



## ***The December 2021 NEWSLETTER***

**Northern Arizona Flycasters  
An active member club of the World Wide organization  
“Fly Fishers International”  
“Conservation, Restoration, and Education through Fly Fishing”**

**We support active involvement in cold water fisheries conservation. We work to insure that Arizona’s habitat is not degraded and in the development and maintenance of fly fishing opportunities.**

**We support the practice of “catch and release”, the use of barbless hooks, and quick and harmless release practices. Fish should never be kept out of the water for over 60 seconds.**

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Northern Arizona Flycasters meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Arizona Game and Fish Regional office at 3500 S. Lake Mary Road, Flagstaff. Meetings start at 7 PM with a board meeting at 6:00 PM.  
The meetings are free and the public is invited.

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### **PRESIDENT’S DRIFT :**

This year, we will have potlach or potluck Christmas party in the AZGF conference room, where we hold our monthly meetings.

Date: December 1, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Main Course is ham, provided by NAF.

Please RSVP with number of guests. Due to the size of the room, we should set limit the number of guests per member at two. Indicate what category of food you would like to bring:

**Salad**

**Side Dish**

**Desert**

Since we are the guests of AZGF, we will not have alcohol at this dinner. NAF will provide water and coffee. If you have another non-alcoholic preference, you may bring it.

Needless to say, we need to be extra careful with respect to spills and messes this year. I don't want to wear out our welcome at AZGF since we have several interesting programs line up for next year. Here is a glimpse for January and February:

NAF needs your involvement and there are many volunteer venues available such as fishing trips, conservation, writing about club activities, and fund raising. Remember, NAF raises funds to support conservation efforts; we are a non-profit organization. You can sign-up to volunteer on our web site. <http://nazflycasters.com/volunteer/>

## **EDUCATION –**

### **Why clean your fly line?**

Fly lines are expensive and there's more than one reason a little cleaning, care and maintenance will pay dividends. As you'll see in a moment there are a couple of very good reasons to regularly clean your fly lines - and keep them clean.

Fly lines pick up and hold a film of dirt, grime and salt. With floating fly lines this layer of dirt reduces the lines ability to float, it also severely increases friction through the guides and reduces your ability to shoot line. Dirty fly lines tend to degrade and crack much sooner than fly lines that are cleaned and dressed regularly. A clean, slick line will make a world of difference to your casting.

### **And it's not just about your fly line**

A dirty fly line is effectively a string coated in grinding paste, every time that line runs through your guides it is grinding away at your rod guides - and if you are a habitual hauler like me, that's thousands of cycles a season.

## Lubrication

Most modern fly lines are internally lubricated - that is, the lubrication is actually present within the line and weeps out over time. In days gone by, the slickness was added externally after the fly line was extruded - the slick coating wearing off quite quickly.

## Wear on guides

Although fly lines may not be cheap, they are far less expensive than a [new fly rod](#), and that's what you'll be up for if you do a lot of casting with a dirty fly line. If you're a keen caster and do a lot of practicing on grass you'll find that guides wear and groove very quickly - this tends to be because grass is covered with a fine layer of dirt and silt that makes a very good grinding paste. If you are out practising your casting be sure to clean your line after every session.

The pictures below show one of our rods that has done quite a few miles with a dirty line. These are not cheap guides either, we use top quality Snake Brand Guides, and independent fog and wear tests show that they are the best in the industry for wear and durability - however, you can clearly see the pot marks and grooves ground into the tip top and guides. Note also the scratches across the epoxy wraps - these scratches are created by a dirty line sawing across the blank.

We love seeing our rods do the hard yards - that's exactly what they are designed for, but even one of our Epics will eventually show signs of wear in this situation.



A badly grooved tip top. It's done a few miles and is showing it.



Grooves clearly showing in a Snake Guide. You can also see scratches on the epoxy work.

## How to clean your fly line

It's actually a very simple procedure.

- Strip the line into a bucket of warm water.
- Add a couple of drops of soft handsoap. Don't use detergent, detergent is a harsh cleanser and will strip the lubricants from your line.
- Let the line soak for 10 to 15 minutes to loosen the dirt and grime
- Take a micro fibre cloth and run the line through it while winding back onto the reel.

That's it - you've cleaned your fly line. Next step...

## Dressing a fly line

Now is the best time to dress the clean line. There are a bunch of commercially available line cleaners - use as directed. Armor All car cleaner (or other products designed for cars) isn't recommended. Yes, it does a great job of making your line super slick - but there are other chemicals in the mixture that will actually shorten the life of your line. Most manufacturers use silicon to lubricate their lines - so a 100% silicon product should also do the trick nicely.

Scientific Anglers make a great product that includes a good cleaning pad - here's the lowdown.

See [epicflyrods.com](http://epicflyrods.com)

### **NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, December 1, 2021  
Christmas party 6-6

January - Pyramid Lake

February - Spey Casting

### **Under discussion by board**

Fishing outings to local lakes

Fly casting sessions on a regular basis.

Zoom meetings

**The Board welcomes suggestions from members.**

### **NAF CLUB OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President

Charles Simpson

Vice-President	Tom Hudnall
Secretary	Mac McIlwaine
Treasurer	Denise Dean

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