

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

September Newsletter

The September meeting of ACFA will be held on Thurs. . Sept. 4th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. We hope to see you there 3 days after Labor Day 2003!

Our speakers for Sept. will be Ms. Casi Callaway, Executive Director of Mobile Bay Watch (a concerned group of local citizens dedicated to protecting our bay for the enjoyment of future generations) and Bill Midgette, one of our charter members. Ms. Callaway will profile some of the most important environmental aspects of our bay, the delta, and the watershed that supports it all. Bill will present some ideas and tips that are sure to make your fishing experiences a little more enjoyable.

President's Message

Once again it is tournament time. Time to dig in to your bag of tricks to see who can come up with the bigger fish. Who's got the best lure, or can the person beside you use the same lure better than you, or is it just luck? Does live bait work better or maybe that old lucky rod will do the trick, or better yet let's go get a brand new one cause that always attracts big fish. Just hope the new rod doesn't work because then it makes all the old lures look bad. And then if that happens you start thinking, how in the world did I ever get by with that little bitty tackle box. Then there's no room in the boat. UH-OH. The weather has really been nice lately, hopefully it will continue so we can fish hard for our targeted species which are Speckled Trout, White Trout, Flounder, and WHAT'S THIS---, Spanish Mackerel? That must be some kind of migratory fish that only shows up about 8 months out of the year. I hear they are a lot of fun to catch. I'll bet if they were on more than one tournament you could really have some fun with them. But then again it's fun no matter what.

See you at the meeting,
 Don

August Club Tourney Results

Luckily for our tournament fishing members Sat. Aug 9th was a nice day weatherwise and our turn-out was one of our best this year. Approximately 35 members fished in the Grand Slam and about 25 of that number actually presented fish for weighing. Due to the amount of fresh, stained water in the bay, nary a blackfish was entered; but, on the bright side, Jimbo Miller came within a hair of completing the slam by entering two winning fish (1st Place!!!) out of the 3 slam species. The full results are as follows:

<u>Speckled Trout</u>	<u>Flounder</u>	<u>Redfish</u>
Jimbo Miller 4.20	Kyle Mitternacht 3.70	Jimbo Miller 5.65
Scott Lewis 3.55	Gerald Markow 3.20	Jep Hill, Jr. 4.20
Del Delchamps 3.50	Michael Pierce 3.05	
Donald Garrettson 3.35	Butch Pierce 2.60	
Frank Dunlevy 2.90	Bud Barr 2.40	

Congratulations!!

We spotted these ACFA members in the winner's brackets on the recent Conde Cavaliers' Mardi Gras Fishing Rodeo. (Our apologies if we missed anyone.)

Kyle Mitternacht--Flounder 3.78; Gerald Markow--Flounder 3.19; Michael Pierce--Flounder 3.04; Bekki Ludlam--Bluefish 4.64; Bekki Ludlam--Spanish Mackerel 6.00; Butch Pierce--Hardhead Catfish 2.50; and Butch Pierce--Hardhead Catfish 2.35.

Our Sept. Tournament

Our next club tourney, "End of Summer", will be held on Sat. Sept. 6th. With only one more (Oct.) tournament remaining on our ACFA schedule in 2003 it becomes more important to get-out-there and catch a fish that will place and earn tournament points. 12 winners' plaques will be up-for-grabs again this month; and the four species will be speckled trout, flounder, white trout, and Spanish mackerel. Weigh-in, as usual, will be from 3pm until 5pm at the rear of Post 250 on D.I.P. about one block south of Bayley's Restaurant and Greer's Food Tiger. We hope to see you there!

A Deal They Can't Refuse

It's been several years since ACFA has offered the \$25.00 remainder-of-the-year membership so we thought we'd do it again in late 2003. If you've got a buddy who's been on-the-fence about ACFA this may be just the ticket to get him to join, or, if you know of a newcomer to the area this will get him in on the "ground floor" of the best, inshore club around. Just think, if someone joins our club on Thurs. nite and pays the reduced \$25 membership fee they are immediately entitled to: 1 receive 2 ACFA boat decals, 2 3 more monthly newsletters, 3 fish our Sept. tourney for prize plaques, 4 fish our Oct. tourney for plaques and enjoy our post-tourney fish fry, 5 attend the Oct. and Nov. meetings, and then 6 attend our Dec. club awards and family dinner. So do a fellow fisherman and your club a favor right now. Talk it up and bring a new member into the fold! Everyone will be glad that you did.

Will You Help ACFA?

With three regular meetings to go we are still looking for those donated items that we can draw names for and give away at the conclusion of each meeting. We've been known for the fine array of door prizes that we're able to offer all those in attendance. The generosity of you, our members, has made most of this possible and we hope to energize a few more of you with this reminder.

Please bring a little something for our donations chairman, Joe Sirmon, to pass along to the club. A quart of boat oil, a pack of grubbs, a fish scaler, some hooks or a spoon, or just about anything else from house plants to steak knives would easily find a new home through one of our drawings. If you can, remember to donate a small item for our give-a-ways. Thanks.

Club Business

1. Don't lose out at this late date! Sign in at the door and wear a nametag. The attendance jackpot continues to grow.
2. Get your tickets now for the custom rod to be raffled away at our Nov. meeting. Chances are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.
3. See Bud Barr for ACFA caps, fish towels, and tee shirts.

Long Sleeve Fishing Shirts

We have received several requests from our members for an ACFA logo'd long sleeve Magellan shirt. Due to exposure to the sun and the sometimes cooler fall temperatures we agree that this is a good idea. Bud Barr will take prepaid orders for these at the Sept. meeting only. Finished shirts will be delivered at our October meeting. Price of these shirts (complete) is \$28.50 each. We believe that the same 6 colors will be available in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL just as before; but you must give us your first, second, and (if possible) third color choice due to availability.

Why We Pinch The Tails Of Redfish Approaching 26"

Several years ago a prominent member of the Saltwater Sportsman's Association caught a Redfish that measured just under 26" when repeatedly measured on the bellyboard aboard his fishing boat. This was, he thought, a legal Redfish since he already had a red over 26" in his icechest. (Note: 1 over-the-slot-size red is permitted by current Alabama fishing regulations.)

Later that day, upon returning to a near shore area, this fisherman's bag was checked by Marine Resources personnel. All was in order until the slot Redfish (almost 26") was bellyboarded (measured) by an officer. The enforcement officer laid the red on the board and, as before, this fish measured very close to (but not over) 26" until the officer pinched its tail and the red's length now showed just over 26". Although the fisherman protested mightily a citation was written for possession of more than one oversize red drum.

The explanation given by the officer: A the fish wasn't stretched to make it longer, B the true maximum length was measured, and, C it is the law and pinching is the accepted method for checking Redfish in this state. Please be advised!

ACFA TOURNAMENT STANDINGS

2003 Tournament Standings

PLACE	MEMBER	POINTS
1	Kyle Mitternacht	32
2	Bobby McElroy	20
3	Scott Lewis	18
4	Jimbo Miller	15
4	Michael Pierce	15
5	Bud Barr	14
5	Barry Keith	14
6	John Fassbender	13
7	Charlie Dowdle	12
7	Bill Midgette	12
8	Kelly Fulmer	11
8	Donald Garretson	11
8	David Hare	11
8	Frank Mitternacht	11
9	Alvin Bell	10
9	John Winter	10
10	Bruce Howle Jr	9
10	Gerald Markow	9
10	Eugene Pierce	9
10	Doug Smith	9
11	Don Ludlam	8
12	Frank Dunlevy	7
12	Earl Hopper	7
12	Wes Knight	7
13	Del Delchamps	6
13	Jep Hill, Jr.	6
13	Angie Howle	6
14	Howard Perry	5
14	Matt Perry	5
14	Ocie Wade	5
15	Jep Hill	4
15	Larry Markow	4
15	Butch Pierce	4
15	Joe Sirman	4
15	Keith Vaughn	4
16	Mutt Burke	3
16	Jeff Dute	3
16	Mike Thompson	3
17	Bruce Howle Sr	2
17	John Markow	2
17	Nicholas Markow	2
18	Ray Dulton	1
18	Pam Dunlevy	1
18	Britney Howle	1
18	Billy Hurd	1
18	Doug Houston	1
18	Pat Hughes	1
18	Brooke Jemison	1
18	Peyton Jemison	1
18	Bekki Ludlam	1
18	Sharon Markow	1
18	Keith McGraw	1
18	Bill Patterson	1
18	Tommy Pond	1

Big Fish Contest Standings 2003

8/25/2003

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1	Bill Midgette	5.06	Rick Yeend	5.54	Mike Thompson	1.91	Bud Barr	7.05
2			Bill Patterson	4.84	Bruce Howle, Jr.	1.67	Charlie Dowdle	6.80
3			Bill Midgette	4.20	Butch Pierce	1.42	Gerald Markow	6.65
4			Kyle Mitternacht	3.72	Michael Pierce	1.24	Bobby McElroy	6.65
5			Kyle Mitternacht	3.70	Doug Smith	1.20	Mike Thompson	6.20
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Bruce Howle, Jr	9.88	Michael Pierce	7.00	Becki Ludlum	6.15	Kyle Mitternacht	2.33
2	Don Ludlam	9.55	Billy Hurd	6.98	Don Ludlum	5.25	Del Delchamps	2.25
3	Angie Howle	9.25	Bruce Howle, Jr.	6.96	Bruce Howle, Jr.	2.58	Bud Barr	1.90
4	David Hare	9.15	Alvin Bell	6.95			Eugene Pierce	1.93
5	Brooke Jemison	8.50	Bruce Howle, Jr.	6.58			Eugene Pierce	1.82