

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting  
Will Be Tuesday

**December 17**

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



## The Dead Drift - December 2013

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

December already, this year just flew by, or so it seems. During the year our little club has continued to grow, we now have around 40 members. Thank you all for keeping your IFFF membership current.

Don't forget that we are meeting a week earlier this month to avoid conflicts with the holidays. So, the third Tuesday is our meeting date, **December 17**.

**The December meeting is our annual fund raiser meeting.** We will have a greatly expanded raffle, with many items for you to try for. If you have something that is virtually brand new and would like to donate it to the cause, please bring it with you to the meeting. We will set it out on a table and place a cup next to it to collect raffle tickets.

The money we collect will pay for our guest speakers in 2014. That is where we spend a lot of our money, on guest speakers. We also donate money to the NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy in Lacey and to the IFFF for their conservation fund. This year, 2013, we also made a donation to Project Healing Waters.

I totally endorse getting our youth more involved in fly fishing. The Washington State Council is a strong believer of that as well. At our Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg the first weekend of May, we invite up to 45 students from three local school districts. We give them an introduction to fly tying, to casting and to entomology sessions. The Council pays for the bus drivers and substitute teachers who have to accompany the students and we give each student a coupon so if they want to have a fly rod, for only \$20 they can buy a complete outfit: rod; reel; line. The Council pays for the rest. This program alone costs the Council well over \$1,000 each year, but it is well worth it and we will continue to fund this program for the students in the area. I really wish programs like these could be held with all school districts.

**Change of room notification:** Our December 17 meeting will be held in a different room at the Puerto Vallarta. Enter through the main front door, do not use the south end side door. Enter through the main door and hang a left once in the restaurant, then a right and go all the way back to the end of that room. That is where we will be having our meeting.

I will have a special door prize drawing for one lucky person who attends!!!

Good fishing.

Larry



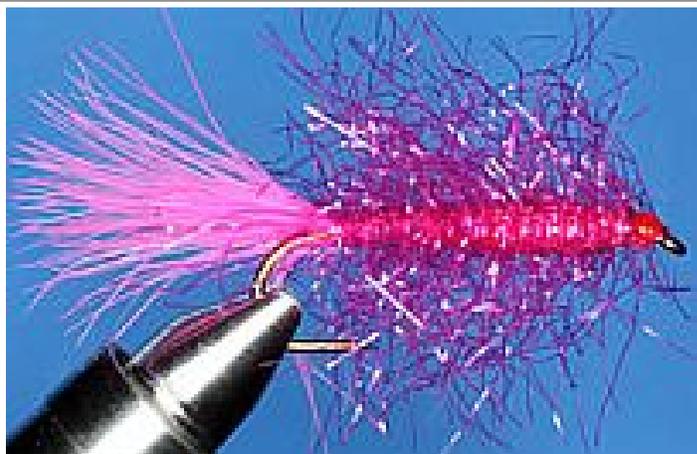
# International Federation of Fly Fishers

## Fly of the Month

### PINK DINK LEECH

December 2010

By Bob Bates



John Newbury (Buszak 2009 recipient) from Chewelah, WA started experimenting with this pattern in about 2006 or 2007. Like some other tiers he visits yarn shops looking for potential tying material. On one trip he found Aura Trendsetter Yarn that is used for knitting ladies boas (neck scarves). It looked like it might make great flies, so he bought some to try. Pretty soon flies tied with it were catching fish like mad. Thirty and forty fish days in our northeastern Washington lakes were common for him. At the 2009 Washington (FFF Council) Fly Fishing Fair he told several of us about one pattern in particular: the Pink Dink Leech.

He caught many 13- to 17-inch rainbows with it at a hike-in lake on the Little Pend Oreille Game Refuge. It is also a nice place to float around in your float tube or pontoon boat. Sprague Lake along I 90 southwest of Spokane, WA is a different story. There are not so many fish, but they are big: 6- to 7-pound rainbows. They liked the Pink Dink Leech. Some smaller fish liked it also.

I wondered if the Pink Dink Leech would work for me as well as John. I tied a couple and tried them at a Pay to Play lake in northeastern Washington. Rainbows and Brooks hit on every cast until two of those mean 20 to 24-inch rainbows stole both of my samples. I had to switch over to Purple Leeches, etc., but the action wasn't as fast. (A bunch of Pink Dink Leeches are now in my box.)

This is a wet fly so use a full sinking line to get the fly down where the fish are. Let the line and fly sink, and then use slow to fast retrieves until fish start hitting. It should not take too long. Another way to fish it, especially on big waters, is to mooch it. You can wind drift, kick with fins or row. Most fly anglers avoid (the word) trolling.

#### Materials list:

**Hook:** Mustad 79580 size 6

**Weight:** Lead wire 0.035-inch diameter

**Tail:** Marabou, Cerise

**Body:** Aura Trendsetter yarn, fluorescent cerise or extra hot pink color no. 3161 Polar Chenille from Hairline looks similar.

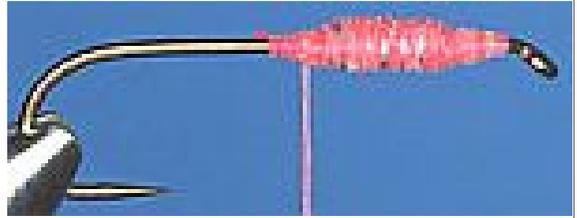
#### Tying steps:

1. Smash the barb with smooth jaw pliers before you start tying. The pattern calls for seven turns of lead wire. The way I put the wire on is to hold the end of the wire in the left hand and the spool in the right hand. Then put five wraps of wire around the shank. Hold the coil and spool tightly and break off the wire. Wrap the wire tag around the shank. It is not as fast as doing seven wraps and cutting off the tag, but there are no little pieces of lead left on the table.

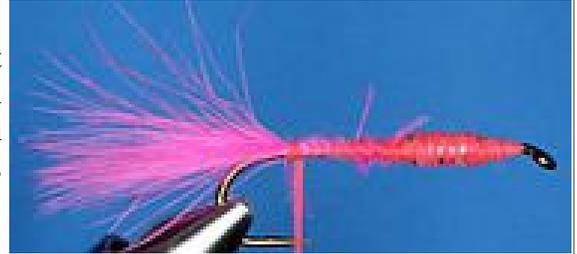


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2. Position the lead coil about two eye widths behind the eye. Attach thread between coil and eye. Put a few thread winds in front of the coil and then move to back of the coil and put a few a few thread winds there to keep it from moving rearward. Wind thread back and forth to secure coil. Build a thread ramp at both ends of the coil. Leave thread hanging at back of lead coil.



3. Take one marabou feather, measure a shank length tail and cut off excess at back of lead coil. Secure it on top of shank behind coil. While holding the feather a little on your side of shank wind thread to rear. You can wind the thread back and forth if it suits you, but leave it at the bend.



4. Cut off a piece of Aura yarn or Polar Chenille. If there is any apparent direction to the fibers have them pointing rearward when securing yarn on the hook with the long part to the rear. Wind thread forward to about one eye width behind the eye. Wrap yarn forward stroking fibers rearward on each turn. Secure yarn behind eye and trim excess. Form a head, whip finish and put on a coat of head cement.



Closing Comments: When the head cement is dry, take it out and catch a few fish. If you are not going to keep the fish for dinner please land them quickly and release them carefully so you can play with them another day. This pattern has received so much attention locally that variations are showing up. One is a jointed version for steelhead and another is a balanced version. Balanced patterns are described in February 2006 Fly of the Month. Stay tuned for further reports. If you go to the yarn store have a few friends lined up to help you use the 150-yard ball (\$12 in 2010). Two local fly shops have it in bulk. Fly shops on the internet have Polar Chenille in 5-yard packages.

## **January Guest Speaker & We need your photos from 2013!!!!**

Our guest speaker for January will be ourselves. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not have enough space to have our normal December meeting slide show during that meeting. So, Bob Alston and I came up with an idea: Let's have it in January!!! That means Steve Egge or Bob Alston need to receive your photos in a timely manner so Steve and input the photos into a useable format. Please bring your digital photos, or paper photos with you to the December 17 fund raiser meeting and give them to Steve or Bob. That will give them plenty of time to set up a really nice presentation.

### **A Fly Fishing Quote:**

Even eminent chartered accountants are known, in their capacity as fishermen, blissfully to ignore differences between seven and ten inches, half a pound and two pounds, three fish and a dozen fish. ~William Sherwood Fox, *Silken Lines and Silver Hooks*, 1954

## **Alpine Fly Fishers — Board Of Directors**

Traditionally, at our December fund raiser meeting we also vote in our Board of Directors for the next year. As you can see, we have a duplication, with Bob Alston. It would be nice if he didn't have to wear two hats. All you have to do is toss yours into the ring and ask to be on the ballot. In the past we have not had an actual written ballot since we have not had more than one person wanting to participate in any particular position. That means we just ask the members who attend the December meeting to do a verbal vote for the Board of Directors. As long as the majority vote for the existing BOD, then every BOD member simply gets re-elected.

Here is your chance to step up and voice your desire to be on the Board of Directors. If we have more than one person vying for any particular position then we will have a written ballot that will be passed out to the active club members who attend the December meeting.

If anyone wants to be the President, please feel free to apply for the job.

Give it some thought and if you want to join the BOD, please send me an email to let me know which position you would like.

Thank you.

Larry Gibbs — flytier015@q.com

### **Board Of Directors:**

President:	Larry Gibbs
Vice President:	Bob Alston
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy
Secretary:	Stephen Neal
Webmaster/Director:	Steve Egge
Ghilly/Director:	Guy Magno
Outings:	Bob Alston
Programs/Director:	Dave Alberts
Librarian/Director	Bill Aubrey

### **Very Brief Job Descriptions Of Our Board Of Directors Positions**

**President:** Officiate at club meetings. Prepare the annual report to the IFFF for the IRS. Be the primary contact person for potential new members with questions and vote on a few club related decision making items each year.

**Vice President:** Officiate at club meetings when the president is not available and vote on a few club related decision making items each year.

**Treasurer:** Maintain the bank account and deposit the monthly income from raffles. Assist in the annual report. Pay guest speakers and misc bills as they come due and vote on a few club related decision making items each year.

**Secretary:** Sign official papers when needed and vote on a few club related decision making items each year.

**Directors:** Assist where needed and vote on a few club related decision making items each year.

### **WSCFFF & IFFF Events in 2014**

The Washington State Council Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg will be on **Saturday & Sunday** in 2014, not Friday and Saturday. That is May 3 & 4, 2014.

The International Federation of Fly Fishers Fly Fishing Fair will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 9<sup>th</sup> in 2014, at Livingston, Montana.

### **Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2013 — December 17**

**Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2014** January 28 — February 25 — March 25 — April 22  
May 27 — June 24 (Picnic) — July & August (No Meetings) — September 23 — October 28  
November 25 — December 16 (Fund Raiser Raffle)

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## Touch

In the last month I have been lucky enough to attend three fishing adventures two on the water and one in Seattle, at the Rainer Club sipping Scotch with other fly fishermen. In each of the three trips touch was brought up or emphasized in some way but it was during the third trip that is all congealed to become the title and subject upon which this article touches.

Dunsmuir California has been a fall fishing destination for the past 6 years. Roger Miller, Bob Papazian, Jeff Trafican, Scott West, Kevin Wren, Cy Neal and I, get together to celebrate each other and to fish Northern California waters, Upper Sac., Trinity, McCloud, Baum Lake, etc. This was our first year without Roger, the Fresno contingent brought his hat and some of his ashes, as Sandy had asked us to spread them at 4 locations that Roger loved to fish. At Baum Lake we drank a toast to Roger as we spread his ashes. His hat went with us on every trip and hung on the wall in the cabin when we settled for the evening. On our first night back together we hugged and thumped each other's backs and exchanged gifts; it was a spontaneous Thanksgiving and Christmas celebration. Good friends bring that out in each other. Jeff refers to it as our "Same Time Next Year" trip.



This year's fishing was slower than normal; fish were caught, just not very many. My high number day was five fish, they were all above 18 inches, All the rest of my days were one or three fish catch days, all below 10 inches, on the Trinity I caught one, but being a steelhead at around 24 inches it was a big 1. Those numbers held pretty much for everyone else as well, but hey, for California draught year number two, that's not bad. This was our first year in Dunsmuir without rain, the days were sunny and comfortable and the nights were cool, beautiful weather for a fishing trip. We felt like school kids ditching school on a spring day. This year's catch was a mix of nymphing with a few dry flies thrown in for change up.

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My most productive flies were a #18 Adams, 2 fish near Condor, and 2 fish on an Eng Thing on the McCloud, every other fish I caught on the trip were on different flies. I changed flies a lot but no pattern seemed to produce any consistency. On our last evening in Dunsmuir we attended a bamboo rod open house, out of curiosity and in honor of Roger, who loved fishing with Bamboo. Bamboo has great feedback to the fly fisher; it is great at letting him/her know what is happening in the cast, it has great response to touch. A seed was planted.

On a Friday night two weeks ago I went to a Scotch tasting with Steve Egge, This was my second year of Scotch tasting, last year Bob Alston had a tooth re-crowned and couldn't make it and I went in his place. So with some pre-knowledge I was looking forward to attending again. In one evening I could sample some of the best Scotches in the world that would take me a life time to taste on my own. Scotch is a single malt whiskey that one must take their time with to appreciate. A huge component of good Scotch whiskey is aging and the barrels it is aged in. It takes time for Scotch to reach its full potential and it takes time to appreciate what time has created. Scotch can be overwhelming to the first time taster. The flavors of Scotch range from rich to light, and delicate to smoky and within that range you can taste fruit, honey, almonds, peat, smoke, and citrus all depending on the casks it was aged in. When the whiskey touches your tongue your pallet comes alive and this wave of flavor starts to penetrate your consciences, smoke, earthiness, and life.

Steve had reserved a table for us under the title of fly fishers. The lady setting next to me asked how Steve and I met and the connection between Scotch and Fly Fishing. In answer I told her that Steve and I met because of fly fishing I joined the Alpine Fly Fishers because of the enjoyment I had as a member of the Fly Fishers for Conservation in Fresno, CA. The Alpine Fly Fishers had asked me to give a presentation on Fly Fishing in California and after the presentation Steve asked me if there were a group of guys that I fished with, in California, my answer was yes, and that I still fished with them once a year in Dunsmuir. That answer led to Steve inviting me along on a fishing trip to Lake Lenice and him becoming my doctor. On that first fishing trip Steve introduced me to Scotch, which I sipped while watching the Columbia River flow past the Pink Lady. My answer to her question on Fly Fishing and Scotch and why catch and release fertilized the seed from the first trip that grew into the idea for this article.

I fly fish because I love the outdoors, and fly fishing takes me to beautiful places with really good people, but I truly love the touch. Through a rod and a line I am in contact with a beautiful creature fighting for his life; I am as excited by the fish that throws his hook or breaks his line as the one that I land to touch and release. In fact the ones that get away are the ones I remember the most, their fight, the dance in the light, the luck or the fate all play apart, but like us they have gained just a little more freedom before the circle of life begins again. Just for a moment I have touched that life.

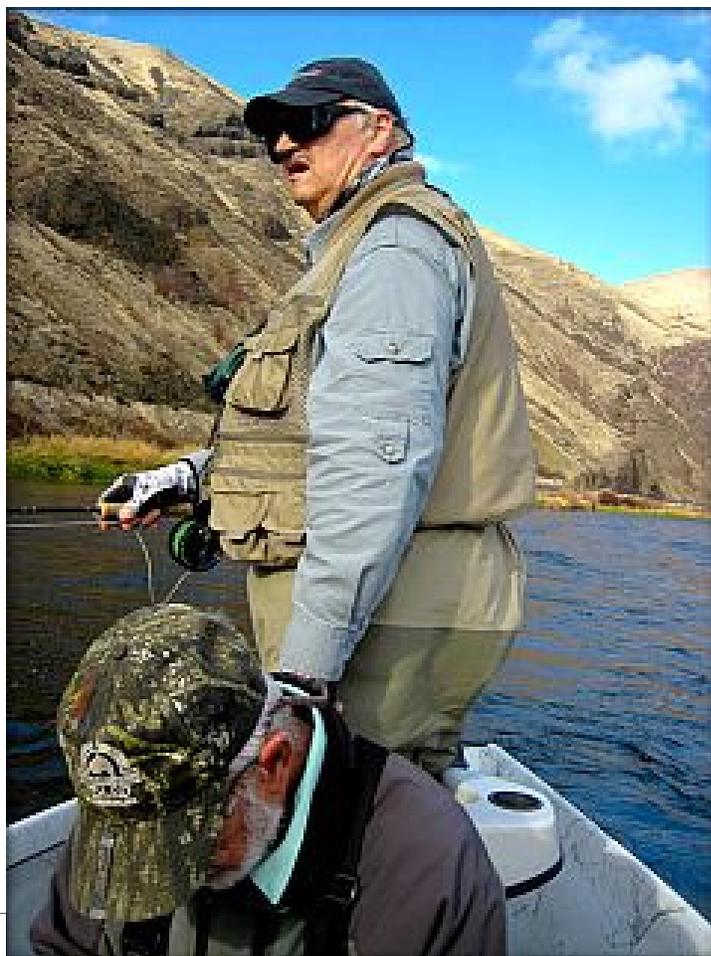
My third fishing trip this month was with Larry Gibbs on the Yakima River, we fished the canyon below Ellensburg. Larry and my friendship can also be attributed to my friends in the Fresno Fly Fishing club as Larry and Roger were friends from their co-work on behalf of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Larry and Roger had served on the board together and Sandy and Larry had worked together on the federations silent auctions. During a FFF call Larry had asked Roger if he knew me and what I was like Roger informed Larry that I was a keeper, pretty high praise I think. When Roger was going through his cancer fight Larry and I kept each other informed on Rogers's prognoses and progress.

Larry picked me up at 7 AM and in a light drizzle we headed over the Cascade's to Ellensburg and the Worley Bugger fly shop to meet our guide John. Larry and I hadn't seen each other since last April, we had stayed in contact via email and texts but sight to sight meeting had not taken place.

My new job at Sportsman's seemed to always have me scheduled on Tuesday night at the same time as the Alpine's club meeting so we had some catching up to do. In fact we were so caught up in catching up that we missed a turn and took the road through Black Diamond instead of Auburn and added an hour to our travel time because of commute traffic and an accident on 18. Oh well more time for visiting. In Ellensburg I rode with John down to the lower Yakama Canyon and our launch destination. In getting to know each other John asked me some fishing questions to gauge my knowledge and approach to fishing. I answered that the ones that get away are as important as the ones I land. John reflected that he saw three principle types of fishermen, those that counted fish caught and were so into catching that everything else was forgotten, a second group who could care less about caching, or even fishing, and his favorite group who loved fishing and learning about fishing. On good catching days with them, he needed to slow down so that they were not burnt out on catching before he got to the big fish holding water, he wanted them fresh so that they could really enjoy what was happening with catching and landing bigger fish. My story concept now had a seed, fertilizer and water this was now born.

Larry and I did catch fish it was a great day cool and clear with sunshine and John put us onto fish. They both reminded me that this was a slow day on the river and that there were bigger and more fish than we had encountered. That OK as it is something to look forward to but I enjoyed my day on the river with Larry and John and catching the fish that came to our offerings.

Life is not a spectator sport, we connect to life through touch; our grip is a looking glass into our soul and our connection with this world. It can be hard, soft, firm, gentle, rough, stiff, loose, limp, hesitant or not at all. In our life and times, the term getting a feel for something, is well used.



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We use it to describe a new situation, an object, or person. In sports, golf instructors, baseball coaches, martial artists fly-fishing casting instructors, shooting instructors all address ones touch and grip with our sports equipment. Getting a feel for something is not just a phrase but touches the heart of the matter.

Whatever our choice of equipment is, from a crescent wrench to a baseball bat we are communicating with our world through it. Information must flow both ways. Too tight and information cannot pass from us to the receiver, too loose

and no message can return, over controlled and our messages are miss directed, under controlled and we are receiving only partial information in return. With a hand gun, gripping with the little finger pulls the gun down and off target as we squeeze the trigger, the left hand is a cradle, if you grip with your left over your right you push right and off target when you squeeze the trigger. With a fly rod over gripping twists the rod changing the arch of your cast, destroying the feel of the rods loading and unloading leading to slack and poor casting, too loose and the rod has no direction and no loading and therefore little distance in your cast and no accuracy. In golf over gripping twists the shaft changing the clubs faces orientation to the golf ball causing hooks or slices

When teaching martial arts, or fly casting, or holding a gun, bat or golf club, I use two analogies to describe proper holding, gripping or touching. You hold an egg gently, not tight enough to crack it, but not too freely, as this would cause it to slip and you might drop it. The second analogy is holding a baby or child, why? Because a child or baby gives you instant feedback on how they are being held. Most of us have been held as a child or held a child so this is an easy image to grasp. Hold a child to tight or rigidly they begin to squirm or cry, they want comfort not confinement. If you hold too loosely, they feel like they will fall, there is no security. A child wants to feel safe and secure, they want security not confinement, support without constraint. All this communication is done almost without thought, as long as we are relaxed we can interpret what we feel and they feel and adjust accordingly. To tight, they squirm and cry, we loosen, too loose, they also squirm, fidget struggle, we tighten. When they settle into sleep we know we have done it all right.

Feedback and response is heightened when we are relaxed. Now apply this concept to casting, to holding a gun, swinging a golf club or life. Rigidity, close-mindedness and tightness close off communication, but so does indifference, lack of attention or being disconnected. Our grip reflects our mind intent, too controlling our hands reflect distortion and misdirection to laze fair and there is no direction just random happenings. We need to be in touch but not controlling, what needs to happen is being sent back to us through our touch we just need to be attentive enough to hear the message and to react. We cannot control life but we can be in touch, and when we are it will let us know what to do.

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



**Have some Photos? Bring them to the December 17 fund raiser meeting!!!!!!**



## The Creel Suggestion

From time to time some of you have approached me with ideas and suggestions and they have been great. I would like to hear from more of you, what are your thoughts and ideas. I will have a **Creel Suggestion** box at our meetings. Have an idea? Let me know!! Have a suggestion? Let me know!! Want a change? Let me know!! Know of a good speaker, let Dave know!!! Of course, you can always send me an email if you want to. Larry



## Our Unadorned Christmas Fly Tree

Our poor Christmas Fly Tree is bare and in desperate need of ornamentations to decorate it for our December fund raiser raffle. Someone will win this tree and it should be filled with flies, then they can pluck the the flies and return the tree to me for next year. So, make sure you bring us some flies at our December meeting and stick them in the tree! I guess the fly Christmas tree has been around for many years in the Alpine Fly Fishers club. Let's keep the tradition going and make it a very colorful tree with hundreds of flies all over it. Any kind of fly, any size, whatever types you use for fishing. Make someone happy, donate some flies.

## Washington Fly Fishing Fair 2014 — Ellensburg, WA — May 3-4, 2014

Volunteer dinner Friday May 2 - 5:30 PM

**Saturday Hours:** May 3, 9:00 am to 5:00 PM

Banquet at 6:30 PM

Awards, board nominations, distinguished guests, etc 7:00 PM

Auction follows ~7:45 PM

**Sunday Hours:** May 4 - 8:00 am 3:00 pm

Welcome,

I welcome you to the 2014 Washington Fly Fishing Fair. This is our eight annual event and the result of the generous support of many talented flytiers, casters and flyfishers devoted to our sport and to conservation and education. This year the board had decided to make some major changes to the event. The show will be open to the public Saturday and Sunday. The hours will be: Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The WSCFFF board and fair committee encourage you to visit our Fair pages often to check on updates. Please check out:

- our free seminars which will be located in the Manastash Room and the Heritage Center
- our workshops, space in some will be limited, sign up early to reserve your spot
- our amazingly talented fly tiers...we have about 100 tiers for you to see. The list will be updated as they sign up
- our Federation Fly Fishing 9 Hole Casting Course at the Park, it's free. On Saturday afternoon there will be a competition, it's also free and there are some great prizes
- need help with your casting at the Park....We offer private lessons with a CI. Cost is cheap for a one on one lesson. Sign up on-line if space is available at the Fair.
- our vendors and partners

While we encourage everyone to have a great time, this event is our only fund raiser and our major source of funds to support education and conservation events in the coming year. So we encourage you to attend and participate in our auction and raffles. If you have any items you would like to donate please contact Larry Gibbs, our Auction/raffle Chair.

On Saturday evening we have our awards banquet. The evening will consist of dinner, Council awards and our live auction. Please register and join us.

This event does not go off without the help of a lot of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me. On Friday evening we hold a dinner for our volunteers and vendors to thank them for their support because without them this event would not be possible.

I hope to see you there.

Carl Johnson — President WSCFFF

# December 2013 / January 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>December 1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	<b>17 Club Meeting</b>	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	<b>25 Merry Christmas</b>	26	27	28
29	30	31	<b>Fund Raiser Raffle!!!</b>			

			<b>1 January</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
26	27	<b>28 Club Meeting</b>	29	30	31	

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club  
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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](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)

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