

# Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Meeting*

*Will Be Tuesday*

**March 25**

*We will be meeting at the*

*Puerto Vallarta*

*215 15th St. SE*

*Puyallup at 6 PM*



## The Dead Drift - March 2014

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

#### **The Club Library**

I have been doing an inventory of our club library. After reviewing the materials and the lack of usage of same, I sent an email out to the Board of Directors about a possible change in how we operate the library. They agreed that a change was in order. So, I will be sending out a PDF listing all of our library items: books and DVD's. This list will be sent to every member. Then, when I send out the usual pre-meeting notice every month, if any member wants to obtain a book or DVD they must email me back with their request and I will bring that book or DVD to the club meeting. The actual library will not be available at the meetings. We will give this method a try for a year. Then we will reevaluate the library.

#### **Lone Lake Outing**

Steve Egge finalized the date for the Whidbey Island / Lone Lake outing. This year it will be the **last weekend of March**. The **28th & 29th & 30th**. Check out Page 10 for more information. A couple weeks prior to the outing I will send out an email with a PDF that will contain the full directions and aerial photos showing how to get to Steve's house.

#### **AFF Hats**

The sale of the Alpine Fly Fishers hats was well received last night at the February meeting, with a total of **21** hats sold. If you were not at the meeting and you want a hat, please speak up now, via sending me an email and I will set one aside for you. I only bought a limited number of hats and once they are all sold, there will not be any more.

#### **Fishing Licenses**

The 2013 Montana fishing license expired on March 1. The WA State fishing license expires on March 31, so make sure you buy your 2014 fishing license soon.

#### **Presentations**

I want to thank Tom Van Gelder for his presentation about the Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy. The club voted in a \$500 donation to the organization. Thanks everyone. Also, I want to thank Mike Koslosky for his presentation about Matching the Hatch. He had some good info and pointers about fly fishing.

Good fishing.

Larry

# International Federation of Fly Fishers

## Fly of the Month

~ Yak Skwala~

March 204

By  
Bob Bates



Spring is coming and that is the time when many of us start thinking about hatching insects and the fish that feed on them. One of the early hatches on several rivers is the Skwala stonefly, a large insect that lives in clean, well oxygenated fast-water. It is 1-1/4 inches long including the tails and antenna; the body is 1/2-inch long.

Depending on water temperature movement can start in the last week of February, and by March the afternoon hatch is well under way. The nymphs become active when the temperature reaches the high 30s with the best starting temperature about 42 degrees F. As the nymphs crawl around, some become dislodged by the faster water and drift downstream. This is a good time to cast a Skwala nymph pattern. The hatch is usually well underway when water temperatures reach the mid to high 40s.

Fishing instructions start with "dress warmly." Remember this is a pre-runoff hatch. Dead drift the nymph with a sink tip line and twitch it a little. It can also be fished under a strike indicator or large dry fly. Put about 3 feet of tippet between the strike indicator or dry fly and nymph. The fish aren't real active at these water temperatures, but there is no question about the strike.

Editors note: The Yakima River has a very good Skwala hatch as early as late February and well into March, depending upon the weather and water. Many rivers in Montana, including the Clark Fork, also have good Skwala hatches, usually a little later in the April time frame, again depending upon the weather and the water. This is a strange year for weather so check with the local fly shops in the Ellensburg area to find out when the Skwala hatch actually is on.

### Materials:

**Hook:** Tiemco TMC 2302 size 6-8

**Bead:** Gold 3/32-inch

**Thread:** Brown 6/0

**Tail:** Olive goose biot

**Rib:** Medium gold wire

**Body:** Dubbing Kaufman's Angora goat, Olive Brown or Golden Stone

**Legs:** Round rubber brown

**Hackle:** Dyed Olive grizzly or brown dyed grizzly.

Continued on Page 3

### Tying Steps:

1. Most of us smash the barb down so we can release fish easier.
2. Tie on biots with curved side out to make the tails go out to side. The tail on a Skwala is longer than on most stoneflies, up to 1/2-inch long.
3. Tie on wire
4. Start putting dubbing on thread, but keep it very thin. Can always put more on the thread and wrap more. Build body a little thicker forward.
5. Bring Rib forward, tie off and trim.



6. Tie on legs one pair at a time. Put a little more dubbing behind, between and in front of legs. Then move thread with a little dubbing to behind legs.
7. Select a saddle hackle with lots of marabou like barbs, schallpen works great. Strip off a little of the fuzzy hackle, and tie the feather on to hook with shaft on far side of hook and behind far side legs. Bring thread between legs to in front of legs. Wrap about 2-1/2 turns of the fuzzy hackle in middle of legs and tie off in front of legs.

The Skwala hatch does not last long, so you need to check with your fly shops or local guides for information. It is usually over by the end of April, or when the runoff comes. Tie a few Yak Skwala patterns and go fishing. This pattern has so much movement in the water that it makes me think it will work at other times also.

## Tim Rajeff

### Featured Presenter at the 2014 WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair

*By Vern Jeremica*

At the 2014 Washington State Council Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, an icon in the fly casting world, Tim Rajeff, will be our featured fly casting demonstrator and presenter. During the show he will be holding a clinic, a class, and provide continuing education to all casting instructors. If you are at all interested in improving your casting, his clinic will be a “Must Attend.”



Tim, three years younger than his brother Steve, grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. They lived very close to Golden Gate Park which is home to the Golden Gate Angling Casting Club. This club is graced with man made ponds for fly casting, spinning and bait casting. The Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club, since its inception, has been the home of some of the world and nation’s best casters and fly fishing mentors. Growing up in a flourishing casting environment, with frequent summer visits to local fishing haunts like Yosemite or the Russian River, the Rajeff brothers not only gained an appreciation for casting, but many types of fishing as well.



## AFF Hats On Sale Now!!!

*By Larry Gibbs*

I purchased some baseball style hats for the club. They will be on sale starting at our February club meeting.

Cost is \$12 per hat.

All funds collected will go into the AFF treasury and will be used as the club decides.

Supplies are limited. This is a one time offer. When these hats are all sold, there will be no others.

## AFF Hats On Sale Now!!!

### A Fly Fishing Quote:

*“Memories are a major part of fishing. Their pleasures reach back through the years to favorite rivers and familiar pools. The mind is a rich assemblage of recollections, planning tactics for the future and remembering the companions of other seasons. Some of those companions will no longer join us for the fly-hatches of the coming spring, and the continuing life of the river is a yearly reminder of our own mortality.”*

*Remembrances of Rivers Past - Ernest Schwiebert*

### WSCFFF & IFFF Events in 2014

The Washington State Council Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg will be on **Saturday** & **Sunday** in 2014, not Friday and Saturday. That is the first weekend in May. **May 3 & 4, 2014.**

The International Federation of Fly Fishers' Fly Fishing Fair will be **August 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 9<sup>th</sup>** in 2014, at Livingston, Montana.

### Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2014

**March 25** — April 22 — May 27 — June 24 (Picnic)  
July & August (No Meetings) — September 23 — October 28  
November 25 — December 16 (Fund Raiser Raffle)

## **The Dry Fly Fishing Revolution**

Frederick Maurice Halford

April 1844 - March 1914

In 1879 When Frederick Maurice Halford Chanced to meet Captain George Selwyn Marryat in the Winchester tackle shop, a friendship began which was destined to change fly-fishing forever. Halford, then aged forty-five, was to move to a house near Houghton Mill on the test River the following year. The prescribed method of fishing the Test was the traditional wet fly but, Halford had already been introduced to and captivated by, dry fly fishing, on a tributary of the Thames. He spent the next six years working with Marryat on the flora and fauna of chalk streams, noting the natural insects and devising ways of tying artifices which would both float and be an accurate copy. The joint results were published under Helford's name in 1886. The methods advocated in, Floating Flies and How to Dress Them, spread like a brush fire. Basically, the concept was to cast upstream only to trout seen feeding on the surface. The fly used would be an exact imitation of the natural winged insect in which by close observation the fish was interested in. To suggest that Halford invented dry-fly fishing is, of course, nonsense: it simply evolved. He undoubtedly revolutionized the technique. His ideas were embraced with enthusiasm, though unfortunately they were gradually converted into dogma. Halford himself may have become less flexible as he grew older and his Dry Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice, written in 1889, reflects the expansiveness of his observations and thoughts. Although few of his original patterns are fished today, their underlying theme is echoed in the vast majority of patterns which followed, together with their manner of use.

Copied from the WSCFFF website: [www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

### **Fisheries Conservation IFFF Joins Elwha River Lawsuit**

The IFFF and three other conservation groups have asked the US District Court for Western Washington to halt planned releases of hatchery coho salmon and steelhead into the Elwha River and planned collection of returning adult steelhead for hatchery broodstock until the Court has an opportunity to determine whether the releases comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

### **Casting Instructor Education CI Prep Clinic Coming to Missoula, MT**

A Casting Instructor Preparation Clinic will be held on April 3, 2014 in Missoula, MT. The class will include an overview of the CI exam and hands-on casting instruction from members of the IFFF Casting Board of Governors.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **March**

March 1-2 Fly Fishing Show, Lancaster, PA

March 7-9 NW Expo, Albany, OR

March 7-9 Southern Council FF School, Norfolk, AR

March 15 Central Oregon Flyfishers Annual Fundraising Banquet, Bend, OR

March 20-22 Sowbug Roundup, Mt. Home, AR

March 28-29 Fly Caster Rendezvous, Williamsport, MD

### **Welcome Kit Seaton!**

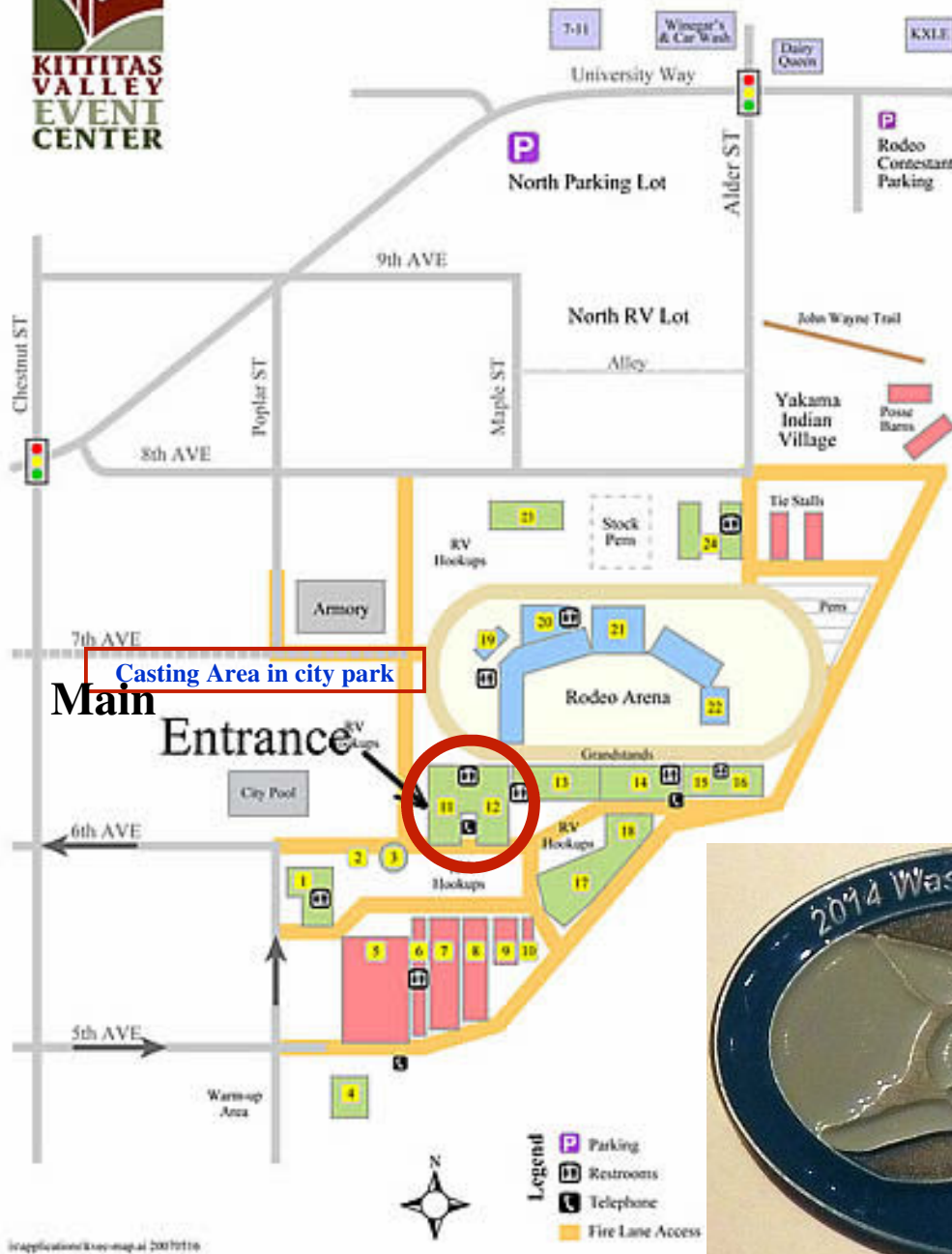


Kit, a Federator from Billings, Montana, has been selected to continue the Fly of the Month series.

# Washington Fly Fishing Fair

Location:

Northeast corner of Ellensburg

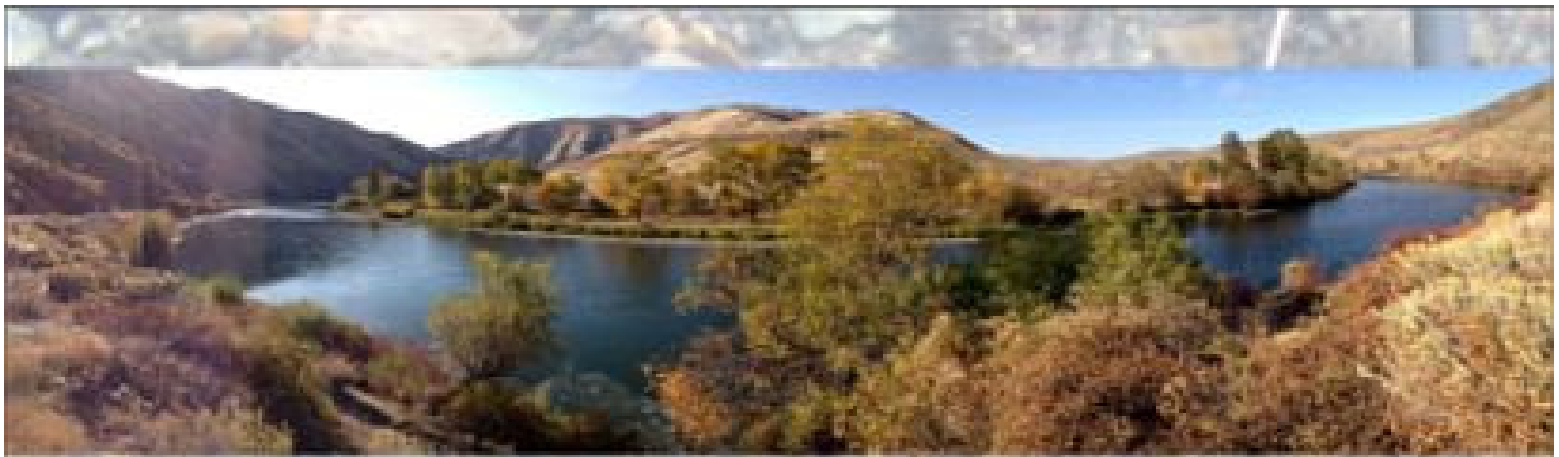


**March Guest Speaker**

**Bob Jimerson**

**“Furled Leaders”**

Bob will give a presentation on furled leaders. How to make them and fish with them.



The Washington State Council  
of the  
International Federation of Fly Fishers presents the 8th Annual

## Fly Fishing Fair

“Explore the Art of Fly Fishing”

- \* Workshops and Programs
- \* Fly Casting and Demonstrations
- \* Fly Tying Demonstrations
- \* Vendor Exhibits
- \* Raffles and Silent Auctions
- \* Live Auction
- \* Awards Banquet

**General Admission \$5**

**IFFF Members & Youth Under 16 FREE!**

(to register in advance visit [www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org))



Exhibit Hall Hours:  
Saturday May 3, 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sunday May 4, 8 AM - 3 PM  
Kittitas County Fair Grounds, Ellensburg, WA



Banner photo courtesy of Jack Mitchell - The Evening Hatch, Background photo courtesy of Dave Williams

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## Mike Rowland

Trying to give my mind a rest, trying to keep my head above the blues, so I don't stop, I just keep on thinking about Mike. I spent my first work day at Sportsman Warehouse with Mike; it was an early spring Saturday 6 AM morning, with the rain hammering down. I was assigned to work with Mike, we did not know each other from Adam, it was Kids Fishing Derby at



Bradley Lake, sponsored by the Tacoma Sportsman's Club and supported by Sportsman's Warehouse. Mike didn't know it, but he was driving, we grabbed a table from the break room and hauled it out to his truck with a box of Sportsman's Warehouse give-a-ways. We cleared out the floor space and bench seat on the passenger side of his Ford pickup so that the give-a-way box and I would fit, shifted around the yard waste stacked in the back of his truck with a Fosters Beer can or two, to make space for the table. All the while Mike grumbled about the imposition he was enduring on behalf of work; up at the crack of dawn or as he so eloquently put it "I don't even get up this early to fish", about working in the cascading rain, providing the transportation with a truck filled with yard trash from a missed dump run, and having to work with the new guy; his grumble was half in jest, half in earnest.

At Bradley we drove across the soggy grass and found an open space amongst the confusion of support vehicles, checked in with the organizers and received bright chartreuse T-shirts proclaiming us volunteers at the Kids Fishing Derby, Bradley Lake May 18, 2013. Our proud T-shirts were dawned and then covered by our rain coats, never to be seen the rest of the day, we set up our table, taped on the Sportsman's Warehouse banner and laid out the kids fishing loot, stringers, multi-tools and water based Sportsman's Warehouse tattoos amongst the water collecting on its pot hole surface. The open sky covered our heads and the rain found all the openings.

We were in the thick of it now. Bold and timid, these pint sized packages of humanity armed with fishing rods and with pictures of caught fish and glory firmly held in their imaginations, stepped up to our table to ask for fish stringers, multi-tools or tattoos. Mike answered each request with humor and encouragement. "Been fishing long, how many are you going to catch, be sure and use worms or power bait near the willows and brush that's where the fish will be holding"! Mike was in his element, visiting, telling stories and helping others, his eyes shined and his laughter and good humor filled the low light and wet morning as we shivered in our damp coats.

As the Fishing Derby commenced our clientele dispersed to the water's edge, our next clients were the kids who after catching their first fish realized that they did not have stringers and they came to our tables in 1, 2, 3 and 4 bearing their catch with delight, joy and pride. Much to Mike and my dismay those fish were laid upon our table amongst our give-a-ways; while the kids opened the stringer's packaging to string their trophies. Soon our wares were covered in blood, scales and fish slime and the Sportsman's Warehouse banner had blood streaks running down its surface. We recovered as most experienced fishermen would, we made feeble swipes with our wet hands to get most of the mess off the table and then let the rain do the rest of the work carrying the slime, blood and scales earthward to mingle with the grass and mud at our feet.

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With that part of our customer outreach completed we each pocketed multi-handful's of give-a ways and took our show on the road well more exactly we walked the path around Bradley Lake to meet and greet the rest of this pint sized throng of humanity and their adult support crews.

Here is where Mike truly shined, his ability to walk up to perfect strangers and put them at ease was wonderful to watch, he had an open warmth and with his quick wit, able to find humor in any situation, he had people laughing and sharing stories from the first meet. We made a lot of friends for Sportsman's that day and saw many of them in the store afterwards. As we walked the Lake, Mike and I began to visit we shared stories about fishing, working at Sportsman's, families', careers and other life events and expectations.

Like most of us, Mike had been hit hard by the economic downturn. After his contracting job at Joint Base Lewis - McCord went south and he couldn't find work he took up fishing full time, to make up for all the fishing he had missed when the economy was flush. He lost his house and moved in with his mother to help her and him meet today's economic challenges of staying afloat. After his money ran out he took a job at Sportsman's in Lacey and eventually here in Puyallup working for his good friend Keith. He loved his past wives, (his tone was of missed opportunities) missed seeing his kids and grandkids that lived upstate and out of state. He was proud of his sons' one who was going for his Captaincy with the Washington State Ferry. Mike talked with high praise of his Pit Bull Peppy. Peppy was Mike's boon companion and Mike looked forward to seeing her and the end of each work day or fishing trip, it riled him some at the public misconception of Pit Bulls being ornery while Peppy was so gentle.

Mike's health was not the best, he had suffered a previous stroke and his asthma did not help his sleeping and recovery, but through it all Mike kept on keeping on. After we had hiked the lakes nether regions we made it back to our Sportsman's Warehouse table with it still slightly blood stained sign. All of our stringers were gone; we had a few multi-tools and a mess of water soaked and un-useable tattoos but in all, not too much of a mess to clean up. It had been a successful meet and greet, the kids had fish, stringers, multi-tools and tattoos and the parents had Sportsman's Warehouse discount coupons. We had witnessed lots of children greeting their catches with shouts of joy or squeals of laughter. Some held their catches with trepidation and at arm's length, while other embraced their fish covering themselves in blood and guts, just kids at their best being kids.

Mike and I broke down our temporary Bradley Lake camp, navigated through the parking nightmare of lawn, mud and haphazardly parked cars to the dry and warm confines of Sportsman's Warehouse. After a thorough cleaning and drying of our banner and table we marshaled our draining energy reserves and reappeared on the sales floor.

It was a good first day at work and Mike had made it so, reflecting back on the days at work that came after that opening day, (in my effort to keep my blues at Mike's passing at bay). Mike and I hit it off, and it made each day at work with him a pleasure, to share with the customers a joy of fishing and storytelling while filling the shelves with lures, nets, and lining reels. One of my favorite memories of Mike was during Humpy Season, we were up to our proverbial eyeballs in customers; when a customer asked Mike if there was a charge for relining a reel, without hesitation Mike in his usual droll manner remarked that it would cost the customer fifty dollars plus and extra \$5 to walk all the way from the end of the counter to get the reel, I just as quickly added, you better pay him, it's cheaper than having to listen to his stories. Mike smiled, the customer laughed and the line behind us joined in the laughter with us, and Mike's banter began.

Gentle readers for those of you who did not have the pleasure of meeting Mike I had written about him in a previous article called, "Fishing with Mike". One day soon I will stand on the bank of a sweet flowing river with fish holding at my feet and drink a Fosters in his memory (minus a maggot if you please) and toast my good friend and fishing companion Mike.

Mike was a joy to work and fish with, his wit, storytelling and companionship will be missed by those who knew him.

The planet does not  
need more successful  
people. The planet  
desperately needs  
more peacemakers,  
healers, restorers,  
storytellers and lovers  
of all kinds.

*Dali Lama*

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

### **Lone Lake—Whidbey Island Outing**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>**

*By Steve Egge*

Well it is nearing that time again to give Lone Lake on Whidbey Island another fishout.

The outing will be **Friday March 28 – Sunday March 30**. Lone lake is on the south end of Whidbey Island and is between Langley and Freeland near Bayview. I have a Cabin on the water and between beds and cots everyone can stay there. We will work out food and we might be able to dig some clams to have for dinner also. Lots of options. Last year a few hardy souls plied the beaches in search of cutthroat but came up short, as the wind and tides were not very favorable.


Lone lake is a fairly small lake with a good launch area on it. Great pontoon boat lake ... it is a Chironomid, woolley bugger sort of fishery and there are some good trout in it. The wind can get nasty but it can also be amazing if you happen to hit one of those nice spring weekends ... we will take the chance. If we get blown off the lake there are other things we can occupy our time with (clam digging, walking on the beach, exploring Fort Casey, or having a wee dram of scotch or other beverage).

Should be a fun outing. Contact me and let me know you are coming and when. I will arrive late Thursday night as I have a Dinner meeting that evening in Bellevue I need to attend. So, don't plan on starting to arrive until Friday. I can promise good coffee and a great beach house to stay in. No control over the weather or the response of the fish.

Please bring a pillow/sleeping bag/ towel / personal items and your fishing gear. My sister has a newly built bunk house over her garage that she will let us use (sleeps 6+ with bathroom and shower) and these items will help prevent a lot of clean up time.

**Editors Note: I will be sending out a PDF to every club member that will contain both directions to Steve's house and aerial photos.**

# March / April 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
★ <b>Montana licenses EXPIRE on March 1, buy a new one now!!</b>					★	<b>1</b>
★ <b>Buy your 2014 WA fishing license by no later than March 31!!</b>					★	<b>March</b>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Lone Lake 30	24 ★ 31	<b>25 Club Meeting</b>	26	27	28 Lone Lake	29 Lone Lake
Studded tires off by March 31		<b>1 April</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	<b>22 Club Meeting</b>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	 <b>WA Fly Fishing Fair E'Burg - May 3 &amp; 4</b>		

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club  
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**Sumner, WA 98390**

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)

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