

Forward Casts

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2002 Dinner- 6:00 PM Meeting- 7:00 PM American Legion Post #2

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

SWAP MEET SEPTEMBER 11, 2002 DON'T MISS THIS FUN EVENT!

> "I came from a race of fishers, trout streams gurgled about the roots of my family tree"

John Burroughs- 1884





President's Report-September 2002 Bob Harrison

he summer is behind us (almost). Reports are that the White Mountains have been getting good rains during the monsoon. Fishing reports from the last couple of weekends have been good. For those that can get away in the fall and don't mind a little cool weather, it can be some of the best fishing of the year. Cinda will be recruiting help for the September 28th work outing on the West Fork of the Black River elsewhere in the newsletter. If you can find the time it is a good cause

to help re-establish the Apache Trout.

The club has a few activities that need help as well. We have arranged to set up a tying table at the Game & Fish booth for the Outdoors Arizona Sportsman's show September 13 through 15th. Game & Fish has also asked for help with the pond for teach a kid to fish. Anyone interested should contact Shirley Johnson at education@desertflycasters.com or leave a message on the club hot line 480-654-6111. The dates are the weekend after the meeting so please contact Shirley ahead of time.

In addition to the outdoors show, Game & Fish has asked if we would like to set up a table at the Duncan Family Farms 11th Annual Pumpkin Festival on the weekends of October 12 & 13, 19 & 20, and 26 & 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The farm is located in Goodyear at 17203 W. Indian School Road. I expect this would be similar to the set up at the Women's Expo. I had a great time teaching kids to tie their first fly. Again contact Shirley if you can help out. We will need at least four people

a day for each of the days.

Some good news for the meetings. The club has purchased a dual speaker sound system. We expect this to help out with being able to hear speakers over the noise in the hall. We will be trying it out at the September meeting along with the swap meet. There are some reports of some great equipment that might be there. Bring a few dollars if you are looking for something to add to your gear bag. We will also be opening the nominations for 2003 board positions. For those that haven't been to the swap meet before, you are welcome to bring in items for sale or if you know someone else that has equipment to dispose of, they are welcome as well. See Shirley as you arrive and she will point out the next table that is available. For interested buyers the negotiation is between you and the seller. The club doesn't charge anything for either side of the transaction. There will be plenty of people there with an opinion if you need help choosing an item. If you don't know already the opinions are free too.

I have handouts for anyone interested in the responsibilities of the different board positions. You can reach me at president@desertflycasters.com or though the hotline noted above. I also plan to do a little arm twisting between now and the November board elections. You don't know how much fun you are missing until you see behind the scenes of planning and organizing.

Ted reports that there will be a dinner at the meeting but we haven't determined the menu yet.

I will try to post it on the web site as soon as we know.

The San Juan trip is full and everyone has their money in. Keep in touch with Cinda in case there are any last minute cancellations. For any that do have conflicts that come up, the club will help find a replacement but can't make refunds unless someone fills your slot. We have already made the deposits to lock in the rooms and the guides. Cinda should be contacting those signed up to provide details on guides and rooms. I would suggest those that are going try to get together at the September meeting and work out when everyone is traveling to ride share or caravan. There are also discussions of tying patterns for San Juan at the September meeting and a streamside class at the Salt River to show everyone how to rig up. Details should be found elsewhere in the newslette, but not least it isn't too early to begin thinking about the annual trek to Rocky Point and the Christmas banquet. Check the calendar for dates. The trip is a great time to learn a completely different world of fly fishing. Doc and Peter will be providing details to those that need them to make the trip. As for the banquet we always appreciate items provided by members. It isn't too hard to put together a fly box with some of your preferred patterns or a little something else. There have been some great artworks and other craft items from members in the past as well. We are a non profit organization and can provide deduction statements for those that want a tax deduction.

Enough already. I hope you are all getting a little (or lot of) fishing in. I am looking forward to the few days between school sessions to wet a line as well.

Tightlines.

Bob Harrison

September is Swap Meet Month

September 11th 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 guiet (: Dinner will be served from 6pm until 7pm. For any of you who are interested in salt water fly fishing, I hear that there will be some top end rods available at this years swap meet. We will also be trying out our brand new sound system. Hope to see everyone there.



UPDATE ON ARIZONA ANGLERS ROUND TABLE

By Ted Bounds

dinda Howard and I attended the Arizona Anglers Round Table on August 12th. The meeting was held at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Building at the Arizona State Fairgrounds located at 19th Avenue and McDowell Road in Phoenix. These meetings are a new concept and will take the place of the old fish focus meetings. The meetings will be held quarterly and the location will be moved around the Valley so that it will be convenient for everyone to attend some of the meetings no matter where you live in the Valley. 16 anglers and 10 AGFD employees attended the August 12th meeting. At the end of the meeting, the agenda for the next meeting is determined by suggesting topics to be discussed and voting on which topics to put on the agenda by a show of hands. Topics are selected until they have enough to fill the three-hour time frame allotted for the meeting. If you have a concern or some topic that you would like to get more information on, this is a good way to make your concerns known or to get some discussion on a fisheries issue that you would like to have more information about.

Several topics were discussed at the August 12th meeting and I am going to pass on some information on four subjects that I thought were the most pertinent to our membership. Two of

these items were Commission Order 40 issues and one of the items was a native Trout issue that I think is closely related to the other issues. The other thing is some updated information on Canyon Creek.

For those of you who don't know what a Commission Order 40 issue is (like me until someone told me). It is a rule or law change that is proposed by G&F to the Arizona Game and Fish Department Commission. If the Commissioners agree with G&F the changes are enacted and laws are changed.

The first Commission Order 40 issue that was discussed concerned rule changes at Lees Ferry. The changes that are proposed are to change the daily bag limit from 2 trout to 4 trout and the possession limit from 4 trout to 8 trout. Change the law from reading that trout over 16 inches cannot be possessed to reading that trout over 12 inches cannot be possessed. All trout must be killed immediately or released immediately. These rule changes would be in effect from Glen Canyon Dam to the upstream end of the Paria riffle. The other proposed rule change is to take the special regulations off from the upstream end of the Paria riffle down to Marble Canyon Bridge and allow this area to be bait fishing, catch and keep area so that the locals will have some place where they can fish with conventional tackle and keep some fish for consumptive use.

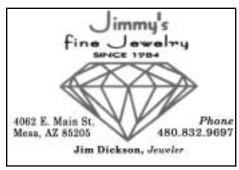
The rational for these changes is that there are too many fish for the amount of food available at Lees Ferry. If there weren't as many fish competing for the available food, the trout in the river would have a better opportunity to grow to trophy size.

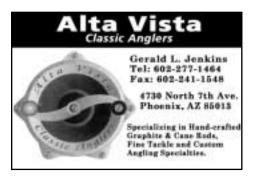
There was general agreement that these rule changes would be a step in the right direction. The point was also made by the anglers in the group that we felt the way the flows in the river are managed (that effect the food mass in the river) will be the biggest determining factor on the trout population at Lees Ferry in the future.

The next Commission Order 40 issue that was discussed was close to fishing the West Fork of the Black River from the uppermost fish barrier downstream, approximately 1.5 miles, to the confluence with Stinky Creek. This issue was met with a lot of skepticism from the five fly fishers that were present. The reason G&F want to do this is that they keep finding Brown trout above the fish barriers on the West Fork of the Black. Almost all of the Browns are found between the two barriers, with very few found above the upstream barrier. In order to get the Apache trout delisted from the Endangered Species List, Ğ&F must show that the population of Apaches is self sustaining, free from hybridization with non native species and not in danger of predation from non native species. Game and Fish thinks that the Browns that keep showing up on the upstream side of the fish barriers are being put there by people. Their rationale is that it would be more difficult to get a live Brown trout from a mile and a half down stream and transport it up above the fish barriers than it would to stand down below the barrier, catch a few browns and throw them back over the barrier. The concerns that all the fly fishers expressed about this proposed rule change were that laws only apply to people who obey them and that it is already against the law to move Browns from below the fish bar-

...continued on page 4









by Shirley Johnson

Here are two popular and simple patterns for the San Juan.

San Juan Patterns-

Disco Midge:

INGREDIENTS

Hook: Curved or Straight Nymph Hook in sizes 20-22

Thread: Black 8/0

Body: 1/16‰ Pearl Flashabou or Krystal Flash

Thorax: Black Thread

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Secure thread at head and tie in the Flashabou along the top of the hook.
- 2. Wrap over the Flashabou to just before bend.
- 3. Advance the thread forward and build a slightly tapered body, leaving the thread hanging near the head.
- 4. Wrap the Flashabou over the body, completely covering the thread. With the 1/16" width Flashabou this should only take 3-4 wraps.
- 5. Secure the Flashabou at the head with 2 or 3 tight wraps and trim.
- 6. Build a thorax with thread.
- 7. Whip finish, trim the thread and seal with a drop of super glue over the entire body of the fly. You can use a toothpick or needle to spread the drop of glue evenly. [end]



Brown Foam Wing:

INGREDIENTS

Hook: Curved Nymph Hook in sizes 20-22

Thread: Brown 6/0

Thorax: Fine Chocolate Brown Dubbing

Abdomen: Brown Thread

Wing: White Foam Post [Can use Poly fibers

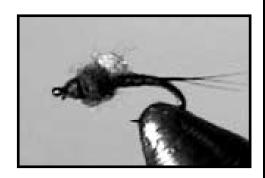
instead]

Tail: Split Dark Dun Microfibetts

Optional Ribbing: Twisted Black 3/0 thread Variations: Gray, Olive or Black colors

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Secure the thread at the head and wrap back to just before the bend.
- 2. Tie in several stripped brown hackle fibers for a tail but don't trim. Tail should be as long as the body.
- 3. Wrap the thread forward over the hackle and build a tapered thread body. Make sure to stop with plenty of room to build a thorax. Trim any remaining hackle butts.
- 4. Tie in the foam wing toward the front with several tight turns. The post should point toward the bend. Trim the tag end of the foam.
- 5. Dub the thorax with chocolate brown dubbing. Make sure and take one or two turns under the foam wing to force it slightly up before finishing the thorax. 6. Form a nice thread head.
- 7. Whip finish, add head cement, and trim foam wing to about 1/16 inch. [end]



DFC'er, Ted Bounds, with his last rainbow of the day before heading for the South Branch of the Pick-Up and some well deserved libations. Ted fished the X-Diamond Ranch- August 15th taking Bob McKeon (DFC Editor) under his wings for two days in the South Mountains. Ted fished all day with his favorite 7.9ft 3wt. Sage.



continued...Update on Arizona Anglers Round Table

riers to above the fish barriers. I told the G&F personnel that the only time I had ever seen a Game and Fish employee on the West Fork of the Black River was on a work outing. Any one who would throw Brown trout from below the fish barrier upstream would probably realize that there would be very little chance of getting caught in the act because there are hardly ever any game wardens present on the West Fork. I feel that this rule change, unless changes are made in enforcement efforts, would have the effect of creating 1.5 miles of private fishing for unethical anglers and would not have any effect on the problems with Brown trout above the fish barriers. I don't think we need more laws. If the laws that are already in place were being enforced, they would take care of the problem.

Along this same line of Native Trout issues, the reintroduction efforts of the Gila trout were briefly discussed. G&F said that all is going well with the reintroduction efforts of the Gila Trout, and that efforts are being pursued to get them downlisted and make limited sport fishing opportunities available to anglers. Then they said that as far as they can determine that there has been no reproduction in Dude Creek or Raspberry Creek. This seems like some kind of oxymoron to me.

The last issue that we discussed was the damage done to Canyon Creek by the Rodeo-Chediski fire. Mr. Jim Warnecke, biologist from region 6, had some pictures and a couple of very informative reports that he shared with the group. The bad news is that the after effects of the fire killed all the trout in the creek, as best as can be determined. The pools in the stream are full of mud and ash from the heavy rains in the area that we had right after the fire. The good news is that the flood did not destroy the streambed. Mr. Warnecke feels that if we have good snow pack and runoff next spring, that Canyon Creek may clean up to where it would be a good place for trout to live again next year. I think the restoration and repair work that will be necessary would be a great project for DFC to get involved in. Lets all hope for lots of snow this winter.

The Arizona Anglers Round Table meetings are open to the public. If you would like to be notified of dates and locations of future meetings, or you would like to make comments about any topic discussed at these meetings contact Larry Riley, Chief of Fisheries, at lriley@gf.state.az.us . This information can also be obtained from the Arizona Game and Fish web site, along with a complete list of the Commission Order 40 Proposals.

Need to tune up your casting, mending or nymphing skills before the San Juan outing or just need some practice? We will be hosting a San Juan Tune-Up Class on September 21st at 8:00 a.m. at the Water User's area of the Salt River. This will be led by one of the great instructors from Arizona Flyfishing along with some help from the more experienced anglers from DFC. Please let me know if you plan to attend. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting. Cinda Howard (480) 897-8083

Yearning to do some conservation? Come join us at the West Fork of the Black River workday and help with the Apache Trout Recovery! We will meet at the area by the Corral off FR116 at 8:00 am on Saturday, September 28th. Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited will provide lunch. Feel free to camp Friday and Saturday nights. Please let me know if you plan to attend. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting. Cinda Howard (480) 897-8083



By Homme du Poisson

"Oh @#\$%^" or some sort of harsh bowling language blared from the man running through the azure saltwater. Vince's very nice and very expensive float tube with camera, lunch and spare, hard to find reel had drifted off of our sand bar.

While enjoying the male bonding of a festive DFC meeting, I asked Vince Deadmond if he would like to hook up for a trip to Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point for you Gringos). Faster than Jim Dixon can order a second Bud Heavy, Vince said "Sure".

Friday night was very pleasant; I had plenty of CD's and just set the big Dodge on cruise and sped into the falling sun. Insurance purchase at Gringo Pass and border crossing went smooth as duck hackle.

Ten o'clock found me at Vince's trailer in Playa Del Oro RV Park. He was just sitting down to a grilled steak with mushrooms. "Hey, got enough for two" I said. "NO", was the mannerly but firm response. "OK! OK!" "I get the point." I wanted a street vendor chicken taco anyway. You can have steak and mushrooms anytime. But not a Rocky Point chicken taco.

What a camper that Vince is. I thought Gordon McHardy had creature comforts. Air conditioning has it all over a solar shower. Yes, Vince has an air conditioner rigged up on his trailer. VERY COOL!

After a deep REM sleep we drove twenty miles south and on to the beach just north of the Mayan Palace Casino. The beautiful Ford F150 floated over the sand like a Pale Morning Dun on a warm morning.

Vince had timed it just right, one hour before the ebb tide would slack and the flood tide start. This is the angle for fishing tidal water, especially at Puerto Penasco and Port lobos. The tide will float you out then float you back in. Dave Weaver has been doing this for years. So after watching him for years, I thought "Hey" I can do that. Vince rigged up first and couldn't resist chucking his Clouser into the briny. Whamo! A nice pompano on the first cast. It's gonna be good day.

Here is one of the countless reasons I like saltwater fishing, rigging up a 2/0 fly with 10# leader. None of that 8X tippet with a 22 nymph. My 6wt - 9'- Sage with Ross C-2 Cimarron reel and medium sink line is ready.

The catching starts right away; we are drifting over Cabrillos, landing one right after another. Each hook up has my outfit straining and what is it, an 8" fish. Wowsers! Can those little guys pull! As we drift in to La Pinta estuario, a sand bar was still above water. It appears we could get out of our tubes and can walk around, while casting into the surrounding channels. The panorama resembles glossy magazine ads for some far-away exotic flats destination. Not only did it look like the exotic far-away exotic flats destination, but became more so when Vince hooked and landed one, two, then a third bonefish with out moving. This was amusing since Vince had recently been to Andros Island in the Bahamas and only caught three Bones in one day. The both of us were casting to all the channels surrounding our sandbar, but "No mas' Bones. Apparently the slightest charge in the tide washes them out.

Before we could jump in our tubes and float out in the channels, I hear "My float tube came untied"! Vince was making a valiant effort to swim after it; the wind was just a little too fast for Vince the Merman. Taking a segment from the movie Castaway (Vince does sort of resemble Wilson) we swim across the estuario while holding on to the side handles of my float tube.

After much tedium, we located the errant-floating device. Unfortunately, for Vince, it was across a sizable channel. My float tube was called to action again, floating Vince through the channel to his tube. After the rescue, we headed back to town for showers and happy hour.



After the refreshing showers and a few non-alcoholic cervesa's (yes friends, non-alcoholic beer for me, this is my second year now) we walked down the block to 'Asadero Guss & Beer' a small open-air restaurant just north of Playa Del Oro RV Park. I am sure you have seen it, the one with what looks like a grilled Brontosaurus leg hanging. That leg meat makes a great Brontosaurus taco. I highly recommend you stop and have one next time you are in the neighborhood.

Instead of running the air conditioner Saturday night we left the side curtains open and enjoyed the refreshing ocean breeze. This story is starting to sound like a Travel Channel snippet on Hawaii. If we had a few Wahini's in grass skirts, who knows?

Sunday morning we packed up Vince's mansion on wheels left it Playa Del Oro and drove down to La Pinta to fish from the beach. Not too good, the tubes are the best way to go, they allow you to get right on top of the fish. We chucked the beach scene and headed to town and start home.

As Vince and I drove along the beach we agreed to hurry back and 'Play the tide game'.

San Juan River Outing is coming up fast! October 3rd-6th. This trip is full but let me know if you would like to be on the waiting list. I will be getting with everyone that is going to set up carpool arrangements. Here is a good link to check out, it offers fishing reports and patterns. www.ifly4trout.com Cinda Howard (480) 897-8083

Other activities included quad riding, boating, canoeing, water skiing, swimming, paint balling, and riding the water sled behind the boat. The water sled was one of the favorite activities for the kids. It was one of those lazy summer days where I kicked my float tube to the far end of the lake, in hopes of catching a Northern on the flats. It had taken about an hour to get to the far end of the lake. The younger kids Suzi, Stefani, and Steve were riding the water sled, while my oldest daughter, Sarah, and two of her aunts, Sue, and Cary were handling the boat. I had given up on Northern and was trying to catch a larger bass than Sarah's 19" Bass. I landed a nice 17" Bass and took his picture. Right about then storm clouds peaked over the trees, and thunder started to rumble. I was still in big fish mode, until lightning cracked about a mile away. I started my sprint back to the dock. At best, I was 45 minutes away from safety. The boat with the kids disappeared off the lake. I wondered if they would come back and pull me in? I am kicking as hard as I can, and the storm is giving me more encouragement to move even faster. Lighting is crashing all around, and I am wondering what my obituary will look like in the local paper. "Fly Fisher Found Fried Friday!"

Lucky for me, my daughter Sarah, and my sister-inlaws Sue and Cary decided to do the Iron River/Crystal Lake/Baywatch Babe/ Rescue Mission, or I would have been a perfect target for a lighting bolt. Yeah, it's good to go on vacation, and it's good to go home without being extra crispy.

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One Day of Summer Vacation 2002

by Vince Deadmond

No Hatch to Match

Summer Vacation in Northern Wisconsin, and it seemed I was too late for the Hex hatch, and too early for the Trico hatch. Yes, I have been doing this for several summers, and no I am not tired of doing it. A fly fisher can really indulge himself in the northwestern corner of Wisconsin. One can fish for a variety of game fish, in a wide range of lakes and streams. Hatch or not, this has been a good place for me to fish in the summer.

I have finally convinced other family members that it is my job to go off and fish . . . everyday. Either I have them convinced, or they have long ago written me of as a worthless fly fishing bum, with no hope of becoming a normal person. I managed to get an extra float tube this year, so I could take some of the kids fishing with me. I could almost pretend I was helping out with the kids. This worked out quite well, and the kids liked it too.

Suzi my youngest daughter was a natural in a float tube. She was slinging poppers, and pounding Bluegill one after another. She even had a double hook up, with two, one pound Bluegills trying to take her three weight rod away from her. Steve, Suzi's cousin got in the tube and was successful at landing Bluegill and was fun to fish with. Maybe there is hope for the younger generation.







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Web Address Site

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Newsletter Editor

Robert McKeon

2002 Desert Fly Casters Events

Conservation Work Outing • September 28, 2002

We will be helping the Old Pueblo Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Arizona Game and Fish do maintenance work on the area. Take the road to Big Lake until you meet Forest Road 116 (also goes to Reservation Lake). After turning onto 116 you will cross a cattle guard about a mile down the road and should see a sign for Old Pueblo T.U. You can camp in the designated area Friday and Saturday night. Plan on being at the campsite at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning to begin the safety review and task assignments. OPTU will be providing lunch on Saturday. Please send in a sign up to help with a count of the people that will attend. Contact: *Cinda Howard (480) 897-8083*

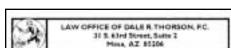
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November 8-11 Rocky Point, Mexico. *Doc Nickel will host.* Camping, condos, or motels are available. Equipment 6-8 weight rods, sinking lines, Clouser and deceiver patterns work well. One can wet wade, use a float tube, or just set back and eat and drink on the beach. Good food, good friends, and good fishing are the trademarks of this outing. Drive time 4-5 hours.

December 11 DFC Banquet. Social Event of the Year! -More details to follow in DFC future newsletter.







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