

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on

Tuesday

December 15, 2009

We will be meeting at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup



D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 9 N E W S L E T T E R

In this issue:

Page 2

Five Rivers Tickets

Quote of the Month

Winter Fishing

Page 3

Winter Fishing cont.

Page 4

FFF

Fly Of The Month

-Alice's Don't Ask-

Page 5

Calendar

Key Dates In Future

Club Officers



Presidents Line

By Larry Gibbs

Please Note: Just like in the past, our December meeting is going to be held one week early so as to not conflict with the Christmas holidays.

Please make a note of it!!!! **Tuesday, December 15th**

Another year is about to go in the record books and I do believe that was one of the best and hottest summers we have had in many years. Fun for us but not good for our evergreens. However the past few weeks may to have made up for the lack of rain, or at least it seems that way.

As indicated above, our annual December fundraiser meeting is going to be held one week early again this year, on Tuesday, December 15. Bring three things to the meeting: (1). If you have something that would go good in the raffle and that someone else would want, please bring it. (2). Your wallet :). This is our main fundraiser for the club and a great time to pick up a few extra and much needed items for your fly fishing or tying arsenal. (3). A fly or two or three for the Fly Christmas Tree.

We won't have a speaker at the December meeting, our whole meeting will be about us, our fun trips this past year, the trips we are planning to take next year and oh yea, fund raising.

Our club wasn't the only club to get displaced this year. The Puget Sound club has to find a new home as the Tacoma Elks is going to shut down (barring a miracle). PSF is searching for a new nest to settle in and they do have a promising prospect that they are checking out.

Why not buy yourself a Christmas present? Buy a raffle ticket for the FFF's Five River Lodge trip. If you win you will be soooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo happy.

NEEDED: Photos for our Christmas Party. Steve Egge is asking for some photos from you fishing exploits this year to show during our meeting in December. Please send them to Steve as soon as you can.

Good fishing.



Larry

Five Rivers Sweepstakes Continues

By Larry Gibbs

The Five Rivers Sweepstakes has been **EXTENDED!** You still have a chance to win a trip to Five Rivers Lodge in Dillon, MT and a chance at the grand prize - a trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile.

The Five Rivers Sweepstakes has been extended due to economic conditions.

The drawing will be held on **March 15, 2010**. Tickets must be postmarked by **February 28th, 2010** to be eligible.

Please support the FFF's ongoing efforts in conservation and education by purchasing a ticket.

To purchase tickets and for more information on the Sweepstakes

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5030>

Phil Greenlee

F.F.F. - Chairman of the Board

See Larry Gibbs to purchase some tickets.

Quote Of The Month



The steelhead can hurtle into the air a split second after he is hooked, and flash hugely out in the murk, like the sword Excalibur thrust up from the depths—at once a gleaming prize and a symbol of battle.

Paul O,Neil

“Excalibur: The Steelhead” [1957}



Winter Fishing!

By Bence 'Benny' Racz

Taken from the November 2009 FFF Clubwire & Taken from the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen Newsletter

It is (almost) winter time now. One look in the morning over the foothills and Bogus Basin's whitecaps removes any doubt of that fact. Winter time brings on many thoughts, Fly tying, holidays, dark afternoons, football on TV and some fine fly fishing. That's right, trout fishing, winter steelhead fly fishing has been around a long time, and gets more popular every season. But the truth of the matter is trout fly fishing can be excellent, the crowds are down to non-existent, the scenery and wildlife are plentiful, even in town, and it makes those long days of early spring with rain and overflowing rivers more tolerable.

Winter fly fishing demands a little timing and planning on your part. One nice thing is, the weekends aren't crowded, so you really don't need to ask the boss for time off, to really get some peace and solitude. But other planning does need to be done. The first thing is checking your local regulations. Many, many places now offer year around trout or some good whitefish fly fishing. A good portion of this is probably catch and release, but that only helps in further reducing the crowds. Buy the way around February don't forget the **WHITEFISH DERBY** (By **BOISE VALLEY FLY FISHERMAN**, **BVFF.com**) on the SF of Boise river below Anderson Ranch Dam , north of Mountain Home. It has been held for over thirty years and does bring some crazy fisherman together. Keep your eyes on the local Newspaper Outdoor /Fishing section for date and more info.

Mild winter days, specifically afternoons, can provide some good fishing opportunities. If you go after Steelheads, you need to check for river levels, local shops may be able to provide more information not to mention internet forums. Three or four days of steady rain can really put the river at un-fishable levels. It is also "enjoyable" to fish in well below freezing temperatures. Even if you can dress warmly enough, the ice on the guides make casting nearly impossible, to avoid this use silicone spray or other lubricant (PAM) on your guides. Entering, and exiting the river can be extremely dangerous at this time of the year.



Extreme care should be taken when wading in general, one slight misstep, can send you into the river, dangerous all year, this is multiplied by the cold air, and water temperatures in the winter. Also daylight is much less, making it more difficult to see the river bottom while wading. So step very cautiously. And always fish with a partner, and take a change of clothing with you even in town fishing.

OK, enough of the warnings, when to go is what we are after. I prefer a nice period of dry weather, with mild afternoons. I rarely fish in the early morning, in the winter, but if you can get a fogged over morning with nicely rising afternoon temperatures that reach in to the 33's, you have a day to hit the water!

What to wear: I use breathable waders and I actually have never been more comfortable while winter fishing. I layer underneath with two or three layers of thermal wear, including one layer of fleece pants. I can move much better than in neoprene's, and there is no clamminess to bring on chills. Socks are also important silk liners with thick winter socks work for me. I have a roomier pair of wading boots specifically for winter to allow for the extra bulk. I also don't cinch my boots down too tight, as that seems to cut off circulation, nothing will ruin a fishing trip quicker than cold feet. Many angler's wear fingerless fleece gloves, I like them , but if I can't keep them dry long enough , and I forget to bring an extra pair of gloves, I just tuck my free hand inside my waders by my chest. You can use hand warmers, and other object's, but sometimes its not worth the effort. To me a hat is virtually as important as waders, and I layer shirts, remembering my vest will also provide "some warmth". Don't forget the inside, a nice hot thermos of coffee, has brought many a sigh of satisfaction.

Fishing: Winter trout fly fishing requires some adjustments. Plan on subsurface fishing primarily. The warm afternoons like I mentioned above will produce Blue Wing Olive hatches in many locations, and midges hatch year round as well. Some dry fly will work to imitate the occasional nymph that might come in the trout's path.. Streamers also make excellent winter flies. Don't forget that like trout, small fish and nymphs metabolism is slow as well, and they are apt to stick to the bottom, and out of the main current.

Winter fishing usually means clear water. Use lighter tippet than normal, because fish seem more easily spooked. Trout's metabolism makes them want to seek out pools near the bank that are warmed by the sun, so they are more vulnerable. I use strike indicators as well. Also remember that due to the slower metabolism, the fish will be sluggish. They often will bite gingerly. As trout may often go after several small insects in one mouthful. They are not likely to chase food down as this will burn more calories then they will take in. Especially when fishing smaller patterns. While small pattern are very effective, in fact the first choice of many winter angler's, they need to be fished deep, and in front of the fish. Dead drifting nymphs is my first choice. If no luck I will try swinging streamers, second. I mend my line as soon as it hits the water, to ensure a drag free drift, and wait for the gentle take. Sometimes if it's that cold I let the fish do the setting.

Once landed the winter fish might need more that it's usual care before allowing it to swim free. Landing fish should be quicker do to their lower energy (and the very, very cold water), and then one must make sure the fish is 100% revived before it's release.

Summary: Enjoy your time on the water, have fun ,be safe, and if you too cold for winter fishing don't worry just come to our fishing meeting, fly tying or other programs where we can discuss about your experience.



FFF Fly of the Month

Alice's Don't Ask

March 2003

By Bob Bates



About 15 or 18 years ago Alice Deaver in Rathdrum, Idaho designed this pattern quite by accident. She phoned another fly tier to find out how to tie a certain pattern. Oral descriptions sometimes get a little confused. So when she combined her considerable tying skill with the sketchy notes a new fly emerged. It has everything that a fly should have: a bit of color, a bit of flash and pheasant tail fibers. Pheasant tail fibers are

used as wings, legs and beards on proven flies like Doc Spratley, Pheasant Tail Nymph and Halfback; so why not use it for a full hackle. It is a little more tedious to tie, but the results are worth the effort. Alice's Don't Ask has fooled a lot of brook trout and rainbows. It has even interested a few browns.

As for lake fishing techniques, Alice recommends experimenting. She normally uses a full sinking fly line, and depending upon water depth she might dump extra line to reach the fish. Her retrieves are generally an erratic twitch. One or two short pulls might be followed by three short pulls or a long pull. Sometimes a long fast pull (like you were starting another cast) will coax a fish into striking. In a float tube she might move slowly, rapidly, straight line or in curves. (It is called mooching not trolling.) Just don't do the same thing all day, especially when the fish are not biting.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 9672, Dai-Riki 710, Tiemco 5263, 10-12

Thread: Black

Tail: Pheasant tail

Body: Orange or Burnt Orange, dubbed or wool yarn

Rib: Silver tinsel, fine or medium

Hackle: Pheasant tail fibers



Tying Steps:

1. If you wish, smash the barb with smooth jaw pliers before starting to tie.
2. Select a few fibers from the mottled side of a pheasant tail. Tie them on at the bend to make a gap length tail.
3. Attach a piece of tinsel at the bend and dub some orange material on your tying thread. Wind an even body forward and then spiral the tinsel forward (five wraps are usually enough).
4. Select a few brownish-red fibers from a pheasant tail. Gently attach them on top of the hook, and spread them around the far side. Tie the fibers so they reach past the middle of the tail. Take another bunch, attach them on top and spread them around the near side. Finally, with smaller third and maybe fourth bunches, fill in any large gaps. Alice reminded me a couple of times to make the hackle sparse enough that some orange shows through. You may even leave a gap or two, assuring that some of the orange body is visible.
5. Finish the head and add a little head cement. Alice likes to use a thick head cement.

This has been a very successful pattern for lake fishing. The question usually comes up "What ya usin?" when some guys are catching fish and those around them are not. The answer "Don't Ask" leaves the fellow angler a bit dismayed.



December / January



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		December 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Fly Tying Sumner Library	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Club Meeting!!	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31	January 1 Happy New Year	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Fly Tying Sumner Library	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Club Meeting	27	28	29	30

31

Key Dates In The Future

December 8 — Fly Tying Session

December 15 — Club Meeting

January 11 — Fly Tying Session

January 26 — Club Meeting

NW Fly Tyers Expo, Albany, Oregon March 12 & 13, 2010
Washington Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, WA April 30 & May 1, 2010

Alpine Fly Fishers
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If you have an email address allow us to send this newsletter via the internet. If your email address has changed recently, please share your new address.

Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org.

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