



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. Garrettson	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	

June 2006 Newsletter

Our fifth meeting for the 2006 season, marking the 'halfway point' through the season will be held on Thursday June 1 at 7pm at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road (the usual place).

Shannon Hollond, store manager and electronics expert at the Boater's World on Airport Blvd in Mobile will be our guest speaker for the evening. She will explain ways to get more out of your marine electronics.

And our own Pete Burns "Grand Slam" will do the quick hits segment (it's no telling what he'll talk about ;-)

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

With the 9 or 10 new members who joined at the May meeting our membership is now over 200! We have members from several other states. Welcome to the largest inshore fishing club in Alabama.

President's Message:

Thanks to all our members who fished the 'BoMB' Speckled Trout Challenge and continuing with our winning tradition. Let's hope we can do it again next year too!

The water on the Causeway has already started to clear again (on the incoming tides) and Pinto Pass and the mouth of Dog River are still holding speckled trout.

May 6, 2006 Speckled Trout Challenge Tournament Results

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Belinda Smith 5.45* ACFA | 6. Charles Hobden (N) 4.30 ACFA |
| 2. Mutt Burke 5.45 ACFA | 7. Bubba Williams 4.15 ACFA |
| 3. Scott Godwin (N) 5.20 ACFA | 8. Freddie Boudin 4.10 WBFC |
| 4. Margaret Miller 4.55* ACFA | 9. Carl Emmons (N) 4.00 ACFA |
| 5. Kyle Mitternacht 4.55 ACFA | 10. Ben Hurn 3.85 ACFA |
| * First to weigh in | (N) New Member |

For the third year in a row the ACFA has won the challenge by the WBFC. Will they come back for more?

In fact even the ladies and our new members whipped 'em this year ;-)

Congratulations to ALL the Top 10 finishers who overcame a change in the weather (that wicked early morning northeast wind) to catch such fine trout. The recent dry spell upstate played an important role by allowing a rare opportunity for some good Springtime speckled trout fishing in the upper Mobile Bay area.

At least 60 ACFA members weighed in speckled trout for the tournament and then 'weighed in' on all that delicious bar-b-que and the fixins provided by our cooking committee chaired by Randy Wiscaver "Bigun".

What will he 'cook up' next? You'll have to find out at the meeting...

The ½ Day Guide Trip With A-Team Charters

was drawn at the May meeting, and Cevin Kormier "Doc" was the winner.

Thanks to Captain Joey Abruscato (of A-team Fishing Adventures 251-478-8283) who graciously donated a ½ day guided trip for 3 anglers. Everything is provided except food and drinks. The raffle raised over \$250 for the club.

Thanks to all who supported this!

The June “Summer Starter” Tournament

will be held on Saturday June 3 with weigh in from 3pm till 5pm (at the usual place) behind the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway just south of the blinking yellow light near the Greer’s store.

This month we return to our regular tournament format so 3 plaques and a whole heap of points will be awarded for first through third place in speckled trout, redfish (16”-26”), flounder and ground mullet. In addition...

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."

For the June tournament, Junior members will receive separate plaques for first, second and third place in ground mullet.

We hope this will encourage members who have children to get their kids involved more with the tournament aspects of the club. IF the interest seems to be there, more junior categories could be added to our tournaments in the future.

Coincidentally, Saturday June 3 is the same date as the 9th Annual Yellow Jacket Open Fishing Tournament headquartered at the Dauphin Island Marina. It has separate Junior categories for the whole board of inshore and offshore species. Hmmm, maybe someday...

Speaking of the Kids ...

(reprinted and rewritten from the ACFA Newsletter Archives)

One of the goals when taking kids fishing is (of course) catching fish. Certainly there should be plenty for them to eat and drink and be comfortable and safe, but nothing lights the fire in a new fisherman like the excitement of consistently catching fish. Well if you agree, then now may be THE time to put them in ‘the zone’.

Anytime from mid May through July and maybe even August, you can expect to find schools of hungry fish under the birds somewhere in the Bay. One prime area for this seasonal occurrence is the Dog River flats stretching from the point near the Buccaneer Yacht Club to the north side of Gaillard Island. In this part of the bay (and other similar places) schools of speckled and white trout gorge themselves on schools of shrimp (usually small to medium size) that are migrating down the bay toward the Gulf. When the fish chase these shrimp (which are usually bottom dwellers) they often herd the shrimp up off the bottom to intermediate depths and (with no where else to go) even to the surface. It is at this point the keen eyed gulls join in and turn the little shrimpies’ day into a real nightmare of being eaten from above and from below.

Then the fisherman enters the picture, using the diving birds as a locator for the schools of hungry fish below (occasionally with the aid of binoculars). On a ‘good’ day (fairly calm surface water) you should be able to find from 2 to 8 of the “bird schools” in the Dog River flats area. Some of the schools are predominately speckled trout of one size or another, while others may be mostly white trout. Usually it’s a mix of both to some degree with the specks in the upper portion of the water column and the white trout below or on the bottom.

When you approach a school, do so cautiously from the upwind side so that you may drift into casting range without disturbing the action. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR MOTOR RUNNING as this will scatter the fish and the bait and the birds will leave or sit on the water forcing you to start looking all over again. Sometimes though fish will continue to feed for a good while in the same vicinity where the bait has dispersed. This is especially true of the white trout. A trolling motor is a convenient, quiet way to move around but not entirely necessary with good boat handling.

The preferred baits seem to be artificials such as speck rigs and single or tandem ¼ ounce grubs. Color doesn’t seem to be all that important, but you want a lure that can be cast fairly easily and stand up to the abuse of multiple strikes even on a single cast. Throw toward the nearest strikes you see and the fun should begin!

Remember these “bird fish” are often small so this is a good opportunity to show the youngsters proper handling and release for any undersized or unwanted fish. Small trout are better handled (gently) with a bare wet hand, using the ‘free’ hand to remove the hook with needle nosed pliers or a hook remover. Try to avoid using a towel on the fish as this removes the protective slime that helps the fish avoid infections and aids in swimming. Using a net can also remove some of the slime and cause separations in the tail and fins. The newer rubber nets and those made with small mesh seem to be a bit safer to use for fish you intend to release. Remember, today’s runts are tomorrow’s trophies!

Other similarly great alternatives are the schools of small jacks (ladyfish aka skipjacks and blue runners aka hardtails), bluefish and mackerel that prowl the beaches, bars and cuts along the coast during the warm months when the Gulf is often calm as glass. The same techniques for spotting fish under diving gulls and terns apply here too. Though ladyfish are not usually retained, they are extremely cooperative and fun on light tackle and can keep the kids entertained for quite a while especially on an otherwise 'slow' day.

Many a 'dull boat ride' for the kids can be sparked up by the prospect of seeing just what kind of fish are beneath those birds! They don't all have to be 'table quality' as long as the youngsters consider them 'tackle quality'. So maybe now is the time to take them on the fishing trip they've been asking you about?

Congratulations

to Trey Pitt, who sponsored the most new members (did I hear 10?) and to Pat Sirmon, who won the drawing from the pool of sponsors. Each received a \$50 check from the club for a 'night on the town' courtesy of the ACFA. Well done to ALL those who encourage folks to join. Be sure to pick up some club info cards to pass on.

We're Halfway Through The Season

so be sure and continue to sign in to register for our Grand Attendance Prize Package (ice chest) to be given away at our December awards banquet to someone who has attended at least 8 of the 10 meetings.

We would appreciate any appropriate items to add to the prize package or as door prizes for the meetings, or (IF you wish) make a cash donation that we can buy items with.

The 'Mini Seminar' Series Continues

with "Where to go when YOU want to go fishing" starting at promptly @ 6pm Thursday in the meeting room near the stage. 'Fowl River Joe' Sirmon tells me he is trying to line up some of our more 'seasoned' experts willing to share info on what they look for in order to choose which species they will pursue and tactics they will use in pursuit of the "Fish of the Day". Look for tips on what fish are in 'season', understanding water clarity, salinity, bait types and movements, and how the wind and tide affect your fishing during the day when YOU want to go fishing. This oughta be great ;-)

About two dozen members have attended each of the previous seminars, so be there early. And thanks for your support!

A Rod Raffle

will commence at the June meeting (to be drawn in August) for another custom built Billy Stix fishing rod donated by Billy McDaniel. Thanks again Billy! More than a few ACFA members have ordered rods from Billy. You can check them out @ <http://www.billystix.com/> See Erik Nelson (at the sign up table) for tickets (he owns several ;-)

July Junk Sale

Start rounding up gear (unused, slightly used, older than dirt, etc) for the upcoming ACFA 'junk' sale. You can get rid of some of those items your wife has been bugging you to get rid of and help the club at the same time. There will be several tables set up prior to the July meeting to display your items (complete with pricing). Simply keep track of the amounts you collect and donate 10% of the proceeds to the club (or all of it if you want to ;-)

Each year several hundreds of dollars changes hands and some otherwise unused equipment finds a new home.

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)**
- **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	Jad Pope	4.31	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	Austin Lee (j)	5.90
3			3	Frank Miller	3.76	3	Henry Nall	1.10	3	Bruce Howel Jr	5.60
4			4	Theo Koulianos (j)	2.57	4	Walter Corley	1.00	4	Theo Koulianos (j)	5.40
5			5	Alvin Bell	2.45	5	David Hare	1.00	5	Phillip Guy	5.25
	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)	10.05	3			3	Kelly Fulmer	6.15	3	David Thornton	1.73
4	Kyle Mitternacht	9.96	4			4	Chris Conken	6.05	4	Belinda Smith	1.68
5	Mike Lee	9.90	5			5	Mike Jones	5.94	5	Henry Nall	1.40

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. Garrettson 3811 Del Monte Court Mobile, AL 36605 (599-8701)

ACFA Tournament Point Standings as of May 6, 2006

Pos.	Angler Name	Pts.
1	Henry Nall	22
2	Kyle Mitternacht	16
3	David Hare	13
4	Bryan Hack	12
5	Barry Keith	11
6	Chris Conken	10
6	Leslie Smith	10
7	Walter Corley (N)	9
8	David Mashburn	8
8	Matt Corley (N)(j)	8
8	Scott Godwin (N)	8
9	Alvin Bell	7
9	Donnie Fassbender	7
10	Bobby McElroy	6
10	Del Delchamps	6
10	Mike Lee	6
10	Pete Burns	6
11	Bubba Williams	5
11	Chris Massey	5
11	Mutt Burke	5

The following members have 3 points:

Belinda Smith, Ben Hurn, Bruce Howle Jr., Carl Emmons (N), Charles Hobden (N), David Thornton, Doug Davis, Doug Smith, Jason Day, John Fassbender, Margaret Miller, Mike Herring, Phillip Guy, Thomas Murray, Trey Pitt

The following members have 2 points:

Austin Lee Jr (j), Bill Midgette, Billy Hurd, Brandon Parker, David Garrettson, Dewayne Overstreet, Donald Garrettson, Erik Nelson, Howard Perry, Jad Pope, Jason Miller, Jim Glass, Jimbo Miller, Kelly Fulmer, Larry Watkins (N), Lori Tourne, Marc Kruse, Matt Perry, Mike Jones, Patric Garmeson (N), Rick Tourne, Robert Schmitz (N), Scott Lewis, Ted Kiefer, Theo Koulianos (j), Tom Duncan, Tommy Pond, Vicky Garmeson (N), Vince Hawkins

The following members have 1 point:

Bo Winter, Brenda Mashburn, Bruce Howle Sr, Bud Barr, Cameron Calhoun (j), Charlie Dowdle, Dane Tomberline (N), Denny Lyons, Don Ludlam, Donna Kiefer, Evan Fassbender, George Koulianos, James Foster (N), Joe Sirmon, John Burke, Judson Taylor (N), Judy Smith, Kenny Nelson (N), Lee Ward, Michael Jones (j), Michael Taylor (N), Michael Tew (N), Mike Foster (N), Ocie Wade, Pat Hughes, Phillip Russell (N), Randy Wiscaver, Rick Rutland (N), Robbie Bosarge (N), Roger Glass, Savannah Lee (j), Shaleigh Parker, Stacy Nelson, Tim Bradley, Tim Bradley Jr (j), Todd Golomb, Tyler Haas (N), Vickie Foster (N)

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

This is YOUR newsletter. Please address comments, suggestions or corrections to the Newsletter Editor: David Thornton 1711 Jasper Road Mobile, AL 36618 (458-2775) or email pierpounder2001@hotmail.com