



Established 1996

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935

January 2012

WMFFC Mission Statement:

The Mission Statement of the White Mountain Fly Fishing Club is: "To assist in the development and maintenance of fly fishing opportunities and to promote and participate in fly fishing in its many forms."

We support the practice of "Catch and Release." We support the use of barbless hooks and harmless netting-and-release practices. Fish should never be held out of water for longer than you can hold your breath.

"Tight Lines"—President's Column:

I hope that all members and families had a wonderful Christmas Holiday. It is a special time of year. Obviously not much in the way of fishing news but winter offers high expectations for the spring.

The club Christmas party at Luciano's was well attended with White Elephants (goofy gifts) everywhere. Ken Wolfe beat out all the other contestants for the ugly fishing hat contest and won a \$25 gift card to Bass Pro Shop.

Jerry Myers has put together a guided fly fishing trip to Lee's Ferry in February for club members. Unfortunately or fortunately it is completely booked and we all look forward to their fishing reports.

The January club meeting is scheduled for the 18th at the Lakeside Firehouse. Fly tying classes will begin Thursday, January 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and will be held the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Thursday of each month at the Show Low VFW hall. The address is 381 N. Central Ave, Show Low (turn at CVS). Volunteers are needed to conduct a class teaching a specific fly. Please contact Dennis Jones at dcjones5@cableone.net or me at azsunrise47@yahoo.com if you'd like to help.

I want to wish all of you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year for 2012.

A Thought – "No angler watches nature in a passive way. He enters into its very existence." – Jon Bailey

Tight Lines and Easy Mends.

Michael Smith, President
www.wmflyfishing.com



2011 WMFFC Board Members

President:	Mike Smith.....	(602) 316-0948
Past President:	Ken Wolf.....	(928) 367-0936
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Outings Chairman:	Ted Lambert.....	(928) 537-2115
Website	Don Stier- Maplegate Technologies.....	(928) 537-9006

January 18th Monthly Meeting at 6:30PM

Agenda:

- Social Hour – (5:30PM) *(Buy your Raffle Tickets!!!)*
- Call to Order -- (6:30PM)
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Guests and New Members
- Committee Reports
- Business
- Fish Tales

Program – For our January 18th club meeting we will have a presentation on the Lees Ferry fishery. We are fortunate to have as presenters Aaron Bunch, supervisor of the Colorado River Research Office in Flagstaff and Mike Anderson, lead biologist for the Lees Ferry rainbow trout monitoring. Together they will discuss the Lees Ferry creel results in detail as well as AZGFD Lees Ferry monitoring program. Aaron will also take a few minutes to update us on the LTEMP EIS, why it is so important and what we can do to help and provide our inputs.

Aaron has worked on the river for the past 2 years. He grew up in North Carolina where most of his free time was spent fishing. He graduated from N.C. State University with a B.S. degree in fisheries and wildlife sciences, and received his M.S. degree in fisheries and aquatic sciences from the University of Florida. Aaron has a broad range of experience from working on fisheries related projects in estuaries (seine/trawl surveys), rivers/streams (population monitoring), natural lakes (hypoxia impacts on fish communities), and large reservoirs (food web dynamics), as well as experience working at fish hatcheries.

Mike grew up in Phoenix, and spent a couple of weeks each summer throughout high school fly fishing in Montana which started his affinity for being on, in or around flowing waters. He attended Northern Arizona

University where he received his B.S. in Zoology, and later received his M.S. in Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University. Mike has worked on a variety of projects including studies evaluating brown trout movement, growth and survival, prescribed fire effects on aquatic systems, re-colonization of native and non-native fish following drought.

February Program – February’s club meeting will have another great presentation by club members. Ken Wolf and the club members that went to Alaska this last summer will share the excitement of their trip, pictures and fishing opportunities. It will be an experience to enjoy and maybe make you think, “I should join the next club trip to a fishery I might not go on my own.”

2012 Outings and Events...Ted Lambert, Outings Chairman

December Holiday Party:



As has been our tradition over the years, our December outing is our Christmas party, held at Licano's. The food at Licano's is pretty good and everyone just orders off the menu.

We had a real good turn out this year, and as always in the past we had a great time.

This year we had a fishing hat contest. A number of members brought their fishing hat creations in hopes of winning the prize, a gift certificate to Bass Pro Shops. Each one was given time to expound upon the features of their creation, which led to a lot of friendly banter between contestants and judges (the non-contestants). After it all played out, Ken Wolf won pretty handily. Congratulations Ken. Now let's see if we ever see him wearing it while fishing at one of the outings.

Also a tradition at our Christmas party is the white elephant gift exchange. This always makes for a lot of fun. As is human nature, people always seem to covet what the other person gets and this gives them the opportunity to take away the gift they want. It makes for a lot of good natured competition. All in all everyone had a good time with a lot of fun and laughter.

Hope to see you at our January outing at Silver Creek on January 21st.



Future Outings and Events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
January	Silver Creek*	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
February	Dead Horse State Park (with AZ Flycasters)	Bob Bowers
March	Show Low Lake*	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
April	Roosevelt Lake	Bill Langdon
May	Crescent Lake	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
June	Christmas Tree Lake	Dawn Hewitt on Friday <i>Need Volunteer on Saturday</i>
July	Reservation Lake	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
August	Hawley Lake	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
September	Sunrise Lake	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
October	Big Lake	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
November	Becker Lake	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
December	Christmas Party	<i>Need Volunteer</i>

*Weather Dependent

Treasurer's Report ... Submitted by Dawn Hewitt, Treasurer

The current bank balance is \$10,027.94. Donations to benefit the Navajo County Friends of C.A.S.A collected this fall and at the Christmas Party totaled \$332.00 and the club matched those funds. The total contribution was \$664.00. This will greatly help provide much needed help to the many children under the guidance of the court system.

We still need a volunteer would be willing to do a review of our 2010/2011 financial records. We do this annually to ensure accuracy and compliance with our bylaws and the IRS reporting requirements. It is a fairly simple task of reconciling transactions recorded to bank statements and other financial records. Please contact me at azsunrise47@yahoo.com or at 480-695-3965 if you'd be willing to help.

John Rohmer on White Mtn. Lakes Foundation

*... Submitted by Georganne Jannenga,
Secretary/Public Relations*

Several months ago John Rohmer gave a talk at one of our Club meetings regarding the White Mtn. Lakes Foundation, which has over 500 members. WMLF assists Arizona Game and Fish Dept. with special projects to keep our lakes alive. Because of their efforts, Becker and Crescent now have 18" Brookies. You can access WMLF's mission statement on their website. He said that in the 80's our lakes had big rainbows. He also stated that big browns do okay in warmer waters.

Research is being done on how to grow larger trout. Triploids are being grown in the State's hatcheries. Future grass roots projects include Becker, Carnero, Crescent, Lee Valley, Mexican Hay, White Mtn. Reservoir and Luna, which are all weedy lakes. Carnero will be dredged at some point. Concrete pads were to be donated at Becker until the fire hit, but they will be put in place in the near future. It is now a catch and release lake. Projects to be done at Becker include enhancing the camp site, planting trees, adding more gravel and improving the picnic area.

John feels that Crescent has the most potential. Kelly (from G & F) said that the weeds will be cut. There are plans for Lee Valley Reservoir also. At Mexican Hay Lake the concrete ditch is broken. This lake

grows fish fast! White Mtn. Reservoir (past Sunrise) had 6 to 7 pound fish eating salamanders. This lake grows big fish. Pioneer Irrigation has plans to dredge it to 20 feet.

John stated that AZ Game and Fish will help with all these projects but that WMLF needs money. White Mtn. Reservoir could be a whole new lake. Luna Lake is very shallow and has summer kills. All these lakes have potential but they need portable aerators (at a cost of \$25K each), solar, piping, signage, etc. Game and Fish will decide where the aerators go. Possibly Crescent?

One successful project was the \$250K spent at Fool's Hollow Lake, which now grows big fish and attracts tourists. The added structure attracts crappies. All the work was done on a volunteer basis.

After John's input at that meeting, our President, Mike Smith, asked John how we, as a Club, can get involved? It was suggested that we hit businesses with window stickers; offering new ones every year. Plus we can seek out Federal agencies with grant money.

We need to remember that the City lakes are priorities too. We can reach the WMLF membership on their website, or get in touch with John Rohmer. The website is WMLF.org. We can also get packets from John to sign up for sponsorships and we can get a tax deduction. There is now signage on Becker Lake which gives our Club recognition for its support.

Look for an article in a future newsletter as to Mike Lopez' presentation on how the Wallow Fire affected our White Mtn. Lakes.

IF YOU ARE FISHING AT BECKER LAKE AND OBSERVE VIOLATIONS OF THE NEW “CATCH AND RELEASE” POLICY PLEASE CALL OPERATION GAME IMMEDIATELY AT 1-800-352-0700.



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If you have an Ad or Article that you would like featured in the next Newsletter, please submit them by the 1st of the Month to Sparky Snyder at sparky2440@msn.com, 928-521-0929 or Dawn Hewitt at azsunrise47@yahoo.com, 480-695-3965. Advertising Rate: Business card size - \$100.00 or donations to the club of that value within a year, 3" x 4" size - \$200.00 or donations to the club of that value within a year. Please contact any board member if you have any questions.