

ACFA



Club Officers and Chairmen for 2003
 Pres. Don Ludlam 649-8757
 VP Lee Minto 607-0121
 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 Joe Sirmon 973-1973
 Club Logo Items Bud Barr 602-1982
 Awards Bill Midgette 473-4768
 Advisor Mike Thompson

MAY Newsletter

The May meeting of ACFA will be held on Thursday May 1st at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road.

Our featured speaker for the evening will be Mr. Vernon Minton, Director of Alabama's Marine Resources Division. Headquartered on Dauphin Island, Vernon is in charge of all saltwater fisheries and their protection in our state. This is the first time Mr. Minton has ever visited with our club and we look forward to a very interesting and informative view of our Marine Resources Department from the top down.

Additionally, Boaters World will have a display of boating and fishing items for 2003 that should further your enjoyment of our sport.

Message From The President

Well, the Breakout Tournament turned out great, as more big fish were turned in. There just seems to be no limit as to what kind of fishing this club can produce. Congratulations to all the members that placed.

The Speckled Trout Challenge has been confirmed. Once again the Saltwater Sportsman Association has accepted the challenge to see who can bring in the ten biggest fish. I guess we'll find out at the weigh-in.

An awful lot is planned this year as far as door prizes, attendance prizes, fund raising events and even a custom rod raffle. Be sure and attend the meetings to stay updated.

See you at the May 1st meeting.

Don

April Tournament Results

Another ACFA April Breakout Tournament is in the records. Once again weighmaster Pat Hughes ran a very smooth, no-hassle weigh station. Our special thanks go to Pat's wife ANGIE,

who kept the weigh book accurate and kept Pat straight! And these folks are our April Winners:

Speckled Trout

1. Michael Pierce	7.00lb
2. Bill Midgette	4.50lb
3. Kyle Mitternacht	4.25lb

Sheepshead

1. Bruce Howle, Jr.	8.15lb
2. Bobby McElroy	8.15lb
3. Charlie Dowdle	8.00lb

Flounder

1. Eugene Pierce	3.65lb
2. John Fassbender	3.00lb
3. Larry Markow	2.90lb

Ground Mullet

1. Doug Smith	1.20lb
2. Bobby McElroy	.80lb
3. David Hare	.75lb

Older Business

1. The year-long 2003 attendance contest continues at each meeting. Make sure you stay eligible by signing in at the door when you arrive. And, please wear a name tag.
2. Rebate checks for all members who signed up new members for our club will be ready for pick-up at this May meeting. Please see Treasurer Tom Duncan.
3. Thanks to all our members who took advantage of the courtesy boat checks by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. You will be safer on the water because you cared.
4. Members who ordered the Magellan monogrammed fishing shirts may pick yours up at this meeting!
5. Bud Barr informs that ACFA monogrammed fishing caps and the new ACFA fishing towels will be available for purchase during this meeting. Get yours if you haven't already done so. The towels are already receiving "raves"!
6. Be sure to pick up your new (free) ACFA boat decals if you didn't make our last (April) meeting. There are 2 new decals per membership waiting for you. See Bekki Ludlam at our welcome table!

Reminders of Coming Events

A fish fry for the whole family is planned for our June club tourney. Just as last year, we plan to clean and fry tournament fish at our weigh-in site and consume same along with a few "adds" such as light bread, onions, mayonnaise, ketchup, and coleslaw. There are plenty of picnic tables in a large screened porch area so bugs and weather shouldn't be a factor. Plan now, as we look forward to seeing a good crowd like last year. More to come.

Also, during our July club meeting we plan to hold our 2nd annual Junk Sale so please start now to cull through your boating and fishing items with an eye toward things you really don't need any more, or items you've got too many of. You can recoup some of your original outlay and our club can benefit as well. More details to follow later.

Our May Tournament--The Speckled Trout Challenge

As you may know several years ago our club's founder, Mike Thompson, challenged the other Mobile County Saltwater Club (The Saltwater Sportsman's Association) to a speckled trout fish-off where the largest 10 specs from both clubs combined would be awarded placement points. These 10 fish are awarded points from 10 for the largest down to 1 point for the 10th largest. The available 55 points are then totaled up by club catching each of the 10 positions and the winning club is then announced.

ACFA has won 4 of the previous 5 challenges and we hope to prevail again in 2003, but we can never rest on our laurels. SSA has many good spec fishermen and we know they'd like nothing better than some sportmen's revenge this year. Mark Sat. May 3rd on your calendar and fish for speckled trout on that day. A traveling trophy and ACFA pride are at stake. Live or artificial bait is allowed; only one fish per member can be turned in; as usual you can launch anywhere; and we need as many members as possible to fish that Sat. Weigh-in Sat. will be at the American Legion on D.I.P. from 3pm to 5pm.

Our award plaques will be presented to every ACFA member who places in the top 10 positions. Additionally, 1 club participation point will be awarded to each member entering a spec and 2 additional club points will be awarded if your fish is one of the top 10 entered. More info at the meeting!

Help Feed The Vets

While we've got you thinking about fishing and hopefully competing in some of our ACFA tourneys we want to make an appeal to all of you who might enter fish during any of our competitions. Post 250 (where we weigh-in) puts on regular fishfrys for all the vets living at the Veteran's home over in Biloxi. They always need fish to do this and they'll accept all the extra, unneeded fish (of and kind) that you may have caught on tournament days. They will clean and freeze your catch for future use. Please keep this in mind and if you can contribute please do! We can't think of better use for your excess catch.

ACFA Tee Shirts for 2003

Bud Barr will be taking prepaid orders for our ACFA T-shirts at this meeting only! If there is sufficient demand we may entertain placing a second order later in the club year, but since we sold quite a few of these last year we're planning to lighten up a little in 2003.

This year's tee will once again be the Hanes Beefy-T with a front pocket. Our club logo appears on the front pocket and on the back of the shirt. Three colors will be available this year and they are A) natural (kind of light tan), B) green (medium) and C) light blue. Prices will remain the same as last year: \$10 for sml., med., lg., and xlg.; and \$11 for xxlg. Order forms will be available at this May meeting and delivery of the finished shirts is scheduled for our June meeting. So remember, bring cash or check to this May meeting if you want to wear our colors this year. This may be your only chance!

Gaillard Island

One of the most imposing features in Mobile Bay is Gaillard Island, home to literally tens of thousands of birds. If you've ever tried to fish Gaillard you probably found it to be somewhat puzzling. With well over 5 miles of rock-piled shoreline Gaillard sometimes tends to look pretty much the same no matter where your boat may be located. Bill Midgette has prepared a short, fisherman's tour of Gaillard and, aided by a visual, this presentation may help you increase your future catches around that manmade landmark. So if you're still kind of uncertain around Gaillard you may want to catch this one.

2003 Directory of ACFA Members

As promised, the new 2003 (paid) membership roster will be ready for pick-up at this May meeting. Our thanks to club secretary Angie Howle for all the extra effort she has expended in order to compile this extended list and get it ready for distribution at this time. Be sure to pick up yours and file it for future reference during this club year.

Big Fish Contest Standings 2003

4/23/2003

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1			Eugene Pierce	3.65	Doug Smith	1.20	Bud Barr	7.05
2			Bruce Howle, Sr.	3.00			Charlie Dowdle	6.80
3			John Fassbender	3.00			Geraki Markow	6.65
4			Larry Markow	2.90			Bobby McElroy	6.65
5			Kyle Mitternigh	2.75			Mr. Lucky	6.20
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Bruce Howle, Jr	9.88	Michael Pierce	7.00			Kyle Mitternigh	2.33
2	Don Ludlam	9.55	Bruce Howle Jr.	6.96			Del Delchamps	2.25
3	Angie Howle	9.25	Alvin Bell	6.95			Eugene Pierce	1.93
4	David Hare	9.15	Bruce Howle Jr.	6.58			Eugene Pierce	1.82
5	Brooke Jemison	8.50	Bill Patterson	6.14			Bill Patterson	1.78

PLACE	MEMBER	POINTS
1	Kyle Mitternigh	17
2	Bobby McElroy	12
3	Charlie Dowdle	10
3	Jill Midgette	10
4	Alvin Bell	9
4	Bruce Howle Jr	9
4	Barry Keirn	9
4	Eugene Pierce	9
5	David Hare	8
5	Don Ludlam	8
5	Michael Pierce	8
5	Doug Smith	8
6	John Warner	7
7	John Fassbender	6
7	Angie Howle	6
8	Wes Knight	5
9	Larry Markow	4
9	Ocie Wade	4
10	Kelly Fulmer	2
10	Bruce Howle Sr	2
10	John Markow	2
10	Nicholas Markow	2
10	Frank Mitternigh	2
11	Blud Barr	1
11	Mutt Burke	1
11	Del Delchamps	1
11	Ray Dutton	1
11	Frank Durnley	1
11	Donald Garretson	1
11	Billy Heard	1
11	Britney Howle	1
11	Earl Hopper	1
11	Doug Houston	1
11	Brooke Jemison	1
11	Peyton Jemison	1
11	Scott Lewis	1
11	Mr. Lucky	1
11	Beki Ludlam	1
11	Gerard Markow	1
11	Howard Perry	1
11	Donald Pierce	1
11	Tommy Pond	1
11	Joe Serran	1
11	Mike Thompson	1
11	Keith Vaughn	1

ACFA TOURNAMENT STANDINGS

****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.****