

TUNA TOWER NEWS

MAY 2017

www.ftcfishing.com

EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan



NEXT GM
Thursday, June 8, 2017
at 7:30 pm
At The Property

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

In the famous words of the late Mayor Koch "Hey, Freeport Tuna Club Members, How am I doing?" as I am already approaching the halfway mark of my presidency. I hope my approval ratings are better than Trump's. Thanks to our members stepping up with new ideas and referring us, our club continues to grow and now has more to offer its members. Our club's fishing trips have now begun. Thanks to Ken Donowski, 3 members have been added to the Bragging Rights Board. Bill Burk with a 43.8 lbs. Striped Bass, Bob Sabella with a 3lb.12oz. Weakfish and Brandon Leiva with a 13lb.10oz. Bluefish. Congratulations on your great catches. July 7-9 will be our annual Rodeo. This is a 3 day fishing event. On Sunday will be having a delicious barbeque followed by an Awards Ceremony. Help is needed shopping, setting up, cooking and cleaning up; please see me or Joe Steiner if you are able to help. On August 5, we will be celebrating our 80th Anniversary with a Lobsterfest/Clam Bake down at the Property, for tickets please see Bob Sabella. Our 80th Anniversary t-shirts are now on sale, please see Jimmy Azzi. On August 10, we will be having our Annual Luau. In September, we be having a Night at the Races down at the Property.

Then in October we will be holding a Fall Flea Market. Also in October, we will be having an 80th

Anniversary Dinner Dance where will be raffling off prizes. If you or your company would like to donate something please see me. As with all the upcoming events, help is always needed so please see me if you would like to help. I do have a couple of people lined up to speak and give seminars at Thursday

Nights Captain Anglers, please check the website under general discussion for a list of speakers and topics. I will also be posting a schedule down at the Property. If your interested in speaking, please see me. I am looking for someone to post the Captains that would like to take our members fishing and post members who are available to go fishing on our website. On May 29, at 9am The Club had it's first Memorial Day Ceremony down at the Property thanks to Ray Geiger and his lovely wife Michelle, for coming up with the idea and leading the Ceremony. We all had the honor of being part of the Flag Raising Ceremony as World War II Veteran Don Morin raised the flag. The ceremony concluded with Taps. It was a very moving moment as we all reflected on the time we spent in service and the lives that were lost so that we all can enjoy the freedom that we take for granted. As Don Morin mentioned the real heroes are the ones who did not return home. May they rest in peace and thank you. On November 11, 2017 we will be having another ceremony honoring



President's Message - continued

our veterans, the club is looking to add a second plaque next to the one we already have and would like to present it on Veterans' Day, Please see John Gerrity or myself if you would like to add the name of someone you know on the new plaque. On a happier note, the club would like to congratulate Jimmy Rooney on the marriage of his daughter Taylor we wish them good health and happiness, Next month's GM will be on Thursday Night, June 8 down at the Property.

We will return to the Yacht Club in September. That's about all for now if you have any questions, comments, concerns, want to see new activities or have new ideas. Please feel free to call me at (516) 725-8907. I would like to wish our members that are fishing in the Cape May and Hudson Anglers' Shark Tournaments Good Luck and as always be safe out there.

Sea Yah on June 8 down at the Property *Kevin Killelea*

Summer Approaches Let the games begin!

The weather has been disappointing but some good fishing opportunities presented themselves in May. Reports by FTC members were sparse, but I'll attempt to piece together what happened in May and what we can look forward to in June. It is hard to believe, but the next reports will likely include shark tournament results, catches of tuna, and hopefully some much needed summer weather.

On the inshore scene, bass have worked their way east to Montauk and beyond. Clam chumming for stripers is viable in many areas, particularly around Jones and Fire Island Inlets, but the large fish (up to nearly 50 lbs.) have mostly been caught on the troll from the Rockaway's East to Jones Inlet and out to 50+ of water. Be aware that possession of striped bass in federal waters is prohibited, and some of the areas where the action occurs can exceed the 3 mile limit. Also, catching a few bass and running deeper to do some fluking or other bottom fishing with bass onboard is a no-no. I have been approached and boarded in federal waters several times over the past few years and all they seem to care about is whether or not you have bass on board, be advised...

The very popular and now famous Mojo rigs have accounted for many large fish, however the presence of bluefish, and the damage they inflict to the Mojo's has many returning to trolling their venerable bunker spoons. They are producing and withstand the attacks of toothy fish much better than the Mojo. We are once again blessed with a good bunker population and live lining has produced and should continue to produce well into the summer. Large fish seem plentiful, good luck landing that trophy, the chances of landing a 50+ should be pretty good this year.

Fluke were available from opening day with the usual back bay areas producing fluke of mixed sizes. Some nicer 5-6 lb fish have started showing up, and the ocean is starting to produce as well including fish on hard bottom. Pete "Off the Hook" Cefai found some nice fish of 5 lbs + fishing close to home. recently, caught to the west. Good luck to all in the FTC Fluke Calcutta, should be interesting!



**Victor Cefai
(Pete's Dad)
with some nice
5+ Fluke**

2017 Fluke Regulations are Set: 19-inch Minimum, 3 fish bag limit, Open May 17 to September 21

While we await the opening of the seabass season in NY waters,



**Maryellen Zullo
with a
beautiful Porgy
on the
Magic T00**

I can tell you that the population is large and those targeting porgies, ling, and cod are having trouble avoiding them. I did a trip a few weeks ago looking for a stray cod or two

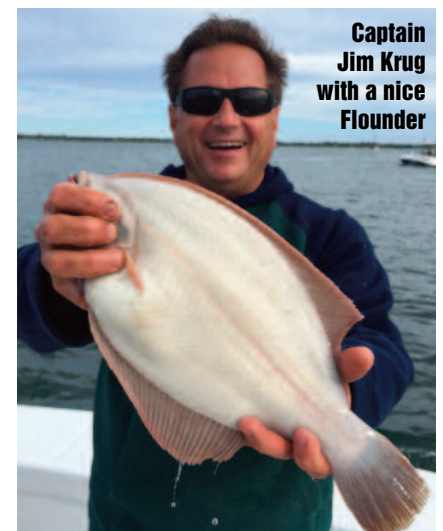
in the 80 foot depths. The seabass were stacked high on the machine and I continued to read and catch (and release) them well off the structure. Nothing else had a chance that day. However, by finding the right depth to fish (avoiding the seabass) ling, porgies, and some cod are available as well as catch and release blackfish. Seabass regulations for NY have not yet been set, however, it seems like start of the season may be status quo, with the later months still up in the air. With the amount of seabass in our waters in May, it's hard to believe they won't let us keep a few until June 27th, and take some pressure off of other, less abundant species.

As for our beloved winter flounder, some feel the season was an improvement over the past few years, particularly to the west.

Captain Jim Krug, went on a "dinosaur hunt" out at Montauk. I didn't get the full report but he caught at least one large one.

The Flounder season closed as of May 30th.

This past week a Mako was taken south of Long Island, lots of blue dogs showing up, tuna have been captured as well. Let the offshore season begin, good luck and stay safe out there!



**Captain
Jim Krug
with a nice
Flounder**

Thanks to all who contributed, get out and fish and please share your reports with fellow FTC members. Email your reports to philton@optonline.net; or text/call me at 516.721.8907

Sincerely,

Paul Hilton, FN Emily S

2017 Offshore Tournament Lineup

BY MATT ERRETT

Good luck, be safe, and remember, **CIRCLE HOOKS** are required for shark tournaments!!!

37TH ANNUAL SOUTH JERSEY SHARK TOURNAMENT

CAPE MAY - JUNE 7TH - 10TH

3RD ANNUAL POINT LOOKOUT SHARK TOURNAMENT

JUNE 9TH - 10TH

31ST ANNUAL STAR ISLAND SHARK TOURNAMENT

JUNE 16TH - 17TH

45TH ANNUAL HUDSON ANGLERS SHARK TOURNAMENT

JUNE 17TH

24TH ANNUAL WOODCLEFT FISHING STATION SHARK TOURNAMENT

JUNE 24TH

BAYSHORE TUNA CLUB MAKO TOURNAMENT

JUNE 24TH

JB TACKLE TRI-STATE CANYON SHOOTOUT

JULY 29TH - AUGUST 2ND

STAR ISLAND MAKO, THRESHER, TUNA MANIA TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 4TH - 5TH

WHITE MARLIN OPEN

OCEAN CITY MARYLAND - AUGUST 7TH - 11TH

SOUTH JERSEY ANNUAL MID ATLANTIC

AUGUST 20TH - 25TH

Flag Raising Ceremony



Good and Welfare..

Congratulations to Jimmy Rooney on the marriage of his daughter Taylor.

Jeff Squeri 516-652-5981

Property Manager's Report

The final payment for the summer slips is now due. If you have not send in your check, please do so as soon as possible! If you did not receive an invoice please contact me immediately. If you have not removed your vessel and wish to continue storing at the club property please let me know. The charge for any vessel left on the property after May 31st is \$5.00 per day or \$150 per month.

If you are storing a trailer on the property for the summer, please be sure that the property committee can identify you as the owner. **Only members leasing slips from FTC may store a trailer on the club property during the summer.**

If you have other questions or concerns about the club property you can see me at the GM, or at Captains and Anglers. I am always available either by email or phone.

My cell number, email address, and work phone are below:

Capt. Alan Evelyn

Cell: 917-750-8710, Work: 516-299-2523

Email: capt.al@fishtaxiny.com

Derby, Awards & Contests Report

Awards Chairman: Ray Geiger | Committee Team: Bob Benzenberg, Harry Skaschnig and Bill Morrogh

The first two derbies of the year have ended and what a reversal of fortune indeed! Usually the rare and elusive winter flounder are just that. Nowhere to be seen = no weigh slips. Not this year fishing fans. Multiple fish were caught and weighed. We will be presenting awards for flounder at our June GM at our property on Thursday, June 8th. Please come down to this meeting to support the club and congratulate the winners.

On the other side of the coin, we received zero slips for cod. Not that members didn't try this year, it just didn't happen. Even Team Zullo struck out this time around. Amazing but true.

We have received the 2017 Fish-at-a-Glance cards (thanks Captians Bill Morrogh and John Jutt!) and they will be available for your edification at our June GM and our Thursday Captains & Anglers BBQs. This cards list all the derby species, dates and minimum weights for the year. Don't leave the property

without two: one for your wallet and one for your fishing vessel.

As a reminder, all slips we receive figure in our annual awards. So, even if you don't win a derby, get your fish weighed throughout the seasons and give us a fully completed slip. Remember: If we don't have a completed slip in hand, the fish did not exist.

My contact info and derby updates are available on the Fishing Reports section (members only – so you need to register) of our forum located on the FTC website. Also posted are our club rules.

By the way, I did manage to go fishing last Friday for fluke. Not a great day, but my son caught the only keeper fluke out of 35+ fisherman. Well worth the price of admission from where I was standing.

Best Fishes to all *Ray Geiger*

The Following Derbies Are Open Or Coming Soon:

FISH:

Striped Bass (15 lbs.)
Weakfish (5 lbs.)
Fluke (3.5 lbs.)
Shark (125 lbs.)
Bluefish (8 lbs.)
Tuna & Mahi

SPRING DATES:

May 6th – June 11th
May 6th – June 18th
May 20th – July 4th
May 20th – July 4th
May 20th – July 4th
June 24 – August 6th

FALL DATES:

October 7th – November 26th
August 13th – September 24th
August 19th – September 17th
September 16th – November 26th
September 16th – November 26th



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Lobster Fest/Clam Bake

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