



ACFA

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

May Newsletter

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 2, 2002 at 7pm, at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road

Our first speaker will be: Capt. Bobby Abruscato, ACFA member; in-shore, salt-water guide; contributing writer for Gulf Coast Outdoors Magazine; and TV host of Gettin' Hooked with Capt. Bobby on WPXI channel 15(NBC).

Our second speaker will be Mr. David Rainer, Outdoors editor for the Mobile Register and columnist for the Outdoors column which runs twice-weekly in the Register.

In addition, Boaters World will host a display of fishing/boating related products which should be of interest to the membership.

Message from the President

Our club has come a long way since Mike Thompson first conceived the idea of an inshore fishing club in the area. One thing that has not changed is the Speckled trout Challenge against the Saltwater Sportsman Assoc. I hold the distinction of being the only President to lose the cup to the enemy. I do not plan to become the only "Two-time loser" in club history. We need everyone in the club to get out and fish on May 4th. I have obtained some dynamite and an old crank telephone rig to see if I can get a fish in the top ten. If I fail, I guarantee a fireworks show to rival the Riverview Plaza, and free long distance service to everyone that fishes. Just in case my plan fails, it might pay for all of you to fish. If you see a bunch of guy's in suits at the ramp escorting me away, pretend you don't know me and I will flip you a top ten fish while they are not looking. Those ATF guy's have NO sense of humor!

Seriously, this month's meeting should be great. Capt. Bobby Abruscato will fill us in on sure-fire big trout tactics. You will want to hear the fishing tales to know where to concentrate your efforts for the tournament. We will get Mike T-bone Thompson up to tell us a little bit about the history of the challenge and fire us up for this years event.

Door prizes are top notch this year so don't leave too early. Thanks to Bill Midgette and Charlie Dowdle for taking Delchamps and I to Bayou La Batre this past weekend for the grand tour. That's what this club is all about, fishermen helping fishermen. If you want the tour I will take you and a friend for the paltry sum of 149.99 each! Just kidding. See you at the meeting.

Dave

**WE ARE SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF LONG-TIME FISHERMAN PETE MELECH SR..
 PLEASE KEEP HIS FAMILY IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.**

--2002 Club Roster--

The club roster for 2002 will be available at the May meeting. This listing contains all paid members thru May 1st with current addresses and phone numbers. Pick yours up on Thurs. night!

--2002 Speckled Trout Challenge--

Well it's that time again. Time for ACFA members to pull together as one and defeat the pretenders on the field of battle. Well not exactly, but pretty close. This year marks the fifth year of our Spec. Challenge (The Saltwater Sportsman's Association) in the Mobile area. ACFA has won 3 of the 4 previous challenges and we hope to dominate the series with another win this year. A traveling trophy and a little ACFA pride are at stake.

Mark Sat. May 4 on your calendar and fish for Speckled Trout on that day. Live or artificial bait allowed, and ACFA needs as many members to fish that Sat. as is possible. As usual you can launch anywhere. Weigh-in on Sat. will be at the American Legion on Dauphin Island Parkway from 3 to 5pm.

The challenge is scored like this--the top 10 speckled trout entered will be awarded placement points form 10 points for the largest spec. down to 1 point for the 10th largest fish. (Example: 4th largest spec. is worth 7 points while 8th largest is worth 3 points.) The available 55 points will be totaled up by club catching those positions and the winning club for 2002 will be decided.

The opposition is no pushover and all of the challenges have been very closely contested. We need your help. More at the meeting! (Remember, 1 participation point for just entering a spec and 2 additional points if you make the top 10 fish entered!)

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Older Club Business

1. 2002 attendance contest is in full swing. Remember to sign-in at the door.
2. Rebate checks should be passed out to those members responsible for signing up any new members for this club year and the drawing will be held among those same folks for a "dinner for two".
3. ACFA fishing caps remain available for purchase at this time. See the Cap Man at the meeting.
4. T-shirts are on order and should be available for pick-up at this May meeting.
5. Please remember to sell those subscriptions and renewal subscriptions to Gulf Coast Outdoors Magazine. ACFA could net \$1,500 or more for our treasury and some member with 20 or more sales will be the recipient of a terrific jackpot. Get all details and forms at the meeting.

Tournament Results

April's "Breakout" tournament now in the record books and the winners are:

<u>Speckled Trout</u>		<u>Flounder</u>	
1. Keith Vaughn	5.31lb	1. Donald Garrettson	2.25lb
2. Wayne Ladnier	4.94lb	2. Rick Yeend	1.88lb
3. Frank Mitternacht	4.38lb	3. Jep Hill	1.63lb
<u>Sheepshead</u>		<u>Ground Mullet</u>	
1. Bobby McElroy	8.44lb	1. Del Delchamps	.94lb
2. Barry Keith	6.38lb	2. David Hare	.94lb
3. David Hare	4.88lb	3. Mike Thompson	.81lb

Remember--For the absolute best fishing map of the entire Mobile Delta, Bay, and Coastal areas its the waterproof Top Spot map which shows it all. You won't believe the amount of information provided (complete with GPS readings). Approximate price \$13.00, one source is--Keith Map Service at 60 N. Schillinger Rd.

Fishing The Eastern Shore

Have you thought about fishing the East side of the Bay lately? If you pursue specks, reds, flounder, and sheepshead you probably ought to seriously consider this venue. Depending on time-of-year, water clarity, and wind direction you always be able to "catch a mess" somewhere along the route down "the Far Side". Here's where to launch-and-look north to south.

Tournament Standings	
MEMBER	POINTS
Barry Keith	19
Bobby McElroy	18
Del Delchamps	16
Kyle Mitternight	12
Wayne Ladnier	12
David Hare	10
Keith Vaughn	9
Donald Gattettson	9
Eugene Pierce	8
Jeff Dute	6
Keith Smith	6
Ricky Yeend	6
Frank Mitternight	5
Mike Thompson	5
Jep Hill	4
Gerald Markow	1
Lee Minto	1
Mark Bryant	1
Dustin Moore	1
Howard Perry	1
Matt Perry	1
Cliff Straughn	1
John Fassbender	1
Bruce Howle Sr.	1
Bruce Howle Jr.	1
Scott Lewis	1

- Ramp: Mizells Fish Camp, Causeway
- *North Pass
- *Turtle Ditch
- *Lake Forest Yacht Club Basin
- *Jackson Oaks/Mercy Medical Area
- *Del Williamson Reef
- Ramp: Daphne city ramp at Mayday Pier
- *Daphne Pilings
- *Mouth of Fly Creek at Fairhope Yacht Club
- *Fairhope (pier) Marina entrance and channel
- Ramp: Fairhope (State) ramps at Pier Street
- *Point of View/Bed and Breakfast/Flags area
- *Battles Wharf Pilings
- *Entrance to Grand Hotel Marina
- *North and South of Julip Pt. at Grand Hotel
- *Point Clear Beacon
- *Zundel's Reef and Pilings
- *Klondike Reef
- *Grassbeds at Meaher's
- Ramp: Mullet Point Park Ramp
- *Mullet Point Light
- *Upper Barge
- Ramp: View Point Ramps, Mouth of Week's Bay
- *10' deep oyster reef inside Big Mouth
- *Fish River Reef
- *Lower Barge
- *Several subtle points along "The Swamp"
- *Oyster growing test site at "The Spokes"
- *Mouth of Bon Secour River
- Ramp: Billy's Seafood, Bon Sec. River (Shell)

Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) be responsible for the welfare of members, guests or equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge.***

4/24/02								
	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1			Donald Garrettson	2.25	Del Delchamps	1.80	Alvin Bell	4.69
2			Ricky Yeend	1.88	Barry Keith	1.15	Bill Midgette	2.25
3			Jep Hill	1.63	Bobby McElroy	1.10		
4			Donnie Howell	1.63	Gerald Markow	0.95		
5			Bobby McElroy	1.56	Del Delchamps	0.94		
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Barry Keith	10.45	Bruce Howle, Jr.	7.15			Eugene Pierce	2.25
2	Keith Smith	10.25	Bruce Howle, Sr.	6.83			Del Delchamps	2.00
3	Bruce Howle Sr.	10.12	Rick Yeend	6.57			Bill Midgette	1.77
4	Bobby McElroy	9.75	David Hare	6.03			Jeff Dute	1.35
5	Mike Thompson	8.25	Bruce Howle, Jr.	5.98			Kyle Mitternight	1.20