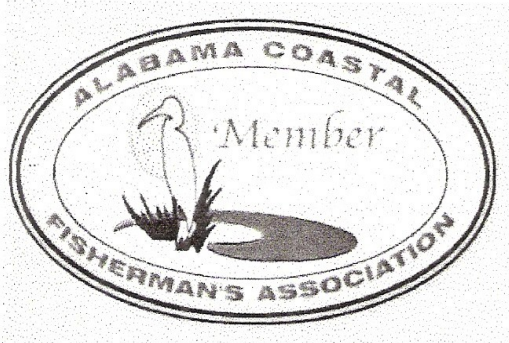


ACFA



Club Officers and Chairmen for 2003
 Pres. Don Ludlam 649-8757
 VP Lee Minto 607-0121
 Treas. Tom Duncan 626-0219
 Sec'y. Angie Howle 479-2911
 Stats. Jennifer Mitternight 634-9716
 Membership Bekki Ludlam 649-8757
 Weighmaster Pat Hughes 443-6686
 Donations Joe Sirmon 973-1973
 Club Logo Items Bud Barr 602-1982
 Awards Bill Midgette 473-4768
 Advisor Mike Thompson

December Newsletter

Our final meeting of the 2003 club year will be held on Thurs. Dec. 4th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. This meeting will be our 2003 awards and recognition night and annual Christmas party. We probably won't get to see many of you again until our first meeting in 2004 so please try to make this one. We don't think you'll regret it.

President's Message

As the holiday season quickly approaches, we find ourselves making plans for the upcoming events that take place at this time of the year. I hope that those plans include coming to the ACFA Christmas party. I know you won't want to miss out on all that good food that Charlie Dowdle will prepare and those other treats that club members will bring.

Another thing that I hope you will include in future plans is to once again be a member of ACFA and to make an effort to bring in someone you think might be interested in joining. This has been a great year and I want to again thank all the board members for their help and tireless efforts to make this a successful and productive year for ACFA. I am really looking forward to the upcoming year because we have an outstanding group of people serving on the board for 2004 and they have a lot of interesting and new ideas for making the future meetings and tournaments really special and enjoyable for everyone.

I hope you and your family will have a safe, happy, and blessed holiday season.

Don

2003 Awards And Christmas Party To Highlight Dec. Meeting

25 awards of recognition will be presented at Thursday's meeting. The main menu will be provided by your club on this special occasion and Charlie Dowdle will be serving baked ham, potato salad, green beans, and french bread. A limited number of soft rinks will be available and, of course, the Post 88 bar will be open for optional liquid refreshments. As usual we ask that you bring an hors d'oeuvre item (appetizer) or a sweet item (from candy to dessert) or your choosing to complement our meal. This is definitely a "family affair" and all members, their spouses, and children are invited to attend. Any guest, other than immediate family, will be \$6.00 at the door. Please help us! We must know how many to plan for. If you weren't at the November meeting and have not "signed-to-come" with Charlie take just a moment of your valuable time and call Charlie Dowdle at 661-7770 and let him know how many (in your party) to plan for, and what you plan on bringing (appetizer or sweets) to supplement the meal. Last year over 90 folks attended and we already have a bunch signed up and planning to attend this year. Don't forget to register with Charlie and attend this one.

Reminders

- A) The 2004 ACFA Big Fish Contest (for eight species) is now underway. Send big fish cards (within 30 days of catch date) to Jennifer Mitternight--9430 Yorktown Way--Mobile, Al 36693.
- B) The 2003 grand attendance prize will be awarded at the Dec. meeting to one of our qualifying members. The value of this years loot is over \$100.00!
- C) Our next meeting will be our first of 2004 on Thurs. Feb. 5th.
- D) Our first tourney of 2004 will be on Sat. Mar. 20th.

2003 Milestones

Some of ACFA's accomplishments for this year are:

- * Expanded ACFA logo'd items with more fishing caps and tees, embroidered long and short sleeve fishing shirts, and logo'd fishing towels.
- * Retired the Speckled Trout challenge cup to the ACFA shelf.
- * Produced new ACFA boat decals that were provided to all members.
- * Held first-ever custom fishing rod raffle.

New, 2004 ACFA Leadership

All 10 of our leadership positions for next year were confirmed at the November meeting. This new team will take over the reins of the club at the close of Thursday night's meeting. We congratulate each of you and wish you the best in the coming year. Thank you for stepping up and serving our club! And, while we're at it--a big thank you to President Don Ludlam and his folks who have given us another great year in 2003. We wouldn't be where we are today without your dedicated service to ACFA. Thanks to all of you, ACFA is alive and well.

Congratulations Are On Order!

Once again ACFA members have acquitted themselves in grand fashion, winning big in the last 2 inshore tournaments in the Mobile, area. Results are as follows:

- A) Souther-N-Bama and George's Water Sports Tournament--
 1st place White Trout, Bruce Howle, Sr., 2.26lbs
 2nd place White Trout, Bruce Howle, Jr., 2.18lbs
 Top 5-speck, creel, Frank Mitternacht, 18.72lbs
 Live Redfish jackpot, Kyle Mitternacht, 6.36lbs
- B) Red Cross Causeway Classic--
 2nd place Trout creel, Donald Garrettson and partner, 11.20lbs.
 3rd place Trout creel, Frank and Kyle Mitternacht, 10.90lbs.
 1st place Flounder, Del Delchamps, 4.34lbs.

We are all proud of you. Way to go!

Membership--Membership--Membership--2004

All clubs, good and bad, gain and loose members on an annual basis. ACFA is no different than any other organization and we expect to loose some of our current members, for various reasons, when 2004 rolls around. To offset these we must recruit more in 2004. Even more than in 2003 when our membership dropped from over 115 members to under 85. At this time our leadership has decided to leave our dues at \$45 for the coming year, but unless we continue to strive to keep good members and recruit more potential members we may have to increase our dues in order to cover our modest club budget. Now in '03-'04 almost everything cost more than in 1997 when ACFA was founded and our \$45 dues covered all of our expenses. There are three solid truths--1. ACFA is a great inshore fishing club that almost any inshore fisherman could benefit from if he was a member. 2. There are many, literally dozens, of fishermen in the Mobile area who want to learn more about local inshore fishing and how to increase their success (witness the large number of anglers who attend the free seminars conducted from time to time all around Mobile--the same type of presentations that we in ACFA have almost every month at our meetings). 3. Each of us either knows one or two of these folks or we run into these potential members while we're our fishing. Now is the time to start matching these people up with ACFA. Talk us up every chance you get. Follow up by getting potential members all pertinent info about our club. And then close the deal by getting them to a meeting so that they have the chance to join. Make increasing our membership one of your personal goals in 2004. Start now so that every one of us will have a potential new member in attendance next year. We've just got to do it for the sake of ACFA. Can we depend on you?

Sirmon Wins

Joe Sirmon bought the winning ticket in our custom casting rod raffle which concluded at the Nov. meeting. We think that the rod will still catch fish for Joe even though he's having it trimmed out in Auburn's orange and blue color scheme.

Finally

Well here we are at the end of the line. Thanks for being with us this year. We hope you've enjoyed ACFA as much as we have enjoyed knowing and associating with each of you. We look forward to 2004 and your return to the club next year. Until then Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may all your lines be tight! Have a safe Holiday Season. If we miss you Thurs. nite we'll see you on the water.

we're spaced

P.S.----If you don't call Charlie he said he's not going to cook for you!

ACFA FINAL 2003
TOURNAMENT STANDINGS

PLACE	MEMBER	POINTS
1	Kyle Mitternacht	58
2	Bobby McElroy	26
2	Barry Keith	26
2	Scott Lewis	26
3	Frank Mitternacht	21
4	David Hare	16
4	Jimbo Miller	16
5	Bud Barr	15
5	Michael Pierce	15
6	Angie Howie	14
7	John Fassbender	13
7	Bruce Howie Jr	13
7	Bill Midgette	13
8	Charlie Dowdle	12
8	Mike Thompson	12
9	Kelly Fulmer	11
9	Donald Garretson	11
10	Alvin Bell	10
10	John Winter	10
11	Billy Hurd	9
11	Gerald Markow	9
11	Bill Patterson	9
11	Eugene Pierce	9
11	Doug Smith	9
12	Earl Hopper	8
12	Bruce Howie Sr	8
12	Don Ludlum	8
12	Nicholas Markow	8
13	Frank Dunlevy	7
13	Jep Hill, Jr.	7
13	Wes Knight	7
14	Del Delchamps	6
14	Jep Hill	6
15	Howard Perry	5
15	Matt Perry	5
15	Ocie Wade	5
16	Larry Markow	4
16	Lee Minto	4
16	Butch Pierce	4
16	Joe Sirman	4
16	Keith Vaughn	4
16	Rick Yeend	4
17	Mutt Burke	3
17	Jeff Dute	3
17	John Markow	3
18	Perry Howell	2
18	Britney Howie	2
19	Tommy Pond	2
19	Ray Dulton	1
19	Pam Dunlevy	1
19	Doug Houston	1
19	Pat Hughes	1
19	Brooke Jemison	1
19	Peyton Jemison	1
19	Bekki Ludlum	1
19	Sharon Markow	1
19	Keith McGraw	1

FINAL BIG FISH STANDINGS 2003

Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1 John Fassbender	17.57	Kyle Mitternacht	5.80	Mike Thompson	1.91	Bud Barr	7.05
2 John Fassbender	15.58	Bobby McElroy	5.67	Bruce Howie, Jr.	1.67	Charlie Dowdle	6.80
3 Del Delchamps	14.23	Rick Yeend	5.54	Butch Pierce	1.42	Gerald Markow	6.65
4 David Hare	10.77	Bill Patterson	4.84	Michael Pierce	1.24	Bobby McElroy	6.65
5 Bill Midgette	5.06	Bill Midgette	4.20	Doug Smith	1.20	Mike Thompson	6.20
Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1 Bruce Howie, Jr	9.88	Michael Pierce	7.00	Becki Ludlum	6.15	Kyle Mitternacht	2.33
2 Don Ludlum	9.55	Billy Hurd	6.93	Becki Ludlum	6.00	Bruce Howie, Sr.	2.26
3 Angie Howie	9.25	Bruce Howie Jr.	6.96	Don Ludlum	5.95	Del Delchamps	2.25
4 David Hare	9.15	Alvin Bell	6.95	Don Ludlum	5.25	Bruce Howie, Jr.	2.18
5 Brooke Jemison	8.50	Bruce Howie Jr.	6.58	Bruce Howie, Jr.	2.58	Eugene Pierce	1.93