

THE HISTORY OF
THE MANASQUAN RIVER
MARLIN & TUNA CLUB



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The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club
P.O. Box 0251
Brielle, NJ 08730
www.MRMTTC.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In 2008 Michael Gorey and I had a conversation about trying to expand on the historical information of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club (MRMTC). Maureen Murray had gathered a substantial amount of information and correspondence about the founding years of the club. Pete and Linda Barrett did further research into the club's catch records and wrote the initial draft of the club's history, but there was much still to be done. Chris Carver quickly volunteered his help and we set off to begin a two-year project to complete this *History of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club*.

This endeavor became an exciting adventure, which took us back to the founding days of the club in 1936, where we learned of tremendous catches of bluefin tuna on the Sea Bright Grounds. We were amazed by the primitive tackle that was used to catch these brutes. The accomplishments of these early members were acknowledged well beyond Manasquan Inlet, as many of the early members achieved worldwide acclaim for their angling prowess. Francis H. Low, the founding President of MRMTC, was a world-record holder for the largest tuna ever taken and he also caught the largest fish (a great white shark) ever taken with rod and reel. The Manasquan Tuna Trophy, established by Mr. Low in 1936, is one of the oldest annual fishing awards in the nation. Other early members were also world-class anglers including Lou and Eugenie Marron, Maurice and Carolyn Meyer, Jr., Ferdinand Roebling III, Van Campen Heilner, A.E. Carpenter, Hugo Rutherford and Orton Dale, Jr.

The MRMTC has sponsored national tournaments and members have competed in national and international fishing competitions. In fact, the 1949 International Tuna Cup Match was won by the United States, and two of the four members of the U.S. team were MRMTC members. Club members were the pioneers in establishing what became known as "canyon fishing" along the Continental Shelf at the Hudson and Tom's Canyons in the 1960s.

Members have held many world and New Jersey state records. We have attempted to acknowledge all of those records in this book, but apologize if we missed a few.

Beyond statistics, this is a history book that is about the people, the camaraderie, and the stories that make up this very special organization. In his book *Fishing Is For Me*, Francis Low gave sound advice when he wrote that fishing should be fun! As you will see, we have used many pictures to tell this story of the people of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, and it is evident that they are having a great time.

I would like to thank those many members and friends who contributed the information which made this book possible. Special thanks must go to Leo B. Travers who served in several officer positions with the club from the founding days in 1936 through 1964. Leo's detailed record keeping during these years was invaluable to our being able to record the early history of the MRMTC. Along with Leo, John Geiges was a most significant contributor of the early days with his memories of fishing out of Brielle in the 30s, 40s and 50s, and his wonderful pictures of those times. Thanks, John, also for sharing with us your personal drawings that were used throughout the book.

I would also like to thank Maureen Murray, club historian, for all of the information she supplied to this effort. Pete and Linda Barrett, who started this task over 20 years ago, were instrumental in writing, and editing the final text. Thanks to Michael Gorey for his tireless efforts in gathering and organizing the information necessary to complete this book. Thanks to Chris and Libby Carver for taking the time to record their remembrances of great times with great people, while assisting with interviews of various members. Special thanks to member Charlie Duerr of Hatteras Press. His contributions throughout the years and in producing this book have been exceptional. Thank you to Tracy Ilvento who provided the layouts for this book and dedicated nights and weekends working in order to get to the final proof. Thanks to Joe Placa of Hatteras Press who handled this project with the utmost professionalism and provided us every courtesy in achieving this final print. Thank you to the Board of Trustees for their support, and recognition of the significance of this endeavor. Thanks to all the members who have served the club as officers or trustees. It is your leadership that has maintained the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club as one of the most highly regarded sport fishing clubs in the nation for more than 70 years.

Today, we continue to strive to maintain the purposes first established by the founding members, "...the promotion, fostering and encouragement of the sport of deep sea fishing and promotion of conservation of fish and other deep sea life".

I hope you enjoy the book!

Anthony M. Cuccia
President
2008-2009

INTRODUCTION FROM MICHAEL GOREY



Back in 2002 I was introduced to the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club. It was a very active club with great history and reputation for being friendly, casual and helpful. The club was involved in fisheries management, junior angling and had some great tournaments during the year. I joined the club and was welcomed by an enthusiastic group of anglers and their families. It has been a great group to be a part of and I have really enjoyed the friendships and experience I've gained through the club.

Fast forward to 2008 and I was having a conversation with club President Tony Cuccia about improvements to the club website and how it might be nice to add some additional information about the club history to the site. Since I had become the club "webmaster" I was the one who would have to make the changes to the site so it was okay to ask. Tony mentioned to me that Pete Barrett and Maureen Murray had started a draft of a book about the history of the club and while the book project was idle, they might have some good information to share with me for the website.

After speaking with Maureen and Pete and getting a hold of a draft, I found it really fascinating and wondered why the project had stalled. Maureen had been a great contributor to the club for many years and had put in a lot of work with Pete and Linda Barrett to get a pretty significant draft completed. They both suggested it needed some more work to try and pull together additional information and photographs to help bring the book to completion. Pete was excited to spend the time to finish the book if we could pull together interviews with some long time members and gather the additional information that was needed. Tony was really interested in putting in the time as well and asked me if I would help him get this project back on track. I have to take my hat off to Tony for all the time and passion he put into this project...while at the same time serving as club President.

So I stumbled into this opportunity to help out on a book project with Pete Barrett, a guy I never fished with, but a guy who taught me a ton about fishing without ever even knowing it. I had read most of his books on fishing and have watched his shark fishing video several times. I've seen him speak over the years during the winter seminar season and he has always been a great educator.

When you look at the History of MRMTC, Pete is another MRMTC member who has made a significant contribution to the sport. His time at *The Fisherman* magazine, involvement with IGFA and his informative books and seminars proved to be very valuable to anglers up and down the coast. It has been a pleasure to work with him on this project and once again I have learned from Pete. This time it was a bit of a history lesson.

Enjoy the book!

Michael J. Gorey
Trustee

TREASURE THE PAST



The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club history treasures the past and eagerly looks forward to the future. It captures moments in time when a small group of well-to-do pioneers were making angling headlines and advancing sport-fishing techniques at the beginnings of big-game fishing. Its history also chronicles an exciting journey through the development of sport-fishing tackle and strategies from the 1950s and 1960s, and to the opening of blue-water angling at the edge of the Continental Shelf in the 1970s and 1980s. With an enthusiastic present-day membership, the forecast for the future looks bright.

Most of the tackle, boat designs, bait rigging and sport-fishing strategies we take for granted today had their roots in the mid 1930s when the club was originally formed. As new horizons opened in Palm Beach, Cape Hatteras, Cuba, Nova Scotia and Bimini, the club's members were right there as hands-on participants, catching fish and exchanging their own ideas and techniques with locals, and then returning with newly acquired knowledge to share with the captains and crews "back home." The club's influence on the development of sport fishing along the East Coast from New England to Florida and the Bahamas, from Chile to Central America was, and continues to be, significant.

In the late 1930s and until the early 1950s, MRMTC club member, John Geiges, was a mate on local charter boats fishing out of Brielle. It was a time when skippers wore khaki shirts and slacks, ties and embroidered captain's hats, and the fishing for bluefish and bluefin seemed limitless. White marlin were caught at inshore places like Manasquan Ridge and Barnegat Ridge, and no one had yet fished the Continental Shelf. John traveled to Bimini and Palm Beach and was on deck rigging baits and tackle at the same time many of fishing's celebrities were charting new ground. We were fascinated by his stories and anecdotes, and enjoyed learning about the "good old days" that jumped off every turn of the page in his photo albums.

While working with John to convert a selection of his historic photos into 35mm slides for a presentation he made at the second annual New Jersey Representatives International Game Fish Association banquet, Linda and I became more aware of the rich history of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, and we talked about how to share this treasure with other members and fishermen.

John Heyer, past president and trustee, suggested we talk to Maureen Murray, the club's historian, and she graciously made available her letters, clippings and documents, which formed the basis of our first draft of the club's history. Her records were remarkable and whetted our appetite for more. Other members graciously shared their experiences, and we were especially thrilled to review the hand-written catch ledger maintained by Leo B. Travers. Our first draft of the history received good reviews by club members, but the project stalled for several years until then president Tony Cuccia and Michael Gorey began an earnest push to complete what would eventually become this book.

What began with Leo B. Travers' ledger and Maureen Murray's collection of letters and documents, and our conversations with John Geiges, plus the enthusiasm of Michael Gorey and Tony Cuccia, finally brought us to completion of the project. Michael and Tony did an enormous amount of work gathering interviews, photos and letters, copying old photos to digital images, and gathering additional information. What was once only 26 pages of typed text was dramatically expanded due to their tireless efforts. Many others helped along the way, including Dan Burns, Chris and Libby Carver, Ted Glicksman, George Harms, Phil Infantolino, George Lewis, Bill Madden, Bob Matthews, Steve Matthews, Ron Mazarrella, Jeff Merrill, John and Kathy Meyer, John Muly, Ralph Munsie, Mel Ravitz, Bill Ruckert, Adam Sanford, Colleen Smith, John Visceglia, and many others.

Gail Morchower, Rebecca Wright and Rob Kramer at the International Game Fish Association headquarters were especially helpful to track down club members with world record catches and provided several unique photos of Lee Wulff, the Lerner's Bimini "cottage" and guest register and of Lou and Eugenie Marron's record swordfish catches.

Where possible, we relied upon conversations, interviews, newspaper clippings, letters and contemporary fishing books to tell the club's story in the personal words of the fishermen and journalists who were there at the time, to make it come "alive."

There is no doubt portions of the club's history may not be covered in adequate detail, or significant catches or events may have been overlooked. For that we apologize, but it surely was not for lack of effort. The data gathering was extensive. The project was time consuming, and at some point everyone involved had to say "That's it," or the book would never have been published.

We hope you enjoy this *History of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club*.

Catch 'em up!

Pete and Linda Barrett

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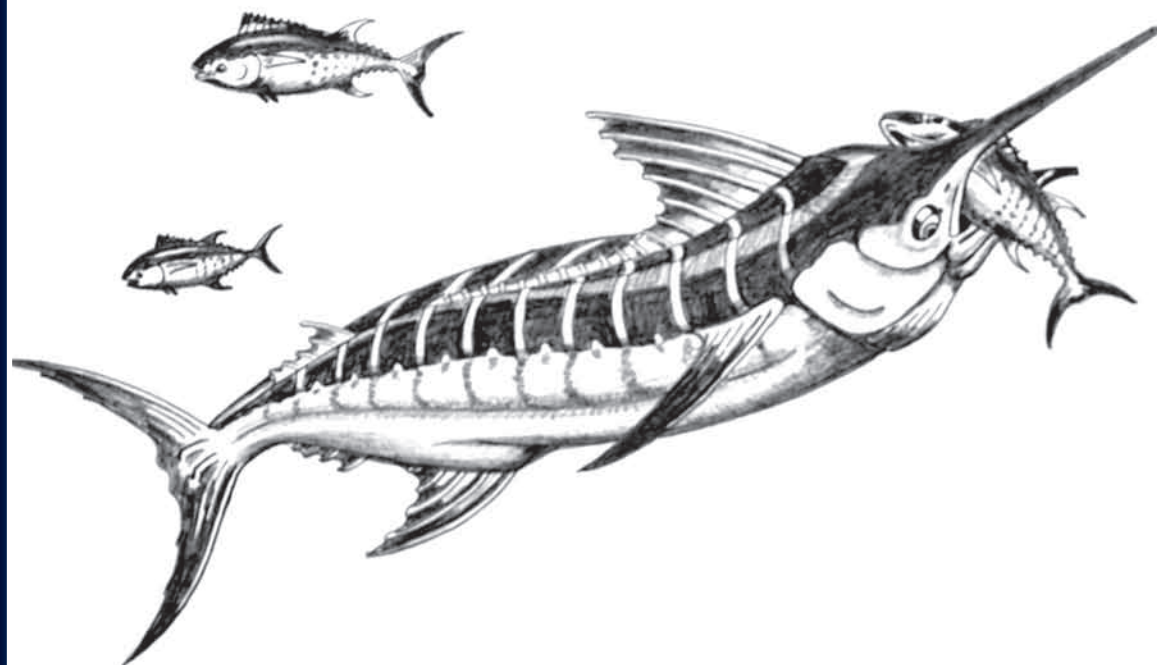
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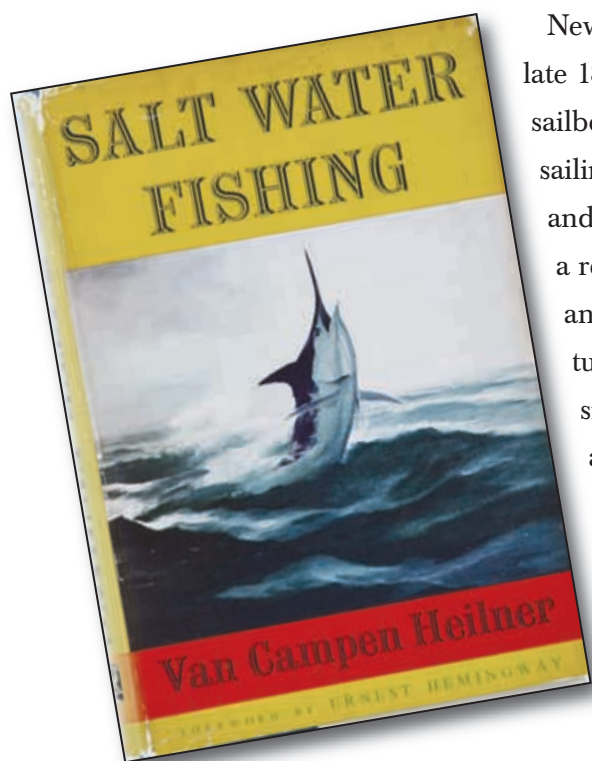


Chapter One



MANASQUAN RIVER MARLIN & TUNA CLUB

The 1930s were exciting times for big-game anglers along the Jersey Coast. Bluefin tuna were plentiful, white marlin could be caught within a few miles of the beach and swordfish were caught on hook and line, and harpooned, in the Mud Hole. It was a time when early big-game pioneers such as Ernest Hemingway, S. Kip Farrington, Van Campen Heilner, Michael Lerner and Zane Grey were writing stories and publishing books about the relatively new sport of big-game fishing. Local rod and gun columnists in New Jersey and metropolitan New York newspapers like Henry Schaefer, Bill Backus and Nelson Benedict recorded the feats of local anglers.



New Jersey's big-game roots are well documented from the late 1890s when most tuna catches were made by accident from sailboats trolling for bluefish. In the early 1900s, charter boats sailing out of Shark River, Manasquan River, Barnegat Inlet and Little Egg Inlet had been catching school bluefin tuna on a regular basis for their summer clients. True big-game angling, Jersey style, got started when the Atlantic bluefin tuna, the famous horse mackerel that ripped nets and snapped tarred handlines of commercial bluefishermen, and which were therefore considered a nuisance, were discovered at the once-famous Sea Bright Grounds.

Henry Schaefer (l) caught this false albacore on fly tackle back in the 1950s while fishing aboard Captain Otto Reut's **First Timer**. Schaefer wrote for the *Newark Evening News* and his "Out in the Open" column often mentioned the catches of MRMTC members.



Bill Backus at his desk, circa late 1930s, working on a fishing column. One of New Jersey's most popular and prolific outdoor journalists, Bill wrote for *The Record*, *The New York Post*, *New York American Journal*, and the *Elizabeth Journal*.



Jacob Wertheim's 286-pound bluefin, caught in 1915.

The West Coast saw the first documented catch of a large bluefin tuna on rod and reel in 1899 when C.P. Morehouse landed a 251-pound fish off Catalina, but soon after, several world-record catches were made in the early 1900s at the Sea Bright Grounds. These East Coast fish easily eclipsed the California bluefin. On September 13, 1915, Jacob Wertheim brought to boat and later weighed a 286-pound bluefin. Eight years later, Christian W. Feigenspan of Newark took a new record of 407 pounds in 1923. Considering the tackle available at the time, with nothing more than a leather thumb stall to apply drag, and linen lines that rotted unless removed from the fishing reel each day, these catches were amazing feats of angling prowess and endurance.

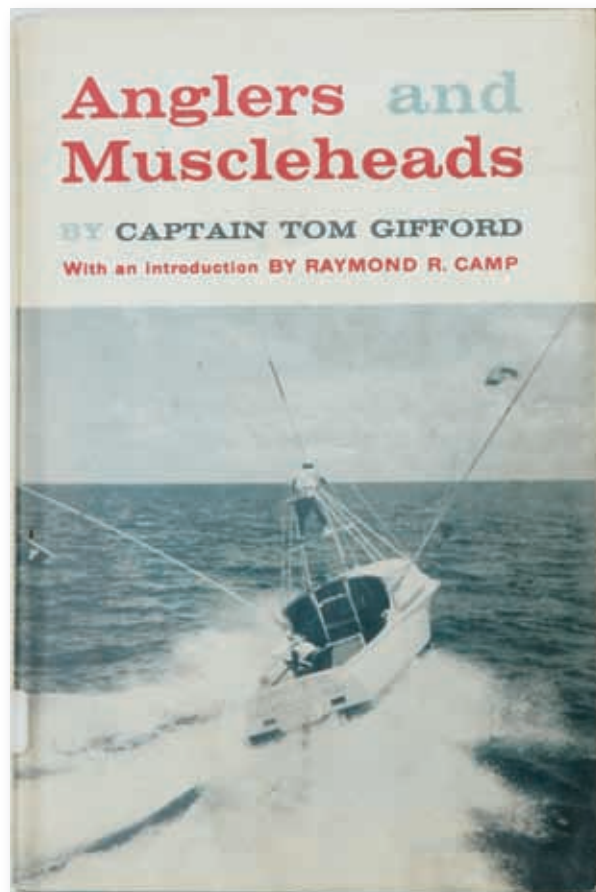
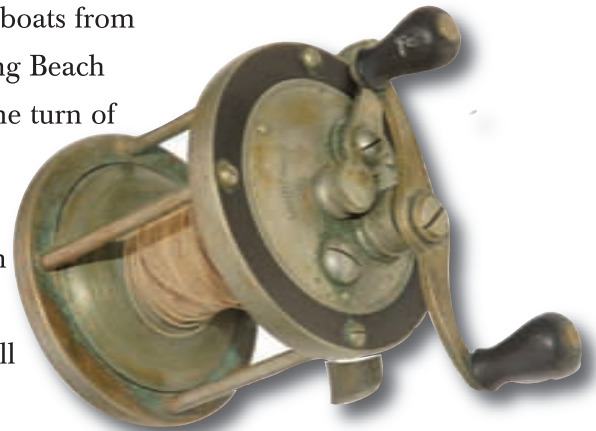




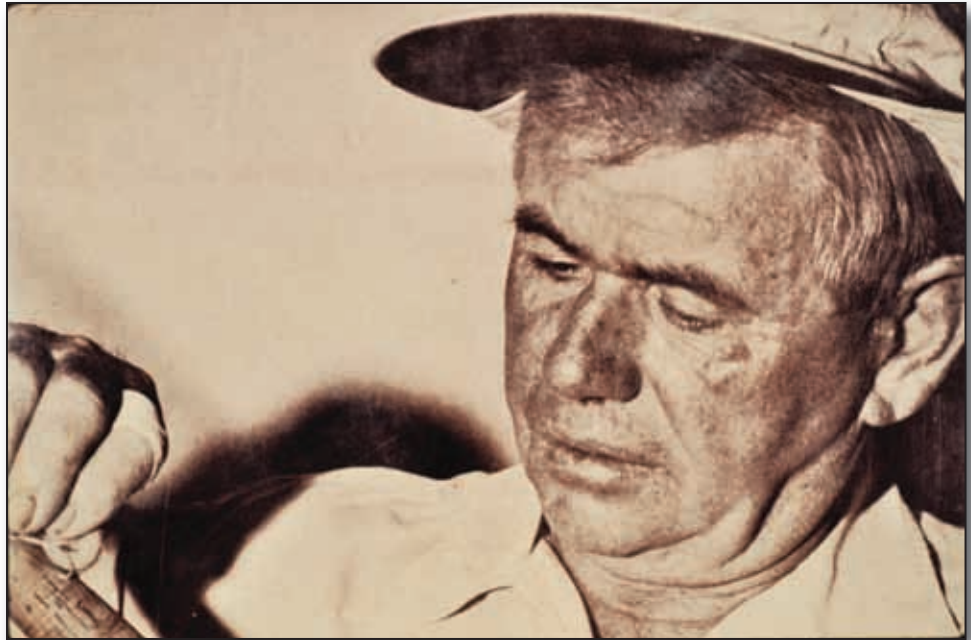
The fishing was so good at the Sea Bright Grounds that many legendary anglers visited these waters in hopes of catching a huge bluefin. Bluefin at the Sea Bright Grounds were famous for leaping clear of the water and since this characteristic was not documented in other early big-game angling areas, the Sea Bright fish became known as “leaping” tuna. Anglers from the Avalon Tuna Club in California, founded in 1898, and the Atlantic Tuna Club of Rhode Island frequently made trips to New Jersey in hopes of catching a “leaping tuna” and to enjoy the good fishing.



School bluefin had been taken on a regular basis by charter boats from the south shore of Long Island, to Sandy Hook, down past Long Beach Island and on to Cape May since the late 1890s and through the turn of the century. By the 1920s, bluefin tuna were considered a favorite game fish by elite summer tourists to the Jersey shore. The bluefin became one of New Jersey's prime game fish when the irascible, but innovative, Tommy Gifford fished Brielle in 1921. Gifford, a Long Branch native, was among the first to troll a big tuna at the Sea Bright Grounds. His charter, Carl Badenhause, bested a 149-pound bluefin in July of that year, and a week later Gifford took a group of New York anglers and boated fifteen bluefins of 50 to 60 pounds. In his book, *Anglers and Muscleheads*, Gifford wrote, *A few days later a half-dozen boats followed me out to the tuna grounds. This opened the tuna fishing in that area, and it grew by the day.*



Tom Gifford, angler and writer.



By 1933, the Sea Bright Grounds were again in the big-game headlines when Francis Low captured what was a gigantic, for that time, bluefin tuna of 705 pounds. This fish was hooked, fought and finally landed within sight of the New York City skyscrapers and the nearby Jersey Coast. Three years later, Francis Low would become one of the founding members of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, and in the club's first annual Fishing Derby of 1936, Francis H. Low entered a 382-pound bluefin, while his wife entered a bluefin tuna of 388 pounds.



Maureen Murray, the first historian of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, gathered a substantial selection of letters and notes from members, officers and trustees, and this information provides much of the essential background about the club's early years. In an October 6, 1994 letter to Maureen, Gifford "Heck" Wells documented some of the club's history when he wrote, *From the Certificate of Incorporation signed on the 8th of June 1938, 'the purposes for which this corporation is formed are the promotion, fostering and encouragement of the sport of deep sea fishing and the promotion of conservation of fish and other deep sea life.'*

MAUREEN MURRAY



CLUB HISTORIAN



Historian Maureen Murray
fighting a giant tuna.

His letter continues, *Our founders had foresight. Actually the club was activated by the appointment of Trustees and Officers in 1936, later, in 1938, to become incorporated and later to be among the first clubs certified by the IGFA on December 27, 1939.*

Headquarters then was Hoffman's Anchorage and continued so for many years. The catches weighed in during the season of the first year, 1936, were nothing short of incredible, including a 382-pound broadbill, two white marlin (caught by the same member on different days on the Mohawk wreck!) and no less than 37 giant tuna, the largest of which was 720 pounds. Needless to say, this performance brought the entire sport fishing world to immediate attention and the Mud Hole became famous. Actually it was the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club and the Freeport Tuna Club that pioneered the area, and also the Hudson Canyon in the late 1950s with information from the Carlson commercial men and the Texas Tower as the fix (navigation fix). It has to be believed that this club was more than instrumental in making the Hudson famous as well as leading the hunt to the other canyons.

A giant tuna on the dock at Hoffman's Anchorage, the early headquarters of MRMTC.

WELCOME TO HOFFMAN'S ANCHORAGE BRIELLE, N.J.



The membership list was impressive too, including over the years world famous big-game anglers, internationally known authors, famous sports writers, big band leaders, world renowned restaurateurs, industrial giants and radio-movie stars.



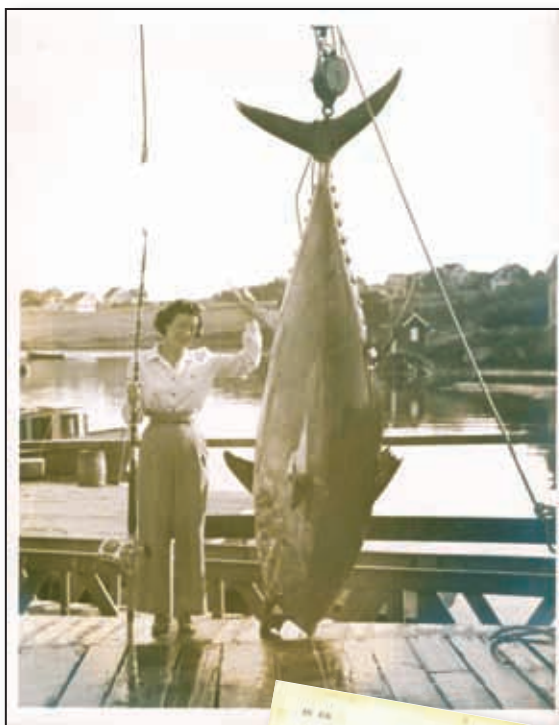
In the year of its inception, 1936, a boat from this club met at sea with a boat from the Freeport Club, called a tuna tournament and phoned the results to each other upon their return to base. The next year the Atlantic City Club, Forked River and the Brielle Tuna Club joined the group and officially called their contest the U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament. Headquarters for the USATT was originally at Hoffman's Anchorage, but growth and politics entered the scene and headquarters moved to Sandy Hook and then to points East to follow the fish. Another historical first for this club was in 1937 when the International Tuna Cup Match Competition began. During its active years, to the best of knowledge, we had more members represented on the U.S. teams than any other club. The only year the U.S. won the cup was 1949 and we had two members on that squad of four.

In these years, or any other years for that matter it was not all big-game achievement. In 1947 the club entered the R.J. Schaefer Saltwater Fishing Contest which fielded at times as many as 349 clubs and for its duration, until recent years, we virtually cleaned up in the New Jersey Division as well as National Competition and have the trophies to prove it. This basically was a bluefish, striper competition, but it was not all team effort that made this club famous.





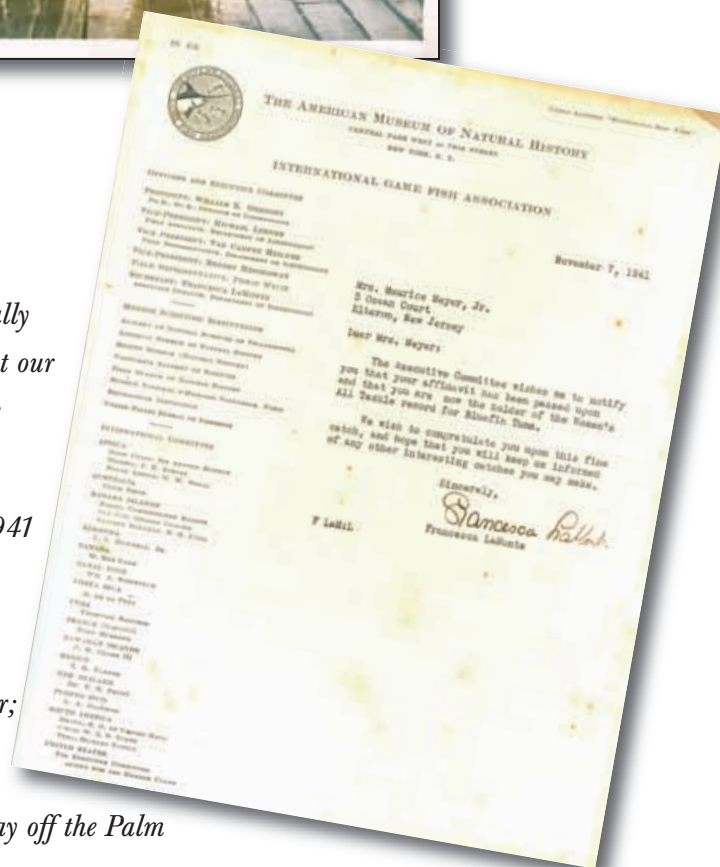
MRMTC's women members were world class anglers, pictured is Eugenie Marron fishing the waters off Chile.



Among MRMTC's world class women anglers were Carolyn Meyer who caught this 818-pound tuna off Bailey Island, Maine in 1941.

Our individual members performed equally well, especially women members. While competitive clubs looked askance at our female member policy, some of the girls achieved among the following feats:

- ◆ *A woman member caught an 818-pound tuna in 1941 and established three world records.*
- ◆ *A woman member and her guest boated two blue marlin totaling 500 pounds in the space of one hour; and a 240-pound fish in 13 minutes.*
- ◆ *A woman member had eight sailfish releases in a day off the Palm Beach.*
- ◆ *A woman member weighing 110 pounds, manhandled a 635-pound tuna to the boat in 35 minutes on September 12, 1969.*





- ◆ *Two members caught “his and her” black Marlin – each fish over 1,200 pounds on the same boat.*

Some other unusual catches by club members included:

- ◆ *A member caught two broadbill on his way to the USATT at Point Judith in 1957.*
- ◆ *On the lighter side there was the member (not light to him at the time) who owned a liquor business and in an effort to beat the system loaded his boat with stock prior to departure for Florida, went to dinner and upon his return found that the wakes had gotten to his scuppers and – you guessed it (true).*

At a quick glance the membership did well with world records – all in all nine were established or broken and one as recently as last year. There is research being done on this to uncover more credits in this area.

On it went until late in the 1960s when darker days came upon the club, not from the standpoint of catches because the Canyon was in bloom but institutionally we needed strength and direction. The Officers and Trustees provided this starting with the December 3, 1971 member meeting and the strength began to flow back.

All areas of activity improved quickly, membership rolls, internal policy, tournaments, bank balance – everything. The pace was set and maintained and today the club faces this happy situation:

A good membership base

A good fiscal position

Strong, capable, officers and trustees

Excellent participation of female members - all areas

New modern by-laws considered a model by IGFA

A fine (second to none) history

An approved scholarship program



In fact we have everything that a club about to charter would set for goals, more, for that matter than many clubs already in existence, with few exceptions. The Sailfish Club of Palm Beach comes to mind.



EAST COAST MARLIN & TUNA CLUBS

Only the Atlantic Tuna Club of New England, organized in 1914, pre-dates the formation of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, which was soon followed by the formation of other East Coast marlin & tuna clubs.

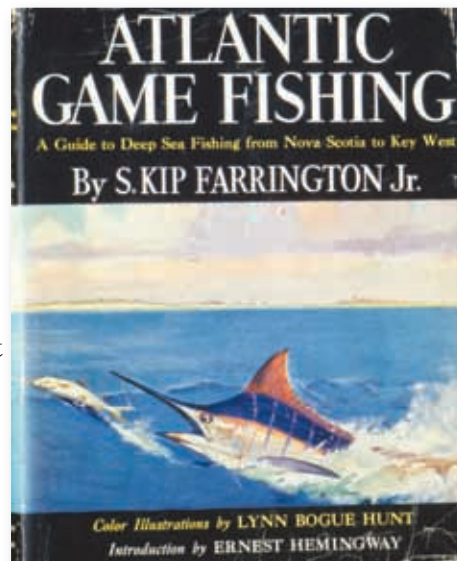
ATLANTIC TUNA CLUB	1914
MANASQUAN RIVER MARLIN & TUNA CLUB	1936
FORKED RIVER TUNA CLUB	1937
FREEPORT TUNA CLUB	1937
BABYLON TUNA CLUB	1939
STATEN ISLAND MARLIN & TUNA CLUB	1939
SHEEPSHEAD BAY TUNA CLUB	1939
BEACH HAVEN MARLIN & TUNA CLUB	1949
OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB	1950
SHINNECOCK MARLIN & TUNA CLUB	1956
HATTERAS MARLIN CLUB	1956
OCEAN COUNTY MARLIN & TUNA CLUB	1959
CAPE MAY MARLIN & TUNA CLUB	1973

KIP FARRINGTON, JR.



FISHING THE ATLANTIC

One of America's early big-game fishing writers of the 1930s, and a pioneer angler in his own right, Kip Farrington, Jr. chronicled the superb angling opportunities found along the New Jersey Coast in the home waters of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club in his book, *Atlantic Game Fishing*, first published in 1939. Farrington was well-known to club members, and documented not only the fishing, but the exploits of several members when he wrote the following excerpt from that book.



FIRE ISLAND TO BARNEGAT

The Angler living in the region of New York City is in an enviable position. From May through November the fisherman who cannot go far afield has easy access to fishing grounds that offer a challenge to the skill of anglers interested in numerous branches of the sport.

As we sail down the Jersey coast, the first inlet navigable for fishing boats, outside the one at Shark River, is Manasquan Inlet, situated at Brielle, New Jersey. This town has a good harbor, and except in the case of a very bad northeaster, the inlet is very safe. In the winter of 1936 a new club, named the Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club, was formed. Its headquarters are at Hoffman's Dock, where a great many private boats and most of the fishing craft tie up. The club was organized by such well-known fishermen as Francis Low, Orton G. Dale, Jr., Leo B. Travers, John Murray, Francis Geer, Sr., Bob Edge, C. Blackburn Miller, original founders on corporate papers, and others.

The club has a fine clubhouse, and its beginning that year was most auspicious, for it was the arrival of the greatest run of tuna the New Jersey coast has ever known. Every summer, a fishing derby for its members is sponsored by the club, and very beautiful prizes and buttons are presented to the winners in the various classes.

During the club's opening season, for the first time so early in the year, tuna weighing from 50 to 150 pounds were caught by trolling off Manasquan Inlet. Among the members who were the first to locate and take these fish were Lou Marron, John Murray, E.I. Low and Orton Dale. On June 6, the first broadbill swordfish ever caught off the State of New Jersey was taken by Francis Geer, Jr., and weighed 382 pounds. Mr. Geer, another college oarsman, was fishing from his father's boat, the Seven Stars, having come down from the Yale training camp at Gales' Ferry, Connecticut, to spend a day off from the rigors of that sport in fishing with his father. He never dreamed that he was going to be in for a much harder fight than rowing a four mile race against Harvard on the Thames River. He fought his broadbill for more than ten hours on 24-thread line without using a harness, before it was brought to gaff. The broadbill was foul-hooked in the dorsal fin, which accounted for the length of time it took to kill him.

As far as I know, this was the first time any large fish had been fought for more than two hours on the Atlantic coast without the aid of a harness, and believe me, I think it speaks pretty well for the training the Yale crew squad received that Mr. Geer was able to stick it out without help from anybody. He also possesses surprising spirit, and I predict for him one of the greatest futures of any of our younger fishermen. He is a marvelous sportsman and knows his fish from A to Z, and ranks among the first five of the men I know who have the ability to "take it" when fishing for big fish. This fish, I think, ranks with Francis Low's catch of the 705-pound tuna as the most important taken in the greater metropolitan district.

In July of that year, the tuna were taken by trolling much closer in to shore, most of them being of the school size and variety. Two white marlin were also taken, Orton G. Dale, Jr., catching one that weighed over 100 pounds after a long fight on bluefish tackle.



Left to right: Fred Schock, Lou Marron, Maurice Meyer, Jr., and Happy Felton wearing jackets with pins and patches.

On August 7, Mr. E.I. Low caught a 382 pound tuna, chumming at what is called "Big Rock" near the wreck of the Mohawk. His fish was taken on 24-thread line in the remarkable time of twenty-five minutes, and evidently died of heart failure.

On August 16, Ralph Poole, Jr. took a 396-pounder which was the largest legitimately caught fish of the season and won the Manasquan Tuna Trophy. On the same day Mrs. H.A. Pratt caught a 141 pounder on a 12-thread line, using a 4/0 reel – another fine achievement for a woman.

The end of the month found the tuna in great numbers over the Shrewsbury Rocks, about a mile and a half off Sea Bright. The commercial bluefishing fleet was very close in, fishing over the rocks, and evidently the tuna followed them in.

In all, about seventy-five tuna were caught by private and charter boats out of Manasquan, the fish weighing between 100 and 720 pounds, forty of them being eligible for the fishing derby. Hugo Rutherford and his guests fishing from Rutherford's boat, the Mako, alone took sixteen. The largest fish, the 720-pounder, was hooked by John Murray, the club's secretary, aboard his boat the Flamingo, and was killed in five hours after being played by four fishermen, Mr. Murray, who like Mrs. Farrington had infantile paralysis, being unable to stay with the fish after two hours.





Bluefin were plentiful off the Shrewsbury Rocks.

No chapter on the Jersey coast would be complete without a word regarding Mr. Murray. In my opinion, he is the gamest man fishing on the Atlantic coast today. Although he still walks with crutches and is badly crippled, you will find him out there during the summer months, regardless of the kind of weather or what the size of the fish. He has caught plenty of them, and one of these days he will catch a really giant tuna.

The tuna remained inshore until September 13, when the tail-end of a hurricane coming up from the South drove them out. On the last day Mrs. Francis Low took a 388 pounder in four hours on a 24-thread line. This fish was hooked on a white rag soaked with bunker oil – which shows what tuna will take when in the mood, even though they have been refusing all other lures. Another marvelous achievement for Mrs. Low and her captain, Fred Wicht.



The pioneering fishermen and women of influential clubs like the MRMTC helped encourage modern innovations in rod and reel design with improved drag systems and corrosion-proof materials.

Naturally, the enthusiasm ran at fever heat, and in the early morning and later afternoon, the Manasquan Inlet looked like the Hudson River, with the fishing boats going in and out on their way to the grounds. It is believed that many fish weighing over 500 pounds were seen, and probably three times as many were hooked as were caught, most of them lost through the inexperience of the fishermen and poor tackle. Others were cut loose when fouled around anchor lines of the boats in the fleet that was chumming. Still others were lost by the line chafing

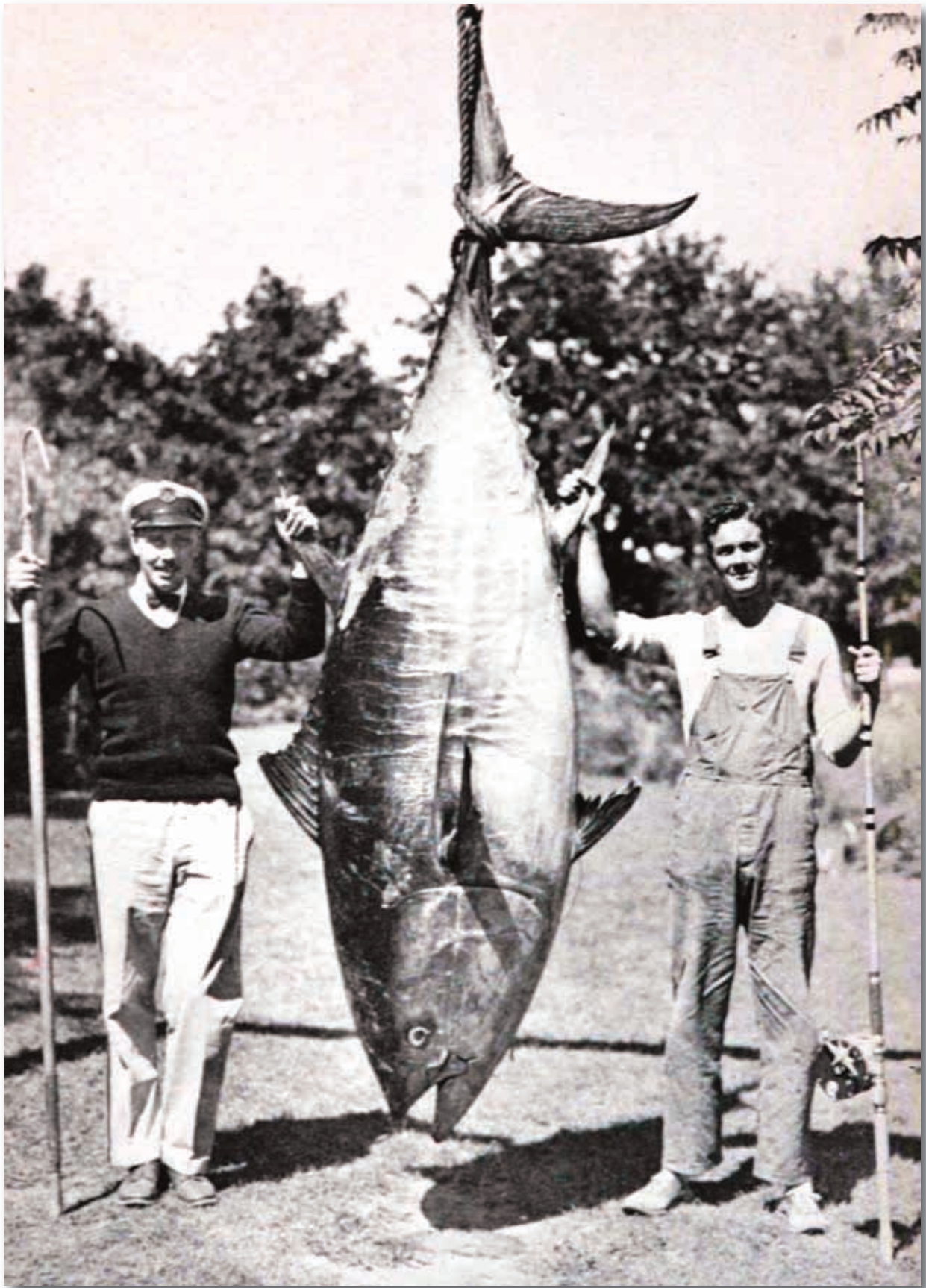
on the rocks, as the water is very shallow – probably only forty or fifty feet at its deepest point. Mr. E.I. Low hooked a fine fish and had the line fouled around a commercial bluefishing smack, when two of the crew leaned over and hand-lined the fish alongside the smack. Mr. Low and Captain Wicht were blowing their whistle and imploring the men to let the fish loose. After getting the tuna alongside (it weighed around 400 pounds) they invited Mr. Low to come aboard and they would present him with the catch. Mr. Low, however, quickly cut the line and told them they would keep it for their own, and went back to his chumming. It seems as if there is always some unforeseen influence to hamper the big game fisherman.

Some of the leading boat captains who fish out of Manasquan Inlet are Captains McBride, Huntington, Wigant, Driscoll and Patterson. Other well-known anglers who have helped make this club – which I believe has marvelous possibilities for the future – a great success, are Warren Ackerman, Van Campen Heilner, Colonel W.G. Schauffler, Ferdinand Roebling and Hugo Rutherford. The officers of the club are Francis H. Low, president, Orton G. Dale, Jr., vice president, Leo B. Travers, treasurer, and John Murray, secretary. You can appreciate that with these men at the head of the organization, the club is bound to go a long way. Many new boats will be fishing out of there in the future, with better equipment and tackle than in the past seasons. The docks have been enlarged and old ones remodeled. All that is needed is for the blue torpedoes to appear in the abundance they did in 1936.

Proceeding down the beach, from Manasquan, we pass Barnegat Inlet, which is the site of another newly-formed club, the Forked River Tuna Club. One or two boats are also to be found here for offshore fishing, and the usual number for bottom fishing. You will be delighted with the welcome to be found there, thrilled by the early morning sunrise as you run off to the Ridge, and even more delighted, I am sure, with what will be in your fish box on the run home.



In concluding this section on fishing in the Metropolitan area, I think it only fair to say a word about those men who write constantly on the subject of fishing but who have little opportunity to enjoy the fun of catching fish. These writers about matters piscatorial are Donald Stillman, of the New York Herald Tribune, Raymond R. Camp, of the New York Times, Jack Brawley, of the New York American, Ray Trullinger of the New York World -Telegram, Ed Tying, of the New York Sun, Horace Rood, of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and Jim Hurley of the Mirror. These men keep thousands of anglers informed as to weather conditions, catches of fish – large and small – where to go, and when the fish have arrived or left. They list all the various boatmen and in the winter time, when the thermometer registers near the zero mark, you can read your paper and know that some lucky fellow had caught a blue marlin at Bimini or sailfish off Miami.



Francis Low's 705-pound bluefin tuna.

Francis H. Low was the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's first president serving consecutive terms in 1936 and 1937, and then serving on the Board of Trustees for several more years. Low proved to be an excellent choice as club president, and was typical of the founding members – he loved to fish!

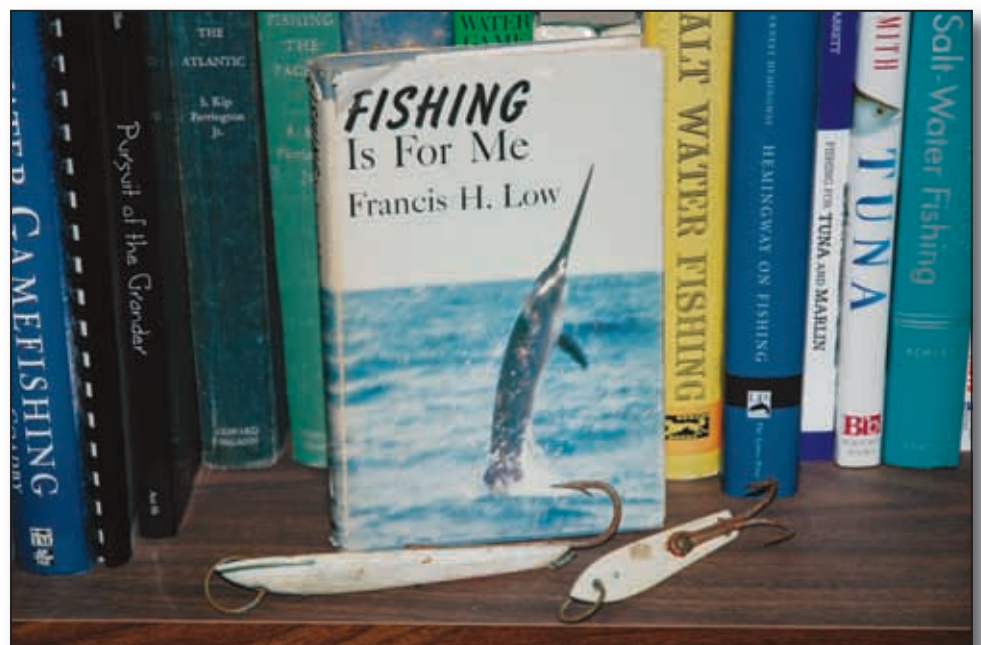
FRANCIS H. LOW



FIRST CLUB
PRESIDENT

In 1933, at the age of 22, Francis H. Low caught a 705-pound Atlantic bluefin tuna off the New Jersey Coast near the waters where the Ambrose Lightship marked the entrance to New York Harbor. Although the International Game Fish Association had not yet been organized, Low's catch was considered by the angling community of the time as a record catch. Two years later he caught a huge white shark of 998 pounds, missing the coveted "grander" classification by just 2 pounds. It was the first white shark captured in the United States and stood as the world record until Zane Grey beat it several years later.

Francis H. Low was an avid fisherman, and credited his father, Ethelbert Ide Low with getting him started on an angling career. His wife Susie was his frequent partner as he traveled the angling world to distant fishing hot spots in the Bahamas, Cuba and Canada. Although well-known at the time for his big-game fishing, Low was also an avid light-tackle inshore fisherman, and in his book *Fishing Is For Me*, published by William, Morrow & Company in 1963, he recalled adventures from his youth in Long Island for weakfish and bluefish, his big-game adventures in the 1930s and into the 1950s and early 1960s in Cuba, a place he enjoyed immensely with his wife for the exciting and untouched bonefish and tarpon fishing that existed in this pre-Castro island paradise.



In the book's Forward, Low captured the essence of his life as a fisherman when he wrote, *It was my good fortune to be brought up in a fishing family: to live through the sunset of the old-time pioneers to whom we all owe so much (great sportsmen such as Boschen, Grey, Heilner and many others) and into the modern, super-competitive arena of big, fast cruisers, tournaments, streamlined tackle and all the other aids and comforts of space-age fishing. To me, fishing, unless you are in it for a living, should be fun. It is a hobby and should be enjoyed. If you get pleasure handlining blue fish rather than using a fiberglass wand and 2 lb. test monofilament, go to it, and God bless you!*

He provides a clear look into his attitude and approach to fishing. *This book is not a moral of what you should or should not do in the fishing world but merely some of the experiences the author has enjoyed and suffered over the past forty years and thought it might be fun to recall for his children and friends, many of whom have shared trials, pleasures, disappointments and successes over the years.* Low captured in words what members of the MRMTC have always believed; fishing is fun, something to be savored with friends and family.

Low family boat, the **Akela III**.



Despite his reputation for world-record catches, Francis H. Low took as much pleasure from taking his wife and kids and friends fishing as he did when fishing for more serious quarry, such as giant bluefin tuna. He enjoyed the entire fishing experience and appreciated the off days when weather, sea conditions or Lady Luck refused to smile and fishing was less than perfect. According to Low's viewpoint, there was as much satisfaction to be gained catching an 8-pound bonefish, a Barnegat Ridge bluefish in the chum slick or a back-bay weakfish as from trolling a rigged squid past the bill of a basking swordfish, a tailing sailfish or a powerful bluefin tuna. The bad weather days made great story telling and enhanced his appreciation of good days.



Francis Low hooked up with the first swordfish caught after the war.

Fishing Is For Me gave Low the opportunity to record for history a time from the late 1930s to the 1960s when fishing went through some amazing changes in tackle and techniques and as new places opened to fishermen. His attitude about fishing, exploring new fishing locations and the spirit of sportsmanship he lived by is an inspiration for today's members.

Francis H. Low was an excellent choice as the club's first president.

LEO B. TRAVERS



THE RECORD KEEPER

Leo B. Travers was one of the original founding members and an officer of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club in 1936. He served as the club's first treasurer, and continued to serve in several officer capacities from 1936 through 1964 – a remarkable period of time – and helped mold the club into a premier recreational fishing organization.



Much of the club's history and the significant happenings about its members, their catches and fishing experiences are found in the exceptionally detailed records Leo B. Travers kept in a ledger, much like an accountant's tally sheets of profit and loss, but these fishing records became a catalog of member's catches. His meticulous, hand-written entries chronicle the club's progress from its inception through the expansion of the club's annual Derby, the awarding of trophies, big fish, the Schaefer contest, the banquets and a myriad of other club activities.

Unfortunately, we know very little about Mr. Travers himself. He was an avid fisherman and apparently spent a lot of his angling efforts inshore. Most of his MRMTC fishing awards were primarily for inshore species, in particular, striped bass, however, we know that he was an active participant in the early bluefin fishery at the Sea Bright Grounds.

In 1964, while having served the club at various times through 30 years as president, treasurer and secretary, Mr. Travers wrote a letter to the members of the club, which said in part, *In 1936 a group of offshore fishermen gathered at Hoffman's Anchorage and organized our Club. We were the pioneer giant tuna fishermen, deriving great pleasure out of seeking these game fish which were plentiful until about 1952.*

He continued, *Since our founding I have been running the Club and have now decided to step down in favor of some of the younger members.*

He ended by saying, *Do not think my fishing days have ended. I can always be found in Spring Lake sitting in my fighting chair hauling in sea robins and blow fish.*

The MRMTC is indebted to Leo B. Travers for his long-term commitment to the club and for his guidance during the early years. His careful, thorough documentation of the early years of the club's history provides a priceless and unique opportunity to peer into the past and relive the pioneering days of sport fishing.



June 6. 1936			
Francis Lee Jr	-	382 lb broadbill snoutfish	
A S Miller		61 lb June 1.	
Leo B. Brown	-	85 lb June 4.	
Mrs. Orton Dale		65 lb June (2)	
Orton Dale		65 lb June	
Judge Frank Fuller		8 lb bluefish	July 8
W W Vaughan		8 lb bluefish	July 19
Mrs. Lon Martin		90 lb June	
Aug	Mr. Thomas McCarthy	9 lb 14 oz Bluefish	(59 lb 14 oz June 10th 1/2 mile Caught at 9-00 hrs 16 oz thick tip 24 thread line June 26 miles.
Aug 7	Mr. E. S. Low	382 lb June - length 7 ft 8 ins - girth 4 ft 11 3/4 ins	Caught at Big Rock shore of Spring Lake 1/2 mile from shore.
Aug 1	Dr. Wm Dyer	52 lb white Marlin	1 hr 40 min 20 miles east of Mt. Mrs. Dyer & Mr. Dyer
Aug 13	Dr. Wm Dyer	57 lb white Marlin	? do
Aug 16	Ralph H. Poole Jr	396 lb June Length 7 ft 9 in Girth 4 ft 9 in	(39 thread line 12-0 Reel 22 oz tip 13 in Vin/Vit Hooking)
Aug 16	Florence Schmidt	251 lb June Length 7 ft 1 in Girth 4 ft 9 in	24 thread line 12-0 Reel 22 oz tip
Aug 17	Mrs. H. A. Pratt	141 lb June	12 thread line 4-0 Reel 12 oz tip

VERMONT FISH HARBOR AND TUNA CLUB

BRIELLE, N. J.

RECORD OF CATCHES

2

Aug 29	Hugo Rutherford	- 237 Tuna chumming off Sea Buoy 30 minutes	14-0 Reel 54 Head Line 31 oz Zip Bait
Sept 1	Hugo Rutherford	- 214 Tuna chumming Sea Buoy 30 minutes	14-0 Reel 54 Line 31 oz Zip Bait
Sept 1	Allison Stern	253 Tuna chumming Sea Buoy 1 hr 10 min	16-0 Reel 54 line 30 oz hook tip
Sept 2	Sidney Erlanger (Not entered in Derby)	434 Tuna chumming off Sea Buoy on Mr Stern's boat Capt Jack Muggins (guide) 1 hr 45 min	14-0 Reel Vantage 30-72 graduate line 30 oz tip
Sept 2	Hugo Rutherford	340 Tuna. Girth 4'-10" Length 6'-6" chumming off Sea Buoy 8 min.	14-0 Van Kope 31 oz Bait tip 54 Head line
do	do	250 Tuna Girth 4'-6" L-6'-6" do 45 min.	do
do	Guy Rutherford	289 Tuna Girth 4'-6" L-7'-2" do 2 hr 3 min	14-0 Kookabury 30 oz bait 39 Head line
Sept 3	W. G. Schauffler III	378 Tuna Girth 4'-0" L-7'-5" chumming Sea Buoy 1 hr 40 min	9-0 Reel 18 oz Bait Zip Bait 36 Head line

Sept 7	Louis Maron	577 Tuna	9'-10" L 5'-8" J	140 Korolsky
	(Dolphin Entry)	Chumming Sea Bunt	2 hr 15	23 of tip
				36 Line
7	Harold Bruceall (Strode)	379 Tuna	check Holyst	120 Cor
	not eligible	Chumming Sea Bunt	{ Chum Bunt 720	22 of tip
		1 hr 40 min.	{ no member	54 Line
6	Harold Bruceall (Strode)	380 Tuna	check Holyst	
	not eligible	100 do	{ Geo Kumpen 720	
			{ no member	
6	Jack Louis Kier	393 Tuna	check Holyst Kuygunt	
7	Louis Maron	577 Tuna	9'-10" L 6'-2" J	14-0 Korolsky
	Not eligible for entry	Chumming off Sea Bunt		23 of tip
	line cut & ground	2 hr 15 min		36 Thread
		3 hr 1/2		
9	John Murray	720 Tuna		120 Reel
	Not eligible	Chumming off Sea Bunt		14 of tip
	4 fisherman glogus fish	5 hrs		39 thread line
3	Robert Edge	223 Tuna		120 Reel
		47 minutes		16 of tip
		187 Tuna		36 of Line
		12 min		
10	Captain Huntington	241 Tuna	CBM Faden Brandat	
10	Capt Mitchell	148 Tuna	CBM Mike Corwin	
	do	238 do	a	
10	Capt Weygant	311 do	CBM Sue Woodruff	
	Hugo Rutherford	328 Tuna		14-0 Kor
	do	392 do		14 of tip
	Wentworth Rutherford	478 do		36 Line

1942

1943

1944

1945

SUSPENDED FISHING FOR DURATION OF WAR.

TROPHYS AWARDED FOR 1939.

Monasypen Tuna Trophy	590 lbs	Adam E Carpenter
Huntington Tuna Trophy (Trophy)	65 lbs	John C Mc Carthy
First Tuna Caught.	Double Header 17 1/2	E. J. Low
First Bluefish Caught	See 1st Grand Whiskey - 7 F. Mc Carthy	Francis Low
Largest Tuna over 150 lbs	Tycoon Red - 590 lbs	Mrs. Wm Dyer
Largest Dolphin	Savele Back Kamas - 9 W. Dyer	Adam E Carpenter
Largest Stupid Bass	Thermus Bottle - 17 oz	Or. Wm Dyer
Largest Tuna Trochery on 6-9 Jackle	Red - 12 1/2 lbs	John C Mc Carthy
Largest Tuna on 6-9 Jackle	Cup - 53 lbs	Walter Mc Donough
Best Catch (Markina Tuna) on light Jackle	Tycoon Red - 62 lbs	Albert S Woodruff
Largest Bluefish	Tuna 62 lbs	Albert S Woodruff
	4 lbs 3 oz	Thomas F Mc Carthy

Second U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament. Won 2nd Place

Team	
F W Rockley 3rd	Thomas F Mc Carthy
Wm B Hurst Jr	Oscar Williams
Adam E Carpenter	Ned Octofer
Walter Mc Donough	John B Bueford
	Wm J. Lawrence
	Ralph Draper
	Or Wm Dyer
	Maurice Meyer Jr.



Mayor Adam E Carpenter - 590 lb Tuna
Monasypen Tuna Trophy
Trophysman Trophy
1939.

5/27/50	Old Hornland	Striped Bass	34 lb.	Sandy Hook Tuna
5/28/50	JP McCarthy	Bluefish	5 lb.	Trawl
5/30/50	Jack McCarthy	do	5 lb. 2 oz.	do
5/30/50	Nelson Bendat	do	(duplex)	
5/28/50	do	do	(4 ch. 9 oz. 3/4)	Tuna 1/2 T.
5/30/50	do	do	4 1/4 lb.	Surf
5/30/50	T Rastall	do	4 1/4 ch.	Trawl
5/30/50	John Rogers	do	4 1/4 lbs	do
6/4/50	Elvin Lake	do	4 1/2 ch.	do
	Jim Lynch	do	5 lb.	do
6/18/50	Paul Bennett	Striped Bass	40 lb.	do
	do	do	32 lb.	do
6/14/50	Lee Heygert	do	28 lbs	do
6/23/50	John B. Hall	Great Tuna	8 3/4 lbs	do
6/6/50	Rubus Moller	Striped Bass		
6/30/50	Ronald McCarthy			

ATLANTIC RIVER MARLIN AND TUNA CLUB
BRIDGE, N. J.

RECORD OF CATCHES

FERDINAND W. ROEBLING III



BLUEFIN HUNTER

Mr. Roebling was the great grandson of John A. Roebling, the designer of the Brooklyn Bridge, and was employed as the chief engineer at John A. Roebling Sons Company for many years.

Ferd Roebling was a founding member of the MRMTC, and served as the club's second President, succeeding Francis Low, from 1938 through 1948, and again from 1953 through 1956. Under Roebling's direction the MRMTC grew in membership and prestige in its early years.

A well-respected world-class angler, Roebling's boats, always named **Blue Fin** (I through IV) were fished from Manasquan Inlet to Bimini in the Bahamas, where he was a guest of Michael and Helen Lerner, and stayed at their cottage, a gathering place for many pioneering anglers of that era. An avid big-game angler he was especially skilled at catching bluefin tuna, and he served as a member of the club's team in the first official USATT in 1938 and for several years thereafter. ■

The Lerner's Bimini cottage.



This was the old and famous Complete Angler Hotel/Bar that burned down a few years ago.



Ferd with two nice marlin.



Ferd Roebling's **Blue Fin** in Cat Cay with giant bluefin in the cockpit.



Ferd trolling bass on bunker spoons.



Ferd's **Blue Fin IV** heading out to the fishing grounds.





Chapter Two



THE FOUNDING YEARS 1936 TO 1941

The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club probably existed on an informal basis prior to 1936 as local big-game anglers met on the Briele docks and compared catches, talked about fishing and fishing boats, and planned their fishing trips. Founded in the midst of the Great Depression, the club came into existence as a new wave of industrialists, financiers and businessmen struggled to overcome the tough economic times of the era.

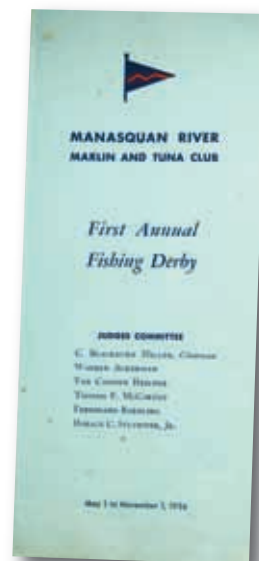
Spurred by new tackle innovations and an abundance of large bluefin tuna, which eventually became known as giant bluefin, these men fished for personal enjoyment and for the thrill of fierce competition with their peers. By 1936 the club was officially in existence and elected Francis H. Low as president, Orton G. Dale, Jr. as vice president, Leo B. Travers as secretary and Robert Edge as treasurer.

1936



A GOOD START

The club published its First Annual Fishing Derby brochure, listing the judges committee as chaired by C. Blackburn Miller and staffed by Warren Ackerman, Van Campen Heilner, Thomas F. McCarthy, Ferdinand Roebeling, and Horace Sylvester, Jr. The Derby ran from May 1 to November 1, 1936 and entries were kept in a handwritten ledger compiled by club secretary Leo B. Travers.



Several trophies were available as awards for members who caught the largest fish of several species of local gamefish. The Manasquan Tuna Trophy was presented by Francis H. Low as a perpetual trophy to be presented for one year to the member catching the largest tuna during the annual Derby. The Manasquan Marlin Award, an Edward Vom Hofe "De Luxe" Saltwater Rod was presented by Horace C. Sylvester, Jr. to the member catching the largest marlin. A cash prize of \$25 was to be awarded to the charter boat captain whose boat landed the biggest gamefish during the Derby. Club trophies were also available for the largest marlin, broadbill swordfish, bluefish and tuna.

547	Louis Marion	577 Tuna	9'10" L 5'8" J	140 Kordsky
	(Dolphin entry)	Charming Sea Breeze	2 hr 15	23 oz tip
				36 line
7	David Bruce (Stroller)	579 Tuna	check log	120 box
	not eligible	Charming Sea Breeze	1 hr 40 min	22 oz tip
				54 line
6	David Bruce (Stroller)	350 Tuna	check log	
	not eligible	100 do	{ Dick Capen 700	
6	John the Louis Ken	393 Tuna	check log	
7	Louis Marion	577 Tuna	9'10" L 6'2" J	140 Kordsky
	Not eligible for derby	Charming off Sea Breeze	2 hr 15 min	23 oz tip
	line cut on ground	3 hr 1/2		36 thread
9	John Murray	720 Tuna		120 reel
	Not eligible	Charming off Sea Breeze	5 hrs	14 oz tip
	4 fisherman gamefish			39 thread line
3	Robert Edge	223 Tuna		120 Reel
		47 minutes		16 oz tip
		187 Tuna		36-27 line

Additional recognition was given to club members who caught significant gamefish with the inauguration of Button Awards. A gold button was presented to any member who caught a marlin or swordfish, a silver button was awarded to any member catching a tuna over 100 pounds, and a bronze button was awarded for tuna over 65 pounds but less than 100 pounds, and for bluefish of at least 8 pounds.

In the 1936 Derby, Ralph Poole, Jr. received the Manasquan Tuna Trophy for a 396-pound Atlantic bluefin tuna, Dr. William Dyer won the Marlin Trophy for a 57-pound marlin (probably a white marlin), Francis Geer, Jr. received the Broadbill Swordfish Trophy for his 382-pound catch and a 9-pound, 14-ounce bluefish caught by Thomas F. McCarthy won the Bluefish Trophy.

The Derby logbook indicates that John Murray landed a 720-pound tuna caught while chumming off Sea Bright on a 12/0 reel, 39-thread line and a 14-ounce tip rod. The catch took five hours to land, but was ineligible for the Manasquan Tuna Trophy since four anglers fought the fish. Lou Marron also had a 577-pound bluefin, but the line was cut and re-tied. July 1 saw the first bluefin landed, caught by A.S. Miller and weighing 61 pounds. That same weekend, Francis Geer, Jr. landed his 382-pound swordfish. The first large bluefin (they weren't called giants yet) was landed by E. I. Low and weighed 382 pounds on August 7. The last big bluefin of the season was taken by Lou Marron on September 13 and weighed 217 pounds.



Originally donated by Francis H. Low in 1936, the Manasquan Tuna Trophy is one of the oldest annually awarded sportfishing trophies in the country.

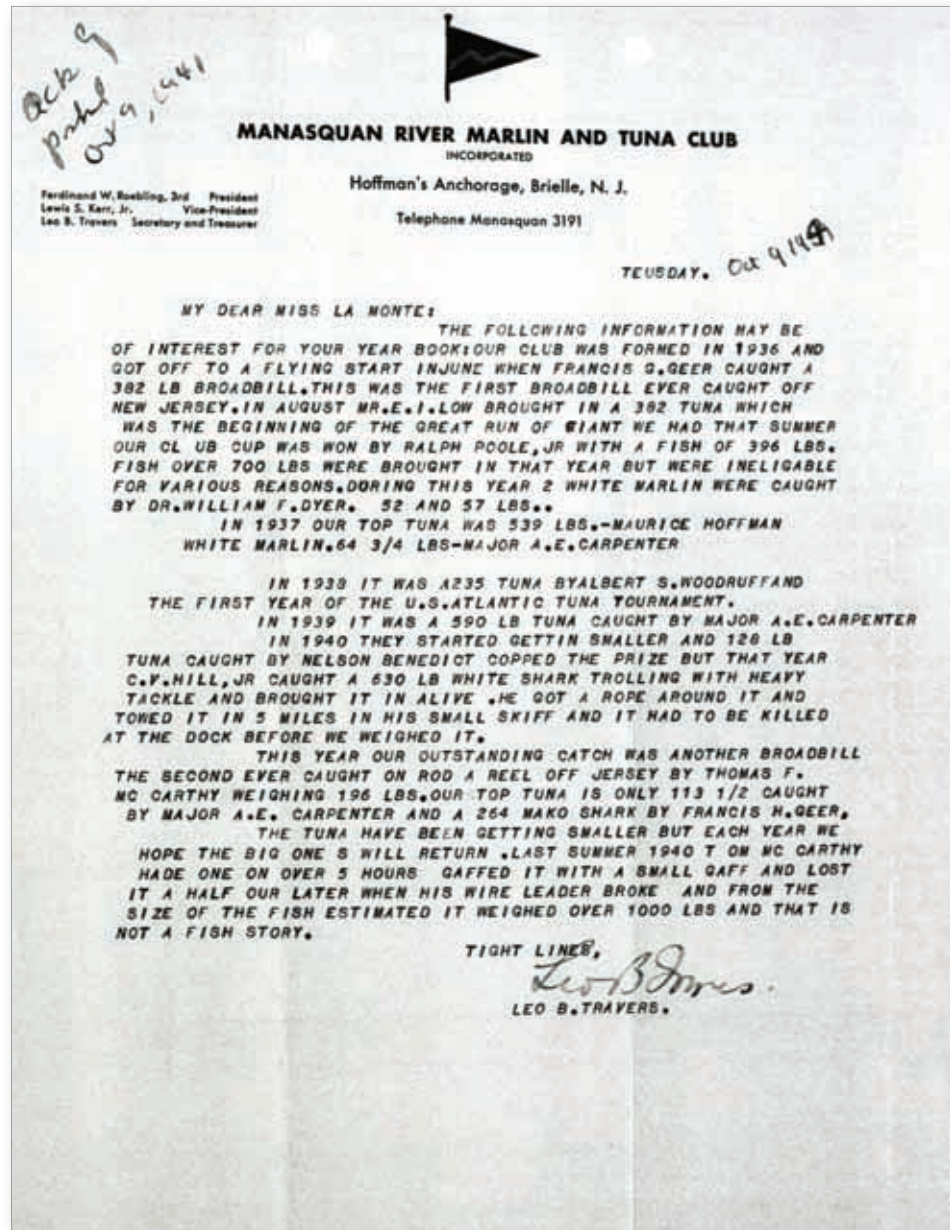


1937



BOASTS 44 MEMBERS

In 1937, the club re-elected Francis H. Low, Orton G. Dale, Jr., and Leo B. Travers as president, vice president and treasurer, and John Murray was elected secretary. The Derby brochure listed Hoffman's Anchorage as the club's address, and Manasquan 3191 as the club's telephone number. The club roster listed 44 members, plus 19 charter boat captains.



Besides the Manasquan Tuna Trophy, Marlin Award and club trophies; additional awards were established for 1937. The First Tuna Award, a tuna rod, was presented by Thomas F. McCarthy. Another tuna rod was presented for the largest tuna and was presented by Allison Stern. The largest tuna caught while trolling earned a tuna rod presented by S.L. Fuller, and Mr. W.J. Butterfield presented a Vom Hofe Big Game Tackle Box, to the member who caught the largest tuna or marlin over 100 pounds, if caught on 21-thread line. Each of the first five marlin over 57 pounds would earn those members a copy of Van Campen Heilner's *Salt Water Fishing* presented by Dr. William Dyer. The Largest Bluefish Award was a 15-jewel Elgin watch from H.G. Leonard.



Crews chased school tuna close to shore.

The Button Awards were expanded to award a gold button for a tuna over 300 pounds. This second year of the club's founding, 1937, was the first time that the Monthly Prizes were established for the annual Fishing Derby.

The first bluefin arrived on June 15 and was captured by John Murray. The first big bluefin of that year was taken by Col. Schauffler southeast of the Mohawk wreck and weighed 275 pounds after a 1-hour, 47-minute contest.

Award presentations that year included Maurice Hoffman who won the Manasquan Tuna Trophy for his 539-pound bluefin, Mrs. George Niddrie's 9-1/2-pound bluefish and Major Arron E. Carpenter's 64-3/4-pound marlin.

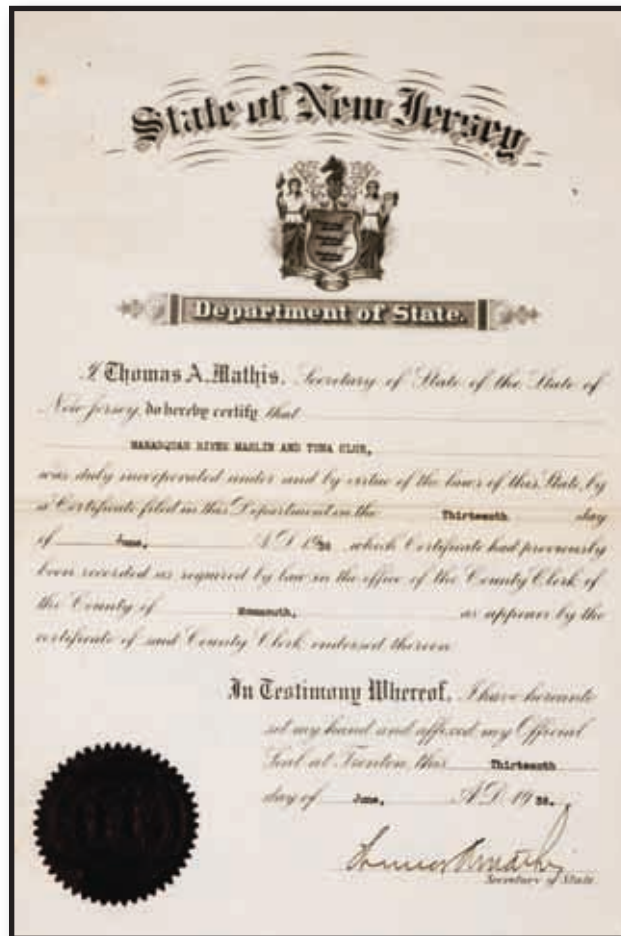
1938



OFFICIALLY
INCORPORATED

By 1938, the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's membership had grown considerably. The club's annual Derby brochure listed 47 members, but the club's incorporation documents list 137 members, of which, 14 were women. A new slate of officers guided the club this year, including Ferdinand W. Roebbling III as president, Louis S. Kerr as vice

president, John Murray as treasurer and Leo B. Travers as secretary. Trustees were added to the management of the club's activities and included Orton G. Dale, Jr., Francis H. Low and C. Blackburn Miller. The club's incorporation became official on June 8 at 4 p.m. when officers and trustees signed the corporate documents at Hoffman's Anchorage.



Many years later, Heck Wells, one of the club's early active members summarized the organization of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club in a letter written to club historian Maureen Murray. *The Certificate of Incorporation of the MRMTC signed on the 8 of June in 1938 stated in part "That the purpose for which this corporation is formed are the promotion, fostering and encouragement of the sport of deep sea fishing and the promotion, fostering and encouragement of conservation, preservation of fish and other deep sea life." The foresight of the founders of this club was (important) and the passage above will be referred to and brought home to those interested in many ways as this short history progresses. It must be remembered initially that conservation, preservation and safe guarding fish were hardly over-worked phrases at that time and probably were of absolutely no concern to the average sport fisherman, or any fisherman including the average charterboatmen who fished parties for hire (some more on this emphasis because although a concern of our founders they had only a hunch of what would come later).*



From all the information this writer has been able to uncover, from all existing early club minutes and from the normal chronological order of events and tournaments, this club (contrary to some opinion, that it was formed specifically to enter a special tournament, an ultra social status group or other unfounded conjecture) was truly formed by its sponsors for the reasons indicated in the certificate of incorporation (An instrument required for the club incorporation but no doubt for purposes completely foreign to any state government employee involved in its compellation and approval. No group (or) government agency was aware of or concerned with these problems.

To clarify the above statement there seems to be a modern theory among brother fishing clubs and among many of our members that there was an ulterior motive to the formation of this club. Records and research proves this, in my opinion to be false. There is some factual proof, although not conclusive, of this. For instance major tournaments were not yet established. The USATT was not yet born and in fact, we consider ourselves one of its parents.

Communication was primitive by today's micro-chip standards; but effective. In order for members to keep in contact with family and business, carrier pigeons were employed. The 1938 Third Annual Fishing Derby brochure included the following message, *Members may obtain carrier pigeons for the transmission of emergency or other messages from offshore positions by arrangement with Joel Parker, 72 South Street, (Telephone 345) Manasquan. Pigeons will be delivered at any hour desired.*

The Derby trophies remained essentially unchanged, but with several notable additions. A bronze button would now be awarded to the member catching a striped bass of 10 pounds or over, and a Largest Striped Bass Award was presented by Edmund Stanley for the largest catch of this species by a member. A Largest Dolphin Award was also added, presented by Mr. and Mrs.

George Niddrie. To commemorate the memory of Captain Lemuel Huntington, a new perpetual Huntington Tuna Trophy would be presented to the club member catching the largest tuna while trolling.

Present day MRMTC
perpetual trophy for
largest dolphin.



Major A. E. Carpenter caught the first bluefin on the troll that year, on June 30. It weighed 38 pounds, 10 ounces and was fought on a 9-thread outfit and 6-ounce rod mounting a 3/0 reel. The first big tuna of the season was taken on August 15 by Frank Ludermann, and weighed 115 pounds, 10 ounces. It was chummed in the Mud Hole. August and September saw many tuna from 90 to 177 pounds but only one fish exceeded the 200-pound mark. On August 28, Albert S. Woodruff landed a 235-pound bluefin and won the annual Manasquan Tuna Trophy. Mrs. Frank Ludermann was awarded the Huntington Tuna Trophy for her catch of a 65-pound trolled bluefin.

Other trophies and awards presented that year were made to Gibson Buttfield who received a Vom Hofe Tackle Box for a 130-pound tuna. Albert S. Woodruff won a Saddle Back Harness for his 235-pound tuna. The Striped Bass Award went to Ned Schafer for an 8-pound striper.

The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club fielded a team in the First U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament that included F.W. Roebeling III, Lewis S. Kerr Jr., Samuel Kerr, William B. Hurst Jr., Aaron E. Carpenter, Walter McDonough, Gibson Buttfield, Ned Schafer, Thomas McCarthy, Leo B. Travers and William Goadby Lawrence. The team won the Silver Cup with a total catch of 31 tuna weighing a total of 1,859 pounds. Team member Aaron E. Carpenter took the Silver Cup awarded for the largest tuna (no weight is mentioned in the club archives).

Club Secretary Leo B. Travers, reminisced about the first USATT many years later in a letter to Ferd Roebeling:

Dear Ferdie,

I did some checking, the club was started in 1936 I believe. In 1938 we had a tournament between the Freeport Tuna Club (Walter O'Malley) and us. We met in the middle of the ocean and phoned our catch when we got into Brielle and Freeport. I think Freeport won. Atlantic City, Forked River and Brielle Tuna Club (Lou Marron your buddy and Freddy Shultz and Maurice Meyer). We called it the U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament. (Walter O'Malley named it). We fished first from Hoffmans and it started to grow. From there it went to Shark River/Belmar and then to Cronnin's Landing Sandy Hook, then Freeport.

Now Mrs. Burlew has a wonderful book of pictures with all the big tuna, etc., caught in the early days. Ask her to show it to you. I told her to hold on to it and not let the present bunch of social members to have it at any cost. It is priceless in my opinion and you will enjoy it.



1939



LEE WULFF
ATTENDS
BANQUET

Lee Wulff



The fourth year of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club was exceptionally busy. The year began with members enjoying a fine banquet as they celebrated the third annual dinner and election of officers. The affair was held at the Hotel Lexington in New York City on February 16. The club's logbook entry describes the dinner. It was a splendid turn out of our members and guests. Mr. Lee Wulff's color pictures of fishing

and hunting in Newfoundland were well worth seeing. Sixty-four attended this meeting and the following officers were elected for 1939; Ferdinand W. Roebling III, president; Louis S. Kerr, Jr., vice-president, Leo B. Travers, secretary-treasurer. Trustees included Orton G. Dale, Francis H. Low and C. Blackburn Miller. Total paid membership was 140.

Nelson Benedict weighed in the club's first striper of 1939 with a 5-1/4-pound bass on June 6. E.I. Low and Francis Low teamed up to win the case of Grant's scotch whiskey for a double header of bluefin tuna weighing 16-3/4 pounds and 17-1/2 pounds on June 17. The first big tuna that year was boated by Major A.E. Carpenter, who chummed a 590-pound Atlantic bluefin off Deal on August 6. The second largest tuna of the year was captured by club member and New Jersey State Senator, A. S. Woodruff chumming off Long Branch on August 13 for a 208-pound bluefin. An interesting catch of the year was Leo B. Travers' catch of a 2-pound channel bass taken at North Point in the surf on October 27.

The 1939 awards were as follows:

❖ Manasquan Tuna Trophy	A.E. Carpenter	590 pounds
❖ Huntington Tuna Trophy	John C. McCarthy	65 pounds
❖ First Tuna	E.I. Low/Francis Low	16-3/4 & 17-1/2 pounds
❖ First Bluefish	Mrs. William M. Dyer	17 pounds
❖ Largest Tuna/Line Thread	A.E. Carpenter	590 pounds
❖ Largest Dolphin	Dr. William M. Dyer	17 pounds
❖ Largest Striped Bass	Walter McDonough	12-1/2 pounds
❖ Largest Tuna Trolling	Walter McDonough	53 pounds
❖ Largest Tuna-6/9 Thread	Albert S. Woodruff	62 pounds
❖ Largest Bluefish	Thomas F. McCarthy	4 pounds, 3 ounces
❖ Best Catch - Marlin or Tuna - Light Tackle	Albert S. Woodruff	62-pound tuna



The Second Annual U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament saw the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club take second place as the club fielded a team of anglers including F.W. Roebeling III, William B. Hurst, Jr., Aaron E. Carpenter, Walter McDonough, Thomas F. McCarthy, Oscar Williams, Ned Schafer, Gibson Buttfeld, William Goadby Lawrence, Ralph Draper, Dr. William Dyer and Maurice Meyer, Jr.

Major A.E.Carpenter with his
590-pound bluefin tuna taken off
Deal in August of 1939.





Always promoting the highest ideals of sportsmanship and conservation, the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club was among the first clubs to support the recently-formed International Game Fish Association (IGFA) which had organized in 1939. Tuna club secretary Leo B. Travers wrote to Miss Francesca LaMonte, secretary of the IGFA for membership information on December 20, 1939 by writing, *The Association is an excellent idea and our club will be glad to join and help in every way. Please send any correspondence to me.*



1940



BIG SHARKS

Kicking off the 1940 season, the club's annual dinner and election of officers was attended by 76 members, guests and honorary members at the Hotel Lexington in New York on February 20. Lee Wulff returned as featured guest speaker with his latest pictures and the following officers were elected: F.W. Roebeling III, president, Louis S. Kerr, Jr., vice president and Leo B. Travers as secretary-treasurer.

June 14 saw the first bluefin weighed in that year, a 20-pound school fish caught by Fred Thorngreen. Several notable sharks were also taken in that month including two makos by Major Carpenter, and two Greenland sharks caught by Walter McDonough and Major Carpenter. Mr. C.V. Hill captured the most notable shark, a great white on a 54-thread rod and 16/0 reel. The big fish weighed 630 pounds.

Trophies and awards presented for 1940 included:

❖ Manasquan Tuna Trophy	Nelson Benedict	128 pounds
❖ Huntington Tuna Trophy	Francis Geer	73 pounds
❖ First Tuna Caught	Fred Thorngreen	20 pounds
❖ First Bluefish	Fred Thorngreen	2-1/4 pounds
❖ Largest Tuna (Ladies)	Mrs. Maurice Meyer, Jr.	105 pounds
❖ Largest Shark (39 thread)	Walter McDonough	235 pounds
❖ Star-Ledger Light Tackle Tuna Award	Lou Marron	20 pounds
❖ Largest Striped Bass	Leo B. Travers	12-1/2 pounds
❖ Largest Tuna (6-9 tackle)	Alexander Lyle	34 pounds
❖ July 4th Tuna Special	Maurice Meyer, Jr.	weight not recorded
❖ Tuna Mixed Doubles	Maurice Meyer, Jr.	118 pounds
	Mrs. Maurice Meyer, Jr.	72-1/2 pounds



Carolyn Meyer with tuna of 118 and 72-1/2 pounds that won the mixed doubles tournament in 1940.

1941



STRIPED BASS WEIGH-INS

As the fishing season began in 1941, the club's record of entries expanded with weigh-ins for mackerel, hammerhead sharks, brown trout, bonito, broadbill swordfish and many hefty striped bass up to 40 pounds. The logbook's first entry is by Edwin Cordts with a 2-pound, 3-1/2-ounce mackerel caught on May 11. The first bluefish hit the scales on May 31, but it was a late start for bluefin as the first entry was not recorded until July 6 by Edwin Cordts with a 40-pound bluefin. Larger bluefin were not found that year, but by fall Maurice Meyer, Jr. weighed stripers of 36 and 40 pounds on October 13. A notable catch was made by Mrs. Maurice Meyer, Jr. for an 818-pound tuna which is listed in club records as "creating three world's records" but the records are not specified.

Trophies and awards for 1941 included:

❖ Manasquan Tuna Trophy	Major A.E. Carpenter	113-1/2 pounds
❖ Huntington Tuna Trophy	W.B. Hurst, Jr.	50 pounds
❖ First Tuna Caught	Edwin Cordts	40 pounds
❖ First Tuna Over 100 Pounds	Major A.E. Carpenter	113-1/2 pounds
❖ Largest Tuna Trolling	W.B. Hurst, Jr.	50 pounds
❖ Largest Tuna (Lady)	Miss Louise Worthington	weight not recorded
❖ Broadbill Swordfish	C.V. Hill, Jr.	196 pounds
❖ Largest Mako	Francis Geer	264 pounds
❖ Largest Striped Bass	Maurice Meyer, Jr.	40 pounds
❖ Largest Bluefish	Harold Riley	3 pounds
❖ Largest Bonito	T.F. McCarthy	6-1/4 pounds
❖ Largest Mackerel	Nelson Benedict	2 pounds, 9 ounces
❖ Largest Trout	Francis H. Geer	1-1/4 pounds
❖ Largest Fish (Mako Shark)	Francis H. Geer	264 pounds
❖ Out of Bounds Tuna Award 39-thread tackle	Mrs. Maurice Meyer, Jr.	818 pounds
❖ Mixed Doubles	Miss Louise Worthington	weight not recorded
	Major A.E. Carpenter	weight not recorded



The club's annual banquet was held locally at the Brielle Inn, on June 20, 1941. According to club records, *About 52 members and guests attended and enjoyed a shore dinner. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Ferd Roebling III as president, Louis S. Kerr, Jr. as vice president, and Leo B. Travers as secretary-treasurer.*

A tradition began in 1936 whereby a case of scotch whiskey was awarded to the first MRMTC member landing a bluefin tuna caught while fishing out of Manasquan Inlet. The Annual catch records of

the first and largest bluefin of the season were meticulously entered into the catch ledger maintained by Leo Travers from 1936 to 1972. While the traditional case of scotch whiskey is still awarded to a lucky member each year, only the member's name, not the exact dates and weights of those catches, has been recorded from 1973 to the present day.

Reviewing the catch data from 1936 to 1972 is interesting and provides a unique look into the fishery during that time period. Small Atlantic bluefin, the school-size fish, first showed up in Manasquan waters in June or July. The accompanying chart also logs in the dates of larger bluefin caught in late summer, usually August or September. Notice the trend of generally big fish in the 1936 to 1951 period, followed by two years of no large tuna, then smaller fish from 1953 through 1961, then dramatic up and down weights from 1962 through 1972.



ANNUAL FIRST AND LARGEST BLUEFIN TUNA CATCHES



Dean of New Jersey's outdoor journalists, Henry Schaefer (r) often fished with MRMTC members and recorded their adventures.



ANNUAL FIRST & LARGEST BLUEFIN OUT OF MANASQUAN INLET

YEAR	FIRST BLUEFIN	WEIGHT	LARGEST BLUEFIN	WEIGHT
1936	July 1	61 pounds	September 9	720 pounds
1937	July 29	275 pounds	August 3	539 pounds
1938	June 30	38 pounds	August 28	235 pounds
1939	June 17	16 pounds	August 6	590 pounds
1940	June 14	20 pounds	August 12	128 pounds
1941	July 6	25 pounds	August 12	113 pounds
1946	July 13	32 pounds	August 3	240 pounds
1947	June 27	54 pounds	August 24	293 pounds
1948	June 23	39 pounds	September 6	345 pounds
1949	June 15	17 pounds	September 4	480 pounds
1950	June 23	8 pounds	July 30	466 pounds
1951	June 26	17 pounds	September 1	281 pounds
1952	June 25	8 pounds	None	
1953	June 27	18 pounds	None	
1954	June 5	17 pounds	July 3	25 pounds
1955	June 25	18 pounds	July 2	30 pounds
1956	June 23	36 pounds	August 28	49 pounds
1957	June 14	43 pounds	June 15	51 pounds
1958	June 20	27 pounds	June 28	84 pounds
1959	June 20	36 pounds	July 25	43 pounds
1960	June 19	7 pounds	August 15	42 pounds
1961	June 18	36 pounds	August 19	64 pounds
1962	June 9	18 pounds	September 15	273 pounds
1963	July 7	43 pounds	August 11	385 pounds
1964	June 26	43 pounds	July 28	44 pounds
1965	NA	28 pounds	NA	28 pounds
1966	NA	29 pounds	NA	191 pounds
1967	NA	33 pounds	NA	59 pounds
1968	NA	26 pounds	NA	184 pounds
1969	June 6	47 pounds	September 6	730 pounds
1970	June 21	28 pounds	August 17	711 pounds
1971	July 25	41 pounds	August 19	715 pounds
1972	July 20	47 pounds	NA	136 pounds

PRIVATE BOATS AND OWNERS

Owner	Boat
F. Seymour Barr	Boo Boo
A. Pam Blumenthal	Sally III
Samuel Bonnell	Papoon
J. M. Booker	Bounty
M. R. Boylan	June
W. J. Buttrick	Allons
Robert L. Cahill	Barbara
J. J. Conklin	Frances II
John Crosby, Jr.	Sea Duck
Orson G. Dale, Jr.	Fish Hawk
Paul Debevoise	Katje
E. F. Dodge	Eva C.
M. J. Dwyer	Avex
Dr. Wm. Dyer	Hi-Tide
Ralph Floyd	Aunt Frances
S. L. Fuller	Last Drop
Francis H. Geer	Seven Stars
Chas. B. Harding	Jerusalem
Van Campen Helmer	Nepenthe III
Harold E. Herrick	Yelper
Newbold Herrick	Gannet
Dr. Douglas R. Leaming	Spindrift II
Paul P. Lee	Pamadin
Chas. L. Lehmann	Albi
E. I. Low	Akela III
Dr. J. L. MacDowell	So Long
L. E. Marston	Eugenie III
Thos. F. McCarthy	Johnny
John Murray	Flamingo
Frederick Nielsen, Jr.	Lady Clara II
Robert P. Newton	Restless
Dr. Wm. Pearce	Sirin
Arthur Peck	Laura
J. Ross Pilling, Jr.	Betsy
John Pratt, Jr.	Sea Pam
H. A. Riley	Grubbs
F. W. Ruchling, 3rd	Blue Fin
Hugo Rutherford	Mako
Ned Schafer	Nebo
Frank A. Shea	Fralice
Allison Stern	Fosston
Wm. N. Vaughan	Nuance
Bache McE. Whitlock	Cymba
Albert S. Woodruff	Splinter



INTRODUCTION

New Jersey's tidal and coastal waters are now attracting more than a million anglers a year, fully half of them coming from beyond the borders of the State, for the character of sport offered has resounded around the world.

Certainly, few regions can provide better salt-water fishing than this splendidly endowed State, whose great stretch of coastline, innumerable bays and coves, and countless spring-fed streams, create, with the purity and salinity of its waters, the natural conditions elemental to fish growth and reproduction.

Practically every species of salt water fish that frequent the temperate waters of the North Atlantic are to be found in New Jersey, and not infrequently wanderers from more southerly climes.

A fishing guide to our coastal and tidal waters has been a long felt want, not only to our own sportsmen but the thousands of recreationists from other States.

I take great pleasure in complimenting the writers of the splendid articles, Van Campen Heilner and Henry W. Stelwagon—two of New Jersey's outstanding sportsmen.

H. J. BURLINGTON
Executive Secretary

New Jersey Fish and Game Commission



BRIELLE

High on the bank of the Manasquan River on Route 35, Brielle makes an especially picturesque location in the late afternoon with its game fishing boats tied up in the basins.

With the reopening of the Manasquan Inlet a new fishing world for the big ones has been established. Pushing eastward, big game fishermen have extended the frontier of this deep-sea sport to the high seas.

The Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club is a lively organization promoting the sport of big game fishing. Their boats sail from Hoffman's Anchorage. The officers of the club are: Francis H. Low, President, Leo Travers, Treasurer, Orton Dale,

Vice-President, and John Murray, Secretary.

POINT PLEASANT

South of Manasquan Inlet, Point Pleasant offers the same deep sea fishing as found at Brielle. Its southern limits touch that great marine play-ground—Barnegat Bay.

The Point Pleasant Fishing Club is a surf fishing organization. Its pier is privately owned. For further information see Thomas Hall at the pier.

BAYHEAD

This section is usually thought of as one for social atmosphere but they do have some bay and surf fishing. The party boats sail from the Public Dock at Westlake Ave.

6

HOFFMAN'S ANCHORAGE Headquarters of the Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club.

George Burlew	3100	Gleis II	..
Alexis Carver	3100
Harold Driscoll	3100	Strutler	..
Kenny Foster	3100	Pun	..
Clarence Hall	3100	Louise D.	..
Bob Hampson	3100	Ashew	..
L. Huntington	3100	Dross III	..
Jesse Hyden	3100	Hy-Ball	..
Leo Lynn	3100	Hilde	..
Warren Mason	3100	Southwynd	..
F. L. McBride	3100	Black Hawk	..
Paul Mitchell	3100	Lark	..
Edwin Patterson	3100	Smuggler	..
Edward Snyder	3100	Ma-Fren	..
Clifford Todd	3100	Margan	..
Charles Van Note	3100	Mo-Owa	..
Joseph Weiss	3100	Bidou	..
Jack Weygant	3100	Amigo	..





Chapter Three



NEW HORIZONS

During the World War II years from 1942 through 1945, the club's activities were temporarily suspended until peacetime returned. As American servicemen returned home to their families, many were eager to get back to fishing and boating. The start of the 1946 season ushered in a new era of sport fishing innovation accelerated by more sophisticated equipment, boats, navigation aids and fishing knowledge. At the same time, distant horizons became within reach of a generation of anglers with the time, finances and eagerness to explore new fishing destinations. The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club was in the vanguard of this new age.

Fishing tackle improvements, such as nylon monofilament and multi-braid synthetic Dacron lines, spinning tackle, refined baitcasting and offshore tackle, superior drag systems and fiberglass fishing rods helped post-war anglers catch more fish, bigger fish and to enjoy their sport more. A new breed of expert captains and crews took the club to exciting local fishing and new fishing grounds that once seemed remote.

JOHN GEIGES



BLUEFISH, BLUEFIN AND WHITE MARLIN

Club member John Geiges was just beginning his long history of fishing out of Manasquan Inlet. As a teenager back in the 1940s, John was a highly respected mate working on boats docked in Brielle and sailing out of Manasquan Inlet. Several of these boats also sailed to Florida in the winter months and made the crossing to the Bahamas to fish out of Bimini, and John sailed with them. True to Brielle's claim as "Sport Fishing Capital of the World" superb fishing opportunities were within a short cruise of the inlet.

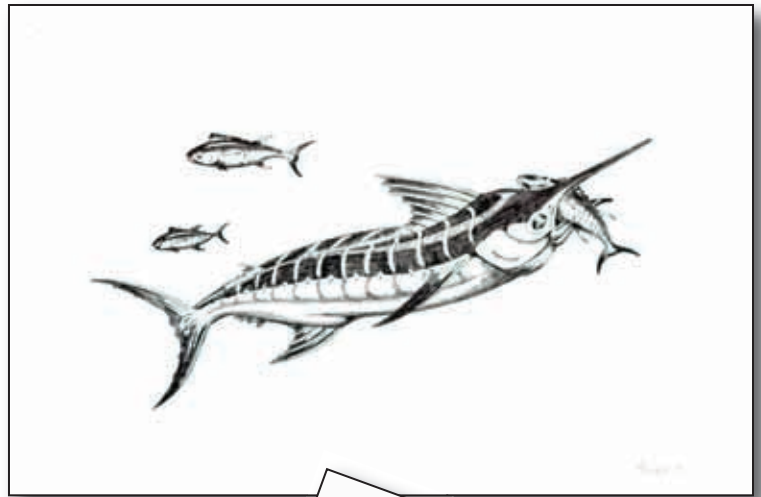
While mating on Brielle boats, John recalled that it was not unusual to catch white marlin at Manasquan Ridge, and that bluefin tuna schools were vast – seemingly limitless in number. So were the bluefish and he recalls a particular trip with Capt. Sonny Barr and club member Ferd Roebling that began chumming for Jersey blues and ended with a remarkable white marlin catch.

John Geiges in 1940s photo
aboard the charter boat
Black Hawk in Brielle.

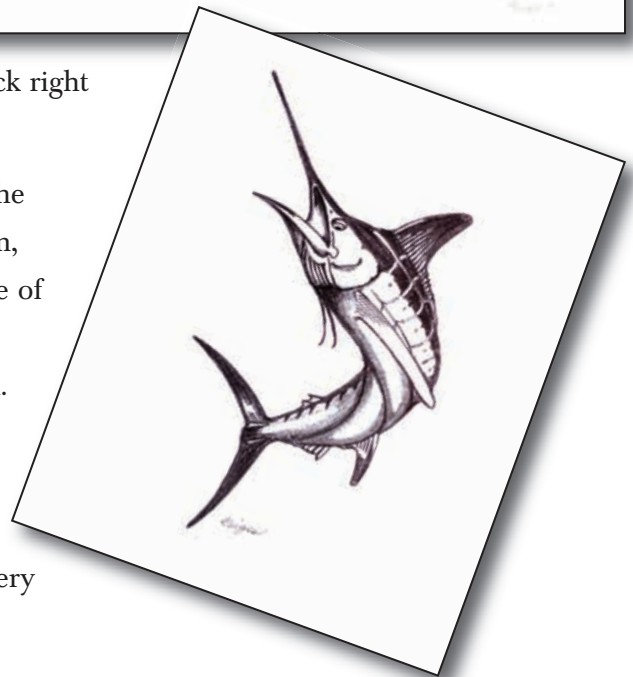


Angler and crew were out at the Shrewsbury Rocks on a hot Sunday and the area was a parking lot full of boats chumming for bluefish. By midday they grew tired of the crowd and the unusually slow fishing and decided to head back to Brielle. On the way they noticed a small boat off Asbury catching some bluefish in front of Convention Hall.

John suggested to Sonny that they stop there and set up for bluefish for a short while. Sonny brought the boat to a stop and had John set the baits out for blues. Sonny proceeded to head below to the cabin and take a nap. Apparently Sonny had been out a bit late that Saturday night and was looking to catch up on some sleep. Ferd was in the wheelhouse reading the paper, and they had an outdoor-writer friend onboard who started to nod off in the fighting chair while John worked the baits. All of a sudden John saw a white marlin come racing through the slick right behind the boat; a bait and leader hanging from its mouth!



John yelled out “White marlin!” and Ferd jumped out of the wheelhouse. Ferd yelled to Sonny they had a white marlin on, and Sonny cursed them out for waking him up with their line of baloney. In the end, they managed to fight the white on the light bluefish tackle and brought the billfish back to the dock. While it was not the norm for whites to be caught this tight to the beach, it was very common to catch whites and tuna within a few miles of the shore. In fact, structure like Barnegat Ridge, Tolten Lump and Manasquan Ridge were very common spots for white marlin back in those days.



Sonny Barr, John Geiges, an outdoor writer and Ferd Roebing with a white marlin caught off Convention Hall, Asbury Park.



School tuna were in abundance inshore.



Typical catch of mackerel aboard the **Miss Brielle**.

Notice the large mako shark taken by this crew.



A nice bluefin tuna!



Frank Mundus (far right) got his start shark fishing out of Manasquan Inlet. In later years he moved to Montauk, and became the famous "Shark Hunter".



Tuna (293 and 285 lbs.) caught by Maurice Meyer and Ed Szymanski at Shrewsbury Rocks, August 24, 1947. Larger tuna caught by Meyer is the prize winner for largest tuna of the year caught locally by a member of MRMTC.





Hessler's Anchorage on the Manasquan had hot action for bluefin in the summer.



Capt. Burlew and Maurice Meyer, Jr. with 480-pound tuna caught in Mud Hole off New Jersey on Sept. 4, 1949.



Capt. Sam Good of Brielle with club member Robert Crane and Mrs. Crane along with mate John Geiges with sailfish caught out of Palm Beach Inlet, Florida.



You could always count on Captain Sam Good to be sharply dressed for his charters. Two nice whites taken this trip.

BRIELLE ANCHORAGE

SPORT FISHING

HEADQUARTERS—BRIELLE MARLIN AND TUNA CLUB
OCEAN AND GREEN AVES.
Just East of Railroad

TEL. MANASQUAN 7-3107

K. R. MAYER, Dockmaster

GUEST HOUSE OPEN ALL YEAR

Charter boat reservations given every courtesy.
10 years at this spot making Sport Fishing pleasant for many fishermen.

TELEPHONE MANASQUAN 7-3107 FOR MACKEREL
BLUE-TUNA-MARLIN RESERVATIONS

BRIELLE, N. J.

BRIELLE ANCHORAGE
Ocean and Green Avenues—East of Railroad
Headquarters Brielle Marlin and Tuna Club
Telephone Manasquan 7-3107

Captain	Boat and Length
H. G. Meyer	Margaret K. II, 40'
A. A. Whitaker	Merrill, 38'
A. Newcomer	Wanderer, 40'
George Cooney	Scotty, 42'
John Mueller	

ATLANTIC MARINE BASIN
Manasquan Prince's Pier 42'
Harry Colyer 3434

Captain	Manasquan	Boat and Length
Howard Shirley	7-2442	From-T-Waters, 38'
Herb. Scheckler	7-2442	Calhoun, 38'
James Whiston	7-2442	Barney H., 50'
Edward Crosby	7-2442	Dorothy C., 40'
William Richman	7-2442	B. Thomson, 38'
Arvid Yeager	7-2442	Ducton III, 34'
Clifford Todd	7-2442	Cynthia, 40'
Floyd Felt	7-2442	Early Bird, 40'
Donald Knight	7-2442	Alice K., 42'
Kenneth Longman	7-2442	Ringo II, 42'
Andy Ross	7-2442	Two Sisters
Tom Shirley	7-2441	Whim Gull, 34'



Catch of 19 tuna and several bonito by Doctor Neiderhoffer, Dr. Blaisdell and Maurice Meyer, Jr., July 1947.



A 350-pound bluefin
back at the dock.



Feuerbach and Hansens on the Manasquan just west of the railroad bridge circa the 1930s.

LOU MARRON



THE GREAT BROADBILL

By the early 1950s several club members with a bad case of wanderlust began searching distant waters in search of big game. Among them was Lou Marron. In 1953, on May 7, Lou Marron was onboard his boat, **Flying Heart** off the coast of Chile. They were fishing for billfish. The captain of the boat was Eddie Wall, who had done a lot of fishing for swordfish.



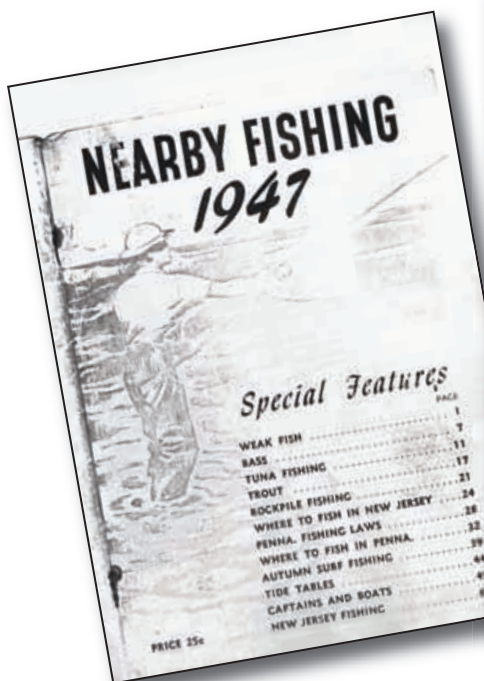
They spotted a giant swordfish and threw the line across its nose, the fish turned away. They moved and tried again, this time the fish went for the bait. Lou was strapped in the chair waiting, the line moved out slowly, and then began to speed up. Lou got the fish to the boat a total of twelve times, each time the fish surged away, after the thirteenth time Lou reached out and grabbed the leader, the fish thrashed, they got the gaff in it and managed to pull it aboard.

Back at the dock, the monster fish weighed in at 1,182 pounds, it was the largest fish ever caught on rod and reel up to that day. Many fishermen believe this record will never be broken.

GETTING STARTED

Most adult anglers can thank their dad or granddad for taking them fishing at an early age, a time when the excitement of the day on the water, good fellowship and the fun of fishing will leave lasting memories. Once instilled in a youngster, the call of the ocean is hard to resist. Salt spray, sunny days, rigging baits for fluke or bluefish, and then feeling the strike of a coastal gamefish are never forgotten. Fortunately there is no known "cure" after catching the fishing bug, only a future of new angling challenges, bigger fish and remarkable experiences.

Spending family time together has been an essential part of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club. Future club president, Tony Cuccia spent a day with his dad, Carmine Cuccia, and granddad, Anthony Cuccia, aboard Capt. Kurt Pretchner's party boat **REX**. Tony is the smallest angler along the rail in this 1955 photo taken at the docks at Bogan's Basin in Brielle. At 5 years of age he was hooked for life!



R.J. SCHAEFER TOURNAMENT



After the war years, Americans began fishing along the coast with renewed enthusiasm. It was a time of new beginnings and the sport expanded rapidly, not only for big game fishing, but also for inshore game fish. Striped bass and bluefish began to capture the attention of club members, and the fishing public.

Helping to promote this new era was the R. J. Schaefer Brewing Company, a popular beer brewer in the metropolitan New York and New England region. Under the capable guidance of Bob Blanks, the R. J. Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest provided a region-wide contest where anglers pitted their ability to catch big fish against neighboring fishing clubs. Prizes were awarded annually in each participating state and for the overall contest. Points were awarded to individuals and clubs, based on one point per pound for striped bass of at least a 15-pound minimum, and a 6-pound minimum for bluefish. In later years, weakfish were added to the catch list and points were awarded for fish that met the 3-pound minimum weight, and fluke were added with a 5-pound minimum weight. Prizes were awarded to the club with the most points total, most striped bass points, most bluefish points, largest striped bass and largest bluefish within each state, and the same awards for the overall contest.

Individual anglers who caught qualifying fish received gold, silver and bronze pins, and handsome trophies were presented to individuals and clubs for state and regional overall winners. The pins, trophies and friendly (but sometimes fierce) competition made the R. J. Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest a very prestigious event and the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club members were eager competitors. The club was frequently in the high standings in New Jersey and the region. The event lasted for approximately 30 years before the company went out of business, thus ending the contest.



The club's first entry in the contest was in 1947 and 53 striped bass were entered as qualifying fish for a total of 870 points. While the individual weights of the fish were not recorded in the club's fishing log, the average weight of these fish was 16-1/2 pounds – not an auspicious beginning.

The records for 1948 and 1949 do not provide any totals for the contest, but the largest bass of 1948 was 40-1/2 pounds taken by club member Stewart Van Vliet. He followed up in 1949 with two 41 pounders but was beaten by a whisker when Leon Height hung a 41-1/2-pound striped bass on the scales.

The club's fishing log for 1950 shows Gil Wagner weighing in a 45-pound striper which also took the first place trophy for the largest bass in New Jersey in the Schaefer Contest. Richard Moeller's 40 pounder took the third place trophy in the state, and the club took first place as New Jersey State Champions.

The club again took first place as New Jersey State Champions in 1951 and the logbook recorded many entries of striped bass in the 35 to 43-pound range, the heaviest taken by Harry Tilton. The club also took first and second place for the largest striped bass caught that year in New Jersey, and received a certificate for third place overall. In that year, in all participating states, the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club competed against 231 clubs.





In 1952, the club again took first place as New Jersey State Champions, second place for the largest striped bass, and fourth overall against a total of 258 clubs. Harvey Tilton led the way with a 47 pounder and Paul Bennett and Leon Height tied that year for second largest striped bass, landing a pair of 44-pound entries.

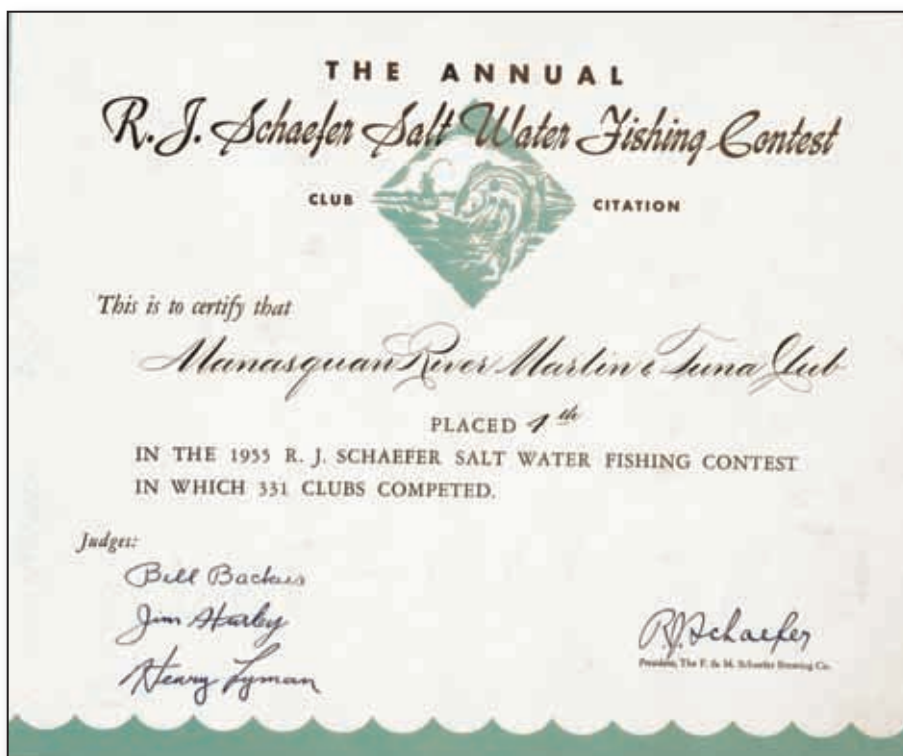
W. Burnett's 45-pound striper was the largest for the club in 1953 year, but there were eight other bass of 40 pounds or heavier that same year. These big fish were not enough to recapture the State Champion trophy, but the club did take first and second place for largest striped bass, and fourth place overall competing against a total of 300 clubs.

At mid season in 1954, the club was leading the overall first place category, but had to settle for fourth place against a total of 307 clubs by year end. Harvey Tilton took first place in the New Jersey division with a huge 51-pound striped bass. Very close behind was Paul Bennett with a 48 pounder, and again several other 40-pound bass were entered by club members.

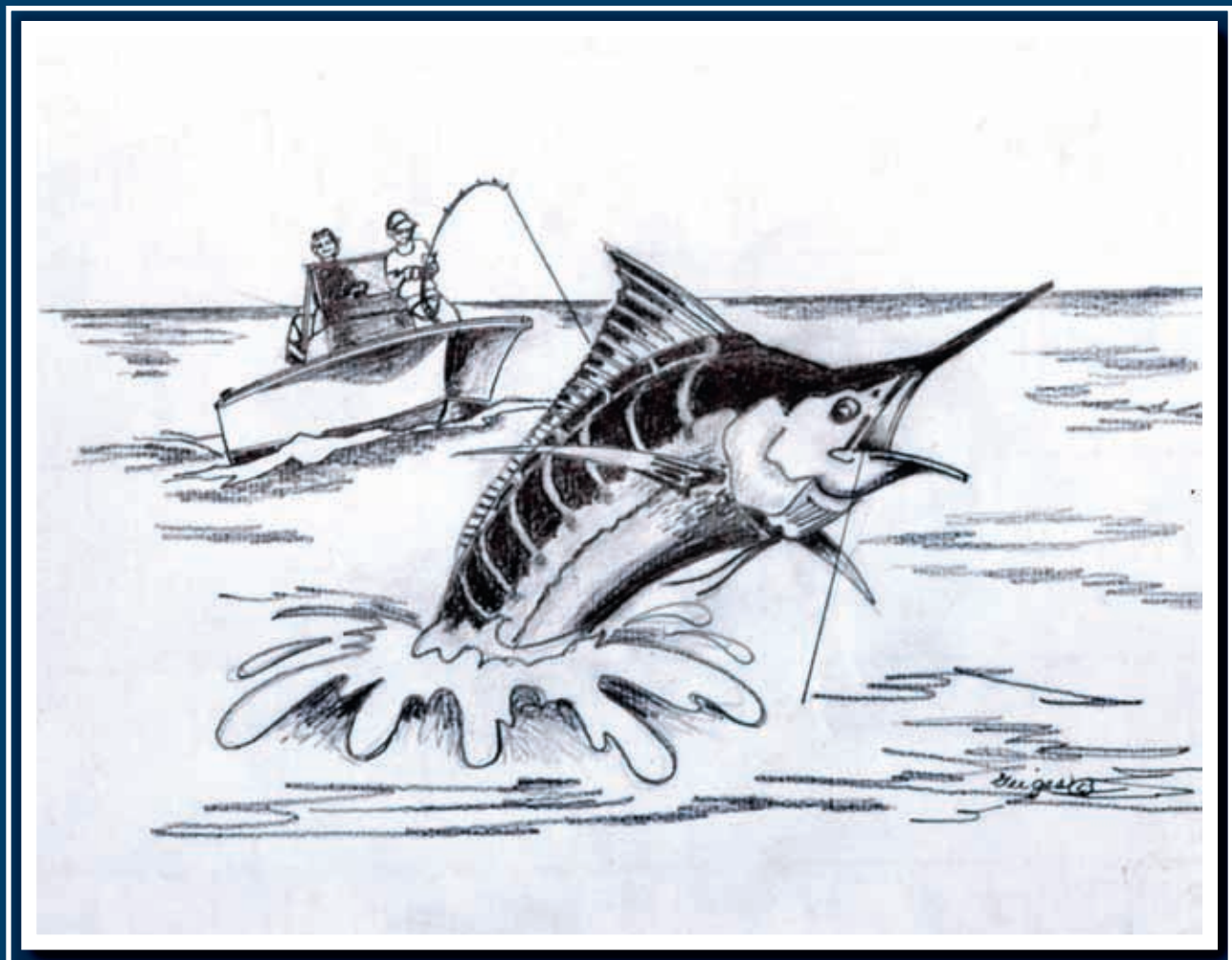


Paul Bennett was back into big fish in 1955 weighing in a 41-pound bass. Another notable catch was Gus Dempsey with a 36-pound surf-caught striped bass. The club took first place in New Jersey and fourth overall that year against 331 clubs.

In 1956 the club managed to take second place in the New Jersey division, but did not place in that same division a year later, although in 1957 the club was in thirteenth place overall against 349 clubs. T.F. McCarthy's 45-pound bass was the largest club entry in 1956, while Leon Height's 43 pounder took first place in 1957.



By 1958, interest in the Schaefer contest had either diminished or the club began to shift back toward greater emphasis on big-game fishing. This coincides with an increase in the number of fishing ledger entries for white marlin, blue marlin, swordfish and tuna by MRMTC members beginning in 1954. Although the club's annual Fishing Derby brochure made no other mention of the R. J. Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest until 1974, no further entries are listed in the weigh-in ledger as the venerable beer company ceased its publicity effort for the event. By 1976, the Schaefer contest was ended. ■





Chapter Four



GROWTH AND EXPANSION

The 1960s ushered in a re-birth of growth for the club. A new generation of anglers were eager to expand their fishing opportunities as new boats and tackle innovations became available, and less expensive. Fishing was becoming the favorite participatory sport of Americans and saltwater fishing along the coast was growing rapidly.

The introduction of fiberglass boats brought the cost of owning a boat within reach of more anglers and there was less maintenance. No more extensive spring make-ready that required sanding, painting and varnishing. Fishermen could now spend more time fishing!

Tackle was also becoming more affordable and dependable. Monofilament line was now the line of choice and reels like Penn's new International lever-drag series were up to the task of battling with big fish. The club blossomed with an expanding membership and new fishing opportunities.

ADAM AND CHAR SANFORD



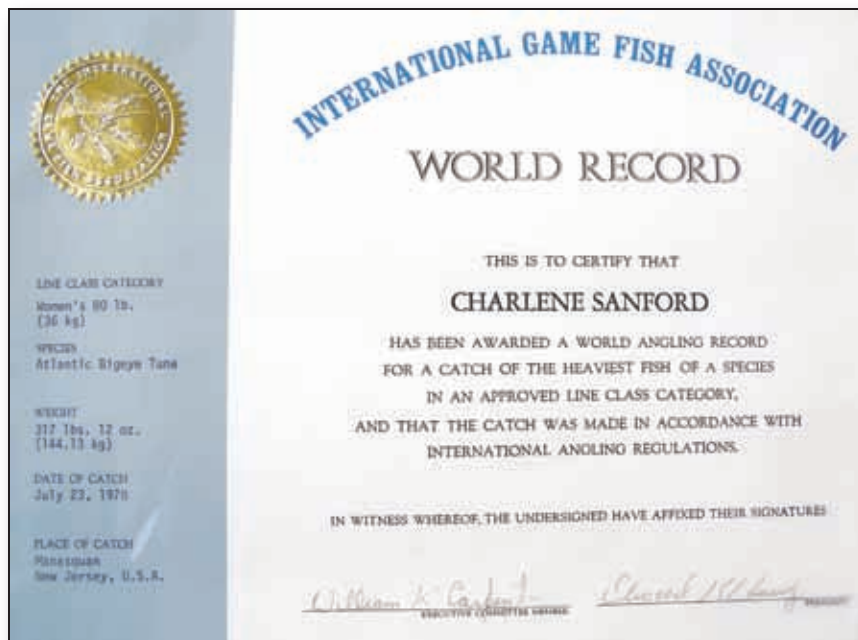
In 1967, Adam Sanford was introduced to Jack Willits, a club member who owned the Rybovich named **Frisky Lady**. On his first offshore trip with Jack he caught his first white marlin, and he was hooked on offshore sport fishing. In the same year Adam bought a 31 Bertram, followed in 1968 by a 37 Post.

Adam became a member of the MRMTC in 1968. On many days offshore in the late 1960s there would only be three boats in the Hudson Canyon; the **Frisky Lady**, captained by Ben DeGutis, Dick Greiner on the **Vector**, and Adam and Char Sanford on **Adam's Folly**. Also at that time, Adam met Dick and Dave Matthews, who fished with **Adam's Folly** on a regular basis. That crew also consisted of Char Sanford, Adam's wife, and George Burlew. George was also a club member, and was known for his ability to rig baits and wire fish. In fact, it is said that George never touched a rod.

Char Sanford with her
world record 317-pound
bigeye tuna caught
aboard **Adam's Folly** on
August 23, 1978.



In the early 1970s, Adam wrote a monthly club newsletter called "Adam's Quips". It was a humorous letter which updated members on club activities and "happenings" involving club members. Jack Willits was the target on a number of occasions, as Jack was quite the lady's man. For a time Jack was dating a Hollywood starlet.



Char Sanford was a world-class angler, and still holds the women's IGFA world record for her 317-pound bigeye tuna on 80-pound class tackle caught in 1978. That fish was caught in the Hudson Canyon on August 23.

Char was not a fan of rough weather, though, and on one particular tuna trolling trip decided it was time to take things into her own hands. Adam and Char were fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mud Hole one day, and after catching several fish, and getting knocked around by a strong northeast blow, Char politely asked Adam if they could head home.

Adam responded, *Let's give it another half hour.*

Char answered, *Okay*, and went into the salon.

Forty minutes later, Char asked again, and was given the same answer.

Finally, after another forty minutes, Char asked to head in for a third time. Adam responded the same way, asking for another thirty minutes, upon which, Char took the closest trolling rod out of its holder and immediately threw it overboard. Looking up to Adam on the bridge, she then asked if it was now time to go, but before he could respond, she threw two more of the trolling rods overboard. At that point, Adam understood that it was time to go home. Needless to say, that was an expensive trip!



From 1971 through 1980, Adam and Char fished from New Jersey to Martha's Vineyard to Cape Hatteras and to Palm Beach aboard their 41-foot Daytona. During this time, Adam and Char represented MRMTC in several invitational tournaments.

In 1975, Adam with a crew of his father, Dick and Dave Matthews and George Burlew fished the USATT tournament out of Cape Anne. When the USATT ended, Adam decided to come back to Manasquan via the Hudson Canyon. So, after stopping in Montauk for fuel, they headed out in calm seas for the Hudson. During the trip the wind continued to build the seas until it became a full gale. As the seas built, they fished the Hudson, finally deciding to head for Manasquan.



The trip home, as Adam describes it, was the "worst ever" as every piece of canvas on the boat was torn apart, and every wave was pouring into the cockpit. All five bilge pumps were constantly running and the hatches were floating up above the floors as the cockpit would fill with water. As they approached Manasquan, after seven hours, and in the dark, they could not see the inlet. The northeast blow had flooded both of the north and south jetties as well as the entire Point Pleasant side of the inlet all the way to the Coast Guard Station. Luckily, Adam had used the sideband radio to call friends on shore and to let them know when they might be arriving.



Lead by various club members and friends, there was a line of 15 cars on the Manasquan side of the inlet with their high beams pointed toward the inlet. The Coast Guard boat was standing by, and most did not believe that they would make it through the inlet. Luckily, the waves caught the boat right and they were able to get it into the inlet and finally to safe harbor. By the way, Adam is quick to point out that they did



catch five white marlin earlier that day in the Hudson.

Starting in 1981, **Adam's Folly** became a 37-foot Rybovich, and Adam and Char began to travel throughout the Bahamas. Later in 1985, **Adam's Folly** became a 53 Merritt that traveled extensively to catch billfish and tuna in tournaments from New England to Mexico.

Among this husband-and-wife fishing team's other accomplishments were the release of 21 white marlin in one day in 1986. Just over ten years later they accumulated an enviable world-wide catch and release of 23 blue marlin in one season.

Char passed away in 2007, and today Adam fishes aboard his newly refurbished 63 Merritt. In 2008, the club established a Perpetual Trophy for the "Char Sanford Outstanding Female Achievement of the Year Award" in memory of Char Sanford in recognition of her dedication to sport fishing.



JACK AND MAUREEN MURRAY



Jack and Maureen Murray became members of the MRMTC in 1967 and the Murray family immediately became active participants in the club. Their **Murmo** was a frequent competitor in local and regional club events and tournaments, and in 1968, Jack won his first White Marlin Release Award.

In 1971, Maureen won an award for the largest tuna, a 473-pounder caught while chumming.

That same year their son, John III, won the award for the most outstanding catch by a junior member. The following year, with Capt. Jack at the helm, Maureen represented the MRMTC in the first Women's International Tuna Tournament (WITT). That same year Jack represented the club in the US Atlantic Tuna Tournament (USATT), and he continued to do so for many years.

In 1974, Jack became a Trustee of the MRMTC, while Maureen won the Manasquan Tuna Trophy for the largest tuna, as well as awards for blue marlin and sailfish. He also won the award for the largest yellowfin tuna, and John III won for the largest longfin tuna by a junior member.



Above, Maureen Murray with one of her giant bluefin tuna.

On right, Jack Murray with giant tuna at one of the many USATT tournaments that he participated in.





Jack Murray served as President of the USATT and as an officer and trustee of the club for several years.



Jack and Maureen Murray in various pictures at the USATT and WITT tournaments.





Life members, Jack and Maureen Murray, were active in all club activities and were contributors to the club on every level.



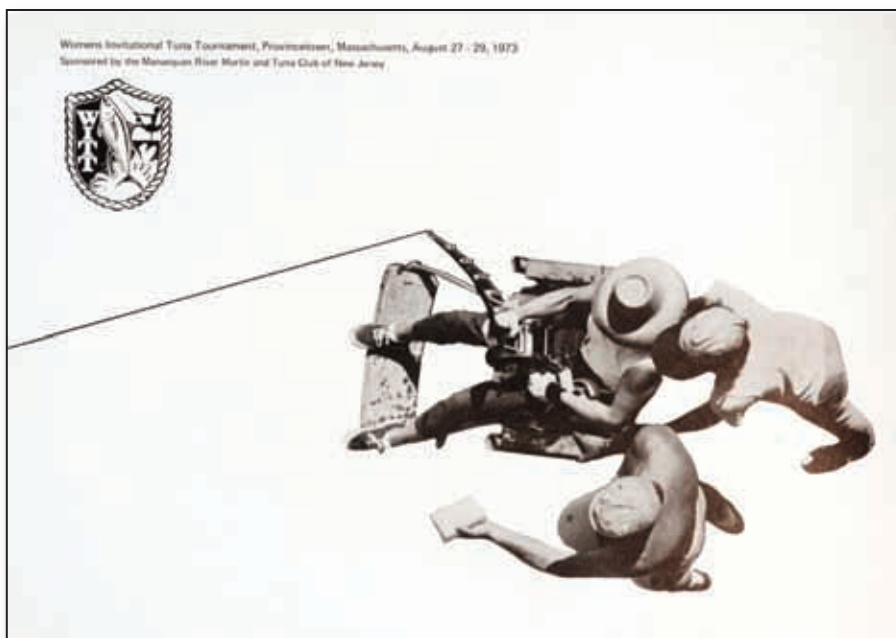
In 1975, the club gave a one-time award to Maureen Murray and Char Sanford for their outstanding contributions to the MRMTC. That same year, Maureen served as chairwoman of the WITT. She also won a Good Sportsmanship Award from the club and also won awards for catches of weakfish, mako shark and yellowfin tuna.

Jack served as club president in 1976 and 1977, and in 1977 he also served as president of the USATT. From 1978 through 1985, he served as vice president while also representing the MRMTC on the Advisory Board of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and on the boards of directors of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation and the USATT.



Despite all of these responsibilities, Jack continued to find time to fish, and in 1981 he won the Manasquan Tuna Trophy with his club record-setting 286-pound yellowfin tuna, and also caught the largest swordfish that year at 279 pounds.

The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club will always be indebted to Jack and Maureen Murray for their angling skills, dedication to conservation and sport fishing ideals, and commitment to the club for more than 40 years.



DAVE MATTHEWS



Dave Matthews and his family have participated in the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club for over 40 years and personify the enthusiasm of its members. Dave began fishing in the 1950s and by 1962 he had purchased his own boat. Many new members came on board the club's roster during this time period and it was an era of new growth and expansion for the club. His son, Steve Matthews, recalls his dad's dedication to fishing.

RUCARAE, the 40-foot
Elco, "cruising boat".



*In the 1950s Dad started visiting the Jersey Shore, driving down from Hillsdale, New Jersey in the summers. He first started saltwater fishing in the mid 1950s with my Grandpa, Walter Guerber, on his 40-foot Elco, **RUCARAE**. Grandpa kept his boat at Comstock's Boat Works on Princeton Avenue in Bricktown. Dad became very friendly with Bucky Comstock and would bring the family down on weekends and would stay at Comstock's house called Eagles Nest, famous in Prohibition times as a speakeasy. Dad talked Grandpa into going bluefishing. Grandpa wasn't happy with all that bluefish blood on his well maintained mahogany "cruising boat". He got over it though and the two spent many days fishing inshore chasing the bluefish, weakfish and striped bass. Grandpa passed on in 1960.*

*By 1962 Dad purchased his own boat, a 30-foot Chris Craft Sea Skiff and named it **Pepper**. This is the name all the grandchildren used to call Walter Guerber so Dad thought it was fitting. He spent the first four years with this boat fishing inshore keeping it docked at Comstock's. Dad fished mostly locally for bluefish, striped bass, bluefin tuna and even codfish which were plentiful right at the range buoys off Spring Lake. He became a member of MRMTC in the early 1960s.*



30-Foot Chris Craft
Sea Skiff **Pepper**.

*In 1966 he moved the boat over to a small marina in Brielle, called Burlew's Anchorage. At the time it held only six boats and the main house was a houseboat. George Burlew, the owner, was an old sea captain who had spent many years fishing the waters offshore New Jersey working for Lou Marron, a well respected and world renowned sport fisherman, and also a member of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club. Dad's brother Dick Matthews also had a Chris Craft, **Compulsion**, which he later moved from the Glimmer Glass over to Burlew's Anchorage, which later became Robinson's Anchorage. George and Dad had become very good friends over the years and I believe he had a lot to do with Dad's involvement and ultimate passion for fishing offshore.*

*While at Burlew's Dad and his brother met many new friends from the area. Adam Sanford was among them, also a member of the club. Dad and Uncle Dick spent many days fishing with Adam. They made their first canyon trip on Adam's 37-foot Post **Adam's Folly**, which had a pair of gas Seamasters. Back then there wasn't any weather that Adam wouldn't fish in, in fact I think he felt the rougher the better. They caught plenty of marlin and tuna with Adam. Adam moved up to a 40-foot Daytona and spent even more time offshore. My Dad caught his 102-pound white marlin with Adam out in the Hudson Canyon.*

*Another friend and member of the MRMTC was Jack Willits who owned the **Frisky Lady**. Jack invited both my Uncle and Dad on many fishing trips offshore. They also became very friendly with his Captain, Ben Degutis.*

The **Pepper** later added a fly bridge.



*In 1969 Dad built a fly bridge on the Chris Craft for better visibility while fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mud Hole. He made his first trip to Hatteras, North Carolina with fellow member Ken Miller, on the **Lolita** during Memorial Day of that year. Also along on the trip were other fellow members, Uncle Dick and Dave Arey. They loved it so much the following year my Uncle brought his new 31 Bertram down to Hatteras the same Memorial Day weekend. Dad went along with him.*

In 1970 Dad fished the USATT with Adam Sanford up in Cape Cod. I'm not sure how they placed but the MRMTC always had a good name and the club was well represented at this tournament. An example of Adam's lack of fear of weather came when they made their trip home from this tournament via the Hudson Canyon. George Burlew was with them and recommended going straight down the beach to Manasquan because he saw the sky in the morning and he felt the weather would not hold out. Well they should have listened to the old sea captain because by the time they arrived to the tip of the Hudson the wind had come up out of the northeast and the seas grew quickly.

They had a heck of a time getting home. It was so rough that Adam and my Dad drank a whole bottle of Harvey's Bristol Cream on the fly bridge driving in and to this day swear they never even felt it. Upon arrival to the inlet in the dark everyone was very concerned. The inlet was lined with cars with their high beams on to help aid them to see the inlet. The waves were breaking over the rock jetty.

*The **Pepper** made its first trip to Hatteras in 1971. It was also the year my brother Chip and I made our first trip there. The 30-foot Chris Craft made it down and back with no problem. Back then at 20 to 21 knots it was a solid two day trip with a stop in Wachapreague, Virginia. The old timers on the dock in Hatteras loved the lapped strake hull of my Dad's Chris Craft. We caught our first blue marlin on our own boat that year. We had several others hooked and saw seven others. The tuna and dolphin fishing was unbelievable. We were hooked on the place.*

*The next year, 1972, we brought the **Pepper** back down to Hatteras, but this time the weather wasn't so kind to us. On the way home we hit strong NW winds in the Pamlico Sound which loosened the planks on the old girl. We didn't realize this until the next day crossing the Delaware with the wind against the tide. One of the planks finally let loose and we took on a lot of water. We got the water stopped but had to spend the next three days in dry dock in a little marina inside Townsends Inlet to repair her. Upon returning to our home port **Pepper** went to Comstock's for the final repair and Dad started his search for a more seaworthy offshore fishing boat. He settled on a 31 Bertram, which was the old **Mahi-Mahi** from Monmouth Beach.*

Members Dave Matthews,
Dick Matthews and Ken Miller
with a blue marlin caught in
Cape Hatteras in 1969.
It was Dave and Dick's first
year fishing Hatteras and
began a family tradition that
has lasted over 40 years.



In 1973 he started fishing the canyons off New Jersey on a regular basis. Trips to Hatteras in the spring have now become tradition. He also spent a lot of time fishing for the school bluefin tuna in the Mud Hole. Through the 1970s and 1980s the bluefin tuna fishery was in its prime. I know the school bluefin in the early years were probably more plentiful, but by the 1970s with the speed and range of the fishing boats as well as the new tackle, the tuna fishing seemed to be at its pinnacle. It wasn't until the big super seiners from California came over that the bluefin fishery seemed to dry up. In fact it only took two seasons of these big factory ships to decimate the tuna fishery.

*By 1977 Dad continued to fish the inshore grounds as well as the offshore. He was more active in the club, became a trustee and later an officer. Even though my Dad wasn't an avid tournament fisherman he did manage to fish several tournaments other than MRMTC sponsored events through the 70s and 80s. He fished most of them as a guest with the likes of Adam Sanford on **Adam's Folly**, and a few with his son Bob on George Harms' **Low Bid**. He had plenty of fishing friends in and out of the MRMTC.*

*One of his closest fishing friends was a man named Buddy Johnson. Dad met him while Buddy was visiting his cousin Charlie Sarnasi on a summer vacation. Dad used to take the last week of July and the first week of August off for vacation and usually fished most of it for that was usually the best time for the bluefin in the Mud Hole. Dad invited Buddy and Charlie fishing the first weekend of his vacation that year and they had a blast. They caught a pile of bluefin that day. The next day Dad asked Buddy to come along again and he did. They ended up fishing almost every day of their vacation together. By the end of their vacation they caught over 100 tuna and a lifelong friendship had begun. Buddy spent many days fishing on the **Pepper** with us. Unfortunately his life was cut short in a car accident in 1986. He is surely missed.*

*As Dad's passion for fishing grew so did his kids. Bob, the youngest of the family, received his captain's license at an early age and has since made a living out of taking people out to enjoy time on the water working for good friend and fellow MRMTC member George Harms. We would have to write an entire other book to go into detail on all the fish, large and small, that he's caught on George's **Low Bid**. It all started with that first trip on his Dad's boat **Pepper**.*

Twenty-three years of fishing on the 31 Bertram came to an end in 1995. Dad and I made a commitment to rebuild a 1976 35-foot Bertram we purchased from Doug Frank out of Carver's Boat Yard. It was a project that took one and a half years of sweat equity and a lot of help from the boys at Carver's Boat Sales and L&H Boats, and by 1997 the "new" Bertram was ready to go fishing.



35 Bertram **Pepper** at the dock in 2008.

Her first trip was spring of 1997 when we headed straight to Hatteras, North Carolina. There's probably not a better place on the East Coast to break a boat in. If something is going to break it'll break there. There are many members that have gone to Hatteras in the earlier days that can attest to that. Fortunately the first trip down went very well. Although we didn't get the same reception from the old timers that used to sit on the bench at the end of Oden's Dock when we pulled in with the old Chris Craft, it was still special. I don't think we set any records on quantity or size of fish that year but we had a great time just the same. My Dad had by this time, made a tradition out of going to Hatteras in the spring. It was always a great way to get the season going and spend time with family and good friends. To date, we've only missed two years getting to Hatteras over the Memorial Day weekend, one being the year of the gas crisis in the early 70s and the other with a bad engine problem on the old 31 Bertram just before leaving.

With new life in our new boat and the extra comfort and amenities the 35 gave us we spent even more time running offshore of Manasquan. My Dad has kept in great physical shape through the years and I'm convinced 23 years on a 31 Bertram has contributed to that, as anyone who has spent time on one can attest.

Fishing keeps you young!
Dave Matthews, at 82,
battling a blue marlin
"standup" during the
2009 MRMTC Offshore
Open. This winning fish
was released.



As the New Millennium began in 2000 we opened up the season in Hatteras with three blue marlin on the first day of fishing. Chris Carver, Bill Smith and Dwayne Hauck, all great friends and fellow members, were the lucky anglers. Dad continued the tradition of family and friends with the spring trip to Hatteras and I can say has been an influence for other members to help enjoy the same good times. Dad always tried to sponsor any MRMTC fishing tournament, from the George Burlew Striped Bass Tournament, which actually started as a local dock bet from Burlew's Anchorage for a \$25 entry fee, to the Offshore Open, which has grown substantially since its inception.

*Now in 2009 with 10 years on the not so new 35 Bertram, Dad decided it was time for new power. The **Pepper** was pulled out of the water early in 2006. Dad had started several traditions with friends and family with **Pepper** and the one that was in jeopardy this year was the early morning Thanksgiving striped bass trip. If it wasn't for a hard northeaster that Thanksgiving morning I don't think I would have ever lived that one down, as I took the blame for pulling the boat out early that year so we had time to finish our repower project in time to make our other traditional trip to Hatteras in the spring.*

New power brought new life to the old girl. Since the repower my Dad has continued his traditional fishing trips with friends and family. We've had many memorable fishing trips but not always because of the fish being caught. Whether he knows it or not Dad has taught us that the most important thing is not always catching a bunch of fish but the camaraderie you have doing it, although filling the box doesn't hurt!



The Matthews, Lairds and Sanfords with a triple header of blue marlin.

TED GLICKSMAN



LIFE MEMBER

Ted Glicksman personifies the qualities of angling skill and sport fishing ethics that have been a hallmark of the MRMTC membership since its beginnings. He's been an avid fisherman most of his life, purchasing his first boat in 1955, a 33-foot Chrisovitch, which he kept in Belmar. He fished out of Belmar for 20 years primarily on the inshore grounds and the Mud Hole.

In 1974 he took ownership of a new 42-foot Chris Craft named **Whales Tales**, and moved this boat to Robinson's (formerly Burlew's) Anchorage located off the Manasquan River on Crabtown Creek. When he arrived at Robinson's he was given the slip that had been previously occupied by the **Bluefin**, which was founding-member Ferd Roebeling's boat and captained by the legendary Sonny Barr.

Ted Glicksman with a blue marlin and sailfish caught during a winter trip to the Bahamas.



At Robinson's he met many members of the MRMTC and joined the club in 1979. Ted ran the **Whales Tales** south to Singer Island, Florida for the winter months for most of the 33 years he owned her. He was one of the first members to winter at the North Palm Beach Marina, which today is known as "MRMTC South" for the number of members who continue to winter there for the warm weather and sailfishing.

Ted served the club as a trustee or as an officer from 1986 to 1996, and as chairman of the George Burlew Scholarship Fund from 1986 through 2002. During his seventeen years of service in these capacities, Ted was a consistent and strong advocate and representative in the leadership of the club.

Ted tells the story of how, in the 1970s, he and other members who fished Florida in the winter months started to bring ballyhoo back with them to fish in New Jersey. The ballyhoo proved to be the key to great white marlin fishing at the HA Buoy in those years. Not only did MRMTC members bring new techniques with them to the south, they also came back to home port with many new ideas and techniques to share with their fellow members.



Ted Glicksman (center) with Dick and Dave Matthews with a catch of grouper and yellowtail out of Palm Beach Inlet.



L to R, Jack Murray, Ted Glicksman and Dave Matthews receiving their Life Member Certificates in 2009.

JOE NATOLI

■ ■ ■

FISHERMAN & ARTIST

Joe and Janice Natoli joined the club in 1994. With a passion for offshore fishing, Joe has participated in most of the club's offshore tournaments where he is a consistent winner in several categories. Joe served as a Trustee and as Chairman of the Tournament Committee was responsible for reviewing, updating and implementing many of the tournament rules that are in-place today. While Tournament Chairman, Joe offered his home on the Manasquan River to serve as the location for the captain's meeting for several of the club's offshore tournaments.

His incredible wood-carving skills are greatly admired. He created four exceptional art pieces which he donated to the club. The first was a hand-carved replica of a humpback whale, which was auctioned one year at the club's holiday party. His next donation was a beautiful rosewood and mahogany replica of an Orca which was auctioned at another club event.



He also donated the original Club Slam wood carving depicting a blue marlin, white marlin and tuna leaping from the sea. This carving served as the model for the cold casting of the bronze trophy which Joe also donated and today serves as the Perpetual Trophy for a member who achieves a Club Slam. The Club Slam award was established by Joe to honor the first member or member boat to accumulate in one season the catch and release of one blue marlin, one white marlin release and the

boating of one tuna of any species of at least 60 pounds. Superseding the foregoing is the first member to accomplish one blue marlin release, one white marlin release and the boating of one tuna of at least 35 pounds all in the same day trip or overnight trip. The Club Slam is only eligible for boats leaving from and returning directly to Manasquan Inlet. It is amazing that in the first two years of this award the achievement was accomplished by members who made their catches in a single trip.

The club has been most fortunate to have such a generous member who has contributed to the MRMTC in so many ways. The Club Slam Trophy will always commemorate Joe's devotion and passion to offshore sport fishing and to MRMTC. At the 2008 Holiday Party the club presented Joe with a Crystal Bowl in appreciation for his many contributions. Thank you, Joe.



Left to right, Trustee Bill Smith, Vice President John Muly, recipient Joe Natoli, and President Tony Cuccia at the award ceremony in 2008 to acknowledge Joe's many contributions to MRMTC.



RED SKY IN MORNING



Seasoned offshore veterans keep a watchful eye on sea and weather conditions, but every veteran also has a story of the day the weatherman was wrong, a day when things just don't go as planned. Club member Steve Matthews recalls this tough trip returning from the Hudson Canyon after a night of swordfishing.

It started one weekend the end of August in 1982. Several MRMTC members were all geared up to hit the offshore grounds as word was out of a nighttime swordfish bite. You have to understand, this was many years before the current night tuna-chunking bite had started. In fact, stories of daytime swords from New England had trickled down to the docks at Manasquan. Occasional spotting of the elusive swordfish would occur off Manasquan, with no account that I can remember of actually having been caught on rod and reel off Manasquan. So the word was out that there had been several of these big purple gladiator billfish taken at night drifting large squids and ballyhoos for bait.

*The weather forecast was for a stiff cool breeze to be followed by a large high pressure system to build into the area. Members such as Jim Hoey on his **South Bound**, Dick Matthews on **Compulsion**, Bob Hess on **Elegant Lady**, Barry Littlewood on **Hit N Run**, Jack Murray on **Murmo**, Dave Matthews on **Pepper** and a few others were getting everything ready for a late afternoon departure to be on the swordfish grounds by nightfall. For those of you who think the weather forecasting is bad today you can only imagine what it was like back in the early 1980s. It's much better today.*

The wind blew northwest as predicted all morning, the skies cleared and by 1 p.m. it started calming down. With that, everyone decided it was time to leave to get to our destination by dark. Back then 21 knots was fast so we were right on schedule. The ride out was light NW and uneventful. By the time most of us had arrived to our destination, the mouth of the Hudson Canyon, darkness was just falling. The ocean was flat calm with that shine on it that allowed you to see every little baitfish swimming along the surface. What a beautiful sunset. I don't recall the sunrise that day, but if I was to guess it would've been a beautiful red sky. From the words of George Burlew, "Red sky in morning, sailors take warning." Never underestimate the wisdom of an old sailor, for it would've been a much better forecast than what NOAA had predicted.

We set up our swordfish rigs to what we felt was most effective. Fishing four lines at different depths was no problem as it was flat calm. The first hour of fishing proved unsuccessful for us; not sure about the rest of the group. By the end of the first hour the northwest wind had begun to freshen. It started at about 10-12 knots from flat calm. Within the next hour it had picked up to around 20 knots. I had taken the first shift after lines in the water in the V bunks of our 31 Bertram, only to walk out on deck to almost get blown off. I couldn't believe it was possible to go from flat clam to hard 20-25 knots with seas building, so quickly. By 11:30 p.m. the radio chatter consisted of whether or not we should head back.

By midnight the wind picked up to 25 to 30 knots dead out of the northwest. Not a desirable direction for a 31-foot Bertram to head into. The seas quickly built to my best guess of around 6 to 10 feet! Every one decided to start their journey back to the barn.

So here we are in the mouth of the Hudson Canyon some 95 miles off the beach, only fished for around two hours, and we were heading back. The one positive thing was it wasn't raining, in fact it was a beautiful crystal clear night. The high pressure had built in and along with it came the wind.

*We could only make headway of about 1,000 rpms and at that speed you were afraid to go side to in fear of being swamped by a large wave. The **Elegant Lady**, a 53 Hatteras considered queen of the fleet at that time, could make no quicker headway than us.*



*As the night progressed the wind seemed to get stiffer. We had all we could do to keep the boat steering straight into the seas; we had no autopilot back then. Anyone who has driven a boat long distances in the dark with no autopilot can appreciate that, and add wind and large seas into the mix and it gets worse. We would take turns at the wheel to eliminate the fatigue factor through the evening. Through the night we kept constant communication with everybody. At one point we lost the **Murmo** only to find out later they had lost power to their radio but were still doing fine. Apparently a wave washed through their enclosure and doused everything. He was in a 26-foot Bluefin at the time so we all wanted to make sure he was okay (the smallest boat of the fleet).*

Lightning at Manasquan Inlet. Picture courtesy of member, John Visceglia.



By the time daylight started to break it was evident how large the seas were. To this day, I'm not sure how large they really were but I do know that from the fly bridge of my Dad's Bertram we were looking up to them, I had never been in an ocean as rough since, nor do I ever want to.

We started our journey to head back to the boatyard just around midnight and did not reach the Mud Hole until noon the next day. The Manasquan Inlet never looked so good and we didn't reach that until 1:30 p.m. Some boats came in below the Seaside Pier, others were a little closer to their mark at Manasquan Inlet, but we all came in around the same time. It didn't matter if you were 26 or 53 feet, it was a slow ride and no one made much headway.

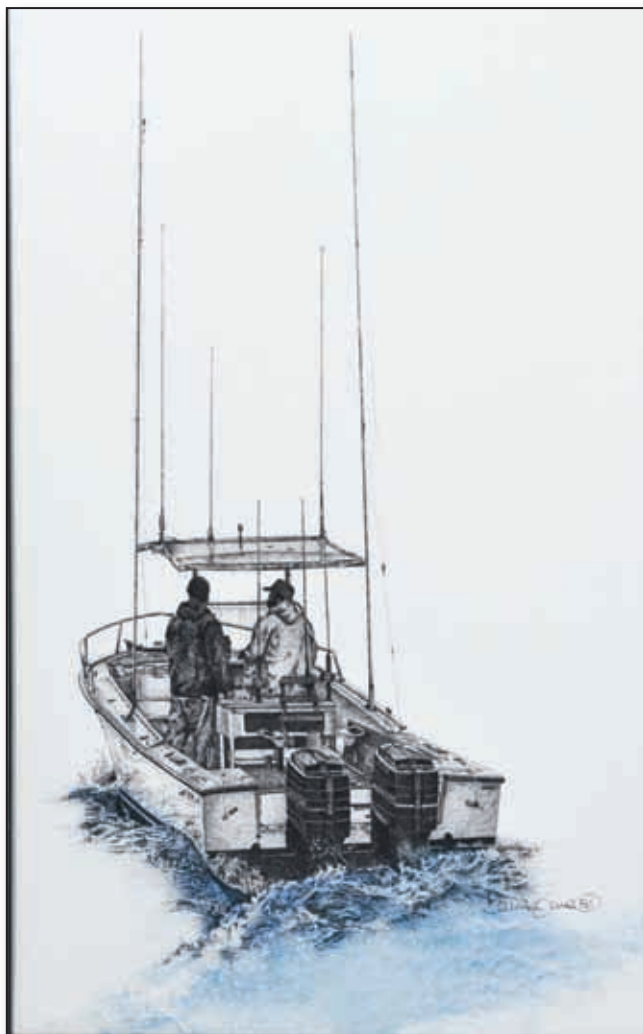
*There were many stories told once we all hit the dock safely, such as Barry Littlewood falling off his helm chair when the stanchion snapped in two, or my cousin Bill Droge as he snapped off the head on the **Compulsion** after coming off a large wave. The stories went on and on, but the bottom line was we all stuck together.*

A lot has changed since then as far as onboard electronics and even NOAA's weather forecasting. No matter how bad we still think the forecasting is at times, hopefully we can all avoid such happenings in the future. The one thing that we need to make sure doesn't change, however, is the camaraderie of our club and how we all stick together when someone is in need.

Although the club has a long history of big-game fishing in its home waters off New Jersey and in world-famous locations, many of its members also fish inshore for summer flounder (fluke), sea bass, blackfish, striped bass, bluefish and weakfish. It's an every-weekend occurrence to see member's boats fluke or sea bass fishing with family and grandkids on Sunday, a day after Saturday's trip to the blue waters offshore. Switching from tuna and billfish to bottom fishing seems as natural as breathing.

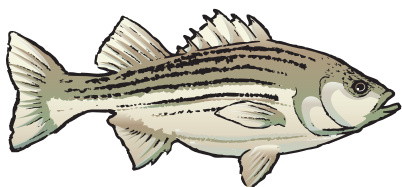
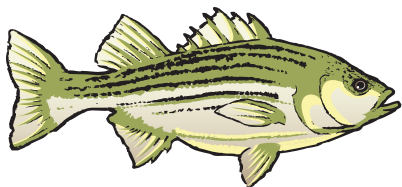
And many members own boats that range in size from 18 to 30 feet. This "mosquito" fleet of Grady-White, Boston Whaler, SeaCraft, Mako and Parker boats is well represented on the nearby artificial reefs, wrecks, striper haunts and inshore tuna grounds, and today's boats offer amenities, fuel capacity, engine options and electronics packages that are a far cry from the 1970 and 1980 boats.

THE MOSQUITO FLEET



Marine artist Steve Goione captured the **Linda B** on her way offshore.

One of those mosquito-fleet veterans is Pete Barrett, who ran a 25-foot mako center console for five years making over 60 trips to the edge of the deep. *My friend, Mel Ravitz, invited me to join the club in 1982, and my first thought was 'I don't own a big boat, and probably won't qualify' but after meeting with Mel and fellow member John Visceglia, and discussing the derby prizes for inshore gamefish, the shark tournament and the club's activities, Linda and I realized that many members were running boats just like our Mako. We knew our little boat would fit right in.*



Commercial overfishing of striped bass, along with poor spawning year classes, was causing a severe decline in the striped bass population in the 1980s and it was becoming harder and harder to put together a good catch of bass. At the same time, bluefin tuna catches were declining dramatically as purse seiners swallowed up enormous catches of a gamefish that were traditionally valuable only to recreational fishermen. The decline of these two important gamefish forced many members to look beyond the horizon to new fishing grounds where mako sharks were an exciting alternative.

As striped bass became tougher to catch, I followed many other local fishermen and switched a lot of my charter fishing over to mako sharks, Pete said. It was exciting and everyone was caught up in the movie 'Jaws' which made sharking so popular. It was not unusual back then in the mid 1980s to catch more than one mako on a trip, my personal best was five in one day! And the fish were often pretty hefty size, often exceeding 200 pounds. My biggest was a 411 pounder the smallest was a 36-inch fish that I had mounted just because it was such a rare catch. No one saw small mako sharks back then.

When the striped bass fishing declined many anglers switched over to mako shark fishing.



Navigating offshore was accomplished by running a timed compass course. To fish a popular spot for mako sharks about 35 miles from Manasquan Inlet, we'd run a compass course at 23 knots for an hour and a half and hoped we'd be close to where we wanted to be. Running back to Manasquan Inlet, we'd look for the notch on the shoreline horizon that indicated the small valley of the Manasquan River. The inlet's dark jetties also standing out in contrast to the brighter sandy beaches was another shoreline feature that served as a helpful guide. Water temperature was monitored by dipping a hand in the water to see if it felt cool or warm. Shark anglers looked for color changes of the surface water, schools of skippies and small bonito, and weed lines. We watched the fishfinder to monitor the changing bottom structure as we looked for the best sharking grounds, like the Dusky Hole, the series of ridges known as The Fingers, and the Glory Hole.



Noted for their aerial displays and awesome dentures, mako sharks are a first-class gamefish.



I didn't have the luxury of a loran until several years later, so getting to the best shark grounds was like flying by the seat of your pants. Thinking about it today, it's amazing we were able to find good sharking waters. Wind and offshore currents often affected the actual course the boat was running, and we could end up miles from where we thought we wanted to be. Navigating was really just an educated guess about where we thought we were or wanted to go.

*I had fished offshore of North Carolina in the late 1960s, and Florida for sailfish, but my first trip to the Hudson Canyon was sometime around 1976 with Ted Glicksman on his **Whales Tales**. What a trip! We caught yellowfin tuna and a beautiful big dolphin. That sparked my interest and for several years the challenge of making a canyon run on my own was always on my mind. The first canyon trip was really an accident. After running the Mako one day all the way to the Texas Tower, about 60 miles, for bluefin tuna, I realized the tip of the Hudson was close by so we trolled toward it and caught dolphin, several yellowfin tuna and a white marlin. I was worried about my fuel so we cut the trip short before ever reaching the deep water of the Hudson Canyon and headed back to the inlet.*



*The Mako 25 was my first **Linda B**, named after my wife, and was one of the littlest boats in the canyon fleet at the time, but we had no trouble catching tuna. A canvas hood over the foredeck served as a cabin of sorts, which we nicknamed the infirmary because that's where victims of mal de mar would lay down. Soggy sleeping bags offered a place to snooze on the journey offshore. We'd break the inlet at midnight and run at 12 knots until dawn, taking one-hour turns at the wheel while the rest of the crew tried to sleep, and then we'd start fishing at first light. Many of the best catches were made on the flats as we approached the canyon. The tip of the Hudson Canyon was a 73-mile run from the inlet, and easily handled by the Mako. Running to the 100 Square area, a well-known chunking location at the mouth of the canyon that became popular many years later, was unheard of back then, and was out of my range.*

The biggest handicap of the small boat was lack of fish storage, but that's what got me into tagging tuna. One trip we caught six bigeye tuna in the 150- to 200-pound class. The first two fish were laid under wet blankets on either side of the console. When the next two were gaffed and hauled aboard the boat was so low that water began to splash over the transom – not good. We moved two of the fish to the foredeck under the spray hood. The next pair were just too heavy to keep – we already had about 700 pounds of

*tuna on board! We had no choice but to release them. I remember being excited about the catch as we pulled up to Bob Voorhees' MV Tackle dock to weigh them, but I was disappointed that our wet blankets had not provided enough protection to prevent some of the meat from spoiling. Upon reflection, the two fish we released had more significance to me and from that day forward the **Linda B** was heavily into tagging tuna, eventually earning the first Angler of the Year Award from AFTCO for tagging the most tuna in one season, and several other tagging awards, including the MRMTC Bob Scott Tagging Award several times. As I made the transition to bigger, diesel-powered boats I later expanded this tuna conservation concept to a voluntary two-fish-per angler bag limit, which was unusual at the time.*

Running a small boat to the edge of the deep was exciting, and although I'd often hear radio chatter about 'what the heck is that guy doing out here' if you watched the weather forecasts the little boat was a pretty cool way to fish offshore. The worst was when afternoon sea breezes picked up from the west and we had to make that long ride home with the bow pointed into a head sea. Sometimes it was a lumpy ride, but there were other times when the ocean was flat calm and the ride was absolutely beautiful. I remember one return trip with huge 12-foot swells but they were about 100 yards apart. It was as if we were flying over mountains as we crested one swell and could see for miles, and then we'd get lost in the next deep trough. It was so calm I ran the boat flat out at 32 knots and made it back to the inlet in about two hours – pretty fast for the 1980s.



MAKO SHARK ON THE TROLL



*We trailered the Mako to the Florida Keys, including Key West, and she also made the crossing to the Bahamas. Running a small boat was physically demanding and I welcomed the chance to move up to bigger boats. The **Linda B** became a 32 Topaz, then a 38 Ricky Scarborough and finally a 31 Bertram, but the little Mako 25 will always have a special place in my heart.*

There are days offshore when tuna make you think twice about shark fishing – even if you’re entered in a shark tournament. Club member Joe Natoli had entered his **Janice** into the Spring Lake Freezer 50-Hour Shark Tournament out of Hoffmans Anchorage on the 4th of July in 1994. Also on board were fellow club members John Muly and Frank Criscola, and Darin Muly.

John described the experience this way; *We ran out to the East Wall of the Wilmington Canyon where we set up the drift with a ridiculous amount of bait on the boat, including 12 buckets of chum and several flats of mackerel. After drifting all day we started to see signs of tuna jumping all over. This drove Joe crazy to just sit there drifting for sharks and watching the tunas all around us and not do anything about it. He ended up breaking down and made us go trolling.*

This seemed odd considering we were in a shark tournament, but I understood Joe’s frustration. There was a squid boat working the area nearby and it was pretty dark by now and we had already caught about a dozen tuna. We were still trolling around in the dark when we all saw something in the spreader lights on the right flat line. A few seconds later the rod came tight and since it was completely dark by then we didn’t know what was on the lure.

As luck would have it when the fish came to the wire and we finally got a look at it, we were surprised to see that was a decent-size mako shark. We boated it, and the next day at the weigh-in we ended up taking first place. The mako weighed 150 pounds. We never did use all the bait.

“The Beatings Will Continue Until Moral Improves,” was the tongue-in-cheek mantra for the **Ashley Nicole** crew, and as with most offshore fishing captains and crews who have fished together, life onboard the boat takes on a culture of its own. The crew fishes hard, but always finds good humor and fun in every trip, from kidding the first-time rookie reeling in the white bucket thinking he’s hooked a big one after paying the penalty for snoozing in the fight chair in between bites, to the seasoned veteran who can’t get that ballyhoo to swim just right, no one is immune to the barbs from Capt. Keith Norris.

KEITH NORRIS AND THE ASHLEY NICOLE



Member Keith Norris'

Ashley Nicole seen running
back from the Canyon.

His sixth sense of being able to see a tiny weed on the long rigger that’s invisible to everyone onboard, until it’s actually onboard, to his uncanny timing of looking down from the bridge at the start of an ensuing tangle, nothing ever seemed to be missed. From the moment you stepped aboard everyone always had to be on top of his game because everyone was “fair game.” As hard as Keith seemed to be at times, the shared camaraderie and fun times is something that will never be forgotten.



Over the two decades that the **Ashley Nicole** sailed out of Manasquan Inlet, Keith was always quick with the invite, “wanna go fishing?” Whether it was a fun trip trolling for stripers, wreck fishing for sea bass or a highly competitive MRMTC offshore tournament you knew you were in for a great time. As with many MRMTC boats, the **Ashley Nicole** sailed with a reputation and a level of respect achieved by few others. Always in the game, the boat was a consistent winner of many club tournaments for nearly 20 years. The angler list is endless but to name a few regulars who sailed included past and present MRMTC members Bob Gurgo, Rick Bogert, Ralph Munsie, Dan Purdy, and non members Ritchie, Henry, Dave and Mark. In later years the workload lessened for the crew by full-time mate and crew member Chip Smith.

Trips out of Manasquan and Hatteras Inlets included some remarkable catches including the club record 122-pound wahoo and 56-pound dolphin. Then there’s the trip with 17 (!) bigeye, and another with an all rookie crew that caught two blue marlin.

Keith is never shy to share his knowledge and thoughts and always more than obliging to guide the novice or sharpen the skill of a veteran. He’s inspired many to increase their own knowledge, rediscover their passion and expand their horizons by pushing the envelope with bigger boats, venturing offshore and establishing their own crews and memories.

MRMTC members Ralph Munsie and Bob Gurgo with a white marlin caught on Capt. Keith Norris’ **Ashley Nicole**.



Bob and Ralph each caught a white marlin during the 2007 MRMTC Offshore Open. It was the last offshore trip out of Manasquan Inlet for the **Ashley Nicole** prior to her being moved to Costa Rica. In addition to the two whites, the crew boated a large wahoo and a number of yellowfin tuna and dolphin. The trip provided a great send off for a special boat and captain. Keith is a past president and holder of the club record wahoo, a 122-pound fish caught in 2002.



Keith Norris on right with a nice wahoo caught on the **Ashley Nicole** out of Manasquan Inlet.

As past president of MRMTC Keith Norris' many influences on the club include, but are not limited to, the initial concept of the current Jack Meyer Memorial Trolling Tournament. In 2007 Keith moved the **Ashley Nicole** south to Los Suenos, Costa Rica where she's currently fishing the Pacific Ocean.

In early September of 1989, George Harms, owner of the **Low Bid** wanted to go fishing. His captain, Bob Matthews, said there were giant bluefin in the Mud Hole, but that there was a forecast of nasty weather with northeast winds to 30 knots. The seas would be pretty bad but Bob knew the forecast also meant a pretty good chance they would get a good giant tuna bite. Back then the **Low Bid** was a 54 Bertram and Bob didn't think the weather was that big of an issue so he and George decided to take a crack at it. The **Low Bid** was an awesome sea boat and they had been in some pretty nasty stuff in that boat so George, Gary Mantack, the deckhand, and Bob left the dock at 3 a.m.

LOW BID BLUEFIN TUNA TALES



Bob recalls, *It would usually be about an hour trip to where we wanted to fish, but that morning it took us two and a half hours to get there. We anchored up on the ledge and started chumming. We didn't get the second bait out and we had a bite right away, but we lost it just as we got off the anchor.*



George Harms, mate Gary Mantack and Captain Bob Matthews weigh in their 822- pound bluefin tuna caught aboard the **Low Bid**.



As they got back on the ball, the **L&H**, a 63 Garlington, was arriving on the grounds along with a 40-foot Ocean Yacht. **Low Bid** had another bite as soon as they got another bait in the water. Within seconds they were off the ball again and fought the fish. The **L&H** and the 40 footer were both dragging their anchors because it was so rough they just could not get their anchors to hold. As **Low Bid** was fighting their tuna, Barry Dudas, captain of the **L&H** at the time, came over and got on **Low Bid's** anchor. In no time at all they hooked up.

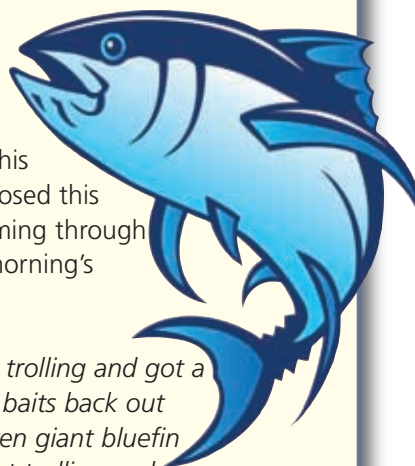
Bobby recalls, *I don't know who was on the boat but they had an army of guys on there, after a while they caught their fish and went back to the ball. George fought his fish for a while. It was very rough 10- to 12- foot seas, which makes it very tough to catch a big fish with three guys but we finally got him. As we were coming back to our ball the **L&H** was just getting off it when they hooked up again and they caught that fish too!*

When we got back on our ball we never got another bite which was okay because we were pretty wiped out anyway, but being on the anchor gave us time to regroup. As I looked around I saw a Coast Guard boat about 2 miles away. He was picking up the people of the Ocean Yacht that had sunk and we didn't even know it. We were too busy catching the fish and never heard a distress call. They were very lucky to get a call off to the Coast Guard so everyone got rescued.

I would say they had no business being there, but then again neither did we. Back at the dock the tuna weighed in at 822 pounds. A pretty nice one!

AN AWESOME DAY FOR LOW BID

One year the General Category for giant bluefin tuna closed on October 3rd. The bluefin tuna fishery was so good, Bob Matthews, captain of the **Low Bid**, called George Harms, the boat's owner. George was spending his anniversary with his wife, Ruth, in New York City, but by the next morning George was on his boat and ready to go! Because the giant tuna season was now closed this was all catch and release fishing. There would be a cold front coming through later that afternoon but Bob figured they could at least get the morning's fishing in.



Bob said, *We got out to the fishing grounds at gray light, started trolling and got a fish on right away that we estimated at 450 pounds. We put the baits back out and hooked another one pretty quick. We ended up catching seven giant bluefin tuna that day between 450 and 800 pounds. They were all caught trolling and we put satellite tags into the three biggest ones. We were done fishing by 1 p.m. because the front was coming and we wanted to beat the weather. It was an awesome day of fishing.*



DEJA VU: RE-DISCOVERING GIANT BLUEFIN



The Atlantic bluefin tuna was always an important gamefish to the members of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club. Even before the club was officially organized, anglers who would soon fill the roster list of the new club were already catching some impressive bluefin tuna in local waters.

Francis Low landed a 705-pound bluefin near the Ambrose Light Ship on September 11, 1933, and a few days later on September 23, caught a 550-pound bluefin and a 320 pounder. Ethelbert Low bested a 382 pounder in 1936, while Major Aaron Carpenter landed a 590-pound bluefin on August 2, 1939. After the war, members resumed their quest for big bluefin and one of the first was Hugh O'Brien's 340-pound bluefin in 1948.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna has driven club members to try fishing distant ports in the Bahamas and Canada and to nearby states of New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts to catch these magnificent gamefish.

Unfortunately, extreme commercial overfishing has decimated the once

prolific and abundant bluefin tuna and today's catches are mere memories of what was once a vibrant fishery. In recent years, members have continued to fish New England waters, and have traveled to the newly famous grounds off the Carolinas in search of new challenges with bluefin. Club members John Meyer and John Weiland cruised to the waters beyond the edge of the Hudson Canyon to pioneer what may be the next wave of giant bluefin tuna fishing.



John Weiland described the experience in *The Fisherman* magazine in 2001 when he wrote, *"It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon in mid-July with flat seas and a variable winds forecast for the next two days. After arriving at the Hudson and trolling for a few hours and picking up a few small tuna and dolphin, we went quite a ways east of the tip and spent the evening trying to entice the swordfish to eat our big squid baits. The evening proved uneventful, but the morning had some action in store for us like we have never seen before."*

*I was on the **L&H**, a 58-foot Garlington captained by Jim Lund and John Meyer, two of the most experienced blue water fishermen on the East Coast. John Meyer has been a long-time friend of mine and has caught just about every species of fish swimming in the ocean. He and his wife, Kathy, have established numerous International Game Fish Association world records while fishing the Florida Keys.*

The morning dawned, and Captain Lund saw a large pod of tuna breaking on top about a half mile ahead of the boat. He swung the boat into position and pulled our ballyhoo in front of the school. Immediately, a huge splash appeared behind the long rigger resulting in a solid hookup. By the size of the splash and the way the fish was spooling line off the Penn 80, we knew it was a big, big fish. The fish almost spooled the 80 and finally settled into a down-deep, grind-it-out fight that is indicative of a big tuna. The fight lasted over an hour and fifteen minutes when we finally pulled the hook on the fish. Somewhat dejected, we trolled again for another five hours in and amongst the pods of fish that we now saw on top. As noon approached, we could see pods of giant tuna swimming in groups of five or six, but none of them would take one of our lure offerings or natural baits that we were trolling. The frustration that set in after a number of hours caused us to leave the school looking for a pod of fish that may be more receptive.

Finally, when we were 8 miles away, John turned to me and asked if we should go back to the original school. I said, "Let's flip for it. Heads we go back, and tails we go home." The coin came up tails, and I immediately said, "How about best out of three coin tosses?" We knew we had to go back and try one more time. Captain Jim turned the boat and we screamed back at 30 knots to where we had seen the giant tuna.



As luck would have it, the fish were still on top when we returned. This time, Jim and John had a new idea. They decided to chum these tuna with butterfish. As we backed towards the school, John and I each threw ten whole butterfish off the stern of the boat. Instantly, 60 giant tuna came out of the deep like submarines and inhaled every one of those baits. It was all we could do to throw each of our hook baits into the water knowing that there would be an instant hookup on the giant tuna, and that is exactly what happened.

With two fish hooked-up immediately, one fish ran back into the school and was cut off, while the other settled down to a fight that again would last a little more than an hour. But as luck would have it, we broke the leader on this fish.

We meandered back to where we originally hooked up, found the fish again, and it was an instant replay. We tossed 20 whole butterfish, and a mass of giant tuna rose from the depths to eat each one of those baits!



John and I both hooked up right at the transom as we watched two giants inhale our butterfish and then scream off line from the 80-pound tackle. We knew that the fish John had on was slightly smaller than the fish I had hooked. John's 80-pound tackle was also showing signs of wear and tear as the reel was seizing up from time to time. With this thought in mind, John decided to clip a float ball to the rod, take our GPS reading, and throw it overboard. As Captain Jim stated, "I thought he was kidding. I've only read about this in magazines!"

Lady Luck turned our way. I fought the first giant for two and one-half hours until Mate Ryan Grauer wired the fish and John Meyer slid it through the transom door. We returned to the location of the rod and reel John had tossed overboard, located the ball and John began to fight his fish from the fighting chair. An hour and a half later, we wired and released our second giant of the day estimated at 475 pounds.

Captain Jim, John Meyer, mate Ryan Grauer and I were all elated as we hit Hoffman's dock and weighed our first fish at 532 pounds (collared with entrails and gills removed). We were one very happy crew!

In May 2006 Steve Gruendling was fortunate enough to be invited by member Captain Dan Purdy to fish with him on the **Carly Rose**, a 38-foot Henriques. The destination was Cape Hatteras, North Carolina for the Manasquan Marlin & Tuna Club's annual fishing trip. Steve recalls the events that lead to his well-known picture.

TUNA IN FLIGHT



The week of fishing was great. Being my first time to the Outer Banks made it a spectacular trip. The amount of marine life we encountered while fishing was remarkable. The weather was great and I was able to take quite a few photographs when I wasn't busy working the cockpit. Thanks to Mike Polaski, the other crewman, for picking up the slack so I could take pictures. While on the troll we approached a large area of tuna randomly jumping through the air. I quickly took a few photographs and then started reeling in fish. It wasn't until I downloaded my pictures at home that I realized that I had the photograph of a lifetime. Two yellowfin tuna jumping out of the water while chasing a flying fish. One of the tuna had a flying fish in its mouth right up to the wings.



Mike submitted the photograph to Salt Water Sportsman magazine and it was published as the “Top Shot” of the month as a two page spread in the September 2006 issue. Coincidentally it was the issue given free to all the Mid-Atlantic 500 participants in Cape May, New Jersey that year. The famous Guy Harvey was present at the Mid-Atlantic and admitted he had already seen the photo on the internet, and signed a few copies for the photographer after writing “Great Shot” on them. The photograph more recently was published as the cover of a book by Ted Williams called Something’s Fishy, a look at the present state of our game fishery.

Many of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club members have enlarged authentic copies framed in their homes or offices, and signed by Steve. He lives in Point Pleasant and copies are available via his email - s.gruendling@comcast.net.

WHAT A TUNA TRIP!



Every canyon trip is a wonderful event full of promise and excitement, but some trips are especially memorable for the exceptional fishing that can occur. Chris Carver was on board **Pepper** on such a trip when everything went just right and the catching was superb.

Making up the crew were Capt. Dave and Steve Matthews, Chris Carver, Billy Smith and Bill McLaughlin. It was planned as a day trip, and everyone had their assignment list – breakfast, lunch and snacks (no dinner food – this was a day trip). The plan was to fish the day and be back to the dock at a reasonable time because we had to clean up the boat to be ready for mechanics that were coming the next day to take an engine out for overhaul.

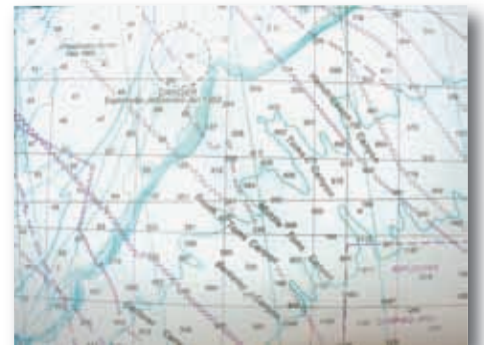


Very early in the morning with a good weather report, they left for Toms Canyon to troll through Toms and out the east side. They had lots of company out there, but it was a quiet day with sporadic catches; a fish here and there, but nothing exciting. Working the canyon edges they managed a slow pick of yellowfin here and there.

By early afternoon they came back to the area where they had found the first yellowfin in the morning and they picked up another one at that same spot. It was time to think about heading back to Manasquan Inlet, and the crew decided to troll toward home before taking the baits up and making the run back.

Before they made much headway home, several boats reported on the VHF that they were hooked up. One of those boats was **Earley Bird** with member Capt. Jim Earley at the helm. He called to report that he had a triple header of tuna! One of the anglers was Jim Kane, Jr. the son of Jim Earley's friend Jim Kane, and it was his first big tuna. We could see the **Earley Bird** off in the distance and we watched the action as we moved past on our homeward course. Jim soon called to report they had landed their fish – all bigeye tuna! The crew on **Pepper** gave “high fives” for the **Earley Bird**. How great was that for them to make a good catch of bigeye!

Other boats began showing up, probably getting ready for some overnight action, since it was now late afternoon. As they trolled along, reflecting on the day, a small boat came trolling near the **Pepper**. Chris Carver relates what happened next, *The captain had his back to us and didn't see us. He was so close you could hear him talking to his crew. As we were about to get his attention their rods went off with multiple big fish.*



We trolled away, wishing that had been us to get such a great hook-up when suddenly snap- zzzz, snap-zzzz- we had four fish on at once! Capt. Dave and Bill McLaughlin were on the first two fish. Bill Smith was in charge of the boat and Steve and Chris got the cockpit ready. We put the drag up on the other pair of fish to keep them for later.

Capt. Dave got his fish in first, and it was gaffed and landed. Bill McLaughlin got his fish in, and was gaffed and landed soon after. As Bill had been in the chair, we gave him another rod before that fish could get up and run. The fourth fish got off. As Bill brought in his second fish the whole school of tuna followed it. The hungry school stayed behind the boat in a feeding frenzy. All we needed to do was pitch bait and as soon as it hit the water a tuna inhaled it. We socked the drags up and landed the fish quickly.

We were soon running out of cockpit space to put the fish. We had ten bigeye tuna ranging from 120 to 195 pounds lying on the deck, and realized we couldn't catch any more fish. We had nowhere to put them!

At right, members Dave Matthews, Billy Smith, Bill McGloughlin and Chris Carver with several bigeye tuna.



Capt. Dave, Steve, Bill and Chris with a boat load of bigeyes!



*Capt. Jimmy Gahm on the **Jenny Lee** was just arriving and ready for his overnight trip. Jimmy had been near us and his party was taking pictures of our action. We still had this hungry school of fish behind us, so Bill Smith called the **Jenny Lee** and told Jimmy to troll past the stern so the fish could go to him. The first pass wasn't close enough and the fish just stayed. Billy Smith called him again and told him to come right across the stern close. Jimmy brought the **Jenny Lee** by once more, this time very close and the tuna followed him like a bunch of puppy dogs.*

*As we moved off the **Jenny Lee** was fighting fish. We cleaned, cut, bagged and packed all the fish in every space we had. We left one whole fish in the fish box below deck and packed bags of fish around it. The others were put in the salon cooler and iced. Several were headed and covered with wet blankets out in the cockpit. We packed the inside cavities with ice and frozen bags of bait. All the fish were cool and wet.*

Of course with all this action, we were heading back later than planned. But that's okay, we have until Monday morning and it's still Sunday! We knew we were in for some weather on our way back home, which was our "punishment" for being late. Boy, it did hit – rain and lots of it. It was a long, black, wet ride home.

*We came in about 11 p.m. Steve had called ahead to report our catch and that we needed lots of coolers and ice. When we arrived the coolers were on the dock. We soon had the fish in the coolers and iced down for the night. The next morning Steve delivered the **Pepper** to the boat yard, had it hauled out and ready for the engine to be removed. The one whole fish that remained in the cockpit fish box was taken out with the same boom truck as the engine, right after the engine, still very cold and weighing in at 196 pounds.*

*Not too shabby for
just a day trip!*



Back at the yard, Capt. Dave Matthews, Chris Carver and Steve Matthews with 196-pound bigeye tuna.

BAD LUCK FOR BIGEYE



Keeping an eye on the weather for a favorable forecast, Friday, September 30, 2005, finally looked as if the **Cast Bronze** was dealt a good hand. NOAA's forecast for the Hudson to Baltimore Canyons was variable winds of 10 knots or less with 2- to 4-foot seas. A few tuna had recently been caught in the Hudson and the crew wanted to take full advantage of the coinciding good weather and good fishing. Little did they know how much luck their trip would bring.

Long-time club member and past president, George A. Lewis said their plan was for the **Cast Bronze**, his father's 37 Buddy Davis, to leave the dock at 10 p.m. on Friday night and slowly make their way to the Hudson Canyon to arrive at dawn for the morning troll and, if that proved somewhat successful, try for tilefish later in the day. On board were George, his father George W. Lewis, and their good friend and fellow MRMTC member, Alan Lee of the **Mushin**.

The previous summer they had begun to venture into the world of deep dropping for tilefish. George said, *I had onboard two new Penn 113Hs loaded with 1,200 feet of 50-pound test Power Pro super-braid line. The reels had been fitted with newly-purchased Elec-Tra-Mate motor-drives to make our deep dropping faster and easier.*

As we arrived at the Hudson Saturday morning at dawn, we were lucky to pick a few yellowfin tuna as a small bite materialized in the area of the Tip. We worked the area until around 11 a.m. when with some tuna on ice and a flat calm ocean we decided to run south down to a good tilefish spot just below the area known as The Letters. As I pulled back the throttles around the 090 line on the west side, I noticed about a dozen other boats working the area.

When I looked at my sounder, I realized why. Just off the edge, the screen lit up with bait from 200 feet down to the bottom. It certainly looked fishy with a few chick birds working the area and lots of bait, yet the crackle on channel 65 was that even with such promising conditions, no one was doing much of anything on the troll. So, we stuck to our plan of trying for golden tilefish. And I was anxious to try out my two new toys having just installed the necessary pair of 12 volt outlets under the covering boards in the cockpit to power the electric reels.

George positioned the **Cast Bronze** over the set of numbers he wanted to investigate while his father and Alan were readying the rigs with bait and lead. Having just started trying his hand at tilefishing, he was still perfecting his rigs and techniques. *The rigs we were using that day were basically a heavier version of a standard high-low rig like you'd use for sea bass, but with larger Mustad 4/0 bronze bait holder J hooks and 3 pounds of lead to get the rig to the bottom. Lucky for us that day, we had not yet discovered the benefit of using circle hooks when deep dropping.*

As I came down from the bridge, the plan was for Alan and I to make the first few drops, while my father maneuvered the boat to keep our lines vertical. Down went our baited hooks, and down further, and further, and still further, until we felt them touch bottom in 600 feet of water. Within 5 minutes of drifting, I felt a slight tap and set the hook, it was not much as I felt little weight, yet I did have something and thus pushed the power button on the Elec-Tra-Mate while pumping the rod to bring up whatever had decided to bite some 600 feet below us. Upon reaching the surface it turned out to be a small whiting. Not much of a catch, but "good for bait" we remarked. How prophetic it turned out to be.

Alan was next to feel a slight nibble and set the hook. While pushing the power button to the Elec-Tra-Mate he said, *It does not feel like too much*, but soon as he said that, Alan's rod took on an abnormally heavy bend. Suddenly that *not too much* had some weight to it and started taking drag. Now things were getting interesting.





At that point Alan offered the rod to George. *I would like to think this was because Alan is a true gentleman, a great guest onboard, and he was just being courteous, George said, but he quickly realized he knew that whatever large denizen of the deep he had hooked was some 600 feet below us and it would be a long time and even more effort before we would determine what it was.*

George took the rod and began the fight, alternately lifting the rod and pushing the power button on the electric reel on the down stroke to gain line. He gained line, then the fish gained line. *It was tough, George said, I would regain what was lost, and he would take it back.*

Back and forth this went on, all the time the little electric motor on the reel would complain in an annoying whirring sound as it strained against the weight. This went on for about 40 minutes while other boats began to circle **Cast Bronze** to see what they were hooked up to. *I was finally making progress as I had started to thumb the reel's spool on each lift and was now able to gain a considerable amount of line back on the reel, enough that we could see our adversary on the colorscope some 60 feet below us. Alan stood ready with a gaff, when on the upstroke of the rod, I felt the sickening sensation of a parted line or pulled hook. Yet it was only for a brief moment, so brief that in the motion of raising the rod during the upstroke I felt a reconnect. Something was now different; for some reason the fish did not feel the same. It was no longer the bulldog, head down, powerful pull, but it fought with a decreased strain on the rod and with a pulsating vibration. It was coming up, and fast.*

As they looked down into the dark blue they saw a shape materialize; a tuna! And it was big tuna, a very big bigeye tuna. It was also coming up tail first!

George wondered, *Had it tail wrapped itself during the last moments of the fight? I quickly found out NO! As the bigeye's tail broke the surface thrashing the water next to the boat, I could see the top hook of the high-low rig impaled dead center into the leading bony edge of the tuna's tail. It was a one in a million event.*

"Get him!!" I shouted to Alan just as he stretched out beyond and around the girth of the fat bigeye and gaffed it perfectly in the gill plate.

My father raced down from the bridge to secure the fish with a second gaff as I unclipped from the harness and opened the transom door to slide the fish aboard. As we looked at our prize, we were all in awe.

Upon closer inspection, we saw the bottom hook of the rig firmly imbedded in the corner of the bigeye's jaw, yet the line had broken just one inch beyond the hook's eye. The top hook of the rig, still attached to the main line, was firmly imbedded in the tail. What luck, what pure luck!

George's father looked over at his son and said, *Wow, what a day, I guess we can go home now.*

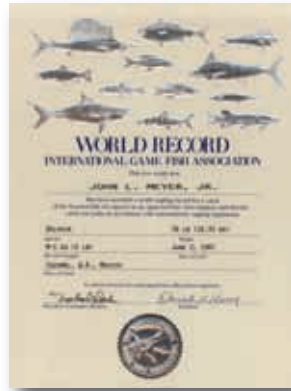
Go Home? Go Home? George protested. *We still haven't caught a tilefish.* So they finished out the day catching a dozen tilefish, but it certainly was only a bonus after what they had experienced.

On the way home, they talked about their remarkable catch and surmised that Alan had hooked a whiting, and as he retrieved it from the bottom, the bigeye, hiding deep under the mid-day sun, had picked off an easy meal and was then hooked by the hook in the whiting's mouth. Unfortunately for the bigeye, when the line parted next to the hook in his jaw, the second hook on the rig, slid along the back of the tuna in just the exact way as to allow it to snag him in the tail. Bad luck for him, uncanny luck for the **Cast Bronze**.

George remembered the words of a seasoned and successful MRMTC veteran who once told him, *I'd rather be lucky than good, any day on the Rip.* On that trip, the **Cast Bronze** was one lucky boat with a memorable story to tell. ■







Chapter Five



FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

Over its 75-year history, many club members have caught state- and nationally-recognized catches, and International Game Fish Association world-record catches. Some have been defeated, some still stand – all are remarkable angling achievements.

Some of the older records are especially noteworthy when considering the tackle used at the time of the catch. Imagine the skill and endurance required of Francis Low to catch his giant bluefin catch of 705 pounds in 1933, or Francis Geer's 382-pound swordfish in 1939. While quite advanced for that time period, the rods, reels and lines used from the 1930s to the late 1950s were quite primitive when compared to the sophisticated tackle used today, which makes these early catches all the more remarkable.

FRANCIS H. LOW

- ★ Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, 705 pounds, 1933. Pre-International Game Fish Association, this fish was considered the world-record bluefin tuna catch at the time and was caught at the Sea Bright grounds near Shrewsbury Rocks.
- ★ Great White Shark, 998 pounds, 1935, caught off Manasquan, and was the largest fish of any species, in any country, caught on rod and reel until exceeded by Zane Gray several years later.

FRANCIS GEER, JR.

- ★ Swordfish, 382 pounds, June 7, 1939. First rod and reel swordfish taken off New Jersey, after a nine-hour battle, 15 miles east of Manasquan Inlet.

HUGO RUTHERFORD

- ★ Blue Marlin, 1939. Landed the first documented blue marlin caught off Hatteras, NC on a rod and reel.

EUGENIE MARRON

- ★ Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, 430 pounds, circa 1950. First rod and reel bluefin caught by a lady angler in New Jersey, off Sea Bright.
- ★ Striped Marlin, 289 pounds, May 8, 1954. Women's 30-pound class record, Iquique, Chile.
- ★ Striped Marlin, 321 pounds, June 9, 1954. Women's 20-pound class record, Iquique, Chile.
- ★ Striped Marlin, 318 pounds, June 2, 1954. Women's 50-pound class record, Iquique, Chile.
- ★ Swordfish, 772 pounds, June 7, 1954. Women's all-tackle record, Iquique, Chile.



Eugenie Marron

LOUIS B. MARRON

- ★ Swordfish, 1,182 pounds, May 7, 1953. Men's all-tackle record, Iquique, Chile.

F.W. ROEBLING, III

- ★ Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, 624 pounds, May 15, 1940. Bahamas 39-thread record, Bahamas.

CAROLYN MEYER

- ★ Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, 818 pounds, August 3, 1941. Women's all-tackle record, Bailey's Island, Maine.

GUY STUKES

- ★ Atlantic Blue Marlin, 810 pounds, 1962. Men's all-tackle record, Hatteras, NC.

INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION



The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) was founded in 1939 and has been the official arbiter and keeper of sportfishing's all-tackle and line-class world records. The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club was one of the first clubs to offer its support to IGFA as a member club and has continued its club membership for over 70 years. Individual club members also hold membership in the IGFA and others, such as Eugenie and Lou Marron, have provided additional support by sponsoring the international collection of essential fisheries data and biological information on swordfish, blue marlin and white marlin.



Several members have held IGFA-recognized world-record catches, which are listed later in this club history. A copy of the original IGFA certificate presented to the club in 1939 is filed in the club's archives, along with some early correspondence from club officers expressing their support for the organization. Today, two club members, Pete Barrett and Jeff Merrill, have the honor to serve as New Jersey representatives to the IGFA.

The International Game
Fish Association Museum
and Hall of Fame is
located in Dania, Florida.



From its origins, the IGFA's objectives are similar to those of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, and are based on the belief that gamefish species, related food fish, and their habitats are economic, social, recreational, and aesthetic assets which must be maintained, wisely used and perpetuated: and that the sport of angling is an important recreational, economic, and social activity which the public must be educated to pursue in a manner consistent with sound sporting and conservation practices.

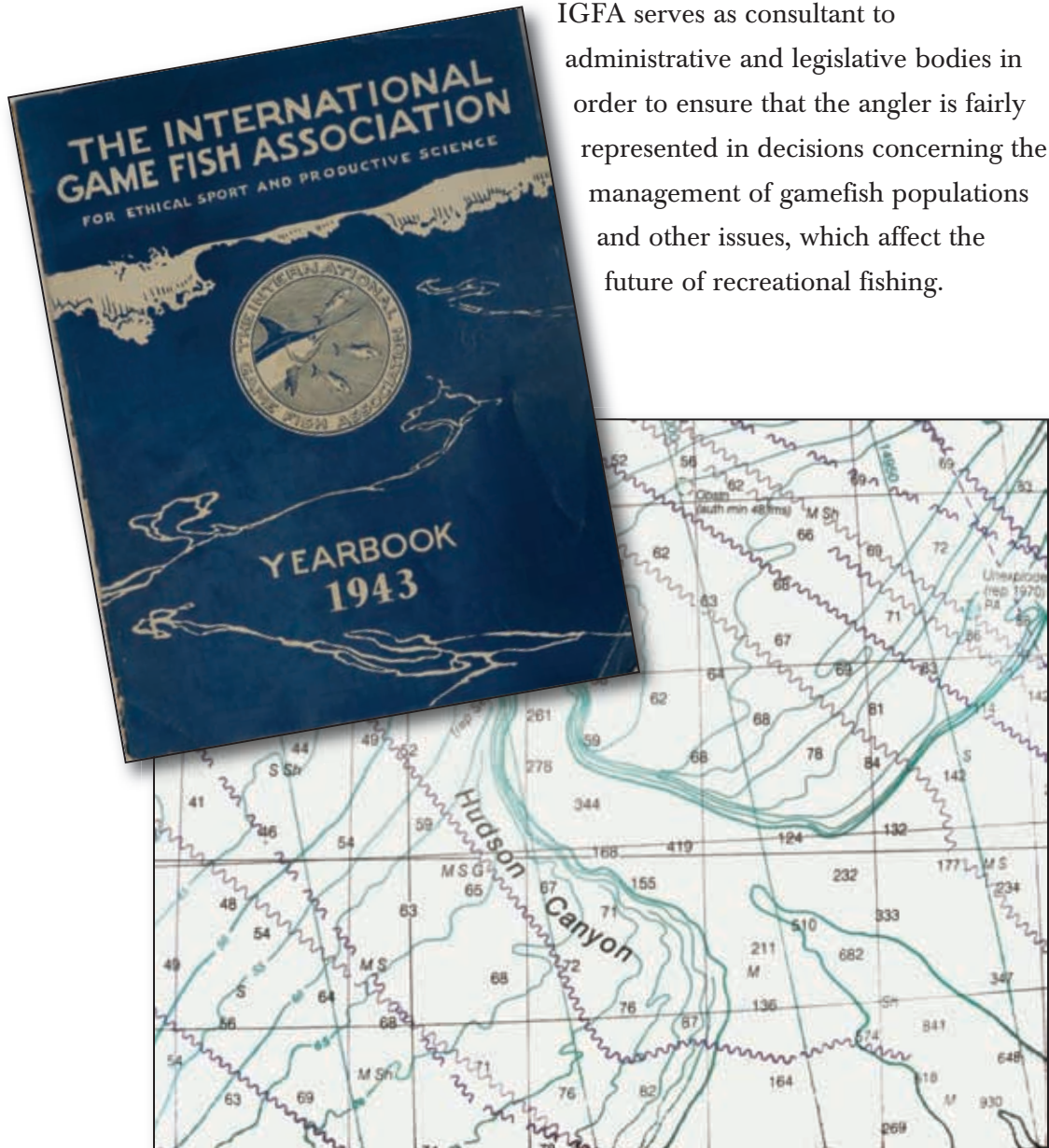
The purpose of IGFA, as set forth in the early bylaws, is: *to encourage the study of game fishes for the sake of whatever pleasure, information, of benefit it may provide; to keep the sport of game fishing ethical, and to make its rules acceptable to the majority of anglers; to encourage this sport both as recreation and as a potential source of scientific data; to place such data at the disposal of as many human beings as possible; and to keep an attested and up-to-date chart of world record catches.*

IGFA maintains and publishes world records for saltwater, freshwater, fly fishing catches, U.S. state freshwater records, and junior angler records, awarding certificates of recognition to each record holder. The equipment and fishing regulations adopted worldwide are formulated, updated, and published by IGFA to promote sporting angling practices, to establish uniform rules for world record catches, and to provide angling guidelines for use in tournaments and other group fishing activities.

The IGFA's Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum provides the world's most comprehensive assemblage of sportfishing information, exhibits, educational classes, fishing demonstrations, interactive displays and virtual reality fishing in a 60,000-square-foot museum. There are 170 species of gamefish that earned world record status suspended overhead with informational plates on date of catch, angler, place, etc., displayed on the floor under each fish. The largest mount is Alfred Dean's 2,664-pound great white shark caught in Australia in 1959. The museum houses a huge array of angling literature, history, films, art, photographs, and artifacts. The library houses the most comprehensive collection in the world on gamefish, angling, and related subjects. The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club has supported the Hall of Fame and Museum with donations and a large replica of the club burgee is on display, along with other notable U.S. and international clubs.

IGFA has continuously supported scientific tagging and other data collection programs, and works closely with fishery biologists in order to exchange information and relay to anglers the particular needs and results of research and conservation efforts. True to its founding principles, the

IGFA serves as consultant to administrative and legislative bodies in order to ensure that the angler is fairly represented in decisions concerning the management of gamefish populations and other issues, which affect the future of recreational fishing.



Catching a gamefish that qualifies for world-record status is a considerable angling achievement requiring intense tackle preparation and a high degree of skill. The certification and review process by the International Game Fish Association includes testing a sample of the line and/or leader, a careful review of all the catch information, verification of the species and weight, and the tackle used. The following MRMTC members have met the challenge of fishing for a world-record catch. Some records still stand, others have been surpassed; but all are remarkable catches.

WORLD-RECORD CATCHES



Kathleen Meyer holding her world record bonefish pictured with TV Personality Curt Gowdy (right).



Kathleen Meyer with her world record bonefish caught on 2-pound test.



John Meyer with his 2-pound test world record dolphin.



International Game Fish Association

This is to certify that

MRS. MAURICE MEYER, JR.,

is the holder of the WOMEN'S ALL-TACKLE WORLD record for
BLUEFISH TUNA *as of the date below inscribed.*

Date AUGUST 2, 1961

Michael Lerner
PRESIDENT

Francesca Ballotti
SECRETARY



International Game Fish Association

This is to certify that

Mrs. Maurice Meyer, Jr.

now holds the Tie 30-pound Line Test Class Record for Men and Women
and the Women's 30-pound Line Test Class *record for*
White Marlin (120 lbs. 10 oz.) *as of the date below inscribed.*

Date March 29, 1956

Michael Lerner
PRESIDENT

Francesca Ballotti
SECRETARY

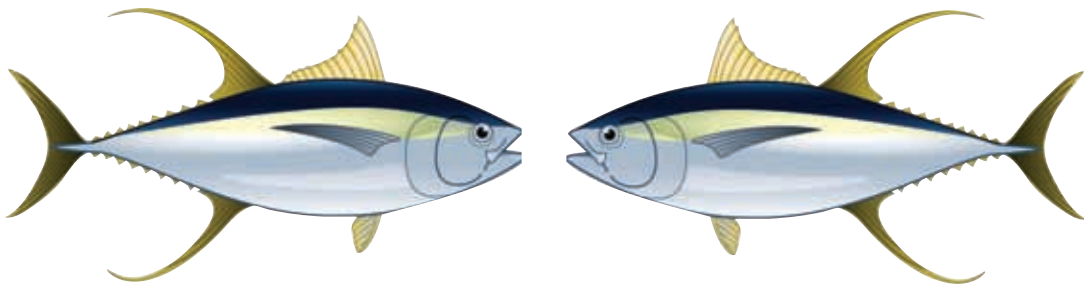




Carolyn Meyer along with captain George Burlew and her world record white marlin.

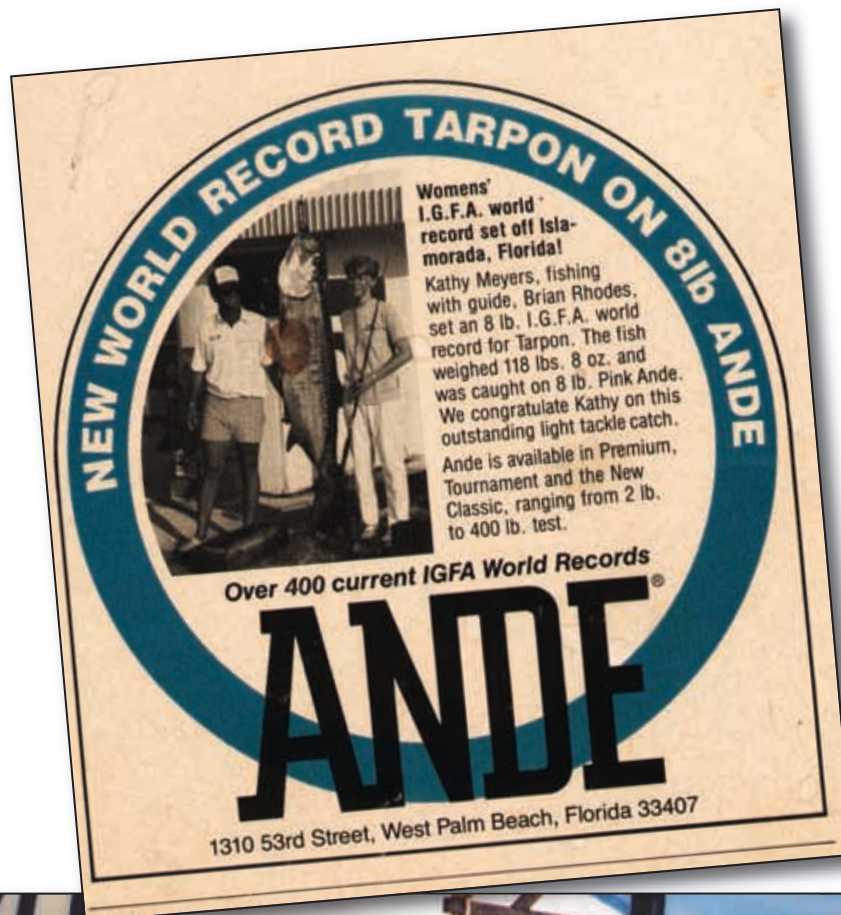


Carolyn Meyer in 1941 receiving a plaque in recognition of her women's all-tackle record bluefin tuna of 818 pounds.



ANGLER	SPECIES	LINE CLASS	WEIGHT	DATE
Louis Marron	Swordfish	M-60 kg (130 lb)	1,182 lbs	May 7, 1953
	Swordfish	All-Tackle	1,182 lbs	May 7, 1953
Mrs. Eugenie Marron	Swordfish	W-37 kg (80 lb)	772 lbs	June 7, 1954
	Marlin, striped	W-10 kg (20 lb)*	321 lbs	June 8, 1954
	Marlin, striped	W-24 kg (50 lb)*	318 lbs	June 2, 1954
Ron Mazzarella	Flounder, summer	Tippet M-02 kg (4 lb)	3 lbs	June 28, 2003
	Tunny, little	Tippet M-01 kg (2 lb)	7 lbs, 9 oz	Oct. 20, 2001
	Flounder, summer	Tippet M-06 kg (12 lb)*	4 lbs	June 10, 2000
	Barracuda, great	Tippet 04 kg (8 lb)*	13 lbs, 12 oz	Feb. 17, 1995
	Barracuda great	Tippet 04 kg (8 lb)*	25 lbs, 8 oz	April 24, 1995
	Cobia	Tippet 10 kg (20 lb)*	35 lbs	Jan. 10, 1994
	Bass, striped	Tippet 10 kg (20 lb)*	18 lbs, 1 oz	July 18, 1993
	Bluefish	Tippet M-10 kg (20 lb)*	11 lbs	Nov. 23, 1998
	Tunny, little	Tippet M-01 kg (2 lb)*	5 lbs, 3 oz	Sept. 26, 1998
	Weakfish	Tippet M-04 kg (8 lb)*	5 lbs, 3 oz	Sept. 30, 1998
	Bass, striped	Tippet M-01 kg (2 lb)	19 lbs	Nov. 30, 2005
Mrs. Maurice Meyer	White marlin	W-15 kg (30 lb)	120 lbs, 10 oz	March 29, 1956
	Bluefin tuna Atlantic*	Womens All-Tackle	818 lbs	August 3, 1941
John L. Meyer, Jr.	Dolphin***	M-01 kg (2 lb)	36 lbs	June 2, 1987
Kathleen Meyer	Permit	W-01 kg (2 lb)*	9 lbs, 4 oz	April 17, 1990
	Tarpon**	W-04 kg (8 lb)*	118 lbs	June 4, 1988
	Permit	W-02 kg (4 lb)	26 lbs, 4 oz	July 19, 1992
	Bonefish	W-01 kg (2 lb)	10 lbs	Apr 18, 1990
Patty Niebling	Tarpon	W-08 kg (16 lb)*	15 lbs, 8 oz	Jul 31, 1987
	Bonefish	W-08 kg (16 lb)*	11 lbs, 1 oz	Jan 24, 1986
Charlene Sanford	Bigeye Tuna, Atlantic	W-37 kg (80 lb)	317 lbs, 12 oz	July 23, 1978
John Willits	Swordfish	M-15 kg (30 lb)	392 lbs	Aug 3, 1976

(*) indicates a retired record. (**) indicates catch qualified for IGFA 10 to 1 Club. (***) Indicates catch qualified for IGFA 15 to 1 Club.



Kathleen Meyer with her world record tarpon on 8-pound test.





WORLD RECORD
INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION

This is to certify that

JOHN L. MEYER, JR.

Has been awarded a world angling record for a catch of the heaviest fish of a species in an approved line class category, and that the catch was made in accordance with international angling regulations.

DOLPHIN	
Species	
M-1 KG (2 LB)	36 LB (16.32 KG)
Record Category	Weight
COZUMEL, Q.R., MEXICO	JUNE 2, 1987
Place of Catch	Date of Catch

In witness whereof, the undersigned have affixed their signatures.

Richard Leach Executive Committee Member *Edward J. Camp*

WORLD RECORD
INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION

This is to certify that


KATHLEEN MEYER

Has been awarded a world angling record for a catch of the heaviest fish of a species in an approved line class category, and that the catch was made in accordance with international angling regulations.

BONEFISH	10 LB (4.53 KG)
Species	Weight
M-1 KG (2 LB)	APRIL 18, 1990
Record Category	Date of Catch
ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA, USA	
Place of Catch	

In witness whereof, the undersigned have affixed their signatures.

Richard Leach Executive Committee Member *Edward J. Camp* President



WORLD RECORD
INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION

This is to certify that


KATHLEEN MEYER


Has been awarded a world angling record for a catch of the heaviest fish of a species in an approved line class category, and that the catch was made in accordance with international angling regulations.

PERMIT	26 LB 4 OZ (11.90 KG)
Species	Weight
M-2 KG (4 LB)	JULY 19, 1992
Record Category	Date of Catch
ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA, USA	
Place of Catch	

In witness whereof, the undersigned have affixed their signatures.

George J. Mattison Executive Committee Member *Richard Leach* President





WORLD RECORD

INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION


This is to certify that

KATHLEEN MEYER

Has been awarded a world angling record for a catch
of the heaviest fish of a species in an approved line class category, and that the
catch was made in accordance with international angling regulations.

TARPON	118 LB (53.52 KG)
<small>Species</small>	<small>Weight</small>
W-4 KG (8 LB)	JUNE 4, 1988
<small>Record Category</small>	<small>Date of Catch</small>
ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA, USA	
<small>Place of Catch</small>	

affix their signatures



10 TO 1 CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION


awards this certificate to

KATHLEEN MEYER


for outstanding achievement in catching a fish
weighing 10 times the wet test strength of the line used.

PERMIT	26 LB 4 OZ (11.90 KG)
<small>Species</small>	<small>Weight</small>
ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA	JULY 19, 1992
<small>Place of Catch</small>	<small>Date of Catch</small>



In witness whereof, the undersigned have affixed their signatures.



President



Trustee

15 TO 1 CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION

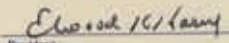
awards this certificate to

JOHN L. MEYER, JR.

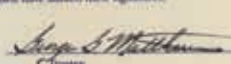
for outstanding achievement in catching a fish
weighing 15 times the wet test strength of the line used.

DOLPHIN	36 LB (16.32 KG)
<small>Species</small>	<small>Weight</small>
COZUMEL, QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO	JUNE 2, 1987
<small>Place of Catch</small>	<small>Date of Catch</small>


In witness whereof, the undersigned have affixed their signatures.



President



Trustee



RECORDS ON THE FLY



The challenge of fishing with fly tackle to establish IGFA world record catches is what drives MRMTC member Ron Mazzearella. He enjoys fishing with the “long wand” as a special way to fish and to achieve the maximum enjoyment from his efforts. Several of his records have been surpassed but all were remarkable catches requiring planning, careful tackle preparation and dedication. Three of his fly-rod records still stand.

He shared recollections of two of his record catches as this club history was being compiled. The first is about a little tunny, locally nicknamed false albacore, and famous for its long, speedy runs and strong fish-fighting qualities. He said, *I had recently started using my new Conch 27 and invited a friend of mine, Bob Gorski, out fishing. Little tunny were busting everywhere and I asked him if he could take over the boat controls if I hooked one on 2-pound test tippet. My first hook-up ended in a break off as Bob was not quick enough on the throttle to stay near the fish. On my second take, he jumped to the helm and almost threw me out of the boat!*

Ron Mazzearella with his 2-pound tippet world record little tunny.





I saw the little tunny scream off with my white Rhody Flat Wing fly in its jaw. After about 10 minutes, the fish cruised by and I noticed that the fly had pulled out of the jaw and stuck in its tail. Then the tug of war began. I felt badly inviting a friend to fish and hogging all his time on one fish. He insisted that I stay connected on the fish as long as I could last. Well, two hours and fifty minutes later we boated the record, tail first. It weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. I have caught 100-pound sailfish and tarpon up to 160 pounds in less than 15 minutes, but this was the most time that I ever spent on a fish.

Club members have always had an affinity for catching striped bass and Ron is no exception, particularly when it comes to catching a record on fly tackle. In November of 2005 he was fishing with Capt. Paul Dixon and Ron's friend Lloyd Jacobsen. He recalled the experience in a letter to club president Tony Cuccia.

We were fishing the Montauk Rip in the pouring rain and a 25 knot SW wind. We were into the herring run with bass all over the place. Lloyd and I landed scores of bass to 27 pounds, all on fly.

I told Paul I wanted to try for a 2-pound tippet record, and I could see the look of disbelief on their faces and they rolled their eyes wondering if it would be possible to hook, play and land a record. My first cast struck pay dirt as a striped bass ate the fly and line departed from my Sage 3400 D reel. I was using a 10-foot G. Loomis GLX graphite rod rated for a 5-weight line and it bowed over under pressure from the strong run of the fish. I asked Paul to start up and follow the fish which he promptly did.

Ron Mazzarella, left, with 19-pound world record striped bass caught on 2-pound tippet.



It was only 10 minutes later when the fish surfaced, and I asked Paul to get out his gaff and he said "I don't have one."

Then I asked him to grab the net, and he replied "I don't have one."

Then I told him to grab my 15-pound Boga Grip scale from my bag which he promptly did. I worked the bass to the leeward side of the boat so the wind would bring the fish to us. As the boat drifted up to the bass, it opened its mouth as if on cue, Paul grabbed the jaw with the Boga Grip and I lifted the bass into the boat and into the live well. It bottomed out the 15-pound rated Boga Grip so I knew the fish could be a record as the current record was 14 pounds, 5 ounces.

We ran into the marina to make it official and on the certified digital scale it bounced between 19 and 20 pounds because it was still alive. When a picture was snapped to certify the record, it showed 20 pounds. I entered it at 19 pounds to be sure.



Mr. Bass was released alive to give someone else a crack at the title!

The following club-record catches are based on entries submitted in the club's annual Fishing Derby. The Perpetual Trophy for each winning species is engraved with the winner's name and resides with the winner throughout the year. These beautiful wood-carved trophies are highly prized by members.

CLUB-RECORD DERBY CATCHES



Atlantic Bluefin Tuna	Jack Wells	1980	876 pounds
Atlantic Bonito	Russ Smith	1978	12 pounds
Bigeye Tuna	Char Sanford	1978	317 pounds, 12 ounces**
Blackfish	Ralph Munsie	2009	12.9 pounds
Blue Marlin	Dr. Philip Infantolino	1986	1,046 pounds*
Bluefish	Pete Barrett	1983	18 pounds, 11 ounces
Fluke (summer flounder)	Dwayne Hauck	1998	14 pounds
Dolphin	Gerard Aliseo	2003	41 pounds
Longfin Albacore	Harry Wilde	2004	74 pounds
Mako Shark	Joe Vezzosi	2008	406 pounds, 6 ounces
Sea Bass	David Arbeitman	2007	6 pounds, 9 ounces
Striped Bass	Harvey Tilton	1954	51 pounds
Swordfish	Maurice Meyer, Jr.	1968	501 pounds
Wahoo	Keith Norris	2002	122 pounds
Weakfish	Steve Matthews	1985	15 pounds, 8 ounces
Yellowfin Tuna	Jack Murray	1981	286 pounds
White Marlin	J.M. Tassie	1959	113 pounds, 8 ounces
Tilefish	David Arbeitman	2007	43 pounds, 5 ounces
Blue Marlin Releases	Dave Matthews	1981	5 Releases
Sailfish Releases	Dick Matthews	1993	100 Releases
White Marlin Releases	Adam Sanford	1981	9 Releases
(Tie)	Dave Matthews	2007	9 Releases

* Denotes current New Jersey state record.

** Denotes current IGFA world record.

This list of record catches was taken from the club's annual Derby winners, and does not represent member's catches that may have exceeded the weights of the above listed species, but which were not entered for consideration in the annual Derby.

JACK WILLITS' WORLD-RECORD SWORDFISH



This classic big-fish, light tackle experience produced an International Game Fish Association world-record catch for Jack Willits, a long-time tuna club member who many years later would become an IGFA board of trustees member. Steve Matthews, also a tuna club member, vividly recalls the eventful day.

*It was August 3, 1976. I was seventeen years old working a summer job mating for Captain Ben Degutis on Jack Willits **Frisky Lady**. We were fishing out of Nantucket, Massachusetts on our regular scouting routine looking for tailing swordfish. In the seventies, it was still a common site to see swordfish tailing on the surface. The hard part was getting them to bite. Once we were on the fishing grounds, we would spend the entire day in the tuna tower running at approximately 12 to 14 knots looking for tailing swordfish or white marlin. We would also come across an occasional school of tuna but the swordfish was our target. Two rods were kept ready with baits attached and in the cooler; one rod was an 80-pound outfit set up for swordfish and the other was a 30-pound outfit ready for white marlin.*

This particular day we had baited two swordfish in the morning without a bite. Later that afternoon we came across another sword. Ben yelled to Jack, who was in the cockpit ready to drop back a bait and told him we had one up in front of us. It didn't look real big so Jack decided to drop back the small ballyhoo on the 30. This one decided to bite, but it turned out it wasn't so little. After about thirty minutes, Jack knew he was in for a battle. For the first one and one half hours, the swordfish stayed down and Jack couldn't gain much line in fear of breaking him off. At this point, we still had not seen the fish since after the initial bite. Once the swordfish surfaced we all realized this definitely was no pup swordfish. The fish stayed on the surface for the next two hours jumping several times.



At times the swordfish was actually charging the boat and we did almost 10 knots to get away from the fish. With only three of us on the boat, it made it tough to hold onto the light leader without breaking it while Ben would run over to the corner with the gaff. It seemed every time he left the wheel to grab the gaff the fish would turn away.

After several attempts, and managing not to break the leader, Ben finally sunk the gaff. Four hours and thirty minutes after the initial bite, we finally caught this “Little Swordfish.” Jack fought this fish standing up the whole time. He also vowed to never bait another sword with 30-pound tackle again.

On the ride in, we all reminisced about the fight. Jack was an avid member of the IGFA and kept a record book on the boat. I decided to look up the men’s records on 30-pound test line and saw that the current swordfish record at the time was a 264 pounder caught out of California.

When I came back up on the fly bridge on our ride in, I mentioned to both Ben and Jack that we may have a world record on board. I think they both thought I was crazy. After all, what do I know; I am just a young kid on a summer job.

We finally got into the dock late in the evening and brought the fish to the scale. When they yelled the weight out at 392, I knew we had a record. My dad, Dave Matthews, told me when I left to make sure I would call if we caught a swordfish. I couldn’t wait to get him on the phone even though it was now 1:30 in the morning!

Three days later, Jack did exactly what he said he would never do again. He baited another “little swordfish” with the white marlin 30-pound outfit and got the bite. Again this fish turned out to be not so little. Almost a carbon copy of three days prior, only this one didn’t end up quite the same. After three hours the 30-pound line parted. I can honestly say, I don’t think Jack has baited another swordfish with a 30-pound outfit ever since; and I’m not sure if he will.

Jack Willits (left), Steve Matthews
and Ben Degutis (right) with a
30-pound test record swordfish.



IGFA provides recognition for world-record catches and for unique multi-species called grand slams (three billfish, three tuna) and super slams (four billfish, four tuna) caught on the same day. Club member Dan Purdy on the **Carly Rose** qualified for an IGFA-recognized Billfish Super Slam in late summer of 2008. The catch was made while the **Carly Rose** and crew fished in the MRMTC Annual Offshore Open Tournament.

HUDSON CANYON BILLFISH SUPER SLAM



As is often the case, rough weather during some of the tournament days had crews adjusting their scheduled fishing days in order to avoid dangerous weather. Club member Dan Purdy found himself trying to pull together a crew to head out during the week before the harsh weekend weather set in. Dan regularly fishes with Jeff Mandell who had a flexible schedule that week and was able to make the trip. The rest of Dan's regular crew was only available for the weekend so Dan was making last minute calls to find anglers to join him and Jeff aboard his 38 Henriques, **Carly Rose**. At the same time, another club member, Michael Gorey, was making calls to pull together his last minute crew.



Captain Dan Purdy and angler Jeff Mandell pose with a hatchet marlin caught in the Hudson Canyon.

As the afternoon wore on, Michael decided to join up on Dan's boat and the crew of three set out from Manasquan Inlet for an overnighter at about 1 a.m. Shorthanded, but eager to fish, the three-man crew headed for the Hudson Canyon hoping to find a pack of bigeye tuna, or perhaps get into some action with a blue or white marlin.

Bigeye tuna had already been posted on the leader board and the crew knew it would take an even larger bigeye to win the tuna division. Most yellowfin in the northeast rarely exceeded 100 pounds and the yellowfin bite had been pretty slow. Reports of overnight chunking success were few and far between. The plan was to troll hard during the day and for the overnight period the short-handed crew would focus more on the swordfish baits rather than heavy-duty chunking for tuna.

Jeff Mandell works the rod on a blue marlin, while Captain Dan Purdy works the cockpit controls.





Dan Purdy and Jeff Mandell with a white marlin, the third species of billfish caught during the same trip.

There were very few boats in the canyon that day. The weather was nice and the trolling spread looked very sweet to Captain Dan. The morning's troll proved to be unproductive, but Dan stuck to his guns and continued to search for action with his glorious spread of proven offshore lures. A few tweaks here and there produced results at around 1:15 in the afternoon. A white marlin cruised into the spread and crashed a pink and white daisy chain lure. Jeff grabbed the rod and the white went airborne. As the fish was brought to boat, Dan made a comment that it looked a bit different than a typical white. Michael suggested that maybe it could be a hatchet marlin and took some photos before it was released.

Carly Rose continued to work the area that produced the white. Michael had thrown a favorite lure in his bag and figured it was time to test Captain Dan's flexibility. This was the first time Michael and Dan had fished together so he was hesitant about messing with a spread during a tournament with another captain he had never fished with. Dan agreed to put Michael's lure in the long right rigger position.

Left to right, Dan Purdy, Jeff Mandell and Michael Gorey with the swordfish that completed their Super Slam aboard the **Carly Rose**.



Shortly after perfecting his spread with Michael's secret weapon a blue marlin jumped all over it! Jeff was on the rod in seconds. The blue erupted with a series of jumps that were spectacular. Jeff fought the blue in the chair, Michael steered the chair and Dan came down from the bridge to work the controls from the cockpit. Jeff did a great job keeping pressure on the blue. The fish was released and a second billfish was on the board for **Carly Rose**. Of course, for the rest of the trip, Dan had to listen to Michael take all the credit for the catch due to his magical lure that brought the blue up from the abyss.

Captain Dan continued to work the area. A white marlin hooked up around 4:30 p.m. and with Michael on the rod, Jeff on the leader and Dan on the controls, the fish was boated for pictures and quickly released. This fish looked like a basic white marlin and highlighted the fact that the first fish might actually be a hatchet marlin.

The crew then set up for the night. Sword baits were set down deep and light chunking was started. As the night wore on Dan and Michael got a bit of sleep while Jeff kept an eye on the sword baits and did some light chunking. About 1:30 a.m. Michael staggered out of the salon and gave Jeff a break and took over. Jeff crashed on the salon floor for a quick rest as Michael put out a new squid bait on one of the sword rigs. Shortly after setting it back down to about 150 feet there was a slight pull on the line and it seemed as if a fish had gently taken the bait.

As Michael set up on the fish his initial reaction was that it appeared to be a very small fish. Once the fish realized it was hooked however, it began a powerful fight. Michael called out to Jeff but all he saw were Jeff's feet sticking out of the salon door and they were not budging! Jeff was out like a light. Michael yelled out more loudly, "Fish on!" and Jeff's feet jumped into action and he was immediately in the cockpit ready to assist. Dan rushed out as well and the crew was pretty certain a swordfish was at the end of the line. Dan and Jeff brought the swordfish to gaff and the crew of the **Carly Rose** had caught its fourth species of billfish in one trip: a hatchet marlin, blue marlin, white marlin and a swordfish.

The next morning the action continued with marlin in the spread. Two whites were in the spread for quite a while and each hooked up briefly only to pull the hook. Then a huge blue marlin took a lure in the center of the spread and jumped out of the water and headed straight for the transom! Within a split second it was off the line, but it was quite a thrill to see that large of a fish take a lure and clear the water that close to the back of the boat. It was the "one that got away" but certainly added to the excitement of the trip.

NEW JERSEY THRESHER SHARK RECORD



A mammoth 683-pound thresher shark was caught on the **Kristen Marie** with MRMTC member Capt. Jeff Maritz at the helm. The boat was chartered by Dan Sandorff for his friends and family and the shark was boated by angler Benn Fogelberg of Washington, New Jersey.

According to Dan Sandorff, Sr. (aka “Pap”), after a wonderful day of fishing with many large blue sharks (caught and released) and one mako shark caught, although not large enough to qualify for the Mako Shark Tournament which they had entered, they were about to pick up the lines and head back to port at 5 p.m. Just then they had a run-off on one of the remaining lines. Benn geared up with the gimbal belt and harness, not knowing what awaited him, and prepared for battle. Thanks to the great skills of the captain, and plenty of encouragement and help from the entire crew, Benn landed his shark after an exhausting hour and 45 minutes – quite an accomplishment on a 50W reel and stand-up rod.

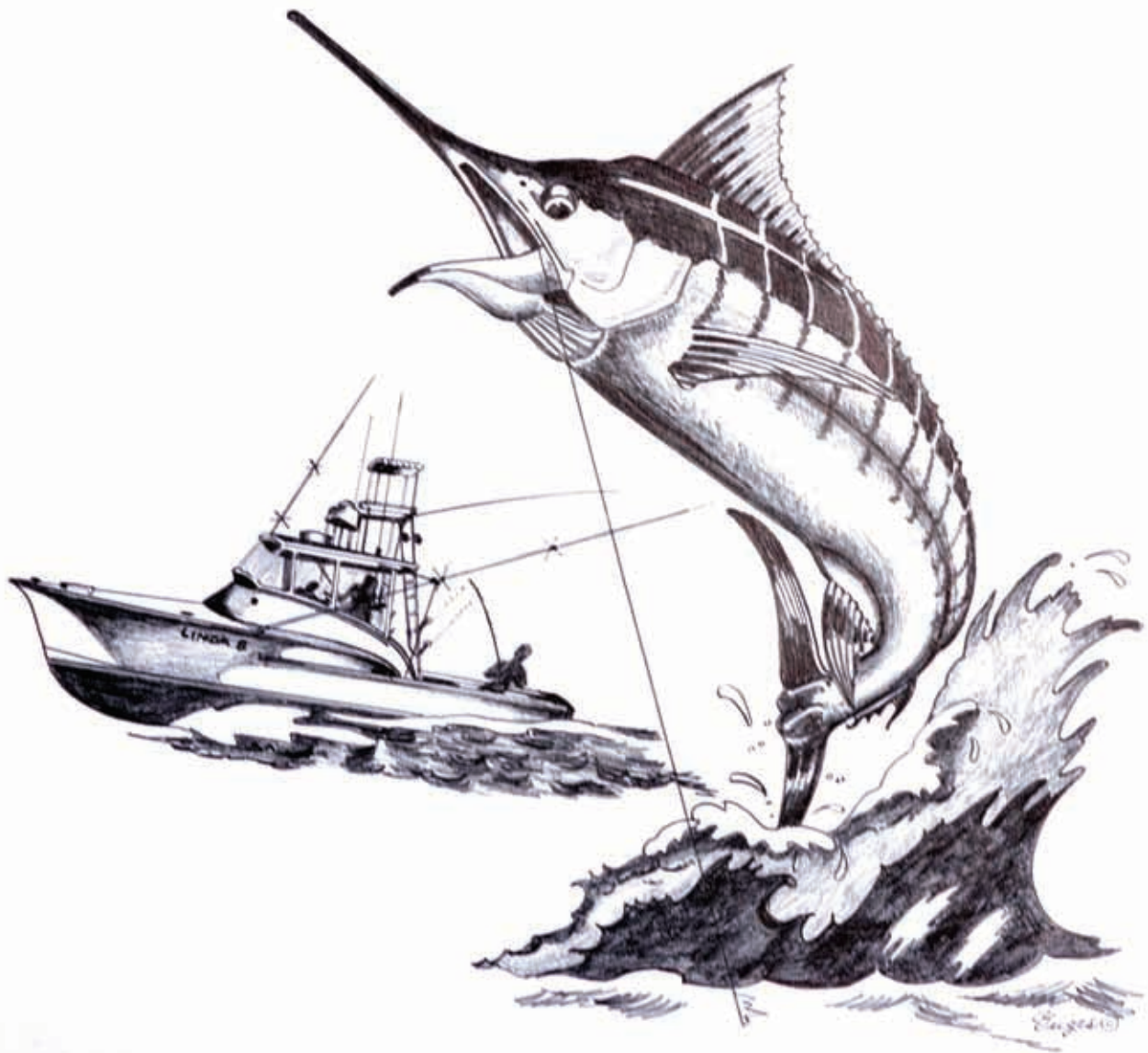
Member and captain, Jeff Maritz (far left) with crew and New Jersey state record 683-pound thresher shark caught aboard his **Kristen Marie** on June 27, 2009.



When the battle was over, everyone on board was overwhelmed with the amazing size of this thresher. Now the question was how to get it on board because of its extreme girth and length. Boating the shark was difficult even with the transom door, so trimming the dorsal fin became inevitable, but finally allowed it to fit into the boat.

The official weight at Arnolds Brielle Yacht Club that Saturday, June 27, 2009, was 683 pounds with a girth of 69.5 inches and approximate length of 10 feet 6 inches. The tail, or caudal fin, was approximately 7 feet. The **Kristen Marie** crew consisted of Capt. Jeff Maritz, crew chief Dan Sandorff, and crew members Benn Fogelburg, Don Roberts, Dennis Roberts and Dan “Pap” Sandorff Sr. Although no tournament prize money was won, it was a wonderful day of fishing. ■







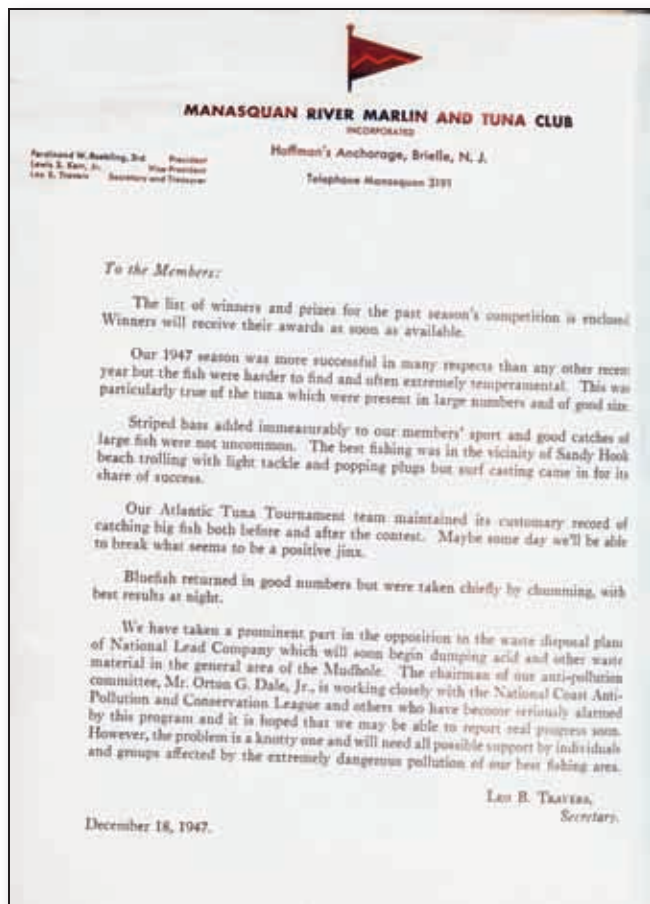
Chapter Six



CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

From the initial founding of the club, conservation of gamefish and promoting the highest ethics of sport fishing were integrally woven into its core beliefs. Correspondence between the founding club members and their conduct as they competed against one another during tournaments all indicate that conservation and good sportsmanship was always a high priority.

Ferd Roebeling fished Bimini as guest at the home of Michael and Helen Lerner, along with other Bimini pioneers such as Ernest Hemingway, Cuban fishing hero Julio Sanchez, Kip and Chisie Farrington, Erl Roman of *Outdoor Life* magazine and artist Lynn Bogue Hunt, and through the friendships developed there, was instrumental in promoting the newly created International Game Fish Association to other MRMTC members.



This 1947 letter highlights MRMTC's early conservation efforts. Orton Dale, Jr. chaired an anti-pollution committee, which fought the National Lead Company over dumping in the Mud Hole.

When the Magnuson Act legislation was passed in the mid 1970s, regional fisheries councils were set up in an effort to control overfishing and set reasonable regulations to maintain healthy fish populations. At the state level, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council received excellent representation for coastal fishermen with the appointment of long-time club member Axel Carlson. In recognition of his service to the club and to the angling public, the state of New Jersey named one of its eighteen artificial reefs in his honor and today the Axel Carlson Reef located off Mantoloking provides terrific angling opportunities for sea bass, blackfish, summer flounder and bluefish. The Axel Carlson Reef is a favorite with charter and party boat captains, private boaters and club members.

Also serving on the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, for many years as its chairman, was Jack Meyer. He was noted for his ability to build consensus between recreational and commercial fishermen and his tenure was notable for its many accomplishments.

Past presidents Jack Murray and John Heyer served on the International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) as recreational fishing advisors to the United States Committee. Several years after Jack and John's tenures, Pete Barrett served with ICCAT first as a technical advisor, then five years as full advisor representing recreational fishermen.

While the United States has vigorously pushed for strong conservation measures, it is a sad comment on ICCAT's lack of effectiveness that European, Mediterranean and Asian nations continue to exploit tuna, billfish and sharks at unsustainable industrialized fishing levels. The MRMTC continues to support the U.S. efforts to control the conservation of gamefish through ICCAT by its support of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation and the Recreational Fishing Alliance.

In keeping with the club's traditions to protect the ocean's great fish, the MRMTC has supported the National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC) for many years. While NCMC is not strictly a sport fishing organization, the club recognizes and supports the NCMC mission to save the world's oceans from commercial overfishing. The club is also proud to have one of its members, and past president and trustee, John Heyer, serving as NCMC vice chairman. John has been active with NCMC for the past 25 years, and his hard work and dedication have done much to assure that fishermen will be able to continue to catch tuna and billfish.

The NCMC is an independent, non-profit organization founded in 1973 to stop the shortsighted destruction of America's ocean fisheries and promote public awareness of the conservation ethic. The NCMC is an advocate for the fish resource, not special interests. The group supports preventive, not reactive, management, besides the important game fish, it also supports the conservation of all forms of marine life and the preservation of the natural habitats they depend upon for survival.

NATIONAL COALITION FOR MARINE CONSERVATION



John Heyer battles a Hatteras giant bluefin while fellow member, Bill Madden, positions the fight chair.

The NCMC promotes the use of conservative fish harvesting methods and believes the use of indiscriminate fishing gear is a major cause of over-exploitation and waste of marine resources. The elimination of such gear should be a priority for fisheries management.



NCMC has played a key role in producing landmark legislation and policies to conserve the nation's ocean fish stocks, and has backed laws enacted to halt overfishing of marlin and sailfish, shark, and bluefish, and to rebuild depleted stocks of striped bass, bluefin tuna, swordfish, ground fish and king mackerel. They were among the first to focus national attention on

a wide range of fishing gear problems, leading fights to reduce the wholesale slaughter of fish in shrimp trawls, regulate tuna longlines and their by-catch, and ban drift nets in the U.S. waters. NCMC is working to make reducing by-catch waste a national conservation priority, promoting legal, technological and scientific solutions. NCMC supports the Conservation Ethic by supporting game-fish tagging programs, and it works with tournaments to promote release fishing.

Circle hooks are preferred by conservationists because they are designed to hook the fish in the corner of the mouth, leading to a safe release.



The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) was incorporated in 1996 as a national, grassroots political action organization representing recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry on marine fisheries issues. Its mission focuses on three important problems facing recreational fishermen today: safeguarding the rights of saltwater anglers; protecting marine, boat and tackle industry jobs; and working to ensure the long-term sustainability of our nation's fisheries.

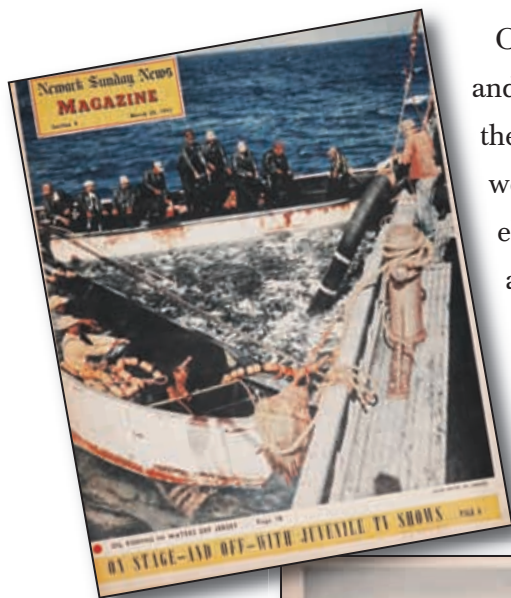
RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE



While the ideals of conserving gamefish and their habitat was an essential belief of the founding members back in 1936, the rise of radical environmentalism in the past twenty years and the expansion of industrialized commercial fishing present new problems that threaten recreational fishing. With commercial fishing lobbyists trying to take over catch quotas and eliminate recreational fishing opportunities, and environmental lobbyists pushing their own agendas to reduce fishing access in ocean areas and along beaches, the RFA is the only sport fishing group in the trenches lobbying at federal and state levels to educate legislators and decision makers to be sure the voices of America's coastal fishermen are being heard loud and clear.



The RFA's biggest challenge is the fight to reform and bring common sense and sound science into the fisheries management process. After more than a dozen years working inside the Beltway and within state capitals along the coast, RFA has become known as one of the nation's most respected and influential lobbying organizations, and the MRMTC is proud to support this hard-working organization.



This 1955 article in the *Newark Sunday News* shows how effective the purse seine boats were at harvesting large volumes of bunker.

One of its recent accomplishments was getting Congress to recognize and clearly define the recreational fishing industry and its participants in the 2006 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The RFA has worked to ban the harvest of valuable inshore forage fish and eliminate menhaden harvest for reduction purposes inside state waters and helped ban pelagic drift longlines in all U.S. waters and territories. It has worked to reduce striped bass bycatch inherent with the sink gillnet fishery in federal waters and successfully fought a proposed increase in the harvest limits of the commercial striped bass fishery in the Chesapeake Bay, along with successfully lobbying to keep gamefish status for striped bass in New Jersey.



The RFA lobbied to ban the use of destructive oceanic driftnet gear for swordfish in the Atlantic, and formed a coalition to ban pelagic pair trawling for

Highly Migratory Species from all Atlantic waters. Especially important today is the RFA's efforts to halt the "Blanket" policy of instituting Marine Protective Reserves, which deny access to recreational fishermen.

GEORGE BURLEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The George Burlew Scholarship Program was first awarded in June 1979 in honor of Captain George Burlew, who was a club member and a pioneer of sport fishing out of the Manasquan River. Captain Burlew was a well-known fishing guide and a long-time owner of Burlew's Anchorage in Manasquan (Robinson's Anchorage today).

He was recognized as one of the best captains in the business and was a master at rigging ballyhoo and mullet baits for marlin. Outdoor journalist Henry Schaefer, an honorary member of the MRMTC, fished with George Burlew in 1960 on a pioneering trip to the Hudson Canyon. The boat was owned by Finn Magnus, a well-to-do angler, who made a fortune in manufacturing harmonicas and later electric organs. Magnus had made headlines by catching numerous white marlin and yellowfin tuna, and brought the first longfin albacore to the docks in Brielle.

Schaefer, who had never caught a white marlin, described his first billfish catch with George Burlew at the helm. *I had him to the boat in 15 minutes and Burlew grabbed the leader, but the marlin made another dash for freedom and Burlew promptly dropped the leader so the fish would not break the line. I soon had the fish back to the boat and young Kenneth Magnus gaffed him while Burlew held the leader. The white was 8 feet long and weighed 87 pounds. The marlin was mounted by Fred Huber of Belmar.*

Burlew was born in Keyport, New Jersey in 1897 and died in Florida in the spring of 1987 at the age of 90. He operated his own charter boat, the **Gloria II**, out of Hoffman's Anchorage, and besides running the Magnus boat, he was also captain of the boat owned by founding club members Maurice and Carolyn Meyer of Elberon, New Jersey.



On left, Captain George Burlew and Maurice Meyer, Jr., with 262-pound tuna, second largest of 1947.

He lived near Matawan Creek, where in 1916 a well-known attack by a great white shark occurred while several young boys were swimming. Lester Stillwell was the first victim. While diving with his friend, Stanley Fisher, in an attempt to recover Stillwell's body, Burlew felt the wake of the great white as it passed close to him and attacked Fisher. Although Fisher successfully fought off the attack he succumbed to his wounds eight hours later in the hospital. George Burlew hated sharks and never fished for them.

The club's scholarship program was named in honor of this outstanding captain and his pioneering accomplishments for the club and to sport fishing. During its early inception, the grant was awarded to high school students as well as college students. Today, the scholarship is only awarded to full- or part-time graduate students pursuing marine related studies. Several of the recipients of the grants have been studying marine fisheries in the northeast and have done significant research to increase the scientific knowledge of our local gamefish, including bluefin tuna and striped bass.



Scholarship recipient Clare Ng of Rutgers presenting a summary of her research project at the 2006 MRMTC Spring Kickoff event.

Ms. Clare Ng of Rutgers University was a recent recipient of the George Burlew Scholarship Grant and her work is indicative of the valuable scientific work the MRMTC has encouraged. She developed a tagging study of striped bass in the Mullica River/Great Bay Estuary in Southern New Jersey waters that resulted in many interesting findings about the movement of striped bass in coastal estuaries. Titled *Habitat Use, Site Fidelity, and Movement of Adult Striped Bass in a Southern New Jersey Estuary Based on Mobile Acoustic Telemetry*, and co-authored with Kenneth W. Able and Thomas M. Grothues at the Marine Field Station, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences of Rutgers University, the study tracked the seasonal and daily movements of striped bass.

The study used individually coded acoustic transmitters and tracked adult striped bass with a mobile hydrophone from July 2003 through July 2005 in the Mullica River and Great Bay. The study found that striped bass preferred deeper water near shorelines and were found at the same location 56.6% of the time. When fish were moving, their pattern was characterized by sporadic swimming followed by long periods of little movement. Seasonally, movement in the estuary was highest in April, followed by two secondary peaks in October and December. Daily movement was highest around sunset. Mobile telemetry demonstrated important dynamics in habitat use, site fidelity, and estuarine movements that were not detectable by a parallel study using a fixed array of omnidirectional hydrophones. This data is important to fisheries managers as they design comprehensive regulations and management plans that assure the long-term health of gamefish populations.

Ted Glicksman, MRMTC member and chair of the scholarship program from 1987 through 2002, noted that over \$50,000 in grants have been awarded to students to further their education and research.

Primarily through the efforts of George A. Lewis, past president, the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's Artificial Reef Program was established in the fall of 2001 as part of a continuing mission to create new marine habitat to enhance recreational fishing opportunities local to the Manasquan Inlet. This program is financed through various fund-raising activities of the club and additional donations by its members.

Members help our Artificial Reef Fund to grow by participating in various club sponsored tournaments and fund-raising activities. Once a sufficient monetary amount is established in the MRMTC's Artificial Reef Fund to support a project, the fund-raising dollars and their donations are used to purchase, transport, and place dense materials such as old ships, concrete pipe, steel demolition or dredge rock on one of three state approved artificial reef sites local to the Manasquan River at the Axel Carlson Artificial Reef.

ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM



The **Pauline Marie** leans toward her new resting place on a New Jersey artificial reef where she will provide a home for a unique marine ecosystem.

Within a short time, a reef site attracts a wide variety of marine growth.



The club has established ten individual reef sites within the larger Axel Carlson site. These sites consist of one grouping of reef balls, three groupings of large concrete castings, two ocean tugs, two commercial fishing trawlers, and two large commercial barges.

Club member, and past president, George A. Lewis has been a driving force in promoting the reef building as a club activity. Sinking a ship is one of the most exciting ways to enhance reef structure and he was on hand for the sinking of the **Snug Harbor** on January 27, 2006. The 65-foot commercial fishing trawler was built in 1965 as a shrimper down south. She later found service in northern waters when she was converted to one of the first offshore lobster boats in New England. After some years slugging it out in the harsh North Atlantic setting and hauling pots, she found her demands reduced when converted to a purchase boat in the skimmer clam trade on Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. It was here she completed her last days of active duty before retiring to her final chapter of service, affiliated with the MRMTC Artificial Reef Program.

Once slated for purchase by MRMTC, the **Snug Harbor's** engine, generator and rigging were removed. Next, environmentally dangerous fluids such as diesel fuel and antifreeze were drained from the remaining fuel tanks and equipment, and any loose and buoyant materials such as foam or wood were removed. The vessel was then power washed and inspected by the Coast Guard.

Upon successful inspection, 12-inch square holes were cut into her hull just above the waterline at amidships on the port side and at the transom and covered with soft patches. A soft patch is a plywood cover sealed with silicon. She was then fitted with a towing harness and temporary running lights for her final voyage. All preparation work was completed by Fred and Jack Lakeman, employees of Crescent Shellfish and co-captains of the towing boat, **Hunter** from East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

After all the prep work was accomplished George waited for a call from Hugh Carberry, Principal Fisheries Biologist from New Jersey's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Hugh had recently taken the position of Coordinator for the State of New Jersey's Artificial Reef Program and in doing so, had some big shoes to fill. His predecessor was Bill Figley, nicknamed the "Grandfather" of the state's program, who had recently retired. Hugh was eager to keep things moving, and his phone message to George Lewis said, *The forecast looks good, so we are going to sink your ship tomorrow. Meet me in the parking lot at Fisherman's Supply at 7:30 a.m. sharp.*



Bluefish and school tuna cruise over a sunken ship on a New Jersey reef.



The **Snug Harbor** was
renamed the **MRMTC
Lucky 7** when it was
sunk on the Axel
Carlson Reef in 2006.





Shortly after midnight on the 28th, the towing vessel **Hunter** and the **Snug Harbor** began their journey. The plan was to make their way east through Long Island sound, down the East River to Raritan Bay, around Sandy Hook, with a final dash to the Axel Carlson Reef. No problem, right? Well, for the most part, no problem, except for a little area known as Hells Gate on the East River. Unfortunately, Jack and Fred just missed the falling tide and found themselves faced with an incoming tide and a strong current that slowed their progress to less than one knot. OK, so maybe progress would be slow, but compound this with running at night and having a 300-foot tanker asking you to kindly “Get out of the way” lead to a challenging experience. By 6 a.m. and no worse from their adventure, the crew of the **Hunter** was on station at the Axel Carlson Reef with her cargo awaiting our arrival.

At 7:15 a.m. on Saturday, January 28th, George was greeted by Hugh Carberry and his assistant Jennifer Resciniti of NJ’s Division of Fish and Wildlife in the parking lot of Fisherman’s Supply, Point Pleasant. George said, *We grabbed our gear and made our way to the command boat, a 41-foot converted Coast Guard cutter owned and operated by Budget Towing. Already onboard were Jeff Carlson, from NJ’s Division of Fish and Wildlife, Tom Hearst owner of Budget Towing, his son Tom Jr. and Captain Ray Brown. At 7:25, MRMTC’s Secretary, Ralph Munsie arrived along with the final member of our crew, MRMTC member Michael Cuccia. Soon after their arrival, the engines were started and as we cleared the sticks we were greeted with sunshine and a light westerly breeze on a beautiful flat ocean.*

George Lewis (left)
acknowledging Bill
Figley for his dedication
to New Jersey’s
Artificial Reef Program.



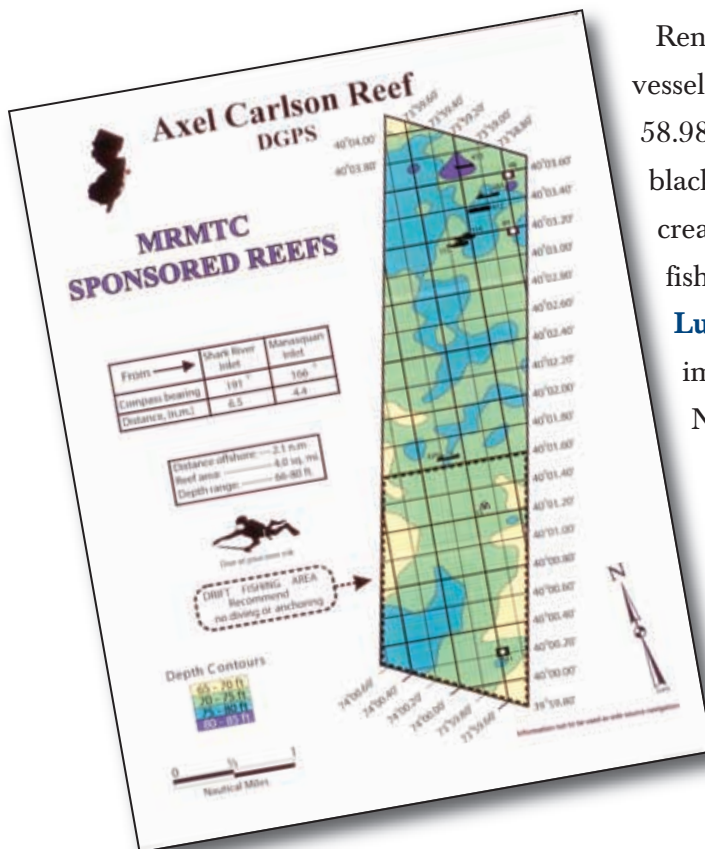
*As we approached the Axel Carlson Reef site, we were able to distinguish two vessels already on site. At first and from a distance, having noticed the sparse and deteriorated appearance of each vessel, we were not quite sure which one was to be sunk. We learned later that the towing vessel **Hunter** was sold, and on her way to Florida to find service in foreign waters. Having made radio contact with the towing vessel, we began our approach to the sinking co-ordinates. We marked the location by dropping two cinderblocks attached to 80 feet of 1/4-inch rope finished with a bright orange poly ball. As the **Hunter** plodded toward the drop zone, we circled back and came alongside her to take onboard her co-captain Fred Lakeman. Fred, with his intimate knowledge of the **Snug Harbor**, would assist in her scuttling.*

*Once Fred was onboard, we pulled away and gave the tug ample room to maneuver and to get the **Snug Harbor** as close to her final resting spot as possible. As the tug made her way west into the prevailing wind and neared the poly ball, she slowed and eventually stopped her progress placing the **Snug Harbor** just yards from the marked spot. Captain Randy then eased the bow of the Budget Towing 41 to the stern of the old ship and both Fred and Hugh jumped onboard the rusting hulk and proceeded forward.*

*Quickly dropping an anchor from her bow and coming tight on the anchor line, the **Snug Harbor** was now in position for the final phase, the scuttling. Both Hugh and Fred detached the tow line and moved aft, while Jack began the process of hauling in the 300 feet of 2-inch tow line back into the tug. Hugh and Fred then removed two hatches on the aft deck to have access to the two soft patches. The removal of the soft patches would assist in the flooding of the vessel. Next, Hugh and Fred proceeded to the engine compartment, where they opened the 2-inch seacock to initiate flooding the hull. Looking like the affable aid from the Adams Family, we joked as we saw "Thing" (actually Fred's hand) peering out of the hole from the aft soft patch and handing the 12 by 12 cover plate of plywood to Hugh who was hanging over the stern to receive it. The only task remaining was to remove the temporary running lights from the bridge and take one last look around the vessel for any outstanding items. Once confident that all was in order, Hugh and Fred stepped back onboard the Budget towing vessel to set their watches and wait.*

For almost two hours, the hull of the **Snug Harbor** continued to flood with cold Atlantic brine as she ever so slowly settled lower and lower into the sea. As we held position close to her side in the light sea, we were able to monitor her progress by peering into the open deck hatch to check the volume of sea water she had consumed. As she rocked back and forth, the open hole from the removal of the soft patch on her port side went from dry, to sipping, to eventually chugging saltwater. Her demise came quickly as both holes, now fully submerged, exacerbated her flooding. As she wallowed deeper into the sea, seawater started to lap over her deck. Her fate was ultimately sealed when the sea found its way to the open deck hatch. Completely consumed, the **Snug Harbor** bid her farewell by gracefully dipping her bow below the ocean's surface and soon slipped beneath the waves leaving only a large burst of bubbles in her wake.

She was gone from the days of trawling for shrimp and searching for lobsters, and gone from the days of reaping and never sowing. The **Snug Harbor** now works with the Atlantic Ocean to promote new life and new habitat for various fish species, and in her own way is repaying an accumulated debt.



Renamed the **MRMTC Lucky 7**, the vessel now rests at 40 03.453' N and 73 58.985' W and is home to sea bass, blackfish and a variety of other sea creatures, and is a popular bottom fishing location for club members. The **Lucky 7** is just one of many improvements the club has made to New Jersey's artificial reefs.

Conservation and sportsmanship have been intertwined throughout the MRMTC's history and members have enthusiastically supported the release of white marlin and blue marlin, and sailfish. Following the example of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club, members that wintered in Florida returned home to New Jersey waters and spread the tradition of flying red tag flags to indicate released fish, and a red flag emblazoned with a white "T" to signify tagged and released fish.

The club was also in the forefront of efforts to tag and release their favorite inshore gamefish, especially striped bass through its support and active participation with the American Littoral Society. By studying the data obtained through fish tagging, scientists were able to determine population trends, migration routes, locations of vital spawning areas and relative growth rates. Tagging data was helpful to fisheries managers when the original Striped Bass Management Plan was introduced over 25 years ago to save the striper from commercial overfishing. Club members also supported Jack Casey's Cooperative Shark Tagging Program, and enthusiastically tagged and released hundreds of mako, blue, brown, dusky and thresher sharks.

TAGGING FOR THE FUTURE



Frank Mather out of Woods Hole, Massachusetts was a tireless promoter of Atlantic bluefin tuna conservation and his ground-breaking tagging efforts produced an enormous cache of data that supported the theory of trans-atlantic migration and intermixing of spawning populations of these once abundant gamefish. Unfortunately the data was ignored, and under the management of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) the Atlantic bluefin have been considered as two separate stocks of fish, as if there was no intermixing and cross-ocean migration between eastern and western spawning populations.

New technology from so-called “pop-off” computer tags that beam data to satellites have proven Mather’s theory to be correct, but it’s too late on the short term for the bluefin. This magnificent fish still languishes under ICCAT’s woeful mismanagement. The loss of this important sport fish is especially hard felt by the club since its very founding was based upon catching this once abundant bluefin.

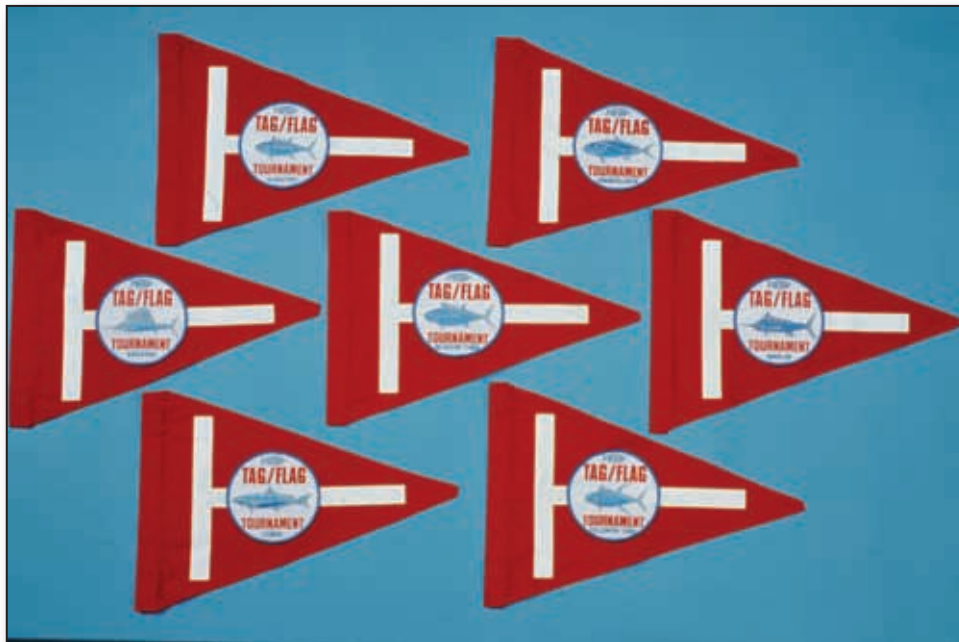


One of many bluefin
tuna tagged and
released by members
Pete Barrett, John Heyer
and Bill Madden off
Cape Hatteras.

The latest satellite tagging data, however, has become more important as an effective scientific weapon in continuing this battle to save the bluefin, especially with intensive tagging efforts by recreational fishermen off Cape Hatteras. Club members John Heyer, Bill Madden and Pete Barrett experienced this exciting Hatteras bluefin fishery that flourished in the mid 1990s and tagged numerous fish at that time. In the long term there may be hope for the Atlantic bluefin tuna.

The rest of the tuna clan got a big boost in tagging studies with the support of Bill Shedd, president of AFTCO, the company that is so well known for its aluminum Unibutts, roller guides, gaffs, line clips and fishing clothing. In the mid 1980s, Bill and Greg Stotesbury of AFTCO, fished a two-day canyon trip with club members Pete and Rich Barrett on the **Linda B** and caught yellowfin, bigeye and longfin albacore at the Hudson Canyon, and on the way back to port stopped off at the Mud Hole and caught more yellowfin and several bluefin tuna. In all the team tagged and released 27 tuna, catching at least one of each of the major tuna species in a single 24-hour time period.

The event made a big impression on Shedd, and by the following season he had organized the Tag-A-Tuna for Tomorrow award program that rewarded anglers who tagged and released a minimum of five yellowfin, bluefin, bigeye or long fin albacore with special commemorative tag flags. The tag data was monitored by Dr. Eric Prince of the Cooperative Gamefish Tagging Program based in Miami, Florida and The Billfish Foundation. Captains and anglers tagging the most species in all categories were further recognized with hand-carved trophies commemorating them as Atlantic Angler/Captain of the year. The program was later expanded to include billfish, and renamed the Tag Flag Program.



Tagging offshore gamefish is an important information collection system used to learn more about the migration patterns of pelagic species such as sharks, tuna and billfish.



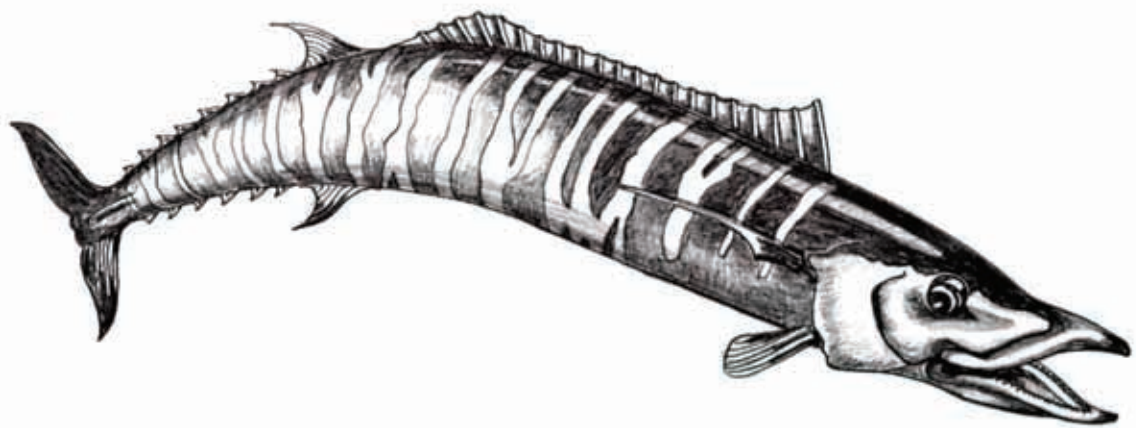


MRMTC members also tag inshore gamefish with American Littoral Society tags.



MRMTC members also ran their own Tuna Tag Tournament for two years in 1985 and 1986 that finished with a barbecue at Mel Ravitz' home for the presentation of awards and prizes. The data collection was enthusiastically supported by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Although the Tag Flag Program was discontinued in 2007, it enjoyed enormous popularity and many MRMTC members qualified for their commemorative flags. Like the bluefin, the data studies proved that yellowfin and bigeye tuna migrate across the Atlantic, and has helped draw attention to the commercial exploitation of those important pelagic fish off Africa. ■



Heizer ©



Chapter Seven



WORLD-CLASS ANGLERS, WORLD-CLASS TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments have always been an integral part of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's history, and one of the primary reasons for its organization was the competition started in 1936 between the Freeport Tuna Club and MRMTC to catch the largest bluefin tuna in an annual event, which eventually became the United States Atlantic Tuna Tournament.

Over the years the club has participated in events sponsored and hosted by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club, International Light Tackle Anglers Association, International Women's Fishing Association, the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000, White Marlin Open, The Buccaneer Cup and its own annual Derby and Offshore Invitational, and many others.

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC TUNA TOURNAMENT



The thrill of winning prizes and the respect of one's peers and the excitement of the event itself has drawn club members to the tournament arena. Club members traveled to Florida, the Bahamas, Mexico and Central America, New England and Hatteras to compete and fly the club burgee. Ever since it was formed the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's membership has been a competitive group fueled by the desire to be considered among the best in the sport of tournament fishing.

From striped bass to sharks, bluefish to blue marlin, whether the event is an inshore family-oriented affair or a prestigious big-game blue-water tournament, many of the club's members have left their mark on the leader board and in the record books of events all over the world.

There is some dispute as to the first year of the informal tournament between the Freeport Tuna Club and the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, which eventually became known as the United States Atlantic Tuna Tournament (USATT). According to a tournament brochure prepared by the USATT, the first event was run in 1936. However, the hand-written entries in the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's hand-written Record of Catches by club secretary Leo B. Travers, shows the first entry being made in 1938. In the Freeport Tuna Club's annual membership roster and program book, the first year of the tournament is given as 1939.

Because of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's precise hand-written records, the 1938 date seems to be the most accurate in terms of an official tournament known as the U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament (USATT), although there may have been prior informal competition between tuna anglers from New York and New Jersey. In a letter to fellow club member Heck Wells, Ferd W. Roebling III gives the first date of the USATT as 1938, with the tournament taking place over a five-day period from September 5 to 9 in that year. The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club placed second, while first place went to the Forked River Tuna Club. Roebling also lists several other clubs that were entered in the event including Neptune Sportsmen, Atlantic City Tuna Club, Belmar Tuna Club, Freeport Tuna Club, the New York Athletic Club and the Jersey Anglers.

The 1936 date is mentioned in correspondence by other club members, however, and so it seems likely that the informal tournament between the Freeport Tuna Club, headed by Walter O'Malley of Brooklyn Dodgers fame, and the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, was actually held that year. In 1936, the tournament was held informally and was not yet officially known as the USATT.

Regardless of the date, the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club was definitely one of the two original clubs competing in an Atlantic bluefin tuna competition. The event was to run every year thereafter, except during the war years and it was reorganized again in 1947. The second pioneering club was the Freeport Tuna Club, and in 1936 one boat from each club met at sea, challenged each other, called it a tournament and at the conclusion of the day, phoned the results to each other upon their return to port.

The Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's team on that memorable weekend in 1936 for the informal event consisted of Ferd Roebing III, Lewis Kerr, Jr., Major A.E. Carpenter, William B. Hurst, Walter McDonough, William Goadby Lawrence, and Leo B. Travers. The tournament was won by the MRMTC with a total catch of 31 tuna, weighing a total of 1,859 pounds. These were small fish from 40 to 147 pounds, all caught in the New York Bight.

The second year of the tournament saw several more boats competing, and by 1938 the event became officially known as the USATT. The 1938 team consisted of Tom McCarthy, F.W. Roebing III, Ned Schaefer, Lewis Kerr, Jr., and alternates George Butterfield, Walter McDonough, William Goadby Lawrence, Leo B. Travers, John Murray and William Hurst.

The following year, 1939, the Atlantic City Marlin & Tuna Club, Forked River Tuna Club and the Brielle Marlin & Tuna Club (apparently an informal club formed by Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club members who wanted to form a second team to participate in the event) joined the event.



Brielle Marlin and Tuna
Club Team winners of 1949
US Atlantic Tuna Contest:
John Black, Ed Szymanski,
Fred Schock, Happy Felton,
Maurice Meyer, captain Bill
Krauss, Jack Holthusen,
Harry Ross.



Members of Brielle Marlin &
Tuna Club team in 1947 US
Atlantic Tuna Tournament: Ed
Szymanski, George Hellreigel,
Lou Marron, Maurice Meyer,
Oggie Headington.



1949 Dock scene at Belmar for US Atlantic Tuna contest with members of
BMTc team: John Black, Ed Szymanski, Bill Krauss, MM, Harry Ross, Capt.
George Burlew, Emil Eggiman, Fred and Buddy Schock, and Happy Felton.



Past MRMTC Presidents
Maurice Meyer and
Walter McDonough with
two bluefin caught in
the 1947 ASATT.

Wartime saw a cancellation of fishing and the group did not again seek the elusive tuna until 1947 when they banded together and moved to Belmar, New Jersey with sixteen clubs participating for top honors that year. The competition moved to Freeport in 1948 and 1949, Montauk in 1950 and 1951, New London in 1952, and finally found a home in Point Judith, Rhode Island from 1953 until 1972. In 1973 the USATT worked its way to Gloucester, Massachusetts to fish until 1977 when the event again moved, this time to Provincetown, Massachusetts.

The 1973 tournament at Provincetown was quite a tournament. Tuna weigh-ins included fish of 772, 719, 718, 699, 638, 621, 605, 486, 474, 720, 630, 782, 754, 647 and 595 pounds. This was not a tournament for the faint of heart!

This 1956 photo of the USATT catch is an example of the success enjoyed by USATT anglers.



From 1978 through 1980 the fishing at Provincetown slowed down and it was time for another move - this time to Block Island, Rhode Island. Twenty-four fish in three days kept the judges of the weigh station busy until the late hours! By 1985, tuna were scarce (only one fish was taken in 1985) and a move to Montauk in 1987 was hoped to improve the situation, but only five bluefin were taken. After another year in Montauk (1988), the tournament returned to Block Island in 1989. In 1990, the USATT headed further east, to Harwichport, Massachusetts. In 1992 it moved further north to New Castle, New Hampshire.

Over the years, the tackle has changed dramatically, boats are faster, crews are more experienced, Japan is closer than it was in 1936, and marlin and tuna club anglers still compete and hope for the thrill of the hook-up.

Club member Sandy Sherman recalls the 1983 USATT tournament when the club sent two teams to the USATT tournament in Block Island. One of the teams was aboard Jack Murray's **Murmo** and the other was aboard Howard Beyer's 46 Harkers Island, **D-D**. Two of the crew members aboard the **D-D** for the tournament were Sandy Sherman and his wife Tessa. The boats in the tournament would anchor up on the tuna grounds with a pelican clip to the ball, ready to drop off and fight a large fish after it took the bait.



Pictured with Sandy Sherman's 664-pound bluefin are the crew of the **D-D**, squatting on left is Roland Dupois, with John Murray right. Standing left to right are Sandy Sherman, Howard Beyer and John Lyons.

John Lyons in chair.



The bait of the day was butterfish, and Sandy remembers the hook and rig they used was spray-painted black, including the sinker. The seas were very rough and Sandy asked Tessa to head up on the bridge to watch the recorder for signs of an inverted V. Within 10 minutes Tessa yelled down to Sandy that she noticed a big inverted V on the screen. She said it was at around 60 feet below the boat. Sandy adjusted the bait on an 80-pound outfit loaded with black Dacron line to match that depth. Right away Sandy felt the hit and hooked up.

They dropped off the ball and maneuvered through the fleet, fighting the bluefin tuna for 3 hours and 45 minutes. At the end of the fight, the fish had taken them 4 miles from the ball. At the dock the fish weighed in at 664 pounds and ended up in a tie for second place. On that same trip, John Lyons of MRMTC landed a 527-pound bluefin, but that fish was taken before the tournament began.



John Lyon's fish.



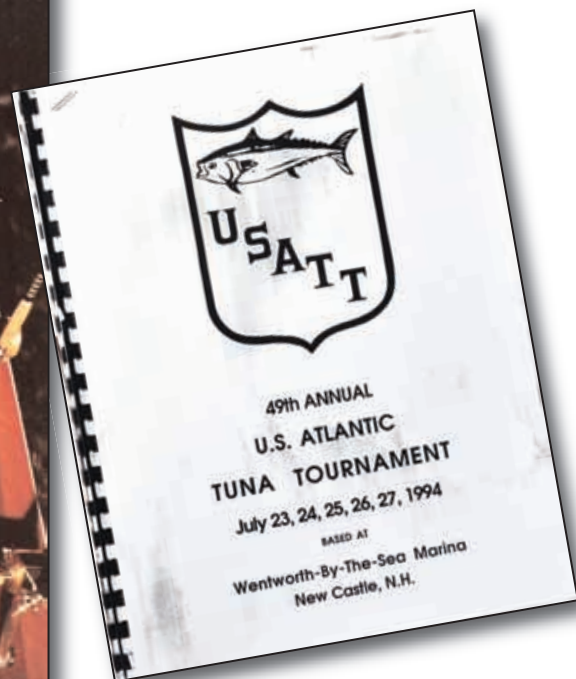
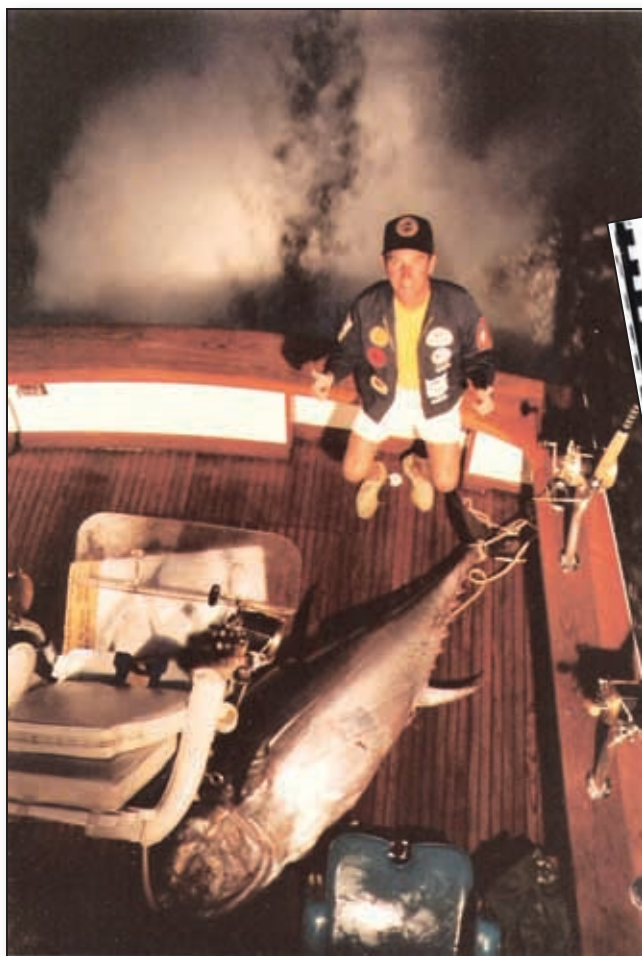
Sandy with 664-pound bluefin at the dock and unloading from the **D-D** at right.



The “winningest” team during the life of the event was the Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club with seven wins (1948-1950-1961-1968-1970-1980-1991). The Brielle Marlin & Tuna Club won three times (1939-1949-1953), so did the Montauk Yacht Club (1956-1958-1959), the New York Athletic Club (1951-1952-1966), and the New London Tuna Club (1981-1983-1984).



John Lyons with 527-pound bluefin caught before the start of the USATT.



John Lyons thumbs up!

WOMEN'S INVITATIONAL TUNA TOURNAMENT



Women were not eligible to fish the United States Atlantic Tuna Tournament (USATT), so in 1972 the lady members of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club took matters into their own hands. Perhaps encouraged by the success of the International Women's Fishing Association, they organized and hosted the first annual Women's International Tuna Tournament (WITT) based at Fisherman's Wharf Marina in Provincetown, Massachusetts from September 6 to 8. Provincetown was selected because many 800-pound and larger giant bluefin were caught there in 1971, including a 1,024-1/2-pound behemoth that held the IGFA all-tackle record at that time. Fisherman's Wharf Marina was located just behind the newly constructed breakwater and provided safe harbor with fuel and supplies, plus a restaurant. MRMTC member Mrs. Dorothy Mushrush was the tournament chairperson.

Competing member boats and anglers included Maureen Murray on the **MarJac II**; Maureen Marazzi, Gertrude Dannici and Gloria Wells on the **Gael**; Jeanne Hunt on **Hunter**; Gwen Schoeler on **Flying Mist**; Betty Fletcher on **Inca**; Jeanne Falconi on **Jealous Lady**; Doris Allison on **Kool-It**; Dorothy Mushrush on **The Moppet**; Girda Schwartz on **Nirvana**; Barbara Pillone on **Trephine**; Pam Kirkeby on **Slic Chic**; Charlene Sanford on **Adam's Folly**; Ruth Spense and Faith Inglehart on **Sixspense**; the **Rosie Marie** with a "mystery guest;" Midge Daly on **Anytime**; Jean Wood on **Galatea** and Clare DeWolfe on **Nini-Paul**.



Above, cover of the 1972 Women's Invitational Tuna Tournament brochure.

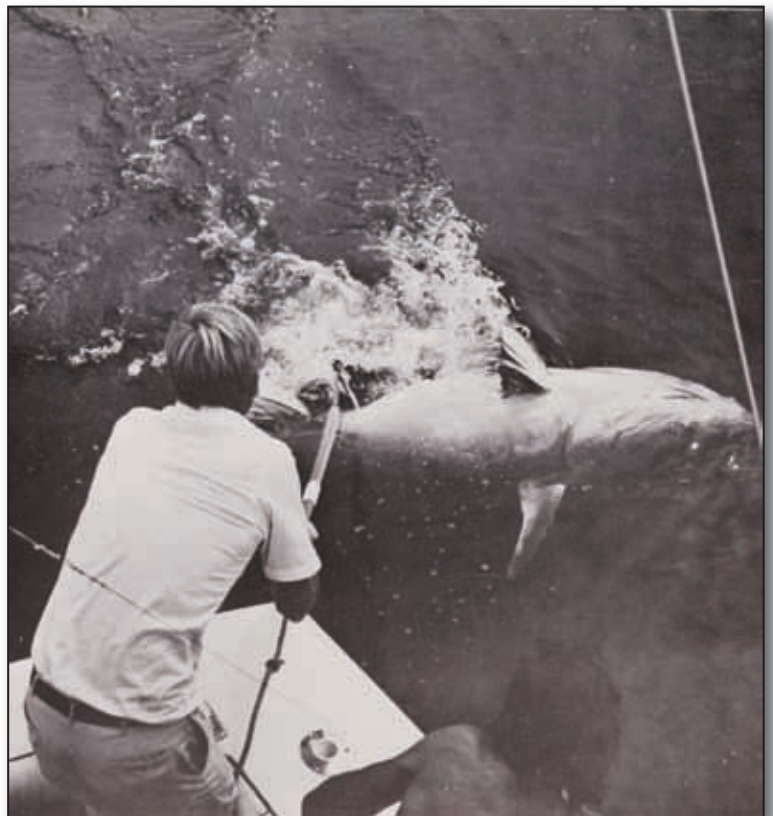
Right, pictures of catches made by participants in that tournament as depicted inside that brochure.



Storms immediately prior to the event apparently severely limited the fishing, and club records do not clearly identify the total catch. Gwen Shoeler apparently won several prizes for a pair of bluefin tuna that weighed 694 and 227 pounds, but Ruth Spense on the **Sixspense** took top honors with a 757-pound bluefin.



Angler: Dorothy Mushrush
Boat: The Moppet
Catch: 551 lbs., 8/27/73



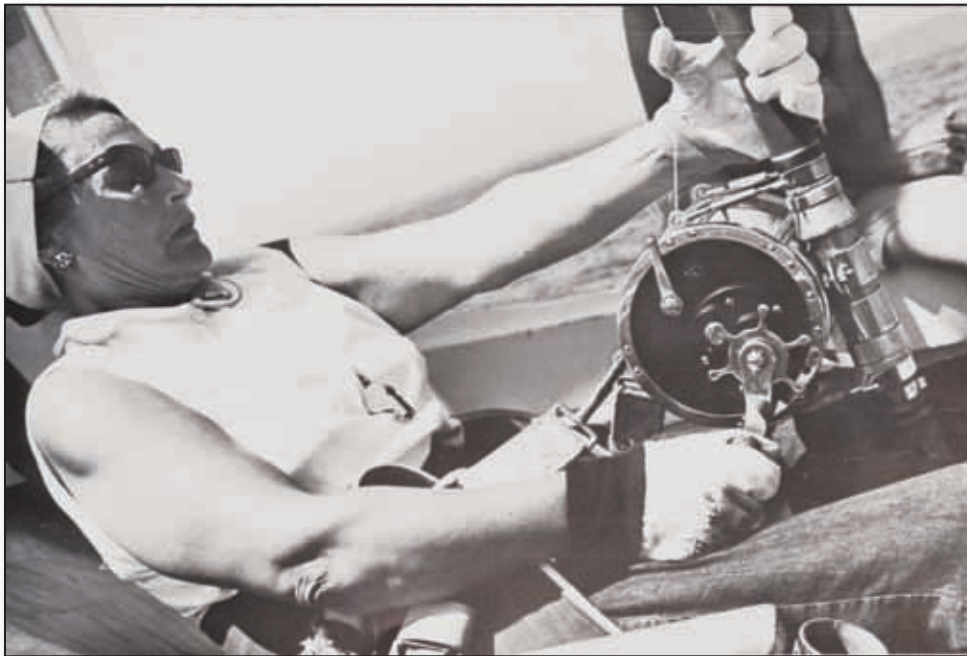
Member and WITT Chairwoman, Dorothy Mushrush with her 551-pound giant bluefin tuna taken during the Invitational Women's International Tuna Tournament in 1973.

The 1973 WITT came back with a big bang and a full scoreboard. The weigh-ins included some very impressive catches:

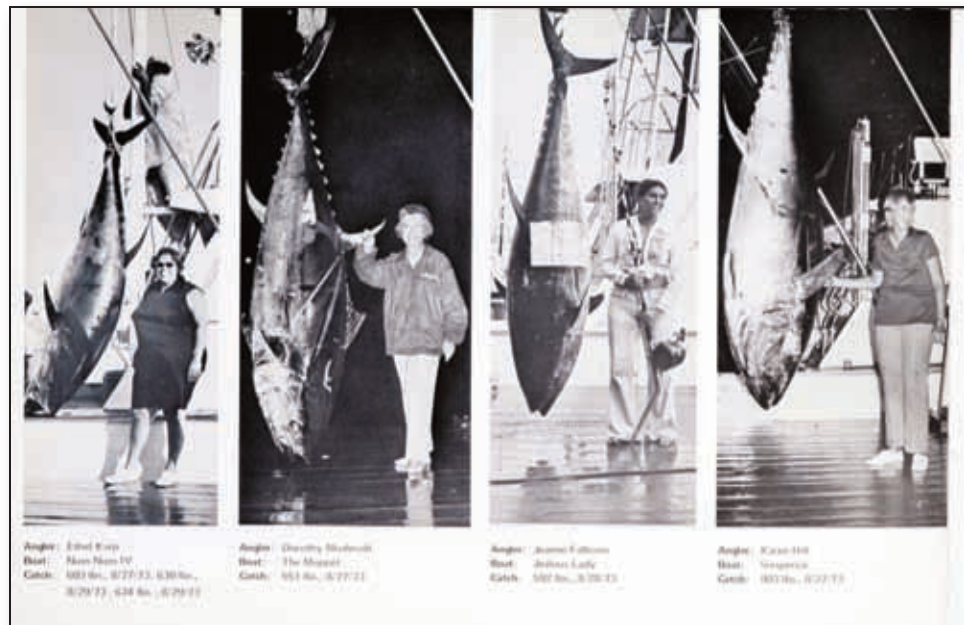
Edith Suprenant	807 lbs	No Alibi
Karen Hill	803 lbs	Sixspense
Ruth Spense	721 lbs	Sixspense
Betty Fletcher	678 lbs	Inca
Faith Inglehart	673 lbs	Sixspense
Ethel Karp	634 lbs	Num Num IV
Ethel Karp	630 lbs	Num Num IV
Ethel Karp	603 lbs	Num Num IV
Jeanne Falconi	592 lbs	Jealous Lady
Dot Mushrush	551 lbs	The Moppet
Betty Fletcher	344 lbs	Inca



The 1973 event was also larger than the first year and saw 21 women anglers on 13 boats compete for top prizes. With improved weather the fishing was better except for one day when Jeanne Hunt aboard the **Hunter** claimed that hail the size of golf balls tore through the boat's canvas. In all there were 26 hook-ups with 11 tuna landed during the three days of fishing. Two of the giants were caught trolling, nine were caught while chumming. Edith Suprenant's 807 pounder was not only the overall winner; it was also her first bluefin – nice catch for a first timer! Had there been a sportsmanship award, Betty Fletcher would have won it because she disqualified her first fish due to a problem with a line backlash on the reel.



Betty Fletcher, aboard the **Inca**, works hard to subdue her 678-pound giant bluefin tuna during the 1973 WITT tournament.



The total weight of the 1973 WITT catch was 7,036 pounds and the catch was sold at the Provincetown Co-Op for \$1,783, which was donated to the Provincetown Rescue Squad. Unfortunately, the event was marred by a tragic incident. On the way back to New Jersey, Dr. Peter Pillone passed away onboard the **Trephine**.

Having been challenged in court, the USATT expanded its eligibility requirements to include women anglers. The 1974 WITT was cancelled and women from then on fished the USATT.

Maureen Murray was a participant in the Women's Invitational Tuna Tournament in 1973 and then served as chairperson the next year. Unfortunately a combination of restrictive government regulations, filled tuna quotas and lack of fish brought about the premature end of the WITT by 1975. However, in that short span, some remarkable catches were made by women members of the MRMTC.

The brief history of the WITT was captured in an August 15, 2002 letter from Maureen Murray as follows: *The first Women's Invitational Tuna Tournament was held in 1972 in Provincetown, Massachusetts. It was a two-day tournament with 10 boats fishing. This was not an official Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club tournament, and the club had nothing to do with the tournament in 1972. A few giants were caught, the largest being 757 pounds.*

The second year was 1973, again held in Provincetown, from August 27 to 29, and it was sponsored by the MRMTC, which “borrowed” money to fund prizes and dinners, but unfortunately the club was never paid back by the tournament chairman. It was a very successful three days of fishing with catches of 603, 630, 534, 561, 592, 803, 344, 678, 673, 807 and 721 pounds. Three women from MRMTC fished the tournament: Barbara Pillone, Charlene Sanford and Maureen Murray. Maureen was blessed with a 721-pound bluefin.

*Tragedy struck the MRMTC on the way home from Massachusetts when Barbara Pillone’s husband died at sea of a heart attack, with only his wife and small child aboard. Barbara had to learn to use the radio, with much help from her child who had learned from dad, to call the Coast Guard. The boat was left at Montauk to await the arrival of a club member to bring the boat home. When the boat came into Manasquan Inlet, many boats greeted the **Trephine** with horns and lowered flags.*

The following year, the tournament was moved to Gloucester, Massachusetts and Maureen Murray was appointed chairperson. It was cancelled due to lack of good fishing in that region that year, and also the National Marine Fisheries Service regulations were starting to make it difficult to schedule because of the new “regulations.” It was a good decision as the quota was filled two weeks before the starting date.

In 1975 the tournament was scheduled to be held out of Manasquan Inlet in September, but the bulk of the female giant tuna anglers were from New England and they refused to come south. The event was cancelled again, for the last time.

The Women’s Invitational Tuna Tournament issued a press release dated September 13, 1973, which has been saved in the club’s catch ledger, and it provides additional information about this all too-short tournament.



Maureen Murray with her giant tuna.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FISHING ASSOCIATION



Anything you can do, we can do better! is the war cry of the International Women's Fishing Association. In 1955 Kay Rybovich, wife of legendary boat builder John Rybovich, Anne "Denny" Crowninshield and Ginny Sherwood were sailfishing off Palm Beach, enjoying the "ladies' day" of the International Sailfish Tournament. According to conventional wisdom of the time, women anglers weren't "good enough" to fish competitively. If the husbands were assured of three good days of tournament fishing, they'd allow the wives to take the boats on a fourth day to try their hand.

We were having a great time, just the three of us, said Rybovich. We all really loved to fish and thought it would be fun to have our own group and fish our own tournaments and maybe even fish against the men. Soon after they formed the International Women's Fishing Association (IWFA), and the rest, as they say, is history.

Within two years membership had swelled to over 200 women, primarily from the Palm Beach area, but also from 27 states and 10 countries, including lady members affiliated with the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club. Although a women's fishing organization might not seem like such a remarkable idea today, back in the 1950s it was a radical idea. Anglers like Helen Lerner and Chissie Farrington had taken world-record bluefin tuna, marlin and swordfish in the shadow of their husbands, but women generally were not usually considered as equal to their male counterparts. More often than not, they were considered as "distractions" on boat, and supposedly lacked the strength, stamina and skill needed for taking large fish.

Ginny Sherwood outlined one of the goals of the newly formed group. *Angling is a question of timing, skill and luck. However, for the really big ones – blue marlin and tuna – endurance is involved. Women can do as well, except when brute strength is needed. Now that our organization is established, we hope to prove it in the near future.*



Carolyn Meyer shown with a 366-pound tuna caught in the Mud Hole.

It didn't take long for the ladies to fire two shots heard 'round the angling world. First was the fabled pre-Castro Cuba Hemingway Marlin Tournament. Receiving a last-minute invitation to fish the prestigious event in 1956, Crowninshield had only several hours to put a team together. She tapped Rybovich and Sherwood. The trio was viewed more as an oddity until the final standings were released. For the first time, an all-women's team competed in a traditionally male, international sport-fishing competition, and walked away with second place!

Even more sobering to the men, however, was the group's follow-up in 1957, when among a field of 194 anglers on 86 boats, four women took first place in the same tournament, topping some of the world's great big-game fishermen with a remarkable catch of four released blue marlin on 9-thread linen, which is the equivalent of 30-pound test today.

The group celebrated the IWFA's 50th anniversary with a gala banquet at the International Game Fish Association in Dania Beach, Florida in 2005.

In 1946, a group of four international fishing clubs organized the International Light Tackle Tournament Association (ILTTA). Each year the ILTTA promoted an annual competition to which clubs from around the world would send teams of anglers. Each team consisted of three anglers to compete for billfish in different countries, although most of the tournaments were held in the United States and Mexico.

The earliest recorded participation by Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club members was in 1950 for a tournament held in Palm Beach, based on a letter from an unidentified member to Maureen Murray, but there are no data entries in the club's ledger book describing the club team, or the results. That same letter also provides dates of 1954 for another Palm Beach tournament.

The 10th International Light Tackle Tournament was held January 11 through 16th in 1955, and Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club team members included Ferd Roebeling and Robert Crane, but they didn't place in that event.

INTERNATIONAL
LIGHT TACKLE
TOURNAMENT
ASSOCIATION



The club again entered a team for the 11th International Light Tackle Tournament, which was held in Mazatlan, Mexico from April 16 through 20, in 1956. The team included Ferd Roebeling, Robert Crane and Nelsen Benedict.

The ILTTA held an event in Ocean City, Maryland in 1957 and a year later, in 1958, two events, one in Acapulco, Mexico and the other in Palm Beach, Florida were held in which club records indicate that MRMTC teams were entered, however, no details are provided.

After the 14th annual tournament, club secretary, Leo B. Travers, mailed a postcard to all members recapping the club's participation in the 1959 ILTTA tournament held in Palm Beach, Florida. The pre-printed postcard reads like an official announcement to the general membership, *In the 14th International Light Tackle Tournament held at Palm Beach, Florida, our club, represented by Messrs. Robert C. Crane, Orton G. Dale, Jr. and Bayard Stockton 3rd, finished in 3rd place, competing with 38 other clubs – 114 anglers. In addition, on Ladies Day, Mrs. F.W. Roebeling 3rd walked off with First Prize. They are all to be commended and will be awarded our club pin.*



Ferd with two nice marlin.

The MRMTC participated again in the ILTTA in 1961, but after that, there are no further entries. Club records make note of the MRMTC taking second place in an Atlantic City Marlin Tournament, probably a white marlin event, in 1958; but it is not clear if this tournament was part of the ILTTA series. Regardless, Ferd W. Roebeling represented the club in top form by catching four marlin at the Atlantic City event.

Competition between club members was a fundamental source of enjoyment to the founders of the MRMTC. Members tested their skills against one another, not only for the reward of besting their peers when they won, but as a way to enhance the sport of fishing. The rules established for club competitions leveled the playing field so all members competed equally. Winning a tournament or a trophy was considered an honor; recognition of one's angling skills and dedication to the sport. The competition, fun and accomplishments continue to this day.

The Annual Derby is the granddaddy of all of the club's tournaments. The Derby recognizes the largest of qualifying species caught by a club member during the fishing season. Started at the inception of the MRMTC, this tournament was initiated in 1936 and is one of the oldest continually running annual fishing tournaments in sportfishing history.

In its first year the Derby included the following awards: The **Manasquan Tuna Trophy**, presented by Francis H. Low, as a perpetual trophy to be presented annually to the member catching the largest tuna during the Derby. This beautiful silver bowl trophy, donated by Francis H. Low and now presented in his memory, is the one award that has been consistently awarded over the history of the club and the annual Derby competition. As such, it is one of the oldest continually awarded trophies in the history of sportfishing, similar in stature to the Silver Sailfish Derby Trophy of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club.

The **Manasquan Marlin Award**, presented by Horace C. Sylvester, Jr., was an Edward Vom Hofe "De Luxe" saltwater rod, and was to be presented to the member catching the largest marlin during the 1936 Derby.

MANASQUAN RIVER MARLIN & TUNA CLUB



THE ANNUAL DERBY

MANASQUAN TUNA TROPHY

This beautiful silver bowl was donated by, and originally presented by, Francis H. Low, the club's first president, in 1936 for the largest tuna caught offshore of Manasquan Inlet. It's now presented in memory of Francis H. Low and is awarded annually for the largest tuna caught by a member of the MRMTC worldwide. In the early years, this was the original award given annually for the largest tuna caught in the Annual Club Derby. Derby rules stipulated that catches had to be weighed in at the club dock at Hoffman's Anchorage.



By 1948, this was expanded to allow club members fishing out of Sandy Hook and Long Island the ability to weigh fish at their home port. By 1977 this award was changed to the largest tuna caught by a member anywhere in the world. This trophy has been continually awarded, with the exception of the War years of 1942 through 1945, since the founding of the club in 1936 and is one of the oldest annually-awarded fishing trophies in the United States. See Appendix for a list of all winners and weights of tuna caught.

MRMTC HISTORY OF THE CURRENT PERPETUAL TROPHIES

Beginning with the Manasquan Tuna Trophy awarded by Francis Low in 1936, the club has awarded several trophies to offer special recognition to members achieving significant catches each year. The trophy histories are interesting and each year members rise to the challenge of winning one of these highly prized awards.

CAROLYN MEYER MEMORIAL TROPHY, a Silver Bowl, was donated in 1961 by members Maurice and Carolyn Meyer, renowned world-class anglers, and is awarded to a club member who performs an Outstanding Fishing Achievement Worldwide. In 1993, Maurice Meyer requested that this trophy be awarded in memory of his wife, Carolyn, and it has been awarded in her name since that time. In 1962, this trophy was awarded to Guy Stukes for his 810-pound world record blue marlin catch that year.

ROBERT C. CRANE MEMORIAL TROPHY, a Silver Bowl, was contributed by the club in 1962. This perpetual award is given annually for an outstanding light-tackle achievement. It is named for member Robert C. Crane, who served as vice president of the club from 1959 through 1961. Mr. Crane was a world-class light-tackle angler who represented the club in the 1959 International Light Tackle Tournament held in Palm Beach, Florida. Also on the MRMTC team that year was Orton G. Dale, Jr., a founding member of the club, and Bayard Stockton III. This team finished in third place while competing with 38 other clubs and 114 anglers. In fact, on Ladies Day of this same tournament, Mrs. F. W. Roebeling III, the wife of another founding member, finished in first place. The records do not indicate it, but we can only assume that Mr. Crane met with an untimely death in 1961, since this Memorial Award was presented for the first time in 1962. In 1986, this Award was given to Mrs. Patty Niebling for her World Record 11-pound, 10-ounce bonefish, caught on 16-pound test line.

KING'S GRANT INN TROPHY, was donated by the King's Grant Inn in 1980 to be awarded annually to a club member for an exceptional billfish catch anywhere in the world. In 1986, this Trophy was awarded to Phil Infantolino for his New Jersey State Record 1,046-pound blue marlin. This record still stands today.

The **CLUB SLAM** is a one-of-a-kind cast bronze trophy, which was made and donated by member Joseph Natoli in 2007. It is awarded to the first member each season to accumulate the catching of the following species out of Manasquan Inlet: one blue marlin release, one white marlin release and one tuna (any species) weighing more than 60 pounds. The original award was won in 2007 by Dave and Steve Matthews and was won in 2008 by Dan Purdy for his super slam.

The **CHAR SANFORD OUTSTANDING FEMALE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD** was established in 2007 in memory of Char Sanford, an avid and dedicated angler who exemplified club ideals and represented the MRMTC at many invitational tournaments. This award has been won by Sammi Smith in 2007 and 2008. The trophy is a beautiful Joe Swaluk carving of a jumping blue marlin.



**CAROLYN MEYER
MEMORIAL TROPHY**



**ROBERT C. CRANE
MEMORIAL TROPHY**



**KING'S GRANT INN
TROPHY**



CLUB SLAM



**CHAR SANFORD OUTSTANDING FEMALE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR**



Button awards were quite popular at that time in angling history and were awarded for outstanding catches made by members of prestigious clubs such as the Miami Rod and Reel Club, which began the practice on the East Coast. The MRMTC had its own button awards program awarded for broadbill swordfish, marlin, tuna over 100 pounds, tuna over 65 pounds but less than 100 pounds, and bluefish weighing more than 8 pounds. The gold, silver and bronze buttons were awarded for species that met minimum weight requirements.

During the years various awards were given out to Derby winners for their annual catches. Items awarded included trophies, plaques, rods and reels, books, watches, other fishing tackle, the button awards, cases of whiskey, bottles of champagne, and even a 'Pailmaster' bucket.

In the 1980s the club commissioned Mr. Joseph Swaluk, a distinguished woodcarver, to make several Perpetual Trophies in the likeness of the species of fish to be awarded annually. These trophies are beautiful representations of the fish species, and are prized by the members who get to display the trophy in their home or office for one year before turning it over to the next year's winner of that species category. The most recent addition, in 2007, was the Tilefish trophy, which was also made by Mr. Swaluk.





Today, other Derby awards include, of course, the Manasquan Tuna Trophy in memory of Francis H. Low, the First Bluefin Tuna Award, the King's Grant Inn Trophy for an exceptional billfish catch worldwide, Silver Bowl in memory of Carolyn Meyer for an outstanding fishing achievement worldwide, the Silver Bowl in memory of Robert C. Crane for light tackle achievement worldwide, the Silvester Di Stasio Memorial Trophy for the first white marlin released out of Manasquan Inlet, the Char Sanford Outstanding Female Achievement of the Year Award, the Sportsman of the Year Award, the Club Slam, and the Most Unusual Catch Award.

The Silver Bowl in memory of Robert C. Crane for light tackle achievement worldwide was donated by the club in 1962, after Mr. Crane's untimely death in 1961 while serving as club vice president. Mr. Crane was an avid light tackle fisherman who represented the club in the International Light Tackle Tournament held each year in Palm Beach.





SPRING AND FALL STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENT



The striped bass has long been a favorite gamefish of club members and the catch ledger has many entries for significant catches. The tournaments are held in June and November respectively over three-day weekends to allow for the best possible competition, and to take advantage of the peak run of large striped bass. Both tournaments are well attended by member boats with the prize-winning striped bass catches typically weighing in excess of 30 pounds.

JACK MEYER MEMORIAL TROLLING TOURNAMENT



This member-only tournament, held each year in memory of Jack Meyer, is an offshore trolling tournament which allows the competing member to select one day of offshore fishing, trolling only, over a four-day weekend event. The tournament awards prizes for marlin releases, tuna and dolphin. The 2009 tournament celebrated its 10th anniversary.

THE MRMTC OFFSHORE OPEN TOURNAMENT



This is the club's only offshore event that is open to all anglers and encourages competition from other clubs along the New Jersey Coast. The 2010 event will celebrate the 30th anniversary of this prestigious offshore match. This event can be a two-day overnight or two separate days of trolling, at the captain's choice. Awards for this tournament include marlin releases, heaviest tuna, dolphin, mako, swordfish and wahoo. This event has had wide appeal in past years, with members and non-members able to participate.

This tournament combines events that in the past were held separately for Lady and Junior anglers. The Junior event was open to the children and grandchildren of club members. There were also several tournaments for wives and daughters (over 18) of club members, and included the Ladies Light Tackle Tournament, and the Annual Ladies Day Tournament.

LADIES AND JUNIORS TOURNAMENT



Today the Ladies and Juniors Tournament is one of the highest attended events of the club. In the last few years there have been approximately 60 Junior participants and about 40 lady participants. The event is held on a weekend in July and features a Sunday picnic with awards provided to every participant in the tournament.



The popularity of our Ladies and Juniors Tournament every year highlights the fact that fishing is a great sport for the entire family.









ANNUAL FLUKE TOURNAMENT



This tournament is held over a long weekend in late July/early August and is very well attended by members and their families. Boats fish the deep water fluke grounds hoping for a winning “doormat,” but many big entries come from nearby wrecks, artificial reefs and the Manasquan River.

Fluke are a popular catch with MRMTC members, like this doormat caught in the Manasquan River by Linda Barrett.



THE ARTIFICIAL REEF TOURNAMENT



Taking advantage of the club’s support of the New Jersey Artificial Reef Program, this tournament is held over a long weekend in November and targets blackfish and sea bass, which are usually abundant on the many wrecks local to the Manasquan Inlet. All the proceeds, after prizes, are used to support and benefit the MRMTC Artificial Reef Program.

Back in the mid 1970s thanks to Peter Benchley's spine-chilling movie *Jaws*, shark fishing began to draw a lot of interest in New Jersey and by the end of the decade several shark tournaments were being held here on the Manasquan River and MRMTC members were among the early pioneers of this exciting new fishing. Hoffman's Anchorage, now known as Hoffman's Marina, was the epicenter of many of these events including their popular \$15,000 Mako Invitational contests which were limited to 35 boats and held during three separate weeks in June.

The Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Invitational Shark Tournament was also held in June and was followed by that club's High Rollers Shark Tournament in mid-July. The birth of The Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association in the early 1980s saw their event, Mako Mania, added to what was becoming a long list of shark tournaments held in June while the South Jersey Shark Tournament held in Cape May is another event that's been popular with club members over the years.

Former club president Mel Ravitz and his **Spring Fever** was a frequent entrant in these events and once won two shark tournaments held on the same weekend! In an interesting twist, the fish registered two slightly different weights on two different scales. At the weigh-in for the Hoffman's Invitational it tipped the scales at 405 pounds, while a half hour later at the weigh-in for the Point Pleasant Rotary Shark Tournament it weighed 396 pounds.



MAKO SHARKS



Above, Dr. Mel Ravitz with a 405-pound mako shark caught on **Spring Fever** that won two tournaments on the same weekend.

Left, Rich Barrett weighs in a big mako caught on the **Linda B**.

It's hard to imagine today that back then these events were so popular that many participants would take a day off from work to drive to the shore and pay their entry fee when tournament dates were announced to avoid being left at the dock since all of these events had limited-sized fields. Although the decline in shark populations has seen the cancellation of several events, others continue to thrive including the Mako Mania and Jersey Coast Shark Angler's tournaments and MRMTC members continue to compete in them.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 added a new event to the calendar in June a few years back when the Brett Bailey Mako Rodeo was introduced in memory of Brett Bailey who was killed in the Twin Towers World Trade Center terrorist attacks of that day. While they may not be as popular as billfish and tuna events, to this day shark tournaments are a popular warm-up for the upcoming canyon season of many club members and their names often appear in the daily and final standings of these events.

OTHER PORTS, MORE TOURNAMENTS



Participation by several members for many years in the United States Atlantic Tuna Tournament has been well documented in the pages of this book. However, many may be unaware of the success past and present MRMTC members have enjoyed in events not only here in New Jersey but also all along the East Coast of the United States, Bahamas, Mexico, Costa Rica and St. Thomas.

In addition to the club's own events including the Annual Offshore Open Tournament and the Jack Meyer Memorial Trolling Tournament and the most recently offered Bluefin Tuna Tournament, several other local offshore events here in the Garden State also draw a lot of interest from MRMTC members not only because of their geographic location, but also because they are well-run events that offer a competitive field, excellent venue with dockside hospitality and, often, a large cash purse or valuable trophies and artwork for tournament awards. Events such as the Beach Haven White Marlin Invitational Tournament, Ocean City Marlin and Tuna Club Overnight Billfish Tournament, Mid-Atlantic Tuna Tournament and Viking/Ocean Showdown are but a few of the events where club member boats can often be found competing, and winning, regularly.

The month of August is a busy month for tournament anglers in the mid-Atlantic region as three of the sport's most prestigious billfish tournaments take place during three consecutive weeks each year and MRMTC members have been active participants in each. The White Marlin Open in Ocean City, Maryland annually draws a large field to this popular seaside resort and with a tournament field of well over 300 boats and a cash purse that's usually well above the \$2 million mark.

Right on the heels of the White Marlin Open is the Pirate's Cove Billfish Tournament and this event, held along the fabled Outer Banks of North Carolina and based out of Pirate's Cove in Manteo, has been very kind to MRMTC members, particularly Charlie Duerr and his crew of the **Sea Hag** who have earned top boat honors on two occasions.

It's hard to imagine a tournament that's had more individual winners from the MRMTC than the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 that's held annually in Cape May the week after the Pirate's Cove event. Several club members head to the Garden State's southern-most seaside resort annually for this prestigious tournament and a few have fattened their wallets along the way while also adding beautiful hardware to their trophy cases as well.

First held in 1992, this event is relatively young when compared to many of the other events club members have participated in since the MRMTC was founded, however, the list of winning boats flying the club burgee is indeed quite impressive and includes spots in the top three places of the white marlin, blue marlin and tuna categories as well as point categories for the same species.

Here, too, Charlie Duerr and the **Sea Hag** crew have done the club proud finishing on the leader board no less than six times. **Sea Hag's** wins include Heaviest and 2nd Heaviest White Marlin category wins in 1998 and 2001 respectively while in 2005 the crew won the 3rd Heaviest Blue Marlin category and in 2009 won the Heaviest Tuna category. **Sea Hag** has also done well in the release divisions earning the Most Points Overall and Most Points White Marlin awards in 2003.

MID-ATLANTIC
\$500,000



Charlie Duerr and his son Billy are joined by other members of the **Sea Hag** crew as they collect over \$173,000 for the heaviest tuna at the 2009 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000.



A 418-pound blue marlin caught aboard Charlie Duerr's **Sea Hag** netted the crew over \$62,000 for third place at the 2006 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000.





Member Dan Paulus and crew of his **Hullabaloo**. A 73-pound white marlin caught aboard **Hullabaloo** fell short of the final standings but still earned club member Dan Paulus a nice payday at the 2008 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000.



Ken Gallop's **Big Kid** weighed a 212-pound bigeye to take top honors in the tuna category at the 2007 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000.

Dr. Phillip Infantolino and his **Heart to Heart** crew finished in second place in the tuna category with a 78-pound yellowfin in 2005 and won \$110,715.



Another longtime club member who has done quite well at the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 is Dr. Phillip Infantolino. His **Heart to Heart** placed on the leader board on five separate occasions for various wins in the tuna category. Infantolino won the Most Points Tuna award at the inaugural event in 1992 and also won the Heaviest Tuna category and the 2nd Most

Points Tuna award in 2001 and the 2nd Heaviest Tuna category and 3rd Most Points Tuna award in 2005.

Frank Criscola's **Crisdel** is another regular at the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 and has also annexed wins in several categories including 3rd Most Points Tuna in 1993 and 3rd Heaviest Tuna and Most Points Tuna in 1998. In 2001, **Crisdel** won the 2nd Heaviest Blue Marlin category and the 3rd Most Points Blue Marlin award. Joe Natoli aboard his **Arbitrator** scored the 2nd Most Points Tuna award at the inaugural event in 1992 and aboard his **Janice** in 1996 won the Heaviest Tuna category and 3rd Most Points Tuna award. Natoli also tied the New Jersey state record for spearfish with his 42-pound billfish caught during the 1997 event, a record which still stands today and will stand forever since the boating of longbill spearfish is now prohibited in the United States. Another tournament win by a club member at the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 was recorded by Ken Gallop's **Big Kid** when he won the Heaviest Tuna category in 2007.

Club members Bernard and Drew Dinardi left their mark at the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 during their tenure as members of the MRMTC. Aboard their **Absolut-ly**, the Dinardi's bagged a pair of bigeye tuna on the final day of the 1993 event which would later weigh 254 and 218 pounds respectively to score Heaviest Tuna and 2nd Heaviest Tuna category wins and the Most Points Tuna award. It should be noted the 254-pound bigeye is a tournament record that still stands today. The Dinardi's would also add a Most Points Blue Marlin award in 1995 and another Heaviest Tuna category win and 2nd Most Points Tuna award in 2000. Dr. David Bregman

is another former club member who was quite successful at the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 where aboard his **Heart Mender** he won the Most Points White Marlin and Most Points Overall awards in 1992 and the 3rd Heaviest Tuna category in 1993.



David Bregman with a 900-pound blue marlin caught aboard **Heart Mender** near Wilmington Canyon on June 2, 1988.

The team of Bill Madden and Duffy Keer has been fishing together for many years on the **Prime Time**, their 36 Runaway. In the three seasons from 2005 through 2007, Bill and Duffy traveled to south Jersey waters to represent the club and they experienced a string of good luck at the South Jersey Shark Tournament held in Cape May at the famous South Jersey Marina, and the Ocean City Marlin & Tuna Overnight Billfish Tournament. They call this trio of tournament wins their “Hat Trick” by snatching victory from the jaws of possible defeat when they overcame slow shark fishing, bigeye attacks and tough sea conditions. Billy Madden explained their feat.

In the 2005 South Jersey Shark Tournament out of Cape May, New Jersey there was an overall very poor showing from a weigh in standpoint as even the ever “pesky” blue sharks were not found in force that year. Our first day found us fishing the west side of the Elephant’s Trunk where 61-degree water was the best we could find. We worked this area until about lunchtime and then moved back into a water color change and a surface temperature that was a bit warmer approximately 40 miles southeast of Cape May. We set up in dirty green water and within a half hour the clicker on our longest line with the deepest bait went off. The run-off didn’t seem like anything spectacular, except a very steady loss of line after the hook was set. We knew we had hooked a very large thresher. Our tackle was a good 50W loaded with 80-pound line, but when the fish had us down to only a couple of wraps on the spool, it got a little interesting, especially with a 250-pound angler fighting the shark from the fight chair.

PRIME TIME’S TOURNAMENT “HAT TRICK”



Prime Time on the drift.

*After two hours we had the fish close and unfortunately it made a run which caused a tail wrap. The stand-off between fish and angler caused the shark to die and drown on the bottom. We had to “plane” the fish to the surface and an hour later gave thanks to Runaway for a big transom door as the thresher was slid onto the deck. We made the weigh-in with only minutes to spare. The **Prime Time** had the Heaviest Shark of the tournament at 529 pounds! No eligible mako sharks were caught that year.*



Jon Hamilton, Duffy Kerr and Bill Madden (left to right) with a tournament winning 529-pound thresher shark.

The **Prime Time** was invited to fish the Ocean City Marlin & Tuna Club Overnight Billfish Tournament which was held at the end of July in 2006. It is a week-long tournament and boats had to fish an overnight format. Bill said, *We gladly accepted the invite. Fishing out of Townsends Inlet was interesting. We almost didn't make fishing due to too many cocktails (shocking for this crew) the night before and a moon tide which practically had us “on the beach” in our slip. Once departed, we had our bearings set for the 500 fathom line at the Spencer Canyon as we had some good “intel” from a longliner that told us fishing was favorable to the east. We set up on the troll in the late morning. It was a beautiful day, flyers were everywhere and around 12:30 in the afternoon we came upon a huge school of skipjack. We ran right through the school and the next 30 seconds will never be forgotten!*

First the two clip lines, then the flat lines, short riggers and long riggers all got assaulted by bigeye tuna. The clip-line rods had the reels filled with 50-pound line and both fish on these outfits immediately cracked off! After that it was a fire drill for the next hour and a half. We landed six of the eight bites and went on to win first, second and third place in the Tuna Division, and Heaviest Fish Overall in the tournament!

In 2007 **Prime Time** and her crew was invited back to the Ocean City Marlin & Tuna Club Overnight Billfish Tournament and Bill Madden and Duffy Keer wondered if they still had some good luck left in their boat. After a long trip up to the Hudson Canyon, they had caught nothing on the first day of trolling and only a few mahi at night while chunking since it was still early in the season for a good night bite with the tuna.

According to Bill, they were up at dawn and on the troll for the last day of the tournament. *We had a nice 15 knots out of the southwest, which was sloppy but no problem to fish. Working back on the east side from the 100 square where we had spent the night we started to mark some bait, after a few circles we could read the fish and finally got a doubleheader – one on a 30-wide with 50-pound line, the other on a 50-wide loaded with 80. As the wind continued to pick up from the southwest we battled these fish (obviously bigeye tuna). Unfortunately we did have a line cross at a critical moment and lost the fish on the thirty wide. We were psyched to land the other which was definitely a qualifier, but now it was blowing a hard 20 knots or more out of the southwest and our compass heading toward the weigh-in is dead into the seas.*

No problem! The Runaway is a good sea boat and we made it to the scales with about ten minutes to spare, and we won the Heaviest Tuna and Heaviest Fish Overall categories!

We were very lucky during those three years!

The winter season finds many MRMTC members heading to warmer climates including the Sunshine State where sailfish season gets started by early November. A walk down the docks of the popular marinas that dot the coast from Stuart to Palm Beach reveals many recognizable names on the transom of vessels that spend the winter in Florida. Here too, tournaments play an important part for club members during their escape from Old Man Winter and it's often easy to spot someone from the club at many of these events.

About the same time the Manasquan River & Tuna Club was being organized, the West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC) kicked off an innovative and trend-setting sailfishing tournament. First held in 1935, the Silver Sailfish Derby was structured quite differently than other tournaments that were popular at the time, and is today the oldest running sailfish event in the world.



Kendall Keer and John Ruane with 1st place tuna in OCMTC tournament caught on **Prime Time**.

WINTER TOURNAMENTS



MRMTC members often participated in this prestigious event and in 1956, Gloria Carlson entered the winner's circle, and in January, 1958 club member Kate M. Roebling won the event with a 7-foot, 4-1/2-inch sailfish on 20-pound tackle.



Maurice Meyer and Ernest Hemingway were good friends. When Hemingway was writing *The Old Man and the Sea*, he sent the galley proofs to Meyer to fact check the fishing references.



The only three years the Derby did not run were the war years of 1943 through 1945. At one time noted American author and big-game angler, Ernest Hemingway was a Derby trophy sponsor. The Derby is credited with popularizing the use of the red release pennant to signify a

released sailfish, and was one of the first tournaments to promote catch and release, a concept thankfully practiced by nearly all sailfish tournaments to this day. The WPBFC proudly continues the Silver Sailfish Derby each year and limits the entry field to only 60 boats to assure a competitive event.

Many members of the MRMTC are regular visitors or have winter homes in the Palm Beach area and frequently fish these fabled waters. Several are also long-time members of the WPBFC.

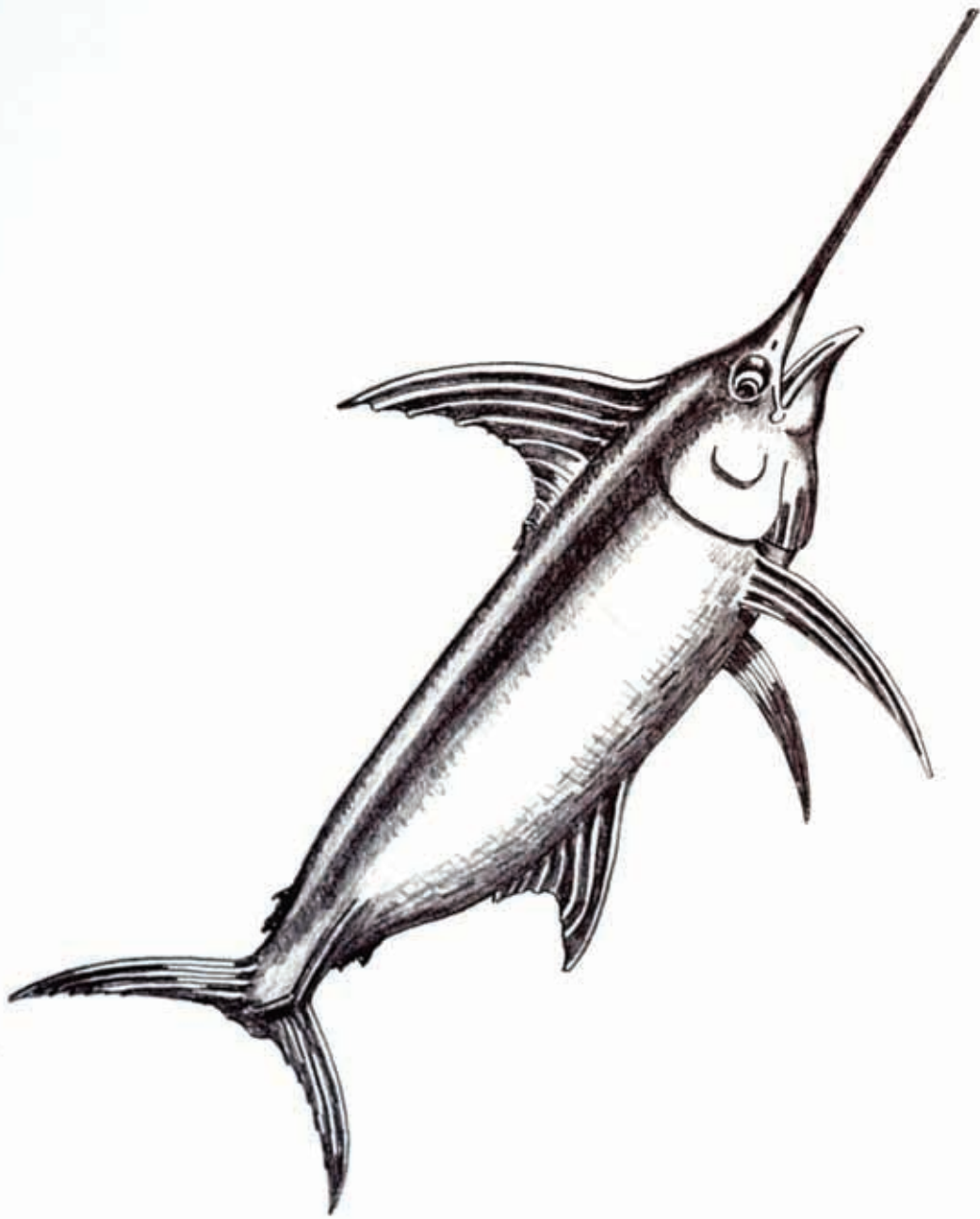
The Treasure Coast sailfish tournament season off Stuart includes several key events such as the Finest Kind Sailfish Tournament, Pirate's Cove Sailfish Classic and the Stuart Sailfish Club Light Tackle Tournament. By January, the Gold Coast tournament season off Palm Beach kicks off and MRMTC members are regular participants, and winners, at events on Singer Island including the Silver Sailfish Derby, Buccaneer Cup Sailfish Release Tournament, Palm Beach Sailfish Classic and the Sailfish Club of Florida's Invitational Gold Cup Team Tournament.

Spring finds club members visiting Mexico's East and West Coasts as well as popular haunts in the Bahamas such as Bimini, Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour, Chub Cay and Treasure Cay to name a few. Popular tournaments here include the Bahamas Billfish Championship, a series of five events spread throughout different resorts in the Bahamas, Bertram/Hatteras Shootout, HMY Billfish Blast, Abaco Billfish Challenge and Custom Boat Shootout.

While we've highlighted several members whose boats have made the leader board in many of these events, it should also be noted that MRMTC members often participate in events aboard non-member boats and can be found in the fighting chair, working the cockpit or on the bridge. Though it's impossible to include every tournament that every club member has participated in or won over the years, we hope this brief rundown has provided some insight as to the popularity of tournament fishing with our membership while also recognizing some of the tournament victories they have enjoyed. ■



A five sailfish release day aboard member Kirk Larson's **Enterprise!** Shown left to right are Capt. Kirk, Tony Cuccia, Stu Daley, Jim Carton, Rob Hillman and Larry Bissey. The fish were caught fishing out of Palm Beach Inlet. Members fishing together are a normal activity for the MRMTC.



Guigo ©



Chapter Eight



THE EXPLORERS

Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club members have experienced wanderlust from the very beginnings of the club's foundation. Members traveled north to the famous tuna grounds off New England and Canada, and were among the earliest of captains and anglers to fish winters in Florida's Palm Beaches. The allure and good fishing of the Bahamas was not far distant, and many boats crossed the Gulf Stream to reach Bimini for bouts with giant bluefin, billfish and wahoo.

The club's members were well-traveled and had a profound influence on establishing new fishing grounds in the Bahamas, Florida and Cape Hatteras. Hugo Rutherford, an avid fisherman and MRMTC member had read of the excellent blue-water fishing possibilities offshore of Cape Hatteras and in the summer of 1938 he sailed his sport-fishing boat **Mako** to North Carolina in search of blue marlin. He was not disappointed and landed a pair of blue marlin with local Capt. Lloyd Styron at the helm as guide.

During his stay Rutherford befriended Capt. Ernal Foster, patriarch of the famous **Albatross** fleet sailing out of Hatteras Inlet, and shared with him many new techniques to catch billfish, including the rigging of baits and tackle. Rutherford also gave Foster a set of outriggers, the first to be used on a Carolina boat. Foster painted them alternating bands of red and white, which became a famous trademark of each **Albatross** boat. The friendship with Rutherford helped Foster catch his first sailfish the following year in 1939, the first of many billfish caught by this pioneering Outer Banks captain and his legendary charter boat.

A present day photo
of boats in the
Albatross fleet.



Among the early pioneers to fish outside of New Jersey waters, was the husband and wife team of Louis B. Marron and Eugenie Marron. Lou had built a real estate business, then the very successful and substantial Coastal Oil Company, but at 37 years of age suffered a severe heart attack. Toward the end of his recovery, Lou asked his doctor if he could play a leisurely game of golf, to which the doctor replied, *I won't be responsible for what happens to you.*

Lou next asked about fishing. The good doctor, perhaps visualizing a dreamy day in a rowboat, said, *When you're all well again, you can go fishing.* Years later the doctor was amazed at Lou's exploits with rod and reel.

LOU & EUGENIE MARRON



Pictured is Lou Marron with a 577-pound tuna taken on September 7, 1936. According to the club ledger of catches, this fish was not eligible for the derby that year because they had to cut the line and rejoin it to land the fish. See the ledger entry in Chapter 2.



Lou Marron with another huge swordfish.



Lou Marron's **Explorer** boarding a freighter to bring it to South America.

After retiring from his oil company, Lou and Eugenie devoted much of their time to working with the University of Miami's Marine Laboratory collecting fish and working with scientists to gather much-needed data about big gamefish. With a little tutoring, they both became adept at assisting marine biologists and helped collect previously unknown information on marlin and swordfish.

Their first trip to Iquique, Chile in 1953, resulted in Lou's world-record, all-tackle swordfish of 1,182 pounds – a record which still stands today. In time for the following year, Lou had a custom 40 footer built at the old Wheeler Shipyards in Brooklyn. Christened the **Explorer**, the boat featured a special center-located tuna door, a fight chair, a pair of 200 horsepower Chrysler Imperial engines and mahogany planked hull with the bottom glassed over, plus many special features to make the boat suitable for fishing long periods of time away from home waters.

Lou, left, pictured with his world record swordfish.





The **Explorer** was shipped to Chile by the renowned Grace Lines. She left New York in March of 1954 and reached Chile in time for the Marron's arrival in Iquique that June. Many scientific specimens were collected by the University of Miami, including several giant squid which helped provide new knowledge in the research related to the human nervous systems. During that summer of fishing the Humboldt Current, Lou and Genie caught numerous marlin and swordfish, and Genie set four women's world records including:

Women's 30-pound test striped marlin – 289 pounds

Women's 20-pound test striped marlin – 321 pounds

Women's 50-pound test striped marlin – 318 pounds

Women's all-tackle swordfish – 772 pounds



Lou Marron in a battle with a 500-pound swordfish.



Middle left, marine scientist, Dr. Luis Rene Rivas from the University of Miami measuring one of 47 marlin caught on the expedition to Chile sponsored by the Marrons.

Lower left, Mrs. Eugenie Marron fighting a large striped marlin with light stand-up tackle.

Maurice Meyer, Jr. and his wife Carolyn were founding members of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club in 1936. When we started the research for this book we were particularly interested in any information on the founding members. We had significant recordings in the club ledgers, but we needed more. In the last couple of weeks, just before going to press, we had a significant discovery thanks to Tracy Ilvento who did the graphic design for this project. Tracy knew and contacted Dorothy Purcell, the daughter of Maurice and Carolyn Meyer, and the results are the wonderful pictures and stories of the Meyers contained in this section and throughout the book. We want to thank Dorothy for allowing us to use these outstanding pictures which provide us with exceptional insight as to what it was like to fish with this extraordinary husband-and-wife team out of Manasquan Inlet and throughout the world in the 30s, 40s, and 50s.

MAURICE AND CAROLYN MEYER



AN EXTRAORDINARY FISHING TEAM



Maurice and Carolyn Meyer, pictured here in the 1930s, teamed up to catch these tuna while fishing out of Manasquan Inlet.



Maurice and Carolyn Meyer on
June 12, 1936.

Maurice and Carolyn Meyer in 1939 with Red Cochrane, the world welterweight boxing champion at the time of the photo.



Captain George Burlew, noted club member, was the captain of the **Poseidon**, the Meyer's fishing boat. The Meyers and the Marrons were good friends. The **Poseidon** was first owned by Lou Marron and was purchased by Maurice when Lou bought his next boat. Maurice and Lou fished together in several USATT tournaments.

Maurice and Carolyn Meyer traveled from Nova Scotia to South America in search of gamefish. As founding members of MRMTC, they were well acquainted with large bluefin tuna out of Manasquan Inlet. They lived in Elberon, New Jersey and loved fishing the productive New Jersey coast. However, they sought the adventure of catching giant tuna and billfish in various parts of the world. The pictures and captions contained in this section are a tribute to this amazing couple and bring to life the excitement of their achievements.



Carolyn Meyer held significant world records, including one for the largest bluefin tuna, an 818-pound all-tackle record, and the largest white marlin caught on 9-thread, 30-pound test line. Another outstanding feat was when this couple each caught 1,200-pound black marlin on the same day while fishing Cabo Blanco in Peru.



Maurice and Carolyn Meyer along with George Burlew with a pair of 1,200+ pound black marlin caught by the couple on the same day in Cabo Blanco, Peru.

Maurice represented the MRMTC as captain of the winning United States Tuna team in the International Tuna Tournament of 1956 in Wedgeport, Nova Scotia. In fact, two of the four members of that team were MRMTC members. Maurice served on the United States Tuna team for 5 years. He was also the captain of the Brielle Marlin & Tuna Club team that won the 1949 USATT that was held in Belmar, New Jersey. The Brielle Marlin & Tuna Club, it is reported, was formed in order to allow more members of the MRMTC to fish in the USATT in the late 30s, 40s to the early 50s. The Brielle Marlin & Tuna Club won the USATT in 1939, 1949 and 1953. Maurice also served as a trustee and officer of the MRMTC, and served as president in 1965 and 1966.





This painting is believed to have been done by Eugenie Marron for Carolyn Meyer to celebrate Carolyn's womens all-tackle world record bluefin tuna caught in 1941.

Maurice Meyer on Poseidon III.

ANNUAL HATTERAS TRIP



The **Pepper** with Dave Matthews at the helm made its first pilgrimage to Cape Hatteras, docking at Hatteras Village in 1971. The fishing was good, the journey to and from Hatteras was an exciting and a refreshing change from his home waters off New Jersey. Eventually other Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club boats would join in and today the “Hatteras Trip” is an annual event shared by many members who make the journey to the fabled waters off North Carolina.

Club member Chris Carver recalls one especially good marlin day back in May of 2001 aboard the **Pepper**. *We boarded the **Pepper** for a day of fishing out of Cape Hatteras. The crew was Capt. Dave and Steve Matthews, Cole Fischer, Bill Smith, Dwayne Hauck and Chris Carver. As we pull out of the slip Bobbie Matthews waved to us from the dock and asked, “What are you going fishing for?” Our reply was “blue marlin!!” He wished us well and said he’s sure we have the right crew to do the job. We had high hopes even though there hadn’t been a blue marlin caught in weeks.*

We trolled around the same area as the charter fleet, and caught some dolphin near the drop-off area. It was late morning when two blue marlin came to the baits, and we hooked them both! It was Dwayne Hauck’s turn at angler as he had never caught a blue marlin. We put him in the chair to fight his fish. We kept the second marlin on and just let him swim way behind the boat. We didn’t want to jeopardize Dwayne’s catch.



Member Dave Matthews, standing right, with sons Chip, Steve, and Bobby, along with Rick Fischer with two Cape Hatteras blue marlin caught aboard the **Pepper**.

Dwayne did a great job and soon had his first marlin to the boat. We released the fish in good shape and began work on the second marlin. The second marlin came to the boat as if he was trained to do it, and was also released in good shape.

*The **Pepper** crew was VERY happy and sure that it “can’t get any better than this!” We checked the baits, put them back out and decided we deserved lunch. In mid-lunch another marlin rises to the baits. This was a very hungry and wild fish, grabbing a bait and grayhounding straight away from the stern. He looked like he had no intention of ever stopping.*

Billy Smith got him to slow down and turn, but this fish was not happy. It tried every trick we had ever seen, and some we never saw before, to get away. Finally Billy got him to the boat to get the leader. He took off like a rocket to fight again. The captain of one of the local charter boats said “The little Carolina-blue Bertram had a three-blue day.” All we could say was “WOW!!”

JACK MEYER AND THE LEGENDARY L&H



Jack Meyer was a long-time member of the MRMTC and one of the early pioneers of the offshore canyon fishery. Jack also served as chairman of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council from 1982 – 2000, and provided firsthand knowledge of the offshore fishery to that group. Jack passed on in 2001, and is missed by all who knew him.

He purchased the first **L&H** in June of 1969, a 31 Bertram, and immediately headed for the Hudson Canyon. Soon after Jack became a member of the club and was responsible for introducing so many MRMTC members to the exciting and challenging fishing to be found at the 100-fathom line. Those members include: George Harms, George Stamos, Dave Robinson, Dave and Dick Matthews, John Visceglia and Tom O’Brien just

to name a few. But that was Jack’s way. He wanted to share the great experiences he had while fishing offshore. In the 1970s the **L&H** was a regular at the Canyon, with many successful trips.



Front row (l to r): John Meyer, John Visceglia, Don Klein and Rich Speilman;
back row (l to r): Jack Meyer, Lou Chiarolanza and Lou Sodano weighing in two giant bluefins caught aboard the **L&H**.

In 1978 the original **L&H** was replaced by a 42 Bertram, and from that year through 1983 continued the search for tuna and marlin. In 1984, the **L&H** became a 53 Monterey and traveled to Palm Beach (Singer Island), Florida in the winter. Beginning in 1991, a new 63 Garlington was christened and the **L&H** began to travel to the Bahamas, Cozumel, Venezuela and other world-renowned fishing spots. Jack and his son, John, were always inviting club members and others to join them and fish at these locations, providing opportunities for others to share the **L&H** experience.

The **L&H** legend has continued with John Meyer, Jack's son. John served as an officer and trustee of the club for years and has fished all over the world. His wife, Kathy, has current world records for bonefish on 2-pound test and permit on 4-pound test, and has held other world records for permit and tarpon. John also held a world record for dolphin on 2-pound test.



L to R: Members Tom O'Brien, John Visceglia, John Meyer and Joe Andrusaitis returning from another successful trip aboard the **L&H**.







Several photos of action
aboard the **L&H** in
various locations.



Ron Hunchak, John Visceglia
and Lou Chiarolanza aboard
the **L&H** in St. Thomas ready
to catch blue marlin.



In recent years, John has fished the **L&H** from the Bahamas to Bermuda, throughout the Caribbean, to Venezuela to Costa Rica and Panama. During this time John has always given invitations to various members to fish these locations. He has continued to be a great ambassador for the club.

In the late 1980s, Jack and John arranged a trip to Panama, and 20 club members had a ball catching billfish slams daily, and enjoying the camaraderie of the group. In March 2001 John Meyer put together a second trip to Panama to fish the Hannibal Bank. It was the same trip he and his dad, Jack Meyer and friends had taken 25 years before. The trip included 16 club members, including Dick Matthews, Scott Matthews, John Visceglia, John Visceglia, Jr., Dave Matthews, Steve Matthews, Frank Malley, Mel Ravitz, Nathan Ravitz, Chris Carver, Keith Norris, Ken Warchal, John Heyer, Charles Schade, Joe Natoli, and Frank Marchese. Accommodations were arranged on a 115-foot mothership, with eight diesel express-style boats to fish from with captains and mates. It couldn't have been easier to be a part of because John had all the details worked out; you signed up to go, checked in with the booking agent, set up your flight out of Newark Airport to Panama City, and once in Panama, everyone was escorted through the airport to customs, then to Caesar's Resort for the night. The next day several small prop planes flew everyone to Coiba Island off the Pacific Coast of Panama.



Members listed above are shown as they gathered for this photo during a sensational trip to Panama in 2001.

Coiba Island is a penal colony. The landing strip is rustic; just dirt and gravel. To stop the plane the strip angles uphill, and when taking off goes downhill. Simple and basic, but it works. The prisoners and cattle watch the landings and takeoffs, as you are the day's entertainment. The arriving anglers are "greeted" by the departing anglers from the previous week gathered for the flight back. It's a chance to get some tips and a fishing report. The group before the club trip reported a slow week. The anglers included Marsha Bierman and her husband Lenny, and Trevor Gowdy, son of sportscaster Curt Gowdy.

Chris Carver recalls the events that unfolded. *We were taken around the island in small Panga outboards to the **Coiba Explorer**, our mothership, which was anchored there and waiting for us. We boarded and met our captain and his staff and we received our cabin assignments, two to a cabin, you and your fishing partner. We then met on the upper deck, which was the dining area with an outside area bar and lounge. Below this deck was a TV and movie room. It was all very comfortable. We were ready to fish and have a good time.*

That evening we all met our assigned boat captains and made our plans for fishing the next day. Each morning the fleet of eight express boats would come along the mothership and pick us up. Most of us opted to troll each day, looking for tuna, marlin and sailfish. Almost every morning, on the way out, we would see bonito along the shoreline. We would troll up some for live bait and continue out to the Hannibal Bank area.

We had a daily tournament going on. The winners were announced every evening at cocktail hour. As there wasn't any cell phone service and the boat captains didn't talk much, the daily results were a surprise each evening. Everyone fished everyday and we all had great experiences to share. The whole trip was perfect. The daily routine – eat breakfast, catch fish in perfect weather and calm seas, return for cocktails and dinner. In the evening if you didn't fish enough, you fished off the stern of the mothership.

*One evening, we had a surprise visit from John Meyer and Capt. Jim Lund and crew, aboard John's 58 Garlington **L&H**. They had come through the Panama Canal to Coiba Island. John and crew came aboard for dinner that evening. It was a pleasant surprise and a great visit. The week flew by and soon we were on the Ponga's going back to Coiba Island. We boarded the small prop plane, went down the hill for takeoff, and back to Panama City for the evening.*

We celebrated the fantastic experience of the past week that evening, and the next morning we were taken to the airport for our flight back to the U.S. What a memorable trip to an area that you have read about, but never expected to see; and to catch black marlin, blue marlin, Pacific sailfish, dorado, yellowfin tuna, cubera snapper, mutton snapper, rooster fish, bull shark, bluefish trevally, and wahoo. Thank you John Meyer!!

John Meyer and Capt. Jimmy Lund brought the **L&H** to Venezuela to fish the LaGuara Bank for several months. Chris Carver was lucky enough to get an invitation to go fishing, and went with his wife, Libby, along with Jim Earley – and did they ever fish!



They went out every day for five straight days including the day they arrived. Jimmy Lund kept everyone fishing all day, every day. They fished the bank because it was too rough to go out into the deep where they caught large yellowfin. The LaGuara Bank is about 10 miles from the dock and blue marlin was the primary target. Jimmy found them every day!

The mate, Matt was always set and ready; the angler's job was to work the bait-and-switch system, then reel, reel, reel. According to Chris, they reeled! *We each caught several blue marlin and sailfish every day. Libby was lucky and hooked her first white marlin too. We stayed at the dock each night so we could admire the flags flying for our catches. The marina had a nice grill by the pool where Jimmy Lund and Matt cooked dinner each night. We could sit, re-live the day and the catches and congratulate ourselves. Then it was up to bed to start all over the next day.*

It was a trip to remember, beautiful water, great boat and captain and great fishing.

In 2003 the **L&H** was fishing the famed waters of Costa Rica out of Golfito from Banana Bay Marina. Chris Carver recounts an exciting trip with anglers and crew that included John Meyer, Capt. Jim Lund, Chipper Ward, Dale Grauer, and Dave Matthews.

*Dave Matthews and I traveled together from New Jersey to Houston, Texas, then to San Jose. There we boarded a small prop plane to Golfito. It was a beautiful flight down the Pacific Coast of the country. Everywhere you looked, it was lush and green, mountains, waterfalls, rivers, rugged coastline and flat, calm seas. When we landed, the staff picked us up from Banana Bay Marina. The marina was small with slips for a few large boats like **L&H** and several small slips. There were four rooms, a bar and restaurant, a couple of hot tubs and lounge area inside and out, depending on the weather.*

The fishing was great, sailfish and dorado, life everywhere. The first day of fishing we had over two dozen sailfish and this continued for several days.

On one morning we caught live bait along the shoreline and we went bottom fishing. We caught cubera snappers and a big rooster fish. We caught a variety of great-eating fish. We had them for dinner and lunch the next day. We also fished the Banana Bay Sailfish-Marlin Tournament.

*When the time came for us to leave, it wasn't easy. The staff gave us a ride back to the airport. As we took off, we could see the **L&H** heading out for another day of fishing. We were green with envy. During their stay in Golfito that season, the **L&H** chalked up well over 500 sailfish releases.*

In 2005, John Visceglia invited Tony Cuccia to join him, his son John, and daughter Cathy to fish his boat **Hard To Catch** in Golfito, Costa Rica. The fishing was great with 45 sails released in four days of fishing.



Dr. David Bregman became one of the few Americans to fish the fabled waters off Cuba after Fidel Castro took power of the island nation in the 1960s. How did Bregman do that? Well, Doc Bregman was a world-renowned cardiac surgeon and was allowed to travel to Cuba with State Department approval on an educational-training program. Bregman would lecture Cuban cardiac surgeons about his innovative heart valve replacement surgery techniques. The good doctor would also perform surgical operations to demonstrate his innovative techniques, and Castro himself apparently was an observer at several of these operations.

And what better way to travel to Cuba than by your own boat. Doc Bregman's **Heart Mender**, a 54 Viking ran to Cuba from Florida and docked in Havana during his stay. Of course, while there as a guest of Fidel, Dr. Bregman could not miss the opportunity to fish the same beautiful blue waters off Cuba that so captured the imagination of Hemingway, and which the author made so famous in the 1950s and early 1960s. Dr. Bregman enjoyed some terrific fishing for white marlin, blue marlin and dolphin during his visits to Cuba.

In 1992 he entered and fished the 42nd Annual Hemingway Tournament and won with a 246.5-pound blue marlin caught on 30-pound tackle, which was a Cuban light-tackle record. They were fishing 10 to 12-foot seas and when hooked, the fish immediately ran in front of and under the boat. Doc Bregman's captain for the tournament was Gregorio Fuentes, who was Hemingway's personal captain back in the 1950s when the author fished Cuba on his **Pilar**. Fuentes had Bregman drop his rod tip down below the bottom of the boat and luckily the marlin swam out from under without the line touching any of the boat's running gear. ■



FISHING IN CUBA



Dr. David Bregman with Hemingway's megaphone used by the author aboard his famous boat, **Pilar**. The book is an original signed edition of Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea*.

Dr. David Bregman's **Heart Mender** entering Havana Harbor with the famous Morro Lighthouse in the background.





Chapter Nine



THE GRANDERS

The catch of a magnificent grander – a 1,000-pound game fish of any species – is a unique angling achievement that few fishermen get to savor. Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club members have battled many big fish, and a few of them have been classed as granders. Each one has a unique story and special memories for the angler, captain and crew.

TOM McCARTHY'S HEART BREAKER



What would have been the first grander taken by a club member was lost after a heart-breaking battle of nine hours on August 12, 1939. Although the actual weight of the huge Atlantic bluefin tuna will never be known, Tom McCarthy's fish was estimated to be a "half tonner" according to notes from F.W. Roebeling III, and the weight was considered reliable by fellow club members.

The big fish would have exceeded MRMTC president Francis Low's 705 pounder taken in 1933 by 300 pounds! By all accounts this was a huge bluefin and a remarkable battle on the tackle of the day. It would be another 30 years before a 1,000-pound bluefin would actually be captured and entered into the record books.

RONALD McCARTHY'S HUGE WHITE SHARK



Hiding in the meticulous hand-written entries in the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club's catch ledger for 1950 is the amazing catch by Ronald McCarthy of a huge white shark. The 1,135-pound great white took over two hours to land and was caught on June 30. The Leo B. Travers' catch-ledger entry reads, *This shark was caught on rod and reel in two hours, and is an Atlantic Coast record for largest shark ever caught.* The accompanying hand-written entry describing the location of the catch is unfortunately illegible, but Ronald McCarthy's catch appears to be the first verified grander caught by a club member.

6/14/50	Lee Hight	do	28 lbs	do
6/23/50	John's Hall	Great Tuna	8 3/4 lbs	do
6/6/50	Richard Moeck	Striped Bass	40 lbs	do
6/30/50	Ronald McCarthy	White Shark	1135 lbs	done by me

*This shark was caught on rod & reel in 2 hrs
and is an Atlantic Coast record for
largest shark ever caught.*

The 1950s must have been a prime time for catching great white sharks. It is interesting to note that in the same decade in which McCarthy's fish was caught, most of the current International Game Fish Association line-class records for great whites were caught off Australia, including the all-tackle record 2,664-pound behemoth caught in 1959 by Alfred Dean. In the 1960s, noted shark researcher Jack Casey, identified the area off Sandy Hook as a major spawning or pupping ground for Atlantic Ocean great white sharks. The records of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club are dotted with entries of great whites caught off the Jersey Coast, with Ronald McCarthy's fish being the largest.

One of the earliest granders was the International Game Fish Association world record swordfish caught by Louis B. Marron off Iquique, Chile on May 7, 1953. His wife and fishing companion, Eugenie Marron, documented the catch in her captivating book, *Albacora*, which is Spanish for swordfish.

Eugenie and Lou had fished South America the year before and were eager to catch a fish over 1,000 pounds – a fish that Lou nicknamed Bosco. She provided insight into the excitement of this remarkable catch in *Albacora*, which was published by Random House in 1957. She wrote, *Lou and I had been chasing albacora all over the Humboldt throughout that previous*

LOUIS B. MARRON'S 1,182-POUND SWORDFISH



Lou Marron, left, with the largest swordfish ever caught on rod and reel. This world record still stands.

*trip, searching for Bosco. We knew any number of good, big swordfish swam those waters but we never landed anything that even approximated the size of Bosco as we imagined him. Then one day, as our old boat, the **Flying Heart**, cruised over a gentle sea, we spotted huge dorsal fins.*

“Bosco!” Lou bellowed at once.

Everyone aboard jumped into action, and baiting began before the sound of Lou’s shout had faded. Lou pulled the line off the big Fin-Nor reel and stood holding the end of the big, trailing loop in his hand. We waited, breathless. That huge dorsal fin looked like the mainsail of a windjammer. Eddie Wall, veteran of many swordfish safaris, was our captain that year. With a wonderful display of skillful manipulation of boat and bait, he put that bait right across albacora’s nose. The fish turned away. Again we maneuvered. This time, with a great splash of his mighty tail, Bosco dove for the bait. “Wham” – the sword lashed out. Lou was in the chair now, waiting and watching. Suspense pinioned everyone. A little of the line spooled off, then a little more, faster and faster. “Strike! Ahead with the boat,” Lou shouted. We had struck Bosco, the king of kings.

Lou worked like a man driven by some fury risen from the sea. It was scarcely more than 55 minutes before the greatest of all albacora was brought to the leader. The next hour taxed us almost beyond endurance: twelve times more, twelve separate battles, each one bringing him to the boat only to have him elude our grasp and dash away. It was the most difficult hour of my life. I took the controls so that Eddie was free to take the leader. That thirteenth run, however, ended the fight. Bosco had got too close to the boat for his own good. Eddie wrapped the heavy-cable leader wire around both hands and held on. I thought his arms would rip from his shoulders – but the gaff was in the fish now and he was ours – Bosco, the king of the sea! What a Goliath!

Lou could scarcely contain himself when he finally saw that great bulk across the stern.

“Bosco,” Lou breathed, with the reverence of a priest at the altar.

*The **Flying Heart** turned and made full speed for port. Back in Iquique, the albacora was officially weighed in at 1,182 pounds, which made it the largest game fish of any species that had been caught anywhere up to that day.*

“You’ve got Bosco at last,” I had to admit to Lou.

Moments later after the fish is being dissected for biological data by a scientist, Genie bursts out in laughter. She had been trained by staff of the University of Miami's Marine Laboratory to help gather data on these huge fish. She was trained to recognize the gonads of male and female fish and quickly realizes Bosco is not a boy, but a girl.

Later we cut Bosco open, and soon we were probing into his body cavity. It was I who spotted the gonads first.

"Bosco!" I shrieked at Lou. "So you've caught Bosco, have you?" I did not even try to control my first screams of laughter.

"What's so funny?" he snapped. "What do you mean?" Then he noticed the fish's gonads himself.

"You're right!" he cried. "This can't be Bosco."

"Of course not," I said. Maybe we've caught Bosco's wife, but this certainly isn't Bosco. Maybe it's Bosco's wife Bertha."

All right," he said. "Call this one Bertha if it pleases you, but whatever you say, it is still one hell of a big fish."

"Particularly," I said, "for a lady." Then Lou broke down and started laughing too."

At 1,182 pounds, Lou Marron's magnificent swordfish has withstood the test of time and in fifty years no other angler has landed a larger swordfish. Louis Marron's swordfish record still stands today as the all-tackle record on the IGFA record books.

Carolyn and Maurice Meyer, Jr. with two black marlin caught by each of them on the same day in 1954 at Cabo Blanco, Peru. Capt. George Burlew accompanied the Meyers on this trip and is on the extreme left in this picture.



MAURICE AND CAROLYN MEYER TWIN GRANDER BLACK MARLIN



DR. PHIL INFANTOLINO'S 1,046-POUND BLUE MARLIN



Dr. Phil Infantolino has been a member of the MRMTC since 1985. He began fishing in the Hudson Canyon in 1983 with his 33 Chris Craft. That boat lasted only one trip, as it was torn apart on the way home in a nasty storm. However, that did not deter the good doctor who purchased a 41 Viking **Heart To Heart** that same year to continue his pursuits in the offshore bluewater.

As Phil recalls, the fishing in the early to late 1980s was always good offshore. As long as you made it to the 100 fathom line, you were sure to catch fish. Like so many anglers of that time, and still today, his primary target was tuna fish. In those days catching a billfish was a bonus. That was until August 2, 1986. On that day he caught the still-standing New Jersey state-record blue marlin of 1,046 pounds! Aboard that day was Phil, his son Joe, Dr. Vinny Ferrara, Tony Galento, son of the renowned heavyweight prizefighter, Capt. John Frank and mate, Mark Fletcher.

Phil has successfully fished several tournaments, including most of the club offshore tournaments, the Ocean City White Marlin Tournament, and the Mid-Atlantic 500 Tournament. In club tournaments, the **Heart To Heart** has been a consistent winner over the last 20-plus years.

The **Heart To Heart** is still pursuing white marlin and bigeye tuna in the canyons off New Jersey, and Phil remains an avid fan of sport fishing. Phil's only regret is that the fishing is not what it once was. Longlining and general overfishing on the 100-fathom line has taken its toll on the tuna.

Outdoor journalist, Don Kamienski, described Dr. Infantolino's record catch event in The Fisherman magazine when he wrote, *When Dr. Phil Infantolino planned a Hudson Canyon trip on August 2, 1986, as part of a local offshore fishing tournament, he didn't anticipate three things happening. For instance, he didn't anticipate that the fishing club running the tournament would cancel the event due to NOAA's prediction of bad weather. Further, he didn't anticipate landing a blue marlin that weighed 1,046 pounds and established a new state record for this species. Finally, he didn't anticipate having to find a wall in his house that could hold a full body-mounted blue marlin with a length of 16 feet, 1 inch.*

*Like many of NOAA's forecasts, their weather prediction for August 2, 1986 was off the mark. So even though the tournament's host club cancelled the event, Phil and his crew opted for an offshore trip. It was a wise decision. Phil's boat, the **Heart To Heart**, departed Manasquan Inlet at noon on August 1st and reached the canyon in mid-afternoon. Once at the canyon, the crew, consisting of Joseph Infantolino, Anthony Galento, Capt. John Frank and two non-fishing guests, trolled four yellowfin tuna in the 50 to 100-pound class before tying off on the wall of the canyon. The night's chunking effort proved productive in that the boat landed eight additional yellowfin tuna, and two bigeye tuna in the 200-pound plus class.*



*As the sun came up and with most of the crew sleeping, the anchor was pulled and the boat headed to a warm water eddy that was predicted to be east of the hundred square area of the canyon. Once the eddy was found, the **Heart To Heart** began trolling the 100-fathom curve using six rods on which were snapped four Green Machine lures and two Yap lures.*

At 11 a.m. the big marlin crashed the port Yap lure about 25 feet behind the boat. The first run of the marlin almost dumped the entire 800 yards of line from the Penn 80 reel. In fact, Phil could see the gold spool of the reel as the line kept disappearing. He estimates that there was only 50 yards of line left on the reel when the blue marlin finally stopped. Even though the fish was more than a quarter of a mile away when it started the first of its 20 jumps, it looked like a huge Polaris missile coming out of the water.

After the initial aerial display and run, the blue marlin made six more runs plus five out of the water jumps. At one point near the boat, the fish tried to throw the hook by doing full body thrashes across the surface of the water. This lifted Phil onto the balls of his feet and almost out of the fighting chair. What Phil didn't know was that the blue marlin was hooked in the boney cartilage of the eye socket, hence, the likely reason for the aerial antics of this fish.

Dr. Phil Infantolino, second from left, with his son, Joseph, far left, and the crew of the **Heart To Heart** returning from the Hudson with Phil's state-record blue marlin.



The series of aerial jumps and deep water runs took a toll on the blue marlin, so within 55 minutes, the fish was at the boat and ready to be gaffed. As Capt. John wired the fish, it crashed into the starboard side of the boat just as Tony sunk the first flying gaff into the fish. Quickly, Joseph stuck the second gaff. It took all seven onboard staff to bring the marlin through the transom door, and in doing so, the crew broke the starboard trim tab. Since the cockpit length of the 41-foot Viking is rather small, the crew had to place the fish's bill and part of its body up to the pectoral fin in the boat's salon.

Back at the weigh scales of Hoffman's Anchorage in the Manasquan River, the huge fish pulled the bar to 1,046 pounds, which meant that Phil's blue marlin bested the previous state record by more than 60 pounds. After a round of picture taking, the whole blue marlin was shipped off to the taxidermy man in Long Island for a full-body mount. I can just imagine what the taxidermist said when the UPS truck drove up with Phil's monster marlin.

Chris Carver, of Carver Boat Sales on the Point Pleasant Canal and a long time MRMTC member, recalled the excitement on the docks after Dr. Infantolino's huge fish was weighed. In particular he remembered fellow member, Jack Murray's comments. *I knew someday there would be a big fish from the deep" said Jack, It was just a matter of time before someone caught such a huge fish. Jack's predictions came true in a very big way.* ■

Dr. Phil Infantolino in 2009 with the mount of his 16-foot 1-inch New Jersey state record blue marlin.









Chapter Ten



LOOKING BACK TO THE FUTURE

Nestled into the southern end of the Point Pleasant Canal with its sheds and docks is Carver Boat Sales. For many club members who don't head south for the cold season, it's home base for that sad time of the year when the season ends and they put their boats up for winter storage. Come spring, however, Carvers, as it is popularly known, is abuzz with sounds of polishers, grinders and the clankity-clank of make-ready work. The air is filled with the smells of varnish, bottom paint and teak oil. It's a grand place to be!



Chris and Libby Carver, and their dedicated yard crew mix laughter, hard work and sweat to get everyone launched on time for the start of the new season. Something is always happening. Even coffee and lunch breaks are spent making plans for the coming season, reliving past seasons and good catches, recalling tall stories and fishing tips (some are true!) and the latest information about hot fishing spots and new techniques are often swapped.

Carvers began operations in the late 1930s when Alonzo Carver purchased a parcel of land around a small cut in the canal, built a railway to haul commercial pound boats and began building and repairing commercial boats. Alonzo was a charter captain, commercial duck hunter and boat builder who ran the **Bessie C**, named after his wife (the “C” is for Cooper, her maiden name). He ran out of Hoffmans Marina on the Manasquan River along with many other charter captains of the day that made up part of the membership of the MRMTC in its early years.

After the war, Carvers expanded by purchasing nearby land that once housed fishing shacks, and eventually a full-service marina took shape with a large boat-building shed, fully equipped workshop and sales office. For a time they sold boats; the reason why it's still named Carver Boat Sales, but today Carvers specializes in marine repairs, restorations, engine repowering, storage and general boat work. Club members know that if it's any job or project about boats, Carvers can do it.

Slips were added in the early 1950s and by 1965 Chris and his wife, Libby, came to work, eventually taking on the responsibilities of managing the operation. They have been an integral part of the club's history, tournaments, and kid's and family programs, and Chris has served on the board of trustees. They've seen a lot of changes in the club, boats and local fishing, but they eagerly look forward to the future of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club.

Libby Carver remembers the 1970s and 1980s just flying by. She was working, raising a family and trying to keep up with every hobby and pastime she could squeeze in. Spring was the time to go over the to-do list for the boat, check the tackle, make plans, including the early plans for some club members to sail to Cape Hatteras. She recalls, *It is still a tradition. Those who were going to make the trip would “throw out the net” to see who else could join up for the trip. Some went by boat, some by car, and there was much shuffling of schedules to determine who would arrive where and when.*

Other members planned to stop at Hatteras on the way back from their winter trip to Florida. Libby said, *As it was then, and it still is now, these were often exciting and eventful trips. The travels back and forth became sea adventures with colorful stories of fish caught, overnight stays along the way and even the occasional breakdown. The fishing in Hatteras for dolphin, wahoo, sailfish and marlin, marlin, marlin was thrilling. There were parties, tall stories and great times.*



Here's Jim Carton III fighting (and catching) his first blue marlin.



After returning to the dock at Hatteras Harbor, member Jim Earley provides Jim C. with the traditional dunking.



Jim Carton back on his **Shady Lady**.



Libby Carver with a nice sailfish in Venezuela.

Then there was a group that would go north to Cape Cod, Block Island and Massachusetts in search of giant bluefin tuna. Participating in the tournaments hosted by different fishing clubs and the USATT helped to make many more fishing legends and stories. Libby said, *“It was so exciting to be asked to fish, no matter where, to be part of what I look back at now as fishing heaven.”*

As club member’s boats became faster and more efficient, there was more traveling to the tournaments in Ocean City, Maryland and Cape May also. We became more aggressive as a fishing club. We had better boats and equipment and the means to share information.

The 1990s brought change to the club. The giant tuna were not as plentiful, we seemed to slow down, but continued on an aggressive path to find fish. By this time, we had a second generation of fishermen. They became better skilled, with a confident sense of adventure with the new technology available to them. As we came to the 2000s there were trips to Panama, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Venezuela. Club members branched out, some on their own boats, wherever word has a great fish to be caught. It was another place to test their skills. Once again the invitation to fish was pure excitement and fishing heaven.

Still, the parts I enjoyed the most; the friendships, the challenges, and the invitations to explore new places and always, to return to the places are what I remember best. The club has new members, new ideas and more fishing challenges. We have a wonderful history and I think a great future. I look forward to the third generation. Who knows what will happen next!”

Libby’s husband, Chris, agrees that the 1970s and 1980s were busy times for many members. That generation saw an expansion of the club’s membership and many were of the stage in life where working, traveling and raising families was so essential. Chris says, *When you got an invitation to fish you squeezed it in somehow and tried to include, or to get everyone involved, especially if it meant traveling. Going to help a fishing friend in a tournament meant doing whatever was needed to get ready – getting the boat in shape, rods, reels, bait, food – anything!*

The 1980s and 1990s would see club members heading north and south from New Jersey during the fishing season. These boats were based out of Manasquan Inlet, and some would go south as far as Cape Hatteras in the spring to enjoy the Gulf Stream fishing there. Some would stop at Ocean City, Maryland and stay there, sometimes Cape May.

According to Chris, *Southern travelers heading toward Cape Hatteras mainly went for fun fishing. There were tournaments, but given the ever-changing weather and travel distance, it wasn't practical to tournament fish so far from home waters. The weather in Hatteras can change quickly. One day it can be flat calm, the next day is so rough you can't get out the inlet. Many times it would blow for days. You would spend the day watching the cockpit fill with sand. In order to wait the weather out, many parties were inspired. Great tales were told and lifelong friendships made.*

The Hatteras locals learned to appreciate the “Jersey Guys” for their love of fishing and camaraderie. To this day they remain friendly, curious and watchful. They have learned we can even out-fish them on an occasional lucky day. They still call us Yankees, but in a nice way.

The Matthews clan has been traveling to Hatteras since the 1970s. Today we have a great group of boats and families participating, or stopping in the spring at Hatteras. It has become a tradition for the Memorial Day weekend and the following week. Boats from Manasquan leave on a weekday and arrive by the Memorial Day weekend. Others may already be in the area, or coming back up from the south on their way north. They all somehow always end up at the docks for the weekend kick off, and then the fun starts. Meeting old friends you haven't seen in awhile and greeting friends that haven't been there before. They all have one thing in common; they are there to enjoy the area, the fishing and the friendly atmosphere. Everyone shares nightly get-togethers, house parties, and the Matthews annual pig roast on Memorial Day. There are plenty of chances to bond in a place that advertises, “If war breaks out, it will take three days before they know it here”

The club's “southern fleet” has recently included: **Pepper, Low Bid, Chesapeake, L&H, Daybreak, Earley Bird, Janice, Shady Lady, Kristen Marie, HMS Hound, D-D, Carley Rose, Sea Bum, Sempre Duro and Fish Hooks.**



A young Chris Carver with a Jersey white marlin.





Other members stayed around Manasquan for the spring and summer, then in the late summer they would go north to Block Island, Pt. Judith or to Cape Cod to fish the giant tuna. There were white marlin, swordfish also, but it was the tuna that was the big draw. This trend came to a slow halt in the early 1990s as the tuna fishing changed.

Chris recalled, *The Cape Cod/Rhode Island/Block Island trips and the USATT Tournaments had some very serious competition, considering there was no money involved. All proceeds were donated to charity. There were many Long Island, New York and New England clubs represented. Boats like the 90' **Man O War** and the 26' **Murmo**, and the legendary **Cricket** with Frank Mundas came to fish. The bait was supplied by the tournament. You fished rain or shine, wind and fog. Many times if you were in a chunking fleet, you were anchored up side by side with whales swimming and playing in between the boats.*

We would have crowds at the end of every day to see the catches weighing in. If you had come to fish and brought your family, the kids would get out of the motel pool to come over to see if you had a fish in the running. We all were sure this kind of fishing would last forever, but it did not and times have changed.

Then in the late 1990s more boats and their owners started to become more aggressive in their fishing habits. Faster boats with smaller diesel engines meant more range and more interest to travel to new fishing destinations. It gave us many new geography lessons.

Club members were going north when the big bluefins showed up, and south for the spring blue marlin and the South Jersey Marina tournaments. We had boats going on their own bottoms through the Panama Canal to fish Panama and Costa Rica. A few got to the Sea of Cortez.



The year 2000 and the new millennium continues to bring the next generation of fishermen and families together. They come as boaters that want to learn and meet people with same interests to share information. They want to travel and fish. With emails, web sites, cell phones and faxes the information flows freely and instantly. This has almost doubled our membership.

This growth, along with the fast-changing times has prompted the club to expand its format. We have added the Artificial Reef Program and revamped our scholarship program. We have revised our rules to keep up with the changing fishing regulations. The club has added to the social functions and added new categories of perpetual trophies. The addition of the club slam along with our new lady angler award is very special. The ladies and juniors tournament is the biggest tournament we have.

We hope Francis H. Low, Leo Travers, Ferd Roebling and the other founding members of the Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club would be proud of what has been accomplished. We can't wait to see what will happen with the next generation of fishermen and women!" ■





Appendix



MANASQUAN RIVER MARLIN & TUNA CLUB



2009 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Seated (l to r) are Officers: George A. Lewis (Past President), John Muly (Vice President), Tony Cuccia (President), Ken Warchal (Secretary), Dan Burns (Treasurer).

Standing (l to r) are Trustees: Sam Melillo, Ralph Munsie, Dan Purdy, Michael Gorey, Bill Smith, Chris Carver, Butch Kross, and JP Dalik.

MANASQUAN RIVER MARLIN & TUNA CLUB



CLUB PRESIDENTS

1936-1937	Francis H. Low	1981-1985	John C. Lyons, Jr.
1938-1948	Ferdinand W. Roebeling III	1986	David "Chip" Matthews, Jr.
1949-1950	Walter I. McDonough	1987	John B. Visceglia
1951-1952	Thomas McCarthy	1988	John Meyer
1953-1956	Ferdinand W. Roebeling III	1989-1991	Thomas O'Brien
1957-1958	John M. Tassie	1992-1993	Dr. Melvin J. Ravitz
1959-1961	Bayard Stockton III	1994-1997	John Heyer
1962-1964	Leo B. Travers*	1998-2001	Frank Marchese
1965-1966	Maurice Meyer, Jr.	2002-2003	Keith Norris
1967-1971	Robert J. Duffy	2004-2005	Thomas Fletcher
1972-1974	Raymond Dackerman	2006-2007	George A. Lewis
1975-1977	John F. Murray, Jr.	2008-2009	Anthony Cuccia
1978-1980	Axel B. Carlson, Jr.	2010	John Muly

* Note – Leo B. Travers was also the founding Treasurer of the club and served as an officer of the club from 1936 through 1964.

MANASQUAN TUNA TROPHY AWARDS



PRESENTED IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS H. LOW

YEAR	ANGLER	WEIGHT (LBS)
1936	Ralph H. Poole, Jr	396
1937	Maurice Hoffman	539
1938	Albert S. Woodruff	235
1939	A. E. Carpenter	590
1940	Nelson Benedict	128
1941	A. E. Carpenter	113
42-45	NO ENTRIES- War Years	
1946	William B. Hurst, Jr	214
1947	Maurice Meyer, Jr	293
1948	Arthur Johnson	345
1949	Maurice Meyer, Jr	480
1950	A. G. Johnson	466
1951	Dr. G. B. Slattery	281
1952	No Entry Recorded	
1953	No Entry Recorded	
1954	A. D. Lane	25
1955	George Hellriegel	32
1956	T. F. McCarthy	49
1957	T. F. McCarthy	51
1958	John C. McCarthy	84
1959	Mrs. F.W. Roebling III	43

YEAR	ANGLER	WEIGHT (LBS)
1960	Nelson Benedict	42
1961	Robert Duffy	64
1962	George Hellriegel	273
1963	Roger Spindler	385
1964	T. F. McCarthy	47
1965	Nelson Benedict	28
1966	Roger Spindler	191
1967	Ray Dackerman	59
1968	Ken Miller	184
1969	Ray Dackerman	730
1970	Ray Dackerman	711
1971	Ray Dackerman	715
1972	Ray Dackerman	845
1973	Ray Dackerman	860
1974	Maureen Murray	Not recorded
1975	John Cherchio	815
1976	Dick Matthews	124
1977	Maureen Murray	750
1978	Char Sanford	317
1979	Dave Matthews	300
1980	Jack Wells	876
1981	Jack Murray	286
1982	Robert Walker	314
1983	Sandy Sherman	664
1984	John Lyons	650
1985	Scott Madison	656

YEAR	ANGLER	WEIGHT (LBS)
1986	Jeff Drogan	221
1987	Scott Matthews	784
1988	Doug Frank	505
1989	Frank D'Alessandro	407
1990	Bill Horvath	Not recorded
1991	Phil Infantolino	Not recorded
1992	Dave Matthews	245
1993	Dave Matthews	219
1994	Paul Craddock	261
1995	Paul Craddock	761
1996	Paul Craddock	605
1997	Carl LaManna	259
1998	Dave Matthews	153
1999	Frank Marchese	650
2000	Walter Clough	200
2001	John Weiland	532
2002	Dr. Phil Infantolino	311
2003	James Carton III	209
2004	James Earley	166
2005	Frank Criscola	276
2006	Joseph Natoli	283
2007	Dave Matthews	195
2008	Steve Matthews	181
2009	James Earley	215



Past president, Frank Marchese, with his 650-pound giant bluefin caught in 1999.

MANASQUAN RIVER MARLIN & TUNA CLUB



2009 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Gerard and Mary Aliseo	G-ROD
William J. "Chip" Allsopp III	
Joseph and Diane Andrusaitis	LOOP De LOOP
George and Rosemarie Apsley	MICROWAVES
David Arbeitman	
Dr. Allen J. and Nancy Atheras	OUT NUMBERED
Robert W. and Kitty Bahrenburg	CHIMERA
Pete and Linda Barrett	LINDA B
Dr. John M. and Patricia Bednar	REEL WORK II
Michael and Laura Bentivegna	ELYSIUM
Allen and Linda Bessemer Jr.	SPRAY DAZE
Howard and Dot Beyer	D-D
Ken and Cheryl Beyer	D-D
Russ Binns	MAR-LIN
Larry B. and Carolyn Bissey	SHADY LADY
Thomas and Kathy Bozan	JUST BEGINNING
Skip and Pat Boyle	PADDY WACK
Ed and Jodi Brehm	ROUGH START
Tom and Anne Britt	LUCKY STRIKE
Dan and Vicky Burns	DECOY
Bob Caracozzo	HIS & HERS
Robert and Judith Carduner	CORKSCREW
Mark and Linola Carduner	CORKSCREW
James D and Janet Carton III	SHADY LADY
James D and Leslie Carton IV	SHADY LADY
Chris and Libby Carver	HIS & HERS
James Cashin	PATHONEY V
Louis A. Chiarolanza	HARD TO CATCH
John Collins	TIJERETA
James and Helen Cortese	MAKO MY DAY II

J. Fletcher and Kissie Creamer	DITCH DIGGER
Frank and Margerey Criscola	CRISDEL
Michael Cuccia	DAYBREAK
Anthony (Tony) and Judy Cuccia	DAYBREAK
James and Mary Ann Curley	BASS A MATIC
JP and Kelly Dalik	CHIMERA
Joseph and Kathleen Dalik	GLASSCUTTER
Harry R. Delanoy III	MISS MARGIE
Art and Dina DellaSalla	ANDIAMO
Stan and Noni Dickerson	GLIDER
Michael and Carolyn DiPietro	KANOA
Bill Distelcamp	ALL IN
Charlie and Kate Duerr	SEA HAG
James M. Earley	EARLEY BIRD
George and Janice Edson	
Kirk and Kathy Engelken	PERSERVERANCE
Dr. Andrew T. and Angela S. Fanelli	INTREPID
Richard and Peggy Fischer	PICKLE
Tom and Kim Fletcher	CHARMER
Cosmo and Tammi Fontana	ASHLEY DANIELLE
James C. and Katie Franson	SCALLIWAG
Neil and Cathy Franzoni	BAHIA MOON
Ken and Danielle Gallop	BIG KID
Dick and Susan Gardner	DEDUCTIBLE
John and Doris Geiges	
Edward S. and Cynthia Gensinger	CYNTHIA ANNE
Arnie and Kate Gentile	SPOILED ROTTEN
Denis Glennon	TRAMP PIPER
Ted Glicksman	WHALES TALES
Jack Godwin	ALLISON
Mark and Alexandra Goggin	DROPOFF
John Grady	C-YEA
Michael J. and Lorri Gorey	DOUBLE EAGLE
Larry and Brenda Grafas	BRENDA'S III
Peter and Lynn Grimbilas	G-FORCE

Dr. Rick and Lynn Guzewicz	MOONRAKER
John and Amy Hansell	FISHFUL THINKING
George and Ruth Harms	LOW BID
Kevin and Carolyn Harms	LOW BID
Robert and Judy Harms	LOW BID
Dwayne and Sharon Hauck	BANG A RANG
Steven and Mette Hegna	ENVELOPEUS
C. Keith and Barbara Henderson	MAKAIRA
Michael Henderson	MAKAIRA
John and Gail Heyer	WINDMILLS
Joseph G. Higgins	FIRST LIGHT
Rob and Barb Hillman	BUSTIN BASS
Thomas and Pricilla Hodgson	RAMPAGE
Bryan S. Hughes	ANGLER
Bill and Jean Hryniewicz	JEAN-MARIE
Dr. Phillip and Alberta Infantolino	HEART TO HEART
John and Tracey Jackson	H.M.S. HOUND
Glenn and Scarlett Johnson	BUDDY'S BOY
Duffy and Jackie Keer	PRIME TIME
James and Christine Kenney	
Richard Klein	THE BIG BOY
Timothy and Janet Koether	POLE DANCER
Gregory R. and Janet Kolibas	PROTEUS
John and Kathleen Krohn	INTREPID
Butch and Pat Kross	POPS TOY
Kirk and Liz Larson	ENTERPIRSE
James and Debra Lawroski	CASSIDY
Alan J. and Susan Lee	MUSHIN
George A. Lewis	CAST BRONZE
George W. and Thea Lewis III	CAST BRONZE
Theodore and Joann Lygas	PLAYING HOOKY
Neil L. and Diane MacRitchie	AUTUMN MIST
William and Theresa Madden	PRIME TIME
Frank and Rose Anne Marchese	WILDCATTER
Jeff and Kristen Maritz	KRISTEN MARIE

Scott and Sonia Martini
Chip and Nancy Matthews
Dave Matthews
Robert and Cherie Matthews
Steve and Stephanie Matthews
Ron and Joyce Mazzarella
Brad and Patricia McKenzie
Bill and Colleen McLaughin
David Meehan
Hugh and Mary Jane Mehorter
Joseph and Allison Melillo
Sam Melillo
Stephen and Jennifer Mellett
Jeff and Kathy Merrill
Eric and Carrie Meyer
John and Kathleen Meyer
Dean Morris
Joseph Morris
John and Patricia Muly
Ralph and Penny Munsie
John and Maureen Murray
Martin and Dorothy Myszka
Matt and Mary Jo Myszka
Joseph A. and Janice Natoli
Bob Nelson
Kelly and Marc Nemergut
Jack and Christine Newitts
George R. and Gail Niccolai
Gregory and Sandra Niccolai
Scott Niccolai
Gerry Norkus
Keith Norris
John J. and Michelle Novak
John and Amy Neyland
Joseph R. and Linda Oles

NO STATIC
BECKY RAE
PEPPER
LOW BID
PEPPER
GEMINI
FIRST LIGHT
MOONLIGHT MILE
IN HIS HANDS
HOME TOWN REEL-T
FISHHOOKS
FISHHOOKS
TIER ONE
BOYZ TOY
SPORTSCASTER
L&H
JUST COMPENSATION
FOUR WINDS
CHARMER
REEL FUN
MURMO
BLONDIE
BROWN EYED GIRL
JANICE
LIA LEE
SPORTSCASTER
ONE HIT
TAIL SPIN
G-FORCE
TAIL SPIN
LIL RASCALS
ASHLEY NICOLE
DOUBLE DUTY
AMY-JO
REEL CATCH

Catherine and William Papenberg	CEA CHICKS
Daniel and Irene Paulus	HULLABALOO
Dennis F. and Francis Pawlak	STORM FRONT
Gregory Pawlak	STORM FRONT
John Pellegrino	TIN KNOCKER
Arlene Polcari	ROAMAN BEAUTY
Rick and Beth Popovitch	TASHTEGO
Dan and Tammy Purdy	CARLY ROSE
Dr. Melvyn J. and Lori Ravitz	SPRING FEVER
Joe Riccobono	REEL TROUBLE
Steve Rizzo	REEL DEAL
J.P. and Cathy Robinson	AMERICAL
Joe and Kathy Rossi	DOUBLE J
Bill and Debbie Ruckert	PEACHES
Doug and Bonnie Rusch	FIN FUN
A. Adam Sanford	ADAM'S FOLLY
Kevin Sarnecky	SR1-RP2
Mark and Beth Sartori	ENDEAVOR
Arthur P. and Danielle Schuessler III	SEA HORSE
Arthur P. and Katheryn Schuessler Jr.	SEA HORSE
Arno B. and Jeanne Schwarz	PERMANENT WAVE
Barbara Scott	
Greg and Teresa Shulman	KINGSBRIDGE
Lloyd C. and Carol Simola	DARLIN
Lenny and Donna Smith	SEA BUM
Russell and Debra Smith	RASCAL
William and Colleen Smith	IN-SURE
Robert B. and Lynn Snyder Sr.	MY LYNN
Bill and Annie Stattel	STRAIGHT ARROW
Christopher and Andrea Stavola	SEMPRE DURO
Jason W. Stavola	SEMPRE DURO
Scott W. and Kathy Stuhler	N.O.A.A. LIES
Mark and Keri Talucci	
Edmund and Suzanne Thomas	SEASUE
John and Laura Tiano	MARLINTINI

Mark Tompkins	LOOSE NUTS
Joe and Melissa Vezzosi	MATADOR
John B. Visceglia	HARD TO CATCH
John V. and Ellen Visceglia	INSHORE
Robert and Carol Voorhees	CASTAWAY IV
Ernest and Emmy Wagner	PIPER
Kenneth F. and Patricia Warchal	TIKKI TEMBO
John and Mary Wardlaw	HUMDINGER
Robert D. and Stephanie Wedeking	ENDEAVOR
Peter and Dale Wegener	JUST COMPENSATION
Charles and Karen Wehmeyer	SYNERGY
John H. and Kathy Weiland	CHESAPEAKE
Jack Wells	BRIELLE BABE
Scott G. Wigert	JAX TRAX
Harry H. and Joan C Wilde	STRIKE FORCE
Neil and Michelle Williams	MICHELLE D
Dr. Joe and Jennifer Zona	LIL'BROTHER

