

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

TUNA TOWER NEWS

MARCH 2018

www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

NEXT GM AWARDS NIGHT

THURSDAY, MARCH 8
AT 7:30 PM
FREEPORT YACHT CLUB



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February has come and gone March madness has started we have the game dinner and awards dinner coming up. These are two great events for The Freeport Tuna Club. I'd like to thank the members and board/committee members for doing a great job on the February GM. The 70° day we had is just getting us closer to putting the props and lines in the water for the beginning of a great fishing season.

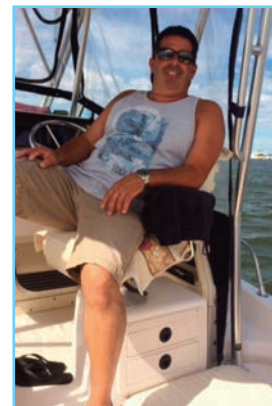
On new business I would just like to put it out there for some of the members who are interested in becoming a board member or part of an existing committee. There are openings available for longtime members as well as newer members. We are looking for people who can contribute some time and effort into The Club. I am also looking for somebody who is interested in helping out with Freeport Tuna Club's Rodeo that we have coming up in July. This is a big event for the club and it's a lot of fun, so the more guys we have contributing the easier it is on the committee members. If you are interested in being on the board of directors or part of a committee please contact me.

I also would like the membership to know that we are installing cameras on the property to better monitor the club. We'll also be having a club cleanup - whoever is available please email Bobby Sabella so he has an idea of the manpower we'll have. Time and date will be posted. We have some great events coming up this year. One event is THE 35 MAN FISHING TOURNAMENT - we will be competing against a group of fishing clubs this event will fill up fast. The Tuna Club Fishing Committee will be putting together two fishing trips a week weather permitting for members who are interested in party boat fishing.

We are trying to put together a large email list for better communication with club members as of now most of the information is being provided on Freeport Tuna Club Facebook Group. So please feel free to ask for a friend request. If you have not submitted your email please do so to Gene Schettini, he handles the membership committee.

Thank you and see you all at the game and awards dinners.

Thank you, *Matthew Cardone*



SIL MAZZILLI (LIFETIME MEMBER AND PAST PRESIDENT) WOULD APPRECIATE CLUB SUPPORT FOR HIS DAUGHTER CATHY (SEE INSERT)

MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LAMB



As the saying goes March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. However, I see plants and flowers sprouting in front of my house and I think we are at least a month ahead of schedule from a weather perspective. It sure feels like an early spring with the sun shining and temps approaching 50 degrees forecast for remainder of the week. Unfortunately, the fish and our fishing regulations have their own schedule. For those with cabin fever the problem is it's only the end of February and fishing options remain extremely limited.

The west end remains virtually shut down. It seems nobody's sailing at all and when someone does get out the reports are lacking. It's simply a dead sea right now. I actually snuck out with my trusty pail of skimmers in hand and to hit three local wrecks. Results were discouraging to say the least. I may have lost a piece of bait but I think it actually fell off the hook. Not a sign of life or bait despite reasonable water temps in the low forties. Montauk remains fairly quiet, cod fishing seems picky at best. One knowledgeable skipper from Moriches has put together some decent catches of cod. He has run far and wide to do it while hitting a variety of lightly fished bottom.

The warming weather and water will get fish moving and so it will begin, just need to exercise patience. An early spring does allow for an early start on boat preparation washing, waxing, bottom painting, dock fees and all the great things that go along with boating.

Meanwhile, we await word from the NYDEC regarding a spring blackfish season. Talk is of an April season, maybe two fish per angler, greater than 16". While it may cut into the fall season a bit, it would make combination trips of blackfish / flounder or blackfish / bass and even blackfish / cod feasible and give a boost to the head boat and bait and tackle industry. We need something else to fish for, winter flounders are just not cutting it these days

In this month's Tuna Tower News, we would like to welcome an excerpt by Captain Barbara Solomon from her personal "Striper Diaries." In it, she'll describe some early season alternatives to our local marine fisheries. Welcome aboard Capt. Barbara.

Please share your results with our membership. Especially warm water reports to help get us through the winter! Please send reports and pictures for inclusion in your club bulletin. Thanks to all who contribute.

Email your reports to philton@optonline.net; or text/call me at 516.721.8907

Sincerely *Paul Hilton* FV Emily S

PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The status on the marina is as follows: 22 slips have been confirmed with deposits, 2 members have told me that their check is in the mail, 6 captains from last year have not send it their deposits and 1 captain is not returning. **Deposits were due on or before February 21st.** I offered the open slip to a new member and there is a potential member on the waiting list. **Please send in your deposit or let me know if you are not renewing your lease.** You will receive two invoices for the balance owed, one due on **April 1st** and the second payable on **May 31st**. Our goal is to keep the marina full!

I would like to welcome Dan Novak as a new member. Dan joined the club at the NY Sportfishing Federation show.

There are a few outstanding payments due for winter storage so please send in your payment as soon as possible.

Let me know if you have questions or concerns. My cell number, email address, and work phone number are below:

Capt. Alan Evelyn

C: 917-750-8710 | W: 516-299-2523 | alan4ftc@gmail.com

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Fellow F T C member,

It is our marina and property which sets us apart from all other fishing clubs. Over the past several years we have utilized the property for winter storage. This has resulted in considerable income for the club. As with all good things they sometimes create problems. With such heavy use of the property in the spring, readying boats for the season by the beginning of June our property looks pretty run down. While it's nice to think everyone cleans up when they are done, it just doesn't happen. On Saturday, June 2 @ 9:00 am we will be having property clean up. The more members that show up the quicker and easier the job will be.

For those who dock at our marina it's plain to see that our floating docks are looking pretty shabby. It has been 9 years since they were installed and they have never been cleaned or sealed. That said, on Saturday, May 19 @ 9:00 am we will be having a pressure washing party to clean the docks. If you have a machine and can bring it down that would be great. No machine, no problem come on down and use mine. Sure would be nice to see all the boat owners down to help.

Thanks in advance, your property committee,

*Alan Evelyn, Bob Sabella
Don Granger, Charlie Goldstein*

STRIPER DIARIES

As March quickly approaches, I can't help but dream about my annual fishing trip on the Hudson River with Pete Cefai, in search of the "gray ghost." Chasing striped bass and following the migration has been a family adventure for as long as I can remember. For those of you whose boats are still on blocks, mine included, fishing off a river bank is another great option.

In a little town called Piermont, just south of the Tappan Zee Bridge, striped bass season opens April 1, 2018 and closes November 30, 2018. The legal limit is one (1) fish a person between 18 - 28 inches, with a trophy bass over 40 inches, and the choice of bait is blood worms or live herring. Accessing the fishing grounds is relatively simple. A one-day parking permit for non-residents is available. This will allow you to drive onto the pier, which stretches about one (1) mile into the Hudson River.

When fishing a new location from shore, especially the murky waters of the Hudson, I always like to arrive on the outgoing tide. It is crucial to view the water level at its lowest point. The river has a 4-6 foot tide swing, and on high tide any rocks, pilings and sand bars will be virtually invisible. This means that until you are familiar with an area, you will have to fish two tides - yes you will be late for dinner.

As we set up our light spinning gear, a two foot leader with slider rig works best. This way the bass cannot feel the weight of the sinker when they grab the bait. As is customary on this river bank, we put bells on the tip of our rods - when in Rome. In my experience, most bass bite at night. As we didn't bring sleeping bags,

we decide to fish until we can no longer keep our eyes open. As I looked around, I did not see any other fishermen casting bucktails or soft plastics, which ordinarily would have been my first choice. So blood worms it was. After a few hours we were greeted with the sound of our bells. Tap, tap, tap, and just like that we landed two (2) keeper bass. Nothing big, but keepers for sure.

As the night came to an end and we started the drive home, I couldn't help but feel sheer excitement. It wasn't because the bass were thirty or forty pounders, but because we conquered a new territory and had a great time doing it. There is nothing better than fresh air, sun shining on your face, and knowing that you landed not one (1) but two (2) of the elusive gray ghosts.

As we continue to follow the striped bass migration, our next stop will be Little Neck Bay on April 15 - - Opening Day . Until our next adventure. Tight lines.

Sincerely,

Capt. Barbara Solomon
F/V Legal Limits



DERBY, AWARDS & CONTESTS

Awards Chairman: Ray Geiger | Committee Team:

Bob Benzenberg, Harry Sbaschnig & Bill Morrogh

I hope everyone can make it to our March GM Annual Awards Night at the Freeport Yacht Club. Please support the club and all the well-deserving winners of our 2017 Annual Awards!

We have not one, but two new club records this year to celebrate. Bob Pandy brought in our only Arrow-Toothed Flounder while fishing in Alaska. Bob Pettit our resident bottom fishing expert has once again broken his own club record with a great Golden Tilefish.

Our first derbies on the menu this year are Cod and the Winter Flounder. These are two great derbies to get the season started and pick up a derby or perhaps an annual award. The complete FTC Derby Calendar for 2018 is on our website once again thanks to the Morroghs of Florida.

As a reminder, once the dates/regs are set by the DEC, we will have the Fish-at-a-Glance cards made available. If/when the dates do change I will let you know ASAP via the FTC website and The Tuna Tower News.

As a reminder: If you do not completely and legibly fill out your submitted weigh slips (yes sadly I did get a few without your names), it makes it tough or even impossible to win. You took the time and effort, so please complete ALL the weigh slip boxes and fields. By doing so you might be winning an award yourself soon!

I will be posting the 2018 Derby Info and More thread (including updates) on our website soon. It will have my contact info and all updates as the season rolls along.

Best Fishes and Good Luck to all! – *Ray Geiger*

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ANNUAL AWARDS 2017 SEASON FINAL RESULTS

#1 Stephen L. Vanderveer Trophy Bowl: Angler catching the largest Tuna over 100lb sailing out of Jones Inlet.

Steve Bassford (109 lb. Bluefin) "Red Dawn Rising"

#2 Stephen Radi Sr. Memorial Trophy: Angler catching the largest Bigeye Tuna sailing from Jones Inlet. **Not Awarded**

#3 Walter F. O'Malley Trophy: Member catching the heaviest Tuna from any port except Freeport L.I.

Paul Noto (109.8 lb. Bluefin) "Insufficient Funds"

#4 Bob Trapani Memorial Trophy: Member catching the heaviest fish from any port except Shark.

Dennis Cataldo (350 lb. Blue Marlin) "Rosa Del Mar III"

#5 Fred W. Hollander Memorial Trophy: Member catching the heaviest billed fish anywhere.

Dennis Cataldo (350 lb. Blue Marlin) "Rosa Del Mar III"

#6 Jack R. Neidorf Trophy: (*24hr.) First Tuna of the season sailing from and returning to Jones Inlet.

Chris Bellinzoni (27.75 lb. Bluefin) "Oh Reely"

#7 Jack R. Bode Ladies Trophy: Awarded to the lady member catching the largest Tuna. **Not Awarded**

#8 Ada Berlin Memorial Trophy: Lady angler catching the largest species of any fish from any L.I. Port.

Joann Schroeder (37.31 lb. Striped Bass) "Starwatcher"

#9 Henry Von Elm Inc. Trophy: Angler catching the largest Tuna during any IGFA Tournament. **Not awarded**

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

Adam Bollaci

#11 Mel Elderd: Member catching the largest Tuna of the season in the Babylon/FTC Shootout. **Not Awarded**

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

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

Paul Noto (109.8 lb.) "Insufficient Funds"

#13 Guy Lombardo Trophy: (*24 hr.) Angler catching the largest Tuna under 100 lbs. sailing from Jones Inlet.

Rick Totten (67 lb. Bluefin) "Hooker"

#14 Freeport Marine Trophy:

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

Joann Schroeder

#15 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:

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

Anthony Bollaci (220 lb. Thresher Shark) "Hooker"

#16 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:

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

Adam Bollaci (220 lb. Thresher Shark) "Hooker"

#17 Harry Berns Memorial Trophy: Captain whose boat tags the most amount of Tuna. **Not Awarded**

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

Angler catching the largest Bluefish sailing from Jones Inlet.

Adam Bollaci (16.19 lb.) "Hooker"

#19 Fred Miranda: Awarded to the person

who tags the most Marlin. **Not Awarded**

#20 Marsden B. Candler Memorial Trophy: Angler largest Striped Bass on any boat sailing from any L.I. Port.

Anthony Bollaci (59.75 lb.) "Hooker"

#21 Jack Bode Ladies Memorial Trophy: Lady Angler for the most outstanding catch north of Cape Hatteras.

Kathy Grippo (9.3 lb. Fluke) "Inky"

#22 Harry Schwarze: Captains Award for the most Tuna caught during the Babylon/FTC Shootout. **Not Awarded**

#23 Marine Center, Inc Trophy: Captains Award for the boat catching the heaviest billed fish. **Not Awarded**

#24 Mako Marine Inc, Trophy:

Angler catching the heaviest Mako of the season.

Al Casciano (134 lb.) "Four Bells"

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

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

Chris Bellinzoni (134 lb.) "Four Bells"

#26 Norb Schlichtig Memorial Trophy:

Member outstanding service. Steve Valenti

#27 Tim Kryscuk Memorial Trophy: Lady Member catching the largest Bluefish of the season. **Not Awarded**

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

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

Peter Cefai (9.81 lb.) "Dolce Vita"

#29 John Shiel Spinning Tackle Trophy: Most outstanding catch caught on spinning tackle using 2-12 lb line.

Mike Sullivan 32.3 lb. Striped Bass 3 lb. test

Paul Grippo Memorial Equalizer Trophy Fluke:

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

#30 Global: Alex Nuttelo 4.69 lb. "Neptune"

#31 West: Alex Nuttelo 4.69 lb "Neptune"

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:

Awarded for outstanding service by a board member.

Ray Geiger

#35 Benjamin Mikoleski Memorial: Awarded to the member catching the largest Winter Flounder of the year.

Domenick Moreo (2.31 lb.) "Sassy Lady"

#36 Bob Neuman Aventura II" Memorial Trophy: Largest Winter Flounder caught by a child or grandchild. **Not Awarded**

#37 Jack Kennedy Memorial Captains Award: Largest Tuna.

John Jutt (109 lb. Bluefin) "Red Dawn Rising"

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

Largest Striped Bass.

Adam Bollaci (59.75 lb.) "Hooker"

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

Largest Bluefish.

Adam Bollaci (16.19 lb.) "Hooker"

Ed Schuh Memorial Angler Awards Jones, Debs, Fire Island: Cod, Weakfish, Blackfish, Seabass & Fluke.

#40 Cod: John Funicello (20.13 lb.) "Truce"

#41 Weakfish: Not Awarded

#42 Blackfish: Peter Groner (10.94 lb.) "Endless Summer II"

#43 Seabass: Nick Nero (4.38 lb.) "Dolce Vita"

#44 Fluke: John Koenig (10.25 lb.)

Jiggy Silber Memorial Global Anglers Award:

Cod, Weakfish, Blackfish, Seabass & Fluke.

#45 Cod: John Funicello (20.13 lb.) "Truce"

#46 Weakfish: Not Awarded

#47 Blackfish: Jack Krug (16.25 lb.) "Persuader II"

#48 Seabass: Dennis Cataldo (5.19 lb.) "Sarah K"

#49 Fluke: Glenn Grippo (10.4 lb.) "Inky"

#50 Ed Swanson Memorial Angler of the Year:

Member obtaining the most points for twelve different species.

Anthony Bollaci

#51 John V. Festa Memorial Tagging Award:

Member who tags the most game fish of the season.

Mike Sullivan (75 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

#53 Anthony Testa Sr. Memorial Award:

Angler, largest Fluke Jones Inlet.

John Koenig (10.25 lb.)

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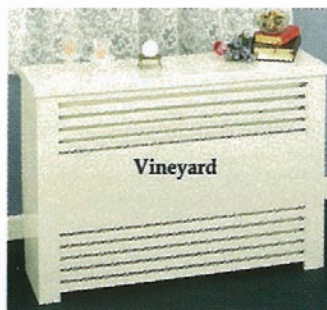
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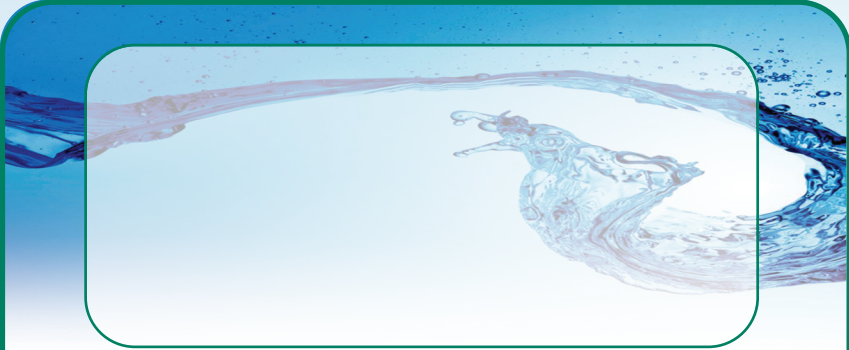
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**SIL MAZZILLI (LIFETIME MEMBER AND PAST PRESIDENT) WOULD
APPRECIATE CLUB SUPPORT FOR HIS DAUGHTER CATHY (SEE INSERT)**