

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME TEN • OCTOBER 2013
Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.
Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton
Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan
Contributing Editor ~ Capt. Lawrence Festa

NEXT GM
Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 7:30pm
Cure Of Ars Auditorium
Merrick Avenue • Merrick
(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

GM speaker Long Island's own radio and television personality, Rich Johnson.

President's Message.....

OKTOBERFEST!

At last month's General Meeting we were entertained by Rich Johnson . Rich is the creator, host, and producer of " The Fishing Line " radio show on WGBB 1240 AM radio. He also hosts " The Fishing Line " television show on cable and satellite. He has put on many seminars and lectures. We enjoyed having him speak at our meeting and he has a lot more to talk about. At our October 10th General Meeting Rich will continue to speak about the issues and fishing on Long Island. I'd like to thank board member and Entertainment Chairman Ray Geiger for welcoming Rich to speak again.

I would also like to thank one of our own Freeport Tuna Club member Officer Mike Brennan who is a Bay Constable with the Town of Hempstead for speaking about our Bays and Waterways. He also talked about the Bay houses that are still standing and the clean up that had been accomplished after Hurricane Sandy.

As of this writing we are starting the month of October. I can't believe that the Fluke season is over. For me the Fluke Season started off with a bang, there were plenty of short fish but not enough keepers. As the season progressed there were more keepers and less fish caught. I fished the last day of the season on Joe Desalvo's boat F/V Gail Warnings along with Bob Benzenberg. We had 5 keepers with a total of 9fish caught. Now we have to look forward to the Blackfish season which opens October 5th . There will also be plenty of bluefish, sea bass, and striped bass to fish for.

On a different note, the Football Season is upon us, and a few members thought that they would like to hold a Football Pool with some of the funds going to support The Freeport Tuna Club. Details to be announced, so look for that in the upcoming weeks.

SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 17th we will be having our " **OKTOBERFEST** ". Everyone will become a little German and enjoy the festivities. We will have Wurstiener Beer on tap, Potato Pancakes, Bratwurst, Sauerbraten, Spetzels & Pretzels and Apple Pie. Captain Anglers would like to thank John Weber (Bunker Gear) in advance to host our Oktoberfest. He prepares Authentic German style food days before, and he makes sure we have the proper music to go with the event. So dress up German style and come on down to the ranch.

The last few Captain Anglers that we have had were great with a good attendance. Now that the Club house is all rebuilt and looking good, a lot of the members had asked when we would be putting the TV in the clubhouse so they could watch the Baseball and Football Games. Well there was some discussion about it saying lets put a flat screen TV

on the wall. Our Electronics Giant and Past President Ed Faza said I'll get you a HD 50" Flat Screen for the wall, and before anyone new it. The following week, there it was in the club house. I said how are we going to pay for it. So we figured we would do a few 50/50 each week. My good friend Bob Benzenberg said, lets pass around the hat and just ask for donations. We rang the bell to get everyone's attention. Members filled the hat and in one night we paid for the TV. I couldn't believe it. There was a round of applause for everyone that donated. As of Oct.1st the TV is installed on the wall.



I also want to give a Round of applause to Jim Azzi who donated a Blow up Bouncy for the kids. Just like the one that we would Rent for the Rodeos. Another round of applause goes out to Dr. John Weber He heard that the Flag at the property was in shreads and he donated a 4X6 American Flag for the Flag pole, and you can applaud Dave Massa, he repaired the gate at the property by welding a piece of Iron to strengthen the gate because of rust. So many members are stepping up to help when help is needed. I believe this club will survive.

Don't forget about our Boat Raffle. Tickets are only \$10.00 each. Buy 10 tickets for \$100.00. This is a Fund Raiser for the club. When you win it you could sell it for a great profit. See Jim Rooney for tickets. Time is running out we need the funds. Winning ticket will be pulled at the Holiday Party on December 1st. Lets participate and Support the FREEPORT TUNA CLUB THANK YOU!

A FEW DATES TO REMEMBER OCT 17th OKTOBERFEST
NOV. 14th TURKEY at G.M. DEC. 1st HOLIDAY PARTY

Last months 50/50 was won by Sil Mazzilli and he gave it all back to the club. The attendance prize was won by Arnold Fleisher, but he wasn't there "oh no" so this months prize is \$50.00 and \$25.00 in raffle tickets towards a future G. M. You have to be there to win it.

I ONLY FISH ON DAYS THAT END IN Y

~ President 2013 ~ Bob Pandy <(((((<



October Fishing Report

To start my report here is a very interesting re-cap from Captain Len Belclaro. Captain Len is the owner of OSS Offshore Reports. It is by far the best intel you will get from any offshore service. If you fish the canyons his service is money well spent:
Canyon Report:

From: "Capt. Len Belcaro" <captlen@offshoresatelliteservices.com>

THIS MAY OR MAY NOT PERTAIN TO YOUR RANGE

Finally the clouds have parted and we were able to obtain clear temp charts and a new turbidity image on 9-4-13. Let's discuss what is currently happening on the shelf and why.

YELLOWFIN & THE GULF STREAM

Since the first warm eddy of the season passed through the northeast in June being absorbed back into the Gulf Stream on June 30th, there has been no Gulf Stream interaction anywhere north of the Point in the North Carolina waters. That warm eddy produced nice catches of early season yellowfin in the southern canyons. It was a repeat of last year's early season yellowfin bite.

I have received numerous calls from members this season asking, "Where are the yellowfin." Please understand, when there is a lack of Gulf Stream interaction in the Northeast in the form of warm eddies, filaments or eddy remnants, the yellowfin schools are slim and scattered and the bite is non-existent. I have seen this poor yellowfin fishing during many, many seasons without Gulf Stream water. Several years ago the Northeast experienced a season without Gulf Stream interaction, and as usual the yellowfin bite was terrible. Contacting a longliner in November, I asked how their yellowfin season went for them. He explained that it was a banner year with the month of September being red hot with big yellows. They left them biting because the weather turned foul in October. He gave me the lat and lon where the bite took place. The location he gave me was a position 400 miles east of Cape Cod. That location was on the northeast corner of the first warm eddy you would find traveling eastbound from the Cape. If that eddy had pushed west sooner, Northeast anglers would have been knee deep in yellowfin.

Look to the east and check out the Hydrographers Canyon chart. I've heard second hand that a boat scored well with yellowfin in these far off eastern canyons. This may be a warm eddy in the area and it will move west. Keep a watchful eye on this 77 to 78 degree water.

THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN

It appears there are more bigeye in the Northeast than yellowfin. The bigeye bite has been incredible this year and it still is continuing in the Tails of Block Canyon, the 100 Square of the Hudson Canyon, the Wilmington Canyon of late and the Washington Canyon. In these canyons the action is slowing considerably and it will be even worse when the boat traffic on these grounds triple during the weekend. As you can see Bigeye do not rely on the Gulf Stream like Yellowfin.

TURBIDITY, BLUEFIN & BILLFISH

The recent turbidity images of the bluefin grounds east of New Jersey has given us direction to a possible bluefin catch. Note the water clarity between the AP Wreck and the Chicken Canyon. Also look at the clean water / dirty water structure east of the Triple Wreck area and the Bacardi.

Billfish hunters should direct their attention to clean, deep water areas because temperature breaks in the Northeast have been mostly non-existent. Take a look at the water clarity of the Wilmington Canyon out to the deep. Billfish potential may be good out there.

A detailed September 7 ~8th Canyon report from Captain Chris "Wasabi":

"We had to cancel our Sunday into Monday charter due to the weather forecast, so with the boat fueled and ready to go, we decided to do a last minute crew trip Saturday into Sunday with the plan to leave BEFORE the wind really started cranking on Sunday. (Well you all know how that goes).

So with a crew of three in total including Bobby, Phil, and Me, we headed to the Hudson. Beautiful blue water from the tower on South, but not much of any life until about the east elbow. Lines in and a painfully slow start trolling until later in the day Saturday when 4 rods go off. With 3 guys, 4 of anything

on is pretty fun, and with these NOT being Bigeyes, we made quick work of this first bite going 4/4 on Longfin. Re-deploy and pound the same area for no more bites. Kept grinding out a few mile patch until later in the day when the Albies push a massive amount of bait up, and our sounder lights up and 2 rods go off, land them and redeploy, and 2 more rods go off, and by sundown we've gone 9/9 on Albies. The night bite actually showed some promise as after only an hour into it, our 75 foot deep tuna rod starts screaming, as a nice sword picked up the bait, ran away from the boat then turned and ran right back to the boat, making for a quick fight and easy gaff shot after just a few minutes. Those green swords get really pissed off when gaffed in the head, but it all worked out. Total time from hook-up to in the boat with no head was about 2 minutes. Mahi zipping through the lights, with a couple landed on light spinning rods, and then two shots of YFT. Two rods get bit, but only one comes tight, and after a short fight, we land a small YFT. Small, yes but not too small, and after a non-existent night bite all season until now, he's coming home with us. Shortly after, two more rods get bit, but only one stays tight, and the slightly older and bigger brother of YFT #1 is landed. THEN midnight, and the wind comes up and the little bit of bite dies off. Wind stayed on it for the rest of the night, making the first light bite troll more than just a little bumpy. Up on the troll we went BIGEYE hunting for a few hours, putting 4 more Longfin in the boat, and watching a Mako come up and eat half of one of hooked Albies only feet from the boat. By 9:00 am, it was way past time to come home, so we beat it back to Jones with a nice NW wind and head sea slapping us in the face all 90 miles. No Bigeyes, but: 13 Longfin, 2 Yellowfin, 2 Mahi, and a Swordfish for a crew of three.

"September 20-21 we did a crew trip to the Hudson. Tough trip with a bunch of stuff getting broken, including breaking off a bigeye, but we did manage to put together a trip, and brought back 1 bigeye, 6 longfin, and a couple mahi. On board Bob, Tim, Steve, and Dan. Worked down to the east elbow and across to the SW corner where we found a nice 3 degree temp break and beautiful Blue water, but no life. Made our way back to the east side and found the life we were looking for and a good LFT bite developed late in the afternoon. On the first pass, 1 then 2, then 4, then 6 rods went down! Landed 4 of the 6 Longfin. Night bite was poor, as we got two half hearted sword bites, 2 YFT bites that both broke off, and a blue shark. Back up on the troll we decided to head a little west, and found a pair of Bigeye that hit our sterling black and purple machine bar in the short rigger and a heavy jet just behind it. Got both fish to the boat after some energetic fights, but the first one made a last minute extreme maneuver, and snapped the 200# leader on the side of the boat. Our harpoon had been washed overboard in last weeks bad weather, and that would have been the difference on this fish. The second bigeye quickly got two gaffs in the head, and pulled through the door.

All in all a good trip."

Fluke:

On the local scene this report from September 7th:

I fished with Captain Harry Weinblatt on his new Blue Marlin. We ran to the Cholera and never left. The amount of fish was insane. We kept our limit of 8 fluke, with an unbelievable amount of shorts. The bait of choice was the 6" green "Gulp" bait.

Tim Sherman on his all new Betty II fished the tankers. Tim had a fine catch of 5 keeper fluke.

September 14th I fished again with Captain Ralph Drewes on the Oceanic. The conditions were not good with the heavy northwest winds. We had only on 24" keeper and the rest were all shorts.

With better conditions on Sunday Captain Harry Weinblatt sailed. He reported that even though conditions were good the fluke were just not biting. By mid-morning Harry switch over to wreck fishing and put together a fine catch of Seabass on the 20 mile wrecks.

A riveting report from Captain Paul Hilton:

"Last Sunday (9/15) went on a monster fluke hunt, out to some good structure in 100+ of water. The first spot yielded 5 keepers than got slow. The next drop started off good, the second keeper was a whale that hit a 4 oz spro bucktail adorned with a small whole squid. Fighting the fish slowly and carefully the words of my good friend, the late/great Capt. George

Steininger, came to mind "big brown, straight up and down". It was big alright, but slow and steady and deep water had her tired and easily put in the net. The fish was 29" but fat and wide. 11 lbs 8 oz at Woodcleft, my personal best. Now need to find a "teen". I've been working this deep water pattern the past couple of years with Ok results, this fish confirms my suspicions, that some big fish can be targeted late season in the deep. Conditions deteriorated due to wind against current, the fishing slowed and we ended up with nine keepers for deck tech Chuckee, my friend Steve, and I. Not a slaughter but most boats only had a keeper or two that day and the big girl made the day"



WOW!!! A fish of a life time and it looks like are largest fluke yet of the year...
....GO PAULIE.....!!!!

Richie of Woodcleft Fishing Station once again hosting his annual "Duke of Fluke" Contest. There were a total of 41 local boats competing. The cost was \$100 per boat. 70% 1st Place 30% 2nd Place. The final results were F/V Ken's Joy 1st place with a 8 lbs. 13 ozs. Fluke & F/V Dog House with a 8 lbs. 10 ozs. Fluke.

Sharking:

Action locally for the fall shark run has started to pick up.

On the weekend of September 14th. A 140 Mako off the Linda Wreck came into Bay Park. Followed by a 200 lbs. Thresher off the 20 Mile wrecks.

On September 19th, the new owner of Kristen, Captain Pat, christened the boat with a very fine 261 Mako. Pat was 25 miles s/e of Jones Inlet when the Mako showed himself, grabbing the close bait & putting on a 5 jump air show followed by a 2 ½ hour battle to gaff! They are here....

Captain Anthony Testa reported that on Sunday September 15th, three quality makos came into Montauk Marine Basin. One fish was over 300 lbs. and two in the mid 200 lbs. class.

Out East Montauk report:

Report from Captain Anthony Testa

"ON Saturday September 15th we left the dock around 1 pm and fished till dark. Tried for Fluke but only had shorts to show for our efforts. Hit the point and jigged a few bass under the birds, all released.

Sunday lines off at 8 am and we headed offshore. Great conditions with clear blue water. Hit 3 wrecks south of block and put 15 quality keeper cod on ice with some sea bass and ling. Dog fish were caught but not a big problem. We were drifting in 150-180' of water. Nice to be offshore with my sons.

Back to fluking next few trips out, the Lazy Bones on a ½ trip had a 15 Plus Fluke!"

A Fluke report from Captain Mike Sullivan F/V "Blue Jacket":

"On September 14th the Fluke fishing slowed noticeably. It has been two weeks since I got out and I expected a slowdown. Charlie Goldstein and I managed 4 keepers on Saturday to 4lb. And it wasn't for a lack of trying. After putting two bass in the boat on the morning's ebb tide, we hit the radar tower for one keeper, the elbow for another, outer Frisbee for nada and a drop to the west for two keepers. And there weren't that many shorts or sea bass either. Was this just an off day, or have the fluke begun to leave the stadium? I think Crazy G is hoping for the later. I know 82 others who are hoping for the former. Things should crystalize over the next week or two".

A fine striped bass report follow-up by Captain Mike Sullivan:

"On September 20th Club members Peter Cefai and Tony Testa joined with me and my friend Vinny to crush the bass under the light on this beautiful first night after Thursday's full moon. The night started off slow as we picked away on cocktail blues on the last of the ebb. At slack we killed time in the elbow for Fluke hoping to snare a winning Calcutta fish just before the whistle. When sun set and the flood reached two knots it was time to go for the bass. And go we did. Twenty two bass to 37 lb. all but one keeper size. Vinny and Peter had personal best at 37 and 33 lb. We all had bass over twenty five. The big girls bit at the last of the flood between 11pm and midnight".

On September 29th Captain Anthony Testa gave a very fine bass & final east

end Fluke report:

"Lines off at 6am for a combo day of fluke and bass. Plenty of east wind as we made our way to the south side. Birds all around so I put the boat on the drift and we dropped our jigs. It was game on for the next 2 hours with bass after bass. I had 5 anglers on the boat today. My 2 sons, Mike Sullivan, Mike's friend Val and myself. We lost count but we had at least 30 fish today. All but one were not a keeper. Fished ranged from 30" to 30 lbs. All great action on jigs. Fish were stuffed with sand eels and the screen was lit up solid with bait all over. We had the fish off the radar tower by ourselves in 65' of water.

After the bass bite stopped we switched to fluke only getting 2 keepers to end the season. Poor conditions for fluke fishing today but we gave it one last shot."

Inshore Tuna report...Bluefins:

A Shinnecock Fluke report from Joe Mangiapanello:

"Well our last trip out of Shinnecock was this past Saturday September 9th since the King Fisher will be making its way home to Seaford this coming weekend. We had 3 fish come after our offerings and put one in the box for the ride home. It was a morning only bite for us on Saturday and we heard the day before it was an afternoon bite with one of the guys going 6 for 6".

Way up North report Prince Edward Island:

Prince Edward Island is the land of the giant Bluefin Tuna. Over the years with commercial value being so high & stocks being depleted the Canada government limited the harvesting and sale of the mightiest fish in the ocean.

The water temperatures of 60 degrees at PEI along with the great abundance of food such as mackerel & herring make this paradise a target rich environment for the Giant Bluefin to make a come back.

Every year the Canada government allows sportsmen from all over the world to come to PEI for a two month period and take their chances at defeating the Giant Bluefin Tuna with rod & reel. The rules are very firm and are geared for sportsman only. All fish must be bought boat side measure & based on length the weight is estimated.

Once achieved, the fish is then released unharmed. The challenge is an unbelievable fight between man & giant.

This September several FTC members took that challenge, the results are as follows:

During the week of September 15th club members Michael Edelman & Eugene Pierce chartered the Bruce Brothers Fleet for a shot at the plate. The bite was on & both Eugene & Michael took the stand-up challenge both battling hand feed giants on 80 lb. stand-up gear & 45 pounds of drag. Both fish were defeated in the under one hour limit with Michael's fish coming in at over 1,000 lbs. followed by Eugene's fish at over 900 lbs.!

The following week Captain's Ralph Drewes, Steve Rhodes & I took the same challenge and chartered Tony Tuna boat the Princess Nova. Our three day adventure paid off with three fish of a life time.

First up was Captain Larry, knowing my limitations & vintage the senior made took the chair. Bang fish on! Strapped into a giant with a 130 BT the ride was the thrill of a life time. Forty minutes into the battle the Bluefin was leaded and measured with an est. of 800+ lbs.

Next up was Captain Ralph....bang fish on! Ralph with full Nazi vengeance battle the giant stand-up style for 45 minutes; bring his 900 pounder boat side for a quick photo, measure & release.

Last up was the trip organizer, Captain Steve. Steve strapped in stand-up style & battled his 950 lbs. giant for a full one hour before release boat side.

The trip was not a trip it was a true adventure to the land of the last surviving giants of the deep....the might Bluefin, AKA Horse Mackerel. See the pics in "Catch of the Month".

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-Mail captainlarry84@aol.com

Sincerely, Captain Larry Festa



Property

It's time to think about winter storage. The rate is the same as last year. 14 a foot minimum \$275. Limited spots available. We will be working with Chris & Alan at Atlantic Yacht Heaven / Travelers Yacht Heaven with storage of your boat at the Freeport Tuna club. Check with Chris or Alan for details.

This will be my last season as the Property Business Manger, Alan Evelyn will be taking over my position effective 1/1/2014. I would like to thank all for their cooperation at the Marina

Property Business Manger

Don Granger

Good & Welfare

Sil Mazzilli is home from his surgery. He received a new heart valve & bypass. Guys, give him a call. Prayers & thoughts go out to him.

FTC member Kevin Killelea took second place in the Offshore Powerboat Association's National Championship. The race was held at Solomons Island Maryland on September 15th. The name of his boat is "Mister Determination"; a 21 foot 1989 Checkmate Starlite powered by a single engine 200hp Mercury outboard. His finish qualifies him to race at the World Championships to be held in Ocean City Maryland the weekend of October 5th an 6th.

Save the Date

Sunday December 1st from 1:00 - 6:00 pm at

Cure of Ars Church, Merrick

As 2nd Vice President, my responsibility is to handle non fishing material which includes our annual Holiday Party. Last year the club members came together with amazing gift donations that enhanced the raffle prizes. As you all know Superstorm Sandy hit our community hard and some of our sponsors were not in any condition to support our Holiday Party, but our members stepped up-to-the-plate to make the raffles something very special! If any members would like to donate gifts for our Holiday party, please call me at 516-652-2713

or e-mail lichevyguy@msn.com.

Thank you,

Chris Scarpantonio

OCTOBER 2013 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh

Committee Team: Captain Larry Festa

Captain Michael Zullo

SEND IN YOUR SLIPS. The Weakfish, Mahi, False Albacore, Green Bonito, Tuna and Fluke derbies ended on 9/29/13, weigh slips must be in by 10/13/11. Sea Bass (2nd Derby) ended on 10/06/13, weigh slips must be in by 10/20/11. These derbies will be awarded at the November GM.

If you're holding weigh slips that may be eligible for an annual award, NOW is the time to send them in to the committee.

The winners of the 1st Sea Bass derby are:

Sea Bass (Min weight 2.5LB)

1st Place: Mike Zullo 5.00 lbs F/V Magic Too

2nd Place: Joe Wade 3.90 lbs F/V Defiant

THE REMAINING DERBIES FOR 2013

Shark	9/14 - 11/24
Bluefish	9/14 - 11/24
Cod	9/28 - 12/08
Striped Bass	10/05 - 11/24
Blackfish	10/19 - 12/01

Fluke Calcutta

Congratulations to Joe Mangiapanello for winning the 2013 Fluke Calcutta. Joe is the 2013 Duke of Fluke. His 11 pounds 4 ounce fish caught in Shinnecock on July 12th, bested all comers to take the title. There is \$830 in the pot. Besides Joe's fish there were some notable catches this year. John Weber, III's had a 10.5 lb. fish on July 12 at the Loop Bridge. Bob Bohler reported that he captured a double digit fish on August 23rd at the Atlantic Beach Reef. And how many 9lb fish didn't even get weighed! For those that didn't win, remember, there is always next year. But you've got to be in it to win it. Because you never know. Congratulations Joe on your outstanding achievement.

BOAT RAFFLE: Reminder all Member please support your club and purchase Raffle tickets. Members with outstanding tickets please start to turn them into my self. Drawing will be at the Holiday party.

Thank you Jim Rooney

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Eugene Pierce

Catch of the Month – PEI Wicked Tuna !

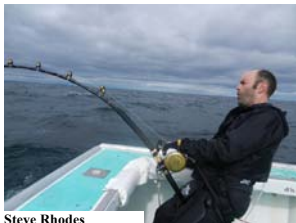
Congratulations to FTC members Michael Edelman (1,050) and Captains Eugene Pierce (900), Larry Festa (800), Ralph Drews (900), and Steve Rhodes (950) who made the trip to Prince Edward Island, Canada to slay the might giant bluefin tuna !



Larry Festa



Michael Edelman



Steve Rhodes



Ralph Drewes

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

NOMINATIONS

**NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS
WILL BE ENTERTAINED FROM
THE FLOOR AT THE NOVEMBER
MEETING. THE NAMES OF THE
CANDIDATES MUST BE PROPOSED
BY A VOTING MEMBER AND
SECONDED BY TEN VOTING MEMBERS
AND PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY
IN WRITING AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS
PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING.**

Mail Nominations To:

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