

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME TWO • FEBRUARY 2010
Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.
Co-Editor Capt. Paul Hilton
Contributor Chris Bellinzoni
Contributor Mike Sullivan



NEXT GM
February 11, 2010 • 8:00 PM
CURE OF ARS AUDITORIUM
MERRICK AVENUE • MERRICK
(between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)



Ken Weinbrecht has specialized in yacht and small craft marine surveying and claims services for over 30 years. He is a Charter Member of the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors, is one of 9 Senior Yacht Appraisers in the U.S., and is a Certified Marine Investigator. He has testified in court as an expert witness, investigated fire losses, collisions and accidents as well as other marine losses. He will share his knowledge, tips, and stories with the FTC at the Feb GM. Boat owners or potential buyers - don't miss this!

President's Message

Happy Valentines Day to all members. I was very pleased at the show of support from the general membership and the Board of Directors during my first month in office. The January GM and board meeting set a positive tone with great participation from all committees. A special thanks to our County Legislature, Dave Deneberg, for being at our GM Meeting to administer the oath of office and mostly for being a great supporter of our club. During our first board meeting we achieved excellent progress, moving forward with our committees, calendar of events, property and staffing.

Special Events, has hit the ground running. The event team of Dave Mazza and Bob Benzenberg once again sold out our Game Dinner for this year which is set for February 25th. In addition, this coming weekend, Chairman Bob Pandey & Jim Rooney brokered a very fine deal with the RFA to have a booth at the Freeport Rec-Center Show this coming weekend. In brokering the deal both Captain Harry Weinblatt and I have agreed to do speaking engagements at the show. Captain Harry on deep water tuna fishing and me with my favorite game of chasing the man with the blue suit...Sharking! For more information contact: <http://www.nysf.org/>

More on club events; I am glad to see that Past President Joe Jahn has already organized two of our club fishing trips. The dates are set for May 17th, Fluke and Bass Trip and November 1st for Blackfish. In addition, Captain Harry Weinblatt will once again be putting together our Annual Cod Trip. The date for this offshore event is: April 23 ~ 25th. All great events so stay tuned for more updates.

In this months bulletin you will also see our current 2010 Committee Chart. All members are welcome to volunteer to join a committee they feel comfortable with. Just contact the respective committee head to offer your service.

On a fishing note, late but worthy of a mention; well done to Captain Chris Bellinzoni. Chris organized the Spellman's at Grover's 2nd

Annual Grady-White Tournament. Members of the FTC swept most of the top awards as they competed with more than 70 anglers. Captain Tim Sherman, F/V "Betty" took both 1st & 2nd places in the Striped bass division and Captains' Chris Bellinzoni F/V Bimini & Pete McEvoy F/V "Permanent Waves" boats taking 1st & 3rd place in the bluefish division. Our club entered five boats, decking four of the six prizes.

On a junior accomplishment note, congratulations to our proud 2nd V.P. Bill Toohey. Bill's daughter Leslie is the second place winner in the Fisherman Magazine's Youth Fishing Essay Contest. The essay "A Fish Tail" was one of over 200 entries. The awards ceremony will be held at the Suffolk County Boat & Sportfishing Show on Saturday, February 27 at 11:00 AM, and the winning essays will be published in the Fisherman following the award ceremony.

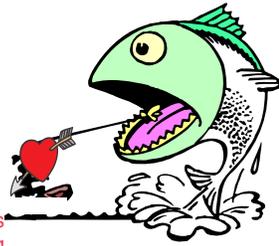
In closing, I would once again thank former President Joe Jahn for his years of service to our club and his Presidency this past year. I have accepted his resignation to the Board of Directors and welcome him as a special advisor for the year 2010. Joe's seat on the board will be filled by John Daum. We are pleased that John has accepted this appointment to our Board of Directors. John will be co-chairing our Treasurer, Tim Sherman. We thank John for stepping up and accepting the challenge for the year 2010.



See all at our next GM.
Captain Larry Festa
President 2010



FISHING BULLETIN



Now that the month of January is behind us we are getting that much closer to the spring season or so we hoped we would be. Today the ground hog saw his shadow, so according to that fabled myth we can expect an additional six weeks of winter. That being said there are enough fishing and sportsman related shows to make the time pass quickly. The next upcoming show will be sponsored by the New York Sportfishing Federation at the Freeport Recreation Center on February 12-14, 2010. Once again this year's event will host two FTC members as guest speakers during the forum. Capt. Larry Festa will speak about Monster Shark Fishing and Capt. Harry Weinblatt will be speaking about Tuna and Marlin Canyon Fishing, these are must attend presentations which will help cure any cabin fever which might have already set in. The FTC will also be hosting a booth for the entire duration, so come on down and show your support.

On the local fishing front cod action remains steady with local wrecks and reefs yielding small fish, but enough legal fish to make the effort worthwhile. Out east the Montauk fleet continues to tomahawk the cod on a daily basis.

In this month's column, and for your reading pleasure, I will be wrapping up the second half of our 2009 season. As we transitioned more in the spring season we were welcomed by one of the wettest spring seasons in two and a half decades. Our offshore season commenced with our resident shark expert Capt. Larry Festa skipping his vessel Kristen to the promised land on a very blustery Saturday in early June. One long drift and one dozen tag cards stacked up by his helm station and the 2009 Shark fishing season was in process. The following day, club vessels Hooker and Shark Hunter pointed their bows in the same direction and headed offshore to the same shark grounds, they too reported lock and load fishing with very hungry blue sharks. The next weekends reports were the same, an over abundance of hungry blue sharks. As the reports of Mako's and Threshers emanated from the Delaware and South Jersey area our FTC Fleet was waiting with baited breath for the first tournament of the season. The Woodcleft Tournament commenced with perfect weather and high hopes for the days fishing. The lack of radio chatter would prove to be indicative as to what would be on the scales at day's end. On this day the FTC did draw first blood. Congratulations to Harry Schroder and the crew of the Just Add Water, their 121 lb Mako earned them a second place finish in the overall standings on this day. By the time the following weeks Hudson Anglers Tournament came to an end the lack of Mako's and Threshers made it apparent that something was out of the ordinary for this seasons spring fishery. My opinion regarding this phenomenon should be attributable to lack of salinity due to the fresh water runoff from the previous month and a half daily rain storms. Once the rain stopped the pelagics made their appearance in more normal numbers. Unfortunately for us to the west it was too late as the fish showed up to the east which made for great action from Shinecock and points east.

During the same month Chris Gerhart, aboard his newly christened Wasabi, skippered his vessel to a patch of warm water which was butting up against the hundred fathom line of Toms Canyon. His relentless pursuit in quest of the season's first tuna finally paid off. The duo, Chris accompanied by Hank Jenet were able to land twenty yellowfin tuna. The largest caught by the captain which tipped the scales at 42lbs. The crew kept their limit and returned home in flat calm seas.

The seabass fishery continued to be strong this month with one having to work a little harder at it to put together a decent catch of keepers. Pork chop sized porgies and an occasional codfish has also made its way into the coolers. Striped bass fishing has shifted to the ocean both east and west of our local inlet amongst the large schools of bunker which had taken up residence along our local beaches. On one particular Saturday in late June, Capt Barbara Solomon and her husband Jeff teamed up with Peter Cefai aboard his Off the Hook for a morning of striped bass fishing east of the inlet alongside a huge school of bunker. That decision paid off big time as Jeff was able to live line a bunker and entice a 45.14 lbs bass to boat side were an expertly placed gaff shot made it official. Out east Jim Krug reported the best bassing of the season with many 40lb fish common on most trips. Congratulations to Michele Sullivan who was able to set the bar even higher with her record 17.8 lb striped bass on 2lb test. This fish unseats her mom's previous record with 2lb test line.

As we transitioned into the second half of the year with our offshore season under way Sean Libby skippered his Aurora for the season's first official mako of the season which tipped the scales at 154lbs. Adam Bollaci

skippered his vessel Hooker to a spot on the eastern side of the compass rose for a 170lb mako which was briefly in the running in the Nor'east Big Dog Tournament. The huge schools of sandeels which have amassed in our waters this season finally started to draw in the tuna. Along the western part of the Glory hole in a little more than twenty fathoms of water the perfect ingredients now existed, clean water and bait. For several weeks bluefin tuna in the 50-75lb class were taken almost daily from this area. Either drifting and chunking or jigging was the ticket to cash in on this action. Further offshore along the southeast corner of the Hudson around the 100 square area the epic bigeye bite of the century was about to commence. During an overnighter toward the later part of July Ralph Drewes and his crew aboard the Oceanic had a lackluster trip, that is until they put the boat on the troll early in the morning. In a simultaneous fashion four large bigeye tuna jumped his spread and it was game on for the crew. The fish were too large for the tackle which was employed and three earned their freedom with one 200lb class fish making in back home to the scale. Team Wasabi was quick to get in on the action and on one rough Friday afternoon he and his crew made a pass through the same area and were able to boat three for four 125-150lb class bigeyes. This lasted for approximately two weeks and ended as quickly as it started.

A brief shot of heavy wind and weather kept our vessels tied to the dock in mid-August one weekend but when it was time to get offshore no time was wasted. The bluefin which were plying the shallower depths of the Glory Hole had moved about 10 miles southeast along the southwestern edge of the Chicken Canyon in 30 fathoms of water. The life that amassed in this area was as close as you could get to an aquarium. Bluefin Tuna, False Albacore, Skipjack Tuna, Cow Nosed Rays and an assortment of whales and porpoise made for quite the variety of sea life. The bluefin bite lasted approximately six weeks and took up the slack of the lack luster yellowfin fishery. The fish ranged in size from 40-100 lbs and this made for great action with lighter tackle. Many FTC vessels reported limit catches either jigging or bait fishing while this fishery was in place. The month of August ended our fluke season, however the last weekend was the best of the season. A large body of fish had taken up residence from the Cholera Banks west to the Middle Grounds and it was lock and load action for everyone. Don Granger landed his personal best an 11.2 pound beauty. Many 6-8 lbs class fish were caught which made for a nice closing to a much abbreviated season. Bluefishing continued strong at the Mud Buoy.

The month of September came and went but not without a continuation of red hot bluefin tuna action and smallish yellowfin for canyon bound anglers. An abundance of Mahi broke up the lulls in the tuna action while combing our northeast canyons. When the right conditions presented themselves tilefishing was very good. Dave Pincus landed a 34lb tilefish aboard the Wasabi on September overnighter. As the offshore weather started to deteriorate so did the interest in trips to the edge.

The month of October and the start of cooler weather help jump start our fall fishery. On the inshore scene the blackfish season opened up with strong fishing. Our local experts have reported fish up to the 9 lb. class. Jim Krug reported arm weary crews during a phenomenal couple of weeks of solid blackfish action out east. As the month progressed so did the interest in the traditional fall shark fishery. Gunning to get in on a decent fish on one windy Sunday in October, Larry Festa pushed his Kristen accompanied by an FTC crew along the twenty fathom curve for a shot at a fall mako. The signs were present and it did not take long for the right species to answer the dinner bell which was ringing. Bill Morrogh was the lucky angler an expertly whipped a 247lb. Fall Mako, to boot the crew was on its way home by 11:30 AM.

Our offshore season was a wrap shortly after Adam Bollaci and his crew made one last shark trip of the season on a Saturday in early November. On this flat calm day the man in the blue suit made his appearance and after a one and one half hour battle the fish was brought boat side were it was expertly dispatched. Back at the dock the fish weighed 327 lbs. A perfect way to end the season. Blackfishing continued to intensify as the local waters continued to cool down. The season ended up with club vessels Mary Etta and Nicki Ann hammering away at the striped bass and bluefish diamond jigging along the beach east of Fire Island.

Well our 2009 season had its share of highlights with not to many disappointments. Let's hope that the start of a new decade will bring about a continuation of club comradery and team spirit for all members of the best fishing club Long Island has to offer, the Freeport Tuna Club.

Sincerely,
Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin



January 2010 DERBY AWARDS & CONTESTS REPORT

*Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh
Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, MaryEllen Zullo*

The 2010 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, particularly with Sea Bass and Fluke. We'll be printing and distributing our At-A-Glance cards as soon as we're sure of the fishing regulations for 2010.

You'll find an insert in this issue listing our 2009 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! Please look over the winners. If you have a problem or see an error please contact me immediately @ 516-781-4667.

We will recognize 3 new club records in March.

Tiger Shark – Sean Libby 254 lb Cape May N.J.

Fresh Water:

Trout - Rainbow – John Koenig 7.5 lb Lake Ontario N.Y.

Trout - Lake – John Joseph Rooney 16.3 lb 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 2010 Derby season. Let's get those weigh slips in! -Bill Morrogh

PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

FLORIDA SENATOR SUPPORTS "FLEXIBILITY BILL" IN DC

The Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2009 received some much-needed legislative juice from the Sunshine State, as U.S. Senator George LeMieux (R-FL) urged colleagues to amend the federal law to allow for more flexible and science-based timelines for fisheries closures in an effort to reduce the negative economic impacts felt by the recreational fishing industry. This bill would modify the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) by extending the allotted time frame for species rebuilding, which in turn would ease restrictions on recreational anglers for species like fluke, seabass, and others.

2009 Fisherman Magazine Youth Fishing Essay Contest

Leslie Toohey entered the 2009 Fisherman Magazine Youth Fishing Essay Contest in August. Over 200 entries were submitted; Leslie's essay, "A Fish Tail", was selected as the second place winner in the junior category (grades 7 through 9). An award ceremony will be held at the Suffolk County Boat & Sportfishing Show on Saturday, February 27 at 11:00 AM, and the winning essays will be published in the Fisherman following the award ceremony.

2010 Annual Offshore Cod Trip

This year is the tenth year that the Freeport Tuna Club will be running this spring-time fishing extravaganza. The date's for this year's voyage is scheduled for April 23-25 aboard the Viking Starship sailing from Montauk, NY. We have traditionally fished for cod, haddock, wolfish and other mixed species off the coast of Massachusetts at the Stellwagon National Marine Sanctuary. Since this year is the tenth anniversary year we decided to add some spice to the trip.

Weather permitting and only if the right conditions exist for day one we will be heading offshore to Hydrographers Canyon, in search of the biggest kind of tilefish which own the bottom in those depths. If you have ever seen pictures of giant tilefish, this is where they live. We will also look to target wreckfish, which are grouper like in taste and look and are ferocious fighters when hooked. On day two we will look to target cod, pollack and hake on offshore wrecks, returning to Montauk late Sunday evening. If the weather is not conducive for the offshore trip we will head back up to Stellwagon Bank and enjoy the traditional fishery which has not disappointed us in the past.

The fare for this year's trip is \$ 275.00 and will be limited strictly to 35 anglers. I will be collecting payment in full at the upcoming General Meeting on February 11, 2010. Please see Harry Weinblatt if your interested in this year's trip.

SHIP STORE SALE



FTC Anniversary
Shirt regularly \$35
now \$20



Hat regular \$25
now \$15



Small gear bag
regular \$22 NOW
\$15

GET READY FOR YOUR ANNUAL COD TRIP

For this occasion all in stock sweat shirts 25% off

Contact Paul or Rosemary Schuber

AVAILABLE AT NEXT GM

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewals were mailed out in January. If you do not receive your renewal, please see Chris Squeri or Tim Sherman. Dues remain the same for 2010 to remain a member in the biggest and best club on LI. Regular \$200 and Family \$225.
-CHRIS SQUERI

PROPERTY

All is well at our marina. The coldest part of the winter is over and the bubble system has been doing it's job. We have two new boats in the marina this coming season. Hank Janet's 30' Albemarle and Joe Jahn's 32' Topaza. Anyone interested in a slip at the club for the 2011 season should put their name on the waiting list. Please call Don Granger to get on the list.

-Property Chairman, John Gerrity

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

There is no real news as of this writing for the 2010 Tournament Circuit. We hope to have much information by March. Keep checking the website as information will be continually updated as it becomes available. We will continue to focus on bringing more of the popular tournaments, both inshore and offshore, to your attention.

As in the past, John Rooney will be heading up, and posting information on the Club Shoot-outs.

GOOD & WELFARE

Gene Schettini's mother in law passed away. Our prayers are with them.

Congratulations to Rick and Anna Dilworth on the birth of their daughter Alexandra born 1/9/10, 6 lbs., 9 oz., 20 inches long, She's a keeper!

Any member wishing to report Good & Welfare Please
Contact Jeff Squeri 516-652-5981



Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Chartered to Promote
Sport-fishing & Conservation

FTC 2010 Directors

President Lawrence Festa
1st Vice President John Rooney
2nd Vice President William Toohey
Secretary Capt. William Morrogh
Treasure Tim Sherman

Directors

Bob Pandy	Woody Anderson
Mike Sullivan	Chris Squeri
Don Granger	Robert Dimino
John Gerrity	Capt. John Jutt
Capt. Harry Weinblatt	Jeff Yapalater
Paul Schuber	Chris Bellinzoni

Special Advisors

Jim Rooney Joe Jahn



Post Office Box 5
Freeport, New York 11520

Deliver To:



28th Annual New York Sportfishing Federation Show & Auction

FREEPORT RECREATION CENTER

Feb. 12, 13, & 14, 2010
Fri., Sat. & Sunday

**WE NEED YOUR HELP.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO
SET UP AND MAN THE BOOTH.
PLEASE CONTACT BOB PANDY
516-781-4011**

SAVE THE DATES

YARD SALE - May 22, 2010, Rain Day - May 23, 2010
Contact Al Casciano

RODEO REPORT - Spring rodeo is June 11, 12 & 13th
FALL DATES are Sept. 24, 25 & 26 - contact Jim Rooney

FISHING TRIPS with Capt Mike on the Prime Time III
• First up, Monday May 17th Fluke and Bass trip. 7am lines off. 100.00 a person

• Next up, Monday November 1st Blackfish. 7am lines off
100.00 a person. -CONTACT JOE JAHN



CLASSIFIED:

• 1980 35ft. Bruno Stillman, A True Down East Boat, 20 knot cruise, 440 HP, Yanmar Diesel 547 hrs., 5kw, northern lights Generator, 130 hrs., This boat is completely Repowered, new tanks, shaft, 1100 L Furuno Sounder, 952 Northstar GPS, 800 Northstar Loran, New boat in
MUST SELL CALL OR EMAIL FOR DETAILS.
Email: Cod1126@optonline.net, 516-351-6250



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

• Fish Hawk II - 26' Shamrock Diesel - 2900 Hrs. - Full Elect.- Fishing now from Club Slip. Pkg. inclds. Lg. Freezer & 2 Dock bxs. \$14,500 Call Ron: 516-993-9626

• Pen Int. 50W Recently converted by Calsheets to 2 speeds, never used since conversion, sea isle custom rod Call Sy Karp 516 632 9770

• CLASSIFIED: 3 Northstar Lorans 6000 for parts, 2 Sitex HE-31 paper recorders, numerous anchor balls, bay rods, life jackets, Minolta camcorder, S.S. anchor davit with roller. Call Bob Porter- 516-785-3759.

• For Sale-Fishing tackle, rods, reels, lures, umbrella rigs, spoons, jigs, gaffs, plugs etc. New and Used. Contact Dennis Cataldo at 516-753-5433 for more information

• Fisherman's Special - Montauk Lake 1 BR condo available weekends, by the week or month. Dock slip also available at additional cost. Call Charlie Sporing, 516-655-1255.

• 2004 270 Wellcraft Costall Tournament edit. Twinn200 Yamaha HPDI's. 250 hours 188 gal. fuel tank 55 reserve tank. Rocket launcher, full electronics, fully loaded, Like New Call for details: 516-761-0734

• 2 sanity seats by pompanette with all stainless mounting hardware and vinyl cushions. both seats have heavy duty gimbals. these seats fold down along the gunnel or can be easily removed to store away. great for trolling and extra seating. excellent condition \$275 obo call jim at (516)784-9079

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