del Monte Court Mobile, AL 36605 (599-8701)
- Dues MUST be paid by the end of February to retain a fish on the board.

Please remember, NO SMOKING in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment. And PLEASE be respectful of our speakers (and members who want to hear them) by refraining from any unnecessary talking or moving about during the presentations. And we ask that you save your questions until the end of their talk.

Big Fish Contest Standings 2006								
	11/15/2005							
	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1			Mike Jones	5.94 lbs.			Hal M Scheurich	2.27 lbs
2							Michael Jones	1.75 lbs
3							David Thornton	1.73lbs.
4								
5								

Check Us Out Online @ <http://acfafishing.com/>

Our entire club related information is available on the internet through the above URL address in a very 'user friendly' format. Tournaments: dates, rules, winners Club officers: for 2006 & 2005. Membership: all information including a printable registration form. Meeting Place: maps, directions and schedule. Tournament Points: current yearly standings and tournament rules. Big Fish Contest: current standings, address for submissions, big fish contest rules, and a printable card. Newsletter: the latest published news from the ACFA. Pictures: an online photo album from ACFA events, and access to our own online 'picture processor' website to add **your** photos. Club Records: species, weight, angler, year. Links: to weather observations and forecasts, marine conditions, tides, river stages, water quality and other pertinent topics to help make you a better fisherman, and stay safe on the water!

And join us to get the latest fishing reports, outdoor news, gossip, hunting reports, recipes and just plain fun available on the 'web' on our premier message forums @ <http://acfafishing.com/phpBB/> that includes our exclusive "ACFA Members ONLY" forum where even the area's best kept fishing secrets are revealed by our resident panel of 'experts' ;-)

ACFA----We catch fish----Get the net!!!



Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) be responsible for the welfare of any members, guests or equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge.