

Editor: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, Sr.

# Tuna Tower News

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

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



VOLUME FOUR • APRIL 2007

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH AT 8:00 PM**

**VFW POST 2770**

**2400 Bedford Ave., Bellmore**

(between Sunrise Hwy and Merrick RD)

**HAPPY EASTER**

PLEASE  
NOTE  
MEETING  
PLACE!

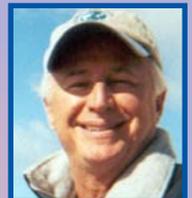
PLEASE  
NOTE  
MEETING  
PLACE!



## Guest Speaker

*JIM DINOFRIO*

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE*



The RFA is an organization comprised of individual anglers and representatives from the recreational fishing industry to work to make positive changes in the way that our government conserves, manages and allocates our precious marine resources.

## President's Message

Jim Rooney

April is here and it is time for scraping, painting and waxing, as we all get ready for our upcoming season. Before we start with April business I want to thank Captain Larry Festa for the excellent job he and his committee did on our annual awards night (they don't call him "the legend" for nothing). I would also like to thank Captain Harry Weinblatt for his very informative cod clinic; it is a great tune up for members who are going on our annual cod trip. April is the time we all start work on our boats and gear. I want to remind the members who store their boats at the FTC property to please follow the rules and clean up after themselves and do not throw your tarps or shrink wrap into the dumpster. Please take them with you. We will be looking for volunteers to help out with the spring property clean up. Keep an eye out on the web site and the Tuna tower for further information. We will also be looking for volunteers to give a hand at our annual yard sale in May. I am also happy to announce the start of two new events for the Freeport Tuna Club. We will be running a season long inshore and off shore challenge. The inshore challenge will have 4 species: Stripe bass,

Fluke, Sea bass, Blue fish. The offshore challenge will have three species: Mahi Mahi, Shark (Thresher, Mako), Tuna (all species). Rules, regulations and applications will be available at the April GM and all other club functions. Trophy and prizes will be awarded to the winners. Unfortunately our April GM location has been changed due to repairs at Cure of Ars church. We will be at the VFW post 2770 at 2400 Bedford Ave Bellmore (between Sunrise Hwy and Merrick RD) 8:00 pm. That's about all for this month. Remember that participation is the key to a great club experience.



Jim Rooney  
President



It's tough to be a chocolate bunny this time of year!

## OHO

Old Harbor Outfitters will be sponsoring the raffle tonight at the GM featuring prizes from their great new sport fishing gear and clothing line. Be sure to attend and have a chance to win some great gear during this week's raffle.



## See Ya Winter! Time to Gear Up

Believe it or not, it is fishing time again! Hard to believe that winter is officially over, even though we have just come off a week of sub seasonal temps, but the forsythia are in bloom, and the lawn needs its first trim. It seemed like just yesterday that I was helping Wasabi pull his boat out of the water on an unseasonably warm early January day. Problem was that ice had begun to form along the canals and nudging the hulls of boats snuggled up against bulkheads from Manhattan to Montauk. It was take the boat out or worry about damage and freezing. So, out it went, but luckily the last in the year is the first out, so now Wasabi has his Albie back in place, ready for the first call of the offshore siren.

As in the past, warm eddies, in the 50's temps, could be seen throughout the winter on various sea temp charts. It was enticing to think of what might be swimming in those waters far to the east in the Livonia and canyons further out. Fortunately it was too far; otherwise we might find some crazy individuals ready to take the 160-mile trek in freezing weather just to stake a claim as the first boat to catch tuna of the 2007 year.

As it stands now, the offshore waters are being mixed with the cold of the Labrador and Gulf currents a little too far offshore for anyone to realistically head out. But, the preparations begin. We could find another real warm eddy sometime in May, so it is not potentially far off. There are several choices for sea temp services from Free to more costly services offering detail, weather, and fishing analysis. For those of you who have never taken a look at the Rutgers site, you are missing a terrific Free service. Goto, [http://marine.rutgers.edu/cool/sat\\_data/?product=ss&region=nyhigh&t&nothumbs=0](http://marine.rutgers.edu/cool/sat_data/?product=ss&region=nyhigh&t&nothumbs=0) and see the selection bar on the left of the screen. Scroll down and explore the various areas that the service covers. This is a terrific site where you can see a nice view from Tom's to the Dip. While this may be sufficient for general temp trends, you might want to step up to TerraFin, for about \$100 you'll get a more detailed view of several areas, and color breaks. But if you really want one of the top services, goto: [www.offshoresatelliteservices.com](http://www.offshoresatelliteservices.com). Capt Len has offered a fantastic bargain to the FTC members who want to purchase a seasonal service. Contact Wasabi for details.

After the winter season of shows, shows, and more shows, I'm sure all us FTC members are ready to begin to seriously tune up the tackle and play with the new stuff we picked up at all the events including great auction gear from the NYFS. Dennis Cataldo and crew did a great job with the show this past February, and it just gets better every year.

The RFA has continued to exhibit at these shows and seminars promoting its work done on our behalf from inshore to offshore species. They had some fine gear also auctioned off at the Canyon Runner seminar. This year the CR boys juiced up the series with workshops with Dennis Braid, stand-up guru, Capt Len Belcaro of Big Game Journal, and Basil Pappas, innovator of

Spectra type line and wind-on leader tackle. The seminar in Melville attracted near 300 offshore guys who braved the worst storm of the season to mix with other interested anglers to bone up on techniques, and see summer friends.

All these events gave lots of us had a chance to make new acquaintances, and meet face to face with guys who we have had the chance to speak with on the radio while out trolling, to others whose names we have seen on internet sites where us guys tend to surf while on land. Funny to actually meet people who you have only had an on-line talk! But, invariably, the talks often end up with promises to try to fish together during the season, exchanging stories, and sharing successful fishing techniques.

So, now, the season is about to break out, and time to make sure all the fishing gear is on order with new line, new lures, updated safety equipment, Ballyhoo ordered, freezer checked for leaks, live wells checked over, outriggers tightened, pole holders screwed down, electronics tested and upgraded, flares and emergency devices reviewed, extra batteries on board, helmet for those unexpected overboard and underwater line problems, rubber bands, heavy sinkers, plastic bags, lots of plastic bags, sharpened knives and gaffs, new Dramamine, anchor line, connections to everything on board checked, greased and replaced, cleansed bilges, extra fuses and oil, working tools, sunglasses and sun tan lotion. I'm sure there is more, but this is the time to begin assembling all these incidentals. (The FTC yard sale in May is a place to pick up some of these items.) The problem is, where to begin!!

Of a course the time is near when our Club begins its Thursday BBQ's which are a favorite for lots of guys wanting a little time from home, break form work, a cigar, and shooting the inshore and offshore breezes. It is the beginning of another season, and I for one, am tired of talking the talk, and am now making plans for the my first fish of the season. Let the season begin!!

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## Local Boating Course for Boating & Jet Ski

Did you know that NYS requires a safe boating certificate to operate a Jet Ski?

The USCG Auxiliary will conduct a safe boating course to enable boaters to learn more about handling boats, jet skis, and provide a certificate of safe boating for all those completing the course. The classes cost \$60 and will be held April 24, 25, 26, 7-10pm, at 130 E. Merrick Road, Freeport. Contact Phil Caroleo at 516-909-0784 or goto [www.freeportflotilla1306.org](http://www.freeportflotilla1306.org).

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## Property

The club is expecting to hear soon from the DEC on its application to rebuild the bulkhead, install floating docks and dredge. Your patience is appreciated during this waiting period.

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## Clinics

Striped bass: May 3rd at 7:30 at the Property

## APRIL 2007 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Lawrence J. Festa  
Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, Mary Ellen Zullo,  
Captain Chris Squeri, Joseph Johns, Bill Morrogh

On behalf of your committee & myself, we thank all members who came to our March 2007 Awards Night, I also thank all those members who could not be in attendance but took the time to respond back, so that they could also be proudly acknowledged.

This year eight (8) new club records were awarded and Forty-seven (47) out of fifty-two (52) of our 2006 Annual Awards were achieved. It was a great honor and a little club history in the awarding of the "Jiggy Silber Memorial Award", which reads as follows:

### THE JIGGS SILBER MEMORIAL GLOBAL ANGLERS AWARD:

Five (5) Club Trophies will be awarded each year; one (1) for the largest Fluke; one (1) for the largest Codfish; one (1) for the largest Weakfish; one (1) for the largest Blackfish; and one (1) for the largest Sea Bass. They will be awarded to the member catching the largest of each species and weighing the fish at any official weigh station. This is a Global Award.

Jiggy will truly be missed by all. A well honored memorial to a true American Hero & Sportsman.

All that goes into the making of our Awards Night could not be possible without the hard & relentless sportsmanship of our General Members. On behalf of your Awards Committee I thank all of you for making it a night to remember.

I am also pleased to announce that our 2006 Global Awards shall read as follows:

### CLUB RECORD UPDATE:

Our recent club record for Gag Grouper has been defeated by Angler James Counts. The record was broken on November 11, 2006 with a 11.54 pounder caught in Morehead, Carolina.

### THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE IN PROGRESS OR STARTING THIS MONTH:

Cod (10 lbs.)..... March 25th ~ May 7th  
Blackfish (03 lbs.).....April 15th ~ MAY 21th  
(Pending DEC Regs)  
Flounder (01 lbs. 08 ozs.).....April 1st ~ May 14th  
(Pending DEC Regs.)  
Seabass (02 lbs.).....April 22rd ~ June 4th

## Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA)

The Freeport Tuna Club is an affiliated club of the Recreational Fishing Alliance ([www.joinrfa.org](http://www.joinrfa.org)). The RFA offers free membership to all affiliated club's members for one year (normally a \$35 membership fee applies). If you are currently an RFA member, you will receive a one year renewal free. Membership entitles you to receive a quarterly newsletter containing discussions of current issues affecting sport fishermen and grass roots mailings on pending political matters, etc. In order to receive the mailings, the club will supply the RFA with your mailing address. The RFA privacy statement requires it to keep confidential all membership information. Members wishing not to join the RFA should contact Mike Sullivan by mail at P.O. Box 5, Freeport, NY 11520, phone 516-379-4373 or e-mail [ftc1937@verizon.net](mailto:ftc1937@verizon.net).

## ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

### THE ALL NEW FTC INSHORE AND OFFSHORE CHALLENGE

**Inshore (Striped Bass, Bluefish, Fluke, Sea Bass) Entry fee \$50.**

**Offshore (Tuna, Mahi, Mako or Thresher only) Entry fee \$75.**

**Starting May 1, 2007 to December 15, 2007**

Unlimited entry's, top ten fish at the end of December, earn points in the final standings. Biggest trophy's and the best prizes will be awarded.

Come to April's GM to sign up.....

Contact Bob Benzenberg 516-521-7378  
Dave Massa 917-335-6765  
Danny Carroll 516-924-5377  
Sean Libby 516-317-3635

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 Bellinzi.....Secretary



Post Office Box 5  
Freeport, New York 11520

Deliver To:



**ALERT.....ALERT!!!**

**MEETING PLACE  
CHANGE**

**THIS MONTH  
GM AT**

**VFW POST 2770  
2400 Bedford Ave.  
Bellmore**

(between Sunrise Hwy and Merrick RD)

### 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

4 Penn 50sw Internationals - great shape - \$375 each  
4 Penn 80 Internationals - very good shape - \$375 each  
All reels been serviced last year. Contact Chris: 516-523-3444

## Happy Passover

