

# Tuna Tower News

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

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



VOLUME FOUR • APRIL 2006

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 20 at 8:00 pm

**Cure of Ars Church School Auditorium**

**Merrick Ave., Merrick**

**(South of Sunrise Highway between Sunrise Hwy. & Merrick Road)**

Please Note  
Meeting  
Change

## Happy Easter! Joyous Passover!

### GUEST SPEAKER CAPT. TRED BARTA



***Tred is an angler, hunter, TV personality, crusader, and tournament organizer for under-privileged children. Tred has been credited as the modern pioneer of canyon fishing, developing many of the techniques used today, such as warm core eddies existence and its keys to bluewater success.***



## President's Message

Jim Rooney

Spring is here and we at the club are getting ready for the start of a new season. Our annual cod-fishing trip kicks off our event schedule. This trip is already sold out but if you're still interested, contact Harry Weinblatt to be placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations. Harry also informs me that he was able to get Chef Kobi to cook for the trip including his famous prime rib dinner. Harry keeps making this trip better and better. Harry Weinblatt also stepped in for Mike Ceina at our March clinic. Mike had to cancel, but Harry conducted an excellent cod clinic for 35 members in a packed clubhouse, good job Harry and thank you again. The property committee did an excellent job repairing the north end of our dock. It looks great and a big thank you goes out to all those who volunteered their time for this project. The property committee will be looking for members to volunteer for upcoming work parties at the property. Keep an eye on the web site and in the monthly bulletin for dates and times and come down and help out (many hands make light work). Our new entertainment committee (Jeff Yapalater) did a great job by getting Tred

Barta Host of the OLN TV series "The Best and Worst of Tred Barta" to speak at our April GM. Tred has fished our waters for many years and is known to be a very colorful character in the fishing community. This will make for a very interesting and informative GM for all to attend. Speaking of GMs, I would like to thank Captain Larry Festa for the excellent job he did at our March awards night. The thought and hard work you put into this night made it special for every member and is what makes this club stand ahead of other clubs. Thank you again Larry for such a professional job. I would also like to congratulate all the members receiving awards for doing a great job on the 2005 season. All award categories were filled. Good luck to all members on the 2006 season, Fish hard, have fun and remember that participation is the key to a great club experience.

Jim Rooney  
President



## FISHING BULLETIN

With the official arrival of spring, we are finally a step closer to the start of our 2006 season. Although April always has a surprise for us, as the month wears on the weather should start to provide us with the prime ingredients necessary for this season to get going. Our club property is starting to show signs that the boats are coming out of their winter hibernation and getting readied for the start of another season.



On the local fishing front, past presidents Capt. Jim Krug, Capt. John Jutt and Paul Sposato treated their dads to some local flounder action last weekend. Fishing some of the Persuaders local holes they managed a catch of a baker's dozen, keeping eleven for the cooler and home in time for the children's sports activities. A lot further to the west some of the boats that have made the long trek down to Raritan Bay were also treated to some flounder action. As more boats get into the water, we will find out how the season is going to shape up. A few weeks prior, Capt. Jim Krug hit a few local spots for blackfish and was treated to a keeper cod along with many short blackfish.

On the offshore scene Capt. Grover Howell along with Capt. Bob Schmidt were invited along for a day of offshore wreck fishing. They fished a few drops in thirty fathoms of water and reported action on all of them. Final tally for the day was a limit of jumbo Seabass up to 5lbs. a sprinkling of Pollack up to 20lbs. and a sprinkling of porgies, which were returned to the water. The season is not open for them yet. One cod was caught which rounded out the catch.

The report from out east is that the cod fishing is good some days and slow on others. Recently, Scott Schaffer accompanied the crew of Bob Hindenlang, Joe Fanora and Kirk Plefka managed a catch of six cod for their efforts of running 125 miles round trip for the day. Two weeks prior to that club members Paul Hilton, Peter Cefai and Nick Nero were aboard the Sea Otter for a day of local Montauk Cod. On that trip they reported that over sixty keeper cod were caught with Paul copping the pool with a 19 lb. fish.

Lastly the word on the mackerel is not yet. This year the next full moon that usually coincides with the mackerel migration is not until May 12th. Stay tunned. Our Annual Offshore Codfish Trip is sold out. I am currently collecting names for a waiting list. In the past inevitably a spot opens up because of the unexpected. The dates are set for a departure on the evening of Friday April 21 and returning on Sunday evening April 23. We will be sailing aboard the Viking Starship this year.

The fare for this much-awaited event is \$ 235.00 per person.

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt

F/V Blue Marlin

## PROPERTY

The second and final payment for slips for 2006 was due on April 1. Please send in your check if you haven't already done so. Anyone interested in a slip should put their name on the waiting list. See Mike Sullivan.

## GOOD AND WELFARE

We all have some personal info we'd like to share whether it be births, weddings, sickness, graduations or bereivement. If you want to include your family news Call Jeff Squeri at 516-221-6343 or 718-423-5033 and leave him a message so we can put it in this monthly Bulletin.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO CAPTAIN HARRY WEINBLATT COD TRIP PREP-UP

Capt Harry Weinblatt hosted a COD fishing crew-up in anticipation of the planned COD Trip April 21 and 23. Capt Weinblatt went over all tackle, clothing and gear that would help make the trip more successful. Topics ranged from sleeping arrangements, to the menu of the trip which is culminating in an anticipated Prime Rib feast by experienced, friend, Chef Kobi.

## 2006 CAPTAIN ANGLERS NIGHTS BEGIN!

April 7 is the beginning of Captain Anglers Nights. Held every Thursday night at the property, our weekly Bar-B-Q and meals are prepared by various club members. This is a great informal way to meet other members, crew-up for the weekend, have a bite and brew, or otherwise share fishing stories with other obsessive anglers! And every last Thursday night of the month features a Fishing Clinic. The April 27th Clinic features Techniques of Successful Striped Bass fishing. Come on down!

## BFT REGS TO BE CANNED

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) held it's public comment forum March 22 in Islip.

18 people from the area showed up to express their feelings about the proposed (3) 47-73 inch Blue Fin tuna per trip per boat. Capt John Raguso, charter captain, and writer for the Fisherman Magazine spoke up and said " there might as well be a 100 fish per trip limit " since he felt there were no fish this size to be caught inshore.

Another individual, Rod, from J&R Tackle, accused the NMFS of driving Tackle shop owners, and Charter boat Captains out of business for their disregard of the realities of what eliminating school BFTunettes has on everyone. The FTC was represented by John Scanlon, Bruce Forster, Chris Gerhart, and Jeff Yapalater.

All took a few minutes to add their 2 cents worth of opinion regarding the restrictive conditions that NMFS has repeatedly placed on the recreational fishery. It appears that the Commercial interests have managed to consistently have a larger piece of the BFT apportionment pie that has been promulgated by the ICCAT which determines the amount of tuna the Unites States can take legally from international waters.

The two individuals from the NMFS took lots of notes, and it appeared that our opinions were being taken seriously. We are looking to see if we will be allocated a one month or so shot at a few school BFTunettes.

But that remains to be seen after the series of public forums have finished and if there is enough clout on our behalf to convince NMFS to move things around to accommodate us 23,000 recreational permit holders and help keep our related fishing brethren in business.



## CLUB AWARDS & DERBY DATES

Capt. Lawrence J. Festa F/V Kristen

APRIL 2006 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Lawrence J. Festa

Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, Mary Ellen Zullo,  
Captain Chris Squeri, Joseph Jahn

On behalf of my committee I thank all members who came to our March 2005 Awards Night, I also thank all those members who could not be in attendance but took the time to respond back, so that they could also be proudly acknowledged.

This year six (6) new club records were awarded, Forty six (46) out of forty seven (47) of our 2005 Annual Awards were achieved and a total of Forty nine (49) FTC Plaques were awarded.

This all would not have been possible without the hard & relentless sportsmanship of our General Members. On behalf of your Awards Committee I thank all of you for making it a night to remember.

I am also pleased to announce that our 2006 Global Awards shall read as follows:

The Jiggs Silber Memorial Global Anglers Award:

Five (5) Club Trophies will be awarded each year; one (1) for the largest Fluke; one (1) for the largest Codfish; one (1) for the largest Weakfish; one (1) for the largest Blackfish; and one (1) for the largest Sea Bass. They will be awarded to the member catching the largest of each species and weighing the fish at any official weigh station.

THIS IS A GLOBAL AWARD.

Jiggs will truly be missed by all,  
a well honored memorial to a true American Hero & Sportsman.  
The following Derbies are in progress or starting this month:  
Cod (10 lbs.)..... March 25th ~ May 7th  
Blackfish (03 lbs.).....April 15th ~ MAY 21st  
(Pending DEC Regs)  
Flounder (01 lbs. 08 ozs.).....April 1st ~ May 14th  
(Pending DEC Regs.)  
Seabass ( 02 lbs.).....April 22rd ~ June 4th

## FLUKE CALCUTTA

It is with great enthusiasm to proudly announce the 2006 Fluke Calcutta. Many have been asking about it. Anticipation is high. Several of you have made suggestions for improving the Calcutta over last year's format. After careful consideration by the Calcutta Committee and after careful deliberation, the Committee has decided to keep the same format as last year, namely \$10 entry fee, biggest fish takes all. There are no limits on where you can fish (its global), and no limit on how long you can fish (stay out all night, if your spouse lets you). The Calcutta runs all season. You just have to be a member, catch the biggest fluke and be in it to win it (right Don ?). The winner will receive the pool, which was \$730 last year, and have their name engraved for all to see on the coveted Calcutta plaque! This year's prize money of course depends on how many enter. To sign up, see Mike Sullivan at the GM or anytime during the season or send him your check.

## MORE SAFE BOATING COURSES

Sign up before it is too late for area New York State Boating and Jetski Courses.

-April 15, 10am-VFW Hall Bellmore, call Roseanne DiSimone 516-797-4701

-April 25, 7pm-Wantagh High School- Call the school 516-785-3054

-April 29, 9am-Calhoun High School, Merrick-Call 516-992-1062

-May 4, 6:30pm-North Merrick Library-Call 516-378-7474

Email CaptainRoe@aol.com or the individual location

## NOAA FREE WRECK LOCATION INFO

Get a jump on the upcoming Derbies with hundreds of wrecks information that could lead you to a winning fish. This information is free to download, and locations are approximate but a great way to find you own sweet spot. Broken down by general areas, you can use your PDF reader to open and print out.

If you need a PDF reader, go to our website for a download. <http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/hsd/awois/contus/awois.htm>

## FTC SHOOT-OUT

Start to gear up for the first 2006 FTC Shoot-Out. Scheduled for May 19, 20, and 21, our first competition will be against the Matinecock Fishing Club. Striped Bass and only the fish that are on Official Club slips and that are handed to the shoot-out committee will count toward the three heaviest fish compared to the other club's fish that are being fished against. Several other Rodeos are scheduled. Watch the Bulletin for more details monthly. Contact John Rooney 516-721-8207

May 19,20 &21, Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Striped Bass Fishing against the Matinecock Fishing club, Hudson Anglers

June 9,10&11, Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Fluke and Bluefish Fishing against the Hudson Anglers.

June 30, July 1 & 2, Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Fluke and Bluefish Fishing against Matinecock Fishing Club.

July 14,15 &16, Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Shark Fishing against Hudson Anglers, Staten Island Fishing Club and Bablyon Tuna Club

August 25, 26, 27, Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Tuna Fishing against Bablyon Tuna Club.

October 20,21 & 22, Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Striped Bass Fishing against Staten Island Fishing Club.

## CONSERVATION

The Flounder Season opened on April 1st and it will remain open thru May 31st. The bag limit is 10 fish and the size limit is 12 inches.

The Fluke season will open on Saturday May 6th and closes on Sunday September 10th. The bay limit is 4 fish and the size limit is 18 inches. This is not 100% official but it is what DEC said they would declare regarding the Fluke season. There doesn't seem to be any other alternative.

The Striped bass season opens April 15th. We are allowed one fish at 28 inches and a second fish over 40 inches.

Bluefish season remains open until May 31st. The bag limit is 10 fish and the size limit is 14 inches.

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**2006 Officers**

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Joseph Jahn.....2nd Vice President

Mike Sullivan ..... Treasurer

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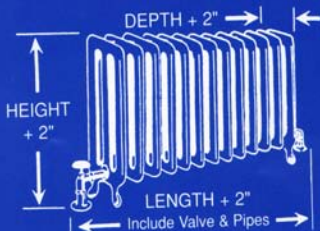
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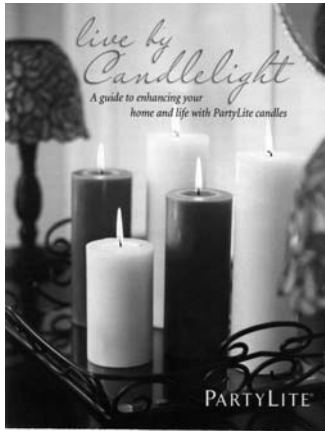
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*Howard, Bob, Vinny, & Hal*