



Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club

THE CURRENT

"The lifeline of the estuary and knowledge"



Another Season Coming to a Close

With the sun beginning to set on this season, let's take a moment to appreciate our accomplishments and look ahead to the future...*continued page 5*

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

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And More!

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*Capt. Ray
Stachelek*



President of Rhody Fly
Rodders

“You have the
power ... on how
your club should
run.”

Welcome Back!

The indoor meeting season is off and running. It was a pleasure to see us together again after a very hot and muggy summer. You could sense a little buzz in the air too. It was probably from hearing so many hungry growling stomachs ready to be fed. Our Pizza Blast always excites a crowd. First meeting attendance had a good turnout, but a few of our regulars had other fishing obligations.

Robert (Bob) Popovics, POP FLEYES Founder

We celebrate Bob Popovics' life and his contributions to the World of Fly Fishing. Bob's passing has left all of us sorrowful and full of regret. Bob was a respected innovator and stalwart in the fly tying industry. He stretched the boundaries of fly designs by clever use of materials. Our love goes out to his family and friends. **It's only a thread that holds this fraternity of tiers together. We now know how easy it can break.**

Important Notice: Club Election Night this November Meeting!

Our annual club elections for general officers and board members will be held at this month's meeting. It is important that you be present. We need a good turnout. Spread the word. Everyone should be informed. It's an open and free election process. It's Democracy in action. "Voting is your civic duty." Club Elections have consequences. Every vote does matter like our last year's election. You have the power to make key decisions on how your club should run. Voting is your chance to stand up for the issues you care about. It's your right. Not voting is giving up your voice. Voting is an opportunity for change. Do you want to make a positive impact in this club? Voting gives you that chance! There are many issues affected by elections. What path do you want this club to go? How active do you want us to be? How can we make this club stronger going ahead? There were no nominations for any office at our October meeting. Declarations will be held from the floor. To run for office or vote you have to be an active up-to-date paid dues member.

See you at the next meeting. Every vote counts!

Capt. Ray Stachelek

November Meeting Preview



Tuesday, November 19th at 6:30pm

Riverside Sportsman Association

19 Mohawk Dr., East Providence, RI 02915

Our special guest speaker

Richard Lodge is a well-known locally established New England newspaper writer. His credits include being a reporter, photographer and editor since 1977 in Massachusetts and Maine. He was presented with the Yankee Quill Award in 2014 and admitted to the New England Academy of Professional Journalist.

Lodge has recently published and released his new book titled *The Rise of the Neversiner*. His book chronicles the life of **Rube Cross** a local Catskill New York State tier who happened to have roots and friendships here in Rhode Island.

The Catskills around the turn of the century, (1910's) was the epicenter of many of the great trout tiers in the Eastern United States. These individuals were trail blazers, historians in their own right, whose names included Theodore Gordon, Walt Dette, Elsie Darbee and Art Flick.

Lodge will discuss Cross's merits and his association with our founding fathers, **Harold Gibbs and Al Brewster**. There will be plenty of insight, anecdote, and comical stories along the way.

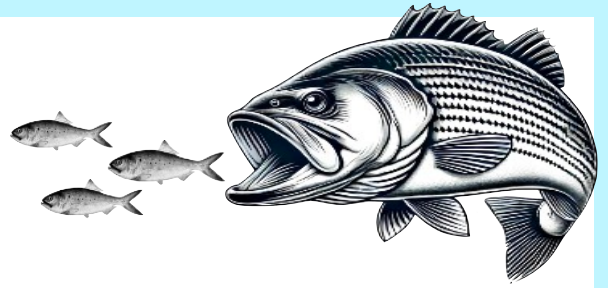
Lodge will have copies of his new book on hand for sale at this meeting. Bring some extra cash. I'm sure you can get a signed copy for yourself.

By Ray Stachelek

Directions

From Providence take Rt.195 to Exit 2B. Bear right on the ramp and follow Rt. 114 S for 2 miles. Look for WPRO Studios on the left, then take first U-turn back to Rt.114 north. Continue north and look for the Riverside Sportsman Club (blue) sign on the right side.

Another Season Coming to a Close



The fishing this fall was more difficult than it should have been. In September, false albacore only showed up for a few stormy days, but bonito saved the month for many anglers and charter captains. Additionally, the striper bight never materialized into the action we are accustomed to, and it seemed bay anchovies swam happily past our coastline unbothered. In October, there were some striped bass to be had at night in certain locations and random surface feeds that popped up now and then, but many anglers can justify feeling somewhat disappointed.

Even with the disappointment and the bleak outlook for the future of striper fishing, there are some things we should pause to appreciate. The time we spent on the water should not be judged solely by whether we caught fish, but by what that time represented to us and the other outcomes it lent itself to. For some, fishing represents an escape, a time to relax and clear the mind, a way to build friendships, a way to feel Christmas morning childlike excitement, or a way to honor those who we fished with in the past and whose stories only continue through our casts. Needless of the outcomes and motivations, we were fortunate to share these experiences together.

Collectively we shared many beautiful sunsets, sunrises, and experiences that had little to do with catching. We made new friendships, added to our individual communities, laughed together, and learned together. We were able to give each other camaraderie, a sense of belonging, and a place to share our passion. The generosity and knowledge in our community outweighs any differences we may have.

While the world has become more divisive, it is important that we realize that in the fly fishing community, we share common ideas, values, and goals. We may not always agree with each other, but the world would be boring if we did. It is perfectly fine for us to disagree, but how we disagree matters. We are a community that supports one another and wants to see each other succeed in fishing and beyond. The respect we have for each other needs to remain on a pedestal and be lauded. Our similarities continue to bring us together and allow for us to collectively be better than we would be apart. Remember the cliché “a rising tide lifts all boats” and our motto “Pass on to all, who ask, what you learn here.” We stand on the shoulders of the members who came before us, and one day future members will stand on ours. So, with the sun beginning to set on this season, let’s take a moment to appreciate our accomplishments, and look ahead to the future.

Upclose

We would like to let our membership get to know one another. What better way to do this than to feature a member profile each month. We hope to create new and closer friendships.



John McDonald

Where are you from?

Wakefield, Rhode Island

How long have you been a member?

Five months

How long have you been fly fishing and tying flies?

I've been fly fishing for six months. I'm going to learn to tie this winter.

Favorite species to catch?

Striped bass

Boat or shore fishing?

Shore fishing

Any notable catches?

Not yet, but I'm working on it.

Favorite fly?

Angle hair minnow and deceivers

Favorite places to fish?

Estuaries

Favorite fishing partner?

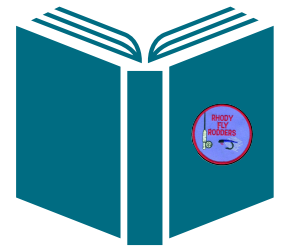
I enjoy fishing with everyone.

Any notable stories?

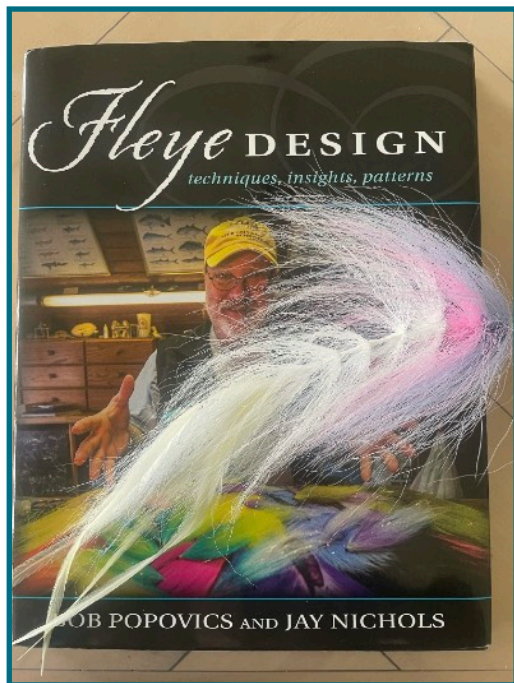
When I was in Puerto Rico on vacation I saw tarpon daisy chaining on a flat. I'm now determined to go back and catch one on the fly.

Book of the Month:

Fleye Design by Bob Popovics



Fleye Design by Bob Popovics, can be considered a must have book for any saltwater fly tier. Released in 2016, *Fleye Design* contained many new patterns and techniques. Additionally, this book will still be relevant decades from now because of Popovics' meat and potato style of tying. As explained in the book, his flies are designed with form, function, durability, and ease of tying paramount. Thus, successive renditions have honed his patterns to their simplest, most elegant, and effective form. This can be seen in how Popovics explains design and material choice. However, what makes the book stand out from its peers is the way it details how to select, handle, and manipulate bucktail.



The book is divided into three parts. The first part is dedicated to laying the foundation for the reader to be able to interpret and develop the skills to tie the flies in the later sections. Key to this are chapters on common baitfish, selecting and manipulating bucktail, and using light cured epoxy. Part two of the book contains almost 150 pages of patterns and step-by-steps. Headlining this section is the [Hollow Fleye](#) and its larger cousin the [Beast Fleye](#).

Finally, part three contains patterns influenced by Popovics' but tied by others. This includes patterns by [Jonny King](#) and [Blane Cholett](#). Regardless of skill level or how many times you have read it before, *Fleye Design* merits additional attention this offseason.

Thunder Bunny

by Bob Jepson



An older yet effective pattern that is similar to a surf candy, but uses a different technique to form the body. This fly can be found on page 187-188 of *Saltwater Fly Patterns* by Lefty Kreh.

Materials



Red thread



White bucktail



Rabbit strip



Any hook 2 - 3/0



Light cure epoxy



Stick-on eyes

- 1) Tie in near the hook eye. Invert the hook.
- 2) Reverse tie in a clump of bucktail for the belly, but do not fold it back yet.
- 3) Spin the hook right side up and tie in a piece of rabbit strip.
- 4) Wrap the thread back, so it hangs inline with the barb.
- 5) Fold back the bucktail to form a belly and wrap around it 2-3 times.
- 6) Fold back the rabbit strip and tie it in at the same spot as step 5. Whip finish.
- 7) Add stick on eyes and coat the entire head with epoxy.



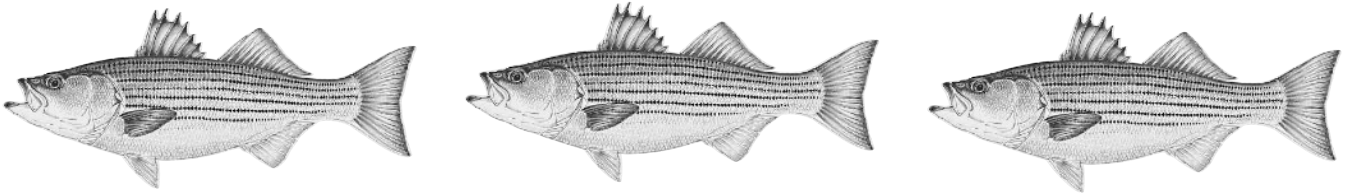
Spotlight: Greenwich Harbor

This section is meant to highlight well known fishing spots in order to provide information to new saltwater fly fishermen. The intention is to provide basic information without providing specifics that could be considered a spot burn.

Greenwich Harbor is a well known and productive place to fish in both spring and fall. The harbor itself is one giant submerged mud flat with little structure. This lends itself to **early season fishing**, and this spot is typically one of the first to have a consistent springtime bight. Fishing by boat or kayak gives the angler an advantage. However, shore anglers can still find fish while wading or casting from the bank. Early in the season **small olive, brown, or maroon flies** are a good option, while **in fall it is important to match the profile and size of the baitfish present.**



Unlike much of RI, **public access abounds here.** Access points can be found within Goddard Memorial State Park, Scalloptown Park, East Greenwich Cove Overlook, Greenwich Bay Overlook, Chepiwanoxet Island, London Street Playground, and along most of the roads that dead end into the harbor. Public boat ramps are available at Goddard Memorial State Park and the East Greenwich Cove Overlook. Overall, Greenwich Harbor is reliable, easily accessible, and large enough that it never feels too crowded.

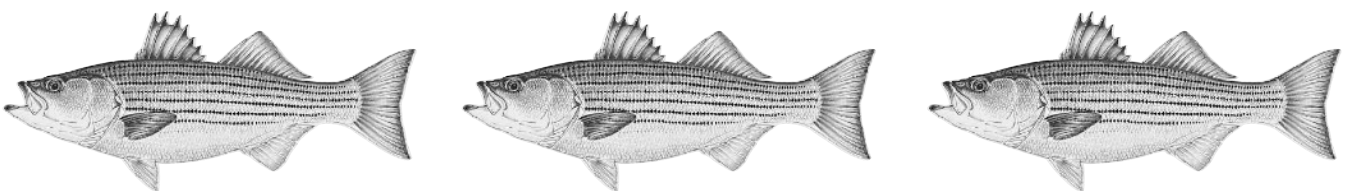


A Special Thank You to a Rhody Fly Rodder

It would be hard to find a person who did more for Rhody Fly Rodders over the past decade than **Peter Nilsen**. Some of Peter's contributions include designing and editing the newsletter, running the raffles at meetings, finding guest speakers, providing artwork, and being an active board member and officer. Whether it be grilling at a fishing outing or working the booth at a trade show, everyone in the club has a fond memory of spending quality time with and learning from Peter.

Unfortunately, Peter has decided to step away from his leadership position in the club. Peter plans to remain an active member and help advise and share his knowledge. While impossible to replace his contributions, this has created a need and opportunity for our club members to fill the gap by continuing the work he has provided us all.

We climb the ladder of progress through the rungs set out by the greats who came before us. Peter is one of the great Rhody Fly Rodders. He has helped build the ladder on which we climb. With great respect and admiration, the Rhody Fly Rodder Family would like to say a special thank you to **Peter Nilsen** for all he has contributed to our community.



September and October





Destination: Great Inagua

NOVEMBER, 2024

In 2022, I found myself sitting outside a bright pink, sun baked, and run down health clinic waiting for the supply boat to bring COVID tests, so I could return stateside. How did I get here? Well, I decided it would be a good idea to DIY bonefish on [one of the most remote islands in the Caribbean, Great Inagua](#).

Great Inagua is the southernmost island in the [Bahamas](#), and is [closer to Cuba and Haiti than it is to Nassau](#). The Island has one town, Mathew Town, that is no larger than one square mile. [The remaining 596 square miles of island are uninhabited](#). The small airport receives two flights per week from New Providence and a small barge only ferries in supplies twice per month.

Why would I travel here? [The Island is known for four things: drug smuggling, intercepting Haitian refugees, birdwatching, and great fishing](#). I was there for the latter.



True to this claim, [the fishing was excellent but difficult](#). The Island is big and there is not much info on where to fish. The outfitter provided some tips, but not enough to ensure success. Regardless, we caught numerous [bonefish](#) and a few [barracuda](#). We did not find the [small tarpon](#) that inhabit the inland ponds, but I did see a small [permit](#). The fishing was [physically challenging](#). We hiked miles of flats and soft sand beaches, portaged kayaks over a 60 foot cliff, and fell [prey to thousands of mosquitos](#). Additionally, it was difficult to stay hydrated due to the [arid climate](#).



The accommodations were as expected for an island this remote: [bare bones](#). But the [scenery was gorgeous](#), the [food was great](#), and [the people were friendly](#). Getting around was easy, as our [host provided a car](#), and things felt [safe](#). Still, using common sense is important. I'm not sure I would go back to this destination, but I am really happy to have gone.

Score

Difficulty of travel: 3

Physical demand: 5

Fishing: 5

Accommodations: 2

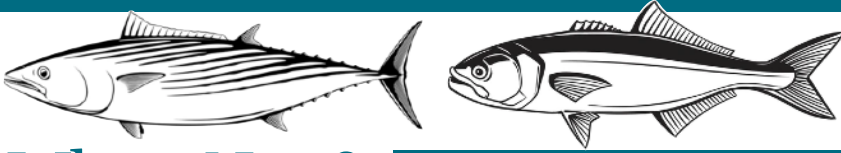
Price: 3

Family rating: 1

Remoteness: 5

Safety: 3

Score of 5 is best



Whats New?

Fishtechy has a new product that allows you to measure your catch by just taking a picture. The product resembles a small orange ball, and when you take a picture of your catch next to the ball, the **Fishtechy App** compares the size of the ball to the size of the fish to deliver a measurement. Surprisingly, at \$36 for two it is relatively cheap. I'm not sure of its accuracy, but this product would make photographing and measuring one easy step. Now if I could only catch a trophy fish.



Whats Worthless?

Wapsi produces **silicone curly tails** that can add that curly tail action fish love to the flies you tie. Unfortunately, these tails are far too **fragile** to be useful. Not many fishermen enjoy changing flies after every nibble. If you still want to give these a try, they are on sale at most retailers who have them in stock.

Whats Working?

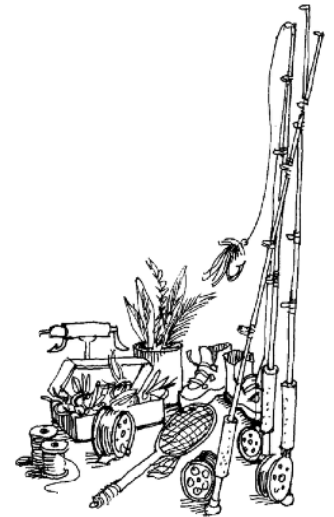
Allen Kraken reels work. This reel belongs in the conversation for best mid-priced reel. First, it's priced right. Allen delivers a product that performs like a much more expensive reel for only \$300. **However, Allen frequently has promos for 20% to 40% off this price, and the reel can sometimes be bought in a 8wt reel rod combo for its normal retail price.** Coincidentally, these sales typically occur around the holidays or just after. Second it is durable. This reel has a completely sealed drag with a rubber o-ring to keep out water, sand, and salt. I have used three different sizes of the Kraken model for 8 years. **Even with neglect, there have been no issues.** Embarrassing reel first falls on rocks at Sachuest Point have only left minor scratches, and sand has never entered the drag. Most importantly, this reel performs well. I have fought many different species on this reel including tarpon, albies, bonito, bonefish, permit, and various sharks with no problem.

We Need Your Help!

Did you read a good fishing book or go on a trip somewhere? Do you want to share your knowledge of a **well known** spot with members new to the area or new to fly fishing? How about just some pictures of the fish you catch? *U dun't hav 2 worry about gramma or speling*, we can fix it! Let us know and we will include it in the next issue.

Do you have unused fishing equipment you don't want?

Our club is a great place to get rid of that unused fishing equipment. Feel free to donate equipment to the club raffle, or bring it to the meeting to sell.



Officers and Board

President:
Capt. Ray Stachelek
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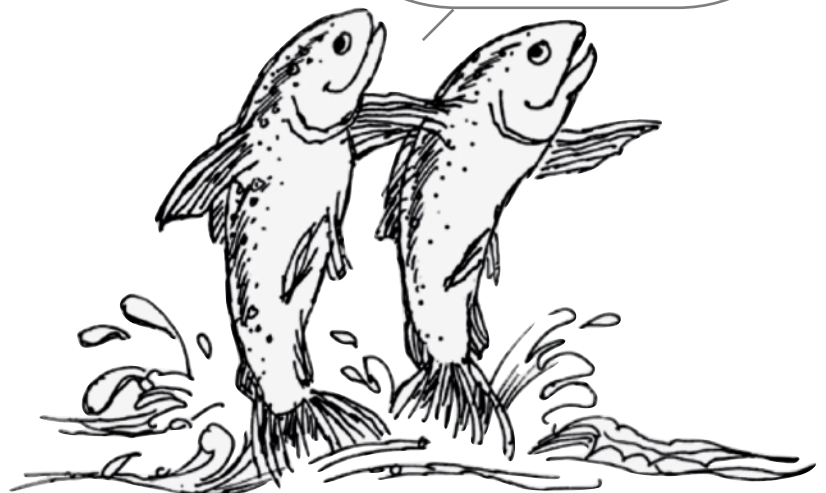
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Directors:
Barry Rideout
Susan Estabrook
Bob Teeden
Gary Menard



GOOD TIMES!



*Select artwork by: [Peter Nilsen](#)

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