



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 Garrettson | 479-3498 |
| Awards Bill Midgette | 473-4768 |
| Advisor Mike Thompson | |

April 2005 Newsletter

Our third meeting of the year will be held on Thursday April 7th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. We're expecting you!

Our speaker will be Capt. Scott Ritter, local guide and resident of Dauphin Island. Scott is a member of ACFA, a regular participant in most of our local saltwater tournaments, and inshore seminar speaker at boat and fishing shows, and he fishes professional redfish tournaments from Texas to Florida where he has been a top ten finisher on the IFA Redfish Tour and the ESPN Redfish Cup Series. He's now scheduled for the Wal-Mart FLW Redfish Series. Scott excels at catching both trout and redfish and he accomplishes much of this using top-water tactics. We look forward to learning more from his presentation.

We will also hear from representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary with a brief update on those safety items which we should have aboard our fishing boats. This will be of great assistance when readying your rig for our voluntary vessel safety check to be held in conjunction with our April tournament weigh-in. (More info in this newsletter.)

And in addition, West Marine will be at this meeting with an informative display of fishing related items for your inspection.

President's Message

Hey guy's it's that time again when Spring rolls around and the fishing is about to break wide open and we are at work trying not to think about fishing. But if you have it bad like most of us, the work just don't get done. I want to thank everyone for the great participation in the March tourney and hope we can get more for the April tourney.

I want to thank Doug Smith/A&B Electric for his generous donation of the hamburgers at the March weigh-in and the rest of the crew that helped. If you missed out on this one there will be hot dogs at the April weigh-in donated by Food World.

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

ACFA To Take The Troops Fishing

At our March meeting Mike Thompson outlined a project for ACFA to undertake in 2005. This project was unanimously accepted by over 100 members in attendance. Basically it goes like this: Anyone in the general public can nominate a military person (preferably one who has been overseas) for an ACFA fishing trip. Winners will be chosen by drawing. ACFA members will take those chosen on a fishing trip as our way of thanking them for their patriotism. Definite numbers of military personnel, dates of the project, and a few other details are being formulated at this time. Needless to say we will need your support for this very worthwhile undertaking later this year. Stay tuned--more to come!

March Tournament Results

Excellent weather and a huge turn-out of our tournament fishermen combined to make our first tournament of 2005 a "howling" success. An ACFA record of 55 fisherpersons brought 72 fish to the scales and despite the absence of our club scale for a period of time our weigh master accomplished the entire weigh-in by 5pm as scheduled. Thanks Pat for an heroic job! Many thanks also to our "food crew" for the great hamburgers--Doug Smith, Marc Kruse, Bruce Howle Sr., Bruce Howle Jr., Angie Howle, and Charlie Dowdle. And also to our junior anglers who participated and entered fish.

We understand that winning fish were caught in both Mobile and Baldwin counties and from water depths of 5' to 54'! We think that speaks volumes regarding the versatility of the fishermen in our club.

We apologize for the scale snafu--we don't expect it to happen again! Weigh master Pat Hughes certifies these results:

| <u>Speckled Trout</u> | | <u>White Trout</u> | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------------|------|
| 1. Bill Midgette | 5.80 | 1. Lori Tourne | .85* |
| 2. Kyle Mitternacht | 5.45 | 2. John Fassbender | .85 |
| 3. Jennifer Mitternacht | 4.50 | 3. Donnie Fassbender | .80 |
| <u>Sheepshead</u> | | <u>Ground Mullet</u> | |
| 1. David Thornton | 10.10 | 1. David Hare | 1.15 |
| 2. Bruce Howle, Sr. | 9.90 | 2. Jimmy Quint | 1.00 |
| 3. Bruce Howle, Jr. | 9.20 | 3. Jep Hill, Sr. | .95 |

*earliest weigh-in.

Roots

As you may know ACFA is now in its ninth consecutive year of operation. That fact alone speaks well for the worth of the vision of an inshore fishing club which Mike Thompson brought to life back in 1997. Without members, though, any endeavor can fail; and because ACFA has been blessed with a caring membership thru the years we have grown and prospered. One reason for our success is the steadfastness of our members and no group deserves more recognition than our original charter members who are still active in this club today. We've been researching and we think we know them all and now we want to recognize these folks and let you know who they are:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| *Bobby Abruscato | *David Hare | *Bill Patterson |
| *Robert Brooke | *Doug Houston | *Howard Perry |
| *Mutt Burke | *Scott Lewis | *Matt Perry |
| *Del Decamps | *Keith McGraw | *Eugene Pierce |
| *Tommy Devery | *Bill Midgette | *Mike Thompson |
| *John Ethridge | *Lee Minto | *George Turner |
| *John Fassbender | *Jimbo Miller | *Oliver Washington |

Thanks guys, you've all helped make ACFA what it is today. Have we missed anyone? If so, notify Bill Midgette.

April Club Tournament

Our April tournament, "Breakout", will be held on Sat. April 9th. Our April tourney fish will be Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet. 12 awards will be given. Please remember (1) you can launch and fish anywhere in Southern Alabama; (2) you don't have to fish with an ACFA member and you can fish alone; (3) you can use live or artificial bait (but no nets or explosives); (4) slot redfish can be entered for big fish awards on any tourney even when reds are not the designated tournament fish; (5) when fishing with anyone each angler should mark their own fish, as only a fish caught by the member entering same can be considered for recognition (the honor system); (6) the member entering a fish must be present at the weigh-in in order to present that fish to our weigh master for judging and finally; (7) as long as your fish is a designated tournament fish and is legal it can be weighed in for a "tournament participation point" even though it may not make our ACFA minimum tourney weight for awards consideration.

Weigh-in will be from 3pm to 5pm behind the American Legion Post 250 on D.I.P. (west side of hiway next to Family Dollar) approx. one block south of Bayley's Restaurant and Greer's Food Tiger. Once again food will be available for all fishermen, their families, and guests.

A Word About Redfish

ACFA requires that all tournament redfish and big fish contest redfish be check-measured (for slot compliance) by our weigh master. Therefore the only time you can weigh redfish for either contest is during weigh-ins at our 8 monthly tournaments. We won't accept them at any other time! This year redfish will appear as a monthly tournament fish 5 times (more than ever before); but, remember--you can enter a red for big fish consideration any of our 8 monthly tournaments. Just get your big fish card filled out and signed by our weigh master and get it to our statistician: Jennifer Mitternacht, 9430 Yorktowne Way, Mobile, Al 36695.

"Treasurer's Treat" Closes--Winner To Be Announced

All 2004 ACFA members who paid their 2005 yearly dues by mail prior to April 1st (by postmark) have been entered into a pot. One lucky member's name will be drawn on Thursday night at the meeting. (You do not have to be present to win.) That member will receive an ACFA check for \$45 as a rebate of his dues for this year. The treasurer thanks the over 40 old members who took the time to mail in their dues and wishes each of you "good luck" in the drawing.

New For You In 2005

By request of the membership we are attempting a trial run of classified sale items by our members in each of the monthly newsletters. Our rules are relatively simple:

1. Your item for sale must be fishing or boating related. (No hunting items, no vehicles, no household items, etc.)
2. There are at present no restrictions regarding number of words so be sure to fully describe your item and tell it all.
3. You must state an asking price.
4. Your name and phone number must be included in your ad.
5. Your copy must arrive at least 2 weeks before a monthly meeting to be included in the newsletter. Otherwise your ad will be in the following month's newsletter. No pictures will be run! Send copy to: Bill Midgette, 2755 Marcellus Dr. Mobile, Al 36606.
6. After your ad has appeared in a newsletter simply make a small donation (for the club) to our treasurer. Our donation rates are: 0-\$200=\$1 donation; \$201-\$999=\$3 donation; and \$1000-up=\$5 donation.

We will run your ad once in our newsletter and our mailings should range in the neighborhood of 125-150 households. This may will be a great avenue to follow in order to sell that unwanted item and we believe that many of our members would prefer to purchase from a fellow member than through a blind ad in a newspaper.

If you want less hassle and a cheap ad, try us sometime.

Another First For ACFA In 2005

Sale, Sale, Sale! We have a limited number of ACFA fishing caps and an even more limited number of ACFA pocket t-shirts left from 2004. We want to move these items so we've reduced the prices. We've never had a sale and certainly never sold this low before. All caps leftover are now only \$5 instead of \$6.50 and all t-shirts, no matter what size, are \$8 rather than \$10 or more. We hope you'll take this opportunity to buy smart and wear our colors. See Donald Wayne Garrettson on Thursday night.

Voluntary Courtesy Boat Inspections

ACFA strongly believes in safety on the water. Therefore we have once again arranged for (voluntary) boat inspections by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary during our weigh-in hours at this April tournament (4/9). A representative of the U.S.C.G.A. will be at Thursday's meeting to explain the basic safety points and will pass out a pamphlet outlining the items which will be checked on your fishing rigs by the Coast Guard personnel who will be on site during the weigh-in. Last year over 20 ACFA rigs were offered for inspection and we hope to better that number in 2005. You don't even have to fish in the toureny--just pull your rig down to the weigh-in site from 2:30 'til 5pm on Sat. April 9th like several members did last year. This is a non-binding inspection with no follow-up nor any penalties. If your rig passes you will receive a safety sticker for display on your boat. The presence of an up-to-date U.S.C.G.A. decal will preclude a whole lot of hassle if you are subsequently checked on the water, by anyone, at a later date. Please try to participate! ACFA encourages this "boat check-up." And, did you know that with a passing certificate you can purchase any regular safety item at participating marine stores and receive a 10% discount on the selection?

2005 Grand Attendance Prize

Bekki Ludlam, our membership chairman, has obtained the largest and possibly the best ice chest that we've ever had to give away as the basic item in our grand attendance prize (to be awarded at our Dec. meeting). Many thanks to Academy Sports for the 100qt. Igloo Maxcold cooler. By Dec. we hope to have enough items in the chest to make this prize worth around \$200 or more. Remember, attendance at any eight of our first ten meetings gets you into the drawing.

Reminders

1. Don't pass up the "welcome" table at our meetings! Be sure to sign-in and wear a name tag. Also check out our "freebie" table immediately left of the doorway.
2. 2005 dues are due and payable! Pay the treasurer at the meeting or send your \$45 check to Tom Duncan, 37 Village Main, Spanish Fort, Al 36527.
3. Our 2005 Big Fish contest continues. Send your big fish cards to Jennifer.
4. New members--did you get your license tag, 2 decals, ACFA rules, ACFA busoness cards, and big fish cards?
5. Smokers, please, outside the clubroom and we thank you.
6. We intend to print and distribute our complete 2005 roster with the names, addresses, and phone numbers by our June meeting.
7. Next month (May 7th) is the Speckled Trout Challenge with the Weeks Bay Fishing Club.
8. *Bud Barr* will present "quick hits" on Thurs. nite.

2005 Logo Items

ACFA is introducing a new club t-shirt this year and we guarantee you're going to like this new colored design on a 100% white cotton, pocket tee. Due to the color process we will have to charge slightly more than in the

past but we think that you will understand as soon as you see the shirt. So bring money on Thursday night and get your before they're gone. Prices will be as follows: Med.-XL=\$10.75 2XL=\$11.75 3XL=\$12.75.

Additionally we should have a fresh supply of our handy logo'd fishing/boat towels complete with grommet and metal securing ring. Our new price for these towels will be only \$3 each in 2005. You probably could use at least 2 on your boat. Try'em once and you'll never be without one again. See Donald Wayne.

Did You Enjoy This Final ACFA Newsletter?

That's right. If we haven't received your 2005 dues before our printing deadline of April 25th your name will be stricken from our club rolls and you won't be bothered with any more monthly missives. We've carried a number of you 2004 members for three months now because we thought we owed it to you for the club's sake. Now it's time to "fish or cut bait". We do sincerely hope that we won't have to omit your name from our roster and mailing list 'cause we sure are proud to have you as a member of ACFA; but with newsletter costs of over \$800 per year we know you'll understand that we can't waste our member's dues moey.

ACFA.....We catch fish.....get the new!!!

Big Fish Contest Standings 2005

3/22/2005

| | Blackfish | WT | Flounder | WT | Ground Mullet | WT | Redfish | WT |
|---|------------------|-------|------------------|------|------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| 1 | | | | | David Hare | 1.15 | John Markow, Jr. (J) | 6.05 |
| 2 | | | | | Jimmie Quint | 1.00 | Donnie Fassbender | 5.55 |
| 3 | | | | | | | John Fassbender | 5.35 |
| 4 | | | | | | | Donnie Fassbender | 5.30 |
| 5 | | | | | | | Frank Miller | 5.05 |
| | Sheepshead | WT | Speckled Trout | WT | Spanish Mackerel | WT | White Trout | WT |
| 1 | David Thornton | 10.10 | Bill Midgette | 6.34 | | | John Fassbender | 1.65 |
| 2 | Bruce Howle, Sr. | 9.90 | Bill Midgette | 5.80 | | | Bruce Howle, Jr. | 1.64 |
| 3 | Kyle Mitternacht | 9.50 | Bill Patterson | 5.62 | | | Joe Sirmon | 1.50 |
| 4 | Bruce Howle, Jr. | 9.20 | Kyle Mitternacht | 5.45 | | | John Fassbender | 1.49 |
| 5 | Marc Kruse | 8.95 | Tom Duncan | 5.35 | | | Bill Midgette | 1.36 |

| 2005 Tournament Standings | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------|---|----------------------|---|---|----------------|---|
| Place | Name | Points | | | | | | |
| 1 | David Hare | 8 | 4 | Roger Glass | 1 | 4 | Leslie Smith | 1 |
| 1 | Bill Midgette | 8 | 4 | Phillip Guy | 1 | 4 | Mike Thompson | 1 |
| 1 | David Thornton | 8 | 4 | Mike Herring | 1 | 4 | Rick Tourne | 1 |
| 1 | Lori Tourne | 8 | 4 | Jep Hill, Jr. (J) | 1 | 4 | Wayne Tubb | 1 |
| 2 | John Fassbender | 6 | 4 | Donnie Howell | 1 | 4 | John Vereen | 1 |
| 2 | Bruce Howle, Sr. | 6 | 4 | Barry Keith | 1 | 4 | Bubba Williams | 1 |
| 2 | Kyle Mitternacht | 6 | 4 | Theo Koulianos (J) | 1 | | | |
| 2 | Jimmie Quint | 6 | 4 | George Koulianos | 1 | | | |
| 3 | Donnie Fassbender | 4 | 4 | Marc Kruse | 1 | | | |
| 3 | Jep Hill, Sr. | 4 | 4 | Gerald Markow | 1 | | | |
| 3 | Bruce Howle, Jr. | 4 | 4 | John Markow, Jr. (J) | 1 | | | |
| 3 | Jennifer Mitternacht | 4 | 4 | Glenn McDonald | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Alvin Bell | 1 | 4 | Bobby McElroy | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Mutt Burke | 1 | 4 | Frank Miller | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Cameron Calhoun (J) | 1 | 4 | Margaret Miller | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Chris Calloway | 1 | 4 | Lee Minto | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Del Delchamps | 1 | 4 | Frank Mitternacht | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Tom Duncan | 1 | 4 | Derek Murphy | 1 | | | |
| 4 | John Fassbender | 1 | 4 | Thomas Murray | 1 | | | |
| 4 | David Garrettson | 1 | 4 | Dewayne Overstreet | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Donald Garrettson | 1 | 4 | Steve Parks | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Sonny Gause | 1 | 4 | Trey Pitt | 1 | | | |
| 4 | Jim Glass | 1 | 4 | Jad Pope | 1 | | | |
| | | | 4 | Belinda Smith | 1 | | | |
| | | | 4 | Doug Smith | 1 | | | |

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.