

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB, INC.



# Tuna Tower News

FEBRUARY 2024

JOHN. J. JUTT, SR., EDITOR

**NEXT GM**

**THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 8**

**7:00 PM**

**@ FREEPORT YACHT CLUB**

**533 GUY LOMBARDO AVENUE**

## President's Message

I would like to thank our Freeport Mayor, Robert Kennedy for taking the time and the interest to swear me in as President of the Freeport Tuna Club. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their support during my first month in office.

February is the beginning of the annual fishing shows that take place in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. This year Zach Introp will be heading the membership committee.

For those who have been busy, you may have overlooked renewing your membership, there will be a table at the GM entrance for your convenience. We are making an effort to have our newsletter at your doorstep during the first week of every month. Please send all news, notifications, dates and articles to John Jutt when requested. In every month's newsletter, there is a list of all the committees in our club, if you see one that interests you, let me know or attend one of our monthly board meetings.

In closing, take advantage of what your club offers and hopefully more members will become involved as the year progresses. Remember, members make the club a successful one.



*Anthony J. Alfieri*



**Happy Valentine's Day**

# Property

I want to thank all those who have their boats on the property for winter storage for your support. It was a good year. The club thanks you.

All summer contracts for summer dockage 2024 were mailed out, you should have received by now. If you didn't, please contact me and I will send you another one or you can meet me at the property. There will be a few slips available this summer. If you're interested, please reach out to me. All members are welcome to keep their boats at our 31 slip marina.

*Bob Dimino*

Business Property Manager



*You can order FTC shirts online!*

You will soon be receiving an email from an outside vendor with more information.

Any questions please contact  
Gene Schettini @516-434-1423  
or email: capt.gene121@aol.com



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*Please remit upon receipt!*

# Upcoming CLUB DATES & EVENTS

*There are many wonderful offerings of events and gatherings hosted or sponsored by our club - take advantage of the knowledge, entertainment and camaraderie that we have to offer!*

**5th Annual**  
**FLUKE SHOOTOUT**  
Cash Prizes, Calcuttas AND More!  
**AUG 10 2024**  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
CAPTAIN'S MEETING \* AUGUST 9, 2024 \* 6-9PM  
START FISHING @ 6AM \* WEIGH-IN @ 3PM  
275 HUDSON AVENUE, FREEPORT, NEW YORK, 11520  
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Come enjoy a friendly bbq & entertainment

*A call to all members and board members*

Please help with getting sponsors for the Fluke Shootout as soon as possible. Sponsorship is \$250, every sponsor will get their logo on the Tournament tee as well as a plaque and a dinner at the club before the tournament.

Thanks in advance for your participation!

*Rick Totten*

Tournament Chair

# Derbies, Awards & Contests

Awards Committee: Chairman Ray Geiger, Bill Morrogh & Harry Sbaschnig

Next month we will celebrate those deserving members and their catches who will receive our annual awards for excellence. Our 2023 Awards Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 14 at the Freeport Yacht Club. Please plan on attending what will once again be an outstanding evening.

You will find the list of tentative 2023 FTC Annual Award winners on the next page of this month's Tuna Tower News. Please review this list and let us know if you have a question

or notice any discrepancies. Contact us directly at: [ftcawardsandcontests@gmail.com](mailto:ftcawardsandcontests@gmail.com) or 917-862-4321

On behalf of our committee, we would like to wish every member a very safe and productive 2024 Derby Season. Even though yours truly only managed to get out and fish four times due to illness, I had a very memorable 2023 I will never forget. We hope you did too!!



## Membership

Hello Freeport Tuna Club Members,

Happy Valentine's Day to all you wonderful guys and gals! Whether you're soaking up the sun on a winter escape or bravely facing the wind and tying fishing rigs, I hope this season is treating you well.

By now, I trust that many of you have sent in your membership reapplications or are gearing up to do so. Your prompt responses truly make the process smoother for everyone involved, and I appreciate your proactive participation.

A special thank you to everyone who joined us at our January General Meeting, supporting those who took their oath of office. A heartfelt gratitude to Freeport's Mayor, Robert Kennedy, for administering the oath. Your presence and support make these events truly special.

As we move into the coming months, the Membership Committee is dedicated to adding exciting new events to our calendar. We're eager to see improved attendance at all club functions. Remember, this is your club, and your input is invaluable. Whether it's praise, criticism, or suggestions, never hesitate to reach out. Your voice matters, and I'm here to listen.

Mark your calendars for the Freeport Recreation Center Fishing Show on February 17th and 18th. We're looking for volunteers, so if you're interested, please reach out. If not, come down and support this fantastic local show! Additionally, we're working on new promotional material, and we want to showcase your beautiful faces. If you have any pictures from club activities, please text or call me at 516-473-4393 or email them to me at [Zachintrop@gmail.com](mailto:Zachintrop@gmail.com). After all, we are the prettiest fishermen east of Baldwin and west of Merrick!

Lastly, a friendly reminder for those who haven't yet secured a Valentine's Day gift for their special someone—consider this your nudge to do so!

Wishing you all the happiest of Valentine's Days and tight lines ahead!

Best regards, *Zachary Introp*

## Captains & Anglers

The Captains and Anglers Committee is looking forward to the upcoming 2024 season. Please keep an eye on the website, Tuna Tower News and FB for event announcements, cancellations and other club news. Looking forward to seeing all of members in 2024!!

Thank you, *Jim Rooney*

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# Annual Awards 2023 Season Draft Results

## #1 Stephen L. Vanderveer Trophy Bowl

Angler catching the largest Tuna over 100lb sailing out of Jones Inlet.

**Ralph Drewes (185.5 lb. Bluefin) "No Mercy"**

## #2 Stephen Radi Sr. Memorial Trophy

Angler catching the largest Bigeye Tuna sailing from Jones Inlet.

**Chris Lombardo (167 lb. Bigeye) "Manhattan Transfer"**

## #3 Walter F. O'Malley Trophy

Member catching the heaviest Tuna from any port except Freeport L.I.

**#4 Bob Trapani Memorial Trophy** Member catching the heaviest fish from any port except Shark. **Andrew Hepworth (300 lb. estimated Blue Marlin) "Hooker" Puerto Rico**

## #5 Fred W. Hollander Memorial Trophy:

Member catching the heaviest billed fish anywhere. **Andrew Hepworth (300 lb. estimated Blue Marlin) "Hooker" Puerto Rico**

## #6 Jack R. Neidorf Trophy: (\*24hr.)

First Tuna of the season sailing from and returning to Jones Inlet.

**Sean Libby (130.6 lb. Bluefin) "Squid Hunter"**

## #7 Jack R. Bode Ladies Trophy:

Awarded to the lady member catching the largest Tuna.

## #8 Ada Berlin Memorial Trophy:

Lady angler catching the largest species of any fish from any L.I. Port.

**Barbara Solomon (15.3 lb. Striped Bass) "Legal Limits"**

## #9 Henry Von Elm Inc. Trophy: Retired in 2023

Angler catching the largest Tuna during any IGFA Tournament.

## #10 John J. Miles Trophy: Captain of the Year TBA

## #11 Mel Elder: Retired in 2023

Member catching the largest Tuna of the season in the Babylon/FTC Shootout.

## #12 Philip Ehrhart Memorial Trophy: (\*24 hr.)

Largest Bluefin caught sailing from Jones, Debs or Fire Island.

**Ralph Drewes (185.5 lb. Bluefin) "No Mercy"**

## #13 Guy Lombardo Trophy: (\*24 hr.)

Angler catching the largest Tuna under 100 lbs. sailing from Jones Inlet.

**Anthony Bollaci (85.8 lb. Bluefin) "Hooker"**

## #14 Freeport Marine Trophy:

Greatest weight fish per pound line sailing from any L.I. Port.

**Ralph Drewes (69.4 lb. Yellowfin Tuna / 30lb. test) "No Mercy"**

## #15 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:

Angler catching the largest fish out of any L.I. Port.

**DJ Toback (308 lb. Thresher Shark) "Corazon"**

## #16 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:

Captains Award for the largest Shark caught out of any L.I. Port.

**Doug Toback (308 lb. Thresher Shark) "Corazon"**

## #17 Harry Berns Memorial Trophy:

Captain whose boat tags the most amount of Tuna. **Ralph Drewes 3 tags**

## #18 George Beitterick Memorial Trophy: (24 hr.)

Angler catching the largest Bluefish sailing from Jones Inlet.

**Adam Bollaci (16.13 lb.) "Hooker"**

## #19 Fred Miranda: Awarded to the person who tags the most Marlin.

## #20 Marsden B. Candler Memorial Trophy:

Angler largest Striped Bass on any boat sailing from any L.I. Port.

**Barbara Solomon (15.3) "Legal Limits"**

## #21 Jack Bode Ladies Memorial Trophy:

Lady Angler for the most outstanding catch north of Cape Hatteras.

**Barbara Solomon (15.3) Striped Bass "Legal Limits"**

## #22 Harry Schwarze: Retired in 2023

Captains Award for the most Tuna caught during the Babylon /FTC Shootout.

## #23 Marine Center, Inc Trophy:

Captains Award for the boat catching the heaviest billed fish.

**#24 Mako Marine Inc, Trophy:** Angler catching the heaviest Shark of the season, Debs-Shinnecock. **DJ Toback (308 Thresher) "Corazon"**

## #25 Lawrence Festa Memorial Trophy: (\*24 hr.)

Captain catching the first Shark of the season from Jones Inlet.

**Doug Toback (308 Thresher) "Corazon"**

## #26 Norb Schlichtig Memorial Trophy: TBA

Member outstanding service.

## #27 Tim Kryscuk Memorial Trophy:

Lady Member catching the largest Bluefish of the season.

**Barbara Solomon (13.35 lb.) "Legal Limits"**

## #28 Joe King Sr. Memorial Trophy: (\*24 hr.)

Largest Dolphin sailing from Jones, Fire Island or Debs Inlet.

## #29 John Shiel Spinning Tackle Trophy:

Most outstanding catch caught on spinning tackle using 2-12 lb line.

**Steve Valenti (14.24 lb. Striped Bass) "Four Bells" 12 lb. test**

## Paul Grippo Memorial Equalizer Trophy Fluke:

Children's Award for largest Fluke (12 and under).

## #30 Global: Not Awarded

## #31 West: Not Awarded

## Paul Grippo Memorial Equalizer Trophy Bluefish:

Children's Award for largest Bluefish (12 and under).

## #32 Global: Not Awarded

## #33 West: Not Awarded

## #34 Ed Keneske Jr. Memorial Trophy: TBA

Awarded for outstanding service by a board member.

## #35 Benjamin Mikoleski Memorial:

Awarded to the member catching the largest Winter Flounder of the year.

**Steve Bassford (2.56 lb.) "Manhattan Transfer"**

## #36 Bob Neuman Aventura II Memorial Trophy:

Largest Winter Flounder caught by a child or grandchild.

## #37 Jack Kennedy Memorial Captains Award: Largest Tuna.

**Ralph Drewes (185.5 lb. Bluefin) "No Mercy"**

## #38 Jack Kennedy Memorial Captains Award: (\*24 hr.)

Largest Striped Bass. **Barbara Solomon (15.3 lb.) "Legal Limits"**

## #39 Jack Kennedy Memorial Captains Award: (\*24 hr.)

Largest Bluefish. **Adam Bollaci (16.13 lb.) "Hooker"**

## Ed Schuh Memorial Angler Awards

Jones, Debs, Fire Island: Cod, Weakfish, Blackfish, Seabass & Fluke.

**#40 Cod: Sean Libby (7.32 lb.) "Sea Goose"**

**#41 Weakfish: Greg Magnifico (6.5 lb.) "Everything Zen"**

**#42 Blackfish: Gabe Gomez (13.13 lb.) "Cora Marie"**

**#43 Seabass: Mary Ellen Zullo (3.75 lb.) "Magic Too"**

**#44 Fluke: Bob Pandey (10.93 lb.) "Pandaman"**

## Jiggy Silber Memorial Global Anglers Award:

Cod, Weakfish, Blackfish, Seabass & Fluke.

**#45 Cod: Sean Libby (7.32 lb.) "Sea Goose"**

**#46 Weakfish: Greg Magnifico (6.5 lb.) "Everything Zen"**

**#47 Blackfish: Gabe Gomez (13.13 lb.) "Cora Marie"**

**#48 Seabass: Mary Ellen Zullo (3.75 lb.) "Magic Too"**

**#49 Fluke: Bob Pandey (10.93 lb.) "Pandaman"**

## #50 Ed Swanson Memorial Angler of the Year:

Member obtaining the most points for twelve different species.

**Barbara Solomon 11 points**

## #51 John V. Festa Memorial Tagging Award:

Member who tags the most game fish of the season.

**Chris Bellinzoni 128 tags**

**#52 Barry Simon Captains Award:** Awarded to the member captain, most points achieved for Seabass, Codfish & Blackfish sailing from Debs to Fire Island Inlet. **Mike Zullo 15 points**

**#53 Anthony Testa Sr. Memorial Award:** Angler, largest Fluke

Jones Inlet. **Bob Pandey (10.93 lb.) "Pandaman"**

**There are also 3 new club records recorded this year.**

**SHARK (SPINNER) 103.7 lb. Paul Elaides Freeport, NY**

**SNAPPER (LANE) 4.63 lb. Bryon King Jupiter, FL**

**PERMIT 24.2 lb. Andrew Hepworth Jensen Beach, FL**

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