

# Tuna Tower News

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



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

## AWARDS NIGHT! The Best Of The Best



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



## President's Message .....

Dear Members,

This past President's weekend the FTC was well represented at the New York Sportfishing Federation show at the Recreation Center. Thanks to Bob Pandy and his crew the booth looked better than ever. Our newest membership director, Bob McVey and his crew amassed over 60 new potential members during the show. As far as we know this is a club record. Outstanding job to all!

The GM this month is our annual awards night and hopefully many of these folks will be attending to see how we run our club. I ask all of you in attendance to please welcome these new faces when you see them and introduce yourselves. It should be a fine evening for all, so please come on down and enjoy your club.

This past Saturday February 28th was our 2015 Wild Game Dinner and what a night it was. We had over 180 paying customers this year to eat, drink, talk, learn and by all counts, thoroughly enjoy themselves for many hours. Thanks go out to Bob Benzenberg and his crew, who without this event never would have gotten off the ground. The planning and execution of this dinner are simply tremendous. Some of our members put in almost 12 hours from start to finish that day (I can attest to this, I was

one) and many more throughout the year and deserve your gratitude for putting in a very exceptional effort above and beyond. Among these members are Don Morin, Joe DiSalvo, Jim Azzi, Harry Pour, Sharon Misson, Harry Sbasching, Dave Massa, Bob Pandy, Bob McVey, Bob Sabella, John Daum, John and John Rooney, Joe Steiner, Woody Anderson, Paul Cunningham, John Keoning and of course our leader Bob Benzenberg. If I forgot anyone, I apologize. On behalf of our club, I salute you all.



I have already started organizing tackle, sharpening hooks and tying rigs, so Spring is almost upon us. Please make a best effort to attend our awards night GM on March 12th and celebrate our club. I hope to see you all there.

### **Best Fishes!**

Ray Geiger  
President

**Start tying rigs and sharpening hooks.**





# FISHING REPORT

## TOUGH FEBRUARY, BRING ON SPRING



Sitting here writing this report there is snow in the forecast but milder temps ahead. We have just endured a savage February with some of the coldest temps on record and an abundance of snow too. The bays and canals took on a good freeze, at one point I saw a solid 4 inches of ice along the edges of Woodcleft canal. One of the Town of Hempstead tugs has been making trips up and down the canals almost daily keeping the channels clear

and breaking up ice, helping to prevent it from clinging to pilings, docks, boats, etc. I have not seen too many casualties of a result of the winter, although a party boat did go down at the Captree dock.



Fishing options are severely limited due to icing and weather. Nobody sailed for two or three weeks. This past weekend a couple of west end party boats fished wrecks in the Mudhole area with just a fish or two to report for the entire boat.

Not very good.

The Moriches based King Cod broke some ice and made a few very successful COD trips. I believe the areas further east along the south shore are less affected by freshwater runoff and enjoy slightly warmer water temps overall, allowing their fishery to sustain. But, you have to be able to get off the dock to fish. The Montauk fleet has been iced in.

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner and the traditional start of the winter flounder season. In New York, the season opens April 1st and runs to May 30th, 2 fish per person. There is talk of greatly lengthening the season from March 1st to December 31st, but as one guy put it, "now you'll be able to catch none, almost year round". Fishing in the south shore bays is way down, but some opportunities exist.

Seabass, fluke, and striped bass regulations are all being scrutinized. It looks as if seabass will be more restricted (bad), fluke status quo (good), striped bass to be determined.

Captain Joe Masseria has been following the FTC reports from down in Jupiter Florida and thought it was time to chime in. He reports, "the large mouth bass fishing on the property is a steady alternative when the wind is blowing which is pretty much always in Florida. Did get out on a recent calm day with my good friend Conrad and we had a Florida grand slam, 1 nice blue marlin, 1 sail, a couple of mahi, and some king fish. Trip to the keys with

my son Keith for back country action was awesome. Non stop redfish all day with some shots at snook and tarpon. No wind flat calm day." Pictured is Joe with a 15 lb. Red caught on 10 lb. mono. Well, that beats our non-existent local action and horrendous weather, no doubt. Thanks for the reports Captain Joe.



**Better weather is coming and the 2015 season will unfold. 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*

## Catch Of The Month Islamorada Tropical Mix

Our Catch of the Month goes to Nick "Dolce Vita" Nero who took some time off heading south to sunny Islamorada, Florida to warm up and do some fishing.

Fishing on the charter boat "Fish On", Nick hauled in some nice Mahi and a variety bottom dwellers including Mangrove and Mutton Snapper, Filefish and Triggerfish.

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

***Send in those pictures!***

For bragging rights, please email me at [philton@optonline.net](mailto: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





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# MARCH 2015 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

*Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh  
Committee Team: Captain Bill Toohey,  
Captain Michael Zullo*

I hope everyone can make it to the **March GM Annual Awards Night!** A big turnout always helps so come on down and support the winners of our 2014 Annual Awards!

We start off 2015 with Cod and Winter Flounder. These are 2 great derbies to target and pick up a derby or annual award.

## THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE STARTING THIS MONTH:

**Cod • (6 lb. min)  
March 14th - May 10th**

**Winter Flounder • (1.5 lb. min)  
April 4th - May 17th**

The complete Derby calendar for 2015 is on our website **NOW** and our **AT A GLANCE** cards are at the printer! It's time to start planning your season.

# Annual Salmon Trip



**Lake Ontario,  
Rochester,  
New York  
July 25th & 26th**

Contact Woody 516-236-1549  
for further details at the  
GM & posted in the FTC Bulletin

## House & Raffles

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

## DERBY DATES 2015

### FISH

Cod (6 lbs.)  
Blackfish (3 lbs.)  
Flounder (1.5 lbs)  
Seabass (2.5 lbs)  
Striped Bass (15 lbs.)  
Weakfish (5 lbs.)  
Fluke (3.5 lbs.)  
Shark (125 lbs.)  
Bluefish (8 lbs.)  
Tuna (20 lbs.)  
Mahi (4 lbs.)  
False Albacore (6 lbs.)  
Green Bonito (4 lbs.)

### SPRING DATES:

March 14th – May 10th  
\*\*\*\*\*  
April 4th – May 17th  
July 15th – August 16th  
May 9th – June 14th  
May 9th – June 21st  
May 23rd – July 5th  
May 23rd – July 5th  
May 23rd – July 5th  
June 27th – August 9th  
June 27th – August 9th  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

### FALL DATES:

October 3rd – December 13th  
October 17th – November 29th  
\*\*\*\*\*  
September 5th – October 12th  
October 10th – November 29th  
August 15th – September 27th  
August 22nd – September 20th  
September 19th – November 29th  
September 19th – November 29th  
August 15th – September 27th  
August 22nd – October 4th  
August 22nd – October 4th  
August 22nd – October 4th



## Property Manager's Report

The summer lease agreements for 2015 have been mailed and members are sending in their deposits. I have not heard from everyone so please let me know if you are not renewing your lease. Two boats are not returning and are being replaced by two others. At this point we still have one slip open!

The new "Quickbooks" accounting system seems to be working well. Please feel free to contact me about your thoughts and opinions about the property.

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](mailto:capt.al@fishtaxiny.com).

## Conservation

After many years of service to the club as the Chairman of the Conservation Committee Dennis Cataldo has stepped down. Dennis spent countless hours following the ever-changing rules and regulations we are subject to, and even more time advocating for the recreational angler. Our thanks go out to Dennis for all he has done for our club and our sport.

As of today, according to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, it looks like the 2015 fluke season will be 5 fish at 18 inches, with a season from May 17 to September 21.

And don't forget to re-register for the recreational marine fishing registry. The registration lasts one year from the date of registration, so if you registered last spring you have to re-up this year. If there is any chance you might be traveling west you need to be registered in New Jersey also, as the garden state does not accept the NY registration. There is a link on the club website for both the New York and New Jersey registrations.

## Good & Welfare

Our condolences go out to Mike Sullivan and family on the loss of his sister, our prayers and thoughts go out to him. Also Jim Krugs dad Ed has some health issues. Remember him in your thoughts.  
~ Jeff



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