

February 2023 Newsletter



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February Meeting

Thursday, February 2, 6:30 pm

Moe's Original BBQ

701 Springhill Ave.

Mobile, AL 36602

Speakers:

Jason Smith—Weather & Fishing
Yano Serra—Wintertime Fishing
Micaiah Lindquist—New Fishing
Chaos Partnership for 2023
+ Raffle and Door Prizes!

2023 ACFA Officers

Position	Name	Contact
President	David Thornton	251-458-2775
VP/ Speakers	Perry Stokley	251-680-9505
Treasurer	Terry Wilson	251-591-7663
Membership	Robert Thornton	251-232-1904
Awards	Wayne Sanders	251-605-4155
Donations	David Thornton	251-209-1220
Food Adviser	Romie Perez	251-259-2357
Logo Items	Chad Summers	251-680-5271
	Courtney Summers	251-680-8580
Newsletter	Micaiah Lindquist	251-458-2775
Statistics	Wayne Swiger	251-802-5987
Weighmaster	Kaci Stokley	251-401-1407

Upcoming Dates

- Thur. Feb. 2 - ACFA Meeting
- Thur. Mar 2- ACFA Meeting
- Sat. Mar. 18 - ACFA Tourney

President's Message:



Welcome to the ACFA's 27th year as the premier inshore fishing club in lower Alabama. We have another fun season planned, and hope to grow our membership and participation. A NEW way to do that is reward any member who get three new members to join with a free membership for next year. Talking the club up with your friends is the best way to get more folks interested in what is still the best deal on the Gulf Coast for \$50 a year! The club officers listened to what members had to say about things, and offered some great suggestions at our January Board meeting. To tweak interest, we trimmed a couple of species off the BFC list and added a new one to the CPR this year, plus made a few changes in the tournament layout. Now Speckled trout (slot), Redfish (slot), and Flounder will be featured in EVERY tournament along with two other species each month . See the 2023 ACFA Schedule in this newsletter for the other species changes for each tournament. Also, we will implement a new system with the plaque awards for our tournaments to cut down on costs, waste and overloading the more successful tournament anglers with excess hardware. We hope the members appreciate this move toward efficiency! Read more about that later in the newsletter too.

Also, stay tuned for some exciting news from Micaiah Lindquist about implementing the ACFA contest formats into Fishing Chaos. We hope to be online with them soon. Kudos to this young man for using his God-given talents and drive to make the club work even better and be more fun!

Seems like we are into a more typical winter fishing pattern since the arctic outbreak around Christmastime. Now the upstate rivers have been delivering a good amount of cold, muddy fresh water all the way to Dauphin Island. But the water down deep in the Mobile River has remained fairly salty with some nice speckled trout and redfish being caught there. The coastal rivers around the bay have been productive at times too. Fish are feeding shallow during the warmer spells, and schooling in the deeper holes when it turns cold every other week or so. Fishing has been interesting and diversified if you have been able to go. Sheepshead have been quite active in the Mississippi Sound, Intercoastal Waterway, and around Dauphin Island and Perdido Pass. Some nice pompano, kingfish, and even a few flounder have been showing up in the surf lately. Let's hope this year gets even better than last year was for more "flatties". So round up the family and come see us at Moe's Thursday February 2 . We will start at 6:30 and feature Meteorologist Jason Smith and Capt. Yano Serra as our guest speakers.

David Thornton - ACFA President

FEBRUARY 2nd MEETING PREVIEW

Come join us at [Moes' BBQ](#) on Thursday, February 2nd for our first meeting of 2023! We have some really exciting things coming up for 2023 that you don't want to miss. Our February meeting's will feature speaker will be Jason Smith, Fox 10's chief meteorologist and host of Fox 10 Outdoors. Jason has been a longtime guest speaker for the club and we are glad to have him again for 2023. Expect to learn something new and useful about both fishing and weather. We will also be discussing some of the new changes to the tournaments, big fish contest, and cpr contest for 2023. We are moving our membership an tournament hosting to Fishing Chaos (more on that later in the newsletter). I (Micaiah Lindquist) will be presenting all these new developments at the meeting. Can't wait to see you there!

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

MBKFA Winter Specktacular - February 18th, 2023 (Kayak Only)

Entry Fee: \$45-65 (depends on membership level)

Species: Speckled Trout

More info: [Specktacular | MBKFA](#)

Bon Secour Butchers 24hr Rodeo - February, 25th-26th, 2023

Entry Fee: \$20

Species: Redfish, Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheephead

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/bonsecourbutchers>

CLUB CHANGES FOR 2023

At the beginning of the year the ACFA board members met to discuss different ideas for making improvements to club. After much discussion these are the changes that were decided upon that we believed would most benefit the club. All these will be discussed at the February meeting.

- **All tournament, contest, and membership hosting is being moved to Fishing Chaos. We believe this change should simplify the process for both the angler and the volunteer staff. More on this on next page.**
- **Member Code of Conduct clause added to club rules.**
- **Black Drum and Blackfish were removed from the BFC and tournaments due to lack of participation**
- **The big 3 (redfish, speckled trout, flounder) will now be featured in every tournament with an additional 2 species to chosen based on the season.**
- **Blackfish was removed from the CPR contest due to lack of participation .**
- **Jack Crevalle was added to the CPR contest to reflect the recent surge in population and popularity**
- **The Ground Mullet/Whiting category has be renamed “Kingfish” to be more concise. (Kingfish is the true name of the Whiting/Ground Mullet family, of which we have 3 species)**
- **Identifier Code added to CPR contest to prevent someone from submitting “old” entries**
- **New accumulating plaques awards system to prevent waste.**

The contest rules have been updated to reflect these rules. These updated rules are located later in this newsletter. Please review and familiarize yourself with them. We hope these changes will make the club a better experience for all!

FISHING CHAOS LINKS

In order to help the club run more smoothly and efficiently, we are transitioning our membership hosting and contest over to the fishing chaos platform. All members who wish to compete will need to make an account and register their membership on the app. This is a very simple process that can be done in 5 minutes or less. Video tutorials outlining the process can be found through the links below:

[HOW TO CREATE A FISHING CHAOS ACCOUNT AND REGISTER YOUR ACFA MEMBERSHIP](#)

[HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE BFC AND CPR CONTESTS](#)

[HOW TO SUBMIT A FISH TO BFC OR CPR](#)

2022 LOGO ITEMS: NOW ON SALE!

Our ACFA Logo Items co-Chairs Chad and Courtney Summers will have shirts, car tags (\$20), koozies (\$5-\$10), hats (\$20), stickers (\$5), and visors (\$15) available for sale at the meeting.

"New member kits" should also be available at the meetings..

Shirts need to be pre-ordered (long-sleeved dri-fit) (\$25 for regular sizes, and \$30 for plus sizes). They will be printed per your size and color preference, then picked up next meeting...

If you need anything else, or would like to see additional items like ACFA sunglasses lanyards, keychains, etc. contact:
Chad Summers (251) 680-5271



NEW 2023 BFC AND CPR CONTEST RULES

[2023 Big Fish Contest Rules](#)

[2023 CPR CONTEST RULES](#)

First Contest Entry of 2023

Congrats to **Brad McDonald** for submitting the first (and only) contest entry of 2023, a fine 22.75" CPR speck! Awesome work Brad!



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