

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME TWELVE • DECEMBER 2015
Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com



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

NEXT GM

Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 7:30pm

Cure Of Ars Auditorium

Merrick Avenue • Merrick

(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

Happy Holidays to you and your families!

President's Message

Dear Members --

It truly has been my honor and privilege to serve as your President this year. It has been a quintessential labor of love. My thanks and gratitude go out to my Executive Board, Board members past and present, our committee chairmen and to all our club members for their efforts, skills and sacrificing their time on behalf our club. You all have made a profound impact on me both personally and professionally since I joined the FTC in 2008. You have made my term at your helm one that time will never erase.

I especially wish to thank former President Bill Toohey (he of the Florida FTC chapter) for recommending me for the BOD position that opened when Chris Bellinzoni graciously resigned in 2012. Your sage words of advice came in handy during my term and I am grateful.

I also would be remiss if I did not mention our departing membership chairman, Bob McVey. Bob applied his business skills to run not only a great committee (thanks to all!), but provided needed documentation and accurate analysis to boot.

Lastly, I wish to thank my friend and mentor, Bob Benzenberg. Bob enjoys himself and takes matters very seriously, especially if he has a fluke on the hook or game in

his sights. I have nothing but praise for his demeanor, both on land and sea. He simply revels in the outdoors and has shown himself to be a consummate sportsman. To be a true sportsman one has to excel in many areas. Being a teacher, guide and friend; honest and fair, I feel he truly fits the bill. Being able to share our time together, both at sea and afield has been a life lesson that I hope to share with others. I thank you sir, well done.



I urge you all to attend our Holiday Party at the Curé of Ars Church on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00pm. This will be our last general meeting for 2015 and is a great one for the entire family. So please come on down and share some holiday spirit.

On behalf of myself and my family, I wish you all a very happy and healthy season and hope to see (those who aren't snowbirds!) in the coming New Year.

Best Fishes and Holiday Wishes ...

~ Ray Geiger

Fishing Report

It's Getting Late, Early

The late Yogi Berra coined the phrase "it's getting late, early". While he applied it to baseball it definitely applies throughout a day fishing and to the fishing season overall. When the season starts, we all have high hopes and expectations, plan to fish more, fish different and more fertile waters, try new techniques, etc. Before you know it, Thanksgiving arrives, the Holidays are here, the end of season (for most!) is upon us and the marinas are filled with shrink wrapped boats. You had better fish fast, it's getting late early



Humpback on Bunker 35' of Water

Some of the best action was saved for last. On the west end we've been fortunate to experience a steady parade of bait, bass, and blues moving along our beaches. The fish have been on herring, bunker, and sand eels depending on when and where you run into them. Big blues were dependable along the entire South Shore and saved many a day for those searching out bass. The bass came too, mostly smaller fish

but with pods of better fish mixed in and some cows taken on live bait and the troll. I targeted the jiggging game two consecutive days just prior to Thanksgiving. Fishing solo on the Tuesday prior was a bonanza with large blues and mixed bass just west of the JI. I finished the morning on some bottom drops catching mixed sized blackfish and one nice 8 lb. cod on a local reef. That Wednesday, Capt. John Jutt joined me for some more jiggging. Naturally the fish were not where I left them. Working west and studying the birds, and in particular diving gannets we located a pile of fish. Not a bluefish to be had but herds of schoolie bass were stacked up under the boat. A couple of keepers in the mix made for great morning of fishing. Things slowed and we took a ride east to the needle, where we heard bunker were present. The only thing working those bunker were a pod of humpback whales and we enjoyed the spectacle. We did manage a few more bass chasing birds and bottom marks.

Offshore bottom fishing has held up, primarily for the head boats. Cod seem to have been fished down a bit, large scup are super abundant and seabass fishing remains good from 20 to 35 fathoms. Lots of bluefish out there too.

Black fishing has generally been good. Early in the month I took a run down to the Fisherman Buoy area with our esteemed Tuna Tower News Editor, Capt. John Jutt and my buddy Steve. We hit a wreck for a nice catch and made a move to the New Dump / New Bottom that lies between the Mud Buoy and the Sandy Hook Reef. This bottom is the actual rubble from 9-11 and has quickly become one of the hottest blackfish areas in the NY Bight. Fishing was slow there that day, but we managed 10 very nice keepers overall, not bad for what was reported to be an off day.



Capt John Jutt with a Chunky Tog'

Bob Bohlert reported on a blackfish trip on his Joint Effort fishing in brutal east wind conditions. He and a buddy had the local grounds to themselves and despite the conditions enjoyed steady action on mixed sized fish, pulling some nice keepers.

Offshore reports were hard to come by, we'll see if a late bite of BFT develops in the Mud Hole or out in the deep.

Herring are showing in the usual spots and I'm optimistic for a nice run of inshore cod, similar to last year, before the weather ended things abruptly.

*That's a wrap for 2015.
A healthy and happy
Holiday Season to all!*

I encourage all FTC members to please bombard me with reports and pictures to share with our membership. Please email your reports to philton@optonline.net; or text/call me at 516.721.8907 Don't forget to send pictures and catch details for consideration by the Bulletin Committee for "Catch of the Month".

Sincerely,

Paul Hilton F/V Emily S



Bob Bohlert with Joint Effort Togs

Catch of the Month Black Friday Tog' Shopping - Reel Catch II



Kenny Kapner and Gene Schettini with Black Friday Tog'

Marty Dowling send in a report for a Black Friday Blackfish trip with Kenny Kapner on the Reel Catch II. The crew consisted of Marty, Woody Anderson, Gene Schetteni with Kenny at the helm. Once the current started to move it was game on and the crew managed 13 nice keepers up to 6 lbs.

Way to shop, congrats on the Catch of the Month !

Send in those pictures (write-ups too)!

For bragging rights, please email me at philton@optonline.net or text me at 516-721-8907 to be considered for "Catch of the Month" by the bulletin committee.

Include pictures and some catch details. Thanks to all who submitted entries this Month and please keep them coming.

— Paul Hilton / Emily S

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December 2015 Derby, Awards & Contest Report

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morraugh

Committee Team:

Captain Bill Toohey, Captain Michael Zullo

It's been a long and interesting 2015 derby season but the Fat Lady is about to sing. The **BLACKFISH**, **BLUEFISH**, **STRIPED BASS** and **SHARK** derbies ended on 11/29/15. You have until 12/13/15 to get your weigh slips in! Bring them to the Holiday Party on Sunday, 12/6/15, or send them in via mail ASAP.

The COD derby runs through 12/13/15. Your weigh slips for COD must be in to the committee by 12/27/15.

We will hand out all of these Derby awards at the JANUARY GM.

I hope to see everyone at the Holiday Party and maybe pick up some more Derby winners!

IMPORTANT NOTE ON 2015 ANNUAL AWARDS

If you're holding any weigh slips for 2015 catches you must get them in to the Committee by THURSDAY, JANUARY 14th!!!!!! No weigh slips will be considered for annual awards after this due date.

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Advertisers are needed to help fund this publication. If you or anyone you know who like to advertise please contact John Jutt at jjutt@mmpmk.com or call 516-546-2312



Winter Storage

The Freeport Tuna Club is now storing boats at its property for the 2015 - 2016 Winter Season (11/1/15 to 6/1/16). The lease rates for this season will remain the same as last year @ \$14. a foot with a minimum charge of \$300. for both on land and in water storage.

LEASES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO PUTTING YOUR VESSEL ON THE PROPERTY!

PLEASE CONTACT THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE BEFORE PLACING YOUR BOAT ON THE PROPERTY SO YOU CAN BE ASSIGNED A STORAGE LOCATION.

For more information or to sign a lease agreement, contact Alan Evelyn, FTC Property Manager by phone (cell 917-750-8710) (work 646-312-2208) or by email (alan.evelyn@baruch.cuny.edu).

Alan will be at the November GM to accept checks and sign leases.



Save The Date Annual Holiday Party

**Sunday, December 6th
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)

*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.*

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Call Kevin Killelea @ (516) 725-8907**

Property Committee

Alan Evelyn Property Manager

The water has been turned off and the system blown out. The only available water is outside the back bathroom. Please note the valve to turn on & off the water is inside the bathroom, do not try to turn it on or off from outside the valve stem was cut off for a reason. Boats are coming onto the property daily and we are starting to fill up (30 boats already). If you haven't done so already please send your checks to Allan Evelyn ASAP to reserve a spot. If you are wintering at the property do not leave valuables on your boat, rods, reels, electronics etc. By the end of December we will go onto a once month garbage pick-up at the property. As soon as all of the boats are out of the water, except those who want to winter in the water we will be placing the bubble system hoses into the water. All of the lights on the poles have been repaired and are working properly.

May it be a short winter and we'll see you at the Holiday party
Your property committee.

Good & Welfare

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of FTC member Mike Wagner Mother Edith Wagner. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mike Wagner and his family on the death of his mother .God bless.

Myself and the FTC wish all a happy Holiday Season and healthy New Year!
~ Jeff

Winter Storage:

Winter storage lease agreements have been mailed! If you have not received a lease agreement please contact Alan Evelyn, FTC Property Manager, for a lease agreement.

New System For Winter Storage!

We have made arrangements with Atlantic Yacht Haven for placement of all boats on the property. You can use any hauler that you choose but they must call Chris or Alan in order to find where your boat with should be placed on a property. This includes all trailer boats. Chris and Alan at Atlantic Yacht Haven will be in charge of placements of 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. The new system will allow for better management and increased storage capacity.

New Rates For The FTC Marina!

Rates for 2016:

- \$78 per foot with no minimum for a slip during the summer season
- \$175 for trailer with a summer season slip-no grandfathering of trailers
- \$250 for trailers without a summer season slip (number on property set by property committee)
- \$150 per month for boat storage on land for members during the summer season
- \$14 per foot for Winter Storage for members
- \$17 per foot for Winter Storage for non-members (\$340 minimum)

For questions or concerns please contact me or other members of the property committee. [Alan Evelyn, capt.al@fishtaxiny.com](mailto:Alan.Evelyn,capt.al@fishtaxiny.com) or Cell: 917-750-8710.

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To All Members

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the editorial staff to wish all members and their families a very safe and happy holiday season.

May the upcoming New Year bring you Peace and Prosperity.

Sincerely, Capt. John J. Jutt, Sr.



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