



Newsletter December 2013

December Meeting on the 19th

The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19th. This will be the annual Christmas party. We'll have a catered

roast beef dinner and some holiday fun. **Dinner will start at 7:00 PM.**

Fly Tying January 7th

The monthly fly tying class will be on Tuesday, January 7th. The fun starts around

6:30 PM. Those who want to can kick in a few dollars to share some pizza.

By Law Review

The board of directors wants to establish a committee to review the club by-laws and recommend changes. The intention is to see if we can clarify the rules and make sure they are appropriate for current circumstances. We would like to get three volunteers to look

at this and report back to the board and the membership with suggestions on how we can improve the by-laws. Please contact Officers@troutpond.com if you would like to participate.

Dues for 2014

The annual dues will remain unchanged for 2014. Renewal rates are \$150/year for returning adult members and \$50/year for returning juniors. Junior Membership is for an individual between the ages of 14 and 17 who will not attain age 18 by October 1st of the billing year or until he or she ceases to be a full-time undergraduate student, whichever is later.

We expect to mail invoices before the end of December. Payment can be made by check or PayPal. Checks can be mailed to the club post office box or handed in at a monthly membership meeting. You must pay your dues before you can fish in the new year. You can mail your dues to
Needham Sportsman's Club
PO Box 920191
Needham MA 02492

Favorite Flies

This article originally appeared in the November 2010 newsletter



The sassy cat is an old-fashioned wet fly. I don't know when or where it originated but it is documented in *Trout* by Ray Bergman in 1938 (on fly plate No. 8). I altered the pattern a little bit by changing the red elements to orange, so I call my version of the fly the orange sassy cat. The original pattern uses a red tail and red cheeks instead of orange. The original pattern is very much like a wet fly version of a light edson tiger streamer. I sometimes alter the pattern for easier tying by substituting schlappen fibers for the quill wing. This version is quicker to tie but it doesn't look quite as elegant as the quill wing when it leaves the vise. Once in the water, the trout show no preference for the quill wing or the schlappen-winged version. This fly is very good when the water is off-color and visibility is poor, because the yellow wing is easy to see.

Orange Sassy Cat

Hook: Wet fly sizes 8 – 12

Thread: Black

Tail: Orange hackle fibers

Body: Peacock herl

Throat: Yellow hackle or schlappen or orange hen wrapped as a collar

Wing: Yellow quill or schlappen

Cheeks: Small orange hen neck feathers, one on each side of the wing. (may substitute a n orange collar)

Tying notes:

I usually use a Mustad 3906B #10, it also looks good on a small salmon hook.

For the orange feathers I use a hen neck dyed cock of the rock.

I reinforce the peacock herl body by including a piece of thread with the herl. For the wing, I use dyed turkey quills because they are large and easy to work with, cheap and easy to obtain, and they hold up pretty well in the water. You could use duck, goose or swan quills instead. If using schlappen fibers for the wing, just peel off a about an inch of the fibers from the stem and lash them to the top of the hook.

Fishing Report

Fish were still being caught through December 7th. If you could break the ice out of your guides there were some good-sized trout willing to eat a fly. The aerators were turned off on December 12th, and with the current cold snap the pond should freeze

completely in a few days. Any major thaw that opens some water over the next couple of months will mean an opportunity to catch a winter trout – which brightens any winter day!

Needham Sportsman's Club

President: Paul McKechnie

Vice President: Mike Herman

Treasurer: Douglas Donaldson

Secretary: Bob Lynch boblnc1@yahoo.com

To contact all four officers:

Officers@TroutPond.com

Board of Directors: Roland Johnson, Roy

Swartz, Bob Timmerman, Richard Marashlian,

Eric Rockwood

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Editor@troutpond.com.

Send comments on the newsletter or articles for the newsletter to Editor@troutpond.com.

If you received this by regular mail but can receive it by email, please send your email address to Editor@troutpond.com.

Happy Holidays from the Needham Sportsman's Club

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