



DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



JUNE MEETING:

Wednesday, June 12, 2002
 Dinner- 6:00 PM
 Meeting- 7:00 PM
 American Legion Post #2
 2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
 in Tempe

"And if the angler catches the fish with difficulty, then there is no man merrier than he is in his spirits."

Juliana Berners- 1450



President's Report-June 2002

Bob Harrison

And June is upon us. It looks like you had better get your fishing in soon from the news reports on fire danger and forest closures. This newsletter should reach you about the time the White Mountain Extravaganza is going on.

We had a pretty good sign up but since we have both group sites reserved, there is plenty of room. It may be one of the few places open to camping. If you have a chance, catch a few crawdads to compliment the Saturday night feed. An easy recipe is to put the crawdads in a cake size pan with a quarter inch of milk in it. The milk upsets their digestive system and they purge themselves so no veining is required. (This is a little more difficult now that you can't transport them live but you can figure out something.) A little crab boil mix and some boiling water will turn this into a great appetizer. Just make sure you bring enough to go around. From what I hear this won't be a problem.

We will have diner at the next meeting. I believe that Doc was going to arrange for a repeat of the Spaghetti and Italian sausage. Remember, the Legion provides 30 dinners that we pay for whether we eat them or not in lieu of charging for use of the hall. Bring your appetites.

You have heard of Christmas in July. Well, we don't have that arranged but, although it may surprise you, we need to start the requests for the Christmas banquet. Gloria has said last year was it for her. We cut into her visits to see the grandchild. That means we need a volunteer to send out the letters, coordinate the selections and receive them. If you are interested, let me know. We have the names and addresses of past donors so it isn't real difficult. Just think of all the wonderful ideas you can give your spouse and family with all those prizes around the house until the banquet.

A reminder that the no meeting in August is for fly tying. Bring your tying equipment and favorite patterns. We expect to have a half dozen tiers or more to show their favorite patterns. You can sit down with them and get hands on instruction or feel free to set up your own demonstration. Also, the September meeting is the used equipment sale and trade. (I seem to take home more than I get rid of.) Bring in that equipment you don't use and find some needy and lucky person to trade with.

Enjoy yourselves in the White Mountains and bring a story or two for the meeting.

Bob Harrison

June Guest Speaker- Kevin Wigfield Fly Fishing New Zealand

Our guest speaker for June will be Kevin Wigfield, owner and founder of Distant Waters fly fishing in New Zealand. Kevin is based in Denver Colorado and also guides in Colorado. Kevin started fly fishing in New Zealand eight years ago and decided to start Distant Waters three years ago to help other people enjoy this great fishery. Come on out to the June 13th meeting and see the great Video presentation on fly fishing in New Zealand Yes, that's correct. It does say video presentation instead of slide show. I think this is a first for DFC and hope you can be a part of it.

LEES FERRY SWITCH....

As most of you may know, our club has an annual outing to Lee's Ferry every October. We have been doing this for many years and it is always a spectacular event. This year will be an exception and, due to the uncertainty of the fishery, we have decided to cancel the trip.

At one time, it was no strange feat to catch thirty fish a day in the Ferry, now you are lucky if you catch five. The numbers of fish being caught are getting lower and the fish are getting smaller, not to mention that this was the year of the "no-spawn".

I received the following information from Bill McBurney at Ambassador Guides; it is something that we can all do to help save this piece of the Colorado River.

Alert: The Ferry needs YOU!

What can you do to Help?

■ No keeping of trout during the Spawn Everyone you kill (male or female) eliminates thousands. Remember - the State of Arizona will probably never stock the River again. They are currently interested in endangered species only.

■ Please ask the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. to outlaw "treble" hooks. We need single hook only to help the mortality rates.



■ If you are using a guide INSIST that a fish shore lunch is not needed nor a limit to take home. This practice if done by just one busy Guide Service can eliminate 3 - 5 thousand fish a year. There are currently 40+ Guides licensed for Lee's Ferry.

■ Do not be enticed by any Lodge to cook your "catch of the day".

The Environmentalists at the State and Federal level are methodically eliminating the trout by the way of "stress" flows.



Being proposed is to open the floodgates and letting very high water flow for a period of more than 2 weeks (sometime between August and October). This was done in 1996 and has been deemed a failure. This time, they want to do it during the monsoon to allow an even larger amount of water to flow down the Colorado

River. The idea is to churn sand and silt from the bottom of the river channel and distribute it on banks, sandbars and side canyons to help the endangered fish (chub) in the river.

Also being proposed is to heat up the water coming out of the damn, which will cost around \$15,000,000.

Ambassador Guides can supply you with a list of local officials to contact regarding saving the Ferry. Please make yourself heard and let them know how you feel about the fishery.

For a list of contacts, send an e-mail to:

judyf@ambassadorguides.com

or call her at (800) 256-7596.

DFC May Outing

The DFC May Outing to Chevelon Lake was successful! Saturday we all fished the southern end of the lake and caught nice Rainbows on Brown Woolly Buggers. The hike down to the lake was very steep and very long, not to mention the hike out, which was much, much steeper and much, much longer than it was going in. Gordon, Dave, Cheri, Cinda, Georganne and Ann had a successful day of fishing! Everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Sunday we all decided to fish the northern end of Chevelon Lake. Roy, Gordon, Dave, Cinda and Ann made the 'even longer' trek down to the lake. It was quite a feat carrying float tubes, fins, and all, down to the lake. Again the fishing was good. The fly was the Brown Woolly Bugger but I also had success on the Coyote Clauser and the Garbage Leach!

Throughout the whole weekend I found that all the fish were very strong, in good health, and very fat! They don't seem to be stressed at all, little wonder! The hike in and out is enough to keep most of the pressure off the lake, not to mention battling the wind. That is a big big lake! It took me 6 years to get up the courage to "bite the bullet" and go fish it. And I'm glad I did. I will definitely fish this lake again, but not until my legs feel better!

Ann Bounds

NEW MEMBERS-

Helen Corson, Rocky Minster, Don McLain, John Clausen, and Michael Breinholt. Be sure to make them feel at home at the next meeting

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by Shirley Johnson

This is a dry fly that you should keep a good supply of in several sizes. It is tied to rest lower on the surface than the classic Adams dry fly. It imitates mostly a mayfly, but can be passed off as most any similar insect. Fish it with a nice drag-free drift and use it as your "go-to" dry fly in almost any setting.

PARACHUTTE ADAMS

INGREDIENTS

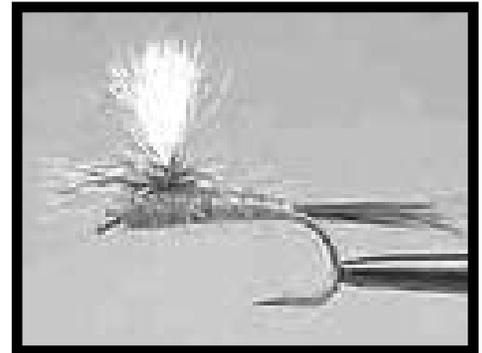
Hook: Dry Fly Hook #12 - #22
 Thread: 8/0 Black, Gray or Brown
 Tail: Brown and Grizzly Hackle Fibers
 Body: Fine gray dubbing - muskrat or beaver is good
 Hackle: One each - Brown and Grizzly
 Wing: White, Cream or Dun colored poly yarn.
 (Optionally use bright colored yarn, fur or feathers for high visibility on the water.)

SPECIAL TOOLS

Hackle Pliers

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tie in thread ahead of hook bend.
2. Start with about a 3" length of poly yarn. Lay the yarn across the hook (perpendicular) 1/4 of the hook shank back from eye. Tie in yarn with 2 or 3 wraps.
3. Pull one end of the yarn under the hook shank to form a "U" shape.
4. Hold both ends upward and make several wraps of thread in front of and behind the wing -- "X" style.
5. Make several wraps of thread up and around the poly wing to form a post. Cement only the base of the post.
6. Tie in the hackles -- shiny side up -- in front of the wing post at a 90-degree angle to the hook shank. Leave a short bit of hackle quill exposed. Hackle should be one size bigger than usual. Use only thinner part of the hackle quill.
7. Move thread to just behind the wing; tie in about a dozen tail fibers toward the hook bend (1/2 & _ brown and grizzly). Tail should be about the same length as the body.
8. Dub the body up to the wing with a slight taper.
9. Make several thread wraps up the wing post.
10. Wrap both hackles with hackle pliers 2 or 3 turns, so that each turn is below the thread.
11. Tie down the hackles to the shank and trim.
12. While holding the hackle fibers back with your vise hand fingers, lightly dub the head of the fly.
13. Tie a thread head and whip finish.
14. Gently pull the yarn apart to compact the hackle base.
15. Trim the poly yarn to about 1/2 the length of the hook shank. [end]



Added DFC Notes....

CASTING TUNE-UP

with a "cast of thousands"
 (OK, maybe just thousands of casts.)

Just getting started casting a fly rod and want to make sure you're starting off on the right-foot? Been casting for a while and find you have some bad habits you need to "un-learn?" Just want to get a little more distance out of your casts. Or maybe you're toying with the idea of saltwater or salmon fishing and want to know whatcasting correctly with a big rod is like? We've got just the event for you coming up.

Saturday morning on June 29th from 8:30 to 11:00, at Kiwanis Park in Tempe, DFC is arranging to have expert instructors available to help you improve your casting, at no matter what learning level you are. There will be Federation Certified Casting Instructors [FFF] on hand to "critique your technique" and help you improve your distance and accuracy. Come hone your skills for your next fishing trip.

COMING UP AT THE AUGUST 14th MEETING - FLY TYING CLINIC - STAY TUNED!



Are you getting enough salt in your diet?

By Vince Deadmond

Are you fly fishing saltwater? If the answer is no, you must look at your Arizona fresh water options. Do you want to continue fishing for a few small fish in a dehydrated stream? Or, do you want to fish for stressed fish in an almost waterless lake? With this years drought you may decide to look seriously at salt water fly fishing.

Usually in early May I fish the Rim, and the White Mountains, early spring and late fall are the best times to fish those areas. With no snow during the winter, and the lakes and streams being down, it made my week end choice of places to fish easy. Puerto Penasco, Mexico, (Rocky Point) is a quick and easy way to get more salt into your fishing diet.

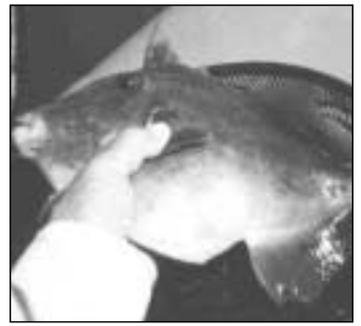
I left Ace Hardware in beautiful downtown Apache Junction on Thursday, May 2 around 5:30 PM, I was setting up in my favorite RV/camp ground Playa De Oro before 10:00 PM. Through the week, evening traffic us usually light, and one can make the trip in a little over 4 hours. If you stop, have a meal, stretch, and make potty stops you can still make it in 5 hours. While I didn't mention it too loud, that I was going to Puerto Penasco, I couldn't find anyone to go with me on this trip. Solitude is a good thing! If you have not been to Rocky Point before, I would recommend traveling in a group, in light hours for your first trip. My trip down was uneventful. The most excitement going down was listening to the Diamond Back game on the radio. I stopped in Ajo to pick up my Mexico auto insurance, this is a must for traveling in Mexico.

I had done some planning with the tide chart, so I slept in at my camp sight until 8:00 AM. Most salt water fishing situations requires you to be fishing at sun rise and at sun set. My plan to sleep late seemed to be working. I was refreshed and ready to get my fishing gear ready for the day. Some times I just surf cast, and wade from shore. You don't need much special equipment to do that. Swim trunks, old tennis shoes, an 8 weight fly rod, reel and matching line, with a pocket full of bait fish fly patterns, and you are almost good to go. I would caution you to have polarized sun glasses, so you can see where you are stepping, and a large brimmed hat, and lots of sun block.

Today I had planned to use my inflatable pontoon boat, with swim fins to cover a large area of water. I had my rod loaded with sink II line and a faster sinking class V 20 foot sink tip. I would be in deeper water with my tube and I wanted to get down to the fish. I had food, water, extra flies, extra lines on board my boat. So far my plan was working, wind was calm, the tide was manageable, and I was almost ready to fish. On the way to the beach, I purchased breakfast from the tortilla lady, what a great day!

The incoming tide pushed me toward town, the direction I wanted to fish. With little effort on my part, I covered about 4 miles of water in the float tube. I caught Rock Bass, Pompano, Parrotfish, and Trigger. When the tide went slack I stopped fishing, the fishing generally slows during a slack tide, and had a sandwich, a cool drink, and a cookie. I was almost in down town Puerto Penasco enjoying the scenery, and taking pictures. The tide changed and I fished all the way back to camp, I arrived around Noon. Not a bad morning of fishing.

The next morning I started a little earlier, to give myself a little more fishing time. The tides were about the same, this was a low tide for the month. When you have a high tide it is really a quick ride in a float tube, and that's a good time to wade and surf cast. On Saturday morning I caught the largest Trigger I have ever landed on a fly. This fish was 3 pounds plus, and was plenty of fish for an 8 weight fly rod. Imagine an angry three pound Bluegill on steroids, with jaws that crush coral. This fish surprised me, the other fish put a bend in the rod, but I didn't need to play them on the reel. I just stripped them in and released them. The Trigger took off and was on the reel before I knew what was happening, and soon I had a back lash of line and a bird's nest in my lap. The last time I saw fly line in this big of a mess, cousin Rick had just perfected his pretzel cast to a huge Bone fish in the Bahamas. Lucky for me Trigger don't make long runs. I was able to recover my line, play the fish, and take a picture for the newsletter.



I hope this little story has encouraged you to get more salt in your fishing diet. Stop at your favorite fly shop and get outfitted for a saltwater outing. Puerto Pensa usually has pleasant weather, but it is too hot for me July-September. Desert Fly Casters will have Puerto Penasco as an outing November 8-11 Veteran's Day weekend. This is an excellent way to get introduced to saltwater. Hope to see you on the water soon.

SENECA OUTING

The best one in years was the Watch Word; and it was! Great attendance, 28 flyers, seven D.J.'s, two had never fly fished, one never fished, much less out of a float tube. The first night it got a little chilly. How chilly do you ask? Well it froze 2 inches of water in a saucepan completely solid so you could pick the pan, water and all by the spoon frozen in it. But, soon as the sun showed up the day was beautiful, a little windy, but beautiful.

Saturday dinner was wonderfully received by everyone, (ya never know if its just that everyone is starving from being out-of-doors or the food was scrumptious). Camp host voted for the latter. Saturday evening brought a nice intimate campfire and some gorgeous Merlot wine and great company for the few that were on board. Of course you all have to know we didn't have any mosquitoes cause one of the logs "Dr. Dickel" Dickson brought was a creosote soaked telly pole. The whole outing was made perfect by the fish being exceedingly cooperative. Every person caught fish. Not much in size, but lots of them.

As a parting thought you should treat yourself to a trip up there, the tribe has done wonders with the facilities, sunshades, new outhouse, picnic tables, concrete slabs, the whole enchilada!

Fly of choice by vote of the fish, (trout and war-mouth bass) was the Prince Nynph.

Doc & Dickel



A NEW MEASURE OF ROD ACTION : WHAT DO YOU THINK?

(FFF ClubWire, From Jim Abbs)

Perhaps the most alluring aspects of fly fishing are the lore of where, when how and all the unanswerable mysteries regarding the behavior of the fish and the success of our fishing techniques.. While many have theories (and debating theories is half the fun), who can really say why some flies work and other don't, why the fish suddenly stop feeding at 9:30 pm or why the rapids above the bridge are always better than the rapids below?. The same kind of eternally-unsettled questions seem to surround the gear we use. Apparently there are over 400 different fly lines, one for every whim and theory. To make it worse, at one time fly line weight was not even standardized. It just came down to personal preference.

Perhaps no where is there more debate and personal preference than when it comes to choosing a fly rod action. Usually, we know when a rod "feels good to cast". With rods the debate usually is due to the fact that we seldom have a universally-understood way to describe that action to others. Well, some of that mystery (and the frustration) may be missing now. Just when I thought I understood the difference between a fly rod with a fast action and progressive taper versus another one with a medium action and a traditional taper versus a third one with a superfine action, but slow taper, Orvis has gone and developed a standard. Basically, it was felt that the variety of fly rod actions and the descriptions offered by manufacturers (and marketing departments) to describe those actions was confusing and counter-productive. Some companies offer as many as eight different rods of same length and weight, differing just in their action.

The standard offered by Orvis may not be the final one, or adopted by the fly rod industry, but appears like a step in the correct direction. Orvis calls their measure is the FLEX INDEX.. Determining the flex index (which can be applied to your existing rods) , involves suspending the rod by the handle, applying a load equivalent to the matched fly line for that rod, using a 6 weight line for a 6 weight rod, a 7 weight line for a 7 weight rod, etc., and making a few measurements. The baseline for your measurements is the distance between the rod tip and base of the rod grip. First, you determine the flex point, or the point along the length of the rod with the greatest deviation from that baseline.. A FLEX POINT line, perpendicular from the tip-handle baseline to the flex point, gives you the basis for two numbers: A, which is the distance from the FLEX POINT to the rod handle and B, which is the distance from the FLEX POINT to the rod tip. The FLEX INDEX then is expressed (or calculated) by the simple formula, $(A/B-10) \times 10$. A full flex rod, like the Orvis Superfine, would have a low flex index, say between 2.5 and 4. On the other hand, a tip flex rod

may have a FLEX INDEX of 10 and above.

Certainly if you prefer a certain kind of action, the FLEX INDEX will allow you to choose a similar rod for trout, for bass, for steelhead, all with your same preferred feel. Is that all their is to rod feel. Well, maybe. We look forward to hearing your opinions on how this works. So, if you have comments on the FLEX INDEX, let know by posting you opinion on the FFF web page: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/boards/experts/>
We look forward to seeing your responses.

First Float Tube Trip on Seneca Lake

by Ann Bounds, *Woman Angler*

My friend, Pam, learned how to float tube and fly fish all at the same time at last month's DFC Seneca Lake outing. At first it seemed overwhelming with the knot tying and stringing the rod, along with getting into waders, then learning how to finagle a float tube in the lake with these fins on your feet. This was all new to her and proved to be kind of fun. My friend wasn't a "power" kicker in her float tube, but did managed to get where she wanted to go and usually in the correct general direction.

Saturday was windy and much less than ideal fly fishing weather, but she held close to the shoreline out of the direct wind where there offered more sheltered from the wind. And to her amazement she was catching fish left and right. She mastered the "catching" part, now to the "releasing" part. This too was learned in good time with encouragement from the more experienced anglers. So now she had the whole "package" all together, and on the first day! She was excited.

As the day wore on, she had caught so many fish that her arms were getting tired from "hauling in all those fish" and she had to stop and take a break. She laid her rod down on her tube and strapped it on so it wouldn't take off without her! And while she was eating a snack and taking a smoke break, I heard her exclaim, "my gosh they (the fish) won't even let me take a break, I've caught another fish!" (She had left her fly dangling in the water! Ha ha).

Needless to say, she had a great time. And, she still had another day of fishing left! On Sunday the wind wasn't as bad as the day before and she pretty much knew the routine of rigging the rod, tying on the fly, launching the float tube, and how and where to find the fish! Another wonderful day! Ain't life grand! Not only did she have fun, but everyone on the outing caught a lot of fish and had a great time, especially me! What a fun time!



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2002 Desert Fly Casters Events

July 12-14 Woods Canyon Lake. *Host to be announced.* Another good group camp sight, and if you like your camping on the plush side there are motels and lodges in the area. Several good places to eat are close to the fishing. One can fish several lakes, and small streams from here. Same equipment you would want in the White Mountains, drive time 2 hours.

August 30-Sept 2 Labor Day Outing OPTU. Good camping, good weather, fair fishing. Good time to relax, bring the kids and eat a big picnic lunch, same equipment for other White Mountain trips.

September 11 DFC Swap Meet. Details to follow- see future newsletters.

October 3rd-6th. San Juan Fly Fishing Trip. \$300 per person. Cinda Howard, *Host.* Trip includes 3 nights stay at Rizuto's Lodge, full day guide for Friday, October 4th, banquet, and 5 day fishing license. More information in future newsletter. Immediate answers to your questions call Cinda at: **(480) 897-8083**

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 Sincerely, Your Hostess and Host,
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