

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Tuna Tower News

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER

NEXT GM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 • 8:00 PM

CURE OF ARS AUDITORIUM

MERRICK AVENUE • MERRICK

(between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

**JAMES DONOFRIO, EXEC DIRECTOR, RFA
RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE WILL BE THE
OCTOBER SPEAKER.**

**JIM WILL DISCUSS HR5425 FLEXIBILITY LEGISLATION,
TUNA, AND PROTECTING OUR FISHING RIGHTS.**

President's Message

Ed Faza



The Fall Rodeo was a great success. The weather was wonderful for a BBQ and club members were able to get out and catch some fish. Thanks to the Capt/Angler cook crew for putting together a spectacular menu. Thanks to Paul Noto for supplying the DJ and to all other members that volunteered. Without help from members these club events could not happen, so please don't be shy next time a committee asks for help. John Jutt is seeking more help with yearbook committee. This is a great opportunity to get involved and learn about the club.

November is election month. Any members interested in running for a board seat please talk to the nominating committee headed by Jim Rooney. You will need the signatures of 10 members to be added to the ballot. They need to be officially submitted to the Secretary 7 days before the November

meeting.

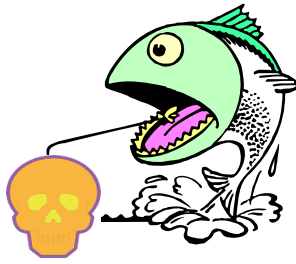
There are still plenty of Derbies and shoot outs in October. Check the website for updates. The club will also be hosting a hunting seminar on 10/11 at the property. Anyone interested in learning about local water fowl hunting is invited. Representatives from Ducks Unlimited, Town of Hempstead Bay Constables and many more will be there.

Winter storage contracts are being e-mailed out and 2009 summer dockage contracts will follow. Please contact Larry Festa for contract questions or John Gerrity for availability.



FISHING BULLETIN

Captain Harry Weinblatt



The month of October is upon us and the offshore reports for this bulletin will be limited to one due to the lack of pelagic species on the offshore grounds and the increasing lack of interest on the parts of our offshore crews. With the days growing shorter on the calendar in front of us and the weather not being on our side recently the opportunities for a much anticipated hot canyon bite are growing closer to the end. This past weekend the Hooker took advantage of an "opportunity in the weather" to scout the shelf waters of the Hudson Canyon. With no intelligence on recent fishing reports, they reported a zero on the troll Saturday afternoon. On the overnight chunk they has several smallish swordfish and back on the troll Sunday morning they landed one Albacore and after enough trolling they landed several tilefish before pulling the plug and heading back to the barn. This has been one of the most abysmal offshore canyon seasons that I can ever remember and I have been fishing the canyons for thirty years.

Closer to home the bluefin tuna have been around in numbers to warrant enough of us to keep that as an option in lieu of a trip to the edge. The Kristen has been taking advantage of this fishery and has had many successful trips with a 107lb. fish his largest to date. Although the majority of fish are school sized there are enough around to make for an interesting trip. False Albacore are making up the balance of the catches and are very abundant in numbers.

Our inshore fishery is starting to take hold. Local bass hound Chris Bellinzoni reported phenomenal action in our local inlet several days last week. John Gerrity was also able to gun in on the same action and reported an excellent catch as well on his recent outing. Our local bottom fishing has started. Recently Mike Zullo reported a limit catch of blackfish on an inshore piece and Bobby Hindenlang fished opening day and reported a pot-pourri of blackfish, seabass and porgies. Lets hope that this trend will continue and for the most part help us forget about the lack of offshore species this past season.

From our members fishing out east the striped bass fishing has been the best in years. Capt Jim Krug has told me that all of his trips have been a slam. Recently the Testa family did a family outing aboard the vessel Stephanie Ann. Congratulations to Angela Testa on her recent 31.2 lb trophy striper, her personal best.

Sincerely,
Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin

Artificial Reef Proposal and Logistic Problems

As may of you know, I have been following the issue of the reefing of obsolete subway cars in our local waters since 2001. While the original "Redbird" project has come and gone, we are on the cusp of getting a batch of stainless steel subway cars in our south shore waters, with approx. 1200 cars being involved, with the majority going to Hempstead Reef (450 cars) and Fire Island Reef (600 cars). New reefing permits have been issued by The Federal Govt, (Army Corps of Engineers), and in turn by the NYSDEC to Mr. Chris Laporta, head of the NYSDEC reef program to allow the deployment of this subway car material. Once Chris Laporta of our reef office signs off on the licenses, deployment can begin. However once he signs off on the licenses, he is obligated to fulfill the terms of those licenses. There are 2 provisions that Mr. Laporta and I have problems with. The first being a requirement for substantial monitoring of the reefs once the subway cars are deployed. Second, there is a requirement that a small portion of the deployment be set aside as an Marine Protected Area. In essence, he does not have the logistics to fulfill that specific requirement. My difficulty with the issue is two-fold. First, I have a problem with the MPA's in general. I believe it sets a bad precedent for the future, and second, given the dynamic nature of the ocean making observation difficult. Chris Laporta has asked us to state any objections to the conditions set out in the reef licenses, while supporting the project in general to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. No deployments will take place in our waters until Mr. Laporta signs off on the licenses and he will not do that unless the issues outlined above are resolved to his satisfaction. We can contact DEC at the following: Hon. Alexander Grannis, Commissioner of NYSDEC 625 Broadway, Albany, N.Y. 12233.

On another front, I am beginning to make some inquiries about obtaining reef ball molds so the club itself can get into the reef building business. As part of that inquiry, I would be looking to get grant funding to make the investment in a supply of reef ball molds and the cement to make them. If we can do that, Chris Laporta tells me he can get the licenses for our own piece of ocean bottom to establish what I hope would become the Freeport Tuna Club Artificial Reef. If we can get the funding, and with the many talented individuals who are a part of our club, I believe we can make the Freeport Tuna Club Reef a reality. I would like to hear from any individuals out there who might have have information on reef ball molds, or who might want to help me with this project. My e-mail is jweb1961@optonline.net and my number at home is 516-379-8935.

Dr. John J. Weber Jr., DPM

October 2008 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

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

Mahi, False Albacore, Green Bonito and Tuna derbies end 10/5. All weigh slips must be in by 10/19!
Congratulations to Frank Saviano on his double digit Fluke and to Joe Mangiapanella (new member) on taking second place.
Larry Festa rounds out the elite group with another great fish. The August Fluke bite was amazing!
I hope that everyone get out on the grounds to make the fall derbies memorable!

Our October Derby Winners are:
Fluke

1st Place: Frank Saviano.....10.1 lbs F/V Angry Annie
2nd Place: Joe Mangiapanella.....9.1 lbs F/V Crazy Guiseppe
3rd Place: Larry Festa.....8.7 lbs F/V Kristen

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE IN PROGRESS OR STARTING THIS MONTH:

Weakfish (5lbs).....August 23rd ~ October 10th
Seabass (2.5 lbs).....September 20th ~ October 26th
Bluefish (8 lbs).....September 20th ~ November 30th
Shark (125 lbs).....September 20th ~ November 30th
Cod (6 lbs).....October 4th ~ December 28th
Striped Bass (15 lbs).....October 11th ~ November 30th
Blackfish (3 lbs).....October 18th ~ November 23rd

WINTER STORAGE

This year I, Captain Lawrence Festa will be handling the winter contracts for our clubs marina. Any members looking for winter storage must contact me. I will e-mail out contracts for completion. The contract must be mail back to me with payment in full to guarantee a winter spot. All storage will be first come first serve bases. Members must then contact our property committee prior to their vessel arrival, for proper placement in our clubs marina. Any questions please feel free to contact me. The rates are \$10.00 per foot with a \$225.00 minimum for any vessel.

Our contract details the dos and don'ts for winter storage. In addition we supply the blocks only with a limited supply of lumber, which is also first come first serve.

In closing I will also be handling all 2009 summer contracts, so contact me for all payments and questions. In closing all contracts will be done via E-mail only. The final contract with check payment must then be mailed to me.

Capt. Lawrence J. Festa

GOOD & WELFARE

It is with great regret to inform our general membership that one of our most respected and long term members has passed away.

Our condolences go out to the family of Ed Schuh. Ed lost a long term battle with cancer last Thursday, Ed's contributions over many decades to the Freeport Tuna Club are countless and too long to list. He will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him. May Ed's tides still come and go and i'm sure somewhere he still has a line in the water.



Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.
Chartered to Promote
Sport-fishing & Conservation

2008 Officers

Ed FazaPresident
Joe Jahn 1st Vice President
Bob Benzenberg 2nd Vice President
Mike SullivanTreasurer
Chris Bellinzoni.....Secretary



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NOMINATIONS

Nominations for Directors will be entertained from the floor at the November meeting. The names of the candidates must be proposed by a voting member and seconded by ten voting members and presented to the secretary in writing at least seven days prior to the November Meeting.

Mail Nominations To:
FTC B.O.D.
NOMINATIONS
C/O Chris Bellinzoni
3255 Wolfson Dr.
Baldwin, NY 11510

CLASSIFIED:

Mercury Opti-Max - New & Still in the factory, 225 HP-2 Stroke, Long or Short Shaft, MSRP \$15,000-\$16,000, Looking for Immediate Sale at \$11,000, Waiting to be Shipped - Contact Dennis Cataldo 516.753.5433 dmclife@aol.com

2001 Pursuit 3000 Express. Twin 300 Mercruiser inboards, 300hrs. Hard-top&canvas. Sleeps 4. Electronics, head/shower, fridge, microwave, stove, AC/Heat. Mint Condition. Asking \$99,000. At FTC for viewing. Call Rich H: 631-543-3866 C: 516-641-0740.

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

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

