

NEXT GM Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:30pm **Cure of Ars Auditorium** Merrick Avenue • Merrick (Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

With Spring right around the corner, a few of our FTC members are trying to keep cabin fever to a minimum by keeping the Freeport Tuna Club name alive during the long winter months.

President's Message.....

Bob Pandy and his crew of dedicated members did a great job in both rebuilding and manning our Freeport Tuna Club booth at the New York State Sport Fishing Federation Show at the Freeport Recreation Center. A big thank you to all the members who volunteered their time to speak to prospective members about our club. Our very own Capt. Chris (Wasabi) Gerhart had a Tuna Seminar at the show on Sunday that was very informative to all that attended. A big thanks goes out to Wasabi for conducting the seminar.

We also had the Freeport Tuna Club Wild Game Dinner hosted by Bob Benzenberg, Joe Disalvo and Ray Geiger. This event has become one of the highlights of the year and it comes as no surprise that it is sold out once again. Bear, venison and pheasant were among the delicious items that were on the menu. Everyone left with a full belly. There was a lot of time involved putting this together and a lot of people that donated both their hunting catches and/or time to put this awesome event together. Thanks to all involved. Capt. Harry Weinblatt has also been working hard to get our Annual FTC Cod Trip together. The trip has been scheduled for May 2nd through May 4th. For more information contact Capt. Harry as this event always sells out in record time.

This month's GM is all about rewarding the best of the best...it's our Annual Awards Night. Bill Morrogh has a lot of well-deserved

awards that will be handed out for last year's top honors. I hope to see all our members at the GM to support fellow members during this festive meeting. Congratulations to all the award winners!

Some dates to remember: Yard Sale (May 17), Rodeo (July 11-13), Salmon Trip (July 26 & 27), and Luau (August 14).

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Chris Scarpantonio President







I want to wish Larry a speedy recovery on his surgery and will try my best to meet the high bar he has set for this month's report!



The word of the month is COLD juxtaposed to some of our FTC members have been on a HOT bite to the way south.

To start with the HOT -

Mike Wagner on his Islamorada Girl beat up Wahoo to 40 pounds in Islamorada with FTC crew members Joe Fanora and Mike Zullo.

For the rest of us Long Island snow bound members there is not a lot to report. Jimmy Krug fished ocean waters in the mid 30's both East and West with no reward for his efforts. Earlier in the season there was a good bite of Cod in both areas that turned off as the waters cooled.

I personally do not recollect Winter water temps this cold and am taking the time to prep for the upcoming season.

I think it is safe to say that we should expect a late start. Jimmy Krug advised that the Cod bite may start to show signs of life both locally and in Montauk as temps rise above the 40 degree mark. Also look for the Fluke to show in bays close to on time with the Ocean bite most likely late.

I have been trying to figure out the impact of the weather on the Bass. The Spring bite has been changing over the past 2 years and the bunker bite has been on the decline. The main body of fish has moved through our waters much earlier as they have been chasing the Sand Eels. I believe that the large migrating fish are already out of the area before the bunker really settled in. The question for this year - will the cold weather hold the bass down south long enough so they can setup on the bunker. Follow the Jersey reports for early indications!

There is some concern in my circle on the Bass biomass being on the decline. Our unscientific opinion is that we have all been catching less fish. We experienced a phenomenal bite in the Fall off Fire Island but looking at the bigger picture there may have been a strong underlying message. There was no known bite going on anywhere else but on that body of sand eels. It was like every fish on the coast followed that school of bait from Montauk to Fire Island and then south offshore. The bite may have been great but there were not nearly enough fish anywhere else. I will be adjusting my harvest rate appropriately to respect this great fishery.

I'm going to leave the offshore and bottom fishing advice to Larry for next month!

I do expect the action both inshore and offshore to get going at the same time making for a mad dash to get in on the action. We should plan on being prepped so we can capitalize on the best available options.

I suggest spending the down time setting goals, addressing boat safety, boat maintenance/upgrades, prepping gear and making rigs. My goal is to be locked and loaded and ready to roll with my family crew when it is go time!

Have a great month and see you at Awards Night!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO GM DOUG TOBACK FOR STEPPING IN TO COVER THIS

REPORT WHILE LARRY IS IN RECOVERY. THANKS DOUG, FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

MARCH 2014 DERBY, AWARDS **CONTESTS REPORT**

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

I hope to see everyone at the March GM Annual Awards Night! A big turnout always helps so come on down and support the winners of our 2013 Annual Awards! We'll also be recognizing a new club record, Joe Mangiapanello's 7.5lb American Eel taken on Bryon King's "Kingfisher".

We start off 2014 with Cod and Winter Flounder. These are 2 great derbies to target to pick up a derby or annual award.

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE STARTING THIS MONTH:

Cod (6 lb. min) March15th - May 4th Winter Flounder (1.5 lb. min) April 5th - May 18th

The complete Derby calendar for 2014 will be available on our website shortly.

Membership

We have three new members to swear in at the March meeting: Ed McDonnell from Wantagh and Don Neubauer from Baldwin, both of whom joined at the Freeport Sport fishing Federation Show and Chris Vosilla from Freeport, a neighbor of former President Jim Roonev.

In addition, the club has invited a number of individuals that expressed interest in learning more about the club to attend the March 13th' GM meeting. We look forward to answering their questions and encourage all members to make them feel welcome.

Congratulations to all who worked the Freeport Show. You did an outstanding job representing the Club.

E-Bulletin

If you are thinking that you would like go paperless, the club is once again offering that as an option. To sign up, email ftc1937@verizon.net and request to be put on the exclusive ebulletin list. If later you conclude that you would rather receive paper, your decision is completely reversible. So why not give it a try?



* * * * * * * * * * * * * * CATCH OF TH

Many of our FTC members head south for the winter and with the weather we've experienced up north who came blame them?

Islamorada is a popular destination and at least one of our members is fortunate enough to have a boat stationed there, such as Mike Wagner and his downeaster Islamorada Girl.



Capt Mike, Joe, and Mike on the Islamorada Girl

Freeport Tuna Club Special Event **2014 Annual Offshore Cod Trip**

This year is the 14th year that the Freeport Tuna Club will be running this springtime fishing extravaganza. The date's for this year's voyage is scheduled for May 2-4 aboard the 140foot Viking Starship sailing from Montauk, NY. We have traditionally fished for cod, haddock, and other mixed species off the coast of Massachusetts at the Stellwagon Bank.

If you have made this trip before you certainly know how much fun we have. This is a yearly event that most everyone looks forward to. If you have not made this trip before I invite you to join us for a weekend of club camaraderie and I promise that you will have a great time.

The boat will leave Montauk Harbor Friday evening May 2nd at 7:00PM and return Sunday evening May 4th at approx 10:00PM. The fare for this year's trip is \$ 320.00 and will be limited strictly to 40 anglers. I will be collecting payment in full at the upcoming General Meeting on March 13, 2014. Please see me if you are interested in joining us.

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt F/V Blue Marlin

With a crew of fellow FTC member Mike Zullo and Joe Fanora onboard extremely clear water was present which made Yellowtail Snapper fishing poor. They decided to switch to trolling with some new lures Mike wanted to try out and landed three wahoo, including Mike's nice 40lb specimen. 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



Mike Wagner with a 40 lb Wahoo

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

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB COMMITTEES 2014			
January 28, 2014			
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Non-Fishing Related Committees			
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Jim Krug	Ed Faza	Jim Azzi	Ray Geiger*
Raplh Drewes	John Gerrity*	Woody Anderson*	Alan Evelyn
Chris Sarpantonio	Don Granger	Don Morin	
Mike Sullivan	Al Casciano	Ray Geiger	Good & Welfare
Bob Sabella	Bob Sabella	Gerald Amitrano	Jeff Squeri*
Chris Squeri	Dennis Eberhart		Chris Squeri
Paul Noto	Kevin Killelea		
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Bob Pandy*	Michael Sullivan*	Theresa Morrogh*	Chris Squeri*
Joe Jahn	Jeff Squeri	Don Granger	
Al Casciano	Bob McVey	Bill Morrogh	<u>Yearbook</u>
Harry Weinblatt	Lawrence Festa		Pending
	Tim Sherman		
	Peter Monteleone		
	Alan Evelyn		
	Nick Nero		
Raffle Prize	Bulletin	Holiday Party	Nominating
Paul Cunningham*	John Jutt*	Ray Geiger *	&Rules
	Paul Hilton	Woody Anderson	Pending
Ships Store	Michael Sullivan		
Paul Schuber*	Lawrence Festa		
Rosemary Schuber			
Fishing Related Committees			
Awards & Contest	Derbies	Shoot-Outs	<u>Captain/Angler</u>
Bill Morrogh*	Bill Morrogh*	Chris Bellinzoni	Bob Pandy*, Bob Sabella
Michael Zullo	Michael Zullo	John Rooney	Jimmy Azzi, Ken Donen
Lawrence Festa	Lawrence Festa		Joe Steiner, Don Morin
Conservation	Fishing Reports	Open Clinic	Bill Hines, Woody Anderson
Dennis Cataldo*	Lawrence Festa*	Chris Bellinzoni	Sharon Missan, Ken Kapner
Bill Toohey	_		
Rodeos	Tournaments		

Special Advisors: Bob Pandy, John Rooney, Bill Toohey

Matt Errett*



Pending



Federation Show

On February 14th, 15th, and 16th we had our booth at the Freeport

Recreation Center for the Sportfishing Federation Show. A few weeks prior to the show I got together with Bob McVey and we got the picture boards out of the shed and into the Clubhouse. We refaced the boards with new 4x8 Homasote so the pictures can be stapled on. The following week Kenny Kapner and I put all the pictures on the boards. The next week was the show. On Thursday the day before the show we had a snow storm and on Friday, thanks to Chris Squeri for plowing the snow at the property I met with Kenny Kapner, Chris Bellinzoni and Kevin Killela and we loaded the van up with the picture boards and headed to the Rec. Center. We put the booth together and it really looked great! Then Peter Monteleone and Mitch Vidur came to the booth to help out. It was a slow day because of all the snow.

On Saturday morning when I got to the booth Peter Monteleone and Rick Totten were busy talking to prospective members. Rick picked up Dunkin Donuts and coffee for everyone at the booth. At 12:00 P.M. we were joined by Kenny Kapner, Jim Azzi and Woody Anderson. They were the next crew to work the booth. The attendance was a bit light because of the snow.

On Sunday the show was very busy lots of people. At 9:00 A.M. working the both were Peter Monteleone, Gene Schettini, Sy Karp and Sharon Missan. At 12:00 Noon Alan Evelyn, Billy Hines, Mike Sullivan and Kevin Killela helped to run the both. Bob McVey donated 2 Fishing Rods and Reels to be raffled off at the March 13th G.M. for the prospective members that signed in at the Sportfishing Show. Peter Monteleone really worked the booth hard all weekend and was able to get most of the names.

Two people paid for a membership at the booth, along with 20 more names that hopefully will come to our G.M. on March 13th.

I think the show was a great success and I want to thank everyone that helped out.

Bob Pandy

GOOD AND WELFARE

A speedy recovery goes to "Larry the Legend" Larry had a hip replacement and should be up and dancing soon.

Our Condolences goes to Bill Morrogh and his family on the recent death of his father.



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