

DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

MAY 2011



www.hpd-fff.org

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Breakfast at the Patio Pancake Place in Salida Saturday Morning.

HPD AT SALIDA FISHING THE ARKANSAS

Over dozen members of High Plains Drifters gathered in Salida to spend some time fishing the Arkansas river. River flows were just about ideal, the infamous Caddis flies had been hatching on the lower river and the BWO's were present on the upper river. Weather was a little on the cool and breezy side but still fishable. Nymph action was productive especially in the mornings with some dry fly action and risers in some area's in the afternoon and evenings. Larry Lester and John Hancock fished the lower river friday evening above Canon City and reported abundant rising fish and managed to land a few on dries. Mike Owen sent in a report that after a slow start late thursday eve things picked up friday and saturday most on #16 pheasant tails, including in his words "maybe the largest fish ever from the Ark". Webmaster Tim Papich also reported good dry fly action at Cotopaxi saturday and no crowd's. A big thanks to Larry for making the arrangements for the trip.

Upcoming HPD Trips Clear Creek Challenge and Delaney Buttes

BY LARRY LESTER

First I would like to thank the HPD members who traveled to Salida this last weekend. We all caught fish, but most important we had the opportunity to get the chance to renew friendships and welcome a few new members. I joined HPD many fishing trips ago for the simple reason that I was looking for others who had the same passion that I did and I am pleased to say not one trip as ever been a disappointment. Yes, we have had bad weather and at times the fishing was plain terrible, but always there has been the chance to fish with others who were always willing to share their knowledge.

Next up is what I am calling the **Clear Creek Challenge on May 14th**. Hopefully we keep cool weather until then and Clear Creek as it flows alongside I-70 from Georgetown through Idaho Springs and onto Golden will stay clear and fishable. So that is challenge number one. Challenge number two is my plan to team HPD members up into groups of possibly three, four or five members and then send them out to preselected areas to see how many fish each team can net in a certain amount of time. I have fished Clear Creek for a number of years and have always enjoyed the area and the abundance of nice browns and some rainbows. There is a restaurant across the street from the McDonalds as you first come into Idaho Springs and that is where we will meet for breakfast or just a cup of coffee before heading out.

Presently we have 12 members on the list for Clear Creek. I promise to have the name of the restaurant in hand soon. Figure to meet at 8 a.m. Will probably pick another place for lunch and at that time we will see which team can claim bragging rights. Do not expect cash awards or prizes. If there are a few members who might like to be an unofficial judge let me know.

North Park/Delaney Buttes Lakes from June 3rd to the 5th. As a club we have not been to this area for about 3 years, but every year we hear reports of nice fishing. I am not sure if I can personally make the trip so I would like someone who will be going to step up and be a co-captain. There are places on the edge of all three lakes (North Lake, East and South Delaney) where you can pitch a tent or park a trailer or RV. No electricity to my knowledge and I believe this is first come first served. Mosquitoes may be quite active thus my suggestion for those of us who like a warm shower and soft bed is that we head to Walden for a place to stay.

One club member recommends the North Park Inn & Suites (www.northparkinnandsuites.com) or you can call 970-723-4271 to make reservations. There are a number of motels in town as well. Members wanting to share a room can let me know and I will do my best to line everyone up. Likewise anyone planning to camp or take a trailer and you have room to spare let me know.

Big browns are known to be in North Lake and in the rivers and streams that are within North Park there should be additional action if floating around the lakes is not your style or you want to do both. Several members currently signed up know the area pretty well so as on all trips if you ask someone will be there to help. A Saturday night get together is always fun so that is something I hope we can pull off either in Walden at a restaurant to be chosen by those going or possibly (if the mosquitoes cooperate) at a camp site after fishing. Currently 10 members have expressed an interest in this trip.

Please send me an email at larry.lester@hotmail.com or call (303-793-0056) if interested in either trip. Those members doing so will receive additional information as the dates get closer.



VIEW'S OF
DELANEY LAKES



UPCOMING TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

July 14th - HPD Picnic. Lakewood's Stonehouse – 2900 S. Estes, 6-8 PM.

July 20th to 24th – North Platte River wade/float trip in Wyoming with co-trip captains Doug Geerdes and Brett Edwards. Camping near Picks Bridge or lodging in Saratoga.

August 20th to 22nd – Trappers Lake, Little Trappers Lake and the White River. Camping next to Trappers Lake or lodging at the resort. Excellent cutthroat action.

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.

Last week August or 1st week September – Fly fishing course taught at Foothills Recreation District, Lakewood, CO. 3 evening classes and 1 day on the river. HPD Volunteers needed.

Mid-September dates TBD (4 days) – Private access to 4 miles of the Rio Grande River. Accommodations at the Rio Grande Club near South Park. Trip captain Michael Lenzini.

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

Board of Director's update
By Bob Appenzeller (Secretary)

The board is really excited to announce some upcoming changes for the club.

We will have the capability to use Paypal on our website shortly. This is a real convenience for all of our members. You will be able to pay for membership dues or club functions online in the future! We are hoping to incorporate this for signing up new members at the fly fishing shows as well.

You should have received an e mail from the board of directors 2 or 3 weeks ago concerning the library. After much discussion, the board decided that the library wasn't being used enough to warrant the expense involved in maintaining it and buying new materials. Please be sure and let us know if you would like to continue to have the library in the future. If we don't hear from anyone, the books and dvd's will be sold or donated to various organizations.

Another exciting feature that we are hoping to roll out on the website is a software package called Famundo. This will give us the capability to a lot of things that we couldn't do in the past such as calendaring events.

Marshall Estes and Brett Edwards will be conducting a series of classes at the Foothills Recreation District on fly fishing in August. The classes will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings with a half day on a local stream. Foothills will handle the advertising and administrative expenses. The intent is to help generate more enthusiasm for the sport that we all love! If you have any friends that would like to learn to fly fish be sure and mention the upcoming classes!

The club is in good shape financially. We are always looking for creative ideas and worthwhile causes in the community that relate to fly fishing. Please let a board member know if you have a program or outreach opportunity that you would like the club to support.

THIS MONTHS MEETING & PROGRAM

**WEDNESDAY MAY 18 social hour 6pm, program 7pm
AT RED & JERRY'S, OXFORD & SANTA FE
WAY BACK IN THE 'FANATIX' ROOM**

**NED PARKER FROM BRECKENRIDGE OUTFITTERS
TALKS ABOUT THE UPPER SOUTH PLATTER RIVER**

Ned Parker, guide and owner of Breckenridge Outfitters, grew up fly fishing in the Colorado Mountains. After graduating with a B.S. in Biology and Entomology, he moved to Summit County, CO to pursue his love of trout fishing. His knowledge and influential educational skills brought Ned to teaching all techniques of fly fishing. Ned has been guiding for Breckenridge Outfitters for 9 years, the shop manager for 8 years and the owner for the last 4 years. Ned spends over 150 days a year floating or wade fishing Colorado's trout streams and rivers, and helping others learn the beautiful art of fly fishing for trout. Saltwater destination trips across the globe have become additions to his interests, as well as hunting upland birds and waterfowl. He would love to chat up anything and all things fishing so visit him at his Breckenridge fly shop!

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To the members,

Thanks for making our sale of fly tying materials such a huge success. We deposited \$413 to the Club treasury from sale of materials and HPD club shirts.

A special thanks to Larry Lester, Brett Edwards for organizing the sale and to Michael Lenzini for his help in adding up sale items.

Tight Lines,

Marshall Estes, Treasurer
High Plains Drifters an FFF Club

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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. If you have a day on a lake or river and have a good story to tell about it please share with us.

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

GET A GRIP

You may have heard the saying before. Most of us probably don't think much about the cork grip when fishing. Cork grips come in a variety of grades. Fluor grade Portuguese cork is the accepted top grade. After that it depends on whose brand of handle you use. Super, Grade A, B and C are some of the grades I have seen. The main things to look for are:

1. Is the handle smooth with few pits and filled spots.
2. Do filled spots appear to be securely glued so you won't develop uncomfortable pits from use.
3. Does the handle fit your hand comfortably? This is very important to your ability to cast and control the rod. A handle that is too small or too large will tire your hand over a day's fishing.
4. If purchasing from the web, what are the return and warranty policies of the website.

What is the big deal about the handle other than it should be smooth and comfortable to hold? Comfortable to hold is the operative phrase. When casting, most of us use the thumb on top, the V grip or the forefinger on top grip to hold and control the rod. The grip must fit the hand comfortably for the rod to become an extension of your arm. The better the grip fits your hand, the better you can apply power properly to the rod during your cast, the better you can control the vertical casting plane of the rod and the better you can hit the back and forward stops to form tight loops.

A grip that is too skinny or too fat for your hand will tire you out and lessen your control over the rod. The shape of the grip is also important. Today grips come in four shapes

1. Cigar for weights 1 thru 3. These are similar to the half wells grips without so much flair at the back of the grip.
2. Half Wells with a cutout for the top reel seat. These grips have a smaller front end a larger middle and flair at the back end. These grips are often found on rod weights 1 thru 6.
3. Full Wells grip have a full front end to allow the thumb to apply power during the cast, a middle to fit the palm and a flared back end to rest the heel of the palm against. Generally found on rod weights 6 and up. And most often these will have a one or two inch fighting butt.

1. The new Snub-Nosed Wells grip found on St. Croix Bank Robber rods in 6 and 7 weight and on Sage TXL-F small stream rods. (I have cast the Bank Robber 6 wt with the snub nosed grip and found it tiring. The seven wt with the full Wells was quite comfortable. I have not tried the seven wt with the snub-nosed Wells grip.



1 and 2 are half Wells Grips. 3 and 4 are full Wells grips with fighting butts.



Snub-nosed Wells grip on the Bank Robber Rod.

In 2009 I purchased a big brand 9ft 6wt rod. This rod has taken me over a year to learn to control properly. Mostly because the grip is 2/64ths to 3/64ths too large for my hand and tires my thumb out quickly on long casts necessary for the FFF certification test. While learning to use this rod, it would sometimes turn 30+ degrees during a cast because I could not hold the grip comfortably with the thumb on tip hold. The V grip was only slightly better. I know the size of the grip was the main issue because I have tried 2 other exact same brand and model rods with handles slightly smaller and experienced no loop or control problems.

So when you purchase your next rod, take some time to hold the rod. Feel the grip. Is it comfortable? Is it too small or too large or just right? Is the grip the right design for you? Look at the construction. Ask about the grade of cork used. Remember the cork grip is where the hand meets the rod. The average fly fisher makes some 200 casts in a day on stream. You want your day to be fun and not a struggle to control your fly rod.

Tight Lines,

Marshall Estes, Mentor