

DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

MARCH 2011



HPD 'TIES ONE ON'

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There was a good crowd of fly tiers for the tying sessions in January and February. Much thread, fur and feathers were applied in all sorts of various and creative way's both traditional,unusual and at least in my case a little questionable. Donuts and coffee were consumed, fishing topics discussed and everyone had an all round good old time.

Looks like everyone had some kind of vice, were hooked on something and were all wrapped up in their project.



This report from the 2/12 tying session is from Marshall Estes;

We had five HPD members and one visitor from Cheyenne, WY who was a friend of Brett Edwards.

Attending:

1. Virgil Kelliegh
2. Steve Hall
3. Marshall Estes
4. Doug Borer
5. Brett Edwards
6. Pat – Brett's Friend

Flies tied

Steve tied a skinny leach pattern he used on Antero last fall that worked well.

Marshall tied a double bead hare's ear nymph called The Mistake

Virgil tied some Dahlberg Divers – These were interesting flies that will dive, rise and bubble when stripped. Primarily a big pike fly.

Doug Borer tied up some awesome parachute Adams down to size 22 with a homemade parachute tool.

He also tied the Catalyst Caddis. A very simple effective caddis dry fly. And a small midge pattern in size 24 that looked like fish would inhale it.

Brett and Pat ties some black wolly buggers with a red cone head with some krystal flash in the tail for use on the North Platte. In smaller sizes of 10 and 12 these files should work for a lot of Colorado streams

NEXT FLY TYING SESSIONS; MARCH 12 & 26 9am

at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 4500 Wadsworth.

HELP WANTED

Writers, self proclaimed journalists, story tellers, or anybody who has a 'fish tale' present or past to share right here in this newsletter.

Obviously no experience is necessary
email to me at m10shadow@yahoo.com

TRIPS

SATURDAY MARCH 19, 8am

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER AT DECKERS

Mike Owen is again hosting the club for a pancake breakfast at his cabin near Deckers on the South Platte River. This is a great event for filling your belly then wading it off in the nearby river.

Directions to Site: Take highway 67 west from Sedalia and stay on paved road (67) to Sprucewood Lane. Take the right fork onto the dirt/gravel road over Night Hawk Hill (Be careful on the steep downgrade part of the dirt road) about 3 miles to the "T" intersection with paved Douglas County Road 97. Go left for 3.5 miles. Turn left into the Scraggy View subdivision (sign on post). Turn right into the first driveway at address 2606.

Here is a google map link; [MAP](#)

This is from Mike Owen himself:

Hey,

It's all about the get together for the club. Over the years that I have been with the club, we have scheduled events for the members. These early-in-the-year events scratch an itch.

Weather be damned, we would go just to hear the fishing stories, learn a new technique, trade flies and yarns. Before my cabin, members would cook in the Deckers parking lot (sometimes in the snow) for anyone that wanted to show up. And they would say "thanks" because it is important to share.

So, it doesn't matter where, only that we meet and kick the year off right.

I am honored and privileged to be a part of this effort.

All are welcome

Mike

P.S. Tell Bob to bring the non-burnable pancake mix this year.



Green River Trip - April 9th to the 12th

It is not too late to make reservations at the Flaming Gorge Lodge for this HPD trip. The Green River below [Flaming Gorge Dam](#) is a world-renowned fly fishing stream; it's clear, emerald waters support a large population of trout, with rainbows being more common just below the dam and browns dominating downstream. The Green flows through a scenic, steep-walled canyon. The rugged terrain allows access in only three areas: The 7 mile "A" section which starts just below the dam and ends at Little Hole has been the area that most HPD club members fish, but fishing the top portion of the "B" section from Little Hole downstream can be a nice day's outing. You can drive to those locations and fish your way up or down the stream, or float the river in a drift boat or rubber raft.

Insect hatches are prolific. Scuds are a primary food source and are effective throughout the year. Midges work on and below the surface during the winter and early spring. Blue-winged olives hatch in incredible numbers in the spring and for this reason we selected an early April date this year. To contact the lodge please call 877-FG-Trout. There is no designated "trip captain" for this outing, but club members currently booked at the lodge are Von Fransen, Don Butt and Steve Cole. Doug Geerdes and his friend Mike will be staying in Doug's camper.

The February final forecast of April-July unregulated inflow volume for both Fontenelle and Flaming Gorge decreased from the January forecast. In order to meet the elevation target of 6,027 feet on May 1, 2011, releases will decrease from an average of 1,200 cfs/day to 950 cfs/day beginning March 1, 2011 over a three-day period according to the patterns below. Releases will continue at a rate of 950 cfs/day until further notice.

If you have any questions call Larry Lester at 303-793-0056 or email at laat.lester@hotmail.com.



Larry has more trips lined up, here are some that are coming up soon, you can also check the club website for trip and event information;

May 14th – Clear Creek Challenge. Fishing Clear Creek above Idaho Springs. A little friendly competition among HPD members. Meeting place in Idaho Springs TBD

April 29th to May 1st – Fishing the caddis hatch on the Arkansas with lodging in Salida. Saturday night dinner to swap stories.

June 3rd to 5th – North Park/Delaney Buttes Lakes. Fishing the area streams/rivers or the lakes. Saturday night get together.

June 18th – Kid's Day. Volunteers are needed. Robin Knox will be overseeing this event.

HPD Trip Report – February 5th

BY LARRY LESTER

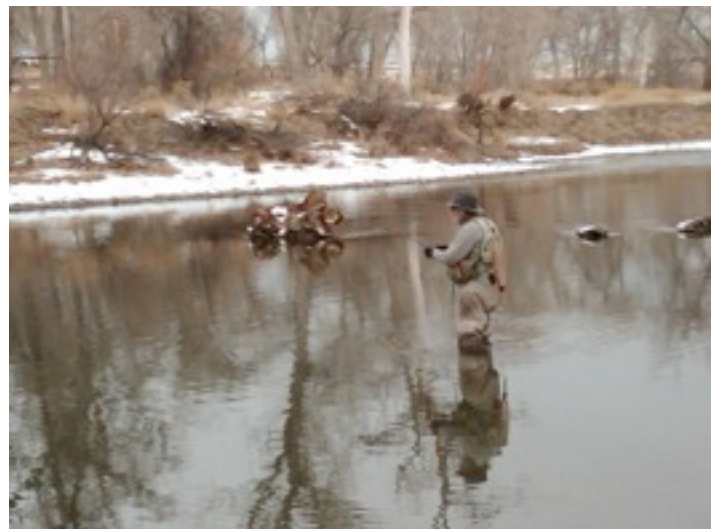
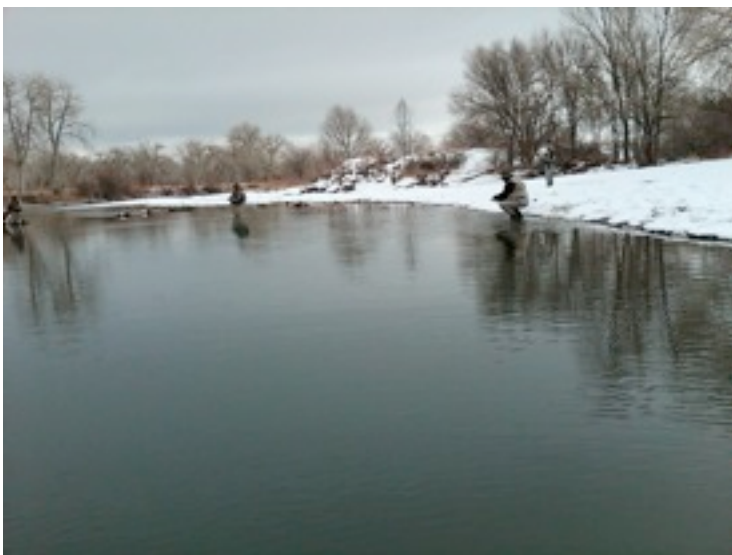
Arkansas River Tail Waters Below the Pueblo Reservoir

On a very unpredictable weather day HPD members Brett Edwards, Bob Appenzeller, James Baird, Paul Boals, Dale Anderson, Jeff Jablonski, Leon Solomon, Larry Lester and several friends of Paul and Leon ventured south to Pueblo seeking a day of fishing the tail waters approximately one half mile below the reservoir. I am pleased to report that everyone with the exception of the trip captain had success. Paul and his friends led the way by easily landing and releasing a nice number of rainbows. The weather in Pueblo was actually pleasant and throughout the day we only saw clouds building, no precipitation. The ride back to Denver in the afternoon tested the driving skills of all parties, but we all made it back safely. Following are reports from three of our group. The river was running about 80-90 CFS per Brett's calculations. Overcast slight winds.

Paul - We had luck on Small (#14-16) San Juan Worms (red, pink, and tan with a little spot of pink paint), #16 Tungsten Micro Mayfly, #18 Pink Zebra Midge, #20-22 Black Beauty, #16-18 Pheasant Tails (Crystal Flash and no flash) #20 purple jujube. The bulk were caught on the tan San Juan with the pink spot and the mayfly. We had a good time and look forward to seeing everyone again.

Brett - Thanks for setting up the trip. I really enjoyed the day. I had good success in the stretch above the parking area using #20 mercury bead black midge fished on the bottom. Fish seemed to be hanging in the slower deep runs, pools and seams. Fished #20 black midge emerger in the film to some risers with limited success. The naturals were closer to size 28 or smaller. All fish caught were rainbows. Most in the 10" to 12" class with a few 6" to 8". Looking forward to the next trip.

Dale - I hooked and landed one fish, a 15" rainbow on a size 20 gray RS2. I hooked it in the deep run on the end of a substantial shelf. I think that everyone that went down river had fished this run and I had worked my way back up stream from about 2 blocks down. I had not seen anyone in there for quite some time and just got lucky. I headed out about 3:00 and hit the weather just north of Pueblo. It was quite the drive home.



THIS MONTHS MEETING & PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

DINNER, SOCIAL HOUR 6PM, PROGRAM 7PM

AT RED AND JERRY'S, OXFORD AND SANTA FE

WAY BACK IN THE 'FANATIX ROOM'

HIDDEN GEMS OF THE UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY

BY CAROL NEVILLE of ARKANGLERS, SALIDA, CO



Carol Neville

Carol, a native Coloradoan, came by her fishing passion early on. She fondly remembers traipsing around the mountains with her grandma and dad, fishing every lake and stream they could get to.

Carol has been a member of Colorado Women Flyfishers since its inception. She has taught several clinics on fly fishing, has authored two online interactive fly fishing courses and has been featured in several fly fishing shows and newspaper articles. Several websites, print publications and television stations have featured Carol's photography. For a decade now, Carol has applied her past music teaching and technology experience as flyfishing guide, schools instructor and webmaster for ArkAnglers, enjoying those "aha!" moments with folks on the river.

HPD at the Bass Pro Fishing Classic March 5 & 6

Be sure and make time to head out to the Bass Pro Shop this weekend to check our club members at the Learning Center. Brett Edwards has gathered a dedicated group of volunteers to help out and sent this post;

I think it will be great fun and a good opportunity to promote fly fishing, our club and the FFF. We will have club membership forms and FFF materials available as well as forms for Kids Day Registration. The format is different this year as we will be manning the Bass Pro Learning Center. In addition to ongoing fly tying demonstrations we will, on an ad hoc basis, be answering general fly fishing questions, demonstrating basic knot tying and doing some casting instruction. Bass Pro is providing signs to that effect. We will have the equipment needed to hang our large club banner as a back drop to our assigned area. I made up a fishing knot display and will have rope, fly line, leader and some demo hooks we can use when needed. Based on last years event I don't think we need to have designated times for casting or knot tying . We'll just need to be prepared to answer questions from passers by as they come up. Bill Cronin, myself and possibly Jon Nash will handle the casting requirements.