

**Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.**

# Tuna Tower News

VOLUME TWO • FEBRUARY 2012

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



**EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.**

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

Contributing Editor ~ Capt. Lawrence Festa

**NEXT GM**

**Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
at 8pm**

**Food Served at 7:30 PM**

**Cure Of Ars Auditorium**

**Merrick Avenue • Merrick**

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## President's Message .....

Dear Members,

### What's Your Membership Worth?

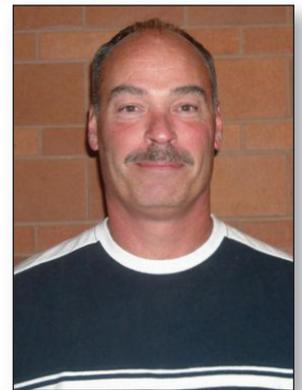
How can you put a value on what being a member of the Freeport Tuna Club is worth? It's not easy, because the club offers so many opportunities and perks that mere money cannot measure. How can a fishing club be so valuable? Because the Freeport Tuna Club is about a whole lot more than just fishing.

We like to say that we are not just tuna, but it goes deeper than that. In reality the club is not just about fishing, it is about all the things that surround and support our love of the sport. A member can always get the latest info on the location and techniques that are working for whatever species they are seeking—you expect that from a fishing club. But our members have access to so much more than that. For example, suppose you fish from your own boat. As all boat owners know there is no such thing as a boat that doesn't have some kind of a problem. The problems may change from week to week and go from minor to severe and back again, but there is always something that has you scratching your head. Well, about 160 of our members are boat owners, and about the only thing boat owners like as much as using their boats is talking about them. Be it engines and running gear, electronics, installing or removing accessories or whatever someone has been there and done that, and is glad to share their experience. What's that worth in time spent in trial and error figuring it out on your own or paying the mechanic at three digits an hour?

Our member's experience goes a lot deeper than maritime pursuits. As much as we may try to avoid it every now and again we have to think about something other than the water. Our membership includes electricians, carpenters, accountants, doctors, lawyers, salesmen,

marina operators, mechanics, teachers, machinists, and lots of licensed captains. If you have a question about something that needs to be taken care of so you can get fishing we have somebody with the expertise to answer it. What's a resource like that worth?

All of the things mentioned above are based on one thing: camaraderie. Our marina is the key to this; as the only local fishing club based on the water we always have a place to go to meet other members and take advantage of what our club offers. And what we offer cannot be valued in dollars alone. Let me offer one last example: a year or so ago one of our members was fishing in the canyon aboard his boat when a problem developed. The situation was under control, but had the potential to get worse. With nothing but sea and sky visible in every direction the member picked up his radio, gave a position and asked "Are there any Freeport Tuna Club boats in the area?" Within sixty seconds he had six replies. What's peace of mind like that worth?



*Those who live by the sea can hardly form a single thought of which the sea would not be a part.*

*~ Hermann Broch*

*~ President 2011 ~ Bill Tooley*

## "THE ICING ON THE CAKE" PRESERVING YOUR CATCH ~ ICE MANAGEMENT PART II

~ By Captain Lawrence J. Festa

Once the tuna has calmed down and photos are taken with the proud angler, the dressing process continues to the collaring stage or removal of the head. A good serrated blade usually makes short work of the removal. The head is removed at the point where the rear of the gill plate meets the body. At that point there is little exposed tissue to allow water to be adsorbed into the flesh. Should some get in, once dock side a second cut can be made to remove the water logged meat without any intrusion into the loins of the tuna.



Crew should be aware that the removal of the caudal fin, commonly referred to as the tail is not in compliance with Federal Tuna Regulations (NMFS). NMFS regulations for identification of the species of tuna requires that all fins must not be removed, including the tail fin. When loading and room become an issue we usually will cut the tail halfway through, fold it over and leave the tail attached for compliance with NMFS regulations.

Once removed, in some case you may want to place a thin metal rod or stiff monofilament down the spinal cord cutting all nerve endings and stopping any additional nerve or enzyme reactions post death. This process is called Taniguchi and really only applies to sashimi grade tuna such as the Big Eye Tuna.

After the Taniguchi or roding is completed, a small cut is placed around the anal passage to next separate the internal connecting organs. After cutting the entails are then removed. The fish, with head and entails removed is completely dressed and next bathed in seawater, rinse thoroughly and ready for packing out. We like to remove as much ice as possible from our main coolers to pack the fish as low as possible. In doing so the fish does not have to be moved or handled again until dockside, as the less handling the better to avoid any damage to the meat or protective skin. The inner cavity is packed with crushed ice and placed in the cooler on the same side that the fish was dressed on.

As the packing continues, the box is carefully loaded with each tuna placed head to tail so all space is used efficiently. Once the box is completely full, we add the sea water and Kosher Salt solution for the ride home. This is done just prior to departure as the sea water will melt some of your ice. The fish then brine in the solution free of blood and juices that may affect their freshness. The brine slowly pulls the flesh tightly together, keeping the meat firm and the skin alive with color, giving your catch the professional look any captain and crew would be proud of.



As the trip continues each container should be filled in this manner until the captain and crew have achieved their goal or they can no longer professionally preserve their catch.

In many trips in which the bite is good there is always the possibility of winning the lotto with a big eye assault at dusk or dawn. Boxes are full and even if empty the Big Eyes may not be easy to load and serious decisions must be made to preserve the catch. On larger boats there is usually enough room to work things out. But on maxed out smaller boats you should have a plan. One of the best solutions to this wonderful problem is the canyon bag and block ice. Large Big Eye Tuna can be stored easier in the canyon bag with block ice, water and kosher salt for the ride home after the catch has been properly bled and dressed. The catch should fair well utilizing this method.

Adding seawater into the liner bag with the block ice in place will chill a large fish down in limited space with limited ice as the blocks of ice act like mini heat exchanger cooling the sea water on each gentle pass over the ice blocks.

Once back at port, additional ice should be obtained to further insure the value and freshness of the catch. Even with all of this done the work must continue to insure top quality. Next, the fish needs to be quartered out for their final journey for all to enjoy. All fish stay in the brine as long as possible, as we pull out one fish at a time. The fish is then quartered into four sections, and either wrapped in plastic or placed skin side down on ice over night until final steaking is done. It is important that the exposed meat does not contact fresh water because fresh water softens and damages the meat.

There is no doubt that this is additional work. Regardless of what technique you decide to use, you should always make sure that you carry enough ice to proudly preserve the value and freshness of your catch. After a long, hard, successful tuna trip, returning to dock with your catch professionally preserved is truly the icing on the cake.

Happy Hunting.

~ Captain Larry F/V Kristen

## Annual FTC Off-Shore Spring Time Extravaganza Viking Starship – Montauk, N.Y. April 27-29, 2012

If you have not heard about it yet, it is that time of the year again and time go get signed up for this year's trip. Once again we will be sailing aboard the Viking Starship departing from Montauk, NY on Friday evening April 27th at 7:00PM and returning back to Montauk on Sunday evening April 29th at approx 10:30pm. The cost of the trip is \$ 275.00 per person and I will run the two pools on board as well. Depending on the fishing and the weather we will be heading up to Stellwagon Bank. One of Mother Nature's most nutrient rich fishing grounds.

If you have been onboard any of these trips in the past, this is the 16th year, you know the camaraderie and spirit that takes place over the weekend. That said the trip is limited to 40 anglers on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested I suggest you sign up at the upcoming GM.

I will be collecting all money in full, so if you signed up at the last general meeting please bring your cash or check for the amount due. Checks should be made payable to Harry Weinblatt.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at the Following: [captharryweinblatt@yahoo.com](mailto:captharryweinblatt@yahoo.com)

Thank you,

~ Capt. Harry Weinblatt

## And The Survey Says . . .

The results of the member survey are in! About 41% of the membership or turned the survey forms, and based on the responses the following conclusions can be made:

**Meeting Location:** By an overwhelming margin the membership approves of our current meeting location, citing the large size of the hall and convenient parking. Almost no one was in favor of spending more money and increasing the entrance fee to move to a different or fancier location.

**Food:** Once again the majority of the membership favors our current menu. While some responses suggested expanding the choices, again there was no support for an increase in price to cover the increased cost.

**Raffle Prizes:** The responses in this area gave us a lot to consider. Basically three themes emerged: the value of the prizes, the number of the prizes and the variety of prizes offered. The first group suggested a smaller number of more valuable items. The second group suggested that the more prizes be offered because the more that are offered the more chance one has to win. The third group raised the point that as fishermen most members already have most of the items offered, and that offering non-fishing items would increase interest. In response we are going to try varying the prizes between a few big items and a greater number of smaller items. In addition, we are going to offer different kinds of items, such as gift certificates to local restaurants and tackle shops. The bottom line with the raffles is the number of tickets sold: the more we sell the better and more numerous the prizes can be, so buy plenty of tickets!

**Conduct of the Meeting:** The message here was loud and clear: the meetings start too late and the business portion takes too long! In response to this two changes are being made, starting with the February meeting: the food will begin to be served at 7:30, and the meeting will be called to order promptly at 8:00 PM. In order to speed up the meeting we are going to adopt a change in the way the minutes of the previous meeting are presented to the membership. Starting in February the minutes of the previous meeting will be posted on our website prior to the meeting date. All members will be able, if they wish, to review the minutes before the meeting. At the meeting itself rather than the secretary reading the minutes a motion will be made to waive the reading; upon being seconded from the floor we will immediately move to the next item of business.

**Entertainment:** Two opposite points of view emerged from the answers in this area. The smaller group finds the speaker to be a very important part of the meeting. The other group places no importance at all in their choice to attend a meeting on the entertainment scheduled, enjoying the ability to socialize with the other members as much as the speaker. In response we will continue to seek the most interesting speakers we can find, but may from time to time forego scheduled socialize.

Thanks to all who participated in this survey, and special thanks to Bob Sabella, who sponsored and organized this effort.

## Bulletin Board FTC Wild Game Dinner 2012

Our next Wild Card Dinner will be at the VFW Hall, 2400 Bedford Avenue in Bellmore, N.Y. on Friday, March 2nd at 6pm. Come break out of that cabin fever and enjoy the night out with wild food, good spirits, and share your hunting stories with your friends. Lots of raffles and door prizes. Reserve a table with your hunting buddies. Tickets are \$40.00 per person. For more info call Dave at (917) 335-6765 or Bob at (516) 679-9200. Tickets are limited so book early!!!

## Catch Of The Month Tautog

Our "Catch of the Month" goes to Kenny Kapner who wrestled this nice 9.5 lb. male blackfish aboard his boat, the Reel Catch II back in December. Several other nice tog were taking on that trip including fish of 8.5 lb. and 7 lb. His "all FTC crew" included Joe Steiner, Woody Anderson, and Arnold Fleisher.

Nice going Ken, nice trip guys !

With the new regulations, NY tautog season is now closed until October 8th.

Bag limit will remain at 4 fish per angler, but with an increase to 16" minimum size. The season will run until December 4th.

For bragging rights, please email me at philton@optonline.net or text me at (516) 721-8907 to be considered for "Catch of the Month" by the bulletin committee.

Include a picture and some catch details. Thanks to all who submitted entries this Month and please keep them coming. ~ Paul Hilton / Emily S.



## Igfa Approves New World Record Striped Bass



An 81.88 pound Striped Bass caught August 4th, 2011 by angler Greg Myerson was recently approved as an IGFA All Tackle World Record.

The huge cow was caught August 4th, 2011 reportedly on a live eel in Long Island Sound and weighed in Westport Ct.

This fish eclipses the previous record of 78.8 pounds caught by Albert McReynolds in Atlantic City in 1982.

Wow ! ~ Paul Hilton / Emily S.

## February 2012 Derby Awards & Contests Report

*Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh  
Committee Team: Captain Larry Festa,  
Captian Michael Zullo*

You'll find an insert in this issue listing our 2011 Annual Awards winners. The committee worked long and hard to compile the list of winners and identify the candidates for the discretionary awards. I hope that everyone will make an effort to attend the March GM where we recognize all these deserving anglers! Please look over the winners. If you have a problem or see an error please contact Bill Morrogh at the February GM or call @ (516) 781-4667.

The committee is currently working on the 2012 Derby dates. We will post them on our website ASAP.

Special note on weigh slips – Please make an extra effort to fill out the cards completely. It's difficult to identify prize winners if info is missing. You might be eligible for a prize and not realize it!

The committee would like to wish everyone a safe and productive 2012 Derby season. Let's get those weigh slips in on time!

~ Bill Morrogh

## Freeport Tuna Club Committees

**President • Bill Toohy • January 24, 2012**

<b>1st Vice President</b> Bob Pandy <i>(Non-Fishing related Committees)</i>	<b>2nd Vice President</b> Harry Weinblatt <i>(Fishing related Committees)</i>	<b>Secretary</b> Bill Morrogh	<b>Treasure</b> John Daum
<b>Finance</b> Tim Sherman*	<b>Property</b> John Gerrity* Don Granger* Al Cascino Robert Dimino Bob Sabella	<b>House</b> Woody Anderson* Don Morin John Weber Jr., II Gerald Amitrano Jim Azzi Paul Cunningham Ray Geiger	<b>Entertainment</b> Robert Bohlert* Paul Noto
<b>Special Events</b> Bob Pandy* Jim Rooney* Al Casciano Harry Weinblatt Joe Jahn	<b>Membership</b> Michael Sullivan* Jeff Squeri Chris Scarpantonio Lawrence Festa Tim Sherman Ryan Sullivan Alan Evelyn Nick Nero Bob McVey	<b>Web-Site</b> Theresa Morrogh* Don Granger Bill Morrogh	<b>Good &amp; Welfare</b> Jeff Squeri* Chris Squeri <b>Press &amp; P/R</b> Chris Squeri* <b>Yearbook</b> Pending
<b>Raffle Prize</b> Paul Cunningham*	<b>Bulletin</b> John Jutt* Paul Hilton Michael Sullivan Lawrence Festa	<b>Holiday Party</b> Harry Weinblatt* Woody Anderson	<b>Nominating/Rules</b> Pending
<b>Ships Store</b> Paul Schuber* Rosemary Schuber			

### Fishing Related Committees

<b>Awards &amp; Contest</b> Bill Morrogh* Michael Zullo Lawrence Festa	<b>Derbies</b> Chris Bellinzoni* Michael Zullo Lawrence Festa	<b>Shoot-Outs</b> Bob Pandy* John Rooney	<b>Captain/Angler</b> Bob Pandy* Bob Sabella Jim Rooney Jimmy Azzi Joe Steiner Ralph Ortiz John Koenig Paul Noto Bill Hines Woody Anderson John Rooney Joe Jahn Sharon Missan Ken Kapner Ken Donin Don Morin George Sinerco
<b>Conservation</b> Dennis Cataldo* Bill Toohy	<b>Tournaments</b> Mat Errett* Chris Bellinzoni	<b>Open Clinic</b> Bob Dimino* Chris Bellinzoni Jim Rooney	
<b>Rodeos</b> Jim Rooney* Bob Sabella			



## Membership

Membership renewal letters were mailed out on December 1. Please take a moment to return your membership dues, if you haven't already done so. Anyone who needs a membership renewal can contact the membership committee at [ftc1937@verizon.net](mailto:ftc1937@verizon.net). Membership dues effective January 1, 2012 are \$225 for regular members and \$250 for family members.

~ Mike Sullivan

## Good and Welfare

Dr. John Weber will be having colon surgery in Feb., Gene Schettini had some skin graft surgery in his quest for his new ankle. Our prayers and thoughts go out to the Fink Family on the passing of Barry. My Wife Elaine had some minor surgery done same day as Gene so I kept them both company. Contact Jeff Squeri - Home (516) 221-6343 / Cell (516) 652-5981.

~ Jeff Squeri

## Property

Summer contract have been mailed. If you did not receive your contract contact property @ftcfishing.com. We have #3 slip available on the outside line. Contact: [Property@FTCfishing.com](mailto:Property@FTCfishing.com).

~ Don

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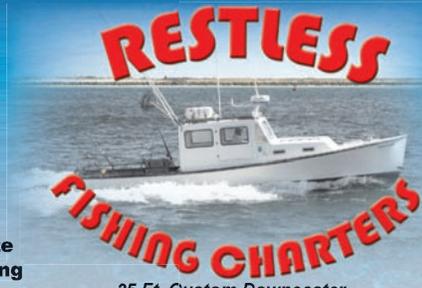
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**Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.**  
Chartered to Promote Sport-fishing & Conservation

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**30<sup>th</sup> Annual  
New York  
Sportfishing Federation  
Show & Auction  
Freeport Rec Center**

Once again the Freeport Tuna Club will have a booth at the NY Sportfishing Federation Forum & Auction held at the Freeport Recreation Center. This is a great opportunity to showcase our club to the public and demonstrate to the local fishing community all we have to offer.

**SHOW DATES**

**Friday, February 17th from 2pm to 6pm**  
**Saturday February 18th from 8am to 6pm &**  
**Sunday February 19th from 9am to 2:30pm**

The auction takes place on Sunday immediately after the close of the show. Wear your FTC apparel to the show and stop by the booth. If anyone wishes to help out at any time.

**We Need Volunteers  
To Help Out!**

Please Contact Bob Pandy  
at (516) 781-4011

**CLASSIFIED:**

- 26' Stamas 1966 hull, Furuno Color Scope, Radio, 100 Gal. fuel tank, runs but needs work. \$4,900.00 or best offer. Contact: Dan (516) 459-6619.
- Boat Slip for Rent. Water@electric in Freeport. **Four Miles from the inlet**, Call Sy Karp (516) 632-9770.
- Unlimited Tuna Rod See Isle, Curved Butt Never Used. Inlimited. Call Sy Karp at (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.
- A "Cardiac Science Automated Defibrillator" needs a new battery. Call Ronnie (561) 434-7755, Cell is (561) 523-3330. **BEST OFFER**
- For Sale Pair of Mercury 175hp Optimaxs with rigging, 2 oil tanks, dts gauges, ss props cables, 25" shafts. Contact Ken Ken Kapner at (516) 390-6958.
- Aruba-Paradise Beach, 2 Br., Ocean View, 3 Pools, Sell or Rent, Week 10 March, Call Tom S. (516) 221-1821

**To place an ad in our classified  
Contact Capt. John Jutt (516) 546-2312  
or E-mail to: JJutt@mmpmk.com**