

April 2024 Newsletter



Spring Breakout Edition

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April Meeting

Thursday April 4, 2024 6:30 pm

Moe's Original BBQ
701 Springhill Ave.
Mobile, AL 36602

Speakers:
Tanner Deas
&
Dr. Scott VanLook
+ Raffle and Door Prizes!

2024 ACFA Officers

Position	Name	Phone
President	David Thornton	251-458-2775
VP/Speakers	Perry Stokley	251-680-9505
Treasurer	Terry Wilson	251-591-7663
Membership	Micaiah Lindquist	251-654-3444
Awards	Wayne Sanders	251-605-4155
Donations	Colton Carlisle	251-214-6747
Donations	Harvey Pepper	251-447-3677
Food Advisor	Romie Perez	251-605-5005
IT/Website	Craig Hall	251-533-2727
Logo Items	Chad Summers	251-680-5271
Logo Items	Courtney Summers	251-680-8580
Newsletter	Robert Thornton	251-232-1904
Statistics	Micaiah Lindquist	251-654-3444
Weighmaster	Kaci Stokley	251-401-1407

Upcoming Dates

- Thu. Apr 4 - ACFA Meeting
- Sat. Apr 6 - Spring Breakout Tournament
- Thu. May 2 - ACFA Meeting

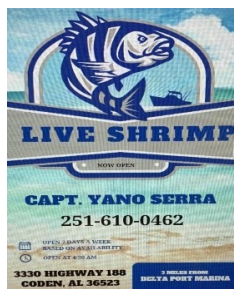
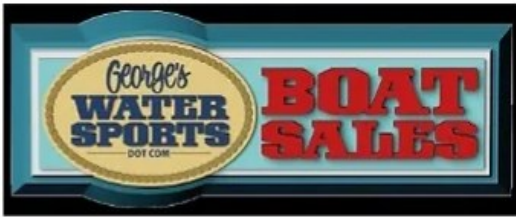
President's Message



The weather seems pretty typical for spring to “break out”, like founder Mike Thompson used to say, “When the azaleas are blooming around Mobile you can expect the sheepshead will be biting like crazy at the rigs off the mouth of the bay.” So, our tournament season got off to a fine start March 16th with some really nice weather and several decent catches with a decent turnout. It has been a while since we had sheepshead that size at a weigh in. Then we had a great time chowing down on Romie’s chicken and sausage gumbo with some fine fellowship.

We have more great things planned for the April meeting and tournament, so we hope to see you at both events!

David Thornton - ACFA President



March Meeting Review



Robert Thornton-Editor

Our March 7th meeting began on a bit of a somber note as President Thornton advised everyone of the loss of long-time ACFA Member Henry Nall (March 20, 1960 – February 29, 2024) after a lengthy battle with Cancer. Those who knew Henry and his wife/ fishing partner, Michelle will remember their tenacious appetite for fishing...especially in ACFA Tournaments. Please keep them all in your prayers. President David Thornton then presented the crowd of 80 the “Fisherman’s Prayer”.

After our respects were paid, President Thornton encouraged everyone to try to support our sponsors whenever possible. Our sponsors offer important contributions of cash and products that make our club experience more varied and enjoyable. Seems like the least we can do. Note that \$250 and \$500 tier sponsor logos in the newsletter and on the ACFA website are linked to their business on the internet. Just a click away from learning more about them and supporting them. As of this writing, (3) New Sponsors have joined our ranks. Fairhope Rattle Corks (<http://www.fairhoperattle.com/#/>), Captain Yano Serra Live Shrimp & Precision Auto Glass (<https://www.pagautoglass.com/>).

President Thornton then began explaining how the 2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE would work. He broke down the various opportunities afforded everyone this year, just from signing up on the Fishing Chaos App by the beginning of the first tournament at 5am March 16, 2024. Drawings for the \$50 gift certificates will be held at the April 4,2024 meeting.

President Thornton also reminded everyone about the changes to the 2024 ACFA Tournament Rules. The whole idea behind these changes was to allow the angler to know immediately, by measuring the length of your fish, if they are eligible to be entered in the Tournament. Thus, eliminating disappointment or embarrassment at the tournament weigh table. It also allows fish shorter than the established length for the species to be safely released at that time. While it is YOUR responsibility to be familiar with these RULES and changes, the basics are Croaker, Kingfish & White Trout will now have to be 10” long (Minimum Total length) to qualify in all Tournaments and contests. While Gafftopsail Catfish and Spanish Mackerel have to be a minimum Fork Length of 14”.

March Meeting Review (cont)

There were still no entries in the Big Fish Contest (BFC) at meeting time, but that will change after the March Madness Tournament. So far, the Catch, Photo & Release Contest (CPR) still features the Father/Son duel between Eric & Davey Miller with Alex Beebe still holding the CPR points lead with a First-Place entry in Speckled Trout & Flounder.

Vice-President Perry Stokley continues to work hard at gathering great speakers for our meetings and he did not disappoint in March. We were treated to two very informative and interesting Speakers. Blakeley Ellis, (Coastal Conservation Association) Executive Director (Founded in 1992 in Alabama), and former ACFA member George Harrison (Harrison Inshore Fishing).

BLAKELEY ELLIS started the night with one of the most informative, interesting talks this editor has ever experienced in my years as a member. The CCA has really “upped” the fish tagging game. To date, over 10,000 fish have been tagged, with over 13% being re-captured (pretty good numbers). All of this tagging is the product of the TAG AL program. Another great program the CCA has undertaken is the CCA custom car tags which helps raise operational funding for projects along Coastal Alabama. Approximately \$40 million dollars was raised by this worthwhile project and has benefitted Projects such as Artificial Reefs, the Gulf Shores Hatchery Program, South Alabama Marine Research, and Acoustic Tagging have benefitted from this funding.

Of special note regarding the tagging program is the upcoming CCA STAR TOURNAMENT. This tournament will be highlighted by the release of 30 BLUE TAGGED Redfish into the Mobile Bay area. Anyone catching a Redfish sporting a BLUE TAG will win a SKEETER/YAMAHA boat package FOR CATCHING THE FIRST BLUE TAGGED REDFISH. You can sign up at <https://app.fishingchaos.com/>.

Don't be a victim of “TAG-RET”, as two un-named ACFA members were last year!

GEORGE HARRISON, our second speaker, was not to be outdone. This former ACFA member has been guiding for the past 14 years and has extensive knowledge of the waters of this area and when to go to a given location. While he likes to fish the deep water at the mouths of Canals, Bays, Bayous and Creeks, with some of his favorites being Longs Bayou, East/West Fowl River, Grand Bay, Heron Bay, Portersville Bay, Dog River, Mobile River, Theodore Canal & Bayou la Batre. His favorite technique for deeper water is to use a slip cork rig to allow the bait time to fall from the slope of the bar into deeper water where the fish are generally gathered and feeding. George says a slight twitch to put some action on the bait can sometimes produce results. When fishing Top-Water he relies on Popping Cork rigs to get the fish stirred up. Captain George also stated that, while fishing, he is ALWAYS on the lookout for “FISH SLICKS” in the water, or sometimes you just get a whiff of that “FISHY SMELL” that might alert you to the location of fish. Another technique is to be on the lookout for birds diving into bait schools, or wads of bait on the surface. While Top-Water fishing, check all the coves located in our area.

March Meeting Review (cont)

Reasons are they hold bait; water is usually saltier; and usually a lot less wind to contend with. George also advised not to overlook other locations and species. For example, Sheepshead around the rocks and rigs. When fishing for Bull Reds on Dixie Bar, pogies & croakers are the preferred bait.

George's final piece of advice to us all...

BIG FISH – BIG BOAT – TOPWATER.



March Madness Tournament Review

The 2024 Tournament Season got kicked off with a bang on Saturday, March 16, 2024. The Good Lord above gifted us with beautiful weather all day and just enough wind to make it comfortable.



Adult Division Highlights of the day included:

Brad McDonald 1st Place Speckled Trout 1.65 #
 New Angler, Randy Swiger (N) 1st Place Redfish 6.46 #
 Tyler Dixon 1st Place Flounder 1.06 #
 Sandy Tillery 1st Place Sheepshead 8.67 #
 Tim Pierce 1st Place Kingfish 0.74 #

Junior Division Highlights of the day

New Angler, Colton Smith (N) 1st place Flounder 2.79 #
 New Angler, Willow Swiger (N) 1st place Redfish 1.86 #
 Wolfgang Schuchardt 1st place Sheepshead 9.72 #
 Of Special Note was Cooper Garmeson's 8.74 # Sheepshead which, as of this writing, is a Pending New IGFA Junior Record

All in all the MARCH MADNESS tournament was a success and congratulations to all winners, regardless of where you finished.

		 LEADERBOARD 									
		DATE: MARCH 16, 2024 TITLE: MARCH MADNESS									
		SPECKLED TROUT		REDFISH		FLOUNDER		SHEEPSHEAD		KINGFISH	
A D U L T S	PL	NAME	WT	NAME	WT	NAME	WT	NAME	WT	NAME	WT
	1	BRAD McDONALD	1.65	RANDY SWIGER	6.46	WAYNE SWIGER	1.30	SANDY TILLERY	8.67	TIM PIERCE	0.74
	2	WILLIAM KELLY	1.53	NOE MEZA CORTEZ	5.52	TYLER DIXON	1.06	PATRIC GARMESON	8.10	ARIANA BIGGS	0.39
	3	DAVID JONES	1.31	WILLIAM KELLY	4.69	NOE MEZA CORTEZ	1.04	JAMES WILSON	6.84		
	4	DANIEL JONES	1.29	SHANE SCHUCHARDT	2.62			CLIFF BAILEY	6.63		
	5			DAVID JONES	1.72			TIM PIERCE	6.40		
J U N I O R S	PL	NAME	WT	NAME	WT	NAME	WT	NAME	WT	NAME	WT
	1			WILLOW SWIGER	1.86	COLTON SMITH	2.79	WOLFGANG SCHUCHARDT	9.72		
	2			ANGEL MANES	1.51			COOPER GARMESON	8.74		
	3										
	4										
	5										

ACFAFISH.COM



March Madness Tournament Pictorial



APRIL MEETING PREVIEW

Come Join us on Thursday April 4, 2024 at MOE'S BBQ
from 6:30pm-8:30 pm

Speakers will be:

TANNER DEAS will be speaking on all things SHORE FISHING
Dr. SCOTT VAN LOOK a local Dermatologist, will be giving us tips on
protecting yourself while in the sun.

2024 Spring Breakout Tournament Preview

The Spring Breakout Tournament will be held on
Saturday, April 6, 2024. As a reminder, a copy of the 2024 ACFA
Tournament Rules are available @ <https://www.acfafish.com/>

Weigh-in will be at the
American Legion Post 250 on D.I.P from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

SPECIES

**SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER,
SHEEPSHEAD, POMPANO**

Romie Perez will be serving
his almost nearly World Famous

FRIED FISH

THE SPRING BREAKOUT TOURNAMENT is the 2nd in our 2024
Tournament Series. After the influence of the March Tournament, the
Big Fish Contest has finally come to life for 2024.

We want everyone to be safe while on the water. We look forward to
seeing everyone at the weigh-in from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the
American Legion Post 250.

WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE FOOD PREP & CLEAN-UP HELP!

Adult Big Fish Contest Standings

Adult Big Fish Contest Standings

2024-03-16

PL	PTS	CROAKER	WT	PL	PTS	FLOUNDER	WT	PL	PTS	GAFFTOPSAIL CATFISH	WT
1	10			1	10	WAYNE SWIGER	1.30	1	10		
2	9			2	9	TYLER DIXON	1.06	2	9		
3	8			3	8	NOE MEZA CORTEZ	1.04	3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	KINGFISH	WT	PL	PTS	POMPANO	WT	PL	PTS	REDFISH (SLOT)	WT
1	10	TIM PIERCE	0.74	1	10			1	10	RANDY SWIGER	6.46
2	9	ARIANA BIGGS	0.39	2	9			2	9	NOE MEZA CORTEZ	5.52
3	8			3	8			3	8	WILLIAM KELLY	4.69
4	7			4	7			4	7	SHANE SCHUCHARDT	2.62
5	6			5	6			5	6	DAVID JONES	1.72
6	5			6	5			6	5	TERRY WILSON	1.62
7	4			7	4			7	4	LARRY KENNEDY	1.62
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	SHEEPSHEAD	WT	PL	PTS	SPANISH MACKEREL	WT	PL	PTS	SPECKLED TROUT (SLOT)	WT
1	10	SANDY TILLERY	8.67	1	10			1	10	BRAD McDONALD	1.65
2	9	PATRIC GARMESON	8.10	2	9			2	9	WILLIAM KELLY	1.53
3	8	SANDY TILLERY	7.80	3	8			3	8	DAVID JONES	1.31
4	7	JAMES WILSON	6.84	4	7			4	7	DANIEL JONES	1.29
5	6	CLIFF BAILEY	6.63	5	6			5	6		
6	5	TIM PIERCE	6.40	6	5			6	5		
7	4	JAMIE CRAWFORD	6.26	7	4			7	4		
8	3	JAMIE CRAWFORD (L)	5.30	8	3			8	3		
9	2	SHANE SCHUCHARDT	4.33	9	2			9	2		
10	1	JOHNATHON CLARKE	1.66	10	1			10	1		
				PL	PTS	WHITE TROUT	WT				
				1	10						
				2	9						
				3	8						
				4	7						
				5	6						
				6	5						
				7	4						
				8	3						
				9	2						
				10	1						

** Club Record * First Submitted (N) New Member (L) Lady Angler

Adult Big Fish Contest Points

Adult Big Fish Contest Points

2024-03-16

PL	ANGLER NAME	TotPts	Crkr	Flound	Gafftp	Kngfsh	Pomp	Redf	Shpshd	SpMck	SpkTrt	WhtTrt	Tot.Pts
1	SANDY TILLERY	18							18				18
2	WILLIAM KELLY	17						8			9		17
3	NOE MEZA CORTEZ (N)	16		7				9					16
4	TIM PIERCE	15				10			5				15
5	DAVID JONES	14						6			8		14
6	RANDY SWIGER (N)	10						10					10
6	BRAD McDONALD	10									10		10
8	WAYNE SWIGER	9		9									9
8	ARIANA BIGGS (L)	9				9							9
8	SHANE SCHUCHARDT	9						7	2				9
8	PATRIC GARMESON	9							9				9
12	TYLER DIXON	8		8									8
13	JAMES WILSON	7							7				7
13	JAMIE CRAWFORD (N)	7							7				7
13	DANIEL JONES (N)	7									7		7
16	CLIFF BAILEY	6							6				6
17	DAVID JONES	5						5					5
18	LARRY KENNEDY (N)	4						4					4
19	JOHNATHON CLARKE	1							1				1
	TOTALS	181	0	24	0	19	0	49	55	0	34	0	181

Adult Catch, Photo & Release Contest Standings & Points

Adult Catch, Photograph, Release Standings 2024-03-18

PL	PTS	BLACK DRUM	LENGTH	PL	PTS	FLOUNDER	LENGTH	PL	PTS	JACK CREVALLE	LENGTH
1	15			1	10	ALEX BEEBE	15.00	1	10		
2	9			2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	REDFISH	LENGTH	PL	PTS	SHEEPSHEAD	LENGTH	PL	PTS	SPECKLED TROUT	LENGTH
1	10	ERIC MILLER	39.75	1	10			1	10	ALEX BEEBE	21.75
2	9	DAVEY MILLER *	39.00	2	9			2	9		
3	8	ERIC MILLER	39.00	3	8			3	8		
4	7	DAVEY MILLER	27.00	4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		

** Club Record * Tie (first to weigh in) (N) New Member (L) Lady Angler

Adult Catch, Photograph, Release Points 2024-03-18

PL	ANGLER NAME	PTS	BLK DRUM	FLND	JACK C	REDFISH	SHEEPS	SP TROUT	TOT PTS
1	ALEX BEEBE	20		10				10	20
2	ERIC MILLER	18				18			18
3	DAVEY MILLER	16				16			16
	TOTALS	54	0	10	0	34	0	10	54

Junior Big Fish Contest Standings

Junior Big Fish Contest Standings

2024-03-16

PL	PTS	CROAKER	WT	PL	PTS	FLOUNDER	WT	PL	PTS	GAFFTOPSAIL CATFISH	WT
1	10			1	10	COLTON SMITH	2.79	1	10		
2	9			2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	KINGFISH	WT	PL	PTS	POMPANO	WT	PL	PTS	REDFISH (SLOT)	WT
1	10			1	10			1	10	WILLOW SWIGER	1.86
2	9			2	9			2	9	ANGEL MANES	1.51
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	SHEEPSHEAD	WT	PL	PTS	SPANISH MACKEREL	WT	PL	PTS	SPECKLED TROUT (SLOT)	WT
1	10	WOLFGANG SCHUCHARDT	9.72	1	10			1	10		
2	9	COOPER GARMESON	8.74	2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	WHITE TROUT	WT								
1	10										
2	9										
3	8										
4	7										
5	6										
6	5										
7	4										
8	3										
9	2										
10	1										

** Club Record * First Submitted (N) New Member

Junior Big Fish Contest Points

2024-03-16

PL	ANGLER NAME	TotPts	Crkr	Flndr	Gafftp	Kngfsh	Pomp	Redf	Shpshd	SpMck	SpkTrt	WhtTrt	Tot.Pts
1	WILLOW SWIGER (N)	10						10					10
1	WOLFGANG SCHUCHARDT	10							10				10
1	COLTON SMITH (N)	10		10									10
2	ANGEL MANES (N)	9						9					9
5	COOPER GARMESON	9							9				9
TOTALS		48	0	10	0	0	0	19	19	0	0	0	48

Junior Catch, Photo & Release Contest & Points

Junior Catch, Photograph, Release Standings

2024-03-18

PL	PTS	BLACK DRUM	LENGTH	PL	PTS	FLOUNDER	LENGTH	PL	PTS	JACK CREVALLE	LENGTH
1	10			1	10			1	10		
2	9			2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	REDFISH	LENGTH	PL	PTS	SHEEPSHEAD	LENGTH	PL	PTS	SPECKLED TROUT	LENGTH
1	10	COOPER GARMESON	34.75	1	10	COOPER GARMESON	22.25	1	10		
2	9			2	9	COOPER GARMESON	17.00	2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		

** Club Record * First to weigh in (N) New Member

Junior Catch, Photograph, Release Points

2024-03-18

PL	ANGLER NAME	PTS	BLK DRM	FLNDR	JACK CRVL	REDFISH	SHEEPS	SP TROUT
1	COOPER GARMESON	29				10	19	
2		0						
3		0						
	TOTALS	29	0	0	0	10	19	0

(N) New Member

LOGO ITEMS

Our ACFA Logo Items co-Chair wives Allie & Amber Summers, along with Chatwin & Christian Summers will have shirts, car tags (\$20), koozies (\$5-\$10), hats (\$20), stickers (\$5), and visors (\$15) available for sale at the March 7th 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 sunglass lanyards, keychains, etc. contact: Chad Summers



