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Tuna Tower News

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

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Volume Seven • July 2003

"PARTICIPATION"

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

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Wednesday, July 9, 2003

FREEPORT YACHT CLUB

8 Guy Lombardo Avenue (Just South of Sea Isle Sports Center on left hand side)



Our guest speaker for the July General Meeting will be retired Parajumper/Rescue Swimmer John Spillane formerly assigned to the 106th Air National Guard Rescue Squadron based in West Hampton Beach, N.Y.

John was part of the Air National Guard Helicopter crew depicted in the movie, "The Perfect Storm".



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Scott Schafer



Now that the extremely wet and eventful month of June has finally passed, I feel I must comment on a few important events that have recently occurred. Regarding the vandalism and theft that's going on at our property, I assure all boat owners that I am not taking this matter lightly. I've called a special board meeting on how to solve this problem. Having more security if possible and working together with Bobby Sabella to have a gate installed are several options. There is an investigation underway and a few very substantial leads have been made. I must stress that unless the investigation and evidence is made public, we should not make any premature conclusions. I will make sure that this comes to an end.

I spoke with John Weber about keeping my President's Position for a second year term and he backed it 100%. With the member's approval, I would be honored to remain President and continue to bring about the needed changes that I began in my first term. Our club has really blossomed into a much esteemed organization this year. We should all strive together to improve its modus operandi.

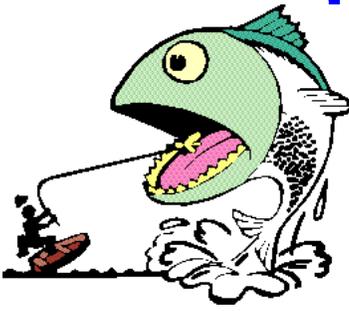
I would like to thank everyone who in their respective appointed positions. have helped me tremendously through this difficult but exciting year...I am positively grateful to you all.

Now, on a brighter side, our Spring Rodeo was a great success. We had some great catches weighed in and the top fish received their prize.

Our Cooking Department did an outstanding job and everybody relished their cooking skills. Our Local Shark Tournament kicked off without a hitch. Unfortunately, the fish that our Club Members caught were just shy of the minimum weight. We'll get there next time around.



FISHING BULLETIN



I guess that most of us were wondering what effect the lack of summer was going to have on our offshore fishing this season. The last two weeks should put a lid on any doubts that anyone had about the

weather this summer or how it was going to effect our fishing. With the offshore waters in the low 60-degree range for the first three weeks of June, shark-fishermen's catches mainly consisted of blue sharks. Most club boats fished our local shark tournaments this season, however with lackluster results. That changed this past Sunday as Grover Howell, while fishing aboard a friend's boat nailed a 182 lb. Mako. Their were also two other fish brought in that I heard about in the 125-130lb range caught on the same day. Let's hope that this is a sign to come and that the offshore waters are now starting to bear their fruit.

On the same day the Mikey Likes It skippered by Capt. Mike Lobasco, drew first blood on the first tuna of the season, a 34lb. Bluefin caught in 25 fathoms of water. Club member Matt Errit landed a 24-lb. bluefin from the many schools of migrating bluefin tuna that came blasting through the area. His action was earlier in the week and unfortunately that fish was not eligible for the first tuna of the year because the weight fell short of the minimum. This action can be hit and miss, as these schools continue on to the east, disappointing our inshore trollers, who look forward every year to some type of season or wished that these fish would stay around a little longer. The canyon also picked up during the month. A report of some warm water along the west wall has sparked the interest of some crew to venture to these grounds as well. The mainstay of the catches has been bluefin tuna as well as mahi mahi. It's just a matter of time until a blast of warm water gets dumped into this area. Once that is in place, I think that we will have a very good canyon year.

Our local striped bass fishing continues to provide decent action. The fish can be caught from the ocean off of the Rockaways to the areas local bridges. Clams with clam chum are the ticket.

On the inshore scene our fluke fishing has rebounded probably due to the fact that the local waters have warmed up as of late. Our club members are reporting a lot of shorts however enough legal fish to make it interesting. The action is basically all over in 50-70ft of water. Last week the Bunker Dunker experienced a phenomenal day as his crew limited out with the majority of the fish in the 3-5lb. range. On a recent outing, two weeks ago, Fred Eder nailed a 10 3/4lb. Doormat.

Our season is well under way so get on out there and catch some fish.

Sincerely,
Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin



CLUB AWARDS & DERBY DATES

The Following Derbies are in Progress/Starting This Month:

Spring Shark (125 lbs. Min.).....	May 31 st ~ July 6 th
Spring Fluke: (02.5 lb. Min.).....	June 7 th ~ July 13 th
Bluefish (10 lbs. Min.).....	June 21 st ~ July 27 th
Tuna (25 lb. Min.).....	June 21 st ~ July 27 th

The Following Derbies are closed winners to be announced:

Shark (125 lb. Min.).....	May 31 st ~ June 6 th
Weakfish (05 lb. Min.).....	May 17 th ~ June 22 nd

The Spring Seabass Striped Bass Derby Is Closed & The Winners Are:

1 st Place:..	Captain Bobby Hindenlang 5.4 lb. Seabass F/V Magic Too
2 nd Place:.....	Captain Michael Zullo 4.5 lb. Seabass F/V Magic Too
3 rd Place:(tie)....	Captains Michael Lobosco & Fred Ruehman 4.4 lb. Seabass F/V Mikie Likes It

1 st Place.....	Captain Doug Toback 34.24 lb. Striped Bass F/V Corazon
2 nd Place:.....	Jerry Looney 26.50 lb. Striped Bass F/V My Nova
3 rd Place.....	Captain Doug Toback 22.80 Striped Bass F/V Corazon

Attention All Club Members:
Effective 2003 at per the iBoard of Directors the Awards & Contest Committee will only be allows to except **Official Freepor t Tuna Club Weigh Slips**. All derby weigh slips must be submitted prior to two weeks after the close of the derby. Only fish caught from Debs, Jones and Fire Island inlets are eligible. Good luck to all.

House

WE NEED HELP on picking up soda/beer/chips/etc. for general meetings. If you have a little free time on these evenings, your "Participation" will be greatly appreciated! See Joe Glavin.

Good & Welfare

Scotts mom is ill please keep her in your prayers.

Conservation

Effective July 2, 2003, Blackfish is completely closed until 10/6/2003 and black sea bass minimum size has increased to 12" up from 11.5", bag remains 25 fish/man/day. additionally, there will be a 2 week closure to all in September, dates to be announced. While there are 50 "Redbirds" still available for reefing, In a conversation I had last week w/ Deputy DEC Commissioner Lynette Stark, Albany is disposed to address the issue by not addressing it, letting other states take our material while they "study" the issue. I need every member of this club to call Albany to support the use of Redbirds as reefing material. Commissioner Erin Crotty 518-402-8540/ Deputy DEC Commissioner Lynette Stark 518-402-8560 and Director of Natural Resources Gerald Barnhart 518-402-8294. Please identify yourself as a member of the Freeport Tuna Club and make a point to be respectful and courteous when calling to give your support on this issue. Please remind them that we do not only fish, remind them that we also vote. Thank you.

TOURNAMENTS & SHOOTOUTS: (Flags, Tags & Brags?)

First the Flags.

Many of our club boats competed in this year's Hudson Angler's and Woodcleft Fishing Station Shark Tournaments. As the tournament's bimini starts were official at the J.I. buoy many Freeport Tuna Club **flags** could be seen proudly starched from club boat outriggers.

Now for some T ags.

At the end of the day, with most crews performing wash down rituals our club **swept** the tagging portion of this year's Hudson Angler's event. Harry Schroeder and the crew of his "Just Add Water," Johnny Jutt's "Bunker Dunker" with club member Scott Novick on the rod and Bob Jahnes' "Southern Yankee" each took Tagging Prize Money of \$625. Excellent accomplishment for our club guys!

As a tagging side note, I received notice from NMFS of a tag returned just this week. A Blue Shark that we tagged on the "Four Bells" last June, 41 miles S.E. of Jones Inlet was recaptured after 311 days at liberty by a Long Liner from La Coruna, Spain! The fish had grown 1 foot in length and gained approximately 45 pounds from our estimation. Another hat to our collection, ya gotta love it.

Hudson Angler's Shark T ournament Winners:

1st Place: Mike Wasserman on the "Sorry Charlie" with a 206 lb. Blue Shark worth \$9,171 and a \$500 gift certificate to Boaters World

2nd Place: Glenn Keller on the "Stepping Stone" with a 192 lb. Blue Shark worth \$2,556 and a \$300 gift certificate to Boaters World

3rd Place: James Johnson on the "Rum Runner" with a 155 lb. Mako worth \$1,353 and a \$200 gift certificate to boaters world

Honorable Mentions go to the following club boats and anglers who decked some of the tournament's largest fish, but did not make the minimum Blue Shark weight in order to qualify for prize money (175 pound Blue Shark Minimum)

Al Casciano with a 167 Blue Shark taken on the "Four Bells." This Shark was the 3rd heaviest fish to hit the tournament day scale. Where's 8 pounds when ya need it?

Harry Schroeder's team "Just Add Water" bested a 163 pound Blue Shark. This fish was the 4th heaviest brought to scale for the day.

Barry Simon's crew on his "Hope Sherry" hung a long 162 pounder. This Blue Dog would have completed the top 5!

Woodcleft Fishing Station Shark T ournament Winners:

1st Place: Robert Semdlfin bested a 416-pound Thresher on board Bob Gottlieb's "Hustler." Including the Calcutta the prize purse was understood to be in the area of \$17,000. Bob told me he learned much at our club's open clinics!

2nd Place: Went to F/V "On The Edge" were Jim Johnson's crew landed a 166 pound Mako.

92 boats fished the event, including at least 12 from our club.

Now to the Brags (?)

With our original Rodeo Weekend canceled due to what had become our usual weather pattern of rain and fog, little could have been expected for our Shoot-out with the Matinecock Fishing Club. Still some of our club's die-hards took to the water in an effort to make sure that this "Bragging Rights" series and trophy ended up in the right clubhouse.

In the Fluke Division our top 3 fish pushed the scale to a total of 19.45 pounds. Matinecock's results have not yet weighed in. Fluke Division "Bragging Rights," FTC? Time will tell.

Freddy "Wet Snapper" Eder put a true door mat on the scale at 9 pounds 12 oz.

Dick Moreo on board his "Kathy O" tipped the scale with a reel nice 6.1 pounder. Hopefully to ice our victory, Mike "Magic Too" Zullo's respectable 3.6 pounder will put us in the bragger's circle.

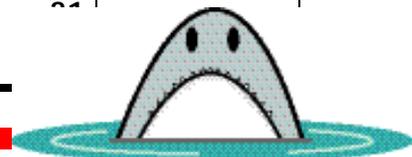
In the Blue Fish Division our 3 top fish totaled a shade north of 30 pounds. 30.1 officially.

Larry Festa's team "Kristen" decked this sweep. Chris Bellinzonei's 10.3 pounder, Al Casciano's and Christopher Bellinzonei's matching 9.9s were our best. Results from Matinecock have not yet reached the dock.

Stay tuned regarding our up coming "Braggers Rights" BBQ and awards night. BBQ date will be set by our next GM meeting, posted on our web site and in the next Tuna Tower. We look forward to entertaining the sportsman from the Matinecock Club. They have shown to be gentlemen and a first class club like our own. Congratulations and "Thank You" to all who have participated. Sportsmanship and camaraderie continue to out weigh all fish that are brought to scale!

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	Captain/ Anglers Barbecue 3	 4	5
Shark Derby Ends  6	7	8	General Membership 9	Captain/ Anglers Barbecue 10	11	12
Fluke Derby ends. 13	14	15	Board of Directors Meeting 16	Captain/ Anglers Barbecue 17	18	19
20	21	22	23	Captain/ Anglers Barbecue 24	Babylon Invitational Tournament 25	Babylon Invitational Tournament 26
Tuna/Bluefish Derbies end.  27	28	29	30	31		



Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Chartered to Promote
Sport-fishing & Conservation

2003 Officers

Scott Schafer President
John Weber 1st Vice President
Capt. John J. Jutt, Sr. 2nd Vice President
Bill Morrogh Treasurer
Jeff Squeri Secretary

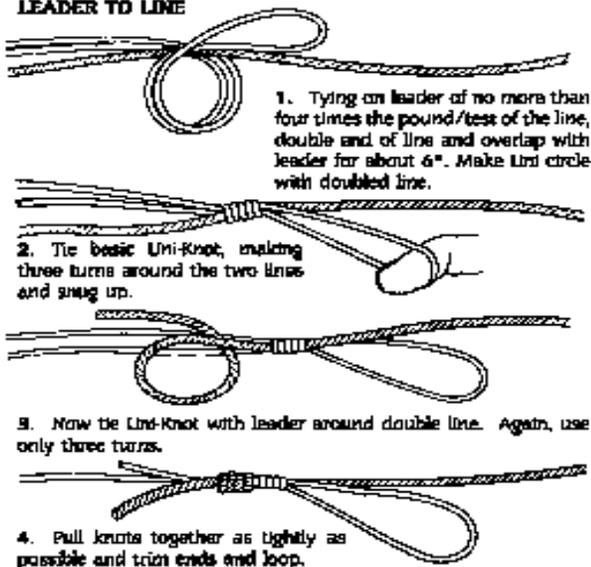


275 Hudson Avenue
Post Office Box 5
Freeport, New York 11520

Deliver To:

THE "Y-KNOT" CORNER To all members - any knots or rigging tips are always welcome

LEADER TO LINE



Each month we will try to feature a new knot
Practice it - learn it - it will improve your landings

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For Sale

- 1988 Steigercraft 25' chesepetre volvo turbo diesel I.O. volvo duo prop ss. 118 gal. tank 3 1/2 g.p.h. icon radio, loran trim tabs full cushions., plus extras \$22,000 call after 6:00 p.m. 516-867-8492
- Dock space available for up to 30' boat off Hudson canal. Private home. Short distance to inlet. Call Sy 516-546-1691
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- 1973 19ft. sportcraft caprice cuddy cabin, porta potti, very clean 1986 100 h.p. envinrude, sst prop vhf/ta system full canvas/ 14 rod holder/70 gal. fuel/outrigger/dual batteries/must be seen a give-away 2000.00 bob 516-781-4011
- GradyWhite 227 Seafarer, 1989, Mint Cond. 5.0 V810 Repowered in 96 Low Hours. New Furuno Color f.f., Loran, UHF, Outriggers, All new canvas. Great range, very economical, loaded \$19500 Neg. (718) 291-6700 (days) (516) 593-0732 (eve.)
- ICOM Radio model 125 Remote Spotlight 1 spool 1/2" anchor line 1200 feet Assortment of boat fenders insulated fish bags couple anchors Assortment of GAFFS Docking lines custom cutting board Remote stabilizer for trim pads Anchor Balls Numerous amount of fishing stuff Please call Skip Schaffer (516) 351-0992