

Editor: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, Sr.

# Tuna Tower News

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Internet Address: [www.ftcfishing.com](http://www.ftcfishing.com)



VOLUME ONE • JANUARY 2007

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER

**THURSDAY, JAN. 11th AT 8:00 PM**

**Cure of Ars Church School Auditorium  
Merrick Ave., Merrick**

**(South of Sunrise Highway between Sunrise Hwy. & Merrick Road)**

## **NEXT GM Swearing in of Club Officers**

**Jim Donofrio, Executive Director of RFA  
will be our guest speaker.  
See inside for more info**

## President's Message

Jim Rooney

Happy New Year to all and welcome to Freeport Tuna Club's 70th Anniversary Season. Before I start with the 2007 events I would like to thank the Board of Directors and the membership for allowing me to serve as President for a second term. It is truly an honor and pleasure to serve the great people who make up this club. With 2006 at an end, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their tireless work and commitment to this club. We didn't always agree, but we worked together unselfishly to find the solutions to make this club the best it can be. As I am thanking people, there is a group that deserves the most thanks and that is the General Members that have stepped up and participated in our club events; from our rodeos to GMs, garage sales, ship's store, Captain & Anglers and our annual holiday party. It is these people that are the true backbone, heart and soul of the Freeport Tuna Club. For without their participation this club would not function, Thank You All. As I mentioned before, this is the 70th Anniversary of the club and I would like to make this a banner year. Our annual cod trip is still in planning stages and will be announced very shortly and of course we will be having our rodeos in the spring and fall. We will be

hosting our second annual Multi club shark shoot out, which for FTC members is an IGFA Qualifying Event. A win in this shoot out gets a FTC member (and crew) an invitation to the IGFA tournament in Cabo San Lucas.

For information on this and other shootouts keep an eye on the web page and the Tuna Tower for upcoming events. Congratulations to our new Captain (Steamie McDreamie) Scott Schaffer on achieving his Captain license (good Luck Scott). Congratulation also goes out to My good friend Joe Steiner on his recent retirement (another week day fisherman available) good luck Joe. 2007 will be another great year for the Freeport Tuna Club and I look forward to working with and serving the members of this club for another term. I would like to remind all members old and new that participation is truly the key to a great club experience.



James Rooney  
President

# FISHING BULLETIN



It is once again with great pleasure that I will be responsible for our monthly fishing reports for the 2007 season. I encourage all members to please contact me regarding their outstanding catches. We are already into the New Year, with several events scheduled throughout the next two months, the month of March is just around the corner and that is usually the time we look to make ready our vessels for the upcoming season.

The New York Boat Show is currently underway and this show is a great venue to view new products to outfit your fishing arsenals or re-power your vessel. Several other shows on the calendar are the Sportsman's Show at the Nassau Coliseum this month and the Sportsman's Show at the Freeport Recreation Center during the month of February, to name a few. Now that the holidays are over and before any stage of cabin fever sets in, is a great time to take stock of your fishing tackle. Unharness your reels from their rods, replace worn drags and re-spool them with fresh line. Make sure your roller guides are rolling correctly and not binding up. Changing leaders on your favorite lures and any other preventative maintenance should help to insure that you have this all out of the way for when the season starts and a trouble free one if all is done correctly.

On the local fishing front several of our club members continue to fish, during our continued balmy winter weather and have reported decent action. Bob Hindenlang has

reported during his recent blackfish outings that fish up to 10.0 lbs have been caught in the vicinity of our local reef. Congratulations are in order for our east end members, namely Capt. Scott Schafer, he and his crew have over the last two weeks made several productive offshore wreck trips, He has reported Seabass up to 6.8 lbs, Cod up to 28lbs, as well as Pollack up to 23lbs. The father and son Team of Jim and Bobby Krug get credit for the later two fish. Baring any major changes in weather we can expect this fishing to continue for a while. One can expect to see a few codfish mixed in as well as we settle more into our winter.

This is the time of the year when the giant black seabass can be caught at their wintering grounds, that is the wrecks that lie 50-80 miles offshore in 180-240 feet of water. If you find a window of weather then this is an excellent fishery to target as most of the fish are in the 3-6lb.class.

I expect to be able to share additional information with you regarding our Annual Offshore Codfish Trip. The dates are set for a departure on the evening of Friday April 20 and returning on Sunday evening April 22. We will be sailing aboard the Viking Starship this year.

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt  
F/V Blue Marlin



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals are due on January 1. Renewal forms were mailed out in December. Your prompt renewal is appreciated. If you did not receive a renewal, please contact Ed Faza, Membership Chairman.

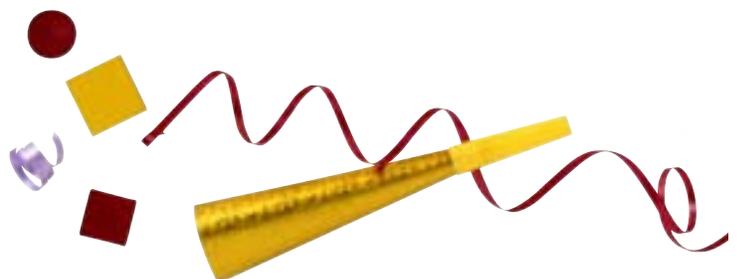
## GOOD & WELFARE

Congradulations to Bob Sabella for acheiving Life Time membership status!

Contributions-any member wishing to submit a short item, date of memorable Club history, or fishing story, for the 70th Anniversary Yearbook, or monthly Tuna Tower News, email [bigmahi@yahoo.com](mailto:bigmahi@yahoo.com) or [JJutt@MMPMK.com](mailto:JJutt@MMPMK.com)

## PROPERTY

The Board has decided to keep the dock rates of \$52 a foot unchanged for the 2007 season. These are the lowest rates of any major marina in the Freeport area, including the Town of Hempstead Marinas! If you are not docking your boat at the Freeport Tuna Club, then you are paying more than you need to. While we project 100% occupancy and getting one of these coveted spaces can be difficult, it is certainly not impossible. In each of the last few years a number of slips have turned over. Anyone interested in summer dockage should contact Mike Sullivan. Don't delay. At these prices, the slips won't last long.



# JANUARY 2007 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Lawrence J. Festa  
Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, Mary Ellen Zullo,  
Captain Chris Squeri, Joseph Jahn & \*\* Bill Morrogh\*\*

On behalf of your committee I wish all of you and your families a very happy healthy New Year. I commend our Second Term President, Jim Rooney for stepping in breach and leading our club for 2007. The FTC Awards Committee is very proud to announce that Senior Board Member Bill Morrogh has joined the FTC Awards Committee. Bill brings years of experience to the committee and we welcome him aboard. It should be noted that Bill is also the Chairman of our Web Site Committee. It is official our all new 2007 Angler's Guide for Awards & Contests has passed the FTC Board of Director's Approval. The booklet will be posted on our Web Site and prior to our fishing season will be printed. I want to thank The FTC Awards Committee and our FTC Board of Directors in making our new book a piece of club history. This meeting is also our last meeting for FTC Weigh Slips. The deadline is January 14, 2007. No slips after that date will be accepted. All protest will be based on slips already received. If you feel you are a winner, it is your responsibility to check with your committee to make sure your slip is on file. In closing our 2007 Awards & Contest Derby dates are near completion and will be posted on our web site prior to our fishing season.

The following derbies are closed and will be awarded at our GM.  
Final Result are:

Fall Black fish (03 lbs.).....October 21st ~ November 26th  
1ST Place: Frank Saviano.....8.2 lbs. F/V "Angry Annie"  
2ND Place: Lawrence Festa.....7.63 lbs. F/V " Magic Too"  
3RD Place: Mary Ellen Zullo.....7.60 lbs. F/V "Magic Too"

Fall Striped Bass (15 lbs.).....October 14th ~ November 26th  
1ST Place: Doug Toback.....28.6 lbs. F/V "Corazon"  
2ND Place: John Jutt.....24.75 lbs. F/V "Bunker Dunker"  
3RD Place: Bob Colbert.....23.87 lbs. F/V "Joint Effort II"

Fall Cod (10 lbs.).....September 30th ~ December 18th  
Sorry no winners  
Currently there are no derbies in progress,

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY CHRIS BELLINZONI

In holding true to one of the club's longest standing By-Laws the Board of Directors elected our Club's Executive Officers at the Board's November meeting. No surprises this year! The message and outcome clearly called for and hailed "consistency" as all 5 of our Executive Officers were unanimously re-elected to another term. President Jim Rooney, 1st Vice President Chris Squeri, 2nd Vice President Joe Jahn, Treasure Mike Sullivan and myself each look forward to proudly holding these position again for 2007. We each consider it both an honor and labor of love to represent you, the General Membership of the states oldest, largest and finest fishing club! Please join us as we take the oath of office at our January General Membership meeting.

**Jim Donofrio, Executive Director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) will be our speaker guest at this meeting.**

He will take a few minutes to update our membership on what the RFA is doing to protect our fisheries.

The RFA Mission is:  
Safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers  
Protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs  
Ensure the long term sustainability of our nations's fisheries.

Commercial fishermen and environmentalists are pushing their agenda on marine fisheries issues affecting you.

The RFA is in the trenches lobbying, educating decision makers and ensuring that our interests are being heard loud and clear too!

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.  
Chartered to Promote  
Sport-fishing & Conservation

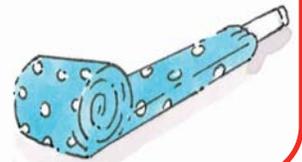
2007 Officers

- James Rooney..... President
- Chris Squeri.....1st Vice President
- Joseph Jahn.....2nd Vice President
- Mike Sullivan ..... Treasurer
- Chris Bellinzoni.....Secretary



Post Office Box 5  
Freeport, New York 11520

Deliver To:



**STAY TUNED  
FOR INFO ON THE  
FREEPORT REC  
SHOW**

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**

*to all club members  
and their families.*

**CLASSIFIED:**

• 1 28x23<sup>1/4</sup> 3 blade nibril prop. like new condition,  
reasonably priced 516-632-9770.

FISHERMAN WANTED: Alaska - Salmon, Halibut 7/507 to 7/12/07  
3 spots open  
Panama - Marlin Sails Tuna, Tropic Star Lodge  
8/11/07 to 8/16/07 - 3 spots open  
FOR INFO CALL DENNIS CATALDO - 516-753-5433

