

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Tuesday

October 22

As always, at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM


FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club
1000 Stewards member



The Dead Drift - October 2019

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

October, my favorite month to fly fish. I remember when PJ and I took a trip to Dillon, MT to fish the Big Hole River. That was many years ago. We mainly went to try for the large Browns that were supposed to be coming up river to spawn. But, they were not around. However, we did catch a fair number of fish. The thing I remember most about the trip was the snow that was building up in the nearby mountains. The air was crisp and cold. Leon was our guide and for lunch we stopped along the river and built a nice warm campfire. The hardwood trees were in their yellow and red attire. The leaves were drifting down along with a few hints of snow. That was a good trip. Our last one to the Big Hole area if I remember right. The fishing just didn't happen the way it should have. Right after that is when I started fishing the Clark Fork River in the St. Regis area. A river I still go back to every year, my favorite river to fish in Montana.

Please take note of page 11, Project Healing Waters '[Healing Saturday](#)' set for September 28 at Puget Sound Fly Co. On page 10 we have the [Pasayten Wilderness for July 2020](#) trip info that Walt Ayers is trying to put together. On page 6 the info for the '[Guide Recommended](#)' website. On page 12 is an article and photo of some land the WA State Council FFI, Inland Empire FF Club and the Wild Steelhead Coalition are in the process of buying to keep a great section of the [Grande Ronde River](#) available to people who fish. Check it out. **Steelheaders - ATTENTION!!!!**

Want to contribute to this worthy cause? See me.

If you were at our September meeting you would have heard my fishing report. But, for those of you who were not there let me say this: In the middle of September I did a float with Steve Worley (Worley Bugger Fly Co.) and it was the best day I have had on the Yakima River in a very long time. Fantastic fishing. Many large Rainbows and a few large Cutthroats. A couple massive trout (lost them very close to the boat, oh well) and a very large number of trout in the 10" to 12" range. The larger trout? In the 15" to 20" range. The massive trout? Well, for sure over 22" and very heavy of body. Yes, a very good day for sure. Thank you Steve!!! (PS: I went again the following week and had yet another great day on the river.)

Our October speaker is a world class speaker, well, maybe not world class, maybe a continental class, or should I say a state class....I guess he is not even a town class speaker. I will be the October speaker and I will be talking about fishing for large Rainbows on the Columbia River up in British Columbia. See you all there!!!

Good fishing.



Larry

Fly Fishing International

Fly of the Month

October 2005

EARL MADSEN SKUNK

By Bob Bates

“This fly floats so well you could hang a bowling ball from it.” That was how Julie Nielsen, from Rockford, Michigan first described this pattern at the 40th Anniversary (2005) FFF Conclave in Livingston, MT. She later modified it a little to: “...hang bead heads from it.”

The pattern, also known as the Michigan Skunk, was originated in 1930 by long time AuSable River guide Earl Madsen. It is definitely a proven pattern and might even fit the category of a classic pattern. Modern guides often use it to put their clients into fish. Also, they would prefer that Julie didn't talk about it so much. Everybody wants to keep a good thing secret.

How you fish it is usually determined by the situation. If fish are clearly rising and taking large insects use dry fly techniques. In a stream cast upstream of the working fish, and let the fly drift drag free down to them. A reach cast or careful line mends might be needed to assure the drag free float. Sometimes a large pattern like this makes a good searching fly. Julie commented: “The beauty of fishing the Skunk is that you can get some vicious strikes by ‘popping’ the fly. The bushy elk hair head pushes lots of water if you twitch the fly abruptly in pockets and around structures.”

If rising fish are cruising in stillwater try to estimate where the fish will rise again and put your fly there. It is most satisfying to see your fly disappear in a mighty swirl. If nothing is happening on the surface, hang a bead head or other weighted fly from a Michigan Skunk. Try to put the fly where the fish might be. In other words use enough leader or tippet to suspend the fly near the bottom in stillwater. Set the hook if the fly goes under or does anything strange. In moving water the starting guide line is use a leader that is twice as long as the depth of water being fished. If the fly stops, moves sideways or goes under you are either hung up or into a fish. Set the hook to be sure.

Fluorocarbon is used by many anglers because it's specific gravity is greater than water so it sinks, and it's index of refraction is close to water so it is nearly invisible. One thing, if an Earl Madsen Skunk is being used as a strike indicator your friends can't say you are bobber fishing.

Materials List:

Hook: TMC 101, size 10

Thread: Dynacord Superfine

Tail: White calf tail

Body: Tinsel chenille

Wing: Premium elk

Legs: White round rubber

Tying Steps:

1. Put hook into vise at the bend, and line it with thread. Leave the thread a little in front of point.



FOTM Cont. on page 3 →

2. Cut a bunch of calf tail about the diameter of one or two wooden match sticks. Hold the bunch by the tips and pull out the under fur and short hair. Hand stack it, measure the bundle to give a tail 1-1/2 gap widths behind the bend. Hold hair on the hook and cut the butts at a point about 1/3 rd shank length back from the eye. Secure hair on top of hook. Leave thread at point of hook.

3. Strip some of the fuzzy part off chenille to expose the thread core. Attach the chenille on top of the tail by the thread core. Wind thread backward to bend of hook securing thread core.

4. Then move thread forward to just in front of the tied down tail. Wrap the chenille forward, secure and trim excess. The final position for the thread should be 1-1/2 to 2 eye widths behind the eye; this is the first wing tie-in point.

5. Cut a generous (about a wooden pencil diameter) bunch of elk hair. Comb out any under fur and stack. Place the tips not quite to the end of the tail, and trim butts at the front of the hook's eye. Hold the elk hair tightly with cut ends about over the middle of the eye. Slide the thread between thumb and hair and back down between hair and finger then tighten. Do it again tighter, and again tightest. The thread wraps should be on top of each other. Look at Julie's fingers in the pictures; she is holding everything so tightly her finger tips are white.

6. Slide the fingers toward bend of hook another 2 eye widths; this is the tie-in point for the legs. Keep the thread tight, and bring it back to the fingers, wind thread straight up and down around elk hair bundle. Make the first wind a little loose and follow it with two tight winds.

7. Put on legs one at a time with tight winds of thread so they stand out from body.

8. After securing the legs bring tight thread forward through the head, and put two half hitches behind the eye. A few spots can be put on the legs with a permanent felt pen.

Closing comments: This is a very durable fly so all you have to do grease it once in the morning, and then fish with it all day. From the stories I heard many many fish have been caught using it dry or as a strike indicator.



Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

In Wildness is the Preservation of the World

“Henry David Thoreau”

Stewards

Balance, my connection with nature makes me whole, so knowing how important the earth wellness affects me comes instinctively. While our planet has many resources that can and do provide monetary rewards; I am more drawn to its intrinsic value. I do not look at a tree and see board feet. A tree is more than jobs, a nice home or a fine piece of furniture. It is also a respite from the heat of summer, a shelter in the rain, a home and roosting spot for birds, animals and insects, it stores carbon and release oxygen. A meadow or sand dunes do not look like a golf course to me, I see a home to birds, fish, animals and insects, a water storage system that manages water delivery throughout the seasons. Forests and meadows filter water, mitigate erosion, promote rainfall all necessary for human life. Oil fields and open pit mines usually look like destruction and chaos, gone are wildlife habitat, fish nurseries, seed banks and grazing land. The future is now hidden under tailings, and rape scars in the scramble for wealth today.

I appreciate a well-constructed wood home or a fine piece of furniture, minerals and oil, bring us computers, automobiles, transportation, graphite fishing rods, surgical instruments and communication. A round of golf can provide a close encounter with nature and a diversion from world stress. A businessman's view on these things revolve around lowest cost and highest profit. A dreamer only see's beauty and art. One sees regulations as government over-reach and too high taxes, the other see's out of control exploitation, a crashing environment and a need for more regulations.

All things are tied together, humanity, money and the environment. You cannot touch one, without affecting the others. If a project is chosen just on people, the monetary and environment suffer. The same will happen if you put money first, the environment and people suffer. All three must be balanced to get the best outcome. The rub here is that we have been out of balance for a long time, we have undervalued our natural world. Our national accounts have a profit and loss statement but no balance sheet. Our treasury takes no account of what the value of our natural assets might be and for all practical purposes largely treats our environment as worthless. With our climate at a tipping point people and business are now going to have to make some major adjustments.

The thing to remember is that as we are the cause of this climate crisis, we can mitigate this crisis, but it will take all of us to make it happen. As Stewards of our home we are responsible for its care and for passing it on to our children and grandchildren in as good a shape or better than we inherited it. More than 50% of the current carbon loading was done during the last 30 years, 85% since WWII. We are responsible for its current shape, we need to correct it now. Our children should not inherit our mess. For three quarters of a century, scientists have understood the greenhouse effect, they have known that carbon was produced by the burning, wood, coal and oil; and that it could hothouse our planet and cause it to disequilibriate everything on it. What they had not seen was the impact. We are seeing and just beginning to live with the beginning of that impact. It is only going to get worse.

I feel uncomfortable in presenting this uncomfortable truth, but the very natural world that we as fisherman enjoy is being destroyed and destabilized right in front of us and we are beyond the point of telling ourselves that it is a slow thing, that is a myth. Fish populations are crashing, trees are dying, forest are burning, and hurricanes are increasing in numbers and intensities. I'm not going to quote scientific facts and data in this article, the science is all around us and readily available from numerous sources. We have the information and documentation, now is the time to act. All the areas that fishermen have fought to protect are now being overturned. Clean water, clean air, pebble mine are all under attack. Short term gain for a few but a lifetime loss for us and our children and grandchildren's. Be a true steward and fight for your home.

With respect and hope, Stephen.

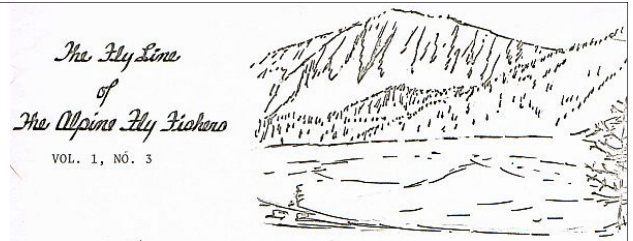
“Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after” - Henry David Thoreau

~ *In The Past* ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -
Vol. 3 No. 10

December of 1975

Reed Miller, Editor



This ~ *In The Past* ~ article was published in 1975. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate.

This is a historical document only.

Draw Prize: A book and a reel

Notice: The price of our dinner has gone up. The new price will be \$3.75, so bring an extra quarter from home.

Last Meeting: A really good turn out for Jim Johnston's program on high lakes management. After listening to Jim it becomes pretty obvious that fisheries management is a complicated thing at best. The key variables are the fish, the habitat and man. Keeping the three in some sort of balance is hard to do.

Elections: This is election meeting. The following have been nominated: President: Stan Gregory / V. President: **Pat Trotter** ; Secretary: Gary Ritchie / Treasurer: **Phil White** / Ghillie: Geoff Meyer / Trustee: Reed Miller / Trustee: **Jim Higgins**

New Member: Joining the club is Cal Dunham. Cal is married and had one child. He is a beginning fly fisherman and is sponsored by **Phil White**.

Steelhead: Wondering where to go to try for this elusive (some of us insist the fish is a myth) trout? The department of game has listed last year's top 25 streams. {**EDITORS NOTE: Based sporting and Native American catches**}

1. Skagit / 2. Cowlitz / 3. Green / 4. Quileute / 5. Skykomish / 6. Quinault / 7. Snoqualmie / 8. Queets / 9. Nisqually / 10. Nooksack / 11. Humptulips / 12. Puyallup / 13. Snowhomish / 14. N. Fork Stillaguamish / 15. Bogachiel / 16. Chehalis / 17. Hoh / 18. Toutle / 19. Misc. Marine area / 20. Lower Columbia / 21. Tokul / 22. Stillaguamish / 23. Elochoman / 24. Lyre / Lewis

Christmas Time: Don't know what to get your mate for Christmas? why not something you can borrow - like a new reel, a line, maybe even a graphite or split cane fly rod. Or perhaps a fishing vest that just happens to fit you perfectly? The possibilities are nearly endless if you really put your mind to it. Of course, I'd recommend setting up a contingency fund to cover the cost of a present you can't use, just in case.....

Fishing Reports: Don't have any good ones. Sorry about that. As a matter of fact, I haven't very many bad ones, either.

Fly Pattern: This one comes from the Clearwater Fly Casters and sounds like a good one. It should really work in beaver ponds and mid-elevation lakes.

Hook: Size #6 - 14 (2x long)

Silk: Black

Tail: A few guard hairs from a muskrat skin

Body: (Weighted) A shaggy dubbing made from the fur that lies right at the base of the cottontail rabbit's tail.
It is very important that this is the exact material be used without substitution!

Rib: Gold oval tinsel (Medium diameter)

Hackle: Sparse collar of soft grouse or partridge hackle. (The feathers from the Hun are perfect)

The Name? Well, the originator calls it the GOLD RIBBED HARE'S REAR.

Bring a guest: As part of the Christmas season, bring your wife, girl friends, etc to the meeting. Guests are always welcome.

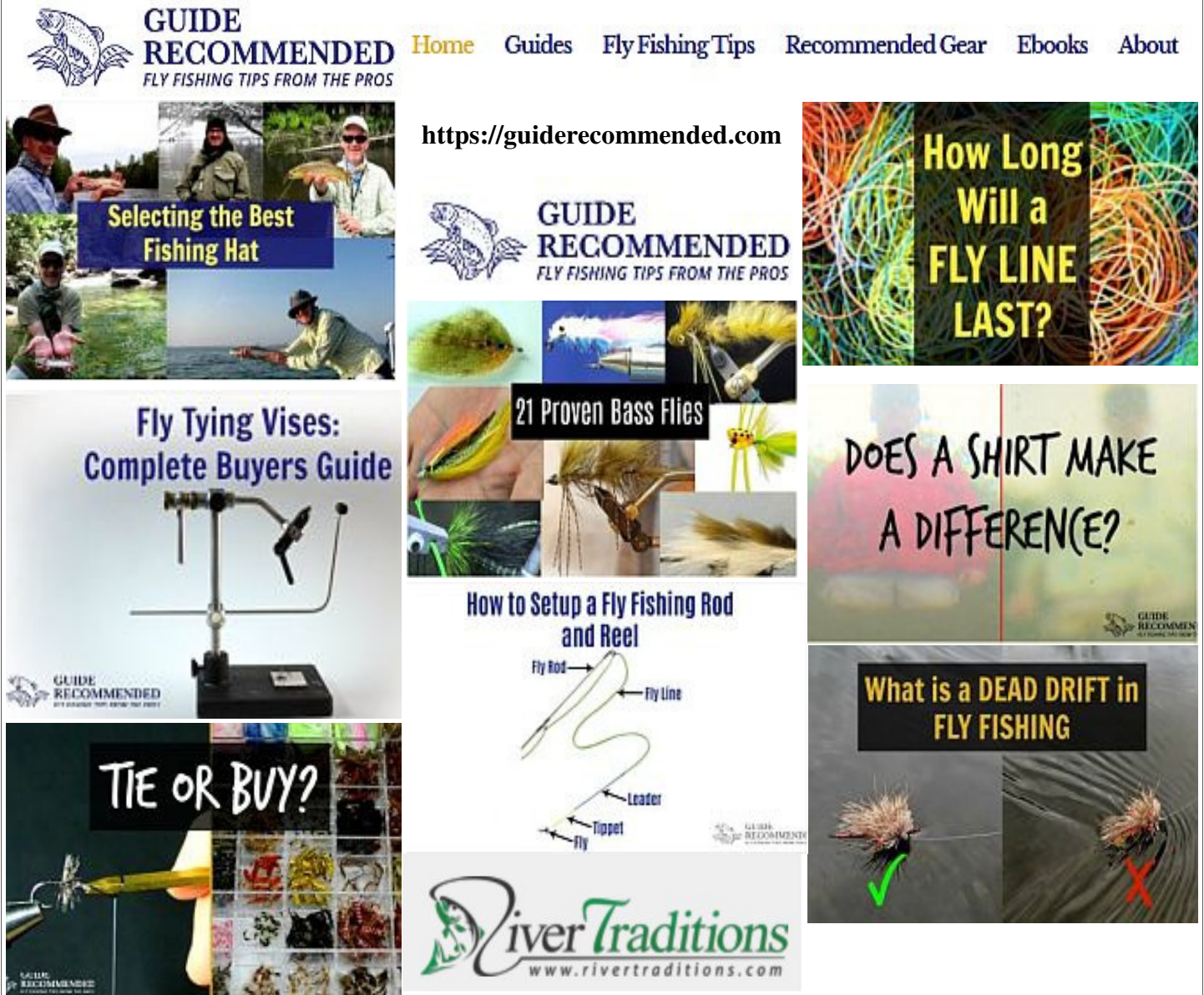
Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2019

October 22 ; November 26; December 17

Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2020

January 28; February 25; March 24; April 28; May 26; June ?? (Picnic)

July/August (no meetings); September 22; October 27; November 24; December 15



Note from the editor:

David Humphries of River Traditions has created the Guide Recommended site. I have been buying items from David for many years at his River Traditions website. His Guide Recommended site offers many helpful tips about fly fishing. Each one of the pictures is a link to some great tips and suggestions.

While you are at it, go on over to his River Traditions website at <https://rivertraditions.com> and check it out.

Larry

FFI Charter Club Benefits

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE & INDUSTRY PARTNER PROGRAMS

With FFI's Membership Incentive Program, for every 12 new FFI members your club recruits, your club receives \$75 towards the purchase of merchandise in our Industry Partner Program. Our industry leading partners provide products at discounts for club fundraisers, educational events, and member recruitment and encouragement in local projects.

CHARTER CLUB INSURANCE PROGRAM

FFI Insurance Program offers a significantly reduced premium on club insurance for FFI Charter Clubs. The master policy purchased by FFI provides Directors & Officers coverage of \$1M, Commercial General Liability of \$4M aggregate/ \$2M per occurrence, \$1M hired/ nonowned auto, and \$1M Umbrella liability. Open enrollment forms are sent with the annual report, but clubs can join any time during the year.

LEARNING CENTER

FFI's Education Committee has published learning modules for 4 major areas: Casting, Conservation, Fly Fishing Skills, and Fly Tying. Clubs can use the materials to teach and help your members enhance their skills. These comprehensive presentations will soon be accompanied by instructor/ teaching manuals. Try it out at one of your club meetings!

CONSERVATION & EDUCATION


FFI provides grants for conservation and education projects to councils, clubs and other organizations that are furthering the mission of the organization. Habitat restoration and education activities are a top priority for FFI. In addition, we offer scholarships for graduate students who are focusing on fisheries or conservation type degrees.

FFI also recognizes our members, through the Awards Program, for their work in conservation and education. Call FFI HQ for more information on grants and awards. Applications are due April 1 each year.

OTHER BENEFITS

- » No club fees.
- » FFI HQ files club federal taxes.
- » Inclusion in FFI's 501(c)3 (optional).
- » Legal advice from FFI's attorney.
- » FFI HQ staff support.
- » Access to Equipment Loan Program.
- » Club mapped & listed on FFI website.
- » Access to Speakers Bureau portal.
- » Access to Newsletter Content.
- » Access to Club Leader Report portal.
- » Flyfisher magazine, E-news, & ClubWire.
- » Local club list given to all new FFI members.
- » FFI calendar & social media postings of your events.

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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!

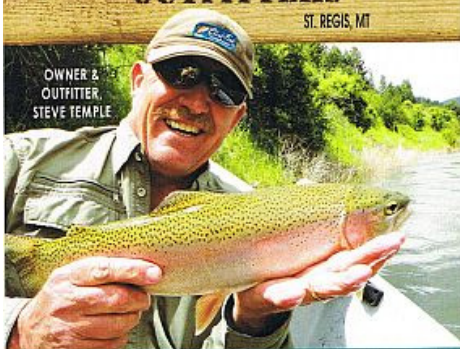


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Steve & Peggy Temple have their fly shop just on the north end of St. Regis, right across the street from the road down to the boat launch.

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TFO Fly Rod / Reel Raffle Board

We have a great rod/reel/rod case raffle board starting up at our March meeting. Check it out!

TFO **IMPACT** Fly Rod 9 foot / 6 weight / 4 piece / Fighting Butt

Medium Fast | Freshwater | Saltwater

Rod design has always been a game of compromises, until now. Impact™ rods, through an innovative fusion of fly rod functions designed to achieve the pinnacle of performance, have made this compromise a thing of the past.

Impact™ rods are unbelievably smooth and powerful, loading and unloading with maximum efficiency, and affording an effortless feel and level of performance that will impress the most accomplished angler, along with the easy loading fishability newer fly casters need. Their action merges the attributes of all your favorite rods in such a way that there's no trace of any of the familiar limitations you've had to put up with.

Each blank offers a very slim profile finished with our exclusive Tactical Series™ stripping guides and ultra-lightweight chromium-impregnated stainless snake guides. Their reduced-profile burl cork handles are both handsome and durable – plus they retain their superb feel under all fishing conditions. Blanks are matte black with black thread wraps and emerald trim. Larger models sport machined aluminum reel seats with gray carbon fiber inserts.



NXT LA II REEL

Lighter, higher-performance and now large arbor – the new Temple Fork LA NXT II reel is the definition of value in a fly reel. Lightweight cast aluminum, adjustable disc drag, and interchangeable spools make these reels a necessity for every freshwater angler. The NXT LA II reel is for 6/8 weight rods.



There is also an Adams Built rod/reel case to protect and carry this great outfit around.

Pasayten Wilderness for July 2020

Walt Ayers sent me this email:

I am interested in trying to organize a trip to the Pasayten Wilderness for July 2020. In order to find out if there is enough interest in pursuing this, I would like to put the following notice in to the next club newsletter:

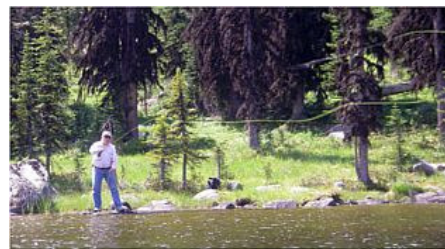
"Anyone Interested in a Fly Fishing trip, via horseback, to the Pasayten Wilderness in July 2020?"

The itinerary would be the same or similar to the one in 2009. A detailed description of what to expect for the trip, is on the Club's website, under Outings >Pasayten Wilderness. It would be a 6 day, 5 night trip. In order to have a private trip specifically for our Club, we would need a minimum of 6/maximum of 8 participants. The cost is approximately \$1500 + tax per person. This price includes everything except sleeping bag and pad, your personal stuff, and your fishing gear. My wife and I went on similar trip this past July to the Sawtooth/Lake Chelan Wilderness, and had a great time, with some fantastic fishing. The total cost for our trip was \$1625 per person.

If anyone is interested in this type of adventure, or have any questions, please let me know. If enough interest is shown by the **end of November/early December**, a non-refundable 30% deposit (about \$550) would be required by the end of December. This is needed, so we can secure the dates we want in July 2020. The balance would be due, two weeks prior to the beginning of the trip.

If interested please contact **Walter Ayers** at the club meetings or by email at **sabbatus2002@yahoo.com.**"

Thanks, Walter Ayers





Join Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing in celebrating the volunteers, supporters and communities that help make a difference in the lives of our nation's disabled veterans.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

PHWFF & Puget Sound Fly Co. will host from 11:00A-3:00P. Enjoy BBQ, drinks, swag, and enter a raffle to win a Pram + trailer. Many items on sale along with vendors and guides present.



www.projecthealingwaters.org

Grande Ronde Land Purchase

At the start of September, during a Board of Directors meeting, the **Washington State Council** Fly Fishers International voted to become involved in the purchase of some great steelhead land on the Grande Ronde so the people using the fishing area will have some place to park and camp. The WSC voted to donate **\$2,500** towards securing a PSA to place a hold on any other people from trying to purchase the land. The PSA has been secured. We now have 3 months to come up with the rest of the money so the WSC can purchase the land and donate it to the WDFW.

The Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club (IEFFC) brought this matter to our attention. They have been working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) to purchase an 8-acre parcel of land on the lower Grande Ronde River. The land, next to a couple of very popular steelhead angling spots - the **Shadow Hole and Turkey Run** - is currently being used by hundreds of steelhead anglers each year for access to the river and for parking/camping. Every steelheader who regularly fishes the lower Grande Ronde is familiar with this area and has most likely used it. Due to the generosity of the land owner, he has not posted the land however he has now decided he would like to sell it. He would prefer that it remain open for public use rather than having a private entity purchase it and then potentially block public access. The WDFW owns the shoreline easement so there would always be a narrow trail available but no parking/camping area that users have become accustomed to.

We need to raise at least \$30,000 to cover the land purchase, closing costs, and the WDFW environmental evaluation. We also plan to install a memorial to honor everyone who contributed to the project. Along with the IEFFC contribution for the earnest money, we have already received commitments from individuals.

The State will do an environmental impact study (EIS) for this action which may up to a year to complete. Hopefully the land purchase will move quickly which will leave some amount of time when the WSC will be the new landowners and can then donate it to the WDFW. The state has offered to lease the property from the WSC until such time as they can receive the land donation in order to cover the WSC in the interim for liability issues and operating expenses.



October / November 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"I saw old Autumn in the misty morn Stand, shadowless like Silence, listening To Silence." - Thomas Hood		1 October	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Club Meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	"The leaves fall patiently, Nothing remembers or grieves The river takes to the sea The yellow drift of leaves." - Sara Teasdale	

"November comes and November goes, with the last red berries and the first white snows. With night coming early, and dawn coming late, and ice in the bucket and frost by the gate. The fires burn and the kettles sing, and earth sinks to rest until next spring." - Elizabeth Coatsworth					1 November	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 Club Meeting	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
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Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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