



ACFA

Club Officers and Chairpersons for 2007

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|----------|
| President: | Doug Smith | 604-4758 |
| Vice Pres: | D.W. Garrettson | 599-8701 |
| Treasurer: | Jep Hill | 476-1796 |
| Secretary: | Judy Smith | 379-7195 |
| Statistics: | Vince Hawkins | 452-3899 |
| Membership: | Erik Nelson | 331-3804 |
| Weighmaster: | Pat Hughes | 422-6992 |
| Donations: | Jimmy Quint | 377-4879 |
| Logo Items: | Alvin Bell | 455-5739 |
| Awards: | Bryan Hack | 510-4196 |
| Food: | Randy Wiscaver | 662-3628 |
| Newsletter: | David Thornton | 458-2775 |
| Webmaster: | Chris Massey | 422-2518 |
| Advisor: | Mike Thompson | |

April 2007 Newsletter No. 3

Our third meeting of the 2007 season will be held on Thursday April 5th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place). The meeting hall is approximately ¼ mile north of McVay Drive. Capt. Paul Smith (an ACFA member, inshore guide and accomplished redfish tournament fisherman) will be our featured speaker. We're hopeful "Moondoggie" will share some of his knowledge and tips on spring fishing for speckled trout and redfish. He said the more cold adult beverages we buy him, the more he'll talk! And Hank Burch of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is slated as our guest speaker to bring us up to date on the new Five Rivers facility the Department has recently completed on the Causeway.

Also, we expect to have Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to be present to answer your questions and to explain basic safety requirements for boaters and will have pamphlets that outline which points would be inspected on your rig.

Come early (and park "smart") as we expect a good number of our 183+ members to be in attendance. Be sure to bring a friend, and IF you have a friend that wishes to join the club be sure to remind them to put your name as a reference to qualify you for the ACFA Sponsorship prize to be awarded in May. The member who sponsors the most new members will receive a free dinner-for-two and any member who sponsors at least one new member will be eligible for a drawing of a dinner-for-two prize also.

President's Message:

What great turnout for our first tournament! The weather was good, food was great and thanks to everyone who made it happen. And I hope to see everybody at the next meeting and April 7th tournament. Doug

March Madness Tournament Results Saturday March 24th

Our much anticipated first tournament of 2007 was held under mixed conditions. It was mild with fairly light winds and patchy fog in the upper part of the bay, but it was mostly cloudy, bumpy and breezy all day along the coast. Still the "goat herders" went forth to the near-shore rigs and landed some eye-popping sized sheepshead (5 over 10# and 10 over 9#). Chris Massey's partner Henry Nall had a 12.20# "sheepopotamus" that was just 6 tenths of a pound from the club record (caught by our Prez Doug Smith in 2004) and less than ¾ quarters of a pound off the Alabama state record (12# 15 ounces caught in 2001) We are on the cutting edge of Alabama Coastal angling! In addition the team of Mutt Burke and Bill Midgette had a fabulous box of artificial caught speckled trout (up to 27") from regions yet to be verified. I believe they took a blood oath or something, NOT to talk about where they caught these fish. Nice trout guys! All totaled over 70 anglers weighed in about 100 fish, not including the 1.2 pound pinfish!! WooHoooo! Ya had to be there... ;-)

| | Sheepshead (36) | WT | | Speckled Trout (23) | WT | | Ground Mullet (17) | WT | | White Trout (9) | WT |
|---|------------------------|-----------|---|----------------------------|-----------|---|---------------------------|-----------|---|------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Henry Nall | 12.20 | 1 | Bill Midgette | 6.20 | 1 | David Hare | 1.20 | 1 | John Burke | 1.10 |
| 2 | Jason Miller | 10.90 | 2 | Mutt Burke | 4.95 | 2 | Ted Kiefer | 1.05 | 2 | Theo Koulianos (J) | 0.70 |
| 3 | Chris Massey | 10.65 | 3 | Bo Winter | 4.55 | 3 | Del Delchamps | 0.90 | 3 | Jason Miller | 0.65 |

Even the youngsters got in the act and the results of the 1st Annual ACFA Junior Angler Sheepshead "Goat" Roundup are in:
1st Cameron Calhoun 9.85 2nd Billy Pierce (Jr) (N) 9.25 3rd Theo Koulianos 8.40 4th Alison Pierce (N) 7.75 5th Austin Lee 6.20

* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler ? Problem w/Membership verification

FYI: ACFA Tournament Rule 7 states: "To qualify for the monthly awards, all fish weighed in an ACFA tournament must be no less than a minimum of one pound with the exception of White Trout and Ground Mullet, which must weigh at least 8 ounces (0.5 pounds). There is no minimum weight for the Junior Angler category fish." Or for a participation point. However, to receive a participation point in a tournament the angler must weigh in a legal fish of one of the category species.

Speaking of the food...

Another popular aspect of the ACFA tournament weigh-ins has been the great food provided to members and their guests. Our Food Chairman Randy Wiscaver cooked up some of his now www famous Bar-B-Que pulled pork "sammiches" for the March tournament. Along with piles of coleslaw and baked beans we had quite a feed. I didn't see anyone go away hungry, that's for sure!

Further details will be discussed at the April meeting about the addition of "guest cooks" to supplement Randy's (award winning) cooking. Several people have graciously stepped up to assist Randy by doing the cooking at several tournaments so he won't have to bear the full burden and not have a chance to fish. IF you would like to assist one of these volunteer teams (or start your own) please see Randy or Doug and tell them about your ideas to keep our great cooking traditions going!

Enjoy Your LAST Newsletter ...

That's right, IF you have NOT renewed your membership this will be the last ACFA newsletter you receive ☺ Newsletter mailings (to over 200 paid members) represent the largest line item in the ACFA yearly budget, and non-paying members' names have to be purged by the end of April. It's not too late to renew by mail (to Jep Hill) and all mailed memberships postmarked before April 1 will be eligible for the **TWO** "Treasurer's Treat" Awards (a refund of your yearly membership cost \$45) to be drawn at our April meeting.

If you haven't already started, keeping these newsletters in a file will help answer most of your questions (and maybe answer someone else's too). Over the course of the year the details of all our club's activities will be published here, so STAY TUNED and STAY INFORMED! Like with this important information below ...

The Mini-Seminars Continue...

"Fishing secrets we're too embarrassed to ask, but always wanted to know"

Bobby McElroy and Phillip Guy are presenters for this month's discussion entitled **Raising temps brings fishing fever**. All the tips you'll need to kick off the new fishing season. IF you've never witnessed Bobby "The Brain" on a roll talking about speckled trout fishing you're in for a treat. And Phillip is noted as a longtime successful Theodore Canal and Dog River angler. So take notes! In addition Joe Sirmon said he would certainly like to hear **from you** about what other topics you would like to see discussed along the lines of "questions we'd like to hear answered, but were afraid to ask." Some already suggested topics include "Reefs/ Hotspots" and "Tricks of the Trade". You can pass your ideas on to Joe at the meetings or email him at joesirmon@bellsouth.net or phone him at 605-5811. See you there! The seminars begin promptly at 6pm in the meeting hall.

April 7 is the "Spring Breakout" Tournament

Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheepshead and Ground Mullet are the designated species this month. Plus three Jr Ground Mullet and three Pompano trophies are up for grabs along with some braggin rights and those all important Tournament Points. The weigh-in will (again) be from 3pm-5pm at the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (next to the Family Dollar Store one block south of the Greer's Food Tiger store.) Our weigh master, cooking crew and the 'courtesy' boat inspections (by the USCG Aux.) will be located at the rear of the big parking lot. So come early, and come hungry!

Courtesy Boat Inspections

ACFA believes in safety on the water. We have again this year, arranged for representatives of the Coast Guard Auxiliary to provide (voluntary) non-binding safety inspections of our boats during the hours of the weigh-in at our April Tournament. Last year about 20 ACFA boats were inspected, and we'd like to see even more than that this year. Even if you don't fish the tournament, all you have to do is bring your rig by the weigh-in site and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will give you a free inspection. It is non-binding with no follow up or any penalties. If your rig passes you will be given a (free) U.S.C.G.A. sticker for display on your boat. And the presence of an up to date sticker on your boat could preclude a whole lot of hassle should you be checked on the water in the future. ACFA encourages this "boat check-up". And did you know that with a passing certificate you can purchase any regular safety item at participating marine stores and receive a 10% discount on your purchase.

2007 Tournament Schedule (ALL tournaments are on Saturdays)

April 7 "Spring Breakout" Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheepshead, ground Mullet (+ 3 Jr Ground Mullet and 3 Pompano trophies)
May 5 "Speckled Trout Challenge" Speckled Trout (only) (+ 3 Jr Speckled Trout trophies)
June 9 "Summer Starter" Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Ground Mullet, Spanish Mackerel (+ 3 Jr Flounder)
July 7 "Rodeo Warm-up" Speckled Trout (5/team), Redfish, Flounder, White Trout, Blackfish (+ 3 Jr Croaker trophies)
Aug 4 "Mobile Bay Grand Slam" Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, White Trout, Blackfish (+ 3 Jr White Trout & Biggest Slam)
Sept 8 "End of Summer" Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, White Trout, Spanish Mackerel (+ 3 Jr White Trout)
Oct 20 "Causeway Classic" Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Sheepshead (+3 Jr Redfish trophies)

2007 Memberships ...

Wouldn't you like to avoid the crush at the Treasurer's Table at the next meeting? You can mail in your \$45 membership fee along with your name, address and telephone number to Jep Hill 61 Williams Court Mobile, AL 36606. This will go a long way to alleviate the crowding and confusion and leave more room for NEW members to sign up. As added incentive the ACFA will again this year offer the "Treasurer's Treat" by drawing (at the April meeting) **TWO** names of members who have renewed by mail (by March 31st) and refund their \$45 membership fee! And remember, you must have paid your dues prior to the upcoming tournament date for you and your family to participate in that tournament. One member went as far as to slip a check through Jep's front door mail slot at 4am Saturday morning!

ACFA Logo items

Our Logo Item Chairman, Alvin Bell said he still has a supply of items to sell from last year, and has more of those great looking caps and ACFA Grand Slam t-shirts for the April meeting. Due to increased production and shipping costs a modest increase may be forthcoming, so get 'em while you can. An announcement should be made at the meeting and in the next newsletter. Also, NEW this year we will offer some long sleeve T-shirts along with Ladies' Tees shirts for the lady anglers.

In addition we will try to offer the "ACFA Shirt Night" twice this year. The first run will likely be offered in April and the second in October. So we need at least 10 members at this meeting to commit by bringing a new (or slightly used) with \$10 to Alvin to have the ACFA logo embroidered on that shirt. The shirts would be collected (along with the money) at the April meeting and returned at the May meeting IF there is enough interest. It's a stylish addition to any fisherperson's wardrobe, so try and take advantage of the opportunity.

Sign-In and WIN!

Those that attend (and check in to) at least 8 of our 10 regular club meetings (Feb-Nov) will be eligible for our 2007 Grand Attendance Prize Package (worth in excess of \$200 last year). Don't let "the BIG one get away" ;-)
So be sure to see Erik Nelson at the sign-in table, so he won't win it again! And please wear a name tag. It's a great help to new members in associating names and faces and for all club members to get to know one another quicker.

Donations are needed ...

For our monthly door prizes and for the 2007 Grand Attendance Prize Package.
Please see, or call Jimmy Quint (377-4879) to donate or make arrangements.

Speaking of Donations...

Our Membership Chairman Erik Nelson recently wrote on the ACFA website that "Marc Brazelton of WEST MARINE (3747 Government Boulevard) DONATED A \$129.00 IGLOO COOLER TO THE CLUB FOR part of THE GRAND PRIZE AT YEAR END. THEY WILL HAVE A TACKLE/EQUIPMENT DISPLAY AT THE APRIL MEETING. I THINK THEY ARE DESERVING OF OUR PATRONAGE." Thank you both!

New Member Sponsors

In our eleventh year, and dues remain at \$45 (unchanged this century) so we're still the best fishing deal around! That price includes spouses and children (under the age of 16 on Feb 1) to fish in our tournaments and to attend all ACFA functions including meetings, cookouts, weigh-ins and banquets. And why not talk to your friends about joining the ACFA? Even if they don't fish much, the food benefits alone are less than a single family seafood dinner at a local restaurant. And be sure that any new members you get to sign up put your name down as their sponsor in order to qualify you for the drawing of a FREE Dinner for two at a local restaurant. And again the member who sponsors the most new memberships will automatically win a free dinner for two and receive the Membership Sponsor Award for 2007 to be given away at the May meeting.

Also Coming in 2007

- A raffle for full day inshore redfish sight fishing charter trip, two anglers in LA marsh with Captain Paul "Moondoggie" Smith.
- Junior Angler Division plaques: for 3 places EVERY tournament
- 'Special' Pompano Division: added to our April tournament (3 places)
- 'Mini-Seminars': to be given prior to the meetings on popular subjects
- Long-sleeved and Ladies Tees ACFA logo shirts will be available
- Streamlined sign-in and more seating at meetings
- Up to 149 plaques to be awarded in our 2007 tournaments
- Food and "guest" cooks at every ACFA weigh-in

All this (and more) brought to you by your 2007 Board of Directors and friends. Please see any of them for comments and suggestions.

Reminders

- 2007 dues are due now, pay by mail (by March 31st) to avoid crowds and qualify for prizes.
- ACFA meeting dates in February newsletter, all 2007 club tournament dates in the March Newsletter.
- Alvin Bell (455-5739) will be selling ACFA logo'd items at the April meeting
- 2007 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2007.
- Dues MUST be paid prior to participating in a tournament.

Please remember, NO SMOKING in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment. Several years ago the ACFA purchased several "smoke eaters" air filters for the meeting room. Since we are now "smoke-free" (at least indoors) it was suggested we donate the filters to the Post 88 as a gesture of our appreciation for using their facility. Last year the Legion asked that we refrain from bringing outside alcohol onto the premises due to legal responsibilities. Please adhere to their wishes and support them by purchasing your drinks (adult or otherwise) from the bar. And PLEASE be respectful of our speakers (and the members and guests who want to hear them) by refraining from any unnecessary talking or moving about during the presentations. And we ask that you save your questions until the end of their talk.

Where's everybody been?

Our club Statistician wanted to remind everyone your Big Fish entry must be made within 30 days of the catch and to please be sure and make a photocopy of your Big Fish Card before entrusting it to the mail service. Better safe than sorry!
 Mail to: Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611 (452-3899)

Well, after two months we finally got some fish to talk about...

Big Fish Contest Standings: March 25, 2007

| | Blackfish | WT | | Flounder | WT | | Ground Mullet | WT | | Redfish | WT |
|---|--------------|-------|---|------------------|----|---|----------------|------|---|-----------------|------|
| 1 | | | 1 | | # | 1 | David Hare | 1.20 | 1 | Phillip Guy | 6.00 |
| 2 | | | 2 | | | 2 | Ted Kiefer | 1.05 | 2 | DeWayne Johnson | 4.30 |
| 3 | | | 3 | | | 3 | | # | 3 | | |
| 4 | | | 4 | | | 4 | | | 4 | | |
| 5 | | | 5 | | | 5 | | | 5 | | |
| | Sheepshead | WT | | Spanish Mackerel | WT | | Speckled Trout | WT | | White Trout | WT |
| 1 | Henry Nall | 12.20 | 1 | | | 1 | Bill Midgette | 6.20 | 1 | John Burke | 1.10 |
| 2 | Jason Miller | 10.90 | 2 | | | 2 | Kelly Fulmer | 5.93 | 2 | | # |
| 3 | Chris Massey | 10.65 | 3 | | | 3 | Mutt Burke | 4.95 | 3 | | |
| 4 | Ted Kiefer | 10.20 | 4 | | | 4 | Bo Winter | 4.55 | 4 | | |
| 5 | Leslie Smith | 10.00 | 5 | | | 5 | Barry Keith | 3.85 | 5 | | |

NOTE: Some fish were weighed in for the tournament that did not meet the minimum weights for the Big Fish Contest.
 # ACFA Tournament Rules (Big Fish Contest Rule 1) specifies minimum weights for all species to qualify.
 Flounder = 2 pounds, Ground Mullet and White Trout = 1 pound
 Please keep this in mind IF you have submitted a fish under the minimum weights it will not appear in the Standings.

ACFA Tournament Point Standings as of March 24, 2007

| Pl. | Name | Pts. |
|-----|--------------------|------|
| 1 | Jason Miller | 10 |
| 2 | Bill Midgette | 8 |
| 2 | David Hare | 8 |
| 2 | Henry Nall | 8 |
| 2 | John Burke | 8 |
| 3 | Mutt Burke | 6 |
| 3 | Ted Kiefer | 6 |
| 3 | Theo Koulianos (J) | 6 |
| 4 | Bo Winter | 4 |
| 4 | Chris Massey | 4 |
| 4 | Del Delchamps | 4 |

1 point: Allison Pierce (N)(J), Alvin Bell, Austin Lee (J), Barry Keith, Bekki Ludlam (L), Belinda Smith (L), Bill Patterson, Billy Hurd, Billy Pierce (N), Billy Pierce Jr (N)(J), Brenda Pate (L), Bubba Williams, Butch Pierce (N)(?), Cameron Calhoun (J), Dane Tomberlin, David Garrettson (?), David Thornton, Don Ludlam, Donna Keifer (L), Donnie Fassbender, Donnie Howell, Doug Smith, Evan Fassbender, Frank Parker (?), Frank Parker III (J)(?), Frank Parker Jr (?), George Koulianos, Jad Pope, Jim Foster, Joe Sirmon, John Fassbender, Kirk Hoven (N), Larry Watkins, Les Smith, Marc Kruse, Margaret Miller (L), Mike Foster, Mike Lee, Mike Pierce (N), Mike Tew, Norman Stockman (N), Patric Garmeson, Pete Burns, Randy Wiscaver, Rick Tourne, Russell Schmitz (N), Sam Clark (N), Scott Godwin, Tim Harwell, Tim Pierce (N), Tommy Pond, Trey Pitt, Vickie Foster (L), Vince Hawkins, Wayne Garrettson, Wayne Tubb (Ira?)

(N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler (?) Problem w/Membership verification

NOTE: anyone with a (?) after their name needs to contact our Treasurer (Jep Hill) to resolve whatever problem may exist about their name not showing up on the membership list. PLEASE take care of this ASAP, as the legality of your participation in the March Tournament may be in question!

Check Us Out Online @ <http://acfafishing.com/>

ACFA----We catch fish----Get the net!!!

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.