

[HIGH DESERT ANGLER NEWSLETTER](#)



We are the oldest established fly fishing business in Santa Fe, Serving Northern New Mexicans and anglers world wide since 1985.

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Good by 09, lookout 2010!! A cold day of fishing = wearing the right clothing!!! Big Horn Dates 2010 Reserve Your Spot!! Ties and Lies.. Norm's Winter Tip O' the Month:

A big Thank You goes out to all of our 2009 clients and friends. On behalf of The High Desert Angler staff and guide crew, we all want to say thank you for letting us serve you in the past and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2010. January is always a slow month for fly shops, but there are some things to look forward to. First off keep doing your snow dances and pray for more. I always say every winter now that I am not much of a skier anymore, "let the skiers use it all winter because the fishers will use it for the rest of the year." Along with that we are past the winter solstice and I can tell the days are already starting to get longer. I am such an optimist, any way this is the time of the year the Pike start eating again. So come in and get set up for a pike day, and go on the Big Fish Hunt!! Don't forget about the Rio Grande and it's tributaries... January can be good! The tail waters are al-



ways good too this time of year, just remember it's winter, and both you and the fish can be cold, so re-read my next entry from last month, and stay warm!

I go fishing when I get too, not when I want too, so let me tell you this: fly fishing is my life, second only to my wife and kids, and when mama says I get to go fishing, I go fishing no matter what the conditions. If you have even half the passion we have here at High Desert Angler then I know you feel the same way, so dress right and stay warm!! First start off with the feet; wear some good socks!!! Consider a thin liner sock when it's really cold, and here is the clincher. No matter what kind of sock or socks you wear, if your feet don't have room in your boots to get circulation then your boots don't fit right. A bigger boot is better than a tight boot I always say, and when I am fitting

some one in a new boot I always lean on the big side for this very reason. You might even consider a winter boot and a summer boot. Now let's think about the legs. If you wear Gore-Tex you need to have a layer that has some insulation and a barrier from the cold water and cold air. A fleece pant, or a thicker pair of quick drying pants than you use in the warmer seasons with a great pair of long underwear underneath is usually enough. For my torso I like a couple



layers. I wear a silk weight long or short sleeve shirt, and a Simms River-tek shirt no matter what. The lower arms will dry fast if they get wet, and this shirt is a great layering piece. Then if it is really cold I wear a Run-Don't Walk hoodie from Cloudveil over the Simms River-tek and my Windstopper soft shell over that. If I warm up, the hoodie gets thrown in the pack, but if it gets colder, the wind picks up, or it starts to sleet and snow my shell goes on and in truth I rarely need any more than this. A good fingerless glove should be in the line up and Windstopper is best if you intend to use your fingers while fishing. I always carry some good full

finger gloves for the hike in or out just in case I have to stick a hand in the snow. Full finger gloves come in handy if you need to warm up after sticking your hands in the frigid river as well. Finally you have got to have a good stocking cap that can fit over or work with your hat. You still need a brim to cut the glare, and the sun can still fry your skin in the winter. If you don't believe me then see how many of the products I have mentioned that I am actually wearing in the recent photo below. This isn't a gimmick, this is my winter get up, and that day was COLD AS SH--!! Always have something extra in the gear bag in case you get wet, don't neglect the food and water intake even if you don't feel like drinking or eating. Trust me, you need it, so hydrate and eat small snacks often!! Have fun out there!!!

2010 Big Horn Dates: June 5-13!!!! I have been going to FT. Smith MT to fish the Big Horn River below the Yellow Tail Reservoir since June of 2000. I really like this time of year on the 'Horn, first off the crowds are minimal, and our local rivers are still in run-off. This makes this trip the perfect primer for the up coming Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado season. Not to mention The Big Horn is quite possibly one of the top 5 tail waters on the planet. Out of 24 spots over the 8 days I will be there I know I only have 8 to 10 spots available. This is the kind of trip you want to do again and again and most of the returning anglers have been going with me since my second or third

trip. So give a call for details and to sign up. The price stays the same, \$1600 per person for four nights and three days of guided fishing. All meals, lodging and flies are included, you must get a MT fishing license and you have to get yourself there and back.



Ok, I'm trying something new; Ties and Lies!!! Yes, this is an angle to get you into the store, but it's not just for us, it's for you too!! Starting for the first time at the High Desert Angler on Friday January 15th at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm we are hosting a get together to show off your flies and show off your stuff with cool materials and tricky techniques. Heck you might meet a new fishing partner learn a new fly or even help some one learn something new. This is a social tying event with a twist, come tell some fishing stories to boot, and if you guys and gals like it we will try one or two a month until we start fishing our butts off again. We hope to see you here!!

Norm's Winter Tip O' the Month:
Typically this time of year can be

sketchy when it comes to fishing, but as we say here at the shop, "You don't know how it's gonna fish unless you go!" There are, however, a couple things to take into consideration when planning to get out on the water. It is not unusual to see a few days of warmer weather, such as in the 40's. These are the days you want to get out, as your line guides will not freeze, bugs will be moving (possibly hatching), and you, as well as the fish, will be more energetic! That being said, if there are multiple consecutive warm days, look to go on the second or third day. The first day just gets the water warmed up.

Next, look for the warmer water! The obvious ones are tailwaters, such as the Chama and San Juan. However, rivers like the Chama are susceptible to air temperature swings. These rivers have wide slow stretches that tend to lose heat quickly or high canyon walls that shade sections of the river most of the day! So, again look for warmer days. Spring activity is the less obvious. The water coming out the ground helps to maintain water temperatures as well. Areas like Pilar, on the Rio Grande, Red River, or lower Jemez have springs that feed the river. For those of you getting cabin fever, there are some opportunities out there. Just remember the fish still are not as warm as they were in the summer, so give them plenty of opportunities to see you flies, which means fish thoroughly and take your time in an area. Hopefully I'll see you out there!

Thanks again to all our friends who came out to enjoy in the education and fun!



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