

# DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

DECEMBER 2011



[www.hpd-fff.org](http://www.hpd-fff.org)

## 2012 Board

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& Meeting Dir;  
Von Fransen*



## HPD CHRISTMAS POT LUCK PARTY

Almost 60 HPD members, wife's and kid's gathered at the Dakota Lodge for the annual christmas party. Lot's of good food was set out for the potluck. Raffle and auctions items were displayed by Jon Nash.



Marshal Estes and Tim Papich's daughter's, Sarah & Theresa 'occupy' the front table selling raffle tickets and greeting folks as they come in.



The silent auction area draw's a small crowd in the minutes before the cutoff.

# Board Member Position – Trips by Larry Lester

When I first joined High Plains Drifters more than one or two moons ago I did so for one main reason – to have the opportunity to go fishing and to meet new friends. In doing so I attended one or two trips the first year, more the next and then in 2010 I was asked to step in and “help” co-ordinate a few trips with the full responsibility of lining up all the trips placed on my shoulders in 2011.

Well I am pleased to say that I survived the challenge just as everyone before me has “survived” when he or she was asked to hold a position on the board. All the positions on the board take time and hard work, but in the end I know we are all glad that we had the opportunity.

The “trip captain” as I was called while on the board has the responsibility of planning a year’s worth of activities the other members will attend and enjoy. This summer to help make the position a little easier we formed a trip committee and together six of us looked at numerous trip destinations and after several meetings developed a trip schedule for 2012 which you will find embedded elsewhere in this newsletter.

As 2012 begins George Brown who has taken over my position on the board will be adding “day trips” on a monthly basis and he will be promoting the 2012 destination trips via the newsletter, handouts at our monthly meetings and by sending out “e-vites” which thanks to Tim Papish and his daughter Theresa have become a great way to promote our trips. George will also be working with the “true” trip captains who volunteered to lead us to the various 2012 destinations we selected making sure each “captain” has the support needed to pull off a fantastic trip.

If you have ideas for new destinations or want to repeat a trip we made in the past please contact George as we are looking for places for 2012 “day trips” and 2013 although a year away will be in the planning stages soon enough. If you would like to lead a trip please step forward as one person cannot captain every trip.

All in all I leave this position knowing I did my best. My goal was to try and get new members as well as those who have belonged to HPD for as many years as I or longer to come along and enjoy at least one and hopefully a few outings. Starting with our trip to Pueblo in February and ending with a last minute planned trip to the Blue in October my goal was achieved as once again I had new and old members express to me and others how much they enjoyed the trip, the camaraderie and the chance to get away.

In my years with HPD I have developed great friendships and I owe it all to the trips. Take a minute and consider how you got to know other HPD members and I would guess that most of us will say the first time you really had a chance to know someone was the time you spent fishing together. I will be leading one trip with plans to go on several others and by the end of the year more than one new face will become a fishing partner and friend and that is what this is all about.

So come along. Sign up for at least one or several trips this year and see how many new friends and fishing partners you have by this time next year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Advanced and Specialty Fly Tying Class

November 5, 2011

HPD member Michael Keithley was our instructor for a very informative tying class. Michael is an accomplished classic and salmon fly tyer. His expertise and teaching skills were key in making the Advanced and Specialty fly tying class a great success. Michael's class included a brief history of classic wet flies and those who tie them, tips on selection and preparation of materials and tying techniques needed to successfully complete the patterns. Under Michael's tutelage, attendees dressed a Loyal Sock and a Yellow Sally, both classic quill winged wet flies. The skills learned in tying these classics will also be very helpful when tying some of the more modern patterns. Many thanks to Michael for a great class and to the students for their enthusiasm and attendance.

Some student comments:

"great class, best I have attended, I really had a lot of fun",

"I didn't think I would ever be able to tie a duck quill wing, now I can. Thanks Michael"

"let's do this again soon and learn a few more classics"

"classic or not, I'm going to fish this one, it looks Good"

Michael will teach again on January 28<sup>th</sup> from 1PM to 4PM at the Luthern church, 4500 Wadsworth Blvd. in Wheatridge. The next HPD class will be a Beginner Fly Tying class on January 9. Please see the HPD web site for details and sign up procedure.



# Mark Your Calendars

## HPD Trip Outings for 2012

| <u>Date</u>            | <u>Destination</u>                 | <u>Trip Captain</u>              | <u>Phone #</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| March 24 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Deckers – Pancake Breakfast</b> | George Brown<br>Mike Owen (host) | 303-284-6521   |

Fast becoming a HPD tradition. Breakfast overlooking the Platte and then spending the rest of the day fishing with friends both above and below deckers.

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|--|--|--------------|--------------|
| April 6 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Salida – Arkansas River – BWO hatch</b> | Larry Lester | 303-793-0056 |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|

Going after the BWOs and early Brown trout action. On-river BWO clinic w/Ark Anglers on the 6<sup>th</sup> (minimum 4 and max of 12 HPD members) from 10:30 to 3:30 – cost \$99 due when signing up. Members will stay in local motel. Stay for Friday and/or Saturday night. Arkansas River action.

|  |  |              |              |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|
| April 20 <sup>th</sup> to 23 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Grey Reef – Fremont Canyon<br/>– Miracle Mile</b> | Larry Lester | 303-793-0056 |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|

Fishing the North Platte River from the Miracle Mile to the city of Glenrock, Wyoming (including Grey Reef and Fremont Canyon) offers some of the most productive trout water in the country. Members will stay at the Cabins at the Inn at Alcova. 5 cabins have been reserved. Limit of 3 members per cabin. Cost \$110 plus tax for 3 or \$99 plus tax for 2. \$50 non-refundable deposit required with balance due by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Food expenses will be shared by members attending. Cabins have kitchens.

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| May 9 <sup>th</sup> thru 14 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Bighorn at Ft. Smith<br/>Cottonwood Campground</b> | Dale Anderson | 303-279-3939 |
|---|---|---------------|--------------|

Fish the first class Bighorn River via boat or wading. The Brown Palace a cabin that can accommodate 7 comfortably has been reserved. Cost is \$140 per night for 4 people with an additional \$10 added for each additional person. \$50 non-refundable deposit required from those wishing to stay in the cabin. Balance due by April 1<sup>st</sup>. RV and camping spaces are also available. Food expenses will be shared by members attending or members may eat at local restaurant.

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|---|---|--------------|--|
| June 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>303-973-4190 | <b>Stagecoach Reservoir – Yampa River</b> | Doug Geerdes |  |
|---|---|--------------|--|

Pike and trout fishing, make your choice. Members will camp in Stagecoach State Park at the Harding Spur Campground. Camp sites #67, 69, 72 and 74 are the best sites as they are within walking distance to the water. Campsites \$16 per day and sites w/electrical hookups (other area of park) are \$20 per day. Excellent belly boat water or you can walk the shores to spot fish. Yampa River is less than a few miles away both the tailwater below the dam or above the reservoir. Doug will be hosting chili dinner on Saturday night.

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| June 22 <sup>rd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Delaney Buttes or Laramie Lakes</b> | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |  |
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Yet to be decided as to where we will be going and a trip captain is needed. Both locations are near towns with motels and there are camping areas by the lakes. Both sets of lakes offer great fishing. Gold Medal waters at Delaney and large Rainbow, Cutthroat and Browns at Laramie Plains Lakes. **Great**



## IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE

The November club meeting at Red & Jerry's featured a presentation by Brett Edwards (aided by a slide show set up by his wife, Jan) on a float trip he, Dale Anderson and Von Fransen took on the mostly low and slow moving North Platte river near Saratoga, Wyoming in September. It was an entertaining yet somewhat scary show about a couple nice days fishing followed by nearly disastrous accident when Brett's drift boat got trapped against a large pile of logs and limbs and sunk in a small area of fast moving water. All three were able to scramble to safety across the same precarious stack of timber with out injury but were left high and dry with out most of their gear. After much pondering of the situation they hiked down stream and managed to retrieve much equipment that got dumped out of the boat, including the ice chest (now empty) some fly boxes, gear bags, etc. A short walk to a nearby farm house netted them a ride back to the pickup and then on into town to figure the next phase of the expedition, recovery of one drift boat now firmly trapped underwater. A local guide shop, Hacks Fly Shop in Saratoga, came highly recommended and provided much needed manpower and expertise to assist the guy's and a ranch hand to get the job done. The boat was retrieved nearly complete but it looked like lots of costly rods, reels and other items were left on the bottom of the river.

It was a little frightening to hear how close the HPD came to losing some valuable members and am grateful the whole event came out OK. It also serves as a reminder that we must all have an eye out for safety when we are on the water.

Von Fransen took these great pictures even after his camera took a bath.



ABOVE; THIS IS THE PILE OF LOGS & LIMBS THAT TRAPPED AND SANK THE BOAT, THEY APPROACHED FROM THE LEFT AND GOT CAUGHT IN THE CURRENT THAT DROVE THEM INTO THE SNAG.

BELOW; DALE AND A LOCAL DISCUSS THE PLANS FOR EXTRACTING THE BOAT



