

SINCE  
1963



DECEMBER 2017

# Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club



## DECEMBER MEETING

# WE WANT YOU!

Calling All Fly Tyers!

## ANNUAL RHODY FLY TYING EXTRAVAGANZA

Come join us on Tuesday, Dec., 19th at 6:30pm. for our Annual Fly Tying Event for Charity.

Our December meeting will be our 'Annual Fly Tying Event, where this year we will be trying to tie 200 flies for this year's charity – 'Reel Recovery', a national organization that offers a 'Reel Recovery' retreat for men recovering from all sorts of cancer. These retreats are run by professional facilitators and expert fly fishing instructors. They provide a safe reflective environment, expert fly fishing instruction, plus provide participants information about cancer related resources, all at no cost. Truly a worthy cause. **PLEASE** join us for this meeting.

Please come and bring your tying gear and a friend, and spend a few hours tying with us. You may donate flies for this cause, but I'd love for you to participate in the fun of tying together. – maybe by showing your skills to someone just learning.

**Free soft drinks and bottled water will be available, along with popcorn, pretzels, Christmas cookies and coffee.**

Bar refreshments and holiday cheer will be available by Jim Patterson, our resident barkeeper and good friend.

We'll have a **couple of great bucket raffles** I think you will enjoy. Also, a **Special Door Prize** as a Christmas gift from the club. So, please come, we need you all to participate.

**All are welcome. Bring a friend.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, I just cleaned and put away all the rods and reels. Looks like that means no more fishing for a while! Kind of a sad moment.

2017 really wasn't a great year for me. I had nagging health issues on and off from June til this very day. Nothing serious, but unexplained, which made me miss some good striper fishing and an outstanding Albie season. I'm happy for those who had success this year, but I'm so jealous. So, onward and upward .. I'm looking forward to a great 2018 fishing season. So fish, look out, I'm a mean, lean, fishing machine, and I'm coming for you!

Thank you to Howie and the rest of the guys that filled in for me last month. I hope you got caught up on the 'Striper' and 'Menhaden' news from Dean Clark, from Stripper Forever. Such a great group! A special thanks to Capt. Ray for showing his great video, commemorating Ron Montecalvo. Gosh, I miss him!

I hope you all will partake in our tying event this next meeting. Please bring your tying stuff. There will be a lot of non-tyers attending and wanting to see and learn from you – the experts.

I want to thank you all for the great year we had at 'Rhody Fly Rodders'. We had some great winter meetings and some great summer, cookout meetings. I can proudly say, that I would match up 'Rhody' with any other fishing club around. The character, talent and friendliness of our members is truly unmatched!!

Thanks to you members who help during our cookouts with food, grills, etc. Also to those who continually help 'setting up' and 'taking down' during winter meetings, and at our presence at the many fishing shows. Also thanks to those who teach and volunteer at different functions and events in 'Rhody's' name. Every bit helps sustain this great organization – I thank you!

I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday – **Merry Christmas Happy Hanukkah, & Happy New Year**, to you and yours.

It's been a pleasure to again be your president. I aspire to make our club fun and enjoyable. And – always looking for suggestions to make us better!

*P. Nilsen*

Peter Nilsen



## CASTING ABOUT



### November Meeting

Thank you to good friend, Dean Clark, from Strippers Forever for what I heard was a very informative presentation on what's happening on the legislative front for the protection of striped bass and menhaden. There is a push to have the ASFMC manage Menhaden not as they currently do, but as a single species, which does not consider their overall impact on multiple species and the entire eco system they are a part of.

Also, Strippers Forever and other groups have two pieces of legislation that are they are trying to introduce in MA. The focus of this legislation is to try and make those with commercial licenses justify that they are actually making the majority of their income from commercial fishing from stripers.

Thanks Dean. Keep at it!

### Election of Officers

These listed below are the officers willing to continue on in their present positions. We do have a couple of open spots on the board of directors, so if there's anyone interested in joining the 'Board', we would be glad to have you. All these positions are open to nominations from the floor. Please submit these names when I call for nominations.

**PRESIDENT** – Peter Nilsen

**VICE PRESIDENT** – Howie DeBeck

**TREASURER** – John Pope

**BOARD** – Mike Kelley, , Bob Teeden, ( 2 Open Slots )

**ADVISORS** – Armand Courchaine, Gene Matteson

### Annual Club Dues Are Due

Well, it's that time of the year again – time to dig deep! Our annual dues are now due for 2018. Please try and pay them at this month's meeting. Same as last year – \$25.00. You can pay John Pope, our beloved Treasurer at the meeting. For you out of towners, (our Florida Chapter) who can't come to the meeting, please send a check for \$25.00, made out to Rhody Fly Rodders, and send to John Pope, 6 Canonchet Drive, Portsmouth, RI 02871. A new membership card will be given out when paid.

Thank you for your prompt payment!

**And thank you for your membership!**



### Fishing Shows Schedules 2018

#### THE FLY FISHING SHOW

Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA  
January 19, 20, 21, 2018

#### THE FLY FISHING SHOW

**New!** New Jersey Convention & Expo Center, Edison, NJ  
January 26, 27, 28, 2018

#### THE BEAR'S DEN FLY FISHING EXPO

Bear's Den Store, Taunton, MA  
February 17, 2018 11am – 6pm

#### RISAA NEW ENGLAND SALTWATER FISHING SHOW

RI Convention Center, Providence, RI  
March 9, 10, 11, 2018



### Bucket Raffle Winner

We had a big, bucket raffle last month at our last meeting with some very nice items. There were books, a full saddle neck, fly cases, etc., instead of our 2 or 3 smaller buckets we usually have. But, there was this one item in this group that I wished I was in attendance to see, because I wanted to see the winner try this item on. It was an L.L. Bean short sleeve shirt. White, with about 100 garish printed flies covering it. I think the winner was Gary Menard, but then again we are all 'old men' and most of us can't remember what we had for breakfast let alone who won a raffle. I really wanted someone to take a picture for me. Whomever won it bring it in for a pic.

### Check Presentation to Healing Waters

We hope to present a check for \$500. to 'Project Healing Waters' this month, for the sale of our tied flies that we sold. Haven't yet heard if we can get someone here for this, but we're trying. It's always great to be donating money to worthy causes like 'Healing Waters', especially during the holiday season. I love the way our members continue to give back – thank you all for your time and commitment in making a difference!

### Holiday Gift for a Young Fisherman

I still have plenty of copies of my latest book, 'Max's Magic Fly,' ready to be wrapped up for a niece, nephew, granddaughter or grandson. I've lowered the price to \$12.99.

It's a fun fly fishing book for 6-12 year olds.

See me at the meeting or email me, if interested.



### CONSERVATION REPORT from Save-The-Bay



*Save-the-Bay's Executive Director, Jonathan Stone attended last month's Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, where the Menhaden Board ruled on a series of decisions related to the commercial harvest of this important fish. The Rhode Island delegates representing Governor Gina Raimondo, and delegate Senator Susan Sosnowski, not only voted in favor of menhaden conservation, but demonstrated strong leadership in pressing for increased conservation. Unfortunately, the Menhaden Board faced intense pressure from Virginia and a handful of other states to delay the implementation of stricter conservation measures. The scientific evidence is clear: more menhaden means greater abundance of the countless species of fish, birds, and marine mammals that depend on menhaden for food.*

*In the end, the Menhaden Management Board took the following actions: increased the total allowable catch for the commercial fishing fleet in 2018 by 8% provided all Atlantic states a minimum allocation of 0.5% of the coast-wide catch quota, which increases Rhode Island's allocation significantly decreased the commercial catch quota within Chesapeake Bay by 41.5% prohibited quota rollovers that allow unfilled yearly quota to be added to the following year rejected interim conservation measures, based on ecological reference points, which would have better accounted for menhaden's role in the food chain*

*"While the overall outcomes weren't what we'd hoped for, they could have been much worse. And on balance, they represented important progress," Stone said. "In particular, the Board committed to adopting ecological reference points when peer-reviewed research has been completed in 3-4 years. We thank Governor Raimondo, Senator Sosnowski and their representatives at the ASMFC meeting for standing firm in their support for stronger conservation measures for menhaden, a species that plays a critical role in the ecology of Narragansett Bay."*

## The Fishing Grinch Story

From now on, this Christmas poem, written by Ron Montecalvo, will be published every year in our December newsletter. I hope this will remind us of our dearly departed friend, and what a supremely talented, and fun loving man he was. Merry Christmas, Ron. We miss you! ( I hear you don't have to have a fishing license in Heaven – Great! )



### The fishing Grinch

*Tis the end of the season and the river is still  
To go fishing now, means only a chill  
The waders are hung in the basement with care  
Hoping that next season  
the bass and shad will be there  
The reel in it pouch, and the rod in its tube  
All settled in for a postseason snooze  
I in my flannels and mom in her mink  
Satisfied now  
To clean fish I won't use the sink  
It is postseason now and my dreams are a fright,  
Seeing shad, blues and bass  
All through the night  
Illusions, Bunniculars and Streamers  
The nightmare of Fish dreamers  
But no now for me, They come instead  
They taunt and they shake  
At poor me while I cling to my bed  
Seasons will come, and seasons will go  
Cabin fever will get me  
As I go mad and cast in the snow  
Through my discontent the river moves on still  
And I know that with patience  
I will fish it again without a chill  
So all of you finny creatures who live within  
Know that I'll be back  
So get ready to give in.*

– Ron Montecalvo



FROM THE TOP OF THE POOL, TO THE TOP OF THE FALLS,  
SWIM AWAY, SWIM AWAY, SWIM AWAY ALL.–  
AND I HEARD HIM EXPLAIN AS THEY SWAM OUT OF SIGHT...  
"KEEP A TIGHT LOOP AND YOU'LL DO ALL RIGHT!"

## TIPS FROM THE PROS

### PLAYING, LANDING AND RELEASING FISH

Think of your arm as an extension of your fly rod. Keeping your rod tip high and arm extended above your head provides additional shock-absorption and makes it less likely that your line or leader will touch an underwater obstacle. Larger fish, especially once that are closer, can be beaten more quickly with sideways pressure.

**Avoiding Break-Offs** –Sudden movements of a fish or setting the hook too hard are more likely than a steady hard pull to cause a tippet to break, because the tensile strength of monofilament and fluorocarbon is greatly reduced by high-speed stretching.

**Don't Touch That Drag** –Don't adjust your drag during the playing of a fish unless you are very familiar with the drag system. It's almost impossible to measure the amount of pressure your drag is adding once a fish is on the line.

**Practice for Big Fish** –If you plan on fighting big fish, first learn how much pressure you can put on a fish by tying your tippet to a fence post or other stationary object, reeling the line tight, palming the spool, and pulling as hard as you can without breaking the tippet. Practice keeping your rod at a 45-degree or lesser angle to the fish to ensure that you do not break the rod.

**Playing Fish** –Always play and land fish as quickly as you can, but especially in warmer water, when additional stress may prevent a released fish from surviving. Play and Land as quickly as you can. Bass and saltwater fish are more tolerant of heat, but you should take special care in reviving any fish.

**Releasing Fish** –You don't usually need to handle a fish or take it out of the water in order to remove a hook or take a picture. Remove flies with forceps or a similar device.

### FLY OF THE MONTH



#### THE 'ILLUSION' by Geno Rapa

(If there was ever a Christmas fly, this would be it!)

**HOOK:** Mustad 453401

**THREAD:** Mono

**TAIL:** Yellow marabou, top with pink & clear Angel Hair, top w/small red hackle

**BODY:** Red Krystal Flash with yellow craft gimp over the top and tied in at the head

**WING:** Green bucktail, sparse yellow bucktail, over sparse white bucktail on top

**EYES:** Beads w/burned mono pupils

**THROAT:** Two yellow hackles with striped stems bent and tied under

## 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

Mike Kelley  
Bob Teeden

### ADVISORS

Armand Courchaine  
Gene Matteson

### 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".*



Merry  
Christmas



### NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH - 6:30 PM

Please come join us for Our **ANNUAL FLY TYING EXTRAVAGANZA** – we will be trying to tie 200 flies for this year's charity – **'Reel Recovery'**, a national organization that offers a 'Reel Recovery' retreat for men recovering from all sorts of cancer. These retreats are run by professional facilitators and expert fly fishing instructors. We will have some nice **Bucket Raffles, Special Door Prize, Soft Drinks, Munchies** & good conversation while we tie flies for a great charity!  
**Open to the public. Hope to see you there...bring a friend...bring two!**



Peter Nilsen  
75 Massasoit Ave.  
Barrington, RI 02806

*Wishing you the Happiest  
of Happy Holidays...  
from Rhody Fly Rodders*

