



FEBRUARY 2018

SINCE  
1963

# Rhody FLY RODDERS

*America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**W**ow! February all ready! I think it's almost time to start thinking about the upcoming fishing season. The last two weeks I already got a sneak peak at what's new in the fly fishing world, by attending two Fly Fishing Shows, one at Marlborough and the new venue at Edison, NJ., so I'm raring to start the fishing season!

The Marlborough show continues to disappoint me as to quality vendors and tackle manufacturers that are at this show. Seems every year it's the same old show, same people, in the same places! Gone are the top of the line tackle companies with star attractions. Granted there was Gary Borger with a few minor characters, and a few exotic fishing destinations, but it lacked any real excitement.

Now on the other hand, the new venue for the New Jersey show, in Edison, that moved from the old Somerset place, was very exciting. It was double the floor space, many, many more booths, demonstrations, and seminars than ever before. There were 3 casting pools, so the wait to try out that new rod was short. All the rod and reel companies were there, and with many more tyers present, along with expert casters and so called experts. All in all it was a great show – worth the trip to 'Jersey.'

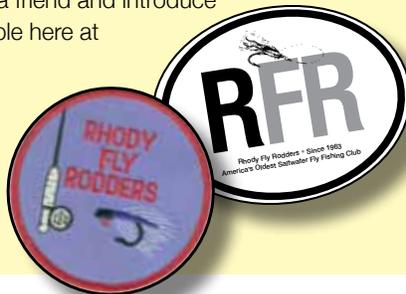
Thank you for responding to my request for flies for our charity selling at the shows we attend. We now have almost 300 flies – enough to sell and meet our goal. I invite you to come to a meeting and look through these flies and pick a few to purchase. There are some great looking flies there, tied by our members and our friends from UFT. We will sell them at the Bear's Den show, the RISAA show, and at our meetings, and throughout the summer at our cookout / fishing meetings.

We've got a great speaker for you this month with Peter Jenkins from the Saltwater Edge. Don't miss it!

Please join us and bring a friend and introduce them to some great people here at Rhody Fly Rodders!

See you there!

Peter Nilsen



## FEBRUARY MEETING

# 'READING THE WATER!'



**Where do I fish? What's a good place?  
How do I know there's any fish there?**

**Come join us on Tuesday, February 20th at 6:30pm. for a presentation about 'Reading the Water,' with Peter Jenkins, from 'The Saltwater Edge.'**

**T**he coastline of Rhode Island is about 384 miles long! When fly fishing this vast shoreline, that task is very formidable. Where do I start? Where should I cast my fly? Where will the fish be?

The answer is knowing how to 'Read the Water.' This is the subject matter of our February presenter, Peter Jenkins, owner of 'The Saltwater Edge.' He will give us the formula for reading the water so that we have a better chance to successfully catch Striped Bass or any one of the other fish that swim our coastline.

Peter says, the best anglers get that way by in part eliminating much of the ocean in front of them and then spending more time fishing "better" water. This presentation will help you understand how the topography, hard and soft structure, as well as whitewater, can provide clues to help you eliminate 98% of the ocean that may increase your chances of catch a trophy fish!.

Peter says he is grateful that his Grandfather took him fishing at a young age. He enjoys both surfcasting and fly rodding, as the situation dictates, and his favorite targets are striped bass, false albacore and bonefish. He is the owner of the Saltwater Edge in Middletown, Rhode Island and the Lead Instructor at the Orvis Saltwater Fly Fishing Schools.

Peter is a member of RISAA, and Chairman of the Access Sub-Committee of the Legislative Committee.

So come February 20th and learn about 'Reading the Water'. We'll have some bucket raffles, good company – and the coffee pot will be on.

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

## CASTING ABOUT

### January Meeting

Our thanks to Capt. Ray for another very informative presentation, this time on 'the Use of Color in Fishing.' Always an interesting subject when Capt. Ray gives a talk. He is a very experienced and talented presenter, fisherman and guide – and a proud member of RFR! Thanks, Ray.



### Check Presentation

While I was at the Marlborough Fly Fishing Show, I made a presentation of our check for \$500.00 to 'Project Healing Waters' at their booth at the show. This was 'from the monies we made last year, selling our tied flies. They of course were thrilled and thanked us very much. It made me feel very good, and very proud that I could represent all of you, the members of RFR, that helped tie and sell those many flies for this charity. Thank you again!

### Club Dues

Again, the 2018 club dues are due. John Pope will be back from his 'getaway' and if you haven't paid your dues, or want to join RFR, he will be available to take your payment and give out the new membership cards.

### Still Looking...

I'm still looking for stories, articles, or any thing else you would like published in 'your' newsletter! Got a new rod for Christmas that you like – tell me about it! Got used fishing tackle to sell – write a list. Read a new fishing book – write a review and send it to me. You know the size of the articles I need for the newsletter... it doesn't have to be long, just any informative thing you feel other members would find interesting – please, send to me. I want this to be your newsletter. Thanks!



JON JUHASE AND TOM GENDREAU WITH A DOUBLE!

### New Board Member

Well, after our committee searched far and wide for a whole year, we finally found the right choice to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors. He was hard to find, as he was participating on 'Dancing with the Stars' on Tuesday nights, but we "made him an offer he couldn't refuse" – and he accepted!

We welcome our new board member...Dave Loren! Of course, we all know Dave, he's not a new kid on the block, as he has been a member of 'Rhody' for many, many, years and was president for many years, as well. But now, he has slipped out of his dancing shoes for a while and will help us direct our great organization. Welcome back Dave...and thank you!

### RISAA Show Volunteers Needed

As you know, the RISSA Fishing Show will be the week before our March meeting, so I will be putting a sign-up sheet out for volunteers to help man our booth. We will need at least 2 persons at our booth for all hours for this three day event. The Dates and hours are:

Friday, March 9 – 1am – 8pm

Saturday, March 10 - 9am – 7pm

Sunday, March 11 - 10am - 5pm

If you can spare a couple of hours, any day, we would appreciate the help! Come sell tie some flies and help 'sell' Rhody Fly Rodders' and sell some flies for our charity, 'Reel Recovery.' Thanks!

### Fishing Shows Schedules 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

### Plenty of Hats

We have plenty of hats left for purchase. The weather is cold and you need to keep your 'noggin' covered, so what better way to keep warm, and show off your favorite fishing club, then by wearing a 'Rhody hat..

**Short bill hats – \$20.**

**Long bill hats – \$25.**

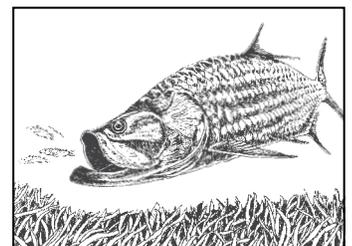
Available at the monthly meetings. Out-of-towners send me an email and I'll send you one...

No shipping costs!



### New Fish Prints

On a personal note... I have a new set of 'Southern Waters' Fish Prints coming, featuring a Tarpon, Bonefish and Permit. Available soon. I'm pretty proud of these.



## CONSERVATION REPORT

### 2017 'Stripers Forever' Annual Angler Survey Results

The results of the Stripers Forever 2017 Annual Fishing Survey are finalized. In 2016 we received 504 responses to our annual survey. This year's survey has again produced a good representative sampling of sentiments from fishers all along the striper's migratory range, and as usual MA and NJ vied for the greatest contributions with 123 and 127 completed surveys respectively.

2017 saw a tiny uptick in angler catch statistics. Only 64% of anglers said that they caught fewer or many fewer stripers compared to 66% in 2016 and 82% in 2015. Overall angler sentiment was still quite negative, but it is clear from the responses that the increased numbers of smaller fish found here and there along the coast in 2016 and 2017 was welcome.

77%, however, said they were catching smaller fish compared to 66% for 2016 and 73% for 2015. This is not an unexpected development as while we are seeing an increase in small stripers, especially in the northern states, there are less big fish in the population. Year classes over the last 10 years have not been nearly as consistently good as they were in the 1990s and early 2000s, and with harvest levels reduced very little from their highs big stripers may become even harder to locate.

Answers to questions about the need for a slot limit allowing smaller-sized stripers, and what percentage of the current commercial quotas should be reallocated to recreational quotas, show that our members continue to believe we should not be harvesting large, breeding stripers, and that they want to set aside a high percentage of the current commercial catch for conservation – and not harvest it themselves. Because of the need to fit a large, commercial quota into the overall striped bass plan regulators must suppress angler harvest. Regulators do that by adopting a high recreational minimum size like 28 inches so that most anglers will not be able to catch a keeper very often. It is a ridiculous example of public policy.

82% of our members – up slightly from 77% in 2016 – said that they are willing to buy a stamp to finance the buyout of the commercial fishery.

We had survey results from only 48 guides, down from 64 in 2016. Without a doubt the decline in striper fishing is hurting this valuable industry as well as the related fishing tourism and tackle businesses. The guides know how to fish their areas, though, and can usually produce the best results possible from their home waters. If you are thinking about a guided trip please check out the guides and tackle shops listed on the Stripers Forever website. Last winter we called all the guides on the list and removed those that we could find who had dropped out of the business. We are always adding new ones and welcome new applications. To get on the SF guides and tackle shop list just send us an e-mail at: [stripers@stripersforever.org](mailto:stripers@stripersforever.org).

## TIPS FROM THE PROS

### ACCURATE PRESENTATIONS

Your first cast to a fish is the best chance you have in catching that fish. Several times during the last few weeks, we had water clear enough to actually see the fish in the water and to see how he reacted to the fly presentation. One of the most telling moments of the last few weeks was when a client was casting to a tailing red. When we first saw the fish, he was tailing away and grubbing for crabs. The angler's first cast was too far in front of the fish and a little long. The fish didn't seem to react. His second cast was also off, and the fish stopped tailing. The third cast was behind the fish. All of a sudden the fish became motionless, and froze in place in the water. We kept our eyes on the fish and he simply disappeared by sinking down in the water and quietly finning off.

Even though the angler didn't line the fish or make such a bad cast to completely spook the fish, after a few casts, the fish felt the vibrations of the line/fly hitting the water and became wary and quit feeding. Then after another cast, the fish knew something was wrong, and pulled a disappearing act. If the angler's first cast had been 12" in front of the fish's nose, that fish would probably have rushed the fly.

The moral of this story is to practice accuracy. Take some paper plates into the yard and space them at 20, 30, 40 and 50'. Practice casting to the plates. To make it even more realistic, tie on a lightly weighted clouser (hook point cut off) and practice casting with that. Also practice in the wind. Practice with the wind to your back, to your side and into your face. Wind is almost always a factor in salt water fly fishing. I don't know anyone who can ALWAYS hit the plate on their first cast, but the practice will help you become a more accurate caster and to catch more fish.

### FLY OF THE MONTH



#### GARY SOARES' MARTHA'S VINEYARD SAND EEL

**HOOK:** Mustad 3407, size 1/0  
Bend hook near eye on sinking version

**THREAD:** Uni-Thread 3/0 white for tail, red for head

**BODY:** (Floating) E-ZBody medium, with a small piece of foam in front quarter of tube, (Sinking) E-ZBody medium

**TAIL:** Polarflash to match body color

**EYES:** (Floating) Adhesive, (Sinking) Dumbbell

## 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  
Dave Loren

### ADVISORS

Armand Courchaine  
Gene Matteson

### MEETINGS:

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

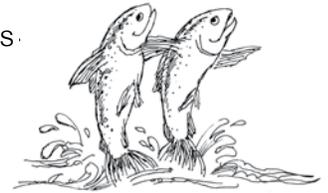
### DIRECTIONS:

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”.***



It's all  
about the  
water!



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

Come join us on **Feb.,20th.** for an informative presentation with **Peter Jenkins** from **the Saltwater Edge**, about **“Reading the Water,”** and understanding the topography, hard and soft structure, and the white water to make you more successful. Come early and tie some flies. **The coffee pot will be on!**

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



*America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club*

Peter Nilsen  
75 Massasoit Ave.  
Barrington, RI 02806

Please help support your  
local fly fishing shops. Their livelihood  
depends on you. They supply knowledge,  
information and technical support,  
besides quality products.

