



Newsletter November 2023

President's Message

Last week I went to the Wachusett Reservoir fishing for lake trout or anything else that would take my lure. It was a warm day with a beautiful blue sky—and no fish! But I did learn about a new area for me. But for now it's back into the season of joy for the oil or gas delivery folks. If I could only hit a lottery and become a member of the snowbird community....

Now it is time for cleaning up the equipment, tying some flies and looking at catalogs or sites for more stuff that I “really need.” Which reminds me –I will also be setting aside some “stuff“ for a sell, swap, or donate meeting (TBD). So go through your stuff and set aside items for that meeting too.

For this month's meeting: **Tuesday November 28th at 6:30pm**, **Captain Brian Kelly** will be doing a presentation of his exploits out of Plymouth and tying a couple of his flies that did well. **NOTE 6:30 pm** start. We will do setup and fly tying until 7, followed by club business and then the presentation.

Another important note: start thinking about becoming a club officer or board member! Elections will be held at our February meeting.

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

ATTENTION: ALL MEMBERS

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday November 28, 2023

**South Foxboro Community Center
382 South St. Foxboro, MA 02035
Time: 6:30pm to 9:00pm**

Calendar

December 19th **Holiday Party** Along with good food and beverages and there will be some excellent raffles

January 5-7th **Marlboro Fly Fishing Expo** We are having a table as we did last year. We did very well in selling raffle tickets and recruiting new members. Please volunteer to help work the booth and promote the club.

January 23rd **Nick Santolucito: M&D Outfitters**

February 27th **30th Anniversary Party & Elections**
Any suggestions just see Ed or any board member

March 26th **TBD – potential SWAP meet**

April 23rd **TBD**

May 28th **Annual BBQ**

Trips

One day trips are being planned. Yes, we are going to have a number of **planned** meet and fish outings. Any suggestions, let Ed or a board member know.

Longer Trips are also being planned, e.g. Deerfield River with the Harrison Brothers. Suggestions include Maine (Rangeley Lakes), Pennsylvania, Farmington River....)

NOVEMBER SPEAKER



Captain Brian Kelly

Behind the Guide

In the Spring of 2018 Brian was headed to Montana to attend a Fly Fishing Guide School. He learned drift boat rowing on the Big Horn River as well as jet boat training. He received water safety, fly tying, casting instruction, sight fishing as well as a wealth of knowledge from the senior instructors and earned his Guide Certificate, First Aid and CPR training before returning home.

All the while he had his eye on a Parker 1801CC. Since 2018 Captain Kelly has had well over a hundred trips with close friends and anglers on the "Betty Anne" as he dialed in fly selections, line types, knot connections, lures and equipment while also taking friends and family on the water practicing his guiding skills and boat handling.

Captain Kelly could be seen at his internship with a local Fly Shop staying immersed in the sport as he continued his education in maintenance, equipment, clothing, fly selections, institutional knowledge and fly tying—all which helped him to advance further into his new career path.

Becoming an absolute focus and passion from the books to the vice and on the water. Having already developed a career in 2008 spent with dogs hiking and navigating the outdoors. Shaping and enabling him as much time as possible on the water in a fishery that he loves and protects. Bringing to you the knowledge and tools to further grow the future of Salt Water Fly Fishing and Light Tackle.



IMPORTANT CLUB CALENDAR EVENTS—DATES--REMINDERS

WINTER HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

!!!!Special Date!!!!

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19, 2023

Featuring our Famously Legendary Wheel-Style Subs
Serving Roast Beast, Chicken Salad, Ham & Cheese, more...
Dessert Soft Drinks & Coffee/Tea/Hot Cocoa/Apple Cider
Bring Friends & Family!!



[Marlborough, MA](#) [Denver, CO](#) [Edison, NJ](#) [Atlanta, GA](#) [Bellevue, WA](#) [Pleasanton, CA](#) [Lancaster, PA](#) [More](#) [Exhibitor Info](#)



Captain Ray's Guided Charter Trip Raffle

Tickets Available Soon. Ask any board member: \$15.00 a ticket or 2 for \$25.00. 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!!

Trip includes 8 hours of fly or spin fishing with Captain Ray Stachelek in RI.

Add Some Fish Appeal To Those Old Flies!

By Justin Pickett



A recycled Bugger

We all have one.....The box full of rejects, misfits, oddballs, freaks.... deplorables.

These are the flies that have been bought by you. Given to you. Found by you. Or, likely, tied by your own hands... possibly in a bourbon-fueled rage the night before a trip while listening to some OCMS. Or maybe that's just me... As I scanned through one of these very fly boxes one day, I wondered if there were any flies that might be salvaged, and, if there were, how might they be resurrected? I was looking at dozens upon dozens of flies that weren't being used. Hooks that were being wasted. Some of them were surely defunct and irredeemable, but I knew I could modify many of them enough to make them fly patch worthy. And, as it turns out, there are several ways to turn an old, dull looking pattern into something new-ish, and might even put some fish in your net!

1. **“Pop” Your Collar** – This is a simple modification you can make to most nymphs (beaded or non-beaded), and even some dry flies. For collars, you can add some pizzazz by simply tying in a “hot” collar with some fluorescent orange, pink, or red thread. You can add dubbing in a contrasting color, or maybe some CDC or partridge feather to add some movement. The same can be done to small streamers as well. I'll often tie in a hot spot on the nose of my clousers and woolly buggers, especially when I know I'll be fishing off-colored water. The same applies to the thorax. Switch up the dubbing. Hackle some feathers. Experiment! Just make sure to keep the correct profile and proportions as you add material. You'll likely need to remove the existing material to be sure things don't get too portly. I can't tell you how many flies I've done this to, and it can really make a big difference in the appearance of a fly.
2. **Show Some Leg** – Another thing that I'll do to a “boring” fly is add some legs. This is another quick and easy way to add some attention getting features to an otherwise uninteresting fly. On beaded nymphs, I'll tie in the legs just behind the bead and add a small pinch of dubbing to help keep the legs separated. I tie legs into dries quite a bit as well. Mostly on terrestrial-type flies, and typically only because the original legs were chewed off by ravenous trout. This gives you a plethora of color and material options while providing some wiggly deliciousness.

3. **Light It Up** – This is super easy and a great way to add some dimension to a fly. Many nymphs are finished with an epoxy back before they hit the bins. For those that aren't, adding one takes five seconds. Grab the UV epoxy of your preference and add a dollop to the top of the thorax to create a little flashback. You can even toss in a little piece of flashabou to give it a little more shimmer. A few seconds with a UV torch and boom! You don't have to be limited to the thorax of nymphs though. You can cover the entire fly with epoxy to make a super streamline fly that will cut through the water column. Use it to build new heads and add eyes to streamers. Or you can just use it to reinforce the fly itself. I'll often add some hard UV goo at the bottom of my jig flies in order to protect the material and increase the life of the fly. As for the amazingly annoying fly buzzing around my laptop.....He just got a judo chop to the face!

4. **Be Articulate** – Are you uninspired by your box of woolly buggers? Well, a woolly bugger is a great starting platform for making an articulated streamer! Just tie one into a larger hook with some wire and finish that bad boy off with some dumbbells, big feathers and some fluff and you'll be on your way to becoming the next streamer freak in your neighborhood. You can accomplish this with just about any unweighted streamer, and it's possible to accomplish this with some smaller beaded streamers. But the fun doesn't even stop there! You wanna get real crazy and catch some weird looks from your fishing pals? If you have an unweighted, articulated streamer just lying around collecting dust, go get that sucker and tie that thing into some kind of double articulated craziness and go dinosaur hunting! It's a ton of fun experimenting with this!

5. **Color By Numbers** – Painting the beads of your nymphs is just another easy trick that I'll do from time to time. Sure, you can buy a pack of twenty colored beads for seven bucks, or you could buy a couple cans of spray paint and paint beads for days. For painting beads on the fly, use a small paint brush and spray a good amount of paint on something disposable (i.e. paper plate, cardboard) so you don't poison your precious flies with chlorofluorocarbons. Go with a more subtle, natural color tone, or go bling with some platinum, chartreuse, or neon pink. I know of a few anglers that will use paint to indicate how heavily a nymph is tied. If they don't want to paint the entire bead, they just add a dot of paint on the top of the bead so it can be easily identified while in the fly box.

It's a lot of fun to experiment with patterns while sitting at the tying bench, but it can be equally as fun to search through a pile of unwanted flies and create ways to make them better, or at least more attractive. Plus, there are those feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment that come along with bringing a fly "back to life" and catching some fish on an otherwise undesirable pattern. On top of all that, it's super easy and the possibilities are infinite. You just might create your next go-to fly! Now go dig through that old, zombie-filled fly box and take it with you the next time you head for the vise!

Fly Fishing: Float N' Fly Rig for the Fly Rod

by [Kent Klewein](#)



Fly fishing: Float and Fly Rig for the fly rod

I wrote a fly-fishing tactics post for targeting bass on reservoirs during the fall. At the tail-end of the post, I touched base on how effective a Float N' Fly Rig (*basically a nymphing rig on my fly rod*) can be for catching good numbers of bass during the late fall and winter months. From late fall through winter, when water temperatures begin dipping into the mid-50s and lower, catching bass on deep reservoirs with traditional fly fishing setups can become extremely difficult for two reasons. The first reason is because bass start becoming sluggish as their metabolisms plummet from cooling lake water temperatures. With lower metabolisms, bass feed less frequently and they also move shorter distances to forage on food (*in an effort to conserve energy*).

This is bad news for fly anglers because it drastically shrinks the size of the strike zone (*the hot zone around a bass that a fly or lure needs to enter, to consistently trigger bites*) and it makes it much harder for fly anglers to find, present, and retrieve fly patterns through these small strike zones. The second reason the bass fishing is tough this time of year is because a good portion of the bass on the lakes will move out of the shallow water feeding grounds of the fall and back out into the main lake deep water areas, where they'll often suspend in the water column in 10-25' of water.

The main problem with cold water suspended bass is that it's really hard for fly anglers to keep their fly patterns in the strike zone throughout the entire retrieve. It's really only in front of the bass for a small percentage of the retrieve. The first half of the retrieve an angler struggles to get the fly down to the level of the bass, and the last half of the retrieve, the fly is coming up and out of the strike zone as it gets closer to the angler and the boat on the surface. With a Float N' Fly Rig, the suspension/floating device (*strike indicator set to a preferred depth*) allows you to maintain a consistent depth with your fly pattern during the entire retrieve, even when you're working it extremely slow to entice cold water bass.

That's critical for triggering lethargic bass that often need to be coaxed into feeding. What you're trying to do with your float n' fly rig is make that baitfish jig pattern look injured or dying. It needs to look like an easy meal and the bass will suck it in if you get it close enough to them. The best technique is to make a cast to the bank, let your fly sink, and then slowly bring the entire rig back to you with very subtle rod tip bounces or jiggling. All you want is the strike indicator to barely be moving as you're bringing the rig back to you. I usually stop the twitching and pause for 20-30 seconds a couple of times during each retrieve. The more windy the day is or the more chop there is on the water, the less you have to twitch the rod tip, because you'll naturally get action on your jig from the choppy or wavy water on the surface.

Four or five years ago, I spent quite a bit of time bass fishing with my head bass guide (*who uses conventional bass tackle*) during the fall and winter, and that's when I first saw how he located and caught good numbers of suspended bass with his float n' fly rig on our deep mountain lakes. He used a long spinning rod (8-10') spooled with 4-6lb. test. Tied a three-way swivel onto his main running line, attached a small bobber to the second tie off area of the three-way swivel, and then tied on a long section of fluorocarbon tippet (8-14'), from which he tied on a small hand tied jig. Year after year, we caught huge sacks of suspended bass with the float n' fly rig on his hand tied 1/8 -1/32 oz. jigs. One day, I told him, "Man, all we're really doing is nymphing for bass, and there's no reason I can't do this with my fly rod." The next trip, I did just that, tying on a 12' 3x leader, attached a strike indicator at the far end of the butt section of the leader and tied on 1/16 oz. jig with a non-slip loop knot. That day, I held my own, catching just as many bass with my fly rod as my buddy did with his spinning outfit. I've modified the rig a little over the years, but it still largely remains the same as that first standard trout nymph rig, only with a longer leader and a baitfish fly pattern tied on a jig hook, not a trout nymph.

As for where to fish the float n' fly rig, the best place to start is on rocky bluff banks (*steep 45 degree banks*) or main lake points. Every day is different though and you need to listen to the fish and try to locate the bait. Sometimes deep water humps, secondary points or big coves will be the ticket. Use your electronics to find the bass and the bait and set your strike indicator so that your jig fly will be at or slightly above the depth of the fish. This will keep it in view of the most fish. Don't position your boat too close to the bank so you don't run the risk of sitting on top of the bass. Pay attention to where your bites are coming during the retrieve so you can dial your boat position in. I've found it best to cast to bank and work the rig back to the boat in deep water.

Below are some hand tied float n' fly jigs that work really well for me and my bass guide. Most of the flies are tied from craft fur. We do use some Krystal Flash and mallard flank at times. One thing I found is that contrasting colors in the patterns seem to work much better than all natural realistic looking patterns. I think a lot of that has to do with the flies being fished over ten feet deep where many colors turn grey. Lastly, don't tie your jigs too big. I rarely fish jigs over 3 inches. Most of the baitfish this time of year will be three inches or smaller.



Get out there and try this fun Float N' Fly Rig out on your fly rod during the late fall and winter months this year. If you stick with it and use the tips I've suggested, I'm confident you'll catch good numbers of bass and have most of the lake to yourself. Just dress extra warm, because the lake can be brutally cold this time of year.



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This is our monthly newsletter for the 2023-2024 season.
Best Wishes to All to Continue to Stay Safe and Stay Well!
See you Soon!!