

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

# TUNA TOWER NEWS

JULY 2018

[www.ftcfishing.com](http://www.ftcfishing.com)



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

**NEXT GM**

**SUNDAY, JULY 15  
@ THE RODEO  
ON THE PROPERTY**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP  
& CLEAN UP PLEASE CALL  
ADAM BOLLACI @ 516-322-0030  
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the Freeport Tuna Club, June was good month! The Club was cleaned up, and some nice fish have been caught.

The derby for stripers and weakfish went great. Mahi, Tuna and Seabass derbies started on June 23, catch them up and don't forget to get your weight slips in! July 4 - Bluefish, Fluke and Shark derbies end.

July 13,14, and 15 is the club's rodeo - come down for some food, fun and laughs.

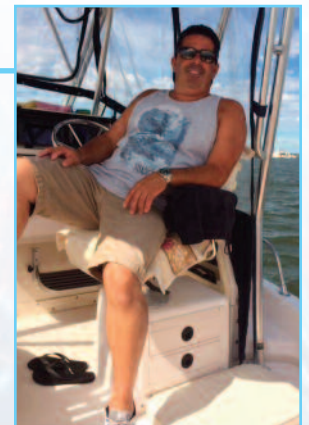
Once again the Board of Directors and the Club Committees are looking for members to participate behind the scenes. We are discussing new members participating in helping out with the Tuna Club Committees. We are looking for old and new members to step up and pitch in - it only benefits your club. Board meetings are on the calendar if you would like to see what it is all about. You are more than welcome to come and sit in on a meeting. You can contact me or one of the committee heads anytime.

I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for the June GM along with Bruce Foster who arranged a great speaker for the evening. Our cook crew always make great meals for club events. And a thank you to Jim Rooney and Richie Totton for covering the meeting.

Hope to see everyone on the water in July!

A happy 4th of July to all the members. See you at the rodeo.

Thank you, *Matthew Cardone*



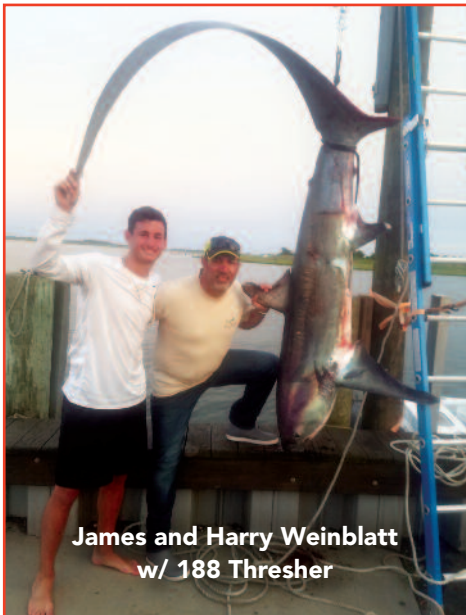
# Celebrate America

# DISAPPOINTING JUNE FOR MANY



Traditionally, June and October are great months for fishing. This June seemed disappointing overall. For most of the month, ocean temps were cooler than normal in the low to mid-sixties. Summer has arrived in force, with the current heat wave, I now see 70+ degree water. Looking back through past June reports I see catches impressive catches of shark, tuna, striped bass and ocean fluke. Let's see how this year stacks up.

With the new regulations on the beloved mako (83" fork length) angler participation is understandably down. Several notable releases to report however. Stephanie Bollaci fought and brought to boat side a very nice 73" mako while fishing with her dad Captain Adam and crew on *the Hooker*. Congrats and great job on the release.



James and Harry Weinblatt  
w/ 188 Thresher

Captain Harry Weinblatt and son James had a memorable trip during the Hudson Anglers' Tournament fishing on their Contender *the Blue Marlin*. They reported fishing southeast of the Lillian, tagging and releasing a "mombo" 200 lb. blue shark, a nice 150 lb. class mako, and another 100 lb. class mako. Good so far, but the highlight of the trip was 188 lb. thresher landed and weighed at Woodcleft. James was on the rod for all fish

(phew!). That's a great report, congrats. Threshers are available from just off the beach out to the usual hot spots. The shark tournament season on western Long Island has come and gone quietly for most.

Some boats have scored with bluefin, from medium up to giant sized. The action has been in the area of the Bacardi to the Texas Tower. I have a second hand report and pics of a 97 inch 440 pound fish. That boat is out fishing as I write this, we'll see if lightning can strike twice.

Captain John Jutt took a ride on the Minuteman corporate boat, a beautiful 64' Sculley. They took a long ride to Wilmington Canyon, and had good action with mixed yellowfin, then encountered some bluefin on the way home. They were able to land one, and lost a nice one. On another trip, Captain John ran his *Red Dawn Rising* searching for large bluefin, they saw lots of life but didn't connect. For every nice fish being landed, many crews are striking out, with a lot of effort and fuel exerted in the process. Such is fishing ... Long Island canyons still quiet.

Striped bass seemed to have cooled off a bit. Traditionally the fish continue past us working their way east. Sometimes they hang around a little longer, sometimes not. This past week, I heard of a very impressive catch to the west of large bass caught on the troll on the mojos. Plenty of bunker around, we'll see if our local action perks up again but with this heat, it might be

over. Schoolies are still available at the bridges on clam chum.

Then we have fluke. The focus remains primarily in the bay with Reynolds Channel getting most of the attention. The inlets should not be overlooked either. Bryon King did just that and reported a fine 9.1 lb. fluke taken in Jones Inlet. That's the largest I'm aware of in the club so far this season, congrats on a nice fish.



Bryon King with a 9.1  
lb. Jones Inlet Fluke

The cooler than normal ocean may have delayed the ocean fluking by a couple of weeks. I actually put in a good effort last week, searching outside in various areas for some fluke action. We did not see a fluke that day, and I did not see a fluke landed by anyone fishing near us. That may be a first for me, a complete skunk on ocean fluke.

Some seabass did bend the rods that day. Local ocean fluking had been slow, but it is now starting to show signs of improvement. I've talked to several club boats out on the grounds with 3-4 keepers onboard so it seems to be improving. Bob Benzenberg clued me in to a great achievement, and I must say congratulation to Joe DiSalvo who took the Combs Duke of Fluke Calcutta which an incredible three fish weight of 21.83 lbs.! I don't know where he was fishing but must say Wow.....

The NYDEC finally cleaned up their web site and "finalized" the seabass regulations. Right now, it reads 3 fish, greater than 15" June 23rd to August 31st increasing to 7 fish, September 1st to December 31st. After the fluke skunk - a rod bending trip was in order so I focused on seabass. I fished two days in a row and suffice to say seabass are super abundant on the local reefs and structure. With the 15" minimum size, the keeper ratio isn't great, but the number of fish is unreal, double headers more common than singles and limits are relatively easy to achieve. Some really nice fish are available, and I had one that I'd guess was 4.75 - 5 lbs. When huge numbers of smaller fish are under the boat, and appear stacked on your bottom machine, try reeling your rig off the bottom 2-3 turns. The larger fish sometimes suspend, and this trick can increase your average size. Try it and see ...

That's a wrap for now, other than some nice shark catches and a couple of big tuna, a relatively quiet month as we settle into summer. Pictures are worth a thousand words. Please share your results with our membership. Please send reports and pictures for inclusion in your club bulletin. Thanks to all who contribute.

Email your reports to [philton@optonline.net](mailto:philton@optonline.net)  
or text/call me at 516.721.8907

Sincerely, *Paul Hilton* FV Emily S

## SAVE THE DATES

**SHOOTOUT** The Freeport Tuna Club has it's second shootout of the year on July 13, 14 and 15. The target will be fluke. Let's keep the tide rolling with another big win. Once again the three heaviest fish from each club will determine the winner. We will be fishing against the Martinecock Rod and Gun Club and Atlantis Anglers. Members can take pictures of their weight slips or call their fish weights to my cell phone at 516 721 8207. Good luck and Happy Fourth of July to all.

*John Rooney*

## ENTERTAINMENT

The May meeting at the property was a terrific night with the Thursday Night Crew and our speaker, Christopher Laporta educating us about our local reefs. Please check the Facebook page for updated reef data. July is our Rodeo and August our Luau, both events are at the property. September and October will be speakers yet to be booked. If any member has suggestions for speakers, please contact me at bforster@stuartberger.com.

Regards, *Bruce C. Forster* (212) 925-7405 - (516) 887-8953

## 2018 TOURNAMENT LINEUP

**JB Tackle Tri-State Canyon Shootout** July 29–August 2  
**Star Island Mako, Thresher, Tuna Mania Tournament** August 3–4  
**46th Annual White Marlin Open** Ocean City Maryland August 6-10  
**South Jersey Annual Mid Atlantic** August 20–24

Good luck, be safe, and remember, **CIRCLE HOOKS** are required for shark tournaments, and we now have an 83" min. fork length size on Mako!!!

## CHARTER & PARTYBOAT TRIPS

### HAMPTON LADY - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1 - 6am-3pm

\$105 a man... \$50 deposit required to hold spot, tip included... limited to 30pp we will be seabassing, porgy and fluking... mixed bag!

### PRIMETIME 3 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 - FULL DAY

Orient Point blackfish and seabass. This trip will be a lot better than the club's last trip!! Mike assured me on this! \$50 deposit required to hold your spot \$140pp, pool and tip included!

### MISS MONTAUK - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6am-4pm

\$110 a man... \$50 deposit required to hold spot. Limited to 35 ppl. Last year's trip was super - lock and load fishing. We had seabass to 5 lbs, blackfish to 12 lbs, codfish to 10 lbs, and porgys in the mix.

*Kenneth Donowski*

kenbase2006@1cloud.com | 917-231-5699 best after 3pm



## DERBIES, AWARDS & CONTESTS

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

### Congratulations To Our Striped Bass Spring Derby Winners!!

We will be presenting the trophies at our GM/Rodeo/BBQ on Sunday, July 15th and thanks to all for their participation.

**1st Place: GarySidoti** 43.75 lbs. F/V Bronco II  
**2nd Place: GarySidoti** 41.75 lbs. F/V Bronco II  
**3rd Place: Chris King** 24.00 lbs. F/V Kingfisher

No official derby weakfish slips were submitted once again for the spring derby, but kudos to Ken Donowski for filling the spot on our board with a healthy 5.40 lb specimen. 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, so get out and fish!!

The FLUKE, SHARK and BLUEFISH derbies end on July 4. If you're holding slips for these species, please be sure to send them to me ASAP. Club rules state we must have the slips in our possession no later 2 weeks after the derby closes (July 18).

### The Following Derbies Are Open This Month

**TUNA (20 LBS.)** June 23rd - August 5th  
**MAHI (4 LBS.)** June 23rd - August 5th

### RODEO NEWS –

*I would like to add that we will be presenting awards for Black Seabass at the Rodeo thanks to the NYS DEC finally getting the regs in place.* I actually fished last weekend (courtesy of Ed Faza) and can attest they are out there in numbers.

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

See you at the Rodeo!!

Best Fishes and Good Luck to all !!

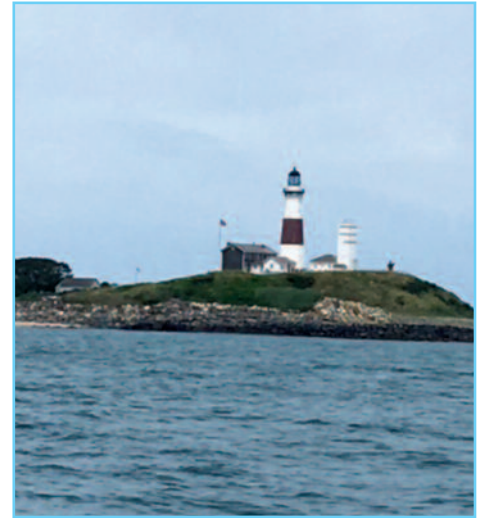
*Ray Geiger*





# STRIPER DIARIES | EPISODE 5

Montauk - the MECCA. It's what people dream about when they think of Striped Bass fishing. As I flipped through the calendar, I decided to plan my next fishing trip around June's full moon. A couple of phone calls later to Gone Fishing Marina, and I was set. I will trailer the boat, sleep only when necessary and fish for (4) four days straight. But, when word spread of my upcoming trip, I soon became a party of (8) eight, rather than (2) two. Break out the credit cards we are going to need hotel rooms!



Trailing a boat to Montauk to find fish is always a good idea. Only detail I forgot, was that I don't own a trailer. Thanks to a fellow tuna club member, that little detail was ironed out. After 16 new bolts, tire repairs and bearing buddies we were set to hit the road. Gone Fishing Marina is a full-service top notch place. Once we arrived, Donna was more than accommodating. We launched the boat and got our gear ready. We would be back at first light.

Since I had little experience fishing Montauk - except for my dozen or so surfcasting trips a/k/a standing on a rock all night (that's a story for another time), I decided to purchase a nautical chart. I am sure my Garmin would have been just fine, but before motoring out in a new location, I always like to review a paper chart. As daylight broke, we headed past Gin Beach, Split Rock, the North and False Bar. We were warned that the currents round the "north rips" and the lighthouse could be dangerous during full moons, especially at night. We looked around for birds and bait, but to our surprise things were calm. Not much happening. So we implemented Plan B - Fluke fishing. After several drifts around the "Elbow," we had two keepers in the box. That's a win in my book. As the crew was getting tired, we decided to head in. It's cocktail time. Dinner and bed and repeat for tomorrow.

We awoke the next day with beautiful sunshine and light winds. Only thing is we could not find any striped bass. Not even a report of bass. How could this be? We were in Montauk! After frustration set in, we decided to fish Shagwong Reef. The calm water of the Long Island Sound was refreshing. Each time we dropped the rod down, I heard my mom yell "I got another." Although we couldn't find any striped bass, as I looked around, with my sister-in-law sunbathing on the bow and my brother casting Mag Darters and Buck-tails into cocktail blues, I realized that sometimes fishing is less about catching and more about family and the memories we make. This was definitely one of those times.

Until next time, Tight lines.

*Capt. Barbara Solomon*  
F/V Legal Limits



## PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The final payment for the summer slips is now over due. If you have not sent in your check, please do so as soon as possible! If you have a question about your invoice please contact me. The charge for any vessel left on the property after May 31 is \$5/day. The property committee is limiting on-land boat storage in the summer and is not accepting additional boats on trailers for summer on-land storage. Only "grandfathered" boats on trailers will be allowed on the property for the full summer.

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 a slip 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, work phone and email address are below:

*Capt. Alan Evelyn*

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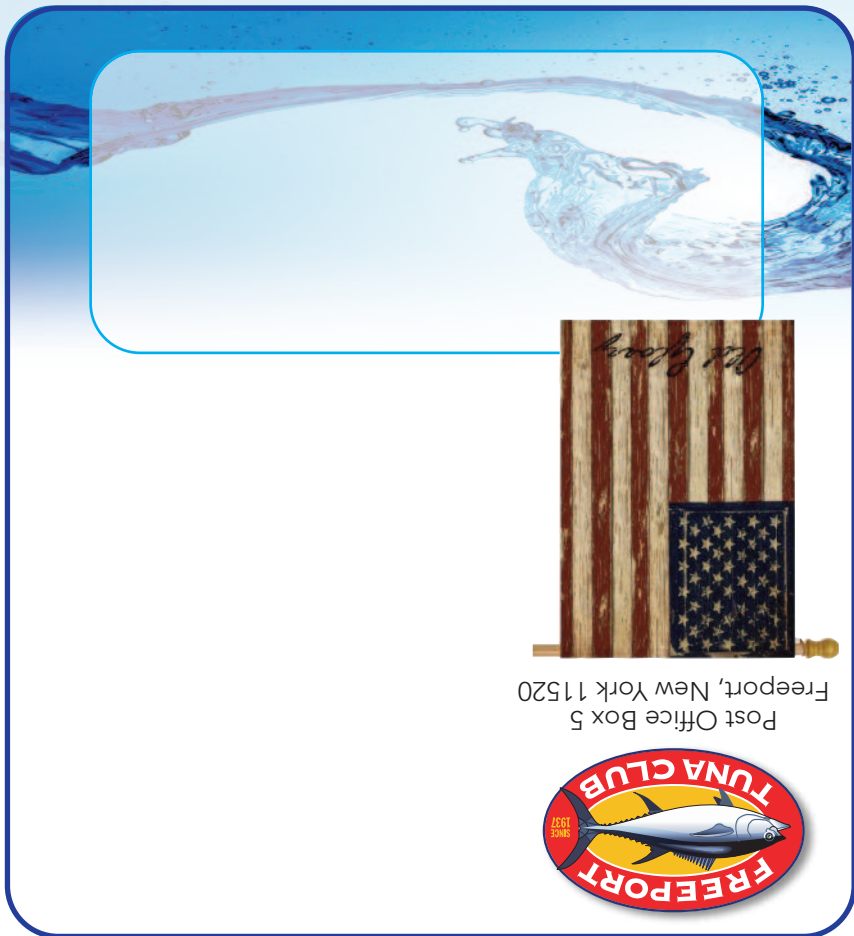
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**NOTICE TO ALL**

The Village of Freeport will be replacing the old storm drain which runs along the north end of our property they will be taking down the fence on the north end of the property and digging from the street to the water. The trailers will be moved to allow access to that end of the property. Until we know the extent and time frame of the work do not park near the north end of the property. The ice machine is working great, but just a reminder to all, it's one bucket of ice per trip.

*PS whoever borrowed the tuna club bucket by the ice machine please return it to the machine, it says FTC on it.*

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July 13-15

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