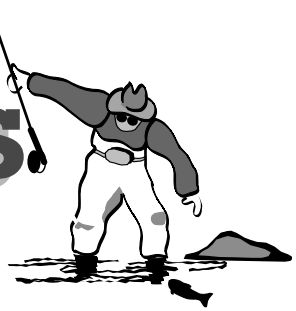


SEPTEMBER 2001

# Desert Fly Casters Forward Casts



DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



## President's Report-September 2001

**Bob Harrison**

**H**ello Everyone. I hope everyone found opportunity to get a little fishing in while we took the month of August off. For those that couldn't stand it, we did have a session of tying and picture bragging at the American Legion. I was able to stop by and visit a little but the story telling was just warming up when I left. I wonder if fish grow as fast when there is a campfire around.

For September we have the annual used equipment sale. We will have videos and retail and a few of fly tiers. If you plan to bring equipment to sale or trade please get there early. There will be space for tables at the end of the hall where the Raffle table usually is. Plan on being there early enough to get your table set up and equipment out by the time dinner starts. The hall should be open by 6:00 p.m. The board agreed at the August meeting that non-members would be allowed to sell equipment if they were "sponsored" by a paid member. If you are the sponsor - be there to help them set up.

It is that time of year. When the weather starts cooling off a little. The mountains get a little cooler as well and the fish become more active. It is a great time to get out if you have the time. Old Pueblo TU has invited us to join them at the Winn Camp ground for their annual get together. If you want to join the gathering let Vince know so he can provide them a guest list. Our September outing will be in Flagstaff with the Northern Arizona Fly Casters. We should have more details at the meeting.

Another thing on the horizon is the Annual banquet. Gloria Mack is diligently seeking out another banner year of prizes. If you can tie a fly, build a rod or create any kind of artwork, we would love to include it in the raffle. You can let her know directly at the meeting or drop an e-mail through the web site to- [info@desertflycasters.com](mailto:info@desertflycasters.com) and I will make sure it gets to her. Between now and then, we have another most exciting activity: Nomination of the board for 2002. Gary Walsh and Vince Deadmond have volunteered to seek out interested candidates. Don't worry about which office you might hold - the board once elected will sort that out. You can pick and choose what areas of participation you prefer. It comes with great rewards - another night each month of talking fly fishing. The tasks aren't too strenuous. Host an outing, help with the tying and casting classes or a variety of the things we do each year. We will be asking if you are interested. Might as well just walk up to Gary or Vince and say put me on the list. Nominations will take place in October. Elections will happen in November. The new board will be announced in December at the banquet.

Enough of the chatter, hope to see you at the September meeting. If you are looking for some good used equipment, it is a time to bring along a few dollars. I have two rods that were obtained at the sale along with a variety of other essential fishing equipment. On the other hand, leave your money at home. I wouldn't want to have to bid against you for something I really need.

*TightLines*

### SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Wednesday  
September 12, 2001  
Dinner- 6:00 PM  
Meeting- 7:00 PM

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

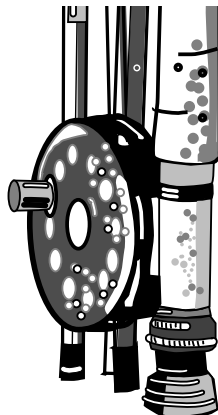
**ANNUAL  
SWAP  
MONTH**

"I waded to shore where I sat and considered the inconsistency of anglers in general and the dumbness of one in particular."

Ray Bergman, *Trout*, 1949



### September is Swap Meet Month.....



September is the annual swap meet for DFC members. If you have some equipment that you no longer use and would like to sell bring it to the September meeting and put a price on it. This is also a good opportunity to shop for any equipment that you need, but don't want to pay "new" price for.

Come on out and buy, sell, or trade equipment with your fellow DFC members and socialize a little. This is a great meeting for all the members that like to talk during the presentations because we don't have a speaker this month and you can talk all you want to during the meeting and no one will give you dirty looks or ask you to be quiet.

LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS BEHIND WHEN WALKING THE PATHWAYS OF OUR ARIZONA ENVIRONMENT

## BLACK RIVER OUTING....

Usually the host is supposed to complete the outing by writing a short story about the occasion. In this situation I decided to allow Doc the privilege as the experience He, Jamie and Mickey had was a bit more than the rest of us.

We had a great trip and we have new friends in George and Michael. Both great campers and fishermen. George will tell you not to wear sandals in camp. It allows poison ivy to invade bear feet. Oops did I say bear instead of bare. Doc knows why. Michael will tell you to stock up the first aid kit before going into the wilderness especially when you cut your finger to the bone and still want to fly fish for 24 hours. I concede the rest to Doc.

Gary Walsh

.....Heeerrrs Doc.

.....**WHOA THERE D.F.C.'ers:**

Hold your unanimous votes for fishing dog of the year. The last two outings have produced an upstart contender for the title. (NO OFFENSE FRITZ) You ask who can this new comer be? M-I-C-K-E-Y he's a dog for you. Yep Mickey who brings Doc and Jamie to outings is a true fish trooper. He points fish, easy ways across streams, the way back to camp and chases bears out of camp.

O.K. fellow fly fishers enough of drivel to get your attention. This is actually an article about the July outing at Black River. Firstly, the weather was plum perfect 1/2 to 3/4 cloudy days on Sat. & Sun. & same on Mon except wonderful (for desert dwellers), drizzle all morning. The overcast dictated darker colored flies, as the water up stream from Black River Crossing was Gin clear on our Monday sojourn. The sojourn was a 2 1/2-3mile hike up river. You'll know you're getting there when the river makes a 300 degree right hand turn and when it finally straightens, there is a section of river bottom that's very distinctive. It looks like concrete with expansion dividers. Now start fishing!!!, any rock or deep channel with rock or weed beds.



It was absolutely a fly fish hoot!! The more then cooperative small mouth bass & an occasional fat chunky 7 to 9 in. Warmouth bass, with all their peacock bass coloring; kept us busy & entertained. The entertainment was trying to keep the 7 inches from inhaling the offering before the 12-14 inchers got it. We caught dozens & dozens & dozens. Left that beautiful stretch of river for the long hike back, rock hopping a lot of the way.

Just as we got to camp site, heard a splash & saw a 250 lb. pitch black bear coming out of the river. Joke was on us, he was coming from our campsite which he had trashed. More of that for show & tell at our meeting. Sorry about the water jug Gary!

Second day afternoon we drove on to Tick Flat. Surprised to see picnic table & out house at the end of such a knarly road. Made a 1-1/2 mile hike down stream to get into fish regularly not as large as ones upstream from Black River Crossing, but plenty of them hitting Jamie's 1/4 inch red & white popping bug. Make sure you put this on your list to visit.

## SINCEREST CONDOLANCES....

How many times have you said "If only I would have or if only we had; but it is too late." All my life I have continually said these things to myself and I am sure I will do it again and again.

The last couple of months have reduced our numbers by three. I heard of the passing of Mrs. Shirley Parks, wife of 48 years to lifetime

member and constant contributor to our raffle Bill Parks. Bill, from all of us our sincerest condolences. We know Mrs. Parks didn't join in the festivities that often but those of us who have years of marriage under our belts know that the other half is often doing more than their share which allows us time to enjoy our sport and our activities. Bill, we will miss Shirley and to you are heartfelt condolences.

Also adding to Bill's loss was the passing of his friend for years, Julius Frances. Julius passed away this last month. Little Julius, a Desert Fly Caster lifetime member, always had kind words and a big heart for all those he met. He continually amazed me with his constant goodwill and positive attitude even when the hurdles of life were placed before him. I am sure that today that once small frame that contained that big heart of yours and the positive attitude is probably 8 feet tall and I also bet you have wings old friend. Julius, those of us that knew you have suffered a great loss and we will all miss you, my friend. I am sorry I never told you how important you were to us. Our sincerest condolences go out to Mariam Frances, his lovely wife.

The other day I was viewing the website of our brothers and sisters in the Arizona Club only to be shocked that again I had lost another friend in Chick Scott. Chick was not a member of the Desert Fly Casters but his cordial attitude and outgoing personality always made him a favorite brother from the other club. I have never tied flies with a more innovative fly tier than Chick Scott and I have tied with some of the best. Chick donated his time to "Becoming and Outdoors Woman" or B.O.W. and anyone who wanted the basics, intermediate or excelled class of fly tying. Chick, the last time we were together we had a good time as always with the small talk and the hellos and goodbyes, but I wish I would have said "thank you for being you and all that you have done." I will miss you brother and I hope you now get the chance to help Julius with his fly tying. Perhaps we should all take the time to say thanks to our friends and loved ones and be a little less critical of others, and then maybe it wouldn't be so hard to say those belated goodbyes.

## OPTUFFFDFC?

by Vince Deadmond

Does that sound like another .com web sight? Actually they are letters that Desert Fly Casters (DFC) should get to know. New members probably have not heard of OPTU Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited. OPTU is a friendly group of fly fishing folks from Tucson, and they have invited us (DFC) to their Labor Day Week End Outing. This year the Labor Day Outing camp sight will be at the Winn Campground 8/30 - 9/3. The Winn Campground is in the Lee Valley part of the White Mountains, about 20 minutes from Greer. This camp sight is central to a number of lakes and streams. This is one of the tougher times of the year to fish, so, relax be social, and enjoy a good family event. Past years they have held a one fly fishing contest. This could be your year to be a big winner.

Saturday evening OPTU will be providing the meat for dinner. Please bring a dish to share. (Don't be cheap, bring plenty of something you are proud of, you will be rewarded with other great dishes.) The cost of the camp and dinner are to be off set by the Saturday night Raffle buy enough tickets to help out. Those of you who signed up at the July meeting Thank You! I will be taking names until our August 8 non meeting. I need an accurate count for the dinner. If you miss the August meeting call and leave a message at 480-984 4698.

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The Zane Gray Trout Unlimited ZGTU is the local Phoenix chapter, and our own Gary Walsh is the current president. TU chapters are involved in political, and environmental issues that effect our cold water fisheries. Talk to Gary if you would like to get involved.

Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) or the Federation, is a grass roots fly fishing group that helps to start fly fishing clubs, provides education, promotes fly fishing, and good conservation practices. Desert Fly Casters have purchased memberships to FFF that we are currently selling for \$29. The membership is a real value. You get a magazine 4 times a year. A new members kit, and a chance to support a group that helps all of the fly fishing community. See me at the next non meeting August 8 to join FFF. I hope of have some pictures from my northern Wisconsin summer vacation.

## LAZY "DAZE" OF SUMMER!

Lethargy is the only word that comes to mind, except for the weekend I fished the Black River and getting ready to fish Sunrise this coming weekend. I just can't seem to get excited about anything in this heat, except, of course, that fact that we took in 6 new members at our July meeting!

Let's extend a warm welcome to a new couple, Don Zastoupic and June Lundy, and also the four new gals who joined that evening: Grace Leigh Forde from Tempe, and Cinda Howard, Amanda Shepherd & Ida Fulbright, all 3 Dame Julianna members. Yikes! The "Good Ole Boy's Club" is slowly being inundated with more and more of a new female species commonly known as "Troutus Interruptus."

Don't forget the membership drive contest running from now through the end of November. So far Ann Bounds is kicking butt as the only person who has communicated to me her efforts in soliciting new members. Buy, there's still time for "ya-all" to catch up. Just make sure any new member you bring into the Club puts your name as their sponsor on the membership application for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate at the fly shop of your choice, to be awarded at our annual Christmas Banquet. You have only 4 months left! I hope, in the name of healthy competitiveness, someone gives Annie a run for her \$.

Stay cool!

Georganne Jannenga- Membership Director 2001

## RED RIVER REVISITED

By Ted Bounds

There is really no reason to visit Red River, New Mexico in the summer unless you like trout, beautiful scenery, uncrowded places, and cool temperatures. Other than that it doesn't have much to offer.

The town of Red River is a ski town in the winter and a major tourist trap in the summer. It is also in the middle of some of the best trout fishing that northern NM has to offer, and that is saying quite a lot. Ann, my 15-year-old great nephew Justin Rygiel, and I had the good fortune to spend a week there in late July this year.

The first stop on our trip this year was the fabulous San Juan River in the Farmington area of New Mexico. Ann and I spent a day floating the lower San Juan with our friend Rick Hooley, owner of Rocky Mountain Anglers guide service. Our friends, Gerry and Kitty Wiemelt, joined us on the float, and my nephew spent the day wading with a guide named Brian who came highly recommended from Rick. Justin is (or was) a beginner at fly-fishing and we didn't know if his casting would be adequate for him to have an enjoyable day

fishing out of a drift boat. We had a great day catching Browns and Rainbows on grasshoppers on the lower San Juan, with Kitty taking the honors for big fish of the day with a 20+ inch Brown. Kitty and Ann kept saying something about "girls rule"- like they didn't know that Gerry and I deliberately broke off, shook off and missed hooksets on all of our bigger fish so that they could catch the biggest fish--- again. Justin had a fair day for a beginner- he and the guide quit counting after he had hooked 35 fish-andl anded maybe 20- which isn't bad for a beginner using 6x tippet and fishing size 26 midge larvae. He obviously didn't inherit any of his fish playing ability from me.

The next day found all of us wading and fishing the upper flats for a few hours and catching some big feisty rainbows that the San Juan is famous for. About noon Gerry and Kitty left for the Green River in Utah, and Ann, Justin, and I began the four and one half hour drive to Red River, which would be our home for the next week. The town of Red River is in a beautiful valley in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the southern end of the Rockies. It sits at about 8600 elevation and is bisected by the Red River. The hottest high temperature that we had in the week that we spent there was 78 degrees F. Add to this the close proximity in all directions of great fishing and you have a super place to visit in the summer when the temperature in Phoenix is in the 115-degree range.

There are to many places to fish around Red River to even try to list them all. Suffice it to say that any angler could find something that would appeal to them without driving very far from town. There are lakes as well as moving water, and big water with big fish ( the Rio Grande River- big water in a deep gorge that holds browns that are measured in pounds instead of inches ) as well as small water with small fish ( Comanche Creek-- you can jump across it and most of the Rio Grand Cutthroat trout in it are 6" to 9" long) as well as everything in between. While we were there we fished Red River, the Cimarron River, Comanche Creek, Costilla Creek, and the Shuree ponds and never had to drive more than 40 miles.

The scenery is as beautiful as you will find anywhere if you like high country, and expect to see a lot of wildlife. Elk, Mule deer, and bears are commonly seen. I saw one bear that was a little closer than he needed to be, but that's another story.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in doing, you can look up Red River, NM on the Internet or contact the Red River Chamber of Commerce to get information about lodging and other recreational opportunities that are available in the area. A book that is invaluable is "Fly-Fishing in Northern New Mexico" edited by Craig Martin. It has good maps, lists hatches and accurately describes what you can expect to find on many of the over 4000 miles of cold water streams in northern NM. This book is a co-operative effort, with each chapter written by a different person. Each of the authors wrote about his or her favorite stream or lake, on which they were experts. I got my copy of the book by having my local bookstore order it for me. If you decide to go, have fun, and keep your eyes open. You might see me on the stream because I'm sure we will be back.

**SPECIAL NOTE-** We have 2 openings for the Lees Ferry Outing in October. This will be issued as a first call item.  
Call Jack Yamagata at: 480-491-0828 for details.

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**CHRISTMAS (Banquet & Raffle) IS COMING!!!**

*By Gloria Mack*

As the temperature climbs to 110 degrees and higher, a cool thought to keep in mind is that it's 130+ days until our Annual Christmas Banquet & Raffle. Wednesday, December 12th is the big day this year.

We are again holding this event at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Chandler. I am asking for lots of help from our members in the quest for prizes for the raffle. Prizes do not only have to pertain to fly-fishing. We all have a favorite restaurant, or other place of business we frequent, which would be happy to make a donation to our worth while organization, if only they were asked. I will be happy to provide you with a copy of this year's donation request letter (they will begoing out in a little while) that explains the purpose of Desert Fly

Casters and our ongoing conservation efforts. Gerry Weimelt is collecting the prizes at his house this year.

I should be at both the August and September meetings, or call me with any questions: Gloria Mack 507-8995, my answering machine is always on.

*Thanks, in advance, for your help.*

**OUTINGS & PROGRAMS- 2001**

SEPTEMBER 15TH, FLAGSTAFF AREA  
 WITH NORTHERN ARIZONA FLYCASTERS

OCTOBER 6TH, 4TH WORK OUTING,  
 LITTLE COLORADO RIVER, WHITE MOUNTAINS

OCTOBER 19TH, MONTHLY OUTING, LEES FERRY

NOVEMBER 9TH-12TH, ROCKY POINT, MEXICO

DECEMBER 12TH, DFC ANNUAL BANQUET

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