



2002-08-1

ACFA

Club Officers For 2002
Pres. David Hare 343-5875
Vice Pres. Charlie Dowdle 661-7770
Stats. Jennifer Mitternacht 634-9716
Secretary Angie Howle 479-2911
Treasurer Earl Hopper 665-7057
New Membership Becki Ludlam 649-8757
Board Adviser Mike Thompson

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

The August meeting of ACFA will be held on Thurs. August 1st at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. Bring a good fishing report and a fellow fisherman.

Local guide Capt. O.P. Harrison who has more big specs to his credit than almost anyone in the Mobile area will share some info with us.

Message from the President

Well I survived another DIYAT. I think it stands for, "Dad's Incoherently Yelling At Teenagers". My daughter Sarah and I set out to catch a Blackfish. The only detail I forgot was that she had never held a Calcutta Pole, not to mention holding it on the widely bouncing bow of a bay boat with no bow-rails! Of course I was over-bearing and expected excellence on every "pitch". And of course she was giving me all the back-talk she could muster, between balancing and trying to get the bait where I insisted. Just as she had enough she turned to tell me off, and the cork buried itself under the water. I screamed, she screamed and the fight was on! One minute later, she was an expert, and I was an expert for putting her on the fish. Third place, not bad for a couple of rookies. If you don't fish the DIYAT or just plain fish with your kids, you are missing out on memories that will never be replaced. This was Sarah's last year to fish the DIYAT, as she will turn sixteen in February. I will make you a bet though, when she is 40 and I am 70 if I say, "Remember the Blackfish?" both our faces will light up and we will relive it all again from start to finish. Fishing is all about memories, the anticipation of the next trip, and good friends like the people I have met in the ACFA

See You at the Meeting!
Dave

ACFA August Tournament

Our next tourney will be held on Sat. August 3rd and, as is our tradition, the August tourney will be the Mobile Bay Grand Slam when our fishermen try to catch and place with each of 3 species common to Mobile Bay and its environs--Speckled Trout, Redfish, and Flounder. In addition to the "slam fishes" the fourth species for Aug. will be Blackfish for our bouy, marker, and pole aficionados. There will be awards for the first thru fifth place for the 3 slam species and the usual 1st thru 3rd awards for the best Blackfish. Remember now, 15 awards total in the slam species--the only time during the year that we award so many plaques for so few species in order to make it easier for someone to complete a slam and add 5 additional (bonus) tournament points to their score. Any questions? Bring them up at the meeting. Weigh-in will be from 3pm-5pm at the American Legion Post 250 on D.I.P. (on west side of hiway next to the Dollar Store) approx. 1 block south of Bayley's Restaurant and Greer's Food Tiger.

July Junk Sale Report

In spite of slightly different meeting facilities at Post 88 the attendance at the July meeting surpassed 70 and the club gained another 5 new members. Club figures indicate approx. \$200 changed hands on a myriad of fishing/boating related items that were sold at bargain-basement prices. Thanks to all who participated.

Club Business

1. Please sign in at the meeting and wear your name tag.
2. All subscriptions to Gulf Coast Outdoors Magazine should now be sent directly to the publication. (July 31st is the closing date.) That address is PO Box 396, Stapelton, AL 36578.
3. ACFA tee shirts ordered at the last 2 meetings will be available for pick-up at the Aug. meeting. Please be there to pick yours up! Over 3 dozen were ordered!

"Fishing" For Crabs

Crabmeat has become one of our more expensive delicacies and, as you may know, not always as easy to obtain as some would like. My childhood memories are of day-long picnics spent on long wharves stretching out into the Bay. Soup bones or chicken parts were tied to lightly weighted heavy string lines that were tied off to planks along the length of the wharf. You kept an eye on those baited strings while you swam, fished, ate lunch, and lounged around. When a string became taut you slowly pulled it to the surface and using a long handled crab net you scooped up the crustacean that was trying to steal your bait. A "good day" back then usually yielded about 3 to 4 dozen crabs for the pot.

Now, with new devices and plenty of commercial competition for crabs to sell it's reassuring to know that there is still a method that one can use to get a mess for home consumption using a minimum of equipment in a relatively short time. First--you need to find a "crab hiway". Around here that's usually a river near where it joins the bay. Have you noticed the amount of commercial traps just outside Dog River Bridge or outside the Tensaw River Bridge on the causeway? Well these are just 2 examples of "crab hiways".

Second--you should have a boat for the absolute best locations to anchor over one of the busy crab routes inside a river's mouth. These locations can be found by repositioning several times or anchoring in several different depths. And lastly--a couple of rods and reels; a boat landing net; a few lead weights (depending on the strength of the tidal flow) for your line; and, of course, the right type of bait will assure you of some success. Note: best bait is the head of some fish such as Specs., Bream, Flounder, or Mullet. Body parts of same or 1/2 of a medium croaker, or, maybe some choice chicken parts will also help you score.

Affix the bait (#1 choice= fish head with string thru mouth and out again) to your fishing line. Place enough weight (to keep bait on bottom) on your fishing line about 10" above the bait. Short cast or drop down to bottom and wait--usually it's not very long, for some pull or unusual resistance. Reel bait slowly toward surface when a crab is on. Always net crabs from down--current side (their rear) and, if possible, consider spray painting your net flat black to aid in surprise.

With a little luck and a decent location you should catch 3 to 4 dozen crabs in just a couple of hours on a crab hiway nearby.

Big Fish Contest Standings 2002

7/24/2002

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1	Bobby McElroy	13.79	Matt Perry	3.30	Del Delchamps	1.80	Alvin Bell	4.69
2	Kyle Mitternacht	8.73	Rick Yeend	3.09	Del Delchamps	1.30	Frank Mitternacht	3.15
3	Bobby McElroy	6.79	Kyle Mitternacht	3.00	Eugene Pierce	1.27	Bill Midgette	2.25
4	Bruce Howle, Jr.	4.25	Del Delchamps	2.45	Barry Keith	1.15		
5			Donald Garretson	2.25	Bobby McElroy	1.10		
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Barry Keith	10.45	Bill Patterson	8.12	Kyle Mitternacht	4.58	Eugene Pierce	2.25
2	Keith Smith	10.25	Bruce Howle, Jr.	7.15	Bruce Howle, Jr.	4.05	Del Delchamps	2.00
3	Bruce Howle, Sr.	10.12	Bruce Howle, Sr.	6.83	Bobby McElroy	4.03	Bill Midgette	1.77
4	Bobby McElroy	9.75	Bill Patterson	6.75			Jeff Dute	1.35
5	Mike Thompson	8.85	Rick Yeend	6.57			Ocie Wade	1.35

* Under no circumstances will the ACFA be responsible for the welfare of any members, guests or equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge.*