



RISAA Events & Meetings

All events and meetings can
be found online at
www.risaa.org/calendar.html

Nov 6 • 6:00 PM RI Marine Fisheries
Council, Narragansett

Nov 8 • 6:30 PM Charities Committee
Annual Meeting

Nov 9 • 6:30 PM Tournaments
Committee Annual Meeting

Nov 13 • 6:30 PM Fly Fishing Committee
Annual Meeting, Gregg's, N.Kingstown

Nov 20 • 6:30 PM Kayak Committee
Annual Meeting, Gregg's, N.Kingstown

Nov 21 • 6:30 PM Board Board of
Directors

Nov 27 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly
Seminar

Dec 5-7 New England Fisheries Council,
Viking Hotel, Newport, RI

Dec 12 • 6:30 PM RISAA Board of
Directors

Dec 18 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly
Seminar and Annual Meeting

Jan 20 • RISAA 20th Anniversary Banquet

Jan 23 • 6:30 PM RISAA Board of
Directors

Jan 29 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly
Seminar

Jan 30-31 • New England Fisheries
Council, Portsmouth, NH

Feb 6-8 • ASMFC Winter Meeting,
Arlington, VA

Feb 26 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly
Seminar

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Notes from the President's Desk

Stephen Medeiros



What does the RISAA Board do?

The RISAA Board of Directors meets every month to conduct the “normal business” of the club. That sounds fine, and for most fishing clubs or groups that could mean a 30 or 60 minute meeting.

But RISAA isn't a regular club. Each time a new Board member is proposed, that person is given a document that explains all that would be expected if voted in. The usual comment has been that they never knew it would be so involved and demanding.

Monthly Board meetings have a pre-set time of two hours to prevent running into the late night. This forces us all to keep to the agenda and avoid distractions. And the agenda is always filled with many RISAA items to deal with.

The two hour rule usually works because the Board also has an email group which usually results in roughly 50-100 messages a month. Board members usually have to check for mail every day. Many of the issues they will deal with at the next meeting are posted by email so they can become familiar with, and ready to vote, at the meeting.

Still, it seems that every month there are issues that require face-to-face discussions on difficult issues, especially when trying to determine what is best for the *majority* of RISAA members. Not all issues are clear cut.

Currently, the Board is going through a months-long process of creating a RISAA “operations manual.” We have many committees and events, some of which are very complicated. This all needs to be put in writing.

For example, how does the Merchandise Committee work? It sounds simple. Buy stuff and sell it at the meetings. But consider that the merchandise committee has to operate on a budget (as to all committees). What are all the items stocked and sold? Where do they come from? How are orders placed? How paid? What about mail orders? Forms used.... and much more!

Now multiply this by 18 other committees. Many of those committees

require 10-15 pages for their descriptions in the manual.

Take-A-Kid Fishing day and the Fishing Show programs are currently being worked on. Each of those will require a huge in-depth operational document to add to the main “manual.”

After receiving comments from the members' Education survey (see below), it was mentioned more than once that members who can't attend the Quarterly Business Meetings to hear the Board meeting reports, would like to find out what happens. This prompted the Board to agree to test a new monthly **Secretary's Report** column in our news magazine. (see page 5)

Member Education Survey

Last month we put an online survey out to members, asking for opinions on types of seminars and topics that members would like to see us offer. In two days 149 members had completed the survey, and we took that first 149 and compiled the answers.

We found that 42.8 percent of the respondents fish from shore, and that 83 percent fish from boat. This includes some of the shore anglers who occasionally will also fish on a boat.

Not surprising, the most popular seminars requested was bottom fishing, fluke, and striped bass fishing.

Just before this issue went to press, the Education Committee met for it's Annual Meeting, and set up the entire 2018 monthly seminar schedules, using the survey as a guide. I'm sure Greg Vespe, the Education chair, will announce the seminar list once they get the planned speakers confirmed.

LICENSE PLATE UPDATE

As of this writing at the end of October, I have been working with the R.I. Dept. of Motor Vehicles “charity plate” division and 3M in Illinois which is creating the actual design from our initial Saltwater Fishing concept. I'm waiting for them to send me the first “proof” to look at.