

OCTOBER 2015

SINCE
1963

Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club

OCTOBER MEETING

PIZZA PARTY KICK-OFF MEETING

Come join us for another Pizza Party to kick-off our Rhody Fly Rodders Fall & Winter meetings. Tuesday, October 20th at 6:30pm.



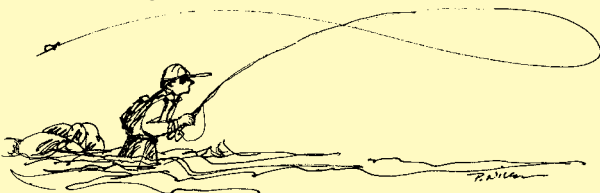
Well, it was a great time we had at our summer & early fall cookout / fishing meetings, but it's now time to get back to our regular season meeting schedule.

We will start this month's meeting at 6:30 on Oct. 20 with Pizza and then have a short business meeting to catch up on things, Plus we will make a presentation of a check to the 'Save the Bay' organization for the proceeds we raised by selling the flies we tied last December. We again made about \$300. this year, and with a club gift of \$100., we will present a check to 'Save the Bay' for \$400. It's very important for all us to support the wonderful efforts of 'Save the Bay' and what they do to keep beautiful Narragansett Bay clean, and be the watchdog we need to preserve this great resource.

After this presentation we will have a showing of a DVD called "Once in a Blue Moon". A fly fishing adventure from New Zealand, about a fly fishing mystery event that occurs briefly just once in a decade. It's a great film with some beautiful photography and scenery, about a quest to catch a fish of a lifetime. Good 'flick', highly recommended.

Jim our barkeep, will have plenty of liquid refreshments to accompany our pizza, so come join us and kick back and catchup with fishing friends and compare fishing stories from the summer. It should be a fun evening of camaraderie which should jump start our long, winter season!

Open to all, bring a friend.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to our regular fall & winter meetings! Yes, it's time once again to start thinking about putting our fishing gear away and looking for the snow shovels! Only kidding! We still have some nice weather left with a few months to wet the line and try for some Albies and fall Bass.

I think that this spring & summer fishing was a bit better than last year- but not by much from all reports. The Bonito and Albies were back in force these past few months and are still here as of now, and for me, it has been fun chasing them. And now reports are that the big bass are starting to move in, now that the water is starting to cool, so we should have a few more weeks of successful fishing.



Our summer fishing/cookout meetings went well this year and we had a lot of fun. Thank you to all who managed to attend and help with the food and cooking. It was real fun – but once again I don't think the fish got our invitation to attend. But, at the last meeting at the Narrow River was a success, and we all got into some very nice and frisky shad. I think there were about 12-15 members that showed for our cookout and fishing, and I think everyone caught at least 6-10 fish each...so, a lot of fun and finally some fish caught, too!!!

We hope to have a eventful year again this winter. We will start with a 'Pizza Party', seeing how everyone like it last year. We will also present a check to 'Save the Bay' for all the flies we tied and sold this past year. The speaker schedule for the year hasn't been finished, but we hope to have some interesting guests.

So, I hope to see you at our October meeting, share some pizza, and listen to all your 'tall tales' of big fish caught this summer.

Don't forget, if any member has any fishing related items for sale, you are welcome to bring to any meeting and display on the 'sales' table. Or send description to me and I will advertise them in the newsletter.

All are welcome. Please bring a friend and introduce them to some great people here at Rhody Fly Rodders.

Tight lines...

P. Nielsen
Peter Nielsen



CASTING ABOUT

Last April Meeting

Although I missed our meeting in April, from all accounts it was a lot of fun as we had our Annual Cook-out, a bit of fly casting on the lawn and a presentation of 'Lifetime Membership' certificates to three long time members, who now will enjoy lifetime memberships to RFR. They were (L-R) Dave Nuttall, Geno Rapa and Keld Olsson. Congratulations to them, I wished I was there to present the awards to them personally. Along with all the great burgers and hot dogs, as shown by these members who seem to be enjoying them, we also had a DVD presentation called, "Rivers of a Lost Coast" which was about the demise of salmon and steelhead fishing on the Northwest coast of California. Great DVD to see if you missed it.



We lost a friend

I'm sure you all heard, but for those who didn't, this past Spring we lost another long-time member of Rhody Fly Rodders, Our dear friend, Stu Dickens passed away after a long, tough battle with heart problems. What a treasure Stu was! He was one of the first members of Rhody, joining back in the mid-sixties. He said, "I was one of the second wave of members." (no pun intended) He was a wealth of information and experience on fly fishing, and fishing in general, and talking to Stu, you were always amazed at his knowledge, his wild stories and his recollections of his famous fishing friends like Lefty Kreh, Bob Popovics, Bob Clouser and others. We will all miss his large presence. RIP, my friend!



Turn in a Poacher

In the new RISAA newsletter there's made mention of RI DEM officers catching a few poachers and violators for illegal Striped Bass catches. This is good! We all should be on the lookout for these "crooks", as I call them, and report any violations you see on the water. Here are the phone numbers for the DEM Law Enforcement.

DEM Hotline – 222-3070 / Law Enforcement – 222-2284

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

Continuing the 'guess who' person of the month feature -

This person was responsible for this wonderful club, starting it back in 1963 and promoting fly fishing in the saltwater to all who would listen. A great fisherman and fly tyer. (answer on these pages)



Striper Fishing: Season To Date Report

by Brad Burns President of Stripers Forever

How is the 2015 season going so far, and what is the prognosis for the future?



I poled the Stripers Forever board members, a group that include some highly experienced fishermen, guides, outdoor writers, and veterans of many fishery management boards and advisory groups. The question was "how is the striper fishing going in your area". The responses I received ranged from Maryland to Maine, but they were remarkably consistent.

In a few words, the striper fishery can be summed up as inconsistent at best and continuing to trend downward. Northern New England – north of Cape Cod – has a fair number of small fish. Some folks are regularly catching small stripers, but it is a faint shadow of the school bass fishing 10 years ago. In Massachusetts waters, a couple of momentary hot spots excepted, large stripers are very hard to come by. Stripers, though, are a school fish, and if you happen to be where they are right now then you have good fishing. One very experienced fisherman from MA reports that what was once a Cape-wide summer fishery for large bass has been reduced to one good-sized school showing here and there unpredictably, and being pursued frantically by highly-mobile, opportunistic fishermen getting upwards of \$6.00 per pound!

Fishery managers have placed much of their hope for the future in the 2011 year class, which this summer represents fish in the 18" to 24" range. Most of the reports I got were that these fish are showing in decent numbers here and there. They are actually said to be more numerous than the smaller fish, which is not the way it is supposed to be. Still, the number of these 2011 fish, which are supposed to represent one of the biggest year classes of modern times, just doesn't live up to the billing.

Things aren't any better down in Jersey where one crack, lifetime surf and boat striper man said this: "I fish from the shore and from my boat in central NJ and the fact that I caught one striper over 20 lbs. this year as compared to 125 over 20 lbs in 2011 about sums it up. For me this was the worse it has been in about 30 years."

When will this fishery turn around? The answer is, based on the fish that are already born, that it won't. The average young of the year count in Chesapeake Bay from 1995 through 2005 was 21.06. This was the pinnacle of the striper boom. The average from 2005 to 2014 dropped to 9.73. That means that there were only about 40% as many young stripers born during the last decade as the one before. More ominously, during the last three years that number has been an average of only 3.52 which is just 15% as many. If we are looking at a declining fishery now, imagine how it will look when the last of the fish born during the boom are gone, because there will be so few left to catch. (go to stripersforever.com for the full report)

SUMMER FISHING MEETINGS



The May fishing meeting at Bristol Narrows. 15 members- 1 fish!



Oh, no! There goes the spring from my reel! Nobody move!



A private table...with his own grill! Must be an important guy!



What you do when's there's no fish? Eat, what else!



Looks like some sort of fancy banquet hall!



Yes, the memo said...hats, shirts, shorts, white socks & sneakers!



A group gathers after our fishing at Quonny. "So where's the fish?"



Here's two nice photos from new Rhody 'friend', Linda Lapin. It shows the "Rhody Fly Fishers" from Sprague Bridge on Narrow River at our Sept. fishing meeting, and Keld being 'spooled' by a shad! (kidding!)

TIPS FROM THE PROS

The How and Why of the Strip Strike

After casting to a fish or to a bank, you have to keep the tip low and your rod pointed **DIRECTLY AT THE FLY LINE**. Do not have any angle between your fly line and your rod. You should have the line and rod form a straight line pointed directly at the fly. Someone once said, "A nymph fisherman is a nervous fisherman." What does that mean? It means, if you think you have a bite, **STRIKE**. Saltwater fly fishermen should also be nervous fishermen. If you feel a bump or resistance, **STRIKE**; it doesn't cost any extra. The worst you will do is get hung up on mussels, and the best you can do is catch a fish!!!

So, you are stripping/fishing the fly back in...you feel a bump, and you feel pressure on the line. Keep your rod pointed directly at the line and fish, grasp the line with your line hand at the reel, and pull as hard and as fast as you can with your line hand as far back as you can.

Why keep the rod and line in a straight line? If you strip strike with the rod at an angle to the line/fish, the tip of the rod absorbs the pressure of the strip strike. The fly line and leader stretch enough, you don't want to have anything else absorbing the power of your strike. When you strike, keep the rod pointed directly at the line. If you don't, the rod will absorb the strike, and you won't sink the hook/barb into the jaw of the fish. Don't worry about breaking the line. You are not using 6X tippet.

Why do you raise the rod tip while trout fishing? Because it is easy to sink a size 14 hook into a fish's jaw and you don't want to break the fine tippet you are using. You want the rod tip to absorb the shock. That is exactly opposite of what you want in Salt Water.

FLY OF THE MONTH



E-Z SAND EEL

HOOK: Mustad 34007, Size 1-1/0

THREAD: White

TAIL: Olive craft fur, over white craft fur

FLASH: A few strands of Krystal Flash (optional)

HEAD: Small (#1), Med. (#@), Lg. (#1/0)

Pearl or natural E-Z Body Tubing –
Color top of tubing w/olive permanent marker

EYES: Small, prismatic

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MEETINGS:

Riverside Sportsmen's Association
19 Mohawk Dr., East Providence, RI 02915
3rd Tuesday of the month, Oct. – 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 -
Al Brewster

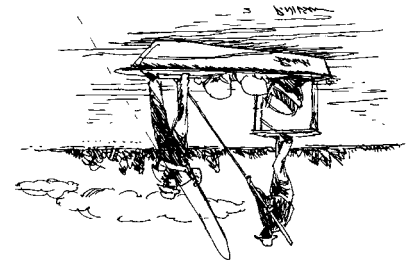


“Pass on to all, who ask what you learn here”.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH - 6:30 PM

Please come join us for our ‘Kick-off meeting’ for the winter season. We will start at 6:30 with a **‘Pizza Party’** and **fly tying**, then a **DVD** presentation called **“Once in a Blue Moon”**. A fly fishing adventure from New Zealand, about a fly fishing mystery event that occurs briefly just once in a decade. It's a great film with some beautiful photography and scenery, about a quest to catch a fish of a lifetime. **Bucket Raffles** will be back, and bar refreshments are available. **Open to the public.**

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



Peter Nilsen
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