

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME FOUR • APRIL 2013
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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, April 11, 2013 at 7:30pm
Cure Of Ars Auditorium
Merrick Avenue • Merrick
(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

President's Message.....

Dear Members,

Last month's general meeting attendance was great and mostly because of our Annual Awards Night, which brought out the Best of the Best to receive a plaque and Gift certificate. I'd like to congratulate those members for their outstanding catches. We are about to start all over again so get out there and fish and you might be getting an Annual Award next year.

By the time you read this message the Flounder season has begun and the temperatures are rising. Time to remove that shrinkwrap from your boat, tune up your engine, paint the bottom, wax on wax off, pay for dockage, pay your insurance, buy new Electronics, then splash your boat, put fuel in it, WOW! Now you could look at your boat in the water instead of on land. B.O.A.T. Break Out Another Thousand. We must really Love this Sport.

As of this writing Don Granger our Property Manager along with Bob (I could do anything) Sabella will be shutting down the heat in the Club house in order to drain the system and remove the old baseboard heat. Then they will start the process of putting up new walls, ceiling tiles and floor tiles .Hopefully the Club House will be completed by about May 1st Just in time for our First Captain Anglers Thursday Night.

Make sure you attend the APRIL G.M. Our Entertainment Committee head and Board member Ray Geiger is welcoming Jim Gilmore who is the Director of Marine Fisheries of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. He will be talking about our Annual catch limits for commercial and recreational fisheries and other topics of interest to us.

We have a great line up of Events for this coming year starting with our Annual offshore Cod fishing trip May 3rd to the 5th there may be a spot open so see 1st V.P. Captain Harry Weinblatt if your going.

Then there's our a Annual Yard Sale on May 18th. Besides selling fishing gear we are asking Hunter's who would like to sell their new or used hunting Equipment like duck decoys, tents, camouflaged clothing

and tree stands Etc. Hope to have a large turnout so see Bob Benzenberg or Al Casciano to sign up and get a table and **HELP SUPPORT THE CLUB.**

Our past President John Rooney said he will head up our shoot-outs with other clubs for the different species of fish, so we will be looking forward to those dates.

Don't forget about our special raffle for a 9ft. Inflatable boat powered with a 5 Horse power Tohatsu outboard motor Tickets are \$10.00 each see Jim Rooney to get tickets and support the club.

There's also our Rodeos and we are also planning another Booze cruise last years was great with good food and great weather. Also the Annual FTC Salmon Trip, Luau at the Property, and the Flotilla at Zach's Bay. So I believe we are headed for a terrific Year.

Congratulations are in order for our newest lifetime member Arnold Fleisher Thank you for your many years of dedication to the Freeport Tuna Club.

As of this message we have 159 Paid Members. For this time of year I think that's pretty good. Last GM's Attendance prize was won by Joe Sarrantonio. He walked away with \$125.00 and \$25.00 worth of raffle tickets. He gave back half of his winnings to the club. Thanks Joe.

O.K. Let's go fishing.

Earth's Surface is ¾ water and ¼ land It's obvious that God intended man to spend triple the time FISHING than doing yard work.

~ President 2013 ~ Bob Pandy



Fishing Report

As of this writing we will already in preparation for our 2013 season... so it will not be long before we are in full swing. Cool weather has not been helpful in getting our boats ready but hopefully this coming month we will get the weather we need to launch our boats and complete our property projects.

No word yet on our spring mackerel run, however it history proves correct they should make their appearance in very late April.

Reports are still are finally coming from our members. So here is the latest:

On the offshore tuna scene, Captain Steve Rodeos reports this slammer trip:

Captain Stephen Rhodes and the crew from the F/V "Legacy" made the trip to Oregon Inlet and fished with Capt. Mark DeBlasio on the 60 F/V "Canyon Runner" on St. Patty's Day. They started the day fast with a 72 inch 200+ pound bluefin hitting the decks in half an hour. Ten minutes later they had another one hooked up and brought to the boat in 40 minutes that was released and in the 350 pound class. The seas started at 4-6 feet and built throughout the day to around 8-10 feet when a triple-header of 400-450 bluefins hit at 1:30. Captain



Stephen landed the first one in about 15 minutes on a 50-Wide and then went on to finish off the other two in fights that lasted one hour and thirty minutes in total. All three bluefins were released and the crew went a stellar 5 for 5 in rough conditions. Day 2 was blown out with 35 knot east winds but the tired and happy crew headed north with coolers full of Toro. The season has been kicked off for the FTC and we

can't wait to see these fish migrating by the Texas Towers in mid-May. We'll be there to greet them.

Barbara Solomon reports the 1st Strip bass of our season. Barbara fished the Hudson River just south of the Tapanzee Bridge on Sunday Marc 24th. Here is Barbara's 1st striper trip of the season blow-blow:

"We decided to take a road trip Sunday morning up the Hudson River in search of stripers. The season opens March 16, north of the George Washington Bridge. Loaded the car with rods, bait and hit the road. Traveled about 60 miles to a spot that looked promising. Temps were a little chillier than we anticipated. Geared up at the car, and hiked our way in through the woods to the "spot". Came out onto a clearing with a swift N Wind. Blood worms were on the menu. Fished all of outgoing tide with 2 run offs. This whole Hudson River fishing thing was very different than what we were used to. After the tide ran out, we decided to stay and wait for incoming. I mean after all we had already committed to the mile walk in, so turning back wasn't really an option.

As the tide came in and the sun set, we set up our rods. Tap Tap.. is that a fish.. Yup sure was!! A keeper striper .. As the night fall set in, we missed several other fish, landing 3 in total. I had 2 and Pete 1.

Packed up after dark and trekked back to the truck. Met a couple of nice local guys along the way who were even willing to give us some worms, after we ran out. Was a great trip and we are planning to follow the striper migration up the Hudson River all month."

Out eastern Captain, Charlie Sporing reported many efforts to sail with all trips being a blow-out. The effort is there but Mother Nature was not ready. With such winds and a family Easter vacation trip planned. Captain Charlie spent the week in Maryland. Charlie stole a day and fished the rail on Captain Monty Hawkin's F/V "Morning Star". Charlie bested 3 fine keeper "Tog" weighing in a 14 lbs. 3 oz. & two others in the 10 lb. class. The Tog will make Charlie a strong fish to beat for our Annual Global Award. On the boating front with so many vessels being damage we welcome the following new boats into our club:

Captain Bruce Forester is the new owner of a beautiful 35' Carolina Classic. The vessel sports twin 480 Cummins & full tower. She is combat ready, both the Captain and his new offshore rig welcome members of the FTC to crew her this coming season. The all new "O'Reely" with be birthed in Bayshore Long Island. Best of luck Captain Bruce.

Captain Billy Mannio reports the all new arrival of his new 27' Judge. After selling his 35 Duffy, Captain Billy is back in the game! The all New F/V "White Knight" sports a 300 Suzuki outboard & twin anchors.

That about wraps it up for this report. If you had a good catch drop the Awards & Contest Committee a line we would love to hear about your catch and share it with our membership: E-Mailcaptainlarry84@aol.com.

~ Sincerely,

Captain Larry Festa - S/A



"Captain Barbara Solomon is pictured here with the first Striped Bass of the season"

For those of you possibly looking for the second Striped Bass, you'll have to travel north west up the hudson river.

Congratulations Barbara

Annual Offshore Cod Trip May 3 - 5, 2013

This is the fourteenth year that the Freeport Tuna Club will be running its spring time fishing extravaganza. We will be sailing aboard the Viking Starship departing from Montauk once again. In past years we have traditionally fished off the coast of Massachusetts at the Stellwagon National Marine Sanctuary for Cod, Pollack, Haddock, Wolfish and other mixed species. Impending regulations could derail fishing in that area. We are planning on heading offshore south of Montauk to some of Capt. Steven Foresberg's secret wrecks which he is saving for our trip. We will be targeting Cod, Hake, Pollack and other species on day one. On day two we will hit some offshore wrecks off the coast of Nantucket. If the weather is not conducive for the offshore trip and the impending regulations are not enacted upon then we will head back up to Stellwagon Bank and enjoy the traditional fishery which has not disappointed us in the past. The boat will be leaving Montauk Friday evening May 3rd at approx 7:00PM and returning back to Montauk Sunday evening May 5th at approx 10:00PM. The fare for this year's trip is \$ 320.00 and will be strictly limited to 35 anglers. I will be collecting payment in full at the upcoming General Meeting which is scheduled for March 14th 2013.

If you are interested or on the fence about going on this trip, please take note that there are a limited number of spots available so sign up now and you will not miss the boat. This is one of the best events that the club runs and if you are into club camaraderie then look no further as you will enjoy plenty of that on this trip.

Please see Harry Weinblatt at the GM if you're interested in this year's trip or contact me by telephone 516-351-7223.

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt

F/V Blue Marlin

Catch of the Month Big Maryland Tog

Our catch of the month goes to Charlie Sporing who caught this fine 14.3 lb. Tautog (aka blackfish) while fishing on the Morning Star out of Ocean City Maryland recently. Charlie had great things to say about Capt Monty Hawkins and crew. Capt. Monty is a huge proponent of reef building and common sense fisheries management and certainly knows where the big ones live.



Our current FTC record stands at 16.88 lbs. caught by Denis Cataldo, also in Ocean City Maryland. The IGFA record stands at 25 lbs even, caught in Ocean City New Jersey.

Warmer water tog' are known to grow to larger proportions than those in northern N.J. and up through New England. Some feel this is due to a lack of shutdown or hibernation period when compared to the cooler waters in northern areas, similar to many freshwater species.

Unfortunately, N.Y. longer offers a spring season. Current N.Y. regulations allow 4 fish per angler, greater than 16" in length, from October 5th to December 14th.

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

Good and Welfare

Dr. John Weber's father is having surgery for a problem related to radiation he received for cancer.

Fluke Calcutta

It is time to get the 2013 Fluke Calcutta underway. Entry fee remains \$10- winner take all. Same rules, you may catch the fish from any port during the regular fluke season. All fish must be alive at the time it is caught with hook and line. We will start collecting at the GM..

Conservation

Unfortunately, nothing has been settled yet regarding Fluke and Sea Bass in New York State. If you heard differently your information is incorrect!!

Flounder opened April 1st and closes on June 1st. You are allowed 2 fish at 12 inches. Striped Bass opens April 1st and closes on June 1st. You are allowed 2 fish at 12 inches. Striped Bass opens April 15th. You are allowed 2 fish over 28 inches and one over 40 inches.

~ Chairman Dennis Cataldo

Membership

One hundred and fifty nine have renewed their membership so far. That means 43 have yet to renew. If you are one of the 43, please take out your checkbook now and send your renewal in. The membership Committee appreciates your payment.

~ Mike Sullivan

Mark your calendar for this Summers great FTC events!

1. **May 18th FTC Yard sale**
2. **July 11th FTC Dinner cruise (tentative Date)**
3. **July 19th, 20th, 21st - FTC Rodeo week ends with BBQ on Sunday, 21st July**
4. **July 27th, 28th - Salmon Trip**
5. **August 8th FTC Luau**
6. **FTC Flotilla (date to be announced)**

Anyone interested in helping the above committees please contact Jim Rooney at (516) 850-6772 or jp5820@aol.com

Please support the FTC. Boat Raffle (9 FT Advanced Inflatable with a 5 hp. Tohatsu Motor) Tickets \$10 ea.

Thank you,
Jim Rooney

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Matt Errett

1. Cape May – South Jersey Shark Tournament – June 6th - 9th
2. Hudson Anglers Shark Tournament – June 15th, rain date June 16th
3. Woodcleft Shark Tournament – June 22nd, rain date June 23rd
4. Star island 27th Annual Shark Tournament – June 14th – 15th – rain date June 30th
5. Star Island 21st Annual Mako/Thresher Mania Tournament – August 2nd - 3rd
6. Noreast Big Dog Shootout – June 1st – July 31st Visit www.noreast.com for details
7. Bayshore Tuna Club Shark Tournament – June 29th,
8. Oak Bluffs 27th Annual Monster Shark Tournament – July 18th -20th
9. Cape May – South jersey 22nd, Annual Mid Atlantic \$500,000 August 18th – 23rd
10. 40th Anniversary White Marlin Open, Ocean City, Maryland – August 5th – 9th (410) 289-9229

Visit www.ftcfishing.com for additional updates as they become available. **Be safe, and good luck to all!!**

April 2013 Derby Awards & Contests Report

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

Our 2013 Derby season has begun! Good luck to everyone. Don't forget those annual awards and send in your weigh slips! These early season Derbies are a great way to get on the leader board. We'll be updating our "Bragging Rights" board down at the property as soon as the slips start coming in.

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE STARTING THIS MONTH:

Cod (6 lbs.)	March 16th – May 5th
Flounder (1.5 lbs.)	April 6th – May 12th
Striped Bass (15 lbs.)	May 4th – June 9th
Weakfish (5 lbs.)	May 11th – June 23rd

The complete Derby calendar for 2013 is available on our website.

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