

# Tuna Tower News

VOLUME TWO • FEBRUARY 2015  
Internet Address: [www.ftcfishing.com](http://www.ftcfishing.com)

EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.  
Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton  
Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan



**NEXT GM**  
**Thursday, February 12, 2015**  
**at 7:30 pm**  
**Cure Of Ars Auditorium**  
**Merrick Avenue • Merrick**  
 (Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

*The speaker for our February GM is  
Chris Ramos Pelagic Outfitters*

## President's Message .....

Dear Members,

I wish to thank former FTC president Bob Pandy for his swearing in assistance at our January GM and to our exiting president Chris Scarpantonio for his dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our club this past year.

Thanks to Chris Squeri and Bob Sabella for last month's FTC history lesson. Some very enlightening club facts were shared by all present. Kudos gentleman!

I also wish to congratulate our new Membership Chairman and Board Member, Bob McVey for stepping up in a grand way. I have no doubt that Bob will bring a lot to the table this coming year for our club.

Winter has certainly descended upon us with a vengeance thus far. This is even more reason to get down to the GM this month to share your stories of warmer days with other members. If you have not yet sent your 2015 dues in yet, the GM is also the perfect venue to drop them off in person.

There are a few noteworthy events that are coming up this month. First up is the New York Sportsfishing Show February 13-15 at the Freeport Recreation Center. The FTC will once again have a booth manned by the capable hands of Bob Pandy and his crew of volunteers. Please contact Bob if you would like to assist this year. I plan on being there all weekend so come by and represent the FTC if you can!

Next up will be the much anticipated 2015 FTC Wild Game Dinner on February 28th at the Cure of Ars auditorium in Merrick from 6-11pm. As our motto states, "We aren't just tuna" and this event is a shining example thereof. Your hosts for this culinary masterpiece once again will be Bob Benzenberg, Joe DiSalvo and yours truly. Please contact one of us directly if you wish to attend as tickets are limited due to popular demand.



Spring does not officially start until March 20, 6:45 P.M. EDT, but hey, whose counting. I hope to see you all at GM this month if possible and to all members who are able to fish in warmer climes, I salute you.

*Best Fishes ----  
Ray Geiger  
President*



# FISHING REPORT

## WINTER HAS ARRIVED



While fishing early in the new year I often think to myself "is this the beginning of the new season or really the end of last season"? Until the winter fishery shuts down due plummeting water temps and reduced salinity (due to run off), in my mind, it's still last season. I thought we got off pretty easy in December and most of January from a weather standpoint and maybe, just maybe, an easy winter was in store for Long Island. Wrong! The patterns have changed for the worst with a parade of fronts coming through and cold arctic air moving south. Last season may have just come to an abrupt end.

In last month's report, I mentioned that the COD grounds would be put to the test on the west end due to closures on blackfish and seabass. If you are hungry to read and live vicariously through fishing reports, the Captain Al's facebook page is a good cure for cabin fever. Capt. Al's reports mentioned some nice catches of cod inshore, with lots of action and enough keepers to make things interesting. A couple of other second hand reports gave me the incentive I needed to get the Emily S off the dock. Since reports are few and far between, I'll share a couple of my own in some detail. On the first exploratory trip I had Captains John Jutt and Jim Krug onboard. Conditions were pretty bad, with stiff east winds, but we hit a few drops and picked a couple cod on each, along with some short blackfish. The last drop on the Hempstead Reef was the best, we ended with 15 cod that day with enough keepers to provide a few dinners, in just a few hours. We were able to make another trip, this time with great conditions and a crew consisting of my son Paul, Captain John Jutt, and my good friend and venerable crew member Charles "Chuckee" Gifford. We started where we left off on the last trip but 20 minutes later, had only 1 cod to show for our efforts and not another bite. Next drop, not a touch. The words of the late / great Captain John DeMaio came to mind, "some of my worst days started like this". Went a little deeper to another wreck, no cod, short blacks were biting. Some encouragement anyway. Left the area and went south and west to 75' water, couple of quick drifts, nothing. Kept moving west, anchored up on the "kingpin" wreck in that particular area. Before the anchors come tight all rods are bending, we had a nice shot of fish, couple of double headers, great bight. When the smoke cleared we had boated 30 cod, with about half being keepers. Plenty of fish for us. Conditions were deteriorating, but I wanted to try another drop a little further west. Couple of quick drifts,

couple of more fish, the cod were there and we left them biting. Hit the dock at 1:00PM. The most recent reports from inshore west end have the cod fishing all but shut down, we'll see if it can bounce back, maybe early in the "new season".

Moving east, the King Cod out of Moriches had some nice reports but recently ran into tougher fishing, with cold water reported and new areas needing to be explored.

Montauk had some moments but the most recent I heard was an abysmal trip with only one keeper cod reported for an entire party boat. Bring on the new season !

**For 2015, I encourage all FTC members to please bombard me with reports and pictures to share with our membership. Thanks to all who contributed last year, it makes writing the Tuna Tower News report far more enjoyable.**

Please email your reports to [philton@optonline.net](mailto:philton@optonline.net); or text/call me at 516.721.8907.

Don't forget to send pictures and catch details for consideration by the Bulletin Committee for "Catch of the Month".

*~ Sincerely,*

*Paul Hilton F/V Emily S*



**Cod Crew at Work**

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# FEBRUARY 2015 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

*Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh  
Committee Team: Captain Larry Festa,  
Captian Michael Zullo*

You'll find an insert in this issue listing our tentative 2014 Annual Awards winners. The committee worked long and hard to compile the list of winners and identify the candidates for the discretionary awards. Please look over the winners. If you have a problem or see an error please contact Bill Morrogh at the February GM or call @ 516-781-4667. I hope that everyone will make an effort to attend the March GM where we will recognize all these deserving anglers!

The committee is currently working on the 2015 Derby dates. We will post them on our website as soon as the dates are finalized.

The committee would like to wish everyone a safe and productive 2015 Derby season. Let's get those weigh slips in on time and fill them out completely! -Bill Morrogh

## Catch Of The Month Iced SNOWY GROUPE



How appropriate given the weather, Our Catch of the Month goes to Don "Splitshot" Granger who fished on the Gon Fishin VI out of Islamorada recently and winched up a nice Snowy Grouper from 400ft of water. The catch included yellow eye snapper, vermilion snapper, porgy, tile fish and several other species.

**Congrats of the Catch of the Month!**



**Send in those pictures!**

For bragging rights, please email me at philton@optonline.net or text me at 516-721-8907 to be considered for "Catch of the Month" by the bulletin committee.

Include pictures and some catch details. Thanks to all who submitted entries this Month and please keep them coming.

~ Paul Hilton / Emily S



## We're Not Just Tuna

### Freeport Tuna Club Wild Game Dinner 2015

**Saturday February 28  
6PM - 11PM**

**Cure of Ars Auditorium  
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### House & Raffles

Big increase in raffle prizes for March, April & May We need your attendance.

# PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The summer lease agreements for 2015 have been mailed. Starting this year, the club is using the "Quickbooks" accounting system to invoice members for summer leases and winter storage. Rather than receiving a letter outlining a payment schedule, members will receive invoice each time a payment is due. This will allow both the members and the club to keep better track of their respective financial obligations.

Errors may occur when implementing any new system. So if you have question, concern, or believe that an error has occurred, please bring this to my attention immediately so I may address the issue and resolve it.

Please feel free to contact me about thoughts and opinions with the new system for the billing of winter storage and summer leases.

Note my new email address and work phone number.

Capt. Alan Evelyn, Cell: 917-750-8710, Work: 516-299-2523, Email: capt.al@fishtaxiny.com.

## GOOD AND WELFARE

Condolences to Dr. John Weber & Family on the passing of John's Dad. Dennis Cataldo's daughter Alicia has graduated from Hofstra Law School, passed the N Y Bar Exam and has secured a great job. We send our congradulations to Dennis and Alicia. Also Denis has had recent surgery and is recuperating at his home in Florida. Get well soon Dennis. Dennis has also stepped down as Chairman of the Conservation committee.

## ENTERTAINMENT

The speaker for our February GM is Chris Ramos of Pelagic Outfitters located in Lindenhurst at 51 West Montauk Highway. Chris is a true fisherman and currently holds a 50 ton USCG Masters license as well. His first offshore trip was in 1981 when he was only nine years old! To date he has over 250 trips to the ledge in his logbook, which is amazing. GM this Thursday and share some time with Chris and your fellow FTC members.

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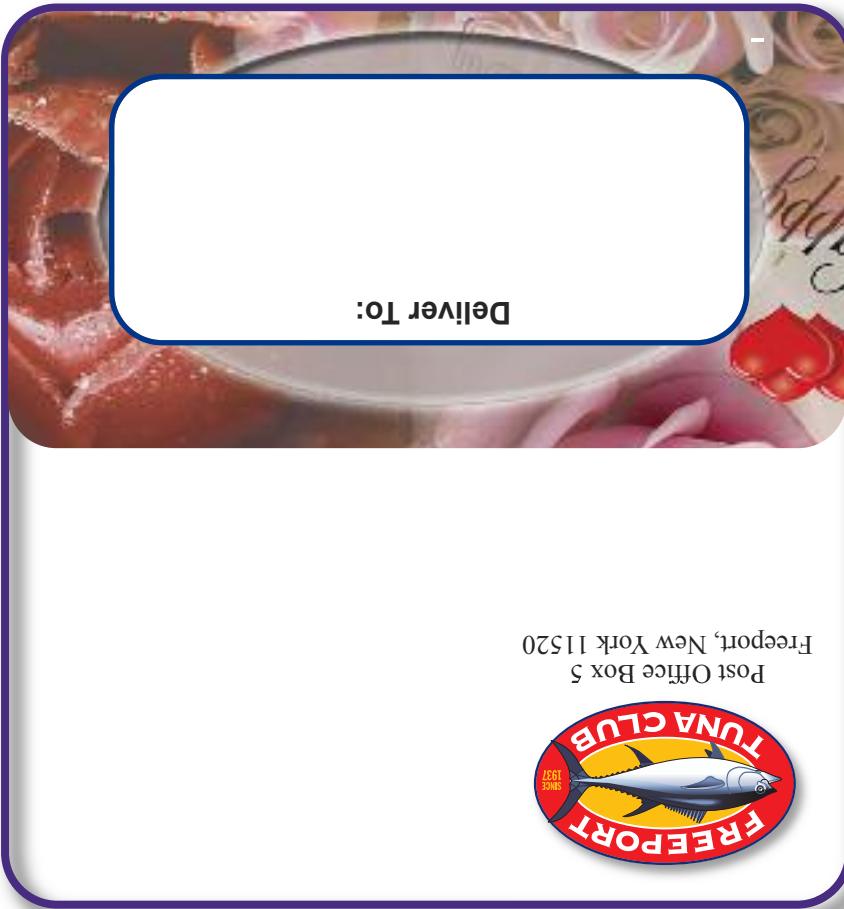
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## Freeport Tuna Club Wild Game Dinner 2015

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