

ACFA



New 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 Mitternight 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

MARCH Newsletter

Our second meeting of the year will be Thurs. Mar. 6th, at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road.

Our speaker will be Ross Hutchisson. Ross is one of Mobile's premiere reel repairers and also specializes in custom built rods. A session with Ross could well save many of us from equipment problems out on the water.

Boat US will have a display table at this meeting to exhibit some of their many marine items and new ideas for 2003.

Message From The President

The art of casting, trolling, jigging, or spinning while freezing, sweating, swatting, or swearing.

No matter how you define it, it's time to get back to fishing. I've heard good reports of fish being caught everywhere for the causeway to Dauphin Island. With the air and water temperature on the rise it should make for great fishing on our March Madness Tournament, which is by the way March 22nd. Categories will be Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet.

To make sure your equipment can haul these fish in, you need to attend our next meeting on March 6. Ross Hutchisson will be our speaker and can answer your questions on rod and reel maintenance and repair.

Remember, bring a friend to the meeting, especially one that hasn't been fishing in a while. Don't let them go so long that they think a Blue Gill is a condition ice fishermen get. See you at the meeting.

Don

February Meeting Indicative of Banner Year in 2003???

Thursday night, Feb 6th, was wet and cold and, quite frankly, not exactly in the middle of our saltwater fishing season. Usually the first meeting of the club year attracts from 30 to 45 folks, if past experience is any indicator. But if you weren't in attendance you can only imagine the pleasant surprise that greeted our new leadership as attendance hit 70, including one of the largest influxes of new members in recent memory.

Following some up-to-the-minute fishing reports from our members the crowd heard an informative presentation by local guide Capt. Dan Kolenich (change of speakers due to a scheduling problem); and were up-dated on the planned second pick-up of abandoned crab traps scheduled for our area waters in middle March. Two biologists from the Sea Grant office gave an excellent slide presentation and requested volunteers for the March event.

To wrap up the meeting a table of door prizes were passed out to lucky ticket holders and over 15 folks went home with tackle, hats, towels and gadgets of all descriptions. If you weren't there you surely should have been!

March Tournament

Our first club tourney--March Madness--will be held on Sat. March 22. Tournament fish will be: Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet. Once again, as in 2002, Post 250 of the American Legion has graciously agreed to let ACFA use their Dauphin Island Parkway location for our weigh-in site. Weigh-ins will be from 3pm to 5pm adjacent to the large parking lot at the rear of the post. Plenty of parking, lots of shade, rest rooms, and beverages for sale are all provided by Post 250. The weigh-in site is located on D.I.P. (on west side of hiway 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 building!)

Remember, club members can launch anywhere, anytime on club tourneys (except Oct. tourney) and don't necessarily need to fish with another club member. We just want you out fishing! If you catch a targeted fish on that day we encourage you to come on down and weigh it in. You never know what size will make the leader board at any given tourney and remember, you always get a tournament point to your credit for participation! 12 award plaques will be up-for-grabs in the March Tournament.

Revised Tournament Rules

Be sure to pick up your copy of our tourney rules (revised 2003) which will be on hand, once again, at the meeting. Slight changes have been made to the minimum weights required at our tournaments.

2003 ACFA Tournament Schedule

Our club tournaments will continue to be held on Saturdays thru-out the 2003 club year. Following is a list of those tourneys and the date of each--

March Madness	Mar. 22	July-no-tourney-A.D.S.F.R.	
Breakout	Apr. 12	Mob. Bay Grand Slam	Aug. 9
Spec. Challenge	May 3 (tentative)	End of Summer	Sept. 6
Summer Starter	June 7	Causeway Classic	Oct. 25

Be sure to mark your calendar.

Meeting Give-Away Items

As you know we pride ourselves on the many nice items that we make available to everyone who attends our monthly meetings. These door prizes almost always draw some "ooh's and aah's" from the audience as various gift certificates and items are passed out to the lucky winners. These items don't just magically appear however, but are the result of the hard work of the Donations chairman and his several committee members who canvas many local businesses seeking donated items for our club. We can always use more give-away items and this is why we ask each of you to help the club this year. Please make an effort to contribute just one small item for our give-aways in 2003. Members have donated lures, line, houseplants, fishing caps, knives, flashlights, and you-name-it thru the years. Now in 2003 we hope you'll join the list of donors. Do you have a business that might have some "promo" items, or are you employed by a large firm that has a "goodie closet" or advertising locker? Have you received a sample that you don't need or a bonus item for subscribing to a magazine or maybe a give-away item from a boat or home and garden show?

Everyone loves "freebies" so won't you help? Contact Joe Sirmon or the President of you can provide an item.

Reminders

1. Our 2003 attendance contest is in full swing. Be sure to sign-in at the door and wear a name tag so we can get to know you better.
2. The 2003 membership drive lasts until the close of our April meeting. Get a \$5 rebate on your dues for every new member that you help sign up. Paid new members from our Feb. meeting are also eligible for this rebate if they now bring in a new member.
3. Please pay your 2003 dues of \$45. We depend on this income to support all of our endeavors throughout the club year. If you're unable to make it to one of our early meetings you can mail checks (only) to:
Tom Duncan--37 Village Main--Spanish Fort, Al 36527.

Please note "ACFA dues" on checks and include your correct mailing address and phone number. Make sure you're included on our new 2003 roster to be available by the May meeting.

Is This Your Last ACFA Newsletter??

April newsletters will be sent only to those members who have paid their 2003 dues by our mailing deadline of Mar. 26. We sincerely hope that we won't be omitting your name from our mailing list, but with postage costs approaching \$500 per club year it is essential that we don't waste our members, dues money. Thank you for your understanding.

Voluntary Courtesy Boat Inspections

In the interest of boating safety ACFA has tentatively scheduled boat inspections by the Coast Guard Auxiliary during weigh-in hours at our April Tournament (4/12). Start getting ready for this important event. Stickers for your boat will be awarded to those who pass. Last year a dozen boats were checked. Let's increase that number in 2003. Remember, this is a helpful inspection and there are no penalty or follow-ups from the USCG Auxiliary. You really need to know if you and your boat are prepared for an emergency.

Thanks!

Our request for assistance didn't go unheeded. Thank you to the several club members who came forward with the information regarding the current club records for the eight species that we fish for. With your help we have now been able to establish an ongoing, permanent record sheet that will be a part of the weighmaster's log and can readily be accessed at any time including weigh-ins for our tournaments.

Our records were last published in early 2001 so we thought we'd bring you up to date in 2003--

Blackfish	24.40lbs.	Del Delchamps	1999
Flounder	7.80lbs.	Darin Grizzle	1997
Ground Mullet	1.93lbs. <i>2.32 lbs.</i>	Peter Robinson <i>Bruce Howle, Jr.</i>	1997 <i>2004</i>
Redfish*	7.75lbs.	John Fassbender	1999 *(16"-26")
Sheepshead	10.96lbs. <i>12.80 lbs</i>	Bruce Howle, Jr. <i>2004</i>	2001 <i>2004</i>
Speckled Trout	8.56lbs.	Keith Smith	2000
Spanish Mackerel	7.88lbs.	Bekki Ludlam	2000
White Trout	3.14lbs.	Bruce Howle, Jr.	2001

Big Fish Contest Standings 2003

2/26/2003

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1			Bruce Howle, Sr.	3.00				
2								
3								
4								
5								
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1			Eugene Pierce	5.92			Kyle Mitternight	2.33
2			Bruce Howle, Jr.	5.92			Del Delchamps	2.25
3			Bruce Howle, Jr.	4.14			Eugene Pierce	1.93
4							Eugene Pierce	1.82
5							Bill Patterson	1.78