

Crossroads Anglers

FLYFISHING CLUB SINCE 1994

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 • 6:30 p.m.

From the President



I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. I also hope this is the year that everyone can cross off one new species of fish on your bucket list.

I think that everyone who came to the December meeting was not disappointed. We had great pizza for dinner and everyone went home with a raffle prize. I hope to continue this spirit of the Club in 2014.

This month's speaker will be Captain Jerry Sparks, speaking about fishing from kayaks. I understand he is going to bring some special equipment to show us, along with a friend, who will help show fly fishing from yaks. I am sorry I will not be here for the meeting as I will be in Key West that day fishing for bones and permits with a cuda thrown in.

This month is the Marlborough Fly Show from the 19th to the 21st. Next month we will be at the Bears Den Show. We're looking for volunteers to sit at our table. Please let someone from the board know if you can help.

Start the season early and obtain both a fresh water and salt license for 2014. I've been contacted by the state to renew mine already.

Hope everyone enjoys the meeting and see you in February.

—Joel



Speakers for the January 2014 Meeting

Capt Howard Reed of Galilee Bait and Tackle and **Capt Jerry Sparks** of Northeast Boat and Kayak Charters will discuss Light Tackle Kayak Fishing, on Salt Ponds and Rivers. Also, outfitting your Yak!

Ever Do Something Stupid and Almost Die?

by Armand J. Courchaine

I HAVE SPENT MOST OF my life fishing for stripers and bluefish wading the waters of Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. I was a life long member of Rhody Fly Rodders. Fishing was fun. Life was easy. But, we started to lose access to our favorite waters, no parking signs appeared. It started to be a struggle to fish (I never thought this would happen).

I am very fortunate to have friends with boats. Once in a while I will get a phone call "Want to go fishing?" My gear is always ready. You don't have to ask me twice. I heard you the first time – I'm ready.

A few years ago my friend Mike Cree gave me an invitation. We were fishing the waters near Mass Maritime Academy and Buttermilk Bay. It was one of those days with birds diving and fish busting the surface. Everything was fine, catching fish until the Patrol Boat chased us away. We were in the Cape Cod Canal. Why is it the best fishing is off limits! I understand commercial tankers have the right of way. Oh well, we went back into Buttermilk Bay. Something strange was happening. I was getting out-fished! Fishing is serious with me. What is Mike doing different? I noticed he was near the outboard engine. At first I thought he was relieving ►

himself. He was extremely busy. Finally I asked, "what in the world are you doing?" I surprised him! He turned around. I could see he had something in his hand. O.K. What is that? He replied "Smelly Jelly". It was Menhaden blend. Imagine lacing his fly with smelly jelly. "What is this world coming to?"

At Christmas that year, Mike presented me with my own bottle of Smelly Jelly. I laughed and put it in with my fly gear bag.

Years passed and I never used the stuff. A few years ago I got an invitation from my friend Ron Mentecalvo of North Providence, RI. In the upper Narragansett Bay it was loaded with peanut bunker. Whether fishing fresh or salt I have a special love for surface strikes. I was using a fly I originated in the early seventies – Armand's Mud/Deceiver. I was in the process of tying a smaller version of the fly when a bottle rolled out of my bag. Smelly Jelly! I was wondering if this was a message from heaven. Oh well, I soaked the fly in smelly jelly. "Ron, I'm going to move the boat along the shoreline". With coils of fly line on the deck, I have a bad habit of putting the fly in my mouth. AHHHHHHHHHHHHH! I thought I was poisoned. I was spitting over the side, I thought I would be throwing up at any moment. The most horrible stuff I ever put in my mouth. This stuff should be outlawed even for fish. Fast forward – I didn't die. The stuff does work on fish. I can't fish with the stuff because of my bad habit of putting the fly in my mouth.

It was one of the happiest days of my life fishing but it was the worst day also. I thought I was going to meet my maker. ■

Quick Internet search:

http://www.tacklewarehouse.com/Smelly_Jelly/catpage-CATCHER.html



Smelly Jelly Scents are among the most popular fish attractants on the market today. Smelly Jelly has taken the essence of each forage species and concentrated it before mixing it in a jelly base. The jelly will stick to whatever you apply it to and will last. The Sticky Liquid is a liquid formula that comes in a squeeze bottle, making

it easy and clean to apply to your lure. Use the Sticky Liquid on worms, jigs, any soft plastic lure, and hard baits. The fish will notice the scent and when they bite they will hold on longer. Available in scents for any game fish, Smelly Jelly Sticky Liquid is sure to be a fish catcher.



Armand Courchaine

January Fly Tying

You are invited to sit with me. Bring your fly-tying stuff. Don't worry about materials they will be provided.

Cock Robin - (brook trout and atlantic salmon)

Hook: Size 8 or 6 streamer hook

Body: Rear 1/2-yellow wool or floss – front 1/2red wool or floss

Rib: Small size silver tinsel

Wing: Orange - white - orange hair

Throat: Red fibers

Optional: Jungle cock eye

Mascoma - (Trout)

Hook: #8 or #6 streamer hook

Tail: Yellow hackle fibers

Body: Gold Tinsel

Wing: Chocolate color calf tail or bucktail

Throat: Orange Hackle fibers

Optional: Jungle Cock eye

Miller's Special (Brown Trout)

Hook: #8 or #6

Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet

Body: Gold Tinsel

Rib: Gold oval tinsel

Wing: Black hair over yellow hair (sparse)

Cheek: Golden Pheasant red sides

Optional Jungle Cock eyes

Note: Jungle cock is expensive. I can't supply them.

For tying thread try to get black color UTC brand G.S.P. size 75 denier or 8/0 black Danville size 8/0.

Amberjack Fishing

by Mike Cree

Reef donkey, AJ, Rubber Lips – whatever name you choose, I have always wanted to catch an amberjack. Watching Mark Sosin's TV show and seeing these large hard-pulling fish come over the gunwale with their prominent eye stripe put amberjack on my wish list many years ago. Al Costa and I were in Atlantic Beach, NC, in late May, so I was to get an opportunity to put a new notch in my gun and add amberjack to the "species caught" list.

I never thought AJs would be a good fly rod target. I pictured them staying just above deep wrecks that would be difficult to get a fly down to. Fortunately, my perception was not correct.

Al and I hired local guide and fly shop owner, Capt. Joe Schute, to take us to some local artificial reefs and wrecks in hopes of finding some amberjack home. Al had fished with Joe for cobia and other species previously and he knew we would be in good hands. Joe took us about 13 miles offshore to a wreck that had been holding a good number of fish.

We used Joe's gear which consisted of 12 weight TFO fly rods, large arbor reels with sinking lines, and tapered leaders with a few feet of 30lb fluoro-carbon added. Joe used a Mirrolure loop knot to attach a 6/0 Rainy's BFT's Menhadin fly. He thought the loop knot made a significant difference in the number of bites. (BTW, I don't know why Rainy's spells "Menhadin" the way they do – maybe they didn't spell check their packaging.)



Top: Al Costa. Bottom: Mike Cree.

When we arrived at the wreck which was in about 60 feet of water, it didn't take long for the amberjack to find us. Joe stopped the boat above the wreck and in short time several amberjack came to the surface behind the boat. Maybe they are used to getting a free meal due to the fleet of shrimp boats off Atlantic Beach or maybe they are just curious, but having them near the surface made them good fly rod targets.

You do need to be able to cast a reasonable distance and handle some wind. This is not like Florida flats fish-

ing where super long casts in breezy conditions to spooky fish are often needed. These amberjacks got close to the boat, and fish, in general, are not as spooky in deep water.

However, a 40-50 foot cast gives you some time to get the fly moving and draw some interest from the jacks. Several times we would watch the AJs follow the fly without eating. Keeping the fly moving quickly and not giving them too much of a chance to study it seemed to work better than slower retrieves with pauses.

Once hooked, the fight is mostly deep. They have great stamina and pulling power. Forget about the top half of your fly rod; that part is for casting. Bend the 12 weight into the butt section and use a powerful rod with lifting power.

One of the lessons learned from Capt. Schute that day was the importance of beating the other boats to the wreck. Joe told us that most other boats would be fishing live baits, and once the amberjack keyed in on the live baits it would be more difficult to get them to take flies. We caught a few amberjack on flies before the other boats arrived, and then all we were getting was casting practice, so we switched to live bunker to get a final fish before leaving the wreck to look for albies closer to Atlantic Beach.

If you have amberjack on your bucket list, I recommend you call Capt. Joe Schute in Atlantic Beach, NC at the Cape Lookout Fly Shop (252) 240-1427. ■



NO on Amendment 7

You might never fish in the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico, but if you're a dealer selling fishing boats anywhere, or you just love to fish, it's important you stand with fishermen everywhere when they're fighting back proposals that will hurt recreational angling.

Such is the case with a proposal by the National Marine Fisheries Service to side with commercial longliners and grant them virtually unfettered and unlimited access to already threatened bluefin tuna. The proposal is called Amendment 7 and it's bad policy

The Recreational Fishing Alliance has sounded the alarm. The RFA says Atlantic and Gulf longliners are actually targeting swordfish or yellowfin, but its known they also catch more than 80 different bycatch species including a substantial bycatch of bluefin ranging from young juveniles to giants. The result is tons of dead bluefin bycatch each year.

Several years ago, the National Marine Fisheries Service opened the door by granting longliners' requests to allow them to retain and sell some of the bluefin bycatch. It was limited to 8.1 percent of the U.S. bluefin quota. But it should have been obvious that the longliners would later push for an increase, claiming they kill more every year — and they do.

Catch this: Rather than put forth a plan and regulations to control and reduce this bycatch, the best idea put forth from the National Marine Fisheries Service is Amendment 7. If adopted, it would convert all longline bluefin discards to legal landings by making it illegal for longliners to discard bluefin over 73 inches in length. With bluefin dockside prices from \$7 to \$18 per pound – one giant tuna famously sold for \$1.76 million a year ago – longliners must be ready to celebrate while the National Marine Fisheries Service demonstrates a blatant bias toward the longline fleet at the expense of the recreational community. The National Marine Fisheries Service is proposing to reward longliners for killing Bluefin.

The National Marine Fisheries Service will say they are complying with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas that recommends all Atlantic bluefin fishing countries account for bluefin mortality, including

bycatch and discards within each country's quota. This is not the way to do it.

Wouldn't this make more sense? Require an observer aboard longliners or implement an electronic surveillance of longline vessels to ensure compliance with needed regulations and equipment that reduce bluefin mortality. And definitely do not create a profit incentive for longliners to embrace bluefin bycatch by legalizing it under Amendment 7.

How does this impact recreational anglers, you ask? Simply, Amendment 7 would reduce the quota allocation to all others and hand it to longliners.

Right now, the National Marine Fisheries Service is taking public comments on Amendment 7. The RFA is urging all anglers to respond directly to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Click <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0101> and click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields and enter or attach your comments.

To make it even easier, here's some suggested bullet points you can use:

Gentlemen: As a recreational fisherman, I am opposed to Amendment 7. I favor:

- Strictly maintaining the longline allocation for bluefin at 8.1 percent of the total US quota.
- Establishing a time-area closure to longline fishing in the Gulf of Mexico that closes when bluefin tuna are present.
- Increasing the size and number of time-area closures in the Atlantic, preventing longliners from fishing in areas where they incur bycatch of bluefin.
- Establishing an annual bluefin bycatch "cap" for every longliner, the total of which cannot exceed. ■

CA Photo Gallery



*Some days are great fishing,
some days not so great,
but any day out fishing is better
than a day at the office.*



**Fly fishing from and outfitting your yak
at the January 28th meeting!**

Special *Savings* for Crossroads Members

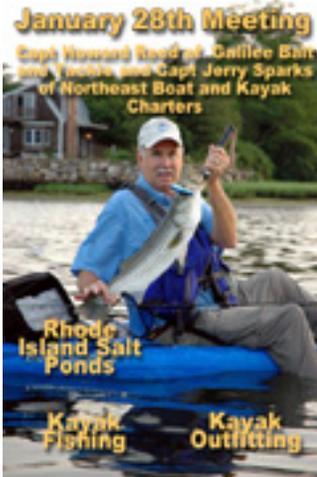
Discounts will be offered to members of the Crossroads Anglers who show their Club membership card to the following businesses when they reserve their date out on the water:

Captain David Porecca, River & Riptide Anglers
 Fly & Light Tackle Charter and Guide Service
10 percent discount for Crossroads Anglers Members
 401-392-1919, www.riverandriptide.com

Captain Gary Swanson, Striper-Charters
 13 Harbour Hill Run, South Yarmouth, MA 02664
 508-353-4009, CaptSwanson@Striper-Charters.com

Captain Vern (Rob) Robinson & Son, Rock N Reel 24
 85 Seymour Street, Berkley, MA 02779, 508-822-6756

Capt. Tom W.
 Private Charters for both Fresh & Saltwater Guide Service
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~ January 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting 6:30pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 	16	17 Marlborough Show Click for info	18 Marlborough Show Click for info
19 Marlborough Show Click for info	20 MLK Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm Click for directions	29	30 	31	Notes:

~ February 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Board Meeting 6:30pm	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day GOOD LUCK	15
16	17 Presidents Day SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	18 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	19 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	20 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	21 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	22 Bear' Den Show Click for Info
23	24	25 Crossroads Anglers 20th Anniversary Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm Click for directions SPKR: Joe Calcavecchia	26	27	28	Notes: