

Alpine Fly Fishers



*No Club Meetings
in July or August
See you all in
September*

The Dead Drift - August 2019

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

In July, I attended the Fly Fishers International's Fly Fishing Expo in Bozeman, MT. Naturally, since I was driving right by St. Regis, I stopped for a couple of days to do some fishing on the Clark Fork River and the Flathead River with the Clark Fork Trout fly shop/guide service. I fished with the owner, Steve Temple. But that is a story for the Liar's Cup at the club meeting in September. However, check out page 8 for some photos of some of the fish I caught and a couple scenic shots.

This year, Fly Fishers International held their Fly Fishing Expo on the grounds of MSU, Montana State University, in Bozeman. This is also where they will hold it next year, starting the week of July 20, 2020. The facilities are very nice. The Student Union Building housed much of the event along with a couple of other buildings. There were large grass areas for casting as well.

I arrived on Tuesday afternoon. I had signed up as a volunteer to help out at the auction/raffle area. However on Wednesday, I had meetings to attend in the morning, a fund raiser BBQ lunch for the FTG (Fly Tying Group) which was held outside, be it a bit windy, then I went to a gathering of Life Members, for a social hour. After that we had the President's Awards dinner. (Good food by the way). At all these events and while working the floor where the silent auction and raffle items were out, I was able to meet and greet a lot of old friends who come from all over the country, plus make a number of new friends as well.

The FFI members are a very diversified group of people from all over the USA, Canada, and many countries around the world including Japan, Italy, Great Britain, Norway, Australia, well, you get the idea, yes, from all over.

The FFI strongly supports Project Healing Waters. PHW had been holding casting competitions all over the country, and then they held their final casting competition at the Expo, involving the top people from each of their areas of the country. We also have a rather large group of female fly casters and they showed up in force to attend seminars and casting instruction. A great group of women. There were around 80 fly tyers who signed up to do tying demonstrations. Since I was working the silent auction/raffle area all of the time, I was not able to sit with many of them while they tied, but I talked to dozens of them at other times.

If you can do it, you should try to attend this event next year. Maybe get a little fishing in as well.

Good fishing.



Larry

Fly Fishing International

Fly of the Month

August 2005

HEADLESS BLUE WING OLIVE

By Bob Bates



There is no “one and only way” to tie a fly that catches fish. For example, several years ago I was tying this pattern at a Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave. A friend decided to make a survey. His report: “Today I saw five ways to tie a parachute.”

This tying technique came off of a website that I have followed for years. It is <http://www.bobsflytying.com>, Bob’s Fly Shop in Loveland, Colorado. It’s monthly newsletters have fishing stories, cartoons and, most interesting to me, Julie’s Fly Tying Tips. Several of her flies, including this one, were added to my fly box. Julie Ray, like many tiers, experiments with different techniques in the “Yes that works, but what if...?” style.

Sometime before 1997 she saw a fly tier using a half hitch to secure a parachute hackle. So if that works how about a whip finish? The Headless Blue Wing Olive was born, and the last time I corresponded with her she said that she ties all of her parachutes using a Matarelli whip finishing tool.

This pattern imitates the blue-winged olive (Baetis) mayfly and related genera which, depending on location, hatch from late February to November. Many feel it is the basic mayfly along most North American rivers. Some are multi-brooded species and have two or three hatches a year. Therefore, keep a good supply of these flies to match the hatch. In the cool temperatures of spring hatches might come off from noon to early afternoon. During warmer days hatches will be in the morning and evening. In really hot weather they might hatch at night. Cool and drizzly days offer the chance of memorable hatches. If you can, check with a local fly shop for the latest information. Fishing this fly is like any other dry fly. Floating line, long leader, appropriate tippet size and dead drift.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 94840 or Tiemco TMC 100, sizes 14-20

Thread: Rusty dun, 8/0 – 14/0

Tail: Medium blue dun hackle fibers

Post: White turkey flats, poly yarn, crystal flash or calf tail

Hackle: Medium blue dun

Body: Medium olive dubbing

Tying Steps:

1. If you want barbless flies, smash the barb with smooth jaw pliers before you start tying.
2. Start thread in center of hook. Select a bunch of hackle fibers for the tail, hold them over the hook so a shank length of the tips extend beyond the bend, trim fibers at mid-shank and secure. Hold the fibers on top of the hook, and wind thread rearward to above the barb. Wind thread forward to a point 1/3rd shank length back from eye.

FOTM Cont. on page 3 →

3. Pull off any short fibers on the turkey flat so the tips are even.

4. Cut off a bunch of fibers from one side of the turkey flat and fold them together to look like a small paint brush. Secure this "brush" at the 1/3rd point with a shank length of the tips facing forward. Trim butts, and wind thread to make a smooth ramp behind the post.



5. Stand up tips and wind a thread cone in front of post. I usually put a few thread wraps around post to pull fibers together a little and strengthen the post.

6. Select a hackle with barbs (fibers) that are 1-1/2 to 2 gap widths long, pull or cut off all longer barbs. The web should be less than 1/3rd of the barb length.

7. Place the feather vertically, tip up along the post with the bare shaft extending about a hook eye width above the shank. Have the shiny side of the feather toward the post. Wind thread up shaft and post three or four turns and then back down again. Leave a little bare shaft above the highest thread wrap.

8. Bend the butt of the shaft rearward along the shank and secure it with a few rearward winds of thread. Trim excess shaft, and wind thread to a point above the barb.

9. Dub thread using your favorite technique, and wrap body forward to the eye and back to the post. The body should be a little thicker around the post. Put the last thread wrap immediately behind the post, and let the bobbin hang on far side of hook to keep tension on the thread.

10. Grab hackle tip in pliers, and pull feather down to put a little kink in the shaft. Wrap feather clockwise around post with each wrap below the preceding one. Three to five wraps should be enough for most water conditions. When you are down to the body let the hackle pliers hang on the far side of the body. Reach under hook with the left hand to hold pliers down and tension hackle. With bobbin in right hand, move tensioned thread three times clockwise around post, each time sliding it between body and parachute hackle.

11. Hook a Matarelli whip finish tool onto thread and tip it up so wraps will be around the post below the parachute. Keep tension on thread as you wind it around feather and post. After three or four winds hold the tool down so when you unhook it so you won't trap hackle fibers.

12. Trim thread and excess hackle. Carefully put a little head cement on bottom of post.

Closing comments: After a little practice this technique is a lot easier than other parachute methods that I know. Now I use it for all of my parachute patterns: Adams, Callebaetis, PMD, ants and anything needed to match the hatch. A point to remember, the blue-winged olive comes in light to dark olive, olive brown, dark brown and reddish brown; so tie it in several different body colors. One thing for sure this pattern has fooled many trout.

Editors Note: For step-by-step photos, go to the FFI website, look under Tying, then Educational Resources then Fly Of The Month then scroll down to August 2005 where the Headless Blue Wing Olive is shown.

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

In Wildness is the Preservation of the World
“Henry David Thoreau”

Putting it all Together (Pt. II)

Truck packed and grandsons loaded, we eased away from the curb, Barbara pulled in behind us. She had offered to ease the crowding in the truck, on our outbound journey. The Neal boys rode with Barbara, the Anklam boys with me. The weathered surface of the road disappeared behind us, as we threaded ourselves west-northwest headed for the Olympic Peninsula. My four passengers buried their heads in books, they only popped-up when I pointed out fascinating and historical sights. Behind me, Barbara was engaged in a conversation with Nolan and Dalton, they asked questions, answers she supplied, plus additional knowledge about places at our destination. The knowledge of this conversation was relayed to me over the next few days as different points of their visit came up in our campfire stories and hike chats, as they asked about places or found items that Barbara had mentioned.

The sun neared its zenith as we selected our camping spot. The boys put aside their books and sniffed the sea air, greeted the camp climbing tree, pushed the wind ruffled hair out of their eyes and stirred up the fine sand of our campsite. As they unlimbered themselves from the truck, they transformed into men of the world, this change was speeded by the need to get our road home setup, lunch eaten and our first hike to the beach under our belts. As we unloaded the truck and trailer, Sean drove up with Nolan and Dalton, they had been on a side journey. Barbara and I had split up to save time, she had headed home, while I went straight to the campground to snag a good camp. Her part of the journey completed she had transferred the boys to Sean. He had taken them by Garry's house to help move a plant before joining up with us.



Now that we were all together the volume on camp life went up. Answering questions from 6 boys at once can be distracting, but camp came together. The boys tent went up first, cots and sleeping bags filled its interior, personal baggage soon followed. A once spacious tent became a boy cluttered domicile. Sean and I gave up our catch-up conversation, too many interruptions for questions and personalized instructions and interventions to avert small catastrophes. Sean after a busy morning went home for a nap, promising to return that evening with Garry for a campfire sit around.

Camp was a festive affair as final camp prep was completed and lunches were eaten, soon we were on our way to the beach/wildlife refuge. The hike along the bluff was brisk to put it mildly. Gale-force winds were blowing, the winds were strong enough to make me hesitate in registering for a full seven day stay. A quick look at the weather predictions showed 3 more days of the same weather pattern, clear with sustained winds above 20 mph with gusts above 30 mph. Oh my! The walk along the bluff and down to the sand spit was fairly sheltered but once we hit the sand spit, we faced the full power of the wind.

Across the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Vancouver Island and the city of Victoria could be seen. My menfolk were thrilled that they could see Canada, their eyes brightened, and smiles spread across their faces. My heart beat a little faster as I appreciated their joy. As we arrived at the beach the four younger boys went into full exploration and building mode. Colin and Dalton teased and tested the breaking waves while Darren and Nolan built a fort from the driftwood strewn beach. Connor and Nathan thinking that they were too old to explore participated in a driftwood sword fight. I sat down on a driftwood log and kept a wary eye on the waves and my men. Fortunately, the only interference I needed to impose was calling out when the wave chasers ventured to far from my safety zone, or when the mock battle going on behind me, became an arms race.

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My driftwood perch not only afforded me a nice vantage point to keep tabs on my men, it also sheltered me from the full force of the wind. As my eyes followed the activities of my young charges, they also took in the wind driven waves breaking on the Dungeness sand spit. Gale-force wind was an apt description for what I was witnessing. Gale or galinn is an old Norse word meaning “mad”, “frantic” or “bewitched”. The wind driven waves were definitely frantic, I got the distinct impression that if you were to try and fly a kite in this bewitched wind you would be picking up the pieces.

By four PM I was sufficiently chilled, I called a retreat from the beach, my pronouncement was met by youthful protest. That was good, it meant that they still were having fun and would be eager to return. On our way down they had spotted the turn off for the primitive trail and they wanted to go that way. I had told them that was for mañana. I knew that Sean wanted to share a story and give them insight before we went that way. As we hiked back to camp, they were anxious to explore, that warmed my wind chilled bones.

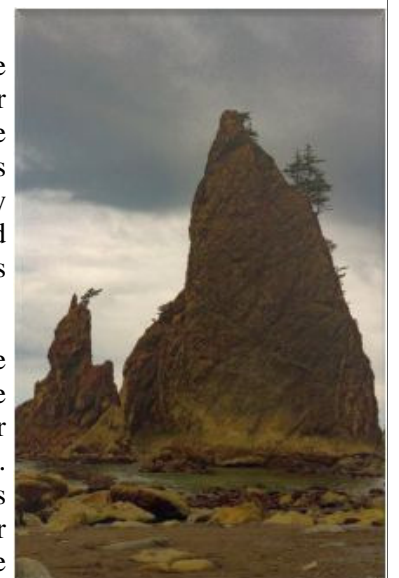
That evening as we sat around the campfire Sean passed on his trail wisdom, walk softly, whisper and keep their eyes open as they hiked the primitive trail. He told them they would be rewarded with animal sighting and we would hear the bird calls and maybe hear the owl, that lived in the woods. While he personally had never seen the owl, he knew it was there. After his talk he and Garry headed home.

Sometime after midnight the winds died down, the rest of the week was calm with gentle breezes. The next morning after checking in at the registration kiosk, we entered the primitive trail. Immediately all six of my young men went whisper quiet and began to walk on silent feet, their eyes sought the tiniest of movement. They had listened well. Soon we were rewarded with close encounters with squirrels, deer, and birds, but what blew them out of the water was our meet up with a barn owl. Six iPhones were all in picture mode as they recorded the encounter. All their eyes were bright and gleaming, excited whispers came at me from all six as they wanted to share their thoughts and feelings.

Over the next six days, we walked beaches, launched rock families on driftwood logs into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, hiked Washington prairies, had dinner with Garry, Sean and Barbara, swam in a club house pool, poked and prodded denizen of the tide pool on Rialto beach near the Hole in Wall. It is the season of children’s voices in the woods, my young men added their voices to this celebration of outdoor living.

The camp tree held all six of them, often. Marshmallows became burnt offerings over the campfire, sausage fat dripped into the coals raising spurts of flame. They shared their favorite tunes in round robin fashion around the campfire. School experiences were shared, and teacher stories were traded. One evening session focused on their concerns over climate change and why our current government was not addressing the issue. They cooked dinners and washed the dishes with me, they built campfires and chopped firewood. My only complaint was housekeeping, their tent always looked like 6 puppies had played in there.

My youthful men’s ages range from 9 to 17 years, my self-appointed job is to introduce them to our natural world and let them grow. I answer question when I can, but for the most part I let them find their own questions and answers. They are responsible for their own growth and not something that is drummed into them. What they learn they own. Yes, I have opinions, but I try not to overtly express them. Listening to them discuss climate change was enlightening, as was watching them interact with each other and our natural world. I’m still learning and so are they. I really enjoy being with them and there is hope in watching them grow.



Continued on Page 6 →

During the week camping with six young men the song, Boats to Build by Guy Clark & Verlon Thompson kept running through my mind.

Boats to Build

It's time for a change
I'm tired of that same ol' same ol' words the
same ol' lines The same ol' tricks and the same ol'
rhymes

Days precious days Roll in and out like waves I got
boards to bend I got planks to nail I got charts to
make I got seas to sail

I'm gonna build me a boat With these two hands It'll
be a fair curve From a noble plan

Let the chips fall where they will 'Cause I've got boats
to build Sails are just like wings The wind can make
'em sing Songs of life songs of hope Songs to keep
your dreams afloat

I'm gonna build me a boat With these two hands It'll
be a fair curve From a noble plan

Let the chips fall where they will 'Cause I've got boats
to build

Shores distant shores There's where I'm headed for
Got the stars to guide my way Sail into the light of
day

I'm gonna build me a boat With these two hands It'll
be a fair curve From a noble plan Let the chips fall
where they will 'Cause I've got boats to build

Songwriters: GUY CHARLES CLARK / VERLON
K. THOMPSON

Why this song? It is a song that evokes images of change, a better way, charting one's own course, and doing it with your own hands. It is a song of hope, even if the journey is not completed in one's own lifetime, it keeps ones dreams alive. "Days precious days roll in and out like waves", "Sails are just like wings, the wind can make 'em sing, songs of life songs of hope, songs to keep your dreams afloat". My journeys with my grandsons are reflected in this song. On these journeys I have watched their sails fill and that gives me hope.



This earth is our home, protect it, cherish it, and when we pass let it be a gift to the future. Our children need this world whole, so that they might flourish and grow, greed and short-term profits are not worth our children's future.

Thank you, Sean, Barbara and Garry, it takes a community to raise great men.

As always, I hope to see you outside soon.
Stephen

“When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind” – Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

“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. 9

October 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.

Next Meeting: October 6, 1975

Door Prizes: A fly line and a book. Bring plenty of money.

Program: The movies that didn't arrive for the last meeting.

Two fine Lee Wulff films; "Three Trout To Remember" and "Leaping Silver".

Fishouts: We're trying to put together a one day fishout for October 11. This had originally been scheduled as a trip to the Toutle for searun cutthroats, but so far, no cuts. Bring your suggestions Monday night and we'll decide where to go and what to fish for.

Searun Cutthroats: Fishermen from most of Washington's fly fishing clubs gathered at the mouth of the Stilly to catch some cutthroats for the Game Department to use as brood stock. The weather was beautiful and the tides were ideal. Unfortunately, it seems no one invited the fish because although the elite of the Northwest anglers fished all day, the total number of suitable fish taken could be counted on two hands. This is unfortunate, because the Game Department is committed to doing something to improve the searun cutthroat fishery.

Book Report: One of the better books written in the past 15 years or so is Charles K. Fox's "This Wonderful World of Trout". Originally published privately in 1962, Freshet Press issued a revised edition in 1972 or 1973. Although the book deals primarily with fishing for brown trout in Pennsylvania's limestone streams, much of what Fox has to say can be applied anywhere. Also, the stories that make up the second part of the book are charming and timeless. Throughout the book he maintains a running battle with the put-and-take mentality that characterizes much of the present day fisheries management. Fox has his own ideas of what is needed to make a quality fishery and expounds them at every opportunity. I highly recommend this book.

Fishing Reports: Pass Lake in Skagit County put out some good catches when it reopened recently. I know of two anglers who caught and released 40 trout up to 18" on reopening day. Apparently the Game Department is carefully studying this lake, because they had 5 people there recording catch data. **Jim Higgins** and Cal Cole has a great time floating a portion of Oregon's Deschutes River. Although they were fishing for the chunky "redsides" rainbows, Cal hooked a frisky steelhead that parted company after the 4th jump. Your editor tried Pilchuck Creek for cutthroats, but the fish just weren't there yet.

Secretary Moves: Jim Prince, our secretary, has moved to North Bend, Oregon. He'll now have to be content fly fishing for stripers instead of our 8" hatchery plants. Poor Jim!

Bring a Guest: Bring a guest to the meeting Monday night. Guests are now we get new members. We have to replace Jim Prince.

JOIN THE FFF. BRING A GUEST. JOIN THE FFF. BRING A GUEST. JOIN THE FFF. BRING A GUEST.

Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2019

September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17

FFI E - News CONSERVATION

The latest issue of "The Osprey" includes "Snake River Basin Wild Steelhead Face Extinction", "Lessons from the Elwha", "Restoring Eel River Steelhead", and "British Columbia Fish Follies".

The Osprey is now published by a consortium of likeminded, international salmon/steelhead conservation organizations: The Conservation Angler, World Salmon Forum, Steelhead Society of British Columbia, Skeena Wild, Wild Steelhead Coalition, and Fly Fishers International with additional financial and distribution support from Trout Unlimited and The Fly Shop (Redding, CA). The Osprey is managed by the Management & Editorial Committee with advice from a very strong board of scientific advisors of world-class scientists/biologists: Jack Stanford, Jim Lichatowich, Rick Williams, Michael Price, Bill McMillan and Bill Bakke.

EDUCATION

The Fly Tying Video Library

The Fly Tying Video Library has expanded - 168 new flies are available. Videos are reviewed for quality by FTG members before they are entered in the library. Thanks to Tim Cammisa plus other for allowing FFI to use the videos.

A few fish I caught on the Clark Fork River and then some



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!

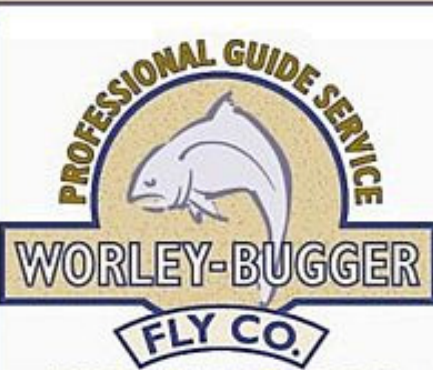
CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

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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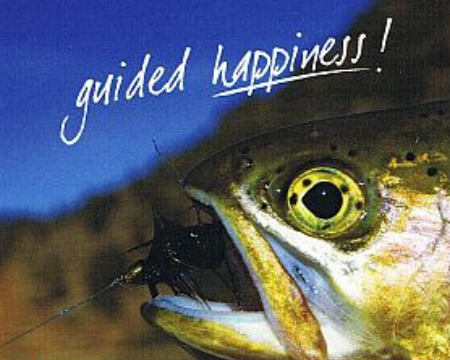



CENTRAL WASHINGTON'S PREMIER FLY FISHING OUTFITTER, PRO-SHOP
AND PROFESSIONAL GUIDE SERVICE

Worley Bugger Fly Co.

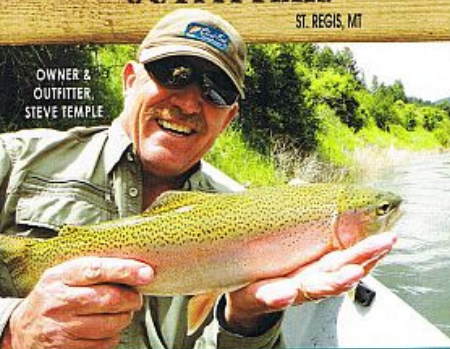
Steve Worley has some great guides and he has put together the best fly shop filled with a massive amount of fly tying materials and equipment. You really need to stop by the shop and check it out. Just take the Canyon Road exit off I-90 and turn north towards town, the Worley Bugger Fly Co. shop is on the left or west side of the road. Open all year. Stop by and say Hi!

guided happiness!





MONTANA FLY FISHING OUTFITTERS
ST. REGIS, MT



OWNER & OUTFITTER
STEVE TEMPLE

www.ClarkForkTrout.com 406.382.0161

Clark Fork Trout

St. Regis, MT

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.

Check it out!!!

For a really good guided drift boat fishing trip, you should check out the Clark Fork Trout.

"GUIDED FISHING ON THE CLARK FORK, BITTERROOT, MISSOURI AND BLACKFOOT RIVERS AND PROVIDING FLY FISHING CLASSES BY PEGGY TEMPLE."





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GUIDE
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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.

August / September 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"Whilst August yet wears her golden crown, ripening fields lush-bright with promise; Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly passing her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn." - Michelle L. Thieme, August's Crown				1 August	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 NO CLUB MEETING Go Fishing	28	29	30	31

1 September	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Club Meeting	25	26	27	28
29	30	"When the goldenrod is yellow, and leaves are turning brown - Reluctantly the summer goes in a cloud of thistledown. When squirrels are harvesting and birds in flight appear - By these autumn signs we know September days are here." - Beverly Ashour, September				

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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