

# The DIY Fly Fishing Road Trip: From Tents to Airstreams

With Robert Streeter

**D. Roger Maves:** [00:00:00] Welcome to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio, your source for learning more about fly fishing in cold water, warm water, and salt water. Hello, I'm Roger Maves, your host for tonight's show. On this broadcast, we'll be featuring Rob Streeter and he'll be answering your questions on 'Do It Yourself Fly Fishing Road Trip'.

This show will be 90 minutes in length and we're broadcasting live over the internet. If you'd like to ask Rob a question, just go to our homepage at [askaboutflyfishing.com](http://askaboutflyfishing.com) and use the Q and A text box to send us your question. We'll receive your question immediately and we'll try to answer as many of them as possible on the show tonight.

And while you're there, make sure you sign up to receive our announcements so you don't miss out on any of our future broadcasts. Just fill out the form on the right side of our homepage and we'll let you know when the next live show will be. This broadcast is being recorded and will be available for playback on our website about 48 hours after the show ends.

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When we return, we'll be talking with Rob Streeter about The Do It Yourself Fly Fishing Road Trip: From Tents to Airstreams.

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Before we introduce Rob, I'd like to let you know about the great prizes we have to give away tonight for our drawing. Tonight we'll be giving away a one year membership to Fly Fishers International and a one year membership to Trout Unlimited. Now, if you haven't registered yet for the drawing, you can do so now. Just go to our homepage at [askaboutflyfishing.com](http://askaboutflyfishing.com) and look for the link under tonight's section that says, register for our free drawing. Click on that link, fill out the

form, and we'll announce winners At the end of the show, we'll also be giving away a copy of Rob's latest book, The Great Fly Fishing Road Trip.

Now, here's how you can win. You must be the first person to answer the question I ask at the end of the show. The question will be something about whatever Rob and I have talked about during the show. And then you can submit your answer along with your name and [00:03:00] location in the text box on our homepage.

And if you're the first person to provide the correct answer, then you'll win a copy of Rob's latest book, The Great Fly Fishing Road Trip courtesy of Rob Streeter. So listen closely. Use your best typing skills. Take notes, and hopefully you'll be the winner.

Tonight our guest is Rob Streeter. Rob is an award-winning outdoor writer. His fly fishing articles have appeared in national publications, including American Angler and Outdoor Life. He was the outdoor columnist for two upstate New York newspapers, Albany Times Union, and the Amsterdam Recorder for many years. Rob's Photography illustrated many of these articles. Rob is a lifelong fly fisherman since he started fly fishing with his first fly rod at age seven.

He has fished for salt water species in Florida and has fished as far north as Alaska. He has fished extensively throughout the northeast, and Rob has also tied flies for the same amount of time and has created fly patterns for trout and [00:04:00] warm water species. He's the author of four fly fishing books, including The New York Fly Fishing Guide, Warmwater Fly Fishing- Finding and Catching Warmwater Species and The Greats of Adirondack Fly Fishing and his latest book, The Great Fly Fishing Road Trip. Rob has also produced two fly fishing DVDs, including Tying and Fishing for Smallmouth Bass and Tying and Fishing for Panfish.

Rob, welcome back to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet radio.

**Robert Streeter:** Well Roger, I wanna thank you for having me on. It's good to be back.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah, good to be back and good to start another season here of fly fishing as well. So with the weather getting nicer and pulling out of winter here, so, um, looking forward to that. So, yeah, you know, the reason I reached out to you again was because of the book that you just published, The Great Fly Fishing Road Trip, which was, I think a first of its kind. I don't know that I've met anybody else that's written a book like that. So I thought that's gonna be interesting thing to talk about. So hopefully you [00:05:00] can share all your experiences and as many as we can tonight and your secrets about making it a successful experience. And so let's just dig in there and what inspired you to take your first true fly fishing road trip and how did it shape future adventures?

**Robert Streeter:** Well, when I was a young guy, we got Outdoor Life magazine and I was enthralled with anything that was about fly fishing and I used to read the stories and, and dream of going to those places. Then, you know, when I got a little older, I got three 16 and I could drive, I took my first true fly fishing road trip and I describe it in detail in the introduction to the book.

Needless to say, it didn't go great and I had an experience that just. I remember for the rest of my life, I know I always will. The short version is I wasn't catching anything and I ran into a guy that looked like the cover of, uh, the Orvis [00:06:00] catalog or L.L.Bean and he had, uh, very best fly

fishing equipment and he was carrying some nice trout because back then, you know, catch and release wasn't the way it is now.

And I just stopped to talk to him thinking that he was gonna help me out and give me some ideas and he just did anything but that, he didn't want to talk to me. He just kinda walked away in a huff. So, I always said, if I ever get good at this, I'm gonna help anybody that I can help. So that shaped a lot of my future adventures for sure.

**D. Roger Maves:** So sharing is a big part of that. Then as you're out and about, that's great. I remember an early experience of mine up in the Bighorn River when I was just getting started up there and I had a really nice experience, the opposite of yours, but a guy living out of his Subaru, you know, stopped there, watched me, floundering around and took the time out to help me out.

So I'm glad you're out there doing the [00:07:00] same since you're first, uh, not so great adventure. Um.

**Robert Streeter:** Oh, I certainly try.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah, I mean, I think it's always fun to share. I'm fortunate enough to share with my grandchildren now and that's been a blast as well. You quoted throw earlier in your book how much a road trip is really about the experience or how much of a road trip is really about your experience and beyond the fish.

Do you agree with that?

**Robert Streeter:** Oh, I think a lot of it is, I mean, sometimes just, you know, the journey of getting to a place and setting up, especially the trips we took in Alaska, just the wonder of being able to do something like that and being able to do it on your own. You know, it's a lot different going on a fly fishing trip on your own where there's, there's no lodge, there's no guide.

You gotta get there, you gotta set your camp up and do your thing. You gotta find the [00:08:00] fish, you gotta do it all yourself. So a lot of that journey and gaining those experiences, I think had just as much impact on your memories as catching a huge trout that day.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. That's for sure. Yeah. To you, what defines a successful fly fishing road trip in your mind now that you've taken so many and so many different kinds?

**Robert Streeter:** Well, I think the word successful can run a spectrum from anywhere, from, Hey, I had good fishing to, uh, gee, I'm glad I got home alive. You know, and anything in between, adventures, misadventures, whatever happens. To me, a successful trip, and I definitely talk about this in the book, is my wife and I go somewhere.

I get to fish and she gets to do things. Everybody went on the trip and had a good time all the way down to the dogs, you know, and I don't care if. I do great fishing. It's [00:09:00] just that, you know, I got to go somewhere and I got to fish, or I got to try something different. I would, like, for example, I caught my first red fish in Georgia on one of our trips, uh, about two years ago, and I caught it out of a kayak and it was really cool, so just something like that. It wasn't a huge red fish, but hey, I went somewhere and I caught a red fish on the fly rod.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. That's great. Yeah. That's where my first experience fly fishing in salt wasn't so great. I was down in Key West and I was by myself and I waited out and this flat had no idea what I was doing or even if I was in the right place.

And I saw the water was kind of cloudy and I saw this big thing about six feet long, this dark shape swimming around me and I'm going, oh my gosh, I gotta get outta here. That was it.

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** I had no business or idea what I was doing, and I've learned a lot since then. But uh, yeah, everything's a story and experience, right? No matter what happens. Right. Good, bad.

**Robert Streeter:** Oh yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Fun. [00:10:00] Not so fun. Yeah. That's always the thing. When you are doing road trips, I'm assuming you have some kind of final destination or not, and how does it differ from, you know, just going with the flow to trying to reach a specific destination?

**Robert Streeter:** There's, uh, the way we structure our trips, there's a certain amount of going with the flow and there's a certain amount of, you know, Hey, I want to go and we're gonna go fish in this area, or we're gonna go, you know, we know kind of where we're going.

I'll use North Carolina for an example. We know we're going to go to some place in North Carolina and we know where we're gonna stay, and from there I will go and fish several streams around whatever that, that location is. That's pretty much the idea that we use.

**D. Roger Maves:** And looking towards. Did you, do you always plan it to where there's [00:11:00] fly fishing and other things? I think your wife doesn't fly fish, right?

**Robert Streeter:** She actually did on the Alaska trip and she, you know, once in a while she will.

**D. Roger Maves:** Okay.

**Robert Streeter:** But she's not a fly angler. There's other things that, you know, interest her. Like on the Georgia trip where I caught the red fish, she is enamored with a book called, I think it's Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.

It's a famous story down there. And we were by Savannah and we went to the, the home of the fella that was, you know, the whole story was about that he. He got murdered in his mansion.

**D. Roger Maves:** Uh.

**Robert Streeter:** We were actually on a tour and in the room. So, you know, stuff like that, that, uh, she has interest in. She gets to go do things that she likes. And I have a fly fishing destination that, you know, I get up in the morning and I go out and do my thing too.

**D. Roger Maves:** [00:12:00] Yeah. So the fly fishing is always part of the trip though.

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah, usually.

**D. Roger Maves:** Is that all your vacations usually? Yeah. Yeah,

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** What, what do you think most anglers get wrong when they're trying to plan, you know, like their first do it yourself road trip? What mistakes might they make?

**Robert Streeter:** I think they don't, and I certainly didn't when I was younger. Now I call it chasing the rainbow. You get your fishing magazine fly fisherman, or you know, American angler isn't around anymore. And you read some destination piece. And I remember the first one I did was I was reading about landlocked salmon fishing in Maine.

And man, I gotta go do that and I gotta try that. Your expectations are, you know, sky high. And then you get there and you realize, I'm not here at the right time, I'm not in the right place. Yeah, I caught some landlocks, but they're all, you know, nine inches long. They're the, the ones that haven't dropped back out of the stream. I didn't [00:13:00] catch the monsters. So you gotta have a realistic expectation. Like you were talking about the Florida Keys. I fly fished in the Florida Keys and I would put that, DIY fly fishing in the Florida Keys, as you know, a very high degree of difficulty going and pulling that off on your own and, and making that work and getting into fish.

That's not an easy one. So like if you decide, Hey, I want to go and plan a road trip to the Florida Keys and I'm gonna catch my first tarpon, well, you're not really setting yourself up. You're kind of setting yourself up for something that's gonna fail because you're trying to do something that's maybe more difficult than you're gonna be able to handle.

You know, it's great if you can, but I think that's where a lot of people go wrong and where a lot of people's expectations are wrong because they, think that they're gonna go and everything's [00:14:00] gonna be great. Oh, we're gonna have good weather. We're gonna fish, we're gonna do this, we're gonna do that. And it's a monsoon for the week that you're there.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** You know, stuff like that happens and when your expectations are sky high and you get brought back down, it's, that's what I think ruins it for a lot of people.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. And, uh. Yeah, setting your expectations. I mean, I learned a lot that I learned what I didn't know, you know?

**Robert Streeter:** Oh, yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** So I didn't know a lot, uh, since then, I fished a lot of salts, but boy did I, but you know, even when you, I mean, I just, my son and I just got back last week from Chile, not a do it yourself thing. You don't, that would be a tough thing to do. But, you know, you mentioned weather

and stuff. I mean, you never know how that's gonna cooperate. We got down there, we fished for six days, five of the days it rained. And I don't mean a little bit, I mean, poured rain all day long, but we still had like 30 fish days to the [00:15:00] boat on some of those days, 'cause we persisted and made the most of it and we had a great time. But the weather sucked, so.

**Robert Streeter:** Oh yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** Uh, yeah. But, uh, but yeah, you make, you gotta make the best of whatever the hand you're dealt, whether it's do it yourself or you're being guided or whatever. Attitude is a big part of it, I think, but

**Robert Streeter:** Oh, for sure.

**D. Roger Maves:** Um, yeah. Yeah. In your book, you've dedicated old section to planning. What were the first three things someone should figure out before leaving home? I mean, what are those most important things?

**Robert Streeter:** Well, how, you know, I'm retired, so I don't have a work schedule, but we did a lot of these things while we were both working.

And how much time do you have? If you want to go up and do a DIY in Alaska, I wouldn't do it for a week. Because your first day, by the time you're, you get checked out with your camper, you get doing it, you're not gonna accomplish much in your [00:16:00] first day and you're not gonna accomplish much in your last day. So then you got five days and like you said, so now it rains for three days, your whole trip isn't gonna work out. Where if you had more time put into it, it would be different. So how much time do you have? Where do you want to go?

You know, where do you want to go? Where do you want to go fish for, you know me to come to where you are, to Colorado, I gotta figure with an RV trip. I gotta figure in the drive time because I'm gonna be bringing the camper and all that.

So I'm gonna have a good chunk of drive time if I'm going out west somewhere. So I'm gonna wanna be there a couple of weeks. I'm not gonna wanna try to cram everything into. A week off from work and have things go wrong and you know, be stressed that I gotta get back, I gotta be at work on Monday. I can't, you know.

So [00:17:00] I think finding the time, finding something that's within the limits that you have on time. Another one where I think people fail is how do you want to do it? If you've never been on a backpack trip into the back country and deciding that I'm gonna go fly fish remote ponds in Colorado, well that's great, that's cool and it's probably a lot of fun. But if you've never gone backpacking, do you really want to go and try to hike up a mountain in Colorado and get altitude sickness or things because you've never been out backpacking and carrying a 40 pound backpack into the mountains. So it, it is things like that. Where do you want to go? What do you want to do?

Is that within your wheelhouse? And then you gotta kind of figure out the logistics. You gotta figure out the limits of what's gonna be the limiting factor on this trip. What's gonna, [00:18:00] what's gonna cause me problems and how do I plan around it? So those are the things I think of when we're planning a trip.

**D. Roger Maves:** Well, it sounds like, what I hear you saying too is that if you give yourself that extra room, then maybe you won't, you know, you'll be more relaxed and less stressed out if something does go wrong. Like even

**Robert Streeter:** Absolutely.

**D. Roger Maves:** I mean, it wasn't a fishing trip, but I remember coming, driving back from Chicago to Colorado one time and my battery went out.

Well that took like a half a day. Just to square that away, get a new battery, get it installed, that wasn't planned. Now, if that was a fishing trip, that's a big part of your trip. But if you've got those extra days, then I would think I would be myself much more relaxed and willing to go with the flow. So yeah, I totally,

**Robert Streeter:** Especially with a road trip, you gotta have some flexibility. And let's face it, these days, even with an airline, you gotta have some flexibility because [00:19:00] every time you go fly, you don't know what show you're gonna get when you get there.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right, exactly. Exactly. Yeah. Yeah. Let me take a quick break here, Rob and when we get back we'll talk more about planning and logistics here. So, uh, hang tight and I'll be right back.

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So Rob, I always ask my guests, you know, what's going on in your fly fishing world? And you kind of revealed a little secret to me before the show. So tell us what you're up to in, in retirement and writing and so forth.

**Robert Streeter:** Well, my fly fishing world's kind of grumpy lately. I want to get out for steelhead and we got enough rain and like the snow melt and everything, the rivers were just blown right out.

I may actually drive out and go tomorrow, but you know, we've had a lot of high cold water and it's just starting to come down. So, you know, I did catch some steelies over the winter, which I was happy about that, especially the one day. It was 12 degrees out. That's the coldest I ever caught a steel.

**D. Roger Maves:** Oh. Ooh.

**Robert Streeter:** So it was brutal. So

**D. Roger Maves:** You're a better man than I,

**Robert Streeter:** But uh, [00:21:00] part of my fly fishing

**D. Roger Maves:** Fire place in a glass of scotch sounds a lot better.

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah, it, it's something that you would certainly look forward to when you got home.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** But, uh, part of my fly fishing stuff, I have a, uh, YouTube channel that I created that's starting to grow pretty good and things are going in the right direction. And it's Rob Streeter Outdoors. I have fly tying instructional videos and fly fishing adventures and everybody seems to like it and I get a lot of comments. And so I've been doing that as well. And, uh, that's starting to go pretty good. I have some fly fishing coming up certainly it's gonna be in the area, but last year I did a lot of great fly fishing for small miles around my home, so we had some good times.

**D. Roger Maves:** Nice.

**Robert Streeter:** Uh, and I do fish up in the, I do more for back country brook trout up in the Adirondacks. [00:22:00] I do that and I get up to the ponds up there once in a while and I've got plenty of fly fishing around my house. But, uh, we are going with the camper to, we'll be doing Ohio and then on the way back we hit Pennsylvania. We'll be doing a couple other trips with the, uh, with the Airstream this year. So getting out and about doing the usual stuff.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah. Have you ever been up to Lake Champlain fishing?

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah. Fished Lake Champlain. Yep.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Recently did a show on that and, uh, found it very interesting talking about a variety of fish up there. My gosh. Um, that lake is loaded with all kinds of species.

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah. There's a big variety in there.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Very interesting fishery. So, um. Like you did what? You did a couple of trips to Alaska so far.

**Robert Streeter:** Uh, Bonnie and I went a couple of times and I [00:23:00] also, I had a very good friend in Alaska that you'll see in the beginning of the book, and he passed away in 2020.

He and I hunted out for I bow hunt a lot, and I went with him and, uh, hunted for caribou a few times and we were way out. We were in the Arctic Circle.

**D. Roger Maves:** Wow. That sounds like a, a story in itself. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** Oh, there were some stories.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. When you plan a major trip, like to Alaska, how far in advance do you start thinking about that and putting things to paper and, you know, how do you go about it?

**Robert Streeter:** Well, in terms of going up and fly fishing in Alaska, no disrespect to the lodges or anything like that, but I went. And Bonnie went with me and we went all over Alaska. We caught grayling, we caught multiple species of salmon, and we did it all with [00:24:00] a, uh, rented pickup truck and a camper.

**D. Roger Maves:** Ah.

**Robert Streeter:** So it's a very doable road trip. You gotta fly up to Anchorage, get the camper, and then go out from there. But Alaska takes more logistics than doing a road trip for fly fishing in the lower 48. Everything up in Alaska is more expensive than it is down here. I almost had a heart attack when we went to the grocery store to stock the camper up the first time because everything comes in by ship.

You know, they don't, you know, it's not like it's all trucked in and most of the stuff that they get is by ship and gas and everything is more expensive. So if I was going to do another road trip in the near future for Alaska, I would start planning about two years out.

**D. Roger Maves:** Wow.

**Robert Streeter:** To try and figure out, you know, you gotta figure out what salmon runs you're trying to hit, or you know, [00:25:00] you just want to go up and, and fish for grayling or what do you want to do And get your camper that you, what you're gonna rent. I mean, you can rent everything from, you know, class B RVs to, like we did, we just did the four wheel drive pickup truck with a camper to get your reservation and do your planning and plan your flights and, you know, do the research. Because there's some, we were talking about the milepost. There's a book called The Milepost and it describes everything along the highways. I mean, Colorado, I'm not familiar with your roads, but around here, I mean, I've got interstate 90 and, uh, 88 and, you know, everything goes up to double digit, high numbers. The roads up in Alaska, I think they go from like one through eight. So

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** There's not.

**D. Roger Maves:** There's not very many lot of

**Robert Streeter:** Big highways up there.

**D. Roger Maves:** Oh. Oh.

**Robert Streeter:** And you need to know, okay, well we're gonna [00:26:00] go up on the tundra and you know, up by Cantwell and we're gonna fish for Grayling and we're gonna stay at the BLM

campsites. And for you to spec everything out, figure out what you're doing, get your camp rental secure and everything. I would recommend doing it two years out.

**D. Roger Maves:** Wow. Yeah. Yeah. I hear you. I mean, and because, um. There may have to be reservations for camping, and then if you did decide to maybe hire a guide and fly in somewhere, you know, as a, a really fun side venture, you'd have to schedule that in. And yeah, it's definitely, I, you know, I was growing up as a kid up there in Alaska.

We keep talking about this nowadays. It's like, what do you remember eating at home when you were a kid? And it's like, well, every vegetable was out of a can. Grain beans, corn, peas.

**Robert Streeter:** Yep.

**D. Roger Maves:** Because we didn't get fresh food out there. I mean, like you say, everything gets shipped in.

**Robert Streeter:** Yep.

**D. Roger Maves:** And the big event is when the wards or [00:27:00] Sears catalog came and we could page through that and look at stuff and chop.

But it's changed a lot. But I bet in a lot of ways it hasn't changed much, you know, up there. It's still hard to get certain things and it may not be so hard, but very expensive, that's for sure. Yeah.

Um, what's your, you know, how do you balance structure with flexibility when you're mapping out a trip? I mean, earlier you talked about, well, giving yourself more time.

Do you schedule layover days where you just decide to relax? Or do you just do those when you feel like it? Uh, how do you

**Robert Streeter:** We kind of have a ballpark idea. You know, the way Bonnie and I do it, of, you know, we did a trip to Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, and on the way back through Maine, she wanted to see her friend that she went to college with, so.

I know that on a certain day that we've gotta get over to the [00:28:00] spot where her friend is. But the other times, you know, I had a, uh. We had a campsite reserve where I wanted to fish for a week, so I went in there for a week. But some of these other ones, we were just winging it. We were just finding someplace we liked and just where we wanted to go. And if we got there and it wasn't great, we'd go to the next spot. So there's structure in there, but I also try to leave some leeway in case, largely weather or something happens that is gonna put a monkey wrench in the trip.

If you have too many of those things. Like I said, you know, she had the time to go see her friends, so there's a fixed date in there. But if, if everything is like on, on Monday, we're fishing with the guide on Tuesday, we're going to such and such on Wednesday, we're doing this on Thursday, we're doing that. That's never gonna happen on a lot of these road trips.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** There's gonna be something that's gonna trip up a rigid schedule.

**D. Roger Maves:** [00:29:00] Yeah, and it is tough. I know I did a, I planned out a uh, two week road trip in Belize 'cause I wanted to see most of the country and we were able to pull it off. But you know, like one day we were supposed to get a boat to shuttle out to an island and we were down in the docks and it was raining and the waves were like three, four foot waves and we're trying to get in the boat. We could barely get in the boat much less. It was a wet, long, bumpy ride out there. And that almost didn't happen. And certainly the fishing wasn't good at that time. But yeah, I think, you know, and then I suppose at times you'll find a place and you go, wow, this is really nice. Let's stay an extra day. Right?

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** And then that something,

**Robert Streeter:** It's nice to be able to do that.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah,

**Robert Streeter:** Definitely.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. And I guess with you guys being retired, if you get back a day or two later, it's not gonna, yeah, affect your whole life, like with somebody that's has gotta get back to a job.

**Robert Streeter:** No, it's just a little easier being retired, but I mean, we still did all these things when we were working. We just,

**D. Roger Maves:** [00:30:00] Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** Made sure that we had, especially the Alaska trips, we, we took two weeks and we saved up vacation time and took two weeks instead of trying to jam it into one week.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah, yeah. Well I think that was a good move to, rather than drive to Alaska, unless that becomes part of your adventure and then you need another two weeks. But flying up there and renting a camper saves you a lot of time, gets you to where you wanna be quickly and out doing what you wanna be doing. So, um, yeah, that makes a lot of sense to me.

Now, when you do build a route for your trips, are you trying to maximize fishing? I mean, if, are these always. Are they mainly fishing trips with your wife's, uh, desires kind of secondary or how does that work?

**Robert Streeter:** No, it's, it's, I try, it's pretty even.

**D. Roger Maves:** Okay.

**Robert Streeter:** So, you know, we've got a general idea, like, like on the, the Georgia trip, the main part of that, the first week was the stuff she wanted to [00:31:00] do down in Savannah. But I had enough, I had a morning that I got and I went out, did a half day with a guide in a kayak, and we got into the redfish.

**D. Roger Maves:** Ah.

**Robert Streeter:** So it's both, there's a balance there. I don't try to, you know, just make it a hundred percent my fishing trip and I try to make it so that both of us are gonna have a good time and there's stuff she likes to do and stuff I like to do, and that's the way I try to structure 'em.

But I still get plenty of fishing time. I mean, I get, most of the time, if we're. When we go to Ohio, she gets to do a lot of her stuff. And then on the way back, we spend a week in Pennsylvania and I fly fish for a week. So

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah,

**Robert Streeter:** You kind of balance things out.

**D. Roger Maves:** I think you should, um, from my experience this past summer, I think you should always bring some kind of rod with you.[00:32:00]

We had a vacation in France on a canal running a, call it an RV on a, a river, you know, do it yourself kind of thing.

**Robert Streeter:** Yep.

**D. Roger Maves:** And I didn't bring any fishing stuff 'cause I just considered it just a pleasure trip, you know, with my family and stuff. And then I'm standing on the boat looking down in the water and I'm seeing these fish that are, you know, 18, 22 inches long. And I'm, I don't even know what they are, but I'm, I really felt disappointed that I didn't have a rod with me to try to sort that out. So next time I'm not gonna make that mistake, but, uh, yeah, you never know what's gonna look good. Right. As far as fishing goes,

**Robert Streeter:** No, no.

**D. Roger Maves:** Little a place to stop for lunch and, you know, it might be a beautiful place to fish as well.

Yeah. Um, now you went, uh, in your book you talk about from tents to Airstreams. How did that evolution happen. And how did it change your trips?

**Robert Streeter:** Well, when you're younger and you know, you're first starting your working life, have tons of money. So it was [00:33:00] kind of a logical thing that most people start with and there's nothing wrong with that.

And we did that. And then my wife and I, for years we had a uh, popup camper that we went all over the place up here in the northeast with. And after that we decided, yeah, we want to get something that's a little more roomy. So we had a 21 foot toe behind camper that was a little bit more luxury. And finally, our retirement thing, when we retired, I mean Bonnie and I both had full-time jobs.

I had two part-time jobs and she had a part-time job. You know, we ran a martial arts school together, so we were busy people and we took our earnings and we dumped it into our current camper, which is a 27 foot airstream.

**D. Roger Maves:** That's like a house. Sounds really nice.

**Robert Streeter:** We definitely enjoy it. [00:34:00] Yeah,

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** It's some very comfortable.

**D. Roger Maves:** I have some friends that have, I don't know if it's, maybe it's about the same size, but I saw them packing things up one day and I'm going, what are you putting in yet? And they had an espresso machine they were carrying out to the, I said, God, you really live it up out there? And he goes, oh yeah, we do. Oh yeah, we do. So, yeah. Yeah.

Um, we got a couple questions here about, different ways since you've kind of done it all, maybe you can share your experiences like Arthur in New Hampshire Road he says, what are the advantages and disadvantages of, you know, different forms of camping, like trailers versus vans versus RVs?

Any recommendation of makes or models of vans and trailers that would be greatly appreciated. He says the trailer seems more affordable and still allows me to have a truck that I can use all the time for normal chores and travel, whereas the van can only be used when I [00:35:00] want to take it on a trip and not for ordinary travel at home.

I want to be able to off road the main road and really need the four by four option for a truck. So you wanna share your experiences and your thoughts on different methods.

**Robert Streeter:** Arthur's crossing into a lot of things. So let's start with the beginning of this question, which is, what are the advantages and disadvantages when you're looking between a trailer and a van?

If it's for two people, a van camper is probably fine. Some of them are fairly sophisticated. You got a, they'll have a bathroom, they'll have a shower, microwave. They're pretty comfortable. They're gonna get a little tight on space. You're definitely gonna run into that. But I think the primary key thing for me is that if we go somewhere, we've got the Airstream, I get my wife and the two dogs, I get everybody all set up.

The Airstream is wherever it's gonna be. It's [00:36:00] got power, it's got water, and everything is all set. And then I can take the truck and go fishing. If you're doing the van routine. You're gonna go to a place, and let's say you're camping at a, a place where you got electrical hookups and all that. You're

gonna have your whole camp set up, and then you're gonna wake up at five o'clock in the morning and want to go fishing somewhere.

You gotta strike that all down and drive it down to where you're gonna go fish and then drive it back or wherever. So the limitation that you run into with the vans, or even like a Class B camper, is that you're gonna take it somewhere. You're gonna want to get camp set up so that when you come back from fishing.

Hey, I just gotta make dinner. I don't have to go do a whole bunch of stuff. But if you're, if that's your only means of transportation. You're gonna go fish and then you're gonna come back and you're gonna set camp up every time and then you're gonna take it down before you go, [00:37:00] go fish. So you'll see a lot of the bigger campers, you know, like the big Class Bs or the bus style campers towing a small vehicle. And that's pretty herky and that's a lot to deal with. Um,

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** But that's the main difference that I would put between those two. The trailer, like I said, you get it where you're going, your camp is set up and now you got the truck to go do your thing with and you're good there. Now he does talk about, in his question, I want to be able to go off the main road and really need the four by four option for the truck. I'm assuming that he means just to go fishing and that's good.

I would definitely recommend, you know, having the four wheel drive and being able to. To do that. If you are looking to go off road with a camper, there are tow behind trailers that [00:38:00] are built for that type of stuff. I mean, I'm not gonna take my Airstream down some back road in your state, Roger, where I don't know where I'm going and I'm gonna get in there and not be able to turn around or, or whatever. Or I'm gonna be down a tough road for the truck. It's gonna be something that you're not gonna do with my type of camper. But there are campers that are specifically made for off-road usage that you can use. So those options are there and he, I think he also got into what's good or what's bad, or. Makes and models.

My wife and I watch this show and it's on YouTube and it's called Liz Amazing. And what she does is she advocates for people that bought campers and have huge problems with 'em. And you know, the dealer and the manufacturer don't want to fix 'em. So I would recommend going on [00:39:00] YouTube and looking at some of her shows before you go buy something.

And one of her biggest recommendations is get the camper inspected by an outside party before you take ownership. Not that there are some bad stories that you're definitely gonna see on her show. I think any camper is gonna have a few problems. In the first year, just depending on something didn't go quite right when they installed something, or I can tell we had a tankless water heater. We were on a trip and it's, that's your hot water. Well, the tankless water heater had a problem. I had to get a tech to come out and fix the tankless water heater. So things are gonna go wrong, but I would do before buying a new one. I mean, we bought the Airstream. We knew what we wanted. We knew what we were getting. We knew the reliability and everything, and reputation. If I was gonna buy a [00:40:00] camper just for my family, and you know, using them on these road trips, I do enough research because some brands are better than others. You know, you might get a good deal, you might be able to get a better deal on a used camper that's gonna hold up better than some brand new ones.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** Depending on what you want to do with it.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right, right. Yeah. I, um, friends of mine, Terry and Wendy Gunn, um, they have a, and they have, uh, Lees Ferry Anglers down there in Colorado River. But they have a, uh, a trailer that you kind of described. I mean, this thing has big aggressive tires on it.

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** And you know, it's, um, the tent is on top, right. Pops up, like kind of the

**Robert Streeter:** Mm-hmm.

**D. Roger Maves:** You know, that's kind of like the rage now and underneath is all the, um, the kitchen supplies and, and all that kind of stuff. And they take that way back in the.

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** You know, really four wheel drive roads.

**Robert Streeter:** You can, you can do it. And they [00:41:00] have the equipment to be able to do that. And I think a lot of the appeal to like the truck top camper and everything is you're not gonna have spiders and all kinds of weird, you know, if you go with an old wall tent where you don't have a floor in it. Anything that's outside can crawl inside.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right, right.

**Robert Streeter:** And I can tell you from one adventure I had, I was bow hunting in Texas and I heard something rustling in the leaves. I was in a popup line, which is basically like a tent with no floor. And I hear something and I hear something and the blind is like wired into the brush. The door is behind me and I got the nicest little four foot rattlesnake crawling into the blind with me, and I'm smacking 'em in the head with the tip of my long bow trying to get 'em to turn around and get the hell out of there.

So that, I think is one of the reasons that those truck campers are, have a lot of appeal out west because you're up off the ground, you're not dealing with

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** You know the potential for [00:42:00] something like that. But yeah, there are campers that will go anywhere you wanna take 'em.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. This wasn't a truck camper, but it was a trailer.

But it's, as you described, you know, yup and I think those originated in Africa because of animals to get up off the ground.

**Robert Streeter:** Yep.

**D. Roger Maves:** Because we have much bigger animals out there than we have here, but. Yeah. And all the things you said ring true for my experience in my lifetime. And when I was growing up, up in Alaska, we, my parents got a, uh, pop-up trailer, right.

Canvas, you know, sided thing kind of thing. And then, then they decided that kind of wasn't warm enough. And my dad always had a pistol in the hanging in the center for bears. And so then they got a, a trailer and then our friends had a truck camper. And what we learned from that is, yeah, we had the flexibility that you described of just leaving the camper and going fishing up and down the Kenai Peninsula and stuff. And then, but our family, they had to [00:43:00] secure everything before they moved and then they had to move the whole house when they were doing that. And that seemed to have less flexibility from what we could see.

**Robert Streeter:** You're always putting up camp and taking down camp to go do something. And yeah, I definitely would rather have the tow vehicle and trailer set up.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** And a lot of, like you're describing the, the off-road campers, one of the big things with, uh, towing something is does it have a single axle or a dual axle?

**D. Roger Maves:** Mm-hmm.

**Robert Streeter:** And I think some of those more rugged ones that you describing, they have dual axle. And the reason is, is if you're pulling something, and I had it happen here within a half hour of the house with my boat that I fly fish with, it had single axle and one of the tires blew and I thought the camper, or I thought the boat trailer was gonna rip right off the truck. It was bouncing around so [00:44:00] bad when that tire went. And the more rugged campers are gonna have two axles for just that reason. If a tire blows, the camper's not gonna go flying all over the road behind you. So

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah,

**Robert Streeter:** They do make 'em very rugged.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** And it's, it's all what you wanna do. I mean, I can find plenty of fly fishing right near an RV place where, we're set up and we're in good shape with what we tow.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right. Exactly.

**Robert Streeter:** It's the whole range of what you wanna do and how comfortable you wanna be and how bad you wanna rough it.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah, exactly. And, and like you say, when you're younger, you can put up with more stuff and as you get older you want more comfort. So, yeah. And grow into it. Yeah, definitely.

Let me take a, another quick break here and then we'll come back and talk about, uh, how you find fishing and so forth on the road and what your process there is.

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You're listening to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio, we're talking with Rob Streeter about the do it yourself fly fishing road trip. [00:46:00] If you'd like to ask Rob a question, just go to our homepage at [askaboutflyfishing.com](http://askaboutflyfishing.com) and use that Q and A text box to send your question in.

Okay, Rob, talking about fishing, what's your process for finding productive water in unfamiliar areas? Is this something you plan out way in advance?

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah, I do. I have, uh, I actually do have a process. If I decide that, okay, we're gonna go for a week in Pennsylvania, and I just went through this, I have, I start out with the guidebooks. It's like, okay, I want to fish this stream, and I, I've never fished this place or whatever, so I start looking at the, I buy a guidebook for the state that I want to go to.

I start reading on. They're better streams. I start figuring out where the best stream is, and then from there, I look at, in terms of [00:47:00] purely fishing intel, once I figure out that we've got a spot that we can camp, and if we need a reservation, we've got the reservation to go, we're all good on the fly fishing intel, then I go down some more layers.

Most states have a, you know, I used to work for our state's environmental conservation department. There's a website of some kind. It details the fishing in the state. It'll give you access points, parking areas and all that. You can also get things like trout routes and you can use that to find where am I gonna be able to park and fish?

Where's the public fishing rights? And once I get all that stuff scoped out for a stream. Then the next layer I want to get down into is what's gonna be there. You know, we're gonna be in Pennsylvania in the middle of May, so now I've gone [00:48:00] through and I got a general idea of what the hatches should be.

I've scoped out where there's some fly shops near the stream that I want to fish. So I will go and I'll have all this stuff in my mind, and I've gone through it on my computer and got all the info I need so

that when I actually get there, I'm gonna go down to the fly shop. And even if I don't need any flies, I'm gonna buy a T-shirt or I spend some money. And you should always support these small shops.

It's a tough living for those folks and don't just go in and ask 'em a bunch of questions and not buy anything. So they usually have hatch information, current fishing information, and they're gonna be generous and share that information and that's gonna get you on the way of, okay, I should be able to find fish.

I got a general idea of what they should be on. I should be able to go through and do all that. Another Intel source that I use are the [00:49:00] USGS gauging stations. So you can look at the gauge data, like I said about going steelhead fishing. Maybe tomorrow I've been watching the gauge, 'cause the streams were all blown out. Well, it's just start, the one I want to go to is just starting to get back down into where it's at a good level for fishing. So you can use that to say, Hey, the streams blown out, or the stream isn't good, or whatever.

But I've been on streams in North Carolina one time. Bonnie and I, we pulled into the place that we're staying for a week, and it was raining horizontally. It was the worst time I ever had setting the camper up. I had rain gear on and I was completely soaked. I just put those guys in the camper and I did all the stuff outside. Takes me about 20 minutes to set it up, and I was completely soaked. I looked at the stream and Bonnie said, are you going to even be able to fish? I said, I don't even think I'll be able to fish this week.

And the [00:50:00] stream goes by the campsite, and it was just blown out. Bank high chocolate milk, raging water, and by the next day it was down and it was fishable. So some places, the streams are real flashy, but they'll come back 10, 12 hours later and you can fish 'em.

So knowing that flow information is important. But there's just tons of information that you can get now and you can find, I mean, when we were younger, the days before the internet, man, you couldn't find this stuff. You had to just guess take your trip and hope for the best, but you can really dial it in even before you set foot on a stream now.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Do you still use the Delorme Atlas and Gazetteer maps, the books?

**Robert Streeter:** Uh, I have them. I had one for Alaska that I had. I don't generally use that because [00:51:00] even though I am gonna be 64, I am pretty tech savvy and I have all the stuff that I need on my phone. I got a Garmin app on my phone, you know, that actually has GPS data. I mean, I can put in a way point like. Hey, this spot's really good, and I'll put a way point on it and be able to get back to it.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** So I, most of that stuff is available on my phone at this point.

**D. Roger Maves:** On your phone nowadays? Yeah. As long as you have service, right? Or can you use that without service? The uh,

**Robert Streeter:** Uh, as long on my, I've gotta have service, but I also have a handheld Garmin GPS.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** That's satellite. So I've got that, that I bring along on trips too. So,

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. I know a lot of guys I've talked to use those Delorme maps for blue lining, you know, trying to find those little streams.

**Robert Streeter:** Yeah.

**D. Roger Maves:** That don't yeah, show up. That's why I was asking about that. The other thing is, [00:52:00] you know, my friends who, they'll go out for three, four months at a time with their Airstream that I was telling you about.

**Robert Streeter:** Yep.

**D. Roger Maves:** They don't fish. But, and I know this from being in Colorado here, I mean, even locally, we have to start six months in advance to reserve some campgrounds.

**Robert Streeter:** Mm-hmm.

**D. Roger Maves:** And then they might leave a couple of spaces for first come, first serve. But have you found that to get more of a struggle over the years as you've been doing this, to have to even plan more in advance to get the camping spots?

**Robert Streeter:** It depends on where you're going. It's not as bad as it was. What was interesting is that. The whole COVID thing.

About a year after COVID first started and everything, the RV sales and rentals skyrocketed because everybody wanted to get the heck outta where they were and get out into the woods. But that's all kind of died [00:53:00] down. So it's not as bad as it was a couple years ago. But you know, it depends on where you want to go. If you want to go to, I don't know. I, I am watching this show with Kurt Russell and Michelle Pfeiffer, it's called.

**D. Roger Maves:** Oh, oh yeah. I started, yeah, I started watching that too.

**Robert Streeter:** So I'm watching that. So if you want to go to the Madison and you want to stay in the town, I don't know the towns, but the town where all the fly shops are and where everybody's gonna be and all that.

Yeah. You better start doing your reservations ahead of time. I mean, even here in New York, we take the camper and we stay in our state parks and there's no electricity, there's no the water. You fill the tank up as you go in and you do the wastewater emptying on the way out. So it's a boondocking experience for a week.

And that's about what we can do with the resources that we have with the tanks. And, but

**D. Roger Maves:** Solar panels

**Robert Streeter:** I [00:54:00] bring that up because those can be popular enough that you have a hard time getting the decent sites or whatever. So what we do is, and my wife does, is they'll say on such and such a date, at midnight, they're gonna start taking the reservation. She'll stay up and she'll be one of the first ones to call.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right.

**Robert Streeter:** Trying to get a spot at one of the favorite campgrounds and you know, that we like. So, you can do that.

**D. Roger Maves:** Well then you have, uh. When you have a trailer as large as yours too, you're probably looking for a pull through if possible, and some spots won't accommodate you period. I suppose.

**Robert Streeter:** No, we're, we do a lot of backends.

**D. Roger Maves:** Okay.

**Robert Streeter:** Mine isn't too bad, but that's, you know, that's another consideration. You see a lot of people like the fifth wheel campers, they're 40 plus feet long or whatever. Well, in our campgrounds here in New York state and the DEC campgrounds, the campsites, it was all built back in the [00:55:00] thirties. So they didn't have campers that big. So if you got a really big rig, you're gonna have additional consideration. So, and some of the RV parks, they might not have as many of those spots. So again, talking to your point, it depends on what you're doing. A lot of times you can find a site for a tent pretty easy.

You might not find, like you said, a pull through where you can put a 45 foot camper that easy just going on a whim and not having a reservation.

**D. Roger Maves:** And I guess also be prepared at times to boondock or even just

**Robert Streeter:** Yep.

**D. Roger Maves:** Be on the side of the road somewhere at times because something didn't work out, right? I mean, yeah.

And I assume you have like solar panels and generators, stuff like that for when you're boondocking.

**Robert Streeter:** We have a couple of solar panels on the Airstream, but what I've found is that I don't have very good luck with them. They, [00:56:00] the Airstream has a battery refrigerator freezer in it, and that's drawing enough power that a lot of times those solar panels aren't keeping up with it. So if I absolutely need electricity, even in our state campgrounds, I bring a generator. So if my batteries are going down because of the fridge and all of that, I can run the generator. It's a very quiet generator and it'll bring everything back up. So we use that on our boondocking.

**D. Roger Maves:** Hmm. Okay. Okay. You had, uh, Jeffrey in Colorado was asking about your fishing resources for streams, lakes, and ponds. You pretty much covered, I think, all of that as well.

What about, he also asked about, uh, with or without reservations for camping. Do you, is there a resource you use for reservations or do you use that national?

**Robert Streeter:** We have a couple of things that we'll do. So like, let's say Bonnie and I, we're gonna go from New York to [00:57:00] Colorado.

We basically plan out the route we're gonna drive, and the only thing we would have reserved is the time that we're gonna be in Colorado. So let's say we're gonna be, you know, somewhere up in the mountains for 10 days, we'd have that reserved. And then on our way out, we have apps on the phone where we can find, and a lot of times I'll just use Siri and as we're driving. It's like, okay, it's getting to be three o'clock. I've had about enough, let's find a spot for the night. And a lot of the places along the interstate, they, they deal with that kind of business. They, they'll leave campsites open for people traveling on the interstate. So we'll call and say, Hey, you got a site? Yeah, we do. And you know, we try to find something that's within 10, 15 miles of the interstate and we will get to where we want to be.

And it's four o'clock. I've had enough of driving and we'll just, we'll get a [00:58:00] spot for the night and then we will head down the road the next day. So a lot of those,

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah,

**Robert Streeter:** On route type sites, we do without reservations and we just do it from our phone.

She's got a couple of apps on the phone that will find campground and resources that you need. She's got one app that'll find the next gas station, you know, so we've got stuff like that.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** The other thing in recent years is like, I am trying to think of pilot or some of the truck stops that you have along these interstates in, in other states besides New York.

I don't, Flying Jay is the one I was trying to think of. But they, you have RV spots in there where you can just go in and park for the night and pay 20 bucks and have electric and water and everything else.

So there's that resource too. Usually on, on our way to the destination, it's more flexible and we're just gonna [00:59:00] use the phone to find a spot to hold up for the night.

And if you can't find something, we've, A lot of Walmarts will let you stay overnight.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah,

**Robert Streeter:** We've done overnights in Walmarts.

**D. Roger Maves:** They're still doing that. Yeah, I know they.

**Robert Streeter:** They were. But what you should do, and what I always do is, um. Go to the Walmart, I park way away from everybody else. I walk into the store and I'll ask somebody if we can stay overnight.

'cause a lot of 'em are open 20, a lot of the bigger ones are 24 hours. And they'll say, yeah, fine, but we want you to park over here. And you do that, just try to be in a well lit spot. And you'll see sometimes you go in and there's like five or six campers there already, you know, and they're all the little mini campground in the Walmart parking lot. But I always go in and ask them first.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah. What about mixing your do it yourself fishing with guided trips? Do you do that often? When does it make sense to hire a guide?

**Robert Streeter:** For the stuff I [01:00:00] do were I, I don't know, how can I put this for the stuff I do where I'm good at? I don't hire a guide, but going out and finding a red fish in Georgia. That's something where getting a guide for a half a day is great and we, you and I talked about the Madison, the TV show. If I was going out there to fish for a week, I would do a half day trip with a guide because what that's gonna give me is, okay, here's what the fish are on, here's how to fish this area.

It's gonna gimme enough knowledge that the rest of the days that I'm fishing without the guide, I'm gonna do a lot better.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** So I think it makes a lot of sense on a, a trip to a, a really big name destination or something like that. If you can get out for a half day with a guide, it's great. Up in Alaska to do that again, the one thing that I didn't do is use a guide up there, but in doing that, again, I might take a [01:01:00] half day. Flight out with, you know, some services, they'll just fly you out, drop you off and let you fish and come back and get you

**D. Roger Maves:** Right. Right.

**Robert Streeter:** You know, there, there's that possibility too. So definitely that. But, um, stuff with salt water or you know, stuff where I'm not. Super great at definitely a guide half day is gonna fit you much more than, than not doing it.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah. It's kind of interesting, you know, like I think anything involving the salt, I mean. You need a guide or a friend who lives on the salt because there's so much to know about those where the fish are, where the tides.

And unless you're there all the time, you just can't possibly know all that stuff. I mean, it seems like a waste of time if you don't get a guide. At least from my experience. Trout streams gonna be very similar, but then again, they can be very different and yeah, knowing the [01:02:00] little secrets that the guides, I mean, some of these guides know every bend in the river 'cause they guide there every day.

Uh, they'll put you into a lot more fish than you would normally, but Yeah. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** If the guide's doing his job, the guide should be educating you too, you know? And if you say to me, I'm here for a week, I wanna learn, you know what I need to be doing and all that, they're gonna accommodate you. And they're gonna say the way the river is right now, the water temperatures are down, so you gotta do nymphing.

And here's how I set up the rig and, and all that. And that's stuff that you might not have. Come up with on your own?

**D. Roger Maves:** Well, one thing I learned when I was in Chile is we were fishing these lakes, very big lakes, and then some small lakes, and we were throwing streamers, you know, heavy streamers and stuff. And, and then the guide says, here, gimme your fly I'm gonna change you up.

And, you know, he put on a Pat's rubber legs and he says, start throwing that and stripping that in. I said, [01:03:00] really? Stripping of Pat's rubber legs? I, I just never had done it before. And he goes, yeah, just give it a try. See what happens.

Sure enough, caught a fish with it. And now I'm a, a new believer of stripping pat's rubber legs and legs. And it was just one little thing like that. And I was definitely surprised and caught off guard, but I learned something and I can take that in a lot of different places now. I think so, yeah.

What about, what's your strategy for organizing your gear flies equipment on the road, uh, and combining that with your, you know, the, the things you need for living on the road.

**Robert Streeter:** Well, I have fly fish for a long time, so I got systems that I've come up with. I mean, basically if I'm gonna be trout fishing, I've got a pretty decent sized sling pack and I've got boxes of flies for anything I think [01:04:00] I'm gonna encounter.

So I probably got about six eight. Boxes of flies in there and covering like the whole spectrum. And like I said, I try to get advanced intel where I kind of know, all right, well if I'm going down to North Carolina in March, it's gonna be euro nymphing, 'cause the water's gonna be cold, there's gonna be nothing hatching.

And, uh, I'm mainly gonna euro nymph. And I've gone down there and I've done really well with that. And I've caught some of the hugest trout that I've caught in my life on flies doing that. If I was gonna go to the Madison in July, I'd want to know, you know, what's gonna be hatching? What, what would I be looking for? So I try to bring all the gear that I think I'm gonna need. I have multiple fly rods. I, only a couple times in my entire life did I break fly rods, and I did it all right here at home.

I broke a rod on a [01:05:00] smallmouth out on the river in my boat and just crazy things, you know, neglect things. But I'm certainly, if I need a, a nine foot five weight for where I'm going, I'm gonna have two of 'em.

And, you know, reels and everything to have the most interchangeability. I fish a lot with, uh, I fish a lot around here for smallmouths. I have great weight up, small mile fishing. I have spots that I can go on the boat that are really good and I use multi tip lines. I use a real multi tip, you know, I've got sink tips floating and everything. So I've got all the gear that I'm gonna need. It isn't really, I'm not limited

by space. I've got enough room between the truck and the, the camper to take the stuff that I want to take. So I don't really have a limitation now if the times I went to Alaska, I had a fly rod along on the caribou trips and.

Space is a limiting [01:06:00] factor. So you're gonna be looking at, well, I gotta have a pack rod. I gotta have something that packs small, doesn't weigh a lot. I gotta have minimal equipment. What do I really need? What can I do without? And I had just a little chest pack with one box of flies and nippers and tippet you know, whatever gear I needed, I caught some beautiful grayling. Um, I got, actually, I'm in my office right now and I've got a reproduction model. I wanted a grayling up on the wall and big, huge, beautiful grayling up in the arctic circle.

So if you've got the room, bring extra gear. If you don't, you gotta narrow it down to what you need to make your trip successful and make sure you have good stuff. Don't skimp and try to buy something cheap that's gonna fail on you.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right. And I suppose especially with flies, bring what you need for what's going on that type of year and the location you're going to, not a [01:07:00] bunch of extra stuff. Right.

**Robert Streeter:** Well, and what I do in the Airstream is I, you know, like I said, I do a lot of fly tying and I have fly tying instructional videos on my YouTube channel.

I have a portable fly tying kit with me because I don't care who you are or how long you fly fished. If you go to River X and you go down there and it's gonna be like, oh man, I got it figured out. They're on number 18, blue winged olives. And then you open that box and realize I have two of them. This is not good.

So I, I have a portable tying kit. I mean, I even ran into it in New York. I ran into a hatch that I never saw last year. Cinnamon flying ants. I've never seen that in my entire life and I had none. And, uh, ended up. Whooping up some ants. So I've got everything and it's, it's actually in my old briefcase bag from work, and I've got a portable vice and [01:08:00] the stuff I need to make, whatever I need.

So that's something else I bring along.

**D. Roger Maves:** That's, yeah. David Corty from Los Angeles wrote in here while we're talking. You wanna know if you brought a tying kit for tying flies?

**Robert Streeter:** Absolutely.

**D. Roger Maves:** How? How comprehensive is it? He says.

**Robert Streeter:** It's comprehensive. One of the things that I've come up with, I, I've got kind of my own dry fly system and I call it the general admission.

I don't know why that stuck with me. Like, you know, the old rock concerts where you didn't get an assigned seat, it's just they opened up the doors, mayhem ensued, and everybody tried to get to the front.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** So I have flies like that, that. They're not the most beautiful flies you're gonna see, but they work really well. And I can match any hatch. I usually use Z-Lon for the wings, micro five bets for the tail. I've got all different colors of dubbing and just enough hackle [01:09:00] just to make it float. And I just make sure the body color and the wing is set and to match the uh, whatever I'm looking at. And I've been in states all throughout the northeast and all the way down, like I said, down to North Carolina fishing trout.

And I've never found something where I couldn't match a hatch with this portable kit that I have. And like I said, it fits in the briefcase bag. I'm looking at it right now. It's just the bag I used to carry my laptop in to work.

**D. Roger Maves:** And do you use markers a lot to color?

**Robert Streeter:** Yep. I've got Pantone markers, but I've got.

Enough of a variety of dubbing. A lot of times you can buy those dubbing assortments. They come in a plastic box and there's like a dozen different colors.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right, right, right.

**Robert Streeter:** If you've got something like that, even if the color isn't quite right, you can blend a couple colors to get the body color that you need. So yeah, I do [01:10:00] extensive fly tying on site. 'cause one of the things you're gonna find with these road trips, Roger, is there isn't always a fly shop.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right, right.

**Robert Streeter:** When we were in Pennsylvania last year, I was down fly fishing Kettle Creek. There's nothing anywhere near there, where we were staying at camp. In fact, I ran out of carbonated adult beverages and I was like, Hmm, where am I gonna get that? I had to go 45 minutes away from the campground.

**D. Roger Maves:** Dry county or what? Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** No, I don't know. It was just not very populated along the area we were at.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah. Interesting. Yeah. Yeah. It's, um, yeah, it always comes in handy. Especially like you say, if you think through it, you can get a lot done with, you know, you don't have to have everything from your home tying desk, but a few things you can put together quite a few things, uh, and think creatively, you know, as you do it.

Yeah. What, we're running out of time here, but just [01:11:00] looking back on all your trips, what's one lesson that consistently leads to a better, more memorable adventure that you can share with us?

**Robert Streeter:** Well, that's an interesting question. I think the adventure is the whole package. I like to see my wife having a good time. I like to see, you know, we have two little dogs that. We get 'em out for walks. They're having a good time, they're doing stuff. I wanna see everybody have a good time. And that's always been a lesson for me. And that was a lesson I learned a long time ago. And I talk about it in the book.

I was in my, I had to be in my late twenties maybe. And one of my favorite rivers is the west branch of the Ausable in New York.

**D. Roger Maves:** Oh.

**Robert Streeter:** And this was the first time I ever got to fish it. And I was staying in the popup camper. And I ran into this guy, man. He saw me tying flies at [01:12:00] the picnic tail. And he came over and he was a diehard fly guy. And him and his girlfriend were fly fishing and doing all this stuff.

And he says, come on out with me. We'll go fly fish tonight. So I went with, you know, me and him and her. And it was technical, dry fly fishing. These guys were on number 18, blue winged olives, we were fishing a flat water spot that you had to have perfect presentation. You had to know what you're doing. And his girlfriend's trying to learn how to fly fish.

And this guy wanted to do his own thing. And he was being obnoxious to her. And you know, she started crying because she couldn't cast right. And he didn't want to be bothered with teaching her how to do anything and everything. And I watched this whole show and I was appalled. You know, I, I don't, he wasn't abusive, but he was just being a jerk.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** And she had no fun. [01:13:00] She's in tears. And I always said, that's not right. He brought her up here. She should be having a good time doing things she likes to be doing. If you're gonna take, your wife fly fishing. Like when Bonnie fly fished in Alaska, I handed her the rod. I wasn't trying to fish at the same time. I was there to be the guide and help her out.

And she landed big old chum salmon all by herself. So

**D. Roger Maves:** Those are fun. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** I look at stuff like that and my whole thing is everybody's gotta have fun. It's gotta be a good trip for everybody, no matter what you're doing. And I've had some spectacular fly fishing adventures, but we've done things like you were mentioning The Keys.

Well, we were there in The Keys one time. We weren't doing a a camping road trip, but. That's where Bonnie discovered she loves to kayak. So a lot of times we'll go and we've got [01:14:00] kayaks and I make sure the kayaks are along so we can go out in the kayak and sometimes I go, we've got campgrounds up here.

I'll go out in the kayak and catch smallmouths outta the kayak. I don't care. I'm having a good time. She's paddling around. That's the most important thing for me. That's what makes things more

memorable. It's not, I went and I did X and I caught a big salmon, or I did this, and it's not simply about me all the time. So that's kind of the way I look at these trips.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah, I can see where you're, you're out there, there's a time and place for, you know, maybe going after some trophy fish and then there's a time and place to just enjoy a life on the road like you guys have done. And it's really, I think, very commendable that you've been able to work together and make those trips really successful and fun and, and happy and ready to do it again. Right?

**Robert Streeter:** Well, the one thing with me is I'm as happy on a back country brook trout stream with a [01:15:00] six and a half foot three weight catching, seven to nine inch wild brookies as I am going up and catching a steelhead tomorrow I'm happy either way. I'm fly fishing, I'm enjoying myself, I'm enjoying the sport.

I don't care if I catch anything or if I don't, if I'm there when, sure, I'm like everybody else. If you and I go fly fishing on your favorite river, and I'm throwing every fly in my box and catching nothing. I'm gonna be, geez, I, what am I doing wrong? The same with everybody, but it's not gonna be something that's gonna ruin the whole experience for me.

**D. Roger Maves:** Right, right. Yeah.

**Robert Streeter:** It doesn't have to be a trophy fish. I can take you on back country waters and the Adirondacks, where if you catch a 12 inch rookie, I'm gonna be thoroughly impressed.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah, that's a, that's a trophy fish. Yeah, yeah, yeah. For the time and place, for sure. Well, we gotta wrap it up here, Rob, hang [01:16:00] with me because we're gonna give away a one year membership to Fly Fishers International and a one year membership to Trout Unlimited. And a copy of your book, your latest book, The Great Fly Fishing Road Trip. So hang tight and we'll do that in just a few moments.

The Bonefish Tarpon Trust works very hard to safeguard the future of our beloved flats fisheries from protecting spawning sites threatened by unsustainable fishing pressure to securing historic funding to restore Florida's Everglades and estuaries.

Thanks to their members, they've expanded their conservation to The Bahamas, Belize, and Mexico. There's still much more work to be done, and they need your help with your support. They can ensure that the flats fishery is healthy and sustainable now and for generations to come. Visit [btt.org](http://btt.org) and become a member of the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust today. Again, that's [btt.org](http://btt.org).

Just a quick reminder to everyone before you leave the website tonight. Please take a minute and give us your feedback about the [01:17:00] show. You can find a link on our home page in the section under tonight's show that says, what did you think of the show? Just click on that link and leave your comments. We'd really appreciate it.

Now it's time to give away our prizes. The winners for our drawings are randomly selected from the show's registration database, and if you didn't register for tonight's show, it's too late now, but make sure you do so for our next show so you don't miss out on any of these great prizes. If you are one of

the lucky winners, then we will contact you after the show to collect your information so that we can deliver your prize to you.

So first we'll be giving away a one year membership to the Fly Fishers International. And to learn more about FFI go to [flyfishersinternational.org](http://flyfishersinternational.org). Again, that's [flyfishersinternational.org](http://flyfishersinternational.org).

And let's see here. What, okay, it looks like Corbin Blackford, Corbin Blackford in Texas. So congratulations Corbin, on your new membership with Fly Fishers International, I know you'll enjoy it.

And our second prize we're giving [01:18:00] away is. This is for the Trout Unlimited, and to find out more information about Trout Unlimited, go to [tu.org](http://tu.org). Again, a great organization to support as you're out there. And this is winner there is John Bennett in Ohio. John Bennett in Ohio. So congratulations, John. I know you'll enjoy your prizes. Well.

So now we'll give away a copy of Rob's latest book, The Great Fly Fishing Road Trip. And if you don't win tonight, you can check out on our homepage, on our website, in the right hand column, there's links to his book, to Rob's book, as well as some of his other books there where you can order the books. And if you aren't the lucky winner or you'd like to read one of his other books, so, uh, we try to make it convenient for you there.

So, let's see here. I'll make this up pretty easy tonight. Let me just clear my queue. So you provide your answer on the homepage of our website and just put in your name, your location and email address. And the first one that answers it correctly [01:19:00] wins.

Let's see here. The question is simply this. If you were planning a trip to Alaska, how long in advance should you be making your plans so that you have a successful trip? So that's the question. And Rob, we gotta take a minute 'cause there's a slight delay before they get the question.

And then of course they have to type their answer and then uh, we'll see if we got a winner here.

**Robert Streeter:** We need Jeopardy hold music.

**D. Roger Maves:** Do do. I don't, yeah, I never watched Jeopardy, but I was trying to remember, do you know the music?

There you go. Da. There you go. Hey, maybe we should put together a fly fishing jeopardy show, right? Uh, that would be kind of fun.

**Robert Streeter:** That might be fun.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah. They could have the salt water, the flat section, the tech session, the, you know, kinds of different columns [01:20:00] there. Okay. I got one answer. Oh. Oh, interesting.

Okay. I've got three answers so far. None of 'em is what I was looking for. I'm gonna run it by you. First answer is three years. Second one is six weeks, next one is one year. Next one is two to three years.

**Robert Streeter:** I think we gotta go two to three years because that's the closest.

**D. Roger Maves:** Yeah. Yeah. So that's Phil Burden in Apex. I don't know where Apex is, but

**Robert Streeter:** North Carolina.

**D. Roger Maves:** North Carolina. Huh? Do you know Phil?

**Robert Streeter:** I've had emails with Phil before, yes.

**D. Roger Maves:** Ah, okay. Okay. Yeah. So he is listening in. Well Phil, congratulations. You just won Rob's book for The Great Fly Fishing Road Trip and it will be your guide the next time you take a road trip. So Phil, if you will fill in your [01:21:00] address along with your phone number in the same box that you, you sent your answer in, then I will collect that. I'll get it out to Rob and he'll send you out, uh, I'm assuming a nice autograph copy from his desk. So if you'll do that, we'd really appreciate it and we'll get that book off to you.

Rob, thank you so much for being with us again tonight. I forgot to mention earlier we did do a show a while back on Great Fly Fisheries of the Adirondacks. And if you're interested in history of the Adirondacks and fly fishing, you might check out that episode that we did. You can go into our archive and search for Robert Streeter or Rob Streeter and or Adirondacks and you'll find that show as well as, as Rob's got a book on that as well too.

But thanks Rob, for being on and sharing your experiences and your new book. I think it's great and thanks for being with us tonight.

**Robert Streeter:** Well, thank you very much for having me and I wish everybody a really great season this year and I'm very proud [01:22:00] to have been able to talk to you guys for tonight.

**D. Roger Maves:** Thank you for being with us.

Well, hopefully you've all found the podcast archive on our website. If you haven't, just look in the link on the top line menu and in the archive you'll find all of our past shows over 430 some shows now I think it is, which you can search by keyword, keyword, phrase like trout, tarpon, Madison river road trip, and so forth. And uh, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at what you'll discover.

Our next broadcast will be on April 22nd, 7:00 PM Mountain, 9:00 PM Eastern time. And on that show I interview Jake Villwock and this show will be on Topwater to Bottom: Cracking the Code on Smallmouth Bass.

Smallmouth bass aren't just aggressive, they're strategic. And Jake breaks down how to consistently catch more fish by targeting all the three feeding zones, topwater, mid-column, and bottom. He reveals how modern fly design from foam bugs to articulated bait fish and lifelike crayfish has transformed the game. [01:23:00] Whether you're chasing explosive surface seats or dialing in subsurface tactics, you'll learn how to fish smarter, adapt faster, and elect the potential of smallmouth on the fly.

Be sure to add this upcoming show to your calendar. Just click on the add to calendar link below Jake's picture on our homepage, and you can put it right there in your calendar so you don't forget.

We'd like to thank Fly Fishers International, Trout Unlimited, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, Olympic Peninsula Skagit Tactics, The Ugly Bug Fly Shop and Water Master for sponsoring our show tonight.

Don't forget to visit our website at [askaboutflyfishing.com](http://askaboutflyfishing.com) and make sure you signed up to receive our announcements so you won't miss out on any of our future live broadcasts.

Thanks for listening to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio. We hope you enjoyed the show. That's it. Goodnight everyone and good fishing.