

SINCE 1963



DECEMBER 2019

Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club



DECEMBER MEETING

Go West, Young Man!

FLY FISHING THE SAN JUAN RIVER WITH ED LOMBARDO



You Don't Want To Miss This One!

Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm.

After fishing out West on the premier fly fishing rivers of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho for more than 30 years, Ed Lombardo decided to try something different! Having heard good things about the San Juan River in New Mexico, with its prolific hatches and large Rainbow Trout, he decided it was time for a change! He reports that this river has some of the best dry fly action he's seen, despite the fact that it's better known for nymph fishing with small midges.

Ed's presentation will be destination information on water anatomy, how to fish this river, what tackle, fly choices, and rod, reel and line choices for this wonderful fishery. He will also cover flights, vehicle travel, lodging, fly shops, restaurants and total trip cost. And, the fish are BIG as they range from 16"-20" with the species being 70% Rainbows, and 30% Browns.

He (and I) highly recommend this fishery when thinking of new places to fish. So come enjoy a great presentation and evening with our own, Ed Lombardo!

ALSO...OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FLY TACKLE SALE!

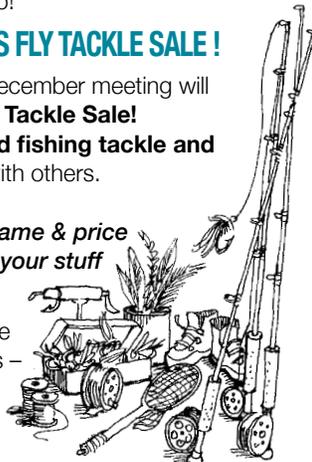
Along with Ed's presentation, our December meeting will also be our **Annual Christmas Fly Tackle Sale!** We invite you all to **bring unwanted fishing tackle and sell, trade or barter** your goods with others.

Here's how it works...

- **Bring tackle tagged with your name & price**
- **Find a spot at a table & display your stuff**
- **All proceeds are yours**

I hope to see you there! We will have some coffee and Christmas cookies – and...holiday liquid refreshments are always available from Jim, our resident barkeeper.

Come join us for what should be a fun evening!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, another year has come and gone, and we're in the waning days of 2019. As for me and others I've spoken to, the fishing was a mixed bag this past year, with a strange opening season with few large fish, but lots of small fish, and not very many Bluefish. Also the herring and bunker/ menhaden were slow to come in, and looked to me as being low in numbers, probably contributing to the overall lack of big fish.

The fall provided most of the action with plenty of peanut bunker and some exciting days of chasing small bass and Bluefish, plus Albies and Bonito on the local beaches. The Bonito made a strong showing, this year but not so with the Albies – the exact opposite of last year.

Our fish conservation efforts took an upturn, with the founding of 'ASGA' – the Atlantic Saltwater Guides Association leading the way and continuing the fight to protect and strengthen our striped bass regulations. Hats off to Peter Jenkins, Jon McMurray, Tony Friedrich and the rest of our advocates for all your hard work on behalf of our beloved Striped Bass. We thank you for your effort!

Rhody Fly Rodders had much success this year too, by raising over \$500. for our 2019 charity, 'Reel Recovery.' We also had some good monthly meetings and I wish to thank our speakers and all that worked to make these meetings fun and entertaining. And...we increased our membership by signing at least 10 new members this past year and hopefully will entice more to join in this coming year.

Our summer fishing meetings were so-so, with the fish and weather not co-operating much, but we hope to improve on this next year. As you may know, our club is always looking for members, or friends of members that may have an interest in giving interesting fishing presentations to the club at our monthly meetings. See me if so.

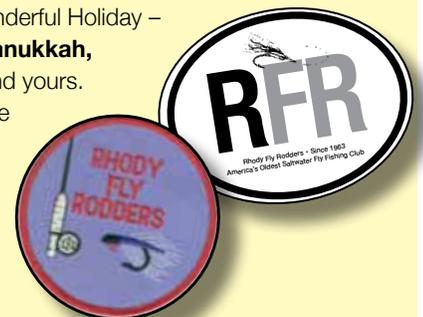
I want to thank you all for your support this past year and look forward to seeing you at our meetings the rest of this season.

And, 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.

P. Nilsen

Peter Nilsen



CASTING ABOUT



November Meeting

Thanks to all who came to the November meeting and joined in our annual tying efforts of flies for 'Project Healing Waters,' our charity for this coming year! I think we have plenty of flies for us to sell at our meetings, but if you have few already tied, please bring them to the December meeting. Now we have to go do a good job of selling them for 'Healing Waters.' You also can purchase some of these great flies at our monthly meetings. This helps out alot, too!

A special thanks to Peter Jenkins who gave us an update and a bit of an explanation on the amendment issued by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) that changed the Striped Bass regs. for the next two years. I think we are a bit clearer on this, but we all hope there will more fishermen voicing their opinion and demanding more to protect these fish!

Election of Officers

So, now I ask you all, "will you please consider 'throwing your hat in the ring' for one of our 'officers or board positions?'"

Most of us on the slate below have been doing this for a long time, and to put it bluntly, we are a bit 'old in the tooth,' if you know what I mean! We need some new blood,' new ideas and we need to get younger. Please think about it!!! Thanks!

Listed below are the officers willing to continue in their present positions. All these positions are still open for anyone interested. Please submit these names when I call for nominations.

PRESIDENT – Peter Nilsen

VICE PRESIDENT – Howie DeBeck

TREASURER – John Pope

BOARD – Mike Kelley, Dave Loren, Barry Rideout.

Annual Club Dues Are Due

Well, it's that time of the year again! Our annual dues are now due for 2020. Please try and pay them at this month's meeting. The amount is the same as last year – \$25.00. You can pay John Pope, our Treasurer at the meeting. For you out-of-towners who can't come to the meetings, 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 membership!



AND LAYING HIS PECT BESIDE HIS NOSE, UP THE WATERFALL HE ROSE, AND I HEARD HIM EXPLAIN AS HE SWAM OUT OF SIGHT... MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

The Fishing Grinch Story

Again we continue our tradition of publishing this Christmas poem in our Dec. newsletter, written by our late member, Ron Montecalvo. I hope this will remind us of our dearly departed friend.



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 is in it's 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*

*There's Illusions, Bunniculars and Streamers,
they are the nightmare of all Fish dreamers*

*But not now for me, they come instead,
as 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

Holiday Gifts for Your Fishermen Friends

I will be bringing to this coming meeting, some of my fish prints, and my books, that may be of interest to you as Christmas gifts for your friends.

25% of all sales go to the club!



Fishing Shows Schedules 2019

THE FLY FISHING SHOW

Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA
January 17, 18, 19, 2020

THE FLY FISHING SHOW

New Jersey Convention & Expo Center, Edison, NJ
January 24, 25, 26, 2020

THE BEAR'S DEN FLY FISHING EXPO

Bear's Den Store, Taunton, MA
February 22, 2020 11am – 6pm

RISAA NEW ENGLAND SALTWATER FISHING SHOW

RI Convention Center, Providence, RI
March 27, 28, 29, 2020



CONSERVATION REPORT

from the...ATLANTIC SALTWATER GUIDES ASSOCIATION

MENHADEN COMPLIANCE FINDING

By this time, you should all know about the menhaden situation. If you don't, we will catch you up.

The current focus of angst among fishermen is Omega blatantly exceeding the Bay Cap on menhaden harvest. The Bay Cap is the maximum amount of menhaden allowed to be taken from the Chesapeake Bay. We didn't use the term "blatant" lightly. Omega sent a letter telling the Governor and everyone else that they were going to do it without a care in the world. <https://www.accesswire.com/559458/Omega-Protein-Statement-on-the-Chesapeake-Bay-Cap>

You know, the weather is bad on the water, and their steel ships are only about 200 feet long. So, to heck with the largest estuary in the country, we want to kill more menhaden and burn less fuel. I mean come on...catching 100,000,000 lbs. of a critically important forage species from the nation's largest estuary certainly has no impact. Gosh, it silly to even think so. But, that's what 51,000 mt equals as far as we can cypher (Doing my best Jethro Bodine).

This Bay Cap was set as many numbers are set in fisheries management. The managing body takes a few years of harvest numbers and averages them out. That's what was done but Omega doesn't want to recognize it.

Back in 2017, the Bay Cap was lowered from 87,000 mt to 51,000 mt. Why? Well, the overall harvest was increased by 8% to a total of 216,000 mt. (approx. 400,000,000 lbs. of menhaden). So, the Bay Cap was lowered to reflect an actual cap. The 51,000 mt is actually closer to harvest average than the 87,000 mt. Omega was upset about this. They felt that it was purely political to only be able to catch 110,000,000 lbs. of menhaden from a natural treasure with 5000-foot purse seine nets. We must be eco-terrorists to ask for so much!

Unsurprisingly, Omega ignored the rules because they are Omega and think we all owe them something. After kicking the can down the road for several meetings, the commission found Omega out of compliance at the latest meeting in October.

What does non-compliance mean for a fishery? Well, it means that the decision is sent up the chain of command to the Sec. of Commerce's desk. It will be the Secretary's decision. He has 30 days to make the finding. If he finds them out of compliance, then the fishery will cease to operate until they decide to become compliant. Secretary Ross can also give them 6 months to become compliant before the moratorium would become active.

We thought long and hard about the best way to support the non-compliance finding. It isn't the best idea to flood the Commerce Department with emails.

We would like you to sign our letter on our website....
www.atlanticsaltwaterguides.association.com

It seems reasonable to think that if your livelihood depends on abundant fish populations, you would matter to the Commerce Department. So, please go to our Facebook or Instagram page and comment with your name, state, and business name, if applicable. If you are a passionate recreational fisherman, don't worry! Your voice matters too. **Please comment with your just your name and state!**

TIPS FROM THE PROS

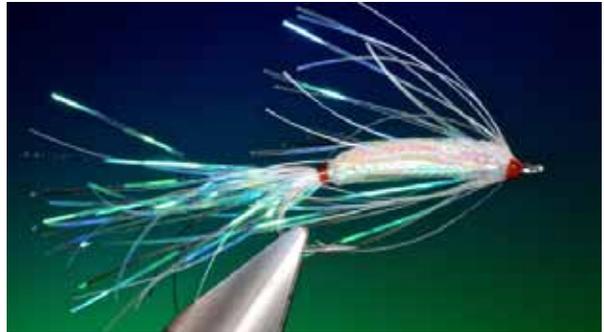
Setting the Hook in Saltwater

One of the biggest problems with anglers I encounter on a boat is setting the hook. Most anglers graduate from freshwater fly fishing where they set the hook by gently raising the rod tip. This works fine when you are fishing a size 22 blue wing olive to ten inch trout. When you gently raise the rod tip on a 10 lb red, you gently slide the fly out of his mouth.

When fishing to these big fish, you need to point the rod tip directly at the fly line and strip the fly back to you. The strip technique is dictated by the time of year, water temperature, tide and other factors.

Your captain will tell you when, how fast and how long to strip the fly. When a fish takes he might explode on the fly and hook himself. More typically, the fish slowly sucks in the fly, and you feel a slight resistance. Whenever you feel any resistance, strike. When you strike, keep the rod pointed directly at the fly, grasp the fly line tightly with the line hand and quickly and aggressively strip the line. It's nice to see an angler pull the line from right at the reel to behind his back in one swift motion. Do not raise the rod tip. An effective strip strike will improve your salt water angling success by 50% or more.

FLY OF THE MONTH



'JULETRÆET' OR (CHRISTMAS TREE FLY)

Especially chosen for our good friend and member – Keld Olsson.

The 'Juletræet,' as the original is called in Danish or translated, 'Christmas Tree,' is a popular Danish coastal pattern for sea run browns.

The original is from the early 80's and comes from Danish fly tyer, Steen Ulunits. This simple but effective pattern is easy to tie but requires the correct Mylar tubing.

With many Mylars, when the weave is opened, the tinsel will be curled and impossible to get to lie flat. You will need to find a brand that is easily opened and all the strands of tinsel are straight when pulled apart.

The Christmas tree has a great swimming action and needless to say, is a real flashy attractor.

HOOK: Mustad S71 # 6

TYING THREAD: Dyneema

UNDER BODY: Mylar tube core

TAIL, BODY & WING: Mylar tube & UV resin

OFFICERS & BOARD

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Howie DeBeck

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Mike Kelley
Dave Loren
Barry Rideout

ADVISORS

Armand Courchaine
Gene Matteson

MEETINGS:

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

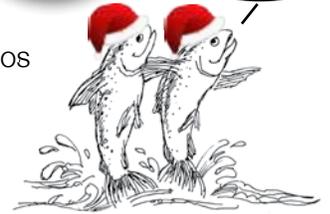
DIRECTIONS:

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

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



Merry
Christmas



NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH - 6:30 PM

Please come join us for 'Fly Fishing the San Juan River w/ Ed Lombardo'
Ed's presentation will be destination information on how to fish this river, water
anatomy, what tackle, fly choices, and rod, reel and line choices for this
wonderful fishery. We also will have our 'Annual Christmas Fly Tackle Sale.'
Bring your unwanted fly tackle and sell, or trade with members and friends.

They'll be Coffee & Christmas cookies, and...Holiday Cheer will be available
from our resident bar-keep, Jim! So come, sell some stuff and enjoy a good time.
Open to the public. Hope to see you there...bring a friend...bring two!



Please come celebrate the Holidays with us this month
for what should be a fun evening on December 17th with a great
presentation from long time member, Ed Lombardo, on some
amazing fly fishing on the San Juan River in New Mexico.

Also, we will have our 'Annual December Fly tackle Sale.'
Come bring and sell your unwanted tackle and maybe
earn a little cash for the holidays.

It's Holiday Cheer & Good times with Good Friends!

Happy Holidays to you all!

– Peter Nilsen, *President*

