

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on

**February 22**

**Tuesday at 6:00 PM**

We will be meeting at the

**Puerto Vallarta**

**215 15th St. SE, Puyallup**



Charter  
Club



## The Dead Drift – February 2011

### In this issue:

#### Page 2 & 3

*FFF Fly Of The Month*  
*Henry's Fork Callibaetis*

#### Page 4

*Puget Sound Fly Co.*  
— *New Location* —  
*The Osprey*  
*AFF Lone Lake Outing*  
*February Meeting*  
*Guest Speaker*  
— *Joe Rotter* —  
— *Red's Fly Shop* —  
*TFO Rod Board*  
*Renew your FFF*  
*membership*

#### Page 5

*About Our WSCFFF*  
*In the FFF Corner*  
*Phil Rowley Workshop*  
*FFF ClubWire Book*  
*Review*

#### Page 6

*Winter Nymph Fishing*  
*Youth Fly Fishing*

#### Page 7

*Calendar*  
*Editor Information*  
*Mailing Address*  
*Board of Directors*

### President's Line

*By Larry Gibbs*

I want to reward the faithful, so to speak, so as you renew your FFF memberships, I will order a personalized fly box for you. Just my way of saying thanks for attending our meetings and for helping to make the club a great organization.

February is an excellent month to go up to Lone Lake on Whidbey Island. I am glad Steve is getting a trip put together for February 26. If you can go up there please do, you will have fun. One of the best ways to fish Lone Lake is to use a red San Juan Worm and have it suspended in the water about 6 inches off the bottom. Anchor up to a spot no more than several hundred yards from the boat launch. The next best bet is to slowly troll a Woolly Bugger around the lake. I will still be recovering from my knee surgery, so most likely no real fishing for me this winter, but watch out come this spring.

Joe Rotter of Red's Fly Shop will be our guest speaker, talking about fishing in Eastern Washington, a great place to fish.

2011 is cooking right along. In just a little over two months the Washington State Council will be hosting the Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. April 29 & 30. This is a great event and I hope most of you can head over the pass to spend a day or two there and maybe get in some fishing. I am the auction coordinator for the WSCFFF. This year we have a nationally known auctioneer, Will Godfrey. He is the auctioneer for the Albany, Oregon Fly Tyers Expo and for the FFF auction during the National Conclave. In Ellensburg, on Friday night we have a free dinner for all the volunteers and vendors and Will Godfrey will be doing a mini-auction that night, then on Saturday night he will do the main auction. We will also have a door prize for Friday night.

I always need volunteers to help out during these events. Bill Fox and PJ Hicks helped last year, in fact, Bill has been helping out for a number of years. If you are interested, please let me know.

We have a new librarian. James Dufficy has taken over the position. Bruce Everett ran out of storage space and had to give up the job. Thanks Bruce for all your years of serving as the librarian. We do appreciate it. Bruce is still very active within the club as he is the Vice President.

Good fishing.

Larry

# FFF Fly of the Month

## Henry's Fork Callibaetis

FFF Fly of the Month  
Feb 2008

By Bob Bates



New fly patterns come about for several reasons. I won't list them all so we can get right to the reason behind this pattern, a need for fishing. On many fishing waters one insect hatch will decline and another overlapping hatch will start. For a time period you don't know what the fish are taking, the old pattern or the new one. Some of the Oregon lakes present this problem to their anglers. The fish are real picky when a Callibaetis mayfly comes off. But when a caddis comes off, a Tom Thumb often works. Norm Domagala of Monroe, Oregon faced this often.

At the FFF 2007 Fly Fishing Show & Conclave he showed us how to tie one solution to the problem. It also has two materials that I had not seen before and one old time item that could be used more. Like most, if not all, patterns this one can be considered a marriage of two other patterns: a mayfly and the Tied Down Caddis, with a little Tom Thumb thrown in.

It is fished using a floating line and nothing on the fly to make it float better. When the fly gets too wet Norm uses drying crystals, or you can simply use a chamois. The fly floats low in the water so it is hard to see if the surface is rough. In the morning if the surface is glassy twitch it a little. If it is a windy day cast somewhat crosswind and let it ride the rough water. Mostly fish take it because it is the right size. Keep a close eye on your line. Try to cast the line so it is straight. Recast or straighten the line when it gets crooked.

### Materials & Equipment:

**Hook:** Gamaktsu S10 sizes 14 and 16

**Thread:** Ultra thread, 70 diner, tan

**Tail:** Horse hair paint brush dyed with brown Rit

**Back:** Coastal deer hair, Dun

**Body:** Wonder Wrap from Montana Fly Products, flat rubber, gray

**Hackle:** Henry's Fork Hackle (CDC) from Montana Fly Products, grey

**Step 1:** Start thread at back of hook and wind a thread base ending at mid shank.

**Step 2:** Tail is from a horse or boar's hair paint brush. It has to be a high quality paint brush which are expensive, but sometimes they can be found at garage sales. Big brushes can be cut with a hacksaw. Has to be a light color to take the brown Rit dye. You can dye it several times to get the right color. Darker hair is not good quality. Cut a few fibers, stack them and tie them on to make a shank length tail. Cut off the butts at a slight angle

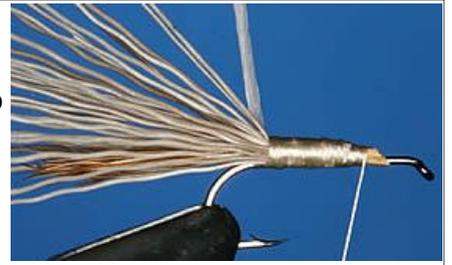
**Step 3:** Cut a bunch of deer hair. Clean out under fur. Trim tips, hold trimmed hair about mid shank and tie deer hair securely. Tie on with butts facing back. If deer hair flares excessively use less thread tension toward the bend. Make deer hair bunch about twice as long as the tail. This is dun colored hair, also use nearly white for light colored caddis and very dark for the nearly black caddis like the ones on Hosmer Lake and other waters.



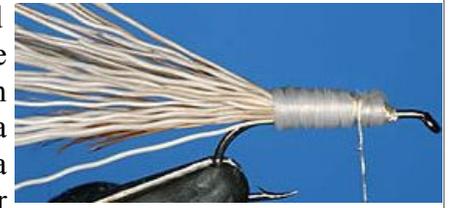
Continued on Page 3 →

## FFF Fly of the Month Continued from Page 2

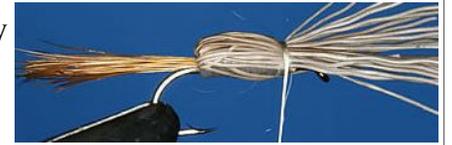
**Step 4:** Tie on the Wonder Wrap material at back of body. It is the gray strip that Norm is holding up.



**Step 5:** Pull on the material when wrapping to thin it a little. Wrap forward to about 1/3rd shank length back from the eye. Overlap wraps to get a little segmentation. Stop wrapping at front of deer hair tie down. Tie down securely because it is under tension and will snap out. Leave about a sixteenth of an inch of the body material beyond tie down point for extra security. Put a little glue on it to keep fish from tearing it up. Use a clear lacquer like Sally Hanson which dries quickly.



**Step 6:** Pull deer hair forward and tie down. Put a little glue like Sally Hanson's on threads.



**Step 7:** Use Henry's Fork CDC (Cul de Canard or butt of the duck) like hackle. The CDC is on a thread which makes handling it much easier. Capture about 1/16th of an inch of the strand on top body. If you try to grab the tip it will break off.



**Step 8:** Pull fibers back as you wrap. Make two or three turns around hook to make a little thorax. Tie off and leave about a 1/8th inch post on top to make a little more body. Pull all the fibers back and wrap in front of post. (If spinners start can make two wings out of CDC.)



**Step 9:** Pull up the deer hair and wrap in front of deer hair to make a small head. Put a little glue on thread and wind it in.



**Step 10:** Last step cut deer hair at an angle. Trim thread and put glue on threads with a small bodkin so none of the glue gets on the CDC.  
Closing comments:



This is a proven pattern for the mixed insect hatches in the Oregon lakes. Try these ideas where you live and one of your problems might be solved. The name might be a confusing when all we talk about is lakes, but it is simply the name of the CDC material. Besides I bet that fish in some streams would hit it.



## Puget Sound Fly Company, LLC

**We are now open in Tacoma!**

**6001 Tacoma Mall Blvd. Suite B2**

**Tacoma, WA 98409**

**New phone: 253-472-2420**



### The Osprey

#### A publication of the FFF Steelhead Committee

The FFF's acclaimed steelhead conservation newsletter, The Osprey, entered its 20th year of publication in January 2007. This 20-year history records a legacy of steelhead issues found nowhere else.

To preserve and promote this collection of fine writing and well-documented happenings, the newsletter's editorial committee has prepared a complete index of past issues. Help us conserve our wild steelhead and salmon - and support The Osprey today!

To read the latest issue of The Osprey or subscribe, click here.

To stay connected with up-to-date news, visit their blog.

Go to: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/>

Then look for the Osprey link under Conservation

### February Guest Speaker

**Joe Rotter**

**Of**

**Reds's Fly Shop**

**Re:**

**Fishing in Eastern Washington**



### TFO Rod Board

**\$5**

There are 36 chances to win a very nice rod.

TFO Lefty Kreh Professional Series, 5 wt, 4 piece 8'6" graphite rod

**\$5**

On Sale at our February meeting, when the board is full we will have a winner!!

### Renew Your FFF Membership

We have been a FFF Charter Club for about one year. That means that those of you who joined at the end of 2009 or start of 2010 are at or near your expiration date. Please make sure you renew your FFF membership.

Thanks, Larry



## About Our WSCFFF

Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers

[www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://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 2011 Booth Show Schedule

- o Central Washington Sportsman Show -Yakima, Feb 18 – 20
- o Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Show– Sequim, April 9 - 10
- o **WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair-Ellensburg, April 29 - 30**
- o Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair- Monroe—June ?
- o Leavenworth Salmon Fest—September 17—18



### In The FFF Corner

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

#### Upcoming FFF Council Events

- **NW Fly Tyer Expo, March 11 & 12, 2011 Albany, Oregon**
- **FFF Washington State Council—Fly Fishing Fair, April 29 – 30, 2011**
- **FFF Fly Fishing Fair / Conclave — West Yellowstone, MT, September 1-3, 2011**



**Conquering Northwest Lakes A One-Day Workshop by Phil Rowley**  
**Saturday – April 9, 2011 Offered by Puget Sound Fly Fishers**  
[www.psff.org](http://www.psff.org)

## FFF ClubWire Book Review

### Montana's Best Fly Fishing

by Ben Romans (reviewed by Bruce E. Harang)

Headwater Books/Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA 2010  
283 pages, softbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price \$29.95

A very well written, illustrated, and produced volume detailing fly fishing in some of Montana's most popular waters. Eighteen of the most famous rivers are covered in this volume including; the Bighorn, Yellowstone, Gallatin, Madison, Jefferson, Beaverhead, Big Hole, Rock Creek, Blackfoot, Clark Fork, Bitterroot, Missouri, Smith, Kootenai, Flathead, South Fork Flathead, Middle Fork Flathead, and North Fork Flathead.

Each river section includes a site map with state location map insert, a general description of the river and its fish, when and where to fish, hatches and productive flies and rigs, a graphical hatch chart, directions to fishing access points, and recipes and photographs of suitable fly patterns. The writing style is easy to read and comprehend. The graphics and photographs are very high quality. The photographs of the rivers are well done in that they give the reader a "sense of place". If you are new to trout fly fishing in Montana this is a must have volume that will become a good friend. If you are a veteran of the Montana Rivers, this volume will very likely provide you with some new options and ideas. This is a beautiful volume providing the reader with good value.

## Winter Nymph Tactics

RiverBum.com

Jan 7th, 2010

One great thing about where I live is that we have a year-round fishing season. Though it sounds crazy to some, I actually really enjoy winter fly fishing, especially on some of the super productive tailwaters around the West. In terms of numbers, Winter fly fishing, especially with nymphs, is often better than it is in the warm months. Here are a few tactics to help you catch more fish when nymphing in the Winter.

1. Target tailwaters and spring creeks with scuds, sow bugs, and midges. Because ground water and dam outflows stay around 45 to 55 degrees, depending on the source, these streams stay warmer than other streams in the winter. These types of streams and rivers produce large numbers of scuds, sow bugs, and midges throughout the year. Fish in these waters target these high energy food sources. Fish close to the source of the spring or the dam for the most productive water.

2. Fish slow. There are a few reasons to fish more slowly and methodically in the Winter. Fish are not as likely to move very far in the colder water, so your drifting nymphs have to basically bump into fish sometimes to draw strikes. Trout also tend to pod up in the cold months, so when you find fish, it's good to stick with them fish slowly, and make sure you cover every inch of the run or pool.

3. Be ready for light strikes. As mentioned above, fish don't move as far to eat in the winter. This also means that the strikes are much lighter. Try fishing Czech style or with very small strike indicators to be able to sense the light takes.

4. Fish the warmest part of the day. Forget waking up early or staying past dark. In the Winter everything happens when it's the warmest. Bugs like sows bugs and scuds move around and feed more in the middle of the day and fish feed more as a result. Take your time getting to the river in the morning and go home in the late afternoon.

5. Fish small. Especially if your river has midges, concentrate on smaller nymphs this time of year. Midges in rivers rarely get bigger than size 18 and size 24-20 are more common. I really like Ghost Midges, Rubber Midges, and Zebra Midges in size 22 or 20 for catching Winter trout.

6. Fish light tippets. In the Winter months I always go down to 6X tippets and sometimes 7X, unless I'm Czech nymphing where a little heavier tippet is required. This gives you even more chance for your offering to be accepted by fish that aren't feeding as aggressively as they do in warmer months.

Hopefully your area has some waters that allow Winter fishing. If not, I'm sorry, Winter nymphing can be a blast.

Good luck and tight lines!

Jake Ricks

Fly Fishing Professional, Guide, and Author

## The 2011 Academy

*By Mike Clancy*

Applications are now being accepted for the 2011 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must edit an essay explaining why they want to attend the Academy and a letter of recommendation is required from their school counselor or science teacher. The dates for the WSCFFF and WCTU sponsored event are June 19-25, 2011.

The Academy will be held at The Grinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. To learn more about The Academy, go to [www.nwycffa.org](http://www.nwycffa.org). The application is available on the website or contact Mike Clancy @ [nwycffa@earthlink.net](mailto:nwycffa@earthlink.net). This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and the basics of fly fishing.

# February / March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>February 1</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	<b>22 Club Meeting</b>	23	24	25	<b>26 Lone Lake</b>
27	28					
		<b>March 1</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	<b>11 Fly Tyer Expo, Albany</b>	<b>12 Fly Tyer Expo, Albany</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	<b>22 Club Meeting</b>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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Visit our website at [www.alpineflyfishers.org](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)

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