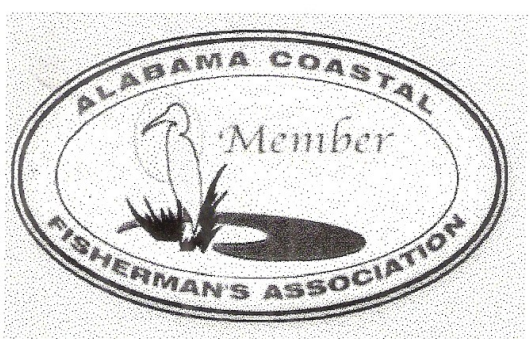


ACFA



- Club Officers and Chairmen for 2004
 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 443-6686
 Donations Charlie Dowdle 661-7770
 Club Logo Items Bud Barr 602-1982
 Awards Bill Midgette 473-4768
 Advisor Mike Thompson

February 2004 Newsletter

Our first meeting of our eighth year will be on Thursday Feb. 5th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. We look forward to seeing you again. We hope you had a great holiday season, caught a few of those winter fish, and are ready to travel forward into another banner year with ACFA. And boy, do we have an interesting new year in store for you. But more about all that later.

REEF COORDINATOR

Our speaker for the initial get-together will be Jim Duffy, Biologist IV with Alabama Marine Resources at Dauphin Island. Jim will bring us up to date on the 8 new artificial reefs that are new planned for South Alabama waters.

Leadership 2004

ACFA will be led by Bruce Howle, Sr. as president and David Hare as VP Please refer to the leadership roster at the top of the page for the complete list of all of our 2004 heroes.

Message From Our President

I hope that everyone had a nice holiday season, and are ready for a new year. Your 2004 officers have a fun year planned for the club, with some new ideas and great speakers.

I hope everyone got in on some of the best trout fishing of the year on the north end of the bay and Pinto Pass areas. If anyone missed out this area should be productive thru late February. If there is any doubt whether the fish are biting just look south of the Causeway Bridge crossing the Tensaw Bridge, there should be enough boats to tie together to make a straight line from the Battleship to Pinto Pass (myself included.)

O.K. it's membership time again. I'm asking everyone to put a little effort into getting as many new members to join ACFA as possible. Angie and myself have put together some flyers to promote ACFA. If anyone is interested in passing some around (work, business, sporting goods stores etc...) contact Angie 479-2911 or pick some up at the meeting. The reward in the end will be much greater than the effort. ACFA will continue to be the best inshore fishing club around if we the members strive forward to keep it going for years to come.

See you at the meeting,
 Bruce Sr.

Please Excuse Us

ACFA is a family club and we always strive to give credit to any of our members who do well on our local fishing scene. But the editor slipped up in the last newsletter by not recognizing one of our outstanding young members who did just that. Our congratulations to John Markow who won Junior Angler in the Southern Bama/George's Water Sports Tourney. Way to go!

December Meeting Wraps Up 2003 Club Year

Approximately 90 members and guests attended our awards banquet. Five hams were devoured, great Hors D'oeuvres were served, and if you didn't get your sugar fix on all the desserts then shame on you. Many thanks to Charlie Dowdle for all the preparation and to his dinner assistant Joe Simon.

Bruce Howle, Jr. won the Big Fish Championship for an unprecedented 3rd straight time. Runner up was Kyle Mitternight. A three-way tie for 3rd place involved John Fassensbender, Bekki Ludlam, and Don Ludlam.

Our Tourney champ for 2003 was Kyle Mitternight who outpaced the competition with seeming ease. Another three-way tie for runner-up garnered awards for Bobby McElroy, Barry Keith, and Scott Lewis. At third was Frank Mitternight.

Master angler of ACFA for 2003 was Kyle Mitternight. Congratulations to all!

2003 Grand Attendance Prize

Frank Mitternight won the yearly attendance package valued at over \$100. 29 members were eligible for the drawing.

Reminders

1. No tournament in Feb. Our first tourney will be Sat. Mar. 20th.
2. ACFA 2004 dues (\$45) are due and payable now. If you can't make the meeting send checks (made out to ACFA) to Tom Duncan, 37 Village Main, Spanish Fort, AL 36527 note: If you're going to pay cash at the meeting please have the correct domination bills.
3. Mobile Boat Show--Feb. 5, 6, 7, & 8.
4. All 2004 ACFA tourney dates will be in the next (Mar.) newsletter.
5. No new club fish weight records were set in 2003.

2004 Monthly Meeting Schedule

Please mark your calendars.

	Apr. 1	July 1	Oct. 7
Feb. 5	May 6	Aug. 5	Nov. 4
Mar. 4	June 3	Sept. 2	Dec. 2

2004 Big Fish Contest

Our Big Fish Contest (8 species) runs all year long, from mid-Nov. to mid-Nov. and this year's contest is now in full swing. If you catch a fish to enter have your ACFA Big Fish card (available at all meetings) filled out, signed by the weigher, and forward it to our statistician: Jennifer Mitternacht 9430 Yorktown Way Mobile, AL 36695.

Please remember that weight cards must reach the Stat. person within 30 days of the catch date. And---very important---if you currently have a fish registered on our Big Fish list the rules state that you must pay your 2004 dues in Feb. '04! Otherwise your entry will be automatically removed.

2004 Grand Attendance Prize

Our membership chairman, Bekki Ludlam, will again put together an attendance prize package (to be awarded at our Dec. Meeting) that should value around \$100 or more. Attend any 8 of our first 10 meetings (dec. doesn't count), sign in on the attendance register, and you'll be eligible for this lagniappe.

We'd Like To Hear From You

Your leadership is always attempting to make ACFA the club we think you would like it to be, but we can't succeed without input from you the member. If there is something that you think we ought to be doing or you have an idea of how to improve any facet of our club please don't hesitate to approach your President or Vice President with your thoughts. We can't promise you immediate change, but we pledge to you that your suggestions are very important to us and will be considered for inclusion if at all possible. Remember ACFA is your club and we want you to have a hand in shaping it for the future.

Possibly On Our Horizon

Some of the ideas that we're considering for inclusion in 2004 are listed below. Remember...not necessarily all will be adopted and some additional items will probably be added.

- A) Lady angler of the year
- B) Junior angler of the year (15 or under)
- C) A tournament creel prize category for specs
- D) ACFA windbreaker/jacket
- E) Speckled Trout Challenge against a new challenger
- F) More "how to-where to" learning presentations
- G) An ACFA sew-on patch
- H) Spanish Mackerel in 2 tourneys and Blackfish only on our Big Fish List
- I) Addition of "quick hits" (member's tricks) to our meetings
- J) Whatever you bring forward

Smokers--Can We Ask A Favor?

As you know your club has tried very hard to make our meeting room "environmentally friendly" to all our members. To that end we have purchased and operated two smoke filtration units during our meetings, we have pre-sprayed the meeting room thoroughly with tobacco ban aerosol mist, and we have established a "no smoking" seating section along the entire left (west) side of the room. This year we have purchased a new, third unit for additional filtration of our meeting area.

In this vein we ask your cooperation during the '04 club year. If possible, could you please limit your smokes during the two segments of our meetings? We realize that this may be a sensitive subject; and please understand, we aren't making any new rules or 2004; only a request of cooperation for the betterment of our club (your club) as a whole. With the availability of the entry vestibule, the Legion bar next door, and our mid-meeting break we sincerely hope that we're not antagonizing anyone. And if you just can't do it we'll understand.

Membership 2004

In case you haven't heard we are dead serious about retaining our current membership and increasing our roll during this club year. It's now "fish or cut bait" time for ACFA. Most folks want to join a club at or near the beginning of the club year. For us that means we usually see an influx of new members from Feb. thru May and therefore it's time for us to aggressively seek new members now. Will you help?

To show that we mean business you club is putting our money where our hopes are. To the member who brings in the most new members we will give a seafood dinner for two-valued at \$50. And-another seafood dinner for two or equal value will be awarded to some member who signs up at least one new member. (we'll draw from all members who qualify.)

Remember, dues remain at \$45/year per family (wives and all children under 16), the same as in '97 when ACFA was founded. We are still the best deal in town, especially when you know what we have to offer the average inshore, salt-water angler. Now, let's get going! The dinners will be awarded at our May meeting. And remember, all new (2004) members are also immediately eligible for this contest after payment of their 2004 dues.

Do you have an interested fisherman who is not yet a member, but you'd like to see join our club? We want to help you win a dinner. Just bring that individuals' name and address (on paper) to our first meeting and hand it to sec'y. Angie Howle. We'll send them a copy of our next (Mar.) newsletter.

ACFA---We catch fish; Get the net!

Big Fish Contest Standings 2004

1/22/2004

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1			Del Delchamps	4.34	Bruce Howle, Jr.	2.32		
2					Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.86		
3					Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.60		
4					Bruce Howle, Jr.	1.58		
5								
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1							Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.86
2								
3								
4								
5								



Fisherman Pole Fish