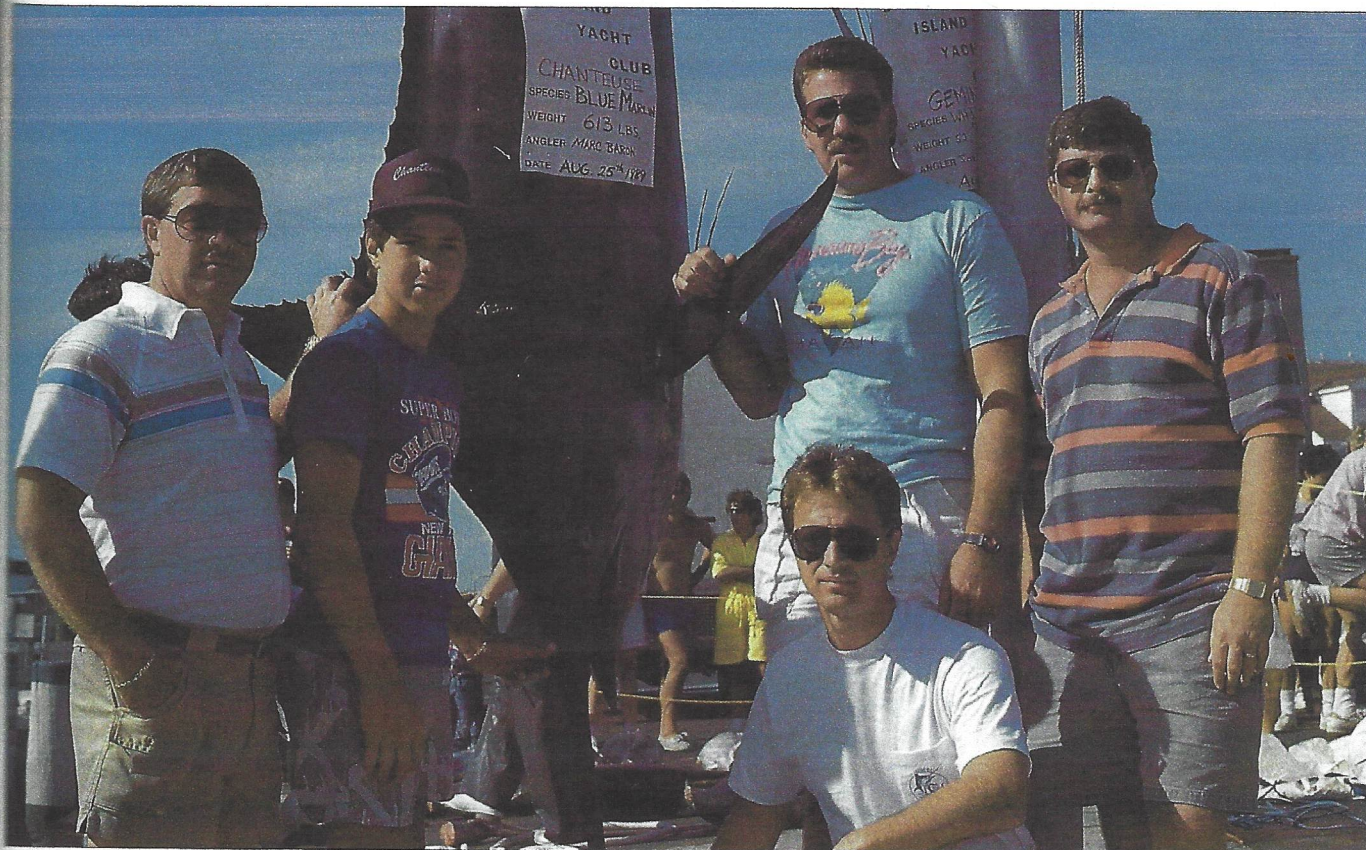


Second Annual
Star Island Yacht Club
 Overnight Tuna-Billfish Tournament

Beginners Luck Is Good Enough!

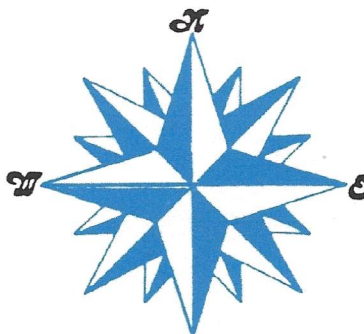
by Bill Smith



Bill Smith photo

ROOKIES: (L to R) Captain Gary Coke, Fred Hines, top blue marlin angler Mark Baron, Tom Dolan and Joe Gaviola with their winning 613 lb., fish worth over \$15,000 in prize money, caught aboard the 36' Black Fin *Chanteuse*.

MONTAUK POINT, NY - As if last year's tournament wasn't good enough! This year, **Sam Gershowitz**, owner of Star Island Yacht Club and Marina not only offered a \$75,000 purse for his Second Annual Overnight Billfish/Tuna Tournament, but to top it off he threw in a brand new \$70,000 Mercedes 560SL convertible for anyone who brought a 1,000 pound plus blue marlin back to the scales. Those of you who are familiar with the excellent canyon fishing off Montauk know that catching one of these big fish is a real possibility in late August — particularly when you have heavy hitters entered like last year's winner **Charlie Harned** on the world famous 70' Striker *Bite the Dust*, Capt. **Mike Oates** on the 63' *Ocean Marlina*, **Pat Buda** on the 55' *Ocean That's the Brakes*, **Jamie Hummel** on **Adam Kibel's** *Hot Potato* and Capt. **Harry Clemenz** who a few years ago brought an 1,100 pound plus blue marlin back to the scales.



Everything done at the new Star Island is always first class and this year's tournament was certainly no exception. Thursday night the captains and crews of the 43 boats entered got together under the big tent to listen to **Sam Gershowitz's** chatter about rules, eligible fish, weather and prizes. Then we were all treated to drinks and food before hitting the

docks to rig tackle, baits and lures - all of us pumped up with the anticipation every fisherman has before a fishing trip.

Friday morning, boats could be heard firing up their engines and leaving the docks at 4:00 am, the appointed starting time. Within three hours of leaving, boats could be heard on the radio reporting multiple hook-ups to albacore, yellowfin and white marlin, more white marlin than had been seen off Montauk in years. While all this is going on, one boat, a brand new 36' Black Fin named *Chanteuse* was still back at the dock displaying all the confidence in the world as they enjoyed a leisurely breakfast. These guys were relatively new to the offshore fishing scene but that was all going to change. Meanwhile, fish were being hooked-up and in most cases released all over the place with no one jumping into an early lead.

About 11 am, after finishing breakfast and taking care of some unfinished business **Gary**

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