

ACFA

Club Officers and Chairpersons for 2006

President:	Doug Smith	604-4758	Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Vice Pres:	Bud Barr	602-1982	Donations:	Jimmy Quint	377-5739
Treasurer:	Jep Hill	476-1796	Logo Items:	Alvin Bell	455-5739
Secretary:	Margaret Miller	476-4142	Awards:	Bill Midgette	473-4768
Statistics:	D.W. Garretson	599-8701	Food:	Randy Wiscaver	402-2485
Membership:	Erik Nelson	331-3804	Newsletter:	David Thornton	458-2775
			Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

April 2006 Newsletter

Our third meeting for the 2006 season will be held on Thursday April 6th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place). And you might want to get there a bit early for the mini-seminar @ 6pm. Now into our tenth year, the ACFA continues to grow in membership and accomplishments. Be a part of it and members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will 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.

President's Message

Thanks to everyone for the great turnout at the March Tournament. We were blessed with good weather, and some fine fish, and had some wonderful food. Hope to see you all at the April meeting!

Doug

Our 2006 'March Madness' Tournament

Was held as scheduled on Saturday March 25th under brilliant blue skies, despite near record cold temps, a 'Small Craft Exercise Caution' advisory and a super low morning tide. ACFA members responded to the challenge of the elements with over 80 fish entries documented by our weigh master, Pat Hughes. Well done Pat!

Apparently all that hard fishing worked up quite an appetite too, as club members and guests consumed 4 Bar-B-Que pork butts, 3 gallons of baked beans and 3 gallons of cole slaw provided by our Food Chairman, Randy Wiscaver even before the scales closed at 5 pm! Hope you got there early enough to get a plate. Great job Bigun!

The final results of the tournament were:

<u>Speckled Trout</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Sheepshead</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Ground Mullet</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>White Trout</u>	<u>Wt</u>
1. David Mashburn	5.10	Leslie Smith	11.75	Walter Corley (N)	1.00*	Henry Nall	1.40
2. Barry Keith	4.75	Matt Corley (J)	10.05	David Hare	1.00	David Hare	1.35
3. Pete Burns	4.15	Mike Lee	9.90	Del Delchamps	.85	Chris Massey	.85

* NOTE: tie breaker goes to first fish weighed in.

(J) NOTE: means junior member who had not yet reached their 16th birthday by February 1, 2006.

(N) NOTE: means new member, first tournament and Matt Corley (J) is his son. Well done guys!

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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 160 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 ...

Did you get the message?

Our host for the monthly meetings (Post 88) has made a very direct request of our club members and any guests in attendance at our ACFA monthly meetings.

"Please do NOT bring alcoholic beverages purchased elsewhere onto the post premises on meeting nights!"

This word was passed on to all who were present (inside) at our March meeting by our President, Doug Smith.

Here's a bit of ACFA history to recall how we came to have our meetings at the American Legion Post 88. Early on, the ACFA membership and officers realized Post 88 offered some very important advantages as a monthly meeting hall. A convenient location with a good sized meeting room was at the top of the list, but the adjoining restroom facilities and bar area offered a unique situation that seemed to please most of the membership.

We've enjoyed a great relationship with the Post for some time, and look forward to many years of future meetings there.

One of the reasons our rent (which is a sizable portion of our yearly budget) remains at a manageable rate is our patronage of the Post bar on meeting night. They offer a wide variety of drink options to 'wet your whistle', from soft drinks to beer, wine and mixed drinks.

With all this in mind we hope you can appreciate the Post's position in this matter. We wouldn't want to loose a great meeting place and Post 88 wouldn't want to incur the wrath of the Alabama Beverage Control Board. We sincerely hope no one among us would do anything to jeopardize this longstanding ACFA agreement with our host.

Thank you all for cooperation in this very important matter.

The Votes are in and the Mini – Seminars are on:
“Fishing secrets we’re too embarrassed to ask, but always wanted to know”

The first ‘class’ will be held at 6pm (sharp) prior to the April meeting. “Where to fish” was chosen by vote at the March meeting to be our first scheduled topic. “Choosing the right tackle” will be the May topic and “Live vs. artificial bait” will be the topic in June.

These informal question and answer sessions will be held in the front right corner of our meeting room where several of our experienced members will be on hand to moderate and inform regarding your questions “you always wanted to ask, but never got around to.” We hope to see you there! Your attendance will determine whether or not we will continue this new ACFA course of instructive enlightenment in the future. IF you have any interest in this month’s topic please be there by 6pm.

Our April “Breakout” Tournament will be Saturday April 8

The species will be Speckled Trout, Flounder, Sheepshead, and Ground Mullet, plus for the first time: POMPANO So a total of 15 plaques will be awarded, though NO tournament or Big Fish Contest points will be awarded for pompano. But IF the interest is high enough, pompano or other popular species MAY be added in the future.

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 and the ‘courtesy’ boat inspections (by the USCG Aux.) will be located at the rear of the big parking lot. Randy Wiscaver will provide for some sort of food (probably hotdogs with perhaps a ‘surprise’) for the members and guests, to be announced at the April meeting.

Weigh-in clarification ...

Apparently there was some confusion as to which fish can be weighed in for a ‘Participation Point’ at the tournaments. ANY fish species (of legal size) in the Yearlong Big Fish Contest (i.e. Speckled Trout, White Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Sheepshead, Blackfish, or Spanish mackerel) can be weighed as a potential Big Fish Contest Fish at any ACFA Tournament and thus earn that member one participation point, provided that fish was caught during tournament hours. But IF that fish is below minimum weights for the species (see tournament rules), it can not be considered for awards.

Remember, the member who caught the fish MUST be present for the weigh-in in order to receive a participation point or be eligible for any associated awards. You can launch and fish anywhere in Alabama waters. You can fish alone, or even with a friend who is not an ACFA member (but it’s more fun IF he or she is). IF you fish with others, be sure to mark your fish to ensure accuracy and accountability (we are on the honor system). You can use live or artificial bait (but no large nets, snagging or explosives please ;-). Slot redfish (16”-26”) can ONLY be weighed at an ACFA tournament (for the Yearlong Big Fish Contest), and are a category fish (for awards and tournament points) only in the last five tournaments.

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 over 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. Please try to participate!

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.

Sign-In and WIN!

Those who attend and check in to at least 8 of our 10 regular club meetings (Feb-Nov) will be eligible for our 2006 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 and please wear a name tag. This is 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 2006 Grand Attendance Prize Package. Please see, or call Jimmie Quint (377-5739) to donate or make arrangements to help out.

Alvin Bell will be selling ACFA logo items at the April Meeting!

He still has a good supply of caps, T-shirts, towels, etc. so shop early while the selections are there.

- ACFA T-shirts in Navy Blue, Forrest Green, and Natural; in sizes Med-XL are \$9 and XXL or XXXL are \$10
- ACFA 'Grand Slam' T-shirts in White only; sizes M-XL are \$10 and XXL or XXXL are \$11
- ACFA caps in Navy, Khaki, Olive and Stone are \$6; and the ACFA Hand Towels are \$3 each or 3 for \$5
- ACFA embroidered patches will be available too, small patches are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and the large patches are \$6

We ask that you **please bring the correct change**, or pay by check to facilitate the sales.

½ Day Guide Trip With A-Team (for 3) Will be raffled Off at the May Meeting

Captain Joey Abruscato (of A-team Fishing Adventures 251-478-8283) has graciously donated a ½ day guided trip for 3 anglers. Everything is provided except food and drinks. See Erik Nelson at the sign-in table for tickets (\$5 each) thru May.

New Member Sponsors

In our tenth year, and dues remain at \$45 (unchanged since the birth of ACFA.) 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' as the Membership Sponsor prize for 2006. Can Alvin Bell three-peat? The New Member Sponsorship prizes (dinners) will be awarded at the May meeting, so there's still plenty of time!

Congratulations!

We've been trying to keep up with our ACFA members as they place in the various local and national public tournaments. At the FLW Redfish Series March 16th and 17th in Rockport, Texas Scott Ritter's team placed 39th and Paul Smith's team placed 45th in the event despite windy conditions for pre-fishing and first day of the tournament. Great going guys!

For fear of leaving a deserving individual out we must defer to a general "well done" for all of you other participants and winners on the 'next level' of fishing. You make us all very proud and bring only good publicity to our club. Feel free to contact the newsletter editor for inclusion in our next issue. And good luck to the several teams of ACFA members who plan on participating in the Inshore Fishing Association (IFA) redfish tournament April 1st, 2006 in Lafitte, LA.

Reminders ...

- o April 8 is the date of the ACFA April Tournament
- o 2006 dues are due now, pay by mail qualify for prizes and avoid missing future newsletters.
- o Alvin Bell (455-5739) will be selling ACFA logo'd items at the April meeting
- o 2006 Mobile Boat Show at the Mobile Convention Center March 30 - April 2, 2006
- o 2006 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2006. Our Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch.
- o Fill out and send cards to D.W. 'Donnie' Garretson (599-8701)
- o Please remember, **NO SMOKING** in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment.
- o Please remember, **NO OFF PREMISES ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** at the meetings.
- o And PLEASE be respectful of our speakers (and members 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.

Also Coming in 2006

- o An inshore charter fishing trip: (May?) with Captain Joey Abruscato of A-Team Fishing Adventures (251) 478-8283
 - o Another rod raffle: (Aug) custom Billy Stix rod donated by Billy McDaniel
 - o Junior Angler Division plaques: for 3 places each in White trout and Ground Mullet in our June and July tournaments
 - o And more programs and fishing opportunities for kids in our tournaments (Junior categories)
 - o 'Special' Pompano Division: added to our April tournament (3 places)
 - o ACFA 'family' photo albums: pictures taken at ACFA functions (see Doug or Belinda Smith for details)
 - o Magazine Subscription drive: with prizes
 - o 'Mini-Seminars': to be given prior to the meetings on popular subjects
 - o Streamlined sign-in and more seating at meetings and over 115 plaques to be awarded in our 2006 tournaments
- All this (and more) brought to you by your 2006 Board of Directors. Please see them for comments and suggestions.

Big Fish	Contest	Standings	2006				
	Blackfish		WT		Flounder		WT
1				1	Mike Herring		3.84 lbs
2				2	Robert Schmitz		2.40 lbs
3				3	Don Ludlam		2.00 lbs.
4				4	Eric Nelson		1.40 lbs
5				5	Micheal Taylor		1.20 lbs
	Redfish		WT		Sheepshead		WT
1	Bill Midgette		3.90 lbs	1	Leslie Smith		11.75 lbs
2	Micheal Taylor		2.45 lbs	2	Matt Corley (j)		10.05 lbs
3	Judson Taylor (j)		2.15 lbs	3	Mike Lee		9.90 lbs
4	Wes Hughes		2.00 lbs.	4	Pete Burns		9.40 lbs
5				5	Walter Corley		9.25 lbs
	Speckled Trout		WT		Spanish Mackerel		WT
1	Phillip Guy		6.34 lbs	1			
2	Bill Patterson		5.65 lbs	2			
3	David Mashburn		5.10 lbs	3			
4	Barry Keith		4.75 lbs	4			
5	Pete Burns		4.15 lbs	5			
	Ground Mullet		WT		White Trout		WT
1	David Hare		1.47 lbs	1	Hal M Scheurich		2.27 lbs
2	Walter Corley		1.00 lbs	2	Micheal Jones		1.75 lbs
3	David Hare		1.00 lbs	3	David Thornton		1.73 lbs
4	Del Delchamps		.85 lbs	4	Henry Nall		1.40 lbs
5	Howard Perry		.85 lbs	5	David Hare		1.35 lbs

ACFA Tournament Points Standings 2006

Pos.	Angler Name	Points
1	David Hare	11
2	David Mashburn	8
2	Henry Nall	8
2	Leslie Smith	8
2	Walter Corley	8
3	Barry Keith	6
3	Matt Corley	6
4	Chris Massey	4
4	Del Delchamps	4
4	Mike Lee	4
4	Pete Burns	4
5	The following:	1

Austin Lee Jr (j), Bill Midgette, Bobby McElroy, Brandon Parker , Brenda Mashburn, Bruce Howle Jr, Bubba Williams , Charlie Dowdle, Chris Conken, David Thornton, Dewayne Overstreet, Don Ludlam, Donald Garrettson, Donna Kiefer, Donnie Fassbender, Doug Davis, Doug Smith, Eric Nelson, Evan Fassbender, George Koulianos, Howard Perry, Howard Perry, Jad Pope, Jason Day, Jim Glass, Jim Glass, Jimbo Miller, Joe Sirmon, John Fassbender, Judson Taylor, Kelly Fulmer, Kenny Nelson, Larry Watkins, Lori Tourne, Marc Kruse, Matt Perry Micheal Taylor, Mike Foster, Mike Herring, Mike Jones, Mutt Burke, Ocie Wade, Phillip Guy, Randy Wiscaver Rick Tourne, Robert Schmitz, Scott Godwin, Scott Lewis, Shaleigh Parker, Ted Kiefer, Theo Koulianos, Thomas Murray, Tim Bradley, Tim Bradley Jr, Timmy Bradley, Tom Duncan, Trey Pitt, Vickie Foster, Vince Hawkins

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.

[Check Us Out Online @ acfishing.com](http://acfishing.com)