

Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Meeting
Will Be Tuesday*

December 16

*We will be meeting at the
Puerto Vallarta
215 15th St. SE
Puyallup at 6 PM*



The Dead Drift - December 2014

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

December, that is when we have our main fund raiser. Our December Raffle, this year is on the THIRD Tuesday, December 16. The money from this raffle is what funds our club since we do not have club dues. So it is this raffle and the eight smaller ones we have at each club meeting, that pay for our donations to conservation, youth education programs, and also pays for our guest speakers. We will have well over a thousand dollars worth of raffle items on the tables this December. Please come and help fund the club and win some great raffle items. Like an 8/9 weight fly rod, some fly reels with spare spools, a lot of flies, fly boxes, fly tying tools, streamside tools, some DVD's, tying materials, some clothing items and more. This is a great chance to win some neat 'stuff' and you know you can always use more 'stuff' plus help fund our clubs financial efforts. Don't forget to bring some flies for the Fly Christmas Tree, another great raffle item. See you there!!!!

As my way of saying thanks to our club members we will have a special door prize. The winning raffle ticket will be picked from the many hundreds of raffle tickets you buy at our December meeting. The prize will be a waterproof, clear double sided fly box filled with 45 streamers. Sooooo, the more raffle tickets you buy the better your chance of winning this fly box.

Don't forget we also have a fly rod board for a great small stream and lake rod. Buy some squares while you are buying some raffle tickets. See page 8 for more on that.

This is the last newsletter of 2014. Yep, 2015 is knocking on our door. I guess this is a spinoff of Albert Einstein's 'Theory of Relativity'. The older you get the faster time flies by.

Don't forget that at our December meeting we will have a very short business section where we vote in the Board of Directors. There are eight of us on this board. Luckily our club functions with minimal need for the BOD but we must and should have one, so we do. I have asked if anyone else was interested in being on the BOD and no one came forth, nor did anyone volunteer to step up to being the new president. So, I guess we stay with the same. Check out page 10 for the list of BOD members.

I want to thank Chester Allen for his presentation on Sea Run Cutthroat fishing in South Puget Sound. An excellent program. Chester donated one of his books which will be in the December raffle. If any of you get out there to do some fishing, make sure you take plenty of photos for the 2015 December fundraiser presentation.

Good fishing.



Larry

International Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

~ PMD Emerger ~

December 2007

By

Bob Bates



In the Western part of the USA the PMD is considered by many anglers as the most important mayfly hatch. Katie Kluchko from Bozeman, Montana tied this pattern at the 2007 FFF Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Livingston, MT. She said that this is a great fly to use during the hatch or maybe just before it. Many fly anglers will stop and listen when somebody says “This emerger catches fish.” What attracts their attention is first “emerger” and second “catches fish.”

This style of fly pattern is becoming more important to many of us because they are great fish catchers. Also they are a bit easier to use than high floating patterns that require re-dressing to keep them effective. Ephemerella intermi, E. infrequens and a couple other species are called PMDs (Pale Morning Duns) by anglers. Depending on elevation, latitude, weather, etc., PMDs hatch from May to October and from 9am to noon. So you need to be ready to fish by 8am to get in on the pre-emergence activity when the nymphs become more active and are moving along the bottom. If you are not familiar with the stream and its hatches, it is a good idea to cultivate a friendship with a knowledgeable person. You can also check with a good fly shop or take the time (years) to learn what is going on. Usually the early season hatches are larger (size 14) than the later ones (size 18).

When the hatch starts switch to this pattern and start having fun. Since this is an emerger pattern use a floating line and don't grease the fly or the leader. You want the fly to drift just below the surface. Cast across stream and down a little. You can let the fly drift drag free to simulate a helpless insect, but it is sometimes more effective to jiggle it a little bit to simulate the struggling nymph. Moving the fly a bit can be as simple as wiggling the rod a little or giving the line short strips. On drizzly cool days a hatch will often last longer so don't give up when you see the first rain drop.

Materials list:

Hook: Mustad 9671 or similar hook, sizes 14 – 18

Thread: Uni 8/0, rusty dun

Tail: Wood duck

Body: Turkey biot, rusty spinner

Wing case: Turkey or goose biot, medium brown

Thorax: Dubbing, soft yellow

Legs: Wood duck

If you need to go barbless smash the barb before you start tying.

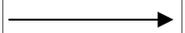
Tying Steps:

1. Start thread about one eye width behind the eye and wind to bend. Put a few extra thread winds at bend to help the tail point up a little. Cover body smoothly.

2. Take a few (6) fibers of wood duck, and tie them on in front of the thread bump. Make the tail about 1-1/2 gap widths long. Trim excess wood duck. Wind back to the bump to make the tail raise and separate slightly. Wind forward smoothly then back to bend.



Continued on Page 3



3. Let the thread hang at the rearmost thread wind for the tail. Trim off the narrowest part of a biot, leaving at least 1.5 inches of the biot for wrapping. Tie it in with the curved side a little on the side of the hook facing the tier. Let the thread torque bring the fiber to the top of the hook. Secure and move the thread forward to a point about 2/3 to 3/4 of the shank length in front of the bend.



4. Carefully spiral wrap the biot forward. Put one wrap in front of the previous one without overlapping. Use hackle pliers from start to make wrapping easier. Secure it well before releasing the hackle pliers. Don't get discouraged the first time the biot gets away (maybe several times). It happens to everyone. To secure the biot take a loose thread wind to prevent the biot from folding then put on tighter winds.



5. Trim a little of the butt part of the wing case biot. Moisten biot before tying it onto the hook. Tie it at a point about one third shank length back from the eye with the curved side up and tip to rear. Put some of the soft yellow dubbing on the thread and wrap the thorax. Make the thorax fairly large by doing a figure eight wrap over previous layers. End wrapping with the thread at front of thorax. Make sure there is about an eye width of bare shank between the eye and front of thorax.



6. Carefully cut 5 or 6 wood duck fibers for legs on each side of hook. Handle them so the tips remain even, and tie them onto the bare hook in front of thorax. Legs almost extend to the point of the hook. The thickness of the thorax ball holds them in a proper outward position.



7. Bring biot forward and secure it. Use a loose wind first and then tighter thread winds. Trim excess, and then whip finish.



Closing comments: This pattern was designed for PMDs, but it can be changed to be successful during hatches of Blue Winged Olives, Callibaetis, Flavs, Green Drakes and Gray Drakes. For Callibaetis and the drakes use larger hooks, BWOs smaller hooks and Flavs about this size. Also change the color to match the hatch. It is a great pattern, so be sure to keep an ample supply with you.

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2014

December 16 (Fund Raiser Raffle)

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2015

January 27 — February 24 — March 24 — April 28 — May 26 — June 23 (picnic)

July & August (No Meetings)

September 22 — October 27 — November 24 — December 15 (fund raiser)

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

Boots in the Water or The Slow Regard of Small Things

Outside the rain speeds earthward, my peripheral vision picks up a distant flock of birds, mere black spots in a gray sky; I watch them settle into the top boughs of western hemlock, perhaps a place to ride out the inclement weather. Dry behind my window I'm lost in thought and contemplation. It's been almost a week since my trip to Dunsmuir, CA. On our arrival at the rental house, after hugs and boisterous welcomes, we unloaded our gear, and with eager joy we waded up to go fishing. Like Baseball's spring training, every first day on a fishing trip is a new beginning filled with promise and possibilities.

The step into the clear cool flowing water, your boot's slight slip as it seeks purchase as your cleats bite. The cool embrace of the water pressure around your legs; you have entered the water realm of fishes and aquatic insects. With a flip of the rod, a Possie Bugger and an Eng Thing arch from down river to up river, then they settle into the water and sink. With an upraised arm I swing the nymph imitations downstream just a bit faster than the rivers flow. Not too many casts later my first rainbow trout of the trip fights the sudden restriction to its feeding course. As I slide him into my left hand with my raised rod tip, I admire his color, note his length 13 or 14 inches, thank him for the fight and release him, then watch as he darts below and away.

Over the next 45 minutes I catch three more rainbows, from seven inches to fourteen inches in length with iridescence rainbows glowing on their sides. Content I sit on a rock and watch my son fish. I watch his casting motion, this year he has come into his own I've seen his grace start to emerge as he lets his power start to take the back seat. He is no longer forcing his cast; his rod now does more of the work. A small thing to the world, but a great thing for me to witness; as Cy merges with the flow of the world around him. As my eyes watch him they also pick up the colors of the fall foliage, water wrapped rocks natural holding areas for wary trout, large elephant eared plants swaying as the their lower edges are brushed by the flowing river water. Just a moment in time and a slow regard for small things, as each element fits so perfectly together to form a whole.

Soon my son joins me on the rock I have chosen to take it all in from. We talk about fishing and how glad we are to be on the water together. Sitting side by side, from the same rock with our boots in the water, we take-in the beauty of the world as the sun drops behind the surrounding forested hills, with my left arm draped over my sons shoulders, life is mighty fine. An instant in time when it is just about as good as it ever could be. The weariness of the long drive to get here drops from my soul. I'm where I'm meant to be; when I'm with my kids I'm home. As the sun sets, the cool autumn air causes goose bumps to rise on our arms, which makes us both wish for coats left back at the rental when the afternoon was toasty. The autumn nip causes our legs to raise our butts off the rock and we make our way back to the track side parking place. Cy and I meet Scott and Kevin back at the car, Scott's car's heater a welcome pleasure. Later that evening over flank stakes, rice pilaf and fine bourbon we six friends settle in, content in each other's company very glad for another "Same Time Next Year" gathering.



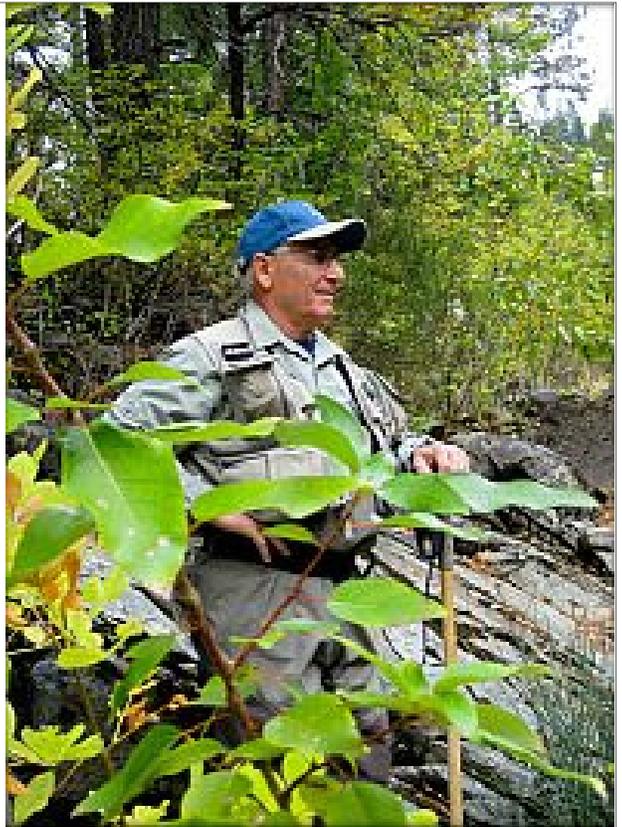
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One of the beauties of fishing the Upper Sacramento River and the water in its vicinity is the variety of fishing techniques that you get to employ. The Sacramento River through Dunsmuir is primarily nymphing water, high sticking or Czech nymphing is very effective. A lift and a flip then a slight lift again, to let your wet flies sink then a high stick sweep downstream just a mite faster than the rivers flow, then a slow tale out at the end as the flies skate near the rivers bottom. On Baum Lake, during a hatch it is great dry fly fishing, a high back cast to clear the tall cat claws behind you, then the forward stop and release to allow the leader and fly to land first, and then the slow drift on the seam just past the slower shore current skimming just above the weed beds. When the hatch turns off, then sub-surface wiggle tails or streamers will bring the fish to the fly.

Hat Creek will fish both dry flies and nymphs; on Hat Creek in 30 minutes I caught six, 7 and 8 inch trout on a parachute Adams, that beautiful downstream drift through the riffles, right below the out stretched limbs of river bank trees, temping the trout to rise to the fly.

On another day the Trinity River and its Steelhead test your skills. You can fish stone flies and beads or skate wet or dry flies with single handed rods, switch rods or Spey. On our trip to the Trinity, wet weather owned the day. The Steelhead were moving as the river flushed itself, the fish were not much interested in our offerings. But as we fished, the rain fell from dark skies and we watched and experienced the rivers rise, what was once wadeable became un-wadeable. After a two hour drive to get on the water, we fished for about 90 minutes, we had maybe 20 minutes of truly fishable water, the rest of our time was spent casting into the teeth of the storm, basing our casts on a please and a maybe. Then end of our Trinity River fishing trip was punctuated by the long rumble of a rock slide and a brief glimpse of the last 50 yards as the rock hit the wet road's black surface, then it bounced into the rivers water with a wave raising splash, then it, and its ripples, disappeared in the rivers now murky depths. We held our breath while the up-road and down-road traffic screeched to a tire squealing stop, after safely halting with no bend and crunch; we witnessed several intrepid drivers leap from stopped cars to clear the shattered rocks off the road way, to resume their motion to wherever they were bound.

Between World Series ball games (Go Giants) we sat on the deck watching Bob tie flies, sipping good Scotch as cigar smoke drifted into the evening sky. Bobs gift of his deck tied flies brought me a nice catch on the Cantara Loop. On the afternoon of the Trinity River trip we sat in the garage watching the rain fall, laughing and storying each other as we talked about river rocks and the finding of such stones for gifts and remembrances'. Cigars were smoked and glasses of rich bourbon were sipped, tasted and passed. Finally we motivated ourselves off our camp chairs, ice chest and deck chairs to drive into Shasta for a Mexican dinner. Our drive was punctuated by lightning flashes and heavy downpours. Mother Nature was talking loud and her rains in Northern California were very welcome indeed.



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Our conversation on river stones continued through dinner as laughter and jibes freely floated around us. We were unaware that we were being listened too. A couple sitting west of us, at a table a step below us, putting their ears at our tables' height were picking up our whole conversation. Just as Jeff finished his dissertation on wives and fishing trips, the lady next to us exclaimed how her husband had taken her to Italy last year, Jeff responded with, how could, he do that to us, now the bar was set to high for the rest of us. The gentleman's comment was priceless, his response "I want to go fishing with you guys"! Our conversation and laughter now included two more.

Roger spent the week with us, his hat hung on the wall, his Scotch and whiskey filled our glasses and what would Roger do, or he loved this water, were part of each day, we retold our favorite Roger stories and laughed at his foibles and cheered his triumphs. Thank you Sandy for sharing him with us, as big a part of your life as he was, we cherish the small time we had with him.

My friends in your quest to grab for and hold onto big things please don't forget about the small things for in them you will find your true happiness. Take the time for the, Slow Regard of Small Things and put your boots in the water.

And to Jeff, Bob, Scott, Kevin, Cy and Roger... "Same Time Next Year"

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

A Fly Fishing Quote:

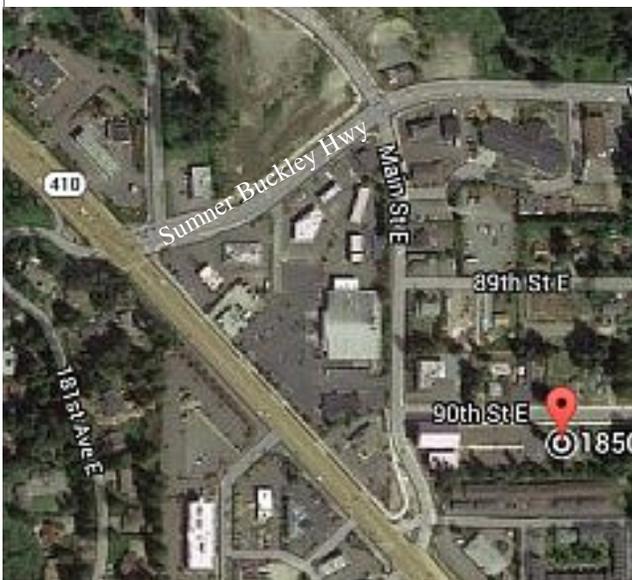
“Fly-fishers are usually brain-workers in society. Along the banks of purling streams, beneath the shadows of umbrageous trees, or in the secluded nooks of charming lakes, they have ever been found, drinking deep of the invigorating forces of nature - giving rest and tone to over-taxed brains and wearied nerves - while gracefully wielding the supple rod, the invisible leader, and the fairy-like fly.”

~ by James A. Hensall, MD ~ 1836 - 1925

Alpine Fly Fishers Fly Tying Session

Bonney Lake Library

We have at least two more tying sessions at the Bonney Lake Library, I am not sure about February at this time, depends if we can get the room.



December 18 - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (The Third Thursday)

January 15 - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (The Third Thursday)

Bonney Lake Library

18501 90th St E. Bonney Lake, WA 98391

From the west, get on Hwy 410, go up Elhi Hill into Bonney Lake. At the top of the hill make a left at the light onto the Sumner-Buckley Hwy. Then make at right at the next light which is Main St. (about 1 block away) and turn left onto 90th st. It is on the right hand side after the Municipal Building.

From the east, go west on Hwy 410, make a right at Main St. (across from the Chevron station) and turn right onto 90th at the Municipal Building.

AND THE SECRET IS



From Deanna Travis
Fly Anglers Online
Publisher & Owner

From the archives (Jan 14th, 2014)

And this is the big one.

If you are new to fly fishing, you have probably missed this one. If you are an old timer and have not found it, you aren't any better a fly fisher than the guy who just started last week. This secret applies to casting, hooking a fish, playing a fish, and landing a fish - just the most important stuff in our sport. Have any ideas?

Here is a clue, it is one specific thing. The one thing which makes or breaks your fishing success. No, it isn't attitude. It is line control. **LINE CONTROL.**

Start with casting. There are three parts to casting. Stop, look and listen. Stop the rod, look at your loops, and listen to the sound your rod/line makes. You must be able to control the size of your loops. From a nice tight loop to a big open loop when you want it - not by chance. In doing slack-line casts, curve casts and other specialty casts, the game is the same, line control. Sound? What should you hear as you make a cast? Only the sound of the line singing by. No swoosh sound, (which is caused by over-powering the cast, and usually only occurs on the forward cast.) How to you hook a fish? It doesn't matter if you are fishing a dry fly, streamer, nymph or woolly bugger, you must know where your fly is, be able to feel a connection between you and the fly, and keep unwanted slack out of the line so you can strike the fish. By either lifting the tip of your rod or line-striking the fish you put the hook through the jaw of the fish. This is called? Line control. Without line control you can't consistently hook fish. So you've had some fish hook themselves? You got lucky. You need to be able to do it yourself.

Landing a fish? Sometimes I can't help but laugh at some of the people I see on television. And darn, they broke off the fish, the fish "got off" or worse, they broke their rod. How could that happen?

Need a hint? The angler lost control of the **LINE**. Without control of the line you can't have control of the fish.

Rule number one - once you have set the hook on any fish, regardless of size, get your slack line on the reel. Not laying on the ground, floating who knows where on the water, grinding into the sand or weeds, or making a wonderful opportunity to tangle in your feet or net or anywhere else. Get the slack line on the reel, and play the fish off the reel. Every time. It should be automatic. There are times when some slack line is necessary - such as making mends in the drift of your fly. Mends are a means of extending or changing the drift on a dry fly, and a method of getting your fly deeper in the water column. Mends are made by lifting the rod tip and flipping a small amount of line out, (usually upstream) or using a half roll-cast to move the line without drowning your dry fly. It takes practice of something called: Line Control.

I had an opportunity to watch Jamie Howards' wonderful DVD on bonefishing, In Search of a Rising Tide (which I absolutely love) and noticed time after time these ultra-professionals, the top Bahamian guides each and every time in perfect control of their line. Having done a fair amount of bone fishing, it was wonderful to see these gentlemen at play. Everything was done perfectly. Of course. I even noticed these guides were fishing in their stocking feet. No shoes. I know they do that so no line could tangle on shoe laces or tabs, or toes or anything else. I've fished in the Bahamas my stocking feet, but because the heat on the deck got to me with shoes on. Maybe I got lucky on that one.

Casting from the deck of a flats boat can be difficult, especially if you have fly line on the deck and a fish hits in one second and wraps the loose line around your foot. You and fish can be gone in an instant.

Gives a whole new meaning for swimming with the fishes.

The cause of the unplanned swim and loss of a nice fish? Lack of Line Control.

Maybe you aren't serious yet about your fishing. Perhaps you think what you do is just fine. If so, stop reading now.

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However, if you want to do it right, be in control of your fishing, casting, hooking, playing and landing fish, you must be in control of your fly line. Everything will be better - and inevitably you will have a more rewarding fishing experience. (You will land more fish too.)

There are many fly fishers out there who have been fishing for twenty years or more. But what they have is one year's experience twenty times. They have not taken their fishing seriously nor improved their abilities. But trust me, they 'know everything.'

Ya right.

I'm older than dirt, been fly fishing for nearly 60 years - and I don't know everything. I'm still learning. Every new piece of water is a challenge. Every new fish is a different experience. New equipment changes the game. Lots of variables.

One thing remains constant, I don't have to think about it because it is "in there," automatic, second nature. Line control.

Line control is a specific technique you can work on. You will make mistakes, we all do, but if you make it a priority, you can do it - and your fishing will magically improve because you know the secret.

~ The LadyFisher ~



Shu-Fly Fly Rod Board & Flies

Since the TFO rod is in a holding pattern, I decided to offer up a different fly rod that I purchased from the Big Y Fly Co. as a fund raiser for the AFF. This will be a Shu-Fly trout & panfish series fly rod. It is a 9 foot, 4 weight, 4 piece rod. The company has a decent limited lifetime warranty. For those of you who were at the September and October meetings, you had a chance to take a look at it and start buying squares at a rate of \$5 each. When the board is full we will pick a winner! Just to make it a little more interesting I will add some flies into the selection process. The board is made up of five horizontal columns and eight vertical columns. When we pick a vertical column, every square in that row will win six flies. Then when we pick the horizontal column, every square in that row will also win 6 flies and the winner of the fly rod will have won at least one dozen flies. One person could end up winning more than six flies if he or she purchased more than one square in those columns. So, the more squares you buy, the better your chances for winning the rod and some flies. This is a great chance to win a fly rod. Even if you don't need another fly rod, you can always sell it for a nice profit over the price of two or three squares. You have a one in forty chance of winning a fly rod and a one in three chance of winning at least six flies in a IFFF logo fly cup. Great odds!





**Alpine Fly Fishers
Next Meeting
December 16, 2014**



2015 WSCIFFF FLY FISHING FAIR

May 1 - 2, 2015

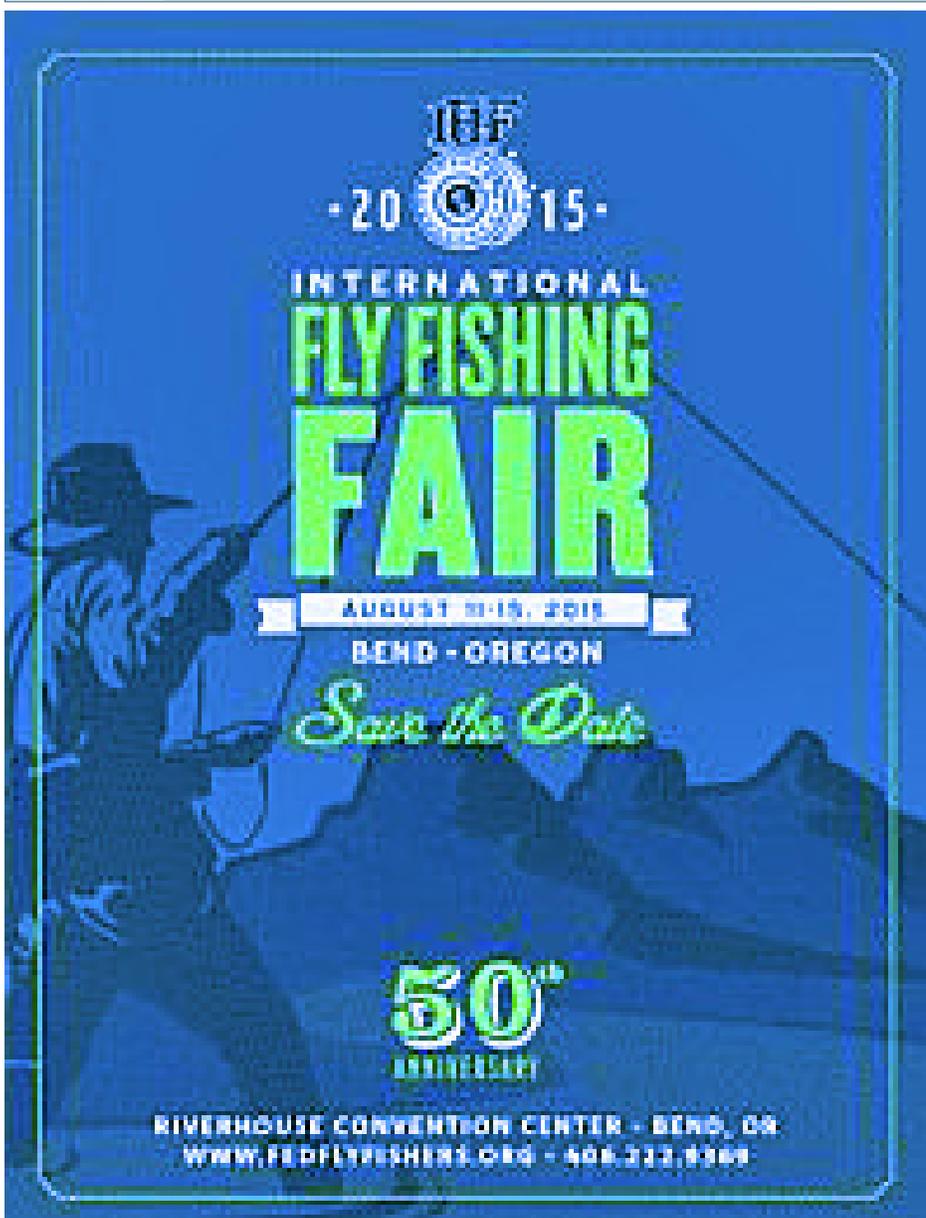
Friday & Saturday
Ellensburg, WA



2015 IFFF FLY FISHING FAIR

August 11 - 15, 2015

Bend, Oregon



December 16, 2014

Alpine Fly Fishers

**Annual Fund
Raiser Raffle**

Some items to expect:

- Fly Rod**
- Reels**
- Flies**
- Fly Boxes**
- Tying Materials**
- Tying Tools**
- Baskets of Goodies**
- Fly Fishing Clothing**
- Much More!!!**

This is the third Tuesday in December, not the fourth Tuesday. See you there!!!



December 2014 / January 2015



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 December	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Hanukkah Club Meeting	17	18 AFF Fly Tying Session	19	20
21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24 	25 Christmas	26 	27
28	28	30	31	"I heard the bells on Christmas Day, Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!" ~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow ~		

"January is here, with eyes that keenly glow,
A frost-mailed warrior striding a shadowy steed of snow."
~ Edgar Fawcett ~ 1847 - 1904

				1 January	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 AFF Fly Tying Session	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Club Meeting	28	29	30	31

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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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