

DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

AUGUST 2011



www.hpd-

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ABOUT A DOZEN OR SO HPD MEMBERS MET AT ANTERO RESERVOIR IN SOUTH PARK ONE WEEKEND LAST MONTH. THERE ARE MANY FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FROM 2 OR 3 MAJOR LAKES AND THE MANY STREAMS NEARBY INCLUDING THE LEGENDARY 'DREAM STREAM' BELOW SPINNEY RESERVOIR. IN THE PICTURE ABOVE LARRY, BRETT AND DALE ENJOY A SPECTACULAR SUNSET SATURDAY NIGHT.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP AND SECRETARY POSITIONS ARE STILL OPEN. MARSHAL WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE TREASURER POSITION LATER THIS YEAR SO YOUR CLUB WILL BE IN NEED OF SOMEONE WITH ACCOUNTING EXPERIENCE.

Trappers Lake – Flat Tops Wilderness Area THIS WEEKEND! August 13th to 15th

There are still open camping spaces at Trappers Lake for anyone who wants to break free next week and join those members who have already made plans to be on the lake next weekend. Although the dates shown say Saturday to Monday several members will be going up one or two days earlier so if you have an interest please contact Larry Lester 303-793-0056 for specifics. The lodge booked up pretty quick this year so unless they have a last minute cancellation camping or trailers is the only option although one could grab a motel room in Meeker and drive up. We will be having a nightly get together around the campfire – come join us.

Last year Tom Caprio kept some pretty good records and here is a sampling of his report.

Trappers: Caught fish to 19 inches.

Dries: Griffiths gnat (18 dark gray), olive elk caddis, big foam black ant (8 or 10)

Nymphing with sinking line: olive damsel with big eyes, seal bugger imitation, some guys said olive and black wooly bugger worked, 14 bh pheasant tail, purple wooly worm

Hatches: midges, calibeatis, caddis

Little Trappers: hike is 1.5 miles and about 400' vertical. About a 45 minute walk when not going too fast. We caught brook trout to 16 inches, a bunch of cutthroats some over 17 inches. It's a smaller lake and worth the effort to go to. We packed in belly boats last year. Bring a pack if you want to go up there with us.

Dries: royal coachman, royal wolff

Nymphs: bh prince with sparkly wing, purple wooly worm

Hatches: midges, calibeatis

Coffin Lake: fished this about halfway back from Little Trappers. Cuts up to 14 inches, but supposedly much bigger fish in this small lake.

Nymphs: 14 gold rib hares ear –fished deep

Hatches: none

Per article Tom found post trip - a lot of leeches in Trappers and Coffin, olive and black.

Ron Belak Article link: http://www.coloradofishing.net/ft_belak.htm



SOME OF THE GREAT VIEWS AT AND AROUND TRAPPERS LAKE. THE LAKE CAN BE FISHED BY WADING OR BY BELLY BOAT OR OTHER NON MOTORIZED VESSEL.

High Plains Drifters More Trips & Events for 2011

August 27th – Midnight Madness – Lake Stewart and Lake Omar. BBQ at 7 PM and then hike up to lakes to fish for LARGE lake trout in the dark. Trip Captain – Doug Geerdes; 303-973-4190

September 15th to 18th – Private access to **Rio Grande River.** Trip captain Michael Lenzini.

Late Fall – North Platte River – Wyoming. Doug and Brett are hopeful they can still pull off the planned float/wade trip we had to postpone due to high waters.

December – HPD Christmas Party

For specific trip information contact Larry Lester at 303-793-0056 or via email at larry.lester@hotmail.com

Trip to the Rio Grande headwaters

The Rio Grande trip is on! So far, 6 members are signed up to go. We will be staying at the Antlers Lodge outside of Creede, which sits on its own ½ mile stretch of private water. The Antlers has a small motel and 1 and 2 bedroom cabins, plus RV pads.

The trip is planned for Thursday through Sunday, September 15th – September 18th. The fall colors should be striking about that time of year and the weather should be mostly in the 70's. Michael expects to arrive early afternoon on Thursday. Everyone will congregate in the Riverside Restaurant about 6 PM for a drink and decide on Friday's schedule.

Most people will probably want to fish the private water when they arrive. However, Michael Lenzini, the trip captain, has arranged for guided trips through Creede Guide and Outfitters at the Ramble House who are permitted for the Rio Grande National Forest, as well as a beautiful stretch of private water above the "Ox Bow". For that there is a \$50 rod fee, but Shane Birdsley, the owner, has offered the club a 10% discount on his guide fees. For 1 or 2 people that would be \$225 for 4 hours or \$270 for 3 people. Michael will also be able to take a few people to some of the other streams in the area if anyone is interested. For those who like lake fishing, there are several lakes and reservoirs within easy driving distance where you can either bellyboat or fish from shore. These include the Rio Grande Reservoir -1.7 square miles and also known as the Farmer's Union reservoir, Road Canyon (141 acres) and Continental .

Here's a bit more information about some of the other rivers and creeks in the area:

1. **Rio Grande River - Begins above Rio Grande Reservoir and continues throughout area**

The Rio Grande River offers some of the best fishing in Colorado. From early spring to late fall, travelers flock to the area for its great brown trout fishing. A portion of the waters are designated Gold Medal.

2. **Clear Creek River - from Continental Reservoir to Rio Grande**

Clear Creek is perfect for fly fishing. Expect to catch mostly rainbow and brown trout.

3. **Trout Creek - from Trout Lake to Rio Grande**

Trout Creek's name says it all. Visitors will find abundant rainbow trout up to 14 inches and brown trout up to 16 here.

4. **Ute Creek - from Ute Lake to Rio Grande**

The upper end of this nine-mile stretch is best for catching the cutthroats, brooks, rainbows and browns that swim the creek's waters.

5. **Rito Hondo Reservoir**

Rito Hondo is a good destination year round. Whether ice fishing in the winter or angling in the summer, visitors will find plenty of trout and might even glimpse some of the beaver that like to visit the area.

The site's undeveloped campsites have no trash cans or drinking water, so plan to pack your own. Boats and rafts with gas-powered engines are not allowed, but wind and electric-powered crafts are.

Other points of interest are Clear Creek Falls (appx. 23 miles west of Creede), Lake City with nearby Lake San Cristobal, the 2nd largest natural lake in Colorado (appx. 50 miles NW of Creede), over beautiful Slumgullion pass. And, for those not fishing, there are great shops in both Creede and Lake City



North Clear Creek Falls



Lake San Cristobal



Slumgullion Pass

In Creede, the Old Firehouse Restaurant has a great selection of breakfasts and lunches and will give HPD members a 10% discount when you tell them you're with the club. Also Café Ole will offer a discount when you say you're with the club. They are only open for breakfast and lunch. There are many other restaurants in Creede, including the very nice Riverside Restaurant at the Antlers.

There's not much night life in Creede, but there is the nationally recognized Creede Repertory Theatre (www.creederep.org) check the website for information and to purchase tickets.

You can still sign up if you're interested. You should contact the Antlers Lodge directly to reserve your accommodation (www.antlerslodge.com), but let Michael know you are going so he can put you on the list. Michael can be reached at 303-250-0707 or michael@lenzini.com.

AUGUST MEETING on 8-17-2011 6pm

STEVE PARROTT

from the BLUE QUILL ANGLER

will give a presentation on

EUROPEAN CZECH NYMPHING