

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME TWO • FEBRUARY 2014
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EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

Contributing Editor ~ Capt. Lawrence Festa

NEXT GM

Thursday, Feb. 13th 2014

at 7:30 pm

**Cure Of Ars Auditorium
Merrick Avenue • Merrick**

(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

Our guest speaker this month is licensed guide Paul McCain of River Bay Outfitters located in Oceanside.

[see more inside](#)

President's Message.....

Welcome to the February Freeport Tuna Club newsletter, it seems like mother nature is taking a liking to beating up the Northeast this winter... Well we have a few things going on this month that I believe can help our members get past the winter woes. First up is the New York Sports Fishing Federation show at the Freeport Recreation Center, the show is Friday, February 14th to Sunday the 16th. Our own Captain Chris Gerhart of "Wasabi fame" will be doing a seminar on Tuna fishing, I'm sure that will be very informative as well as entertaining. Past president Bob Pandy will be coordinating the Freeport Tuna Club booth, Please see or speak to Bob about volunteering to man the booth. Next on the agenda will be our now infamous Freeport Tuna Club Wild Game Dinner which is on Saturday February 22nd from 6pm to 11pm at Cure of Ars auditorium, great food, cold beer, sweet raffles and maybe a few tall stories, so come on down and support our club. Our entertainment for the February GM will be Paul

McCain of River Bay outfitters from right here in Oceanside, he specializes in Fly fishing. So let's get a great turnout together for Paul and a warm FTC welcome.



Well here is something to think about Senator Charles Schumer said that New York appears to have support from a federal fisheries council to ease restrictions on Fluke quotas for recreational fishing, With a winning vote this month it could mean New York recreational anglers would be able to keep a four bag limit of 18inch Fluke hopefully this vote goes our way.

~ Chris Scarpantonio
President



FISHING REPORT

"Duke of Fluke Calcutta Award"

This month is a great month to re-cap on one of our club's most competitive contests. What leaps off the page is our highly competitive "Duke of Fluke Calcutta Award". What makes this award so special is that it is an inshore contest that allows our entire membership to compete in.

The contest was spearheaded by past two term President, Captain Mike Sullivan. In addition to being a two term President, Captain Mike Sullivan has chaired more committees than any other member I can recognize in my past 30 years as a member.

From Membership to Treasury, Property & Finance are only a few of Mike's commitments to our club. His latest accomplishment was his relentless achievement in getting out FTC taxes reduced. For that we all once again thank Captain Mike as our most valuable "Player of the Year"!

Our "Duke of Fluke Award" hit the ground running in 2005. The rules were simple; a locally caught fluke with a modest entry fee of \$10.00. The contest appealed to all of our members who fished from Freeport to Montauk Point. A re-cap of those winners are as follows:

- 2005 Scott Schafer with a 10 lb 1 oz Montauk Fluke
- 2006 Bob Benzenberg with an 11 lb 4 oz Freeport Fluke
- 2007 Joe Fanora with a 13 lb Freeport Fluke
- 2008 Tom Schwender with a 13 lb. Shinnecock Fluke
- 2009 Don Granger with an 11 lb 3 oz Freeport Fluke
- 2010 a Tie with both Anthony Testa & Bob Sabella's 9 lb Montauk & Freeport Fluke
- 2011 Charlie Spring with a 9 lb 8 oz Montauk Fluke
- 2012 Jack Krug with a 10 lb 10 oz Montauk Fluke
- 2013 Joe Mangiapanello with an 11 lb 4 oz Shinnecock Fluke

When you re-cap & look at this very fairly structured award you can see that no matter where you fish east or west your odds of winning were the same.

In 2013 if ever there was a true horse race it was this year.... And the winner was not announced until the "Fat Lady Sung".

In 2013 we had 83 entrants, a very fine competitive group from both the eastern & western ends of long Island.



Our 1st fish of the year was weighed in by John J. Weber III with a whopping 10 lb 8 oz Freeport fish caught at the Loop Bridge on July 12th.



The fish was a sure lock, until August 13th near the end of the season when Joe Mangiapanello did the hat trick and bested an 11.4 lb Shinnecock Fluke.



Throughout the fluke season many other fine fluke were also caught in the best horse race of this Calcutta's history. Some other fish of note:



Bob Bohlert with what looked to be a very strong contender and his personnel best, a 10 lb Freeport Fluke caught on August 27th



Charlie Goldstein angled a tagged & released 9 lb Montauk Fluke on September 1st

Anthony Testa Jr. also with a 9 lb. Montauk Fluke



Captain Billy christened his all new "F/V White Knight" with a very fine 10.1 lb. fluke caught at Buoy #4 on a live snapper August 23rd.

August 4th Charlie Spring, "F/V Rambunctious" & crew 2 tipping the scales with a 9.3 lbs and 9.1 lb Montauk Fluke.



Our final fluke of the season that was not in the Calcutta but made the boards in great style was Captain Paul Hilton's "never got around to handing in my ten bucks" very fine personnel best a whopping 11.5 lb. Freeport Fluke caught on September 15th.

That about wraps it up for this month. My congratulations to all the fine anglers who made the boards with their trophy Fluke & a very fine well done to all of our "Duke of Fluke" Winners.

- Captain Larry Festa

PROPERTY

Summer leases are coming in and I pleased to report that we now have one person on the waiting list for a slip. So if you do not plan to on leasing a slip this year, please let me know as soon as possible. A few members still have outstanding balances for winter storage. I would appreciate payment before the February GM so we can close the books for 2013. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss any lease issues.

The FTC Board has authorized the rebuilding of the gate and the committee is out getting bids from several companies. We should have this completed by early spring.

I wish to welcome several new members to the Property Committee. Dennis Eberhart, Ed Faza, Kenny Kapner, and Kevin Killelea have joined the committee. I also wish to thank long time members Al Casciano, John Gerrity, Don Granger, and Bob Sabella for their willingness to continue serving on the property committee.

Alan J Evelyn

Property Manager

Work: 646-312-2208

Cell: 917-750-8710

Email: alan.evelyn@baruch.cuny.edu

GOOD AND WELFARE

Good & Welfare: It is with sadness that I report that our oldest member Paul Pezar has passed away this past fall . We where just notified recently of his passing. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his family. On a lighter note Congradulations to member Dan Polera on the birth of his granddaughter. Hope all are well . Jeff

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to new Life Member past President Bob Pandy.

Condolences to the family of long time member Paul Pezar who we learned passed away this fall.

Membership renewal letters have been mailed out. If you do not receive one contact the membership committee at ftc1937@verizon.net. Payment is due January 1, 2014. The dues are \$250 for regular members and \$275 for family members.

Sponsor a new club member and receive a \$100 credit toward your next year's membership dues.

There are two special events this month at which the Membership Committee and others will be recruiting new members: 1) The NY Sportfishing Federation Forum and Auction- Feb 14th to 16th at the Freeport Rec Center and 2) the Club's own Wild Game Dinner Saturday February 22nd.

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DECEMBER 2014 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

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

You'll find an insert in this issue listing our 2013 Annual Awards winners. The committee worked long and hard to compile the list of winners and identify the candidates for the discretionary awards. 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. I hope that everyone will make an effort to attend the March GM where we will recognize all these deserving anglers!

The committee is currently working on the 2014 Derby dates. We will post them on our website ASAP. We will also be bringing back our "at-a-glance" reference cards this year to help everyone with the Derby dates.

The committee would like to wish everyone a safe and productive 2014 Derby season. Let's get those weigh slips in on time!

-Bill Morrogh

Entertainment

Paul has been an avid fly fisherman for over 30 years, having traveled the Americas in search of the "perfect spot". He is an accomplished in the art of fly tying and has taught classes for both the Long Island Flyrodders and Trout Unlimited. Paul will be tying flies, demonstrating casting technique and entertaining us with his trove of fishing knowledge.

Come to the February GM and enjoy the art of the fly!

Ship Store

New Apparel is on order

See us at the next GM in January

CATCH OF THE MONTH

Joe Wade spent some time in Belize, where the fishing was apparently a lot better than what we have been experiencing on Long Island.



Joe's catch included grouper, snapper, wahoo and Spanish mackerel. A very impressive pile of fish. Congrats on the Catch of the Month !



Send in those pictures ! 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

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Bulletin

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