



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

March Newsletter

Our second meeting will be on Thursday, March 7, 2002 at 7pm, at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road.

Our speakers will be: Capt. John T. Jenkins of the Marine Resources Division, Alabama Department of Conservation and Ken MacRae of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary;

Message from the Board

Approximately 60 fishermen were in attendance as ACFA kicked off our sixth year. Old friendships were renewed and some new ones were begun as new members were welcomed into the club. We missed those of you who could not make it!

Much insight into the world of trolling motors was gained and some myths were debunked as Vernon Humphrey gave us an insightful and informative look at those electric propulsion units that many of us depend on while fishing.

The ACFA 2002 tournament schedule, including the fish to be featured each month, was announced and handouts listing these are now available.

While many members have been hunting, mardi-grasing, or just sitting-on-the-hill, some of our people are catching fish. Several large sheepshead are now on the big fish board and several members have been "working" on the specs in Fish River just below the Hiway 32 bridge. Reports of large specs (7-8lbs) between the marinas in Dog River; some large whiting in the D.I. surf; several 7lbs. plus specs from the Theodore canal; and steady catches of specs, flounders, and redfish from East Fowl River have given those who want to fish a reason to keep their gear "ready-to-go". And----if we can escape too much rain and high river waters the specs might return to Pinto Pass and the Tensaw River at any time.

It's always exciting and we'll try to keep you abreast. Bring a personal fishing report and a potential new member to the meeting and plan to get out and fish on Saturday Mar. 23 during our March Madness Tourney. Who knows? Maybe you'll catch a prize winner that you can bring down to our weigh-in!

Until then-be safe-and we'll see you on the water.

Your Executive Board

		2/21/02						
	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	Bruce Howle, Sr	7.97	Bruce Howle, Sr.	6.83			Del Delchamps	2.00
2	Bruce Howle, Sr	7.83	David Hare	6.03			Bill Midgette	1.77
3			Kyle Mitternight	5.72				
4			Bruce Howle, Jr.	5.62				
5			David Hare	5.41				

March Speakers

Capt. John T. Jenkins is with the enforcement arm of our Marine Resources Division based on Dauphin Island and, most importantly, he is the Coastwatch Coordinator. Coastwatch is a body of civilian volunteers who have undergone training that enables them to assist the M.R.D. by acting as additional eyes and ears that can help protect our priceless marine resources such as trout, redfish, mullet, crabs, and shrimp.

Ken MacRae is an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the organization that assists our U.S. Coast Guard in carrying out the many functions for which it is responsible. The Auxiliary performs courtesy marine (boat) inspections and since ACFA wholeheartedly supports boat safety we wanted to make this useful service available to the membership. Ken will cover various boat safety items and two weeks later at the March weigh-in he'll be available to inspect your boats and issue the coveted safety inspection sticker to all vessels that meet the guidelines.

Do you qualify to display the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's courtesy safety inspection decal? Many of our members already do! See if you are prepared by checking this list for the correct items to have on your boat.

- | | |
|--|--|
| *Numbering | *Visual Distress Signals |
| *PFD's (Life Jackets) | *Fuel System (if applicable) |
| *Ventilation (if applicable) | *Anchor with line |
| *Fire extinguisher | *Paddle or oar |
| *Backfire flame arrester (if applicable) | *Manual pump or baicer |
| *Sound producing device | *Electrical installation (if applicable) |
| *Navigational lights | *Galley installation (if applicable) |

March Tournament

ACFA's first ²⁰⁰³ tournament, March Madness, will be held on Sat. Mar. 23. Speckled Trout, White Trout, 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 the highway next to the Dollar Store) approximately one block south of Bayley's Restaurant and Greer's Food Tiger. (ACFA members please park in rear of the building!) Courtesy boat inspections by the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be conducted during the hours of weigh-in at no obligation to the boat owner. Whether or not you fish in the tournament, plan now to take advantage of this free public service.

Reminders

1. Please pay your 2002 club dues of \$45. We depend on this income to support all of our endeavors throughout the club year. If you can't make it to one of our earlier meetings you can mail checks (only) to: {Earl Hopper 5205 Montiel Court Mobile, Al 36693} Please note "ACFA dues" on checks and include your correct mailing address and phone number!
2. Our new attendance contest is in full swing with over \$50 of tackle and outdoor supplies (and more to be added) for some lucky member.
3. The 2002 membership drive lasts until the close of our April meeting. Get \$5 rebate on your 2002 dues for every new member you bring into the club before the deadline.

Note: Direct all questions regarding any of the above items to any officer of the club.

ACFA caps

Help get our club name before the public. Buy an ACFA cap and wear it when you're out and about. This year we have several different style caps in several colors and at varied prices. We aim to please all and fit your needs, your style, and your pocketbook. See the cap man at the next meeting. You'll look better for it!

ACFA T-shirts

Orders will be taken for Club T-shirts at the March and April meetings. Shirts will be gray heavy-duty t-shirts with the club logo in Navy on the front pocket and a larger logo on the back. Prices are \$10 (M,L,XL), \$11 (XXL). Shirts will need to be pre-ordered and pre-paid by deadline at April 4th meeting. Order forms will be available at March and April meetings so be sure to bring cash or check to order yours at the meeting. Show everyone you support the ACFA.