

Editor: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, Sr.

# Tuna Tower News

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

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



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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH AT 8:00 PM**

**Cure of Ars Church School Auditorium**

**Merrick Ave., Merrick**

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

**ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT**

*"The Best of the Best"*



## President's Message

— Jim Rooney

February has gone by and hopefully most of the cold weather. March is here and so is the Freeport Tuna Club Awards night on Thursday the 8th of March. I hope to see the membership turn out to support our yearly award winners. I know that Captain Larry Festa has a great awards presentation planned for the evening. One of our upcoming events is the annual Cod trip. Everyone



always has a good time. Contact Captain Harry Weinblatt for any possible openings. I like to thank Rob Feuring for sharing his knowledge and skills at our March 1st reel maintenance clinic. This clinic was very informative and definitely showed a few do's and don'ts of reel maintenance. I believe all the members reels made it home in one

piece. A big thank you to my 1st Vice President Chris Squeri who presided over the February GM. I heard that he did a great job. My condolences to the family of Phil Schwender. He was a good man, and a great asset to the club; He will be truly missed by all. On Thursday, February 22nd Dave Massa and Bob Benzenberg hosted a hunters game dinner. This was a trial event that went over great. Members brought their favorite game recipes to the dinner. These guys cook up a great meal! There was bear, deer, pheasant and much more. We will be looking forward to another game dinner in the future. I would like to thank Bob and Dave for their hard work and all the members that attended for their gracious donation to the club. Remember that participation is the key to a great club experience.



Jim Rooney  
President

# FISHING BULLETIN



With less than three weeks until spring. The time cannot pass by quickly enough. After a taste of mild temperatures during January and a few minor snowstorms, which you can count on one hand, this past winter has been a pleasure as compared to others. As the month of March settles in we should start to see a little moderation in weather, hopefully enough for us to start to work on our boats. March and April always have a surprise for us, so we are not out of the woods yet. The areas waters have not cooled down to prior years levels so once again I am optimistic that we will have a strong spring fishery.

On the local fishing front, the only report I have received recently has been from Capt. Scott Schafer aboard his 50/50. On a recent outing accompanied by crew of Capt. Jim Krug and Paul Sposato, they fished a few local drops around the vicinity of the CIA Grounds, south of Montauk. The catch consisted of about three-dozen Ling. The rest of the Montauk fleet has also reported that the cod fishing has gotten off to a slow start. With the mild temperatures this past winter the inshore waters never cooled down enough and the boats have been forced to fish way offshore to locate better quality fish.

The other reports have been coming in from 17 Fathoms area. The local Sheepshead Bay charter fleet

that has been fishing that way this past winter has confirmed the signs of a slowdown. This typically occurs and during this time of the year and has affected the numbers of fish being caught recently. A combination of blackfish and ling are the mainstay of the catches now.

Our Annual Offshore Codfish Trip is sold out. I am currently collecting names for a waiting list. In the past inevitably a spot opens up because of the unexpected. 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. The fare for this much-awaited event is \$ 235.00 per person. I will be collecting the pool money the evening of departure as done in the past. I have also contacted Kobi, the gentleman who has handled the galley for us the last few years. He will be joining us for this year's trip and will be cooking up a storm as he has in the past.

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt  
F/V Blue Marlin



## PROPERTY

The permit process is proceeding as planned. We are about to enter the fourth month of the expected three to six month waiting period for word from the DEC on the bulkhead permits. Everyone is hoping that approval will come soon.

Anyone wishing to procure a slip at the property should contact Mike Sullivan. The slips are all committed for the current season, but it is important to have your name on the waiting list if you are interested for 2008.

## MEMBERSHIP

2007 dues were payable on January 1. If you haven't paid yet, now is the time. Unpaid members will not receive bulletins after March.

## Email Bulletin Delivery

As a reminder, all members are invited to sign up for e-mail delivery of their monthly bulletins. Currently nearly 60% of the membership takes advantage of this free service. E-mail delivery does not affect the monthly delivery by USPS. And in addition, the FTC is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of your e-mail addresses (we all hate junk e-mails!). Just send a request to [ftc1937@verizon.net](mailto:ftc1937@verizon.net) to sign up.

## CONSERVATION

Debs Inlet has been dredged with a little help from Senator Schumann and The New York Sport fishing Federation. We are pushing to have dredging for Jones Inlet also. We await the final fluke regs! We will be fighting for game fish status for Blackfish. At least the banning of the live sale that results in more over fishing & increased pressure. We should be working on new artificial reefs soon.

Dennis Cataldo  
Conservation Chairman

# 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**



**ATTENTION!!!! All members, please come our March GM, your committee will be awarding our FTC Annual Awards & Club Records for 2006. Please read our Insert which lists the final results of our winners for 2006. Awards night will be one to remember as we set the record with a large amount of club prizes and club records.**

**Our new club record holders for 2006 are as follows:**

#### Club Records

**Robert Solberg.....28 lb. Blackfin Tuna**  
**Ryan Sullivan.....IGFA 2 lb. Test**  
**Cynthia Sullivan.....IGFA 2 lb. Test**  
**Joe Steiner.....7.68 Large Mouth Bass**  
**Bob Hindenlang.....12.43 Blackfish**  
**Dennis Cataldo.....9.06 Gag Grouper**  
**Dennis Cataldo.....7.85 Haddock**  
**Dennis Cataldo.....35.8 Cubera Snapper**

## Daylighted with the Time of Year

The early daylight savings time this year has most of us psyched in anticipation for more fishing hours.; The clock leaps forward one hour on March 11th this year, and not a day too soon. But there is one slight cloud in this light sky; the printed tide charts we use will be thrown off by this early occurrence. These charts will be off by an hour so, if your fishing depends on the tide changes, don't forget this. Oh, and don't forget to set your tivo to get those fishing shows on /Sunday at the right time. Especially "Get Wild" with Cindy Garrison on ESPN.

## Long Distance Call-Getting Ready for Safety

Hear this; the Coast Guard has declared it illegal to continue to use the 121.5 MHz EPIRB Class A, B and S units. The only exception is the use of the 121.5 in man overboard devices that do not address the satellite array system but land based stations One of the reasons for the discontinuance is because of the false signals it emits, and the 406 units usage will prevent this.

The new 406 MHz units are more reliable, and meant to be used offshore since their signals are picked up by worldwide COSPAS-SARSET satellites. A new twist is that you must now register your 406 units. This will help in cutting down on false alerts since there will be possible summonses for this violation. You can go to [www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov](http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov) or call 888-212-save. Do a Google search to find places that rent these units on a periodic basis.

## Back in Time

March 6 1615- The flagship of Henry Hudson, founder of the Hudson River, the Half Moon, was wrecked on the island of Mauritius.

March 9, 1451- Amerigo Vespucci, the navigator after whom our country, America was named, was born in Florence, Italy

March 13, 1991-The Exxon Valdez owner, Exxon, was directed to pay \$1 billion in damages and fines for the Alaska oil spill.

March 16, 1978-The tanker Amoco Cadiz spilled 223,000 tons of crude oil resulting in the death of 20,000 birds while aground off the Coast of France.

Last but not least, March 30, 1853, the pencil with an eraser was invented by Hyman Lipman! Still a valuable tool 154 years later!!

## Meaning of Small Craft Advisory

There is no legal definition of "small craft". Sustained weather and sea conditions( 2 hours or longer), are the basis for the National Weather Service area advisories. For the East Coast "small craft" warnings are called when the winds speeds are between 25-33 knots, or sea/wave are 5-7 feet and greater. Individual captains make the decision as to the degrees of hazard that exist on the water and safety to the vessel and crew.

I may be a wuss, but if I thought waves that large were out there, I would head back to port and tune up the reels for next time! Hardly small craft warnings to me.



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:



**ANNUAL  
AWARDS NIGHT**



*You don't want to  
miss this!*



**THURSDAY  
MARCH 8TH  
8:00 PM**

**CLASSIFIED:**

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

FISHERMAN WANTED: 1/5/08 to 1/12/08  
Panama - Marlin Sails Tuna,  
Tropic Star Lodge, Panama

FOR INFO CALL DENNIS CATALDO - 516-753-5433

