

Subject: : Fly Fishing Events and Meet-ups Topic: : Team USA Northeast Qualifier-Controllers Needed Re: Team USA Northeast Qualifier-Controllers Needed

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I'll be tied up in NJ that weekend, otherwise I would pitch in. My only exposure to comps was as a player at the 2nd America Cup in Colorado, and I really appreciated the effort the volunteers and controllers expended to run the event. These events need more helpers than the number of competitors to run smoothly, and most of them are outdoorsmen (and women), so it's a real sacrifice and commitment on their part to help.

I only participated in the tournament to help out a friend whose team suffered the loss of a regular member through illness, and the team had already paid the fees, made all the arrangements, and assembled from several corners of the world. I found the experience great, mainly because of the people and also having to learn discipline in an activity I'm pretty low key and sloppy about. I did learn a lot - there are some unbelievably skilled anglers out there, not just from the powerhouses from Europe but also the home grown folks.

It's like comparing a running a marathon to a nice leisurely walk in the woods. I'm glad I did it just the once - kind of like having been a teenager: Glad I done it, and gladder it's done. But I definitely would help out controllers are needed.

hp les