

TUNA TOWER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2017
www.ftcfishing.com

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



Happy Holidays to You and Your Families!



President's Message

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe that 2017 is almost over and my term as your President is coming to an end. It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting down writing my first message. I would like to thank my Vice President Matt Cardone for running the November GM and congratulate our newest board members Ken Donowski and Keith Reilly. Special thanks to Hank Jennet for supplying us with the turkeys for our raffle, to Bob Sabella for picking them up and to everyone who helped unload the 60 turkeys that the Club raffled off. Special thanks to John Rooney's son, John John, who came down from college to help give out the turkeys. I would like to thank everyone that attended our First Veterans' Day Flag Raising Ceremony. We had WWII, Vietnam and Korea veterans present. Sil Mazzilli made the trip from Medford to be with us. After the flag was raised we all had a chance to reflect on family and friends that had served and gone before us. That day John Koeing and his wife celebrated their wedding anniversary. The Club wishes them many more and lots of good health and happiness. It felt like 2017 took forever to get here and once it got here it picked up speed like a category 5 hurricane. The weather this year limited the number of times that our members could get out and fish, but like the dedicated fisherman that our members are, they braved the elements and won tournaments, caught big fish and finished long and hard especially during bass season. Read about some of our members' notable catches mentioned in the fishing report. We thank Paul Hilton for the accurate

land expert coverage he contributes to our Tuna Tower News (which would not be the same without him). My hat comes off to our bulletin editor, Captain John Jutt, for producing the finest and best communication link to our general membership,

thanks again Capt.!! The Club's 80th year was filled with lots of new events which I was proud to be a part of and hope to see continue into the future along with some new ones. Our Lobsterfest was delicious, as well as our Thursday night Captain Anglers. Thanks to Rick Totten and Tim Sherman we were able to bring back the Thursday Night Seminars. The club also held it's first Night at The Races, thanks to Dave and Christine Massa, which was a big success. Let's not forget about the Game Dinner which was a huge success thanks to Bob Benzenberg, Joe DeSalvo and their Committee. The Game Dinner raised over \$12,000.00 for the club - tickets will be going on sale soon for 2018. Gene Schettini has grown our membership to 205 plus members. Finally, I would like to thank our often overlooked Property Committee, our Chairman Alan Evelyn and his committee, Charlie Goldstein, Don Grainger and Bob Sabella for their very hard work all year long maintaining our property, and keeping the slips full. I am very happy to announce that we will have a record



number 57 boats stored on our property for the Winter. Thanks to our new members Phil Saccio and Glen Youngblood for bringing over their boat this year, and to Chris Squeri for all his help. I am still hopeful that the club can get something going this Winter instead of having to wait until April for Captain Anglers' to begin. All of this would never have been possible if it was not for John Kampa introducing me to this Great Club and the way that I was

treated by Don, Sharon, Jimmy Rooney and Jimmy Azzi 5 years ago when I attended my first Captain Anglers'. Thank you all very much for your help, support and, most importantly, your friendship during my Presidency. From my family to all of yours, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year, Good Health and Great Fishing in 2018,

Sincerely Yours, *Kevin Rillelea*

A November to Remember

We have been treated to relatively mild weather so far as we move into December and a winding down of the 2017 season. One of the highlights of 2017 would have to be the great run of bass that occurred along our south shore throughout the entire month. Things got rolling in October, but what followed was a month with tons of bait, bass, and some blue moving along our south shore from 20' of water right on out to 60'+. Earlier in the month, bunker were still the forage of choice with line lining and trolling mojos and bunker spoons the method of choice. As the month progressed, herring, sand eels and rain bait became more abundant and many boats switched over to primarily jig fishing, but trollers still getting most of the better fish.



**Tony Bollaci 59.75 lb Bass
on the Hooker**

Reports from FTC members this month included some exceptional fish. Since we started with bass we must congratulate Captain Adam Bollaci, dad Tony Bollaci and the crew of *the Hooker* for an exceptional fall season. It culminating with the landing a 59 lb 12 oz striped bass caught by my Tony. The fish hit a 24oz yellow mojo south of the pink hotel in 40' of water, one of many caught that day. Three others from 25 lbs to 30 lbs were retained. All of the fish had bunker in their stomachs, the big gal had 5 plus a ling and was still on the feed! This is the largest FTC bass I'm aware of in many years. The club record of 61 lbs 12 oz was caught in 1967. You came really close! Great job finding that fish among all the "smaller" 30, 40 and 50 pounders!

Some other notable catches include Don Morin who caught a 49lb 8oz striped bass on a trolled mojo fishing with John Kampa on *the Maryetta*. Don is 91 years old, rebuilding an engine when I

called to discuss his catch. Congrats Don and John!



**Don Morin 49.5 lb bass on
the Maryetta**



**Capt. John Jutt
and niece Barbara
with 40.4 lb. Bass**

Captain John Jutt enjoyed the good bass fishing making numerous trips on his *Red Dawn Rising*. With family and friends onboard he enjoyed good fishing with bass up to 40lb +, primarily trolling bunker spoons.

Bob Bohlert got in on the action, providing the following great report fishing on his 26' Regulator *Joint Effort* "Mojos aren't just for trolling! They can be jigged! 8 fish to 35 lbs, fishing solo. Sunday 11/5 right outside Jones in 4-5s, in the rain."

My own bass fishing was limited to catching a couple for the table, on the way to and from the bottom grounds. My favorite lazy man technique is "jig/lining" where you jig an A-47 and either



**Bob Bohlert,
35 lb. Bass
on his Joint Effort**

catch a bass on the jig or snag a bunker on the jig and let it swim. Usually, we were rewarded with keeper sized fish in very short order.

A couple of years ago, my concern was that the bass population may be in trouble. With the phenomenal, prolonged run of mixed sized fish this year, it would appear that the population is in good shape. Plenty of cows, and now we are seeing unbelievable amounts of schoolies in the mix. Hopefully a sign of continued good fishing for years to come. The bass season is open through December 15th.

Next up would be bottom fishing. With the bass departed, the focus has been on the excellent seabass and blackfish occurring around Block Island and the Rhode Island mainland coast.



Jack Krug with
a 16.25 lb.
Persuader II
Blackfish

Captain Jim Krug has been hammering away at the fish, with spectacular results. On a recent trip on his *Persuader II*, his son Jack bagged a blackfish to remember. Fishing a white crab near

Block Island, Jack fought and landed a huge tautog that weighed in at 16lb 4oz. The fish was kept alive, brought back out to the fishing grounds the next day and released to fight again another day! An exceptional catch, with an exceptional ending. Congrats to Captain Jim and Jack Krug!

To my knowledge, the largest blackfish caught by an FTC member returning to a NY port, just missing the club record of 16.88 (Denis Cataldo, 2010, Ocean City Maryland).

Locally, blackfishing has been sporadic. Surface temps have fallen but still unseasonably warm at 54 degrees. A commercial fisherman I know has been recording the bottom temps. His thermometer, after being returned to a surface temp of 54, was still reading 59 degrees (having cooled down a little on the way up). It's balmy down there! My own fishing has pretty much been limited to mostly short trips on the Hempstead Reef. Couple of decent limit trips, couple of slower days, fish to approx. 5 lbs. Most recent trip had Captain John Jutt and friend Steve Melish out with east wind and the 'supermoon.' We had only two NY keepers, released a bunch of NJ keepers (15"+) plus some even smaller fish. Hopefully, we will see some improvement before the season closes on December 15th. I did get a keeper sized cod recently in 55' of water and the Captain Al had a few this week. With all the bait in our local water, hopefully some cod are not be far behind. We shall see.

Offshore seabass fishing is good. Nick Nero ran his 25' twin

engine Parker *Dolce Vita* far to the south east in search of seabass and mixed bottom. With Pete Cefai onboard, they enjoyed good fishing with seabass to 4.5 lbs, and many large porgies.

I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Thanks to all who contributed in 2017.



Nick Nero and Pete Cefai
on Dolce Vita

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 M Emily S



Property Manager's Report

Happy Holidays! There are a few outstanding payments due for winter storage so please send in your payment as soon as possible. The summer lease agreements for 2018 will be mailed in early January. The rate for 2018 remains at \$78 a foot with no minimum. All owners leasing a slip will be charged an additional \$175 if storing a trailer on the property. Freezers are \$175. A deposit of \$300 is required with your signed lease. In order to secure your slip for the 2018 season your deposit and signed lease must be received on or before February 15, 2018. You will receive two invoices for the balance owed, one due on April 1st and the second payable on May 31st. Before your Vessel can be in the Marina you will need to supply an updated insurance policy to the Property Business Manager. Please let me know if you are not renewing your lease so I can quickly determine which slips will be available. Any member interested in a slip should contact me as soon as possible. Our goal is to keep the marina full!

Capt. Alan Evelyn

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

DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: Ray Geiger

Committee Team: Bob Benzenberg, Harry Skaschnig & Bill Morragh

As the 2017 FTC derby year comes to an end, we wish to thank all participants. Well done ladies and gentlemen, you have done our club proud once again.

The following derbies all ended on 11/26 and our rules state we must have these slips in hand by 12/10 in order to be eligible for awards:

SHARK • BLUEFISH • STRIPED BASS • BLACKFISH

Please get your slips in the mail ASAP. The Cod derby ends on 12/10 and any slips for cod must be in hand by 12/24.

All of these remaining Derby awards will be bestowed upon the deserving winners at our January GM on 1/11/2017. I hope to see all members (well those who aren't sunning themselves in southern climes) attend this our first meeting of 2017. Remember -- this club is the sum of ALL it's members.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON 2017 ANNUAL AWARDS - If you're holding any weigh slips for 2017 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.

Lastly, on behalf our committee members, I wish you and your families a very joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!!

Best Fishes, *Ray Geiger*



**The President
and part of his team which
make this club what it is today**



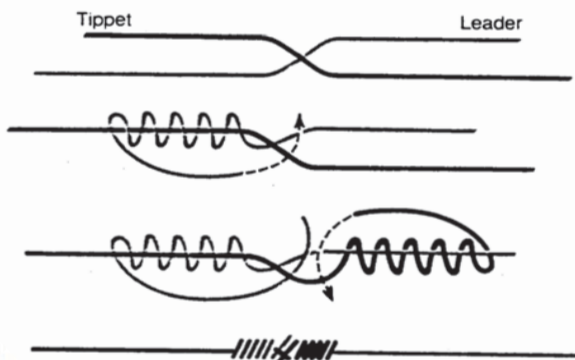
**A Salute to all Veterans at our
Flag Raising Ceremony**

Know your Knots

Tippet to Leader

A blood knot (some anglers use a surgeon's knot) is used to join the tippet to the leader. Lay one end of tippet over the leader end, forming an X. Allow 4 to 6 inches of each to tie the knot. Holding the X with your right thumb and forefinger, make five turns of the leader end around the tippet, wrapping away from you. Bring the leader end back and insert it on the other side of the X, as shown.

At this point, switch the knot to hold it between your left thumb and forefinger, then make five turns of the tippet around the leader, wrapping toward you. Bring the tippet end back and insert it in the same opening the leader end is in, but in the opposite direction. Wet the wraps with saliva and tighten the knot by pulling steadily on the ends. Trim ends.



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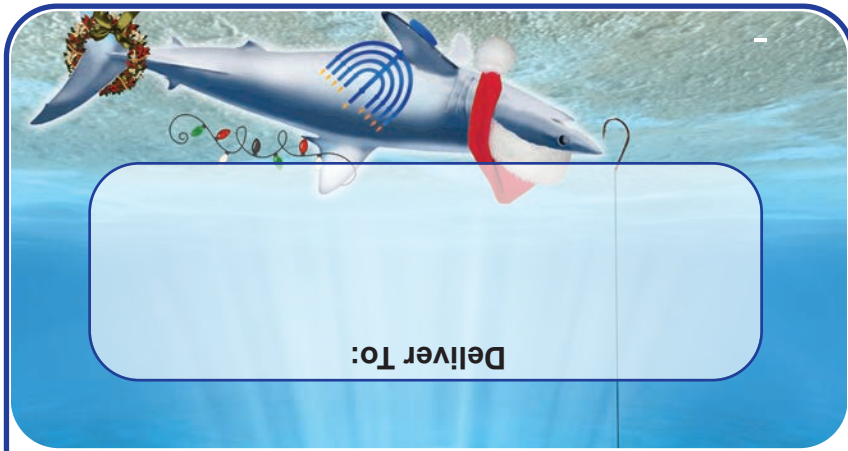
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Tim Sherman and I are looking for some Volunteers to have a discussion on Circle Hooks vs J Hooks one Thursday Night down at the Property. Please see us if your interested. .

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On Behalf of the Editorial Staff and the Board of Directors, we wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season. May the Fish Gods smile down upon us in the upcoming year and give us plenty of fish!

Capt. John J. Jutt, Editor