

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday at 6:00 PM

December 14, 2010

We will be meeting at the
Puerto Vallarta
215 15th St. SE
Puyallup



Charter
Club



The Dead Drift – December 2010

In this issue:

Page 2

FFF

Fly Of The Month

Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear

Page 3

Fly of Month Cont.

Page 4

AFF Outings

December Meeting

Raffle / Fund Raiser

*I Didn't Have The
Answer*

Page 5

About Our WSCFFF

In the FFF Corner

*FFF ClubWire Book
Review*

Page 6

Calendar

Editor Information

Mailing Address

*Club's Board
of Directors*

Presidents Line

By Larry Gibbs

December, the end of 2010. For me this year went fairly fast. I made a lot of trips to Montana for some great fishing, maybe that is why the year flew by.

At our last meeting, we were enjoying a presentation about fishing in Mexico when the power point projector died on us. I had been thinking that our club needed to buy our own projector since we always use Steve Egge's machine and when that projector died, I decided it really was time. I sent out an email to our Board of Directors and asked what they thought about buying one. The BOD voted to make the purchase. I bought one that I felt will give us the best and longest service, so now our club is the proud owner of a new Epson EX-51 multi-media projector. .

We have mentioned this a few times at our meetings, and I would really like to start to modernize of our library, from VHS tapes to DVD's, at least where possible. I will be donating a number of DVD's on fly tying and casting. If anyone has a fly fishing related DVD that you would like to donate, please bring them to the meetings and give them to Bruce Everett. He will get them labeled and placed into the library system. Don't forget, we are a 501.c.3 which means that what you donate is a write off at tax time.

Some of us are planning on making our annual trip to Albany, Oregon in March. The Oregon Council FFF and the local clubs put on a spectacular show every year. They always have lots of fly tyers, last year it was 196. The list of classes and seminars covers many aspects of fly fishing, casting and tying. If you are interested in attending let me know, you can always go down with us, or head on down on your own and enjoy the show.

If someone wants to submit an article for the newsletter, please feel free to do so, I would imagine you get tired of just reading what I write.

We will be voting in our new Board of Directors at our December meeting. If anyone wants to become a BOD member please let me know. Otherwise you can look on the back page and see who our existing BOD consists of and unless one of them turns down the job, that will be who our BOD is for 2011.

I am asking for nominations/volunteers right now, so if you are interested, let me know. Call me or email me. Otherwise we will go with the existing board members
Good fishing.

Larry

FFF Fly of the Month

Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear

December 2001 FFF Fly of the month



*Webkeepers Note

Since the inception of the beloved Fly of the Month section of our website, our former webkeeper and all purpose contributor Jim Abbs has kept up this section. Since I personally do not have the expertise of Mr. Abbs the daunting task has been accepted by Bob Bates. Bob is an avid tyer and fisherman from Spokane, Washington. Bob has tied flies since 1960 when he started tying small midge patterns for Colorado high country waters. He wrote a fly tying column for his hometown newspaper in Spokane and is now a fly tying instructor when he is not fishing in Washington, Montana, Idaho, or Canada. He's a familiar face at our annual show and greatly appreciated for helping out with yet another endeavor. Thanks Bob!!

By Bob Bates

Fly tiers like to talk about their delicate dry and emerger fly patterns. However, when they get serious the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph usually shows up as one of their favorite flies. It is an all purpose nymph. Its various sizes can imitate nymphs from large dragonflies to tiny mayflies. Probably most people consider it a mayfly nymph imitation. Floating, sink tip and full sinking lines may be used to present it to willing (or hopefully willing) trout. As for retrieves, use any and all you can think of. Also you can suspend it from a strike indicator. It can be used in lakes, ponds, creeks, streams or rivers.

A few years ago I had a chance to test the performance of a Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph against (please excuse the bad words) an earth worm. I was in a float tube using a floating line and a medium speed hand twist retrieve. A father and son were a short distance away using spin gear, bobbers and the unmentionable things. At first the father told his son that they "would catch all the fish because we are using worms." However, he definitely had second thoughts after my Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph fooled six or eight rainbows, while their bobbers floated undisturbed.

Many recipe book authors neglect the word Nymph when listing this pattern. Leaving it out is really an error because Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear is an old dry fly pattern. In fact it might be the original dry fly, circa 1886 or earlier.

The Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph is also an old pattern, but my references don't help establish a date. At least one person told me that it is traceable to Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton (1600s). I can find instructions to use white rabbit tail for tying a fly so maybe they used other parts of the rabbit as well. There are many variations with the only consistent materials being hare's ear/mask for the abdomen/thorax and a gold rib. In the following recipe, the material used in tying the pictured fly is given first, followed by variations.

Continued on Page 3 →

FFF Fly of the Month Continued from Page 2

The materials are listed in the order they are placed on the hook.

Materials List:

Hook: Mustad 3609B, 9671, 9672; Tiemco 5262, 3761, 200R or other nymph hooks, sizes 6-22

Weight: Optional, 8-12 wraps lead-free wire

Thread: Black 3/0 to 12/0

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers, hare's mask guard hairs, tuft of hare's mask fur, Red Fox squirrel tail, partridge hackle fibers, brown hackle fibers or none

Rib: Gold tinsel, fine oval tinsel or fine gold wire

Abdomen: Dubbed hare's ear/mask

Wingcase: Pheasant tail fibers, bronze turkey tail or wing, gray goose or duck, white tip turkey tail, peacock herl or pearlescent Flashabou

Thorax: Dubbed hare's ear/mask

Legs: Rough dubbing or picked out guard hairs

Tying Steps

1. Smash the barb, and put hook into vise by the bend. (The pictured fly was tied years ago before catch and release was widely practiced.)
2. If weight is desired, put several wraps of lead-free wire on front part of hook (thorax area). Wrap thread on shank and secure wire.
3. Select several pheasant tail fibers, and use them to make a gap length tail.
4. Tie on gold tinsel or wire.
5. Now we come to the dubbin' material. Packaged hare's ear mixes are available, but the best fur is from real hare's masks, with ears, imported from Europe. Trim all fur, except the light colored fluffy fur, off the mask and ears. Mix it in a blender, and store in a moth proof container. (If you use your partner's blender be sure to wash it out before putting it away.)
6. Use your favorite dubbing technique; I use a dubbing loop on large flies. Put a thin layer of dubbing on your thread, and compact it into a thin fuzzy noodle. Always roll the noodle in the same direction. A little dubbing wax on the thread helps. Wind dubbed body forward. It is OK if the dubbed body extends well into the thorax to provide a base for the thorax.
7. Spiral rib forward (about 5 turns), secure and trim.
8. Position thread between 2/5ths to 1/3rd shank length back from the eye. Cut a segment of pheasant tail fibers wide enough to cover thorax, and attach it on top of body with tips pointing rearward. Have the dull side up.
9. Roll more dubbing onto your thread, and wrap a thorax that is thicker than the abdomen. Leave space at the eye to finish the head.
10. Bring wingcase forward, secure and trim excess.
11. Build a neat head, and whip finish. A drop of head cement on the thread windings will secure them against those mean fish that will hit your fly. For legs, pick out a few guard hairs from the thorax with a bodkin.

I try to keep various shades of Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymphs (usually sizes 12 to 16) in the fly box and a few more at home. The main variation I use is the Flashback Nymph with its pearlescent Flashabou wingcase. It fooled a lot of Madison River, MT rainbows and browns when drifted under a strike indicator.

No one should go to a lake or stream without a few Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymphs.

AFF 2010 Club Outings

By Bob Alston

1. **Lone Lake on Whidbey Island.** This will be a winter fishing trip in February 2011. The best way to fish is to use red San Juan Worms just 6 inches off the bottom. Steve Egge has graciously offered his cabin as a place to stay if he is available to go and if you want to make this an overnigher. This will be a Saturday and or Sunday trip. Due to the traffic through Seattle and up to Everett, the weekend is the best time to fish this lake. You drive to Mukilteo on Saturday morning, take the ferry to Whidbey Island and head for the lake. You can then either head back that afternoon, taking the ferry back to Mukilteo or stay the night at Steve's cabin and fish again on Sunday, then head back Sunday afternoon. The fishing is usually fairly good, sometimes hot, sometimes cold.

2. **Yakima River.** You can wade fish in the lower Canyon or go on drift boat floats had have the best chance of getting into some good fish. I use the Worley Bugger Fly Co. as my guide service when I fish the Yakima. Decent fishing in the summer, good fishing in the fall and winter and early spring.

December Program

Here is your chance to show everyone the great photos you took this past year, so get the photos to Steve Egge, like ASAP, RIGHT NOW!!!!

We will be meeting a couple of weeks earlier this year to avoid the Holiday festivities. Tuesday, December 14th.

This December meeting is our main fundraiser so bring your wallets and any really neat things that are in excellent shape to place on the raffle tables.

Also, BRING FLIES!!!! We have our annual Fly Christmas Tree, show us what flies you left in the real trees this year, bring some flies for our tree!!!!

One person will win all those flies in the raffle.

Well, I Didn't Have The Answer

I was looking at a Sage Bass rod on-line the other day and mentioned to my wife that it cast a 330 grain line. She asked me, "What is a grain?" You know, that was a very good question. For who knows how many years, actually more than I care to mention, I have 'used' the grain weight to determine the line size, but I never asked myself, what was a grain?

Thanks to the good old internet I have the answer:

"The American Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA) has set some standards as far as how a fly line can be rated. It is based on the weight of the first 30 feet of the fly line, in grains. The measurement of "grains" comes from an old system where 1 grain was the equivalent to the weight of an average grain of wheat.

So, now I know. Larry



About Our WSCFFF

Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

By Larry Gibbs

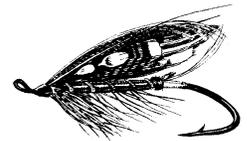


At many of the events that the Washington State Council FFF attends and has a booth, one of the key things we do is support and promote fly casting. Some of your very own Alpine Fly Fishers & Puget Sound Flyfishers FFF Certified Casting Instructors and Certified Master Instructors attend these events and are there to give casting demonstrations and often will give one-on-one casting tips. Look for them at the below shows.

Please plan on attending our Fly Fishing Fair next year in Ellensburg. The dates are April 29 & 30, 2011. There will be casting, fly tying, seminars, workshops as well as raffles and silent and live auctions.

WSCFFF Booth Show Schedule

- o Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show - Pasco, Jan 21 – 23
- o Washington Sportsman Show - Puyallup, Jan 26-30
- o Central Washington Sportsman Show -Yakima, Feb 18 – 20
- o Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Show– Sequim, April 10
- o **WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair - Ellensburg, April 29 - 30**
- o Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair- Monroe—June ?
- o Leavenworth Salmon Fest—September ??



In The FFF Corner

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

Upcoming FFF Council Events

- FFF Great Lakes Council - Fly Tying Expo, December 4, 2010
- Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo, January 14 & 15, 2011 Boise, Idaho
- NW Fly Tye Expo, March 11 & 12, 2011 Albany, Oregon
- **FFF Washington State Council—Fly Fishing Fair, April 29 –30, 2011**



FFF ClubWire Book Review

Reviewed by Bruce E Harang —**Tying & Fishing Tailwater Flies** — by Pat Dorsey
Headwater Books/Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA 2010

196 pages, hardbound, illustrated, Color and B & W, suggested price \$39.95

Bead headed flies especially nymph and pupae patterns have become "go to" flies. Among the most popular and successful of such patterns are those using glass beads, and particularly silver metal lined clear glass beads. This book, by the designer of the Mercury glass bead style patterns, presents a comprehensive guide to both the tying and fishing of these very effective patterns. The reader is given the opportunity to retrace the journey the author has traveled to create a successful system of fishing for trout and Tailwater trout in particular. To provide a comprehensive discussion of rigging and fishing methods there are also included a number of other types of flies which compliment and support the glass bead head patterns. In total the book presents twenty-four fly patterns each having a separate chapter. Each chapter presents excellent tying sequence photos and text as well as very well done line drawings illustrating rigging and fishing techniques. Also included are lovely photographs of actual fishing. This book presents the material very well on several levels. Of course the fly patterns are well documented as are the preferred manner the author ties them. But there is also an excellent discussion of fishing techniques and rigging going on simultaneously as well as the author's view of fly design criteria and fishing strategy. All of this is well presented in an easy to read style that is well edited and within a beautifully designed book.

There is good value here in both cost and time spent in reading.

December / January

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

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
 Larry Gibbs, Editor 253-863-4910 flytier015@msn.com

Alpine Fly Fishers
PO Box 1456
Sumner, WA 98390

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

Board Of Directors:

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-863-4910
First Vice President:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	253-568-7965
Secretary:	Howard Inks	253-881-1885
Ghilly:	Joe Fitzpatrick	253-405-7356
Outings Coord:	Bob Alston	253-848-6884
Programs Coord:	Bill Aubrey	253-678-3683
Librarian:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Webmaster:	Steve Egge	253-841-1093