

# Tuna Tower News

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Phone (516) 378-9717

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

Volume twelve • December 2004

**"PARTICIPATION"**

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING



Thursday, Dec. 9th at 8:00 pm

Curé of Ars School Auditorium  
Merrick Ave., Merrick

(South of Sunrise Hwy. between Sunrise Hwy. & Merrick Road)  
For more info call 516-546-2312

# Wishing All Members A Happy Holiday Season

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I am sitting down to write my final President's Message, I look back at the past two years. I realize that they were probably the most important two years of my life. By that I mean, all my new friends from the club have become a major part of my life and any time there was a need for them to help me out, they were there for me and the club.

As I took office in 2003, I tried giving the club a new look and feel. As we all know three months into my term, a major family situation occurred. Through the next seven months all of my officers and fellow club members picked up the ball and ran with it for me.

I am very grateful and will never forget these people (and you know who you are). Once my personal situation ended, the year still kept throwing curve balls at us. We lost another dear friend, Barry Simon. He will always be in our hearts. He will never be forgotten for all he had contributed to his friends and club members. The year closed relatively on a very somber note. The lesson from year one that I learned and that everybody in this club should realize, is that your family is number one and always do what you can for them.

After finishing my first term and realizing that I was not as active as I would like to have been, I volunteered to take on a

second term. And there's another big lesson I learned. Never volunteer for a 2nd term. It is quite rough.

The club picked up where it left off by having the rodeos, derbies and many great fishing trips shared by our members. I realized by June that to take a club like ours and to change it from what it was (which was not bad) is a difficult thing to do. People are set in their ways, the financial status is good and besides a few little bumps in the road, it is a well organized and smooth running organization. The only way I can see to really improve this club is not to make visible or financial changes. It is more important to get together, go fishing and enjoy each others company more and to really enjoy life. This brings me to our Holiday Party which will be on December 19th at the Freeport Recreation Center. I want everybody to come down and have a great time. There will be a Santa and presents for the children. There will be great food and a magician for entertainment. We will also have our bakeoff. I will ask Capt. Fester to head up the tasting of these great confections.

In closing, I would like to wish Capt. John Jutt Sr., our next President, and his officers the best of luck for the upcoming year. They were there for me and I will be there for them.

It's been fun!

Thanks, Scott Schafer

# FISHING BULLETIN

The 2004-year has come and is almost gone. I am not sure where the time is going however I hear that as we get older the time goes by faster. If that is the case then we should start thinking about the 2005 season because it will be here before we know it. It seems like just yesterday I was sitting down to write the January Bulletin and now I am writing the December one. Our season for most club members is coming to an end and it is evidenced by the amount of boats that are occupying our property for winter storage.

On the local fishing front, our fall black fishing on our local reefs never materialized to our expectations. The fishery is starting to take on the pattern that seems more typical for mid to later December and that is a migration onto the deeper water pieces. The reports that are coming in from 17 Fathoms as well as wrecks in the 90-100 foot depths are evidencing this. Currently the water temps are in the very low 50-degree range and a colder snap might light this fishery up even better. Our east end crew has been having a pretty decent season with the "tog" on a recent outing Sy Karp bested a 9.5lb. Black fish aboard the new Persuader, skippered by Capt Jim Krug.

The offshore pieces are giving up what they are supposed to at this time of the year. On a recent pre Thanksgiving Day trip aboard the Aphis skippered by Howard Berman, his crew encountered cod to 37lbs. And sea bass to 4.0 lbs. He report-

ed that all the drops were made from 120ft to 150ft and that action was had on all of them. The cod were reportedly caught in the deeper water. The next day Capt. Larry Festa skippered the Kristen to the 20-mile wrecks and reported a bang up job on the seabass with the fish up to 3.0lbs. I can only hope that this fishery will continue and I say that with my fingers crossed since our winter fishery has been non-existent since 1997.

Our local striped bass has tailed off as of late. Just two week-ends ago Chris Bellinzoni, on his Four Bells, had a banner Saturday in the inlet with so many fish caught they ran out of bait. The next day proved a little more difficult and the fish were caught, but by working harder than usual.

Once again, in closing I hope that the membership has enjoyed reading my reports during this past year. I take an enormous amount of pride in serving our organization by contributing my time and research to one of the best fishing clubs in our area.

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt  
F/V Blue Marlin



## CONSERVATION

This year was generally defined as the good the bad and the ugly. The fishing was generally good, particularly with striped bass. The fluke regulations were pretty bad. The fight over the saltwater license was pretty ugly although we won.

Looking ahead to 2005, The fluke regulations will come out around February or March. No one knows what they will be at this time.

Striped bass will probably go to two fish on April 15th. The second fish must be 40" or more. The winter flounder season is under scrutiny at this time. The two leading proposals necessary to reduce recreational fishing pressure 48% are: 1) Close the season for March and April to protect the spawn. 2) Keep the season as is with a 2 fish limit. These are drastic measures to protect this fishery. The size limit is definitely increasing to 12 inches. We are trying to look at

Happy Holidays !  
Dennis Cataldo, Conservation Chairman



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals will be mailed on December 15, 2004. Membership dues are payable on January 1, 2005. This year, the renewal form will contain the information that the club has in its records concerning your membership. We are including this data in an effort to improve the completeness and accuracy of the information. You will be asked to correct any incorrect data or to supply any missing information. Please take a minute to look the renewal over when they arrive.

## PROPERTY

Summer contracts for the 2005 season will be mailed on December 15. The first payment is due on January 10, 2005.



# CLUB AWARDS & DERBY DATES

*Capt. Lawrence J. Festa F/V Kristen*

## Winners of the Following Fall Derbies

Fall Seabass (02 lbs.).....September 25th ~ October 24th  
 1st Place: Mary Ellen Zullo.....3.8 lbs. F/V Magic Too  
 2nd Place: Michael Stone.....3.6 lbs. F/V Rolling Stones  
 3rd Place.....Tie  
 Captain Fred Ruehman.....2.9 lbs. F/V Magic Too  
 Bob Hindenlang.....2.9 lbs. F/V Magic Too

Fall Striped Bass (15 lbs.).....October 16th ~ November 14th  
 1st Place: Daniel Pollera.....36.25 lbs. F/V Nan Sea  
 2nd Place: Captain Paul Marcy.....35.5 lbs. F/V Offensive Tackle  
 3rd Place: Captain John Jutt.....22.75 lbs. F/V Persuader

Fall Shark ( 125 lbs.).....October 9th ~ November 7th  
 No Winners

Fall Flounder (01.5 lbs.).....September 25th ~ October 24th.  
 No Winners

The following derbies are closed, the winners will be awarded at our  
 January General Meeting

Fall Blackfish (03 lbs.).....October 23th ~ November 21st

The following derbies are in progress this month

Fall Cod (10 lbs.).....November 20th ~ December 26th

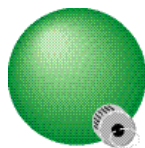
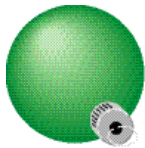
## Notable Catches

The month was a little light due to weather, however here is this months highlights:

Sy Karp with a jumbo 9.50 lb. Montauk Blackfish caught aboard the Persuader

Captain Larry Festa with a 4.4 lb. Seabass caught aboard the "Aphis"

A beautiful 37 lb. Cod captained by Howard Berman on his F/V "Aphis"



# DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	HAPPY HANUKKAH 8	GM MEETING 9	10	11
12	13	14	B.O.D. MEETING 15	16	17	18
HOLIDAY PARTY 19	20	21	22	23	24	MERRY CHRISTMAS 25
COD ENDS 26	27	28	29	30	HAPPY NEW YEAR! 31	

Post Office Box 5  
Freeport, New York 11520

**Deliver To:**



Scott Schafar ..... President  
Capt. John J. Jutt, Sr. .... 1st Vice President  
James Rooney..... 2nd Vice President  
Mike Sullivan ..... Treasurer  
Jeff Squeri ..... Secretary

2004 Officers

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

Annual  
Christmas Party  
Freeport Rec. Center  
Sunday, December 19th  
2:00 pm

The bake off is on again!

Please bring in you famous  
holiday dessert for judging & enjoying  
Prize for first & second place!  
Santa & his helpers will be giving a  
gift to all children!

## CLASSIFIED:

ANYCLASSIFIED LISTING FOR SALE OR TRADE PLEASE MAIL TO:  
FTC CLASSIFIED/CATCH OF THE MONTH CORNER  
C/O JOHN JUTT

2848 WHALENECK DRIVE • MERRICK, NY 11566  
LISTINGS ARE FREE • FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

### For Sale

- Atlantic outriggers / never used cost ?? Best Offer
- Canon Unitroll Down Riggers \$259 each, never used, Best Offer
- Kaysco 3/4 H.P. De-Icer, used 2 seasons, Best Offer  
Dan Kahn 516-783-0136
- 1984 Tiara Pursuit 27, cabin, stand up head, twin 220 crusaders, GPS, Depth finder, radio, out riggers, \$27,500 Also, 16 ft. heavy fiberglass dingy \$200. Call Michael 516-535-4085, embroidme@optonline.net
- 12' Barneget Duck Boat by Aero Marine. Locking hard cover and spray shield, 15 h.p. Mariner w/ Sting Ray Jr., 3 yr. old trailer \$2,250.00 Call Ron 516-593-6560

