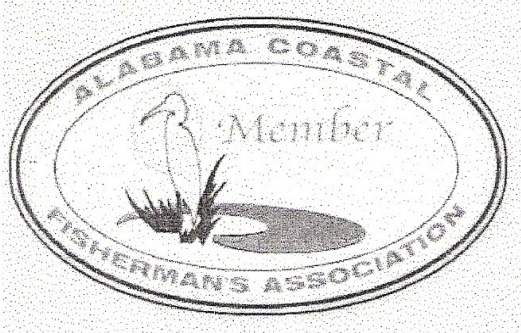


ACFA



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 Mitternacht 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

March 2004 Newsletter

The second meeting of our 2004 club year will be on Thursday Mar. 4th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. Be there!

Our speakers for the evening will be Randall McKee a Meteorologist with the National Weather Service and Don Shepherd a Marine Program Leader. They will be talking about how the weather effects fishing.

Message From Our President

Well the boat show has come and gone and the Howle's survived it without a new boat payment (some did not), but hey that's the power of the boat gods. I want a special thanks to go out to Charlie Crawford from Souther-N-Bama for allowing ACFA to share a booth with him. We were able to pass out information on the club to well over 1,000 people. I want to give another special thanks to the members that gave up their valuable time to help out: Charlie Dowdle, David Hare, Joe Sirmon, Donald Garrettson, Angie Howle, Brittney Howle, Bruce Howle Jr. and Jim Glass.

Hey fellow fishermen what does the word torture mean: could it mean fishing in water the color of chocolate milk, could it mean fishing in winds harder than my trolling motor pulls my boat or could it mean 20 fishermen braving the elements and the only thing to show for it was a sore elbow and shoulder. The only thing I could come up with that kept everybody in the game was the thought of another person having to work on a Saturday morning while we were fishing.

I want to thank everybody that came out to torture themselves Saturday morning, maybe next time we will have enough sense to stay home. "NOT" Well here are the results 1st Bobby McElroy-Barry Keith, 2nd Kyle and Frank Mitternacht. 3rd Jeff Dute and Johnny Fassbender. Lunker Bobby McElroy. 4th thru 10th "torture".

See you at the meeting,

Bruce Sr.

February Meeting Report

We don't usually report on regular monthly meetings but we thought you'd like to know that it appears we're off to a great start in '04. Well over 60 folks were in attendance and late-comers had to search for a chair. Although the meeting started a few minutes late we adjourned in under 2 hours (our goal in 2004). Almost 50 fishermen have already paid their dues for this year. We hear from the treasurer that 9 new members are in that number. Welcome! Members reported on the status of several local ramps that are used by our membership. The Arlington Channel and its new Homeland Security regulations were discussed. Our speaker brought us completely up-to-date on the artificial reef program and our new feature "quick hits", from our senior members, covered a variety of fishing related tips that should benefit most fishermen. Rounding out the night many useful door prizes were awarded to lucky ticket holders. All in all a great beginning to a promising club year.

2004 Monthly Tournament Schedule

Mark your calendars--

Mar. 20	(March Madness)	July ?	(To be announced) (A.D.S.F.R.)
Apr. 3	(Breakout)	Aug. 7	(Mobile Bay Grand Slam)
May 8	(Spec. Trout Challenge)	Sept. 4	(End of Summer)
Jun. 5	(Summer Starter)	Oct. 23	(Causeway Classic)

ACFA March Tournament

Our first 2004 tourney, March Madness, will be held on Sat. Mar. 20. Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet are this months targeted fish. Once again the members of American Legion Post 250 on D.I.P. have invited us to hold our weigh-in at their club. Weigh-in will be from 3pm to 5pm at that location. Post 250 is located on D.I.P. (on the west side of the hiway next to the Family Dollar Store) approx. one block south of Bayley's Restaurant and Greer's Food Tiger. (ACFA members please park in rear of building.) And---get this--hot dogs and all the usual trimmings

will be the menu for all of our fisherpersons, all visiting ACFA members, and all family members attending the weigh-in! By the way--12 awards and a bunch of tournament points will be up for grabs also. Remember, your dues must be paid to be eligible for this tourney.

Send Money!

We hope to see you at the meeting, but if you aren't going to be able to make it please forward your 2004 dues of \$45.00 to our treasurer Tom Duncan, 37 Village Main, Spanish Fort, Al 36527. And, if you are going to pay cash at the meeting please have the correct denomination bills.

Reminders

1. Be sure to sign in at the door to be eligible for our grand attendance prize awarded in Dec. Please wear a name tag 'cause we'd like to get to know you better.
2. 2004 Big Fish Contest is now underway. Carry a big-fish card in your wallet.
3. If you haven't already done so please pick up a "revised 2004" copy of our ACFA contest rules.
4. Remember--new members get a complimentary set of ACFA boat decals when they join. Do you have yours?
5. As stated before---we intend to start our 2004 meetings at 7pm (or as close as possible) so please be on time!
6. Attention new (2004) members--please notify the treas. as to who is responsible for you joining ACFA for our membership contest.
7. Did you know that ACFA will spend about \$1,150.00 in 2004 for plaques and trophies?

Thank You Smokers!!!

A heartfelt "thank you" to all of you ACFA smokers for helping us with the environment in our meeting room. You would never believe the number of complimentary remarks that came from our membership regarding the almost complete lack of smoking in the room during our Feb. meeting. We'd like to believe the third smoke filtration unit was the reason for the terrific improvement, but we know that the credit has to go to all of you for helping the club by abstaining during the meeting. The club thanks you--please keep up the good work!

Get Ready, Here They Come!

Mike Thompson reports that, in principle, the Eastern Shore Inshore Sportsmen (the saltwater fishing club recently founded in Baldwin County) has accepted the challenge to fish a May, Speckled Trout tourney with a weigh-in scheduled for somewhere on the causeway. More details will be forthcoming. But remember this---ESIS is a large club with possibly up to 150 members, many of whom are very good speck. fishermen, and they are more than eager to prove that the new kid on the block "rules" the block. It will take a maximum turn-out by ACFA fisherpersons fishing smart and hard to have a chance for us to win and turn back this challenge in 2004.

Membership 2004

Our club depends on member dues. We've kept them at \$45 for 8 years so that any fisherman can afford to join. We firmly believe that ACFA has much to offer the inshore angler. There are many potential ACFA members out there and it's our job to get them into our club where they can enjoy the ACFA experience. This brings us down to you the present member. No one knows how to get your friends, acquaintances, and relatives into this club better than you do! So do your club, and yourself, a big favor---work toward signing them up in 2004. We'll be glad to send them a newsletter if you furnish their address to our sec'y. 2 seafood dinners-for-2 are on the line: one for the most new members signed and one from a drawing of all members signing up at least one new member. New members in 2004 are immediately eligible for this membership contest upon payment of their dues. We await your results!

Big Fish Contest Standings 2004

2/23/2004

	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	Donald Garrettson	8.04					Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.86
2								
3								
4								
5								

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