

Hi-Desert Flyfishers



Volume 6, Issue 5

May 11, 2010

Club Officers

President: Paul Sinclair
Vice President: Ernie Gulley
Secretary: Craig Bullock
Treasurer: Larry Longueira
FFF/PHW: Wayne Campbell

Outings/Instuctor: Paul Sinclair
Safety/ Instructor: Steve Roach
Education/Instructor: John Rose

Website: Chris Hynes
Newsletter: Gary Applebee

Send Articles to: glapplebee@gmail.com



President's Message

Well, where do I start? I feel like I am looking at a new stream I haven't fished before.

First, HDFS is excited to have club member and local fishing guide Keith Kern as our guest speaker in May. Keith has lived in and fished the Big Bear Lake area for 31 years. As a guide for 10 years, Keith is an avid hiker and has not only guided fisherman on Big Bear Lake but also the many smaller streams using 2/3 wt. rods.

Keith fishes the Eastern Sierras, Golden Trout Wilderness, Lake Crowley & high country lakes using a float tube and full sink lines. His presentation will be focused around his book and DVD "Fly Fishing Big Bear Lake" and preparation for the club's day on the lake in June.

Secondly, I would like to thank Gary Applebee and Chris Hynes for the excellent newsletter last month. Beautiful Job!

General Meeting Notice

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: County Fire Station

Address: 19235 Yucca loma Rd.
Apple Valley

Website: www.hidesertflyfishers.com

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HD Club Discount Locations

Arizona Flyfishers: www.azflyfishing.net

Sierra Trading Post: www.sierratradingpost.com

Flymen Fishing: www.flymenfishing.com

Sierra Stream: www.sierrastream.com

Sierra Trout Magnet: Dave D'beaupre, owner
(760) 873-0010 10%
www.sierratroutmagnet.com

As everyone knows John Rose stepped down as our VP. We had a board meeting on April 16th, 2010 and Ernie Gulley has graciously offered to act as our Intern VP until our election in November. John will still help out with Fly tying & Casting Instruction. John also is helping Gary with the newsletter i.e. Fly of the Month.

Third, the club and its members have reached an accomplishment as of April 16th, 2010. The Project Healing Waters was a great success! On April 17, 2010 the Daily Press posted a front-page article with Craig Bullcock and Robert Cruz. I hope that this will bring attention to HDFS. I would like to thank all the volunteers, including the guys from Deep Creek FFC.

Third, we took a vote to table our charter vs. affiliate status. We are still a charter until we take a ballot vote on May 11th, 2010.

In closing I want to thank my friends for their dedication, devotion, understanding, values, support and teamwork.

Tight Lines,
Paul

Project Healing Waters

On behalf of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, the nine disabled veterans and seven volunteers from Long Beach Casting Club, I want to say thank you very much for the hospitality and generosity of the members of Hi-Desert Fly Fishers who helped make our fishing outing such a success. Friday, April 16 was a perfect day of weather, fishing and friendly mentoring, with a considerable amount of learning.

We are so grateful for the display of community support. Everyone was all smiles the whole way home. Thank you so very much.

Carole Katz
National Trustee
Southwest Regional Coordinator
Program Lead, PHWFF @ Long Beach VAMC



Ernie and Andy With His Fish

Project Healing Waters
My day with the Veterans!

By Ernie Gulley

Ever since the first day I was introduced to the idea and

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concept of “Project Healing Waters” it has been a dream of mine to be a part of this organization and make a difference in these veterans lives. My dream did come true on April 16, 2010, at Jess Ranch in Apple Valley, CA. This was one of the most rewarding days that I have had in my life time and looking forward to being a volunteer for many, many years to come.

The day started with everyone meeting at the gates of Jess Ranch at 8 a.m. We all waited in anticipation of our Veterans that have given so much for everyone in our country! It seemed like an eternity to wait, but finally at 9 a.m. the bus arrived and so did our Heroes. The fire department brought a ladder truck. As the Vets drove under the ladder, two lines of policeman & fireman were saluting. The Vets arrived in a beautiful bus and you could tell that they had made their journey to Jess Ranch in style!

As the Veterans disembarked from the bus you could tell right away they were very excited and eager to put their newly built fly rods into the water. Every Veteran that made the trip had a handcrafted fly rod that they made. One of Vets, Charlie had taken a 3rd place prize for her rod wrapping, in a contest that was for Veterans across the nation. We introduced ourselves to everyone and could tell everyone was eager to test the waters so we paired up and made our way to the lake. Russ Smith paired up with Charlie; he helped her to set up her fly rod with some proven midge patterns and an indicator she immediately started hooking fish. My partner was named Andy, he was just a beginning fly fisher. I set Andy up with a small copper midge and an indicator and showed him how to roll cast. Andy immediately picked up on this and was casting very proficiently and also started hooking fish. I think all total he ended up hooking over 20 fish, landing and releasing 7. The largest fish a beautiful 18” rainbow.

As we fished we had a great conversation and could hear all of the other Vets having a fantastic time. Everyone was catching fish and enjoying the experience.

We took a small break for lunch. We finished our lunch and continued to fish for a little while longer and then decided to call it a day. What a very rewarding day it was for me and for everyone who had volunteered.

Andy had made the comment to me that you cannot believe how beautiful this is compared to what he sees at the Veterans hospital every day. This statement really hit home for me and I have promised myself to try to volunteer as many times as possible each year. I have decided to see if I can start a “Project Healing Waters” High Desert Chapter thru the High Desert Fly Fishers club and hopefully with the help of Deep Creek Fly Fishers. Together we can make a difference in everyone of these Veterans lives.

This outing of course could not have been possible without the combined efforts of Paul Sinclair, President and Wayne Campbell of High Desert Fly Fishers, Carole Katz of the “Project Healing Waters” organization and volunteers from Deep Creek Fly Fishers, Orange County Fly Fishers and last, but certainly not least Robert Ledford, owner of Jess Ranch who let us use this fantastic facility. Many thanks to Apple Valley Fire District, Apple Valley Sheriff’s Department and Apple Valley Citizens on Patrol who took care of the beautiful barbeque lunch that was provided and everyone else who was at this beautiful outing.



Hi-Desert Flyfishers



We have several new members and those that are new to fly fishing might like this. This will give them an idea of what equipment is necessary. So, lets take a look.

Equipment

Rod, Reel and Line

First you will need a balanced Rod, Reel and Line. I am attaching a reference chart that will help you make sense of the numbering system. Hang on to it you will refer to it often. This will help you in selecting your next fly line and/or rod. The term-balanced outfit in fly fishing refers to all components having the same number designation.

Lets say for example: I want to putt together a 5-weight outfit. This usually calls for a 5-weight rod, 5 weight floating Line and 5-weight Reel with maybe one extra spool. The extra spool will allow you to have a sinking system for times when you need a deeper presentation. Setting up and using different types of sinking lines will be discussed in another issue.

Flyrods

Purchasing a prepared system, either from a mail order house or a fly fishing store. Can give the beginner the least expensive way to start. The 5-weight, 8½ or 9 foot rod is considered the new basic way to go. You can easily go up or down in size from this point as you gain experience.

Just remember the lighter the outfit the more challenging it is to land a fish. The 5 weight works great in streams, rivers and lakes but, there are times when you're on a small stream this rod will seem too large.

My Thoughts on Reels

The reel in most cases is only a storage place for the fly

line; you will just pull in the line to bring in your fish. BUT and this is a Big BUT. If you can only purchase one outfit think about this!

When fly fishing Lakes for example! A 5-weight rod will cover almost all situations you will encounter. There are lakes, such as Lake Crowley in the Sierra's, above Bishop where trout can be large and on a good run can take all your fly line, plus a large portion of backing off your reel. So plenty of backing is a good idea and spending the little extra on a reel with a good drag system, can make all the difference.

Large Arbor reels or a 6-weight reel on a 5-weight rod is sometimes a good idea. The advantage of using a larger diameter reel is because this will also allow the fly line coils to be a little more relaxed on your reel, reducing memory. Large Arbor reels are good for this. But they will not usually hold as much backing as the same outside diameter reel with a smaller arbor. In almost any lake or river situation, I like a reel that will hold at least a 100yds of 20# backing, along with the whole fly line.

Note:

Reducing the memory is taking the ability out of a fly line to retain in a coiled shape. The straighter the fly line the easier your casting will be and have the ability to obtain a little more distance.

Purchasing Your Equipment!

Any good fly-fishing shop will help you in purchasing the right equipment.

The second way is ordering from a catalog such as Cabela's, Orvis, Bass Pro or any one of numerous other mail order places.

Cost:

You don't have to spend a lot of money. For example,

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the Cabela's catalog has quality balanced outfits that start from about \$130.00, this will also include the backing. Backing is nylon fishing line of approximately 20# test behind the fly line to take up space and to give additional line if necessary, to fight a large fish.

Spend more if you want, if you're experienced in fly fishing and your casting abilities can take advantage of buying the top end equipment. It isn't too hard to spend \$600.00 or more for the rod alone.

If your curious, just stop buy Bob Marriotts Flyfishing store in Fullerton, California. Call for directions their phone number is (800) 535-6633.

Marriotts is the largest fly fishing store in California and practically anywhere else for that matter. Marriotts is a place where I like to go once in a while to get some fly tying materials or hard to find items.

I would advise anyone to just go at least once, if for no other reason then just to see the store. There are items reasonably priced for the beginner as well as for the advanced. They also cater to the Fly Tier and Rod Builder. Marriotts also carries clothing and some high-end fly-fishing equipment.

Additional Necessary Items

You will also need an assortment of Dry and Wet flies. A couple of fly boxes one for Dries and one for Wets would be good to start. A few tapered leaders, tapered down to 4X and 5X would be a good start. Also needed would be some tippet material 4X, 5X and 6X to start. This material will be spliced to the tapered leaders. Additional needed items would be; a net, forceps, clippers, split shot and a place to put your equipment in such as a fanny pack, fly fishing vest. For wadding in lakes and steams you will also need some waders and a pair of wadding shoes.

As you can see there will probably be many additional items that you will eventually want. These items I have

listed are a good start and as you go, additional equipment can be added, as you like

Leader Construction

I am going to touch on building a simple leader. Purchase a store bought tapered leader, tapered down to 4x (Approx 5 pound test).

Next you will need a 24" to 48" length of 4X, 5X or 6X tippet material. The tippet material comes in 25 to 50 yard spools. The tippet can be spliced to the leader in several ways. The easiest connection is to put a triple surgeons loop in both the end of the leader and one end of the tippet material. Now combine both these sections using a loop-to-loop connection. This also makes it easy to add material when the tippet gets short with usage. Another way is to tie a blood knot joining the 2 sections together another knot that is used, is a triple surgeons knot.

Remember attaching a tippet to a manufactured tapered leader is not mandatory, but it will extend the life of the tapered leader. Tapered leaders can cost from \$2.50 and up each. A tapered leader you can build yourself. There is a formula to follow; I will look it up for another time. So buying them already make is much easier for the beginner.



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Fly of the Month

Broken Back Dark Zebra Midge



Fly of the Month: by Pete Emmel (Pete)

As a prelude to Tom Loe's presentation on fishing the Eastern Sierras, he sent along the following tie details for one of his hottest flies. After having a good look at it you may have some questions to ask him in person at the meeting.

Broken Back Dark Zebra Midge #18

Articulated or jointed lures have been around for a very long time. Knowledgeable anglers have taken advantage of the realistic action that these imitations provide, and have prospered greatly from their use. It is not to say that fly designers have not utilized articulated flies - they have been in salt water, steelhead, and bass fly boxes for a good while also. Relatively speaking, it is only recently that tiers have begun to create "broken back" patterns that imitate smaller swimming type nymphs, pupa, and larval representations. I was enlightened to the effectiveness of broken back midges by one of my master guides, Chris Basso one bright sunny day while fishing midge patterns next to him on Crowley Lake in California.

Getting convincingly spanked by one of your peers requires the bribe of several beers, and a good deal of kissing hinny to get the "scoop". Basso had been exper-

imenting with some articulated midge larva patterns for a while and his efforts had begun to pay-off big time. Broken back patterns work best when there is some movement on the surface of the water like wind chop or small waves on a lake, or in a riffle or nervous section of water on a river. You may also "twitch" your rod tip occasionally to give the imitation some movement.

Materials:

Hooks: Tiemco 2499SPBL#18 (body)

Tiemco 2487#20 trailer hook

Bead: 1.5mm black nickel

Bodies: 6/0 black thread- unwaxed

Flash: Hareline lime green Krystal Flash KF-18 (both sections)

Ribbing: Micro/very small silver wire (main body only)

Articulated loop joint: 6X fluorocarbon

Glossy, quick drying hard finish head cement or lacquer

Tying Instructions:

1: Secure #20 trail hook in vise and tie on thread for body, tie in flash and wrap towards back of hook



2: Wrap flash forward 6-8 revolutions keeping the flash flat on the thread creating even segmentation

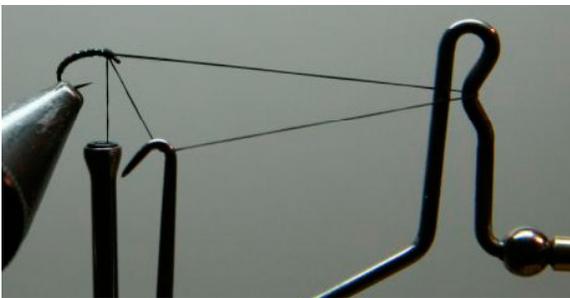
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3: Whip finish and cement the entire body with lacquer or head cement.



7: Place bead on #18 hook then secure firmly in vise.



4: Thread about 10-12" of 6X tippet through the hook eye and tie the tag ends together with a simple overhand knot making a loop.



8: Tie on thread body. Tie in the micro wire and flash securing them close to the bead, but wrapping the thread towards the back of the fly evenly. Leave thread bobbin at rear of hook.



5: Remove from vise and carefully cut the hook tip off



9: Hold the trail hook near rear of body laying the loop of tippet on the top of the fly with the knot well forward of the secured fly. You will be wrapping the thread forward and securing the tippet loop on the top of the fly. It is not necessary to position the trail fly at this time, it needs only to be close to the bend of the secured hook.

6: Glossy, quick drying hard finish head cement or lacquer

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10: Grasp the tippet loop firmly (both pieces) and gently pull the trail fly into position near the rear of the main fly. It should move easily. You want it to be able to move freely and wiggle after it is positioned, but not be excessively far away from the hook bend. It imitates the shuck, or exoskeleton of the larva as it wiggles free.



11: Wrap the flash forward 5-7 turns keeping the flash flat on the thread body then seize. Counter wrap the micro wire forward 4-6 times between the flash, seize the wire and shape or taper the head next to the bead.



12: Whip finish and cement the entire body. A glossy appearance is preferable, and will deter algae from concentrating on the fly body.



Gallatin River

Rick Wilson

I have fished the Gallatin River in Montana many times during the summer but I have decided April is the best time of the year. The runoff due to the snowmelt has not yet occurred and the water is low and clear. The fish are hungry and have not seen artificial flies for months. There is usually a little snow on the ground and the weather can be a cool but if you check the weather forecast before you leave, you can be assured of decent weather.

Last year I rented a cabin at Castle Rock Inn located right on the river below Big Sky. The cabins are rustic but comfortable and have kitchens. They also have a café and RV spaces. The fishing was great and I caught numerous rainbows and browns. It was all nymph fishing but I saw few trout rising at times.

This year I stayed at the Gallatin River Lodge that is located on the lower portion of the Gallatin near Bozeman. It is a modern fishing lodge constructed of logs with a huge living room, a gourmet restaurant and first class guestrooms with fireplaces. I did not catch as many fish but they were larger in size. I only landed two but

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as the old saying goes, the big one got away. One large brown hit my wooly bugger as it drifted past a log at the edge of the river. It was shaking its head violently and I tried to lead it away from the log to a calm pool where I could land it. Before I could get there, it came to the surface momentarily and then dove for the bottom taking my fly with it. At least I got to see it before it disappeared.



Long range planning is not an option due to the weather but cheap, direct flights to Bozeman are available on Allegiant Airlines out of Las Vegas. For example, if

you were to leave April 30 and return on May 3, the round trip airfare would be under \$150. Next April I will be checking the internet for decent weather and cheap flights. I want to see a big Gallatin River brown in my net.

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS **TO HOST RUSH CREEK CLEANUP** **JUNE 26th**

Trash, from broken bottles to discarded baby buggies, will be picked up from Rush Creek, Silver Lake and down the canyon as far as Grant Lake by the members from the various clubs of the Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers. The massive cleanup will take place on June 26, from 8 a.m.-noon.

Silver Lake Resort in the June Lake loop will provide a free barbeque lunch following the cleanup.

FFF club members will pick up and dispose of trash along an approximate five-mile stretch of the Eastern Sierra along the shoreline of Silver Lake and Rush Creek from the power plant above Silver Lake down the canyon to Grant Lake.

In the past years, trash-collecting volunteers found coolers, sun glasses, broken bottles, automobile hub caps, fishing equipment and a two way radio in the water. A smaller amount of trash is expected this year.

Trash-collecting volunteers are asked meet at the Silver Lake boat ramp at 8 a.m. and bring gloves, hat, sun screen, trash pick-up sticks and waders if you have them. Trash bags will be provided by Silver Lake Resort.

For information, contact Joe Lemire at;

jflx8@dslextreme.com or phone 909-609-1101.