



ACFA

New Club Officers For 2002
 Pres. David Hare 343-5875
 Vice Pres. Charlie Dowdle 661-7770
 Stats. Jennifer Mitternight 634-9716
 Secretary Angie Howle 479-2911
 Treasurer Earl Hopper 665-7057
 New Membership Becki Ludlam 649-8757
 Board Adviser Mike Thompson

April Newsletter

Our third meeting will be on Thursday, April 4, 2002 at 7pm, at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road

Our main speaker will be: Capt. Scott Jordan, one of the better known salt-water guides in the Mobile area, and a prolific and knowledgeable contributor to the Gulf Coast Outdoors Magazine. His topic will be "How to catch early season Speckled Trout."

Our second speaker will be Mr. Jim Duffy of the Marine Resources Division on Dauphin Is. Jim is the authority on the "Roads to Reefs" program which is now becoming reality throughout Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound, and he will update us on this very productive fishing project.

In addition, West Marine will have an informative display of fishing/boating related products which should be of interest to the membership.

Message from the President

When I pulled into the weigh-in site of our first tournament I couldn't believe my eyes. I remember the early days of our club, when we would have just a few hardy souls at the March Tournament. We had over 35 people weigh fish, and we are at over 80 paid members. It only goes to show what we have always known, we are the largest, and best inshore club in the area.

The new weigh-in site seemed to work well and the people in charge went out of their way to make us feel welcome. There is already talk of a fish fry at the June Tournament. Thanks to everyone that made the tournament such a great time. Charlie Dowdle did a great job as weigh master. There is another guy that deserves a lot of credit, but he does not like to have his name mentioned. Let's just call him "Phill Widjet". you can probably figure it out!

This is just the tip of the iceberg folks. This month's meeting will feature Capt. Scott Jordan, and the Roads to Reefs people. If you are an inshore fisherman, this is the place to be.

Don't forget the magazine drive, get yourself a sticker, a cap, and a T-shirt. Bring a friend to the meeting, and talk us up whenever you get the chance.

The new board is packed full of great ideas to make the club even better! So grab hold and hang on, it's going to be a great year.

See you at the meeting,
 Dave

Unfinished Business

1. Our 2002 attendance contest continues. Be sure to sign-in at the door. Ice chest items now represent around \$100 in value and are projected to top out in the vicinity of \$200 by drawing time at our Dec. meeting.
2. The current membership drive featuring a \$5 rebate to any current member responsible for signing up a first-time-ever new member continues until the close of the April meeting. Remember-your new member must write your name on his membership application form so that you can be credited for the sign-up. It's a great way for anyone who is now a paid-up 2002 member to lower his membership cost!
3. This year ACFA caps are available in 4 colors in 2 cap styles with your choice of title logo at several different prices. This type of selection will not last throughout the club year. Act now to get exactly what you want and help publicize ACFA.
4. Over 20 T-shirts have already been ordered and the 2002 deadline for these shirts is the close of the April meeting. Shirts will be gray and heavy duty with a breast pocket. A small club logo will adorn the front pocket and a larger ACFA logo will be on the back. Both logos will be in navy blue. Prices are \$10 (M,L,XL) and \$11 (XXL). All shirts must be prepaid with your order. Order forms will be available at the T-shirt desk (for the final time) at the next meeting. Your support will be appreciated.

Have you heard? A win-win situation!

At our March meeting Jeff Dute, Past President of ACFA and Executive Editor of Gulf Coast Outdoors Magazine presented the club with a sure-fire way to earn extra money for our Treasury and the possibility of a very large prize for one of our members.

ACFA operates on a shoestring budget of that we can pass the benefits of membership on to the whole family and award plaques and trophies to our winning fishermen. Gulf Coast Outdoors is the preeminent publication in its field for our area of the Gulf Coast. These 2 facts have been blended together to form a blockbuster deal for ACFA.

Our club goal is to sell 300 subscriptions or renewal subscriptions by Aug. 1, 2002 (approx. 4 months). If we do, the commission to ACFA is \$5 per sale or \$1,500. Any number of sales less than 300 will earn \$3 per sale which is still a tidy sum for the club. All sales must be paid in advance by check or have all credit card info on the subscription form.

Any individual member who makes at least 20 sales will qualify for entry into the individual jackpot drawing for a Garmin GPS Map 168 Sounder with internal antenna and transducer included, and a 7' Kistler Rod, and 20 "Live-Poppin'-Shrimp" lures. One member (who qualifies) will win this prize (valued at over \$600) whether there's 1, 2, or 10 members in the drawing! (Any tie will be broken for 1 winner).

Full details of this terrific fund raiser will be available at each subsequent meeting as will subscription forms for members to use when selling. Can you help the club?

Tournament Results

We had a big turn-out for the March Madness Tournament, and the winners are:

<u>Speckled Trout</u>	<u>Sheepshead</u>	<u>Ground Mullet</u>	<u>White Trout</u>
Kyle Mitternacht 5.85lb	Barry Keith 10.45lb	Del Delchamps 1.80lb.	Eugene Pierce 2.25lb
Wayne Ladnier 5.15lb	Keith Smith 10.25lb	Barry Keith 1.15lb	Jeff Dute 1.35lb
Bobby McElroy 3.55lb	Bobby McElroy 9.75lb	Bobby McElroy 1.10lb	Kyle Mitternacht 1.20lb

April Tournament

ACFA's "breakout" tournament will be held on Saturday April 6. Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet are this month's targeted fish. Weigh-in will be from 3pm-5pm at the American Legion Post 250 on D.I.P. (on the west side of highway next to the Dollar Store) approx. 1 block south of Bayley's Restaurant and Greer's Food Tiger. (ACFA members please park in rear of the building!)

Remember you don't have to sign up for any of our tournaments. Just plan to fish on the Saturday and if, by chance, you catch one of the tournament species bring it to our weigh-in that afternoon and have it weighed. Who knows--you may win a plaque that you weren't even trying for, not to mention the camaraderie and really good fish stories.

^{JS} This is your last ACFA newsletter! ??

We'd hate to think about that, but the reality is that it will be if we don't receive your dues before the May newsletter goes to press! We don't want to think about leaving even one of our past loyal members behind as we move forward into the 2002 club year, but we've made a commitment to the club that an up-to-date roster of members will be published in May, and our postal costs are always an overall budget item of concern.

So please, get to the April meeting and get your \$45 dues "on-the-books", or if you can't make it to the meeting forward a check(only) to our treasurer: Earl Hopper 5205 Montiel Court Mobile, Al 36693. Please note "ACFA dues" on checks and include your correct mailing address and phone number for the new roster.

Early Spring Fishing on Grand Batture Bar

About 5 miles and 20-25 min. of running from Bayou La Batre's city launch ramp will get you to one of the more secluded and secretive spec. spots on the southern coast of Alabama----Grand Batture Bar. Located west-southwest of Bayou La Batre and about 1 mile due south of Bayou La Fourche Bay in the Grand Bay area, the bar is an eastward continuation of what used to be a chain of small islands bearing that same name just off the rigolets area of marshland at the Mississippi-Alabama line.

Now underwater except during hard north winter winds the bar could qualify as a hazard to local navigation were it not for the usual 4-9 pine-tree duck blinds that dot the grass beds that are found along its approximate 2-3 mile length east of the Alabama Boundary line,

Almost completely surrounded by deeper water of up to 7ft. the bar acts as a magnet for Specs. Reds, and Flounders (and in hotter, summer months-Spanish Mackerel) to come looking for shrimp, crabs, and baitfish hiding on the grassy flats. Since the bar lies relatively close to shore usually only harder south-something winds will really cloud the fishable areas, particularly on the north (or in-shore) parts of the bar which seem to be preferred by the few locals who venture out.

Most fishermen observed at Grand Batture prefer to drift with the wind or ease along with trolling motors, but wade fishing remains popular with those who enjoy being cooled as they fish and those who are stalking "that big-un".

Now to the final and possibly the most salient point regarding Grand Batture Bar-The locals always remind that: "When the fish first show up around D.I. and in D.I. Bay the fish are usually already at Grand Batture!"

Big Fish Contest Standings 2002								
3/23/02								
	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1					Del Delchamps	1.80		
2					Barry Keith	1.15		
3					Bobby McElroy	1.10		
4								
5								
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Barry Keith	10.45	Bruce Howie, Jr.	7.15			Eugene Pierce	2.25
2	Keith Smith	10.25	Bruce Howie, Sr.	6.83			Del Delchamps	2.00
3	Bobby McElroy	9.75	Rick Yeend	6.57			Bill Midgette	1.77
4	Mike Thompson	8.85	David Hare	6.03			Jeff Dute	1.35
5	Bruce Howie, Jr.	6.45	Bruce Howie, Jr.	5.98			Kyle Mitternacht	1.20

TOURNAMENT STANDINGS		
PLACE	MEMBER	POINTS
1	Barry Keith	13
2	Kyle Mitternacht	11
3	Bobby McElroy	10
4	Del Delchamps	8
4	Eugene Pierce	8
5	Jeff Dute	6
5	Wayne Ladnier	6
5	Keith Smith	6
6	Mark Bryant	1
6	John Fassbender	1
6	Donald Garretson	1
6	David Hare	1
6	Bruce Howie, Jr.	1
6	Bruce Howie, Sr.	1
6	Scott Lewis	1
6	Gerald Markow	1
6	Lee Minto	1
6	Frank Mitternacht	1
6	Dustin Moore	1
6	Howard Perry	1
6	Matt Perry	1
6	Cliff Straughn	1
6	Mike Thompson	1
6	Keith Vaughn	1