



Fish, continued from page B-1

drifted off the water to take a break, and compare what was working. A young man walked up to us and ask how we were doing? I told him I had hooked twenty fish and had landed ten. My buddies shouted in unison, "Liar!" "You caught way more fish than that." I had to admit that I was having a better day than I first reported.

We took a break off the water for a while, and came back to fish the area of the big rock. We all hooked some fish but the fishing was not as brisk as it had been earlier in the day. Even with me holding out on the guys, Jerry admitted that this was one of his best fish-catching days ever on the Ferry. On our first day of fishing I had noticed fish midging on the surface around midday. I was reluctant to give up my successful dead drift technique for some maybe dry fly action. The second day was even better than the first. I was landing most of the fish that I hooked, and again I had some great numbers. When the midging started the second day I switched to a dry fly rig. I had a parachute trico for my top fly and I cut off the wings of a spinner trico to look like a midge for my dropper. Dry fly action is really fun when you can get it, and I must have had a large grin on my face for an hour while landing half a dozen nice Rainbows.

We were staying at the Cliff Dwellers Lodge, and stopped in for a quiet dinner at the restaurant. The food, the service, and the view were all excellent. We were just being served when three loud mouth louts entered the outdoor dining area. Even though we were several tables away, these guys wanted everyone to know that

they were having a good year financially and fishing wise. They had been up river with a guide that day, and the loudest mouth had caught 24 fish. (I am thinking, probably a stretch.) They continued to talk loud about being guided on the Green River, and other guided adventures. Jerry, Joe, and I quietly rolled our eyes, as other diners were starting to do, and thought these poor guys can't fish on their own. We had each caught more fish in the walk-in area than these guys, and had done it on our own. I guess these guys had missed the guides advice on having good sense, and not to be too boastful. These guys probably aren't bad guys – they just need more time on the water to mellow out a bit.

The third day was Jerry's day. Early, it was calm enough to fish. We were in the area of the boulder field, and again fishing Zebra Midges. I have fished with Jerry several times before and I don't think I have ever seen him catch more fish than he did that morning. Later, the wind came up and made fishing difficult. That was one of the days they closed the I-40 due to wind gusts. After a steady pounding by the wind for about two hours, we finally gave up and got off the water. That was Saturday, and Sunday's weather forecast was for even more wind.

Sunday morning was calm early, but we decided to take off and not fight the wind today. We stopped by the Vermillion Cliff Lodge for breakfast, and to see if our favorite waitress, Charlie, was working. Charlie is one of those entertaining, sharp tongued individuals, who does not suffer fools. Even if you



Close-up of a small Rainbow Trout caught at Lee's Ferry

don't start anything, expect someone in your group to get picked on. You just hope it's not your day. It was Jerry's day again, but he had seen Charlie in action before, and he played along. We each ate a large breakfast, and smiled while we replayed our most recent fly fishing adventure. We observed that this would have been a good fishing trip even if the fishing had been lousy. We were able to laugh,

the weather was good, no one got hurt. We didn't break a rod, friendship was excellent, we had great food, and had met interesting characters along the way. You can't ask for more of a fishing trip. Vince Deadmond The Fly Fishing Hardware Guy can be reached at Best Hardware 237 N Apache Trail Apache Junction, AZ, or vince@ajbest.com or at 480 982-7461 for more fish stories.

All-Stars, continued from page B-1

Schrader at second base, and Paul at third base, made some nice defensive plays in the game but it wasn't enough to make up for the six unearned runs scored by Mesa American.

Also playing for the Juniors All-Stars are Cory Turner, who had a sacrifice bunt that eventually led to a run scored, Skyler Bowen, who drew a base on balls in one of his at-bats and scored a run, Kyler Garrison and Raymond Kimble, and the Juniors All-Stars are coached by Chris Herrera and Mike Chilson.

This Wednesday's game for the Juniors All-Stars is played at Gene Autry Park in Mesa on McKellips Road and just west of Greenfield. Again, first pitch is at 6:00 p.m.

In that 12-2 loss to Westwood for the Majors All-Stars played last Thursday, Brian Ranft, Shea Casarez and T.J. Duarte shared the pitching duties and only allowed six base hits while combining for nine strikeouts, six of those by Ranft in his three innings.

The Apache Junction All-Stars came up with five hits, one each by Trevor Kelley, Clayton McCarthy, Hunter Paul, Sergio Villar and Casarez. Prescott Horn picked up a RBI on an infield grounder and then had a hit taken away on a ripped drive to right field, the Westwood fielder coming up with a shoestring catch.

Also playing for the Majors All-Stars are Michael Sampson, Billy Apodaca, Aharon Ritchey, Audie Craig, Mario Romero and the team's coaches are David Ranft, Adam Craig and Bob Horn.

The Majors All-Stars, consisting of 11 and 12-year-old players, continue their District 7 Tournament this week with three scheduled games, all at Countryside Park. The

Majors will play Tuesday, July 6 versus Mesa Southern at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 7 at 7:30 p.m. versus Mesa Eastern, and Thursday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m. versus Red Mountain American.

10-11 All-Stars Update

The Boys Baseball 10-11 All-Stars from Apache Junction played a terrific District 7 Tournament, going 3-1 in pool play, winning their pool and advancing to the championship game. In that championship game played Saturday, June 26, the A.J. All-Stars lost to Mesa American by a 19-12 score, Mesa American scoring a total of ten runs in the final two innings, all after two outs had been recorded.

The 10-11 All-Stars consisted of players Hunter Fonseca, Justin Anderson, Chris Becker, Joshua Gonzales, Moises Rascon, Ethan Zimmerman, Donovan Prunty, Cameron Kunkle, Connor Dry, Mathew Turner, Chris Bourland, Jacob Endsley and James Stillwell, and coaches Heath Dry, Brandon Acedo, Gene Gonzales, Donnie Allen and Andy Anderson.



(above) Majors Baseball All-Star pitcher Brian Ranft delivers a ball to home plate in last week's District 7 Tournament played at Countryside Park in Mesa



(above) Juniors Baseball All-Star Jordan Jewell slides safely into home plate in Friday's District 7 Tournament game against Mesa American played at Gene Autry Park



(above) Apache Junction Little League Juniors All-Star second baseman Justin Schrader tries to put the tag on this Mesa American baserunner in Friday's game



(above) Juniors All-Star pitcher Cameron Herrera delivers a ball to home plate during Friday's District 7 Tournament game against Mesa American

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