

Tuna Tower News

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Co-Editor Capt. Paul Hilton
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NEXT GM
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2010 • 8:00 PM
CURE OF ARS AUDITORIUM
MERRICK AVENUE • MERRICK
(between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

**The Recreational Fishing Alliance's new
Managing Director, Jim Hutchinson, will
address us at our May GM.** see inside for more
details....

President's Message

Our May meeting promises to be extremely informative and will most likely be one of the most important meetings of the year. In order to start our season with as much knowledge as possible we are having Jim Hutchinson, Managing Director of the RFA, as our guest speaker. Jim will be fully prepared to inform all on what the RFA can do for us and what we can do for them. Jim will close with a question and answer session. I am asking all members to kindly attend this very important meeting and show our strong support to our recreational fishing industry and the RFA.

On Special Events a hearty thanks goes to Captain Harry Weinblatt for putting together one of the greatest club COD Trips ever! With Captain Harry covering the business end, I took the liberty of E-mailing our most recently departed club member Captain Paul Grippo. Captain Paul put all business aside and conferred with the highest authority to bless us with great weather and outstanding fishing. Captain Paul is up there watching over us with some really great company: Jigsy Silber, Barry Simon, Ed Schuh, Jack Kennedy, Ed Swanson, Ed Keneske, along with my dad, John Festa. and dear friend Tony Testa.

An update on our wonderful Flag Pole and Veteran's Memorial Plaque. It will be installed shortly.

Many members worked very hard on this wonderful project. They pounded the pavement working hard on organizing this great project. I thank John Gerriety for leading the charge along with so many other club members for all of the donations and most of all their time. In addition a special thanks to John Weber who pursued with vigor the obtaining of the flags which we so proudly display.

This month will also be our yard Sale. We will be doing a final clean up and all help is appreciated. Please contact Al Caciano for details. Lastly our spring Fluke & Bass Trip is set for Monday May 17th. This is a limited person trip and a great club event. Please contact Joe Jahn for a spot, or click on this link: http://www.ftcfishing.com/fishing_reports.html Under Anglers wanted!!!! Joe Jahn

Captain Larry Festa
President 2010



FISHING BULLETIN



Our spring season has transitioned from the month of April to May and the weather has not skipped a beat. Our club property is alive with energy and anticipation of what the upcoming season will bring. Our members are shifting their vessels location to their in water berths as they prepare for the commencement of the 2010 season. As the month of May wears on we can expect that our weather will continue to moderate and hopefully cooperate enough to allow the rest of our membership to cash in on our traditional springtime fishery.

On the local fishing front striped bass is on the menu. A tremendous school of bass has been transitioning east along the western south shore beaches in depths that have ranged from 40 – 75 feet of water. The fish have been caught both diamond jigging and wire line trolling. Although the fishing has been fairly consistent there have been a few disappointing days thrown into the mix. The fish are mostly decent sized keepers and the largest I have heard of to date has been approx. 25 lbs. These fish will start to make their way into our local inlets and back bays over the next several weeks and as a result our traditional clam chumming and Back Bay plugging will commence.

We have probably experienced one of the worst spring time blackfish seasons in as long as I can remember. Our local bottom experts went to work, geared up to target the much respected tautog. After many unsuccessful trips many club members have thrown in the towel. Our local area bottom temperatures are still very cold and as a result the fish are still in a catatonic state which has inhibited the results of all the fishing effort to date.

Our sea bass and fluke fishery are all set to start during the month of May. Let's hope that we have a repeat season as we did last year. Our Annual Spring Offshore Trip went off without a hitch. Our original plan to fish for tilefish was foiled by a deteriorating offshore weather forecast. We switched to plan B which was to head back north and east to Stellwagon Bank. The reports emanating from that area was that a red hot bite had developed and the fishing was fast and furious. Well I can attest to that since I was one of the first anglers to send my jig to the bottom or just short of that. Before I could engage the reel my rod was bent in half at the grip. I looked down the starboard rail and in a like simultaneous fashion thirty rods were mimicking mine. The mates exchanged their skins and boots for shorts and track shoes in order to keep up with the amount of fish that were coming over the rails. We were into a massive school of Pollack which rose forty feet off of the bottom.

By the time the first drift was over our coolers were nearing capacities, another drift was all we needed to top them off. We then moved off to deeper water in search of more cod and haddock.

The end of the first day was capped off by one of the most magnificent scenes which are quite typical on these grounds. We happened upon a school of approximately fifteen humpback whales which were engaged in a very aggressive feeding pattern. They were bubble feeding, a process which trapped the bait in the turbulence created by the bubbles. The whales would then rise to the surface in a circle around the bubbled water they had created. The sight was quite spectacular to observe and amazing to watch Mother Nature in full bloom. We then drifted along with the whales and much to our surprise "cod on the rod" Whales on top and cod on the bottom. We proceeded to catch many short and keeper sized cod until the

sunset to the west.

We claimed our real estate for the evening after dropping the anchor. We were then all treated to a wonderful prime rib dinner from the boats galley and chef Kobi. Many of us retired for the evening without issue. Several chose to fish for a few hours before returning back to our bunks. The fishing that evening was slow and only a handful of haddock were caught. We were all up again bright and early ready for more action on Sunday morning. Back on the drift we picked away all morning long catching cod, haddock and more Pollack until Capt. Steven gave us the signal that the time had come.

The pool fish were weighed and the pool was settled. Congratulations to Bob Pettit on his trophy cod which earned him first place in the cod only pool. Barry Fink also claimed a pool prize, his monster Pollack was good enough to earn him first place in the other edible species pool.

As we continued to transit toward Cape Cod Canal, our yearly tradition was about to start in earnest. An assortment of the finest red wine and other culinary delicacies was shared amongst all members and crew.

Once again the trip was a huge success due to all of the right ingredients present, camaraderie among fellow club members, weather and lastly excellent fishing. I would like to thank everyone who was present this year and made the 2010 trip another one for the record books.

Sincerely,
Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin

CONSERVATION

Please remember these dates. Blackfish are closed as of May 1st. Sea Bass open on May 22nd. Striped Bass are open. Fluke open on May 15th with 2 fish limit at 21 inches. Porgies are also closed until June. Winter flounders are still open thru May 31st with 2 fish limit at 12 inches.

You need a salt-water license if you fish on a friend's boat. The boat owner's license does not cover his guests. Every needs their own license! On head beats or charters you do not need a license to fish. Many of these for-hire boats have research set aside. This means they paid the government for the privilege of fishing for fluke or sea bass etc. "out of season".

If you catch a fish on one of their boats during the season that is closed to everyone else does it count for club awards? These RSA conditions frequently allow for different bag limits and different size limits also. This, I feel, is a trend that can only end up with poor results.

At the end of the day the government is saying you have to pay for the fish and buy them from us first then you can fish outside the regular rules.

Dennis Cataldo
Conservation Chairman

FLUKE CALCUTTA

The 2010 Fluke Calcutta is about to begin. This is a friendly competition to see who catches the largest fluke. We will have the usual face off of east vs. west with the results so far being evenly divided over the six years of completion (go figure. Montauk has only won once). There are 57 members already signed up at \$10 each. The winning fish will take home all of the money in the pool. You can fish any port. The fish must be caught during the regular New York recreational fluke season. If you aren't already signed up, see Mike Sullivan. ***Because you never know.***

MARCH 2010 DERBY AWARDS & CONTESTS REPORT

*Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh
Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, MaryEllen Zullo*

MAY 2010 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTESTS REPORT

**Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh
Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, MaryEllen Zullo**

The Spring Cod, Winter Flounder and Blackfish derbies have closed. Get those weigh slips in. These awards are presented at the June GM!

May is an action packed derby month with 5 derbies beginning. The Striped Bass and Fluke derbies always are highly competitive and we're hoping for another banner season. Shark leads off the early offshore season while Bluefish and Weakfish round out the slate.

There will be At-A-Glance cards listing all the derby species and dates at the May GM along with weigh slips. All of our official weigh stations should be well stocked with slips for the season so let's get out there and fish!

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE IN PROGRESS OR STARTING THIS MONTH:

Striped Bass (15 lbs.).....May 9th – June 14th
Fluke (3.5 lbs.).....May 15th – June 16th
Weakfish (5 lbs.).....May 15th – June 27th
Bluefish (8 lbs.).....May 29th – July 5th
Shark (125 lbs.).....May 29th – July 5th

BULLETIN:

Having problems receiving the monthly bulletin? Did you know that you can sign up to receive electronic delivery? And you don't have to be a computer genius to take advantage of this. All you need is a valid e-mail address. If you would like to give it a try, send your request to ftc1937@verizon.net. And don't worry. You will still receive a paper bulletin by snail mail.



our new Flag Pole at The Property Awaiting our Veteran's Memorial Plaque.

SHIP STORE SALE

Hooded Sweat shirts 20% off at \$30.
Knitted Hats \$12
Small Gear Bags discounted to \$15
Large Gear Bags discounted to \$30.
FTC Anniversary golf shirt slashed to \$20.
Great quality below our cost.

Contact Paul or Rosemary Schuber
AVAILABLE AT NEXT GM

Catch of the Month – Cod and Pollock

Our catch of the month goes to past FTC President Joe Jahn, shown here with a 12 lb. cod and 17 lb. pollock. The fish were caught at Stellwagen Bank during the club's annual cod trip. Fishing occurred on the Viking Starship with Capt. Steven Forsberg at the helm.



The new season is in full swing. Email me at philton@optonline.net to be recognized for "Catch of the Month", include a picture and catch details.

RODEO:

The rodeo committee will be meeting in May anyone interested in helping out Please contact Jim Rooney (516) 850-6772. These events are very fun and successful for all club members and their families. If you have time please volunteer and participate in these events to insure the success of all our club events

The spring Rodeo has been changed from 11, 12, 13 to June 4, 5, 6. As posted on our website. The change was done to avoid some conflicts and events that our members participate in. Prior to this change being done it was fully discussed with our Rodeo Committee who strongly endorse this change.

-Jim Rooney

CAPTAIN & ANGLERS

We have had a great start to our season, we have full crew and our patio and deck will shape up further when more boats are removed. Anyone wishing to share a special dish with C & A please feel free to contact Jim Rooney at (516)850-6772. Looking forward to seeing on Thursday nights, come down and have a good time.

-Jim Rooney

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Chartered to Promote
Sport-fishing & Conservation

FTC 2010 Directors

President Lawrence Festa
1st Vice President John Rooney
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Capt. Harry Weinblatt	Capt. Mike Sullivan
Paul Schuber	Jeff Yapalater

Special Advisors

Jim Rooney Ed Faza Joe Jahn



Post Office Box 5
Freeport, New York 11520

Deliver To:



Save The Dates

YARD SALE - May 22, 2010, Rain Day - May 23, 2010
Contact Al Casciano 516-523-1339

RODEO - Spring rodeo is June 4, 5 & 6th FALL DATES are Sept. 24, 25 & 26 - contact Jim Rooney

FISHING TRIPS with Capt Mike on the Prime Time III
• **First up, Monday May 17th Fluke and Bass trip. 7am lines off. \$100.00 a person**

• **Next up, Monday November 1st Blackfish. 7am lines off \$100.00 a person.**
-CONTACT JOE JAHN



CLASSIFIED:

• 1980 35ft. Bruno Stillman, A True Down East Boat, 20 knot cruise, 440 HP, Yanmar Diesel 547 hrs., 5kw, northern lights Generator, 130 hrs., This boat is completely Repowered, new tanks, shaft, 1100 L Furuno Sounder, 952 Northstar GPS, 800 Northstar Loran, New boat in
MUST SELL CALL OR EMAIL FOR DETAILS.
Email: Cod1126@optonline.net, 516-351-6250



- Boat Slip for Rent. water@electric in Freeport Call Sy Karp 516 632 9770
- For Sale: 1990 Cobia 19'4 cylinder Mercruiser I/O low hours 5 years old re-power. Full canvas, cuddy cabin, trailer VHF/fishfinder/sonar/trailer. Dr. John Weber 516-379-0132 (H) Cell 516-551-8337 \$4500.00 neg.
- Pen Int. 50W Recently converted by Calsheets to 2 speeds, never used since conversion, sea isle custom rod Call Sy Karp 516 632 9770
- For Sale-Fishing tackle, rods, reels, lures, umbrella rigs, spoons, jigs, gaffs, plugs etc. New and Used. Contact Dennis Cataldo at 516-753-5433 for more information
- Fisherman's Special - Montauk Lake 1 BR condo available weekends, by the week or month. Dock slip also available at additional cost. Call Charlie Sporing, 516-655-1255.
- 2004 270 Wellcraft Costall Tournament edit. Twin200 Yamaha HPDi's. 250 hours 188 gal. fuel tank 55 reserve tank. Rocket launcher, full electronics, fully loaded, Like New Call for details: 516-761-0734
- 2 sanity seats by pompanette with all stainless mounting hardware and vinyl cushions. both seats have heavy duty gimbals. these seats fold down along the gunnel or can be easily removed to store away. great for trolling and extra seating. excellent condition \$275 obo call jim at (516)784-9079

2002 25' Baja Center Console Bought in 2003 with 2003 225 Mercury 4 Stroke, Livewell, Color GPS/Fishfinder new 2008 Lowrance High Definition, Stereo, Ship to Shore Radio - 240 hours, Yard Maintained, Excellent CONDITION Hot Graphics, Trim Tabs, Fresh water and Salt Water Washdown, Spreader Lights, Live Well, Stainless Steel Pop up Cleats, Sport Fish Package, Aluminum T-top w/ Rocket Launcher, Hideaway Rear Seat
Boat is immaculate! Asking Price 39,000 - Ken 917-567-4931 trainlife@aol.com

To place an ad in our classified contact Capt. John Jutt
516-546-2312 or email to: JJutt@mmpmk.com