

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



March 2010

Next meeting: March 4th
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Kevin Anson-
Biologist with AMRD
Quick Hits: Don Ludlam-Reel
maintenance.
Mini-seminar: George Nall
Next tournament: March 13th,
American Legion Post 250

Club Officers for 2010

President:	Vince Hawkins	452-3899
Vice Pres:	Patric Garmeson	747-1554
Treasurer:	Chris Conken	209-2726
Secretary:	Vicki Foster	621-9113
Statistics:	Adam Barker	747-1552
Membership:	Keith Kenny	661-6057
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Charlie Crawford	391-5523
Logo Items	Joe Sirmon	605-5811
	and Jerry Torrans	344-4916
Awards:	George Harrison	367-7658
Newsletter:	Jason Miller	490-3221
Webmaster:	Brandon Milam	680-1302
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

President's Message

Our first meeting of the year was great (other than the nasty weather) with 12 new members joining the club and an excellent presentation by Jason Smith. Tournament season is almost here and with any luck, we will get to fish the causeway before the ADSFR. I look forward to another good meeting in March and hopefully many of your questions about how this extremely wet and cold winter season will affect our inshore species can be answered from our speaker from the Alabama Department of Marine Resources. Remember to encourage your friends to attend the meetings and join the club and ask the rain gods to hold back on some of the upstate rain for a few months.

Newsletter Reminder:

This is the last newsletter you will be receiving by the U.S. Mail this year unless you check the box requesting the newsletter via mail on the Membership Application Form you fill out when you renew your membership. The monthly newsletter is available via the website at: www.acfafish.com via the newsletter link at the top of the page. You can also sign up to receive the monthly newsletter by e-mail from the same page.



At least somebody's been catching-Mike and Vicki Foster had some luck recently in Mike's company tournament.

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1st ACFA Tournament of 2010-March 13th

The ACFA tournament season is here! The first tournament is set for March 13th. The categories are: speckled trout, sheephead, white trout and ground mullet. The weigh-in will be at the usual location American Legion Post 250, 10950 Dauphin Island Pkwy (Hwy. 193), just south of the Greer's Food Tiger and past the blinking yellow light, on the west side of the road. Your dues must be paid by the day of the tournament for your catch to be eligible. Tournament legal fishing times are 5 a.m. to 5 p.m, and fish must be caught in Alabama waters. Weighmaster Pat Hughes will have the weigh station set up behind the Legion's building. ACFA members are asked to park their vehicles in the parking area to the side and rear of the building. Restrooms are available inside. Please support the Legion by purchasing your post-fishing refreshments from their bar. Remember that children of ACFA members under 16 are eligible to compete for Junior Division plaques, but please clearly identify to the weighmaster the ACFA member whom the junior "belongs to" when weighing in their fish. Even if you aren't lucky enough to catch that tournament winning whopper, be sure to come out to the weigh-in anyway to weigh any legal sized fish from one of the four categories for a participation point, enjoy the fish stories and camaraderie, and the good eats the club provides.

February meeting recap

If you missed the February meeting, you missed learning cool new words like "evapotranspiration" and "Arctic oscillation." Jason Smith, Fox 10 News meteorologist, and host of Fox 10 Outdoors gave a great talk about the weather's impact on fishing. David Thornton gave the Quick Hits with his usual helpful ideas for the shore bound angler.

2010 Tournament Schedule

Mark your calendars! Below is the 2010 ACFA Tournament schedule.

March 13th "March Madness" Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead, Ground Mullet

April 3th "Spring Breakout" Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheepshead, ground Mullet

May 8th "Speckled Trout Challenge" Speckled Trout (only)

June 5th "Summer Starter" Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Ground Mullet, Spanish Mackerel

July 10th "Rodeo Warm-up" Speckled Trout (5/team), Redfish, Flounder, White Trout, Blackfish

Aug 7th "Mobile Bay Grand Slam" Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, White Trout, Blackfish

Sept 4th "End of Summer" Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, White Trout, Spanish Mackerel

Oct 16th " Mutt Burke Causeway Classic " Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Sheepshead

Dues reminder

If you haven't yet done so, please fill out the Membership Application (enclosed in your last newsletter, or available on the club website: http://www.acfafish.com/cms/ACFA_Membership_Form.pdf) and send it along with your check to: Keith Kenney 4276 Honey Court, Mobile, AL 36619. You can also renew at the meeting, but we ask that you please mail in your dues and renewal form to make it easier on everyone at the meeting, and to allow plenty of room for new members to sign up. Dues must be paid prior to the March tournament in order to participate in the tournaments.

March Meeting –March 4th-American Legion Post 88

The mini-seminar series will return with the March meeting at 6 p.m. For several years, our more expert club members have shared their valuable knowledge at informal question and answer sessions prior to the main meeting. The series has turned out to be very popular, and for good reason. We are extremely fortunate as a club because most of the local experts on all things related to inshore angling happen to be club members, so even the oldest salts can pick up a new tip or two at the mini-seminars. This month's mini seminar speaker will be George Nall, club member and owner of George's Watersports. George will talk about pre-season boat maintenance, and everyone's favorite topic-the problems ethanol can cause for your boat's motor and fuel system. If you have a topic you would like to hear about from one of our resident club experts at future mini-seminars, please let Joey Gates know. Talk to him at a meeting, or contact him at: 649-5303

The main meeting will get started at 7 p.m. Kevin Anson, a biologist with the Alabama Marine Resources Division will discuss some of the fish kills we have had locally as a result of the Arctic oscillation, as well as other topics. Don Ludlam will give the Quickhits on rod and reel maintenance.

Logo items

Joe Sirmon and Jerry Torrans, Logo Items Co-Chairmen will be selling the usual assortment of ACFA shirts, hats, fish towels, huggers etc.

Meeting Check-In

Those that attend and check in to at least 8 of our 10 regular club meetings will be eligible for our 2010 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Be sure to see Keith Kenny at the sign-in table and please wear a name tag. It's 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

Donations are constantly needed for our monthly door prizes and for the 2010 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Please see Charlie Crawford if you would like to contribute, or have any leads on possible donation sources.

New Member Sponsors

Remember to suggest ACFA to your fishing friends and acquaintances. Be sure to have any new members you get to sign up to put your name down as their sponsor in order to qualify you for the drawing to have your annual dues refunded. Any member that signs up at least one new member is eligible. 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 2010.

ACFA'ers in other tournaments

The third and final installment of this winter's Battle of the Grubs was held February 13, 2010. There was no downpour this time, but the Arctic oscillation resulted in cold weather, and the lack of evapotranspiration helped keep the waters muddy. It was a tough day to catch 5 keeper specks. Congrats to the winners.

1 st Place- Craig Prescott and Neil Barnes	11.45 lbs.
2 nd Place-Jamie and Shaun Dixon	10.50 lbs
3 rd Place-Al Mead and Bruce Howle, Jr.	10.40 lbs.

Lunker- Jamie and Shaun Dixon	2.90 lbs.
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Biggest slot red-Craig Prescott	5.55 lbs.
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Please help your newsletter editor keep up with and recognize all the club members who place in local tournaments throughout the year by e-mailing him at: jasonmiller1974@yahoo.com.

Outdoor News

Sheephead Tournament

Gulf Shores Marina at Fort Morgan will be sponsoring a Sheephead tournament from March 6th to April 10th. Prizes will be awarded for 1st through 10th place. Prizes will include plaques, gear, tackle, gift certificates, and more. There will also be a "Grand Prize" if the state record is broken. Tournament tickets are \$35.00 for the entire tournament, or \$5.00 for a daily ticket. Ticket must be purchased before going fishing. You may call (251) 540-2628 for more information and to buy a ticket. Tournament tickets go on sale the day of the tournament. One fish may be weighed per day.

Boat Show

Don't forget the Mobile Boat Show will be held at the Convention Center on February 25-28th, 2010. Most years it turns into an unofficial club meeting.

2010 Bigfish Standings

	Blackfish	Wt	Flounder	Wt	Ground Mullet	Wt	Redfish	Wt
1 st					Marty Garmeson	2.50		
2 nd					David Thornton	2.30		
3 rd					David Thornton	2.15		
4 th					Marty Garmeson	2.15		
5 th								
	Sheephead	Wt	Spanish Mackerel	Wt	White Trout	Wt	Speckled Trout	Wt
1 st					George Harrison	1.48		
2 nd					George Harrison	1.22		
3 rd								
4 th								
5 th								

CPR Speckled Trout: George Harrison 23.75", Doug Tierce 23.50"

Reminders

All monthly meetings are held at American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Road, at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month
2010 dues are due now, pay by mail to avoid crowds and qualify for prizes.

NO ACFA tournament in February.

2010 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2010. Our Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch.

Fill out and send Bigfish cards to: : Adam Barker 1682 Heartland Circle Robertsdale, AL 36567(947-2579)

Dues MUST be paid by the end of February to retain a fish on the Big Fish 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.

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

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.