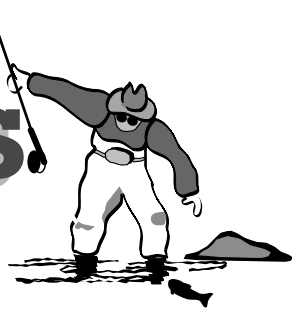


APRIL 2001

Desert Fly Casters Forward Casts



DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



APRIL MEETING:

Wednesday, April 11, 2001
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM

American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe

Guest Speaker:

Rick Weisberg-
Fishing
Yellowstone Park
and the Surrounding Area

Presidents Report- April 2001

Bob Harrison

I can't believe you are sitting down to read this. Look outside. It is Spring. The fishing only gets better from here. Toss this in the pile for next winter. Or you can read it now and use it for fire-starter at the Seneca outing.

The Expo is passed. I hope everyone had a chance to get down there and see all there was to see. My other obligations kept me from it so I will be visiting vicariously by asking everyone what they saw. We have fly fishing 101 coming up. Shirley is working the details out and should have something in the newsletter later or at the meeting on time and location. Members are welcome to join us (volunteers are welcome to help coach as well).

Ted Bounds has a great program for us fishing around Yellowstone. If you haven't been there, you are missing a great adventure. It is a great family adventure as well. You just have to figure out how to get the non-fishers in the party to tour the park while they leave you to fish. So much water-So little time may have come from this vicinity.

I have had a reminder that newer members feel a little left out at the meetings and outings. Most of us wear name badges. So knowing who someone is shouldn't be a problem. Be prepared to greet your adjacent members at dinner and as we break for raffle tickets. We are a friendly group. How is it that someone could be left without participating in a fish story.

April Outing at Seneca Lake-

sponsored by Dave Weaver

The outing this month at Seneca Lake is on the San Carlos Indian Reservation north of Globe. This is a wonderful time and location to jump start our spring flyfishing fever and catch some fat little rainbows. The weather should be warm in the day and cool to cold at night. There is plenty of space to set up your camp. For those who have an opportunity to get away for only the day, it is only about a two hour drive from the valley. The club will provide dinner about 4:30 pm Saturday afternoon. Karyn is serving her scrumptious old fashioned ham beans with burgers and dogs. Please sign up at the meeting so we know how many to expect for din din.

There will be experienced flyfisherpersons there to assist newcomers and less experienced anglers in float tube etiquette, rod rigging, and general fishing techniques for lakes. These bows really swipe at the flies; you have to set the hook quickly. This outing will help hone your strike setting skills. A sharp hook will increase you hook-up ratio too. So come on out. Remember, no fish stories till after dark around the camp fire.

Equipment needed: It is recommended that you bring a float tube, pontoon boat or small boat with electric motor to fish. Fishing from shore through the bull rushes is difficult. If anyone needs a float tube and /or fins, get in touch with me at 480-820-0903. I will try to find one for you. Bring 2 to 6wt flyrod with a floating, sink tip or preferably full sinking line. Any number of flies will work well on this lake like small damsels, emergers, soft hackle nymphs, hairs ears, AZ peacock ladies, Karl's green weenie with hook sizes from 10 to 16. Bead heads will work well. Don't forget, there are also some bass in this lake that may take larger patterns.

Directions: Take US 60 east through Globe. Don't forget to stop in and get your reservation fishing/camping permit. Continue north on US 60 about 36 miles toward Show Low. Seneca Lake is on the left before entering the salt river canyon. Check out the map at the meeting.

Permits: A fishing permit, which includes camping, is needed to fish on the reservation, costing \$7.00 per day. No permit is required for float tubes. Boat permits cost \$3 per day(electric motors only). Both can be obtained here in Chandler at Tempe Marine at 1800 N. Arizona Ave. south of Warner Ave. In Globe, stop by Tiger Mart or Circle K on the right as you drive out of town.



April Guest Speaker:

Rick Weisberg

*Fishing Yellowstone Park
and the Surrounding Area*

Our April Guest speaker will be Rick Weisberg. Rick had the good fortune of spending seven summers working in West Yellowstone, Montana. Tuff duty, but it has to be done. He has put together a slide show and presentation on fishing the famous as well as the not so heavily traveled waters in Yellowstone park, as well as the surrounding area, including the Henry's Fork, the Madison, Quake Lake, Hebgan Lake, and Henry's Lake and many other waters. Rick is a former board member of FFF and Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited. He is currently making Oasis Fly tying benches. This will be a great opportunity to get some detailed knowledge of the fishing available and successful tactics for fishing this beautiful area. Hope to see everyone at the April 11th meeting.

Float Tube Fly Fishing

by Vince Deadmond



I was lucky, I won a float tube at the Zane Gray TU Banquet on St. Patrick's Day. My wife was less enthusiastic about my prize than I was. She pointed out that the garage was full of float tubes already. One can never have too much fly fishing equipment I thought, besides I was planning on sending the tube to the lake in Wisconsin where I fish in the summertime. Winning the float tube got me thinking that it would be good to review some things I have learned the last few seasons about using a float tube for fly fishing.

You have choices when you are selecting a float tube. Everything from a small children's size craft up to the XXX large adult size boat. The donut style, the U-boat style and, the pontoon style of craft are the most common. The donut has been around the longest, will probably be the least expensive, but it has one big drawback. It is hard to get into. Any one who has done "the dance" float tubers do to get into their donut has thought about up grading to a U-boat or pontoon boat. The U-boat is much easier to get into, one simply backs up and sets down. The pontoon allows the fisherperson to set down and put on your fins after you have gotten abroad. All of these crafts can be quite easy to sit in, I have found that my pontoon boat is the easiest to propel on the water. Pontoon boats usually come with or can be fitted with oars. That can be a real help if you find your self on the wrong side of the lake and the wind comes up against you.

Weight is another factor in selecting your tube. Do you plan to drive up to the lake and load your tube, or do you have a long hike in mind to a secret spot before you get wet. How packable the craft is would be important if one planned to fish a place like Chevelon Lake.

Flippers fit over special booties or over your regular wading boot. Some flippers float, some do not. All of them need to be on a lanyard so you don't lose a flipper. If you lose one it is next to impossible to navigate the craft.

When inflating your tube down in the valley don't over fill it. Fill no more than half full, when you get to Sunrise Lake your tube will be plenty full. Also don't leave a fully inflated tube in the sun, it can continue to expand, and rip the fabric in your tube.

A list of simple things that will make your float tube day better. Velcro straps, fly boxes that float, nylon rope, fish net, duct tape, and when you really want to get serious your own fishing buddy fish finder. I usually have sun block and water aboard all of my float tubes.

The best advise I can give is don't drink too much coffee before you go out in your tube. Hope to see you on the water soon.

Experiencing My First Trip North to Lees Ferry

by Robert McKeon

My first trip, being a recent transplant from Michigan, to Lee's Ferry was a wonderful experience. Gary Walsh was my guide and confidant for a long three days along with another gentleman by the name of Cliff Watkins. My introduction to the fishing up that way was indeed something I had only read about. The photos that I remember seeing while surfing a web page always left me dreaming of someday being among the vast mountain scenery and challenging my fly fishing skills.

Being from the part of Michigan where one fishes an evening hatch on either a quick trip to the Pere Marquette or Muskegon rivers, and still has time to get back home to catch the late news the same night, the Arizona land north of Phoenix was going to prove a challenge.

Gary and I traveled north and arrived about 3:30 on a Sunday and spent the rest of the day looking for Cliff. Neither of us knew what vehicle the other one was driving. When we all hooked up I had been introduced to everyone in the surrounding area thanks to Gary. The remainder of the first night I ended up listening to Cliff and Gary go at it as they razzed each other as friends do after many a fly fishing trip over the years.

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On Monday I spent time wading the walk-in on the Colorado at Lees Ferry and trying to figure out what a dead drift was and some yarn tied way out there on my 5x leader along with 7x tippet. My casting stroke needed some work, for many times I found myself back on shore untangling the mess I found in my leader. Hey, we never did work with "trailer" flies of sizes 20's and 22's on the rivers in Michigan. I was accustomed to imitating the evening hatch in my own crude way with soft hackles drifting them through the riffles. The books I've collected on tying flies and their theories are only part of the frustrations I found many a night. And, with these old eyes I had to have help with my new little bitty bead head wonder wraps from the Lees Ferry Fly Shop. Oh, this was new for me. Think I rigged up 5 times that day, finding I was becoming an expert only at the nail knot. I watched Gary and Cliff take a few and of course was in awe of the scenery, so sitting back on shore was very much enjoyed, even if I didn't take any trout. Our day ended with Gary lending his rod to a perfect stranger we had met in the parking lot after climbing out of our waders. Seems this man had found his rod tip was broken after he and his wife traveled up from Sedona for the day to fish. Gary gave him his 9 footer and told him where we were staying. Sure enough we got a nice note from the man and the rod was left for us to pick up late that evening. The three of us ate at the lodge, sharing a bottle of wine and reminisced about the day. And, we found Gary working the room and the fly shop during dinner to come up with a guide for us the next day.

On Tuesday I was taken up river to 4 mile and again introduced to dead drift, itty bitty bead head wonder wraps and 7x tippet by our guide, Bob Bergquist. Bob took care of us in great fashion and set us into some trout right away.



▲ Nice catch and great company to share an afternoon at Lees Ferry- L/R- Gary Walsh, Bob McKeon and Cliff Watkins test their skills.

We all ended up with trout in that area and when we had enough at 4 mile he motored us up to Prop Bar to fish a stretch off one of the gravel bars. Gary and I fished our bamboo rods with perfection while Cliff was smoothly laying out artful casts with the Sage he won at the TU banquet the week before. Yes, we all looked as though we should have been on the cover of a fly fishing magazine the way we kept taking trout that afternoon. And, with great pride, being the new kid on the block, I landed a nice 17 incher that kept me busy with my bamboo rod.

The day ended at Lees Ferry over Dewar's Rocks later that evening while I got razzed by Gary and Cliff as to my new experiences found during my jaunt north of Phoenix.

My memories with these two gentlemen will be treasured as part of my introduction to Arizona fly fishing and the people I've met in the Desert Fly Casters.

White Mountain Extravaganza June 15th, 16th, and 17th 2001

The Desert Fly Casters will gather in the cool White Mountains at Winn Campground this summer for three days of fun and fishing. Winn campground is centrally located to many of the best fishing spots in the White Mountains including Big Lake, Crescent Lake, Lee Valley Reservoir, Sunrise Lake, the Little Colorado River at Sheeps Crossing, and the West Fork of the Black River. To get to Winn campground, take hiway 260 through Pinetop-Lakeside until you come to junction 273, the turn off for Sunrise Lake and Big Lake. Stay on 273 and watch for the sign on your left that says Winn Campground. It's after you cross the West Fork of the Little Colorado River at Sheeps Crossing, and just before you get to the turn off for Lee Valley Reservoir. On Saturday night, the 16th, we will have our annual chili social. Everyone bring a quart of your favorite chili recipe and a six pack of your favorite international beer. We will blend all the chili in a communal pot and put the beer on ice and enjoy. The club will furnish paper bowls, plastic utensils, tortillas and cheese. To date, there have been no casualties or even serious illnesses from this event; so make sure you attend. There will be a fee of \$10.00 per camp payable when you sign up for this outing, and the sign up sheet will be at the April and May meetings. Those who signed up at the March meeting and didn't pay yet, please get paid up. The group campground at Winn will accommodate 50 people, so sign up early. For more information contact Ted Bounds at tedann@doitnow.com or call at 480-821-5290. **Hope everyone can make this one.**



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Newsletter Editor
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OUTINGS AND PROGRAMS • 2001

April 14th- Seneca Lake

April 21st- Desert Fly Casters Picnic

May 5th- Apache Lake

May 19th- Work Outing • *Little Colorado*

June 16th- White Mountain Extravaganza

June 30th- Work Outing • *Little Colorado*

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