



ACFA

Club Officers & Chairpersons for 2006

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

May 2006 Newsletter

Our fourth meeting for the 2006 season will be held on Thursday May 4th at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place).

Jeff Vadakin "Fish Stix", a well respected long-time rod builder will be our featured speaker, and Lee Minto "Deltaman" will do the quick hits segment at this month's meeting.

Be sure to get there early for the mini-seminar @ 6pm (more on that below).

Now into our tenth year, the ACFA continues to grow in membership (nearly 200) and accomplishments.

President's Message

Well, May is here already. And everybody knows what that means? It's the "SPECKLED TROUT CHALLENGE". So let's ALL get out there and fish this tournament for the club.

I've heard the trout bite is on at 'THE DAWG' (Dog River) and the 'SHOALS' (Dauphin Island Bridge).

P.S. I HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE WEEKS BAY WANTS OUR TROPHY!

ACFA April 8, 2006 'Breakout' Tournament Results

Our second tournament was held under 'less than ideal' conditions, with morning thunderstorms and a bonafide Small Craft Advisory in effect the whole day. The ACFA membership was not to be deterred though by a 'little wind and dingy water' and officially weighed in a total of 59 tournament fish plus 9 redfish and a white trout. But alas, NO pompano ☹

<u>Speckled Trout (29)</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Flounder (18)</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Sheepshead (8)</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Ground Mullet (4)</u>	<u>Wt</u>
1. Chris Conken	3.75	Kyle Mitternacht	4.05	Henry Nall	9.40	Bryan Hack	1.10 *
2. Kyle Mitternacht	3.70	Alvin Bell	2.45	Donnie Fassbender	4.35	Henry Nall	1.10
3. Scott Godwin (N)	3.45	Bryan Hack	2.30	Bobby McElroy	3.45	Barry Keith	.70

(N) NEW member for 2006

* First to weigh in

Kudos to Henry Nall who went all out (literally in 4'-6' seas) to catch 1st place in sheepshead & 2nd in ground mullet. To Kyle Mitternacht for his fine 1st place flounder and 2nd place speckled trout. And to Bryan Hack who caught the 1st place ground mullet and 3rd place flounder from the Dauphin Island Pier (while I stood nearby, fishless and slack jawed). And a big 'thank you' to the members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Mobile Power Squadron for providing the non-binding boat inspections for our members at the April weigh-in. Again this year, about 20 ACFA members took advantage of this opportunity and had their rigs inspected and approved. The ACFA promotes safe boating and encourages all members to take advantage of this free and non-binding inspection when it is offered in the future.

Our host site for the weigh in (American Legion Post 250) does NOT charge us for the use of their facilities. They use our donated fish (in the donation cooler) to fry for veterans. And ask only that we respect the premises by patronizing their bar as much as possible and PLEASE leave no trash on the ground, or fish carcasses in the cans or dumpsters. Thank you!

New Member Sponsorship Prizes...

will be awarded during the May meeting. TWO dinners for two (each a \$50 check) will go to the member who has sponsored the most new members (Alvin Bell won the past two years, will this be 3?) Also, a name will be drawn from the list of those members who sponsored at least one new member this year. Good work & good luck!

The Speckled Trout Challenge: May 6th, 2006

aka **Battle Of Mobile Bay** (or **BOMB**) originated some years ago when Mike Thompson, founder of the 'upstart' ACFA fishing club challenged the established Saltwater Sportsmen's Association (SSA) to a speckled trout tournament in May. After six years of friendly competition (and usually ACFA victories) the SSA 'opted out' of the competition in 2004. At that time the newly formed Weeks Bay Fishing Club (WBFC) challenged the ACFA to continue the series. The ACFA has prevailed the first two years and retained the trophy which rotates to the winning club for each year. But the WBFC is a determined group of good fishermen who would like nothing better than to upset our plans of a 'three-peat' and avenge last year's 'sweep' by the ACFA.

For the benefit of those members who may not be familiar with this tournament, the format is as follows: Speckled trout caught **ONLY** during the competition hours (5am to 5 pm Saturday May 6th) by currently paid members of the competing clubs may be entered.

Live or artificial baits are allowed, but all specks **MUST** be caught on hook and line (NO net caught fish).

All contestants must launch and fish in Alabama waters **ONLY**.

The weigh-in will be from 3 pm to 5pm (Sat May 6th) on the Highway 90/98 Causeway just west of the I-10 cross-over. We will gather under the canopy of the abandoned gas station next to the public boat launch on Chacaloochee (Chocalotta) Bay. Weigh masters representing both clubs will be present with one digital scale to weigh the fish. An official weight log will be kept with notations of the time, angler's name, weight of the fish and club affiliation. By weighing in a speckled trout the angler certifies he/she caught it by legal means in Alabama waters during the tournament hours. Each angler is allowed to weigh in **ONLY** one speck (NO weight checks will be allowed on the official scales). Anglers **MUST** be in the weigh in line by 5pm or risk disqualification.

As soon as the scale officially closes after 5pm, the fish weights will be assessed and points awarded for the top 10 specks (10 points for 1st place, down to 1 point for 10th place). Example: the 4th heaviest is worth 7 points and the 8th heaviest 3 points. The 55 available points will be divided up according to the club affiliation of the anglers weighing in those 10 specks. The club with the most total points is declared the winner and will be awarded the Challenge Trophy at a future meeting (not to mention the 'bragging rights') for another year. So we need **ALL** our members to fish hard for that elusive big speck and maintain our domination in what has become a premier event in local speckled trout fishing.

NOTE: to avoid any confusion as per what will constitute an ACFA 'participation point', Tournament Rule #16, posted on the ACFA website @ <http://acfafishing.com/tournrules.htm> states "the Speckled Trout Challenge is NOT a regular club tournament." Thus, **only members weighing in a legal (at least 14" TL) speckled trout will receive a tournament participation point.**

The weigh master will accept (at his convenience) redbait, and any of the other 6 fish species for weighing in the yearlong Big Fish Contest, but **ONLY** speckled trout will get participation points.

ACFA members who weigh in a speck finishing in the Top 10 of the Speckled Trout Challenge will be awarded a plaque plus **TWO** additional points in the 2006 Tournament Standings (for a total of 3 points to members with a Top 10 speckled trout).

Any questions will be addressed at the May meeting.

From our mission statement:

"... Promoting friendship, sportsmanship, and conservation along coastal Alabama. Our objectives are to provide a family oriented fishing club where you can meet new friends and learn all about being more successful while pursuing your hobby / sport." This tournament and weigh in are great opportunities to have fellowship with members of another fishing club with which we share a similar dedication and passion. ACFA members are encouraged to participate in the competition and festivities in order to become better anglers and neighbors. Please proudly display your ACFA logo items (to help identify you with our club) and win or lose, let our motto of "promoting friendship and sportsmanship" prevail.

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.

Ya GOTTA eat!

Since there are no kitchen facilities at the weigh in site on the Causeway, Food Chairman Randy "Bigun" Wiscaver said he will be present with his roving 'meals on wheels' and bring more of those delicious pork butts, pork-n-beans and coleslaw (like was provided at the first tournament weigh in back in March). IF you missed out on that, you really missed it! The grilled hotdogs and sausages (with the trimmings) were great at the April tournament weigh-in. Thanks to Cevin 'Doc' Kormier for being there with that setup!

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

This is your final opportunity to buy a ticket (only \$5 each) for the drawing to be held at the end of the May meeting. See Erik Nelson at the sign-in table for tickets. It's a great chance to fish with Captain Joey Abruscato (of A-team Fishing Adventures 251-478-8283) who has graciously donated a ½ day guided trip for 3 anglers. Everything is provided except food and drinks. ALL the proceeds go directly into the club treasury.

The Mini-Seminar Is a Hit, and...

our second seminar, 'Choosing the right tackle' will be hosted by a very knowledgeable trio. Ross Hutchisson will focus on reels, Charlie Crawford will talk about lines, and Don Ludlam will discuss rods. There will be some printed handouts about rigging up for the participants.

Over two dozen folks attended the first seminar, and the series will continue as long as the interest remains high.

So be at the meeting hall early as the seminar will begin at 6pm.

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

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

Be sure and wear your ACFA apparel to the Speckled Trout Challenge weigh in.

- 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 XXL or XXXL are \$11
 - ACFA caps in Navy, Khaki, Olive and Stone are \$6;
and the ACFA Hand Towels are \$3 each or 2* for \$5 (*correction from last newsletter)
 - ACFA embroidered patches will be available too, small patches are \$2 each or 3 for \$5, large patches are \$6
- We ask that you **please bring the correct change**, or pay by check to facilitate the sales.

Congratulations to...

Five teams of ACFA members who fished April 1st in the Inshore Fishing Association (IFA) Lafitte, La event. Paul Smith and Kyle Mitternacht finished 12th with two fine redfish totaling 14.13#.

Donald Garretson and Eric Nelson brought in a 12.36# pair of redfish good enough for 46th place.

And the son/father team of Bernie and Steve White's two redfish of 10.16# finished in 65th place.

Although the husband/wife team of Jason and Margaret Miller didn't weigh in a slot red on the completion day, they did catch some nice (oversized) redfish and said they had a great time and learned a LOT about red fishing.

Also, inactive ACFA members Bobby Abruscato and Scott Ritter finished in 51st place with 12.13#.

These folks have successfully carried the ACFA banner to the 'next level'. BRAVO and good luck next time too!

REMINDERS-

- **Please wear a nametag at the meeting to facilitate getting to know one another**
- **Be sure and sign in (for the Attendance Prize given away later this year)**
- **Donations are needed for the Attendance Prize (see Eric Nelson at the sign in table)**
- **Donations are also needed for the Door Prizes (see Jimmy Quint or call 377-5739)**
- **NO SMOKING inside the meeting hall please**
- **NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL at the meeting hall premises (Post 88)**
- **Jason Miller will give a quick update on the Open Loop LNG issue and the April 26th meeting**
- **Please be respectful to our speakers and save questions to the end of their presentation**
- **The BillyStix Rod raffle will begin at the June meeting**
- **A Separate Junior Angler category for Ground Mullet in the June ACFA Club Tournament (plaques will be awarded for 3 places)**

Big Fish Contest Standings as of April 21, 2006

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1			1	Kyle Mitternacht	4.05	1	David Hare	1.47	1	Doug Davis	6.20
2			2	Mike Herring	3.84	2	Bryan Hack	1.10	2	Bruce Howel Jr	5.60
3			3	Alvin Bell	2.45	3	Henry Nall	1.10	3	Theo Koulianos(J)	5.40
4			4	Robert Schmitz	2.40	4	Walter Corley (N)	1.00	4	Phillip Guy	5.25
5			5	Bryan Hack	2.30	5	David Hare	1.00	5	Jason Day	4.60
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	Leslie Smith	11.75	1			1	Trey Pitt	7.26	1	Hal Scheurich	2.27
2	Kyle Mitternacht	10.85	2			2	Phillip Guy	6.34	2	Michael Jones (J)	1.75
3	Matt Corley (J) (N)	10.05	3			3	Kelly Fulmer	6.15	3	David Thornton	1.73
4	Kyle Mitternacht	9.96	4			4	Mike Jones	5.94	4	Henry Nall	1.40
5	Mike Lee	9.90	5			5	Bill Patterson	5.65	5	David Hare	1.35

NOTES: (N) NEW member for 2006 and (J) Junior angler (under age 16 @ Feb 1, 2006) are ultimately responsible to notify the weigh master and statistician of their status.

Send Big Fish Contest cards to D.W. Garretson 3811 Del Monte Court Mobile, AL 36605 (599-8701)

ACFA Tournament Point Standings as of April 8, 2006

Pos. Angler Name Points

1	Henry Nall	21
2	Kyle Mitternacht	13
3	David Hare	12
4	Bryan Hack	11
5	Barry Keith	10
6	Chris Conken	9
6	Leslie Smith	9
6	Walter Corley (N)	9
7	David Mashburn	8
8	Donnie Fassbender	7
8	Matt Corley (J) (N)	7
9	Alvin Bell	6
10	Bobby McElroy	5
10	Chris Massey	5
10	Del Delchamps	5
10	Mike Lee	5
10	Pete Burns	5
10	Scott Godwin (N)	5

The following members have 2 points:

Austin Lee Jr (J), Bill Midgette, Bruce Howle Jr., Bubba Williams, David Thornton, Donald Garretson, Doug Smith, Doug Davis, Howard Perry, Jad Pope, Jason Day, Jimbo Miller, John Fassbender, Lori Tourne, Marc Kruse, Matt Perry, Mike Herring, Mutt Burke, Phillip Guy, Rick Tourne, Robert Schmitz, Scott Lewis, Trey Pitt, Ted Kiefer, Theo Koulianos (J), Thomas Murray, Tom Duncan.

The following members have 1 point:

Billy Hurd, Bo Winter, Brandon Parker, Brenda Mashburn, Charlie Dowdle, Dane Tomberline, David Garretson, Dewayne Overstreet, Don Ludlam, Donna Kiefer, Eric Nelson, Evan Fassbender, George Koulianos, James Foster, Jason Miller, Jim Glass, Joe Sirmon, Judson Taylor, Kelly Fulmer, Kenny Nelson, Larry Watkins, Michael Taylor, Michael Tew, Mike Foster, Mike Jones, Ocie Wade, Patric Garmenson, Randy Wiscaver, Shaleigh Parker, Tim Bradley, Tim Bradley Jr (J), Tommy Pond, Tyler Haas, Vickie Foster, Vicky Garmenson, Vince Hawkins

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

This is YOUR newsletter. Please address comments, suggestions or corrections to the Newsletter Editor: David Thornton
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