

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Tuesday

January 23

As always, at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM



FFI
Charter Club



The Dead Drift - January 2018

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Mailing Address

Board of Directors

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By Larry Gibbs

I received our SOS notice the other day. No, not a cry for help, but a notice from the WA Secretary of State that it was time to renew our non-profit status. It is a bit of a heavy cost, all of \$10, but something we have to do every year to maintain our UBI number and non-profit status.

I looked in my file cabinet and noticed that it was in December of 2009 that I filed the original documents with the SOS. Along with that we also applied to the FFF (FFI) to become a Charter Club and with that we filed an application with the IRS to become a 501.(c) 3 non-profit organization.

All this came about right after I became your president in 2009. Within a month of being voted in, Duffy came up to me and told me that the banks considered us an 'Alien Account' and would no longer do business with us. They didn't mean we were from Mars, but rather as an organization we did not exist. The person I talked to at the SOS office looked back in her books and could find no record of our existence. I believe that what happened was back in 1973 when our club first started up, papers were filed with the SOS and sometime after that the yearly fee was never paid again. Luckily no one else had our name so I was able to keep us as Alpine Fly Fishers. Then we needed a ton of paper work and lots of time and money to obtain our 501 (c) 3 status with the IRS. Or, we had the option of becoming a Charter Club with the FFF and they handled 90% of the paperwork, and I only had to do 10%. So, at our next club meeting I told everyone what was going on and asked for a vote to become a Charter Club. At that meeting, it was a 100% vote to join the FFF. I filled out all the forms and submitted them to the FFF and the IRS and we were accepted by both. Enough history.

I hope everyone who was able to attend the Christmas meeting in December had a good time. See page 9 for some thoughts and photos. Peter shared the chocolate cake that he won.

Speaking of voting, we had our official yearly club meeting when everyone attending got to vote for the Board of Directors. No surprises, all the existing BOD's remained in place. We are required by WA State and the FFI and the IRS to have a BOD and a yearly meeting. I really do appreciate all of the members of the BOD, they are needed.

Our first of three rod boards is now 70% filled, we only need 18 more squares to be purchased and we will determine a winner. That will be a great way to start the new year, either in January or February.

See you on January 23, 2018.

Good fishing.



Larry



Fly Fishing International

Fly of the Month

January 2002

Glass Bead Emerger

By Bob Bates

This pattern started as a winter chironomid imitation for Colorado streams. However, its use has spread to warmer waters. Chironomid is the big name for midge. An adult midge looks like a mosquito, however, it doesn't bite. Mayflies receive a lot of publicity, but this is an insect that fly anglers should learn more about. For one reason they hatch when ever there is open water, and for another fish like them. Sizes range from 1/16 th of an inch to about 1-1/2-inch. Usually the late fall and winter midges are on the small size. Some of my friends regularly fish winter streams with size 22 and 24 floating patterns.



The Glass Bead Emerger was featured in the December 1995 issue of Trout Tales, which is a monthly Internet newsletter about fishing around Colorado and sometimes Southern Wyoming. Julie Ray includes a fly in each issue. She tied the size 18 fly pictured above, and gave me permission to publish it. Julie uses it when there is generally nothing else going on in her streams, and she fishes it dead drift on a floating line. As Julie says "Dead drift is important, and those little black midges are out almost all winter." In warmer stream waters hang it under a grasshopper or other floating pattern, and give fish two opportunities for a meal. Just make sure that using two flies is legal in your area. Watch the floating pattern, and strike gently if it does anything strange like sink, stop, jerk sideways or race upstream. It also works for stillwater fishing. Use a floating line. If you see fish chain feeding, try to guess where a fish will rise next and place the fly there. If you guessed right, hang on. This is almost as much fun as sight fishing. If you didn't guess right try again. Often when there is no surface activity the fish are feeding just under the surface. Lay out your floating line, let the fly sink an inch or so and start a slow hand twist retrieve. Blind casting is fun also because you never know when you will feel that tug.

Materials:

Hook: Tiemco TMC 2457 size 18 & TMC 2487 size 20*; Dai-Riki 135, Mustad 80200BR, 80250BR, 37160; Daiichi 1130, 1150, J220 and other scud hooks

Bead: Clear glass, midge size #20 & small #18

Thread: Rusty Dun 8/0

Rib: Fine gold wire

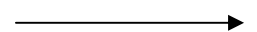
Body: Black dubbing

Hackle: Dark grizzly hen

Head: Black dubbing

* Julie commented that she doesn't know why she does it this way, she just does. I take it from that comment the hook model really isn't set in concrete. I tried several ways of threading beads on a small hooks. One worked great on size 18 and 20 hooks. Place a few beads on table. Pick up a hook in one hand or needle nose pliers, press first finger of other hand down on a bead, it should stick to your finger, turn finger over so bead is on top and thread bead on hook. I didn't jab my finger even though I used super sharp hooks. If the bead doesn't stick to your finger use a little dubbing wax, Sticky Fingers you can get from stationary stores or saliva.

FOTM Cont. on page 3



1. FFF encourages catch and release fishing, and I feel barbless hooks make releasing fish easier. Smash down the barb with smooth jaw pliers or the vise before you spend time tying the fly
2. Thread bead on hook, and place hook in vise.
3. Wrap thread on hook and secure wire to hook a little behind the barb.
4. Begin dubbed body at the same place, and wrap it forward to about mid shank.
5. Spiral gold wire forward, secure and trim excess.
6. Slide bead back to mid shank and bring thread forward over the bead and put a few thread wraps in front of bead. Some tiers don't like this method because a nasty old fish might cut the exposed thread. However, Julie said that she hasn't had a problem with it, and it is quicker than tying off, cutting thread and reattaching thread. (I haven't had a problem either.)
7. Pick a small grizzly hen hackle with fibers about 1-1/2 to 2 gap widths long. Tie on hook in front of bead, wrap several times around shank, secure and trim excess.
8. Put a tiny amount of fine black dubbing on thread and wrap head. Whip finish and add a tiny drop of cement for extra security.



[Julie also ties a variation of this pattern that looks good and catches fish. Attach a FEW strands of gray polypropylene on each side of bead before securing the hackle. Have strands flow back to about one-quarter shank length beyond end of the hook. It is just a wisp to add a little sparkle.]

It is easy to tie a few of these Glass Bead Emergers, and get ready for some frosty-finger fly-flinging.

Naturally, any emerger pattern you tie can be turned into a glass bead emerger by substituting the metal bead for glass. I noticed this spin off on the Big Y Fly Co. website where the glass bead is used as a wing, just tied onto the top of the fly.



Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

Full Winter

By the time you read this article it will be full winter, Thursday December 21st, marks the shortest day of the year. It also marks the day when daylight hours grow lengthier as the earth rotates round the sun. In the Northwest it is the season of Cutthroat trout and winter Steelhead runs. The pressure on the fisheries lessens as cold and darkness stymie a host of fishermen. But, there are a cadre of Steel-headers that whisper the fishing news; and when the rivers fall, and the steelhead run you will find them on the water swinging flies for chrome beauties fresh from the ocean.

The fishing news is not in newspapers or on TV or social media. This is (reel) news, too important for those systems, it is word of mouth, discreet texts or emails. Fishermen with a Steelhead infection, have developed antibodies to manage the affliction. Men and women prepare in advance for the whispered news release. Rods have been readied and cleaned. Flies have been tied or bought. Waders have been checked for leaks and a spare pair have been laid aside. Chain saws have been sharpened and gas cans of oil and fuel stand ready. Sleeping bags, stoves, heaters and firewood are preloaded in the vehicle. Beans, beer and other sundered items needed for nourishment fill coolers and boxes.

When the news arrives, those with time in their schedules respond. Fishing vehicles are driven from driveways, side lots and storage areas. Wives and girlfriends are kissed and bid adieu, or brought along depending on how deep the infection has spread in the family. The Fish of a thousand casts, work themselves deep into the soul of those who pursue them. The why of steelhead, are as varied as those who cast a line to them. To better understand Steelhead lets go back to the beginning of their life cycle.



Photo by Greg McDonald/Sean Gallagher

They start their lives far from the ocean, in small streams and river tributaries. The trout hatch from beneath the gravel where they have been laid. Once they outgrow the space between the gravel they seek the cover of rocks, logs and other shelter, to shield themselves from overhead marauders. During this stage of life from gravel to stream living they go from egg, to alevin, to fry, then to parr. Sometime in their first three years of life something triggers a life style response. Is it and abundance of food or lack thereof? Science has not fully answered the why. What is known is that some trout decide to follow the Rainbow trout course, to live their life in fresh water. Other trout become Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and spend part of their life in the ocean. This salt water proclivity is marked by the smolt stage of life, they lose their spots and take on steelhead silver coloring. There is harmony in both paths, both are full of peril and trial, mortality is high for both paths, but survivability of the species is the paramount objective. For those trout that choose the ocean path, it hits survivability hard, it has historically been 10%, it is now less than 3%.

The *Oncorhynchus mykiss* choose a larger world view. Something in the big water calls to them, pulling them towards Mother Ocean. Where they go is not fully known, we know that Steelhead can be found as far south as Mexico along the west coast of the U.S. and North to the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. They are also found in

Continued on Page 5 →

Kamchatka, Russia. Their journey in Mother Ocean can last from 1 to 4 years before they return to spawn. In the ocean they put on weight and size, and for survival they turn chrome. Before the depredation of our rivers and oceans, Steelhead could return to the ocean and spawn an average of 3 or 4 times. In today world 2 round trips would be astounding. In our new environment return number are plummeting, new research data (2016) shows that steelhead are starving to death in the oceans as their food sources disappear.

The odds and obstacles that Steelhead confront and overcome produce a fish that is remarkable. Native Steelhead are perfectly matched to their environment, they are strong swift and sure. Nature gave them the life skills to multiply and survive, but a gift is only as good as he that receives it. *Oncorhynchus mykiss* use all those gifted skills every day, with little or no wasted effort. To see a Steelhead come out of water and walk on its tail, will make your heart sing and your blood throb in your veins. This intimate connection with life grabs you by your soul and shakes you down to your core. This connection to another living thing demands respect and a bowing of our head to a creature that adds to the beauty of the world just by living.

These Chrome beauties earned the title of a fish of a thousand casts. They choose you, and it's up to you, to earn the right to hook one. In today's world, with all the advantages of modern angling tools that increase the take ratio. It is a sin to use tools or tactics that harm steelhead. Respect them and meet them on a level playing field, swing your flies, they have earned that right. When you release them, please keep them in the water, don't suffocate them for a hero shot. As stewards of this earth it is our responsibility to care for the earth and her inhabitants. We are not the rulers we are the care takers.

The men and women who are truly infected with Steelhead fever, protect and serve the fish they pursue. You will find them on the river swinging flies for chrome beauties in winter light. In the evenings they will huddle together beneath a tarp near a campfire; telling tales of close encounters with a trout that chose the path of Mother Ocean, to meet life's challenges, through a journey in life's waters. Gods creations. If you're hooked, you will hear the real/reel whispered news. Hope to see you on the water soon.

Stephen

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

Henry David Thoreau

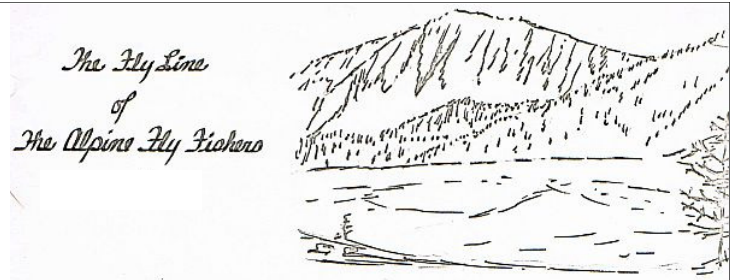
2Photo by Greg McDonald/Sean Gallagher



~ *In The Past* ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -
Vol. 2 No. 2

February of 1974



This ~ *In The Past* ~ article was published in 1974. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate. This is a historical document only.

Next meeting:

Date: Monday, February 4, 1974
Place: Noel's Restaurant
6:00 - Wet Line
6:45 - Dinner & Meeting

Program: Can't tell a dragonfly from a hummingbird? Well, no matter what your level of insect knowledge is, you'll benefit from Darrel Martin's program. Darrel, who teaches fly fishing as a sideline, will tell us what the important north-west insects are and how to imitate them.

Draw Prize: Thanks to all of you who joined the FFF, we have a new Fenwick fly rod as the main prize. Also, there will be a Scientific Anglers Wet Cell II fly line up for grabs. Bring extra money because tickets will cost \$1 for these.

Last Meeting: Dave Carlson covered the subject of fly fishing for steelhead in an interesting and professional manner. Now if only I could catch one!

Fishouts: Our first try at a fishout in 1974 was greeted by the worst floods in years. Maybe later. The Activities Committee is entertaining all suggestions for 1974 fishouts. If you have a favorite spot you'd like to share with the club on a fishout, tell Frank Spargo or Cal Cole.

Dave Whitlock to appear: The Washington Fly Fishing Club has invited us to attend their February meeting to hear and visit with Dave Whitlock, nationally known fly tier, artist, photographer and lecturer.

Fishing small streams: Although we all love the feel of a heavy fish on our line, there is a certain charm and joy associated with fishing small streams for equally small trout. If you can only enjoy catching large fish, though, these little waters are not for you.

The greatest attraction of small streams is their closeness and intimacy with the angler. Everything here is on a smaller scale and easier to assimilate. A pool may be only a few yards long and a few feet wide. Stealth, caution and delicacy, not overwhelming power are needed.

In keeping with the smaller character of these waters, your tackle should be small. A 6-1/2 foot rod throwing a no. 4 or 5 line is about right. Unless you are fishing a rich meadow stream, exact imitation isn't necessary and a wide range of dry and wet flies in the 12-16 size range are effective. Since your casts will usually be quite short, a short leader is needed to allow enough line out to work your rod.

Fly Patterns: One of the favorite foods of large stream trout is the stonefly. Stoneflies come in a wide variety of sizes and colors but big fish prefer the larger ones. Stonefly hatches bring old lunkers to the surface, but for season long fishing the nymph is more effective. These should be fished right down on the bottom where the big trout spend most of their time.

BIRDS STONEFLY NYMPH

Hook: Size 4 or 6, 3xl
Thread: Orange Nymo
Tail: Mottled brown turkey, 2 short fibers, divided
Body: Dubbed dark green seal fur
Rib: Burnt orange floss
Wing case: Mottled brown turkey tail
Hackle: Dark brown, wound over thorax area and turned down by wing case.
Trim flat underneath.



Final Note: Glad to see all the guests at the last two meetings. Keep 'em coming. Reed Miller has membership application forms.

Thanks to the website: stevenojai.tripod.com/birdstone for the picture of the fly.

Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2018

January 23; February 27; March 27; April 24; May 22; June ?? (picnic)
September 25; October 23; November 27; December 18

A Fly Fishing Quote:

*Trigorin, when asked what a great literary man thinks about when he is alone:
"I love fishing. I can think of no greater pleasure than to sit alone toward
the evening by the water and watch a float."*

~ Anton Chekhov ~ The Seagull (1896)

Thanks to The Quotable Fisherman by Nick Lyons

The 2018 Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy

As we approach the holiday season, now would be the time to be thinking of gifts for your children, grandchildren, neighbor and any other youth you think might like to learn about fly fishing and conservation. We are looking for mature and serious minded youth willing to learn the sport of 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, school counselor, scout leader, etc. The dates for the WSCFFi supported, and the WCTU sponsored event is Sunday, June 24-30, 2018. 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 \$300, there are sponsorships available. No one will be turned away because of funds.

To learn more about the Academy, go to www.nwycffa.com or our Facebook page. The application is available on our website or contact Mike Clancy @ 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.



January Guest Speaker

Jay Paulson

Creator of the Titanic Fly

This is from his website (www.amazingflies.com)

For 15 years I traveled the world fly fishing. I had a great time and came up with some wonderful patterns that other people wanted too, so I started selling them. I like to come up with totally new ideas and some of my flies are more engineering than tying. My flies have appeared in books, magazines and a few films. You can find copies in other catalogs, but you'll get the originals here and all the latest innovations to them. Settled down in the Pacific Northwest now. Currently in Olympia.

Christmas 2017

Outside glittering faceted frost, coats the world; a misstep puts you at the mercy of gravity, and she is not known for cutting anyone slack. Inside, a wood fire keeps our home cozy, seasonal music suffuses our home, as the mantle of Christmas celebration settles in. Maddie zooms into an empty box, pounces on oft used package wrapping and then burrows into empty plastic bags beneath the tree. She is amusing herself and us, as she reverts to a kitten before our eyes. Chaos in the form of a cat, has been thrust into the anarchy of Christmas decorating. We switch from shooing her away, to laughter at her antics. When her acrobatic efforts border on catastrophe, she is escorted to the door for a brief cool down period.

Slowly over a three-day period, everyday collectables are stored away, Christmas items fill vacated space. The tree is moved in-doors and trimmed with memories and mementos. Our children's and grand-children's school crafted ornaments hang alongside, family heirlooms and other items collected or acquired over the course of 43 years of marriage. Miniature trees, Santa Clauses, nut crackers, carolers, deer, sleighs, snowmen, trains, candles and a nativity scene are on display in each room of our home. Is it a bit over the top? Yes, it is a celebration of family, friends, people met, and people lost. It is a celebration of our lives, each item a commemoration of moments in time, births, departures, milestones, people, events, life styles, pastimes, spirituality, and just pure whims.

If the three days were spent just decorating, most people would judge that a chore. But those three days were spent in remembrance. My Mother's, Nutcracker collection, evokes Christmases past and the smell and taste of her cookies and the feel of her loving arms. Trains, recall thoughts of laying on the carpet with my Dad, pellet smoke puffing out of the engine's stack, as it raced round the Christmas tree. Seeing my Dad's inner child, as he showed me how to operate the train. Miniature tree's, brings forth remembrances of backpacking and fishing with my son; cresting a summit and relaxing into the joy and wonder of the outdoors. Nicole's school ornaments, recall a late, foggy Christmas Eve, spent assembling a swing set in the backyard. My Dad and I putting it all together, by feel and lamp light. Oh! The joy on Nicole's face Christmas morning, as she sat at the top of that slide. Terry's hand painted ornaments made for Nicole's first Christmas, in our ranch home tucked into the folds of the Ruby Mountains.

Since Man first marked the movement of the stars and the changing of the seasons, he has celebrated the winter solstice. The founders of Christianity, wisely chose this time of year to celebrate the birth of Christ. Modern merchants also co-opted, the season and the Holiday to boost business. We too celebrate the Winter solstice, the birth of Christ and the giving of gifts, but what we have learned to truly celebrate, is family and friends. Each of you is part of our home, you are reflected in our decorations and mementos, but more importantly you fill our thoughts with celebration and remembrances. Each of you are treasured and celebrated.

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year -- The Neal's, Terry Ann and Stephen

December Christmas Meeting

We had our Christmas meeting last Tuesday. I want to thank all of you who were able to attend and help contribute towards our fund raising efforts.

We had a lot of raffle cups on the table. Each cup is related to an item up for raffle. Here is a picture of Gene looking at the tables and actually looking at the many items he was about to win.



We had a good group. Here are a few pictures of some of the club members who attended. Sorry I didn't get photos of everyone.



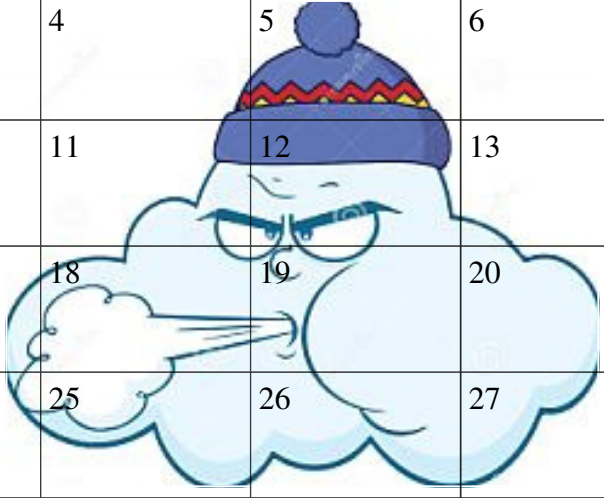
You see Peter and Charles talking about the contents of a fly rod tube. That holds an antique two handed bamboo fly rod that Charles has donated as a fund raiser for our WA Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg this coming May. Thank you Charles.

During the drawing of the raffle tickets, Dave was winning a lot of fly cups, the ones with a dozen flies in each. Mary Etta wasn't winning anything. Then it came to the big drawing from all of the hundreds of raffle tickets we sold last night to determine the winner of the Christmas Fly Tree. Out of all those tickets, it was one of Mary Etta's tickets that won the tree.

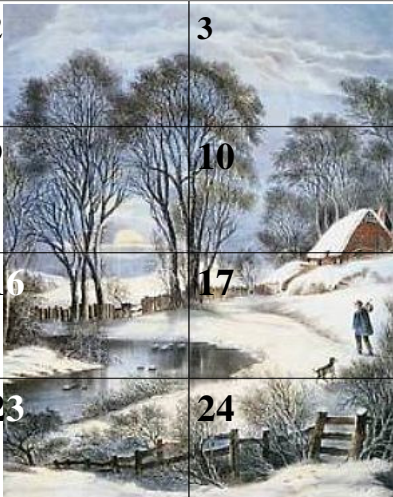
Along with the usual raffle items that I donate, some of our club members also donated some really nice items. Duffy had donated a fly tying box. That was a big raffle ticket draw. Kevin had donated one of his Gill Nets, which also was a big draw. Stephen donated an Oasis fly tying station which brought in a lot of tickets. Gary donated a fly plate of six Heritage style streamer flies that he tied, which was yet another big draw. Dave donated some items that helped sell tickets. By the way, I had purchased a fair number of tickets because of those items. As it turned out, I won the fly plate, the net and the fly tying box. That box was filled with lots of really nice fly tying materials. So, I opened up an impromptu 'live auction' and Gene was the high bidder which brought in even more money for our club.



January / February 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>"That grand old poem called Winter" Henry David Thoreau</i>	1 January	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Club Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	 <p><i>"There is a privacy about it which no other season gives you In spring, summer and fall people sort of have an open season on each other; only in the winter, in the country, can you have longer, quiet stretches when you can savor belonging to yourself." - Ruth Stout</i></p>		

"Go to the winter woods: listen there, look, watch, and "the dead months" will give you a subtler secret than any you have yet found in the forest."
 - Fiona Macleod, *Where the Forest Murmurs*

	1 February	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27 Club Meeting	28	 <p><i>"February, when the days of winter seem endless and no amount of wistful recollecting can bring back any air of summer." - Shirley Jackson, <i>Raising Demons</i></i></p>	

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
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