



The November 2019 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 PM.
The meetings are free and the public is invited.

PRESIDENT’S DRIFT – J Shambaja

It's that time of year again folks. As we dive deeper into Winter, some of our favorite fish species begin to spawn. Browns. Brookies. Here's the thing: we are truly fortunate to have year-round fishing opportunities in much of the Western States. At the same time, year-round seasons mean that fish will be spawning in some areas where fishing is allowed. The fish give up their normal wariness as part of their reproductive cycle and are more vulnerable to anglers. It's up to us to be aware of spawning behavior and habitat, and make choices that protect the fish. That means not targeting fish that are vulnerable do to spawning. That means wading smartly, and avoiding redds at all cost. That might even mean stepping up and educating other anglers who might be intentionally or unintentionally targeting spawning fish. No matter how big or beautiful, a spawning trout is no trophy. They are far more valuable doing their thing in the water.

The Northern Arizona summer fishing season is coming to a close, and with that we bid adieu to the 2019 warm weather fishing season. It’s been one for the books! This season flew by. It feels

like there's no way it could possibly be over, but Old Man Winter arrived early, and he's not messing around. Some years it's still warm and sunny for the last weekend of the year, and we're left wondering why we can't just keep fishing for a few more weeks. This past week there's no doubt that it's time to wrap things up, stoke the woodstove, and settle in for the off season. This past week has been a little "*Western*" to say the least. High temps had a hard time breaking out of freezing, and morning lows dropped to the teens.

Yet, don't swap those rod boxes on the top of your rig for ski racks just yet! As the final days tick off the calendar Mother Nature is giving us one last window of opportunity after what has been a bitterly cold week. The forecast is calling for daytime highs to reach the upper 50's, a tropical heatwave compared to what we've seen lately in October.

This will be my last President's Drift report, stay tuned for our New President's report in the coming weeks, and updates from others throughout the winter. It been my pleasure to serve the club. As always, please swing by and say Hi! If you need help exploring being a NAF Board member or planning your next adventure to Yellowstone Country, drop a line anytime.

Schedule your Calendar:

The December club meeting is a Christmas Party hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Simpson (Casey), their residence is 1022 W. Beal Road, Flagstaff. West Beal is accessed from US 180 (Fort Valley Road), Beal Road is across from the Chevron Station. Please join us for this social, bring you friends, December 4th.

And, remember the January meeting has been moved to January 8, as the first Wednesday of January is New Year's Day. This change has been done to avoid holiday conflict. Please plan to attend our 01/08/20 Club meeting.

Although we had a large attendance of club members at our social, Pint Night at Grimaldi's Pizzeria, we missed many of our regular monthly club members. Just wanted you to know, we had an enjoyable time socializing with club members, relished custom ordered Pizza and watched the World Series game on the big screen plus Casey Simpson expertly handled multiple door prize drawings. And among members, future fishing trips were planned! We had fun but missed you so please join us for the next social.

Perhaps, you have recently heard a news story or read a news release about the National Park Service paying a bounty to private citizens for German Brown trout that at hooked in the Lees Ferry section Colorado River. Basically, to make a long story short, because this specie is a threat to conservation efforts at this location. Your club Northern Arizona Flycasters along with Trout Unlimited and other sport fishing organizations engaged with the federal government to seek this resolution. This is an example of what you club and Board of Directors does for conservation. What to be a part of conservation, then join us.

Some of our members will recall a Board of Director member named Jackson Gilmore; Jackson joined our Board as a high school freshman and stayed with us until his high school graduation just a few years ago. Jackson has worked at fly fishing camps in Alaska and was recently fortunate to help open a new lodge on the Nushagak River in Alaska, this river has some of the world's best King Salmon run with an average of 100,000 going up the Nushagak River. Congratulations to Jackson upon his success and we would love to have another Jackson type on our Board.

Our Board of Directors is looking for fresh Club leadership to join them on the Board of Directors and the election of Officers. My term as President soon expires and in addition to needing a New President, we also need a New Vice President. Election of Secretary and Treasure is also up for consideration. Plus, we want to create two new positions that need talents, Club Publicity Chair to handle all club public announcements and Program Chair to schedule guest speakers for club meetings. Also, we have space available to the Board of Directors; we specifically encourage females of any age, high school students and college students to join the Board.

Tight Lines, President Jack.

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

With much of the country in the midst of what is beginning to seem like an interminable winter, cabin fever has sent many of us out to the stream on days which would typically keep us indoors in the warmth and comfort of home. Fishing on those frigid days can be frustrating at times. You're cold. The fish are lethargic. Conditions are tough. And your rod guides and tip keep icing up, causing you to have to break from fishing to clear the ice. Patience can wear thin.

Although there's nothing you can do to improve the cold temperatures, sluggish fish and lousy conditions, you can put a dent in the frustrations

that come from iced up tips and guides by experimenting with one or more of the remedies below.

STANLEY'S ICE OFF PASTE

This is the only remedy of the few listed here that is actually made for the topic at hand. A Loon Outdoors product, Stanley's Ice Off Paste is designed for the sole purpose of keeping ice off fly rod guides. According to Loon, it is the only product designed with this goal in mind. As such, it is a specialty product, and thus comes at a premium price. You'll pay \$7.50 for a small container of paste which you smear on to your guides before hitting the water and as needed while the day goes on. Although the price isn't exactly wallet bursting, it is significantly pricier than the other available remedies. For that price jump, however, you'll get a product that is designed for, tested on and declared safe for your rod and fly lines by a company that makes nothing but fly fishing products.

CHAP STICK

Chap-stick lip balm and other similar products are a favorite homemade remedy of many fishermen for preventing, or at least delaying, icy buildup on rod guides. Similar in consistency to Stanley's Ice Off Paste, Chap-stick will significantly cut down on the amount of ice that builds up on your guides. While there's no evidence regarding how the ingredients in lip balms will affect the resins on your rod and the coatings on your fly line over time, the reality is that gear won't likely see enough exposure to those ingredients -- unless you're very frequently out fishing in icy conditions -- to make a difference. Some anglers have voiced concerns about the

potential fish-chasing effects of lip balm scents/odors disseminated into the water, but we're betting these worries are likely overblown as well.

PAM Cooking Spray

A noted favorite of steelheaders, many of which claim it to be the ultimate rod de-icer, PAM cooking spray has been shown to help slow the build up of ice. And, as you likely guessed, there's no reason to go name brand here. Grab the cheap store brand stuff. Spray it on before hitting the water, and if you're so inclined, carry it along for reapplications throughout the day. When re-applying on the stream, you'll want to be sure that your guides are clear of ice as dry as you can conveniently make them, to help the spray adhere.

Rainex

The same material that is used on car windshields. Wipe it on, let it dry for a few minutes and then polish it.

If you're clearing icy buildup from your rod guides or rod tip by snapping or plucking it off with your fingers, **please stop**. This is no more than a recipe for a broken guide, not to mention a tedious waste of time. Instead, simply dip the rod into the water, which is warmer than the air and allow it to melt the ice away.

From a number of sources.

NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE

December 4th— a Christmas Party hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Simpson (Casey), their residence is 1022 W. Beal Road, Flagstaff. West Beal is accessed from US 180 (Fort Valley Road), Beal Road is across from the Chevron Station. Please join us for this social, bring you friends.

November 6 - Steve Kelly, owner of Kelly Outfitters; he is a Lees Ferry guide and fly fishing instructor.

- 30+ years' experience fishing Lees Ferry
- Fly fishing coach, fun coordinator
- Coast Guard Captain license
- AZ Guide License
- National Park License

The January club meeting has been moved to January 8th

Under discussion by board

Fishing outings to the Williams 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 | Jack Shambaugh |
| Vice-President | Mike Clementino |
| Secretary | Mac McIlwaine |
| Treasurer | Denise Dean |

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