

# 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 443-6686  
 Donations Charlie Dowdle 661-7770  
 Club Logo Items Bud Barr 602-1982  
 Awards Bill Midgette 473-4768  
 Advisor Mike Thompson

## May 2004 Newsletter

Get ready to attend our fourth meeting of 2004 on Thursday, May 6th at 7PM at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. This should be an informative get-together.

Our speaker for the evening 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 WPML channel 15(NBC). From redfish and trout in the Louisiana marshes to trout in our bays and rivers and those monster bull reds in Dixie Bar, Bobby has done it all. We're sure to learn something from his vast experience that will enhance our future fishing experiences. Be there!

West Marine will have a display during our meeting which should be of particular interest to all in attendance.

## Presidents Message

I want to thank everyone who fished the April tournament. Some fared better than others but hey (that's fishing). I want to express my personal thank you to Charlie Dowdle for the excellent job he done on the hot dogs. Charlie really knows how to spice things up and if you think they were good wait til you taste his fish at the annual fish fry at the June tournament.

May has come upon us pretty quick and it is time for the annual Speckled Trout Challenge, and it looks like the Weeks Bay Inshore Sportsman club has stepped up to the plate. I am asking everyone that can fish this tournament to come out and participate. There's a lot of bragging rights involved and I personally think ACFA is the best inshore fishing club on the golf coast, thanks to you fishermen.

Long live the ACFA,  
 Bruce Sr.

## April Tournament Results

Another beautiful fishing day with neap tides seemed to help rather than hinder our intrepid club fisherfolks. More than 50 fish were presented for weighing and hot dogs were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Charlie Dowdle, our cook-of-the-day! Final standings-----

<u>Speckled*Trout</u>		<u>Sheepshead</u>	
Kelly Fulmer	6.60lb	*Bud Turner	9.55lb
Kyle Mitternacht	6.20lb	*Jim Glass	9.45lb
Billy Hurd	5.55lb	*Tricia Lowry	9.20lb
<u>Flounder</u>		<u>Ground Mullet</u>	
Gerald Markow	2.60lb	Del Delchamps	1.20lb
*Frank Miller	2.55lb	David Hare	1.20lb
Bill Midgette	2.10lb	Bobby McElroy	.85lb

\* New Member

## Congratulations

The team of Kyle and Frank Mitternacht posted an impressive victory in the inaugural North American Inshore Sportsmen (NAIS) Alabama Speckled Trout Tournament Trail event on April 10th with weigh-in at Dauphin Island Marina. Scott Ritter was a member of the third place team. Kyle also caught the tourney lunger at 7.55lbs. Way to go!

## Membership 2004

Thanks to everyone of you who cared enough about ACFA to talk up our club and sign up new members for this club year. Because of you, our membership now stands at 115 and is still climbing. We firmly believe our new members won't regret joining our team and we intend to do everything possible to make theirs a thoroughly enriching experience. At Thursday's meeting we will award a dinner-for-two to that member responsible for the most new members. We will also give a second dinner-for-two to one of our members who was responsible for signing up at least one (or more) new



members. That winner will be decided through a special drawing between 21 qualifying members. You don't have to be present to win.

#### April Boat Inspections

A club record of 21 boats were inspected at the April Tourney weigh-in. Thanks to all of you ACFA should be much safer while on the water in 2004.

#### New (Free) ACFA License Tags

The new ACFA tags were introduced and distributed to our members at our April meeting. If you haven't received yours yet and will display one on your car or boat trailer see Bud Barr at this meeting.

#### The Friendly Club??

Lately we've been receiving some very good feedback regarding our club. We're proud to be members and it must be showing a little bit. Not only is ACFA a "friendly" club we are very "helpful" and "informative." This says a lot about ACFA and our membership. Just remember, although healthy competition is one complexion of our club; teaching other members how to be better fishermen' and helping them with all aspects of our pastime/sport makes them, you, and ultimately our club as a whole, a far better organization to be affiliated with.

So don't those nametags, introduce yourself, offer helpful advice, and, above all, talk up ACFA every chance you get. The dividends we'll receive from these actions will continue to help us "on-the-street" with the public at large; will maintain our reputation; and will, in the long term, keep our club a cut-above our competitors.

#### ACFA Logo'd Items

Chairman Bud Barr will have some of our ACFA logo'd items for sale (for the first time this club year) at Thursday's meeting Bud will have a fresh supply of our fishing caps available at only \$6.50 each, a limited number of tee-shirts (in very limited sizes) at \$10.00 each, and our ACFA fishing towels at \$3.50 each.

More logo'd items such as logo'd pocket T-shirts and our new embroidered ACFA sew-on patch will be available a little later in the year. We don't intend to sell this stuff at every meeting so be sure to watch this newsletter every month for availability. As for now, Thurs. will be your first chance to show your colors and we expect many of our new members will be interested in this sale. So---be there and bring money!

#### Our May Tournament--The Speckled Trout Challenge

The following is a reprint of an explanation of the challenge that ACFA has furnished our competition:

Speckled Trout caught (only) on the day of the contest can be entered by members of the competing clubs. Live or artificial bait is allowed but all fish must be caught only by hooks and line (net-caught specs will be dis-allowed). All contestants can launch anywhere in South Alabama and all trout must be caught in Alabama waters to be eligible.

Weigh-in for this tournament will be from 3:30PM 'til 5PM at the state launching area at Chacaloochee (Chocalatta) Bay approximately mid-way of the Causeway (Hi-way 90 & 98) across upper Mobile Bay/Delta. The weigh-in table will be located at the far western edge of the asphalt, state, parking area (nearest to the service station).

Weighmasters representing both clubs will be present. One digital scale will be utilized and before each fish is weighed the scale must show zero weight. An official weigh-in log will be kept with the following entries noted for each angler weighing in a fish: time, angler's name, weight of angler's fish, and club affiliation. Every angler catching a spec may weigh same and in doing so is certifying that the fish was caught legally by the angler. No check weights will be allowed on the weigh-in scale!

The top 10 specs entered will be awarded placement points from 10 pts. for the largest down to 1 pt. for the 10th largest fish. (Example: 4th largest is worth 7pts. while 8th largest is worth 3 pts.) The available 55 points will be totaled up by club catching those positions and the club winning the challenge will be decided.

On Sat. May 8th we will need as many club fisherpersons fishing for Specs as we as a fishing club can muster! These are a heap of braggin' rights involved in this challenge as well as a traveling trophy (which the losing club must present to the winning club at a future winner's club meeting). Mike Thompson, who's arranging this contest, sure doesn't want to even think of having to do that!

So mark your calendar and fine tune your tackle and fishing rig. Don't let your partner oversleep and we'll see you on the Causeway with your heaviest fish at 3:30-5PM on Sat.

Our award plaques will be presented to every ACFA member who places in any of the top 10 positions. Additionally, one club participation point will be awarded to each member entering a spec and two additional club points will be awarded if your fish is one of the top 10 entered. Need any more info? Get it at the meeting.

And now a word about sportsmanship. There's been a lot said via Internet chatrooms about this challenge and just who are the better fishermen. That's all behind us now and "out-the-door" as we finally get ready to actually fish. Please remember-these folks are fishermen just like us so we've got a lot in common with each other. We don't as yet know them as well as the SWSA folks we've challenged before, but we need to meet them on Sat after-noon and get to know them since, who knows, at some future time we may have to band together to help save our bay or aspects of our sport. So mingle, introduce yourself, and make a new friend or two. We are the "friendly" club--aren't we? Most of these folks could teach each of us a thing or two about eastern shore fishing. And we, in turn, could enlighten them on fishing down the west side of the bay. It's always a pleasure to meet new fishermen and we hope that this is just the beginning of another fishing adventure for each of you. And please-wear your ACFA logo'd caps, tees, fishing shirts, and towels.



Factoids

- A. Donald Garrettson will present "quick hits" for May.
- B. It costs ACFA \$1,010.00 for 11 newsletters and stamps for the 2004 club year.
- C. Correction. ACFA has five licensed fishing guides within our membership-not 4.
- D. We have gained about 40 new members in '04.
- E. Another heartfelt Thank You to our smokers for refraining from smoking within our meeting room.
- F. We have saved and saved and finally purchased a good sound system for our meetings!

Reminders

- 1. Sign-in at the door for the grand attendance prize and wear a nametag.
- 2. Revised 2004 ACFA fishing contest rules, ACFA big fish cards, and the new ACFA business cards will again be available at the door. Get yours!
- 3. New members-did you get your complimentary set of ACFA decals? See Bekki.
- 4. Meetings start at 7PM (or very close to it). Please be on time and be sure to get a seat.
- 5. A representative of the fishing club we've challenged will be at our meeting to accept the challenge. Be sure to meet him.

In Memorium

ACFA lost not only a good member, but a true sportsman and good friend when Dirk Trusty passed away in April. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and sons. He was way too young to leave us and we will never forget him as a fine fisherman, a devoted dad, and supporter of ACFA.

And we also share in the loss of Jim Elliott, a past ACFA member and friend of many in our club. He will be missed on the waters of the causeway.

Got Fish??

In case you'd forgotten we're going to have our big summer fish fry at our June tournament weigh-in and in order to get ahead of actually cleaning all the fish on that afternoon we like to have some fillets ready for the fryer well before hand. To that end Charlie Dowdle asks that you donate a fish or two (that you don't just have to have) at the challenge weigh-in on Sat. May 8th. There will be an ice chest for these donated fish at the weigh-in site and any fish you can spare will give us an early start for our fry. Thanks in advance for your donations.

ACFA---We Catch Fish! Get The Net!

**Big Fish Contest Standings 2004**

4/26/2004

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1			Frank Mitternight	4.50	Bruce Howle, Jr.	2.32	Kyle Mitternight	5.75
2			Del Delchamps	4.34	Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.86	Kelly Fulmer	5.50
3			Gerald Markow	2.60	Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.60	Jennifer Mitternight	5.00
4			Frank Miller	2.55	Bruce Howle, Jr.	1.58	Bill Midgette	2.05
5			Bill Midgette	2.10	Del Delchamps	1.20		
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Doug Smith	12.80	Bruce Howle, Sr.	7.58			Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.86
2	Brittney Howle	10.80	Bruce Howle, Sr.	7.06			Rick Toume	1.60
3	Kyle Mitternight	10.26	Kyle Mitternight	7.55				
4	Belinda Smith	10.05	Kelly Fulmer	6.74				
5	Barry Keith	10.00	Kelly Fulmer	6.40				

\*\*\*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\*\*\*

**ACFA**  
**TOURNAMENT STANDINGS**  
**2004 Tournament Standings**

PLACE	MEMBER	POINTS
1	Doug Smith	16
2	Kyle Mitternight	10
3	Gerald Markow	9
4	Del Delchamps	8
4	Johnny Fassbender	8
4	Kely Fulmer	8
4	Bud Turner	8
4	Jeff Vadakin	8
5	Jim Glass	7
6	Frank Dunlevy	6
6	David Hare	6
6	Brittney Howle	6
6	Frank Miller	6
6	Bill Patterson	6
7	Billy Hurd	5
7	Bobby McElroy	5
7	Bill Midgette	5
8	Trisha Lowry	4
8	Tommy Pond	4
8	Belinda Smith	4
9	Bud Barr	2
9	Alvin Bell	2
9	Charlie Dowdle	2
9	Donald Garretson	2
9	Sonny Gause	2
9	Mike Herring	2
9	Bruce Howle, Sr.	2
9	Jim Jernigan, Jr.	2
9	Barry Keith	2
9	John Markow	2
9	Frank Mitternight	2
9	Thomas Murray	2
9	Ocie Wade	2
10	Mutt Burke	1
10	Tom Duncan	1
10	Donnie Fassbender	1
10	Sid Fern	1
10	Jep Hill, Jr.	1
10	Jep Hill, Sr.	1
10	Jimmy Holmes	1
10	Earl Hopper	1
10	Donnie Howell	1
10	Angie Howle	1
10	Jackson Hughes	1
10	Joseph Hughes	1
10	Patrick Hughes	1
10	Marion Jernigan, Sr.	1
10	Wes Knight	1
10	Larry Markow	1
10	Nick Markow	1
10	Jimbo Miller	1
10	Jennifer Mitternight	1
10	Beverly Pierce	1
10	Butch Pierce	1
10	Michael Pierce	1
10	Trey Pitt	1
10	Jad Pope	1
10	Darrell Raley	1
10	Joe Siron	1
10	Rick Tourne	1
10	George Turner	1
10	John Winter	1