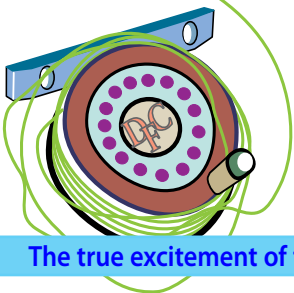


# FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



**JUNE**  
**Wednesday,**  
**June 14, 2017**  
 Chit-Chat & Dinner: 6:00  
 Meeting/Guest Speaker: 7:00  
 Elks Lodge  
 1775 West Chandler Blvd.  
 Chandler, Arizona 85224



## President's Drift

Gentry Smith • June 2017



*With the previous board's decision to change our officer terms from July 1st to June 31st, we've officially reached the end of the line for the 2016/2017 board.* Most of us won't be going far. However, several folks (including me) will be switching seats in the next cycle. With that said, I'd like to sincerely thank the outgoing board for all their hard work this past year and welcome the next group aboard.

And, since this is my last President's Drift, I thought it might be fitting that I share my DFC fishing story.

Like many newcomers, I was a novice fly fisher when I joined DFC some years ago. I'd grown up fishing most of my life and made the typical progression from fishing bait to lures, to dangling flies under a plastic bubble. At first, I was reluctant to pick up a fly rod, a hesitation I've since regretted. But in time I made the big leap.

In the beginning, fly fishing didn't come easily to me. I struggled to land my first fish on a fly rod for some time. Then it finally happens, after several uneventful trips and countless visits to the fly shops, I successfully landed my first trout, a beautiful Lees Ferry rainbow. The good news: I had the walk-in all to myself that day. The bad news: nobody was there to witness it. Furthermore, I wasn't sure if I could ever do it again.

Thankfully, Rocky Minster from Sportsman's Warehouse was kind enough to direct me to this group. (For those that don't know, Rocky has referred more members than anyone else over the club's 50+ year history). Once here, I eagerly attended every class, clinic, and outing the club offered. I wanted to be a better angler, and this felt like the right place to be. So, like a walking sponge, I began soaking up the knowledge of others. I caught my first break when I got an invite to join two veteran members on a small stream for the day. It was all slowly coming together for me as I patiently waited for the next invitation, and then the next. Before long, I had about a dozen new fishing buddies. I quickly learned that showing up on time and striving to be self-sufficient went a long way towards repeat invitations.

Apparently my early enthusiasm hadn't gone unnoticed as, despite my lack of abilities back then, I was invited to join the board of directors at the end of my first year. Feeling grateful for all the time they'd invested in me, I was compelled to give back. Over the past decade, I've served to the best of my abilities as the club's librarian, outings chairman, education chair, programs director, and president. Little did I know, I would continue to receive far more than I would give. I've had the opportunity to fish with—but more importantly, learn from—some very talented and accomplished anglers that I continue to admire and respect. Many who've coached and groomed me over the years have since moved on, but not before instilling a strong sense of what it means to be a fly fisher in DFC and the importance of preserving the history and protecting the legacy of our humble "fishing club."

The point of my story—like several of my predecessors—is that I'm a product of DFC. It's my hope that the club will continue to develop its leadership and maintain its core values. If this is the case, I have no doubt it will remain active for years to come.

Cheers,  
**Gentry Smith**

PS: *If you have a fish story to share, please submit your fish pictures, along with a brief description, to my email (design@gentrysmith.com) for inclusion in the club's monthly fishing report.*

## LATE NOTE FROM JOE STALLER...

Wanted to let our DFC members know that AZG&F is beginning to enforce the existing rules that all PADDLE OR OAR driven watercraft must have at least one U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD), type I, II, III, or V, for each person on board. Such devices must be in good and serviceable condition, readily accessible and must fit the intended wearer. If there are no oars on board, a PFD is NOT required (although it is still an excellent idea to have one with you.)

The White Mountain and San Carlos Apache tribes also have similar requirements, and have been enforcing them for a few years. I got stopped on the San Carlos reservation last year for this infraction, although I just got a warning.

In my own case, I have a mesh bag where I store my fins, booties and waders—I now keep my PFD in the same bag so that it is not forgotten at home.

Read the rules for yourself at [http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/outdoor\\_recreation/boating\\_laws.pdf](http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/outdoor_recreation/boating_laws.pdf)

**Check page 5...ROBIN MARSETT will be our guest speaker- June 14, 2017**



### DFC MISSION STATEMENT

To advance the sport of fly fishing in Arizona through education, conservation and community outreach efforts by:

- Providing Education classes and clinics on fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, rod building and other associated skills
- Committing to conserve, restore, and enhance local and regional fisheries
- Making fishing approachable, enjoyable and safe in family friendly environment
- Promoting responsible angling practices

### CATCH US HERE:

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Bill Batchelor  
[wbatch@cox.net](mailto:wbatch@cox.net)

#### News Letter

Robert McKeon  
[rmckeon2@cox.net](mailto:rmckeon2@cox.net)



# DFC DURANGO TRIP JULY 27 - 29, 2017

## LAST CALL FOR THE DURANGO OUTING

We have a few rooms available and fishing guides waiting to be booked. Escape the heat this summer for a few days and come fishing with Desert Fly Casters in Durango Colorado.

Rooms are \$142.00 per night and we are using the San Juan Angles fly fishing guides.

PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US FOR THIS TRIP!!!

**Bob Loughrige 480-229-6393.**

### You Might Be A Fly Fisherman, If...

by Al Campbell

*Have you reached a summit in the sport of fly fishing? Are you qualified to call yourself a "fly fisherman"? If you're not sure, I've developed a simple test you can take to find out if you qualify for this title. Take a moment to complete this short test. You might be surprised by the results.*

- If your buddy tells you your fly is open and you have to ask if there is another way to attach the wings, you might be a fly fisherman.
- If the map is describing an off ramp to the freeway, and the only loop you're familiar with is in your back cast, you just might be a fly fisherman.
- If the only indicators you know how to use have the word "strike" in front of them, you might be a fly fisherman.
- When your friend who's been taking flying lessons mentioned he finally got his wings, if you asked if he tied them upright or swept, you might be a fly fisherman.
- If the only royalty you read about has the word "Wulff" attached to it, you might be a fly fisherman.
- When your geometry teacher asked if anyone could describe a triangle, if you spent the next fifteen minutes describing a fly line taper, you might be a fly fisherman.
- During a recent job interview when the potential employer asked if you had any bad vices, if you told him you gave that vise to your son and purchased a new rotary one that really holds a hook, you might be a fly fisherman.
- If your definition of a downrigger is a bead on the head of a nymph to get it down fast, you might be a fly fisherman.
- If the only Latin you're familiar with has something to do with the names of bugs, you might be a fly fisherman.
- You just might be a fly fisherman if your favorite winter jacket has lots of pockets and a fly patch.
- During a recent history exam, when the question read "What is the historical significance of Siberia?" if you answer was "big fish that haven't seen a fly before", you might be a fly fisherman.
- If your idea of a cultural exchange is a fly swap, you just might be a fly fisherman.
- If your favorite shirt has a rod holder tab, you might be a fly fisherman.
- If your vacation pictures have more fish, water and bugs in them than people, you might be a fly fisherman.
- When your wife was cooking a turkey and sent you to the store for some sage for the dressing, if you returned with a Sage fly rod, you might be a fly fisherman.
- You might be a fly fisherman if your favorite boat has the word "drift" in its description.
- On the other hand, if you're spending your time reading this, you just might be a fly fisherman.



# AZ GET OUTDOOR EXPO

## July 15 & 16, 2017 • Scottsdale

WestWorld of Scottsdale • 16601 N. Pima Rd • Scottsdale, AZ 85260

I was contacted by the AZ Get Outdoors Expo regarding getting a booth for the show. We were at this show last year but I'm still waiting to hear back from the organizers if its the same deal as last year. I believe its going to be, so I would like to put a note in the the June newsletter letting everyone know about the expo and ask for volunteers to work the DFC table. Last year we had a great time teaching people how to cast, showing them how to tie a fly and how to build a fly rod. Our Illustrations President Gentry Smith was interviewed on Sports Radio

as well as the Sunday morning show where he spoke about our great club and showed the reporter how to cast. Here are some highlights for the expo, If its easier for you I can for the email they sent me just let me know.

We'll need help with all of this making sure we keep the flames alive for the many who want to know more of our DFC club and the dedication we have for the silent sport of fly fishing. Please see me, *Frank the Raffle Guy* at our June club meeting as we wait to hear back and put this all together.



### Additional Highlights...

AZ Game and Fish will be there • Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show  
New Taste of Outdoors section....and much, much, more!

Questions??...Catch Frank the Raffle Guy at: [sketno1026@hotmail.com](mailto:sketno1026@hotmail.com)



## SAN JUAN RIVER TRIP

It's time to get ready for the San Juan River. Great trip last year that everyone enjoyed a good time and lots of fish. We are offering a split trip again this year because it worked so well last year. **Arrive on Monday September 18th and fish Tuesday and Wednesday. Arrive on Thursday September 21st and fish Friday and Saturday.** Two days guided fishing and 3 nights lodging, double occupancy. Always the possibility of catching the fish of a lifetime. This years trip is \$615.00 per person and we will begin to sign up at the June meeting.

Catch me, *Billy Wingo* at: 602-451-9459 if you have questions.



**RSCC**

# RIO SALADO CASTING CLUB MEET-UP

**Saturday, June 10, 2017  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Meet-Up is at McQueen Park & Recreation Field**

**Come along with us and improve your fly casting skills!**

Desert Fly Casters ([www.DesertFlyCasters.com](http://www.DesertFlyCasters.com)) is partnering with the Rio Salado Casting Club (RSCC) to host an ongoing series of free fly casting events at Gilbert's McQueen Park. International Fly Fishing Federation (IFFF) Certified Fly Casting Instructors will be on hand to work with casters of all skill levels—beginners, intermediate and advanced casters are all welcome to attend this informal casting meet-up.

***Event Cost: This is a free event***

***Event Location:*** *McQueen Park Recreation Field (Located on the east side of McQueen Road, between Elliott and Guadalupe)*

**Items to bring:**

- Sunglasses/eyeglasses
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Drinking water
- Fly rod/reel/line/leader

**Event Host:** Larry Allen, IFFF Master Casting Instructor • **Contact Email:** [flatsman@cox.net](mailto:flatsman@cox.net)

***Please RSVP*** to [flatsman@cox.net](mailto:flatsman@cox.net) and include "RSCC Fly Casting" in the subject line.





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## DFC CLUB MEETING: JUNE 14, 2017



### ROBIN MARSETT

Come wade the waters with **Robin Marsett**- author, craftsman and fisherman. Robin has something to tell us of his ventures in Alaska and challenging his skills landing the Sheefish. Join all of DFC Trout Bums and get a first hand account of the big ones that will bend your net. Drop by early and chat with Robin at our regular monthly gathering.

**Come meet-up with us Trout Bums...6:00 Dinner... 7:00 Club Meeting,  
followed by your monthly program along with fun and raffle prizes!**



# Hen Hackle

By Dennis Conrad

*Everyone has an opinion on what hackle to use for soft hackle flies and Nymphs.* The one question I am asked most by tiers concerns Hen Hackle. So I will attempt to give some of my thoughts on the subject, one of our most popular packages of hackle are our JV Hens.

I personally have used hen hackle for wings on both dry flies and wet flies. The wing does not float the fly so I believe a tier can use whatever he or she wants for a wing. We were the first and only breeder to offer the true genetic hen on the market.

How does one tell a hen hackle from a rooster hackle? At a very early age we can sex our birds (after the baby fuzz is replaced by real feathers) by just looking at them. For most people the bird needs to be over 12 weeks of age before it is obvious, but we can see the difference much earlier.

The males always have a very sharp pointed end. (Both cape and saddle feathers). The hens are always round on the ends. Quite simple but not really easy to determine unless you look at a lot of birds. Once the bird gets older it is quite obvious.

Our dry fly roosters (genetic) have no barbicels on the barbs of the cape and saddle feathers, making them dry fly quality. The hens and a high percentage of other feathers on the rooster do have the barbicels, making them wet fly quality. All hen feathers are wet quality.

Another difference is the rooster barbs are very stiff where the hen feathers are quite soft. The roosters dry fly hackle being stiff and a unique point on the end of the barbs, which allows the fly to sit in the film of the water. (Unless you trim the tips off) The soft barb of the hen, when wet tends to soak up water and lay back onto the body of the fly. These barbs do undulate when the fly is worked through the water. Knowing this I feel it may be an advantage to tie hen hackle at least 2 times the width of the gape of your hook. Standard is 1 ½ times for the dry fly. Try it and you might be surprised at the results. Another tip is when tying a soft hackle fly, do not bind down the hackle collar when whipping in the head. Stay off the hackle. Some teach to tie back on the hackle to make it look nice? To a fisherman or fish? Just one of my observations. Allow the barbs to undulate naturally.

Some hen hackle offered on the market are produced from Bantams or barnyard breeds, not from the genetics like we do. Yes, some of these different breeds do dye into beautiful colors but the stems are very user-unfriendly. We have put so much time and money into our dry fly stems that I felt we should use the genetic hens for our JVs and Mature hens.

**Stems:** Our JVs and Mature genetic hens have the same user-friendly stems that we have bred into our genetic roosters. Very fine and supple. I used to use Huns and different game birds and always had to fight the feather as I tied the fly. Huns have stems like broom handles making life at the vise very uncomfortable. Just my opinion. One can tie soft hackle flies from both the cape hackle and the saddle hackle of the hens. The only real difference between JVs and Matures is the size of the saddle hackle. They are small enough to use from the JVs without cutting as wings and the total number of feathers (cape and saddles) per bird. The Mature has a lot more useable feathers because they are older and therefore larger.

**Here is an interesting fact:** Colors are not the same from the hens and roosters. The Black is the only one that is the same. We have far more shades of dun in a hen than we can produce in the Roosters. A brown rooster is not the same color as a brown hen. Differences in shades. We dye none of our hackle but do find we can come close enough to a color of a soft hackle fly that we do catch a lot of fish.

Some colors we know as dry fly tiers just do not happen in the hens. No, as of yet I have not been able to produce an olive or chartreuse in either the rooster or hens. We are trying but—

We do try and keep a good stock of our JV hens but tend to run out of many of the hot colors. Normally we are always processing the new JVs about Sept first. Many customers from all over the country and many different countries have switched to our Genetic hens for tying soft hackle flies.

**\* NOTE \***  
**WE NEED**  
**YOUR HELP!**

**The DFC Board of Directors has discontinued our library.** Sign of the times what with our busy schedules and the digital information one might find on the internet. What we need from you...all of you who have a book and/or CD that is stuck away, remembering to return...**PLEASE connect with us and return these items.** Thank You  
**Touch base with Joe Staller at: (602) 568-9431**



# How to Clean a Fly Rod

Thanx to our Trout Bum buddy, Charlie Rosser, for this article.

*Cleaning a fly rod should be a routine part of every angler's life.* Fly rods can cost 300 dollars or more and should be looked upon as an investment. During use, fly rods can become dirty from dust and pollen as well as accumulate debris deposits from the water. Line guides are especially prone to accumulations of debris and water scum, which are deposited by the fly line as it travels through the guides. With a little time and some basic items, it is possible to thoroughly clean a fly rod.

## Things You'll Need:

Clean clothes

Water

Small brush

Metal polishing compound such as Magic Wadding

Low abrasive liquid cleaner such as Soft Scrub

Cotton swab

Ferrule wax

## **Step 1 – Cork Handle**

Apply no more than a dime-sized amount of Soft Scrub or other low-abrasive cleanser to a clean cloth. Wipe the cleanser on the cork handle of the rod, making sure to go with the grain of the cork. Apply light pressure to remove deposits and buildup of dirt and debris. Clean under water and wipe clean with a dry cloth. Avoid getting the cleanser on metal reel seat parts or the reel seat itself, which can be scratched.

## **Step 2 – Reel Seat**

Pull a small amount of quality furniture polish on a cloth and lightly polish the metal of the reel seat, paying attention to any heavy deposits or stains. Thoroughly wipe any excess polish from the metal and buff to a shine. Avoid getting the polish on the cork handle.

## **Step 3 - Guides**

Wipe down the line guides with a wet cloth. Use a small brush to remove any stubborn stains or deposits from the eyes and guides. Make sure to remove all debris from the guides, as debris may effect the casting of the line. Take care when cleaning line eyes and guides. It is possible to move eyes out of alignment or to break eyes and guides free from the rod if excessive pressure is applied.

## **Step 4 - Sections of the Rod**

Wipe the entire rod with a damp cloth of quality furniture polish to remove dust, dirt, and other deposits. Use the small brush to help with any stubborn stains. This will help repel dirt and debris as well as provide a layer of protection during use. Do not over apply the polish. Dry the rod completely with a clean dry cloth.

## **Step 5 - Ferrules**

Separate the sections of the rod and use a cotton swab to clean inside the female portion of the rod section or sections. Dampen the swab if necessary to remove debris and use a dry swab to remove moisture when clean. Wipe down the male portion of the rod with a damp cloth and then dry. Apply a light coating of white ferrule wax to the male section to aid in assembling the rod sections and to help in proper seating.



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**San Juan River Trip • September 18 thru 23, 2017**

You'll have questions on this... catch me, Billy Wingo (host) at: 602-451-9459



**DFC Durango Trip • July 27-29, 2017**

***Still spots available for this trip!***

**See ya Wednesday...  
June 14, 2017**



**MAIL TO:** 

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