

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

June 2004 Newsletter

Our June meeting will be held on Thursday June 3rd at 7PM at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our speaker will be Capt. Scott Ritter. Scott is one of our local inshore fishing guides and he lives on Dauphin Island. He is a member of ACFA and NAIS and he is a regular participant in most of our local saltwater tournaments and some of the Redfish Trail events fished mainly in the Louisiana marches, and has finished "in the money" on several occasions. Scott excels at catching both trout and redfish and he accomplishes much of this using top-water lures. We look forward to learning from his presentation.

In addition, Charlie Crawford, club member and proprietor of Souther"N"Bama Bait and Tackle, will display some fishing items during our meeting that should help to improve your results.

Presidents Message

Well it's that time again, the June tournament is right around the corner, and the fishing around Dauphin Island is getting better. The trout are biting around the bridge when the wind let's down. The shoals have been hit & miss but, when this is occurring I have found that the fish will be holding in deeper water such as 10 & 15ft. There are several places along the bridge pilings that will have these depths such as, Grants Pass and most of the water that flow's between the pilings on the North side of the Intercoastal Waterway (barge channel). Fish these areas tight lining live shrimp on a Carolina rig or, a slip cork rig both with a leader at least 3ft long or longer so the shrimp can swim freely. If anyone don't know these areas refer to the map that Bobby Abruscato had available at last month's meeting.

Well, I could go on & on about fishing but we would have to get Fed EX or UPS to deliver the newsletter. If you need more info then I will see you at the meeting,

Bruce Sr.

Congratulations

The team of Kyle and Frank Mitternight posted an impressive victory in the inaugural North American Inshore Sportsmen (NAIS) Alabama Speckled Trout Tournament Trail event on May 15 with weigh-in at the Original Oyster House on the Causeway. Bobby Abruscato was a member of the 2nd place team and Eddy Smith was a member of the 3rd place team.. Kyle also caught the tourney luncker at 6.00lbs. Way to go!

June Tournament and Membership Family Fish Fry

Our next tourney the "Summer Starter"- will be held on Saturday June 5th. We will be fishing for Speckled Trout, Flounder, White Trout, and Ground Mullet and 12 plaques will be awarded.

Weigh-in will be from 3-5pm behind the American Legion Post 250 on D.I.P. (on west side of hiway next to Family Dollar) approx. one block south of Bayley's Restaurant and Greer's Food Tiger. We'll once again utilize the large covered screen porch area with picnic tables that is attached to (and behind) the main Post building.

We estimate that we fed about 120 folks last year which included our fisherpersons, ACFA family members, and some members of Post 250, and we expect to do at least that well again in 2004. Everyone in the club is invited, so plan to attend even if you don't fish in our tourney. We'll be looking for you, your wife, and all the kids! Charlie Dowdle and his crew plan to make fried fish and all the trimmings available by 4pm and, if you can, we ask that you purchase some of your cold beverages from Post 250 since these folks have welcomed us with open arms and great hospitality.

As the fish come in during the weigh-in we'll have a volunteer fish cleaning crew to produce our main dish so don't throw anything edible away on Saturday

Results From The ACFA-WBFC (Week's Bay Fishing Club) 2004 Challenge

Jennifer Mitternight	ACFA	5.90lb.	Bruce Howle, Sr.	ACFA	4.40lb.
Tom Duncan	ACFA	5.35lb.	Wayne Garrettson*	ACFA	4.25lb.
Kevin Olmstead	WBFC	5.30lb.	Kyle Mitternight	ACFA	3.85lb.
Butch Pierce	ACFA	4.90lb.	Mike Coffey*	ACFA	3.80lb.
Tommy Pond	ACFA	4.45lb.	Lee Robinson	WBFC	3.75lb.

*New Member

Another beautiful fishing day and (as you can see above) another successful challenge for ACFA. A record 39 ACFA members actually entered a speck for judging and we know of many others who fished and we thank each and every one of you for making this truly a "team" effort. The statistics shown don't tell the whole challenge story though. As a result of this event we have had the opportunity to meet an entirely new group of local fishermen who, like us, passionately love to fish inshore Alabama waters. If you didn't get to meet our counterparts of WBFC at the challenge weigh-in you missed a good chance to better acquaint yourself with a great group of dedicated fishermen. (Example: Approx. 40% of WBFC members weighed in specks at the challenge while ACFA had about 34%.)

This tournament seems like a definite win-win situation for both clubs and we hope that WBFC will continue to grow and prosper on the Eastern Shore. Inshore fishing to the east of Mobile looks to be in very capable hands with John Collier and his folks leading the way.

We enjoyed the friendly competition of 2004 and hope that this is just the beginning of a long association between our two clubs. In the mean time we all should assist WBFC in any way that we can in order to insure their continued success in the future.

Membership 2004

Congratulations to Alvin Bell who was singularly responsible for at least six new club members this year. Also to Don Ludlam whose name was drawn from the remaining club members responsible for new members joining this year. Both of these gentlemen received dinners-for-two for their efforts.

ACFA Logo'd Items

Chairman Bud Barr will once again have a supply of our club apparel for sale at the June meeting, but we will not sell these items at our July meeting since our annual "Junk Sale" will be held on that evening. So if you would like to wear our colors, bring cash or check on Thurs. nite!

Upcoming ACFA Events

As mentioned above next month's meeting brings our annual "July Junk Sale." Suffice to say that any item that you don't need any longer that's remotely related to fishing, boating, and trailering will be welcomed. So start setting things aside because both you and the club can make some money in July. By the way--over \$600.00 changed hands during last year's sale. More info in the next newsletter.

Also in July another ACFA first--we've decided to hold a monthly club tourney as a warm-up for the DIAT and the ADSFR. For sure there will be an aggregate speckled trout category. Other categories and how we'll treat them are still under discussion. Again--more info to come in the July newsletter.

Reminders

1. This month's meeting marks the half-way point of our 2004 attendance contest. Please be on time, sign-in with Bekki at the door, wear a nametag, and get your ticket for the night's drawing.
2. See Bud Barr for your new, free ACFA license tag.
3. ACFA 2004 fishing contest rules, big fish cards, and our new business cards will all be available at the door.

Of Note

- A. Mike Thompson will present "quick hits" for June.
- B. The new weighmaster's table (purchased in April) made it debut at the challenge weigh-in on the Causeway on May 8th.
- C. ACFA expects to spend around \$575.00 during this club year on our two tournament fish fries and our Dec. awards party.
- D. The ACFA 2004 membership roster including names, addresses and phone numbers will be completed and ready for distribution at this month's meeting. Be sure to pick yours up! Last count was approx. 120 members.

One More Time---

The following article is reprinted by special request. Although it appeared in this newsletter several years ago it is always relevant to Mobile Bay at this time of the year when the young shrimp begin their journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Hope you'll enjoy!

Kid's Days!

ACFA prides itself on being a family oriented club where all our wives and kids (under 16 yr.) are automatically eligible to participate in ACFA activities and fishing contests. We feel that getting the kids interested in fishing can create one of the many avenues to family adventures and togetherness, not to mention wholesome outdoor fun, that could pay dividends during the formative years in our children's lives.

One of the goals of any fishing trip with the kids is to catch fish. Sure, there should be plenty to eat and drink on board and the trip should not be of overly long duration, but overall the main objective should always be to catch something and nurture

an interest in one of our favorite pastimes. If you agree, better get the boat gassed and the tackle ready because the best time of the year to accomplish this is at hand.

Anytime from about mid May through July you can expect to find the fish under the birds somewhere in the Bay. The prime area for this seasonal occurrence is the Dog River flats stretching from the city ramp next to the Buccaneer Yacht Club to the North side of Gaillard Island.

In this area of the bay (as is the case in any area) schools of specks and white trout gorge themselves on schools of shrimp (usually small to medium size) that are moving down the Bay on their trek to the gulf. When the fish chase these shrimp (who are usually bottom dwellers) they usually herd the shrimp up off the bottom to intermediate depths and (with no place else to go) even to the surface. It is at this time the seagulls now join in on this eating act and what we have is a real feeding frenzy. The shrimp find themselves between-a-rock-and-a-hard-place with nowhere to go. If they try for the surface or jump to avoid a spec's grasp a seagull scoops them up, and if they stay in the water any of the hundreds of the schooled up trout eat them.

Here's where the fishermen enters the drama. Take binoculars on these trips to help in your search for the groups of darting, diving, feeding gulls. On a good morning about 1/2 mile outside Dog River bridge you should be able to pick up 2 to 8 "bird schools". Some schools will have slightly larger specs, while other schools will contain predominately white trout as the predators. Usually it's a mix with the specs in the top portions of the water column after live shrimp and whites down closer to the bottom working on the wounded or slower shrimp and cleaning up any leavings along the bottom.

Once you choose a particular school, approach cautiously from the up-wind side so that your drift will carry you into the action. Do not leave the motor running as it will drive all to the bottom and when the birds can't see the prey you surely aren't going to be able to find them! A trolling motor can be a plus here, but it's not a "must have" item. Preferred baits are artificials such as spec rigs or single or double 1/4 oz. grubs. Colors don't seem to mean anything under the birds. What does count is a good tough lure that can stand up to 6 to 8 strikes on a single cast! Throw to the nearest strikes and the fun should be on.

Please remember many of these "bird-fish" are small and trying to get larger faster. Specs must be 14" or better while white trout may be kept if they'll cover a slice of bread. Handle the specs with you bare hands or a wet towel if most must be thrown back so as not to remove their protective slime. Remember--these are tomorrow's warriors. On the other hand, as long as white trout are present you should always be able to get enough for a mess to clean and eat. A special note here:" many times when the birds/school seem to have dissipated you are likely to continue to find white trout on the bottom in the last known location of the school. There have been times that we have continued to catch whites off the bottom for up to 30 minutes after all surface activity has ceased. Just let your lure reach bottom before working it slowly. And remember-- these fish you can keep for the pictures and the pan.

Anything from a Zebco 202 up will work for schooling fish and much of the time casting distance means little as the schooling fish surge all around the boat and shrimp bump against the hull trying to escape. This is the place and now is the time to get the kids really into fishing as it just doesn't get better than "under the birds". Make yourself a promise to let them experience this action during the summer.

ACFA----We Catch Fish! Get The Net!

Big Fish Contest Standings 2004

5/25/2004

	Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT
1			Frank Mitternacht	4.50	Bruce Howle, Jr.	2.32	Kyle Mitternacht	5.75
2			Del Delchamps	4.34	Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.86	Kelly Fulmer	5.50
3			John Taylor	4.04	Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.60	Jennifer Mitternacht	5.00
4			Jimbo Miller	3.10	Bruce Howle, Jr.	1.58	Bill Midgette	3.03
5			Gerald Markow	2.60	Del Delchamps	1.20	Bill Midgette	2.05
	Sheepshead	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	White Trout	WT
1	Doug Smith	12.80	Rick Yeend	7.94			Bruce Howle, Sr.	1.86
2	Brittney Howle	10.80	Bruce Howle, Sr.	7.58			Rick Tourne	1.60
3	Kyle Mitternacht	10.26	Kyle Mitternacht	7.55				
4	Belinda Smith	10.05	Bruce Howle, Sr.	7.06				
5	Barry Keith	10.00	Kelly Fulmer	6.74				

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

**ACFA
TOURNAMENT STANDINGS**

2004 Tournament Standings

PLACE	MEMBER	POINTS
1	Doug Smith	17
2	Kyle Mitternacht	13
3	Del Delchamps	9
3	Kelly Fulmer	9
3	Gerald Markow	9
3	Jeff Vadakin	9
4	Johnny Fassbender	8
4	Jim Glass	8
4	Tommy Pond	8
4	Bud Turner	8
5	Frank Dunlevy	7
5	David Hare	7
6	Brittney Howle	6
6	Billy Hurd	6
6	Bobby McElroy	6
6	Bill Midgette	6
6	Frank Miller	6
6	Bill Patterson	6
7	Bruce Howle, Sr.	5
7	Belinda Smith	5
8	Tom Duncan	4
8	Trisha Lowry	4
8	Jennifer Mitternigt	4
8	Butch Pierce	4
9	Alvin Bell	3
9	Mike Coffee	3
9	Donald Garrettson	3
9	Wayne Garrettson	3
9	Sonny Gause	3
9	Mike Herring	3
9	Barry Keith	3
9	Frank Mitternacht	3
9	Thomas Murray	3
10	Bud Barr	2
10	Charlie Dowdle	2
10	Jep Hill, Jr.	2
10	Jep Hill, Sr.	2
10	Earl Hopper	2
10	Patrick Hughes	2
10	Jim Jernigan, Jr.	2
10	John Markow	2
10	Beverly Pierce	2
10	Rick Tourne	2
10	George Turner	2
10	Oocie Wade	2
11	Mutt Burke	1
11	Donnie Fassbender	1
11	Sid Fern	1
11	Jimmy Holmes	1
11	Donnie Howell	1
11	Angie Howle	1
11	Jackson Hughes	1

**ACFA
TOURNAMENT STANDINGS**

11	Joseph Hughes	1
11	Marion Jernigan, Sr.	1
11	Wes Knight	1
11	Larry Markow	1
11	Nick Markow	1
11	Jim Mason	1
11	Jimbo Miller	1
11	Dustin Moore	1
11	Matt Perry	1
11	Michael Pierce	1
11	Trey Pitt	1
11	Jad Pope	1
11	Darrell Raley	1
11	Joe Sirmon	1
11	BH Smith	1
11	Shaun Sullivan	1
11	Mike Thompson	1
11	John Winter	1