

# Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our next meeting will be on*

*Tuesday*

*December 11, 2012*

*We will be meeting at the*

*Puerto Vallarta*

*215 15th St. SE*

*Puyallup at 6 PM*



Charter  
Club



## The Dead Drift - December 2012

### In this issue:

#### Page 2 & 3

*FFF Fly Of The Month*  
*- Spent Wing Caddis -*

#### Page 4

*AFF 2013 Meetings*  
*AFF December Meeting*  
*Who is going to Albany?*  
*Fly Fishing Events 2013*  
*FFF Events in 2013*

#### Page 5 & 6 & 7 & 8

*Back of Beyond*  
*- Best Water On Earth -*

#### Page 8

*Back of Beyond (Cont)*  
*NW Youth Conservation*

#### Page 9

*Calendar*  
*Editor Information*  
*Mailing Address*  
*Board of Directors*

### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

**Don't forget, our December meeting is going to be on the  
2nd Tuesday, — December 11!**

A little while ago I received a phone call from a mother whose eight year old son wanted to learn to tie flies and how to fly fish. She had been checking with various companies that deal in fly fishing and had not been able to find a way to help her son that was in the immediate area of Puyallup. A fly shop up north had suggested she call me and they gave her my phone number. Well, what do we do with an eight year old who wants to get into fly fishing? Very good question. I thought about the group that Mike Clancy is involved with down in Olympia, but they only do that program during the summer and they have an age restriction and eight is too young. I called PJ just to ask him if he had any suggestions and he said he would be willing to teach the basics of fly tying and maybe even give him some beginners casting lessons. The mother had asked me about buying a kit for tying but she had a very limited income. I decided to put together a basic tying kit of a vise, bodkin, a couple bobbins, hackle pliers, scissors, and some thread. I gave this to PJ to give to the young lad so he would have his very own tools to learn to tie with. I am just sorry that the fly fishing world hasn't established some way of addressing a scenario like this. But, at least this once, we found a way to help out.

#### **Thank you PJ!**

PS: I received a call from this young lads mother, thanking us for doing this. She had taken her son over to PJ's and PJ gave him a great intro to fly tying and then gave him some homework to do (continue tying). The young boy also got on the phone and thanked us for doing this, he is really enjoying learning about fly tying. PJ has given three other classes and he says his student is doing a great job of beginning tying.

Well, my email has been flooded with requests to fill our Board of Directors positions!.....Okay, that was a joke. So, our existing BOD will be the ones who will need to be voted in at our December meeting. Who are they? Check out the last page.

Duffy has over 21 Trophy Lake fishing tickets. She says "Let's use them!" She suggested an outing sometime this late winter. Good idea. Each ticket is good for one hour of fishing. Sounds like a great club outing for a couple hours of fishing then we could have a great lunch at their café. They have good food. We talked about this at November meeting and we will set up an outing for sometime during the winter this year. Oh yea, we also need to establish an outing date for Lone Lake on Whidbey Island. Steve Egge has offered the use of his beach 'cabin' again. Thank you Steve.

I want to thank Stephen Neal for taking care of the library while Bill Aubrey was away and for Dave Alberts for running the raffle while Guy Magno recovers from an illness.  
Good fishing.

Larry



# Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

## SPENT WING CADDIS

December 2006

By Bob Bates

Oh No not another caddis pattern!!!! Yes, and there are good reasons for it. Caddisflies are among the most abundant of insects with about 7,000 species worldwide (1,200 species in North America). They can tolerate water that is not pristine, and fish like to eat them. Sizes range from micro-caddis 1/8th-inch long to monsters 1-1/2 inches long.

Fortunately the angler doesn't have to imitate all of them. There are a lot of browns, tans and olives among them, with a few other colors. They all have about the same shape. Depending on the species and water they will hatch from April to November and from early morning to late evening. In many waters

the evening time is the most exciting. Clouds of caddis might be seen hovering over fence posts, bushes, or animals. They look like smoke over the bush or post. One evening when I was fishing the Missouri River in Montana the light suddenly became noticeably dimmer. I think that I became a handy place for the caddis to hover. When they drop to the water then the fish get interested, and a properly drifted fly will also interest fish.

This pattern was tied by Koichi Kawai from the Hatch Finders Flyshop in Livingston, Montana. Koichi was one of over a hundred demonstration fly tiers at the 2006 FFF Conclave and Show in Bozeman, MT. It is a pattern that works great on many streams around Livingston. Spent is in the name of the pattern so it is intended to look and act like a caddis that has fallen into the water. If the fish follow the normal rules they want a drag free float. Short casts with a floating line let you control the line better. Even as the line is in the air you can mend the it with a reach cast to give you a longer float. After the line is on the water give it a quick flip with the wrist to remove any belly that forms. If the fish don't hit a drag free fly, jiggle it a little.

### Materials List:

**Hook:** Mustad R50, size 16

**Thread:** Brown, 16/0

**Rib:** Monothread yellow

**Body:** Goose biot, tan

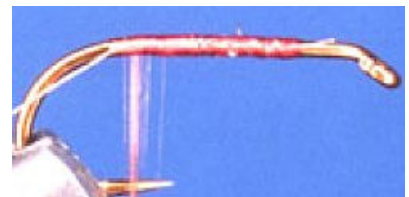
**Wing:** CDC, brown

**Thorax:** Fly Right or Scintilla, brown

CDC is short for Cul de Canard. These feathers from around the preen gland of a duck are used for dry, wet and nymph patterns. It has tremendous movement and makes any fly look alive.

### Tying Steps:

1. Put thread on the shank, tie in the rib and wind thread rearward to bend.



2. Attach biot by the tip at bend of hook with the long part of the biot pointing rearward. The pattern calls for a smooth body so tie it in with the notch down. This notch was formed when the biot was pulled off of the wing quill. Wrap the biot smoothly forward to a point about two eye widths back from the eye and secure. Counter wrap rib forward, secure and trim excess.



3. Match the tips of at least four CDC feathers. Tie them in with tips forward, to make a wing that is a little longer than the hook shank.



4. Divide the CDC tips so there is at least two feathers on each side. Wind the thread through them with a figure eight to keep them divided and in a horizontal position to simulate a spent wing insect.



5. Put a little dubbing on the thread and figure eight it around and between the wings. Bring the rearward pointing CDC forward and secure it at the eye. Whip finish between the CDC and the eye. Trim excess CDC.



**Closing comments:** This pattern in size 16 will fool a lot of fish. So tie a few and go fishing if you have someplace to fish in December and January. You might have to wait to a couple of months before you can test this fly, but if you are like me you will have a few tied and ready when the time comes.



## Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2013

January 22	February 26	March 26	April 23	May 28
June 25 (Picnic)	September 24	October 22	November 26	
December (Date to be decided)		(No meetings in July nor August, go fish!!!)		

### —————→ Alpine Fly Fishers - 2012 December Meeting!!!!!! ←————

**Tuesday, December 11, 2012.** That is when we are having our December meeting. Early enough so we don't interfere with the holidays. Don't forget this is our main fundraiser meeting, so bring some good items for the raffle and bring your cash to buy a bunch of raffle tickets. This is where we acquire the money for guest speakers. See you there!!

**Steve Egge needs your fishing photos for a power point display during the meeting.  
Get them to him as soon as possible.**

### Sporting and Fly Fishing Related Shows in 2013

Tri-Cities Sportsmen's Show — Pasco ———— Jan 18 - 20

Washington Sportsmen's Show — Puyallup Fair & Events Center — January 23 - 27

The Fly Fishing Show returns to Washington State in 2013. Lynnwood — February 16 & 17

Yakima Sportsmen's Show — February 15 - 17

Wenatchee Sportsmen's Show — February 22 - 24

### Who Is Going to the NW Fly Tyers Expo in Albany???

Every year a group of us heads on down to Albany for the show. I make hotel reservations very early in the year as they fill up fast. Who is interested in going down there in 2013? We would leave really early on Friday morning, spend two nights and come home Sunday morning. Just send me an email if you are interested.

Larry



### FFF Events in 2013



The 2013 Northwest Fly Tyers Expo, will be held again in Albany, Oregon.



#### NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence  
March 8th and 9th - 2013  
Albany, Oregon



Fri and Sat  
**March 8 & 9,  
2013.**  
Plan to attend.

*Washington State*  
**Washington**



*Council of the FFF*  
**Fly Fishing Fair**

Also next year, the Washington State Council will bring you the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. Friday and Saturday, **May 3 & 4, 2013.** Don't miss this one, it is a great event!!!!



INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION  
OF  
FLY FISHERS



The Federation of Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Fair will be held in West Yellowstone, MT. This will be a FALL gathering, September 24 - 28, 2013.

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

*In Wildness is the Preservation of the World -- "Henry David Thoreau"*

## Best Water on Earth

Puddles of water in the rain darken drive way reflected the neighbors porch lights as I threw my snack bag on the passenger seat, the van was packed with the gear needed for a week's fishing. I gave Terry a last hug and kiss before my leaving. I had an eight and half hour drive ahead of me through Washington, Oregon and Northern California. Better than two thirds of it would be through rain, some of it falling from the sky, but most of it thrown up and rearward by south bound semis, rolling down Interstate 5. The wipers beat strong and steady and the car heater hummed as I began another journey in the pursuit of elusive trout and fall run steelhead.

My view from the rain spattered windshield offered glimpses of a water distorted world, gray foggy shaped semi trucks, blurry passenger cars, dark green, almost black masses of hemlocks and cedars with interspersed golden big leaf maples adding muted splashes of color. The sodden foliage on trees and shrubs dripped heavily, almost as fast as the falling rain. Fallow fields, with volunteer short green weed sprouts, held bays of standing water. It was a water world, or as close as one could get without being a fish, salamander, crawdad or toad. That was my journeys conditions until I reached southern Oregon where the rain let up and I completed my travels in clouds intermixed with sunshine.

I pulled into Dunsmuir, California around 4:30 in the afternoon I was now on the banks of the Blessed Sacramento, Best Water on Earth. In the 1770's Gabriel Moraga a Spanish explorer, upon viewing the beautiful flowing water laid out below him gave it a name - Rio Del Santissimo Sacramento - River of the Blessed Sacramento. We know it today as the Sacramento River. Dunsmuir is a Railroad town in a canyon of the Sacramento River; in this small geographic area you have the Union Pacific Railroad, the Sacramento River and Interstate 5. To say it is a thoroughfare is just a bit of an understatement, people, animals and fish have been using it as a passage for a very long time. The interstate is laid out on the Siskiyou trail which was laid out on the game trails through the canyon. As long ago as 12,000 years, native peoples lived in the area and came to the river for the salmon runs. In 1928 the California Oregon Power Company purchased the Mossbrae Falls Water and Power Company and changed the marketing slogan to "The Best Water on Earth". While Dunsmuir's spring water is truly great water for drinking, for the seven of us who fish together each year it is the fishing that brings us to Dunsmuir and its Best Water on Earth.

Kevin, Roger, Scott, Jeff, Bob, Cy and myself, have found a special place to gather each year in the fall. On the face of it, fishing is plain and simple, man pursuing fish; at its most basic human genetic imprint, a putting of sustenance on the table for survival. But with the advent of modern food production, hunting and fishing at least in most of North America has evolved to sport. While we need outdoor time and connections with nature to have a healthy life, most of us, no longer need to fish to put food on the table. It is done for enjoyment, pleasure, camaraderie and just plain getting away.



Continued on Page 6 →



Our getting away time is also our getting together time, we all love fishing and that is what brought us together but while fishing is our core trip endeavor, it is each other that brings us back together each year, our friendship is now as important as the fishing. Jeff now calls it our "Same Time Next Year" trip, a title he stole from a movie.

Sacramento River - The Best Water on Earth holds lots of fish, fish counts average 1,000 to 3,000 trout per mile, but like any fishing water there are days and weeks of abundant fish and days and weeks of low catch rates, this year's last week of October catch rate was slow, three of us (Bob, Jeff and Scott) had fished here in the summer months and they reported gobs of catching (15 to 20 fish days). During our fall week the water temperature was down, the aquatic insect life was abundant, and our lethargic well fed trout were not much interested in what we were offering. Still low catch numbers did not keep us off the water. A typical day on the water was cool, with rain showers and lots of nymphing practice with multiple fly changes. Catch rates averaged 3 trout per person per day with occasions of 5 or more. Most fish were caught between 1 and 4 PM when water temps had risen slightly. All the fish were between 12 to 16 inches and caught on Eng Things and Red Fox Squirrels. Most trout fishing days followed this pattern, the mornings were rainy and cool very seldom did we get on the water before 10 AM, we fished until midday and met at the Burger Barn for lunch, traded fishing information, traded locations or headed to new ones and fished until dark. Our evening were spent around the TV watching the Giants clinch the Division title and the first two games of the World Series as lifelong Giants fans we were in Baseball heaven.

Baum Lake - Hat Creek, Roger Miller spent two days on Baum Lake fishing the first day with Cy and I and the second with Bob, Jeff and Scott. Baum Lake is a wide turn in Hat Creek; we fished from pontoon boats anchored in the weed beds/silt deposits near the center. The cool October breeze blew just over our heads as we were sheltered by the higher river bank at our backs. The day was mixed clouds and sun with fresh snow on the surrounding hills. A Blue Winged Olive's hatch was coming off, and the fish were taking them off the surface with sips telegraphed by rings. We cast into the main current where thousands of miniscule sailboats (BWO) skated on the creeks surface. Our drifts had to be perfect or the fish just ignored them and went after the real deal. Roger was in heaven for the past six month he had been battling cancer with both radiation and chemo therapy, and at times had been pretty low. But in Baum Lake he was in his element dry fly fishing, set deep in his pontoon seat soaking up the late October sun casting to rising fish; pretty darn picture perfect. The catching was slow maybe two fish an hour but it sure was a pleasant day to be on the water, slow and easy conversation with my son between casts and catches, while watching Roger fish just downstream.

The highlight of the trip was Steel-heading on the Trinity River. This was a year on the Trinity at least for us that will be our bench mark. Everybody had hookups and most had multiple hookups and landings. Some very nice Steelhead were caught and released and the smiles were pretty wide on those two days. Scott and Bob were so enamored with the catching they stayed late and missed the first game of the World Series we gave them a ration of " ".



Continued on Page 7 →

(After all, we are tight knit fishing community with a baseball problem.) Sorry I cannot give you details on the where, we were all sworn to secrecy; our source had spent much time and effort finding the right spot on the river and understandably so, is very protective of that discovery and information. Suffice it to say, there be Steelhead there and if you put in your time, you too can find and fish for them.

On the day that Kevin, Cy and I fished the Trinity we had mixed results, Kevin hooked three and landed two, Cy hooked up with two steelhead and one salmon and I had one hook up. But let's tell Cy's fishing story, Cy is a full time father of three and husband right in the middle of his earning years; so work and living in the metropolitan bay area does not give him the opportunity of a lot of fishing time, and when he does fish, he fishes with us older piscatorial practitioners who through age and life circumstances have had significantly more water time. So he feels a little intimidated, and to compound that, his one week a year fly fishing, does not give him much time to perfect the lessons he is learning and no time to practice them. So every time he gets on the water he feels like he is starting all over again. He questions himself, wonders why he is even fishing, why he is not catching fish, why his cast is not better, why his equipment is always giving him fits. His knowledge is growing but his lack of water time is limiting the development of his skill sets, so he begins to question the why. Remember your first years all the trees that ate your flies, when your casts landed in puddles or short, you cast and you were standing on your line. I think you get the picture; while he is past most of that, his frustration is much the same; he wants his one week a year to be perfect. He is tired of the frustration.

So here we are standing on the side of a nice steelhead river with the rain pouring down when the weather forecast had predicted sunshine, Cy is rigged up fishing from the prime spot where the two days before a load of steelhead had been landed; after his rig breaks off he climbs down to re-rig and Kevin takes his place and lands a nice Steelhead. One can only guess what's going on in his mind. He crosses over the other side and heads up river working the water as he goes. After about 45 minutes he hits the pool above the falls where tired salmon and steelhead rest; his line goes tight and a salmon climbs to the sky crashing back to the water's surface and heads down stream, the salmon is determined he breaks the water surface two more times as Cy follows him downstream stepping over boulders and splashing through backwater, it is a good fifteen minutes of full on fight before the line parts and the salmon disappears in the deeper river current. Immediately comes the let down, to fight and lose the

fish leaves one feeling empty. Over the next two hours Cy hooked up with two Steelhead and experienced the take, the fight and the parting of the line after a ten or fifteen minute struggle. His let down was a little bit more each time he really wanted to hold those steelhead in the crook of his arm, to not only feel their life force through the line and the rod but to hold them before releasing them. But this time it was not to be. In his third try at steel-heading he had made contact, progress is measure in incremental steps. We have all been there or will be there, it is after all fishing. He takes solace in his progress and that he out fished his old man this day.





We seek an elusive prey, one that can conceal itself even in clear water, we do not know if fish are there, we make educated guesses on their likely locations and cast on faith. When we first take up a rod and fly we flail our rods to cast and put on flies with little or no knowledge of which or what ones will actually attract fish, again an act of faith. Even after our skills begin to improve and our knowledge gives us better guessing abilities, catching is still a hit and miss effort, there are days when the catch is null and our arms are tired from casting practice, and then on a perfectly wrong day for fishing, our muscles quiver from the fight and landing of a plethora of catching. So we practice and we read, we learn to read water, we look for the best equipment, we study trout logic and study what they eat anything that will give us an edge, and yet we may catch fish more consistently but still there are no guarantees. What helps keep it all in perspective is the friends we fish with, we learn from our mistakes and from each other, we share the joy and disappointments with laughter and teasing, hugs, handshakes and high fives. We return each year to the Best Water on Earth. After my 8 1/2 hour return to home, my four year old grandson pulled me aside and said Grandpapa I want to go fishing with you. It just doesn't get any better than that.



*“Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after” Henry David Thoreau*

## **The 2013 Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy**

*By Mike Clancy*

As we approach the holiday season, now would be the time to be thinking of gifts for your children, grandchildren and any other youth you think might like to learn about fly fishing and conservation. To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must write an essay explaining why they would like to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is also required, written by their science teacher or school counselor. The dates for the WSCFFF and WCTU sponsored event are Sunday, June 23 – Saturday June 29th. The weeklong event is hosted by the Olympia TU Chapter, South Sound Fly Fishing Club and the Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma. The Academy will be held again at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The youth reside in cabins with Ghillies (counselors), fly fishing gear is provided along with fly tying materials, all meals are included. Cost for the whole week is \$275, there are sponsorships available. No one will be turned away because of funds. To learn more about the Academy, go to [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com) or our Facebook page. The application is available on our website or contact Mike Clancy @ [nwycffa@comcast.net](mailto:nwycffa@comcast.net).

This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and the basics of fly fishing. The youth of today, are the guardians of the future of our sport of fly fishing.



# December 2012 / January 2013

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

*Alpine Fly Fishers*



**1**  
**December**

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	<b>11 Club Meeting</b>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	<b>25 Christmas</b>	26	27	28	29
30	31	<b>1 January</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	15	17	18	19
20	21	<b>22 Club Meeting</b>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	January guest speaker is: Dana Bottcher talking about the Smith River in Montana!!!!	

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