

# Tuna Tower News



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Editor: **CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, Sr.**

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER

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

## NEXT GM

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 • 8:00 PM**

**CURE OF ARS AUDITORIUM**

**MERRICK AVENUE • MERRICK**

**(between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)**

*Al Grover Senior, a true Freeport Historian, boat builder and world navigator will be this month's guest speaker.*

PLEASE SEE INSIDE FOR A BRIEF BIO

## President's Message

Dear Members,

We are coming to that time of the year when the summer days start to get shorter and the evenings a little cooler. The summer doldrums are almost gone and the fall runs will start soon. Summer is not over yet but you can feel it in the air.

On one the past hot summer days the FTC held its annual flotilla, as I pulled up there were 13 boats tied up and many members having a ball. There was plenty of food, drink and camaraderie along with a lot of swimming and good Old fashion summer time fun. Everyone brought something and everyone had a great time, I know myself and Chessie had a blast and we cannot wait till next year's flotilla event. I would like to thank early birds Bob Sabella and Bill Morrogh for securing our anchorage for the event along with Bob Pandey for coordinating the raft up.

Next up, Jim Rooney and crew will put on our Fall Rodeo set to take place September 27th. The Rodeo Committee needs your help. Anything from selling raffle tickets to helping out with set up and take down would be greatly appreciated. For the new members this is the best way to make new friends and be involved with your club. I hope to see all of you and your families there. These events are great ways to get the kids involved in fishing, I know my kids love the rodeos and all kids get an award. If you don't fish with them now, you won't be fishing for them when they get older.

I still need a few more fishermen or fisherwomen for the Black fish and Stripped Bass trip on the Prime Time III October 19th. We have had both spring and fall trips with Captain Mike for the past six year and this will be the first Black fish

combo trip. I've been told by quite a few anglers that Captain Mike is one of the top bottom fishermen on the North Fork. The fall Bass fishing has always produced a couple of slobbs for the crew so if you haven't signed up see me at the GM to get on the list. A little pumpkin picking and wine tasting on the way home will round out a great day. The cost is \$100.00 a head for fifteen anglers. Don't miss it!!

Once again I would like to thank Darrin Schaffer and crew for repairs on the clubs sewage line and getting the repairs done before the Captain Angler's BBQ.

In closing enjoy the upcoming cool weather and I hope you all attend our September GM Freeport's own Al Grover Sr. is going to be our guest of honor. Details are inside. Thanks to Mr. Bohlhart and Mr. Bellinzoni for putting this special night together.

I am very glad to hear that Past President Sil Mazzilli is home recovering and on the mend. Get well soon Sil!!

Last but not least, congratulations to Alan Evelyn on his acquisition of his 28ft Prokat. May your ride be dry and you fish lockers always full.

Be safe.

Till next tide,  
Joseph Jahn  
President



# FISHING BULLETIN



The best time of our fishing season is practically on our doorstep. Over the next six to eight weeks we can expect a transformation to occur in our areas waters as the fall migration starts.

Traditionally potpourris of species fall into this category which includes both inshore and offshore pelagics. As we continue to enter into the fall season we can expect a gradual cooling to our water temperatures as winds start to take on a more northerly direction. This is also the time of year when tropical storms and hurricanes can threaten our area as well. To date we have had two systems which could have posed potential problems. We were spared direct hits as they weakened and tracked north-east away from our area. When venturing offshore in long period swell conditions which usually precipitate an approaching weather system or after a system has passed offshore of our area, be mindful that any forecasted significant wind regardless of direction can turn a gentle rolling ocean into a washing machine of waves and tumultuous seas. That said it pays to be extra vigilant when navigating any inlet during this type of sea condition. Waves which roll into the shallows of our inlets can suddenly grow and pose problems. We should be mindful that towering waves can sneak up out of nowhere and potentially bring about navigational hazards while transiting through inlets.

On the offshore scene we were treated once again to a red hot big eye bite which lasted approx two weeks in early August, prior to and after the full moon. Team Wasabi continues to mount his tuna catches this year and was able to cash in on this action one Friday afternoon to the tune of three for four on big eyes which crashed his spread during this period. The fish ranged from 120 – 150 lbs. Since this action quieted down our canyons have only had a smattering of action. A few big eyes and many smallish yellowfin tuna. Let's hope that this year the action picks up and our fall canyon fishery rebounds. Closer to home we have been treated to a phenomenal bluefin tuna bite. Over the last six weeks bluefins have taken up residence in many areas that have been holding bait, sand eels to be exact. From the southwestern edges of the Mudhole to the western edges of the Glory Hole, bluefin tuna accompanied by false albacore and skipjack tuna have taken up the slack of our lack luster yellowfin bite. Many boats which have ventured into these areas have reported excellent action with fish taken on both bait and jigs ranging from 40 – 60 lbs. I recently ran my Blue Marlin to this area and had a phenomenal day landing our legal limit to 80lbs. The following day John Jutt skippered his new vessel Red Dawn Rising and reported the same action keeping his legal limit as well. This past Sunday team Wasabi did it again with many releases and his largest reported fish of the day at 104 lbs. I suspect that this action will continue as long as the bait holds in these areas. Any significant weather system can potentially scatter the bait and ultimately the fish.

On the inshore scene our fluke season ended with an absolutely phenomenal fluke bite during a great weather weekend. Since the fishing was concentrated at the Cholera Banks many FTC boats made the eight mile trek to get in on this action. Don Granger captured his personal best during this weekend an 11.2 lb fish which covered the bottom of his fish box and its rack ultimately graced his bow pulpit for all to see. John Campa also joined the double digit club his 10.2 lb fish earned him second place honors that same weekend as well. Many 6 – 8 lb fish were also caught by FTC members, a great ending to a much abbreviated season.

Seabass and Porgies continue to provide great action on our local wrecks

and reefs. Now that we are entering into the fall season we can expect this fishery to get even stronger as our waters continue to cool down.

Bluefish action at the Mud Buoy and 17 Fathoms has been hit and miss.

That is it for this month. I would appreciate receiving your reports to be included in upcoming FTC Fishing Bulletins Please e-mail your reports to captharryweinblatt@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt  
F/V Blue Marlin

## Guest Speaker Sept. GM Al Grover, Sr.



Codfish 83lbs. Jones Inlet  
Set Line 80ft. Water

In follow up to the history of Freeport and some of the "Legends" that have already entertained our membership this year, we have a special treat. Al Grover Senior, a true Freeport Historian, boat builder and world navigator will be this month's quest speaker. Al will share with us the growth and development of the town in which our club

has evolved around. He will share his passion for the boating industry from sale of both new and used boats to his legendary desire to build coastal skiffs in Freeport on the Woodcleft Canal. The legend of the rum running wooden verity skiffs, which Al had great respect for, was the catalyst for the birth of the Groverbuilds. Over 120 of these hard core vessels were manufactured for law enforcement, pleasure and commercial use. Just about all are still in service across our eastern coast. Al will also share with us the experience of his transatlantic journey in his Groverbuilt. This is one not to miss; we hope to see a great turnout for one of our very own true living legends.



## AUGUST 2009 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTESTS REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh  
 Committee Team: Captain Lawrence J. Festa  
 Captain Michael Zullo, MaryEllen Zullo

Our recent derby competition has been great! The Fluke derby went right down to the wire with numerous personal best fish weighed in. Lots of 8lb'ers were boated but it took exceptional fish to place this time!

On the offshore scene, Bigeye dominated the Tuna derby over a lot of nice Yellowfin. The Mahi bite was good and we have a great trio for the derby.

Check out the derbies that are open now! Get out and fish, send in those weigh slips!

### Our September Derby Winners:

#### Tuna

- 1st Place: Ralph Drewes.....182 lb Bigeye F/V Oceanic
- 2nd Place: Ken Kapner.....162 lb Bigeye F/V Wasabi
- 3rd Place: Chris Gerhart.....144 lb Bigeye F/V Hooker

#### Mahi

- 1st Place: Jeff Yapalater.....16.31 lb F/V Marlees Pearl

- 2nd Place: Chris Gerhart.....14.44 lb F/V Wasabi
- 3rd Place: Bill Hines.....13.31 lb F/V Shark Hunter

#### Fluke

- 1st Place: Don Granger.....11.20 lb F/V Splitshot
- 2nd Place: John Kampa.....10.06 lb F/V Mary Etta
- 3rd Place: Bob Benzenberg.....80 lb F/V Fish-N-Whitetails

### DERBIES OPEN/ABOUT TO OPEN:

- Weakfish (5lbs).....August 22nd ~ October 4th
- Mahi (4 lbs.).....August 22nd ~ October 4th
- False Albacore (6 lbs.).....August 22nd ~ October 4th
- Green Bonito (4 lbs.).....August 22nd ~ October 4th
- Tuna (20 lbs.).....August 29th ~ October 4th
- Seabass (2.5 lbs).....September 19th ~ October 25th
- Shark (125 lbs).....September 19th ~ November 29th
- Bluefish (8. lbs).....September 19th ~ November 29th

## PROPERTY

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

As we close the month of August we were faced with yet another plumbing problem at the property. It seems that our main sewer line under the club house has sacrum to the test of time and collapsed.

The board of directors' call and emergency meeting for the funding need and we thank our Loyal Club Member/Plumber... Darren Schaffer for putting his crew together and for bring the job in within budget. On the bright side of things better now then during our upcoming Fall Rodeo. Our weed problem is finally well under control thanks to the property crew. Our waiting list is starting to grow for the 2010 season. Any member looking for a slip should not wait, if they want a slip for 2010.

For those of you interested in 2010, the board of directors met this past month and these will be the new rates for 2010. I want to thank our finance committee for there efforts and hard work and the many e-mail letters I received from the members prior to the new rates for 2010.

#### 1. Trailers

Effective with the spring 2010 all current vessels which store both winter and summer dockage pre 2009 shall be allowed to store their vessel's trailer at the Freeport Tuna Club Property. Vessels contracting dockage and requiring trailer storage post 2009 will be assess by the property committee for fee or storage availability.

#### 2. Winter 2009/2010 Dockage

Effective with this storage period - The per foot charge of \$ 12.00 per foot for on land storage with a \$275.00 minimum fee.

#### 3. Summer Dockage

Effective with this storage period - The per foot charge to \$85.00 per foot.

On behalf of the FTC Property Committee it is our pleasure to serve the members and help bring our club together.

## CONSERVATION

Keeping up with the changing Fluke regs as the beat goes on for bottom fishermen.

Fluke – the season is over unless you fish on a RSA permitted party or charter boat. They can keep 4 fluke at 20” or more until the quota is full.  
 Sea Bass – are open all year. The bag limit is 75. The size limit is 12.5 inches.

Porgies – open until September 26. 10 fish limit at 10.5 inches. The limit on party and charter boats is 45 fish at 11” from 9/1 to 9/30.  
 Cod – 22” limit, no bag limit, open all year.  
 Blackfish – opens 10/1 and closes 12/20. 4 fish bag limit at 14” or more.

Stay tuned for the Saltwater Fishing License Fiasco.

Committee Chairman  
 Dennis Cataldo

## CLINICS

Chris Bellinzoni will be holding a Striped bass clinic at the club house on Thursday Sept. 17th at 8pm. Chris will be going over all facets of bass fishing so come early to get a seat this clinic is not to be missed.



**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 Bellinzoni..... Secretary



Post Office Box 5  
Freeport, New York 11520

Deliver To:



## Fall Rodeo

Sept. 25, 26, 27th

**Weigh Slips to be submitted  
by 4 pm**

**Species: Sea Bass,  
Striped Bass,**

**Bluefish, Tuna and Shark.**

**We will have a bake off with  
prizes for  
winners, a DJ & a Bouncy  
for the kids.**

## 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



- Wanted 25 hp outboard long shaft with tiller. Call Joe, 516-851-8762
- Looking for 13" Boston Whaler with or without engine, contact Jeff 516-425-4645
- Boat Slip for Rent. water@electric in Freeport Call Sy Karp 516 632 9770
- WANTED: Great shape Penn 750SS or 7500SS. Bigmahi 516-425-4645
- Fish Hawk II - 26' Shamrock Diesel - 2900 Hrs. - Full Elect.- Fishing now from Club Slip. Pkg. inclds. Lg. Freezer & 2 Dock bxs. \$14,500 Call Ron: 516-993-9626
- 8' Walkers Bay dingy weighs 40 lbs stable and maintenance free. \$ 125 . Bob Sabella ( 516-798-4058)
- CLASSIFIED: 3 Northstar Lorans 6000 for parts, 2 Sitex HE-31 paper recorders, numerous anchor balls, bay rods, life jackets, Minolta camcorder, S.S. anchor davit with roller. Call Bob Porter- 516 -785-3759.
- 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
- 8' Walkers Bay dingy weighs 40 lbs stable and maintenance free. \$ 125 . Bob Sabella ( 516-798-4058)
- 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.
- Good used refrigerator to be used at the Property. We will pick up and deliver to the property. Contact Bob Sabella or any of the thursday night crew.

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