

Tuna Tower News

Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com



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Editor: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, Sr.

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER



NEXT GM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 • 8:00 PM

CURE OF ARS AUDITORIUM

MERRICK AVENUE • MERRICK

(between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)



FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

TREASURE HUNTERS OF LONG ISLAND

Mike McKeekin can be found around the same wrecks off our Island but his quarry is not fish but treasure! Mike has been hunting our shores and waters for years with FTC member Ed Jeny using his metal detector and other equipment to find lost items of carelessness or tragedy. Over the years he has accululated a fine collection of antiques, coins, and memorabilia which he is sharing with our club this meeting. Come by and hear his tales of adventure and techniques. You never know you may want to get into this sport on your own.

Incoming President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying this very cold winter we are having. The good news is we will have heat shortly in our clubhouse. Bob Sabella has informed me that we will be ready to install the new gas furnace soon. I would like to thank both Bob Sabella and Darrin Schaffer for all their help and professionalism in getting rid of the old unit and installing our new heat. The property has been abuzz with the property committee completing the installation of the bubble system. Our investment is protected thanks to John Gerrity, Al Casciano and Bob Dimino who all braved some cold weather to get it done.

This year we will again be at the Freeport Recreational Center Show in two ways. Captain Larry Festa and Captain Harry Weinblatt will both be giving seminars on February 14th and the club will also have a membership booth in the auditorium.

One of the first events I had gotten involved with when I first joined the club was our membership booth at the Javits Center Boat Show. Here you can spend a few hours representing our club, meeting new friends and potential new members. Contact Chris Squeri to help out with this event. Also this month, don't forget the Long Island Boat Show at the Nassau Coliseum.

Our first special event for 2009 is coming; Captain Harry's Cod Trip is set for April 17th. The follow up to this club fishing trip is our May 18th Fluke/Striped Bass Trip with Captain Mike of the Prime Time. The cost will be \$100.00 a head, same as last year, so see me to sign up. Other fishing trips are currently in the works for both local and eastern ports.

New fishing clinics committee head Bob Dimino has a clinic or two in the works to fill in the voids. Details to follow.

I'm sad to say that myself and other FTC quackheads are done till this coming fall. This was a banner year out on our marshes,

the cold snaps have made for some of the best duck hunting in years. Myself and fellow FTC members harvested an amazing nine different species of birds this year with two birds wearing some jewelry.

Still with more special events is our 3rd Annual Wild Game Dinner where members and friends can sample some of these and other wild game harvested by our club members. Dave Massa and Bob Benzenberg do an outstanding job putting this together. This event is not only for club members so all parties are welcome. Once again, your help is needed to make this and other events successful. See Captain Dave or Bob to help out.

I would like to congratulate and welcome both Chris Squeri and Christopher Bellinzi to the Board of Directors. Chris currently chairs our Membership Committee along with Press and Public Relations. Christopher will chair a newly created Website Committee. Both Chris' will be looking for help with their committee's as will many other committee heads. In this months Bulletin there is a list of all committees, take a look and see if there is anything that interests you. If there is, contact a committee head and volunteer, it's that easy. We look forward to seeing some new faces. It's your club, make it better and get involved.

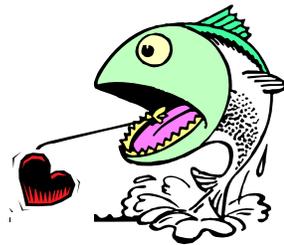
Last but definitely not least, roomers have it that Islamorada will be under a full FTC assault to harvest and shatter our club's long standing record for Permit! Current record: Permit 16 lbs. — Errol Steffens — Johnson Key, FL (1968).

Best of luck to all of our members heading to the keys this winter.

Till Next Tide,
Joe Jahn



FISHING BULLETIN



Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin

In a few days the ground hog will come out and will he see his shadow? If he does then according to that very fabled myth we will have another six weeks of winter left. Although we have had our share of cold temperatures since the winter season has begun, I am sure we all have had enough and these six weeks can't come soon enough. With that said I hope everyone has been keeping busy by either attending the local boat shows and sporting shows or by making their tackle ready for the upcoming season. If cabin fever has set in then the 27th Annual New York Sportfishing Federation Forum and Auction might just be the cure for that. The dates are set for February 13th, 14th and 15th at the Freeport Recreation Center. This is a must attend event, Capt. Larry Festa will be conducting his infamous Sharking Seminar and I will be conducting a presentation on Canyon Tuna Fishing. If you want to know where the tuna fish were swimming last season I will let the cat out of the bag during this seminar.

On the local fishing front, the after effects of snow, which we better know as "run off" have slowed the blackfishing as of late. The inshore wrecks seem to be barren of life since the local areas water temperatures are hovering around forty degrees and any life on them are reportedly in a catatonic state.

The offshore wrecks continue to produce quality seabass, slammer sized pollack and a handful of cod. The head boats that have been sailing to the wrecks in the 30-35 fathoms of water have reported excellent fishing. Even though the wrecks have been getting hammered every week the fish continue to fill in on them and all of the boats are reporting limit catches for all anglers. Cod fishing has taken hold, however the fishing is not of the quality as it was last year in our local area waters. The reports from out east are a totally different story, that is 180 degrees different. The reports from Montauk which are only four days old are that a "red hot" bite has started and it looks like we can expect to see a repeat of last year.

I recently had an opportunity to team up with fellow FTC members, Bob Hindenlang, Paul Hilton, John Jutt and two other friends aboard Capt. Scott Schaefer's Montauk based vessel 50/50. The information he received from his sources indicated that the cod bite was on. We departed Montauk harbor at 3:00AM, next stop south of Block Island. We arrived in the dark and Scott put us on "the numbers" after two quick drifts and a half dozen cod lying in the cockpit he decided to anchor up. I gently slipped the anchor over the side and when we came tight, all hell broke loose. We absolutely hammered the cod up to fifteen pounds keeping our legal limit and releasing the rest. Final tally for the day was one hundred seventy fish. The majority were between five and eight pounds and many nice cod in the ten to twelve pound range rounded out the catch. In my

thirty five years of local cod fishing, this trip was the best one I ever had and to boot we were done fishing by 9:30AM.

Our Annual FTC Offshore Cod Trip is all set and rapidly approaching being sold out. The dates are set for a departure from Montauk the evening of April 17th and arriving back in Montauk the evening of April 19th. This year we will be sailing aboard the new 120 foot Viking Superstar, with Capt. Steven Forsberg at the helm. The fare for this much awaited event is \$ 250.00. If you have any interest in joining us then please sign up now as the trip will be strictly limited to 35 anglers and will be sold out in short order. If you signed up and have given me a deposit, I will be collecting the balance of any monies that are due at the upcoming February General meeting so please see me.

Sincerely,

Capt. Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin

CONSERVATION

NOAA Fisheries issued a press release last month praising the contributions recreational anglers make to the nation's economy: 82 billion dollars in total sales, which generated 24 billion dollars in income and supported 534,000 jobs nationwide. To put this in perspective, this is more than twice the number of people employed by Ford, Chrysler and General Motors combined. You might think with those kinds of numbers we would get more respect from the regulators; instead we get stricter limits and shorter seasons. No official decision have been published yet, but it seems likely that for 2009 the fluke season will be shorter than last year, with a similar minimum size and possibly a bag limit of 2 fish.

On another note, NOAA also reports that despite a call from scientists for a significant reduction in the number of bluefin tuna taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean the only reduction approved was a 300 metric ton reduction from the western Atlantic stock, i.e. the fish in American waters. It is now a proven fact that bluefin travel from American to European waters; therefore this decision forces us to conserve fish on our side of the ocean so that they can be caught by the Europeans!

The New York Sportfishing Federation show is coming to the Freeport Recreation Center on February 13, 14 and 15. There will be great seminars including Capt. Larry Festa and Capt. Harry Weinblatt on Saturday, February 14. There will be great discounts and a giant auction on Sunday at 2:30. Come support the Federation and the fight to win the fluke lawsuit.

Also, the Canyon Runner Sportfishing Seminar is being held on February 28 at the Huntington Hilton. Tickets are available at a 20% discount for FTC members—call 732-842-6825 and mention the discount for FTC members.

-Bill Toohey

FEBRUARY 2009 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTESTS REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh

Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, MaryEllen Zullo, Captain Lawrence J. Festa

The 2009 Derby dates are available on the Derby page of our website (www.ftcfishing.com). Note that there may be adjustments due to changing DEC and NMFS regulations. We'll be printing and distributing our At-A-Glance cards as soon as we're sure of the fishing regulations for 2009.

You'll find an insert in this issue listing our 2008 Annual Awards winners. The committee worked long and hard to compile the list of winners and identify the candidates for the discretionary awards. I hope that everyone will make an effort to attend the March GM where we recognize all these deserving anglers. Contact me if you have any questions about any of these awards.

We also will recognize 6 new club records in March.

Monkfish - Robert Solberg 51lb 4oz (IGFA All Tackle) Stellwagen Bank

Jack Crevalle - Dennis Cataldo 35.2 lb Marathon Fl.

Grouper - Snowy - Dennis Cataldo 12.1lb Marathon Fl.

Fresh Water

Trout - Brown - Dennis Cataldo 7lb 4oz Sodus Bay N.Y.

Trout - Rainbow - Dennis Cataldo 5lb 8oz Sodus Bay N.Y.

Trout - Lake - Jim Rooney 11lb Lake Ontario N.Y.

Special note on weigh slips - Please make an extra effort to fill out the cards completely. It's difficult to identify prize winners if info is missing. You might be eligible for a prize and not realize it!

The committee would like to wish everyone a safe and productive 2009 Derby season. Let's get those weigh slips in! -Bill Morrogh

Property Reports & Updates January 2009

Property Committee: Chairman John Gerrity, Al Casciano, Bob Dimino
Financial Director Captain Larry Festa

Winter is currently in full throttle, our very strong property committee is working hard to keep our marina from harms way through these bitter cold months.

With the first freezing of our marina's basin, Property Chairman John Gerrity was at the switch too insure that our new bubbler system was up and running to protect our club's investments. We thank the committee for their hard work.

Our club house is still awaiting a source of heat! The oil burner which was installed years back has given way. Our committee has installed interim heating to protect the club house until we are approved for permits to convert to a gas heat. This upgrade which will cost roughly the same as new oil will also allow us to convert all inside & outdoor cooking to gas for all to enjoy.

For next year the date of May 16th has been set for our garage sale. We are also looking forward to our Spring and Fall Rodeos, some open clinics plus a monthly meeting or too, so keep some dates opened.

All members are welcome to keep their boat at our 31 slip marina. To get a slip, just call and get on our waiting list. The list moves very fast so regardless of your list number a dream could become reality over night. Our basin spots are perfect for any and all outboard and inboard powered boats. In addition larger outboards and inboards can be place outside our basin in any one of our 10' 12' or 14' beam slips. My mission is to maintain a full and happy marina for 2009 so get on the list for a slice of heaven.

In closing our property committee for 2009 is looking for new talent to keep our state of the art marina up to grade. Any members interested in get involved with our club property upkeep and growth kindly contact our chairman John Gerrity.

Captain Lawrence J. Festa
Property Financial Director

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB

January 29, 2009

President

Joseph Jahn

1st Vice President

Lawrence Festa
(Non-Fishing related Committees)

2nd Vice President

John Rooney
(Fishing related Committees)

Secretary

Chris Bellinzoni

Treasure

Tim Sherman

Non-Fishing Related Committees

Finance

Harry Weinblatt*
Michael Sullivan
Bruce Forster
Bill Toohey
Ralph Drewes
Jim Rooney

Property

John Gerrity*
Lawrence Festa*
Al Cascino
Robert Dimino
Bob Sabella

Yearbook

Michael Sullivan*
John Jutt
Charlie Goldstein
Don Granger

Entertainment

Robert Bolhert*
Paul Noto
Lawrence Festa

Press & P/R

Chris Squeri*

Membership

Chris Squeri*
Jeff Squeri
Chris Scarpantonio
Nick Nero

Web-Site

Christopher Bellinzoni*
Don Granger
Bill Morrogh

Good & Welfare

Jeff Squeri*

Nominating

to be proposed

Raffle Prize

Paul Hilton*
Peter Cefai

Bulletin

John Jutt*
Jeff Yaperlater

House

Woody Anderson*
Don Morin
John Weber
Gerald Amitrano

Holiday Party

John Rooney*
Paul Sposato

Fishing Related Committees

Awards & Contest

Bill Morrogh*
Lawrence Festa
Michael Zullo

Derbies

Bill Morrogh*
Lawrence Festa
Michael Zullo

Shoot-Outs

John Rooney*
Shawn Libby

Rodeos

Jim Rooney*
Bob Sabella

Conservation

Dennis Cataldo*
Bill Toohey

Fishing Reports

Harry Weinblatt*

Open Clinic

Bob Dimino*
Chris Bellinzoni
Chris Squeri
Lawrence Festa

Captain/Angler

Bob Pandey*

Tournaments

Mattie Errett*
John Rooney

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

2009 Officers

Joe Jahn..... President
Captain Larry Festa 1st Vice President
John Rooney..... 2nd Vice President
Tim Sherman Treasurer
Chris Bellinzoni..... Secretary



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MAIL
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Deliver To:



FREEPORT TUNA CLUB
3rd ANNUAL
WILD GAME
DINNER

.....
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26th, 2009, 7 PM
VFW HALL 2400 Bedford Avenue Bellmore, NY
WILD FOOD, BEVERAGE, GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES
MOUNTS ON DISPLAY, OUTFITTERS INFO SO YOU
CAN PLAN YOUR NEXT HUNTING ADVENTURE
RESERVE YOUR TABLE FOR YOU AND YOUR
HUNTING BUDDIES
LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE
\$30.00 PER PERSON IN ADVANCE
\$40.00 AT THE DOOR
KIDS UNDER 16 ENTER **FREE**
CONTACT BOB BENZENBERG OR DAVID MASSA
CELL (516)521-7378 CELL (917)335-6765

NY SPORTFISHING
FEDERATION SHOW

Feb. 13, 14 & 15th
at the
Freeport Rec Center

CLASSIFIED:

Wanted 25 hp outboard long shaft with tiller. Call Joe, 516-851-8762

Looking for 13" Boston Whaler with or without engine,
Contact Jeff 516-425-4645

Boat Slip for Rent. water@electric in Freeport Call Sy Karp 516 632 9770

WANTED: Great shape Penn 750SS or 7500SS. Bigmahi 516-425-4645

We currently have a basin slip available for the spring 2009 season. The slip will accommodate from vessel from 19' and up to 25' with inboard, outboard or I/O power. The slip has full floating docks, water & electric. Any member interested in this slip should contact me. It is being offered as first come first served bases.

Woody is looking for help with house and Paul Hilton needs a volunteer to sell raffle tickets.

To place an ad in our classified contact Capt. John Jutt
516-546-2312 or email to: JJutt@mmpmk.com

Happy Valentine's Day!