



NEXT GM

Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:30pm

Cure Of Ars Auditorium

Merrick Avenue • Merrick

This GM is Dedicated In Loving Memory Of Captain Larry Festa

THE PASSING OF LARRY FESTA

A GIANT tree has unexpectedly fallen in the forest of our fishing friends. We all know the natural order of life consists of many transitions, that is just the way it goes, it's all part of the plan. However, some tremors and transitions are major-and the passing of Larry Festa is so big on so many levels.

Losing Larry Festa is a major shock to all of us. Just think of the history of The Freeport Tuna Club, it is embroidered with loving support by Larry Festa in every facet, in every position, on so many levels. Take a look at the advice given on so many of the Internet boating and fishing boards,- who is there with the answers? Who puts up the photos? Who is always reaching out to help people with technical problems? Who so patiently teaches them? And not only does Larry give that advice, he does it in such a giving way. Larry does not grandstand, he looks for no attention to himself- he quietly and unselfishly works on the numbers, and gives so much of himself in helping others..

Larry, the Captain of his beloved boat The Kristen, was so giving, always out to help everyone-he was the expert trying to also give his fishing expertise to so many others so unselfishly. As a shark fishing expert, there was not any better than Larry. He will be remembered and missed for a long time, and one consolation is that he is now belongs to the ages with his wonderful father and fishing partner, buddy and best friend-John Festa,- another wonderful man who predeceased his son in the natural order of life.

Yes, what a loss with Larry-and with so many good miles to go-cut short, - but such is life. And while that life was cut short, we should all be grateful for so much that was given to us by having Larry in our lives.

Larry was our marathon man, which made it all the more shocking. He was the guy who knew where that Ponce de Leon fountain of youth was, always in great shape-always with a smile, and we thought he would be here forever.

Heaven knows he will be missed,-how many times have you seen on the board where someone bought a new boat, or needed a new propeller and Larry would start his calculations- "Tell me about the engine, the tranny, what is the gear ratio? What is the propeller clearance?-What shaft size? Let me work on this for you and come up with the right answer." And then a short time later his expert advice would be lovingly given.

And as stated above, Larry not only helped people, but he helps them "quietly" not looking for any grandstand or thank you's, not even for any recognition for himself. Larry was the essence of what is a First Class Guy.

And he had so many passions,-how I respect that Larry could make the transition from the Kristen and boating with his own boat, and then with his head held high-transpose that love of life into other aspects of other hobbies and passions he loved. His motorcycle, his cars-never getting stale with life, but always finding new adventures.

And what a man of dignity with his career! In a world of daily headlines of corruption, Larry Festa was absolutely above reproach in his life, and especially on his job. There was no other side with Larry. He was first class, it was to the letter, and Larry always said "As I see others fall around me, that is not the road I will ever take." Larry only knew one way, the moral and right way. He so respected his boss District Attorney Richard Brown, always concerned about his well-being, and ever-loyal. Larry really cared, he was a professional's professional. The loyalty Larry expressed towards DA Richard Brown and his team was total devotion.

And then as I think of those who will miss Larry so much, I then say to myself - "how does that compare to the loss to his wife Pat, his two wonderful daughters-and the rest of his family?" And what about Larry's brother, and then my thoughts went to Larry's mom who is still with us and now has outlived her son, and how Larry always took care of her. Yes, we all have a loss with Larry Festa's transition, but no one is going to feel it like his family. I am sure we all wish them the very best with love and support.

It is a hard and harsh reality to think that our phones, our posts-will never be graced with the words of Larry Festa again-that's hard for so many of us to take,-but that is the process called life.

So the lesson for all of us is,- love those around you every day,-do not let your love for those dear to you hide,-express it, embrace it-love life,-it is a short ride which does not last forever. This time called life is surrounded by great beauty-and we should strive to taste all of the wonderful parts of living. And yes, embrace the challenges as well. For in the total picture of it all,- the "here and now" is a miraculous experience which is a wondrous gift in this time called our lives.

Farewell Larry Festa in this dimension- and thank you for your Love and Friendship and all that you have brought to our boating and fishing community. We are deeply grateful and you will truly be missed.

these words came easy because they came from my heart, inspired by a Great Man, His Name is Lawrence J. Festa

REQUESTED BY EDITOR...COMPOSED BY MICHAEL JACOBS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, it has been a tough winter, but it is April and Spring has sprung now and we at the Freeport Tuna Club are going to be getting ready to start a new fishing season.

As most of you know, Harry Weinblatt has once again put together another fantastic annual offshore cod fishing trip on the 140 foot Viking Starship sailing out of Montauk from May 2nd to May 4th. It is not to be missed and a great way to start your fishing season.

Also, a big thank you to Bill Morrogh for the excellent job he did at our March GM Awards Night. He put a lot of thought and hard work into this night and it made for a very special evening for many of our FTC members and guests. Congratulations to all the members that received awards. Good luck to all for the 2014 fishing season. Don't forget to weigh in your fish; you may be surprised what award or derby you could win! You have to weigh it to win it!

Our FTC yard sale is coming up quickly; if anyone would like to rent a spot, please contact Al Casciano and he will get your some prime real estate for the event on May 17th. Remember the old saying, "one man's trash is another man's treasure."

The Freeport Tuna Club Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to inform the FTC membership on the tragic loss of our long time member, past President, mentor to many, friend to all, Lawrence "Larry the Legend" Festa who passed away too soon on March 27th. Larry will be deeply missed and please keep his family in your prayers.

This month's GM will be a memorial on Capt. Larry's accomplishments, both personal and fishing related.

Wishing everyone a Happy Passover and Happy Easter!

Chris Scarpantonio
President

PROPERTY

The final payment deadline for summer leases was April 1st, so please get me you payment ASAP. My contact information is below if you need to discuss any lease issues. The old club house gate has been replaced with a new gate with one having a more durable design. As of this writing the gate is in manual mode. A new motor assembly is on the way and that will complete the installation. The property committee has order several finger docks to be installed at the FTC marina to increase the number of slips available for vessels with outboard motors.

Please feel free to contact me with any property issues.

Alan J Evelyn
Property Manager
Work: 646-312-2208
Cell: 917-750-8710
Email: alan.evelyn@baruch.cuny.edu

MARCH 2014 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTESTS REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh
Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo

Our 2014 Derby season is underway! Good luck to everyone. Party boat, friends boat and Charter boat fish count in the derbies so you can still get in on the Derbies if your boat isn't ready for the season yet. Don't forget those annual awards and send in your weigh slips! These early season Derbies are a great way to be a Derby winner and also a great way to get on the "Bragging Rights" board down at the property.

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE OPEN OR COMING SOON:

Cod (6 lbs.)	March 15th – May 4th
Flounder (1.5 lbs.)	April 5th – May 18th
Striped Bass (15 lbs.)	May 10th – June 15th
Weakfish (5 lbs.)	May 10th – June 22rd

GOOD & WELFARE

It is with deep regret that I report the passing of our devoted member Larry Festa .Not only was Larry a past president , present board member and fishing info author but a great friend to all. His contributions to the club are to numerous to mention but all who new him knows what he meant to the club. He will be missed by all. Our hearts and prayers go out to Trish and the girls.

We also offer our condolences to Bill Toohey and his family on the passing of his father . Our prayers and thoughts go out to them.

CONSERVATION

The fishing regulations of immediate interest are:

- Striped Bass: opens April 15th. We are allowed 1 fish at 28" and 1 fish over 40" until December 15th.
- Flounder: opens April 1st and closes May 30th. Allowed 2 fish at 12"
- Fluke: We have gone regional so we have 5 fish at 18" from May 17th through September 21st.
- Sea Bass: July 10th through December 31st. Allowed 8 fish at 13".
- Porgies: May 1st through December 31st. Allowed 30 fish at 10".
- Weakfish: opened all year with 1 fish at 16".
- Codfish: opened all year with 10 fish at 22"

Dennis Cataldo
Conservation Committee Chair-
man



This Bulletin is Dedicated In Loving Memory Of Captain Larry Festa

*May your sun always rise from the
east.....May the wind always
be on your stern*



*And may your tides always
come and go forever. I will miss you.*

-Capt. John J. Jutt, Sr., Editor

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.

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

E-Bulletin

You can go paperless with the bulletin! Why not give it a try? If you later conclude that you would rather receive paper, your decision is completely reversible. To sign up, email ftc1937@verizon.net and request to be put on the exclusive e-bulletin list

Membership

The Membership Committee extends its sincere condolences to the Festa family. Captain Larry actively served on the Committee for several years. His positive influence will continue to inspire us all and his presence will be missed.

We have four new members to swear in at the April meeting: Dan Ballestra from Bellmore, Dave Wynn from Brooklyn, Ken Bell from Westbury, and Jeff Nier also from Brooklyn. Dave, Ken and Jeff were members of the Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club with Peter Monteleone.

Unpaid 2014 dues are now past due. If you received a past due letter, please send in your dues as soon as you can to avoid disruption of your club privileges.

Fluke Calcutta

It is time to get the 2014 Fluke Calcutta underway. Entry fee remains \$10-- winner take all. Same rules- you may catch the fish from any port during the regular NY fluke season. All fish must be alive and free swimming at the time it is caught with hook and line. We will start collecting at the April GM.





Fishing Report - Spring Kick-off

I have been asked to help fill one of the many voids left by the untimely passing of Capt Larry Festa. Big shoes to fill, but with the help of the FTC membership, the FTC Fishing Report continue on. Rest in piece Capt. Larry, you will be missed ...

Winter in review - As we are all well aware we experienced a harsh winter that came early and has been reluctant to leave. Late fall blackfishing shut down early as water temps plummeted. With the large schools of sandeels and fine fall bass jigging we experienced along the beach came hopes of a great winter cod run locally. If the cod were here, nobody knew it. Very few trips left the dock due to the unrelenting winds and cold, those who went generally reported hyper cold water temps down to a chilly 33 degrees, and a complete "shutdown" of life on the pieces inshore and off.

Right now, cod fishing remains spotty with some fish reported in the deepest mudhole wrecks and other wrecks well to the east, the exclusive domain of the Moriches / Shinnecock fleets and the 60/70 mile trips by west end party boats. Very few reports from Montauk this past month as the fleet was hampered by a combination of bad weather and lackluster fishing. Currently, water temps are around 40 degrees in the NY Bight which is still quite cold. The water will warm up, seabass and blackfish will move inshore but unfortunately, current NY State recreational regulations allow for no spring blackfish season and a seabass opening of July 10th.

Flounder season opened April 1st and runs through May 30th, 2 fish at greater than 12".

In scanning the reports I have not heard of a single fish caught. Locally, I did hear a rumor of 2 fish caught, but that was several weeks ago during a stretch of warm weather (two days in a row). Best shot for flounder right now would require the long run to Raritan or Jamaica Bay. As the water warms some fish will show, shouldn't be long.

Striped bass season opens on April 15th runs through December 15th, 2 fish per angler at greater than 28".

The FTC Spring Cod Derby is on ! (March 15th and runs through May 4th)

The Spring Flounder Derby opens April 5th and runs through May 18th.

We need as many members as possible to contribute to their reports so we can all share in your fishing success. Please email your reports to philton@optonline.net ; or text/call me at 516.721.8907

Don't forget to send pictures and catch details for consideration by the Bulletin Committee for "Catch of the Month".

- Paul Hilton F/V Emily S

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