

# 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, May 10th at 8:00 pm**

Cure of Ars Church School Auditorium  
Merrick Ave., Merrick

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

## GUEST SPEAKER

FTC WELCOMES TRIO OF INSHORE EXPERTS THIS MONTH. CAPTAINS ANDY LOCASIO, AND RICH TENRIERO OF NOREAST ANGLING ALONG WITH CARTER CAPTAIN JON MARINO WILL LIVEN UP THE EVENING WITH A PANEL DISCUSSION OF TECHNIQUES FOR EARLY SEASON STRIPER AND FLUKE FISHING.

## President's Message

Jim Rooney

May is here and has brought with it the warm weather. Before I begin with this month's upcoming events I want to thank Harry Weinblatt for all the hard work and commitment he puts into running a first class cod trip. There was great weather, great fishing, great food and friends; what better way to spend a weekend. I also have to thank Harry for the cod clinic before the trip. He did an excellent job preparing the members who attended the cod trip on the do's and don'ts and what to bring on the trip. Moving on to upcoming events. May is a very busy month for the FTC. First, is that our GM will be back at the Cure of Ars church in Merrick, Thursday, May 10th. Second, is our annual garage sale on May 19th at the property. Anyone interested in a table or wants to volunteer to lend a hand please contact Al Casciano. On May 31st, the club and Noreast.com / magazine will be cosponsoring Larry the Legends open shark seminar. This seminar is open to the public and will be a soup to nuts clinic on sharking. This clinic will be more in depth than some of Larry's past clinics. With partnering up with Noreast we hope to raise some money, increase membership and bring some very positive attention to the club. I ask all members who attend to wear their FTC apparel and show club pride we are the biggest and

the best, let show the rest of the fishing community why! The club will also be looking for volunteers for this event if you can lend a hand please contact me, Jim Rooney. And last on the list of upcoming events is our annual spring Rodeo. This will be held on the weekend of June 1, 2, and 3rd, with the party starting at 4 pm on Sunday. Food will be served at 5pm. I want to point out a new rule in this year's rodeo: fishing times will be from 7am Friday June 1st to 3pm Sunday June 3rd. All weigh slips must be submitted in the box at the property before 3pm Sunday to be eligible for prizes. If you can lend a hand, volunteers are needed for this event please contact Joe Steiner. The upcoming summer is filled with club events. I hope to see all the members taking advantage of what the club offers and remember that participation is the key to a great club experience.



Jim Rooney-President  
President

The month of April started off with lots of wind and lots of rain; given that scenario, I thought that we would be in for a very late spring. However much to my surprise as the month progressed the weather started to moderate. It became evident that our spring fishery was about to turn on. A more stable weather pattern is the key ingredient to getting the spring season jump-started.



During the last two weeks our property has been alive with members and their respective crews reading their boats for the upcoming season. It is this type of activity and camaraderie that really sets our club apart from all of the others. Our inshore fishery started off right on schedule with the opening of our flounder season.

Warren Kenny skippered his vessel "Coaster" to Raritan Bay and the Romer Shoal area several times and reported decent catches and an onslaught of small striped bass, which have invaded those local waters as well. Bob Hindenlang ran his "Tin Man" to the same area and reported the same action with decent fish in the 2lb. range common.

Spring Black fishing started off on the slow side with a lot of small fish reported early on. Since we have experienced a moderation in weather the fishing has picked up as a result. Joe Fanora, fishing aboard a friends boat, reported recently that this fishery is red hot with fish to 11.2 lbs being caught. A few keeper-sized sea bass have also rounded out his catches lately as well.

Striped bass have also started with reckless abandon, last weekend our resident striped bass expert Chris "Four Bells" Bellinzoni sailed his maiden voyage of the year accompanied by crew of Tim Sherman and Bob Pandey. They caught and released 15 nice bass, all caught locally on bellies. I also have heard recently that a few larger fish have taken up residency to the west; stay tuned for more info on those reports.

Many of us were poised for a strike at the first reports of mackerel, we usually receive reports from the south jersey area and this has helped us track the schools in the past. This year the reports did not materialize and neither did the fishing, leaving our freezers empty. This fishery has changed; we no longer have a springtime run as we have had in many years past. The few schools that do make it inshore do not stay around as bass and bluefish are literally on their tails. These fish can move 20-50 miles in one day when threatened. I believe that these fish are staying much further offshore in the springtime. The late fall or early winter might be the time to target them. The last few years have brought these schools practically to our front door as they return south from their summering grounds in the Canadian Maritimes.

Our springtime cod fishery has showed some signs of life recently. Rob Rosenberg sailed his "Findictive" the last two weekends offshore to the wrecks that lie in 25 Fathoms and reported fish on each trip to 16.5 lbs. Yesterday Bob Hindenlang sailed his "Tin Man" to those same wrecks and reported lots of small fish but enough to make it interesting. He made four drops and reported life on all of them.

Our east end crew sings a different song about the cod action, what a difference 100 miles makes. Capt. Scott Schafer single handedly ran his newly appointed charter boat "50/50" to the local waters south of Block Island and reported catching 30 cod to 31lbs.

He called in Capt. Jim Krug who was sailing his first charter of the year and he too reported 25 fish to the mid-

twenties. Jim sailed another trip a few days later and reported good action on that trip fishing the same area.

Our fluke fishery has opened up with new regulations on size limits for this year. I have heard that a few fish have been caught locally, and that our east end is also getting a shot at these fish. Lets hope for a better fishery this year aside from the current regulations.

Our 2007 Annual Offshore Codfish Trip was a huge success this year once again. We departed Montauk aboard the Viking Starship, under an ideal weather window for the entire weekend. Our destination this year was to the famed waters of "Stellwagon Bank".

Upon our arrival on the grounds we were treated to observing what mother nature is all about, many whales aggressively "balling up" large schools of sand eels. We all manned our rail spots and the action started immediately as our jigs hit the bottom. Although we caught many short fish and there were enough keeper-sized fish to keep it interesting. As the day wore on our coolers started to accumulate the results of our efforts, a mix of Cod and Haddock up to 10 lbs. I thought that lightening might strike twice as last years pool winner, Jay Broder had the largest cod after the first day. We spent the night at this location to be ready for our shot the next morning. After an award winning prime rib meal had by most on Saturday evening, a few retired to their bunks for the evening and a few sat in the cabin and chatted amongst the captain and crew as they ate their dinner. A few of members decided that they would spend the evening at the rail and for most it was a productive choice to do so. Many keeper-sized fish were caught in glass calm conditions and with the sounds of the whales feeding off in the distance it was an experience to be part of. We awoke the next morning to the sound of the twelve cylinder Caterpillar diesels starting up and the aroma of fresh coffee and hash brown potatoes filling the air. We once again manned our rail spots and the action started immediately. It was a repeat of the day before; many small fish but enough keepers to keep it interesting.

As the morning progressed we lost our drift and the fishing slowed down as a result. We made the decision to start for home however we would make one last drop south of Block Island before heading back to the dock at Montauk. As we made our way into Cape Cod Bay we all gathered on the top deck and proceeded to put together one of the largest feasts of the wrong kinds of food that one could imagine, accompanied by many bottles of red wine to compliment this culinary delight. With full bellies of food and drink most retired for a little shut eye before we were to wet the lines again. Upon our arrival at twilight south of Block Island, Capt Steven put out a spread of his two anchors so that we were "dialed in" on the spot. In succession, I looked up to see Chris Bellinzoni's rod taking on the bend of its life as well as Ralph Drewes engaged in the same action. Once both fish were landed it was apparent that lightening was not going to strike twice and that the first place pool fish was now on board. We fished until dark and then headed back to Montauk. Congratulations to Chris Bellinzoni on his first place cod of 25.5 lbs, which netted him a cool \$ 570.00 and to Dennis Cataldo who copped the other pool with his haddock, which netted him \$ 380.00. A special thank you to all of the members who participated in this years trip. I can't wait until next year.

Sincerely,  
Captain Harry Weinblatt  
F/V Blue Marlin

# MAY 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

The following Derbies are in progress or starting this month:

Cod (10 lbs.).....	March 25th ~ May 7th
Blackfish (03 lbs.).....	April 15th ~ MAY 21th
Flounder (01 lbs. 08 ozs.).....	April 1st ~ May 14th
Seabass (02 lbs.).....	April 22rd ~ June 4th
Striped Bass (15 lbs.).....	May 12th ~ June 17th
Weakfish (05lbs.).....	May 19th ~ June 24th
Fluke (3.5 lbs. new wt.).....	May 26th ~ July 1st

May 2007 we are in full speed derby mode with many weigh slips already received, so please get them in on time to be a winner. Our all new club angler's award book and our handy

## GOOD & WELFARE

Special condolences and prayers to Daniel Pollera and family on his mother's passing.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of the two local JFK High School boys, Jack Alfieri, and Mike Moniz, tragically killed in the horrible car accident last week. Such a shame that two of our local youth perished needlessly. Spend a few minutes with your kids and point out how important safe driving really is. On Easter Sunday, while visiting their children in Colorado, Bob Benzenberg's wife Pat had taken a fall on some icy steps in Colorado. She fractured and dislocated her left shoulder, requiring surgery and a long recovery. Best wishes for a healthy recovery.

Congratulations to Jeff and Deirdre Yapalater's twin daughters, who both will be attending dad's Alma Mater, Ohio State University, this fall. They join their big brother Eric in the Midwest where he attends West Virginia University. Their dad says all donations are welcome!!

## PROPERTY

Good news! The DEC approved the clubs applications to replace the bulkhead, dredge and install floating docks. Next step will be to hire a contractor. We are targeting to rebuild the marina this winter in time for the 2008 season. The finished product will be beautiful! It will be one of the nicest marinas in the Freeport area and one to make everyone proud to be a member. Reservations for space in this new facility are filling up fast. You better reserve your place now. See Mike Sullivan for details on how.

## FLUKE CALCUTTA

The 2007 fluke Calcutta is underway. Entry fee is \$10. A dozen and a half members have already signed up. Largest fish wins it. Last year the pool was \$ 930 and was taken by Bob Benzenberg, the reigning "Duke of Fluke" in home waters. The "Eastenders" will be gunning to reclaim their position as rulers of the sacred fluke grounds, especially those guys from the port which shall not be named. The home port anglers will be heavily defending their title. The rules are simple. You can fish anywhere. But, the fish must free swimming and must be caught by the entrant who must be a club member using hook and line. I will be accepting entries at the May GM. Mike Sullivan



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 Garage Sale Saturday May 19th

*For more information  
contact Al Casiano*

## Shark Seminar May 31st

*Capt. Larry Festa  
Hear from the best!*

### 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

For sale:

Two 9/0 Garcia Mitchell Big Game reels(Seldom used) \$150 each  
6/0 Finn-Nor reel(seldom used) \$300  
Sears (wheeled) 1 HP compressor withpaint spraying accessories (never used) \$100  
8 inch Craftsman table saw with legs \$50  
Call Doc Jarow @486-6408

A friend of the Club has a beautiful 80lb class Pompano fighting chair. He is willing to let it go for free providing that the recipient make a notable donation to the donor's favorite charity. Fight in comfort and get a tax deduction in the process! For more info, contact bigmahi@yahoo.com

