

DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

MAY 2014



WWW.HPD-FFF.COM



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INSIDE

- Fly of the Month - Woven Body May Fly
- Arkansas River Trip Report
- HPD Picnic Details
- Kids Day Details
- Gunnison Trip Details

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sign up for the HPD Picnic
- Casting clinics have started
- Teenagers invade the Bighorn!

UPCOMING

Trips

- Williams Fork - May 24
- Gunnison - June 1
- Charlie Myers - June 21
- Rainbow Falls - July 19

Meetings

- May 21 - Howard Horton/DOW, Matt Kondratieff
- June 18 - Robert Younghanz
- August 20

Classes

- Life Cycles Tying 1 - May 10
- Life Cycles Tying 2 - May 10
- Open Tying - May 10
- Casting Clinic - May 21

Events

- HPD Kids' Day - May 31 & June 28
- HPD Summer Picnic - July 19

ACTIVE HPD PRODUCTS

- Mugs (Four Fish Options) - \$20
- Shirts (Four Fish Options) - \$20/\$25 (sleeves)

See last page for availability information

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

May Speaker: Howard Horton and Matt Kondratieff

Howard Horton will be presenting several topics related to HPD and its relationship with the Department of Wildlife, including a proposal for a HPD bench streamside.

Matt Kondratieff, Aquatic Research Scientist for Colorado Parks & Wildlife, will be presenting his work with the Charlie Meyers SWA (aka, the Dream Stream) and stream improvements.

UPCOMING TRIPS

May 24 - The club will visit Williams Fork.

June 1 - The multiple day trip to the Gunnison River will be held June 1-8, and will be led by Dale Anderson and Paul Boals. Dale plans to be in Pleasure Park June 1-5. Paul will be there June 5-8. Members are welcome to join at anytime. We will be using Gunnison River Expeditions for lodging and jet boat services. We have scheduled this trip to catch some of the Stonefly hatch or the Yellow Sallie, and the Gunnison Gorge.

June 21 - The club will visit the Charlie Meyers SWA, aka The Dream Stream.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Ongoing

Join us at the Broken Tee golf course for the High Plains Drifters' casting clinic preceding the club meeting (4pm) until September. Please bring your own rod and reel and we will meet at the west end of the parking lot, near the river.

Starting Soon

Come join us during the monthly fly tying session on May 10th and a multi-part Life Cycles Tying class.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Woven Body May Fly by Ralph Rhoades

[\(http://www.hpd-fff.com/2014/04/may-2014-woven-body-may-fly/\)](http://www.hpd-fff.com/2014/04/may-2014-woven-body-may-fly/)

FANTASTIC TIME ON THE ARKANSAS

BY TRIP CAPTIAN LARRY LESTER

Thursday April 3rd started with enough white stuff on the ground that made the trip to Salida a little bit more than what one would call an easy drive. Steve Hall waited until Friday to come down, but because he lives at a much higher elevation his journey was more than a bit exciting (see his pictures and write up on the club website at <http://www.hpd-fff.com/2014/04/it-was-all-worth-it-salida/>). Seriously, it was a rough start, but for all 20 plus members who made the trip the fishing was nothing but excellent both Friday and Saturday.



Thursday several of us started fishing just above Canon City and then we worked our way up river on our way to Salida hitting various spots suggested by the fellows at the Royal Gorge Anglers' shop. We managed a few Rainbows and Browns along the way, but the expected BWO hatch was not to be. We capped the night with about ten members gathering for dinner at the local Mexican restaurant.



Friday started at the Patio Pancake Place and from there six of us attended the on-river clinic hosted by Ark-Anglers while everyone else paired up to go both up and down river. The clinic was a huge success and each attendee had the chance on multiple occasions to have Stuart our guide work a one on one. The group fished both public and private waters. We ate lunch sitting on the river's edge watching risers and we ended the day fishing a leased section of river that was exploding with a fantastic hatch and trout eagerly taking dries. Those going out on their own reported equally heavy action for an extended period of time. We ended the day with ten plus sitting down for dinner at a nice restaurant called the Fritz in downtown Salida.

Saturday several members who couldn't come up for the four days arrived and they were fortunate enough to fish another BWO hatch that lasted well over three hours. The river flows were up which made one watch his/her step, but the higher water also placed the fish closer to the river's edge and when the hatch started the fish were very active. There were a large number of Rainbows caught and average size had to be 13 to 15 inches. A few larger and a few smaller, but several members said they were catching fish larger than they had in the past. David Saunders even caught a nice size bass from a pond several of us have fished in the past that has always been a good place for trout action. The day ended with a light snow/rain mix which didn't stop the action, but it did send several members in a little early. Those that wanted met at Amicas a local Pizza & Microbrewery for dinner and Terry and Sabrena Lewis from the newly formed FFF chapter Pueblo Tailwater Renegades joined us. They stayed overnight so they could fish with us on Sunday. Hopefully both clubs can plan a gathering later in the year.



Sunday morning came with perfectly blue skies. At breakfast we had at least 15 members which might be attributed to the later meeting time of 8:30 or the excellent food, but either way a good gathering. Some of us stayed and fished around Salida before heading home and others worked their way down river to Canon City. A fierce snow squall blew in around one and that pretty much ended the day. Overall I believe everyone had a good time. I had the opportunity to fish with both new members as well as members who have been in the club longer than I have. The Arkansas River around Salida is definitely living up to the new title - "Gold Medal" water.

We Drifters in Salida had a wonderful opportunity to meet some Pueblo Tailwater Renegades, a fellow IFFF chapter here in Colorado. Sabrena and Terry Lewis are very active in organization and we appreciated having the opportunity to meet them in Salida.

A few notes from others who came along:



Here are my thoughts from Salida. As a relatively new HPD member I wasn't sure what to expect on a club sponsored fishing trip. The trip to the Arkansas River was magnificent. Trip Captain Larry Lester made sure members had every opportunity to

interact whether on the river, at breakfast or at loosely arranged dinners. I have attended most monthly meetings. While I've encountered club members I haven't really "known" members. My advice to all is: Participate! You could meet another fishing buddy.

-Dan Hogan

Thank you for such an awesome weekend! I, and I'm 100% sure I share this with everyone up there, had an awesome time. Even the guys who didn't do so hot had a good time, true sign of a good trip plan. I think we had just enough guidance from the plan to have a great time while not feeling constrained. The guide, the maps, the hotel, the plan was perfect. It left just enough out that we still were able to control our own trip but under just enough guidance to make it easy. Thank you so much, everyone had such a good time.

FYI.... I lost count, but I was over 30 fish this weekend, 20+ in the long hatch and that bass on Saturday. One hell of a trip.

-David Saunders

This was a great trip both from a social and fishing perspective. We pretty much had the river to ourselves and the weather was perfect for stirring up the Blue Wing hatch. With some careful observation it was easy to tell when to switch from dead drift nymphing the bottom to floating nymphs in the surface film and finally greasing up a high floating #20 parachute Adams to educate the risers taking the adults on the surface. When the hatch first started I found out pretty quickly that the fish were keying heavily on emergers and ignored my surface offerings. A quick fly change to an RS2 fished in the film did the trick.

-Brett Edwards

I didn't even realize until my drive home that I never landed a fish, but I don't know when I had such a great trip.

-Bruce Brown

I had a good time and caught enough fish to keep me happy and that pizza place was a good choice. The most notable thing for me was I did not catch anything other than rainbows, it used to be a rarity to catch a rainbow down there, it was good to see.

-Tim Papich

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

BY LARRY LESTER

The morning of March 29th had blue skies and the temperature hit far above what it showed the week before when had originally scheduled the pancake breakfast. Unfortunately a few members couldn't reschedule, but a few now found time to attend so in the end I believe we had close to 30 HPD members at Mike Owen's cabin overlooking the Platte. Special thanks to those members who helped cook and clean up. You know who you are and it is through your efforts that we had a great day.

Fishing reports varied from not a thing to more than a few. I rode with Mike Owen and we struggled to even get a hit, but Paul Scherner I understand had the fish figured out from the get go. Above and below Deckers we saw fisherman. Hopefully the placing of our club's logo in car windows helped everyone find a member to fish with.

It may be a bit early, but this is a HPD tradition you should be thinking about for next year as it is a fun way to get the year rolling. Tight lines.

2014 HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS PICNIC

The annual High Plains Drifters picnic will be held at Rainbow Falls Mountain Trout on July 19th. We are backing the picnic up to afternoon/evening, **dinner** will be provided by the club. Guests are encouraged to arrive later than last year and fish later, the evening hours will be cooler and the fish more active. We can fish until dark... and we plan to. Don't forget your belly boats, a great opportunity.

The rod fee is \$25, please sign up your fishing and non-fishing attendees on the website:

http://www.hpd-fff.com/events/rainbow_falls/.



CLEAR CREEK - BY PAUL BOALS

I believe the day over all was a success. We had more people interested in the education portion of the trip than the competition. With that in mind we opened it all up for education. Brett, Geoff, and a couple others took those who were new to fishing and covered some basics. I took a small group of more experienced fishers and showed them a couple spots on the river that don't see as much pressure.



At lunch our leader was George Brown with one fish. I broke for lunch early (12:30) because the prospect of a sausage dog and a cigar seemed way more promising than the hardships of our morning fishing. After lunch, I took Otto, Russ Adsit, and George Brown to a spot I had found on Friday.



The afternoon was way better than the morning. Otto had put his rock climbing skills aside to learn how to set the hook on a trout. He was able to land 4 of the 6 he hooked that afternoon. George Brown and myself were able to hook up with a couple more and land one during a torrential down-pour, while Otto used the terms "Die Hard" and "Crazy" to describe our dedication to fishing. Russ Adsit also proved his dedication or lack of common sense by landing one while the rain continued to beat down. All fish were caught on bright green caddis nymphs.

We met back at the fly shop at the end of the day with those who stuck it out for the storm. Rob at Clear Creek Outdoors gave out some prizes for those who caught fish. Otto took first with 4 fish and received a spool of weight forward 5 weight floating Shark Skin Fly line. George Brown and Geoff Bostic tied for 2nd and 3rd with 2 fish. George took a spool of 4 weight double taper GPX line, and Geoff took home a small fly box with flies. Russ got honorable mention with 1 fish and received a hat.



TEENAGERS TAKE OVER THE BIGHORN

BY CARL MILLER

At the beginning of the calendar year, Larry Lester found a great opportunity for young people to expand their knowledge of fly fishing: The Bighorn River Youth Adventure was taking applications for the 2014 program at Fort Smith, MT on the banks of the world famous Bighorn River. Twelve young fly fishers would be invited by the Bighorn River Alliance for a four day fly tying, fly casting and fly fishing adventure. Applicants were required to know how to Fly Fish and to Tie Flies.

Larry alerted Camden Miller, a 14 year old member of High Plains Drifters and participant in a number of outings, to the opportunity. Camden was excited, applied, and was thrilled to learn in March he was selected as one of the 12 teenagers across the US for this all-expense paid fishing opportunity. His adventure will be June 24 through June 27, 2014. He is excited, but now a bit nervous to ask his boss for leave (Camden has also accepted a position working in the Fly Fishing department at Jax Mercantile Co., in Lafayette).

Please join the High Plains Drifters in congratulating Camden on his prestigious accomplishment and wish him well on his journey that will surely create memories for a lifetime.

For more information on this adventure, visit <http://www.bighornriveralliance.org/>.

HPD KIDS' DAY DETAILS

Our Club Membership fees help off-set the costs to sponsor two days of teaching children 6 to 16 the amazing sport of Fly Fishing! We encourage our members to volunteer for activities during these events (but are all set for this year, THANKS!).

Event #1 - Kid's Day Fly Fishing Clinic at the Butterfly Pavilion jointly hosting the HPD event

<http://www.hpd-fff.com/events/hpd-kids-day-butterfly-pavilion/>

- Saturday May 31, 2014 - 8:30am to 3:30pm
- HPD and the Butterfly Pavilion will host a day of insect identification, knot tying, fly tying, full exhibit tour, lunch, fly-fishing demonstration, and of course fishing at the Pavilion Lake!
- This event is exclusive to the Denver Children's Diabetes Foundation and their guardians.
- Maximum of 30 kids and their parents are invited.
- Butterfly Pavilion will waive rental fees and will provide educators for a Butterfly Pavilion Invertebrate activity including a crawfish experience.
- High Plains Drifters will sponsor the "discounted" admission fee of \$5 for each guest to the Butterfly Pavilion exhibits and Fly Fishing Day Clinic.

Event #2 - Kid's Day Fly Fishing Clinic at Lake Lehow

<http://www.hpd-fff.com/events/hpd-kids-day-lake-lehow/>

- Lake Lehow Pavilion / Waterton Canyon trail-head parking lot (South of Chatfield State Park)
- Saturday June 28, 2014 - 8:30am to 3:30pm
- This event is open to all Club Member children and our Denver area community children ages 6 to 16 (including their guardians).
- Maximum of 20 kids and their parents are invited.
- High Plains Drifters will sponsor the entire day for all our guests for a day of insect identification, knot tying, fly tying, lunch, fly-fishing demonstration, and of fishing at Lake Lehow!

We are grateful to the Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife for supplying the fishing equipment and stocking both lakes for our two events.

CASTING CLINICS

Casting clinics have started and will remain available throughout summer, prior to the monthly meeting, at the Broken Tee Golf Course (across the street from Red and Jerry's). Visit the website for details (<http://www.hpd-fff.com/events/hpd-casting-clinic-2014-05-21/>).



Brett Edwards, IFFF Casting Instructor and HPD President Emeritus, teach HPD members of all skill levels how to perfect their cast. Several members came with specific hiccups they wanted to correct and others just came to better their casting all around.

GUNNISON TRIP

JUNE 1ST – 8TH

TRIP CAPTAINS – DALE ANDERSON AND PAUL BOALS

The multiple night trip to the Gunnison River will be held June 1-8, and will be led by Dale Anderson and myself. Dale plans to leave after Kids Day and be in Pleasure Park June 1-5. I will be there June 5-8. Members are welcome to join at any time during those dates. We will be using Gunnison River Expeditions for lodging and jet boat services. We have scheduled this trip to hopefully catch some of the Stonefly hatch or the Yellow Sallie, and Pleasure Park gives us the opportunity to jet boat into the Gunnison Gorge. One can also hike up or down river for excellent wade fishing.

Jet Boat Services

Gunnison River Expeditions has jet boat services available June 2nd-4th tentatively booked under Dale for the club and also June 7th-8th under myself for the club. They will not be available June 5th-6th. They allow for a maximum of 12 people per day to take personal water craft up the river and allow you to float down , and the fee is \$100 per person.

Lodging

At Pleasure Park they have 4 Camper Cabins that have two beds, no kitchen or running water for \$59 per night. They also have 6 large campsites that are \$12 per person per night. There is room for RV's, but no hook ups. There is also a bathhouse on site.

A lodge that holds 12 people is available, but it is about 10 miles from Pleasure Park. It has 6 bedrooms that sleep two per bedroom, with kitchen, bath, etc.

Please contact Gunnison River Expeditions to book lodging or jet boat services.

970-872-3232

gre@sopris.net

www.gunnisonriverexpeditions.com

Ask to speak with Jen or Al and let them know you are with HPD

HPD GUIDES

High Plains Drifters would like to thank the following outfitters for their support of our organization. We sincerely appreciate their generous support and encourage our membership to support them whenever possible.



Chuck Prather
Fly Fishing Services, Inc.
FFSCHUCK@aol.com
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Ken Robak
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Landon Mayer
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Pat Dorsey
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Tim Patterson
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HPD SPONSORS

High Plains Drifters receives support from many organizations and companies. We sincerely appreciate their generous support and encourage our membership to support them whenever possible.



D'Boer Rods
Finely Crafted Bamboo Rods

The following members and the late Gary Hort are thanked for their donations to the High Plains Drifters:

The Gary Hort Estate - Brett Edwards - Von Franzen - Doug Geerdes
Jeff McClung - Jon Nash - Shelley Walchak - Cathy Lester

HPD PRODUCTS

Questions? Email info@HPD-FFF.com.

To order, email info@HPD-FFF.com with your information and order. You will be contacted about payment information/options.

Orders can also be placed at our website, <http://HPD-FFF.com/HPD-Store/>.

All products are available, but might not currently be in stock. Some products are ordered when a certain number of orders are reached or after a certain time frame. You will be informed of the current stock/order status before any payment is processed.

For any questions or concerns, please contact info@HPD-FFF.com.