

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

**Will Be September 26**



FFI  
Charter Club



As always, at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM

## The Dead Drift - August 2017

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

Summer is finally in full swing, the rivers are down now that most of the snow has melted and the waters are running clear. Some are starting to get a little warm, just like the lakes, but if you do a little searching, you can find very nice waters to fish that are not too warm nor too crowded.

Over in Montana, some of the rivers in the southwest corner of the state have had 'Hoot Owl' restrictions placed on them. No fishing after 2:00 PM. The rivers as of mid-July are: Smith; Sun; portions of the Big Hole; Lower Beaverhead; Lower Gallatin; East Gallatin. The Jefferson River is totally closed to fishing.

For the up to date data go to: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/guide/waterClosure.html>

Luckily, the Clark Fork River, my favorite in Montana, is doing great. Decent flows, a little below normal, but the river is running clear and cool, just perfect for trout.

Speaking of fishing, I spent a couple days on the Yakima River a few days ago. The river is flowing nicely and the water is clear and cold. Fishing was good and I had a blast. Aron Larson was my guide one day and Steve Worley the other day. Both are great guides and know the river well. You really should book a trip with the Worley Bugger Fly Co.

Please try to remember to take some pictures when you are out and about. Everyone really likes to watch them at our Christmas meeting in December so take some shots and get them to either myself or Steve Egge so he can put together a good presentation for us. I know I sound like a broken record about this but it takes such a little effort to snap a few shots, so why not do it? Thanks in advance.

The first of August is approaching and that is when FFI's Fly Fishing Fair starts up over in Livingston. It is a very good event with lots of seminars and workshops. Things like tying and casting are the main topics, plus destination themes as well. They also have a selection of non-fly fishing related topics. I hope some of you can make it to the event this year, it is a great way to meet and greet some of fly fishing's greats.

Remember to be safe when you are on the water, be it a lake or river. A kayaker drowned recently on the Yakima River when his kayak turned over. Be safe, use common sense and wear a PFD if you are on a pontoon boat or raft or kayak.

Ron has been arranging for some guest speakers for us this fall. If you have anyone in mind please give Ron a call.

Good fishing.



Larry

**Fly Fishers International**  
**Fly of the Month**  
**August 2013**  
**BALANCED STREAMER**  
Published by Bob Bates



**Opening Comments:**

Fly patterns that hang horizontally in the water have become a staple in my part of the world. This includes Washington to North Dakota in the United States and British Columbia to Manitoba in Canada. The Balanced Bead Head pattern was developed before 2005 by Jerry McBride of Deer Lake, WA and published in the 2006 February Fly of the Month. Many times when successful lake anglers are asked “What-are-you-using?” The answer is “Balanced Leech”, “Balanced Damsel”, “Balanced etc.” At the Liar’s Club, a lunch gathering of fly anglers, fishing reports often contained “balanced” with some other description. They are so successful because the critters fish feed on, like damselfly nymphs, leeches, etc., move in a horizontal fashion.

A new way of tying the balanced pattern was shown to us by Leon Buckles at the May 2013 meeting of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. He learned about it from Bob Vanderwater in the Central Alberta Fly Tying Club, Canada. In many ways it is easier to tie than Jerry’s technique so I asked Leon to get permission from the Central Alberta Fly Tying Club to put it in the Fly of the Month. Now May, June and July are bad times to get information from fishermen even with modern high speed e-mail because they are off fishing. Vanderwater’s reply finally arrived in June. The tying style came from Bob Morenski of the North Dakota (USA) gang. Morenski was not available because he spends most of the fly fishing season on Manitoba lakes. Morenski published it on a website and Vanderwater felt that Morenski would be pleased if it was also published in Fly of the Month. So here it is.

This tying style gives you three options for fishing. It can be suspended from a strike indicator like any other balanced pattern (see 2006 February FOM for fishing details). It can be tied to a leader and retrieved like a traditional leech or nymph. If you want to have a second fly it can be attached to the bottom “eye”. Leon Buckles tied his version of the pattern at his home in Spokane, WA.

**Materials list:**

Hook: Tiemco 5263or Mustad 9672 size 8 3XL

Bead: 5/32-inch, tungsten, different color bead depending on color of fly

Thread: UNI-Thread, 6/0 black

Wire “eyes”: Rio, Wire Bite, 30-pound

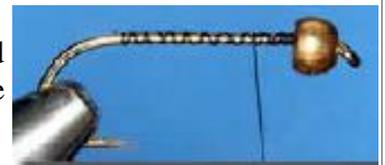
Tail: Marabou, usually black, but can be olive

Rib: Krystal flash, purple

Body: Any dubbing may be used, but Leon prefers Ice Dub, black, peacock, golden and olive colors.

**Tying steps:**

Step 1: Smash barb and thread on bead with small hole toward eye. Start thread anywhere and wind back and forth to make a corrugated underbody. Stop the thread about the width of the bead behind the bead.



Step 2: Cut off a piece of Wire Bite with side cutters. Attach it to shank on tier’s side. Leave space at back so you can fill it in with marabou tail. Fold wire back, secure lightly about two bead widths behind the bead and pull wire back so loop just touches the bead. Tie it down and clip off at same length as other leg secure both legs. (You may need to experiment a little to get a balance. Leon has tied so many that he puts things in the right places.)



FOTM Cont. on page 3



Step 3: Pull up the wire loop with a finger nail, or as Leon does it with a bodkin. Treat it as a post and wrap thread around it.



Step 4: Turn the fly over. (A rotary vise is handy for this.) Put another wire loop on the bottom of the shank. Use the same technique as putting on the top loop. When Leon was demoing the pattern at our meeting he had preassembled the wire loops so he had neat U shaped wires. It looked neater, but the fish don't seem to care with lesser beauty. Everything is hidden by the body that comes next.



Step 5: Make sure the wires are tied in tightly. Turn the fly up right, and wind the thread to the rear. Tie in a bunch of black marabou. He uses black most of the time but sometimes he uses olive marabou.



Step 6: Tie on a piece of Purple Krystal flash. Use any dubbing you want. Leon likes Ice Dub: put a little dubbing wax on the thread, and touch the dubbing to the thread. Smash the dubbing down a little by rolling it between the thumb and first finger. Always roll dubbing in the same direction. Wrap the dubbed thread forward, crisscross around the wire loops and put plenty of dubbing between the loops and the bead to keep the bead from sliding back.



Step 7: Counter wind the rib and tie off behind the bead. Whip finish, trim thread and put a little head cement on the thread winds with a small tooth pick or bodkin. You can check the balance of the fly by hooking a dubbing twister or threading leader material through the top loop. Minor adjustments in balance can be made by bending the loop back or forth. If it is way out of balance, on the next fly move the Step 2 tie in point as needed.



### Closing Comments:

There has been some discussion about the hook point being up or down. Morenski's article has it up. This is an easy pattern to tie, so tie a bunch for fishing on your lakes or ponds. Use different colors of dubbing and beads. Leon tries to make the fly hang as horizontal as possible. However he has caught fish with flies that were as much as 30 degrees off horizontal. People have asked him if the wires slip out. He has not had a wire slip even with some very big fish. Keep the thread tight when you are securing the wires. Some people have experimented with monofilament loops. The jury is still out on that.

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## Today and Tomorrow

Full on summer in the Pacific Northwest, long days are the norm. Morning light filters in through the blinds on the bedroom window around 4:40 AM, twilight last until almost 9:30 PM. The days are warmer; scorching spells into the high 90's happen, but are usually over in two or three days. As a child of California's central San Joaquin Valley, two or three days of 90 degrees is enough for me; I like this northern latitude weather.

My retirement dream of spending more time with my grandkids has come true. The first week that school was out, I took my daughter's, sons camping on the Olympic Peninsula. I loaded the truck with a weeks' worth of supplies and equipment for 4 boys and myself. While we did not look like the Clamptet's moving to LA, we were fully loaded. Bicycles, books, card games and fishing equipment augmented, food, cooking equipment and bedding. We were on the road an hour after school let out.

The campground I chose was isolated and minimally used, we had the place to ourselves for most of the week. Yeah! That meant that the boys could be, boys, and I did not have to keep reminding them to be considerate of other campers, as they played and explored. Unstructured play time is one of the greatest gifts we can bestow upon our children and grandchildren. Letting them choose their own activities and using their own imaginations is incalculable.



As soon as I unloaded the bikes they were off, like the Mazda Commercial - Zoom, Zoom. Laughter rang like a bell throughout the rain forest. Giggles and Hi gramps greeted me as they zoomed past. Tricks were displayed,

crashes occurred and daredevil antics were perfected, as they rode the campground's mud, and gravel loop byway. The exhilaration of freedom that a bicycle gives a child is wonderful to watch and experience; the boys' spirits soared in this cathedral of old growth trees and hanging moss.

Over the week the boys camp experience evolved. The older boys who's outdoor expertise is more limited had more of an adjustment to navigate from displeasure at being there, to enjoying the experience. The twins relaxed instantly, they have more grandpa outdoor time experience so they embraced the "now" time and went for it. On Tuesday, we hiked the Sam's Loop trail, this trail follows the Sam's and Queets Rivers, water course. It winds' through meadows and mixed old growth forest of Maples, Doug Firs, Alder and under growth of ferns and other shrubs. Being a rain forest, it is overgrown, wet and muddy. The trail disappears and reappears depending on mother nature's whims. Or to Quote a younger Colin it "mis-appears".

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Nathan my oldest grandson adopted his Eeyore persona, woe is me, my feet are wet, this is no fun, let's turn back. When the trail "mis-appeared", we are lost, let's turn back. Mom and Dad made me come on this trip, I'm losing my first week of school vacation, I can't wait for Saturday morning. What time are we leaving? Let's turn back. Not an auspicious start. Connor, Darren, and Colin while not happy about wet pant legs and feet accepted that it was just part of the experience and hiked on.



With humor, coaxing and perseverance and many years of trail finding practice, we made it back to camp. Darren gave me a verbal pat on the back, when I reacquired the trail, he turned to his oldest brother saying, trust Grandpa he knows what he is doing.

Metaphorically, the buttons on my shirt were tight as a smile lit my face. Our three-mile hike took just over an hour. (A couple on the trail the next day spent three hours just looking for the trail after they lost it.)

Back in camp, pants, shoes, and socks were exchanged and bicycles were mounted and wheels were soon spinning on gravel. My boys still had energy to expend. They were

discussing smores and pop-corn for after dinner snacks.

Wednesday again was hiking but in the afternoon, we fished. The Queets is not a summertime fishing river it comes into its own in the winter. I had no high hopes of any catching. I rigged each of the boys up with a 5 wt., 9-foot fly rod, tied on a nymph below a Thing-a-ma-bobber and let them drift flies downstream. For the next couple of hours, I felt like a grasshopper on a hot iron griddle, as four boys kept calling Grandpa. Knots, tangles, and lost rigs occurred faster than I could repair them. While no fish were hooked the boys put the try in their fishing and kept me fully exercised running up and down the beach responding to their calls for help.



On Friday night Nathan remarked that he couldn't believe it was already our last night in camp, the time had just flown by. When we got back home the temperature were in the high 90's. His new phone hadn't arrived, the new dishwasher was not installed and the air conditioner was not working properly. I had to laugh; all week he kept telling me that he couldn't wait to get home, to a new phone, new dishwasher, and air conditioning. In camp the temperatures were cooler, there was no cell coverage, dishes were done by me and one of them. Ah the young, the grass is always greener somewhere else!



Over the next four weeks, we have been camping again (Silver Springs), bike riding the local Foothill trail, hiking the Palmer Kanaskat State Park trail and the Federation Forest trail. We have had sleep overs in the backyard and I have closed out our evening by reading to them. My Son's boys (Nolan and Dalton) joined us for a week and Nolan is still with us through the first of August. Except for the destinations choices, I let them be them. They pick the trails and where to play. I want their imaginations, to move to the front and let

them grow. I stare at the treasures they share, exclaim over the leav-er-rites, and sticks they pack home. I watch as they scramble over log bridges and turn over rocks. I give them nick-names that celebrate their experiences. We discuss, trees and plants, equipment and outdoor skills, music (differences of blues, jazz, classical, flamingo and rock guitar music, same instrument different genres), and books. We have repaired bicycles together and sat around the campfire and laughed and teased.

I want them to have inquisitive minds and to question what they are shown and told. I want their knowledge to belong to them because they earned it. I do not know if it will make their lives easier but I do know it will make their lives richer. My life is richer, because of them; I cherish every moment that I get to spend with my Daughter, Son, and Grandchildren. They have so much knowledge and experience, they are sources of support, inspiration, and understanding. I truly enjoy looking at the world through my children and grandchildren's eyes. Today and tomorrow, belongs to them.

Spend time with your kids and grandkids it is the greatest gift you can give yourself. Hope to see you on the water soon.

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. 1 No. 7

August of 1973



**Next meeting:** Date: August 27, 1973  
Place: Noel's Restaurant  
Time: Social Hour: 6:00  
Dinner 6:45

Program: This is for you high lake nuts. Jim DeShazo, region biologist, will tell us about the Game Dept's High Lake Program, complete with slides. This one is a "must see."

Draw Prize: A dozen Sea-Run Cutthroat flies plus something else that's good.

**Last Meeting:** This was an informal but serious affair where we hashed out the club's short past and long future. The recurring thrust was that we've got to build up our membership base, and the only way to do this is through personal contact. This means each and every one of us has the charge of being a missionary for the Alpine Fly Fishers. So, bring a guest to the next meeting!

**Fishouts:** In case you've forgotten, the fishouts remaining in 1973 are:

September 8, 9 - Bogachiel River

October 6, 7 - Dry Falls Lake

November 10, 11 - Nunnaly Lake

For the Bogie, we'll be camping at the State Park on the river. There's lots of river both upstream and down from there, and by September, the cutthroats should be in.

The Yakima River fishout was a resounding success, in spite of broken oars and high water. The weather was hot, but the fishing was good, especially in the evening. All those who went are in agreement that they want to go back and give those big rainbows another try. Maybe about October when the water has dropped.

**Oddenda:** While thumbing through an issue of Sunset magazine, I saw an article showing how to make a smoker from a metal garbage can. Although the total cost was at least as much as the "Little Chief" types, the capacity is much greater. Since you only catch fish that are too big for the "Little Chief," the garbage can route may interest you. I'll bring the article to the next meeting.

Got a bulletin from the FFF the other day that had a roster of affiliated clubs. Guess what! When become affiliated we'll be No. 1 on the list (It's arranged alphabetically.)

Also, in the same bulletin was a short article on regulation changes in Yellowstone Park. Parts of several streams are now open to catch and release fishing only. One added benefit mentioned was that the new regulations allow the cutthroats to grow larger and that these larger fish give better control of the suckers and shiners, which in turn makes more food available for the smaller trout.

Speaking of releasing fish, it was gratifying to see club members releasing most of the fish they caught on the Yakima.

**Patterns:** One of the best searun cutthroat flies is the Al Knudsen Yellow Spider. Actually, it is good for a lot of other kinds of fishing as well, depending on the hook size. One of the keys to its success is the under hackle, which keeps the mallard hackle from clinging to the fly body and improves its "breathing" action.

Hook: Size 6 - 10, reg. length and weight

Tail: None

Body: Yellow Chenille

Underhackle: Two turns of grizzly

Overhackle: Barred mallard, fairly sparse

Remember - Bring a guest to the meeting.

**LIMIT YOUR KILL - DON'T KILL YOUR LIMIT!!**

## Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2017

Our club meetings are on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month except for December (the third Tuesday) and there are no meetings in July or August.

~~August~~ (No Meeting); September 26; October 24; November 28; December 19 (3rd Tuesday)



2017  
International  
Fly Fishing Fair  
August 1 - 5, 2017  
Livingston, MT



### A Fly Fishing Quote:

*“The third lesson learnt at Stockbridge is the large number of patterns required for summer and autumn fishing.....Each trout requires a different attack. It is not a question of finding the fly for the day, you must find it for each individual fish. Where are your four patterns now? By nightfall you have tried twenty.”*

*A Summer On The Test*

*~ John Waller Hills - 1867 - 1938 ~*

This quote reminds me of many trips down the river. Some days I ended up fishing with just a couple different flies, usually dry and wet flies combined. But then there are those days of frustration when it seems no matter what fly was attached to the end of the line, getting a hit, bump, or a take was like pulling teeth. There have been times when for the whole day, with four of us fishing a combination of every fly ever made (well not really, but literally every fly two guides had in their possession) we just couldn't find an interested trout anywhere. Luckily for me a couple Brown trout got suckered into taking my flies right towards the end of the day. But, the next day, with a different fly in hand, we hooked up onto many, many fish. As they say, “That’s Fishing For Ya!” By the way, that trip was on the Big Hole river in Montana a number of years back during the “Three Rivers Trip”.



**PHOTOS PLEASE!!!!!!!**



Every December, at our Christmas meeting, Steve Egge puts on a great power point presentation of photos given to him by some of our club members of fishing trips they have taken over the past year.

Unfortunately, we don't get enough photos. We would all love to see shots of your exploits, scenic photos as well as fishing photos. I know our members travel all over North America during the year, so please take some pictures where ever you are fishing. Let us enjoy your trips with you, even if it is vicariously.

You can turn them in to me or Steve anytime of the year. We want them!!

## **Fly Fishers International Conservation News**

### **Clean Water Rule in Jeopardy**

by Fly Fishers International in Public Policies

On June 30, 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rescinding the Clean Water Rule that was established in 2015 by President Obama. We are concerned that this proposal, if enacted, will undo hard earned protections for streams and wetlands across the United States.

It is reported that rescinding these rules could jeopardize 60 percent of stream miles in the U.S., particularly small tributaries.

FFI is working actively through our membership in the Standing Water Working Group of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to try to minimize the impact of this proposal. We are joined with many other like-minded conservation groups in recognition that many voices working together will have a greater impact.

TCRP just completed a survey of sportsman across our nation regarding public access and clean water. You can click below to see the results of the survey.

**<http://www.trcp.org/trcp-national-sportsmens-survey/>**

Please pass this information along to your other like-minded groups and individuals you know. Thank you.

Dave Peterson

Chair - Conservation Committee

### **FFI Supports National Monuments & Antiquities Act**

FFI Joins Other Conservation Groups

by Fly Fishers International in Public Policies

FFI, along with many other sports organizations wrote to Congress urging their support for a new bipartisan budget agreement that provides relief from impending sequestration cuts and allows for strong annual funding of natural resources conservation in the Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations process.

The letter is consistent with FFI's "Policy on Public Lands and Waters of the US" as their well-being and proper management is critical to not only our continuing opportunities to enjoy fly fishing and the out of doors, but also to the outdoor recreation industry, of which we are a part, and that generates near a trillion dollars each year to the US economy.

### **2017 NWYCFE Academy**

Fourteen enthusiastic boys and girls graduated from the 2017 NW Youth Conservation and Flyfishing Academy this year. We started with 15, one had to go home for family issues. Our biggest challenge this year, was snow days, Olympia, Seattle, etc, were still in session during the Academy. Our goal is 20 kids max every year. After a long week of classroom study, classes in fly tying, knot tying, conservation, stream side ethics and etiquette, water safety, stillwater fly fishing techniques, matching the hatch, exploring a stream to learn about "Living Waters", principals of ecology, dissecting a fish, they were tired. A couple days we started at 5am to go to the ponds or river to learn how to fly fish. It's not about catching, it's about learning how to catch and how to read the waters, how to walk in a river, learn to mend, etc.. They fished both morning and evening. This event is not for the faint of heart, we keep them very busy. They do an amazing job of keeping up with the program. The Academy is held at The Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA., traditionally, the last full week of June.

Each applicant is required to write an essay, explaining why he or she want to attend The Academy and they also need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor, TU/FFi organization president, or a responsible person. The essays were incredible and their letters of recommendations were even more incredible. We were privileged to have over 40 volunteers again this year. If it wasn't for the volunteers and the financial support from TU National, FFi National, WSCFFi Fly Fishing Clubs, WCTU and Chapters, business organizations, private individuals and folks like you – this event would never happen. I must remark – every penny that is donated to The Academy for the kids, goes 100% to the effort to make this event the success it is. So on behalf of the Youth, the Staff, and the community – thank you!

Jim Brosio, Tom VanGelder & Mike Clancy - Co-Directors, NWYCFEAcademy

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## 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.

*guided happiness!*

**Clark Fork Trout.com**  
MONTANA FLY FISHING OUTFITTERS  
ST. REGIS, MT

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## Clark Fork Trout

St. Regis, MT

Steve & Peggy Temple have a brand new fly shop just on the north side 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 check out the Clark Fork Trout.

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# August / September 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"Summertime and the living is easy Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high" George Gershwin and Dubose Heyward, Porgy and Bess		<b>1 August</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 National Honey Bee Day 	21	<b>No Meeting In August</b>		23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31	"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability." - Sam Keen "Summer's lease hath all too short a date." - William Shakespeare	

"Happy we who can bask in this warm September sun, which illumines all creatures, as well when they rest as when they toil, not without a feeling of gratitude; whose life is as blameless, how blameworthy soever it may be, on the Lord's Mona-day as on his Suna-day." - Henry David Thoreau, 1817-1862

						<b>1 September</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	<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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