

# Alpine Fly Fishers



Our Next AFF Meeting  
Will Be Tuesday  
**September 27**

We will be meeting at the  
Puerto Vallarta  
215 15th St. SE  
Puyallup at 6 PM

**No Meeting in August**

## The Dead Drift - August 2016

### In this issue:

#### Page 2 & 3

IFFF Fly Of The Month  
~ Angora Damsel ~

#### Page 4

~ A Day On The Yak ~

#### Page 5 & 6

FAOL Article  
~ Going Home ~  
Youth Camp in Montana  
@ IFFF FF Fair

#### Page 7

A Fly Fishing Quote  
AFF Meetings 2016  
**Need Programs Coordinator**

#### Page 8

Save The Dates

#### Page 9

Calendar  
Editor Information  
Mailing Address  
Board of Directors



### President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

It seems like it didn't take July long to get here and it is passing by so fast. August is right around the corner. At least I am finally getting some fishing time on the rivers these past few months. There is something about going down a river in a drift boat with only the sounds of the water and nature around you, plus the splash of a trout jumping while trying to throw the fly. Of course you can get the same feeling in a lake or a pond or while wading a very small stream. That feeling of contentment, sort of an inner peace. At least that is how I feel and one of the reasons why I fly fish.

**At the May meeting, I made an announcement that we needed a new Programs Coordinator to take over for Dave Alberts. My phone and my email have been suspiciously silent regarding that request. Please read the article on page 7 regarding this. We need someone to take over the position.**

Photos, yes I know I have mention them a time or two or dozen :) but we do like a good photo montage of everyone's fishing exploits over the past year. So, in order for Steve to put on a great power point presentation, he needs lots of digital pictures. I will be bringing my laptop to the meetings. If you bring your photos on a CD/thumb drive, I will copy them and get them to Steve well before the December meeting.

In mid-July I attended a meeting of the WA State Council IFFF Board of Directors over in Ellensburg. We are well underway with our preparations for the 2017 WA Fly Fishing Fair. That will be held the first Friday and Saturday of May, the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. We are always looking for volunteers for this event. Without the volunteers I guarantee this type of a show would not happen. One of the programs we do is the Youth event. Mike Clancy organizes a great program for our younger generation. If you have a child or grandchild that is at all interested in fly fishing, this is a great one day workshop for them to attend. Tying, entomology and casting are all covered.

You may have noticed that there is no 'Back of Beyond' story by Stephen in this issue. His computer crashed on him and is at the shop getting fixed. Considering how he keeps us entertained with his wonderful stories and insight, I would say he deserves a break.

Hope you are getting out and catching a few fish. See you on September 27th.

Good fishing.



Larry

## Federation of Fly Fishers Fly of the Month

August 2012

### ANGORA DAMSEL

Published by Bob Bates and R.L. "Stew" Stewart  
Federation of Fly Fishers



#### Opening Comments:

R. L. "Stew" Stewart tied this pattern at the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg April 3-4, 2012. Stew is from Shingletown, California. He let me photograph the steps and also gave me a compact disk with the material list and instructions for tying the Angora Damsel and two other flies. I took a lot of information from the disk. Damsel nymphs laboriously swim around weeds and brush for most of the year before coming to the surface to migrate toward shore. There is a lot of side to side movement with little forward progress. They frequently hide under plant growth and ambush scuds, chironomids and other insects. Use a sink tip or full sinking fly line to put the fly where fish are looking for damsel nymphs. The trick to this type of fishing is to cast and count down the sink time. Then start a slow, irregular retrieve. If nothing happens let the line sink for a longer count before starting the retrieve. If you retrieve any weed, shorten the count. When you get a hit try to pull the fish out of the weeds, and remember the count. Sometimes in the excitement I forget the count. Release the fish carefully if you are not taking it home for dinner that day. If you see a hole or channel in the weeds, retrieve the fly through it. Often a fish is hiding in the weeds ready to ambush a swimming insect.

#### Materials list:

**Hook:** Tiemco 200R, Size #8-#14

**Thread:** UNI Thread, 8/0, Olive Brown

**Tail:** Dubbing, same as body

**Body:** Dubbing blend of olive brown Angora goat (Cut ¾") and rainbow or peacock Angel Hair (Cut ¼") from Angler's Choice.

#### Tying steps:

**Step 1:** Apply a base thread wrap from hook eye to bend.



**Step 2:** Tie on a tail at the bend that extends about half a shank length beyond the bend of the hook. Wind tying thread over the butts while holding the material on top of the hook shank.



Continued on Page 3 →

**Step 3:** Form a spinning loop about 5 inches long. Put one thread wind around the loop just below the hook to pull the two strands together. Then wind thread over the shank and forward to the eye. Stew prefers a Cal Bird dubbing tool. Apply super tacky dubbing wax to the thread on one side of the loop and begin sticking the dubbing on that side of the loop. Keep the dubbing sparse in the 1/3 of the loop nearest the hook and heavier toward your hand.



**Step 4:** You will want about 3 inches of dubbing for a size #10 hook. Hold loop at the end of the dubbing away from the hook. Twist the tool for a while and then let the loop go. The resulting strand should have a rough, shaggy appearance.



**Step 5:** Wrap the dubbing loop forward to the hook eye, stroke the hair back toward the hook bend with each wrap so the succeeding wrap does not bind it down. You want to maintain the shaggy look all the way to the hook eye. Tie off, whip finish, and pick out the dubbing with a bodkin, root canal tool or Velcro dubbing stick.



**Step 6:** Trim with scissors if you want. Sometimes Stew trims the bottom hair, and at other times he leaves it untrimmed, as in Step 5. Apply head cement.



**Closing Comments:**

Try mixing your favorite colors!!! One example is Red & Blue mixed with Black Angora. Another good body material is Arizona "Simi Seal" in the following Colors #20 Canadian Black, #25 Canadian Olive, #19 Canadian Brown. John Rohmer has a total of 46 different colors of "Simi Seal". Visit Web site [www.azflyfishing.net](http://www.azflyfishing.net). Also, tying instructions can be found in The FFF "Patterns of the Master", Volume Six, Section B-Wet Fly, pages B 6-7.

## **Fishing Report**

### **A Day On The Yakima River**

*By Larry Gibbs*

On July 20<sup>th</sup> I drove over the pass to Ellensburg to meet up with Steve Worley, owner of the Worley Bugger Fly Co. fly shop/guide service. I wanted to spend a day on the Yakima River, casting dry flies to waiting fish. That is what I wanted, but then, we don't always get what we want, well, not exactly.

The weather was very sunny and only during the late afternoon did we get some thin clouds coming over. But, we had virtually no wind which on the Yakima River is a treat. Steve and I put in at the Green Bridge and drifted down to the brand new take out above the diversion dam. I must admit, the new take out is 1000 times better than the old take out. Kudos to the game department.

I rigged up two dry fly rods and one nymphing rod. I started off casting dry flies at the Green Bridge, then when that produced nothing I tried the nymphing outfit which also produced nothing. Over the next two hours we really worked the water, searching for where the fish were holding. I was able to hook up and get five trout to the boat, Rainbows and Cutthroats. But there was no key fly, no consistency. Some took dries and not the same dry. Some took nymphs but not the same nymphs.

There were some hatches coming off. We saw more Little Yellow Sally stoneflies than anything else, but not a whole lot of them. A few Caddis were seen bouncing across the water, some PMD's, a few BWO's, and some midges.

The afternoon was really hard fishing. Lots of casting but not a lot of action. I managed to catch three more trout, including the very nice Cutthroat, see the photo below. Steve tried dozens of flies but the fish were just simply not feeding.

I talked to several other boats of fly fishers and the story was the same. It was a very nice day weather wise but a very hard day for fishing.

I did have fun and I always enjoy getting out on the water, even if the fishing is slow.



## GOING HOME

Neil Travis - Jun 6, 2016



**The Fly Fishing Enthusiast's Online Magazine**  
*'The Fraternity of Fly Fishers'*

On the dry rock-strewn benches above the river you can trace the course of the irrigation ditches by the line of cottonwood and willow trees that grow along their course. The trees are the only green thing on the benches with their sparse short grass being their only cover. Below the benches along the river, is a lush green riparian corridor of grass, shrubs and trees and on a hot, dry Montana summer day it's a vibrant, cool oasis in the midst of a seemingly endless treeless plain.

We drive down a dusty two-track trail that passes as a road; going slowly to avoid the bone jarring rocks that form the driving surface. We switchback down from the semi-arid bench, cross an irrigated field, its emerald green grass sharply contrasting against the dry benches above. We pull into the shade of a large cottonwood tree that has its roots firmly planted in the moist soil along the river. As the sound of the motor fades away the sound of running water, screened from our view by a curtain of tall grass and a wall of red osier dogwood and seep willows, reaches our ears. Stepping out of the car the water cooled air and the smell of the organic richness created by the unseen river washes over us, creating a benevolent sensory overload. It comes to mind that the cottonwood and all the other vibrant vegetation would not exist here except for the flowing river. As we fill our lungs with the invigorating elixir an audible sigh escapes from our lips.

Moments later, wader clad and fly rods in hand, we push through the wall of grass and shrubs and step into the river. We knew it was there, it's an old friend that we have come to know well over many years.

We have been here in the spring when the grass was just turning green and the trees and shrubs were bare stalks reaching upward toward the sun. Beneath the trees patches of winter's snow still lingered. Then the water was high and cold, the trout lethargic beneath this cold blanket, holding along the bottom and in the quiet water behind the rocks. Short casts with heavy nymphs bounced along the bottom might bring a response but we rarely fished during those visits; we were just paying a visit to an old friend. We would return later when conditions were more favorable; merely being there was satisfaction in itself.

Summer, with its promise of rising fish and pleasant weather, is our favorite time here. There are colorful rainbow trout, strong and lusty lurking behind the rocks where the currents are strong. Once they feel the metal of the hook they take to the air falling back with an audible splash, then surge away downstream spending their energy against the pull of the rod and the strength of the current. The barbless hook slides easily out of the corner of their jaw while they lie in soft folds of the net; then revived they surge away.

There are brown trout here and cutthroats too, and while I enjoy them all the tawny golden colored brown trout is my particular favorite. When the shadows grow long at the end of a summer's day I seek out one of the long flats with a vigorous riffle at its head and a long deep pool below. Here, when the caddis dance or the mayfly spinners fall to the surface in the afterglow of a long summer twilight the brown trout make their appearance. A small dimple, almost too small to notice, often marks the presence of a respectable trout. A careful approach, a delicate cast, and the fly disappears. I lift the rod and the water boils as the fish rushes away toward the deep water or some unseen underwater refuge among the roots of a streamside tree. The results of these contests are never certain and more than one muscular brownie shouldered its way into the submerged sanctuary of tree roots or sunken logs. Reel in, quickly repair the busted leader and in the failing light attempt to poke the leader through the eye of another tiny fly; just enough time for a few more casts before it's time to climb the bench back to civilization.

Fall along the river was always a beautiful but melancholy time, a mixture of sweet memories and the bitter realization that another delightful season is coming to a close. The river is lower, the cottonwoods a blaze of yellow and the dogwoods a bright red, their leaves floating like tiny sailboats down the riffles, slowly sinking in the pools paving the bottom with shades of red and yellow. The browns are brilliant in their pre-spawning colors; males with prominent hooked jaws and females buttery fat with developing roe.

Continued on page 9 →

Rainbows, fat from a summer of plenty, are still eager for an easy meal before the long cold days of winter, and in the deeper pools laid-back cutthroats rise from the depths slowly, oh so slowly, to inspect our flies. Often we would strike too soon and they would simply drift away out of sight in the depths.

The rancher that owned the property told us that I could build a cabin next to the river, and as tempting as it was I declined his more than generous offer. He was perplexed but I explained that I could possess this place but I could never own it. Some places are only to be visited, we are guests not residents. Later he gave me a written permission slip that indicated that I had unlimited access as long as he, or his descendants owned the property. I treasure that yellowing piece of paper that is carefully folded up inside a plastic sleeve in the jockey box of my vehicle. I have never had occasion to use it.

We are always reluctant to leave during those golden fall days. The first storms of winter would soon sweep down from the north pushing away the last of the colorful leaves from the trees and covering it all with a clean cold blanket of white. Beneath the water of the river life will go on but at a slower pace as all of nature awaits the coming of another spring. Unlike the trout we cannot stay and turn reluctantly up the hill, across the bench – going home.

## **IFFF Youth Fly Fishing Camp 2016**

### **Livingston, Montana**

### **August 2 & 3, 2016**

*By Mike Clancy*

Do you know of any youth that are interested in learning about fly fishing? If you do, then plan on signing them up for the annual International Fly Fishing Fair Youth Camp. We are excited to be in Livingston, MT. for our 51th anniversary and have the opportunity to teach youth about our sport of fly fishing!

This year's Youth Camp will be an exciting two-day program, full of learning, fun, and fishing. It is designed for ages 8 -17 and will offer a wide variety of angling and aquatic education topics. The first day classroom portion of the Youth Camp will be held at the high school in Livingston, the casting will be conducted on the school grounds. We have reserved a pond and a shelter for the fishing day of the camp.

Folks interested in volunteering for this event, please go to the Fly Fishing Fair tab at our website [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org) to sign up. Volunteers will be needed to insure the youth are safe and having fun. A number of the youth will be new to fly fishing and guidance will be appreciated.

The camp will begin both days at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 pm, with a lunch break (lunch included) around noon. Anyone with special dietary needs please attend to those individually. Please make mention of any food allergy or diet restrictions when registering.

Instructional topics will include entomology, fly tying, equipment and accessories, explanation of the balanced system, angler ethics, fishing safety, abeyance to regulations, catch and release, fly casting and last but not least, FISHING! I am a registered Fly Fishing Merit Badge counselor with the Pacific Harbors Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Any scouts interested in obtaining credit for requirements, please bring your own blue card and I'd be happy to sign off those that are earned.

Be prepared for inclement weather. Rain may not prevent continuing the program, but should high winds or lightening be present, we may have to make alternative arrangements. Participants need to bring a good hat/cap, sunglasses, sun screen, safety glasses for eye protection and a water bottle, along with any rescue medications needed. Be sure to indicate any health issues or concerns also when registering. I appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility to adapt to whatever conditions exist. I'm sure we'll have a great time and a good experience.

Class will be limited to the first 20 registrants for each day. All youth 11 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Plans for transportation are being looked into, kids will ride via private vehicles to the fishing. Everyone will be notified of transportation plans prior to the camp.

If anyone has any questions of me in the meantime, feel free to email me at [mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net) or call my cell phone 253-278-0061. I'm looking forward to meeting our participants and another great IFFF Youth Camp experience.

Tight Lines

Mike Clancy, Life Member IFFF / Member WSCIFFF Council / Co-Director, NWYCFF Academy



**The Fly Fishing Enthusiast's Online Magazine**  
*'The Fraternity of Fly Fishers'*

There are several of us at AFF who belong to FAOL. It is a great site for fly fishers, lots of helpful information and many fly tying recipes and articles about all aspects of fly fishing and fly fishing gear. Check it out.

[www.flyanglersonline.com](http://www.flyanglersonline.com)

### **A Fly Fishing Quote:**

“There is no greater fan of fly fishing than the worm.” ~Patrick F. McManus, *Never Sniff a Gift Fish*, 1979

### **Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2016**

**August (No Meeting)**

September 27 — October 25 — November 22 — December 13

# **We Need A Programs Coordinator**

At the May meeting, I announced that Dave Alberts had asked me to find another person to be the Programs Coordinator. He has done this for almost 3 years, having taken over the job back in November of 2013.

We thank him for his service to our club. He came up with some really good speakers.

So, we need someone to step up and take over that very important job of finding guest speakers, both from within our club and outside our club.

Here is how it looks for the rest of the 2016/2017 season thru June of 2017.

- ◆ We have no meeting in August, so no speaker is needed.
- ◆ We don't need anyone in September since that is our meeting to tell our stories about our summer fishing experiences.
- ◆ In October, Steve Egge is going to do one about his trip to Mexico, so no other speaker is needed.
- ◆ That leaves the November meeting. However, Bill Aubrey has indicated that if someone would take over the Programs Coordinators duties, Bill would be willing to do a presentation on fishing in some of the lakes of Montana (what? They have more than rivers in Montana? Wow!) . If that is the case then we would not need an additional speaker in November.
- ◆ The December meeting is our Christmas meeting so there is no need for a speaker (but we do need photos!)
- ◆ That means the first time the new Programs Coordinator would have to come up with a speaker would be at the January of 2017 meeting. This gives you plenty of time to line up some speakers for 2017.
- ◆ Then we would also need guest speakers for February through May of 2017.
- ◆ Meaning we only need 5 speakers for the next one year period.

I suspect we will get at least one more and possibly two from within the club, so we really only need 3 or 4 outside guest speakers. Not so bad now that we break it down that way is it?

So, please, if you are interested in being a Programs Coordinator send me an email.

Larry

INTERNATIONAL  
IFF  
LIVINGSTON 2016 MONTANA  
FLY FISHING FAIR

This is happening  
right now!

SAVE THE DATE  
AUGUST 2-6, 2016

PARK HIGH SCHOOL • LIVINGSTON, MONTANA  
WWW.FEDFLYFISHERS.ORG • 406.222.9369

PROFESSIONAL GUIDE SERVICE  
WORLEY-BUGGER  
FLY CO.  
1713 SOUTH CANYON ROAD  
ELLENSBURG, WA 98926  
509-962-2033  
worleybugger@fairpoint.net  
www.worleybuggerflyco.com

Wasatch  
Custom Angling Products  
Albany, Oregon  
www.FlyTyingTools.com  
Quality Tools, Guaranteed For Life

FAP  
Frank Amato  
Publications

**WA Fly Fishing Fair  
Main Event Sponsors**

**Worley Bugger Fly Co.  
&  
Wasatch Custom Angling  
&  
Frank Amato Publications**



# August / September 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"In summer, the song sings itself." - William Carlos Williams -	<b>1 August</b>	2 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair	3 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair	4 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair	5 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair	6 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	<b>23 No Meeting in August</b>	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	"Whilst August yet wears her golden crown, Ripening fields lush - bright with promise; Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly passing. Her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn." - Michelle L. Thieme, August's Crown		

"September twenty-second, Sir, the bough cracks with unpicked apples, and at dawn the small-mouth bass breaks water, gorged with spawn." - Robert Lowell (1917 - 1977)				<b>1 September</b>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	<b>27 Club Meeting</b>	28	29	30	"Tis the last rose of summer, Left blooming alone." Thomas Moore, 1779-1852

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club  
 Larry Gibbs, Editor 253-863-4910 flytier015@gmail.com

**Alpine Fly Fishers**  
**PO Box 1456**  
**Sumner, WA 98390**

**Board Of Directors:**

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-863-4910
Vice President:	Bob Alston	253-848-6884
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	
Secretary:	Stephen Neal	559-977-7979
Webmaster/Director:	Steve Egge	253-841-1093
Ghilly/Director:	Guy Magno	253-831-0444
Outings Coord:	Bob Alston	253-848-6884
Programs/Director:		
Director:	Bill Aubrey	253-678-3683

If you have an email address allow us to send this newsletter via the internet. If your email address has changed recently, please share your new address.

Visit our website at [www.alpineflyfishers.org](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)