

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Flycasters



The Flypaper

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Farewell
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Coming Events In January

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Vince Herrera
Five Flies for January
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From the President

January 2021

Happy New Year!

Here's to looking forward to a new year, 2021, for several reasons. First, it feels good to wave goodbye to 2020, a very difficult year for many. Though we are not out of the woods yet with the coronavirus, I think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel since the new vaccinations are now being distributed around the US, Europe, and other countries. Be sure to keep your guard up, though, as the next few months will likely be very challenging. And secondly, I'm excited to serve the chapter as your new president. Thanks for your trust in me.



I'd like to thank a few people for their service to our chapter. First, many thanks to Mickey McGuire for a super job as our president. Many of you may not know that, late last summer, Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU) awarded Mickey one of four awards for Outstanding Volunteer within Colorado. With all the many people around the state working tirelessly on behalf of Trout Unlimited, that award speaks volumes. Thanks Mickey, and I hope you get much more fishing time come next summer.

Next, I'd like to thank Colin Glover for his service to the chapter as our vice-president for the last two years. Lucky for us, Colin will still be on our RMF Board as one of our Directors at Large, as well as our point person for planning our upcoming February Fly Tying Expo. Thank you Colin.



Frank Bub moved out of state so had to vacate his position as our chapter secretary. Frank did many things for our chapter, and also volunteered on many of our “hands-on” fisheries projects over the years. Frank, thanks for all your efforts on behalf of our chapter.

I'd also like to announce that Dave Handshue is our new Newsletter editor. Dave will work with Bob Green on the January edition and take over in February. So, a huge shout-out to Bob who has done a fantastic job on the newsletter for seven years.... Thanks so much Bob!

And many thanks to our committee chairs and committee members who have done so much for our chapter during the last year. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

Next month I'd like to introduce you to our new board members and committee chairs.

A few sentences about myself: My career was spent mostly in the military, with 29 years USAF and Colorado Air National Guard (in Aurora and Greeley), and supporting the military in my role at Lockheed Martin as a satellite systems engineer, from 2007 to 2019. I had several specialties in the military, to include aircraft and munitions maintenance, nuclear weapons safety, and mobile missile warning. I've been retired for almost two years now, so this is the perfect time to get more involved with Rocky Mountain Flycasters. There are so many of our members that I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, so I very much look forward to the day when we can hold our chapter meetings in person again.

There are so many things we hope to accomplish in 2021. Supporting fire restoration efforts, supporting the Poudre Headwaters Project, Youth Programs like our annual summer Youth Camp and Water Festivals, Community Outreach, Veterans Support Programs, and numerous other conservation projects. It's a little nerve wracking not being sure at this time what we will be able to accomplish in the coming year. All we can do at this moment is to start our planning processes and stand-by to see how things progress in overcoming Covid-19. I really think I can see that light at the end of the tunnel.... I hope you can too!

Mark Miller,
President

Farewell

This is the last edition of this newsletter I will edit for the Rocky Mountain Flycasters-Trout Unlimited. The new editor, Dave Handshue, will edit all subsequent issues until he too finds it's time to move on.

The seven years I have filled this role have simply flown by. It seems like only yesterday that I responded to a call for a newsletter editor in this very newsletter.

What I had to offer was not much: zero years as an editor and about 1/5 of a year as a fly angler.



So, thanks to all of you for your patience with me, and for helping me learn how to fly fish and how to edit a newsletter. It's been a real blast. Much has transpired in the last seven years and I won't bore you with my recitation of those events.

Note: I did catch my "fish of a life time" in Cuba in 2018, so this is the last time I will post a picture in the newsletter. But if I see you on a stream or a lake I will be glad to show you the picture I have had embossed on my credit card!!

Bob Green

Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Fly Tying Expo by Zoom



When: February 17th 2021 from 7:00-9:00 pm
Where: virtual event via Zoom

While we're all getting tired of socially distancing and we'd love to get together with friends new and old this February for our Annual Fly Tying Expo we are still forced to deal with the reality of COVID-19 and will be hosting this year's event via Zoom. Not to fret, our volunteer team is working hard to make this one of the most entertaining and interactive Expo's ever! The 2021 event will feature detailed fly tying instruction from several great tiers and the opportunity to get the fly materials ahead of time so you can tie along with your own vice from home! While details are still being worked out stay tuned for how you can get the inside scope on the hottest patterns for 2021 while also contributing to a great conservation fundraiser!!

The Annual Fly Tying Expo is also the largest fundraiser for RMF each year and the silent auction is always a big draw. This year the silent auction will be moved online for 2021. Please **email** event organizer **Colin Glover** if you have donations such as art, NEW gear, guided trips or other items which you'd like to auction off to raise funds for events such as Greenback Cutthroat reintroduction, the Youth Camp or Cameron Peak Fire restoration.

We will be rolling out additional information in the coming weeks and look forward to seeing you there on February 17th!

Coming Events In January



Leadership Meeting

When: January 13
Time: 6:00 PM

Where: Online via Zoom.

Contact Secretary Jeannie Weaver to get instructions for joining.



Member Meeting

When: Wednesday, Jan. 20
Time: 7:00 PM
Where: Online via Zoom. <https://zoom.us> Meeting ID: 980 4130 6130. Passcode: 238296
+13462487799,,98041306130#,,,*,238296#
+16699009128,,98041306130#,,,*,238296#

Vince Herrera's St. Peter's Fly Fishing

Report for January 2021



Here we are, finally, in the month of December. The last month to wrap up a year that seemed to drag on forever yet flew by in a blink of an eye. I look back at some of my first outings at the beginning of 2020 and we are very fortunate to still be here today with fish and water in our backyards. We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and made the most of their holiday with some good food and an even better time on the water.

The Poudre River and Big Thompson Canyon are now back open to recreation. Please keep in mind that there are still several areas owned by the Forestry Department that are closed for the season. The Poudre River is open for recreation up to Kelly Flats Campground which still gives us plenty of juicy water to fish and room to spread out. Not only has Winter begun, Christmas is under our belts, and so is that nasty year of 2020! It's about time that we can start fresh, continue our safety measures, and hopefully live a little bit more free during 2021. We are coming up on the coldest part of the year but from here the days only get longer and we'll be fish-

ing run-off in no time.

The water has started to freeze at some of our favorite fisheries but the fish still have to eat. This is when taking time to cover some extra open water really pays off. A lot of large fish spend their days under edge ice waiting for the perfect meal to come by so cover all of the open water both meticulously and thoroughly. If you find yourself fishing places that have very little to no open runs then think small and natural bug imitations. The water is usually so cold that trout only have so many food resources available so midge larvae like a Zebra Midge or Cap'n Hook will be what the fish are seeing.

For these situations I go with something small like a midge and pair it on my nymph rig with a Bead Head Leech. The Leech offers high protein intake to the trout so it is seldom they pass up a meal of this caliber in harsh conditions. The weight on my leech also helps me get down as quick as possible without snagging. As long as you can get a slow, drag-free drift then the fish is going to eat. Split shot does come in handy but start with a very small piece. Too much weight right away will result in a snag. If you are like me, you'll be re-rigging your broken leader after the first drift. On warmer days like we have been seeing, come ready with a few midge dries like a Sprout Midge or Eric's Hi-Vis Midge in sizes #20-22. There have been several occasions where I hit the water on a snowy morning, the sun peeks through and there's unbelievable dry fly fishing. Same thing goes for Baetis. When the weather goes from cold to warm in a rapid manner, the water will warm allowing Baetis to emerge and then hatch. You won't want to be on the water without any Pheasant Tails or Adams when this takes place. Be sure to have a healthy offering of Nymphs, Dries, and small streamers to entice the fish. It's better to have them and not need them than it is to need them and not have them.

If you want a way to fish without having to battle as much edge ice and snow then you may want to check out a tailwater. I hear a lot of folks come into St. Petes who stop fishing this time of year due to low, cold water. That is the case for freestone streams but some of our favorite tailwaters are flowing at 1300 cfs this week. That's a lot of fishy water! Tailwaters offer a consistent habitable environment for fish regardless of the outside temperature. I will be teaching Technical Tailwaters on January 9th from 2-4pm via Zoom. Here we will tackle the strategies used to fish tailwaters when the fish become extra picky. A lot of that info can be carried over to our favorite waters and your success will be noticeable. These places include The South Platte River, The North Platte River, The Blue, and my personal favorite, The Arkansas. These tailwaters definitely have some HUGE fish but can only be driven to during this time of year.

If you just want to stay warm inside then I hope you are tying flies, reading or doing something fish related. If you want to get good at something you practice. Over and over until it becomes comfortable. Then you prac-

tice it more. With that being said, our tying and Entomology classes are still open via Zoom with all the supplies you will need just from the comfort of your own house. If you received a new vice for Christmas, this is a great way to get familiar with your new toys and the skill set needed to tie flies at home. Fly Tying is such an important part of my life and sometimes I'm not sure if it keeps me out of trouble or gets me into more trouble. I would love to help you find your balance in this section of the craft. It is by far one of my favorite aspects about Fly Fishing. Just as important if not more is knowing your bugs. As we fish, we burn a lot of time taking guesses on what to fish with. Entomology helps turn guessing into knowing and that will result in more fish in the net. Check out our Zoom class on January 23rd from 2-5pm. For \$35 dollars, this is one of the classes that will really take you far on your journey. 2020 may be coming to an end and it was a rough year. Hopefully we all learned a little more about ourselves and the ones we love. I know I learned a lot of new lessons like how fragile life really is. Now we can appreciate it a lot more in 2021.

If we could ever be of any help please do not hesitate to stop in at the shop. We love helping and building relationships with our community. Our doors are open. Happy New Year everyone!

Video of the Month: Five Flies for January

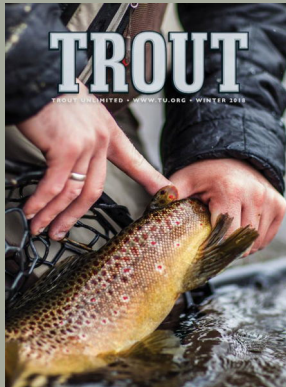


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