

ACFA

Club Officers and Chairmen for 2005

Pres. Bruce Howle Sr.	479-2911
VP David Hare	343-5875
Treas. Tom Duncan	626-0219
Sec'y. Angie Howle	479-2911
Stats. Jennifer Mitternight	634-9716
Membership Bekki Ludlam	649-8757
Weighmaster Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations Charlie Dowdle	661-7770
Logo Items Donald Garrettson	479-3498
Awards Bill Midgette	473-4768
Advisor Mike Thompson	

August 2005 Newsletter

It's time for our Aug. meeting and we'll hold it on Thurs. Aug 4th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88,2663 Halls Mill Road.

Speakers for the evening: 30 year veteran of salt-water pier fishing and ACFA member David Thornton will review tackle and tactics of land based fishing. Also Blake (Gumbo) Michaleski, will recap hurricane Dennis (and any significant local damage due to its occurrence) and give us a weatherman's preview of the remaining summer storm outlook.

Thursday's program should be of interest to all.

Presidents Message

Hey guys I hope everyone came out ok during this past hurricane with little damage because, it could have been a lot worse than it was. I want to thank Charlie Dowdle and Doug Smith for their help at the weigh-in even though it felt like it was 110 degrees. The Aug. tourney is just a couple of days away and we will be boiling 200 pounds of shrimp, corn and potatoes so please volunteer to help Doug Smith with the cooking.

On the fishing front, the clear water has made it back to the causeway and the trout are moving up the bay with it. The reefs on both sides of the bay are producing trout and redfish and the rigs in the bay are holding fish as well.

More at the meeting.

Bruce Sr. aka TOP DAWG

July Tournament's Delayed Results

It was hot and fishing was tough but ACFA's intrepid tourney fishermen finally got to fish for July glory two weeks later than planned. Thanks to Doug Smith and crew, hot dogs were enjoyed by all in attendance. Weighmaster Charlie Dowdle gives us the official results: (and thanks Charlie for filling in while Pat was out of town.)

<u>Speck. Creel</u>		<u>Redfish</u>	
David & Brenda Mashburn	13.45lb	Jimbo Miller	6.90lb
Shane & Daniel Ford	12.60lb	Phillip Guy	6.85lb
Jad Pope & Michael McDonald	11.90lb	Erik Nelson	2.75lb
<u>Flounder</u>		<u>White Trout</u>	
Jep Hill Jr.	2.20lb	Brenda Mashburn	1.25lb
Brandon Parker	2.05lb	Timmy Bradley	1.00lb
Karen Brown	1.90lb	Trey Pitt	.95lb

July Junk Sale Wrap-up

Great sporting items and lots of tackle at very affordable prices changed ownership at last month's meeting. Our records indicate between \$450 and \$500 changed hands with ACFA gaining over \$45 for our treasury. Thanks to all who participated!

ACFA August Tournament

The Mobile Bay Grand Slam And Membership Shrimp Boil

This month's tourney---The Grand Slam---will be fished on Sat. Aug. 6th. ACFA recognizes the Speckled Trout, the Flounder, and the Redfish as the big three "slam" fish of Mobile Bay and its tributaries. In addition to these 3 species we will also be targeting White Trout and adding a fifth species with Blackfish added to our lineup.

To make it a little easier for an angler to complete an ACFA slam there will be five places (receiving plaques and points) in each of the three slam-fish categories. There will be 3 awards, as usual, for the white trout and blackfish categories. This means 21 plaques will be available to fishermen during this tournament.

To complete the "slam" and earn 5 additional (bonus) tournament points all you need to do is place first thru fifth in each of the slam fish categories. (Note: a slam could be completed with three fifth place fish.) Any questions regarding this tourney will be answered at the meeting.

For your information, to the best of our knowledge, since 1997 our members have achieved a slam on this tourney no more than 3 times with the latest slam occurring just last year. Get out and fish---this could be your year!

Weigh-in will be from 3-5pm, as usual, behind the American Legion Post 250 on DIP. And in conjunction with the weigh-in we'll be holding our annual membership shrimp boil!

That's right, we're gonna have an "eat-um-up" on Sat. afternoon! Your club leadership has scheduled this "feed" because we want to thank each of you for supporting ACFA this year with your membership. Secondly we appreciate what you've done regarding talking up ACFA and bringing good, new members to our roster. Third--we think the attendance to our meetings has been phenomenal; and finally your participation in our monthly tournaments, the spec. challenge, and our junk sale has just been outstanding this year.

Make plans now for Saturday afternoon, and remember--your wife and kids under 16 are automatically members of ACFA so we expect to see them in attendance also. And if you're able--please support the members of Post 250 (who generously allow us to use all of their facilities) by purchasing your choice of beverage from the bar inside the building.

We'll see you there!

ACFA Logo Items

We will be selling our line of logo'd items at this August meeting, so bring a couple bucks and see Donald Garrettson. We will not sell these again until October so if you'd like to wear our colors any time soon don't miss this opportunity.

By Special Request

Several of our members who missed out on the opportunity to obtain embroidered ACFA fishing shirts have requested a rerun of "shirt night" (when you bring in a fishing shirt and \$10 and we have the ACFA logo embroidered on your shirt and return same at the following meeting).

We can repeat this function IF we can get a minimum of 8 shirts to be embroidered. Donald Garrettson will compile a list of members, who want to participate, at the Aug. and Sept. meetings. If we get a minimum of 8 committed we will collect your shirts at our October meeting and return them completed at the November meeting.

Our embroidered logo really "smartens" up almost any color fishing shirt and since we've welcomed some additional new members who may be interested we've decided to "test-the-waters" and offer this service one more time if enough are interested. This may be just the ticket for those long-sleeved shirts required in fall and winter or for that special Christmas gift that's a little bit unique.

ACFA Custom Rod Raffle

This is your last chance. We will draw a winner and present that custom casting rod to some lucky person at the close of this Aug. meeting. Bekki Ludlam will have chances available for purchase right up to the drawing. Feeling lucky? All proceeds go to our club due to the generosity of rod builder/member Steve Parks. And remember--Steve will personalize this rod with the winner's name. Please help yourself and our club and get a chance from Bekki at the meeting on Thurs. night.

Reminders

1. Please be on time, sign in, and wear a nametag.
2. We now have 181 members.
3. Pick up your 2005 club roster at the door.
4. Quick hits will be delivered by Jimbo Miller.
5. Your fellow members thank you for not smoking during meetings.

How's This?

To preclude extra mailing expense and the possibility of up to one third of our club not knowing about any future change of club tournament dates the following has been proposed for addition to our tournament rules: "If a hurricane is predicted to strike the Gulf Coast within approximately 140 miles east or west of Mobile (including Panama City, FI and New Orleans, La) on or close to a scheduled ACFA Saturday tournament that tourney will automatically be postponed until the following Sat. unless that following Sat. falls on an ADSFR weekend in which case the ACFA tourney will be postponed until 2 wks. later. Tournament participants are strongly advised to check the ACFA web site or talk to ACFA leadership to apprise themselves of the correct date for that monthly tourney." Care to discuss this?


Next Year's Leadership

ACFA is one of the best things that's happened to our sport and to many of us as members here in the Mobile area. Our leadership and our club is constantly striving to give something to you the member so that you can truthfully say that you are better at fishing and enjoy the sport more due to your association with ACFA and the folks that make up its membership. We believe we're succeeding.

Every year we urge each of you to "give something back" to ACFA in response for what you've gained through your membership. Some answer our call, but many don't. There are innumerable small ways to contribute and we're thankful for all that many of you do. Now we're asking again. We have 181 members and we're hoping that some of you will step forward and give back to ACFA so that our club can continue to be a leader in its field.

Study our masthead. There are 10 positions that keep our club functioning and some of those could even use co-chairmen to help. If you feel that you could contribute in 2005 see Bruce Howle, Sr. at this meeting or the next. We must have our slate in Oct. and we'll vote at the Nov. meeting. If you volunteer we guarantee plenty of experienced help until you feel secure at what you're doing. Please help ACFA.

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

 I WAS UNABLE TO GET THE TOURNAMENT STANDINGS AND BIG FISH BOARD BECAUSE JENNIFER WAS OUT OF TOWN, SHE WILL TRY TO HAVE COPIES AT THE MEETING. I WILL HAVE THEM IN NEXT MONTHS NEWSLETTER. (SORRY)

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.