

DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

JANUARY 2012



www.hpd-fff.org

2012 Board

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Brett Edwards*

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open*

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Gary Hort*

*Trips;
George Brown*

*FFF Liaison &
membership;
James Baird*

*Asset Manager
& Meeting Dir;
Von Fransen*



The High Plains Drifters first booth at the 2012 Denver Fly Fishing Show was a success, we signed up 8 new members and renewed one, we handed out over 100 HPD Club Fact Sheets and Trip Schedules and 50 or more Kids Day

Brochures. Over a dozen people said they would like to attend an HPD monthly meeting before joining the club. So if you see a new face at our meetings, please take a moment and introduce yourself, thank them for coming and invite them to sit at your table.

The support from our club members was tremendous, we couldn't have pulled it off without them, so thanks to everyone who worked the show. And a great big thanks to Dale Anderson for printing most of the literature and handed-outs.

The High Plains Drifters would like to thank Chuck Furimsky and the Fly Fishing Show staff for their assistance in making our first presence in the Denver show possible. His staff was great to work with.

HPD members at the fly tying bench; Virgil, Tim, Stan & Larry, with various clients.



January 9, 2012

From Your Board of Directors

Thanks to the hard work of many of our dedicated and talented club members, 2011 was a great year for the High Plains Drifters. Many thanks to all of our members who helped in so many ways to make 2011 a memorable and rewarding year. Under the expert leadership of Michael Lenzini and the 2011 board of directors our club was able to accomplish some great things. Here are a few of the highlights.

Our 2011 meetings were filled with great programs, raffles, member presentations and, as always, great fellowship.

Our trip calendar was very active and if you were able to make any of the trips you know what a fun and rewarding time those trips were not to mention some darn good fishing.

Work was started on acquiring access to private fishing waters and we now have a club membership with Rocky Mountain Anglers which allows our club members to belong by just paying them the annual fee with no initiation fees and any applicable rod fees on their properties.

Editor's note; Marshal reports that the average rod fee is \$68

We formed two committees to map out strategies for trips and educational opportunities. The committees are staffed by board members and club members and are actively developing those areas of opportunity.

Kids Day, the club picnic and the Christmas party were all well attended and great fun for all who were able to participate.

We had booths at the Flyfishing Show and Bass Pro Spring Fishing Classic event which resulted in signing up new members, helping kids tie their first fly, beginner casting instruction and promoting our club to hundreds of show participants.

We held a successful 3 day fly fishing class at the South Suburban Recreation Center. This was a for fee class attended by 5 participants.

Club members provided some of the fly casting instruction for Project Healing Waters and the Acres Green program.

Our web site and newsletters continue to provide great information and are growing and improving all the time.

Again, thanks to everyone who helped make these things possible.

Retiring Board Members and Officers by Brett

Larry Lester, Bob Appenzeller and Marshall Estes have completed their terms on the Board of Directors and Michael Lenzini has completed his term as club president and remains on the Board of Directors. Thank you all for the many years of dedicated service. You have provided many hours of hard work to the club, your respective offices and areas of responsibility. We look forward to seeing you taking it easy and having the opportunity now to just enjoy the club as active members. Thanks guys and great job!

Welcome New Board Members

Dale Anderson, Don Butt, George Brown and Von Fransen are now on the Board of Directors. George will be our trips director, Don will assume the treasures duties, Von will be our asset manager and coordinate new member activities and meeting structure, Dale will be involved with meeting raffles and fund raising. Welcome to all of you and thanks for stepping up to the plate.

Returning Board Members and areas of responsibility:

James Baird– Membership director and FFF liaison, Steve Hall–Newsletter editor/author, Gary Hort–Programs director, Michael Lenzini–Outreach development, fund raising and private water acquisition director, Jon Nash–Raffles and fund raising director

2012 officers

Brett Edwards–President and education director, Tim Pappich–secretary and web master, Don Butt–treasurer

JANUARY MEETING
ROGER LINN from SNOWY MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS
CHEYENNE, WY
THE NORTH PLATTE RIVER
6PM 1-18-2012 AT RED & JERRY'S, SANTA FE & OXFORD
IN THE FANATIX ROOM

Arkansas River – BWO Hatch – On Stream Clinic

Host: Larry Lester 303-793-0056 or larry.lester@hotmail.com

When: Friday, April 6th to Sunday, April 8th

Where: Salida, Colorado

Salida is about 2 to 2.5 hours from Denver. Early April is a great time for the start of Brown trout action as they go after large BWO hatches. An optional on-river BWO clinic (minimum of 4 and maximum of 12 HPD members) with Ark Anglers has been scheduled for April 6th from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The clinic will start at the Salida shop going over fly options for the various stages of the BWO life cycle and then conclude most likely on Ark Angler's private water. HPD members attending the clinic are encouraged, but not required to stay and fish the weekend.

Members may participate in the clinic or just elect to group together for fishing for one, two or three days. There is always action below or above Salida and the friendly people at Ark Anglers can point us in the right direction. The 8th is Easter Sunday which caught me by surprise, but I will be fishing in the morning before heading home.

Accommodations: There of course are the local motels, but I have been scouting around and I found a home in Salida that rents for less than \$200 per night. This place can easily accommodate up to 6 with of course the possibility of sleeping bags thrown wherever so the cost per person is really nice. Another place is located downstream from Salida right on the Arkansas with more room and a higher cost per night, but either option will work out better than motel costs. Both have full kitchens and there are nice places to eat in Salida.

SIGNUP/DEPOSITS/PAYMENTS

On-River Clinic: The cost is \$99 per person and includes lunch. The non-refundable payment is due when you sign up for the clinic. Make checks payable to High Plains Drifters. Cut-off date will be the HPD meeting on March 21st or as soon as 12 members have signed up and deposits collected. Greg Felt (Ark Anglers) said you should sign up for this as a "rain or shine" activity, but if the roads from Denver to Salida are impassable the clinic will be canceled at no cost and the \$99 would be refundable.

Accommodations Deposit: A \$50 deposit (checks made out to HPD). **Final Lodging Payment:** Due no later than the March 21st HPD Meeting. Specific totals based upon number of nights, number of members and the place selected. Unless the trip is cancelled due to impassable roads the lodging payment is non-refundable. The owner of the home in Salida requires a one night deposit, but has also agreed to cancelation at no charge if roads are impassable.

Carpooling: This is encouraged and members willing to drive or seeking a ride, please let us know.

HPD Trip Outings for 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Trip Captain</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
March 24 th	Deckers - Pancake Breakfast	George Brown 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.

April 6 th to 8 th	Salida - Arkansas River - BWO hatch	Larry Lester	303-793-0056
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On-river BWO clinic w/Ark Anglers on the 6th (minimum 4 and max of 12 HPD members) from 10:30 to 3:30 - cost \$99 due when signing up. Lodging accommodations TBD - Stay Friday and/or Saturday night.

April 20 th to 23 th	Grey Reef - Fremont Canyon - Miracle Mile	Larry Lester	303-793-0056
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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 21st. Food expenses will be shared by members attending. Cabins have kitchens.

May 9 th thru 14 th	Bighorn at Ft. Smith Cottonwood Campground	Dale Anderson	303-279-3939
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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 1st. RV and camping spaces are also available. Food expenses will be shared by members attending or members may eat at local restaurant.

June 1 st to 3 rd	Stagecoach Reservoir - Yampa River	Doug Geerdes	303-973-4190
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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 below the dam or above the reservoir. Doug will be hosting chili dinner Saturday night.

June 22 rd to 24 th	Delaney Buttes or Laramie Lakes	Volunteer Needed	
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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.

July 12 th to 15 th	North Platte - Saratoga Area Camping - wade/float options	Brett Edwards Doug Geerdes	303-280-5440 303-973-4190
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Fishing will be a combination of float trips and wade fishing on the North Platte from Treasure Island above Saratoga to the Picks Bridge area below Saratoga. No overnight float trips - we will be at base camp each night. Food expenses will be shared. No electrical hookups, but there is room for RVs and trailers and of course tents. An area the club visited several years ago with great success.

August 2 nd to 5 th	Piedra River (Pagosa Springs area)	Mike Owen	303-932-0215
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Mike will be scouting out this area and making a decision as to where base camp will be set up. Mainly browns and rainbows with a few cutthroats will make for great action.

HPD member Jeff Lamer submitted this piece on a trip to the actual other side of the world. Micronesia is in the Philippine Sea northeast of Australia.

One day in Pohnpei

I rarely travel these days without a fly rod and fly box under the back seat, because you never know when you might run into a fish or two. So I was surprised to learn a new twist to the simplicity of preparedness one day in Pohnpei. My wife and I were laying around the grass hut one day while visiting extended family residing in Pohnpei, Micronesia, when cousin Jamie suggested a day trip to a neighboring reef call Aunt Atoll. An Atoll it seems is a circular shaped reef who's interior is protected from the ocean surf and contains in its interior calm opportunities for snorkeling and other adventure. Aunt as it's called lay about 6 miles outside the barrier reef surrounding Pohnpei to the south west and we readily agreed to the taunt of new adventure.

The next morning we piled into the craft of choice, an open 25 foot, fiberglass hull boat powered by twin Yamaha 60 horse outboards. With 9 souls on board we departed for the open ocean passage to Aunt Atoll, but not without stopping to snorkel with the Manta ray that frequent the reef outlet in the early morning.

Pressing onward the boatman, "Stamp", took a course inside the reef boundary, so as to keep our speed up (25 Knots or so), to a more southerly passage where we exited the reef. Aunt was just visible on the horizon and the course was plotted by means of visual navigation from there across about a 6 mile stretch of open ocean. For some unknown reason Jamie stood up on the bow and leaned back against the bow rope for support, seemingly, I thought, to feel the wind in his face. He signaled Stamp with a hand wave and Stamp obliged with a left course change. After a few minutes Jamie waved off the course change and Stamp resumed direct to "Aunt". This activity repeated to the left and again to the right until we came upon a flock of birds diving into the water to the north of our intended entrance to Aunt. Jamie turned and spoke "would you like to catch some Tuna?" "Sure but we've forgotten the poles" I replied. Jamie pulled two spool boards from a computer pouch he had brought along and handed one to me. Each one was wound with 50 Lb test rigged to a medium sized lure, trailed behind a swivel with a three foot section of 20 lb leader. No pole needed?? Jamie explained " throw it out about 20 feet behind the boat and then pull 'em in quick or the sharks will feed on then". Stamp spooled up the twin Yamaha's and we passed directly through the feeding flock at a speed of maybe 10 to 15 knots. Both lines hit one after the other on the pass, Jamie pulled in a 3 lb Tuna called a skipper Jack. This scenario repeated on each successive pass both lines hit almost simultaneously. By the end of three passes we had two each and headed off to "Aunt" for lunch and an afternoon of snorkeling.

This is sight fishing at its finest extreme using the Tuna's natural feeding habits to sight the spot. When Tuna feed they school below the bait fish and drive their intended meal toward the surface where they are easier to catch. This in turn causes e birds to feed on the surface making it easy to spot from a few miles away. This quick side trip was a thrill for me and I wished we could have done a few more passes but the cooler was full and the promise of the underwater play ground within the Atoll was calling. Jamie bragged a bit on the way exclaiming that the fish were typically larger (sometimes as much as 20 lbs) and the catch could reach 100 fish if we had more time to fool with it. That's my fish story from the South Pacific.

Jeff L.

