

OUR 50th YEAR



DECEMBER 2013

Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Can you believe it's December already, Christmas is near and another year gone. You know, some people don't celebrate Christmas or the holidays because some are homeless, some on active duty, some lost love ones, others between jobs, etc. For people celebrating Christmas & Hanukkah – we wish you a joyous holiday season, and if you're going through rough times, we will keep you in our prayers.

As the year winds down we remember Al Brewster, Tom Camara, Doyt Ladd, Jim Anderson, and we might add Bill Catherwood, who passed away November 19, at the age of 88. Many would say Bill gave us the idea of tying big flies to imitate bait and to look realistic.

The highlight of 2013 for me is Peter Nilsen's Book, Rhody Fly Rodders – Fifty Years. The book is fantastic, just in time for Christmas. How does one thank some one – Peter thank you for a labor of love, thank you. I like to thank John Pope, Martin Custodio, Howie DeBeck, Ron Montecalvo, Dave Loren, Peter Nilsen for all the ideas for club events through the year.

Thank you Gene Matteson for our monthly door prizes. Dave Loren for the special raffle on a 'fly rod of your choice' – in time for Christmas. Thank you to Bob Teeden for stepping up to the plate as our new Program Director.

We had nominations in November for officers, election will be at our December meeting.

In closing I wish to thank everyone for being a member of Rhody Fly Rodders. We are some of the finest people who wade the waters for striped bass. As I am stepping down as President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your help and for making the job easy.

All the best,
Old friend, Armand



DECEMBER MEETING



THE ANNUAL RHODY FLY TYING EXTRAVAGANZA

The December meeting of Rhody Fly Rodders will be our **Annual Fly Tying Extravaganza, held on Tuesday, December 17th, at 6:30pm**, where close to 40 members will be tying flies for charity.

These talented fly tyers, with years of fly fishing and fly tying experience, will tie flies to be sold at various fly fishing shows that we will attend this coming year. This year we will donate all monies made from the sale of these flies, to **Project Healing Waters**, a wonderful organization dedicated to helping our wounded vets heal their bodies and minds, and bring them into the peaceful world of fly fishing.

Members...please come and tie with us in this special endeavor. Non-members are invited, too, come see, and learn how these gifted tyers create successful flies for fresh and saltwater.

To create more winners, this month we will have **4 large Bucket Raffles**, featuring fly tying materials from the collection of the late, Doyt Ladd, Also a great **Door Prize(s)** will be awarded (by Santa?). Free cookies and coffee. Bar refreshments are available.

**Bring a friend!
Bring Two!**



CASTING ABOUT

At our November Meeting

Our thanks to our members, Keld Olsson, Ray Stachelek, Dave Pollack, Geno Rapa, Armand Corchane and



I guess the uniform color for Rhody speakers is blue!

Dave Loren for their great presentations at our November meeting. It was another 'Meet the Experts' event, where they talked about their fly fishing experiences, and concerns, about saltwater bass, freshwater bass, Atlantic salmon, trout in Montana, fishing in the Narrow River and fishing from a kayak. Thank you gentlemen for sharing your fishing knowledge, experiences and opinions on fishing, and the future of fishing. Now you can see the depth of the knowledge we have here at Rhody Fly Rodders. We are so lucky to have this.

Club Dues are due

As you know December is the time we have to 'cough-up' our annual dues for the coming year. The dues are \$25. for the year...which comes with a beautiful, monthly newsletter, a wealth of talented presenters and programs, numerous fun-filled summer fishing meetings, and a fall 'Kick-Off Cookout', plus a bunch of sensational, talented and friendly individuals (well...) with which to share the love of fly fishing and fly tying. Send dues payment to John Pope at his address on back cover of newsletter.

Election of Officers for 2014

At our last meeting we had nominations for the positions of President and Vice-President, and a call for another member of the board. The nominees are: For President – Peter Nilsen, and a few names were suggested for Vice-President but after further conversations with these people, they declined, so the nominee for Vice-President is Howie DeBeck. These names will be presented to the club for a vote at the next meeting, along with any other last minute nominations from the floor. No other nominees were suggested for the other board member. We hope someone would like to join us in steering the 'ship'. In other business, Bob Teeden volunteered to take on the position of Program Chairman.

Martha's Vineyard Tournament

Also under discussion at the last meeting, and board meeting, was the suggestion that we get a group of members together and enter the MV Tournament this coming year. Anyone interested see Peter or Armand. Maybe we can get a group together and win this thing!

Bill Catherwood

Longtime fly tying personality, Bill Catherwood passed away at the age of 88, on Nov. 19th. Bill was an amazing tyer of 'BIG' flies for large game, with a big personality, too. I never met him in person but was a fan of his tying.

Bill Arzamarski

Good luck & best wishes to Bill Arzamarski, who will enter the hospital for an operation, next week. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Bill!

THIS MONTH'S "DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?"



Continuing the 'guess who' person of the month feature - Both of the fellows in the plaid shirts were some of the first members of Rhody. In the middle was the tall, gentle man, on the right, the expletive speaking, large, imposing character. (Answer somewhere in this newsletter)

This Newsletter is About You!

I'm still looking for submissions for the newsletter. Any story, fishing experience, news article, gripe, photo of fish or items for sale, etc., which would be of interest, please consider sending to me. This is your newsletter and I want to write things about you! I need your input. Keep it short and simple. Thanks – Peter

Santa coming to the Rhody Meeting???

I heard by way of some little elf, that Santa will be showing up with a big bag of Door Prizes! Don't miss out!



Last month's Door Prize winner, Ed Lombardo, (L) and creator, Gene Matterson



Here's another couple of "winners"! (I mean lucky bucket raffle winners)

2014 FISHING SHOWS

Here are the dates for most of the fishing shows in our area.

The Fly Fishing Show

Marlbrough, MA – Royal Piazza – Jan. 17th, 18th, 19th

Somerset, NJ – Garden State Exhibit Center

Jan. 24th, 25th, 26th



New England Fishing & Outdoor Expo

Worcester, MA – DVC Center – Feb. 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

The Bear's Den Show

Taunton, MA – The Bear's Den Store – Sat., Feb. 22nd

The Saltwater Fishing Expo

Somerset, NJ – Garden State Exhibit Center

March 14th, 15th, 16th

New England Saltwater Fishing Show

Providence Civic Center – March 28th, 29th, 30th

NATIONAL REPORT

Menhaden Management

ALEXANDRIA, VA - Tangible management of menhaden in the Atlantic moved another step closer to reality this week when the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) voted to send a series of management options for this critical forage species out to public hearings.

Menhaden management has long been a sore point among conservationists as intense commercial harvest of the species in the Chesapeake Bay has added to factors believed to be negatively impacting striped bass and other gamefish all along the East Coast. The primary industrial harvester of Atlantic menhaden, Omega Protein, has never had its harvest effectively restricted and stands as one of the very few commercial fishing operations in the country to successfully avoid management measures that might impact its bottom line.

There is also a completely unregulated bait fishery that targets menhaden throughout its East Coast range. Comprised of boats of all sizes, from large mid-water trawlers to small skiffs, it supplies bait to both the commercial and recreational fishery. The quantity of menhaden harvested by that industry has never been comprehensively assessed, but it is undoubtedly significant. In addition, the fishery is believed to be expanding as northeastern lobstermen seek a substitute for the more strictly regulated, Atlantic herring, which is decreasing in abundance.

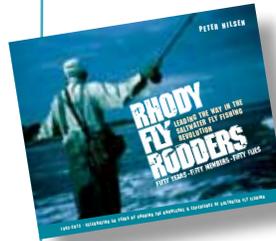
The most current menhaden stock assessment showed the stock was undergoing overfishing and abundance estimates were at the lowest level ever recorded. Current science indicates that the menhaden spawning stock biomass is at about 9 percent of a stock that is not subjected to any fishing pressure. With the vote this week, the ASMFC has put into play management options that could increase the spawning stock biomass to 15 percent or more.

"This is the grinding process of management," said Richen Brame, CCA Atlantic States Fisheries Director. "The science is finally catching up with the problems anglers and conservationists have been talking about for a long time, and now the process can move forward. The fact that these options are going out for public hearing is significant, but it is a slow grind to get where we want to be with this stock. You can bet the harvesters think this is a significant development."

Whatever regulations are ultimately adopted will be interim measures that will likely be in place for three to five years until ecological reference points, generated from a Multi-Species Virtual Population Analysis can be produced, which will require stock assessment updates on bluefish, striped bass, weakfish and menhaden stock. When that

analysis is conducted, it is very possible managers will have a much better idea of the population of menhaden needed to fully serve as the critical forage base for those popular sport fish.

"Almost everyone who has spent time fishing in the Chesapeake has seen how the industrial boats, aided by spotter planes, can wipe out whole schools of menhaden, removing them completely from the food chain," said Frank Kearney, chairman of CCA Virginia's Government Affairs Committee. "For a long time, anglers have felt powerless to impact the menhaden management process against a very well-connected and financially powerful company. Now that these measures are going out for public hearing, it feels like we have a chance to inject some sanity into this fishery and begin to manage it for the greater good, not just for the good of one company."



Rhody 50th Anniversary Book

The 50th Anniversary books are here. I will be passing out the books that were ordered. And, I will have extras on hand for those who want to purchase one or want one for gift giving, etc. I also have a few stripers prints left. They are a free bonus gift with every new purchase.

FLY OF THE MONTH



This is one of long time member Ray Smith's famous creations. A dark fly he developed to fish the white waters off Rhode Island.

WHITE WATER WITCH

HOOK: 662S, size 2/0

THREAD: Red

TAIL: 5 to 6 inches of black bucktail or fishhair

BODY: Silver Mylar piping wrapped length of hook shank

WING: Black bucktail or fishhair

BEARD: Red calftail reaching to hook point

HEAD: Built-up red thread, epoxy

OFFICERS & BOARD

PRESIDENT

Armand Courchaine
508-982-1931
ajflyfish@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Peter Nilsen

SECRETARY/TREASURER

John Pope
6 Canonchet Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871
johnspope@valeso.com

DIRECTORS

Howie DeBeck
Martin Custodio

ADVISORS

Ron Montecalvo
Gene Matterson
Dave Loren

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Peter Nilsen
pdfish@fullchannel.net

MEETINGS:

3rd Tuesday of the month
6:30 PM
October thru April



DIRECTIONS:

From Providence take Rt. 195 to Exit 7.
Bear right on the ramp & follow Rt. 114 South
(Wamanoag Trail) for 2 miles. Look for WPRO Studios
on left, then take first U-turn back to Rt. 114 North.
Continue North and look for the Riverside
Sportsmen's Club sign on right side.



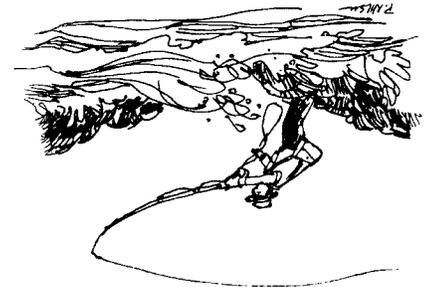
(Quiz answer -
Warren Taylor on left,
Rube Richmond on right)

“Pass on to all, who ask what you learn here”.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH - 6:30 PM

The December meeting of Rhody Fly Rodders will be our **Annual Fly Tying Extravaganza**, where close to 40 members will be tying flies for charity. These talented fly tyers will tie flies to be sold at various fly fishing shows. This year we will donate all monies made from the sale of these flies, to **Project Healing Waters**. Also we'll have **4 Special Bucket Raffles**, and as usual, the coffee pot is always on. Bar refreshments are available.

Hope to see you there...bring a friend...bring two!



OUR 50th YEAR

John Pope
6 Canonchet Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club

Rhody FLY RODDERS

