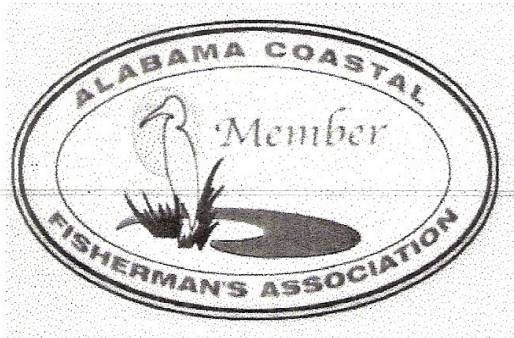


ACFA



- 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 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

October Newsletter

The October meeting of ACFA will be held on Thurs. . Oct.. 2nd at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. Bring a fishing report, a friend or potential new member, and we'll try to provide some fishing info and tips that should make your future trips more productive.

President's Message

What is fishing and why do we fish? I guess we all have our own reasons why we go fishing, but what are the most common threads that bind us together in our brotherhood of anglers? Is it from boredom of our everyday life and a lack of anything else to do? I think not. Is it because we love nature and being out in the great outdoors does something for our souls? Perhaps, but lets take this a little farther. After reading a quote by Henry David Thoreau I find myself asking why do I fish and enjoy it so much. Here is the quote: "Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."

Here are some of the reasons why I fish, and maybe you too can identify with a few of them. I find comfort in the sound of waves slapping against the side of the boat and the smell of salt air. I'm lousy at golf. I love the environment where fish are found; blue waters, along sandy beaches, in wooded creeks and rivers, island studded bays and quiet country ponds. I'm tired of watching re-runs on TV. I can find solitude without loneliness. Because a cold beer always tastes better out there. Because fish do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power. When a fish sees my shrimp or croaker, he does not know or care if I am a common laborer or the CEO of a multi-million dollar corporation. I'll do anything to keep from mowing the lawn. I get to spend quality time with my wife and share something that we both love so dearly. She's in a better mood when she's fishing. I don't feel like all the time spent fishing all these years has been time wasted. Our cats are glad to see us when we come home with fish. It has taught me humility and patience. And quoting Robert Traver, "Not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant--and not nearly so much fun."

Hope to see you all at the meeting, Don

September Tourney Results

Once again wind, seas, and weather conspired to prevent our participants from landing one of our designated tourney species (Spanish Mackerel), but our intrepid anglers managed to fill our remaining 3 categories on a tough fishing day. The results are as follows:

Speckled Trout	Flounder	White Trout
Bill Hurd 4.45	Kyle Mitternight 5.80	Barry Keith 1.15
Mike Thompson 2.85	Nick Markow 3.80	Bobby McElroy 1.05
David Hare 2.65	Rick Yeend 3.70	Mike Thompson .50

Our Last Tourney Of 2003

Get your fishing gear ready because our ACFA "Causeway Classic" and fish fry is just around the corner! Mark Sat. Oct. 25th on your calendar. Our target species will be: Speckled Trout, Redfish, White Trout, and Sheepshead. Our causeway location will once again be Liz's Haven (directly across from the Battleship) where we will have our weigh-in and our fish fry. Pat Hughes will be checking your catch at the scales and Charlie Dowdle and crew will be cleaning the fish and "frying 'em up" for all in attendance. Don't miss this one!

Weigh-in will be from 3pm until 5pm and we should have some fried fish ready by 4. According to ACFA custom all Causeway Classic participants must launch from and return to a ramp somewhere along the causeway between the tunnels and Spanish Fort Hill. This is done to assure a level playing field for all our tourney fishermen. Since Liz has been nice enough to let us use her on-the-water facility we encourage as many of you as possible to launch at her establishment which boasts an excellent concrete ramp with attendant piers.

Fish cleaners and assistant cooks are always needed and appreciated so please lend a hand if called upon to help. And remember, if you need a beverage to go along with that fried fish Liz has whatever you may require just steps away from the launch ramp. We'll see you there!!!

Club Business

- 1. Remember--the special \$25 membership deal (for the remainder of this year) is now available. Got anyone you've been trying to get to join? It's a pretty good deal.
- 2. Long sleeve fishing shirts will be delivered to those who ordered them at the Oct. meeting
- 3. Sign-in at the door Thurs. nite and wear a nametag.
- 4. Buy your tickets now for our first-ever custom rod raffle to be awarded at our Nov. meeting. It's about a \$100 rod and the chances are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Last Chance In 2003

At this Oct. meeting ACFA fishing caps, fishing towels, and several tee shirts will be available for purchase, BUT this will be your last chance for this club year of 2003. So if you've been thinking about purchasing any of our logo items Thurs. nite is the time to do it. Remember these items could be a birthday gift or a great Christmas present if you're thinking ahead. Your next chance to get these items will be Mar.2004.

Reminders

- A) There will be a November ACFA meeting, but there is no Nov. club tournament. ACFA tourney standings will be rechecked and the club champion for 2003 will be confirmed.
- B) Our big fish contest for 2003 will end at midnight on Friday November 14th. All big fish entries should be in the hands of our statistician at that time. (The 2004 contest begins at one minute past midnight on Nov 15th.)
- C) Our Dec. meeting will be our annual family Christmas party and awards presentations.

A Great Idea--But Will It Endure?

When Mike Thompson founded ACFA back in 1997 he brought one of the greatest ideas in Mobile inshore fishing into reality. After 7 years this club has a history of solid achievements by a bunch of really good people. Now its time to add to that legacy. We are always looking for a few of our members to step forward into any of the many leadership roles that are available within our club. Please turn back to the front page of this newsletter and review the 10 officer and chairmen slots. The folks who you see named there stepped up and have helped make ACFA a continuing success, but they can't do it forever and now it's your turn.

Please consider helping our club continue to be what it has been for you--a darn fine fishing club. If you're approached by the nominating committee please understand that without some leadership there won't be an ACFA for the future. Volunteer! See Don Ludlum or Mike Thompson. Every position has a folder with all duties written out and how and when to accomplish them. Now is the time to give back to ACFA just a little of what ACFA has given you. Please don't think somebody else will do it.

Big Fish Contest Standings 2003

9/23/2003

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1	John Fassbender	17.57	Kyle Mitternight	5.80	Mike Thompson	1.91	Bud Barr	7.05
2	Del Delchamps	14.23	Rick Yeend	5.54	Bruce Howie, Jr.	1.67	Charlie Dowdie	6.80
3	John Fassbender	10.99	Bill Patterson	4.84	Butch Pierce	1.42	Gerald Markow	6.65
4	David Hare	10.77	Bill Midgette	4.20	Michael Pierce	1.24	Bobby McElroy	6.65
5	Bill Midgette	5.06	Nick Markow	3.80	Doug Smith	1.20	Mike Thompson	6.20
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Bruce Howie, Jr	9.88	Michael Pierce	7.00	Becki Ludlum	6.15	Kyle Mitternight	2.33
2	Don Ludlum	9.55	Billy Hurd	6.98	Becki Ludlum	6.00	Del Delchamps	2.25
3	Angie Howie	9.25	Bruce Howie Jr.	6.96	Don Ludlum	5.95	Eugene Pierce	1.93
4	David Hare	9.15	Alvin Bell	6.95	Don Ludlum	5.25	Bud Barr	1.90
5	Brooke Jemison	8.50	Bruce Howie Jr.	6.58	Bruce Howie, Jr.	2.58	Eugene Pierce	1.82

****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
 2003 Tournament Standings

PLACE	MEMBER	POINTS
1	Kyle Mitternight	40
2	Bobby McElroy	26
3	Barry Keith	22
4	Scott Lewis	18
5	David Hare	15
5	Jimbo Miller	15
5	Michael Pierce	15
6	Bud Barr	14
7	John Fasspender	13
8	Charlie Dowdle	12
8	Bill Midgette	12
8	Frank Mitternight	12
8	Mike Thompson	12
9	Kelly Fulmer	11
9	Donald Garretson	11
10	Alvin Bell	10
10	John Winter	10
11	Bruce Howle Jr	9
11	Billy Hurd	9
11	Gerald Markow	9
11	Eugene Pierce	9
11	Doug Smith	9
12	Don Ludlam	8
12	Nicholas Markow	8
13	Frank Dunlevy	7
13	Earl Hopper	7
13	Wes Knight	7
14	Del Deichamps	6
14	Jep Hill, Jr.	6
14	Angle Howle	6
15	Jep Hill	5
15	Howard Perry	5
15	Matt Perry	5
15	Ocie Wade	5
16	Larry Markow	4
16	Butch Pierce	4
16	Joe Sirman	4
16	Keith Vaughn	4
16	Rick Yeend	4
17	Mutt Burke	3
17	Jeff Dute	3
17	John Markow	3
18	Bruce Howle Sr	2
19	Ray Dulton	1
19	Fam Dunlevy	1
19	Britney Howle	1
19	Doug Houston	1
19	Pat Hughes	1
19	Brooke Jemison	1
19	Peyton Jemison	1
19	Bekki Ludlam	1
19	Sharon Markow	1
19	Keith McGraw	1
19	Bill Patterson	1
19	Tommy Pond	1