

Winter 2010

IAFFV

FLY LINES

Official Newsletter
International Association of Fly fishing Veterinarians
7957 West Juniper Shadows Way
Tucson, Arizona 85743

OUR MISSION:

"To provide high quality veterinary continuing education, while enjoying pristine fly fishing destinations."



Officers and Members of the Board

Dr. Don Sawyer, President
Dr. Doug Andrews, Vice President, FLY LINES Editor
Dr. Walt Weirich, Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Herb Brown, Director
Dr. Richard Forfa, Member at Large
Dr. Richard Burrows, WebSite Manager

Key for picture back row left to right
Andrews, Weirich, Sawyer, Forfa, Burrows

UPCOMING PROGRAMS :

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trip</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Year</u>
April 10-15	Bighorn River, Kingfisher Lodge, Ft. Smith, Montana	2 available	2010
July 2 - 9	Alaska Trophy Trout	Open	2010
July 29 - Aug 7	Alaska Nushagak River Camp, Bristol Bay, Alaska	Open	2010
December 10 – 18	Patagonia region, Bariloche, Argentina	Open	2010
July 1 - 8	Alaska Trophy Trout	Open	2011
July 29-Aug. 6	Alaska Nushigak River Camp	Open	2011
October 1- 6	Lee's Ferry, Equine Program	Open	2011
January 22-29	El Pescador in the Salt	Open	2012

PRESIDENT'S DRIFT

Happy new year to everyone and may your fly fishing experiences be the best. Last year was not easy for many veterinarians, but we had 4 very successful programs. Your support for IAFFV is greatly appreciated. There is a new Board of Directors and all of us are optimistic about the future of the association.

Board Meeting

The IAFFV was established December 1998 as an IRS 501-C3 non-profit education association. Once every 3 years, IAFFV Board of Directors meet face to face to discuss ways to enhance the association and ideas to improve the outstanding CE programs offered at fly fishing destinations. Last month, the 4 nights and 3 day BOD meeting was held at Cliff Dwellers Lodge, Marble Canyon, AZ, February 24 – 28. Walt Weirich and I drove from Tucson and picked up Rich Forfa who had traveled from Atlanta to Flagstaff. Rich Burrows drove from his home in Kingman, AZ and was to

meet Doug Andrews and Herb Brown who had flown from Portland, ME and Nashville, TN, respectively. Unfortunately, Doug missed his Phoenix connection to Flagstaff so he missed his ride with Rich and Herb. With no rental cars available, he was lucky to find a taxi @ \$325 for the 2 hour trip to Marble Canyon.

The Association paid for 4 nights lodging and meals with all other costs, including fishing, transportation, parking fees, taxi ride (Andrews) and time off from regular clinic practice were taken care of individually. Among the many actions decided at this meeting, we expanded the number of Directors from 5 to 6 and added the office of Recording Secretary. Directors and officers for the next 3 years are:

President: Dr. Don Sawyer
 Vice President: Dr. Doug Andrews
 Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Walt Weirich
 Recording Secretary: Dr. Herb Brown

Member at Large: Dr. Rich Burrows
 Member at Large: Dr. Rich Forfa
 Doug Andrews will continue as editor of *FLY LINES* and has developed a new electronic format for the newsletter. Rich Burrows is new to the board and will take on the job as web site manager. He has already added a number of significant improvements with more to come and a whole new look, all with the blessings of Herb Brown who started the site 9 years ago. Rich Forfa, also new to the board, is an equine practitioner from Maryland and will develop an emphasis in equine programs. IAFFV has hosted 2 equine programs, Snake River 08 and Lees Ferry 09, a good start. Rich will develop ways to find equine veterinarians who fly fish with the goal of providing 1 equine program a year. The next equine program will be Lees Ferry, October 1 – 6, 2011.

Minutes from this meeting will be available to members on our web site,

but I have two significant issues that require attention. One is membership; the other is operating costs independent of program expenses.

Membership:

Currently, we have 104 members which is less than we had 3 years ago. Renewal notices will be sent out in the next 2 weeks and the BOD is committed to individually adding 30 new members in the next 6 months. In addition, if each IAFFV member would find just one new member, this total would double. That would be fantastic and really help our bottom line as well. Don't forget about those who would like to learn the sport, both men and women, as most guides we have are outstanding fly fishing and fly casting instructors.

Operations:

It takes money to run this organization. From the Treasurer's Report, our operating expenses were just under \$8500 in 2009. More than half of that amount went to Merchant Fees for credit card charges. There is a \$200 administrative fee added to each IAFFV meeting registration fee for each participant to help cover these expenses, but if the program registration fee and memberships are paid by credit card, it adds as much as 4% to the cost. The board elected to not increase the administrative fee, but we are encouraging payment by check instead of Visa or MC. The board recognizes that paying by credit card is preferred by many and we will continue to provide this service. The Association must carry liability insurance for organizers and officers and accounting services, both necessary overhead expenses. Donations would really help and are fully deductible.

Programs for 2010:

Registration for Belize was excellent with 13 anglers and 7 accompanying

persons. Bighorn has 14 on the roster and has 2 slots open as a pair. The Trophy Rainbow program in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska has 1 slot open and the Nushagak River trip has 3 openings to make this trip a go. For Argentina, 5 slots are open and must have 8 total to make it work.

Trip Insurance:

I continue to encourage folks to sign up for trip insurance. Available coverage covers both travel expenses and registration fees for any of our programs. The article by Ray Schmidt in the Fall IAFFV *FLY LINES* Newsletter of 2007 and on our web site. The article should help with guidelines to help choose the right coverage needed. For the Belize program, we had 4 cancelations with fees that were not refundable----and not insured---, amounting to more than \$15,000!

With Sadness:

A death in the family affected two veterinarians from Evanston, WY who were signed up for their first IAFFV program. Dr. Steve Gross and Dr. Pam Handly were looking forward to the Belize trip and in early December, Steve had a car accident that resulted in a fatal injury. All of us extend our condolences and best wishes to Pam and she is hopeful that one day, she will be able to make one of these trips. For now, she has to provide and care for the boys.

New Programs:

One of the IAFFV's most urgent needs is having more members volunteer to organize meetings. Anyone who knows of fly fishing destinations appropriate for our group should contact me. There are 2 requirements to begin: 1) an organizer should have attended and should have full knowledge of the proposed destination and 2) an

organizer must have attended at least one IAFFV program. Mechanisms are in place to assist organizers with guidance to manage these programs. Please contact me or any board member if you would like to know more about this process. These programs with active member participation are the lifeblood of our organization!

My best to everyone and have a great 2010,

Don



UPCOMING TRIPS

The Bighorn
2 spots open



BIGHORN RIVER SPRING MEETING

April 10 – 15

Kingfisher Lodge, Fort Smith, Montana

5 Nights Lodging, 4 Days

Fishing, 14 hrs

Presented by

Dr. Steve Birchard, DACVS

Dr. Mike Willard, DACVIM

Surgical and Medical Approaches to Small Animal Gastrointestinal diseases

\$2850

The Big Horn River is proving to be a very popular venue for the IAFFV. Those who have been participating have elected to return. This is understandable, as the programs that Dr. Birchard has presented at the last two meetings were excellent and very well received. This time, he will team

with Mike Willard. The fishing is outstanding with everyone catching many large rainbow and brown trout.

Speakers for the 2010 meeting will be Dr. Steve Birchard, surgeon from The Ohio State University, and Dr. Mike Willard, internist from Texas A & M University who will share therapeutic approaches on Small Animal Gastroenterology. By covering both medical and surgical aspects of a problem, a new perspective of each subject will emerge.

We now have 2 slots open to attend due to cancelations. This will become a signature IAFFV meeting with 2 superb CE speakers and fantastic fishing.

**Contact Walt Weirich:
wewvet@aol.com; From October to May call 520-572-1488;
7957 West Juniper Shadows Way, Tucson, Arizona 8574**

Dr. Michael Lemelin with Monstor



**IAFFV ALASKA SUMMER MEETING:
TROPHY RAINBOWS AND ARCTIC CHAR
Anchorage, King Salmon and Fly Out to The River
5 nights camping, 6 days fishing
July 2 - 8, 2010
14 hours CE
Recent Advances on Anesthesia and Analgesia
Donald Sawyer, DVM, PhD, ACVA, ABVP
\$4875**

The Bristol Bay region in SW Alaska is one of the most outstanding locations for trophy Rainbow Trout in the World. These fish are protected not only by seasonal fishing, but also by restriction of catch and release. Only 10% of trout in the world are larger than 20", so imagine catching bows and char consistently bigger than that with some over 30" ----on streamers and mice during mid day! This process begins following trout opener early June and continues into mid July when these fish then target eggs as their food source until the spawning process ends.

John Hohl has been a fishing guide for 13 years and is owner of Alaska Fly Anglers that operates out of Soldotna, Alaska. A fly fisherman since he was 8, John pursued his dream of fly fishing from an early age. He obtained a BS degree from Michigan State University in Fisheries Biology in 2002 to further his knowledge of the fish he pursues for a living. With his wife Dawn, he has taken this pursuit through more than a dozen nations and hundreds of localities, always returning home to the greatest fishery in the world, Alaska. As a guide, biologist and pilot, John breathes the fly fishing life style.

The venue is a river in the Bristol Bay Region with a maximum of 5 anglers plus 3 guides. Travel day will be Friday, July 2nd, overnight in Anchorage and then on to the first Alaska Air flight into King Salmon Saturday morning. We will fly out to a high lake where we start the trip downriver in 3 rafts, fishing, camping and CE process for 5 nights and 6 days. All camping gear is provided and everyone packs light. On the last day, Thursday July 8th, we will fly out to King Salmon late afternoon in time to catch the late Alaska Air flight back to Anchorage for connection to flights to the lower 48, or remaining overnight on your own.

Most all fishing is by wading, while rafts are employed for transport to fishing locations along the way and rustic camp sites. Dry flies with mouse patterns and streamers are the norm with each angler set up with a 6 wt for dries and an 8 wt for streamers. There will be occasions where one will need to walk around short obstructions, but we have no long portages. Last year, the fishing for trophy rainbows was phenomenal with most bows in the mid to high 20's, and the 33" char was the largest John had ever witnessed. Go to www.alaskaflyanglers.com and click on Phil Stevens with big bow for what to expect.

**Total number for this program limited to 5.
\$2000 due by April 1st:
preferably by check made out to IAFFV mailed to organizer. Fee includes meals, 5 nights in camp, 6 days guided fishing, gratuities and 14 hours of CE.
Not included: Alaska fishing license; lodging in Anchorage, and air fare.
For further information, contact Dr. Don Sawyer DSESI@aol.com; 520/572-6790 (AZ) until end April; 517/349-0454 (MI)
Trip insurance is highly recommended.**



**Alaska Summer Meeting
Nushagak River Camp near
Dillingham 7 nights lodging,
6.5 days fishing Salmon,
Grayling, Northern Pike,
Arctic Char Multimodal
Methods of Acute and Chronic
Pain Management**

**Presented by Steve Fox MS,
DVM, MBA, PhD
July 29 – August 6, 2010
\$5495**

It will be hard to match the success from last year with 1800+ silvers for the week, but anything is possible. This year's program is 6.5 days, 7 nights and no fly outs from the Nushagak. This is peak time for the Silver Salmon run and there will be a variety of different fishing experiences including Salmon, Northern Pike, Arctic Grayling and Char. Depending on conditions, fishing silvers on foam dry flies may occur. Arrival into Anchorage will be Thursday, July 29th. Friday morning, we fly to Dillingham on Alaska Air and from there, by float plane to the camp in time for lunch. The schedule includes fishing mornings with CE worked into the tide schedule and weather each day. Powerboats are used for transport to fishing sites less than 15 minutes from the camp. Last year, we were catching silvers right at the camp. Guides prepare filets, shrink wrap, freeze, and box pack for about 50 lbs of fish per person, which is included in the registration fee.

The camp is located on native land leased and operated by Scott and Rosemary Hippe of Vancouver, Washington. It is comprised of tent cabins on permanent wood platforms located on a bluff overlooking the river about 30 miles from Dillingham. This is a complex of 27 temporary "buildings" used for King Salmon fishing June to

mid July, and includes the kitchen, dining room, a number of storage tents, walk-in freezer, 2 quiet generators, sleeping tent cabins, showers with instant hot water, "lecture" tent, flush toilets and wireless internet. This really is in the bush but Scott and Rosemary provide a very comfortable setting in these cabins with sleeping bags, inserts, heater, and electrical outlets for recharging camera's and other necessities. We will be the only group in camp as the King Salmon run will be finished by the time we arrive. You need not be an intermediate or advanced fly angler to enjoy this experience as the guides are outstanding fly casting instructors and 9 ft, 8 wt rods are the norm.

John Hohl in his role as owner-outfitter-head guide of Alaska Fly Anglers, will be joined by his brother Levi, along with Scott, Rosemary, Little John and Brent of the camp staff. The "lecture tent" is heated, clean and comfortable making for good accommodations for CE in the bush. Dr. Steve Fox is a master teacher, if there was such a title, and he will present an outstanding interactive program for the group. Meals are fantastic, a variety of fishing adventures with outstanding guide services will be provided and oh yes, flush toilets, hot showers and wireless internet. The camp does have telephone service but a real plus --- no cell phones unless by satellite.



Minimum number for this program is 6, max 10.

Registration fee is based on total.

\$1500 deposit due by April 1:

preferably by check made out to IAFFV and mailed to organizer.

Balance of payments will be mid May and end of June.

Fee includes 20 hours CE, meals, refreshments, 7 nights in camp, 6.5 days guided fishing, fish processing, gratuities.

Not included: air fare to Dillingham, lodging in Anchorage, fishing gear, flies, and fishing license.

For further information, contact Dr. Don Sawyer DSESI@aol.com; 520/572-6790 (AZ); After April 25th, 517/349-0454 (MI)

Trip insurance is highly recommended.



IAFFV- Patagonia Winter Meeting
Bariloche, Argentina
December 10 - 18, 2010
7 nights lodging, 6 days fishing
20 hours CE
\$4825

Argentina is the eighth largest country in the world with more than 38 million people. The majority of the population resides in 5 cities with Buenos Aires and Cordoba being the two largest. The country is divided into 4 major provinces. Located in the southern part of the Andes Mountain region of Latin America, the Patagonian portion includes the southernmost regions of Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz, and Tierra del Fuego. Distance of this area spans over 1,250 miles. The Patagonian fishing season opens in mid-November and closes mid-April. The popularity of fly fishing has increased in Patagonia and so have the number of sport fishing enterprises. Schmidt Travel will arrange our booking and has been working with Esteban Elgutuche, founder and chief guide of Fly Maniacs for about 12 years. This is the same group that hosted us in 2005 and 2009 and they will change their format somewhat. Instead of travel packages built around a featured lodge, Fly Maniacs creates an itinerary based on seasonal river conditions in order to provide exceptional fishing. What we know is that for most of the time, we will stay at a hotel in Bariloche. December is the best month of the year for 2 major reasons: water flows and weather. This is beginning of summer and rivers in the Bariloche region have good water flows due to spring rains. The initial plan from Esteban is three days fishing out from their usual base in Bariloche and a two night float on the Rio Caleufu. Usually during that time of year, they have many options on where

to fish and what type of fishing they can offer, so that's the easy part. With long days on easily wadeable rivers, we will experience hatches of caddis and mayflies stimulating trout to move almost everywhere. IAFFV participants will experience peak dry fly fishing. In summer, lows range between 60 F and 75 F. The weather is very moderate and rains are not common.

Program Details

The speaker and program topic is still under development but I should have that information together once the trip is confirmed. Regarding air travel, it would be desirable to arrive at a major hub international airport on the east coast Friday afternoon, December 10th, e.g., Atlanta. From there, connect to flights that depart mid evening (red-eye time) with an anticipated arrival in Buenos Aires not later than 9:00 AM. Flying time to Argentina is about 10 hours and there are 2 time zone differences from EST. Once we clear customs in Buenos Aires, we transfer to the domestic airport 45 minutes to the west. We will depart early afternoon for the flight to San Carlos de Bariloche, Patagonia. From there, we will be in the hands of Esteban and his staff until departure back to Buenos Aires December 18th.

Fly Fishing Patagonia

Trout were first introduced in this area in the beginning of the 1900's. Wild populations of brown, rainbow, and brook trout as well as landlocked Atlantic salmon originally from Sebago Lake, Maine, have reached average sizes well above that found anywhere else in the world.

Program Registration includes:

- 20 hours CE approved by RACE, AAVSB
- All meals from arrival to departure (including fine local wines, beer and soft drinks).

- All lodging accommodations
- Catch and release fly fishing only
- All seasonal special flies
- Advance pre-trip information
- Land transfer in Buenos Aires
- Expert, local bilingual (Spanish-English) fly-fishing guides
- Gratuities

Registration fee does not include:

- Airfare, airport taxes to and from Bariloche
- Individual fly fishing and wading gear
- Hotel bar and liquor expenses
- Personal phone bills
- Trip Insurance: registration fee and travel costs absolutely advised.

Total of 8 required, incl speaker and organizer.

All registrations must be received by of April 1st.

\$2000 is due with registration preferably by check made out to IAFFV and sent to Don Sawyer*.

Second payment is due July 1st with final payment due September 30.

For further information, contact Dr. Don Sawyer DSESI@aol.com; Until end April, 520/572-6790 (Arizona)

Thereafter, 517/349-0454 (Michigan).

***If cancellation occurs after payment to outfitter, refund of the registration fee is based on someone else filling the vacant slot.**

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Richards Burrows, DVM Website Manager

**Please check out the new material and design on
www.iaffv.org**



Ohio State University 1972

Armed Forces: 5 years serving in USAF: 2 ½ years as Base Veterinarian in Klamath Falls, Oregon. 2 ½ years as Surgical Specialist, Air Force Military Working Dog Center, Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan.

Private Practice: 1977 to 2007

1980-1992: owned Orchards Pet Hospital, Lewiston Idaho

Interests: fishing, horse packing, computers, outfitting and guiding for elk and deer

After “vetting” the Iditarod (in Alaska) in **1986**, my wife Kim and I got involved in Sleddogs.

1992-1999: By **1992** we had 50 dogs and had been traveling from Colorado to Manitoba to Alaska, so we moved to Alaska, in a log cabin on the Tanana River 30 miles east of Fairbanks, bred our own dogs (100+ in the kennel by then) and raced professionally. I placed 5th in the world one year in the Open Division of Sprint Racing (running 22

dogs in a sprint at speeds up to 30 mph for 25 miles for 3 days – very exciting!), and Kim won the World Championship in the 3-dog division. We owned and operated Salcha Veterinary Clinic out there in the “bush”

1999-2010: We purchased Kingman Animal Hospital in 1999, then sold it and retired in 2007. In retirement we own and operate an 18,000 acre cattle Ranch in Arizona, raising black Angus desert cattle.

Interests in Arizona include bass fishing, fly fishing, computer programming, horses, and team roping;

I joined IAFFV in **2006** and have thoroughly loved all 5 trips I have been on so far. Website plans include keeping events current, adding large photo albums – LOTS of pictures - videos, and links to Facebook. If you have pictures that you think need to be on our site, by all means e-mail them to me!

If you are a fisherman (or fisherwoman), you definitely should join IAFFV to enjoy the fishing, the personalized CE, and the interactions with new friends and colleagues. If your spouse is a fisherman, join now so that the 2 of you can share these adventures!

Hoping to meet and make many new friends at future IAFFV meetings!!

Rich Burrows



Richard J. Forfa D.V.M., DABVP Equine specialty, is our other new member of the IAFFV Executive Board. Rich graduated from Rutgers University 1975 with a B.S. and completed his DVM at the University of Parma Italy, 1980.

He worked at Monmouth Park and Meadowlands Racetracks in 1981, was a mixed Equine practitioner Maryland 1982-1983, and finally was a resident Veterinarian on a breeding farm in Western Maryland in 1983. He established Monocacy Equine Veterinary Associates late in 1983 and continues within this business to the present (www.monocacyequine.com).

Rich is a Member AAEP, on the Maryland biologics and therapeutics committee and the unwanted horse committee. He is a member of the Maryland VMA, AVMA, and is an AAEP representative for the AVMA Council of Biologics and Therapeutic Agents (COBTA). He is also boarded with the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, certified in Equine Practice, 1997.

In his spare time, he is very active in competitive Combined Driving (CDE) and is a Veterinary Delegate to (FEI) (USEF) for the Equestrian sport of combined driving. Rich is a representative of the veterinary team for driving at the WEG (World Equestrian Games), October 2010 at the Kentucky Horse Park.

He breeds sport horses on a 54 acre farm near Frederick, Maryland where he lives with his wife Tracey 12 horses 3 dogs and a diversity of other creatures. He enjoys fly-fishing on the ponds and rivers of the Adirondacks in N.Y., where he and Tracey own a lake house with

Tracey's brother. Rich has attended 2 IAFFV trips where he found the venues great, the fishing fantastic, the CE superb, and the camaraderie unforgettable.



TRIP REPORT

TRIP LEES FERRY FALL MEETING

September 19 – 24, 2009

Cliff Dwellers Lodge and Lees Ferry Anglers

Marble Canyon, Arizona
EQUINE SURGERY

Presented by Dr. Jan Hawkins
Associate Professor Large

Animal Surgery
Purdue University

This program turned out to be a great experience and it was the first time for Jan Hawkins as a speaker for IAFFV. The group was comprised of Don Sawyer, Jan Hawkins, Bill and Kay Schumacher from Las Cruces, NM, Walt Weirich from Tucson, Michael Mulvany of San Diego, Rich Forfa from Beallsville, MD and Elizabeth (Boo) Woolsey-Herbert from, Gawler, South Australia. Although half the group was comprised of equine practitioners, the rest of us not only learned a lot about horses and horse owners, but grew to appreciate the problems in dealing with the unique physiology of these 1000 lb animals. Jan used terms I had not heard for a long time—cheek teeth, hands, tail head, etc? It was fascinating and Jan was not only an outstanding teacher but an excellent fly angler as well. He likes tying flies on those size 20 hooks!

A change in venue from Marble Canyon Lodge was necessary as head guide Dave Foster moved to Flagstaff for a new job with the US Geological Survey. With our new guide service of Lees Ferry Anglers, owners Terry and Wendy Gunn started the guide service and Fly Shop about 20 years ago. They

subsequently obtained Cliff Dwellers Lodge later, and have refurbished the lodge, guide shop and restaurant since their ownership. This facility is about 9 miles up route 89-A which connects North and South rims of the Grand Canyon. This is an outstanding 30 acre complex with a world class fly shop, a 20 unit motel, a separate guest house which was residence of the previous Cliff Dwellers owners, convenience store, restaurant/bar and gas station. We split the group, with 5 lodging in the 3 bedroom guest house and 2 rooms at the Lodge. The CE sessions were held at the guest house which worked out very well. Check it out: www.leesferry.com.

The daily schedule started with early breakfast at the restaurant, then to Lees Ferry with launch by 7:30, and up the Colorado River to various fishing locations in 20-ft shallow draft riverboats. With 2 anglers per boat/guide, what is not to like. Distance from Lees Ferry to the Glen Canyon Dam is 15 river miles covering some of the most incredible vistas anywhere in the world. We were back to the Lodge by 4:00, 3.5 hours of CE and an excellent dinner at 7:30. Weather started out being a bit windy but improved each day. Midday temperatures were in the 60's and 70's, quite comfortable. Gin clear water allowed guides to easily spot fish, and water flow at a constant 10,500 cfs made conditions quite favorable. Most fishing was by wading in relatively shallow water (no wet wading with 50 F water temp), but on occasion, fishing was done by drifting. All of our guides were outstanding not only for their fishing skills but excellent instructors as well. We all caught plenty of bows in the 15 – 19 inch category and most everyone had a good shot or landed at

least one over 20 inches. That is a real challenge when fishing size 20 - 24 flies on 6X and 7X tippets. We lost about 150 flies, and most all of those were on fish!

This was our second equine program and we will do it again first week in October 1 – 6, 2011.

Don Sawyer, Organizer



Mike Mulvany with one the average rainbows



TRIP REPORTS

Florida Key's Trip Report September 26 - October 2, 2009

Michael Peak, DVM Companion Animal Dentistry The Islander Resort, Islamorada

The Florida Key's meeting has come and gone and other than some unexpected inclement weather for 2 days, the meeting was completed like a fine tuned military operation. The 9 veterinarians and 3 spouses successfully arrived in Lauderdale on Saturday, September 26th, at the Sleep Inn, just 4 miles from the Fort Lauderdale Airport. The group included Dr. Allan Dozier and his associate Dr. Blair Smith from Charlotte, North Carolina, Dr. Alan Peterson from Poughkeepsie, New York, Dr. Les Martin from Winnemucca, Nevada, Dr. Les Birmingham from Freeport, Maine, guest speaker Dr. Michael Peak from Tampa, Florida, Dr. Michael and Mrs. Sandy Norris from Dover, New Hampshire, Dr. Scott and Janis Mays from Plano, Texas, and Dr. Douglas Andrews and Betty Andrews from Portland, Maine.

Other than having 2 Michaels, 2 Alans, and 2 individuals with the first names of Les, (highly unusual), there was no problem with attendance and learning everyone's first name. With a weary day of travel behind us, the group met at the local Italian Restaurant across the street for drinks and dinner outside with temperatures a balmy 75 degrees at 8:00 PM at night. After dinner, we shuttled off to bed for an early group departure at 8:30 AM Sunday morning in our rented van for the two hour trip to our lodge in Islamorada, the Islander Resort.

We arrived at the Islander Resort at 11:00 AM and I promptly escorted the doctors to our conference room to set up for our 6 hours of official dental CE

lectures for Sunday. Dr. Micheal Peaking hit the ground running, lectured straight to 5:30 PM, with only 1 break. We ate lunch in the conference room at the same time to maximize efficient lecture time. The afternoon went by very fast, with lectures on dental equipment, radiography equipment, dental education for our clients in our practices and other subjects that we were not exposed to in veterinary school. The weather was still very boring with clear skies, no wind and 90 degrees. We were not scheduled for group dinner at The Islander until 7:00 PM, giving us ample time to check into our rooms and re-group on the beach in front of our beach units for a review of fly-casting techniques, the double and single haul, and the quick release of the fly from the boat without touching the water. Another day passed with a wonderful meal under the outdoor skies with fresh Florida fish and other local cuisine dishes endemic to this area.

Finally, the time arrived on Monday to meet our guides at Lorilei Marina at 6:45 AM for our first trip out to Florida Bay and the Everglades Park for a true backcountry fly fishing experience. The guides provided all equipment on their 16-18 foot flats boats with anywhere from a 65-90 horse 4 cycle engine on each boat, designed to cruise from 30-49 MPH to reach our destinations. Some of us brought out own equipment nevertheless to use on our boats. Each boat lined up with an 8 weight and a 10-11 weight rod with floating line. We used the eight-weight for casting to bone fish and baby tarpon, while the larger rods were saved for permit and larger Tarpon. The sunrise was spectacular with 75 degree temperatures and some scattered local squalls on the water. I paired up with Alan Peterson, a novice tarpon fly-fisherperson who was attending his first IAFFV meeting. The guides for our trip were head guide Greg Poland, Robert Klein, this brother Tim Klein, Drew Moret, and substitute for Tim Klein, for last two days, Mike

Kozma. We left the dock last, allowing the three other boats to depart before our boat. All four guides were heading towards the town of Flamingo in Everglades National Park to fish an inlet called Terrapin Bay, about 45 miles away. To my surprise, we stopped in front of an unknown Key just 15 minutes after leaving the docks, this was Greg's secret spot. Since I felt sorry for Alan Peterson, I let Alan grab my personal 8 weight Loomis GLX 9 foot rod with my favorite Bonefishing Floating line. Alan immediately showed excellent dexterity with his double haul casting technique. After 2 casts, he expertly strip-set a 20-30 (maybe more) pound tarpon at 7:50 AM. For the next 40 minutes, I was able to enjoy his struggle bringing this fish in during 20 minute monsoon rainstorm that left us soaked to the bone. We boated the Tarpon, snapped our obligatory pictures, and then released the happy fish. Sheepishly, Alan assured the two of us that this was strictly beginner's luck. I was up next casting for the next hour, and after several near captures of more tarpon, I once again surrendered my gear to Alan. Within 5 minutes, he had another Tarpon on line, and brought this one in 15 minutes. I was again skunked and Alan took over. He rewarded our group with more beginners luck by nailing a third Tarpon, after which he stated that would not fish until I caught something (a crab maybe).

By the end of the day, after watching many tarpon roll at Terrapin Bay and soaking in the sun to dry out, our boat's final tally for Day #1 was 5 tarpon, 1 snook, and 3 ladyfish, and yes, I did finally hook up and Alan was allowed to fish. The remaining 3 boats also performed well on day #1, with more 1/2 of our group landing tarpon, although in the 20 lb range. We adjourned to participate in our 2 lecture hours on dental radiography and interpretation. When the magic hour of 6:00 PM came, we suffered through a

beautiful sunset dining outside at a local restaurant ½ mile away, Morada Bay.

Tuesday morning welcomed our group to more 70 degree clear skies. The majority of fishing was once again at Terrapin in the Florida Everglades Back Country. Our group witnessed many rolls of tarpon, but for some reason, they did not appear as excited to view our expertly presented flies. Dr. Birmingham caught his first snook and redfish, while many of our group had excellent opportunities to present flies to both bonefish and a few permit.

The non-fishing portion of our group joined up with a local guide's wife for an eco-tour of the Everglades and Florida Key's. The weather took a turn for the worse into the 3rd hour, and upon witnessing a water- spout, the group wisely elected to return to shore.

Once again, our group witnessed the first cold front from the north running through Islamorada, and unfortunately, we had to postpone fishing on Wednesday until 1:30 PM. We maximized this time to complete our last 4 hours of intensive dental seminars dealing with the damaged tooth, surgical extraction techniques, basic oral surgical principles with case presentation and non- invasive fracture repair. Dr. Peak kept the group totally involved with demonstrations on repair of jaw with wiring, cement, and a curing light. We left Florida with enough dental information to improve all of our dental practices to fund many more IAFFV meetings.

The weather cleared on Thursday, and I set sail with Scott Mays to a secret flat in the Florida backcountry that would bring us face to face with some extremely large permit. WOW, this was an understatement. Both Scott and I had opportunities to land 5 permit larger than I had had ever witnessed, but they were not interested in our flies. We each had extreme acid indigestion after encountering this successful flat.

Once we scared the permit away, we set off to Oceanside to fish for bonefish, and once again we were not disappointed. The bonefish we attempted to catch were in the 10-12 pound range. The last cast of the day was a blind cast made by Scott Mays to a region where we last saw a push of water. To our surprise, his fly landed in a school of 8-10 resting bonefish, who decided to leave the flat once the flyline landed on top of the school. Oh well, it was exciting.

Our group ate our last meal at 'Lazy Days', another superb restaurant serving all sorts of local fish. The meal was more subdued as we all knew the trip was coming to an end, and we needed to go home to our rooms to pack for the return trip on Friday morning to Fort Lauderdale airport.

As I write this report with Thanksgiving approaching on a very dark dreary November day in Maine, the memories of lecture, new friendships made with more fly-fishing veterinarians, panoramic vista's of the Florida Everglades, dark green and blue ocean with all shades in between, and bright warm sun, I look forward to more Islamorada adventures searching for the record Tarpon, Bonefish, or Permit. Maybe at some point I may actually catch one of these monsters, but who cares? With a flats boat delicately skimming the surface of the emerald water with the bottom flying by at 35 miles per hour, surveying the many islands to choose from and weaving our way through the channels adorned by water fowl of every variety, the fishing becomes secondary to living with this moment of wonder at nature's beauty of the Florida Key's and Everglades. See you at the next IAFFV adventure!

Douglas Andrews



Dr. Birmingham with Snook



Alan with his Tarpon

IAFFV Winter Program in the Salt El Pescador Lodge, Belize January 22 – 31, 2010

The El Pescador Lodge on Ambgris Caye is one of the premier saltwater fishing destinations in the world. The opportunity to fish for tarpon, permit, bone fish, snook, Jacks, lady fish, barracuda and snapper in one place doesn't happen everywhere. Sharks, dolphins, rays and water birds entertain anglers as well. Tarpon, permit and bonefish are protected in Belize with catch and release, and the country has allocated locations in the Caye where fishing is not permitted. These fish are not world-class trophy size especially in the winter months, but any of these 3 species will put an angler in the backing in a heartbeat. The enemy of flats fly-fishing is wind, and one of the reasons we go to Belize in January is to avoid high wind. These fish are accustomed to calm water without much movement of anything over their heads. Mudding bones and permit can be spotted much easier with sun and calm water, while pods of tarpon cruising for food causing nervous water that will turn an angler into melted butter. Unfortunately, we had wind on the flats every day, and on our 6th day, it was so high (over 30 knots) that we didn't even fish. It was the worst January weather in 20 years according to the guides. But even considering the weather, we all caught bones, with some in excess of 5 lbs. Most of us also had good shots at permit and tarpon. Only 2 permit landed (Herb and Adam) but big fat 0 for tarpon this time.

Those on this trip included 11 anglers and 7 significant others including Eric's Herrgesell's wife Brooke and

their two children, James (8) and Hanna (10). Allan Dozier and son Adam from Charlotte, NC; Michael Mulvany from San Diego, Scott Mays from Frisco, TX, and Richard Burrows from Kingman, AZ who filled the slot donated by John Welser who could not attend due to illness. We owe a big thanks to John for his generosity. Also included were 4 couples: Doug and Betty Andrews (Portland, ME), Mike and Sandy Norris (Dover, NH), Herb and Tina Brown (Woodburn, KY), and Ed and Deb Kahil (Killeen, TX). All in all, we had 3 new for Belize with 5 from California and 11 representing Arizona, Michigan, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Texas. Eric's wife and children arrived Thursday but almost did not make it because they were stopped from boarding the flight out of Sacramento by TSA. This was due to both father and mother not traveling together with the children. Their delay at the airport occurred the day we didn't fish. If Eric had been in the boat on his way fishing, his cell phone would not have received the distress call from Brooke. After some harried moments, documents were faxed twice to the airport, and Brooke and children were able to board just 10 minutes before departure. That turned out even better for James, as Eric had arranged with guide Katchu to provide a special fishing experience. James caught 15 bone fish, a number of snapper which was shared at dinner, and barracuda with at least one longer than he was tall, really a very special time for father and son. James was quite the site on the boat deck with fly rod in hand wearing an El Pescador fishing shirt and IAFFV hat. Brooke and Hanna had their special time as well snorkeling and scuba diving.

We stayed in 3 villas this time which made for a much better arrangement. The living room of one of the villas

served as the seminar room and worked out really well. We darkened the windows with blankets and Eric Herrgesell did his thing making all of us better veterinarians as a result. He assigned unknown radiology cases to the learning group, which created a fantastic learning experience. What better way to make a commitment to radiology interpretation while Big Daddy compliment, coached, and commented on what he also observed. Because Eric is was a good teacher, most of the time we were right on with our x-ray interpretation for the guru radiologist.

With excellent accommodations and meals, outstanding service, fly fishing the flats of Belize, an exceptional educational experience, and the great mix of personalities, this trip ranks in the top 10% of programs we have held.

Don Sawyer, Organizer



Guide Sinoe with nice bone





Mike Mulvany looking and waiting



TARPON ON THE FLY, EVENTUALLY ELUDING DOUG ANDREWS' BEST EFFORTS



SNORKELING ON MEXICO ROCKS ON OUR DAY OFF

COMMON CASTING FAULTS

by Al Dozier

A couple of issues ago, I wrote an article on how to learn to double haul to increase distance. I am now flying back from our Islamorada trip reminiscing about the camaraderie with old and new friends, delicious seafood, a great CE program and oh yes, the great fishing too. All day on a flats skiff allows me to get to know some great folks. When requested, it also allows me a chance to help with someone's fly casting. So I thought I would go over a few common casting faults I have observed on the trips I have attended. Maybe you will recognize some and be able to avoid them.

- 1) Killing the last cast.** This is probably the most common error I see. We make a few false casts, working the line out with nice tight loops and then wanting to get the most distance, we "lower the boom" on the last forward cast. The rod comes down much farther, perhaps down to the 9 o'clock position or lower, which opens the loop into a big wind-resistant curve and the cast dies short of our intended target. The solution is simply to stop the rod up higher the same as it was while we were false casting and don't try to add a lot more force to it.
- 2) Coming back too far on the backcast.** It difficult for us to know how far the rod tip has

come at the stop on our backcast. It may feel like we stopped the rod at 1 o'clock but we really stopped at 3 o'clock. My guide in Islamorada had to tell me a couple of times that I was dropping my backcast too low. Try to learn how to turn your head and watch your backcast occasionally. This is easier to do if you open your stance some (face your body more to the right), which also makes it easier to extend the length of your casting stroke which is necessary when you cast further. When you do this, you may be surprised to see where the rod tip ends up on your backcast. Another tip is to say to yourself: "Thumb up!" when stopping the backcast rather than letting your thumb point to the rear. By stopping the rod higher in the arc, you will tighten your loop up considerably.

- 3) Rushing the cast.** This is not usually a problem when blind casting. But when you see a big tarpon roll or a big push of water by a school of bonefish coming at you, your heart rate goes off the chart, your knees get weak, the guide is telling you to "Hurry, Hurry, Now, Now", is it any wonder that you rush your cast? What can I say but try to stay cool and wait for your backcast to straighten. Sometimes, even if we haven't intentionally started our forecast we unconsciously start bringing our rod hand forward before the backcast has

finished rolling out. This is what we call *creep* and it shortens our stroke on the forecast which shortens our distance and can cause a tailing loop (a subject for a future article). Other than watching the backcast, the best cure I have found is to learn to *drift*. This means to extend your hand further back after the stop. This drift may be a short distance for a short cast or much longer on a long cast. If you drift you cannot creep!

- 4) Don't fish a bad cast.** Even the best casters will make bad casts but the experienced ones recognize it and immediately pick it up and recast. When sight casting, continuing to fish a fly that the fish doesn't have a chance of seeing probably doesn't have much of a chance for success.

I hope this helps you avoid some common errors. Next issue I will try to give you some tips on increasing line speed and subsequently distance even if you already know how to double haul.

Allan practices small animal medicine in Charlotte, NC and is an FFF Certified Casting Instructor



*Membership Application for IAFFV***

(Also download at Iaffv.org.)

Individual Annual Membership:	\$35
Couples Annual Membership:	\$45
Individual Three Year Membership:	\$89
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