

# Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Meeting*

*Will Be Tuesday*

**April 28**

*We will be meeting at the*

*Puerto Vallarta*

*215 15th St. SE*

*Puyallup at 6 PM*



## The Dead Drift - April 2015

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

The start of April, a month away from our WA Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, fishing across the state is opening up, and the April showers are due to arrive, at least they better since we need more water in our rivers and lakes. The Cascades are really bare this year, not a whole lot of snow and ice up there to feed our streams. Late this summer that may have a serious effect on our fishing.

Guy Magno won the latest fly rod board, CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

I want to thank Dick Sagara for his presentation on the Tenkara style of fly fishing at our February meeting. He put on a very interesting class and he also would not accept a fee for it, rather he wanted his fee to go towards a non-profit organization of the our choosing, which we did.

I spent a few days down in Albany at the Oregon Fly Tyers Expo recently. I managed to buy a few things in the silent auction and I won a number of items in the raffles, so while it helps the Oregon Council IFFF, it also helps our club and the WA Fly Fishing Fair by giving me more items to donate, plus a few items I will keep for myself. I took a couple of classes about fishing in eastern Oregon. Dave Alberts was also there and he took the same classes. Marc Williamson from Oregon was the speaker and he put on a very good show. We may end up seeing him as a guest speaker at our club sometime down the road.

### **DATE CHANGE FOR THE CLUB PICNIC - June - To Be Set**

Stephen and Terry will again host our June picnic at their place. I was just able to confirm that. Stephen had to do a little switching around with another employee where he works so as to get his days off to include Tuesday. However, we need to change the date of our picnic. I will notify everyone via email of the new date.

Don't forget, this picnic is also a fund raiser garage sale for our club. The club will split the sale price of all items 50/50 with the sellers. We get some money, you get some neat stuff and the seller gets to clear out some surplus items and add some jingle in the old wallet. Sounds like a Win/Win/Win to me. I am already gathering some goods for the sale. Start checking your inventory of items so we can bring in some much needed cash to our treasury.

Good fishing.

Larry

## International Federation of Fly Fishers

### Fly of the Month

~ Stimulator ~

April 2008

By

Bob Bates



The Stimulator is a long time favorite for many anglers throughout the world. Its popularity is undoubtedly because of its versatility for many different situations. All that is needed is a change in size, 4 to 18, and color to make fish think that they are going after a huge spring *Pteronarcys californica* stonefly, a summer grasshopper or any season caddis. Even its developer Randall Kaufmann encourages variations in color and size. In *Tying Dry Flies*, 1991 Kaufmann says: "Even a subtle change, like thread color, sometimes seems to make a difference."

Al Beatty, BT's Fly Tying Products, <http://www.btsflyfishing.com>, tied this version at the Western Rocky Mountain Council (FFF) Fly Fishing Exposition in West Yellowstone, Montana, June 30, 2007. It is a proven fish getter that can be easily changed for fussy fish by something as simple as changing the color of the Touch Dubbing where it is used. Touch Dubbing, a sparkly Antron material, is available in a dozen colors. See LaFontaine Private Label, Helena, MT 800-874-4171 <http://thebookmailer.com/index.html>. You can make your own by cutting Antron yarn in 1/4-inch pieces and mixing it in a blender. The website claims that their material is "painstakingly prepared by elves."

Fishing the Stimulator is a wide open opportunity. Use a floating line and cast so the fly drifts drag free. A reach cast sometimes does the trick. At other times a mend will be necessary, but mending should be done carefully so the fly isn't moved out of a proper line to the fish. If there is no action on the drag free float then a twitch might be in order. Some anglers give the fish a choice of the big floating Stimulator and a nymph hanging below it. The Stimulator becomes a strike indicator so watch it carefully. There will not be the sound of a splash to attract your attention.

#### Materials list:

**Hook:** Tiemco 200 R, sizes 4 to 18

**Thread:** 6/0 Brown

**Hackle:** Long saddle, brown or furnace

**Tail:** Elk hair

**Abdomen:** Peacock herl

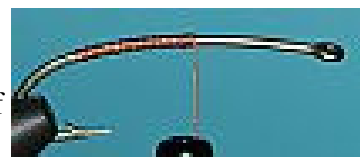
**Highlights:** Touch Dubbing: light green, black or orange

**Wing:** Elk hair

#### Tying Steps:

1. Make a thread base between mid shank and a point on the hook just in front of the barb.

2. Move thread to bend and tie on the feather for hackle by the butt. Al likes shiny side forward, but "It is important to make your materials do what you want them to do." Return thread to mid shank. (While doing this Al talked about using Static Guard when tying with deer or elk hair. Spray it on materials and yourself. It avoids a lot of problems with hair sticking to things that it shouldn't.) Cut off a bunch of elk hair, remove under fur, stack and place on top of hook so the tail is about 1-1/2 to 2 gap widths long. Secure at mid shank. Wind thread to rear while holding the elk hair on top of the hook, and return thread to mid shank. Trim butts of elk hair on a slope.



Continued on Page 3 →

3. Tie In three peacock herls by the tips on top of the elk hair. (Do not twist peacock herls.) Put some tacky dubbing wax on thread then tap the Touch Dubbing ball on the thread. Your fingers never have to touch the tacky thread. Make a dubbing loop, and put herls and thread loop parallel.



4. Since tying thread is at back of the hook bring the thread and feather forward together. Secure feather, and pull it back out of the way.



5. Cut another bunch of elk hair, remove under fur and stack. Place elk hair on hook so it will make a wing that extends to the end of the tail. Put 4 or 5 looser thread turns to control wing then wind tighter.



6. Cut butts of elk hair on a slope and wind thread tightly over the cut area. Leave the thread about an eye width behind the eye.



7. Put a little dubbing wax on thread, apply Touch Dubbing and wind thread rearward to just in front of wing.



8. Bring hackle that had been pulled back out of the way forward. Then advance feather and thread together. Secure feather, trim excess, shape a small head and put on a whip finish. Or you can put two thread winds on a half hitch tool and slip them onto the head. If you do this twice it is as good as a whip finish with a tool. A little head cement as a final touch is always a good idea.



**Closing comments:** Tie up some of these Stimulators to try on your next trip. If it is stonefly time tie big ones, if is hopper time maybe not so big and almost anytime for caddis size flies.

**Editors comments:** You tie this with an orange body and a large hook and it makes a great dry Salmonfly imitation. Larry

### Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2015

April 28 — May 26 — **June (TBD)** — July & August (No Meetings)

September 22 — October 27 — November 24 — December 15 (Club Fishing Picture Presentations)

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## Back of Beyond a Journey

Each step I took was punctuated by the backpacker's prayer "Dear Lord if you will pick them up I will put them down". It wasn't quite that bad but close; it was mid morning on Friday and Sean and I were just beginning a steep climb up a forested slope in the White River drainage. My lungs were sucking in oxygen, my body was buzzing from the affects of the Excedrin I had taken two hours earlier and the headache it was masking. The sky was pewter gray and threatening rain. But in spite of my bodies discomfort and less than perfect weather, I was where I needed and wanted to be, I was in the Back of Beyond.

Sean had called me the day before and asked if I wanted to go on a day hike with him, In short my answer was yes before he had even finished asking. A hike in the back country, hell yes would be more appropriate. We checked the next day's weather report and it called for a 60% chance of rain. Well

then that meant that there was a 40% chance that it wouldn't rain so we agreed to meet at Sean's house at 9 o'clock AM. Next morning at 6 AM the alarm went off, my mind was clouded from the affects of a massive headache; it had been raining, heavy and steady since midnight. On the plus side I had packed my day pack the night before, so all I needed to do was take a shower, eat breakfast, make a lunch and then stuff my packs contents in a dry sack to protect it from the rain. When my headache continued to grow in spite of my wish that it would dissipate I popped an Excedrin. My phone rang around 8, Sean was checking in to see if we were still on for the hike as the rain continued to fall. Most assuredly was my answer.

At Sean's house I greeted Barbara, Sean's wife. As Sean pattered around at his final hike preparation tasks, Barbara showed me their collection of River Teeth. River teeth are the remains of tree roots that have been shaped by their time in the river's flow and their meet and greets with rocks, sand and other aquatic habitat. When they are finally deposit on the river's banks they have been ground down to their core and they very much resemble teeth. A very nice collection, indeed; keep sakes of river time and future time travel journey keys.

With my worlds view enlarged by Barbara and Sean's pack now carrying a tea pot and stove we said our goodbye's to Barbara and headed up canyon to our destination. State Route 410 weaves and winds with the White River's course as it flows from it birth place on Mount Rainer to Puget Sound. As Sean's car tires rolled on the wet darkened asphalt the rain lessened as we drove deeper into the depth of the canyon. By the time we had reached our jumping off place it had ceased to rain but it still threatened. We shouldered our packs and put one foot in front of the other and began our climb skyward.

This was the time when my lungs began to suck in oxygen and the Backpackers prayer began to whisper in my mind. Any time you hike in the Back of Beyond your body has to adjust to the task that you present it with. Your joints begin to loosen and open, your muscles fire signals of expansion and contraction and your chest expands to accommodate your inflated lungs efforts to supply fresh oxygenated blood to your firing muscles. Your heart rate also increases to enhance that flow of energy to your now demanding body. As my body adjusted, so did my mind and senses, they became more attune to my surroundings. My eyes drank in the beauty of my environment, and my ears heard Sean's words as he shared with me his knowledge of the area we hiked.



Continued on Page 5

He recounted personal life history and events, people he knew and books that he had read. This cornucopia of knowledge and insight poured forth as we walked higher and deeper into this forest kingdom of the White River watershed. This was not a walk to conquer or cover distance, this was a walk of getting to know, we stopped frequently to look, listen and absorb.

As we strode forth some of my occasional stops were to reach out and touch the mighty eight hundred year old or more Douglas Firs that towered above us and below us as we climbed. The grove of trees and the creek we followed are a small area of unlogged forest reserve. My body and soul drank in the wilderness as my mind drifted with Sean's words.

Our minds are our own personal time machines; with no effort at all it can transport us back in time and place. Sean's description of mushroom hunting brought forth images of wild fungus growing beneath the moss and needles with their caps pushing up small mounds of duff as they grew in height and girth as Sean hunted them in the fall of the year. The mushrooms blend in so well with their surrounding that it takes a well practiced eye to spot them. His stories of steelhead caught and released in wild northwest rivers, transported me North and West of our present geographical position to coastal rivers flowing into the Pacific. In the waters of these rivers swam chrome bright Steelhead fresh from salt water, with sea lice still clinging to their sides, displaying scars of life's encounters; each one enticing a fly fisherman to swing his flies. Those same rivers run through coastal rainforests dripping with moisture as green growing life explodes in abundance from the earth.

Sean introduced me to a man called Swan who settled on the western most part of our country in the 1800. As we ate our lunch and drank fresh brewed tea 59 stories above the White River Sean told me about Swan's life among the Makah's Indians and Swans friendship, observation and impression of the Indians of that time and place in our history. Sean recounted Swans observation on Indian feuds between tribes and random incidents of violence much like the feud between the Hatfield's and McCoy's, and the US Government judging those incidents as barbaric while embroiled in the American civil war with its own people embroiled in a brother against brother conflict of monumental consequences. One is deemed civilized and the other is not.



After our lunch we again entered the forest that Barbara calls the Star Wars Forest and retraced our steps back to the valley floor. This had been a brief foray into the Back of Beyond but our minds journeys had taken us beyond time and space. In times of

reflection on life think about looking at a campfire. Now walk around that campfire looking deep into the flames and bright burning coals. In those 360 degree turns around that campfire you will see something different from every different degree of vantage point, yet you are still looking at the same fire. You may step onto a trail expecting one kind of journey but you will go on many more than you ever thought possible, open your mind and breath there is no telling what you will find.

PS: If you are interested in reading more on James Gilchrist Swan he is more fully fleshed out in Ivan Doig's book "Winter Brothers, A Season at the Edge of America"

PPS: I took Terry on this hike a week later we both smiled a lot.

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



## 2015 WSCIFFF FLY FISHING FAIR

# May 1 - 2, 2015

Friday & Saturday  
Ellensburg, WA



The WSCIFFF Board and fair committee invite you to see the variety of tying, casting and learning events at the 9th Annual Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg Washington May 1st and 2nd 2015. Free seminars will be given that may include Fishing the Upper Columbia, Steelhead Fishing in Washington, or maybe Bass Fishing in your backyard. Workshops at various fees on casting, from beginning to expert some designed just for women.

An IFFF Nine Hole Casting Course will be available both for competition and your knowledge, the cost FREE. See how good you are in the areas that you have perfected and find out where your cast needs more work. Tasks of the course are “The Multiple C”, “The Obstacle”, “Reach Right & Left”, “Pile it Up”, “Fly First”, “Tighten Up”, “Get it Under”, “The Non-Stop”, “What’s Comfortable”. Fun for anyone, regardless of experience, walking from hole to hole along the nine hole casting course. Each hole presents a different real fishing situation which you get to solve by learning more about fly casting. You may pick up some valuable new ideas about how to cast for fun or fishing.

Bring your own equipment...or equipment and instructors are available to guide you along the course.

Private lessons with a Certified Casting Instructor will be available for a fee. These men and women know their casting to a “T” and will work with you on your cast.

About one hundred tiers will be tying flies on Friday and Saturday for your enjoyment and learning. The techniques and tips will be available to you for the asking. Some tiers will be as young as 14, yes 14. Fly tying isn’t just for the “old guy”. These young tiers are good and will show you how to tie their patterns with many tips available. Every type and style of fly by all ages of tiers will be tied, find those that interest you and watch how the experienced do it and pick up all the tips you can.

The WSCIFFF through your support can continue our mission to conserve and restore our resource’s and educate fly fishers in their sport and grow advocacy for fish and fisheries.

There will be vendors available with tying materials, rods, reels, lines and a full spectrum of items needed for fly fishing that you can try out, buy and question for the quality and uses for your casting and fishing styles.

Times for the fair are May 1, Fri. 9 AM-5PM and May 2, Sat. 8AM-5PM, all at the Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg WA.

FFF members and youth under 16 get in for free, nonmembers cost is only \$5.

**FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS**  
*Conserve, Restore and Educate Through Fly Fishing*

### A Fly Fishing Quote:

*“We may say of angling as Dr. Boteler said of strawberries: “Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did, and so, if I might be judge, God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling.”*

*~ Isaak Walton “The Compleat Angler” (1653) ~*



## Club Donation

At the February meeting the club voted to make a cash donation to Casting For Recovery, CFR. The check will be given to them at the WA Fly Fishing Fair in May.

### Their Mission:

The mission of Casting for Recovery (CfR) is to enhance the quality of life of women with breast cancer through a unique program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing. The retreats offer opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life and experience healing connections with other women and nature. CfR's retreats are open to breast cancer survivors of all ages, in all stages of treatment and recovery, and are free to participants.

### Why fly fishing and breast cancer?

The concept is unique. On a physical level, the gentle, rhythmic motion of fly casting is similar to exercises often prescribed after surgery or radiation to promote soft tissue stretching. On an emotional level, women are given the opportunity to experience a new activity in a safe environment amongst a supportive group of peers. The retreats provide resources to help address quality of life issues after a breast cancer diagnosis, and a new outlet – fly fishing – as a reprieve from the every day stresses and challenges of their cancer.



## Club Donation

At the February meeting the club voted to make a cash donation to Project Healing Waters. The check will be given to them at the WA Fly Fishing Fair in May.



### Mission Statement:

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Maryland. PHWFF receives no government funding and is dependent on tax-deductible, charitable donations and the help of numerous volunteers to meet the educational, equipment, transportation, and related needs of its participants.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. strives to effectively serve the deserving past and present members of our armed forces who have made great sacrifices in the service of our nation.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is made up of many individuals forming a community dedicated to one mission: Each member of that community will treat the others with respect, dignity, and understanding, and will not discriminate against someone because of a person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information. All beneficiaries of our Programs deserve, and will receive, services from Volunteers sensitive to their needs, dedicated to their success, and selfless. It is everyone's responsibility to support one another, with passion, diligence, creativity, and good judgment. Our Board of Trustees will carry out its duties transparently, collegially, and efficiently. We treat all those who join with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. to carry out any part of our mission or vision, as members of our community. Our accountability to the public's trust, and its support, is achieved through sound fiduciary oversight, including careful monitoring of overhead costs, under the leadership of an exceptional Board of Trustees. We operate according to non-profit best business practices and the pursuit of continuous process improvement.

## Club Donation

We also donated to the Youth Academy again this year, they do a great job getting young people interested in fly fishing, something we really need.



Alpine Fly Fishers  
Next Meeting  
**April 28, 2015**



**2015 WSCIFFF FLY FISHING FAIR**  
**May 1 - 2, 2015**  
Friday & Saturday  
Ellensburg, WA



**2015 IFFF FLY FISHING FAIR**  
**August 11 - 15, 2015**  
Bend, Oregon




**BLOG**

The Federation now has a blogspot. Join the conversation and read what others have to say.

<http://fedflyfishers.blogspot.com>



# April / May 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"Winter's done, and April's in the skies, Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes!" - Charles G. D. Roberts, An April Adoration, 1896			<b>1 April</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 Club Meeting</b>	29	30	"In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours." ~ Mark Twain 1835 - 1910 ~	

*"The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness,  
 the human soul is apt to revive also."  
 Harriet Ann Jacobs 1813 - 1897*

<b>1 May-WA Fly Fishing Fair E'Burg</b>	<b>2 May-WA Fly Fishing Fair E'Burg</b>
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	<b>26 Club Meeting</b>	27	28	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](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)

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