



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 Wayne Garretson	479-3498
Awards Bill Midgette	473-4768
Advisor Mike Thompson	

March 2005 Newsletter

The second meeting of our 2005 club year will be held on Thursday Mar. 3rd at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. Be there!

Our speaker will be Mr. Ross Hutchisson. Need we say more? Ross is possibly the premiere reel repairer in the Mobile area and he also specializes in building custom fishing rods. A session with Ross should help you get your rods and reels ready for the upcoming season and could potentially save you some real monetary out-go down the line. Although Ross makes a living repairing or maintaining reels for many Mobilians he has never shied away from any question posed by his audience. Those in attendance Thurs. night may well save themselves some anguish and tribulation out on the water.

President's Message

Hey guy's March is around the corner when the weather and the fish are starting to bit's a little better. The spring run of sheepshead is around the corner also and I will be giving a few tips on how to catch them.

The February Diehards Trout tournament was a great success with 23 boats fishing which means if you missed it you missed out on some great company. Here is the run down on it. 1st place went to Kyle Mitternight and Rick Yeend with 28.35lbs. 2nd place Jason and Margaret Miller with 20.45lbs. 3rd place Eddy Smith and Joe Bill with 18.40lbs.. The lunker went to Kyle Mitternight with a 5lb speck.

There will be a live bait tournament in May we are working on the details now. This tournament is not and ACFA function.

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

February Meeting Recap

Another great start for ACFA. Over 80 fisherpersons in attendance. In excess of 20 new members signed up and paid. An informative speaker, quick hits, and approximately \$200.00 in door prizes given away. What more can we say but "sorry if you missed it!"??

May We Suggest?

Once more we implore you to save these newsletters in 2005. Most, if not all, important info on your club's activities will appear on these pages each month, and this (March) newsletter is no exception since it contains several ACFA policy statements and important dates to remember.

2005 Monthly Tournament Schedule

Mark your calendars---

Mar. 19 (March Madness)	July 9 (Rodeo Warm-Up)
Apr. 9 (Breakout)	Aug. 6 (Mobile Bay Grand Slam)
May 7 (Speckled Trout Challenge)	Sept. 3 (End Of Summer)
June 4 (Summer Starter)	Oct. 22 (Causeway Classic)

Please note, for all you fishermen that place great stock in the tide chart, that no tournament in 2005 falls on a neap tide day! This surely must be your year to really "show out".

ACFA March Tournament

Our first monthly tourney of 2005, March Madness, will be held on Sat. Mar. 19. Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet are this month's targeted fish. Once again the members of American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway have invited us to hold our weigh-ins at their club. Weigh-in will be from 3pm to 5pm at that location. Post 250 is located on the west side of D.I.P. next to the Family Dollar Store and approx. one block south of Bayley's Restaurant and Greer's Food Tiger. Weigh master Pat Hughes will be set up

at the rear of the building and ACFA members are requested to park their vehicles and fishing rigs in the large parking lot behind the club.

Restrooms and a beverage bar are located inside and if you are so inclined please purchase from the Post if you can. In addition please offer any unneeded fish to the Post since they utilize ACFA as one source of fish when they provide fish fry's for disabled vets throughout the year.

And fisherpersons and guests--ACFA will be providing food (of some nature) at the weigh-in. Remember, 12 awards and a bunch of tournament points will be up for grabs, but your dues must be paid prior to tournament day to be eligible.

Quick-Hitters For Club Year Announced

Quick hits are short presentations (10 min.) by various members highlighting small points that they utilize or know about to help them in trailering, boating, fishing, or with equipment. Some of these ideas have been around a long time while others highlight the ingenuity or frugality our members. Either way you're going to learn something new from every speaker. We thank each one of them for "giving it up" and "passing-it-on"! What a line-up!

- Mar.- Bruce Howle, Sr.
- Apr.- Capt. Jon Morgan
- May- Bud Barr
- June- Marc Kruse
- July- Doug Smith
- Aug. Jimbo Miller
- Sept. Rick Yeend
- ~~Oct. Mike Thompson~~
- Nov. Kyle Mitternight

ACFA Statement Of Purpose

Several of our members have inquired about a mission statement for ACFA. Although we're not a business we do believe we serve a definite purpose in the community of fishermen. Therefore we offer the following for your consideration: "ACFA is a local, inshore, salt-water fishing club. Our objective is to provide a family oriented club where fishermen can meet new friends and share common interests. Our goal is to assist one another to be more successful while pursuing our hobby on the water and to pass on that knowledge to other fisherpersons so that we can all improve at what we love to do while caring for that resource for all those who follow in our footsteps."

What do you think?

New Revised ACFA Business Cards

If you weren't at the last meeting be sure to pick up several of our current ACFA business cards with "need-to-know" phone numbers on the reverse side. Everyone on the water needs this card. Thanks again to Bud Barr and Joel Midgette for this great idea for our club!

ACFA Policy Statements

From time to time certain situations arise or we institute something for the first time in club history. When this happens we feel it imperative to notify and explain these changes and/or happenings to you the club member. Following are the latest issued by our leadership board--

A.) Fact: Beginning in 2005 ACFA will recognize the ACFA Young Angler Of The Year.

Background: ACFA requires dues of \$45 per club year (Feb.-Dec.). Those dues cover the primary member and all family members under 16 (when all youth are required by law to purchase a fishing license). Any boy or girl under the age of 16 at the beginning of the club year (Feb. 1st) automatically retains their ACFA junior (under 16) status for the purpose of dues and competition for the remainder of that club year, but they are never the less required to purchase a fishing license in accordance with state law. Those younger members who have turned 16 prior to Feb. 1st are required to pay regular dues of \$45 per year and will be competing within ACFA as a senior division (adult) member.

Eligibility: Young anglers (boys or girls) must be under 16 years old on Feb. 1st and must be a recognized family member of a paid primary member.

Result: Points amassed in the ACFA Big Fish Contest and monthly ACFA tournaments will be the sole criteria for calculating the Young Angler Of The Year. The Junior Angler who wins this award is also eligible to compete for and win all other ACFA awards except the ACFA Master Angler and the ACFA Female Angler Of The Year awards.

B.) Fact: Beginning in 2004 ACFA recognized the ACFA Female Angler Of The Year.

Background: As a family fishing club, ACFA realizes that serious fisherpersons may be male or female and that recognition of our lady anglers might foster greater participation from the distaff side of our club. This award was created for that purpose.

Eligibility: Female anglers must be 16 yrs. or older on Feb. 1st, and must be a recognized paid member such as wife of a primary member or single (primary) female member. (IE-girlfriends or partners are not eligible unless they are dues-paying members.)

Result: Points amassed in the ACFA Big Fish Contest and monthly ACFA tournaments will be the sole

criterion for calculating the ACFA Female Angler Of The Year. The female angler who wins this award is also eligible to compete for and win all other ACFA awards except the ACFA Young Angler Of The Year.
 C.) Fact: Occasionally a Junior angler, who is as good as most adults, comes along and performs well above the normal junior angler level. That boy or girl may want to compete as an adult in ACFA competition in order to be eligible for the ACFA female angler and/or the ACFA Master Angler awards. If so, the procedure would be as follows.

Background: If at any time an ACFA junior angler would rather compete as an adult in ACFA competition the following would apply.

Eligibility: Any boy or girl under the age of 16 on Feb. 1st may opt to declare preference for adult status and compete as an adult angler (16yrs. and older) in the ACFA adult (senior) division by notifying the club president of their decision not later than the day before the first club tourney of the year (usually in Mar.) from that time forward "they" will be competing on the senior level in our club. They will not, however, be required to pay adult dues until after "they" become 16 yrs. old by our ACFA definition. The club president will notify the membership of any junior opting for adult status.

Result: Any junior so opting is eligible to compete for and win all ACFA awards except ACFA Young Angler Of The Year.

Footnote to "C"--Bruce Howle, Jr. has informed the president that he will forgo junior status and compete as an adult.

Bekki: Needs Your Help

Are you a family member of a paid primary member (such as wife or child) and do you expect to attend at least eight monthly meetings in 2005 to become eligible for our grand attendance prize drawing? If so please contact Bekki Ludlam so that she can add your name to our permanent sign-in list at the door. Just remember, all members are eligible to win if they qualify, but please refrain from signing in anyone not in attendance.

Challenge Update

Word has it that our sister club on the Eastern Shore has grown significantly and is really gearing up for the Speckled Trout Challenge on May 7th. The new president of the Weeks Bay Fishing Club has already been in touch with our president to confirm the challenge is once again "on" and that they'll be ready come May. As defending champs from 2004 we hope to be ready also, as this friendly rivalry extends to its second year. More to come in future newsletters.

2005 Dues Are Due And Payable

Dues of \$45 per year are now being accepted. If you're an old member and wish to be included in the drawing for a \$45 dues rebate you must pay your dues by mail before Mar. 31st. Send your \$45 check to Tom Duncan, 37 Village Main, Spanish Fort, Al 36527. Please inform Tom of any change of address and include an up-to-date phone number.

"J" Is For Junior

Now that ACFA will recognize a junior angler we need your help. Dads, Moms, and all our junior anglers are requested to make sure that the letter "J" in parenthesis is placed immediately after a junior member's name when weighing in a tournament entry fish or when submitting a big fish entry card to our statistician. That juniors name will carry the "J" letter thru all further publication of their name such as in this newsletter, but the "J" won't appear on trophies or plaques. Example--Danny Brown (J).

Reminders

1. Our 2005 grand attendance prize contest is on-going. Please sign in and wear a nametag. We want to get to know you!
2. Our 2005 year-long big fish contest is in full swing. Every time you're fishing you could catch a winner. More weigh cards available at meeting.
3. If you need a copy of our contest rules see Charlie Dowdle.
4. Your suggestions and/or questions are always welcomed. Please contact any officer or committee chairman.
5. Smokers--thank you for smoking outside our meeting room.
6. Charlie Dowdle still needs volunteers to deliver a donation letter to area businesses that we support. Won't you help your club??
7. New members- when you join ACFA you are entitled to 2 ACFA decals (hopefully for your boat so we can recognize you out on the water.) and an ACFA license tag. We hope you got your decals when you signed up in Feb. (Bekki has them at the door.) Your license tags should be available at this Mar. meeting so be sure to get yours on Thurs. night. Check the "welcome" table.
8. Bruce Howle, Sr. will handle quick hits on Thurs. night.

Membership 2005

Our 2005 membership drive, now going strong, doesn't end until April 30th. All paid members, both new and old are eligible to win one of the two dinners-for-two packages to be awarded at our May meeting. Just sign up one new member and make sure he designates you as his sponsor on his application card and you're eligible. "Most new members" to your credit could mean a sure-fire dinner for two. ACFA has a lot going for it so it shouldn't be too hard to sell an inshore fisherman on membership.

Conservation Corner

Speckled Trout depend on the slime on their bodies to protect themselves from organisms that, if contracted, could mean certain death. Please use only your bare hands when unhooking specs that may be released to bite-and-fight another day. If you must use a towel be sure it is soaking wet. Dry towels used when handling specs are pretty much a death warrant for a respected advisory since they tend to remove the protective slime from parts of the fish's body. Protect our resource and pass this message on!

See you at the meeting!

P.S.--Send your dues NOW. Over 80 of your fellow members have already paid!

We are saddened by the loss of one of our ACFA member Earl Hopper. He was a kind, good hearted man. He will surely be missed by all of us..

**Big Fish Contest Standings
2005**

2/23/2005

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1			Bill Brady	4.80			Bruce Howle, Jr.	1.64
2							Joe Sirmon	1.50
3							Bill Midgette	1.36
4								
5								

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.