

Alpine Fly Fishers



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Charter Club

1000 Stewards member



Our Next AFF Meeting
Tuesday

To Be Announced

At the
Puerto Vallarta
215 15th St. SE
Puyallup at 6 PM

The Dead Drift - July 2020

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

The New Normal

I have been a trouble shooter all my adult life. In the US Navy, I worked on radar and communication/navigation gear for our aircraft. When I got out I joined the sheriff's department and again I was a trouble shooter, but this time in analyzing crimes and working out the various leads to hopefully make an arrest. My mind just works that way, take in the data and 'see' the answer to the problem.

I am afraid of what I see in this 'New Normal' situation we are falling into. I can see some very dark outcomes. but, I can also see some very positive and shall I say happy outcomes. It all depends upon us and how we handle this 'New Normal'.

Based on my hope for a good outcome, I continue to buy neat 'stuff' for our raffles and raffle boards. I still hope for a continuation of our club meetings. I do so enjoy the gatherings we have. The exchanging of fishing stories and of our trips. The building of friendship bonds that will carry over out in the field and the years.

But, right now we have not been having those. So, last month I asked for you, our club members, to write me some emails and let me know how things are going for you during this trying time. I want to thank those of you who did contact me, I really do appreciate it.

Sounds like a lot of projects are getting done around the house and property. It is a great time to have gotten those completed now as fishing is about to explode upon the scene and many of those projects still on the list will be left to await the future for completion. I suspect we will end up having lots of home time to get them done, but first let us get some lines and flies wet.

Bet you will never guess what one of my summertime projects is going to be. I get to rewrite the bylaws for our club. As a charter club our bylaws have to conform to the new and improved FFI bylaws. Just can't wait to get started on that. But first I guess I should do something more exciting, like doing my 2019 IRS tax statement. Oh well. They both must be done.

Buy some rod raffle board squares. Help out the club and maybe win some neat stuff. See page 9 for more info.

"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink, I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains." Henry David Thoreau

Good Fishing & Stay Safe



Larry

Fly Fishing International

Fly of the Month

July 2006

WATERDOG

By Bob Bates



In Jason Rhodes' world "waterdog" is the generic name for a Tiger Salamander. There are many salamanders around the world. The eggs hatch in water, progress to a larval stage called "waterdog" by some and most climb out of the water to live on land. Some get large enough to scare a person. What ever name you use, big bass love to eat them if they have a chance, and this "waterdog" has and will fool big bass.

Jason (Pocatello, Idaho) tied several 4-1/2-inch long bass flies like this at the 38th International Fly Fishing Conclave and Show in Idaho Falls, Idaho, August, 2003. Most of them had attractive, spun-deer-hair heads, but this one looked easier to tie. Fishing this size of weighted fly can be a little tricky for a person accustomed to casting a size 18 blue wing olive. One thing it has a lot of air resistance, and another it is heavy. Be sure of your casting technique. Use a larger rod, apply plenty of power to overcome the resistance, and be sure you feel the pull of the back cast before starting the forward cast. Improper casting might case the fly to land on the back of your head. If you are not comfortable casting this big "bug" ask an FFF Certified Casting Instructor for a quick brush up.

Jason recommends casting a Type III full sinking line and letting the fly sink to the bottom. Then start a slow hand twist retrieve to walk it across the bottom. It catches both small mouth and large mouth bass. In response to my question "Where do you fish it?" he responded "Lakes in Oklahoma." I had hoped for a hot tip on a lake around Idaho Falls.

Materials list:

Hook: Tiemco TMC 8089 size 2

Thread: Unithread, 3/0 any color

Weed guard: Monofilament, 20-pound

Weight: Lead or lead free wire 0.030

Body: Estaz, cactus

Rib: Copper wire

Legs: Round rubber, large olive

Tail: Magnum rabbit strip, about 5/16-inch wide by 4 inches long, olive

Head: Wool, dark brown and medium olive

Eyes: 3 to 4 mm

Tying steps:

1. Smash down the barb before you start tying if a barbless fly is desired.
2. Attach thread at bend of hook, and let thread hang between the point and barb. Tie in 20-pound mono around the bend of hook for weed guard. Coat thread with head cement.
3. Wind lead wire on rear 2/3rds of hook, and wrap thread over the wire to secure it. Secure Estaz and copper wire at bend of hook.

Continued on Page 3 →



3. Wind lead wire on rear 2/3rds of hook, and wrap thread over the wire to secure it. Secure Estaz and copper wire at bend of hook.
4. Take three pieces of round rubber a bit over 2 inches long. Match the ends, and tie overhand knots in all three about a half inch from each end. Secure one set of legs on top of hook at bend using a figure eight thread wrap. Move thread forward to front of lead coil, and tie in a second set of legs. These are just under 2 inches long with overhand knots tied as above. Move thread forward a wind or two.
5. Wrap Estaz forward to one wrap in front of front legs, secure and trim excess. After the Estaz is wrapped bring the weed guard forward, and tie it securely in front of the Estaz.
6. Trim a little point on back end of rabbit strip, and secure the other end in front of Estaz.
7. Spiral copper wire forward over the rabbit strip. Pull the hair apart to expose the hide where the wire will go. The first wrap is behind the rear legs and then five wraps forward, secure and trim excess. (Use back part of scissors to trim wire.)
8. Begin stacking the wool. Put a bunch of brown on top of the hook, and then a bunch of olive on the bottom of the hook. Repeat with two more bunches of each color. Compact the bunches. Hold the hook at the front of the Estaz with one hand and push backward on the front bunches with thumb and first finger of the other hand. Continue adding bunches of wool and compacting until there is no room left. Whip finish and cut thread.
9. Trim head with scissors to a rounded shape. Looking from the top the head is almost square with a blunt nose. Some of the brown wool extends rearward over the rabbit strip like a collar. The olive wool is trimmed even with the front legs.
10. Glue on eyes and coat them with epoxy.

Closing comments: The final step in any fly tying process is go fishing. For us in the Northern hemisphere, July and August are warm months so we should go looking for warm water fish. Almost wherever you live there should be a bass lake within reach where you can test this pattern. Some of the bass in warmer waters can grow to huge sizes so be ready for a fight.

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

Stories within Stories

May 20th, our first day of quarantine release; we left just after noon, mist fell as coalescing drops as we motored down Steve's driveway. Sean was ahead on the road, about twenty minutes or so. If all went as expected, we would come together in The Dalles, Oregon before heading to Marty and Mia's home in Maupin Oregon. Our drive to Maupin that day was gratifying for more than our release from self-isolation. Steve and I had made this trip many times before, but today we were making it in daylight. What had been for a us a dark landscape with far flung farmyard lights, sparse approaching vehicle head lamps, and endless stars, was now a world of rolling wheat fields, and cottonwood draws, with Mount Hood looming over the landscape on our right. It was pleasurable seeing it all with daylight eyes, instead of night vision.

We booked this fishing trip with Little Creek Outfitters in January, purchased our boating permit in early February and then, Covid-19 hit, the stars misaligned, our trip became a distant maybe. We crossed our fingers and held onto the dream, Steve ordered flies for the three of us, we assembled gear, and packed our bags, exchanged phone calls for the latest information, and waited, and waited some more. When Washington opened up in-state fishing on May 5th, Oregon followed suit by allowing out of state fishermen, and then on Friday the fifteenth, BLM announced that they would open the Deschutes on the 21st of May, the first day of our boating permit. Wahoo!! We bought our Oregon fishing licenses.

Marty, Mia, Sean, Steve, and I breathed a big sigh of joyous relief, our trip was a go. But we still had a long way to go. The old saying is still true, the devil is in the details. All was manageable but on a compressed time frame. Marty and Mia would not be able to get on the river until the day it opened, motels were closed on the night of our travel day. Marty and Mia opened up their downstairs apartment for us, so that we could avoid sleeping in our trucks in an unknown roadside pull off.

After Steve, Sean and I had settled into Marty and Mia's three-room apartment, Marty and Mia came downstairs to visit. We caught up while social distancing. We talked about the trip, the impacts of Covid-19 on ourselves, Anatomy of a Rose and other things, which led to a visit to Marty's shop and the grand tour. Here he shared his plans for the future and bamboo. Bamboo rods to be specific. Marty has been building bamboo rods, his passion and enthusiasm shown through his stories. In pursuit of this dream he had acquired bamboo, bamboo forms and other equipment from a rod builder in Idaho. It was a pretty cool story but at this point in became even cooler. The bamboo forms had originally come from Hoagy B. Carmichael.

One of the major influencers of bamboo rod building in the U.S. Carmichael studied under Everett Garrison, together they wrote A Master's Guide to Building a Bamboo Fly Rod. The name Hoagy Carmichael is recognizable also because his father has the same name, and he is the author of two famous songs, Stardust (*"And now the purple dusk of twilight time, Steals across the meadows of my heart, High up in the sky the little stars climb, Always reminding me that we're apart. You wander down the lane and far away, Leaving me a song that will not die, Love is now the stardust of yesterday, The music of years gone by."*) Hoagy Carmichael, and Georgia on my Mind. We broke from the storytelling to try our hands on one of Marty's bamboo rods. Nice action and with an origin story!! Stories within stories. After our visit we all headed to bed, Marty, and Mia, to get up at five AM, and head down river, to find and setup a camp spot; Steve, Sean and I with the promise of fast water and trout on our minds. This is where the stars swung back into alignment. The next morning, with camp setup Marty returned to the boat launch at 9:30 AM to pick Sean, Steve, and I up and drop Mia off. When we launched that Thursday morning nobody else was on our section of the river. All camp spots were spring fresh and untrampled, the fish were three months untouched. Everything was fresh and clean, and we had it to ourselves.

WOW, how lucky we were. Only people with existing permits were allowed on the river, it appeared that all the other permit holders had canceled their trips. For the next two days the Deschutes River from Mack's Flat to Jet-pump rapid, and its trout, opened their beauty and wonder to only us. The trout were willing participants in our catch and release activities. Each one caught, were big, bright, and beautiful, their bright red stripes glowed with an iridescent light. We fished a dry dropper with a Silvey's Super Sinker on the bottom. The plan was to discover which fly was the most successful and then switch to one fly. But our willing takers hit each offering equally, so we fished the dry dropper the whole trip. Tangles be damned. Fishing was steady all day until just before dinner when the bite dropped dramatically. We rotated through the fishing runs pointed out by Marty. Each of us got time on each piece of water.



It was three magical days of fishing, and visiting with Marty as we all shared stories, wisdom, and insights. It was also fun to hand Marty my rod and let him show me proper approaches and casts and to watch him catch a fish, some things are simply better, when they shared. Marty and Mia upped their camping setup to accommodate our new reality. Our camp was setup following the Covid-19 recommendations for safety, we all had separate tents, cleanliness procedures were followed, with hand sanitizer always available, a hand washing station, a bleach solution for spraying down the Loo and our tents and mattresses. Dishes were washed and rinsed, then dipped in a water, bleach solution. We all wore our buff's as face masks when together and on the jet boat and sat 6 feet apart around the table for meals in a screened in tent. We were all pleased with the precautions that Marty and Mia took to provide a safe environment for all of us. That is one of the reasons that we chose Marty as our guide, while Steve is a frequent user of guides, Sean, and I are infrequent participants in guided trips. When Marty and Mia offered a guided trout trip down the Deschutes, we jumped at the chance to fish with Marty. His ethics and stewardship of the Deschutes, John Day and their fisheries is beyond reproach.

The story within the story is that, what Marty, and Mia, make look so effortless and masterful is based upon all the work that goes on behind the fishing trip. They cultivate relationships with the people who call the river their homes and livelihoods. They know the lives of the fish that live here, they know and study the wildlife that make these canyons their homes. They maintain their permits and work to help make the systems better, sometimes that requires proactive disagreements with official sources, but underlying that is a respect for those officials that strive to protect and manage this beautiful resource. Marty and Mia, also own, maintain, and upgrade their livery of watercraft, tents, and equipment to provide the best experiences for their customers. They are in short committed to providing an exceptional trip experience while protecting and enhancing these beautiful canyons and rivers.



The canyon winds were our constant companion, it modified our casts and disrupted camp life, at one lunch it blew Marty's cot over and sent his mattress flying, as I laid on his cot attempting to tie his mattress on a second gust hit, dismantling his kitchen and ripping his hat off his head. We all sprang to action to reassemble the kitchen, while Marty protected his barbecuing chicken from a complete collapse. Lunch was saved and order restored as we were reminded of the power of the Deschutes River Canyons swirling winds, that can come from any direction at any time. In the evenings we were serenaded by Canyon Wrens, by day Seagulls congregated above the river as they fed on green drakes, at night the water of the Deschutes serenaded our slumbers as it rolled to the Columbia and the Pacific Ocean. This is a story that the four of us will share with each other for many years to come, as men whom have a deep respect for each other and our mutual love of our natural world and the fish that swim in its waters and the animals that walk the earth.



"Time is but the stream I go fishing in... Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains. I would drink deeper; fish in the sky, whose bottom is pebbly with stars." Henry David Thoreau

Thank you, Marty, and Mia of Little Creek Outfitters, for letting us join you for a fishing trip on the Deschutes, Steve, Sean, and Stephen. Too my readers may you embrace and protect the wonders of our natural resources.

Stephen

"When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind – Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

"Many go fishing all their lives, without knowing that it is not fish they are after" - Henry David Thoreau



~ *In The Past* ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -
Vol. 4 No. 9

September of 1976

Doug Hansen, Acting Editor



This ~ *In The Past* ~ article was published in 1976. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate.

This is a historical document only.

Program: Remember the articles on salt water fly casting for silver salmon that appeared in "Fly Fisherman" magazine a couple of issues back? Bell, Bruce Ferguson of Tacoma provided much of the material for those articles. Bruce will be here Monday to tell us about taking resident silvers on flies in Puget Sound.

New Business: Two items. First, the Fishing Desk hasn't been that busy since its inception. Some say we should try another tack to stir up interest in fishing expeditions. What do you think? Come to the meeting and sound off.

Second, the Steve Raymond program comes up in October. We'll need to promote it if we're going to come out on it and ensure a successful turnout.

Fishing Report: Phil White and Jim Higgins mounted a four day backpack trip to the Elwha River August 28-31. Great country and a worthwhile trip, reports Phil, but the fishing was only spotty due, most likely, to the water being too cold. Jim measured the temperature at a chilly 46 degrees.

Club Expedition Next Year: Speaking of the Elwha, I don't recall who first proposed this trip, but it stirred up about as much interest among club members as I've ever seen. Unfortunately the timing just didn't work out for most of us and only two people finally made the trip. But how about next year? With that much interest, if we can get an early start on the planning, how about a full fledged club outing about this time next year? Keep it in mind. Resolve to work yourself into shape. The Outing Committee will go to work on the preliminaries like setting the dates, etc.

Fishing Prospects For September: Exploring September: In the fall the northwest fly rodder faces a bewildering choice. Summer steelheading is still going strong in the streams that have them. Some anglers maintain that autumn "ironheads" rise to the fly better now than any other time.

Fly fishing for searun cutthroats and silver salmon is also hitting its peak in the coastal streams and tidewater estuaries. There's the upper creeks and beaver ponds coming into their own again after summer doldrums. And last but not least, the trout fishing in our west side low lakes picks up again to the point where it could very well be the best of the year.

A lot to choose from, but being a newcomer to the Tacoma area and a strong devotee to fly fishing for searuns in streams, I've resolved to spend time in September checking out a few nearby places including:

Lower Mashell River in Pierce County
Tarboo Creek in Jefferson County
Deschutes River in Thurston County

These trips will be strictly exploratory. I've never visited these places before, and I'm going strictly on rumors and comments I've heard from others.

There is also:

Chopaka Lake

Middle Fork of Snoqualmie River

**THE DISPATCH
FROM FFI HQ
COVID-19 UPDATE**

JUNE 2020 - UPDATED GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 SAFETY

The world has changed dramatically since March 16th when Fly Fishers International issued guidance on COVID-19 to members, clubs, and councils on official FFI meetings, events, and workshops. At the time, there was tremendous uncertainty about the trajectory of the pandemic, only a small handful of states had issued restrictions on activities, and the Center For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had just announced blanket guidance on a national level. FFI leadership felt it was the most responsible action to postpone or cancel official FFI events until further notice. We have learned a lot since then.

During the intervening time, states have taken varying approaches to deal with the pandemic, the outcomes of these distinctive measures have had differing effects, and there has been extreme variability on the impact to communities around the county and the world. CDC guidance has evolved to the point where it is now challenging to view blanket guidance as applicable to all states and communities around the country. It would not be reasonable to provide the same restrictions for rural Montana as metropolitan New York.

So where do we go from here? We know that people are excited to get back together with friends at club and council meetings, spend time on the water, and enjoy social events, but we need to be cautious. FFI is now providing updated guidance that reflects the variability of circumstances based on geography, considers human health, and allows FFI members to find ways to safely engage within their communities.

FFI clubs and councils must defer to health experts, following official, location-specific state and local regulations provided by respective health departments. This may include recommendations regarding acceptability and size of gatherings, travel restrictions, use of personal protective equipment, social distancing guidelines, and other precautions.

It is further recommended that all FFI club and council event organizers wait at least 15 days from the announcement of relaxed restrictions to assess impacts before moving forward with activities. This allows time to assess whether these new restrictions adversely affect the COVID-19 case rate, and reduces the likelihood of planning an event only to cancel it due to adverse outcome.

FFI will continue with the current policy to cancel or postpone all international and centrally sponsored events through July 31 (International Expo, exam, and exam preparation events). Such events already scheduled after July 31st can be evaluated on a case by case basis, again deferring to local health and safety recommendations.

Here are some additional safety recommendations regarding local fly fishing, casting, tying or administrative events: Please remember that all face to face gatherings carry risk, regardless of size, and assess that risk against the importance of the event. Airline travel to and from events may pose risk for many travelers and as well those in the destination community. Gatherings that can be accomplished by telephone and videoconferencing remain preferred.

Please request that potential participants exclude themselves if they have or may have been exposed to Covid 19 within 2 weeks prior to the event, have a pending Covid 19 test, or have symptoms such as fever or cough.

Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from one another and wear facial coverings, even outside. Facial coverings really do reduce the spread of infectious respiratory droplets transmitted by speech (especially loud speech), cough and sneezing. Frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizers, and disinfectant wipes are an important part of reducing infection. Equipment, such as fly rods, fly tying materials, etc. should not be shared. If gear is shared for some unavoidable reason, it and the user's hands should be disinfected after use with disinfectant wipes or 70% alcohol solution.

Participants at gatherings should bring their own snacks, food, and water. If a meal must be served, individual packaging ("box lunch") is far safer than a buffet or "grab and go" scenario.

Thank you for your service to Fly Fishers International and for following the guidance established by our Board of Directors.

Patrick Berry
President and CEO

Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2020

July/August (no meetings)

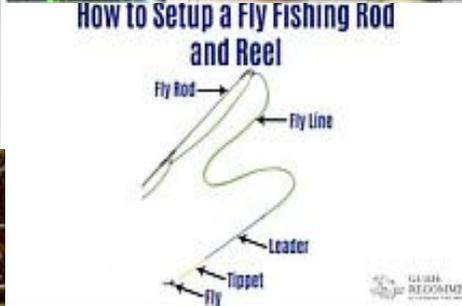
Next meeting to be announced at a later date.

If we do meet in the following months, these will be the dates:

September 22; October 27; November 24; December 15



<https://guiderecommended.com>



Door Prizes at our next meeting!!!

Aside from the Loop Rod/Reel raffle board and the regular raffles we hold at every meeting, I am going to have some great door prizes at our next meeting. Just show up, grab a ticket and wait to see if your number is called. You must be present to win. So, what are the door prizes? That is TBD (To Be Determined), but I am sure you will like them. See you down the road.

Larry

Six (6) Winners on Loop Rod/Reel Raffle Board!!

I want to thank Howard and Paul and Duffy and Bruce for buying some squares on the Loop fly rod/reel board. Between their purchases and my own purchases, we now have over 45% of the rod board squares sold!!!

I would really like to get the whole board sold out before we have our meeting in September. It would be nice to pick some winners then.

If you are thinking that you really don't need another fly rod (really?) then consider buying some squares to try to win and then you can re-gift the fly rod outfit to a deserving youth or a friend or a very worthy cause like Project Healing Waters so a vet can have a really nice outfit. Or how about Casting for Recovery or someone you know who may just be getting into fly fishing or who needs a second outfit.

So, here is what is going to happen. The first square chosen will be for the Loop outfit. Then we will draw a total of five (5) more winners (***You do not have to be present to win***). I will have five nice items for the winners.

One person can win more than once, the more squares you buy the greater your odds are at winning.

Email me and I will send you my home address so you can mail a check to me.

Don't forget, this is a fund raiser so Ron can get some great guest speakers!!

Larry



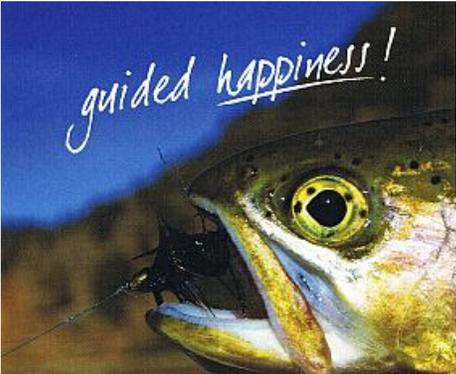



CENTRAL WASHINGTON'S PREMIER FLY FISHING OUTFITTER, PRO-SHOP AND PROFESSIONAL GUIDE SERVICE

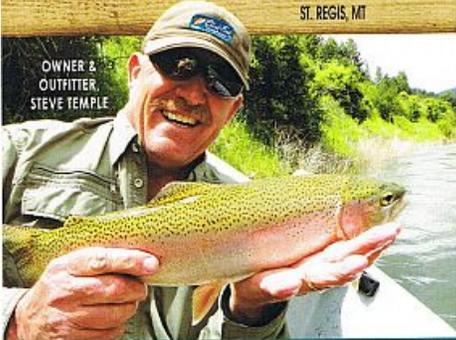
Worley Bugger Fly Co.

Steve Worley has some great guides and he has put together the best fly shop filled with a massive amount of fly tying materials and equipment. You really need to stop by the shop and check it out. Just take the Canyon Road exit off I-90 and turn north towards town, the Worley Bugger Fly Co. shop is on the left or west side of the road. Open all year. Stop by and say Hi!

guided happiness!




MONTANA FLY FISHING OUTFITTERS
ST. REGIS, MT



OWNER & OUTFITTER, STEVE TEMPLE

www.ClarkForkTrout.com 406.382.0161

Clark Fork Trout

St. Regis, MT

Steve & Peggy Temple have their fly shop just on the north end of St. Regis, right across the street from the road down to the boat launch.

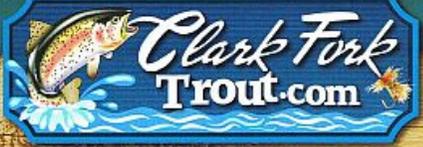
Check it out!!!

For a really good guided drift boat fishing trip, you should contact Clark Fork Trout.

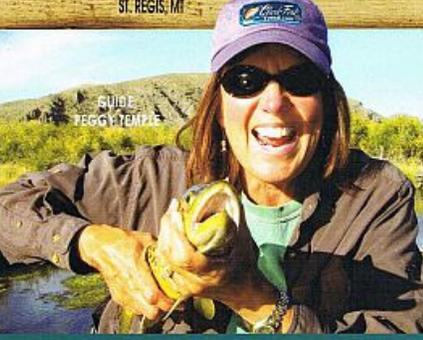
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MONTANA FLY FISHING OUTFITTERS
ST. REGIS, MT



GUIDE PEGGY TEMPLE

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Loop 'Q' Fly Rod Outfit



This is a Loop 'Q' series fly rod/reel kit.

It includes a 5 weight, 4 piece 'Q' fly rod,
'Q' 4/5 large arbor fly reel,
'Q' weight forward floating fly line
'Q' rod/reel case

(I am also including an additional fly line, a weight forward 5 weight)

Fly Rod/Reel raffle board - \$5 per square

Email me and I will give you my address so you can mail a check to me to purchase some squares for this great fly rod/reel combo.

July / August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>"Our fear of death is like our fear that summer will be short, but when we have had our swing of pleasure, our fill of fruit, and our swelter of heat, we say we have had our day." - Ralph Waldo Emerson</p>			1 July	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14			16	17
19	20	21			22	23
No Meeting In July		28	29	30	31	<p>"Do what we can, summer will have its flies." - Ralph Waldo Emerson</p>

"Summer is the time when one sheds one's tensions with one's clothes, and the right kind of day is jeweled balm for the battered spirit. A few of those days and you can become drunk with the belief that all's right with the world."
- Ada Louise Huxtable (1921 - 2013)

1 August

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	No Meeting In August			22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30		31				

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Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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