

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter 531 www.optu.org Editor: John E. Murphy 520-299-3278

Volume 20, Issue 1



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President: Mike Mehrer

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Healing Waters Chair: Robin Marsett

rmarsett@comcast.net

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Fishing Trip Chair: Joe Vitelli

Public Relations Chair: Michael

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mmltfletch@msn.com

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Fagan jfaganfished@gmail.com

Youth Education Chair: Joe Fagan

Banquet Chair: Jay Elliott

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El Jefe



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Anglers

Changes are happening. You have already seen the great fishing report by Joe Vitelli. He received several kudos from members. Joe is our new outings coordinator. He will be running quite a few day trips to nearby fishing locations. Joe is a "snow bird", like many of you. He returns to PA, in the early spring. But winter fishing can be fun in Tucson. I hope you will be joining him on some of his trips. Read the newsletter for upcoming dates.

Kathleen Vitelli, has volunteered to be our Secretary. I suspect that those of you who read the board meeting minutes will see an improvement in writing quality. Incidentally, but not coincidentally, Kathleen is Joe's wife. That makes four ladies on our Board of Directors, now.

We are undertaking a new youth program in 2012. We will be providing Fly Fishing instruction to the Boy Scout Camp on MT Lemmon, tentatively the week of July 18-14. We will be asking for volunteers. Joe Fagan, will be guiding the program. More activities will be scheduled later. The Tenkara instruction went well at Halloween on the Fly this year although attendance was small. If anyone has ideas about how to offer this for kids and family send me an email. All other ideas about how to make youth activities work will be appreciated.

The **January meeting**, wherein we host AZ Game and Fish folks to update us on the fire damage in our mountains, will be held at the **Viscount Inn, on Broadway, east of Swan on January 4**. It will be at 6:30. This should be an interesting meeting and might point a way to get involved in restoration work.

Remember, we are looking for new meeting locations. Several ideas have surfaced. Churches, Tucson recreation locations and libraries all have meeting rooms we might use. Some charge. Others do not. We are not sure how soon we will have to move. The board appreciates the ideas members have offered. Keep them coming.

Really Important!!!

We have Raffle tickets for sale to win a Nissan Leaf, all electric car, from Jim Click. Tickets cost \$25 ea. and we split all proceeds from the tickets between Healing Waters and OPTU. The Raffle will be held in the spring. Please help OPTU and Healing Waters by purchasing tickets. Somebody will win. It could be you? Call Robin Marsett: home- 520-760-1667, Mobile-520 661-4079, or email <rmarsett@comcast.net> for tickets.

The Banquet will be held on Feb 11. Tickets will be offered for sale via the internet, and at Dry Creek. More info will be forthcoming.

Happy Holidays
Mike Mehrer, OPTU President.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE NEWSLETTER

We would like to determine if anyone would be interested in serving as section editors for the newsletter. For example, our section on angling tips could be invigorated by someone willing to scan fishing magazines and other sites for a tip or two each month. The funny among you might be willing to host the quotes and jokes section to spice it up. Finally, we can use someone to solicit fishing stories as well, since VERY few are submitted despite my clear understanding that many of you routinely go on trips. I guess that means you don't want to share secrets. If you want the newsletter to be interesting, then we need postings that members want to read. Finally, if you have an idea for a section that you think might be of interest please email your trusty editor. He might try it out even if you won't volunteer to lead the charge. *The Editor*

CONSERVATION NEWS

The Holiday Party on December 3rd was a success. This was an evening to relax, visit with old and new friends, eat a lot and, of course, discuss fishing. The event, hosted by Robin and Roseann Marsett was held in the midst of some of the worst weather we've had this season but the company was warm and welcoming. About 30 brave souls ventured out in the rain to attend. Special guest was Hutch Hutchison Southwest Regional Business Manager for Orvis.

Guest Speaker for January - Conservation-Related

Mike Lopez, Fish Program Manager, and Jason Kline, Fisheries Specialist for Region V, both from Arizona Game and Fish Department, will be our guest speakers for the January 4th regular meeting. The meeting will be held in Salon A at the Viscount Suites Hotel on Broadway. This venue allows us to purchase food and drink from the bar/lounge for those who don't have time to grab dinner before the meeting. We'll start the meet-and-greet around 6:30 with the meeting and Guest Speakers starting at 7:00. This is your opportunity to hear from the experts what the water and fish conditions are as a result of last year's fires. I encourage you to come and listen. Both Jason and Mike have a wealth of information they can share with us to help us with both our conservation and fishing plans.

Roseann Marsett.



Felt Soles Banned in Southeast Alaska

http://www.capitalcityweekly.com/stories/120711/new_925826510.shtml

YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT

Here's the link to youth oriented activities done by other chapters of OPTU. We ought to be able to do some of them similarly. Thanks in advance for taking the time to look over the information in the link. Let me know if there are any that are appealing to you to work with me to get started in our chapter. I'd like the women in OPTU to begin sharing with Girl Scouts. I would assist in making this happen. <http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/tacklebox/youth/One-TU%20Youth%20Report%202011-08-23.pdf>

We don't have to travel far from Tucson to do good for the trout habitat - indirectly. Sincerely, *Joe Fagan.*



Calendar

Jan 4: Regular meeting will feature Mike Lopez of AZ Game and Fish on the damage caused by the recent fires. Site Viscount Suites on Broadway

Jan 18: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Jan 25: Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.

Feb 1: Regular meeting ?? Site TBA

Feb 11: Annual Banquet

Feb 15: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Feb 22: Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLYFISHING



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing wishes everybody a Merry Christmas. We continue to hold our classes in Tucson and Ft Huachuca every week in fly tying. If you know a service member or veteran who is undergoing treatment or therapy for service connected wounds, injuries or illness please tell them about our program. We always welcome newcomers.

In a few weeks we will be starting work on our annual Project Healing Waters national Rod Building Contest. In the past two years we have had winners from our local program that received trips to Idaho and Alaska for their efforts.

We continue to go on one or two fishing outings a month (weather permitting). Please feel free to join us.

Don't forget the car raffle is still ongoing with proceeds being split between OPTU and the Healing Waters local program.



Upcoming Fishing Trips

The 10th Annual OPTU trip to the **San Juan River** will be Sunday March 11th to Friday March 16th. Departure early morning on the 11th allows a half day of fishing for those willing to get up. Four full days of fishing Monday to Thursday then return departure for Tucson early Friday morning. Trip is limited to 13 and only three spots remain. We'll be staying at the Octagon Inn. Estimated cost is \$425 (up \$10 from last year) due to continuing high gas and escalating food costs but may be \$10 to \$20 higher. All meals provided except in transit. Email John at murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu if you wish to be considered for the trip.

CANCELLATION AND RESCHEDULING OF OPTU ROSE CANYON FISHING TRIP: DECEMBER 17, 2011

On Thursday, December 15th I took a chance on a day trip to **Rose Canyon** to assess the lake and snow conditions after our recent winter storm. I was a bit discouraged, but not surprised to find the access road leading to Rose Canyon covered with upwards of two feet or snow with drifts at almost four feet.

After quite a laborious hike down to the lake, I was disappointed to find the entire lake frozen. Based upon the future weather forecast for more mountain snow and chilly weather this upcoming weekend, I anticipate the lake may not be fishable for at least the next few weeks. This, of course, will be dependent on the weather in these next few weeks. I did include a few photographs of the wintry scene I encountered.

On Monday, December 26, 2011, OPTU will join with Project Healing Waters on a day trip to **Grant Creek** to try our hand at catching the elusive Apache trout. In the past, members of PHWFF have caught quite a few Apache's in a single day. For those who haven't yet had the opportunity to fish Grant Creek, it is located at Mount Graham which is where Fort Grant is located. The fort was built in 1872 as an outpost during the conflict between the U.S. Army cavalry and the Apache Indian tribe. The conflict concluded with the capture of Geronimo in 1886 and thus, the fort was closed. Presently, it serves as a state prison work camp.

Anyone interested in joining us on December 26th should meet us at 8:00 a.m. at the Shell truck stop/gas station directly off of I-10 at the Fort Huachuca/Interstate 90 exit. We can then arrange to carpool from this point to Grant Creek.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 520-885-8357. Look forward to seeing you there!

JANUARY 2012 - OPTU DAY FISHING TRIP SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative schedule for fly fishing trips for January:

Friday, January 13, 2012 - Sahuarita Lake (urban)

Saturday, January 28, 2012 - Parker Canyon Lake

On Friday, January 13th, at 9:30 a.m., all OPTU and PHWFF members are invited for a day of urban fly fishing at **Sahuarita Lake**, located just south of Tucson. This lake is approximately 10 acres with an average depth of seven feet. AZ fish and game maintains an extensive winter stocking schedule which includes Rainbow trout. The lake is easily accessible via a paved walkway which encircles the lake. There are some areas that have some obstruction which would make back casting difficult. We will meet at the parking area at the lake.

Our second trip is scheduled for January 28th at **Parker Canyon Lake** located near Elgin. This lake is approximately 130 acres and includes a boat ramp, fishing pier and lakeside trail. The mercantile/marina

store will be open should you wish to rent a boat or kayak. Fees can be obtained from the website: www.parkercanyonlake.com

The planned meeting spot will be at Jerry Bob's restaurant located at 7545 South Houghton Road. We will meet at 7:00a.m. for a good breakfast and will then carpool to Parker Canyon.

Don't forget to purchase your 2012 fishing license along with an urban lake permit! Please call me if you have any questions: 520-885-8357. See you there!!

Joe Vitelli
OPTU Outings Coordinator

Don't forget there is fun fishing in southern Arizona's lakes. It's always a fun day of fishing with fellow OPTU members locally.

Tips and Tricks

The editor doesn't have any new ones to share and none were submitted.

FISHING REPORTS

Rose Canyon

Several members of OPTU headed out to Rose Canyon Lake on this chilly Monday for a day of fly fishing. The weather conditions were quite cold, about 22 degrees, and it had already snowed about 9 inches over the past two days. The 1.2 mile hike into the lake from Catalina Highway was through pristine snow with no other human tracks noted. Clearly, no other fisherman or visitors for that matter had been to the lake since the weekend snowfall. Although the hike in was moderately difficult due to the nine inches of snow, the beauty of the snow-covered landscape made the trek worthwhile!

Once at the lake, we strung our rods and began fishing Pheasant tail and hares ear nymphs, using a strike indicator. It wasn't long before our lines were getting hits. Although the trout were not hitting the flies very aggressively, it wasn't long before we hooked quite a few trout and brought them to hand. Once on the line, the trout fought with full energy. We brought to hand twenty fish, mostly rainbow trout along with a few Browns for good measure. These are stocked fish, but were in excellent condition; no fin damage was noted and their color was clean and bright. And, of course, a few cigars were smoked to celebrate a productive fishing day. It was cold and it did snow almost an inch during our fishing time there, but was well worth the effort!

The next scheduled trip to Rose Canyon Lake will be on Saturday, December 17, 2011. The meeting spot will be the parking lot directly outside the gated road to Rose Canyon at mile marker 17 on Catalina Highway. If you have any questions or wish to contact me, please give me a call at 520-885-8357. Hope to see you there!!

For further note, all future outings will be posted in the OPTU monthly newsletter. *Joseph Vitelli, Outings Coordinator*



Redfish in New Orleans

I had the pleasure of taking a redfish trip out of New Orleans with Captain Greg Dini on December 5th while at a convention. My friend Mike and I were picked up at 6:15 am from the Hilton Riverside and taken

to a nice Cajun breakfast at Penny's where we also picked up sandwiches for lunch. The day was quite breezy and overcast - not good conditions for sight fishing redfish, but Capt. Greg managed to find us about 12 to 14 that we caught (we missed at least twice that many due to a variety of reasons - including not paying full attention to the guide instructions, line management challenges, and fish that just decided to be spooked instead of eating the fly). This is exciting fishing watching redfish at close range consider and eat or reject your fly. I can see how it could easily become an addiction. Most of the ones we caught were under six pounds but we saw some bruisers. Fishing is close - perhaps 30 feet at the longest and sometimes 10 feet, so poor casters like me can participate. The big challenge is line management and being prepared - along with the potential for bad weather of course. I would recommend Captain Dini but if you don't book six months in advance it will be a challenge. I think he is fully booked through February right now. He does have some compatriots that he will book for you if he isn't available - so give it a try if you are in the vicinity. Just Google his name for contact. *The Editor*



One fish, two fish, redfish, blue fish. Or at least a redfish

Brownies in New Zealand

Your editor had his annual November trip to New Zealand just before Thanksgiving. Debbie accompanied me but we only were able to stay for 9 days due to work commitments. Since I had gone to Gainesville, FL for homecoming (another story) and didn't want to miss the flight from LA, my travel on the first day lasted, including a long 9 hour layover in LAX, about 42 hours. I don't recommend that. Deb and I headed straight to "Trout Cottage" in Lumsden on the South Island after arrival in Dunedin. We stayed there with superb fishing guide Chris Dore for a few days before he headed back to guide closer to his home in Queenstown. In addition to his thick Kiwi accent, Chris speaks at about 100 km/hr so we frequently were asking what he had said. Or maybe that was due to our age-induced reduction in hearing capability.

I spent one sunny day on a little river where the fish were spotting me coming behind them at least 50 feet away. Needless to say I wasn't too successful that day. The next three days I fished a little spring creek under PERFECT conditions for it - rain, wind, and overcast. The combination kept me relatively invisible and I was able to cast to some of the fish up to 20 times without putting them down. Since the fish begin "Hoovering" as my Kiwi friends say (i.e., vacuuming the surface insects) about 2:30 pm every day when a mayfly hatch starts, I had the advantage of knowing where they were without having to see them underwater, and they couldn't see me. Of course I still stayed low and crept up on my knees to reduce risk. I caught between 3 and 4 fish each day in 2 to 3 hours and all exceeded 28 inches. Deb even waited in the car while I fished after we had driven to Queenstown for her to shop and for us to eat some Fergburgers (get one if you are ever there). If you ever go to the South Island check out Chris Dore as a guide. I am confident you will find him to be excellent, even if you don't have a clue what he is saying :-)

The Editor



QUOTES AND JOKES

A rich person is not the one who has the most, but rather is the person who wants the least. Obviously the members of OPTU would have a hard time fitting this bill. We WANT more fishing stuff - even when we don't need it.

FOR SALE

Canon high definition hard drive (20 gb) videocamera. Originally \$650. Used 4 times. \$350. Call John at 250-4083.

OPTU BOARD MINUTES

11/23/11

Attending

Steve Reiter; Robin Marsett; Roseann Marsett; Joe Fagan; Mike Mehrer; Dave Combs

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Budget

After considerable discussion regarding the poor turnout for Halloween on the fly this year the board decided to discontinue the event. This led to consideration of the chapter meetings and the need to find another meeting location. As a result it was decided to move to make a substantial increase in funding for speakers and chapter meeting location costs given that the HOTF line item would now be available for that purpose. Steve Reiter will submit an estimate.

Chapter meeting location

Steve reported that he had looked into Randolph Park and Udall Park as potential meeting locations. Both are available and can be reserved. Other locations discussed included several churches. We will discuss these options with the membership at the party on December 3rd.

Outings Coordinator

Joe Vitelli made the mistake of discussing with Robin his interest in coordinating fishing outings for the Chapter. As a result he was nominated and approved as a member of the board of directors and the fishing trips coordinator. It is understood that Joe is only in Tucson from November into April. As a result we are waiving the requirement to miss no more than two board meetings.

Change of Bank

Mike discussed a change of bank for the OPTU accounts and the addition of an account to be managed for PHWFF. Steve moved that we move the account to the Bank of Tucson from the current account at BOA. Joe seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Cathy Hill will take the necessary action when she returns from Pinetop.

Banquet tickets

Mike will make the arrangements to use EventBrite to handle our 2012 Banquet tickets on line. We will still have printed tickets available. The board also agreed to promote whole table purchases for this banquet. Dave Combs will consult with Jay Elliott regarding actions required by the board to move forward on the Banquet.

With no more business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by *Mike Mehrer*

(The position of Board Secretary remains open to all comers)

(How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?)

OPTU BOARD MEETING MINUTES - **DECEMBER 3, 2011**

LOCATION: Home of Robin and Roseanne Marsett

BOARD MEMBERS/OFFICERS ATTENDEES:

Mike Mehrer - President (AZTU delegate)
Joe Fagan - Youth Activities Coordinator
Robin Marsett - PHWFF
Roseann Marsett - Conservation Coordinator
Steve Reiter - Chapter Meetings Coordinator
Stan Vanagunus - Secretary (retired)
Joseph Vitelli - Outings Coordinator
Kathleen Vitelli - Secretary (New)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:45 p.m. during the course of OPTU's Christmas gathering at Marsett's home. Many thanks to Robin and Roseann for a festive gathering!

Vacancy - OPTU secretary

President Mehrer advised that board of the need to fill the position of secretary as the previous secretary, Stan Vanagunus was retiring from the position. A request was made for anyone interested in the position and Kathleen Vitelli volunteered to fill the position.

OPTU Expenditure change

President Mehrer announced that OPTU would discontinue it's October event, "Halloween on the Fly". The monies that would have been used for that event will now be earmarked for upcoming guest speakers and the cost of a new meeting venue.

Outings Coordinator/Rose Canyon

The new Outings Coordinator, Joe Vitelli, was introduced. President Mehrer indicated that Joe had arranged a fishing day at Rose Canyon Lake on Monday, 12/5/2011. Coordinator Vitelli spoke briefly about the outing and provided the details of the outing for those members wishing to participate.

OPTU 2012 Banquet update

President Mehrer reported that tickets would be available for purchase. Additionally, we would be considering a full table purchase option. Details of that would be announced at a later date.

Youth Activities update

Joe Fagan was introduced as the Youth Activities Coordinator. President Mehrer also introduced Chris MacFarland who will be assisting Joe Fagan with upcoming your activities projects.

PHWFF Car Raffle Update

Robin Marsett, PHWFF committee chair, reminded members that tickets were still available for the raffle of a 2012 Nissan Leaf at a cost of \$25.00 each. He encouraged members to support Project Healing Waters, one of the charitable organizations which will benefit from proceeds of ticket sales. Half of PHWFF proceeds will be shared with OPTU.

The Board determined there were no other orders of business to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by: *Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary, OPTU*

DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS

Thanks for your support through the years. It is sincerely appreciated. Call Eric or Whitey at 326-7847 for information or drop by and see the new products. Best regards, *Eric Loeffler*

FOR RENT

4 BR house in Heber City, UT. 15 miles from Park City and a mile from the Provo River; 2.5 hrs to the Green. \$500 per week or \$90/night - plus housecleaning fee. Call John at 520-250-4083 if interested in checking it out.

A week in Durango downtown in a one bedroom suite with kitchen at the Wyndham (your choice of a variety of available times). \$550. The San Juan River is 45 minutes away and the Animas River right in town. Call John at 520-250-4083.



Robin in Winter - At Rose Canyon Lake



One of our guides from Alaska (Daren Niemi) back at his home waters in New York in early October. I'm pretty sure I need to go there. Big steelhead and brown.

YOU COULD WIN

2012 NISSAN LEAF SL \$37,000 MSRP
CHARGING STATION \$3,500 VALUE
INSTALLATION \$1,200 VALUE

GRAND PRIZE INCLUDES A COMPLIMENTARY CHARGING STATION AND STANDARD INSTALLATION

RAFFLE BENEFITING TUCSON CHARITIES

100% ELECTRIC | 100% FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

TICKET PRICE **\$25** OR 5 FOR 100

100% electric. Zero gas. Zero tailpipe.

To celebrate 40 incredible years in Tucson, the Jim Click Automotive Team is presenting a new 2012 Nissan LEAF[®] SL to the entire city, to be used as the featured prize in a raffle to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for non-profit Tucson organizations.

With your \$25 Contribution for 5 tickets for \$100 you could win a 2012 Nissan LEAF[®] SL. And the best part is that 100% of your contribution will support Tucson charities - which keep all the proceeds from the maximum 40,000 tickets which will be sold. The drawing will be held April 27, 2012. Entries must be received by April 20, 2012.

For campaign and ticket information, contact The Raffle Management Team at: 520.342.5210 or at: NissanLeaf@RussellPublic.com

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO

Project Healing Waters of Southern Arizona

AND

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

CONTACT
ROBIN MARSETT,
PH. 760-1667
OR
CELL 661-4079
OR
ERIC OR WHITEY
AT DRY CREEK



Help send a Wounded Warrior to the Kobuk River in the North West Arctic of Alaska



Those who have borne the battle



Much needed chance to decompress

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Fort Huachuca is raising money to send four wounded warriors to the Kobuk River for some world class fishing and much needed relaxation.

You can help with a donation or by purchasing a raffle ticket for a chance of winning a new **Nissan LEAF**.

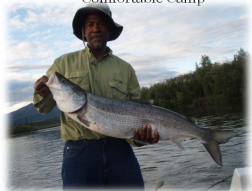
Please Contact: Libby Mannel at (520) 881-0000
libby@arrotalaw.com
Or Robin Marssett at (520) 760-1667
rmarssett@comcast.net



Comfortable Camp



World Class Grayling



World Class Sheefish

MOVIE LINKS

Please send links to movies you have seen on YouTube or other places. I'll check it out and post. Here are a few:

"Catfishing" <http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/flytalk/2011/07/fly-fishing-cats-and-other-odities#comment-722714>

Catching a nice Gila trout

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXEZVJmD3Yo>

Shark Trip - San Diego

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HebDwhgfpJo>

This is a classic TU film called The Way of a Trout.

<http://www.lrcutu.org/movies/TheWayofaTrout/>

Trout in the Classroom Video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWlnuFkCPFg>

Alaska 2011 "Murphy Trip" Trailer <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH3Hs3tzc40> See what you can do with iMovie trailers - pretty fun.

HELP ON PLACES TO FISH

Names and email addresses of OPTU members who have kindly agreed to share their fishing waters' knowledge with members who have not fished the particular waters before and are looking for advice is now available for downloading on the new OPTU website at:

<http://optu.org/FISHING%20WATERS%20HELP.doc>. A good first lead about where and when to fish, or where to stay can make the trip easier and more enjoyable. The list is alphabetical by state and several foreign locations are also included. For advice about one of the areas or rivers on the list, get in touch with the named colleague by email and make arrangements to talk to them by phone.

Additionally, courtesy of OPTU flyfisher Don Maggert, there is a disc containing articles pulled from the Web about fly fishing some thirty well-regarded Western rivers (mostly in Colorado and Montana as well as a few from Idaho and Utah). Send me a name of the river and I will check to see if it is on Don's disc and if so, I will forward the write-up. *Stan Vanagunas* vanagunas@msn.com

OPTU FACEBOOK GROUP

If you add the OPTU group to your links in Facebook it will help make contacts with members. *Joe DeVries* jrdaz@cox.net



Rose Canyon in Winter

