

JANUARY 2002

# Desert Fly Casters Forward Casts



DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



## JANUARY MEETING:

Wednesday, January 9, 2002  
Dinner- 6:00 PM  
Meeting- 7:00 PM

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

"Fishing is a constant reminder of the democracy of life, of humility and of human frailty...and the forces of nature that discriminate for no man."

President Herbert Hoover



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## President's Report-January 2002

**Bob Harrison**

**W**elcome to the New Year with the Desert Fly Casters. I would like to close out the year with thanks to the many people that helped keep it together the past year. We had a great set of programs, outings, classes and banquet. It took a number of people to put all of the activities together. A few have expressed that they will pass the torch this year to someone else. Ted is turning the White Mountain Spectacular over to Jeff Fox. Jack has passed the Lee's Ferry outing over to Cinda. These and others will be asking for assistance to prepare a new set of members to help out with the in the future. Bob McKeon won't let me have the whole newsletter to provide individual thanks so you know who you are and we thank you for your efforts.

This year is starting out to be a banner year as well. Ted is starting out the year with a program on Conservation projects organized through the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). The board has been discussing some of the opportunities to participate and is interested in input from club members. Vince has a tentative outing calendar already set up for the year. You should find it later in the newsletter. Shirley is planning the tying and casting classes for the year already as well. The beginners tying class is being planned to start later in January. Remember this is free to members and the club can provide equipment for up to 10 people. The Sportsman's Show is scheduled for late February and we will need tyers and greeters to staff the booth. The beginning casting class will be held sometime in March to provide a follow up to the show. All in all it looks to be another active year for the club. Feel free to participate in any and all of the activities. Also feel free to volunteer to help out. As always we can use another pair of hands to help out.

A few years back, the club had a number of individuals that organized 'trip of a lifetime' with 6 to 10 club members. I enjoyed one a couple of years ago by sharing a Steelhead fishing trip to Alaska with Jim Colombo. Needless to say it was memorable. There were other trips to Colorado and Wyoming that several members have gone on. Another I joined in on was to the Texas Gulf for Redfish and Speckled Trout. If I can work out the schedule, I am considering hosting another trip to Padre Island or Port Mansfield to do it again. If anyone is interested, let me know. If you have a new location to try or someplace that you enjoy and would like to share bring it up to on of the board members. We will do our best to help to you organize it and to get a few fellow fly fishers to join you.

*I look forward to another great year of 'fishing stories.'*

## January guest speaker- Dick Brown

Topic: Conservation

Our guest speaker for January will be Dick Brown of the Northern Arizona Fly Casters. Dick will speak on the role that conservation plays in assuring that we will have viable fisheries the years to come.

Dick is a life member of FFF and has been a member of the Northern Arizona Flycasters since 1988. Dick has been the conservation committee chairman for Northern Arizona Fly Casters since 1966 and has been Vice President for conservation for the Eastern Rocky Mountain Council of FFF since 1998.

Dick formed a Native Trout Task Force in 1999 made up of FFF clubs in Arizona and New Mexico to support the reintroduction and maintenance of Gila and Apache trout.

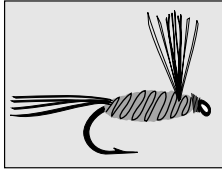
Come on out to the January 9th meeting and learn how to organize and become involved in these vital projects.

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

## WANT TO LEARN TO BUILD YOUR OWN BIRDS NEST?

DFC's Intro to Fly Tying Classes will be starting up soon and you'll find it's easy to learn to tie flies like the "Bird's Nest." Sound interesting?

DFC veteran tiers will show you the ropes over 4 Thursday evenings at 7 PM, starting January 17th thru February 7th. The classes will be held at the home of club president Bob Harrison in southeast Mesa.



We will cover the basics of tying, common materials and tying techniques. You will learn to tie flies like Pheasant Tail Nymph, Elk Hair Caddis, Adams, Woolly Bugger (maybe even a Bird's Nest) and many more! DFC will provide all the fly recipes, tools and materials you will need for the class.

There will be a sign up sheet at January's meeting, or you can sign up on line by sending a note to Shirley Johnson: [sk\\_fly@yahoo.com](mailto:sk_fly@yahoo.com)

*Come "tie one on" with us and hook a BIG ONE!*

## Blues to Brule to Baja . . .

by Vince Deadmond

*Neither Snow, Nor Sleet, Nor Rain . . .*

I was in Kansas City on a business trip, the blues, and barbecue are great, but it's not a great fall fly fishing destination. Don't expect me to break into song extolling the virtues of "Goin' to Kansas City." I had planned to visit family on the Brule River for the Steelhead run, and I was expecting the worst weather on the planet. Sure enough while I was in Kansas City, the Dakotas got their first blizzard, and I was expecting the same. But, when I arrived in Duluth they were experiencing unusually warm sunny weather. I was pleased to say the least. With all of my cold weather gear on I looked like the Pillsbury Dough Boy meets the Michelin Man.

The Steelhead run on the Brule River in northern Wisconsin was new to me. Ric Allen, a resent convert to the fly fishing fraternity, and his young son Trevor invited me to fish the mouth of the Brule from their boat. When Ric turned the fish finder on, the pixels almost fused together. There were more fish 6 feet under the boat that one could shake a fly rod at. The highlight was when Trevor hooked and landed a 25.5 inch Steelhead, and then tried to hold it up for a picture. That fish was large, camera shy, and just a bit uncooperative. Ric caught a 20 inch fish, and I eventually landed a 23 inch beauty.

One afternoon I went scouting for fish with my father-in-law Stan Allen. We made several stops, but the most impressive was on the Pike River. The fish that we saw were huge, they reminded me of Sumo Wrestlers trying to push each other off the mat. Yes, they were King Salmon, and they

were smart enough to read the signs for the fish preserve area, none of them strayed on the side that I could fish.

During my stay in Wisconsin the D-backs were playing great baseball, and I was finally able to fish the Steelhead run. Life is good! When I headed home I was reminded that not everything in the world was right. Duluth in particular was taking things very seriously. F16 fighter jets were on maneuvers. My luggage was hand searched, I was searched with a wand, and my carry on luggage was searched. Expect more security and a bit longer to check in on your next flight.

### Baja Time

Ric was able to track down his long time friend Darrel Joel, who has lived in the Valley of the sun, long enough to know about Puerto Penasco. When Ric called his buddy, and told him where he was going fishing, the question from Darrel was, "Can I go too?" The response was, "Of course!" Darrel really was a good buddy, he picked Ric up at the airport, and was introducing Ric to \$1 fish tacos in Mexico later that same day. I joined the group later that same evening, and we made plans to fish the beach at Playa De Oro, our RV camp ground at day break. We were camped right on the beach so it was an easy way to get started. The beach fishing was productive, we caught Pompano, Needlefish, and Rock Bass. We stopped for breakfast when the tamale lady came by with hot homemade tamales. They were two of my favorite words, "good" and "cheap."

Ric knew something had changed when he crossed the border, out of the blue fog he got glimpses of his ill spent youth. Yes, Mexico is where bad cars go to die. If you want to see a 77 Volare station wagon race a rust color Gremlin, Mexico is a good place to go. Mexico is kind of a mechanical-X-file place, where on a good day the old cars run on two cylinders. It's not that the cars are racing, it's just hard to keep them running at anything less than a fast idle. Although Puerto Penasco is only 4 hours from my Mesa, Arizona home, it seems like it is several time zones away.

We went to the Second Estuary and got into more fish. Darrel was spin casting and hit Flounder and Grouper, while Ric and I stayed with the fly rods and caught more Pompano, and Rock Bass. We were enjoying the antics of some Dolphins playing when I caught and released another Rock Bass. It had been a rather peaceful day, up until then. When I released the fish it shot up the leg of my baggy swim trunks, WOOOOEEEE!!! Good thing there weren't many people on the beach.

After a hard day of fishing we went to Costa Brava, and Ric took my suggestion for the Costa Brava shrimp. These lobster sized bacon wrapped creations will put a smile on your face. It was warm enough to dine outside, and Ric wondered aloud, "How many people are dining out on a patio in my home town of Milwaukee?" After the gluttony of the dinner it was amazing that we all still had room for a stop at the Thrifty Ice Cream store. Life is good!

My wife Debi and my daughters along with their friends arrived later that evening. We now occupied three spaces on the beach and we needed a table for 12 if we all went out to



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eat at once. We didn't let the new arrivals detour us from our early morning fishing at the Estuary. We finally got into some sea trout, Ric tried out the float tube, and Darrel hooked a fish with the fly rod. After returning from the Estuary, Debi and I took Ric and Darrel on a tour of the Old Port. Darrel had been to Puerto Penasco enough to point out several interesting places to visit and restaurants to try. Debi managed to show me some excellent ideas for Christmas gifts for her. Oh well, I guess I'll have to make another trip across the border in December.

Sunday our last day. We tried to stretch it out and make the most of it. The day was way too short and we eventually had to stop fishing, and eating tacos on the beach. Packing up the camping gear took a while and people would just disappear. Usually they were just on the beach watching the water, birds, fish, people, and general activity. No one really wanted to go home, but eventually we gather up all of the kids, gear, and adults, we stop for one last authentic Mexican meal, and then it's back across the border. *Life is great!*

## Christmas Raffle Thank You's

By Gloria Mack

Our December Banquet and Raffle was great, and "Thank You's" are due, first to all of you who attended, and then to all those members who diligently pursued prizes for our raffle, for without either we would not have succeeded.

✓ We thank those who set up, cleaned up, sold tickets, served food, and otherwise helped.

✓ We thank the following local fly shops that can always be counted on to contribute, not only for our big December Raffle, but for the small monthly ones as well. Please show them your support by stopping in, and let them know you're from DFC.

*In alphabetical order:*

Alta Vista Anglers\*  
Arizona Fly Fishing\*  
Don's Sports Shop\*  
Orvis Shops\*  
Scottsdale Flyfishing Company\*

✓ We also must thank Marble Canyon Guides\* and Wink Crigler's X Diamond Ranch\*.

✓ We thank the following retailers, restaurants, suppliers & manufacturers who DONATED items (*in no particular order*): Clear Creek, Angler Sport Group\*, Wide World of Maps, Grand Canyon Railway, Guido's Restaurant in Chandler, Verde River Railroad, Popular Outdoor Outfitters, Craig's Firehouse, Jim Teeny, Inc, Hobie Sunglasses, Jimmies Fine Jewelry\*, Vince Deadmond

Ace Hardware, Chota, Lana Forsythe's Fantasia Salon, Frankie D's Salon, Tarponwear International, Teton Reels, Maui Jim, Angler Sports Shops, Mustad, Kotco Mfg, BTs Flyfishing products, Rio, Abel, Caddis Mfg, Angels on Massage Therapy Center, Wind River Quality Outdoor Gear, Rebecca Jannenga Yoga, Hook and Hackle, Cindy Welt Massage Therapy, Southwest Fly fishing, Cortland Line Co., Fly Fisherman Magazine, Pruitt Publishing, Abenaki Publishing, Donnegan Optical, Wright & McGill, Norlander Co., Nickel Chiropractic\*, Dale Thorson Law Offices\* and Royal Wulff Products.

✓ And those who DISCOUNTED items to us:

Buck's Bags, Outcast Sporting Gear, David Rumveld Studios, Whiting Farms, Regal Engineering, Scott Fly Rods, Winston Fly Rods, Trout Traps, Big Sky Carvers, Buck Knives, Fly Logic, G. Loomis and Renzetti.

Please show your support by purchasing their products if you have the opportunity. We thank the following members for their wonderful flies and other created and donated items:

*Michelle Harrison, Jim Fraijo, Bruce Gehrls, Wayne Nickel, Ann Bounds, Ted Bounds, Dave Weaver, Darryll Hagen, Bill Parks, Dale Thorson, Jim Fraijo, Gloria Mack and Jim Dickson.*

✓ And last but certainly not least, we thank Dave Weaver and Ted Bounds for being our wonderful M.C.s again.

*If I have missed any one, I truly apologize.*

\* Indicates a contribution of \$150 or more, or gathering contributions equaling \$150 or more.



May you feel the handle as the rod bows, the line tightens and the net fills plentifully with new memories... Best of fly fishing to all of the Desert Fly Casters and their friends for 2002.

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*Robert McKeon*



**2002 Desert Fly Casters Events**

January 18-21 DFC Fishing Outing Rocky Point, Mexico.

Some people will have a holiday (MLK) Monday. Equipment 6-8 weight rod, reel with sinking line, and flies that look like bait fish. It's cooler than our fall outing so waders would be good to have, and a float tube would be a nice. Social with the Deadmond's bring an appetizer Saturday 19, 5-6pm at Playa Del Oro RV Park. Dinner 7 PM at La Curva. Maps, motel, camping, and dinning information will be at the January DFC meeting, *if you would like to talk to the Rocky Point Host Vince Deadmond call 480 984 469*

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Al, our river keeper, is here to enhance and protect the fishery. He welcomes your questions and suggestions.  
 Sincerely, Your Hostess and Host,  
 Wink and Gerald

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