

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

# Tuna Tower News

OCTOBER 2016

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

EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan



**NEXT GM**

**Thursday,  
October 13, 2016  
at 7 pm  
Freeport Yacht Club**

**We proudly present Greg Metzger, Science Teacher & Shark Researcher.**

## President's Message

I'm confused... to those who know me, that's nothing new. Let me explain, for years I've maintained that we should be having our meetings at the yacht club... well, now we're at the yacht club and our attendance numbers are no better than before. Then I hear we don't have speakers, we have had a speaker for every meeting held inside for the past couple of years thanks to Tim Sherman. Last, but not least, is the complaint that the food could be better. Well at the last meeting we tried a new caterer. There was enough food for 70-75 people, at the end of the meeting I couldn't find a crumb left. The 54 attendees ate very, very well for only \$10. Yes, the food was good, and it will be good again this coming meeting. However, economics 101 needs to be applied to this situation. We can't keep losing money on the meetings. That being said, starting at the October GM, we are raising the admission to \$15 at the door. This should at least get us closer to covering expenses. Let's face it, where else can you go for food and unlimited beer or soda for \$15? To all those who have a better idea, please volunteer for the house committee, we would be happy for the help and input.

This month we have a fantastic speaker, Greg Metzger, who is both a science teacher and shark researcher. His bio speaks to his accomplishments.



A big thank you to Gene Schettini for organizing and running our first time ever new member get together at the club. There were about 20 new members who attended in a effort to get their feelings about how we retain our new members. The meeting was informal, with pizza, beer and soda. Many good suggestions were made and we will certainly follow up.

Let's get those Raffle tickets sold and returned (the prize is a Liberty Travel vacation!). If you need more, see Jim Rooney or John Daum at one of our many club events!

In closing, one last plea, we ask all to get involved with our committees. Please feel free to sit in on a Board Meeting - held every third Wednesday of the month at our beautiful club property.

You get out of your club what you contribute! *The Pres.*



# Fishing Report

## Fall Fishing is about to Commence

It seems like we got robbed at the end of September and very early October as a large stationary front has brought unrelenting NE winds for what seems like two weeks. Early in the month we had a good blow too, losing a few days due to weather. Looking ahead at the marine forecast I see another few days or variable NE winds, more grey skies, and an ocean that might convince many to stay home and do the fall chores. When the weather does break the fall run will be in full swing and we can add blackfish to the available species list on October 5th.

Despite a good blow early in September the fluking held up right until the end. On the closing day of the Fluke season I took one more shot. Coming up empty with crew I sailed solo and fished several wrecks just inside the twenty fathom curve. When I arrived the drift was too fast so I anchored up. Fishing a high lo rig with clam I quickly caught a limit of seabass along with mixed porgies including some real jumbos. Fluke were my primary target so while at anchor I decided to toss my bucktail rig around the boat. This technique can work well when conditions are tough, especially in deep water. I picked away at fluke, landing a decent 4.5 pound keeper right under the nose of a shameless mucker who thought my *Emily S* was his marker buoy. Have a little respect out there and keep your distance. Better yet, find another wreck...



The wind and current eased up and I went on the drift taking a couple more keeper fluke. Drifting two more wrecks I completed my fluke limit making for a nice mixed bag and a great way to wrap up the fluke season. Nick Nero prospected some new fluke grounds finding a few with one nice keeper. You never know until you try. The only other first-hand fluke report for September comes from Bryon King of the *Kingfisher* running out of Shinnecock. Just before the blow, he reported a "very good fluke bite, on the Reef in 85' of water, and a couple more in 90 as well." The highlight of the trip was what he thought was the granddaddy of all fluke that turned out to be a small thresher, estimated at 25 lbs. The fish was safely released.

On to seabass. I want to clarify that the seabass regulations are more complicated than I reported last month. The possession limit increased to 8 fish on September 1 and will increase again on November 1 to 10

fish per person. **However, in Federal Waters (beyond 3 miles out) Seabass are closed from September 22 through October 21.** A nautical chart or your plotter should indicate where the three mile line exists. A quick glance shows that the Rockaway and



**Arnold, Woody, and Leo on the Reel Catch II**

Fire Island Reefs are completely in-state waters (inside of 3 miles). The Hempstead is completely outside of three miles, and the troublesome Atlantic Beach Reef has portions of the NE edge in state waters but the majority lies in federal waters. Be advised...

Seabass fishing improved in September from a quality standpoint with some notable catches reported. Ken Kapner ran his *Reel Catch II* "twenty miles out" with a crew of

Woody Anderson, Arnold Fleisher, and Leo Ferrity. They had a great day putting 24 seabass and 60 porgies in the box. *(continues on next page)*



# Fishing Report *(continued from previous page)*



*Maryellen Zullo with some nice  
Magic Too Seabass*

Mike and Maryellen Zullo ran their *Magic Too* to the seabass grounds. They reported very good fishing with 5 over 4 pounds and 10 over three pounds. While we are talking bottom fishing note that BLACKFISH will be open Oct. 5 through Dec. 14 with a 16" minimum size limit and 4 fish bag limit.

We've all heard the term clam up. Now it's time to crab up ....

In other inshore news the weakfish have put in good appearances just about all over Long Island and Porgies have filled in nicely while we wait for the offshore seabass to reopen. Striped bass are being clam chummed at the bridges and bottom fishermen are picking a few outside too. The ocean is loaded with bunker so hopefully we will enjoy a banner fall run.

Offshore reports seem like a distant memory. A lackluster season put on hold of late due to the weather. When the weather settles down I'm sure the chunking game will be on in full force. Fall sharking is a good option, a few threshers have crept into the west end reports mostly from the Debs Inlet crews. There are tons of mixed sized bunker and chub mackerel in the ocean. Remember, big fish eat little fish ...

**There's nothing like first hand reports, please consider sharing your fishing tales and pictures with our membership by sending them in. Thanks in advance !**

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

The bulletin committee is working to improve the picture resolution in the printed and online Tuna Tower News. It starts with the quality of your photos. Send at full size when possible.

Sincerely, *Paul Hilton MN Emily S*

## Good and Welfare

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Alan Evelyn and family on the untimely passing of his brother.

Please keep the Mazilli Family in your prayers as their daughter Kathy's ongoing battle with cancer. Tough young woman, tough disease.

Sy Karp is home recuperating from his surgery, let's keep him in our prayers and thoughts also.

Jeff Squeri 516-652-5981



## Raffles

Thinking of going away? A vacation may be in order! Or maybe you want to surprise your sweetheart next Valentine's Day with a getaway vacation...

Well, here's your chance to do just that. Our annual raffles are on sale. Please see Jim Rooney or John Daum at our GMs or at our Thursday Night Captain Angler's. Buy a chance to win a Liberty Travel Vacation Gift Certificate.

Hey, you never know... you gotta be in it to win it!

## OUR GUEST SPEAKER GREG METZGER

Greg has been teaching marine science and aquaculture at Southampton High School since September 2001. In his 14 years, he had the opportunity to design and build one of the most state-of-the-art marine labs found in a publicly funded high school in the country. His program educates hundreds of individuals of all ages each year in the area of marine science and the industry of aquaculture.

Metzger's knowledge base and personality communicate his own enthusiasm to others and it is contagious. To some, the science appeals; to others, it is the hands on "let's touch a shark!" What Metzger's doing offers many levels of engagement across all ages and demographics.

Most recently, Metzger and a group of fellow researchers formed the Long Island Shark Collaboration (LISC). This team has set out to better understand the population dynamics of all large coastal sharks found along the south shore of Long Island. In addition, LISC hopes to begin to unlock the mysteries of the young of the year white sharks found in these local waters.

Metzger is an adjunct professor of aquaculture at Stony Brook University. He also has held a Master Near Coastal U.S. Coast Guard license since 2005 and runs a successful charter business. His charter service focuses on teaching clients the biology and research behind the shark species being targeted rather than the harvesting of the animals. His clients get to participate in the real science being conducted on sharks in the ocean waters of Long Island. He has also delivered public lectures and conducted workshops educating citizens on the basic biology of sharks and the scientific methods used by shark biologists to gather data.



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## Property Manager's Report

The stars and planets are aligned and there is joy in the hearts of all! The repairs on "Big John" Funicello's boat have been completed and after a 15 month hiatus his vessel is now docked at the FTC Marina. But wait there is more good news! Pete Cefai has completed the installation of new outboard engines on his 30ft Proline "Off the Hook" and it is now docked at the FTC Marina in slip number one. Welcome back John and Pete!

The winter storage season begins on November 1st.. My plan is for the leases to be mailed and received prior to the October meeting. I will be mailing winter leases to all captains that stored with the club last winter and to those that have contacted me. If you do not receive a winter lease by October 13th just email or text me (see above) your mailing address and the length of your vessel and I will send you a lease. The rates are the same as last year: \$14 per foot for members and \$17 per foot for non-members. For non-members there is a \$340 minimum fee (20 feet).

If you have questions or concerns about the club property you can see me at the GM or Captain and Anglers. You can always contact me either by email or phone.

*Capt. Alan Evelyn*

Cell: 917-750-8710 | Work: 516-299-2523 | Email: capt.al@fishtaxiny.com

## Winter Storage

We will again be using Travelers' Boat Yard (Chris Squeri) to haul and place boats on the property for winter storage. Other haulers can be used just have them call Chris for placement. Please don't just drop it off at your convenience wherever you want.

Winter storage rates are the same as last year: \$14 dollars per foot for members, \$17 dollars per foot for non members with a \$340 dollar minimum.

## OCTOBER 2016 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

*Awards Chairman: Ray Geiger  
Committee: Bob Benzenberg,  
Harry Sbaschnig and Bill Morrrough*

**If any members are holding weigh slips for Fluke, Weakfish, Mahi, False Albacore or Green Bonito. Please get them to me ASAP.**

**FTC rules state that the derby weigh slips MUST be presented within two (2) weeks of the derby close.**

Please be sure to hand in/mail any weigh slips you are holding. We physically must have the slip in hand. Myself or a member of our team are usually present at all club functions.

**THE FLUKE DERBY CLOSED ON 9/18**

**THE 2ND WEAKFISH & TUNA DERBIES CLOSED ON 9/25**

**THE 2ND MAHI, FALSE ALBACORE AND GREEN BONITO DERBIES CLOSED ON 10/2**

**All of these derbies will be awarded at the November GM.**

If you are holding weigh slips that may be eligible for an annual award, NOW is the time to send them to the committee! Please do not wait to last minute. You fished hard this year, so I hope you will be recognized.

## REMAINING DERBIES FOR 2016

**GREEN BONITO 8/20-10/2 • FLUKE 8/20-9/18**

**SEA BASS 9/3-10/9 • COD 10/1-12/11**

**BLUEFISH 9/17-11/27 • FLUKE 8/20- 9/18**

**STRIPED BASS 10/8-11/27 • BLACKFISH 10/15-11/27**

**Good luck to all and Get Out and Fish!**

*Ray Geiger, Chairman*

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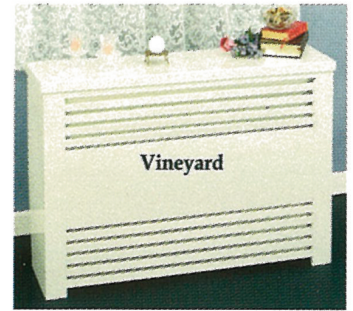
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# NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS WILL BE ENTERTAINED FROM THE FLOOR AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING. THE NAMES OF THE CANDIDATES MUST BE PROPOSED BY A VOTING MEMBER AND SECONDED BY TEN VOTING MEMBERS AND PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY IN WRITING AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

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