



DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

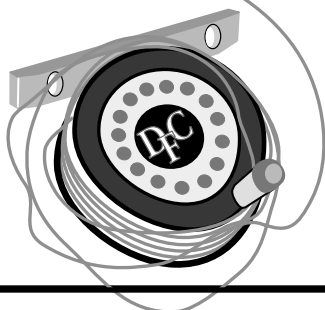
DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



SEPTEMBER MEETING:
Wednesday, September 19, 2003
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM
American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe

"And I think, as I angle for fish,
In the hope that my hooks will
attach 'em,
It's delightfully easy to fish-
But harder than blazes to catch
'em."

Wallace Irwin- 1904



Presidents Report- September 2003

Dust off all your old equipment and head to the meeting. It is time again for the annual swap meet. Come early and set up a table to sell your old stuff. If you are looking to pick up items there will be a ton of fly tying materials, flies, rods, reels plus much, much more.

The October meeting will be back to normal. This is the month that we start nominating board members. We are always looking for new people to come and share their ideas. In case you wondered what each position does, here is a list. The President directs monthly members meetings, chairs board meetings monthly, coordinates activities between board members and committees, maintains contact with FFF, TU, G&F and other organizations. The Vice President fills in during any President's absence and assists with projects and activities as requested by the president. The Secretary maintains club records to satisfy organizational requirements (i.e. Minutes at board meetings, approvals for expenditures, etc). The Treasurer is responsible for keeping the checkbook balanced and paying bills, etc. The Membership Chairman is responsible for collecting membership dues. Conservation chairman tracks conservation activities in relation to sports fisheries in the State and provides summary reports to the board and membership. The Programs Chairman locates and arranges speakers and activities at member meetings. The Education Chairman organizes and directs all educational programs - fly tying, fly casting, rod building, etc. Other positions are Outing Chairman (organizes monthly outings), Retail Sales, Video and Book Library and Raffle Committee. If you have an interest in becoming a board member, please see me at the meeting.

With the help of our new conservation chair, Eric Larson, we are becoming more active in conservation. We are looking at ways we can help with the crayfish problem. If you were at the July meeting you saw some pretty devastating pictures of the effects they are having on our streams and lakes. Eric provides more information further in the newsletter about what we can do to help. If you would like to be on the conservation committee and help with this project, see Eric at the meeting.

Two of our biggest outings of the year are on the horizon. The San Juan trip is just around the corner and we have 24 members signed up to go. The reports that I have been reading say that the whole river is fishing well. This should be a trip to remember. Also coming up is the annual Rocky Point outing. The dates have been picked for the weekend of November 7th, 8th and 9th.

Ted Bounds is putting together a flyfishing 101 class to be held on Saturday, September 20th. It will focus on fishing in moving water. If you plan on going to the San Juan and aren't very experienced with big rivers, this class is a must.

Some of the best fishing of the year is soon to be upon us. As the temps start cooling down the browns will start their spawning activity. September through November are good months to head up north to get some end of season action. Look for the Reservation Lakes (Hawley, Pacheta, Reservation) to really turn on. The fishing was really slow in August but will get better as the weeks go by. If you know of a spot that is doing well, come to the meeting and give us a report!

One last thing, don't forget to support our local fly shops. Some of them have been struggling in this down economy and need our help. They have always been there to support our club with donations so keep this in mind when you are in the market for equipment. They offer a personal touch that you can't get from the internet and they are always there when we need a fishing report or any other valuable flyfishing information.

See you at the September meeting!

Cinda Howard- DFC President

DFC SWAP MEET

...from Roy Baker

Our September meeting has traditionally been a swap meet, and this year is no different. So go through all of your gear that pertains to fly fishing, fly tying, camping, and outdoor pursuits. Bring the stuff that you don't need or use anymore. Somebody is bound to want it, if the price is right. This event can be a great place to get some inexpensive gear for a beginner. There will be lots of fly tying materials and tools, and I am sure there will be plenty of rods, reels, and lines. This is also another great opportunity to meet some of the club members that you haven't had a chance to talk to yet.

September's Meeting Dinner Menu

DFC pays for the rent of the meeting hall by selling dinners before each meeting. By buying a dinner at the meeting, you can help the club pay for the meeting hall. The price of each Dinner is \$8.00, which includes gratuity. This month's menu will be Salisbury Steak, mash potatoes, vegetable, salad, roll and butter. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.

First Day of Fishing Trip in a Mexican Jail!

By Vince Deadmond

It's easy to get excited about a saltwater destination like Loreto, Mexico. Panga fishing gives the budget minded fly fisher a chance to catch world class, trophy fish without breaking the bank. Loreto is not Cabo San Lucas, or even Puerto Penasco, it is a sleepy fishing village. The calm water in Loreto looks silver, almost like mercury. That calm water allows even the novice to spot feeding fish. While watching the water one can see porpoise, flying fish, dorado, sailfish, marlin, manta rays, and lots of baitfish.

Dave Weaver and I had shots at sailfish, and we caught dorado. Jeff and Scott two valley guys booked their trip last minute from Arizona Flyfishing, and we met them in Loreto. Jeff and Scott's guide really got excited the day they spotted a 700 pound blue marlin. They were able to get close to it, but could not get the fish to eat. It seemed as if everyone was catching dorado, but not as easily as last year. We did hook some good sized dorado, I had one 45-50 pound brute on that quickly ran off 200 yards of my line while doing cartwheels, before he released me. I did catch my first Rooster on this trip. What a neat looking fish.



Dave and Vince seek professional help. We booked our trip through Arizona Flyfishing, after viewing the video from last years trip. When we finally arrived in Loreto, (a day late) we met Pam from Baja Big Fish. They have rental equipment so you don't need to go out and buy that 12-weight rod and reel that you need to be fishing with. Believe it or not, I think Weaver will back me up on this, you need more than an 8-weight. We found our usual Puerto Penasco fly patterns tied on larger hooks worked quite well. We did



discover that Loreto is smaller and more laid back than Puerto Penasco. The motel we stayed at was clean, had good air, indoor plumbing, and fair service. Only one restaurant in town had air, the rest were open-air hut design. The meals were excellent and inexpensive. The best restaurant in town (the one with air) had a huge porterhouse steak, with soup, salad, baked potato, grilled onions and peppers for \$10.

Time spent in a Mexican jail. It was all just a misunderstanding. Aero Mexico's plane was not able to get to Phoenix on time, mechanical problems. That meant we would miss our Loreto flight. After looking at our options the clear choice was to fly to Hermosillo on a late flight. Aero Mexico paid for our nights stay and all of our meals, plus taxi rides from and to the airport again. So, the first day of our fishing trip we had no place to fish. We asked the locals what

sights to see in their city. People at the hotel suggested the museum, it just happened to be the old prison, so yes we did spend quite a bit of time in a Mexican jail.

Loreto's unhurried pace and fewer numbers of fishermen make it a place I would like to visit again. Our guide Francisco, Pam's husband, was an excellent guide. The last day of fishing we had a downpour, and it washed out our fishing. Francisco offered to take us out later in the afternoon along the beach for Roosterfish. This was really enjoyable fishing, one stop Francisco had us fishing a rock lined fish bowl. The lighting was such, that you could see your fly 20 feet deep and watch large and small fish follow, and swallow, or refuse to your fly. Fishing is the main industry here so if you are fishing here you really feel appreciated. The trip may even be worth risking some time in a Mexican Jail.

DFC CORRECTION

On page 3 of the DFC July 2003 newsletter the visual "Unhooking Yourself," was incorrectly credited- Club member **Dale R. Thorson** submitted this information and should be recognized. Our apologies.

R. McKeon, Editor

Recipes from Kent House Plantation, Alexandria, Louisiana

Circa 1800

To Ragoo Crow-Fish (Crawfish Etoufee)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup Butter or Margarine | 8 oz. Fresh Mushrooms, sliced |
| 1 large Onion, chopped | 1 tsp. Salt |
| 1 can Cream of Celery Soup | 1/2 tsp. Pepper |
| 1/2 cup Chicken Broth | 1/2 cup Green Onion Tops (optional) |
| 1 lb. Peeled and deveined Crawfish Tails | |

Sauté' onion in butter ten minutes or until onion is clear. Add soup and cook five minutes to thicken. Add chicken broth; cook an additional five minutes, stirring constantly. Add crawfish, mushrooms salt and pepper. Cook ten minutes on medium high heat, stirring constantly. Serve over rice. Sprinkle with green onion tops. Serves four.

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CONSERVATION NOTESwith Eric Larsen

White Mountain Working Group Meeting

I attended the White Mountain Working Group meeting that was held in July at the beautiful Sierra Blanca Ranch. Before I get into talking more about that though I wanted to share some information I also read in book that can be found in the DFC Library titled Through the Fish's Eye. This book has excellent information about fish. One thing I found interesting is that for a 1 pound trout it takes about 10 pounds of invertebrates (bugs mostly) to support that trout. I also takes about a 100 pounds of plant life to support the invertebrates. For a 3 foot wide stream like the West Fork of the Black River or the Little Colorado, it takes about 1.5 miles of stream to support that 1 pound trout. We all know as anglers that streams aren't uniformly 3 feet wide and don't have equal amounts of vegetation in every part of the stream. The point I wanted to make in this little math exercise is that our small stream habitats are fragile. If we want to see a healthy population of fish, the stream habitat has to be well developed to support those fish.

Back to the meeting....the people there were primarily from the Arizona Fish and Game Department. Dr. Fernandez who made the crayfish presentation at July DFC meeting was there along with Sue Sitko from the Nature Conservancy. There was one other person there from the White Mountain Fly Fishing club besides myself representing angling clubs. We had a couple of field talks along the headwaters of Boneyard Creek. I saw the Little Colorado

River Snail that lives only where there are pristine spring waters coming out of the ground. I'm glad the guy showed us where they were at because they are small. They kind of reminded me of coffee grounds. Dr. Fernandez talked about the decline of the Leopard Frog but I kept getting distracted by a rising trout in the creek. The upshot of all this is these native species are unique and while I wasn't real impressed with the water snail what I was impressed with was I visited one of the few places where it exists on the planet.

We finally got around to talking about crawdads. The AZF&G has been doing some trapping in the Three Forks headwaters of the East Fork of the Black River now for the second year. They had just finished a 3-day night time trapping expedition where each night they went to the same parts of the creek. They trapped around 2800 crayfish in 3 nights. They are going to have another outing in September. For those who didn't see the presentation by Phil Fernandez, the Northern Crayfish are biological demolition crews that literally destroys everything in the stream habitat. Crayfish are not native to Arizona waters and so the only predator that can make an impact on their numbers happens to walk on two legs. The AZF&G agreed to take over the data base currently maintained by the Nature Conservancy and now looking to enhance the information even more. One of the key factors to the crayfish control program is locating where the crayfish are currently at (lakes and streams). The working group is looking to the public and angling clubs such as ours to trap and fill out a survey form and send the

information to the AZF&G. Once they can get better baseline information on the where the crayfish are at, as crayfish control programs are implemented, it can be determined if the programs are effective or not.

As the meeting wrapped up and I went to my motel room near Alpine, I couldn't help but feel what a treasure our small stream habitats are. The decline of some of the aquatic life (even snails the size of a coffee ground) are further indicators to the health of the ecosystem. There are many threats to these streams besides crayfish: drought, cattle grazing, wild game grazing, disease, people, etc. Some are easier to address than others. Crayfish are a known villain (because they were put in a place they don't belong) and something needs to be done about them. The White Mountain Working Group is trying to do that and they are asking DFC for our support.

Jeff Sorensen says of the Arizona Game and Fish they have a bunch of crayfish traps, umbrella traps, dipnets, hook-poles, & buckets at our regional Pinetop office available to volunteers to check out & go fishing. Just call Dan Groebner (our regional Nongame specialist, 928-367-4281 x132) that you want borrow that gear--its stored in a white metal storage box on the east-end of the regional office parking lot. For people who need to pick up/return the traps after hours have them contact Eric Larsen (email: emlweb1@cox.net or 480-833-5311) and get the information to open the combination lock on the storage box. Also give Terry Myers (USFS Springerville Office, 928-333-4301) a call so he can recommend some good crayfish trapping spots in the White Mts area.



Do You Know What To Use To Disinfect Your Fishing Gear

(from Jeff Sorensen AZF&G)

The cleaning solution is called Quat-128 (quaternary ammonium solution)--its a disinfectant that hospitals use since it kills viruses, bacteria, & fungus. We buy our supply from Waxie Sanitary Supply in Tempe (480-960-1212). It costs about \$7 per gallon, but we use dilutions of 4oz Quat per 1 gal of water so it lasts for quite awhile. You can also use a 10% bleach solution as a disinfectant, but that gets corrosive on your gear and hands over time.

FLY FISHING 101 WITH AN EMPHASES ON FISHING FROM A DRIFT BOAT

...from Ted Bounds

Desert Fly Casters would like to invite you to attend an introductory class to fly fishing from a drift boat on September 20th, 2003. The class will meet at the Water Users Parking lot on the Salt River at 8:00 am. The principals that apply to fishing from the drift boat will also apply and enhance your skills for wade fishing. We will cover leaders, knots, how to attach weights and strike indicators, and methods used to get good dead drifts. We will also touch on how to cast this stuff without ending up with a big bunch of knots in your leader. This class will

be especially helpful to people going on the DFC trip to the San Juan river in October. There is a parking fee at the Water Users Parking lot (I think it's \$4.00 per car) so car-pool with a friend or two if you can find one who has any gas in their car. Hopefully that won't be an issue by then. I will have a sign up sheet at the September DFC meeting so please sign up if you intend to come so I will have an idea of how many people to expect. Hope to see you September 20th on the Salt River. For more information contact Ted @ 480-821-5290.

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2003 Calendar Events


September 12-14 Parker Canyon Lake - Jim Dickson Host - Big Blue Gill.

October 2-5 San Juan River Trip in New Mexico - Cinda Howard Host -
One of the best trips of the year. I understand it is sold out, but you may want
to get your name on a reserve list in case someone can't make it at the last minute.

November 7-11 Puerto Penasco, Mexico

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Fly Fishing 101

Introduction

This class is designed to assist people who have limited experience fishing from drift boats or dead drifting nymphs. Skills that will help with fishing from a drift boat will also be beneficial to wading and fishing nymphs. Although this class is for the DFC members who are going to the San Juan, the techniques and skills will apply to any fishing situation where getting long dead drifts is required (Lees Ferry, Green River, Provo, etc.)

Gear: 4 thru 6 weight 9' rod and reel. Floating WF or Double Taper line to match rod. 9' leader 4x thru 6x. Stripping gloves. Tippet 3x thru 6x. Assorted weights. Strike indicators. Forceps, nippers, and nail knot tool. Floatant. Fly line cleaner. Polarized sunglasses, hat, and sun screen. Chest waders with a wading belt. Wading shoes with felt soles. A net that is kind to the fish. Fleece to wear under your waders sufficient to reach the level of comfort you desire. Rain gear. Drinking water and flies.

Fishing from a Drift Boat: Fishing from a drift boat is one of the most enjoyable ways to fish and see a river. It's also one of the most productive. There are several advantages over wading when you get to fish from a boat. The first one that comes to mind is you get to cover a lot more water than you can wading. It is also much easier to spot fish from a boat because you are higher above the water. Because you can get much longer drifts out of a boat than you can while wading, your flies are in the strike zone more of the time than when you are wading. Your guide will give you instruction in casting, mending, and where he wants you to cast. Here are some tips that are general and might make your day more enjoyable: Have one angler at a time casting. This helps avoid getting fly lines tangled. Also avoid excessive false casting. I've never seen anyone catch one out of the air. As soon as the angler in the front of the boat has their line on the water, the other angler can cast without worrying about getting in the other guys' way or getting tangled. Tangles are time killers, whether it's your fly line tangled with your fishing partners or your leader all tangled up with itself. The guide has to take time to straighten out everything, and this is time you don't get to spend fishing. Keep your loops open to avoid leader tangles, and have some patience with your fishing partner and don't try to cast at the same time that they are. Be careful not to cast over your partners' line. If you do end up with your lines crossed, the line on the bottom can be pulled in without tangling with the top line if the top line isn't pulled in.

Mending: Mending is typically done to defeat drag, which is an unnatural movement of the fly due to currents pulling against the fly line and leader. Mending is repositioning line after a cast has been made. Mending is probably the most essential skill required to have success in fishing flowing waters. Keep your casts short enough so that you can control the amount of fly line that you have laying on the water. Very simply put, if the current between the angler and the fly is slower than the current

that the fly is in, you need to mend down stream. If the opposite is true, you need to mend upstream.

Keep your fly line clean and do your best to keep your line mended properly. If your fly line is dirty or the tip starts to sink, it is impossible to mend the line. Keep some line cleaner with you and use it as need to keep your line floating so you can mend your line. Guides work hard to give you the opportunity to catch fish and we all need to hold up our end of the bargain. I think keeping our lines clean and doing a good job mending is essential to having success.

When you are fishing with a guide, they will set the depth at which you will fish. This is done by adjusting the distance between your strike indicator and your weights, and also by adjusting the amount of weight used. When you have to do this for yourself, a good rule of thumb is the distance between your strike indicator and your weights should be about 1 1/2 to 2 times the depth of the water you are fishing. For example, if you are fishing water that is 3 feet deep, the distance between your strike indicator and your weights should be between 4 1/2 and 6 feet, depending on the amount of weight and the strength of the current. Another variable is where the fish are feeding in the water column. Ask questions of your guide and pay attention.

Hook sets: You should set the hook on any hesitation or change in direction of your strike indicator. Hook sets should be firm but not hard. This can be accomplished by lifting (not jerking) your rod tip with your rod hand, and at the same time stripping line downward with your line hand until the line becomes tight between you and the fish. In order to do this you must have control of your line. The only way that you can have control of your line is to have the fly line under your first finger on your rod hand. Some anglers use their second finger or some use the first two fingers. The point is, you must be able to stop or anchor the fly line to the rod to gain control of the line and the fish. The whole game is line control-being able to gain line by stripping or reeling in line-or let line out either through your fingers or against the drag on your reel while maintaining pressure on the fish. If you can't let line out fast enough, the fish will break off, and if you can't take line in fast enough the fish will come unhooked. Trout always set facing upstream. The current brings food to them. If the flow is from your right to your left and you are a right handed caster, your hook set should be over your right shoulder until your fly is straight away from you. After your fly has passed you (become more than 90 degrees) your hook sets should be made over your left shoulder. If you set over your right shoulder when the fly is downstream from you, it pulls the flies away from the fish. If the flow is from your left to your right, all of your hook sets can be made over your right shoulder. The opposite is true for a left handed caster. Keep in mind that you will probably be fishing 6x tippet so too much tension will mean a break off. Play fish

