

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well March is upon us and that usually means warmer weather and the beginning of the fishing season is near. However, Mother Nature looks like she is going to keep winter's grip tight for the first few weeks of March.

Thanks to Bruce Forster for organizing last month's entertainment with the start of a new FTC Master Anglers Series. Stay tuned as the next one is already in the works.

Ray Geiger will be hosting the March GM festivities as he presents and showcases last year's best catches with our annual awards. Please come out and support Ray and this year's recipients and see where the bar has been set so you can fish hard and be up there next year.

I would like to thank everyone you worked the booths at the

Freeport Rec Center and the All Pro show. We had two very successful events both in showcasing our club to potential new members and promoting the fluke shootout we will be hosting this year. We also made some really great connections with vendors who are looking to support the club.

Gene Schettini is looking for a couple of members to join the membership committee, please give him a call or see him at the next GM if you are interested in helping.



I want to thank in advance Rick Totten who will be covering for me as I will be traveling and will not be able to make the March GM. Congratulations to all of this year's annual award recipients, fish hard be recognized.

Tight lines, Capt. Adam Bollaci

For those of you who have not paid your dues A REMINDER NOTICE HAS GONE OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD ON AWARDS NIGHT PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING (DUES PAID)

HOPE FOR AN EARLY SPRING



We made it through February. Despite some white stuff on the ground right now (which is melting fast) the winter has by and large been pretty tame on Long Island. Next week the clocks go ahead, the days have been getting longer and the promise of spring sunshine gets one thinking about boating and fishing. As a year 'round boater and fisherman, there is always a point when I say, is it still last season or is it now the new season? Since I did not get out at all in February, I think it's safe to say the next trip will be part of my new season. So what can we look forward too?

For most of us, the only saltwater game remains cod with the occasional tile fish trip to the deep by the offshore head boats. While not great, some west end cod remain available inshore and off, mixed size fish. A well known Moriches charter boat had a good trip, fishing wrecks deep and to the east. Montauk remains quiet, but I would expect the fleet to come to life with promise of a spring run. A New Jersey party boat was targeting porgies well offshore in February and did well but that's a long ride for scup. They had some ling a single haddock in the mix. To my knowledge, that is the furthest west and south that this new run of haddock has made an appearance. Let's hope they take a liking to the NY Bight. They have in the distant past, so it is possible.

The winter flounder season in NY will open on April 1st. Not many will have a boat in the water ready to go, the fishing remains poor, and the limit is only two fish at greater than 12", if you are lucky enough to catch any. Despite the negatives, if you have cabin fever and the weather looks nice give it a shot. A west end party boat is the best way to go since they will be on top of the action or trailer and launch in Staten Island or Jamaica Bay. Bring your mussel and/or clam chum and some sea worms. The Head of Bay area of Jamaica Bay and the back of Raritan Bay generally produce the early flounders. The Captree fishing fleet will be chomping at the bit but that fishing usually starts a little later.

New York has now given us a spring blackfish season open during the month of April. Two fish per angler greater than 16". This past winter, blackfish never really shutdown as the water barely dipped below 40. The west end boats trying for cod reported catch and release blackfish all winter. So, barring any drastic changes in weather, I would expect April to provide a real opportunity to put some tog in the box.

Striped bass (marine waters) will open April 15th. The best way to catch very early stripers is to go flounder fishing! Same areas and techniques mentioned above.

That's a wrap for now. Please share your results with our membership. Please send reports and pictures to me 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. Have a great 2019!

Sincerely, Paul Hilton F/V Emily S

GOOD & WELFARE

Longtime member Chris Squeri is in the running for Village Trustee in the Village of Freeport. He is strongly endorsed by our current mayor, Robert Kennedy. So... for those members, family and friends that live in the Village of Freeport, please get out and cast your vote in favor of Chris Squeri on Tuesday, March 19. Remember, we are a Freeport based club. On behalf of Chris, I thank you in advance for your support.

John Jutt Editor

Any good and welfare to report... please contact

Jeff Squeri 516-652-5981

PROPERT OMMITTEE

Just a reminder to all those whose boats are on the property, that we will not be storing boats on the property for the summer season (June 1 to Nov 1) so please make arrangements to remove all boats by June 1. Don Granger has has taken over the task of property administrator on a temporary basis. Your cooperation and patience are appreciated as we adjust to programs and systems in operating our property.

HELP!!! There is one boat on the property that we are trying to identify the owner. It's at the southwest end of the property along the fence. It is shrink-wrapped with the initials T L written on the cover. The boat is a Sailfish 25' with twin outboards also covered. The hull color appears to be gray or blue and it is on a trailer. Would the owner or anyone who knows whose boat it is please call Bob Sabella @ 516-941-8773

Bob Sabella Don Granger Charlie Goldstein

Your Property Committee





ANNUAL AWARDS 2018 SEASON DRAFT RESULTS

#1 Stephen L. Vanderveer Trophy Bowl: Angler catching the largest Tuna over 100lb sailing out of Jones Inlet. Not Awarded #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. Not Awarded #4 Bob Trapani Memorial Trophy: Member catching the heaviest fish from any port except Shark. Dennis Cataldo (300 lb. Blue Marlin) "Makaira" **#5 Fred W. Hollander Memorial Trophy:** Member catching the heaviest billed fish anywhere. Dennis Cataldo (300 lb. Blue Marlin) "Makaira" #6 Jack R. Neidorf Trophy: (*24hr.) First Tuna of the season sailing from and returning to Jones Inlet. Anthony Bollaci (45 lb. Bluefin) "Hooker" #7 Jack R. Bode Ladies Trophy: Awarded to the lady member catching the largest Tuna. Courtney Ramroop (55 lb. Bluefin) "Rusty Testicle" **#8 Ada Berlin Memorial Trophy:** Lady angler catching the largest species of any fish from any L.I. Port. Courtney Ramroop (55 lb. Bluefin) "Rusty Testicle" **#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. Dave Pincus (97.47 lb. Bluefin) "Canyon Lady" #13 Guy Lombardo Trophy: (*24 hr.) Angler catching the largest Tuna under 100 lbs. sailing from Jones Inlet. Dave Pincus (97.47 lb. Bluefin) "Canyon Lady" **#14 Freeport Marine Trophy:** Greatest weight fish per pound line sailing from any L.I. Port. Paul Noto 38.05 lb. Striped Bass 20 lb. test **#15 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:** Angler catching the largest fish out of any L.I. Port. James Weinblatt (188 lb. Thresher Shark) "Blue Marlin" **#16 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:** Captains Award for the largest Shark caught out of any L.I. Port. Harry Weinblatt (188 lb. Thresher Shark) "Blue Marlin" **#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. John Kampa (19.63 lb.) "Breaking Away" **#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.

Ken Donowski (52 lb.) "Jenglo"

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

Kim Krug (44.2 lb. Striped Bass) "Persuader III"

#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. Not Awarded

#25 Lawrence Festa Memorial Trophy: (*24 hr.) Captain catching the first Mako of the season from Jones Inlet. Not Awarded

#26 Norb Schlichtig Memorial Trophy: Member outstanding service. **Bill Hines**

#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.

Frank Cefai (14.25 lb.) "Wasabi"

#29 John Shiel Spinning Tackle Trophy: Most outstanding catch caught on spinning tackle using 2-12 lb line. Mike Sullivan 29.8 lb. Striped Bass 3 lb. test

Paul Grippo Memorial Equalizer Trophy Fluke: Children's Award for largest Fluke (12 and under).

#30 Global: DJ Toback 5.94 lb. "Corazon"

#31 West: DJ Toback 4.81 lb. "Corazon"

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. **Bob Pandy**

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

Bob Pandy (2.04 lb.) "Pandaman"

#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. Bruce Forster (110 lb. Bluefin) "Oh Reely"

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

Greg Koharek (48.75 lb.) "Breaking Away"

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

Greg Koharek (19.63 lb.) "Breaking Away"

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

#40 Cod: Not Awarded

#41 Weakfish: Not Awarded

#42 Blackfish: Mike Zullo (7.0 lb.) "Magic Too"

#43 Seabass: Mike Zullo (4.0 lb.) "Magic Too"

#44 Fluke: Bryon King (9.06 lb.) "Kingfisher"

Jigsy Silber Memorial Global Anglers Award: Cod, Weakfish, Blackfish, Seabass & Fluke.

#45 Cod: Bob Pandy (25.44 lb.) "Miss Montauk"

#46 Weakfish: Ken Donowski (5.4 lbs.) "Hampton Lady"

#47 Blackfish: Mike Zullo (7.0 lb.) "Magic Too"

#48 Seabass: Marty Dowling (5.07 lb.) "Rudee Mariner"

#49 Fluke: Dennis Cataldo (10.63 lb.) "Bounty Hunter"

#50 Ed Swanson Memorial Angler of the Year: Member obtaining the most points for twelve different species. **Mike Zullo #51 John V. Festa Memorial Tagging Award:** Member who tags the most game fish of the season.

Chris Bellinzoni (62 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

Bryon King (9.06 lb.) "Kingfisher"

Congratulations to all our members



STRIPER DIARIES

With thoughts of fishing on my mind, I decided to make some phone calls, to see if I could make my way down to a warm climate. Not all of us are lucky enough to be "snow birds" and spend winters in Islamorada, Florida. As it turns out, a good friend owns a time-share in Aruba, with a spare bed I can

crash on!! Perfect! A quick 4.5 hour plane ride and I land in Oranjestad, with Pete Cefai.

Aruba, located in the heart of the southern Caribbean, just 15 miles off the coast of Venezuela, is well known for its significant easterly trade winds. A quick check on my favorite weather App predicted winds between 25-35 knots. Hmm.... perhaps cocktails at the pool is a better option. After unpacking, Pete and I walked down to the marina, hoping we would meet some local fisherman to set up a charter. We were pleasantly surprised when several boats were unloading large Wahoo and small Black Fin Tuna. That looks awesome! All of a sudden, I noticed a 21ft Pro Cat with a 150 Yamaha 4 stroke named "50 Shades of Blue." The boat was outfitted with four (4) Shimano GLFS series rods paired with Stella SW 4000 Spinning Reels. OMG I must get on THAT boat. As we took a closer look, we noticed a sticker from "Pelagic Outfitters," located in Lindenhurst. Is that even possible?

With no phone number or contact information listed, I decided to head over to the local bait and tackle shop to find out the owner. Well apparently, they don't just give phone numbers out to strangers. Not even girls! It took a little convincing and me mentioning that we were "Freeport Tuna Club" members and finally I was given the captain's home phone number. Well, let's just say I may have looked like a stalker, but he agreed to meet us at the marina the following day at 2:30p.m. - on his day off!



We arrived at the boat to meet Laurenz Van Mook, the owner and guide, who has been fly-fishing and back water spin fishing since living in Belize. He has been full-time guiding in Aruba since 2008. He agreed we could fish until sun-set. Perfect! As we made our way out into 30 knot head winds, he promised, that eventually we would tuck away in the back mangroves. We finally arrived at our first spot and it was paradise. The sun was blazing and

water was sky blue. It was truly amazing. I grabbed the Shimano 6'6 rod paired with a small top water lure. As I made my first cast Laurenz shouts, "can you walk the dog?" He explains that "walking the dog" is a great way to catch fish on top water plugs. Third cast into the mangroves, and I am hooked up with a large Snook. A few head shakes and the fish comes loose. That's okay, I am ready to cast again.

After several more casts, we are back in open blue water. With gusty winds at our backs, and not another boat in site, we head to our next location. A quiet cove known for holding Barracuda,

Bonefish, Tarpon and Snook. I start casting and "walking the dog." Boy, this is tiring. After several casts, I see bait exploding and suddenly Laurenz yells "over there." I cast the plug and just like that the line gets tight. I'm hooked up! The fish starts twisting and jumping out of the water. It's a small Barracuda! Awesome! Laurenz, grabs the line and after a few minutes unhooks the plug from its incredibly sharp teeth. A quick picture and I am back at it.

EPISODE 11

With the wind howling, we moved around to several other locations. I had a bunch of hook-ups and several misses. What a blast on such light tackle! Before long, the blazing sun was starting to set over the glistening blue water. The ride back to the dock was surreal. It was primitive and desolate and I never saw another boat in site. I couldn't help but think how lucky we were. The trip was incredible and Laurenz was a class act. He even invited us back to Aruba in September - when the wind allegedly dies down. All in all, it was quite the adventure.

Until next time, Tight lines.

Capt. Barbara Solomon F/V Legal Limits



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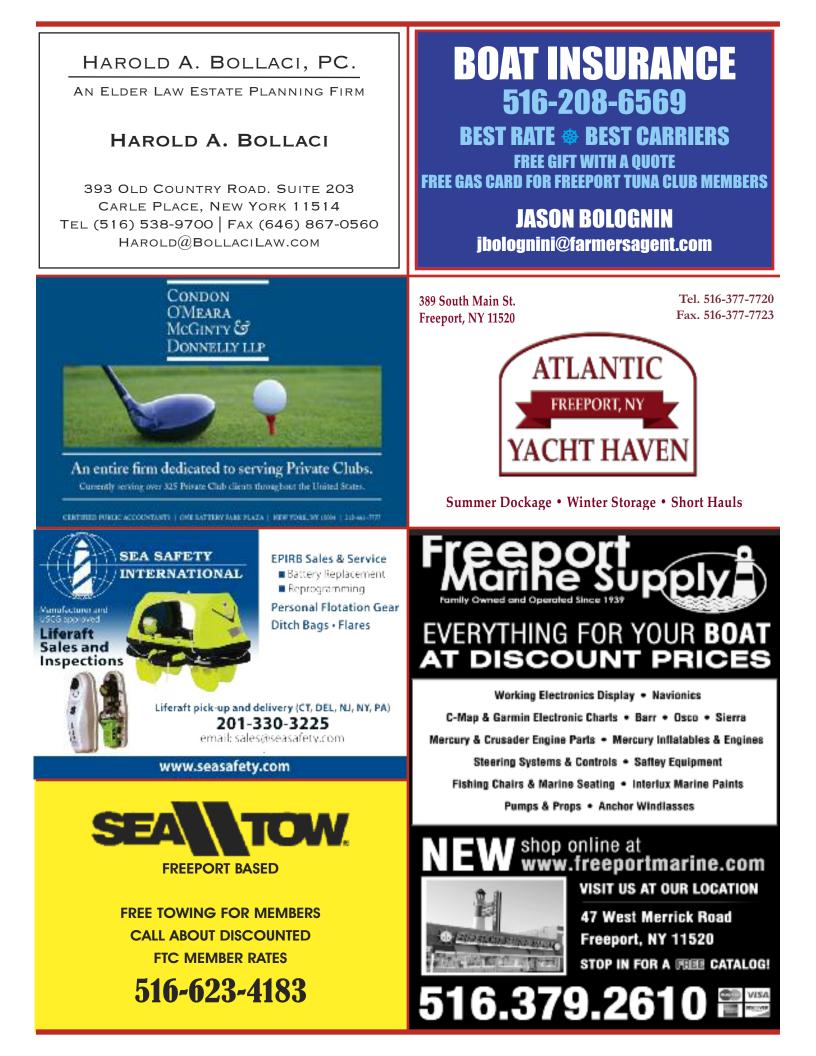
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entertainment

Our February meeting was the opener for our Master Angler Series. Captain Harry, President Adam and Chris "4 Bells" did an outstanding job demonstrating rigs and deployment for near-shore fishing. By all accounts the format was a success and we will continue the series with seasonal presentations. If you have a topic or presenter (club member or not) that you want to see, please let me know. March is our Awards Night so please come out and support your fellow club members.

We are going to be starting a Vendor Series. We will have a local Vendor set up in the bar at our GMs to offer advice, education and the opportunity to purchase goods and services at a Club price. Again, if you have a suggested Vendor or Service provider that would be good for the club, pass them on to me.

In April we are going to hear from Stephen Drew, Fisheries Liaison Officer for Equinor Wind US. This is the company that will likely plant windmills off the south shore of our beloved Jones Inlet. They will occupy 79,000 plus acres of ocean from Cholera running SE just S of Ambrose Channel. Oddly enough Stephen wants to hear from us as to how Equinor can best accommodate both recreational and commercial fishermen with this huge project. He is a NE fisherman and his job is to listen to us and do his best to be our advocate. I will post some advance info about the project and Stephen on the FTC Facebook page to get everyone up to speed.

Lastly I am looking for some assistance. If any member would like to get involved with Entertainment, kindly contact me.

Wishing you all tight lines and calm seas,

Bruce C. Forster F/V OH REELY

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