

TUNA TOWER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2017
www.ftcfishing.com

EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.
Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton
Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan



NEXT GM
Thursday,
November 9 @ 7 pm
Freeport Yacht Club
*Get in on our Annual
Turkey Raffle!!*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Now that we are in the month November, the first thing that comes to mind as I sit in front of the fireplace with my dog by my side is Thanksgiving. Not just the turkey and the food associated with it or the Black Friday shopping that occurs before the turkey has a chance to get out of the oven. I reflect on the many things that I have to be grateful for. Mainly my parents for the sacrifices they made for me and my brother. Educating us, taking us on nice vacations, teaching us right from wrong and to treat people with respect. I am thankful for the opportunity to be your President and to meet and work with our great members. I would like to thank all of our members that purchased tables and attended our first ever Fall Flea Market that raised \$620 for the Club. I would like to thank Mr. Jules Muscat our 205th member who signed up at the Fall Flea Market. Jules likes to be called number or agent 205 and recommends playing that number. I would also like to thank Bob Sabella for his continued service to the Club. Please don't forget to thank Bob when you see him. I ran into Bob down at the Property when I asked him what he was doing he told me he was repairing the sink so that we could have Captain Anglers. Bob also repaired the door on the ice maker which someone broke. I am asking all our members to be respectful of the club's property and your fellow boaters. That's why I am looking into having cameras installed on the property. The club has had to lay out several thousand dollars to fix things around the property due to carelessness. Now onto fishing... the October weather has made it difficult for our members to get out there. However there is a lot of good fishing out there, you just have to pick your day to be able to get out. Adam Bollaci and Rick Totten caught a 68" mako, the following week Adam's Dad and Rick Totten

caught 27lb and 33lb striped bass on *Mojos* just south of the inlet. I see someone paid attention to our last GM speaker Captain Anthony. In the Kismet Inn Tournament Chris Bellinzoni, his son Christopher, Steve Valenti, and Al Casciano had 2 striped bass in the Top 10. Chris Bellinzoni's son Christopher took 2nd Place with a 33lb 4oz striped bass while his father caught a 23 lb 4oz. Steve Valenti and Al Casciano help bring them on the aboard the *Four Bells*. This is not the first time that Chris and his crew of FTC Members have fished the Kismet Inn Tournament. They have fished it for 11 consecutive years and have placed twice in the tournament. Congratulations to all of our FTC members and thanks for representing the Club. Upcoming fishing trip on Friday, November 10, aboard the *Miss Montauk*, there will be a mixed bag 1/2 day sea bass and porgi followed by a half day of blackfish, for more information please contact Ken Donowski. On Saturday, November 11 at 0900 The Freeport Tuna Club will be having it's first ever Veterans' Day Flag Raising Ceremony followed by breakfast. If you know anyone who is a veteran please invite them to come down. Our next GM will be on Thursday, November 9, at the Freeport Yacht Club starting at 7PM. This will be our Annual Turkey Raffle. So I will leave you with this as we all sit around the table on Thanksgiving remember to give thanks for our family, food, our 80 year old club and good health. From My Family to All of Yours. Happy Thanksgiving.



Sincerely Yours, *Kevin Killelea*



Kick Some Bass While You Can

As I write this, wind is from the west at 33 knots, gusting to 48 and wave heights at the Fire Island buoy are reported at 16 feet. That's beyond "sporty." Just prior to this blow west end striped bass fishing was coming on, as the fish migrate west and south along the coast.

Here's a great report from Chris Bellinzoni and Team *Four Bells* who participated in the 23rd Annual Kismet Inn Striped Bass Tournament with an all Freeport Tuna Club crew of Al Casciano, Steve Valenti, Christopher and Chris Bellinzoni. Team Four Bells took Second Place with a 33.04 Pounder with Christopher on the rod. That fish was caught on a live bunker fishing on the edge of the bunker schools just east of the Fire Island Pines. Just moments before, "Sr" fed and landed a feisty 23 pounder, which made the top ten as well. Nice job, Congrats to All !

The best is just about upon us as fish are being reported via live lining, chunking, eeling, clam bellying, plugging and on the troll. Trollers are using bunker spoons, mojo rigs, and stretch plugs with great success. The action has now spread from east of Fire Island all the way west.



Tommy Jutt with *Red Dawn Rising Bass*

Captain John Jutt has been eager to get in on

the action, looking for that "50" having trolled up a couple of nice 45 plus pounders (just shy the 50 mark) the year before. Recently, John worked the waters west of Jones, and out to 50' recently and reported tons of bait. With his brothers Tommy & Jimmy and Steve Bassford onboard, they trolled a combination of bunker spoons, mojos and stretch plugs and landed several bass up to 30 lbs. They did their best fishing away from the huge pods of bait.

Stripers have been reported all the way out to 60' of water, which, depending on where you are along our shore, can put you beyond 3 miles off and into federal waters. It is illegal to possess striped bass in federal waters, regardless of where they are caught. I have been approached and boarded three times in the past two years while anchored in federal waters bottom fishing. All they care about is whether or not you have striped bass onboard (and seabass too, when that is closed in federal waters), a word to the wise should suffice.

Bottom fishing opportunities abound. Seabass have once again opened in these federal waters and fishing is good right on out to the 30 fathom wrecks, particularly to the east. It's early for the fish to be that deep, but with the huge population of seabass we are now experiencing it seems they are being forced to spread out and move early, despite un-

usually warm water. Inshore, porgy fishing stayed red hot with a nice sprinkling of triggers in the mix.

Blackfishing for most is reported as so-so with keepers sometimes hard to find. Some very large fish have been reported working the shallower structure like the Rockaway, McAllister and AB reefs. I made several trips fishing the north shore, near the bridges, along the beach, and on out to wrecks in 65'. I have caught fish both shallow and deep, with enough keepers and many shorts. This fishing will improve as the water cools down. I am happy to report that my new tog jigging outfit has been put to good use. Jigging works well, is tons of fun, and I was holding bottom in 65' of water with a 2 oz jig using 15 lb braided line recently. To be continued...

Due to a combination of nasty weather, and a lack of fish, reports from the offshore grounds are scarce. A mako or thresher is reported here and there, but angler participation seems down as many focus on striped bass. 2017 may well be remembered as the worst canyon tuna season in memory off of Long Island.

I hope everybody enjoys the great fall fishing not to mention the holidays that lie ahead. Please send reports and pictures for inclusion in your club bulletin. Thanks to all who contribute, but we need more of you!

Email your reports to philton@optonline.net; or text/call me at 516.721.8907

Sincerely, *Paul Hilton TV Emily S*



Team *Four Bells* Kismet Tourney
2nd Place

Veterans' Day Flag Raising Ceremony

**Saturday, November 11th at 9 a.m.
Followed by breakfast**

**If you know anyone who is a veteran
please invite them to come down**



Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

At our General Meeting Location
Cure of Ars Auditorium, Merrick, New York

Great Raffle Prizes... Buffet Diner

Santa will make his yearly appearance

(Please print child's name on gift and \$25.00 Limit)

Looking For Volunteers and Donations
Call Kevin Killelea @ (516) 725-8907



Please also wrap an empty box to Decorate around Santa's seat
Let's participate in the Annual Holiday Bakeoff as prizes will be awarded
Please attend this Special Club event with your Family...
and gentleman please show this to the ladies.

Property Manager's Report

The winter storage season began November 1st. The leases and invoices have been mailed and you should have received the mailing prior to the October meeting. I mailed winter leases to all captains that stored with the club last winter and to those that have contacted me. If you have not received a winter lease by October 12th just email or text me your mailing address and the length of your vessel and I will send you a lease. I will also have leases available at the October GM. This year the rates are: \$14 per foot for members and \$18 per foot for non-members. For non-members there is a \$360 minimum fee (20 feet). **Remember that FTC policy is "First check received, is first served".**

Again this year, we have made arrangements with Atlantic Yacht Haven for placement of all boats on the property. Using professionals will allow the club to maximize the number of vessels stored on the property. *You can use any hauler that you choose* but they must call Chris Squeri or Alan Bregman at Atlantic Yacht Haven in order to find where your boat should be placed on a property. This includes all trailer boats. **All boats should be identified with the captain's/leaseholder's name on the trailer, shrink-wrap, or other visible location.** Chris and Alan at Atlantic Yacht Haven will be in charge of placements of all boats on FTC property for winter storage. Please call 516-377-7720 or 516-523-3444 to find where your boat will be located on the property.

Captains interested in having access to their vessels may obtain a "clicker" to open the gate at the FTC Property. A \$40 deposit is required. You will receive your deposit back when the clicker is returned. Text, email, call, or see me at the November GM if you wish to obtain a clicker.

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

Capt. Alan Evelyn

C: 917-750-8710 | W: 516-299-2523 | alan4ftc@gmail.com



**NOVEMBER GM
TURKEY RAFFLE!
YOU GOTTA BE IN IT
TO WIN IT!**

*On behalf of the Board of Directors and the
Editorial Staff we'd like to wish all the
general membership and their families a
Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!*

DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: *Ray Geiger*

Committee Team: *Bob Benzenberg, Harry Skaschnig and Bill Morrogh*

If any members are holding weigh slips please get them to me ASAP. Note that the FTC rules state that all derby weigh slips MUST be presented within two (2) weeks of the derby close.

Please do not wait to last minute. You fished hard this year, so I hope you will be recognized for your efforts. Remember all slips count towards our year end awards.

We physically must have the slip in hand. Myself or a member of our committee are usually present at all club functions.

Congratulations to our winners and all participants !!!

BLACK SEA BASS

1st Place: **Mary Ellen Zullo 3.50 lbs F/V Magic Too**

2nd Place: **Mike Zullo 3.0 lbs F/V Magic Too**

FLUKE

1st Place: **John Koenig 10.25 lbs F/V Missing**

2nd Place: **Allan Zaretsky 5.75 lbs F/V Splitshot**

3rd Place: **Rich Olejnik 5.44 lbs F/V Tuna Tango**

THE REMAINING DERBIES FOR 2017

Shark 9/16 - 11/26 | Bluefish 9/16 - 11/26

Cod 9/30 - 12/10 | Striped Bass 10/7 - 11/26 | Blackfish 10/14 - 11/26

Good Luck To All and Get Out and Fish!! Best Fishes, *Ray Geiger*

WANTED

THE FREEPORT TUNA CLUB IS LOOKING FOR...

Members with or access to a Bucket truck, Trencher, and Labor to help with the installation of a Security System down at the Marina. Please contact Kevin at (516) 725-8907.

Volunteers to help set up, serve food, and clean up after the G.M.s over at the Yacht Club. Please see or call the President (516) 725-8907.

Volunteers are also needed to Clean up after Captain Anglers on Thursday Nights at Captain Anglers Please see the President.

Volunteers are also needed to power wash and seal the decks and docks down at the Marina. Please see Bob Sabella.

Tim Sherman and I are looking for some Volunteers to have a discussion on Circle Hooks vs J Hooks one Thursday Night down at the Property. Please see us if you're interested.

Mark Your Calendar

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 Sea bass 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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