



Fort Myers Beach Tarpon Hunters Club

TARPON TALES

Club Member Newsletter

www.fmbthc.com

January 2019

PRESIDENT'S
CORNER

2019 has arrived!

It's a new year and my first order of business as your new President is to commit the club to a New Year's resolution. For 2019, **the club will resolve to fish more and release more tarpon!** Let's face it, 2018 turned out to be a brutal year with the environmental disaster that occurred in our estuaries. If you hadn't released a fish in the month of June, then you were out of luck for the remainder of the year. With that said, there were a number of anglers that did hunt and release tarpon and eventually became our big winners at the awards banquet this past November. Banquet photos attached.

I would like to thank Kevin Vertesch for all his hard work, creativity and comradery over the past two years serving as our President. I'm sure he will enjoy a nice break from the administrative chores and hopefully fit in some more fishing. Additional appreciation goes out to John Rhoads and Jerry Stephenson for their contributions these past two years in the roles of secretary/treasurer. Thank you men!

Included with this newsletter is the 2019 schedule. Some highlights to get posted on your calendar include the hosting of the 2nd annual fish fry paired with a new Fish Fry hunt to supply the event with filets, as well as the addition of a night hunt on the September harvest full moon. (Hopefully we'll be harvesting Silver Kings).

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at Bonita Bills on **Wednesday, January 30th at 7:00 pm.** Due to scheduling difficulties, this meeting has been moved up from what is normally the first Wednesday in February. This particular meeting is critical for our Tackle Clinic planning so **please make an effort to join us so we can plan an effective tackle clinic** for 2019. It remains our number one new member recruiting initiative for the year. We have lined up our guest speaker from the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust. I think we are all interested in what their assessment was of this past year and what to expect for the coming year.

Please get your membership applications returned as soon as possible. No fish will be counted without your completed application and paid dues on file.

I look forward to serving the club for 2019 and since I'm following Vertesch, it should be easy!

Tight lines! Hope to see you all on Wednesday, January 30th @ 7pm.

Steve

2019 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

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2019 BOARD of DIRECTORS

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San Carlos Island, Florida

Anderson's
ROD & REEL REPAIR



Club News and Year End Action Shots



Rick DuJardin lands a pig of a Triple Tail. 29”/ 18#



Kim Owens fishes in her Mullet Head TuTu!



Both Kevin Vertesch and Kim Owens pose with past President Carlen Fredricka Brennen at a Weigh In.



Capt Don Taylor (Santa) lands a 31” Snook



Capt Matt and Kim Ponzio welcome their first grandbaby, a girl named Eleanor Mae Hackworth

Be sure to visit our Sponsors and let them know we appreciate all they do for us!
A Special Thanks to **Bill Semmer** for his continued hospitality for letting us meet at Bonita Bill's.

**Even when the water quality is poor and there are few tarpon to be had,
we find a way to have a great time!**

**2018
Tarpon Hunters Banquet
Ron Dao's Pizzeria & Sports Bar**



Interclub Trophy Winners—6 yrs running!



Bart Sharp—Up North Hunt & Rookie plaque



Marya Teets—Hunt winner & Rookie plaque



Leslie Miller—Female Angler of the Year, Hunt winner and Rookie plaque. What a year!



Pete Maastricht—Angler of the Year, Hunt winners



John Rhoads prepares and presents the Mullet Awards

Thank you all that helped make this year's banquet happen, John & Sue Rhoads, Don & Judy Cook, Don Taylor & Kim Owens, and Matt & Kim Ponzio.