

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME FIVE • MAY 2016

Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

NEXT GM
Thursday, May 12, 2016
at 7:30 pm
Freeport Yacht Club
Guy Lombardo Avenue
Freeport

Guest Speaker: Bryce Poyer of White Water Outfitters
(see inside for details)

President's Message

Dear Members,

What do Mason/Dixon, 38 Parallel, Maginot and the Freeport Yacht Club all have in common? These are famous separation lines which had grave consequences when crossed. If you stayed awake in history class you should know the first three and I'll explain the yacht club line. If you look in the parking lot running from east to west is a yellow line behind the boats. Please do not park North of that line as the consequences will be the same as the last time we were at the yacht club years ago, we will have no other choice but to part ways, again. While we're on the subject, DO NOT PARK IN THE COMMODORE'S SPOT. OK history lesson is over. Now on to fishing... May 17 brings the season opening of one of our most popular fish, fluke. The regs are the same as last year with a length of 18" and bag limit of 5. Sea bass as of this writing are still on last year's regs. Seems to be some short bass showing up on the bar and in the back bays.

Our property is starting to show signs of life with shrink wrap coming off and bottom paint going on. Five boats are in the water with more to come each week. So far, Mother Nature

has been kind to us with warm days and little rain. Speaking of Mothers... don't forget Mother's day or you may not be going fishing. Our yard sale is shaping up nicely and looks to be another great event. Helping out at these events is a good way to get involved in club activities. Thursday nights have begun, the awning is up and the ice machine is up and running.

Some of you asked why I don't include a picture with the President's message. No one needs to see an old, little, skinny bald guy every month, but I'll make a deal; I'll include a picture as soon as we reach 70 members at a GM. Attendance at the yacht club meeting was only marginally better.

For those who were at the church for the last meeting you were treated to one of the best presentations we've had at the club in many years. Chris Paparo was at the top of his game. This month brings us another excellent speaker in Bryce Poyer. Bryce is the owner of White Water Tackle in Shinnecock. He is also an avid offshore fisherman with years of experience, so come on down and pick-up some local knowledge and information. For you canyon guys, this should be a must see event!

Old Sam

Have a Safe, Happy and Healthy Memorial Day Weekend!

Fishing Report

April Showers Bring May Flowers (Fluke And Bass Too)

Everything's greening up nicely and some of the warmer water species have arrived in our local waters. Flounder reports locally remain nonexistent. If anyone is catching them they are keeping it very quiet. Apparently, the boats east of JI area have enjoyed a decent run, described as "best in years", with most reports coming from the West Channel. Many limits were reported, two fish per angler is not great, but it's nice to get out on the water and bend a rod. A return of winter flounder to Long Island would be welcomed with open arms by anglers and anyone making a living in the boating / fishing industry.

Jamaica bay and Raritan Bay have been quiet on the flounder front too, but maybe the numerous bass and blues chased them away. Striped bass fishing remains red hot to the west, primarily in Raritan Bay, bass up to 40 plus in the reports, with mixed sized bluefish too. Live lining, chunking, and trolling have all been effective, jigs have been coming into play as well. Larger fish have been trolled and live lined south of East Rockaway Inlet and I'm sure these fish are right off JI and heading east as you read this.

Schoolie bass have been in the JI area for some time as evidenced by an April 18th report from Chris Bellinzoni who said, "They're here!! My log books show this is my first April Four Bell's Bass since 2006. We always tag & release our first trip keepers. 53 degree water. Had to fight through 50 dog fish! But we are on the board." Nice job Chris and crew. I say, "may the dogs leave us alone, and the bass do the hounding!"



Rick Soller, Chris Bellinzoni, and Steve Valenti with first keeper bass of 2016 on the Four Bells, tagged and released

Fluke fishing is underway in the local bays. I took a boat ride recently from my dock in Woodcleft Canal, turned right at Ritchie's, and headed back toward Randall Bay. Sure enough, some of the local pin hookers were at work. I didn't intend to fish, but had tackle and gulp onboard, so quickly rigged up. Two quick drifts, a dropped fish and one landed and released confirmed my suspicions, the Fluke are here. I did another quick trip with my son Paul and John Jutt onboard expecting good catch and release action. It wasn't so easy that day, but we had 4 or 5 and a bunch of sea robins. At least we enjoyed some sunshine and camaraderie. Jim Krug reported on a similar trip. All the usual early season spots are holding fish, Merrick Bay, outside Randall, etc. Season will be as follows:

Fluke Season: Open May 17 - Sept 21, Length: 18", Creel limit: 5

On the bottom scene, the Captain Al has reported that their ling fishing is picking up and a few cod remain in the mix. The inshore reefs are holding good numbers of small blackfish and some cod. In early April, I did a short exploratory trip and found the blackfish cooperative on some local drops enjoying fast catch and release action. Had some small cod too. Had to move around a bit, some drops had no life whatsoever. All fish were safely released, blackfish are quite hardy. Some seabass have already been reported as well. Mike and Maryellen Zullo (MEP) went further off and found some

keeper cod and a Pollack.

In summary, things are looking up. Striped bass and blue fishing is underway, and will only get better as the fish move east. Fluke will open May 17th, that fishing will improve as the water warms up and larger fish migrate into this area. The offshore season is just around the corner. Warm blue water was just south of the New Jersey Canyons.

We await the final word on the 2016 seabass season, but expect it to open mid July or so.

There's nothing like first hand reports, please consider sharing your fishing tales and pictures with our membership by sending them in. Thanks in advance!

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".

Sincerely, *Paul Hilton TV Emily S*



MEP Zullo with Magic TOO Cod

MAY 2016 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

*Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh,
Captain Michael Zullo, Ray Geiger*

It's time to get out and fish! We have both inshore and offshore Derbies coming up soon. The Cod Derby ended on 5/8. You have until Sunday, 5/22, to get weigh slips in. DON'T FORGET: Cod slips also figure in some annual awards so send them in even if you don't win the Derby!

The Winter Flounder Derby ends on 5/15. You have until 5/29 to get slips in to the committee. There have already been some nice Stripers caught so let's see some weigh slips.

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE OPEN OR COMING SOON:

Striped Bass • May 7th - June 12th

Weakfish • May 7th - June 19th

Fluke • May 21th - July 4th

Shark & Bluefish • May 21th - July 4th

Our AT-A-GLANCE cards will be available at the May GM. These are wallet sized cards that list all of our derbies and their start and end dates. Put one in your wallet and one on your boat and you'll never miss a Derby!

Good luck on the water! – Bill Morrogh

Open Shark Clinic

FTC will be presenting an open Shark clinic
THURSDAY, JUNE 2

at the FTC property.

Presenters
will be

**Chris Bellinzoni
and Harry Weinblatt.**

\$20.00 At the door includes
Hamburger, hotdogs, soft drinks.
There will be raffles, and give aways.
Learn the techniques to give the You the
Edge In the upcoming shark tournaments
(Rain or shine)

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

if you can help
please email me at jp5820@aol.com

Thank you, *Jim Rooney*

SHARK CLINIC SPEAKERS:

Chris Bellinzoni

F/V FOUR BELLS

Chris has been fishing the tidal waters of Long Island's South Shore since the mid 70s. His true passion is the pursuit of the elusive Mako Shark. Chris and his crew can be found on the 20-30 fathom curve during the shark migration period with a seaworthy downeast platform beneath him and his crew.

Chris has had numerous impressive landings of Mako Shark up to 300 lb. and Thresher Shark nearly tipping the scales at 500 lb.

Chris wishes to dedicate his time and effort with this clinic to the club and in memory of Captain Lawrence J. Fester, F/V Kristen. Chris and his crew captured the First Annual Lawrence J. Fester Memorial Trophy with an impressive Mako.

Captain Harry Weinblatt

F/V BLUE MARLIN

Harry is an accomplished fisherman with 41 years of Sharking and offshore experience. Growing up on the South Shore of Long Island, at the age of 13 made his first shark trip landing a 355 lb. Dusky Shark and was immediately hooked on the sport. Working as a mate on several charter and party boats in his teens and early twenties was schooled by some of the most respected captains and anglers. He obtained his 100 Ton Masters License at the age of 23 and launched the successful charter boat operation of the famed 35' "Blue Marlin." A very visible and well identified down east offshore platform plying the offshore waters south of Long Island for three decades.

He has embraced a new passion for small craft offshore fishing. As a result has scaled down his tackle and employs many of the newer tactics in shark fishing which are an integral part of his endless pursuit of the pelagic species that he now shares with his son James.

June Is Shark Month!!!

Tournament Committee - Matt Errett

1. 36th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament – June 8th – 11th
2. 4th Annual Point Lookout Shark Tournament - June 11th, - 12th weather day
3. 30th Annual Star Island Shark Tournament June 17th - 18th
4. 44th Annual Hudson Anglers Shark Tournament – June 18th (no mention of weather day on their website)
5. Woodcleft Shark Tournament – June 25th, weather date 26th
6. 40th Annual Great Gun Shark Tournament June 25th. – weather date 26th
7. 46th Annual Montauk Marine Basin Shark Tournament – June 23rd – 25th

Annual Freeport Tuna Club Yard Sale

YARD SALE VENDORS WANTED

Attention Hunters!

FREE ADMISSION

Rods to Rowboats, Lures to Lights, Outboards to Outriggers Set-up time 6:00 am

Open to public 8:00 am. Unreserved spaces will be awarded first come - first served

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB MARINA

275 HUDSON AVE. FREEPORT

The FREEPORT TUNA CLUB would like to extend an invitation you to participate in our annual garage sale to be held at our marina located at 275 Hudson Ave. Freeport 11520

**Saturday, May 21, 2016
(Rain Date Sunday, May 22)**

ATTENTION HUNTERS!!! New This

Year - Hunter's Yard Sale

Set up a table and sell your new or used hunting equipment.

Table space is available at \$50.00 per 10 ft. spot

"BRING YOUR OWN TABLES PLEASE"

HOT CHOWDER, HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS AND SODA WILL BE AVAILABLE, SERVED UP BY OUR BAR-B-QUE STAFF.

**For more information call Kevin Killelea 516-725-8907
or Bob Pandy 516-376-3671**

Property Report

We have a full marina and will be starting a waiting list. The new finger pier is finished and ready for use. We will be switching back to weekly garbage pick-up starting in May. For slip assignments see Allen Evelyn. With the first season of having the luxury of an ice machine it will be necessary to set a limit of one 5 gallon pail of ice per boat. Once again please put away cinder blocks and blocking materials when your boat is launched. Our property is our showplace and it should look that way.

Property Manager's Report

The stars are aligning, the checks are clearing, and marina is full. I would like to welcome the new members with boats at the FTC marina: Joe Mazza with his 27ft. Albin- Little Bear Too and Paul Grilli with his 21ft Robalo center console – Knot So Bad. Joe will be out front on the south side and Paul will be in the basin on the north side. Other members bringing their boats to the marina this year are Matt Cardone with his 25ft. Dusky – Fin and Tonic and “yours truly” with my 28ft. Pro-Kat – Fish Taxi. The marina will also see some other changes. John Weber has moved up to a 31ft. Tiara inboard and Mike Leprine has a new 26ft. Pursuit center console. Also rumor has it that Pete Cefai will be getting new engines for his 29ft. Pro-Line - Off the Hook.

The 3rd and final payment is due May 31st and the invoices have been mailed! If you did not receive an invoice please contact me.

The FTC yard sale at the marina is on May 21st so please plan accordingly!

REMEMBER - NO USED SHRINK WRAP IN THE DUMPSTER!

Please be considerate of your fellow member when getting your boat ready for the new season. Let me know if you have questions or concerns. My cell number, email address, and work phone number are below:

Capt. Alan Evelyn, Cell: 917-750-8710 Work 516-299-2523, Email: capt.al@fishtaxiny.com.

Good & Welfare

Our condolences go out to Michael and Jean Edelman & family, for the recent passing of Michaels Mother.

Matt Errett's daughter, Dr Nicole Errett, will be getting married to Dr Julio Lamprea on May 21st in New Orleans, LA.

Any reports for Good & Welfare, call me at 516-652-5981. *Jeff*



Salmon Trip To Lake Ontario

out of Rochester, New York

The Weekend Of July 30 & 31

For more information see Woody Anderson at the next G.M.

Thank You...Tight Lines, Cap



This Month's Speaker

BRYCE POYER
CO-OWNER, WHITE WATER OUTFITTERS

Based on extensive personal experience, Long Island-native Bryce Poyer has gained his reputation today as one of the most knowledgeable tackle professionals in the world. Bryce began fishing the Great South Bay at 5 years old under the guidance of his grandfather. By age 7 he was fishing offshore. Since high school, he has called Shinnecock Bay his home waters.

Crewing boats from South America, throughout the Caribbean, and up the New England Coast to Maine has provided him with a vast knowledge of fishing the waters of the region. He has crewed or captained for numerous tournament wins and placings.

Bryce holds a U.S. Coast Guard 200 ton Masters License and manages his active charter business, running his 38 ft. Thomas Marine, the “Blushin Rose,” offshore and an 18 ft. King Eider for inshore light tackle and fly excursions.

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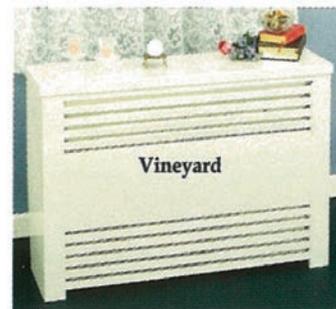
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Save the Dates

SATURDAY, MAY 21
Annual Yard Sale

THURSDAY, JUNE 2
Open Shark Clinic

JULY 8-10
Annual Rodeo

THURSDAY, JUNE 9
June GM

JULY 30-31
Lake Ontario Salmon Trip

REMINDER: All members please sell or buy their yearly raffle tickets.

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