



The July 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.

Northern Arizona Flycasters meets the first Wednesday of the month
(Meetings currently on Zoom) 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.

PRESIDENT’S DRIFT :

The regular club meeting for the month of July has been cancelled. We will meet again in August.

Casey

Every club member is important to the wellbeing of our club and to our local fisheries.

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 –

Best Time of Day to Go Fishing

Let's face it, it can get pretty hot during the summer. Once we hit the middle of June is when it usually starts to get pretty hot. The upper limit of the ideal trout feeding temperature is about 66-67 degrees Fahrenheit. Usually, the water temperature is about 8-10 degrees cooler than the air temperature. So when the outside temperature gets to be in the 80s, 90s or greater as is typical during the dog days of summer, the water temperature will be way too hot for ideal trout fishing. Trout get super stressed out when it's that hot and feeding is the furthest thing from their minds. Carrying a small stream thermometer can be very useful.

But we as hardcore fly fisherman can work around this. It's actually a very simple solution: wake up super early and be at the water *before* the sun rises. Since the water will have cooled off overnight, if you are on the water that early, you will have *at least* 4 hours of fishing in ideal water temperature. Another benefit is that you might be the only fly fisherman there at that time. So go on and catch some awesome trout and enjoy the solitude!

Going in the evenings is another nice option. The water temperature will be decreasing as the sun sets and there will often be some nice insect hatches in the evening. Matching the hatch will provide for some really nice dry fly fishing during this time.

All of these suggestions pretty much hold true whether you're fishing in a pond/lake, stream, creek or river. *There are some exceptions though.* For example, a spring creek will have pretty consistent flows and water temperatures regardless of the time of year or day, since the creek is being fed by underground water sources. Similarly, a tailwater will fish well even during times of drought and intense heat since they are being fed a constant outflow of cold water from a dam. The consistent flows and cool water temperatures of both spring creeks and tailwaters allow for robust insect populations year-round.

Gear You Will Need

Here is a basic list of things you will need for an awesome day of trout fishing during the summer:

- Fly rods
- Fly reels
- Leader and tippet

- Flies
- Hat, sunscreen, polarized sunglasses
- Camera (for all the amazing trout pics!)

Many fly fisherman have multiple fly rods, each tailored for a specific style of fly fishing. I would recommend bringing enough rods to be able to: cast streamers, fish dry flies, and to fish nymphs

Similarly, many fishermen also carry multiple fly reels loaded with different types of line, each useful for different applications. For example, you might have a reel loaded with sink tip fly line reserved for streamer fishing. And another reel with more delicate WF line for casting dry flies. Alternatively, you could carry one reel and multiple spools

For trout fishing during the warm summer months, especially fishing low and clear water, a dry dropper rig will be my go-to rig. For this type of rig, I will use a 10-12 foot nylon leader and will attach the dropper fly to the top fly using fluorocarbon tippet. The reason for this is that nylon floats very well on the surface and the fluorocarbon material is more dense, sinking quickly and becoming invisible under water. Basically, when fishing dry flies, I will use nylon leader and tippet, and when fishing *anything subsurface*, I'll use fluorocarbon leader and tippet.

Make sure to bring enough dry flies, nymphs, streamers or any other of your favorites. Definitely bring a hat and sunscreen to avoid getting sunburn. A great pair of polarized sunglasses is key to spotting fish, especially when there's lots of glare.

Fishing Strategies

As I mentioned earlier, when dealing with low, clear water as you often do during the summer months, a Dry Dropper Rig is one of my favorites. The reason for this is that fish are very wary in low clear water; you could easily see them and they could easily see you. When fishing a dry dropper rig, you could cast from farther away so you're not scaring fish. And even though you're not too close to the fish, by virtue of this rig, you are able to get a good drift with your dropper nymph, even with competing currents. The reason for this is that you're using a longer nylon leader that floats for your top dry fly, allowing you to have less fly line out that could potentially scare fish.

■ Often during the summer, the water will get low and clear, making it easy to see the fish (and easy for the fish to see you!)

The dry dropper rig is also great when there's an active insect hatch. This rig allows you to have the benefits of fishing both dry flies and nymphs/emergers, all the stages that are present during an active insect hatch.

Now if you're fishing a tailwater or a spring creek, water flow or water temperature will probably not be an issue, even during the intense summer heat. In waters like these, Euro Nymphing is one of my go-to techniques for catching LOTS of fish, even in heavily pressured water. You could fish riffles and faster runs very effectively with a Euro Nymphing set-up, because you could get close to the fish without spooking them, since you'll be fishing faster, choppy water. And without having to use conventional fly line, you won't be spooking fish or having to deal with competing currents messing up your.

If you are interested in learning more about European Nymphing techniques, I highly recommend the book Tactical F

NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE

On hold due to the X#%&* @x Virus.

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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