



NOVEMBER 2017

SINCE
1963

Rhody FLY RODDERS

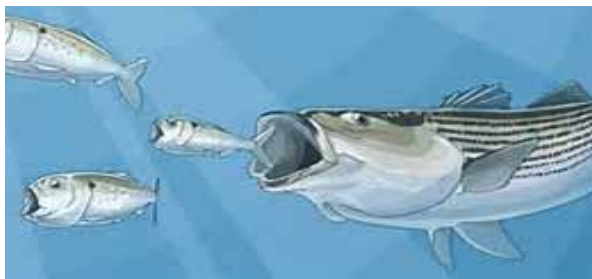
America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club



NOVEMBER MEETING

STRIPED BASS & MENHADEN UPDATE With Dean Clark from 'Stripers Forever.'

Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30pm.



This coming meeting we are privileged to have as our guest speaker, Dean Clark, Co-founder of 'Stripers Forever.' Stripers Forever is an all volunteer organization dedicated to making the Striped Bass a gamefish. They are advocates for the conservation and responsible stewardship of wild striped bass along the Atlantic coast. Dean has been our guest speaker many times before, always bringing us the latest news on regulation changes, new problems, and the future assessments of our beloved striped bass.

Dean will also touch on the updated news on the Atlantic Menhaden, the most important food source for striped bass and many other species that swim the Atlantic Coast.

It will be great to see Dean again, as he and his group at Stripers Forever are always working behind the scenes, trying to monitor the legislative action that many self centered 'factions' want to change every year, mostly to benefit themselves and not for the good of the fishery. Come join us for what should be a very informative evening.

We will have ONE GIANT RAFFLE this month with some cool stuff! Be sure to participate, all monies go to run the club's functions for the year. He also have many 'Rhody Hats' left to keep your head warm this winter. See Bob Teeden.

All are welcome. Please bring a friend

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow members and friends. Well, I guess the 2017 fishing season is just about in the books, except for a few die-hards still out there. Fewer and fewer boats are venturing out to catch the last of the Albies and bass during their annual fall migration to southern waters .

Capt. Ray has shut down operation for the season, and gave a mixed review on the 2017 season in his yearly blog review. He said it was good early, spotty during the summer, but gangbusters in the fall. This year we saw thousands of Albies flood the shores of Rhode Island, venturing way up the Bay during the high seas, coming all the way up to Barrington Beach, Bristol Harbor and Colt State Park. And, Dave Loren caught a few near the Mount Hope Bridge. This is way further North than in previous years.

I just saw that Capt. Rene Letourneau is still heading out and posted pictures today of a few albies caught by his clients, so there still is time to hit the beaches and rock piles for some great fall fishing, as long as the weather holds out.

As you all may know, our 'grand member,' Ron Montecalvo passed away while fishing the Narrow River, just a few days after I published the last newsletter. You'll find enclosed in this month's newsletter, a pictorial look at the many faces of Ron over the past few years and a bit about this wonderful guy. We will miss him!

Also enclosed is an account of that fateful day, as written to me by Brian Dubois, who was there at the 'Narrow River,' and who helped try and rescue Ron. We all thank you Brian for your gallant effort. I can't imagine what would have happened if you and your father weren't there that day.

Also in this edition is a story Ron wrote and gave to me a few months ago to publish in the newsletter. You will find it ironic and poignant! The similarities are mind blowing. God bless you, Ron!

Hope you all can make this month's meeting. It it should be an informative one from friend, Dean Clark, on Stripers & Menhaden.

I won't be able to attend because I will be having a small operation the day before, but I'll be there in spirit. I'll see you at our Annual Fly Tying Event in December.

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

Tight lines...

P. Nilsen

Peter Nilsen



CASTING ABOUT



October Meeting

Well, the Pizza Party went off well. Not as many members showed as last year, but a few people walked off with a lot of extra pizza as we raffled off the three leftover boxes.

The film that followed, "Montauck Rocks," was a hoot! It was all about the 'crazies' that fish the fall migration on Montauk Point on Long Island. There were guys who 'rocket launched' eels out 200 yards off the beach, guys who swim to exposed rocks, only to get knocked down by big waves, and guys who leave their wives and spend two months fishing for bass, etc, before going home. Crazy stuff, crazy blitzes, and a lot of fun!

Heads Up

I'm giving all a head's up for our December meeting, as this will be our 'Annual Fly Tying Meeting' for our new charity for 2018, which is 'Reel Recovery,' a national organization who sponsors fly fishing and fly tying retreats for men living with cancer. This is a very worthy group that we have helped in the past.



Nominations for Board

November is the month we ask for nominations from the floor as to any Rhody member who would like to run for any office position or serve on the board of directors. With the passing of Ron, and the semi-retirement of Armand, we find ourselves 2-3 members short for the make up of the Board.

Please consider helping us in making this club better. We're looking for people with some fresh ideas, to make this club interesting and viable for another 50 years. We need your help!

Summer Cookout meetings for 2018?

I need some feed-back from Rhody members, particularly our members who participate in our 5-7 Fishing / Cookout meetings we hold during the summer months.

Years ago we held a fishing meeting every Tuesday evening in the summer. We posted places we would gather, where the tides and fish were right for good fishing and who ever showed, fished together. But... it became a 'bust' because one or two showed up, and most of the time no one showed. Four or five years ago I instituted a cookout style meeting once a month, hoping more people would show, have some fun and maybe learn from each other on where to fish, etc....and it worked. For a few years it was great. Not many fish caught, but good times were had.

Last year there seemed to be a major drop off, where a couple of times we only had two or three members showing. And the rest of the cookouts we had 9-12 show up, where as in the prior years the number of attendees were 15-20 members.

So, the question arises, what do we do next year? Do we stop it? Is this getting boring? Do we change to new locations? Or...Do we have one each month at the same location (i.e. Narrow River)?

I'm looking for feed-back! Please express your thoughts by writing me, or talking to me at a meeting. We'd like to make this a fun time – with some fish catching! – Thanks, Peter.

Thank you Brian Buboio

Below is an email I received from Brian Buboio, a new friend of Ron Montecalvo, that Ron met on the Narrow River a few months ago. This just blew my mind. Brian, along with his father, were the two men who went to Ron's rescue on the river the day he passed. He sent me this account of how he met Ron, and how Ron took him under his wing, showing him the workings of fly fishing and sharing his knowledge – as Ron was know for. This was so typical of Ron! Brian then went on to described all about what transpired that fateful day that Ron died.

We all thank you Brian, for being there for our friend!

Rhody Fly Rodders,

"Late this summer my fresh water fly fishing left me wanting more, so I took to the Narrow River with my new 9 weight rod to try and get into some bigger fish. I stepped into the river, made some casts and caught nothing. Two men, fishing like the river was flowing from, not around them, were into many fish.

After seemingly their 50th fish, I yelled "every cast, huh?" To that one yelled "Every cast, they're in thick tonight." I knew they had the secret. I was convinced that their secret was going to stay with them like seemingly all other salt water anglers who hold their technique closer to them than their next of kin. However, you had to see the look on my face when one of them said "come here, tie on this fly, strip it in like this and take my spot".

These two men were Ron and Gino and that night they taught me how to catch fish in the Narragansett salt. Gino called the fly the somthng-something-ducer (how I remember it). I now just call it the "Gino special". After the fish moved on from Sprague Bridge, they invited me to Middle Bridge. They taught me where to walk, where to cast and how to retrieve. We caught more fish that night than I can remember.

Since that night, I would show up on the river one night or two each week and see the same two men fly rodding. They would introduce me to their buddies and immediately said, "Brian, come over here, this is the spot." I was so excited that I bragged about these experiences to my father who swore striped bass do not exist after being "skunked his entire life".

A few weeks ago I decided that I was going to take a break from my 9-5 and hit the changing tide with my dad at 3:00 pm. I geared up, walked down the hill at sprague and saw Ron, fishing in his typical spot on an outgoing tide, the sandbar. He was catching fish after fish. In fact, I remember my father saying "their running hot today, that guy is in fish after fish.

I heard Ron call my name and looked to my left to see him drifting. I ran out of the water, peeled off my gear and went after him. This is where God confirmed Ron was a wonderful man. I caught up to him, one foot length before the channel. His famed white hat was even further and somehow it made it to my hands. My father and myself carried him to shore, where after 15 minutes of attempted resuscitation he passed.

I am very sorry for the loss of Ron, a patriot, a friend and a good man."

– Brian Dubois

Donation to RFR

Rhody Fly Rodders has been given a nice donation in the memory of Ron Montecalvo, from Malcom Goldenberg. Mal wanted to do this because of Ron's dedication to RFR and contacted Ed Lombardo. We thank you very much, Mal.

Seeing how we want to try and do some sort of memorial plaque, maybe at the Narrow River, honoring Ron's volunteering efforts over the years with both veterans and youths in promoting fly tying and fly fishing, we think that this gift may be the start of a small fund raising for this memorial. Or, to help fund our veteran and youth fly tying events. More on this later.



Armand Speaks...

Armand says he will be tying the 'Gibbs Striper Fly' and the 'Pigtail Fly' at this coming meeting. He says, don't be lazy, come early and bring your tying stuff and learn how to tie these very effective flies.

CONSERVATION REPORT

THE BONEFISH & TARPON TRUST

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust is initiating this innovative \$3million research project with a \$1.5 million grant from NFWF. To receive this support, BTT must raise a required 1:1 match from other sources. The money will be used to equip laboratories at HBOI as well as cover the expenses of a five-year research program to be conducted by FAU faculty and students.

Bonefish populations have been in decline in recent years, with some estimates that the decrease is as much as 90% in some areas in the Florida Keys. BTT uses a science-based approach to learn about and identify threats to bonefish, tarpon and permit fisheries in the U.S. and Caribbean basin and applies a combination of research, stewardship, education and advocacy efforts to address areas of concern.

"This unique project will provide an important tool in our efforts to restore the Florida Keys bonefish fishery, and we are confident the excellent team at Harbor Branch will help us achieve the project goals," said BTT Executive Director Jim McDuffie. "Learning to spawn and raise bonefish in a captive setting has significant implications for the Keys fishery and fishery conservation efforts in general."

Concurrent with this five-year project, BTT's multi-pronged efforts to understand the root causes of the Keys fishery decline are ongoing.



TIPS and FACTS

STRIPED BASS CHART

Length / Weight / Age Comparison Table

The growth rate of striped bass varies, depending upon average annual water temperature, available food, etc. Their weights fluctuate more as they age.

Length/Inches	Weigh/lbs	Approx Age
12	2	1-2
16	3-4	4
20	4-6	4-5
24	6-8	5-6
26	8-10	6-7
28	9-12	7-8
30	10-12-14	8
32	12-14-16+	9
34	14-17-19+	10
36	17-19+-22+	11
38	19-22+-24+	12
40	22-24-29+	13
44	28-34+-39+	15
48	38-44-51	18
52	47-58-65	20
56	59-72-76+	22
60	72-80+	24+

FLY OF THE MONTH



GIBBS STRIPER FLY

HOOK: # 4 long-shanked hook with turned down eye

BODY: Narrow flat silver tinsel

THROAT: A few strands of red hackle fibers or marabou

WING: A bunch of Asiatic goat hair w/some of the underfur left in

SHOULDER: Section of dark blue swan wing feather, half as long as wing, placed to make a stripe down the center of the wing

CHEEKS: short barred Bali duck feathers

HEAD: Black (yellow painted eyes with red centers optional)

(Modern version substitutes white and blue bucktail for the Asiatic goat & blue swan, plus jungle cock breast feathers for the Bali duck)

OFFICERS & BOARD

PRESIDENT/ NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Peter Nilsen
401-245-7172
pdfish@fullchannel.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Howie DeBeck

SECRETARY/TREASURER

John Pope
6 Canonchet Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871
jpope@johnspopecpa.com

DIRECTORS

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MEETINGS:

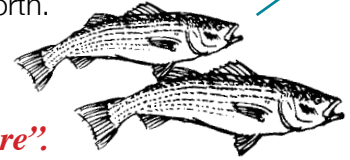
Riverside Sportsmen's Association
19 Mohawk Dr., East Providence, RI 02915
3rd Tuesday of the month, Oct. – April

DIRECTIONS:

From Providence take Rt.195 to Exit 7.
Bear right on the ramp & follow Rt. 114 South
(Wampanoag 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.



It's all
about
the Bass,
the Bass,
the Bass!



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

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST - 6:30 PM

Please come join us on Nov. 21st when our speaker will be Dean Clark from 'Stripers Forever.' Dean will update us on the latest Striped Bass and Menhaden situation, what's the future assessment on regulation changes, any new problems, and the future of our beloved striped bass and the important food they eat. Come join us for what should be a very informative evening. We will have ONE GIANT RAFFLE this month with some cool stuff! **Open to the public. Bring a friend...bring two!**



America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club

Peter Nilsen
75 Massasoit Ave.
Barrington, RI 02806





RON MONTECALVO

A Remembrance

1938 – 2017

Ron Montecalvo started fly fishing in 1960. He was one of the early Rhody members from the gang of the 1960's, and was a stalwart for Rhody Fly Rodders ever since, holding every office in the club at least once. Lately he acted as our chief advisor and the link to the club's past history as its archivist. Ron fished in every kind of water: fresh, salt, brackish and was a big fan of fishing for American Shad. He fished in the Caribbean for Bonefish & Tarpon, and in Canada & Newfoundland for Atlantic Salmon.

For several years Ron was a consultant on coatings for fly lines at Ashway and Berkley/Sioux Valley, which is now Shakespeare. He was always tinkering with fly lines, and shooting heads, often building his own. Ron loved flytying and used only natural materials in his fly patterns. He said, "Any fly that's not made with feathers, hair and fur, is a 'lure!'" He tied all the patterns, but loved to tie the fun and the obscure ones.

Ron was an expert fly caster and fly tyer, teaching his craft to women, children, disabled veterans, and anyone else who wanted to learn about fly fishing. Ron was a 'giver.' Always the first to volunteer, and give advice or help out where needed. If you were fishing and you lost a fly, he would give you one. If he was catching more fish than you, he just might cut the fly from his line and give it to you. That's who he was!

Ron Montecalvo spent his last day doing what he has enjoyed his whole life – fly fishing, this time at his favorite spot, the Narrow River in Narragansett, Rhode Island. Needless to say, he will be sadly missed by all who's lives he touched.



Writing our newsletter for a number of years, I'm always asking our members for articles and stories to publish. Well, Ron was always sending me things to fill my needs. First I must say, Ron had a vivid imagination, as he sent me all sorts of wild and crazy stories, poems and verse. Most of time it was so long in length I had to have him cut it down or revise it. Well, 4 or 5 months ago he sent me this story below and told me to publish it in the newsletter in the Fall. Well, just a week or two after his passing, I found this on the computer and read it again. Wow, this story by Ron just blew me away. When you read this you will know why! Premonition? Message from above? It definitely makes me wonder about things beyond our comprehension.

— Peter Nilsen

EDDIE'S WAKE

By Ron Montecalvo

The local coffee stop had four regulars with only one thing in common, an obsession with all things to do with fishing. The four represented the dictionary definition of diversity. No one was the leader, but all four had definite opinions about anything regarding fishing. This day, Friday to be exact, two of them were sitting discussing the week's fishing. When George, the "Quiet One" came rushing through the door.

"Hey guys, have you seen today's newspaper?" as he rapidly approached the table. Quint the "Curmudgeon" looking up and answered, "Ain't got time to bother with that. Besides nothing but bad news anyway." "Well, this time it's real bad." He responded. "Eddie's dead!"

Well, Eddie was the best fisherman of the four, as well as being the rock of the group. He was always level headed and was usually the one who calmed things when the opinions of the other three got too hot. Though they were slow to admit it, Eddie's knowledge brought many of their fish to the hook.

The "Old Timer", Al, took the paper from George asking how and when did it happen. Al was probably older than the rest, but within the group George was closest to Eddie. "It says suddenly" Al read and continued, "The paper gives the time of a memorial service tomorrow. It will be held at the old chapel about two miles from the river."

"We have to go to the service tomorrow, but it'll kill our Saturday fishing," muttered Quint. "But wait," said George, "the service is in the afternoon, so we can fish in the morning, then say goodbye to Eddie afterwards."

Growling Quint shook his head. "Does this mean I've got to go to church? I ain't been to church since I got married and you know how that turned out. Two words that should not be uttered with the same breath are, marriage and fishing. You know how I feel about religion and preachers. "Al replied, "It's not like a church and there won't be a preacher. People will just get up and say nice things about him."

NEXT DAY AT THE RIVER

"What time is the service?" Al asked Quint. "We should be getting ready to leave now," Quint replied.

When they were at the car, the question of what to do after the service came up. "You know fishing has been good today," said Al.

George said, "Maybe we should keep our waders on and come back to fish after the service. How long can it last, a half hour?" At this point the discussion about wearing waders at a funeral became animated. Quint didn't think it was inappropriate because the dead person loved to fish.

After several minutes George broke in. "I can't think of a better way to honor Eddie's memory than to just keep on fishing here. You know, he loved this river." "I agree," perked up Al. "Yah, I said prayers for him last night," Quint added, "so let's go!" And so, with the rectitude of the just, the three returned to the river in honor of their deceased friend.

Ninety minutes later they spotted flowers floating on the river. Turning upstream they noted a commotion coming from the bridge. People were against the bridge rail with clear, colorful little bags dumping the contents into the water. Al commented first, "That must be Eddie's funeral and they're dumping his ashes into the river."

As the water flowed past, each kept to his thoughts:

Al said, – "How's it going Eddie?"

Quint said, – "As you go by Eddie, shoo the fish over to my line."

George said, – "Goodbye Eddie, old pal."

THE END