



# ACFA

Club Officers and Chairmen for 2004

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Pres. Bruce Howle Sr.       | 479-2911 |
| VP David Hare               | 343-5875 |
| Treas. Tom Duncan           | 626-0219 |
| Sec'y. Angie Howle          | 479-2911 |
| Stats. Jennifer Mitternacht | 634-9716 |
| Membership Bekki Ludlam     | 649-8757 |
| Weighmaster Pat Hughes      | 422-6992 |
| Donations Charlie Dowdle    | 661-7770 |
| Club Logo Items Bud Barr    | 602-1982 |
| Awards Bill Midgette        | 473-4768 |
| Advisor Mike Thompson       |          |

## December 2004 Newsletter

Well folks, we're finally nearing the end of our 2004 odyssey into the wonderful world of inshore fishing. Our final get-together of this club year will be held on Thurs. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. This will be our 2004 awards and recognition night and annual family Christmas banquet. Almost 100 have signed up already. We expect more of you to join them. We may not get to see many of you again until next year so please try to make this one. We don't think you'll regret it.

### President's Message

Hey guys it's that time of the year again when all of the awards are handed out and Charlie Dowdle prepares some of his fine cooking so don't miss out.

I sure have enjoyed sharing the fishing stories and the company of some of the finest fishermen around this area. I have made some new friends and I'm sure you have also.

We the board members will try our best to duplicate another great year for you to enjoy. So, don't miss out on the Dec. meeting.

On the fishing front the action in the Delta is starting to heat up and if any of you did not hear Mike Thompson's seminar on fishing the Delta, Pinto Pass is heating up. Bruce Jr. and myself had a limit of trout Sat. & Sun. on grubs. If you need any tips on fishing this area just ask Mike or myself at the meeting.

See you at the meeting,  
Bruce Sr. AKA TOP DAWG

### 2005 Leadership

All ten of our leadership positions (see top of this page) for next year were unanimously confirmed by the membership present at the November meeting. Technically this 2005 team takes over the reins of ACFA at the end of next Thursday's meeting. Congratulations to each of them for stepping up again to serve our club for one more year and Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, for what you've done for ACFA in 2004!

### ACFA Rule-Of-100 & Rule-Of-125

This is brand new so pay close attention. Since ACFA is all about fellowship, teaching, and recognition; your leadership has announced the following change in procedure which will be known as the ACFA rule-of-100. In the past ACFA has recognized the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of each of our eight Big fish categories by presenting that angler with a plaque at the end of the club year. One plaque per species to the first place winner only.

This year we're instituting the new rule-of-100 whereby as long as the club has 100 or more members we will award second and third place plaques as well in all eight species so that more folks can receive recognition for their catches in our year-long fishing competition. A word of explanation though--although each member can place two fish on the board for each of the eight fish species we will award only one plaque per angler in each of the eight categories. Example: John Doe holds 2<sup>nd</sup> place in flounder and holds 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in specks. John will receive a second place plaque for flounder and one first place (size) plaque for specks that reads 1<sup>st</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the plaque.

And, since our club has enjoyed a banner year and a record membership of 135 your leaders are instituting another beneficial change which we think you'll appreciate. That is the new rule-of-125 which means that as long as ACFA has 125 or more members on the roll we will also award recognition plaques to our anglers who hold all the fourth and fifth place big fish positions. The rule of one plaque per angler (if the angler holds two positions within a species) will extend through these two places also.

So be sure to take another look at our final big fish list for 2004 (see last page) because we'll be passing out up to 32 additional plaques on Thurs. nite and you may now be a recipient of one of these awards.

Congratulations to all!

Membership is definitely a deciding factor when it comes to providing more benefits for you.

Spotlight

Although tournament points and positions within the big fish categories are important to our club anglers all year long there is never more significance placed on club standings than now, at the end of our year long competition, when titles, trophies, plaques, and sometimes reputations are on-the-line. Have you ever wondered about how all those competition points and big fish standings are gathered, compiled, and published for you each month? Well, we can assure you that this extremely important function of our club is in exceptionally capable hands thanks to Jennifer Mitternacht (wife of Kyle) who has been our statistician since Nov. 2001. This working mother of two has volunteered to keep ACFA on the up-and-up points-wise for the last three years and will once again perform those duties for us in 2005. We don't get to see her at meetings much anymore but she still manages to fish some of our tournaments and she caught the largest speck weighed in on our Challenge in May.

Jennifer is responsible for tallying the points earned on each of our tournaments and updating our tourney standings. Additionally, she keeps the big fish board updated from tournament entries and big fish cards forwarded to her by you the club members. All of these stats. Are compiled and updated on a monthly basis and forwarded to our secretary for publication in the newsletter. And then, at this time of year when both tournament standings and big fish standings are finalized, Jennifer goes through another ACFA formula to ascertain our master angler for the year. Although most of this is on computer memory accuracy is still the key and that's where we depend on the competence of this lady to keep our awards system entirely above board.

Thank you Jennifer for being an ACFA member and for a job well done!

'05 Big Fish Contest

Our 2005 Big Fish Contest is now in full swing. Entries must reach the stat. Person within 30 days of your catch. Send your big fish cars to: Jennifer Mitternacht--9430 Yorktowne Way--Mobile, Al 36695.

Current ACFA Club Records

|                   |           |                  |      |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|------|
| Blackfish         | 24.40lbs. | Del Delchamps    | 1999 |
| Flounder          | 7.80lbs.  | Darin Grizzle    | 1997 |
| Ground Mullet     | 2.32lbs.  | Bruce Howle, Jr. | 2004 |
| Redfish (16"-26") | 7.75lbs.  | John Fassbender  | 1999 |
| Sheepshead        | 12.80lbs. | Doug Smith       | 2004 |
| Speckled Trout    | 8.56lbs.  | Keith Smith      | 2000 |
| Spanish Mackerel  | 7.88lbs.  | Bekki Ludlam     | 2000 |
| White Trout       | 3.14lbs.  | Bruce Howle, Jr. | 2001 |

2004 Grand Attendance Prize

Bekki Ludlam, our membership guru, informs us that over 50 of you are eligible and your names will be included in the pot for drawing for our '04 attendance prize (8 out of the first 10 meetings). Just so you know, the booty consists of : an ice chest, matted and framed ship print, 3 fishing caps (2 w/logo), soft sided lunch/cooler box, a beach ball, assorted lures, set of 2 collector's knives in presentation case, 2 ACFA tee shirts, camo cell phone case, multipurpose tool w/case, Penn level wind reel, reef fish carving, hunting video, goose call, open face spinning reel, an ACFA license tag, 2 logo'd fish towels; and more.

Remember--you don't have to be present to win, but if you're eligible please try to be on hand so you can haul this home if you win. Otherwise you may have to travel to Semmes to take possession at some future date.

2005 ACFA Logo'd Items

Did you like the logo items that we offered in 2004? Do you have a suggestion for a new logo item for our 2005 club year? If so, please see Bud Barr next Thurs. and just mention your idea for next year. We depend on our members for input.

Congratulations!

In the recent Red Cross Causeway Tournament Frank and Kyle Mitternacht placed first in Speckled Trout creel, Frank had the largest Speck, and Eddie Smith had the largest Flounder. Kudos also to Trey Bryant for putting on yet another great Classic for charity,

In the recent Mobile Inshore Fishing Tournament in Nov. Eddie Smith was on the winning team for Speck creel and Bobby Abruscato was the runner-up. Bobby was second and Eddie was third in the spec category. Butch Pierce won for White Trout and Bruce Howle Sr. was third. Therese Miller placed second in Flounder and was named Lady Angler for the tourney.

"Retention"

The dictionary says retention is "the act of keeping in possession" and that's exactly what we (ACFA) hope to do with each of you during the upcoming club year in 2005. When it comes to losing members we tend to get

hard-nosed because we believe our club has a lot to offer the inshore or coastal angler. We know all clubs, good and not so good, gain and loose members every year and we've looked at our attendance records and we can see that several of you probably haven't gotten everything that was available to you as a member of ACFA. For that we're truly sorry. We know we've tried and we know that 2004 has been a banner year so we know we've done a pretty good job. We hope that you will give ACFA another chance in '05 to prove that we are the best inshore club on the Gulf Coast.

Since 1997 our dues have not risen and 2005 will be no exception. Dues for our next club year will still be only \$45. With that in mind start thinking of a potential new member or two for next year, give them one of our business cards with your phone number on it. Recruit for ACFA in Dec. and Jan. It will pay off next Feb. We're counting on you!

2004 ACFA Awards And Eat-Em-Up Highlight Dec. Meeting

Well over 50 awards of recognition are scheduled for Thursday's meeting and the main menu will be provided by your club on this special occasion. Charlie Dowdle will be serving ham with all the usual trimmings. A limited number of soft drinks 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) of your choosing to compliment 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 \$5.00 at the door (see Tom Duncan, our treasurer).

Please help us! We must know how many to plan for. If you weren't at the last meeting and have not signed Charlie's attendance list take just a moment of your valuable time and call Charlie Dowdle at 661-7770 And let him know how many adults and children (in your party) to plan for. We're expecting a great crowd next Thurs. so don't forget to register now and then attend this wrap-up get-together of 2004.

Reminders

- A) Our next meeting will be our first of 2005 on Thurs. February 3<sup>rd</sup>. You will be notified via the Feb. newsletter. B) Our first tournament of 2005 will probably be on Sat. March 19<sup>th</sup>.

It's A Wrap

Well here we are at the end of our line. We're completely "spooled" regarding 2004. We're going to have to rewind for next year. Thanks to each of you for joining us on this trip. We hope you've enjoyed being a member of ACFA as much as we have enjoyed knowing and associating with each of you. We're already looking forward and planning for next year, and, we hope, your return to the club. Until then Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and may all your lines be tight. Have a safe holiday season. If we miss you Thurs. night we'll see you on the water 'cus we'll be on hiatus for the next nine weeks.

P.S.---Call Charlie now or he won't cook for you!

**FINAL Big Fish Contest Standings  
2004**

11/15/2004

|   | <b>Blackfish</b>  | <b>WT</b> | <b>Flounder</b>       | <b>WT</b> | <b>Ground Mullet</b>    | <b>WT</b> | <b>Redfish</b>     | <b>WT</b> |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1 | John Fassbender   | 23.86     | Larry Markow          | 5.16      | Bruce Howle, Jr.        | 2.32      | Bill Midgette      | 7.15      |
| 2 | Bruce Howle, Sr   | 20.12     | Jerry Markow          | 5.14      | Bruce Howle, Sr.        | 1.86      | Lee Minto          | 6.20      |
| 3 | Del Delchamps     | 15.84     | Mike Herring          | 4.94      | Bruce Howle, Sr.        | 1.60      | Belinda Smith      | 6.10      |
| 4 | Rick Yeend        | 14.34     | Gerald Markow         | 4.70      | Bruce Howle, Jr.        | 1.58      | John Markow        | 6.10      |
| 5 | Rick Yeend        | 14.32     | Frank Mitternight     | 4.50      | Del Delchamps           | 1.20      | Kyle Mitternight   | 5.75      |
|   | <b>Sheepshead</b> | <b>WT</b> | <b>Speckled Trout</b> | <b>WT</b> | <b>Spanish Mackerel</b> | <b>WT</b> | <b>White Trout</b> | <b>WT</b> |
| 1 | Doug Smith        | 12.80     | Rick Yeend            | 7.94      | Bekki Ludlam            | 5.00      | Beverly Pierce     | 1.95      |
| 2 | Brittney Howle    | 10.80     | Bruce Howle, Sr.      | 7.58      | Bekki Ludlam            | 4.85      | Bruce Howle, Sr.   | 1.86      |
| 3 | Kyle Mitternight  | 10.26     | Kyle Mitternight      | 7.55      | Don Ludlam              | 4.75      | Bill Midgette      | 1.83      |
| 4 | Belinda Smith     | 10.05     | Bruce Howle, Sr.      | 7.06      | Bruce Howle, Jr.        | 4.00      | Butch Pierce       | 1.78      |
| 5 | Barry Keith       | 10.00     | Kelly Fulmer          | 6.74      | Bruce Howle, Jr.        | 2.79      | Jad Pope           | 1.70      |

**FINAL 2004  
TOURNAMENT STANDINGS**

| PLACE | MEMBER               | POINTS |
|-------|----------------------|--------|
| 1     | Kyle Mitternacht     | 57     |
| 2     | Bill Midgette        | 36     |
| 3     | Doug Smith           | 35     |
| 4     | David Hare           | 29     |
| 5     | Tom Duncan           | 23     |
| 6     | Rick Tourne          | 20     |
| 7     | Del Delchamps        | 18     |
| 7     | Bruce Howle, Jr.     | 18     |
| 8     | Billy Hurd           | 17     |
| 9     | Earl Hopper          | 16     |
| 9     | Belinda Smith        | 16     |
| 10    | Bill Patterson       | 15     |
| 11    | Ocie Wade            | 14     |
| 12    | Sonny Gause          | 13     |
| 12    | Bobby McElroy        | 13     |
| 13    | Johnny Fassbender    | 12     |
| 13    | Steve Parks          | 12     |
| 13    | Tommy Pond           | 12     |
| 14    | Mutt Burke           | 11     |
| 14    | Frank Dunlevy        | 11     |
| 14    | Kelly Fulmer         | 11     |
| 14    | Gerald Markow        | 11     |
| 14    | John Markow          | 11     |
| 15    | Alvin Bell           | 10     |
| 15    | Thomas Murray        | 10     |
| 15    | Jad Pope             | 10     |
| 15    | Jeff Vadakin         | 10     |
| 16    | Jim Glass            | 9      |
| 16    | Jimmy Holmes         | 9      |
| 17    | Barry Keith          | 8      |
| 17    | David Thornton       | 8      |
| 17    | Bud Turner           | 8      |
| 18    | Phillip Guy          | 7      |
| 18    | Mike Herring         | 7      |
| 18    | Brittney Howle       | 7      |
| 18    | Bruce Howle, Sr.     | 7      |
| 18    | Frank Miller         | 7      |
| 18    | Lee Minto            | 7      |
| 18    | Frank Mitternacht    | 7      |
| 18    | Butch Pierce         | 7      |
| 18    | John Winter          | 7      |
| 19    | Bobby Abruscato      | 6      |
| 19    | Jeff Dute            | 6      |
| 19    | Austin Lee           | 6      |
| 19    | Jennifer Mitternacht | 6      |
| 19    | Hal Scheurich        | 6      |
| 20    | Donald Garrettson    | 5      |
| 20    | Beverly Pierce       | 5      |
| 20    | Shaun Sullivan       | 5      |
| 21    | Jep Hill, Jr.        | 4      |
| 21    | Marc Kruse           | 4      |
| 21    | Trisha Lowry         | 4      |

|    |                      |   |
|----|----------------------|---|
| 21 | Therese Miller       | 4 |
| 21 | Trey Pitt            | 4 |
| 21 | Jimmy Quint          | 4 |
| 22 | Mike Coffee          | 3 |
| 22 | Charlie Dowdle       | 3 |
| 22 | Wayne Garrettson     | 3 |
| 22 | Jep Hill, Sr.        | 3 |
| 22 | Nick Markow          | 3 |
| 23 | Bud Barr             | 2 |
| 23 | Angie Howle          | 2 |
| 23 | Patrick Hughes       | 2 |
| 23 | Jim Jernigan, Jr.    | 2 |
| 23 | Larry Markow         | 2 |
| 23 | Sharon Markow        | 2 |
| 23 | Chris Massey         | 2 |
| 23 | Glenn McDonald       | 2 |
| 23 | Dustin Moore         | 2 |
| 23 | George Turner        | 2 |
| 24 | Zachary Demouy       | 1 |
| 24 | Donnie Fassbender    | 1 |
| 24 | Sid Fern             | 1 |
| 24 | Donnie Howell        | 1 |
| 24 | Jackson Hughes       | 1 |
| 24 | Joseph Hughes        | 1 |
| 24 | Marion Jernigan, Sr. | 1 |
| 24 | Wes Knight           | 1 |
| 24 | Mike Lee             | 1 |
| 24 | Jim Mason            | 1 |
| 24 | Jimbo Miller         | 1 |
| 24 | Matt Perry           | 1 |
| 24 | Michael Pierce       | 1 |
| 24 | Darrell Raley        | 1 |
| 24 | Joe Sirmon           | 1 |
| 24 | BH Smith             | 1 |
| 24 | Mike Thompson        | 1 |
| 24 | Cindy Yeend          | 1 |