

Arizona Flycasters Club

R E E L L I N E S

Established 1963

We Support Catch and Release

January 2006



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Brian Mazoyer
Vice President
623.566.7946

Tom Herman
Secretary
602.862.9653

Darlene Benford
Treasurer
602.938.2145

Member of the



Next Meeting:
**Saltery Lake
Lodge, Alaska**
with
**Ron Robinson
and Friends**
Thursday,
January 12th
7:00 PM

Pres Sez

Doug Benford shscadman@yahoo.com

Happy New Year to Everyone!

I hope that the coming year will allow each of you opportunities to explore the beautiful fishing waters of Arizona. A day on the water makes a great family outing. Sharing time outdoors is special, and passing down fly fishing skills to other family members is memorable.

The club calendar has been set for the upcoming year and it is really exciting to see all the opportunities for members to grow in knowledge and the skills of our sport, while at the same time meeting some really nice people. We will be providing each member a 2006 AFC Activities Calendar at our club meeting in January. This calendar will be a handy reminder to help our members keep track of all that's going on with the club. As always, additional activities are planned throughout the year. In particular, conservation activities are scheduled with only a few months' notice since we usually join other groups to maximize the conservation effort. So keep an eye on the website and be sure to read your monthly newsletter. The board hopes this new calendar will help everyone plan for maximum participation in all club activities.

A new year is the perfect time to encourage all members to consider volunteering in some way to help with club activities. The number of members volunteering has grown tremendously in the last few years. This growth has allowed the club to offer more and more activities, especially in our education program. Ron Robinson, our education chairman is always interested in your suggestions. One area that always needs more volunteers is the conservation program. Many of the workdays are planned and organized by the Forest Service and/or Arizona Game and Fish Department and they depend on our members to complete projects that are beneficial to our native species of trout and ultimately to the ecosystem. Also, the club is still involved with crawfish removal. These activities insure that our future fishing experiences include fishing for trout unique to Arizona, in the best conditions possible. Consider how you might help in 2006. Contact Dick Kennedy, our conservation chairman.

Finally, DON'T FORGET, it's time to celebrate! Our Annual Awards Banquet and Raffle is February 19th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Tickets, at \$35 each, are available at the general meeting or from any board member. In addition to a wonderful meal and HUGE raffle, this is a wonderful evening to recognize the achievements of our members.

Have a great New Year! See you on the water!

The program this month will focus on the trip six of our members took to Kodiak Island in Aug. of 2005 to fish for salmon. The action takes place at Saltery Lake Lodge located about 20 minutes by float plane from the city of Kodiak. This lodge has donated 2 for 1 trips for three years to our annual banquet and will do it again in 2006.

This trip was planned to hit the pink and chum salmon runs and it was a bulls eye. The lodge also has red salmon in July and silver salmon in September. Adding to the fun are dolly varden and arctic char at all times. With daylight from 5 AM to 10 PM there was plenty of time to catch fish. There was plenty of wildlife to liven up the days and a record rainfall to make river fishing a real challenge. We hope to answer all the obvious questions and make this a real fun night.

Upcoming Three Month Calendar	January	12th	Thursday	General Meeting
		21st	Saturday	Breakfast Cast
	February	1st	Wednesday	Basic Fly Tying
		6th	Monday	Basic Fly Tying
		8th	Wednesday	Basic Fly Tying
		11-12	Sat-Sun	Deadhorse Ranch Outing
		13th	Monday	Basic Fly Tying
		15th	Wednesday	Basic Fly Tying
		19th	Sunday	Annual Banquet
	21st	Tuesday	Basic Fly Tying	
	22nd	Wednesday	Basic Fly Tying	
	28th	Tuesday	Basic Fly Tying	
	March	9th	Thursday	General Meeting
		25-26	Sat-Sun	Seneca Lake Outing



Condolences

Our condolences to dear friend Shirley Johnson. Many of us had the pleasure of knowing Shirley's husband, Roger. Sadly, Roger died December 23rd while undergoing treatment for a recurring cancer.

Welcome New Members!

John Jordan
Paradise Valley

Franz & Sue Ecker
Scottsdale

Mike Evans
Scottsdale

Board Report

Brian Mazoyer

It is almost that time of year again where we elect members to our board of directors. This year Larry Kamins and Roger Cahoon are seeking 1 year positions to the board. There are also several members seeking re-election to the board for 3 year terms: Darlene Benford, Doug Benford, Tom Herman, Chuck Howey, Brad Norgaard, Ron Rosenlof, Marian Tallon, Bill Vance, Nancy Vance, and Donna Walkuski.

Classified

Stearns Inflatable Kayak. Never used. Catalog price \$479.99. Will take \$175. Call Bob Rudzinski for more details. 602-980-3538.

Basic Fly Tying

Bill Vance

February first, Arizona Flycasters Club will kick off our 2006 basic fly tying classes. Three new flies will be featured along with four from previous classes. We will be tying the semi-seal leech, wooly bugger, a terrestrial (beetle or hopper), A P emerger, peacock callibaetis, RS2, a San Juan fly and end with a parachute adams. All members are encouraged to attend even those who have been active in previous classes. The dates are Feb 1 (which will be our introduction to materials and equipment), followed by classes on Feb 6, 8, 13, 15, 21, 22, and 28. AFC will furnish all materials and equipment and each class will start at 7pm at the Sunnyslope Community Center. Mark your calendars now to attend these exciting new tying classes.

A New Year of Fly Fishing

Here's a resolution that's easy to make- and keep! Pay your club dues! For the paltry sum of a \$30 family membership, you and all the members of your household can continue to learn, lie, laugh, and go fishing with AFC all through 2006. It's an investment that's sure to pay you back with great memories this time next year.

Your dues will be cheerfully accepted at the general meeting or use the form on the back page of this newsletter to send by mail.

Seven Basic Laws of Fishing

Ron Robinson

The following was given to me over 35 years ago by Frank Messersmith, one of the best fisherman I have ever met. Frank fished with all types of tackle and for all types of fish. I think his wisdom holds as good today as it did then.

The following should not be confused with the usual “tackle tips” or “how to” articles so prevalent in the fishing literature today. Understand, we have no quarrel with these. It’s just that the subject at hand, as the title indicates, is much more basic. These Fundamental Truths are more in the magnitude of Natural Laws. As such, they transcend minor details and deal with all kinds of fishing - everywhere and all the time.

1. Results are proportional to hours spent.

If you fish more you will catch more than if you didn’t. Not more than someone else, just you.

2. The best time to go fishing is whenever you can get away.

Making excuses for not going will not catch fish.

3. Strikes are most apt to occur when your fly, lure or bait is in (on) the water.

Walking, riding, paddling, false casting, etc. isn’t going to catch fish.

4. The sun sets faster when you are fishing than at any other time.

Your fishing time is limited so make the most of it.

5. Miserable weather conditions often produce excellent fishing.

Remember #1, #2, #3 and #4 above.

6. Half of the success of fishing is in the telling of it.

This is perhaps the most underutilized law for most beginners.

7. The single most effective fishing technique ever discovered is “One more cast, just one more cast.”

Never, never forget this.

These Basic Laws can be summed up for all fisherman, for all fishing, everywhere:

Go fishing as often as you can. Start early, stay late, and keep on fishing, all the time. Don’t stop to rest, don’t stop to talk, just keep on fishing. Don’t stop to watch the sunrise, sunset, birds, deer or whatever, you can watch while you are fishing. Don’t spend too much time changing flies, lures, leaders, lines, rods, reels, boots, waters, etc. Very few fish are caught while doing this. Don’t stop fishing because the wind is rising, or it’s starting to rain, or snow, or sleet, just keep on fishing. Don’t stop because the fish are not hitting, they may start any minute, so keep on fishing. And finally when you must stop, when it’s too late to keep on fishing, when it’s really getting too dark to see, when you are overdue back at camp, home, or where ever, there is always time for **“One more cast, just one more cast.”**



Annual Raffle

-Bob Rudzinski

Oh my!!! What a dollar can buy!!

When you attend the Annual Banquet you have the opportunity to go home with a fabulous prize.

Someone will win a trip to fish Alaska waters, the San Juan River, Lees Ferry, an Oregon Lake—for only a dollar.

It could be you. You could also go home with a new rod, reel, waders, fly lines, tons of flies, float tubes, pontoon boat, etc., etc., etc.—for only a dollar.

Are you getting the idea??

If you aren’t planning to attend on Febuary 19 you might want to rethink it. You will have a chance to take home one or more of over a hundred raffle items. How can you lose?

Get your tickets at the general meeting or contact any board member. (See page 6.)

Fly of the Month: Midge Emerger

John Van Derhoof

From the February
2005 issue of
Target Talk,
the newsletter of
the Long Beach
Casting Club

It's the dead of winter and time to break out your fly rod...

Midges hatch from lakes and streams throughout the year but tend to be more important to your fishing success in the winter and early spring when other insects are much less active. This stems from the fact that few other insects are insane enough to come out when it is cold and fish still have to eat something. Now you will find a few of those crazy Blue-Wing Olives out and about at this time of year but, by and large, it's the midges that are the most consistently available food source. This month's pattern is best fished dead drift with an indicator or as the lead fly in a tandem set up with a Griffith's Gnat, a very small Elk Hair Caddis or a Hank of Hair as the dropper. This pattern with the pink body and copper rib has worked well on Lake Crowley, the Owens River, the Green River, and the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry. There are other color combinations like lime green & gold, pale olive & gold, black & gold, red & gold, pearl & copper that work very well and I would suggest having a few of them with you.

Now, all you have to do is stay warm.



Materials for tying the Midge Emerger:

Hook: Caddis/midge type; Tiemco 2487 or equivalent #16-20

Thread: Primrose 8/0

Wing: Light dun cul du cunard (CDC)

Body: Krystal Flash ribbed with wire, good color combos are: pink/copper, lime green/gold, pale olive/gold, black/gold, red/gold, pearl/copper

Thorax: Peacock herl

Gills: Light dun cul du cunard (CDC)

Instructions for tying the Midge Emerger:

1. Attach the thread and wind down to about the middle part of the bend and tie in the wire. Wind the thread back to the thorax, tie in the Krystal Flash and wind down to where the rib was tied in, wind back to the start and tie off.
2. Reverse wind the rib smoothly and evenly to the thorax and tie off.
3. Measure and tie in the CDC gills/wing but do NOT trim off the butts. The gills should extend 1/3 to 1/2 the way down of the body.
4. Tie in the peacock herl and wind 3 to 6 turns, depending on the size of the fly, creating the thorax and tie it off.
5. Wind a small head underneath the butt ends of the wing and whip finish.
6. Trim the butt ends of the CDC to the length shown in the drawing.



Education Committee News

Ron Robinson

robinsonsr@cox.net



Breakfast Cast - Jan 21 at Granada Park from 8 - 11 AM

This is a family event intended to give all members a good time eating breakfast and playing fly casting games. We will start fixing the food at 8 AM and play the games after we are done eating. Since tables and chairs are scarce at this park please bring your own if you want a good place to eat. We will meet at the east end of the upper pond (where we give casting classes).

The club will supply all the fixings for breakfast, just bring your appetite. The games will be taught by Larry Allen and Bruce Williams, both FFF certified Master Casting Instructors. [Editors note: see article below!] We will also help those wanting some basic instruction. This is a great time for all family members to get involved in our sport. Remember, it will be 2006 so be sure you have your new license as there are sport fish in these ponds.

Net Class

The January net class is full. We had a great time making nets in the Dec. class. If you are not in the January class you will have to wait until next Dec. for the basic class. An advanced class will be given so be ready to sign-up at our January general meeting. If you are unable to make that meeting give Ron Robinson a call at 602 867 8820.

Basic Fly Tying Class - see report from Bill Vance.

Larry's Hybrid Cast

Bruce Williams

*From the Summer
2005 issue of
The Loop,
The Federation of Fly
Fishers Journal for
Certified Casting
Instructors*

It turned out to be a perfect morning to sight fish the flats of the Laguna Madre for redfish. Early morning clouds had melted away, giving the sun a chance to expose our ephemeral quarry. The tide was falling, but the hard sand flat, flanked on both sides by encroaching beds of oysters, was covered with six to twelve inches of water- plenty of cover for foraging redfish. Mullet were popping and skates cruised the flat. The southeast wind was freshening to 15-20 mph, and at 9:30 we were fishing with the wind and the sun at our back. Heading south from a series of spoil islands, the flats extended for miles, but only in a few choice spots were they the right color and consistency for optimal wade fishing.

Larry Allen has been coming to Port Mansfield, Texas to fish for reds for over 17 years, and Larry invited me to join him. He is as enthusiastic about fishing for reds today as he was the day he started and an invitation to fish with him is an opportunity to learn from a master (in more ways than one: Larry is also an FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor). My lesson today was to learn a unique cast which Larry has developed to cope with the challenging conditions so often encountered when fishing the saltwater flats.

Larry spotted a fish about forty feet to the left. The fish was just in front of us, but moving slowly in the opposite direction. The wind was stiff and at our back. The sun was at our back as well, high enough to provide good light, yet low enough to cast a long shadow. In shallow water, the fly must land in close proximity to the fish, but in a manner that does not alarm it. I made two overhead casts, but the wind blew my fly wide of the mark. Not only was accuracy an issue, but also a vertical cast risked throwing a line shadow over the fish. Next I tried a couple of horizontal casts low to the water, and they were even less accurate. Too much power was needed to turn the fly over straight into the wind. I handed the rod to Larry, and he showed me his ingenious cast, which efficiently addressed all the obstacles.

Starting out low and horizontal, Larry executed a Belgium-style backcast with the cast angled toward the water. On the forward cast the rod remained in the horizontal plane, until the power snap was executed with a rolling forearm, thus forcing the loop to become vertical. The hand began palm up and ended with the thumb on top. The vertical finish resulted in the straight and accurate delivery of the fly with a soft presentation. The cast was executed low to the water, so the risk of shadow was minimized. In this situation, the backcast was with the wind, so there was no need for extra power. The power and quickness of the forearm rotation drove the fly accurately to the target, yet allowed for delicacy of presentation. I was amazed at the results. While our situation was particularly appropriate for this cast, Larry uses this cast often during the course of a day on the flats. The cast fuses the positive attributes of the horizontal cast to the accuracy of a vertical cast. I encourage you to give it a try.

Bruce Williams has been a dedicated student of fly casting for twenty-five years, and achieved his Master Certification in 2004

**2005
AFC
Board
of Directors**

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Paul Finell	<i>Membership Badges/Flybook</i>	480.998.7024	pfinell@cox.net
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**Conservation
News**

Dick Kennedy



The attached article I received from Jim Warnecke. It documents the current spawning activity of the Brown Trout in Canyon Creek. It is heartening to know the browns are making a resurgence. I am sure the “resting” of this creek during the foresting activity has helped the situation. Please note though the article points out that the gravel beds for the spawning activity are less than optimal. Continued observation and assistance given to this creek will be required to bring it back to normal.

Brown trout redd (nest) counts were carried out on Canyon Creek December 8, 2005. The objective of the survey was to note any reproductive activities as a result of the grow out of 500 seven inch brown trout that were stocked below the OW bridge in April, 2005.

Redds were counted from site 7C, near the Forest/Indian Reservation boundary, to the stream crossing just downstream of the Canyon Creek Hatchery located approximately 4 miles upstream. Redds counts were conducted by two observers walking up each stream bank and visually counting redds between 7C and OW bridge. One observer counted redds from OW bridge upstream to the stream crossing. Redds were easily identified by the oval-shaped patch of clean gravel that were free of periphyton (minute plant growth).

A total of twenty-three redds were counted between 7C and the stream crossing downstream of the hatchery. Twelve redds were documented between 7C and OW bridge, with half of those located at or just downstream of the mouth of Valentine Canyon, ½ mile upstream of site 7C. Another 11 redds were noted between OW bridge and the stream crossing. Brown trout were observed actively “working” redds in this section of stream as fish were disturbed and fled off about half of the redds.

Overall, there appeared to be a scarcity of available spawning gravel in Canyon Creek. Redds were observed in areas that would be considered less than optimal for brown trout survival-to-emergence. Installation of appropriate size gravel into habitats typical for spawning may be beneficial to brown trout recruitment in Canyon Creek.

Follow up monitoring is planned for spring - summer 2006 to document any survival of young brown trout produced from the spawning activity observed during this December redd count survey.

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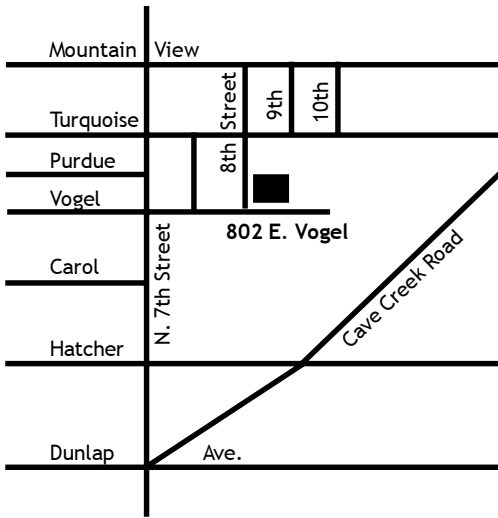
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Arizona Flycasters Club meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at the Sunnyslope Community Center. The Annual Banquet is held in the month of February. Watch for further details.

The Arizona Flycasters Club newsletter is published by the Arizona Flycasters Club and is distributed to its members and advertisers. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the club. Advertisements are placed as a means of conveying the message of the advertisers. The AFC does not necessarily endorse the advertisers' products or services.

Application for Annual Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Date _____ E-mail _____

Annual family membership = \$30

Send check or money order to:



Arizona Flycasters Club

P.O. Box 47357

Phoenix, AZ 85068-7357

Be an active member and volunteer for a committee.

Please indicate which committee interests you:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation |
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Arizona Flycasters Club

P.O. Box 47357

Phoenix, AZ 85068-7357

<http://www.azflycasters.org>

Paid Your Dues Yet?

Next Meeting:
Saltery Lake Lodge,
Alaska
 with
Ron Robinson
and Friends
 Thursday,
 January 12th
 7:00 PM