PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Well, the end of our winter meeting schedule is here. This April meeting will be our last indoor meeting until October. Where did the time go? I guess the mild weather made the winter a bit easier than last year, but...next month our monthly fishing meetings will start. Last year was a lot of fun with great camaraderie and a few fish thrown into the mix. If you haven't joined us for our cookout/fishing meetings you're missing out on a good time, with good friends.

I want to thank all of you who made the effort to participate in our meetings this past year. We've had great attendance, with many new members joining our fun and festivities. For most of our meeting this past year our attendance was terrific, with well over 40 plus members and guest attending each meeting – I salute you!

In October we had our ‘Pizza Party Kickoff’ which we all enjoyed. In November we had our annual ‘Fly Tying event’ which we had over 200 flies tied and donated for a good cause. In December we had Ed Lombardo treat us to a presentation about 'Fly Fishing the Tidal Estuaries'.

January we had Capt. Ray Stachelek introduce us to ‘Drone Technology’ and what it can do for fishing success by showing drone videos on ‘Favorite Fishing Holes around Greenwich Bay’. In February we had a great informative presentation by Dean Clark, co-chair of 'Stripers Forever' talking about national, regional and local issues facing the wild Striped Bass fishery. In March we were treated to another wonderful presentation on ‘Fishing the Wash’, by Capt. Eric Thomas. Eric talked about fishing for stripers in the crashing waves along our Rhode Island shoreline.

This month will be our Annual Cookout Get-together’ where we can all come together, share a burger or two, and talk about the upcoming fishing season, and maybe practice a little casting on the club lawn. After, we will have a short video called ‘Drift’, about fly fishing adventures around the world.

Hope to see you there.

Peter Nilsen

APRIL MEETING

ANNUAL COOKOUT!
GET-TOGETHER

Join us on Tues., April 19th at 6:00 for our Annual Cookout Get-Together, featuring a Great Cookout, Fly Casting and a Video on fly fishing around the World.

Come join us for our fun-filled cook-out meeting to close the winter meeting schedule, and kickoff the Summer fishing season. Time to sit back, enjoy a burger or dog, engage in some great conversation with friends and plan your summer fishing adventures.

We will start cooking at 6:00 pm so we can get this show on the road! Get there early (5:30) and try out that new rod, reel or line on the lawn, or even better, show one of our new members some tips & advice on casting in the salt.

After all the great food we will follow that with a short talk by Mike Bucko of the RI Department of Fish & Wildlife, on the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). APAIS is the primary method used to collect recreational saltwater fishing data on the Atlantic Coast. This presentation is about what questions APAIS will be asking...like...Where did you fish today, what species did you target, what was the weigh & measure of your catch? Mike will explain how you can help.

Hopefully this data will help biologists and enforcement personnel make our fishing experiences better.

After that we will have a short DVD showing of “Drift”, a cinematic fly fishing adventure of Bonefish in the Bahamas, Trout in the West, & Steelhead in Oregon, and on fly fishing the exotic rivers in India.

Come enjoy the experience. Bring a friend and introduce them to some great people here at RFR.
Supreme Court Ends Challenge To The Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan

A piece of good news and a substantial step forward in the fight for water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Once highly polluted, the two most prolific spawning grounds for striped bass, the Hudson River and Chesapeake Bay, seem to be on the road to recovery.

The Supreme Court has declined to hear a challenge to the Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan, the largest attempt by the federal government and states to rid the pollution from a body of water and to restore its health.

The high court’s refusal ends an attempt by the American Farm Bureau Federation to stop the cleanup. The organization argued that the Environmental Protection Agency overstepped its authority in leading the effort because the bay can be managed only by the states that sit in its watershed.

The lower court ruling now stands. In that 2013 decision, U.S. District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo wrote that the EPA is within its rights under the Clean Water Act to partner with the six states in the bay watershed to cut the pollution that pours in from sewers, construction developments and chemical and biological waste from farms.

“The ecological and economic importance of the Chesapeake Bay is well documented,” she wrote, concluding that “the court endorses the holistic, watershed approach used here. This approach receives ample support in the [Clean Water Act], its legislative history, and Supreme Court precedent.”

The question is whether the EPA could now move to clean other massive, multistate water bodies. Impaired waters have led to fish-killing dead zones and other marine life die-offs for decades.

“If this [cleanup] is left to stand,” they argued in their brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, “other watersheds, including the Mississippi River Basin, could be next.” The appeals judges did not block the plan.

One of the farm bureau’s critics, Chesapeake Bay Foundation President William Baker, described Monday’s outcome as historic. “Everyone who cares about clean water can breathe easier now that the Supreme Court has let stand the lower court decision that Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint is perfectly legal under the federal Clean Water Act.”

CASTING ABOUT

Our March Meeting
A big “Thank You” to Capt. Eric Thomas for his wonderful presentation on ‘Fishing the Wash’, at our March meeting. We had a crowd of 45 members and guests hear Eric talk about fly fishing for stripers in the crashing waves & how to present your fly in the white water for the best results. You can find out more about Newport area guide, Capt. Eric Thomas, and his Teezer77 guiding service on his web site, www.teezer77.com. Thanks Eric, well done!

2016 Summer Fishing Meetings
Here are the meeting dates and places for this years ‘Summer Fishing Meetings’. As you may notice, we are adding 3 extra fishing get-togethers where we won’t be having a cookout! Just a good time fishing!
I will have copies of this at the meeting so you can take one for reference.

We will meet at the following locations around 3:00 or 4:00pm (sooner or later if you like) and fish till dark. This is open to all members and non-members alike. We will have a few small grills, (if you have one, bring it) and bring along some ‘dogs’ and ‘burgers’ and we’ll cook ‘em up. Also, bring a chair for yourself. Chips and water will be available.

- Tues. May 17th – Ninigret – High Tide @ 7:30pm
- Sat. May 28th – Jacob’s Point (Warren) – High Tide @ 7:30pm
- Joint (non-cookout) meeting with RISAA Fly Fishing Group
- Tues. June 14th – Goddard Park – (Boat ramp) – High Tide @ 4:30pm
- Wed. June 29th – Kings’ Park (Newport) – High Tide @ 4:00pm (non-cookout)
- Tues. July 19th – Charleston Breachway – High Tide @ 8:20pm
- Tues. Aug 30th – Quonochontaug (QUONNY) – High Tide @ 7:30pm
- Mon. Sept 12th – Narrow River – High Tide @ 6:00pm (non-cookout meeting)
- Mon. Sept 26th – Narrow River – High Tide @ 5:20pm (non-cookout meeting)

Mug Shots From The Last Meeting

“What do you think?” “I don’t know, what do you think?” “I don’t know, what do you think”
TIPS and FACTS

**Skagit vs. Scandi Heads and Keeping it Simple**

For first time fly fishermen interested in discovering how two handed fishing relates to them, I provide rod size and line configuration options, giving them the correct tools to be semi successful fishing the two-handed game for the first time. They often read on the internet about Skagit and Scandi casting, but the mixed messages, conflicting information, and stout devotees to either side totally confuse the majority of newcomers into the sport of Spey. There are few anglers who understand the nuances and differences between Skagit and Scandi (Scandinavian) heads, and fewer still that know there are times that a Spey caster can use both. An angler needs to meet the fishing challenges with the appropriate tools required to get the job done and, in an ideal world, a caster adjusts the tools to the conditions they are fishing.

**Skagit Heads and Lines**

The most current, popular tools used at Alaska West are Skagit-style shooting heads. RIO’s Skagit Flight, IFlights and Skagit Shorts are the line of choice for many who enjoy a sustained anchor cast (casts that are associated with Skagit casting). Skagit heads tend to be thicker and offer more water resistance to get a better load on the two-handed fly rod. The line design aids the mantra, “it takes mass to move mass”. There is more mass in an equally sized Skagit head than that of a Scandinavian style heads, which is what helps Skagit lines throw large, heavy flies and tips. Density of the fly and sink tip is what sinks the fly. When lining your favorite rod, remember to match the line (head) to the rod and the tip to the line and fishery and the current fishing conditions.

**Scandi Heads and Lines**

Scandi Lines, on the other hand, are designed to throw smaller flies. They are a great line design for “airborne anchor” casts – casts such as the single spey and snake roll, and they are fun and enjoyable to perform. Scandi heads, such as RIO’s Steelhead Scandi, AFS and Scandi Short VersiTip lines, are thinner in diameter (particularly at the front end) and have a long front taper that allows the energy to unroll easily and efficiently to the end.

**Line Selection**

As with most things in life there are exceptions to every rule. An angler can quite easily use a Scandi head for sustained anchor casts, or fish a floating tip on a Skagit head and smaller flies. However, using the most suitably designed line for particular conditions will generally pay off best, and make casting and catching fish a whole lot easier. I like to keep it simple and recommend to my clients that they utilize the relevant tips that are designed to complement the various Skagit and Scandi heads. I would suggest investing in a set of MOW Tips for Skagit heads and a set of Spey VersiLeaders for when fishing Scandi style heads. With the right balance of head and tips, you know that your gear is set up with every chance of success.

Do We Have Hats!!!

They are here and available at this coming meeting and also at our summers fishing meetings. They are $20. for the short billed hats and $25. for the long billed hats. Members and friends that want one, but can’t get to a meeting — send me a check, made out to ‘Rhody Fly Rodders’ and mail to me (Peter Nilsen) at my address in this newsletter. Please enclose $3.00 extra for mailing.
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.

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

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH - 6:00 PM
Join us for our ever popular, Annual Cookout Get-Together’.
Come enjoy a cookout with good food and great friends, share a burger and
talk about the upcoming fishing season. After, we will have a short film called
‘Drift’, a great video about fly fishing adventures around the world.
Soft Drinks & Bar refreshments are available. It starts early this month...at 6:00,
come early and do some fly casting on the lawn!
Open to the Public. Hope to see you there...bring a friend...bring two!