



ISSUE NO. 60 / January 2016

This is the e-Newsletter of Collegiate Peaks Chapter of the nation's leading coldwater conservation organization -- Trout Unlimited.

Events and Meetings Calendar

The up-to-date calendar can be always found on [our website calendar page](#).

Here are the next three meetings:

January 13: Member mtg. Mt. Princeton Resort. Eric Gardunio CPW Aquatic Biologist presents "Return of the Gunnison River Rainbow."

January 16: Strategic Planning. Boathouse Cantina, Salida. 9am to 2pm. Open to all chapter members. Lunch provided by the chapter. Drinks available for purchase.

January 19: Banquet Committee Meeting. High Country Bank, Buena Vista. 12pm. Solicitation packets will be available for pick up.

All BoD & member meetings are from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and are open to all. Food & beverages available for purchase. For more information, contact Keith Krebs at 719-539-6359.

Bankside With Keith: What will the New Year bring?

I'm planning and hoping that the new year ahead of us brings as much positive change and as many accomplishments for Collegiate Peaks Chapter as 2015 did. It's unlikely that we will update the Chapter name and logo again, but we can look forward to continuing, improving and expanding our very successful outreach programs.

We will maintain momentum for the SouthArkansas River Ecosystem Learning Center (SARELC). This is our permanent site, located onSouthwest Conservation Corps property along the Little River, for youtheducation as an outgrowth of our Stream Explorers program. SARELC is a collaboration among fourimportant stakeholders: Collegiate Peaks Chapter – TU; Southwest ConservationCorps; Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas; and the Greater Arkansas River NatureAssociation.

SARELC will provide a long-term sitewhere local students can learn how to observe, measure, record and understandvarious attributes of the South Arkansas Ecosystem and to develop and maintaina data base that describes the nature, number and health of the organisms inthis ecosystem. This site will provide aplace where interested students can return to develop long-term group orindividual studies or projects on ecological issues. To help fund the necessary river channel andriparian restoration design and construction work on the site, the Chapter hassubmitted a grant proposal to National TU under the Embrace-A-Stream program. We expect to receive some positiveinformation regarding our request in the coming weeks.

We should also keep strengthening ourbrand recognition by continuing monthly publication in both local newspapers,the Mountain Mail and Chaffee County Times of articles written by Chapter members. Any Chapter member who has an idea or topicfor a 700 word article is invited and encouraged to submit it by contacting me.Look for our article about water quality in the 2016 edition of the “FishingGuide” published yearly by the Arkansas Valley Publishing Company.

The most important component of ouraccomplishments is the participation of our membership. Our current Chapter membership is just under300. That is a huge potential resource ifmost members will push their activate button. We can expect to continue assisting DPW in their trout management byfish fin-clipping at Mt. Shavano Hatchery. We will continue our support of appropriate conservation easements andreclamation projects like Evans Gulch. There are other groups such as the relatively new Arkansas WatershedCoalition that share similar missions and have overarching community orientedand conservation goals in which we should participate. And everyone can look forward to this year’sCaddis Festival Banquet in May and our third annual Movie Night in September.

At this point, most members should havereceived, by U.S. Mail, the Member and Board meeting schedule for 2016. Post this on your refrigerator so that

you can coordinate your schedule and attend as many meetings as possible. The very important annual strategic planning meeting will be held on January 16th. The purpose of this meeting is to determine the direction and activities of the Chapter in up-coming years. What do you want our Chapter to be? Member and Board meetings are open to all and provide interactive and useful information about our past and upcoming activities including Colorado (CTU) and National (TU) events. Member meetings feature an engaging and informative guest presentation program. The venue alternates between Salida, at the Boathouse Cantina, and the Buena Vista area, at Mt. Princeton Resort. Food and beverages are available for purchase so you don't need to worry about missing dinner or that after work drink. Whether you're a long-time member or a new member just beginning to fish and want to learn more about trout and their habitats or just want to meet others with similar interests, join CPC at these meetings.

Here are a few fishing quotes for the start of 2016:

"...of all the liars among mankind, the fisherman is the most trustworthy." – William Sherwood Fox

"Don't tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish." – Mark Twain

"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after." – Henry David Thoreau

Keith Krebs, President, Collegiate Peaks Chapter



South Arkansas River



Alaska King Salmon

Rifles

At the last CPCTU campout in Lake City, there were many comments about

past and present campouts. In order for Michael and Larry to choose a campsite that best fits the needs of those who are attending, please take a moment to review our list and let us know what your choices are.

1. Travel distance / time - how far are you interested in traveling? Stay in Colorado? Go to Wyoming? New Mexico? One travel day or only four or five hours?

2. Many of the private campgrounds have increased their amenities with WiFi, full hook-ups and free showers, but these are also increasing their nightly rate - \$35 - 50. Or, there are national forests or state parks which sometimes have full hook-ups and pay-for showers but their cost is also rising to \$18 per night. Dry camping is another option with minimal to no cost but no amenities other than a picnic table and fire ring. In some cases, drinking water is provided by faucets at various locations at semi-dry campgrounds.

3. Is the time of year convenient for you? The Caddis Festival is the first Saturday in May; would the first or second week of May work for you? Earlier? Later?

The fall trip has been some time in September; do you have a preference for what week?

4. For the past couple of years, brats have been served for the evening potluck. Would you prefer to bring your own main meal item plus one dish to share? The club would still supply the charcoal for that meal.

Here are some places thought about for next spring or fall - let us know what you think. Mesa Verde, Durango, Dolores, South Fork (Rio Grande), La Vista Campground (Lake Isabel), One Mile (Taylor River), Ridgeway, Redstone (Crystal River), Yampa river area and Lake City area (other than the campground we stayed in this year). Your suggestions are welcome as well.

Please respond to Larry Payne: mtncouple1@msn.com and Michael Harrington: mikebluedun@ridgeviewtel.us

IN THE SEAM

Winter. Time to refine nymphing technique

by Fred Rasmussen

January 13th 1993 Mountain Mail

Surprisingly, winter is a great time to learn about or improve nymph fishing techniques. First of all you will probably have the river to yourself. [everyone else is much smarter than you are and are home by the warm stove.] Second, the fish actually are concentrated in "wintering holes" and once these places are identified, knowing where to fish is easy.

When water temperatures are near or below 40 degrees, trout activity slows way down. They bunch up in the bottoms and often the ends of slow deep runs where little energy is needed to keep in position in a feeding lane. further, in their relatively inactive state, trout are much slower in reacting negatively to a fishers presence.

On the down side, besides having to slip and slide over ice to get into the water, feeding trout are very sluggish. that is, your nymph has to drift almost directly to their jaws before they will take it. Not like in summer when a trout will often move a considerable distance for a floating tidbit. Trout wait in the cold, slow, bottom currents for food to come to them rather than actively pursuing it. But these same trout, torpid or not, are still quick to reflect non-food objects such as artificial nymphs.

Fishing under these conditions is easier than you might think, mostly because there are no long, difficult casts to make. you are literally fishing right at your feet with your standard fly fishing rig.

The basic goal is to have your nymph drift naturally through the deep water very near the bottom. In preparation, make your leader at least a foot or two longer than the water is deep. also you will need a weighted nymph or weight on the leader above the nymph to get your fly where the fish are.

Proceed like this. Position yourself at the pool so you are just opposite the deepest most quiet water. Cast upstream. Use just enough line to ensure that the nymph will be out in the deepest water. This will be anywhere between six and ten feet. Keep the rod tip high, the fly line itself out of the water, and have the rod follow the line as it floats downstream.

Now the most important part. Concentrate on the place where the leader enters the water. If it pauses the slightest bit, tighten the line. A winter trout will not hit hard. It will just inhale the fly and exhale it almost as quickly. So constant and intense line watching is necessary to hook fish. If you get bored and your

interest drifts to a nearby kingfisher or what you could be doing in a warmer place, pack it in. You will miss most of the strikes and not even know it.

One way to make leader watching easier and more effective is to use a strike indicator. Attach a piece of orange yarn, or a small float on your leader set a little above the depth of the water. This will give you much better information on strikes.

Fish each current seam separately and completely. Each will deliver your nymph to a different place in the run. If the nymph or weight does not tick the bottom as the nymph passes by you, then you probably need more weight. Adjusting the weight frequently to fit the different currents and depths generally makes the difference between a fair and a great day nymphing.

Don't Forget. Slow winter trout are more forgiving than spooky summer ones. You can fish much closer to them without ruining the fishing.

HEY! Get away from that warm stove!!!!



CPA's Volunteer Hours 2016

by Ann and Henry Klaiman

NOTE: National TU requires us to log our volunteer hours as part of our yearly financial report. At all levels of our organization, a strong total of volunteer hours gives us leverage for soliciting funding and engaging in projects. You can help by being sure your hours are reported every month. Contact Ann and Henry Klaiman for details, aeklaiman@aol.com

Welcome New Members!

None this month.

The FlyGals

Sponsored by Collegiate Peaks chapter of Trout Unlimited, FlyGals is a group of women interested in learning about and participating in fly fishing. Our mission is to increase participation in fly fishing by women and to educate women about protecting, conserving, and restoring cold water habitats for fish.

FlyGals Schedule for 2016

TBD

Registration is required for each of these events; to register or to get more information, contact Barbara Plake (bplake@unl.edu, 395-0478).

For more information or to join the FlyGals e-mail list, please contact Barbara Plake at bplake@unl.edu

Barbara Plake and Linda Schuckert, 2015 FlyGals Co-Chairs
Marjie Gray and Tracy Craig, FlyGals Planning Committee

River Lore

If you listen to what you say, and understand your thinking,
you'll know the reason you are fishing.

Albeit there is no guarantee
for catching fish in January.
But if you don't go-how will you know.

Michael C. Harrington

Fishing Quote

"Unless one can enjoy himself fishing with the fly, even when his efforts are unrewarded, he loses much real pleasure. More than half the intense

enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many, many pleasant recollections of all one has seen, heard and done."

Charles F. Orvis, 1886

"The Fine Print"

Michael Harrington Editor

Collegiate Peaks chapter meets periodically throughout the year. The meetings alternate between Salida and Mt. Princeton Resort.

The e-letter will continue monthly, announcing upcoming meetings, programs, and events, in the EVENTS CALENDAR.

Member submissions to the newsletter are needed and encouraged. Have a comment? Opinion? Humor? Viewpoint? Share it, IN THE SEAM. Anything relative to fishing will appear now and then.

Send questions or submissions by email mikeebluedun@ridgeviewtel.us or call (719-530-0691). Editor's deadline is the **23rd** of the month.

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