

# the FLYRODDER

PUBLISHED BY THE

**LONG ISLAND**  
FLYRODDERS



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Correspondent

The Long Island Flyrodders  
meet at 8:00 PM  
on the First Tuesday  
of each month at the  
Levittown VFW Hall,  
55 Hickory Lane  
(North of Hempstead Tpke.  
West of Jerusalem Ave.)

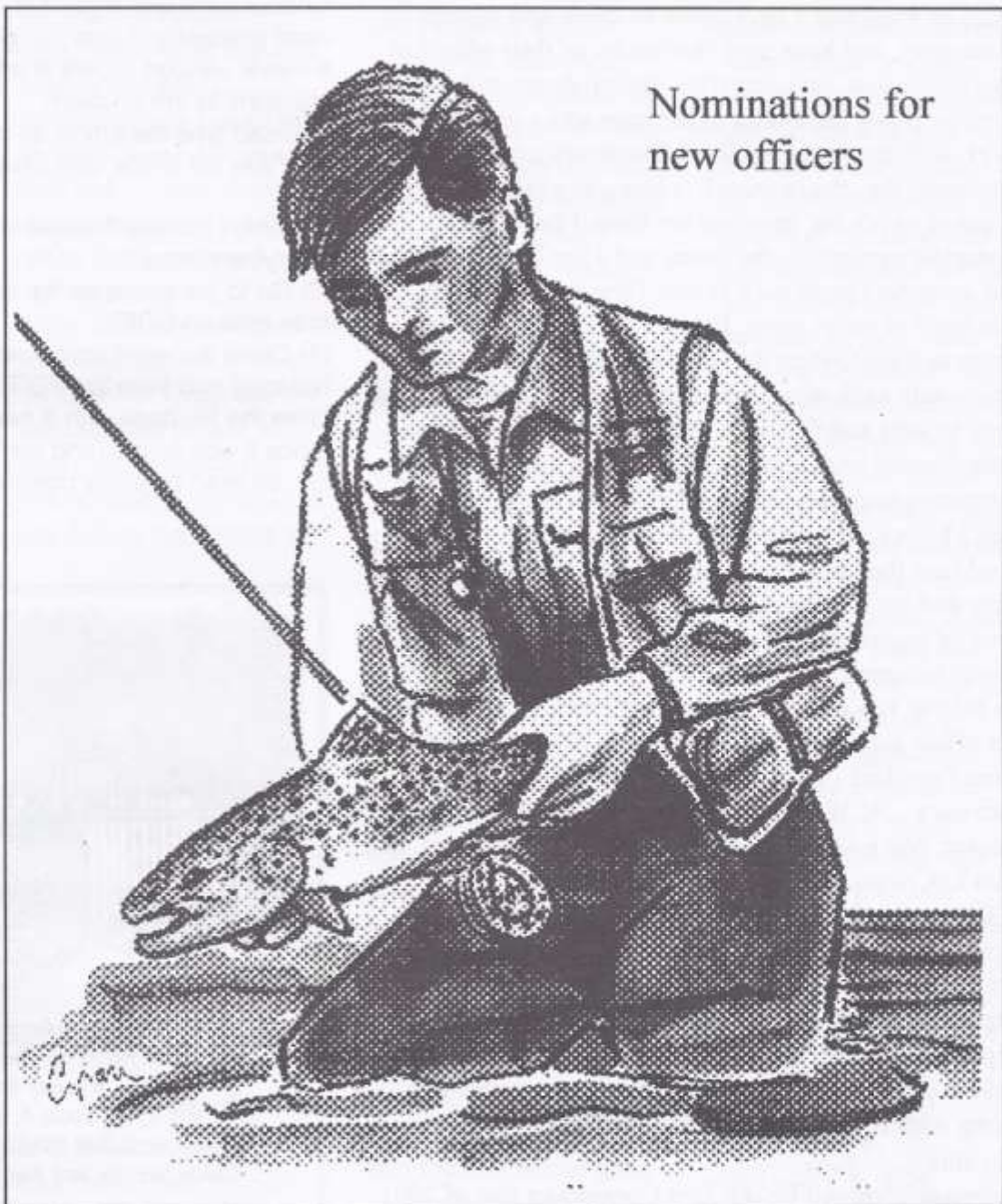
**2000 OFFICERS**  
Lee Weil  
President

Wayne Becker  
Vice President

Al Westbrook  
Secretary

Cliff Dies  
Treasurer

Robert Skoy, Esq.  
Counsel



Nominations for  
new officers

**This Month's meeting:**  
**February 6, 2001**



Check our website  
[www.lifr.org](http://www.lifr.org)



# President's message

This being my last President's Line, I would like to take time to express my thanks to the people who work so hard to make the L.I. Flyrodders tick. During my 2 years as President I have come to know and appreciate these guys, and have seen the results of their efforts at Project Access, camping trips, sports shows and club events. It is a rewarding experience and a pleasure to work with them. In my line of work it's a well known sentiment that the racetrack is like a big family; for some of us it's the only one we have. I believe the Flyrodders are much the same, and I see it often when old members greet each other. They may be living hundreds of miles away, but still make the effort to come and visit when they are in town. They keep in touch with each other and when possible, make the club trips to visit and fish with old friends. Jeff and I have been blessed with new friendships and many great memories since we joined the club, and I can only hope that I have given some back during my term. As we head into the year 2001 I am looking forward to our trips and the privilege of fishing with some of the finest kind of anglers on the planet.

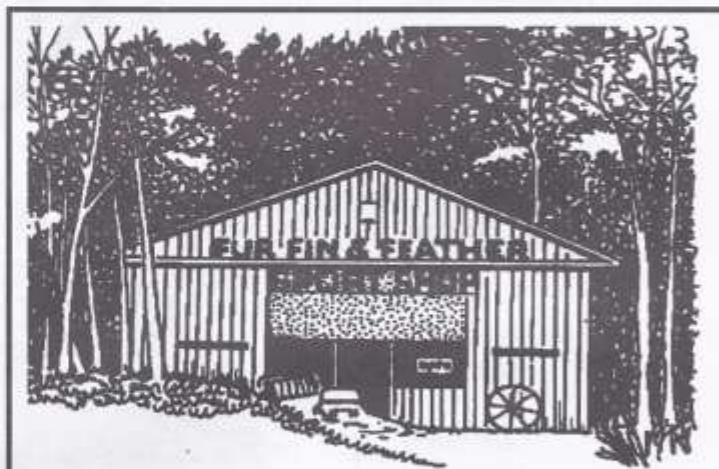
On to business: Elections for the year 2001 offices will be held at this month's meeting on Feb. 1st. Nominees for office are as follows: President -Herman Abrams, Vice President - Paul McCain, Treasurer - Cliff Dies, Secretary - Al Westbrook, Board of Directors: Wayne Becker, Mike Gelber, Gordon Grimes, Bob Holmes, and Ron LaChase. We will also be reviewing our trips for 2001; as per the list that was set up during the Trip Committee meeting held in January. Those of you who are running trips for 2001, or would like to propose a trip, should be prepared to give a brief summary of your trip, including the drive time, approx. cost, etc. Please have a poster made up with information on your trip, along with brochures and copies of directions if possible.

February 26th will be our first Connetquot trip of 2001 - I would like to remind to PLEASE remember to use proper Catch and Release methods. Above all, keep the fish in the water and use forceps to remove your flies; it will save your fish and keep your hands dry (which will keep them WARM!) I'll see you on the stream - In the meantime, tight lines and God bless! Lee

## FROM THE EDITOR'S CLUTTERED DESK

It is gratifying to see that some of you have answered my pleas and have contributed articles to the Flyrodder. Whenever you send them through the internet, there is always the question if I will be able to open/read them. Chances are that if you typed the article with an old word processor, I may not be able to open it, even with a newer version. There is one (actually two) simple solutions to this problem:

- You can type the article as the email itself OR
- (1) Type the article with whatever word processor you have.
  - (2) When you are finished with it, shade the entire text with your mouse.
  - (3) Go to the menu on top of the page, click on EDIT, then click on COPY
  - (4) Close the word processor, open the Windows Notepad and from the EDIT menu choose PASTE. Save the file/page with a new name and send it to me. Since it was saved (and converted) into an ASCII file, it can be read by every possible computer.



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# JED FLY

by Shawn  
Sullivan

It had been a long trip and Luke Fishcatcher couldn't help reflecting on how close it had come to being a disaster. The Power Authorities had decided that the small planet Alpha trout 1 would be the perfect place to install their latest version of the Reaper Dam; a system of locked channels and turbo flushed rivers that would generate enough power to jump start the Death Troller. Alpha Trout 1 also happened to be the home of the last traces to be found in the galaxy of

the legendary Ghost Trout. The Authorities had decided that the Ghost Trout would make perfect fertilizer for the President's gardens and why bother over fish that couldn't be seen anyway. It was Luke's job to catch some of these fish and relocate them to some temporary holding tanks being arranged by the underground. Luke carefully surveyed the small stream known as Con-Net Quad and realized that he had to make an approach that was almost as invisible as the fish he was trying to

catch. He switched his waders to low glide mode and slowly began to drift towards the streams edge. He waited without moving for what seemed like hours. Several of the glowing red suns had begun to move across the sky. He heard a loud screeching sound and knew that it wouldn't be long before one of Garth Waders trollers reached the area. At last he caught a glimpse of a slight depression that would form in the water on a regular pattern; like a single drop of water falling rhythmically in the same spot. He knew that that had to be a feeding Ghost Trout.

Luke extended his Fly-saber and as the line began to feed out of the opening at the tip he set the line weight to double-ought and extended his tippet to twenty feet. Working his cast out in slow wide loops, Luke tried to judge just how much line he would need to make a perfect pile cast and present his size 40 Adams to the feeding Ghost. The fly fluttered down to the flowing jade waters and Luke prayed that the fish would get a chance to see his fly before Atomic drag set in. As he watched the fly pass where the Ghost should have been, Luke was about to lift his line for another cast when the water winked and before

he knew it Luke was fast to a raging Ghostfish. Luke quickly changed his saber-rod setting to a six weight in order to land the fish with as little stress as possible. Even with the heavier rod Luke had to glide downstream several times before he could finally land the fish. As he cradled the fish with his free hand Luke pressed the hook retractor on the handle of his saber-rod and carefully slid the fish into his aqua-creel. His curiosity got the better of him and he couldn't resist trying what his old friend One-Fly Kenobi had once told him. If you rub the stomach of a Ghost trout in slow circular motions eventually, if your mind is clear and at peace, it will reveal itself. Luke was not prepared for what he saw next. In all of his travels throughout the galaxy Luke had never seen anything as beautiful. The fish had more color than one hundred Centauri sunsets. How could anyone want to destroy such a fish for a few million quasars of energy?



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# ME AND MY FLOAT TUBE

by Dan Van Buskirk

Do not try this at home, kids! You see I am by no means an expert, and Float Tubes can be dangerous, as anything around the water can be. This article only relies on my limited experiences and it is not the final word on the subject. A Float Tube offers another way to enjoy fly fishing. It isn't for everybody. You can use a Float Tube to fish for Trout, Bass, Pan fish, some people take them into saltwater.

I had known about float tubes for a while before I ever saw one. The first ones I ever saw were on Yellowstone Lake in '96. We had gone to the lake early in the morning to catch cruising cutthroat trout. In the mornings while the sun was still low the cutthroats would cruise the shallows sipping mayflies. Later as the sun would rise and warm the water the trout would retreat further into cooler, deeper water. About the time that they had moved outside our casting range, along came three fishermen with float tubes. These guys entered the water in their Float Tubes and away from the shore, they started catching fish as we had stopped. As we watched with envy, two things came to mind. The first was to throw rocks, the other was to get a Float Tube.

The next spring the opportunity to pick up a Float Tube came at the annual Trout Unlimited dinner. Here I could make a tax deductible contribution, get something I wanted, and look like an all around nice guy. For about a hundred dollars I got a float tube worth about a hundred dollars but, of course, this was only the beginning. Once home with the float tube, the real spending began. Out came the catalogs (Cabela's, L.L.Bean, Orvis, Etc.) and away went the money.

The following is a list of equipment I have used or ignored and my thoughts on them:

**FLOAT TUBES** - Float tubes come in two basic designs: Closed and Open Front.

The original closed design was the truck tire with a seat added. These have evolved into a traditional tube that features a cover for the tube or bladder with built-in pockets and an additional inflated back support. The back support is an important safety and comfort device, supporting the back (hence the name) during propulsion, and because of its independent air bladder it can help support you if there is a loss of air pressure in the main bladder. The rear of the back support is usually a bright orange to increase

visibility.

The Open or U Shaped design offers few advantages over the closed one. There is a removable front stabilizer bar that makes getting in and out easier. They also tend to ride higher in the water which aids in visibility and movement.

A couple of helpful hints with float tubes. Make sure that the tube is properly inflated (check manufactures

recommendations), the cover should be tight with no wrinkles. When moving about with the fins on, **ALWAYS WALK BACKWARD**. Set-up the rod and attach the first fly on shore before getting into the float tube. Take a good long look at the area you're going to fish, as in the water the overall view won't be as complete.

Float Tubes are made for still water, not moving water. They are also very difficult to handle in windy conditions with waves to complicate things. **A WORD TO THE WISE:**

I would recommend to always go with someone else, use the **BUDDY SYSTEM**.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY HINT:** check maximum rated load of the float tube. A third design is the Pontoon Boat which blurs the line between Float Tubes and Boats. I consider them closer to boats in cost and function and have little knowledge of them.

**FINS** - Many of today's

float tubes are offered with fins as a package deal. The newer style fins (\$35) have a better designed foot that holds the fin more securely, a great improvement. Mine have straps with plastic buckles that are difficult to tighten and tend to loosen with use. My solution was to wrap inexpensive vinyl electrical tape around the fin and my boot to hold them in place (cost \$0.57/roll). Keep a small knife or scissors with the tape for removal. The more expensive fins are designed to give more thrust, which translate to less work/more speed. Almost all fins float, so having them come loose doesn't mean losing them.

**PFD-**

**Personal Flotation Devices** I consider them a necessity. Again like most everything else there are two styles, and of course I have an opinion.: The first style is the old reliable foam filled one. This design has been around since the Titanic, OK bad choice. Advantages are low cost (they start at less than \$10), **THEY WORK**. Disadvantages are they are bulky, inhibit casting, can prohibit use of a chest pack, can be very hot during sunny days.

A second style is the inflatable. This style is basically an empty bladder that can be inflated by a compressed air cylinder.

*Continues on Page 6*

## AUSABLE RIVER FISHING TRIP

by Gil Padovani

Arrangements have already been made for our annual May trip to the Ausable River nestled amid the beautiful Adirondacs Mountains in the Lake Placid area. As in past years, we'll stay at the Hungry Trout Motor Inn and Restaurant, a top notch facility that offers comfortable clean rooms, gourmet meals and use of the famous "Dream Mile", a private stretch of the Ausable River available only to the Hungry Trout guests.

While the core dates of this trip are from Friday, May 18 to Monday, May 21, you can opt to either

extend or shorten your stay. Room accommodations can be three to a room or two to a room, depending on your preferences.

The costs per person of the three day package are \$339 (two to a room) or \$297 (three to a room).

For the two day package the costs are \$249 and \$219. Extra day costs are \$89 and \$77 respectively. Included in these packages are dinner on the day of arrival, breakfast, boxed lunch and dinner on the days of your stay and breakfast and a boxed lunch on the day of your departure.

You will also receive one coupon for a free drink. The Hungry Trout also offers guided canoe trips for two anglers on a 2,000 acre private brook trout preserve. The cost per person is \$140 for a full day of fishing (plus tip). If you are interested in going, it is suggested that you book as early as possible. Last year all rooms were taken by the beginning of April and we had to turn people away. So, don't wait: Do it now! To reserve your stay, fill out the application form and remit it with a \$50 deposit check (per person) made out to the Hungry Trout. You can pick up application forms at the general meeting or you

can print one yourself from our web site [www.lifr.org](http://www.lifr.org). You'll find it in the "Club Trips" section. Just click on Ausable River, NY. If you would like to go but cannot make the meetings and don't have access to a computer, write on a piece of paper, your name, the name(s) of the individual(s) you intend to room with and the check-in and check-out dates. Now send that and the deposit check(s) to:

Gil Padovani,  
9 Longbow Drive,  
Englishtown, NJ 07726  
Don't miss out on this wonderful trip. Book early!

Editing Danny's article on the Float tubes made me realize how little I knew about them. To me a "tuber" was someone who came out of nowhere just to annoy the anglers trying to catch trout on the Esopus creek!

Years ago, before anyone even thought about marketing them as fishing gear, truck's inner tubes were tied to a tree with a long rope and used as a swing by the kids. I do remember of one instance when I saw my brother fishing for bass in a Catskill's pond: He was plopped over a truck's inner tube, casting spinnerbaits, as he placidly waddled himself along the shoreline. What made it interesting was that he had caught a nice pickerel, while cooling off the heat of summer! Recently, when I inquired with the fly shop in town, the man told me that float tubes weren't popular with the local anglers, possibly because of lack of suitable waters. In the eastern section of North Carolina, where there are more ponds and deeper rivers, there is a reluctance of using the float tubes for fear of: big snapping turtles, water mocassins and alligators! Seems like a good reason to me! Gian

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## ME AND MY FLOAT TUBE, from page 4

Advantages are little bulk, allow use of a chest pack, not as hot during sunny days, don't interfere with casting or maneuvering, THEY WORK. Disadvantage is the high cost (\$70 for the vest, \$15 for three air cylinders). It is VERY IMPORTANT that the PFD is NOT RESTRICTED from inflating by any items. My final answer is number two.

**WADERS/BOOTS** - In hot weather I guess you could use a Float Tube with or without waders, I always have used waders. Once you've gone through the trouble of getting everything together and in the water, you'll tend to stay on the water for quite a while. Most water during the summer tends to be cooler than the air and after a while you might feel cold. Definitely during spring and fall waders are a must to combat the cold. I recommend wearing the highest chest waders you have, there is nothing as uncomfortable as cold water pouring over the top of and down the back. **DRYER IS WARMER.** Neoprene's for cool water, Breathable's for warmer water. Remember after fishing you still have to drive home, **DRYER IS BETTER.**

When it comes to boots there are three choices. The first is any old pair of sneakers that fit over your waders and into the fins (\$10 donation to Salvation Army for sneakers two sizes bigger than normal). You can use your regular boots, weight may be a problem over a long day of kicking. Flats Boots are lighter than regular boots and have a molded ball on the back of the heel that helps the fins stay attached (cost \$30). You'll need something on your feet going to and from the water.

**VESTS/CHEST PACKS** - Vests don't work too well in Float Tubes. Because you're strapped in and have limited motion, not all the pockets on vests will be reachable. Vests tend to hang down on the sides and will be in the water.

Chest packs either cloth ones or the chest boxes of plastic or metal work better (cost \$30 - \$125). Everything is in front of you when you need it, and closed up out of the way when not needed. Usually you can reduce the actual amount of flies and gear down to the essentials.

An alternative is to take advantage of the pockets mounted in the Float Tube. You should be able to carry a couple of Fly Boxes along with basic tools there. Wear a fishing shirt with large chest pockets, and there's some more room for equipment.

**NET** - I haven't used a net yet in a Float Tube, of course I haven't caught a fish big enough to require one either. The one time I took one with me, it dragged along collecting weeds and hanging up on the brush. I'll get back to you on that one.

**ROD/REEL** - I like to use the longest rod (for the weight line) I have in a Float tube. You're out away from shore, so there's no trees or other obstacles to avoid. You're sitting low in the water and the higher the line the less chance to slapping the water. When playing a fish the longer the rod, usually the easier it is to control them.

I tend to use a slightly heavier line weight for the size fly and fish than normal. My reasoning is that when out in the middle of the water, I'm going to be fighting whatever wind there is, and there probably will always be a wind coming from the wrong direction. As to the type of reel I use a single action reel most of the time.

**CLOTHING** - This can be an important subject. Consider that you are out away from any protection from the wind, sun, cold, rain or insects. I wear a long sleeve shirt, a wide brim hat, polarized sunglasses, insect repellent. If the weather is threatening rain, I'll bring a rain jacket. Protection from the sun should always be included. As I mentioned earlier, big pockets are a plus.



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**MISCELLANEOUS** - I tend to always bring more than I need, it's usually always better to have more than less.

A Water Bottle or two (\$1) should be along to fight off dehydration. You're out in the direct sun, working hard paddling around. Bring more than enough.

A tube or bottle of Sun Blocker (\$5 - \$10) is a must.

A Whistle (\$5) can be very helpful in communicating to any one fishing with you. Set up signals before going on the water. You know the usual ones: One blast for "Did you see the one I just got?", Two blasts for "What are you using that's catching so many fish, when I can't even get a bite?", Three blasts for "I'm going to shore for a call of nature, I didn't drown." And my favorite, four blasts for "Do you have any beer?"

A set of Forceps (\$5) with long jaws to help in removing hooks, both from the fish and the fisherman. If you happen to be fishing for Pan Fish, these are very useful. Pan Fish tend to really inhale flies and take them deep down their mouths.

Always bring a Flash Light (\$5) if you plan to stay into the evening. When evening falls and you make your way to shore the darkness can be shocking. Now you have to extract yourself from the Float Tube, remove the Fins, break down the rod, and make it back to your car in the dark.

**ACCESSORIES** - I have found these to be well worth the money. Air Pumps: There are two types of pump, the manual (\$10) and the electric that plugs into the cigarette lighter (\$15). I prefer the manual type, because if there is a long hike to the water, it's easier to carry a deflated Float Tube, and fill it at the water's edge.

A Patch Kit (\$5) can be a trip saver, may be supplied with the Float Tube.

A large Duffel Bag (\$25). Set the bag up with everything you need in one place. Additionally when arriving back at the car, all the wet equipment can be thrown in the bag saving a clean-up job later on.

A cooler (PRICELESS) I have never found a problem going back to the car and find a well-stocked cooler!

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The undersigned hereby applies for membership or renewal, in the **LONG ISLAND FLYRODDERS, INC. ("LIFR")**. I understand the inherent risk in participating in the activities of **LIFR**, including fishing trips, of one day or longer, which **LIFR** may make available to members. I understand that **LIFR** activities may take me into remote areas, and that I may not be able to be promptly evacuated or receive proper medical care in the event of injury or disease. I further understand that I am solely responsible for all costs of medical treatment and transportation.

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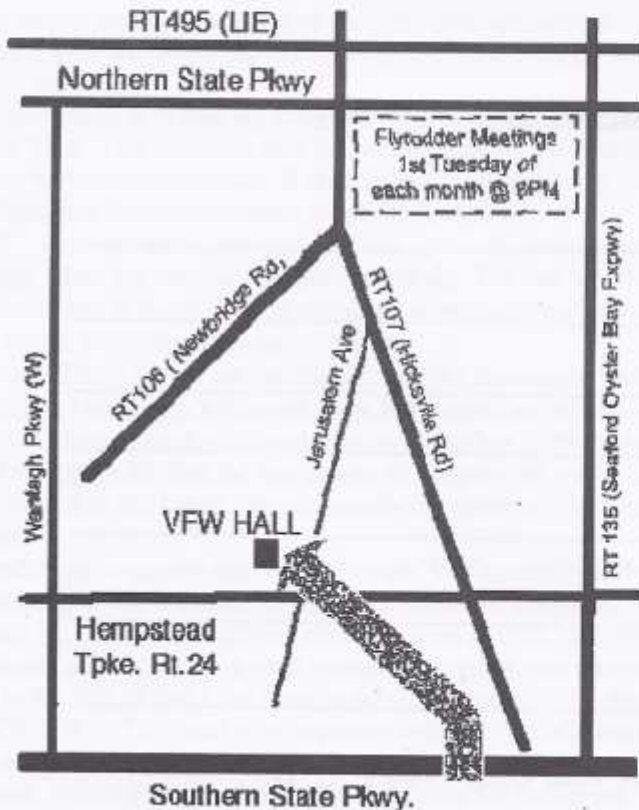
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## LIFR COMING EVENTS

Feb. 6, 2001 General  
Meeting - LIFR Elections

Feb. 6, 2001 General  
Meeting - 2001 Trip  
Previews

Feb. 15, 2001 Board of  
Directors Meeting

Feb. 26, 2001 Connetquot  
Trip

Note: New Time - 8:00 AM



