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Tuna Tower News

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.
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Volume Three • March 2004

"PARTICIPATION"

NEXT GENERAL MEETING



Wednesday, March 10, 2004

FREEPORT YACHT CLUB

8 Guy Lombardo Avenue (Just South of Sea Isle Sports Center on left hand side)



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

NEXT GM
THE BEST OF THE BEST!



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Scott Schafer

All I can say to start off my President's message is that I thank God that March has finally arrived. We now have warmer temperatures and we have the opening of flounder season in two weeks to look forward to.

I sincerely wish every member of the Freeport Tuna club a very happy, healthy and successful fishing season. As you all know March is a very special meeting for our club. It is the night we present all our awards from the previous year to our members. I have been informed by our Awards Committee chairman, Larry Festa, that he has a wonderful evening planned for everyone. There will be a special announcement made regarding an award that will commence this year. I'm looking forward to seeing everybody at this meeting.

As for other club news, I understand that our cod fishing trip is just about soldout.

There is a decision that has to be made on where we will be holding our new general meetings. There will be a vote taken at the next general meeting on the location and meeting night.

As far as the schedule goes for speakers at our general meetings, April will be on Bottom Fishing and making home-made rigs. At the meeting in May we will have Coastie the Tug-Boat to teach our little kids (and big Kids) the rules and safety about boating and being on the water.

Looking forward to seeing everybody.

Sincerely,

Scott Schafer
President



FISHING BULLETIN

It is amazing what a little weather will do to spark the interests of our club members and get them to think about the list for the upcoming season. Since the beginning of March we have gotten a taste of what mild weather is all about and hopefully a prelude to our spring weather, which is just around the corner. With the better than normal weather on hand, winter projects that seemed light years away should start to become a reality. However we don't need to be reminded that March always has a surprise or two. Lets hope that they are few and far between and our brutal winter, become a distant memory.



On the local fishing front the only action in town has been from our east end anglers, Montauk to be exact, and the codfish have had the feedbag on for the last two weeks. Most recently the Schafer brothers accompanied by Captains Larry Festa, John Jutt and Jim Krug made the trek to the east side of Block Island and reported a slow down in the action with ten cod boated from 5-10lbs. Although several other members took advantage of this past weekends mild weather they reported overcrowded conditions on the Montauk head boats and a general slowdown in the fishing as well. The fish that have been caught have been taken on both bait and jigs. Closer to home the fishing has been almost non-existent. Reports that I have gathered from people that also wanted to take advantage of the good weather reported a few fish taken but the mainstay has been a lackluster result for the effort put forward. The local water temperature is still very cold and most

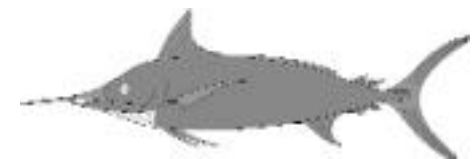
certainly having an adverse effect on the local species. As the month of March wears on, barring any major storms, we should start to see a gradual increase in the local water temps and with that said hopefully an increase in their appetites as well.

Our Annual Freeport Tuna Club Codfish Trip, sailing from Montauk is about six spots away from being sold out. If you are interested in joining us for this two-day event, please see me at the upcoming General Meeting. Once again we are departing from Montauk aboard the Viking Star on April 23, 2004 at 7:30PM and arriving back to Montauk on Sunday April 25, 2004 at 10:00PM

The cost of the trip is \$ 200.00. Don't miss the boat on this one. I am sure that if we have the weather on our side this year, it will be a trip that will go into the record books. I will be running the pool on board and will make it very interesting for all who are interested in participating.

Please also note that if you have a balance due for the trip it must be paid at this meeting. If you have signed up for the trip and have not made any payment your name will be removed from the list to make way for anglers wishing to join us on this trip. Lastly I will be opening up the trip to non-club members in an effort to secure the required number of rail spots if necessary as well. If you have any further questions I will answer them at the upcoming General Meeting.

Sincerely,
Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin



Conservation

There are currently 2 proposals being considered for 2004 fluke regulations according to John Mantione of the New York Fishing Tackle and Trade Association. The first would mandate an 18" fish with a bag limit of 3 fish and a season of Approx. 5/28/2004 thru approx. 9/30/2004. The second would mandate a 17.5" fish with a bag of 2 and a similar season. Whichever is adopted, those regulations would cover

recreational fisherman in private boats as well as licensed charter and party boats. With regard to scup (porgies), we are looking at the possibility of an 11" fish (currently 10") and a bag limit of 20 to 25 fish (currently 50 fish), with a shortened season. Saltwater licensing is still a very real possibility. Discussions in Albany and in DEC circles as I hear them is not whether or not to have a license, but how to impliment a license requirement and how much to charge. Just keep in

mind that a Nassau County Pistol license which once cost \$25.00 for three years was kicked up to \$200.00 just several years ago. Remember that when DEC says "it will only cost a few dollars". Licensing needs legislative approval, so I urge all to contact their representatives in the state legislature assuming you have a problem with being taxed to enjoy a recreational activity. Remember, we are already taxed every time we buy a piece of tackle, put a gallon of fuel in our boats, or purchase goods or services to maintain our boats. IGFA membership applications are available thru Paul Grippo, one of our Life Members and the New York IGFA representative. If you cannot reach Paul, I also have a supply of applications for those who are interested. In conclusion I would like to offer my congratulations to all of our annual awards winners and to our new IGFA small fry record holders. John Weber, Conservation



CLUB AWARDS & DERBY DATES

Capt. Lawrence J. Festa F/V Kristen

February 2004 Derby Report
Awards Chairman: Captain Lawrence J. Festa F/V "KRISTEN"
Committee Team: Captain Chris Bellinzoni, Captain Michael Zullo,
Mary Ellen Zullo & Anthony Testa

Our 2004 Derby at a Glance wallet size derby card now available
Also the dates are posted on our Web Site

Again, congratulations to all of our members on their annual awards achievements. As Chairman I am looking forward to personally meeting and presenting the awards and club record trophies to our winners. Once again I encourage our members to bring friends to share in this event. In addition your committee will be announcing the 2004 Barry Simon Memorial Trophy.

Derbies

The following derbies are in progress

Cod (NEW-10 lbs.) Feb. 28th ~ March 28rd Nov. 20th ~ Dec. 26th

Property

Gate is operating, see Bob Sabella for remote! Water will be on April 1st. If you are working on your boat please clean up after yourself. If you are removing shrinkwrap from your boat please don't stuff the dumpster. If possible take it with you and dispose of it. Thanks for your cooperation.

*Cape Cod Shanty
Oh, Cape Cod girls they have
no combs, Heave away, heave
away! They comb their hair
with codfish bones, Heave
away, heave away!*

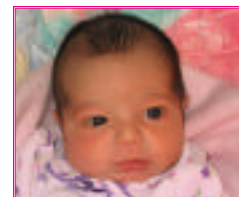


Membership

174 members. If you have not paid dues please contact Ed Faza. Please renew. This will be your last bulletin.

Good & Welfare

Congratulations to Diana & Doug Toback on the birth of Miranda. A keeper at 7 lbs. 15 oz. "My 3 ~~sons~~ daughters" Good luck!



TOWER NEWS
TUNA TOWER

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Chartered to Promote
Sport-fishing & Conservation

2004 Officers

Scott Schafer President
Capt. John J. Jutt, Sr. 1st Vice President
James Rooney..... 2nd Vice President
Mike Sullivan Treasurer
Jeff Squeri Secretary



Post Office Box 5
Freeport, New York 11520

Deliver To:



“ANNUAL COD FISH TRIP”

April 23,24,25

\$200 per person rail space

Viking Star, Montauk

Boat departs 7:30 pm 4/23

Boat returns 10:00 pm 4/25

Contact Harry Weinblatt

516-623-9860

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Saturday May 15th

Raindate Sunday May 16th

Vendor Set-Up 7:00 am

FTC Property

VENDORS WANTED

\$30 TABLE

Contact Al Casciano

516-523-1339

CLASSIFIED:

**ANYCLASSIFIED LISTING FOR SALE OR TRADE PLEASE MAIL TO:
FTC CLASSIFIED/CATCH OF THE MONTH CORNER
C/O JOHN JUTT**

**2848 WHALENECK DRIVE • MERRICK, NY 11566
LISTINGS ARE FREE • FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY**

For Sale

- Dock space available for up to 30' boat off Hudson canal. Private home. Short distance to inlet. Call Sy 516-546-1691
- New exciting offshore teasers. Looks like giant squid - lots of smoke. Reasonably priced. See Sy 546-1691
- GradyWhite 227 Seafarer, 1989, Mint Cond. 5.0 V810 Repowered in 96 Low Hours. New Furuno Color f.f., Loran, UHF, Outriggers, All new canvas. Great range, very economical, loaded \$19500 Neg. (718) 291-6700 (days) (516) 593-0732 (eve.)
- ICOM Radio model 125 Remote Spotlight 1 spool 1/2" anchor line 1200 feet Assortment of boat fenders insulated fish bags couple anchors Assortment of GAFFS Docking lines custom cutting board Remote stabilizer for trim pads Anchor Balls Numerous amount of fishing stuff Please call Skip Schaffer (516) 351-0992
- 1972 16' Cobia bow rider with 72 50 hp evinrude electric start runs great, new power pack, 2 new tanks, bimini top first \$600 takes it. Call bob 798-4058
- 1993 23' Steiger craft new decks installed by steiger factory 2003. 1997 150 hp evinrude motor rebuilt 8/03 with 1 year transferable warrantee. full electronics extras everything in perfect condition. \$13,000 firm 868-9524
- Sears fiberglass car top boat "game fisher" lake use only. Would make great duck boat or dinghy. \$250 or best offer paul 379-6087
- 1968-02 28' Donzi sportsman everything new or rebuilt twin 440 chrysler 70 hrs. fresh Imron, arch, Bimini, ac.dc, panel gen available many spare parts! Over \$35,000 invested. New boat here. Best offer over \$25,000. Call Joe (917) 731-4466
- Dockage for 1-25'1-20-22 Located on Newbridge Creek, Bellmore See or call Tom Schwender 516-221-1821.