



FEBRUARY 2019

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# Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**W**e're getting there! Hold on! Only a few more months until we will be getting back to some fishing! Soon, pretty soon!

Well, the Marlborough Fly Fishing Show was a bit better than last year – good crowd on Friday, and a better one on Saturday and there were quite a few Rhody Fly Rodders present as I walked the aisles looking for something to buy that I couldn't live without. At my age, and all the years I've accumulated gear and materials, there's not much more I can buy that I don't already have. I'm sure it's the same way with most of you!

Our meeting last month, with Capt. Ray and his assistants was a huge success! Over 40 people showed up to see a great presentation. We thank you for your attendance, participation, and your generosity in our raffles, plus contributing to a great time.

This month we have back, good friend, Dean Clark as our guest speaker. Dean is the Co-chairman for 'Stripers Forever, the striped bass conservation organization from MA, who will inform us on the latest on the Striped Bass situation, as to regulations and if ready, the new Striped Bass Stock Assessment announcement from this past year. Hopefully it will be good news!

Don't forget the Bear's Den Show on Sat., Feb., 23 as Rhody Fly Rodders will have a booth at this show – so come see us.

Also, look for the signup sheet for the New England Saltwater Anglers Show at the Providence Convention Center, sponsored by RSAA. We will have a booth this year and will be looking for members to help out during this 3-day show.

Hope you make this meeting on February 19th. It should be a very informative one.

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

See you there!

*P. Nilson*

Peter Nilson



## FEBRUARY MEETING



# 'IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BASS, THE BASS, THE BASS!'

Tuesday, February 19th at 6:30pm.

Join us for a presentation from Dean Clark, Co-Chair of 'Stripers Forever,' on the latest situation of our beloved Striped Bass!

Our speaker for this month is an old friend of 'Rhody' and has blessed us many times with updates on the wonderful work that 'Stripers Forever' is doing to help the Striped bass situation.

Dean says, "I'm looking forward to catching up with the members of the Rhody Fly Rodders, so we can discuss what is happening with the stripers and what we, as fishermen can do about bringing them back to their former glory."



We need these fish as an incentive to bring fresh faces into the sport we all love. It would be terrific to see some new young folks at the meeting. Hopefully by the time we get together there will be some official word out of Washington regarding the "official" welfare of the striped bass stocks.

Our prediction and fear is that the Atlantic coast wild striped bass will be officially declared to be "over fished and that overfishing is occurring". This should trigger mandatory regulatory changes that reduces the pressure on the fishery but there is always the chance that commercially driven politics will somehow figure out a way around the rules and harvest reductions will be postponed once again. Yes, as we all have been decrying for years, the fishery is in trouble once again.

What will be done about it will be interesting and will give everyone a voice in how we change our harvesting attitudes.

Looking forward to seeing you all, and thanks for the invitation."

**So come to the February 19th meeting and learn about what's happening on the Striper front! We'll have some bucket raffles and good company, with good friends.**

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

## CASTING ABOUT

### January Meeting

Our thanks to Capt. Ray for another very interesting presentation – this time, with the help of Geno Rapa, Keld Olsson, and Dave Pollack, Capt. Ray showed beautiful drone video photography of the Narrow River with his assistants describing all the places to place a fly and catch a fish. We had a great crowd on hand to witness this great show. Thank you all for coming. I now know a few new spots after this show! Thanks, Guys, great presentation.



L to R, Capt. Ray Stachelek, – Pres., Peter Nilsen, – V. Pres., Howie DeBeck

### Lifetime Membership Presentations

The reason this amazing club has flourished for over 50 years is because of hard-working, loyal, dedicated members like these two great guys. I had the honor of presenting 'Lifetime Memberships' to Howie DeBeck and Capt. Ray Stachelek for their 20+ years as members of Rhody Fly Rodders. Both have served in many capacities during the years and we as a club are thankful for their hard work and dedication to RFR. We salute you, my friends!

### Newsletter Help

We only have a few more months for the newsletter to be printed before our summer break, but still time to help me fill the pages of this newsletter. I'm looking for you to submit any story, news articles, pictures of fish caught, new fly patterns, or list of fishing gear for sale, etc. This is your newsletter and I'm always looking for you to help me make it better. *My email is on the last page.*

### RISAA Show Volunteers Needed

The RISAA show will be on March 22, 23, 24, and we will have a booth this year and are looking for members to help man the booth to interact with attendees, promote our club, sell the flies we have for sale for our charity, and maybe tie some flies if you like. This is three long days, so we need at least 2 members in the booth at all times. We'd like members to commit to 2 hour shifts. You will be able to get into the show for free, do a short time in the booth, and then you can see the show at your leisure. Think about it and fill out the form at the Feb. & March meetings. Thanks!

#### Fishing Shows Schedules 2019

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

Bear's Den Store, Taunton, MA  
Sat., February 16, 2019 11am – 6pm

##### RISAA NEW ENGLAND SALTWATER FISHING SHOW

RI Convention Center, Providence, RI  
Fri., Sat., Sun., March 22, 23, 24, 2019



### New Rhody Members

We've been very fortunate of late to be attracting many new members. Here I would like to introduce 6 new members that just joined this past month.

- Russell Spencer
- Michael Carroll
- Eric DeGoosh Dimarzio
- Richard Melvin
- Buzz & Gloria Potter



Welcome, and thank you for joining RFR! We look forward to seeing you at our remaining winter meetings, and attending some of our fishing meetings that we have all summer and fall. Nice to have you aboard.

### Summer Fishing Meetings

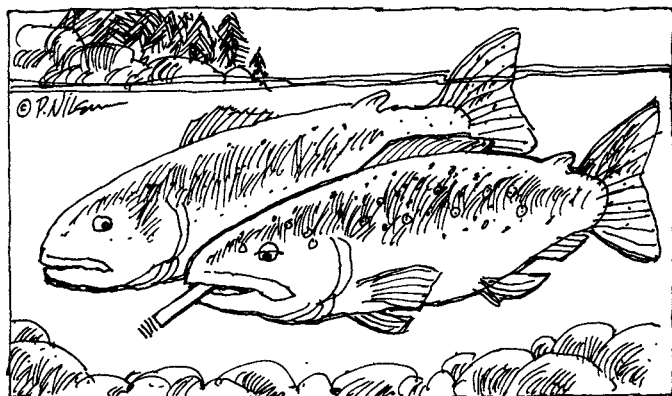
We are working on our summer fishing meeting schedule and hope to have it finished in a few months. We want to have at least two meetings each month, from May to September. We'll spread it around the state to give everyone a chance to maybe be introduced to some new water to fish.

### Plenty of Hats & Club Decals

We sold quite a few hats at last month's meeting, so if you need a new hat for the winter, come to a meeting or email me. Out-of-towners send me an email and your color choice and I'll send you one...No shipping costs!

**Short bill hats – \$20. Long bill hats – \$25.  
Decals – \$2.00**

**FOR SALE - ATLANTIS 'Surf Tamer' Custom Built**  
Single-handed Fly Rod. 11 foot /11wt./ 3-Piece. Cloth Bag.  
New \$285. Asking \$180. Call Bob Greene at 401-423-2261



I FIGURE WITH ALL THE TOXINS, ACID RAIN, WHIRLING DISEASE AND LOW-WATER FLOWS...WHAT'S A CIGARETTE NOW AND THEN.

## CONSERVATION REPORT

By Capt. Dave Monti sports@thesunchronicle.com - Dec 28, 2018

### **If you worked hard, you caught fish in 2018. Maybe not what you wanted to catch, but there were fish to catch.**

The school striped bass fishing was awesome with a number of large fish taken at the Cape Cod Canal, at the Southwest Ledge Block Island, and with shore anglers catching keepers in the 30" range mixed in with all those smaller bass. However, the bass bite compared to recent years was way off the mark for most shore, Bay and ocean anglers.

#### **What's in store for 2019?**

Even though a new striped bass stock assessment is done, data from it will not be used for management decisions until 2020. So for 2019, striped bass regulations are expected to be the same as this year... one fish 28 inches or larger/person/day. The striped bass fishing for keeper sized bass will hopefully improve in 2019 with some of the small-school size fish we have been catching in abundance maturing to keeper-sized fish.

However, the stock assessment, is not good. With the biological reference points we now have, specifically the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB), the amount of spawning fish needed in the water to insure sustainable stock levels, is showing that striped bass are overfished and overfishing is occurring.

However, some fish mangers and policy makers, being pressured to keep people fishing for striped bass, are thinking about lowering the amount of spawning stock biomass needed in the water to insure a sustainable fishing. This is troubling and equated by many to lowering the basketball rim to eight feet because at ten feet it is too hard to get a basket.

Data presented to anglers at a Dec. 19 Rhode Island DEM public workshop on striped bass clearly shows show fewer and fewer keeper striped bass have been caught in Rhode Island and Massachusetts over the past four years. Lowering our SSB goal to take more fish is being frowned upon by most conservation minded anglers.

Additionally, the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), the way fish mangers measure recreational fishing harvest, has recalibrated its data due to enhanced data collection strategies.

The new recalibrated data shows that over the years, anglers have been catching more fish than originally thought. In the case of striped bass, the data is showing anglers have been catching more than twice the amount of striped bass than originally thought.

So next year we will be status quo on striped bass, and the prediction is that the striped bass fishing for smaller fish will be good, but the bite for the 30-, 40- and 50-pound fish will continue to decline in 2019.

How fish mangers decide to use new stock assessment data will be determined at the February Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting. We may have an indication of the 2020 season after that meeting.

## TIPS FROM THE PROS

### **FLY LINE MENDING BASICS**

*Make no mistake, learning fly fishing mending techniques will prove essential to consistently successful fly presentations, as even dry fly fishing methods call for fly line mending.*

### **WHY IS FLY LINE MENDING NECESSARY?**

*The simplest answer: to extend the amount of time your fly or nymph dead drifts. When executed properly, fly line mending decreases the effects of drag so the fly looks to be floating naturally with the current as opposed to being dragged by or held in a current as it passes. Once you get the hang of fly fishing line mending, your fly won't seem to be attached to a leader at all until, of course, the mended line catches up to the fly and submits it to the effects of drag once more.*

*In any event, the key to consistently dead drifting across water of different speeds is in creating hinging points. Hinging points are created wherever different speeds of water encounter each other. That's it. You've probably inadvertently made several hinging points without knowing their significance. Now that you do, let's figure out how you can use these hinging points to your advantage when mending. While the example describes a method for casting across fast water, one can also upstream mend by facing and casting upstream, then lifting the tip of the rod while pulling in the line as the lure approaches. Remember, the key is to make your lure look as natural as possible as it floats along with the current. And to keep the tip of your rod up. You don't want your fly taking a swim.*

## FLY OF THE MONTH



### **JOHN POPE'S GO-TO RHODY FLATWING**

**HOOK:** Wright McGill 244SS, size 4-7/0

**THREAD:** White 6/0

**TAIL:** 15-20 strands of long white bucktail, 20-30 strands of short white bucktail, surround shank to form skirt, 3-4 strands of gold Flashabou, one olive saddle hackle

**BODY:** Pearl Bill's Body Braid

**WING:** 24 strands of very long, straight, white bucktail, 10-15 strands of yellow bucktail, 6-8 strands of light blue bucktail, several strands of pearl Krystal flash on each side, 15-20 strands of long olive bucktail, 5-8 lengths of peacock sword on top

**THROAT:** Small amount of soft white bucktail,

**HEAD:** Lacquer



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### 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.



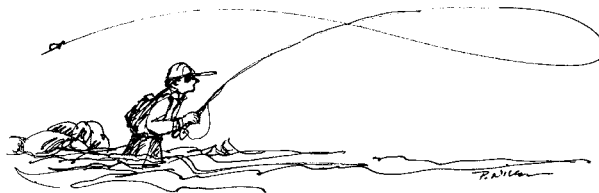
Answer:  
First Rhody Pres.  
Al Brewster &  
Ray Smith



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

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

Come join us on **Feb., 19th.** for an informative presentation with **Dean Clark** from **Stripers Forever**, who will discuss what is happening with the 'Stripers' and what we as fishermen, can do about bringing them back to their former glory. Come early and tie some flies. **Bucket Raffles & Good Conversation with Friends!**  
**All are welcome. Bring a friend. Bring two!**



Please help support your local fly fishing shops and charter fishing guides. Their livelihood depends on you.

They supply knowledge, information and technical support, besides quality products.



*America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club*

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