



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	

March 2007 Newsletter

Over 85 ACFA members and guests attended the first meeting on February 1st. And many of those signed a condolence card that was sent to the family of Polly Devery (a charter ACFA member) who passed away recently. Thank you!

Our second meeting of the 2007 season will be held on Thursday March 1st 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.

Our VP (Donnie Garrettson) has compiled a list of interesting speakers for the upcoming meetings (two for some months).

It's a difficult job finding and getting speakers to commit to an engagement (just ask our former VPs) and we understand that sometimes unexpected things can come up and they aren't able to make it and we have to ad-lib at the meeting.

This month (cross your fingers) we should have Ed Williamson of the CCA speak to us about the movement to get gillnets out of Alabama waters. WOW! And Jerry Stakley from the Inshore Fishing Association will talk about the 2007 Redfish Tour and the possibility of our area getting its own separate division in the IFA for tournament competition. In November 2006, several teams comprised of ACFA members participated in the Redfish Tour Championship in Panama City, FL. We wish them luck in 2007 too! Between 2002 and 2005 the IFA provided invaluable scientific data by tagging almost 4000 tournament caught redfish and documented a 10.91% return rate of those fish. <http://www.redfishtour.com/tagreleases.html>

Our first tournament of the 2007 season will be Saturday March 24th

Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead and Ground Mullet are the category fish. In addition we will offer plaques (but not points) to the top 3 Junior anglers that weigh in sheepshead. So in total, 15 plaques and bunch of Tournament Points are up for grabs, but remember your dues MUST be paid prior to the tournament date to be eligible. You can launch and fish anywhere in Alabama waters (out to 3 miles from shore). The tournament time is from 5 am to 5 pm; and weigh-in is from 3pm to 5pm at the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (Hwy 193) next to the Family Dollar Store near the Greer's Food Tiger store at the blinking yellow light @ Fowl River Road (County Road 20). Weighmaster Pat Hughes will be set up in the yard behind the building and ACFA members are asked to park their vehicles and fishing rigs in the large parking area near the rear of the building. Restrooms and a beverage bar are located inside the main building and if you are so inclined, we ask that you purchase drinks from the Post. Also, it is our tradition to offer any unneeded fish to the Post as they utilize the ACFA as one source of fish for their fish fries held for disabled Vets throughout the year.

Let's Eat!

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 said he will likely have some of his now famous Bar-B-Que pulled pork sandwiches for the March tournament. Further details will be discussed at the March meeting along with talk of this year's 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!

Keep Your Newsletters on File

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, and posted on the website @ <http://acfafishing.com/news.htm> so STAY TUNED for information like this...

2007 Tournament Schedule (ALL tournaments are on Saturdays)

March 24 "March Madness" Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead, Ground Mullet (+ 3 Jr. Sheepshead trophies)
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)

The Mini-Seminars Return

The hugely popular Mini-Seminar Series will resume for the March meeting with "Fishing the Net", a theme of internet resources for fishermen. I plan to provide discussion and internet links on the local aspects of weather and water data and forecasts, tackle and boating links, fishing discussion forums (similar to our own), fishing articles and a veritable cornucopia of resources available on the world wide web that can help make YOU a better informed, better prepared and better overall fisherman!

The seminars begin promptly at 6pm in the meeting hall.

In addition Joe 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 suggested topics already include "Spring Has Sprung" (Spring Fishing Techniques), "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!

2007 Memberships are Due and ...

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, those who already have fish entered in the 2007 Big Fish Contest MUST have renewed their membership by the end of February, or their Big Fish Contest entry will be removed.

Also, you must have paid your dues prior to the upcoming tournament date for you and your family to participate in that tournament.

YOUR Newsletter...

You are receiving these newsletter compliments of the ACFA, THE premier inshore fishing club of coastal Alabama. Membership dues (\$45) are now due for 2007 and MUST be paid in full for you and your family members to compete in club tournaments. After the April mailing, non-renewing member's names will be purged from the mailing list. Mailing this newsletter represents one of the most expensive line items in the ACFA yearly budget. IF you would like to save the club some money (about \$5 per member per year) you can request to have your name removed from the mailing list at any time by phoning any Club Officer or signing a paper that will be passed around at the meetings. NOTE: There will be NO mass email postings of the newsletter. We will try to have all newsletters available on our website during the week they are mailed out. In addition a limited number of printed newsletters will be available at meetings and we'll try to maintain an archive of newsletters on the website for general use and referral @ <http://acfafishing.com/news.htm> We welcome any comments or suggestions (but no threats please ;-)

ACFA Logo items

Our Logo Item Chairman, Alvin Bell said he still has a supply of items to sell from last year, and should have more caps and XXL and XXXL t-shirts printed in time for the March meeting. Due to increased production and shipping costs a modest increase may be forthcoming. 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 (IF there is enough interest).

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 telling Alvin they would like to participate and have the ACFA logo embroidered on their shirt (for the \$10 fee). The shirts would be collected (along with the money) at the April meeting and returned at the May meeting.

This is a stylish addition to any fisherperson's wardrobe, so let him know you're interested.

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 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 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 and receive the Membership Sponsor Award for 2007.

License Fee Changes...

are likely according to a report posted on the ACFA website by member Brenda Pate of Spanish Fort. The report of the recent Alabama Department of Conservation Advisory Board by Alan Clemons (noted outdoor writer for the Huntsville Times) states that "Alabama may have some notable changes forthcoming. It appears the state may need to increase saltwater license fees, boater registration fees, and hunting license fees."

"-- Division heads gave their reports ... everyone's hurting for money. Marine Police will ask the Legislature for a boater registration fee increase and Marine Resources is looking at a saltwater fee increase; specific numbers were not given for either."

"Call (334) 242-3465 and ask for a copy of the Proposed Regulations. They're public record since they have been generated by public funds and presented to a public board to be considered for input."

The next meeting (tentative) - March 10 at the new 5 Rivers complex in Spanish Fort, near the District 5 office (on the Mobile Bay Causeway- Call 626-5153 for details). It may be in your interest to show up.

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. 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 March meeting
- 2007 Mobile Boat Show at the Mobile Convention Center March 8 - 11, 2007
- 2007 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2007.
- Dues MUST be paid by the end of February to retain a fish on the Big Fish Board.
- 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.

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.

Hasn't anyone been fishing this winter?

Statistician Vince Hawkins reports that only one 2007 Big Fish Contest entry has thus far been received, Kelly Fulmer's 5.93# Speckled Trout.

He 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)

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.