



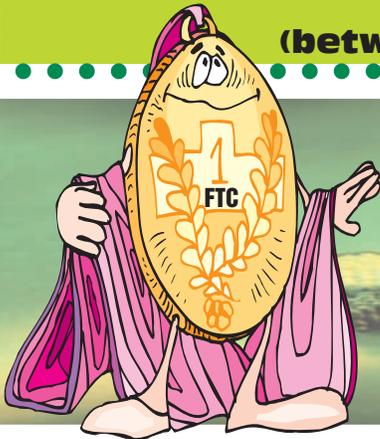
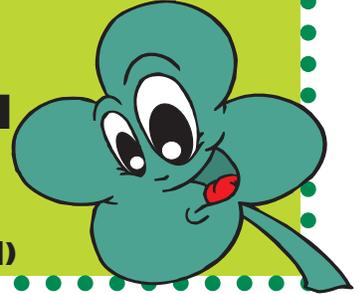
NEXT GM

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 • 8:00 PM

CURE OF ARS AUDITORIUM

MERRICK AVENUE • MERRICK

(between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)



ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

“The Best of the Best”

Incoming President's Message

Dear Members,

As the weather seems to be warming up so has our club house. The Directors held the first meeting of 2009 in our now nice and warm club house. A big thanks to Rick Totten, Darin Schafer, Bob Sabella, John Gerrity and Bob Dimino for making it happen. Our new gas system will enable us in the future to connect our BBQ's and stoves saving us some money and the aggravation of hauling around propane tanks.

Our clubs booth at the Freeport Rec show went off great thanks to so many volunteers. I would like to thank Dennis Cataldo for getting the FTC some great exposure to the fishing community. Captain Harry and Captain Larry's seminars went off without a hitch. Plenty of captains and anglers were on hand to hear what our FTC Captains had to say.

Bob Pandey and crew did an excellent job with the FTC booth. Bobs crew put up, tore down and professionally represented our club all weekend. Way to go guys.

There were plenty of deals to be had, I got a new Avet SX Reel and loaded up on some hooks, leader material, fishing line, etc.

The annual FTC game dinner was a huge success. Dave Massa and Bob Benzenberg put on another great event. The wild table fare was lip smacken delicious. If it had feathers or fur it was in the pans. Everything from Duck, Goose, Elk, Deer and Bear was deliciously served. Just about every tray was empty and no one left hungry. The guest speakers were very informative and the raffle was a real slammer with great prizes. This event gets bigger and bigger every year thanks to Bob and Dave's dedication and all the volunteers that have helped make it hap-

pen. Go's to show ya, "we aint just tuna".

This months GM is another special one for the club. We will be honoring the best of the best at our annual awards night. Chairman Bill Morrogh and our Awards Committee have worked hard all year on this event as we all look forward to another special evening. It's always a good time when we recognize our peers for their accomplishments of the past year. Congratulations to all.

Many of our member's may have noticed at the February meeting that I was handing out foam boat key chains. Sil Mazzilli had the red key chains made up with the FTC Logo in white on them and donated them to the club. On behalf of the club, thank you very much Sil. You can obtain one of these prized key chains from me, just ask and it's all yours.

If you were thinking of going on the cod trip this year your to late, it's sold out. Talk to Captain Harry I'm sure he has a waiting list in case of any last minute cancellations.

I had to change the date of the Fluke/Bass trip. The new date is Monday June 1st. I will be taking names at this months meeting. The trip is for 15 people and it's 100.00\$ a head.

Best of luck to Paul AKA "Rocket Fish" Noto with his new sled. May your fish lockers be full and your ride always dry.

Have a Happy St Patrick's Day

Till next tide,
Joseph Jahn



FISHING BULLETIN



Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin

I have often heard in passing over the years that the month of March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb. This year March came in like an angry lion blowing in a foot of snow to keep us wondering how much more winter we really have left before it leaves like a lamb hopefully with little bo peep leading the way. Even with that said we are not out of the woods as March and even April always have a surprise for us. With less than a week to go before daylight savings time kicks in, the real connotation of spring can not be that far away. Its only a matter of time before our property will come back to life as our club members start to make ready their vessels for the upcoming season.

On the local fishing front most of our members have hibernated for the winter with the exception of the father and son team of Jim and Bobby Krug. On a recent inshore trip after making several drops on local pieces the duo landed on one that Bobby was able to successfully anchor his boat on, after some coaching from his dad. That drop ended up being the best one of the day and yielded a few keeper blackfish and one keeper ten pound cod. The inshore wrecks have been hit and miss with a smattering of school sized cod and a few blackfish to round out the catches. The local waters temps are in the very low forty degree range.

The offshore wrecks in 30-35 fathoms of water continue to produce quality seabass, pollack and cod. The only ingredient which is required is a window of weather in order to get the boat to the fish. Reports have indicated that seabass in the 4-6 pound class as well as pollack from 25-30lbs and cod to the mid teens are still common place.

The reports from our east end member, Capt. Scott Schafer indicated that the cod bite was still on. Although the fishing has slowed down from the recent peak action it is still good ole Montauk codfishing.

The fish have spread out over a larger area and although the word has gotten out, boats as far away as Massachusetts have been making the trip down to the area waters south of Block Island to cash in on this action. Dennis Cataldo recently sailed aboard a local charter boat with several friends and reported excellent action for his party with the top fish being in the 20lb. class. The action on this day was on bait.

During the last several years quite a few members have snow bired down to the Florida Keys during the month of February and into March. This year the area of Islamorda Florida was under full FTC attack. Club members Marvin Shapiro, Mike and Mary Ellen Zullo, Chris Bellinzoni, Larry Festa, Joe Fanora, Bobby Hindenlang, Mike Wagner, Bruce Forester and Richie Rosenkranz were all able to fish the Florida Keys both inshore

and offshore. A variety of Snook, Mutton Snapper, Sheepshead, Spanish Mackerel, Cobia, King Fish and Yellowtails were caught and in most cases released. At the end of every trip all FTC members would meet at Lorilies Cabana Bar for a great happy hour, the way the FTC can only have it. The end of each day was always capped off with the prettiest sunset that the Florida Keys can offer. Although no club records were broken it was nice to have such great club camaraderie so far from our home base in Freeport, NY.

Our Annual FTC Offshore Cod Trip is all set and is currently 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 on the waiting list that I have started. Inevitably something comes up at the last minute which causes an opening in a spot. If your on the waiting list, then you might have an opportunity to set sail with us.

Sincerely,
Capt. Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin

Freeport Tuna Club Annual Off Shore Codfish Trip Viking Fishing Fleet-April 17-19, 2009

The following are topics of interest that might be important to aid you in planning for the upcoming trip.

Trip - Scheduled to Depart Friday April 17, 2009 7:00PM - Return Sunday April 19, 2009 10:00PM. In the event of incimate weather that forces the cancellation of the trip, the Viking office has confirmed that they will give us as much notice as possible. If there is any doubt or you have any questions please feel free to call the office at 631-668-5700

Tackle - 3/0 to 4/0 size reels with 50-60 lb mono or 50-65 lb braid. Heavy rods 7 to 8 ft for 100 -200 ft depths. Our trip may be a jigging trip or bait trip be prepared for both. Jigs in the 10 - 24 oz class and a variety of jelly type teasers should compliment this set up. Hooks in the 5/0 to 7/0 class and sinkers in the 12-20 oz class should wrap up your terminal tackle set up. Terminal tackle is available on board at tackle store prices. If you require a rod and reel setup, rentals are available and the cost is \$ 10.00 per day.

Clothes - Dress warm and in layers, rain gear tops and bottoms and boots are an absolute must. If your hands are susceptible to cold, I recommend that you compliment your outfit with a waterproof type glove.

Sleeping Bag - or a blanket and pillow are advised. Bunks are provided below deck in a heated bunk room. It is a long trip and you will be sleeping on the boat for two nights.

Food and Drink - On this trip the galley will be staffed full time and three meals a day can be purchased at an extra cost if you prefer. The prices are reasonable and the food is excellent. Most of us bring our own food and drink.

Coolers and Ice - The boat will be providing ice and it is recommended that you bring a cooler for the storage of your fish. Coolers in the 150 - 200 qt variety are excellent storage facilities for your catch. I also recommend that you bring cord or rope no more than 1/4 diameter to lash your cooler in place.

Fish Cleaning - Is not permitted on board due to insurance regulations. The crew will be happy to fillet your catch and do an excellent job. The fillets are bagged and iced down in your cooler.

Pools - I will be running two pools on the boat. I will collect the money the evening of departure. In the past the pools have been \$25.00 Largest Cod only and \$ 15.00 Largest other edible - excluding dogfish.

If you are new to the trip I hope the above has answered most of the questions that you may have. If not please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at home 516-623-9860 in the evening or via cell 516-351-7223.

MARCH 2009 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTESTS REPORT

AWARDS CHAIRMAN: CAPTAIN BILL MORROGH
COMMITTEE TEAM: CAPTAIN MICHAEL ZULLO,
MARYELLEN ZULLO,
CAPTAIN LAWRENCE J. FESTA

Everyone should mark their calendars and make a special effort to attend the March GM Annual Awards Night! It's time to review the 2008 season and recognize the exceptional anglers and catches that made 2008 memorable. We'll be presenting 49 annual awards and 6 new club records! A big turnout always helps so come on down and get in gear for the upcoming season!

Spring will be upon us before we know it and along with it comes the opening of the derby season. We start off with Cod, Blackfish and Winter Flounder. Keep your heads up in case we have to modify the Blackfish or Flounder dates to conform to changing regulations. Let's get out there and make 2009 a derby season to remember!

DERBIES ARE STARTING THIS MONTH:

Cod (6 lbs.).....March 21st ~ May 3rd
Blackfish (3 lbs.).....March 28th ~ April 29th
Flounder (1 lbs. 08 ozs.)....April 4th ~ May 10th

-BILL MORROGH

2009 SHOOT-OUTS

COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN JOHN ROONEY,
SEAN LIBBY,

MAY 15, 16 & 17, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: STRIPED BASS - Fishing Against The Matinecock Club & Hudson Anglers

JUNE 5, 6 & 7, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: FLUKE AND BLUEFISH - Fishing Against The Hudson Anglers

JUNE 26,27, &28 FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: FLUKE AND BLUEFISH - Fishing Against Matinecock

JUNE 19,20,21 FRIDAY ,SATURDAY & SUNDAY: SHARK
Fishing Against The Staten Island, Bablyon Tuna Clubs

AUGUST 28,29, &30, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: TUNA - Fishing Against The Bablyon Tuna Club

OCTOBER 30,31, &NOV 1, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: STRIPED BASS - Fishing Against Staten Island Tuna Club

JUST REMINDER, SAFETY SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE FIRST PRIORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CAPTAIN/OWNER.WEATHER CONDITIONS THE SIZE OF YOUR VESSEL & CREW SHOULD ALWAYS BE A DETERMINING FACTOR AS TO "WEATHER" OR NOT YOUR VESSEL LEAVES THE DOCK. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT, KEEP THE DOCK LINES TIED TO THE DOCK AND START THE BLEND!

ONLY THE FISH THAT ARE ON OFFICAL CLUB SLIPS AND THAT ARE HANDED TO THE SHOOT-OUT COMMITTEE WILL COUNT TOWARD THE THREE HEAVIEST FISH COMPARED TO THE OTHER CLUBS FISH THAT ARE BEING FISHED AGAINST. THERE ARE CLUB TROPHIES INVOLVED WITH THE BABLYON TUNA SHOOT-OUT AND THE STATEN ISLAND STRIPED BASS SHOOT-OUT. THERE ARE OTHER CLUBS TO BE ADD AND AT THIS TIME THIS IS A TENTATIVE DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

-JOHN ROONEY

PROPERTY

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

Once again our wonderful team of craftsmen has put together a source of heat that has brought our club house out of the dark ages. Full Gas capabilities have been installed at our property. We have two zones of heat to conserve energy and the team left no stone unturned in giving us a system with every bell and whistle know to mankind. This summer I am sure we will be researching and building a gas grill system that will make "Ruth Chris" envious.

To the team: Bob Sabella, Darren Schafer, John Gerrity, Bob Dimino, and Rick Totten we thank you.
As mentioned on our web site our marina is currently full. This year we welcome the following new members to our marina:
Paul Cunningham, Fresh Meadows NY, F/V "Second Chance" 29 Aqua Sport.
Richard Dumich, Yorktown Heights NY, 1st year member;
F/V "Sailfish" 25 Grady White.
Jeff Leibstein, Oceanside NY,
F/V "Chaser" 25 Bertram.
Ray Geiger, Lynbrook NY, 21 Sea Ray

All members are also reminded that only white fiberglass dock boxes will be allowed at the marina. In addition they may not be placed on our floating docks or walkways. Any members looking to add freezers to the property must contact Chairman John Gerrity for approval and placement. In addition any freezers which are not working shall be removed by the owners.

Our waiting list is currently opened and now is a good time to get on our list. We have beam width

slips ranging from 10' ~ 14' and we can comfortably accommodate vessels up to 36'

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

GOOD & WELFARE

Congratulations to Trudy Fitterstein for achieving Lifetime Membership in the FTC. It is with great regret to inform our general membership of the passing of senior member Paul Grippo. A devoted life to family, friends and fishing. Paul was a active member of the fishing conservation program the American littoral society. May his tides still come and go..he will be missed by all. In lieu of flowers Paul had expressed donations to the American littoral society
18 hartshorne drive
Highlands, n.j 07732

Jeff squeri

FTC MARINA VETERAN FLAG POLE

coming this spring to honor all veterans past and present we will be erecting our clubs flag pole with a bronze plaque. A flag pole will be erected at the ftc property for those of you

who would like to have a name or names of friends or relatives who have served for our country.

Please contact John Gerrity. This is a great tribute to our service people past and present for all of our freedoms of our great country. This is also a great fund raiser for our club and a way to say thank you to them The committee closes march 22 . Lets make it big ... have your donations and names ready at our next g/m...

Robert Sabella

ARE YOU HOOKED UP?

Are you hooked up with dial up or hi-speed internet? Whichever you use, our website is a great place to interact with other members. Our fishing report section has great information on what the members are catching, where they are catching or where they would like to catch! Throughout the year there is additional information on what is new in conservation, notices of events and an opportunity for the members to stay in touch. All you need is a computer with internet access. To read our website fishing reports you will need a special access code and password which you can obtain by contacting one of the board members. If you have a computer but do not know how to get online to begin using our website, contact Jeff Yapalater. He will assist you in how to get going. If you have not been active on our website, you may want to check it out by typing this address, www.ftcfishing.com into your browser window. Enjoy.

by Jeff Yapalater

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 Bellinzi..... Secretary



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YEARBOOK COMMITTEE REPORT

Yearbooks are an exciting part of the Freeport Tuna Club. In addition to the updated membership list, members get to read about club history, activities and records, and to view photos of memorable catches and moments. We all wait in anticipation for the yearbook! Well your wait will soon be rewarded. Your Yearbook Committee is taking steps to deliver a 2008-09 yearbook at the August GM meeting. To make this happen, we need your support. Please consider an ad for your business in the yearbook or perhaps a personal goodwill message to the club. We thank you for your generous support.

Your Yearbook Committee:

Charlie Goldstein, Don Granger, John Jutt, Tom Schwender, Mike Sullivan

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee: Chairman Woody Anderson
Sandy Donin, Don Morin, John Weber,
Gerry Amitrano

Our house committee will be fully prepared for our Annual Awards Night. We expect a full house so we want to be well prepared to make sure we all have a nice dinner for the evening's event.

To keep things running smoothly for our March Meeting, we will be selling all raffle tickets at our sign in table. This will help expedite ticket sales. Our raffle committee has some really nice prizes for this special event.

I appreciate the response to my request for help. I thank Gerry Amitrano for stepping up and volunteering. It is always nice to see a new member get involved. Anyone who would like to be one of our volunteers, please contact me.

Regards, Woody

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Membership dues have been coming in and we are on pace with other years.

For those who have not paid their dues for 2009, please send in or bring to March GM. This will be your last newsletter if your dues are not paid!!!

For the March GM, we have invited a dozen or so prospective members. If you see a new face, please introduce yourself and invite them to sit at your table. Thanks!!

Membership Committee

Chris Squeri, Chris Scarpontonio, Jeff Squeri

CAPTAIN & ANGLERS

Will be having a clinic at the clubhouse on Thursday March 26 1930hrs. Bob Sabella will be demonstrating techniques in making fluke rigs. Bob suggests the following items if you wish to participate, Eagle Claw jig hooks (1/0,2/0,3/0,5/0), strong nylon Thread & clear nail polish and 30 lbs mono. Bob will provide bucktail hair and some other goodies.

-Jim Rooney

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

ANNUAL VIKING CODFISH TRIP - APRIL 17 -19th
Contact Harry Weinblatt (sold out waiting list) 516-351-7223

ANNUAL YARD SALE - MAY 16th, tables \$30, Contact
Al Casciano 516-523-1339

SPRING RODEO - Date to be determined, volunteers needed,
contact Jim Rooney 516-850-6772