



JANUARY 2020

SINCE
1963

Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club

JANUARY MEETING

NAPATREE POINT- A FLY FISHING FALL EXODUS WITH CAPT. RAY STACHELEK!

Come join us on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30pm. for a presentation with Capt. Ray Stachelek, with a complete look at Fly Fishing Napatree Point during the Annual Fall Exodus of Strippers, Blues and Albies!

- Exquisite Drone Photography
- Hole by Hole Descriptions
- Where to fish • What to Fish
- How to fish



Traditionally the first presentation of the year has always been our long standing friend and member **Capt. Ray Stachelek.**

Capt. Ray has been actively flying drones for quite a while over some of our favorite waters, offering breath taking panoramic views of our Ocean State.

Napatree Point is one of the least known gems in the crown jewel of the Rhode Island coastline. This barrier beach along our south western shore offers some of the finest opportunities to intercept the fall migration. Strippers and bluefish stage here during the fall run. Why not? Because Napatree Point provides ample forage with a southwest wind that pushes the bait close to the sandy beach shore. Easy to walk and wade, beautiful scenery, serene setting.

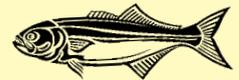
This seminar chronicles one special fall October day. Emphasis will be on bait, flies, and techniques.

So, come join us on **Tuesday, Jan. 16th** and be informed. We'll have some interesting bucket raffles and good conversations with some great people.

All are welcome. Bring a friend.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Wishing all Rhody Fly Rodders, friends and their families, a Happy & Healthy New Year! I hope the holidays were good, and Santa brought you all the fly fishing tackle you asked for. Now that the holiday season is over, we turn to getting ready for the upcoming fishing season. Believe it or not there's only 75 days til the opening of trout season, and only 113 days till May first, where we maybe we will be catching our first strippers!

The fly fishing shows are fast approaching ,and it's also time to take an accounting of your tackle, what flies you need to tie – or start to plan for the fishing trips you want to take this coming year! This is the time to do it!

The decisions that 'Rhody' needs to think about and discuss for the coming year are...speakers for the rest of this year, maybe more tying nights? Show and tell nights?...and how we may want to re-structure our 'fishing get-togethers' this summer. If you have any thoughts, we welcome your comments and suggestions – we are open to any new options you might have. Call or email me!

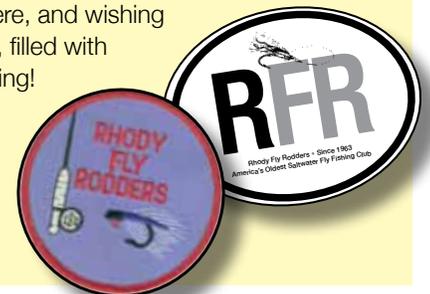
We also want to add one or two persons to the board of directors as we need to expand our thoughts as to how to 'better' this club. If any of you are interested, please don't hesitate to call me. And...I'm always interested to have you send me your fishing stories, tackle and book reviews, and any thing else you may find interesting to our members. I would like to include them in the monthly newsletter. Thanks!

This month, as with every January, our guest presenter will be Capt. Ray Stachlack, telling us all about fishing the Napatree Point beach area and the Fall migration of Strippers, Blues and Albies that happen in that area. This should be very informative for those of us that don't get to this area often. Hope to see you there, and wishing you a wonderful New Year, filled with good health and great fishing!

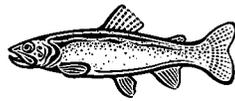
Best to you,

P. Nilsen

Peter Nilsen



CASTING ABOUT



December Meeting

Our past December meeting was a great success with guest speaker, and long time member, Ed Lombardo. Thank you all for coming and enjoying a great presentation on Fly Fishing for trout on the San Juan River in New Mexico. Ed showed us that this is a great, reasonably inexpensive fishing trip to consider when trying to find new destinations to wet your line. It's great fishing with big fish and lots of them! I fished this river many years ago, and after Ed's presentation, I just might go back! Definitely a worthwhile trip. Thanks, Ed!

Two Santas Were At The Last Meeting

Well, there were two Santas at our December Meeting last month, and they were handing out gifts to good girls and boys. Yes, we do have girl members, and one named Susan, was the recipient of a nice gift from... 'Santa Gene Matteson!'

Susan played Santa last year, when she gave Gene a Christmas gift of a 'Clouser' fly, Xmas tree when Gene was ill and in rehab – so Gene returned the gesture this year! Gosh, there are some wonderful people in this club.

'Santa Gene' was not done as he also gave his friend, and long time member, Dave Loren a wonderful gift of an old glass fly rod and a beautiful Hardy reel – as this generous man is scaling back on his huge collection of fly fishing tackle.

I don't think there's a nicer, kinder person in our organization than Gene Matteson. We love you, Gene!

The 'other' Santa also left a lot of gifts at my house so I did pass out a few 'appropriate gifts' to the 'appropriate members,' *if you know what I mean*, and there where quite a few hearty laughs!

There was a lot of giving and loving last month, and why not, it was Christmas!



Election of Officers

Also at our December meeting we had our 'Annual election of officers... and the same 'cast of characters' were elected to office again for 2020. We all thank you, but we would really like other members to join us and take an active role in running this club. Again, It's not too late to step up and join our team and help. Changing of the 'guard' once in a while really helps infuse new thoughts and ideas, which will keep us going, hopefully for another 50 years. – Think about it.

Club Dues

Again, the 2020 club dues are due. If you have already paid, thank you, if not, you may pay John Pope at our January meeting – or write a check for \$25. made out to Rhody Fly Rodders and sent to: John Pope, 6 Cononchet Drive, Portsmouth, RI 02871. Thanks!

Final Results –2019 'Yellowstone Anglers' 5wt Shootout

Below is another of Yellowstone Anglers of Montana, wonderful Fly Fishing Gear reviews for you. This one is the latest 5-wt Shootout! Two divisions... 'Presentation' and 'Power.' They take most all of the popular brands of fly rods and compare all aspects and characteristics and give you all the information in a 'nutshell', so you can make an informed decision when buying a new rod. More info on their website.

Presentation Rods Objective Observations		Best in Test		Made in the USA?	Number of Pieces	Tested Overall Weight in OZ.	Tested Swing Weight in OZ.
Rank							
1	Douglas SKY 6 9' #5 \$795			NO	4	2.7	7.6
2	G. Loomis NRH+ LP 9' #5 \$795			YES	4	2.8	8.2
3	Orvis Helios 3F 9' #5 \$898			YES	4	2.9	8.8
4	Hardy Zephrus 9' #5 \$699			NO	4	2.8	8.6
5	Beulah Platinum 62 9' #5 \$550			NO	4	2.5	7.9
6	Thomas & Thomas Paradigm 9' #5 \$875			YES	4	2.7	8.6
7	Hardy Shadow 9' #5 \$359.95			NO	4	2.8	8.8
8	Fenwick Retos 9' #5 \$199.95			NO	4	3.4	9.1
9	Scott G Series 8'8" #5 \$845			YES	4	3	9.3
10	Winston RIR 9' #5 \$975.00			YES	4	3.5	9.7
11	Sage Trout LL 9' #5 \$800			YES	4	2.6	9.8

Power Rods Objective Observations		Best in Test		Made in the USA?	Number of Pieces	Tested Overall Weight in OZ.	Tested Swing Weight in OZ.
Rank							
1	G.Loomis NRH+ 9' #5 \$795			YES	4	3.2	9
2	Scott Radian 9' #5 \$795			YES	4	2.8	9.1
3	G.Loomis Asquith 9' #5 \$1100			YES	4	2.9	8
4	Thomas & Thomas Avanti 9' #5 \$845			YES	4	2.7	8.6
5	Orvis Helios 3D 9' #5 \$898			YES	4	2.9	8.6
6	Taylor Anomaly 9' #5 \$559			NO	4	2.9	8.8
7	Taylor Truth 9' #5 \$649			NO	4	2.9	8.8
8	Fenwick Fenlite Streamflex 9' #5 \$339.95			NO	4	3.2	9.5
9	Orvis Recon 9' #5 \$498			YES	4	3	9.9
10	Beulah Guide Series 11 9' #5 \$295			NO	4	3.1	9.2
10	Douglas DHF 9' #5 \$395			NO	4	3	8.9
12	Loop 7H Medium Fast 9' #5 \$950			NO	4	2.9	9
13	Echo Trout 9' #5 \$549.99			NO	4	3.1	9.5
14	Thomas & Thomas Zone 9' #5 \$499			YES	4	3	9.9
15	Orvis Clearwater 9' #5 \$198			NO	4	3.4	10.3
16	Sage H 9' #5 \$900			YES	4	2.8	9.9
17	Sage Foundation 9' #5 \$325			YES	4	3.1	10.2
18	St. Croix Imperial 9' #5 \$300			YES	4	3.4	10
19	Echo Base 9' #5 \$99.99			NO	4	3.4	10
20	TFO BUK 9' #5 \$259.95			NO	4	3	10.6
21	Winston Alpha+ 9' #5 \$935			YES	4	3.9	11.7



Don't worry, Kids, this is a 'Catch & Release' rated movie!

CONSERVATION REPORT

BLUEFISH UPDATE 12/10/19

American Saltwater Guides Association

Just a quick update on the Bluefish action at the council. There will be a more comprehensive update in the upcoming days. We know our readers are wondering, so here's how it worked out.

Bluefish are overfished. Here are the actions suggested by the council to address this issue. Essentially, the council recommended the limit go from 15 to 3 fish.

There were several motions before the final action was passed. Before we explain the final action, take a look at this graphic.

Shore anglers are in blue. Charter for hire is in red. Boat angling is yellow. As you can see, charter for hire represents very little of the overall harvest. Party boats accounted for 31,000 fish and charter for hire boats accounted for about 156,000 fish.

Ultimately, the motion that passed was a three fish limit for recs and a 5 fish limit for charter for hire. The reality is that the action was swift and decisive. The two extra Bluefish for the charter and party boat contingent won't be the reason this actions fails to meet the desired results. It won't amount to a huge number of fish.

As we stated in previous articles, we expected swift and decisive action from the council on bluefish. There it is. The COASTWIDE quota in Federal waters is now 3 fish (5 for charter for hire) down from 15 fish.

Our Concerns

We have two concerns moving forward. First, the reductions were based off 2018 harvest numbers which were low. Like, extremely low.. so the reductions were lessened in relation to taking the baseline of multiple years. Using the lowest harvest year on record since 1981 is concerning to us.



Our other concern is focused around the potential use of conservation equivalency. Bluefish are co-managed between the Council and ASMFC. That means that in state waters, CE can be applied. However, it becomes very complicated.

Let's say a state comes back with a whacky CE proposal that would give party and charter for hire a larger quota. In order to exploit this, the party boat/charter for hire would have to give up their Federal permit. That would hurt them for other species like black sea bass and scup.

There is a big difference with this version of CE. It requires a lb for lb payback. That means that any state that uses CE and goes over their quota will have to pay it back the next year.

In other words, if this action proves to be ineffective, welcome to the world of having a 1 bluefish limit.

That kind of accountability gives folks pause.



TIPS FROM THE PROS

Winter Steelhead/Salmon Fishing Tips

TIME TO GO:

Go fishing when the barometric pressure is on the way up.

TRY GOING LIGHT

Sadly when most fly fisherman head out for salmon and steelhead they use heavy leaders. Some of the best salmon and steelhead fishermen I know will stick to 4 and 6 lb leader material. The leader length is critical, and you need to be willing to change the length of your leader to match the conditions of the water. If you are fishing a long slow pool, a leader of about 15 feet might be required to get the right drift. In the fast broken water below the pool, a 15 foot leader is more than likely useless, so you could cut back to an 8 foot or even a 7 foot leader to keep you in touch with the fly.

BOUNCY, BOUNCY

No, I am not talking about having a go on a trampoline. When river fishing, you MUST get the fly down to the bottom. If you are not tapping out and busting off the occasional fly, you are missing fish. Simple as that.

WALK SOFTLY ... AND DON'T MAKE A MUDLINE.

Salmon and steelhead can be quite skittish. You should always approach the river with as little noise as possible. Even if a bunch of loogans have been whooping it up in the pool, you might be able to spot a few fish which have buggered off out of the pool due to the racket. These fish will be sitting in locations where you would never think to look for them. A mudline will let them know you are coming making them tough to get, or they will swim off to another location for a bit of peace and quiet. Easy does it!

FLY OF THE MONTH



THE NUMBER ONE – by Dave Nuttall

HOOK: 3/0 254SS

THREAD: Mono

TAIL: Yellow over white bucktail

BODY: Silver Body Braid

WING: White & pale yellow bucktail, light blue bucktail, pearl flash, purple bucktail

TOPPING: Peacock herl

THROAT: White bucktail, red pearl flash

CHEEK: Lacquered jungle cock side feather

EYE: Large, amber, black pupil

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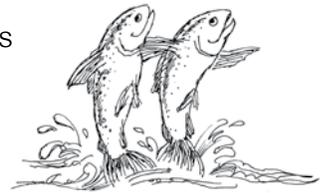
Riverside Sportsmen's Association
1 Mohawk Dr., East Providence, RI 02915
3rd Tuesday of the month, Oct. – April

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.



Happy
New Year



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

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

Come join us on **Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30pm.** for a presentation with **Capt. Ray Stachelek** on a complete look at **Napatree Point Fly Fishing during the Fall exodus.** Where to fish! What to fish! How to fish! We'll have some nice **Bucket Raffles** and good conversation with knowledgeable fly fishermen. Come early and tie some flies. **All are welcome. Bring a friend. Bring two!**



Don't forget to join us this month as our presentation will be by long time member, Capt. Ray Stachlack, telling us all about fishing the Napatree Point beach area and the Fall migration of Stripers, Blues and Albies that happen in that area.

This should be very informative for those of us that don't get to fish this area often. Hope to see you there, and wishing you a wonderful New Year, filled with good health and great fishing!

– Peter Nilsen, *President*

