

# Alpine Fly Fishers



*No Meeting in June at this time. We lost our meeting location due to remodeling at Johnny's.*

**J u n e 2 0 0 9 / N E W S L E T T E R**

**There will be no meeting in June. See you all in September if not sooner out on the water**

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## **Presidents Line**

Three Lakes in October anyone? Talk to Bill Fox or PJ or Howard or Bill Aubrey or myself about an unofficial club outing at Dad's Lake, one mile from the Canadian border up in northeastern WA. Up to 9 of us can attend, and we will be there for 4 days. This will take place on the first of October. We already have six people, we can only take three more.

I want to give a big thanks to **Bill Fox**. He volunteered to help me with the auction/raffle at the WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair the first of May. He worked hard for three days, the first day to help set up the auction area and items and then the next two days working those tables and putting in some long hours. We had a successful year and it is only with the help of volunteers like Bill that we were able to have this great fly fishing event.

Next year the WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair will be held on April 30 & May 1, the first Friday/Saturday in May. Again, we will be at the fairgrounds in Ellensburg. Make sure you get there next year, you will really have a great time. Want to volunteer? See me.

No more official meetings until September, however sometime during those three months we may have a picnic/BBQ at Duffy's place. More later.

In July I will be contacting the Sumner Library to reserve the meeting for this winters fly tying get-togethers.

Larry

## **Thank you Howard Inks**

Howard volunteered to be the Alpine Fly Fisher's club secretary. I have appointed him into that position. He will remain there until our next general election, at which time we can vote on the position.

Thank you Howard

## Target and Distance Casting Practice Seminar

*Conducted By Jim C. Chapralis*

In order to enjoy better fishing results, it is necessary for most anglers to practice casting on a continuing basis. Admittedly, to some, practice is B-O-R-I-N-G, so it's my job to make casting practice so much fun you'll almost like it as much as fishing! (And down the road you might even want to enter a casting tournament!)

LESSON ONE: Why we need to practice? Except in still fishing, jigging or trolling, casting skill is the most important determining factor in fishing success. This is especially true in fly fishing. You can obtain the best fly-fishing gear money can buy, reserve prime time at a storied trout river, but if you are a poor caster, your results will suffer. Suppose you're on a Montana blue-ribbon trout stream and your guide points out a big brown. You know, the kind that has spots almost as large as a dime? Even the guide is excited as he whispers his strategy: "Ya gotta put that fly about five feet above him, in his feeding lane. Don't cast over him 'cuz he'll spook. If you cast too far ahead of him, you'll have drag. He's a big fella, I'll tell ya. And don't slap the fly down hard." Geez! So there you are. Waist deep in the river. The big trout is sipping flies methodically. Slurp. Pause. Slurp. Pause. Pause. Slurp!

You paid \$590 for that graphite rod, the one that's shaking in your trembling hand, two hundred bucks for the fly reel, and hundreds of dollars for lines, flies, waders and other incidentals. And, of course, there are lodge expenses, the airline tickets, and the guide. A small fortune. Your guide is watching you closely as you lengthen your cast. The moment of truth. You. The fish. The quivering rod. The trout. The big trout. Perhaps a "lifetime trout." Can you make that cast? Will your cast land too short? Will you dump that leader like a batch of cooked spaghetti on the trout's head?

Maybe you'll make that perfect cast, and the fish will rise to the fly. Maybe. Perhaps you're in the Keys and your guide spots a tarpon about 80 feet away. The wind is blowing the wrong way (it always is, at critical times). You will need to double haul. Maybe with only one false cast make a 70- to 80-foot cast. Will you be able to make that cast?

This is not going to be a how-to-cast department. Thankfully, there are lots of great books on casting. By Joan Wulff, Lefty Kreh and Mel Krieger just to name three. Video tapes, too. There are hundreds--perhaps thousands--of fly-casting schools across the country. Tackle manufacturers, fly shops and qualified individuals regularly conduct these schools. Even Castwell at the Fish-In. A lot of people go to these casting seminars, and most learn to cast well enough to catch some fish, and a few attentive students master the casting technique quickly.

But most of us, put away that fly rod until the next fishing trip, which may be months away, and learned lessons, casting stroke, timing and narrow loops dissolve into a hazy memory. "Geez, did Bob tell me to stop the rod here or there? Thumb on top of the grip. Right? Do I cast with my wrist?" Forgotten lessons. The answer is practice. This holds true for some veteran fly fishermen, most intermediate anglers and all novice fly casters. Practice. Practice. Practice. It's natural that after you've learned to cast you want to go fishing. You don't want to practice. Practice is boring, you say. It's like having to practice music scales when instead you want to play Bach or Beethoven. Or Brubeck or Basie.

My job here is not only to make "practice casting" not boring, but to make it so interesting that you'll want to practice often. Whenever you have some spare time.

Okay, down the line, I'm talking about tournament casting. Hey, hold on . . . don't click me off. You don't have to compete in tournaments (although some of you may want to later on when those competitive juices start flowing). I'm talking about making casting practice so much fun, so challenging, that you not only develop good casting skill (so that next time you can make that cast to that brown on the Montana stream, or reach that tarpon on the flats), but actually look forward to your next session with enthusiasm.

What is great, is that you can do your target and distance casting practice almost anywhere, and it will only cost you a few dollars total. Every time you stop to sock a bucket of golf balls it costs money. Every time you shoot a round of trap or skeet it costs money. Right? Not so in casting. In addition to your tackle that you already own, the practice casting materials will cost you \$14.87. Less if you want to make them yourself.

Remember. Much of the fun of fly fishing for trout is the actual fly casting. I once computed that our small fishing club made 187 casts per person for each trout he rose (most of our fishing is "blind"). Doesn't it make sense then that you should enjoy your fly casting while fishing to a point where it is almost a reward in itself? The more you become skilled at fly casting, the more you're going to enjoy fly fishing. And catch more fish.

Jim C. Chapralis

Next session: The ground rules and targets

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## A Fly Shop Review

Bill Aubrey usually does a fly shop review but since he was busy in South Carolina visiting his new granddaughter, I thought I would cut him some slack and put in a piece I wrote while fishing in Montana.



## Prewett Creek Inn & Fly Shop Cascade, Montana

*By Larry Gibbs*

I had the opportunity to sit down and spend some time with Phil Camera in his fly shop on the Missouri River. Phil & Joan Camera own the Prewett Creek Inn & Fly Shop in Cascade, Montana. It is located near the Missouri River, down river from the Gary Cooper Bridge, the old bridge on Old US Hwy 91. He built the business from scratch, having bought the property in 2003.

On the property, they have 4 rooms with double beds and a 2 bedroom cottage. They also have access to a number of houses and cabins in the area that are available for renting, especially for groups of fly fishers. All of those places are right on the river.

He maintains a fly shop where he also sells equipment needed by drift boaters and rafters who are floating the river. He has enough fly tying material in his shop so that you can tie just about any fly you would ever use on the Missouri. Phil has drift boats that you can rent, and he does the put in and take out for you. He has rafts and pontoon boats that you can also rent. They run a shuttle service for those wanting to drift the river on their own.

Phil has a colorful history with the fly fishing world. He was the inventor of Larva Lace, a product many of us love using for tying various flies. While talking with him he kept asking if I knew this person or that person, all names very familiar in the world of fly fishing.

Like many of us 'old timers' he started tying flies using Herter's equipment and supplies. He grew up on the east coast but moved out west many years ago. He started a fly tying materials business, Inter-Tac, in Woodland Park, Colorado where he sold his Larva Lace and many other materials world wide. After he sold his business in 2001, he spent some time in the South Pacific working but doing a lot of fishing. Now he spends 9 months out of the year in Cascade at his inn and fly shop, and the rest of the time he winters in Colorado. They are open from mid-March through mid-November.

Prewett Creek Inn  
2468 Old US Hwy. 91  
Cascade, MT 59421

Phone: 406-468-9244

Reservations Only: 800-509-3943

Website: <http://www.prewettcreekinn.com>

Email: [reservations@prewettcreekinn.com](mailto:reservations@prewettcreekinn.com)

## Quote Of The Month

“The next day broke better. The wind was still down stream, it is true, and strong. But the sky was blue and silver, the air incredibly clear, and the river valley looked as though it had been newly painted green. I started to walk up about ten o’clock, confident of a good day. In the second meadow above the house a fish was feeding. It is a deep, steady-flowing bit of the river, a notable harbor for good trout, but a bad rising place. However, there he was, rising regularly, at something not distinguishable. I put on my smallest hackle olive quill. He took it at once, sailed about for a bit, and then darted through two beds of weeds, jumped twice, and plunged head downwards into a third. By great good fortune I managed to get my line so nearly clear that the fish could be felt once more. I was congratulating myself prematurely, when I was clumsy and the fly came back.”

John Waller Hills ‘A Summer On The Test’ 1924

## Postcards In The Mail

I mailed an envelope to each Alpine Fly Fisher Club member that I have on my list. It contains a self addressed and stamped postcard. Please answer the questions on the back of the postcard, then mail it back to me. I am looking for some direction from the club members as to what you want our would like to see within our club.

Please take a minute to answer the few questions and mail it back to me. If you did not receive a letter from me then you are not on the member roster. Please contact me so we can correct that problem.

Thanks, Larry

## Fly of the Month

### The Gartside Gurgler

By George E. Emanuel  
Pennsauken, NJ, USA  
Photos by the Author

**Hook:** Mustad 3407 sizes 2-2/0.

**Thread:** White 3/0.

**Tail:** Sparse bucktail over which are a few strands of Pearl Crystal Flash, or Glimmer.

**Body:** Segmented white closed cell foam.

**Rib:** Natural grizzly hackle.

**Shell:** White foam pulled forward over body.



For a step by step visit FAOL Fly Tying Archives at:

<http://www.flyangersonline.com/flytying/fotw/051799fotw.php>

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# Alpine Fly Fishers

## June / July 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>June 1</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	<b>23 NO MEETING AT THIS TIME</b>	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<b>July 1</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	27	<b>28 NO Meeting, See you in Sept.</b>	29	30	31	

### NOTICE:

#### **We will have a new mailing address soon**

Club correspondence can be sent to:

Alpine Fly Fishers  
PO Box 3486  
Federal Way, WA 98036

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).

### **Club Officers:**

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-863-4910
Vice President:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	253-568-7965
Secretary:	Howard Inks	253-881-1885
Ghilly:	Joe Fitzpatrick	253-405-7356
Outings Coord:	Bob Jacobs	360-897-8733
Programs Coord:	Bill Aubrey	253-678-3683
Librarian:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Webmaster:	Steve Egge	253-841-1093