



Newsletter February 2022

President's Message

Who ordered the rollercoaster ride? Between the weather and the pandemic, it's been quite a ride. One minute it's bitter cold the next it's in the high 50's, then it's back to the deep freeze of winter. I know we live in NE where the weather changes, but this is crazy. The pandemic has been a wild ride too, with all its ups and downs, one minute stay home, then it's almost over, then it's back to near isolation, but it's back to cautiously getting together.

*Days are getting longer, and before you know it, we will be in March.
To thoughts of spring and open water.*

At this month's meeting, "Feb. 22nd", Chris Aubut of Aubut Company will be presenting "**Rod building: the Ins, Outs, and other thoughts**". Chris was a saltwater fly fishing guide in Westport, MA--my home town--and the Florida Keys in the winters. He started the rod company in 2011, making high performance premium rods for anglers of all skill levels. Focus is on the inshore fishery on the eastern seaboard but often build for customers throughout the country and internationally for many different fisheries and styles of fishing.

The club will be holding the annual elections for officers and board members at the March 22nd meeting. We would like to have one or two people step up and join the board for the year. The club is only as good as what we as members are willing to put back into it. We have a solid core of individuals who are willing to donate their time and keep the club functioning. The club should not be dependent on the same small group of people year after year. Please think about stepping forward and donating a couple of hours a month to the club.

ATTENTION: ALL MEMBERS

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday February 22, 2022

**South Foxboro Community Center
382 South St. Foxboro, MA 02035
Time: 630pm to 9pm**

As always, we are looking to build up our membership. Also, if you have a fishing buddy or know someone who has an interest in fly tying and fishing, let them know about the club.

Funds are very tight now, so if you haven't paid your dues, please use the new PayPal button on our website or send a check to Sumner Levine, 94A Mechanic St, Foxboro MA 02035

Speaking of funds, we are adding some new features to our newsletter, club emails and website. They are Classifieds and Auctions. We all have fishing gear, fly-tying materials and tools that we over bought, not using, don't need now. You can sell them through the new Classifieds section. Go check it out some of the great deals. The club has some excellent items that we are going to put up for auction. Stay tuned for more details to come.

We are always looking for ideas and new members. Invite someone you know or don't know, who might be interested in fly fishing, to a meeting. At the meetings voice your opinions, we need your input, this is your club. Even if you cannot make the meetings, we are very interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas as well.

Tight lines looking forward to seeing you and meeting new members.

Ed

Crossroads Anglers February 22nd Featured speaker

Chris Aubut of Aubut Company



Chris Aubut was born and raised on the water in Westport Massachusetts. He spent most of his youth developing his boating, and fishing skills with guidance from his father. Chris was also fond of freshwater fishing as it was all in close proximity to his house. Throughout his life, surfing Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island consumed most of his time away from fishing. He is a graduate of the Chapman School of Seamanship “Professional Mariner Training”, he has attended many classes, training and licence preparation through Northeast Maritime. He is also a graduate of the Landing School Marine Surveying program.

Chris worked with various tug boat companies which engaged in commercial assistance towing, marine salvage, firefighting, ship docking and oil transportation. He held many licences including USCG 100 Ton Masters Commercial Assistance Towing, Abel Seaman Unlimited Rating, Apprentice Mate Steersman, Radar, Lifeboatman and Tankerman PIC Certificate. Chris also worked as a dispatcher for a major tugboat company his duties ranged from organizing multiple crews to operate a live aboard towing operation to coordination with pilot organization to ensure the safe passage of petroleum, natural gas and container ships into major ports.

Chris guided hundreds of clients on successful fishing charters in both Westport MA and the Florida Keys. His guiding career lasted for over 13 years before returning to Massachusetts where he was hired as the dockmaster of Cape Cods largest full service marina. In 2011 Aubut rods was born where he has made hundreds of high performing fishing rods for fresh and saltwater anglers around the globe. He has been mentioned in many magazine articles, featured on The New England Sports Network and ESPN. Chris was also on the cover of *Sportfishing Magazine* and he currently holds the mens 12# tippet International Game Fishing Association, IGFA world record for a tautog caught on fly.

No Shame: Tools to Hold & See Flies



If there is no shame in using strike indicators, mop flies, and GPS-enabled cell phones in the pursuit of fish, there is absolutely no shame in using a small device to help you tie your fly on. Furthermore, when has a fly fisher ever been in a place where they can look down on using a gadget without incurring the accusation of hypocrisy?

The most common reasons individuals use *helps* are eyesight impairments and dexterity issues. Beginners also gravitate towards products that can make their learning curve a little less steep. If you fall into one of those categories, you should confidently and joyfully use whatever you need to use to get fishing. However, those are certainly not the only reasons that a tool can or should be employed.

Cold weather and wind can make handling flies of any size a challenge. If those flies are tiny? A simple piece of gear may very well be preferable to the frustration of frozen fingers dropping bugs or watching the wind send a bunch of midges into the void.

That is why you might want to consider adding magnification, knot tying, and threading tools to your pack or vest without any shame.

While protecting your flies and actually getting them on the important end of your line is vital, there are other uses for helpful tools. A little magnifying lens can be invaluable in getting started when assessing an ugly knot that needs to be untangled. If there is more than too much head cement clogging up your hook eye, a knot tool will give you the grip to torque the epoxy out. Threaders are handy for threading, but they are also about the safest way to simply store and organize tiny midges.

Here is an example of each product that is worth checking out:



Magnifly (on Amazon)

Designed by the good people who make the essential FlyTrap Fly Holder, this clip on 3X magnifying lens is very versatile. You can attach it to your wader strap, vest, or hat bill. The powerful magnets let you keep the flies you'll be working with handy as you tie knots for multi-fly rigs. The lens is on a swivel, allowing you to put it precisely where you need it or fold it flush to keep it out of the way.



Ty-Rite

For nearly 60 years, this little pen-shaped device has done two things and it has done them well. First, the spring loaded hook holder keeps flies secure as you're doing whatever you need to do. Second, the simple shape allows you to spin it around to create a tight little

In Homage to the Vest



Packs. Whether you carry yours on your sling, chest, or fanny, dozens upon dozens have been engineered for fly fishers. Why? For years, anglers have been trying to find the perfect piece of *gear* to carry their gear. In a sport that is so smitten with gadgets, gizmos, and Gink, the contemplative angler is confronted with a conundrum.

Should I be comfortable?

or

Should I carry the whole fly shop with me, fishing like a burdened pack mule?

The fly fishing industry has heard your questions. And it has answered. And that answer is *vest*.

Admittedly, the latest and greatest vests didn't make many catalog centerfolds. Few bloggers have taken the digital space to profile the minds behind vest-innovation. If it is any indication, few Instagram models are wearing anything tan *or* multi-pocketed these days. But the humble vest deserves to carve out a niche in the contemporary fly fishing scene.

Why? Just take a look at some of the highlight reel of a modern fly fishing vest:

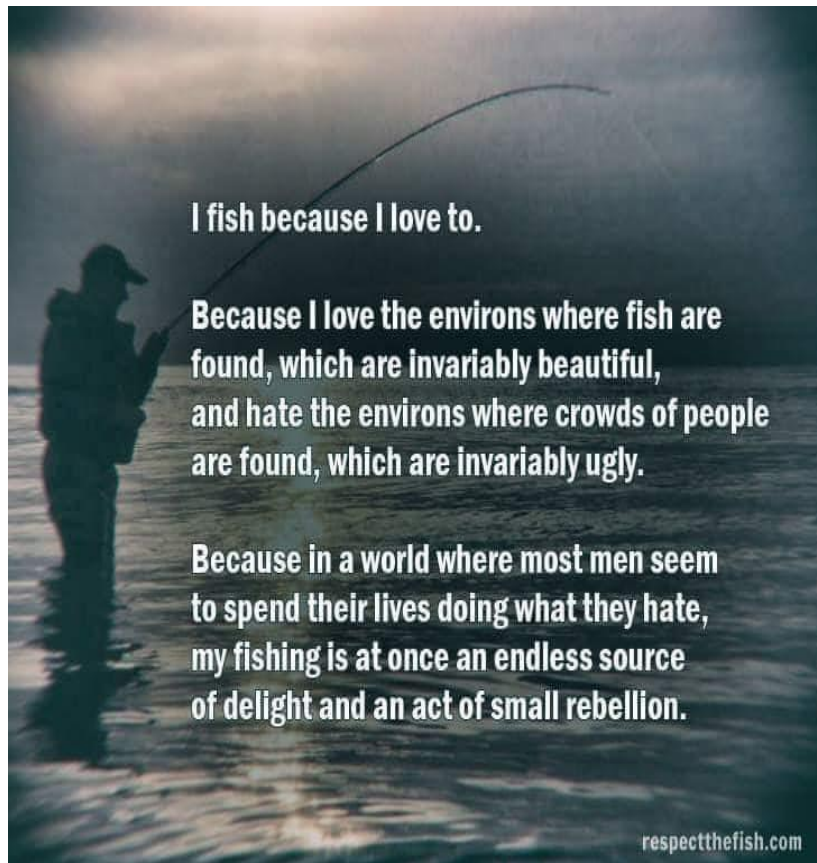
- Lots of pockets (for stuff)
- Ample rear storage (for big stuff)
- D rings and tether points a-plenty (for stuff you can hang)
- Weight distributing designs inspired by the article of clothing worn by virtually all people since recorded history began (the "shirt")
- A thoughtful, if not impractical, Velcro-strap rod holder

Obviously vests have function. Hundreds of years of fly fisherman and safari aficionados can't be wrong. However, we can't ignore the real reason that most fly fisherman will be sporting the vest in the 21st century. *The look*. In a culture where form reigns king and determines function, the vest is eyeing a large swath of land to plant its khaki-colored flag upon. Like the flat-brimmed hat, the vest will once more have its day in the sun.

I myself own at least two vests. For various stretches of time, they have been my primary gear-storage apparatus. Without a doubt, they excel at carrying all of my essential gear: a rain jacket, flies I will never use, snacks, water, a wader repair kit, knot-tying tools I don't know how to use, lots of the little plastic tubs you get from fly shops, jerky, old licenses, piles of spent strike indicators, matches, granola bars, and lots of much less useful stuff.

Vests can't not be the next once-more big thing. They have one foot firmly planted in fly fishing's past, another stepping into the future, and a third kicking down a door into the present. Sacheting around with a lanyard, bits and pieces flailing about you is cute. Dropping a fly box into a jean pocket is fake James Dean cool. Neither of those approaches allow you to open up an almost-hidden pocket and find the hand warmers you packed for last year's steelhead trip. Or the sandwich from the same outing.

Most importantly, you'll have the joy of shopping for and procuring another piece of \$100 fishing equipment.



Here's the Million Dollar Trout Fishing Question....

Are you putting enough emphasis on the 3 C's in your trout fishing? The availability of **Current**, **Cover** and **Cuisine** most often dictate where trout decide to set up shop. Being able to consistently pick them out will ultimately determine how much success you have on the water. Furthermore, if you can find a spot that has all three C's, you're probably staring at a honey hole that holds the trophy of your dreams.

As a ignorant rookie fly fisher, I recall early on in my career, how I'd start out my day selecting a section of water, and go about mindlessly fishing its entirety from point A to point B. I had no understanding of trout's survival instincts and how it influenced their whereabouts. All the water looked good to my untrained eyes, and I'd spend equal time fishing the entire stretch of water, regardless of the depth, where the current and food were located, or if the spot had any elements of cover. Back then I was completely clueless there was a reason 20% of the water held 80% of the fish, and in turn, I spent way too much time fishing in all the wrong places. It was amazing how long it took me to figure out why I wasn't catching very many trout.

Don't make this common rookie mistake, you're better than that. Instead spend your time eliminating unproductive water, and locating and fishing productive water that has all three C's. Doing so, you'll find your catch numbers and size increase dramatically. Below are basic descriptions of current, cover, and cuisine, and why all three are equally important.

Current

Trout have a love hate relationship with current. They love the fact that current collects and funnels food to them, but it also requires effort for them to swim against it. Because of this, trout prefer to hold in spots of the stream where they can feed and take in more calories than they're burning. Trout accomplish this by directly avoiding current that is too fast and excessive, while still staying close to enough current, that they can take advantage of the best feeding lanes. I tell my clients all the time to look for current that flows over areas with deeper water. Examples of this are drop offs behind shoals, buckets, troughs or channels in the stream. It's important to remember the deeper a trout holds in the water column the slower the current will be moving. Anglers should also look for soft seams where slow water meets fast water. These areas allow trout to save energy by picking off food drifting on the edge of the fast current.

Cover

Have you ever wondered why there always seems to be big fish located near cover in the stream? The fact is, you rarely will find big fish where cover is nonexistent, spawning is the only instance that comes to mind. Trout rank cover too high on their survival list. It's no different than the survivor guys on T.V stressing the importance of building a shelter. Examples of cover that provide safety for trout are big boulders with eddies, undercut banks, wood lay downs, deep water, and turbulent water (water predators can't see into). It's also an added bonus that most cover also doubles as a current break/buffer. When your fishing a productive piece of water, search out where the cover is located, and you'll usually find the sweet spot, where the best trout are holding.

Cuisine

One of my favorite things in life is good food, and I do what I can to make sure it's always within reach, in case hunger calls. Trout are no different, they're always going to search out areas where the most food is consistently available. It's doesn't make sense for trout to hold in water where every time they want to grab a snack, they have to move significant distances to search it out. Anglers should always pay attention to where the food in the stream is drifting, because if there's not any food, you won't find trout. Pay attention to foam lines and bubbles that can tip you off on where the food is drifting. For the most part though when you walk up to a hole, look where the most current is, and that's where the most food will be drifting.

In conclusion, it's important to state that all 3 C's are equally important. Trout search them out together to ensure survival. The good news is, most productive trout water usually has all three of them if you look closely. I hope these tips bring you more confidence and success on the water.

Improve Your Stance for Casting Accuracy



By Louis Cahill

A good fly cast starts with your feet.

Why is that golfers talk so much about stance? All of the energy you apply with your hands starts with your feet planted firmly on the ground. It makes perfect sense that your stance would effect your cast.

Personally, I use a different stance for different kinds of casts. When I am casting for distance I put my left foot forward. Being a right handed caster this lets me use the rotational force of my body. It gives my cast a ton of power but if I don't do everything exactly right, my accuracy suffers. But when I'm making a hundred foot Hail-Mary cast to cruising bonefish, I'll take my chances.

When I'm making a short accurate cast, I put my right foot forward. This closed stance restrains the rotation and keeps my rod moving in a straight line. It makes a remarkable difference.

CA CLASSIFIEDS

(A new addition to the Club's Newsletter)

Great Fly-tying tool addition \$40.00

Stonfo Tool Bar

The Stonfo tool bar is a handy fly tying tool holder that mounts on your vise stem. The tool bar features 15 holes with various shapes, sizes, and angles, allowing you to have your most frequently used fly tying tools at your fingertips.

- Fits vise stems between 8mm to 10mm
- 6-1/4" in length
- Blue anodized aluminum
- Made in Italy



Note: sale does not include tools

Contact Joel K at joelkessler3@comcast.net

Orvis Fly Fishing Vest \$49.95 or Best Offer



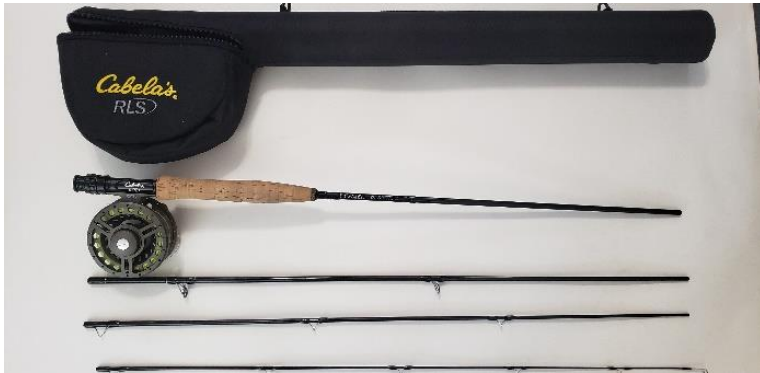
Size – Large, 21" long

Condition – Preowned, but like new. Not sure if it was ever used.

The vest is constructed of a rugged fabric of 55% cotton/45% poly poplin. The fly-fishing vest has sixteen pockets, including ample cargo pocket in the rear for extra fly-fishing gear, rain jacket, or lunch. Includes a loop in the back for attaching a fly-fishing net.

Contact Ed at erosenbloom@gmail.com or 339-237-0540

Backup or starters fly rod set \$99.95 or Best Offer



Cabela's RLS 906 – 9' 6wt 4-piece rod

Cabela's WR2 reel with fly line

Carrying Case

Condition like New – this will make a great gift, or a starter freshwater rod, or backup.

Contact Ed at rosenbloom@gmail.com or 339-237-0540

Cabela's Wind River Fly Rod \$49.99 or Best Offer



Wind River 8'6" 5 wt.

Condition: Like new

No rod tube

Excellent starter or backup fly rod

Contact Ed at rosenbloom@gmail.com or 339-237-0540

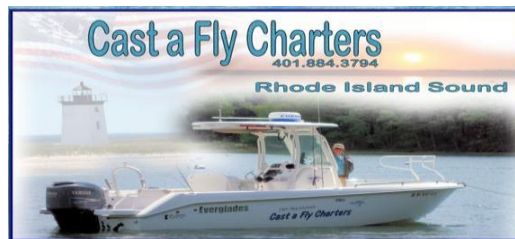
Captain Ray's Guided Charter Trip Raffle

Tickets are STILL Available. Ask any board member. They are \$15.00 a ticket. Or 2 tickets for \$25.00. Only 75 tickets will be sold!!

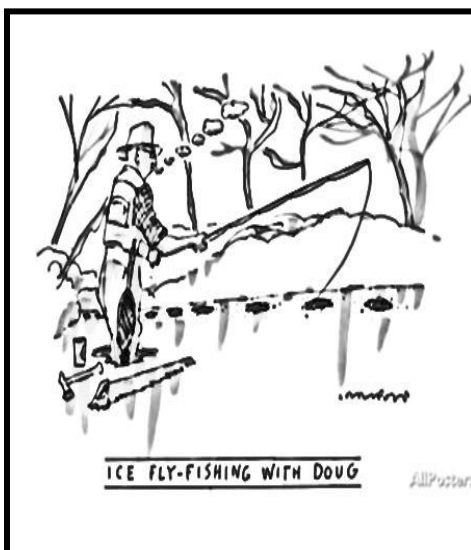
Drawing will be for 1 raffle winner with 1 or 2 guests. Don't forget to ask your fishing buddies if they'd like to purchase tickets too!

THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE Spring BBQ MEETING!!

The trip includes 8 hours of fly or spin fishing with Captain Ray Stachelek in Rhode Island.



For more info on the Captain go to: www.castaflycharters.com



2022 Crossroads Anglers Officers

Ed Rosenbloom President
Steve Dewar Vice President/Webmaster
Izzy Bettencourt Membership Chair
Sumner Levine..... Treasurer
Howie deBeck Advising Board Member
Joel Kessler. Advising Board Member
Russell Glen..... Advising Board Member
Gary Johnson..... Advising Board Member
Dan Deneault Newsletter
Bob Dewar. RaffleMaster

Please visit our website:
www.crossroadsanglers.com
For contact info on any Club Officer

This is our monthly newsletter for the 2021-2022 season.
Best Wishes to All to Continue to Stay Safe and Stay Well!
See you Soon!!