

TUNA TOWER NEWS

JULY 2017

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EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan



NEXT GM

Sunday, July 9, 2017

AT THE RODEO

on the Property



President's Message

Hello Everyone,

I would like to thank our members who came and took tables at our Annual Yard Sale which was a big success! A special thanks to all the members of the cook crew who got up early to cook breakfast and make delicious clam chowder (which according to Bob Pandy was the "The best clam chowder that he ever tasted... even better than Jimmy Rooney's"). We have video to back this up. This year's yard sale was dedicated in memory of Mr. Donald Bauer from *Hook, Line and Sinker*. Donald and his mother were vendors at our yard sale for over 25 years and will be missed.

Mark your calendars! July 7th, 8th and 9th will be our Annual Rodeo. On Sunday, July 9th awards will be given out followed by a delicious barbeque, once again prepared by our World Famous Cook Crew as well as a Bake Off... So ladies, get your recipes out, your oven mitts on and start baking! Please do your best to attend and help out. This is a lot of work. Joe Steiner has already begun shopping and preparing a delicious menu for this event. Our 80th Anniversary patches are in production and will be available soon. I had the pleasure of

speaking with Mr. David Welsh, Past President from 1989 to 1990. who helped design the 50th Anniversary Patch. David is doing well and currently living in Sun City, Florida. He sends his regards and like all of our members who have moved away he misses the club dearly. If you would like to get in touch with any of our Members, please let me know (516) 725-8907 and I will do my best to put you back in touch. Finally, I am happy to announce that Don Morin is home from the Hospital and going strong. Help is needed with the House Committee so if you would like to join, please let me know. Upcoming in August, we will have our Annual Luau and Flotilla so start practicing for the limbo contest. Just a reminder the July GM will be on Sunday, July 9th at 4:00 pm, it will be combined with the Rodeo. Wishing you all a Safe Summer and Great Fishing.



Your President,

Kevin Killelea



June Fishing Summer and Fish Settle In...

Summer appears to have finally arrived and the July 4th weekend is behind us. Many will spend it boating and fishing and a lot of good opportunities present themselves. If you like bottom fishing, June was a good month to put together a full cooler with a tasty mixed bag consisting of fluke, ling, porgies, and finally seabass. The opening of the seabass season was long awaited as the population seems to be at an all-time high. The season opened on June 27th, with a 3 fish bag limit and 15" minimum size, subject to change so be aware. Seabass fishing is red hot so get them while you can.



Don Granger with a 5.2 lb Fluke

Charlie Goldstein with a 5.4 lb Fluke

Fluke are available just about everywhere, from the back bays to the inlet and outside on both open bottom and structure.

Earlier in the month, Don Granger had Charlie Goldstein aboard Don's *Splitshot* for some ocean fluking. They had a couple of fish over 5 pounds. Just yesterday, I did a quick trip and was able to catch a solo limit of fluke and seabass on small structure in the 60' depths, despite tough wind against tide conditions requiring the use of 12 oz sinkers.

The population of resident striped bass seems healthier this year, and fish and being clam chummed in the back bays and at the bridges. Outside, catches of generally larger striped bass continue primarily to the west both live lining bunker and on the troll. Several sharp charter boats seem to limit everyday on large fish up to nearly 50 lbs. Bob Bohlert sent a report on a trip he took with Paul Noto on Paul's *Rocketfish*. Fishing to the west, Bob landed a nice 34 lb 10 oz specimen on a live bunker. Bob returned to the same area the following evening, but the fish had moved on. I'm not that tuned in to the striped bass scene, but the fishing close to JI seems to be slower than we are accustomed to, that could change at any moment so be prepared.



Bob Bohlert with a 34 lb 10 oz Rocketfish Striper

The local offshore shark tournament season has passed, some nice fish were weighed in during the Point Lookout and Hudson Tournament. The Woodcleft was cancelled and we all wish Ritchie Rosenkranz a speedy recovery.



Captain Steve Rhodes with a 780 lb Mako

During the Star Island Tournament at Montauk a catch was made that bears mentioning. Captain Steve Rhodes and his boat the *Professional Cryer* are no stranger to big sharks. During the tournament they hooked, landed and brought a 780 Mako to the scales. Unfortunately, they could not make the weigh-in because the fish was hooked late. I have met and fished with Steve through Captain Jim Krug who provided the picture. Congratulations Captain Steve and crew for landing the fish of a lifetime.

Closer to home, Freeport Tuna Club members have been busy too. I received the following report: Captain Chris "Four Bells" Bellinzoni and Angler Al Casciano capturing the Lawrence J. Festa award for the Club's First Mako of the year. The 134 lb. fish was captured from 64 degrees water 41 miles south of Jones Inlet after three spectacular jumps. Wireman Steve Valenti and Bob Bohlert rounded out the *Four Bells* full Freeport Tuna Club crew. Those attending our Captain Anglers' Meeting on June 22nd enjoyed Mako-kabobs brought to the club by the Chris' crew the same day the fish was harvested. Congrats to Chris and crew, this is the second time the *Four Bells* has captured the award since the untimely passing of Captain Larry. On the trip home, the crew performed a good deed coming across and freeing a turtle tangled in a throw ring with a light attached. The throw ring and light were apparently from a research vessel out east, where they were washed overboard during rough seas. Stow your gear securely! Congrats to the *Four Bells* Capt. and crew, good job!



Chris Bellinzoni & Al Casciano with FTC "First Mako"

Our editor, Captain John Jutt ran his *Red Dawn Rising* to a productive area where they batted blue sharks all day. I joined him on another trip to the same area, along with Steve "Bassman" Bassford and John's brothers Tommy and Jimmy. It was a slow day with a couple of Makos checking us out but completely uninterested, weird. A small brown was released late in the day. We heard of a hammerhead taken nearby, the water is warming ...

On the tuna scene, some great catches of mixed YFT and BFT are being reported south of us, in the Baltimore Canyon vicinity. Closer to home, BFT have been getting the spotlight with small to medium fish reported from the Chicken Canyon/ Texas Tower area out to the Hudson Canyon.



Chris Bellinzoni and Bruce Forster with BFT

Another good report from Chris Bellinzoni: "Captain Bruce Forster's pushed his *Oh Reely* off 63 miles to the south west into 170' of water to find 68 degree water and pods of sand eels. With a good amount of bird life, whales and porpoises in the area Bruce and his crew with Chris "*Four Bells*" Bellinzoni getting some rare rod time, managed a 27lb BFT trolling a wide array of offers in the spread. Purple spreader bars were the ticket in a 3-5' wind swept chop."

A late report from Captain John Jutt of the *Red Dawn Rising* leaving at 1AM to catch early bight in the Texas Tower Area. Went on the troll at first light, a 70 with an 8oz Joe Chute and Ballyhoo on the center rigger starts screaming. After a long fight, angler Steve Bassford brings a large BFT to the boat that measured 60" and 109 lbs on the scale.

Your hard work and diligence pay off, congrats to Captain John and crew.



Capt. John with BFT, Red Dawn Style

Let's hope it gets even better, 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, 7M Emily S

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*

C: 917-750-8710 W: 516-299-2523 Email: capt.al@fishtaxiny.com

Trip Schedule

Hampton Lady • 6am-3pm Wednesday, August 2

\$100 (\$50 Deposit Required) tip included, limited to 30 (Full Moon - Aug. 7) Mixed Bag: Seabass, Porgy and Fluke.

Miss Montauk • 6am-4pm Friday, November 10

\$110 (\$50 Deposit Required) - limited to 35 (Full Moon-Nov 4). This will be a good trip. Mixed Bag: ½ Day Seabass and Porgy and ½ day Blackfishing.

Contact: F.T.C. Kenneth Donowski (Best after 3PM)
KenBase2006@1cloud.com or 917-231-5699

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2. Loop around standing part of line 5 or 6 times.

3. Thread tag end back between the eye and the coils as shown.

4. Pull up tight and trim tag end.



Derby, Awards & Contests Report

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



Congratulations to our Striped Bass Spring Derby Winners!!

We will be presenting the trophies at our GM/Rodeo/BBQ on Sunday July 9th and thanks to all for their participation.

- 1st Place: **Bill Burk** 43.80lbs F/V No Time
- 2nd Place: **Joann Schroeder** 37.31lbs F/V Starwatcher
- 3rd Place: **Bob Bohler** 34.63lbs F/V Rocketfish

No official weakfish slips are in for the spring derby, but thanks to Bob Sabella for making an effort and filling a empty slot on our bragging board. By the way, the board is really starting to fill up. Remember, only the largest of the species gets on this board and we do need a slip. However, a derby does not have to be open to weigh your catch to get on the board.

The Following Derby is Open:

FISH: Tuna & Mahi
SPRING DATES: June 24 – August 6th

The FLUKE, SHARK and BLUEFISH derbies ended on July 4th. If you holding any slips for these species, please be sure to send me the slips ASAP. Club rule state we must have the slips in our possession no later two weeks after the derby (July 18th).

Annual Awards Update –

The coveted “First Mako” was caught on Chris Bellinzi’s boat “Four Bells” with Al Casciano on the rod. The fish weighed in a very tasty 134 lbs. Congrats to the crew!!

I ask all members to please make an effort to fish the Rodeo this year and present your weigh slips to me at the property no later than 4:00 PM to qualify.

I will be at Thursday’s Captains & Anglers meeting on July 6th if you need slips, Fish-At-A-Glance cards, or have just want to talk all things piscatorial.

Best Fishes
 and
 Good Luck to all!
Ray Geiger



2017 Offshore Tournament Lineup
 BY MATT ERRETT
Good luck, be safe, and remember, CIRCLE HOOKS are required for shark tournaments!!!

- 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

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