

DEC 2000

...A HOLIDAY WISH FOR YOU



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, folks, it is really hard to believe this will be the last newsletter for the 2000 Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association club year.

I guess it is time to reflect a bit on what we've seen in the past and what to expect in the future.

From the 2000 Board of Director's standpoint, we believe 2000 was a very successful year. We have seen very good participation in our club tournaments, outstanding attendance at our monthly meetings all year and, not very surprising to us, new club records set in three fish categories.

Shane Steiner set a new record in sheephead, Bekki Ludlam's Spanish mackerel is now setting the standard against which all future Spanish weighed in will be judged and Keith Smith sent the speckled trout record to heights maybe many of us never thought possible. To these folks and everyone else who topped our Big Fish board this year, the 2000 Board says, "Congratulations."

In the end, however, it was Scott Ritter who maintained his angling consistency by placing a number of fish high enough on the Big Fish Leader Board to claim the Big Fish Championship. Good job, Scott!

Speaking of Ritter, he, David Hare and Del Delchamps waged the closest, yearlong battle for the Tournament Championship crown ever waged in the four years the ACFA has been in existence.

In the final tournament of the year and despite some tough fishing conditions, Hare managed to put two fish on the leader board and claimed the Tournament Championship crown by a slim 2-point margin over Ritter. Delchamps held onto his death grip on third place.

Guys, it was a lot of fun and very educational watching you battle each other for this coveted title. Thanks for the memories.

Because of his consistent performance in the Big Fish Contest and on the ACFA tournament trail, Scott Ritter easily outdistanced the field to become the 2000 ACFA Master Angler. This prestigious title was initiated last year and is made possible by a \$100 annual donation from the Mobile County Wildlife and Conservation Association. We would like to once again thank MCWCA for their generosity and congratulate Scott for putting together one of the most dominating yearlong fishing performances in the club's history.

Long-term, the greatest thing to happen this year was the increase in membership. In 2000 the ACFA grew to 90 paid members. If I remember correctly, the club's founder, Mike Thompson, had set a goal a few years ago to have the club standing at 100 members within five years. Considering the club gained 15 new members in 2000, that lofty goal is easily

easily within reach.

Some of the credit for this steady growth goes to the previous membership chairmen who have graciously given of their time to promote the club. The rest of the growth can be traced directly to the membership at large because of your participation in club events and meetings and then passing on the word to your angling buddies.

I saw a definite increase in the number of guests members brought to our meetings. While not all of these guests joined ACFA, it was gratifying to know you thought enough of the club to want to introduce a friend to it.

The Board thanks you for all of your efforts.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to my fellow members of the 2000 ACFA Board of Directors.

Willis, thanks for picking up my slack when I couldn't be at a meeting or weigh-in.

Polly, thanks for being understanding when I didn't get my newsletter stuff to you on time – ever!

Pat, thanks for keeping up with our pennies in such an organized manner.

Scott, thanks for the superb job you do as “The Stat Man.”

Lee, thanks for “talking up” the club every chance you got.

Without any one of you, ACFA's growth this year would not have been possible.

Just a reminder: Our first meeting of 2001 will be on the first Thursday in February. We take off January so folks can satisfy their deer- or duck-hunting addictions.

I'll leave you with this:

May your boat always crank on the very first try,

May your shrimp always be lively and your fake baits to the fish always look like the real thing,

May you always see the bow in your rod and feel the line stretch as it spools smoothly from your reel,

May you always appreciate the life battling there on your hook and understand that maybe, just maybe, it would be better to release it than take it home to cook,

May you always see the beauty in all, out there on the water, and realize life is far too short not to just “look at it” every once in a while and,

May the angling gods smile upon you and keep you safe no matter where you launch,

On your behalf and mine, I beseech them, “Do this – always.”

Your Secretary

Polly Devery

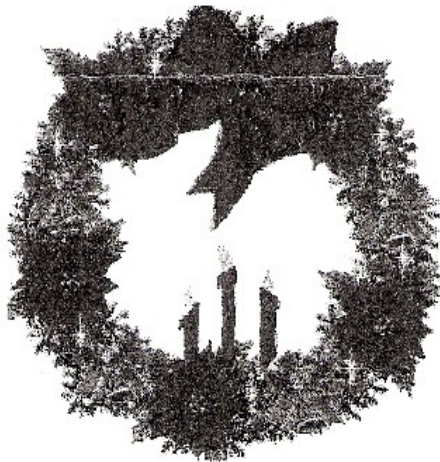
Thanks Guys for a wonderful year

I wish you all a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

I look forward to next year and working with all of you again. Thanks for all the nice things you have said about our newsletter. I enjoy doing it very much.

See you on Thursday. Remember it is our Christmas party !

Thursday December 7th is our monthly meeting and party.



The Statman-----Scott Ritter

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Big Fish Contest Standings 2000 **FINAL RESULTS**

	Blackfish		Flounder		Ground Mullet		Redfish	
1	Scott Ritter	16.30	Scott Ritter	6.25	Eugene Pierce	1.47	David Hare	6.55
2	Scott Ritter	16.21	Shane Steiner	6.19	Del Delchamps	1.34	Mike Tindel	6.25
3	David Hare	15.32	Scott Ritter	5.77	Del Delchamps	1.00	Scott Ritter	6.10
4	Earl Hopper	15.17	Shane Steiner	5.37	-	0.00	Del Delchamps	5.45
5	Del Delchamps	14.48	Bill Midgette	5.27	-	0.00	Shane Steiner	4.35
	Sheepshead		Speckled Trout		Spanish Mackerel		White Trout	
1	Shane Steiner	*10.30	Keith Smith	*8.55	Bekki Ludlam	*7.88	Eugene Pierce	2.34
2	Bekki Ludlam	9.51	Bill Patterson	7.80	Bekki Ludlam	6.05	Scott Ritter	1.86
3	Brad Williamson	8.39	David Mashburn	7.56	Don Ludlam	4.90	Eugene Pierce	1.80
4	Bekki Ludlam	8.24	Bill Patterson	7.54	Scott Ritter	4.65	Bill Patterson	1.52
5	Don Ludlam	6.74	Scott Ritter	6.66	Bill Midgette	3.46	Earl Hopper	1.40

* New ACFA record

Final Big Fish Point Standings

1	Scott Ritter	27
2	Bekki Ludlam**	25
3	Shane Steiner*	17
4	Eugene Pierce	13
5	Keith Smith*	10
6	Del Delchamps	10
7	David Hare	8
8	Bill Patterson	8
9	Mike Tindel	4
10	Don Ludlam	4
11	Earl Hopper	3
12	Brad Williamson	3
13	David Mashburn	3
14	Bill Midgette	2

* - Includes 5 Bonus Points For Breaking Club Record

** - Includes 10 Bonus Points For Breaking Two Club Records

Master Angler

Scott Ritter

Final Tournament Results

1. David Hare
2. Scott Ritter
3. Del Delchamps

Final big fish Standing

1. Scott Ritter
2. Bekki Lidlam
3. Shane Stieney