

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 • 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

### From the President

As I write this most of you have caught fish. I can honestly say, I'm not one of you – at least not stripers. I am, however, very encouraged to hear that a lot of small stripers are being caught. This is a good sign. Whether they are locally spawned from the mild winter or not, I am happy to see this class surviving.

The weather has not been the best. I was just out and got very poor results. A lot of rain may have put too much silt into the water and disturbed the balance. After a mild winter and hot spring who knows – we're not weather forecasters but hopefully it will turn around.



Don't forget the May 29th annual cookout! There are some new plans to make it entertaining for all so bring your appetite and fly rods.

As this is the last letter of the season I hope that everyone catches a lot of fish this summer – fresh and/or salt water. I urge everyone to use the web site and message board to stay in touch. We are planning trips throughout the summer.

Joel Kessler

## CA Annual Fishing Tournament

This event is a very simple contest with the winners enjoying perpetual bragging rights!

- It is open to all Club members.
- Fish must be caught using a flyrod.
- Results must be measured, photographed and hopefully released.
- Each winner will be determined based on the entire length of the fish.
- All reported results will be based on the honor of the contestant.
- Results will be regularly posted right here as they come in. The results you see are merely current entries.
- Submit your entries by posting on the message board, e-mailing Steve Dewar at dewar1028@gmail.com or the old-fashioned way: 10 Colleen Dr, Lakeville, MA 02347

Categories will be based on species including but not limited to:

**Freshwater:** largemouth bass; smallmouth bass; pick-erel; trout: brook, brown, rainbow; steelhead; salmon

**Saltwater:** striped bass - Mike Muzzy 32" bluefish; albie; bonito; fluke - Jeff Hatch 19"; sea trout - Mike Machias

**Contest will end November 30, 2012. Certificates will be presented at the December Crossroads meeting.**

# SALMON RIVER TRIP

by Mike Mathias

**Having never fished for Steelhead, I thought it was time to cross that off of my bucket list, so Jim Burden and I joined our fellow Rhody Flyrodder members on a trip to Pulaski, N.Y. We arrived about 12:30 on Sunday, and after a stop at Motel 8, we went to check out the river.**

The river was running 335cfs, fairly low from what I was told. The lower no-kill zone above the Altmar bridge was shoulder-to-shoulder anglers, and the salmon that had finished their spawning ritual were lying spent all along the river banks. We decided to check out the upper no-kill zone where a hike up and down the river yielded fewer fishermen, but what appeared to be a more difficult area to fish from shore. Since today was more or less a scouting expedition we drove further down stream to check out another area. We were in the Pineville area of, I think, downstream from the Trestle pool. We geared up and headed down the steep bank, which led to an area of the river that did not look too productive. After fishing for an hour or so we headed back to Altmar.

It was difficult finding a spot on the river, but we managed to squeeze into a spot upstream of the Altmar parking area for the late afternoon run. After a short period of time I had my first hookup but immediately lost it. As the sun began to set we called it a day, and headed back to the motel. Tomorrow will be another day.

Monday morning, after a quick breakfast at the motel, we decided to fish the lower no-kill zone above the Altmar bridge once again. We were greeted with 58 degree temperatures and loads of anglers. After walking all the way up river to the cable crossing and unable to find a spot to fish we returned to the area



Mike and his brown trout catch.

across from the parking lot, just above the bridge. We fished there until noon and after lunch headed to below the bridge in the open fishing area across the river from the lower parking area. It was tough wading and quite frustrating as we were trying to avoid the crowds on the other side of the river near the parking lot, some of whom were catching fish. I watched one guy across

from me catch three large steelhead AARRGGH!!!!!! By this time I had definitely had it with my inability to hook up, so we moved back upstream where a few spots had opened up allowing us to squeeze in next to a couple of Rhody members. We fished there until sunset and finally did manage to get several hookups, but were always met with pull outs or break offs. I guess this is what is called *paying your dues*. Licking our wounds, we ended the evening with Buffalo wings and pizza before calling it a day.

Tuesday at 5:00am we arose to temperatures in the 50-degree range, headed to Dunkin' Donuts and arrived at the river before 5:30am. This early start seemed to be the way to secure a spot to fish on the river. We could see the headlamps of other fisherman along the river bank, all waiting for the ½ hour before sunrise fishing time which came at about 6:35am. Pretty much in unison everyone started the drifting of their flies in the low water, as we could see fish rolling and splashing their way upstream. As the time pushed forward we could hear or see fish on, as these big steelies were hooked. Jim and I both had our share of big fish on, but had yet to master the knack of keeping them hooked. Again, a steep learning curve for this

new-to-us fishery. The saving grace was that other fishermen up and down the river had the same experience of hooking and losing fish. But many of them were also able to land these strong, powerful fish successfully. Finally at about 9:30am my line came tight and I did not lose the fish. After a short fight the brown trout (shown in the picture) came to net. As you can see, even though the fish was only 21" long it had an extremely large girth, and was pretty hefty. This of course made my trip a success, even if I did not land another fish. We continued to fish till sunset with multiple hookups but no landings. Well, our last day on the river is tomorrow with still great hopes of landing a Steelhead before heading home. As we walked the river banks heading back to the car we were reminded of the large masses of salmon that have died. Some of these fish looked like they weighed 30-40 pounds, their bodies decaying on the banks, as the horrendous smell permeates our nostrils. It was sad to see these once beautiful fish end their lives this way so that future generations can exist.

Since we are leaving tomorrow, we decided that once again an early start was in order. The alarm went off at 5:00am and we were greeted by cooler temperatures in the low-to-mid forties. A coffee and a muffin sufficed for breakfast, so we could get a spot on the river. We ended up at the same gravel bar we were at yesterday to wait sunrise. As we waited, the conversation turned to

what we had learned about Steelhead fishing. It appears that the type of fly has little to do with anything, as I had strikes using almost all the patterns I tried. The important thing was to get the fly in the fishes viewing window, of course this is not to say at some point in time a certain fly pattern will not catch more fish, but it seemed that constant presentation of the fly was absolutely essential, which meant constant casting. Two-handed rods seem to be the norm, using spey casting techniques, due to the lack of back casting room. Also, two-handed rods were less taxing on the arm.

Having yet to land a Steelhead we started our quest for one on this our last day on the river. The fish seemed to favor the other side of the river to run upstream as we witnessed multiple hook ups across stream, but we managed quite a few hookups ourselves along with many break offs. Finally, it was our turn when I drifted a pink egg pattern into view of the small steelhead. Finally my quest for a Steelhead was complete. A few minutes later Jim Burden also landed his first Steelhead making this trip a success.

Although the ride to the Salmon River is a long one, and the fishing can be demanding, the chance to catch one of these large fish is well worth it. Give it a try! I sure will do it again.

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## Fly of the Month **BEAD HEAD HARE'S EAR NYMPH**

### **A Great Searching Pattern for the entire season.**

Hook: TMC 3769 or equivalent size 10 thru 16  
Thread: Black Uni 6/0 or 8/0 depending on hook size  
Gold Bead: Regular or Tungsten  
Tail: Light Brown Hackle Fibers  
Abdomen: Fur & guard hairs from the Hare's Mask  
Ribbing: Oval Gold Tinsel or Gold Wire  
Thorax: Fur & guard hairs from the Hare's Mask  
Legs: Light Brown Hen Hackle, wound  
Wing Case: Slip of Turkey Tail





# COOPERBUG

by Jack Cooper

THE FIRST COOPERBUG WAS originated in 1937 on Beals Pond in Madrid, Maine. At the time there was a terrific hatch of Caddis flies on the water and the trout were very selective. Figuring that deer hair would keep the fly on the surface and the olive green chenille would match the bodies of the caddis flies, I tied a couple of bugs. The next day the trout tore them to pieces. We caught and released over 50 trout before the bugs were useless. During the next three years I spent each summer with Maurice Roderick, a well known Maine guide at Madrid, Maine.

During those years 90 percent of the trout we caught were on these bugs. Often when we would go out with a party of five or six people, we would come home with 25 or 30 nice trout. The limit on the pond we fished was five trout, so we caught a lot of trout on this fly.

Since that time, I have tried many bugs (over 50,000) and have fished them in many ponds and streams with remarkable success. I have received hundreds of letters from people all over the country saying the same thing. They too believe that it's the most effective fly in the country today. I have fished this bug after dark this past season in Massachusetts and have taken many 16" brown trout from my favorite fishing spot – Plug Pond in Haverhill. The last day of the fishing season in Massachusetts I was fortunate to take a 17" and 18" brown

trout from this pond and am looking forward to those warm spring nights next season when the big browns will be up again.

The Cooperbug was hardly known outside New England until Bob Elliot published his six-page feature article in *Field & Stream*. After that, everybody knew and wanted these bugs. There have been many pros and cons as to the effectiveness of this fly. I'll leave it up to you.

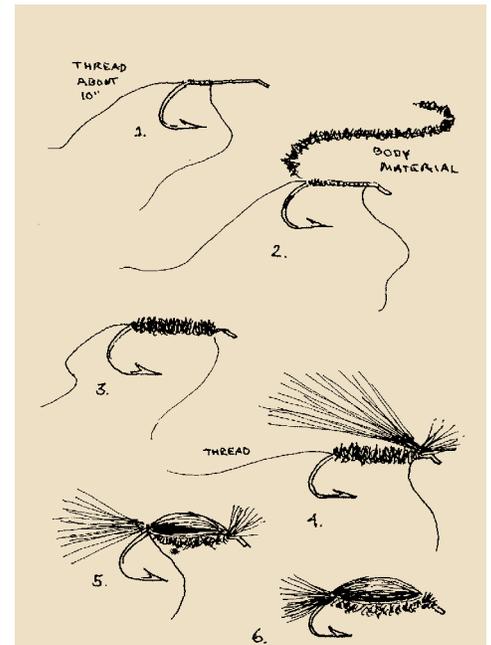
My bug is unusual because it is all three: a dry fly, a wet fly, and a nymph, and is very effective in all three manners. As a dry fly I let it sit on top, giving a twitch once in awhile; as a wet fly, I retrieve it with short jerks and it will ride on or just under the surface; as a nymph, I let it sink to the bottom and retrieve with short fast jerks.

The most effective tying materials are chenille and wool for the bodies and deer body hair – natural color. The right type of deer body hair is important as some hair is too brittle and breaks as you tie down on the hook.

Bugs can be tied in hook sizes 6-22. I like sizes 18-22. The harder a pond is fished, the smaller the bug I use.

Tie up a bunch, the materials are very cheap and the bug is just about the fastest and easiest fly to tie.

Good Fishing...



## Six Easy Steps to Tie the Cooperbug

1. Run the white or gray thread 1/2 way up the hook and double back forming a pressure knot. Notice that the 1/2 tying thread is left at rear to finish off the bug.
2. Tie in chenille or wool for body. I prefer the chenille for top water bugs and wool for bugs that you want to sink.
3. Wind chenille up hook to a short distance behind eye. Cut off the extra chenille.
4. Tie in deer body hair fastening just behind the head with a couple of half-hitches.
5. Now for tail of the bug: take the thread remaining at rear of hook, hold deer hair down and tie off with a couple of half-hitches.
6. Clip deer hair off of the rear. Trim head.



Jim Carrick

## RAFFLE WINNERS

**Fishing Charter:**

**JIM CARRICK**

**TFO Rod:**

**DAVE FERRETTI**

**Door Prize:**

**March: JOHN RAMIREZ**

**April: ALAN READ**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

## The Club Trips in Salt Water

**May 27, 3:00pm:** Narrow River, RI

**June 3, 5:00pm:** Worm hatch, Ninigret Pond, RI

To be included in any one of the four above trips please contact Howie de Beck at [HLDFly@gmail.com](mailto:HLDFly@gmail.com) or at our April meeting.

**River & Riptide Anglers** of Coventry RI, has offered to include members of CA on their May, Monday night weekly trips to Ninigret Pond (meeting at the shop at 4:30pm). This is an opportunity to fish with local anglers during the famous worm hatch. Don't miss it!

### Lets Car Pool!

Contact Joel Kessler at 781-344-3487.

# CACALENDAR

## Crossroads Meeting

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

At each regular Club meeting we will be offering a **free door prize**.

## Tips On Tying by Sonny Levine

There are many variations of the tying of the Yellow Perch but none that I found worked very well – at least not for me.

I decided to make my own pattern. The first thing I did was to go to one of our local ponds and catch a small yellow perch. The body was very green in color with no sharp markings of black in it. A yellow gold flash came from the scales and the whitish cream belly didn't stand out in the coloration of the fish. The lower part of the head was white and showed up much more than the belly. There were no definite changes in the color near the dorsel fin and the lower fins were orange in color.

### Sonny's Perch Streamer

- Hook Tied tandem streamer style
- Body Gold flat tinsel
- Tail Small bunch of orange hackle on the rear hook. The front hook has either white impala, or bucktail tied in at rear above the shank just long enough to reach the rear hook. Below or on the underside of this is tied in orange hackle split on either side of the shank to form fins.
- Wing Grizzly under, green over, saddles hackle
- Throat 2 white duck quill splits. One on each side
- Cheek Jungle-cock or plastic eyes

When tying larger tandem streamers of Yellow Perch I substitute the yellow dyed grizzly saddles for the plain grizzly, for I found that the larger perch are more yellowish in color.

### ***A sad mistake...***

Make sure you have at least six to eight turns on each side of your blood knot. I had four turns on mine and a landlocked salmon broke the knot in a ten pound test leader on the strike.

# HACKLES AND YARNS

by Bob Cavanagh

You will find the tying of the tiny sixes flies much easier if you will try a little trick used by the “pros.” Simply place your hook in the center of the bend. Just use the very tip of the jaws and keep the barb exposed. This will allow plenty of room for the fingers when you are ready to tie in the hackle and wing.



## A FISHERMAN'S PARADISE

by Ron Alexander

Do you dream of a fishing paradise  
that is free from ice and snow  
where trout feed so abundantly  
and rise to your fly all a-glow?

When the sun sets over the mountains  
[the stream is dark and still],  
you cast your Royal Coachman  
to trout lurking in the dusk, so still.

You retrieve your fly very slowly,  
with slow and erratic jerks.  
Your lure is just off the bottom,  
right close where the big brown lurks.

You feel the pull of his strike.  
Your breath held, you don't dare to look.  
Now comes the most critical moment:  
you have to set the hook.

You give a twitch to your rod tip,  
not too hard, or you'll tear his lip.  
You can feel that he is on now,  
so the line you'll have to strip.

Your senses are all on guard,  
your heart is filled with joy.  
You're sure the brown is on now.  
You look, feel, and act like a little boy.

I know that this is just a dream.  
Does a place like this exist?  
Yes, this is a fisherman's paradise,  
where a strike you'll never miss.

## 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

Fly fish the Wood & Farmington River or chase Striped Bass, Bluefish, & False Albacore

**10 percent discount** for Crossroads Anglers Members  
401-392-1919, [www.riverandriptide.com](http://www.riverandriptide.com)

### **Capt. Tom W.**

Private Charters for both Fresh & Saltwater Guide Service  
Conventional & Fly-fishing

**15 percent discount** for Crossroads Anglers Members  
781-408-1215

### **Captain Vern (Rob) Robinson & Son, Rock N Reel 24**

85 Seymour Street, Berkley, MA 02779, 508-822-6756

### **Captain Gary Swanson, Striper-Charters**

13 Harbour Hill Run, South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
508-353-4009, [CaptSwanson@Striper-Charters.com](mailto:CaptSwanson@Striper-Charters.com)

## CA Tip of the Month

### **Fly Color: Think Seasonal**

Don't know where to start with your fly selection? Think first of seasonal color patterns. Early spring, late fall, and winter flies tend to be darker, matching the colors of their environment. Lighter flies typically appear in warmer weather.



Pics from the April Meeting



May 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Crossroads Board Mtg	2	3	4 	5
6 Trip to Cotuit 3am 	7	8	9	10	11	12 Sheila Hassan at the Bears Den  Trip to Waquoit
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 	21	22 CROSSROADS Meeting 	23	24	25	26
27 Trip to Narrow River 3pm	28 Memorial Day	29  NOTE: Meet- ing moved to the 29th.	30	31		

June 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worm Hatch Trip Ninigrit Pond 3pm	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Crossroads Anglers 2012 Officers

Joel Kessler  
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Recent catches.

