



The June 2020 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 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 high country summer fishing season is approaching. I recently spoke with Pat Blankenship, Conejos River Angler <https://www.conejosriveranglers.com> near Antonito, Colorado. They are experiencing an average run off and anticipate fish-able water around , mid-June. In his words, "get here sooner, not later." Please refer to their website or Duranglers <https://duranglers.com/> for more information.

[Colorado Fly Fishing | Trout Fishing | Conejos River Fishing](#)

Pat is a catch and release enthusiast supporting the river and maintaining the quality of fishing in this amazingly gorgeous terrain. Teaching himself the fine art of fly tying has instructed him on ways to catch trout. Let him read the river for you and help you catch big fish.

www.conejosriveranglers.com



Duranglers: Fly Fishing in Durango & San Juan River

Duranglers is the Four Corners' area premier outfitter for all your fly fishing needs. Since 1983, Duranglers has been the region's source for custom-guided fly fishing trips, equipment, flies, and information. We are located in beautiful Durango, Colorado within easy access to some of the best and most diverse fly fishing in the nation.

duranglers.com

When planning a trip, check local conditions and restrictions with respect to COVID-19, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html> . Some areas in New Mexico are closed to non-residents. Carry plenty of food, water, and plan your gas and rest stops ahead of time.



Coronavirus in the United States—Considerations for Travelers | CDC

There are several things to consider when deciding whether it is safe for you to travel in the United States. This includes the following: is COVID-19 spreading where you're going, will you be in close contact with others, are you at higher risk of severe illness if you do get COVID-19, do you have a plan for taking time off from work or school, do you live with someone who is older or has a ...

www.cdc.gov

Locally, we are still in the windy season. Use caution when on the water and know the limitations of your water craft and skill level. By all means, carry a life preserver. I am aware of one close call on a local lake. For more information, visit AZGF website <https://www.azgfd.com/boating/> and familiarize yourself with the segment on

water/boating safety. Pack it out and please adhere to current fire restrictions in your area. For current info

visit: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coconino/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelp_rdb5339123

Thank you and have an outing!

Boating - AZGFD

Boating . Arizona has many scenic waters offering recreational enjoyment. Before heading out on the water, please become familiar with watercraft laws and registration requirements, take a boating education class, and exercise safe boating practices.

www.azgfd.com

Casey Simpson

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/>

The Paul Weitz Scholarship has been awarded to Andrew Volz. Among other things, he is the organizer and president of the NAU Fly Fishing Club. Congratulations Andrew.

EDUCATION

How To Make Tying On A New Fly Not Suck As Much

[March 6, 2017Postfly](#)



Tying on a new fly to your leader isn't tricky or anything, unless of course your eyesight is beginning to betray you, but it can suck just a little bit sometimes. If it's windy, it's getting dark, there's a seriously good hatch coming off the water, or you've just had one sip too many of that river-cooled brewski, well then it can get a little more complicated. Instead of cursing the fly fishing gods, learn to make your life a little easier with the tips below.



You don't have to dread tying on a fly and retying just a few casts later.

Create Slack In Your Fly Line

The biggest frustration for new fly anglers is trying to tie on a new fly while the river is pulling on your line. It might be funny to watch your buddy the first time, but after a few mishaps like losing their knot, dropping their fly, or straight up yelling at you, it can get old.

Instead of letting the river put pressure on your fly line, creating tension on the leader in your hand, create slack in the line by holding it. I've seen some anglers tuck a section of line in their armpit, some wrap some line around the rod butt and others wrap the line around their own butt (and legs). Just be sure to be careful when wrapping yourself in line, because tripping over your line and falling into the river is not only dangerous, it's also seriously embarrassing.



Don't fish small leaders unless you have to, it'll make tying on flies much easier.

Don't Sweat The Small Stuff

Basically, don't fish 7x.

If you really have to fish the small flies...like, I mean you absolutely have to...then take your time, forget about that hatch that's peeling off in front of your eyes, become one with the leader and the fly and just let it happen. Get Zen with it.

The more frustrated you get, the more you'll mess up your knot and either not be able to tie it at all, or will be forced to retie it. If you relax a little, feel at the water running through your legs, listen to the wind through the trees and just chill. When your mind is ready to tie the knot to the fly, the fly will tie itself to the knot.

Or say screw it and just chuck a meaty streamer on 1x.



Knowing it's the right fly makes a world of difference when tying it on.

Know It's The Right Fly

The worst part about tying on a fly sometimes is that you're not even sure if it's going to work. What is the point of tying on a fly you're going to cast twice and then tie on something else? There is no point. From now on, just tie what's actually going to work.

We take the guess work out of fly fishing here at Postfly. Just open your latest box of flies, pull out what you think looks good and start hooking up. Not a Tribe Member? [Sign up now and we'll start sending you the right flies, stickers and gear every month.](#)

Postflybox.com

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.

The Board welcomes suggestions from members.

There will additional events so watch this space

NAF CLUB OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Charles Simpson
Vice-President	Tom Hudnall
Secretary	Mac McIlwaine
Treasurer	Denise Dean

Northern Arizona Flycasters
PO Box 2924
Flagstaff, Arizona 86003
Website- www.nazflycasters.org