



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	533-9580
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	402-2485
Newsletter:	David Thornton	458-2775

Advisor: Mike Thompson

March 2006 Newsletter

Our second meeting for the 2006 season will be held on Thursday March 2nd at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place). You might want to get there a bit early ;-)

Now into our tenth year, the ACFA continues to grow in membership and accomplishments. Be a part of it! Jason Miller will speak about new developments with Conoco's proposed 'Open Loop' LNG terminal just off the Alabama coast. Don't miss out on this important issue that could detrimentally affect the health of our fisheries. We're a 'gin it! Jerald Bolen will do the 'quick hits' segment.

Our first tournament of the 2006 season will be Saturday March 25th

Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead and Ground Mullet are the category fish. You can launch and fish anywhere in Alabama waters. Tournament times are 5am to 5pm; weigh-in is from 2pm-5pm at the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (next to the Family Dollar Store near Greer's in the Fowl River area). Weigh Master Pat Hughes will be set up behind the building and ACFA members are asked to park their vehicles and fishing rigs in the large parking lot behind the building. Restrooms and a beverage bar are located inside the main building and if you are so inclined, we ask that you purchase from the Post if you can. Also please offer any unneeded fish to the Post as they utilize the ACFA as one source of fish for the fish fries they hold for disabled vets throughout the year.

And as has become our recent custom, ACFA will be providing food (of some nature) at the weigh-ins for members and guests. Our Food Chairman Randy Wiscaver will announce what's on the menu at the March meeting.

12 awards and Tournament Points will be up for grabs, but your dues **MUST** be paid prior to tournament day to be eligible. Copies of the ACFA Tournament Rules will be available at the March meeting (or on our website).

Another ACFA record ...

Was set at the February meeting with the attendance well over 100 and at least 14 new members signing up. Welcome! But we still had plenty of seats, so there's room for more to come on by and join if you like. (Maybe invite a friend)

Those who have not yet renewed can mail in your \$45 membership fee along with your name, address and telephone number to Jep Hill 61 Williams Court Mobile, AL 36606 in order to be eligible for the ACFA drawing of TWO names of members who have renewed by mail and they will be refunded their \$45 membership fee! This will help the crowding and confusion around the back tables and leave more room for NEW members to sign up.

Speaking of crowding and confusion, **Alvin Bell will be selling ACFA logo items at the March Meeting!** He will have a fresh supply of caps, t-shirts, towels, etc. so shop early while the selections are there.

- ACFA T-Shirts in Navy, Forrest Green, and Natural; sizes Med-XL are \$9 and XXL or XXXL are \$10
- ACFA 'Grand Slam' T-shirts are available in White; sizes med-XL are \$10 and XXL or XXXL are \$11
- ACFA Caps in Navy, Khaki, Olive and Stone are \$6 and the ACFA Hand Towels are \$3 each or 2 for \$5
- ACFA Embroidered Patches will be available too, small patches are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and the large patches are \$6

We ask that you **please bring the correct change**, or pay by check to facilitate the sales.

½ Day Guide Trip With A-Team (for 3) Will be raffled Off at the May Meeting

Captain Joey Abruscato (of A-team Fishing Adventures 251-478-8283) has graciously donated a ½ day guided trip for 3 anglers. Everything is provided except food and drinks. See Erik Nelson for tickets (\$5 each) March thru May. The Billy Stix Spiral Wrapped Rod will be raffled off at the August meeting.

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 ...

(Mark your calendar) **2006 Tournament Schedule** (Weigh-in 3pm-5pm)

Jan or Feb = NO tournaments

March 25 'March Madness'	<u>Specks and White Trout, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet</u>
April 8 'Spring Breakout'	Specks, Flounder, Sheepshead, Ground Mullet and *Pompano (*new special category)
May 6 'Speckled Trout Challenge'	Specks ONLY (with the Weeks Bay Fishing Club)
June 3 'Summer Starter'	Specks, Redfish, Flounder and Ground Mullet (with Junior Division)
July 8 'Rodeo Warm-up'	Speck Creel (5 fish per 2-man Team), Redfish, Flounder and White Trout (with Jr Div)
August 5 'Mobile Bay Grand Slam'	Specks, Redfish, Flounder, White Trout and Blackfish
September 9 'End of Summer'	Specks, Redfish, Flounder, White Trout and Spanish Mackerel
October 21 'Causeway Classic'	Specks, Redfish, Flounder and Sheepshead

Nov or Dec = NO tournaments

NOTE: any junior member not reaching their 16th birthday by February 1, 2006 will NOT be required to pay dues until 2007.

To Paraphrase our Mission Statement:

Our goal is to assist one another to be more successful while pursuing our hobby on the water and to pass on that knowledge to other fisher folks so that we can all improve at what we love to do. In this spirit, we hope to present to you ...

"Fishing Secrets we're too Embarrassed to Ask, but Always Wanted to Know"

These proposed 'mini-seminars' are to be held prior to the meetings at 6pm until 6:35pm on topics of your choosing.

Here are a few topics to start with:

Live vs. Artificial Bait

Choosing the right tackle

Where to fish

When scheduled (before a future meeting), just come early with your questions.

We'll have two or three experienced senior members on hand to moderate the discussion and answer your queries.

The first 'class' could be held prior to the April meeting. We'll be voting at the March meeting on which topic to discuss.

IF you can't be at the March meeting to vote, you can phone in your vote to Joe Sirmon @ 605-5811.

Your level of participation will dictate whether we will continue to pursue this line of instructive enlightenment.

Sign-In and WIN!

Those who 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 nametag. 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 to help out.

New Member Sponsors

In our tenth year, 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. And 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?

Oops ...

Just needed to make a couple of corrections and an omission from the first newsletter:

- Randy 'Bigun' Wiscaver's phone number was wrong and it's Cevin 'Doc' Cormier on the cooking crew.
- And how could I forget my ole' buddy Bill 'Banditt' Brady received the 'New Member of the Year' award for 2005.

Sorry guys!

Please feel free to contact the Newsletter Editor for any matter pertaining to the accuracy and content of the newsletter.

Reminders

- **March 25** is the date of the ACFA March Tournament
- 2006 dues are due now, pay by mail to avoid crowds and qualify for prizes.
- 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.

Thank you for **NOT SMOKING** in the meeting room and 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								
	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1					David Hare	1.47 lbs.		
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			Bill Patterson	5.65 lbs.			Michael Jones	1.75 lbs
3							David Thornton	1.73lbs.
4								
5								

Fill out and send cards to D.W. Garretson 3811 Del Monte Court Mobile, Al 36605 (599-8701)

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.

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