

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Tuesday

February 26

As always, at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM



FFI
Charter Club



The Dead Drift - February 2019

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By Larry Gibbs

Snow levels in our mountains are very important for our rivers and ground water levels come this summer. We start 2019 a little below normal. In all of our Washington mountains, we were at 91% of normal. Not bad, but I would rather see a much higher figure like we had last year, which was well above normal. Over in Montana, the Clark Fork River drainage basin was sitting at only 87% while the rest of the state was only at 84%. Not good, but not critical either. A few good snowstorms during January and February could up those figures. We can only hope. However, the long term projections are calling for a warmer than usual winter for the greater northwest, so we may fall short of our average snowpack. That is starting to show it's ugly head I am afraid. By the end of January our snow pack here in WA was only at 78% of normal, so we are going in the wrong direction. At least in Montana the overall percentage was at 91%, hence it went up a few points.

I was watching TV the other morning and they said that there were 3.5 million miles of rivers and streams in the United States. My Oh My, so many rivers, so little time.

I just finished a five day stretch working the WA State Council FFI booth at the O'Loughlin show in Puyallup. I saw a few of our club members there, glad you were able to get out and look at all the displays. There are a few people who may show up at some of our future meetings, as they seemed interested in joining a fly club and lived in the area. Five straight days of working that booth just about wore me out. I really feel for the vendors who work those booths from opening to closing each day, then at the end of the show, they have to pack up and many are headed down to Portland for the same show, then they will go to eastern Oregon for another show.....

That is dedication but also how they make their living. My hat is off to them.

Speaking of shows, the Fly Fishers International show will be in July this year, in Bozeman, MT. This should be a very good show. There are lots of places to go fishing in the Bozeman / Livingston area so if you make it over there take your fly rod and gear so see if you can hook into some nice ones. While heading for Bozeman, don't forget you drive right through Ellensburg. Enjoy a day on the Yakima River with Steve Worley's crew. Then you drive right through St. Regis. Steve Temple will be more than happy to set you up with a good guide to enjoy a day on the Clark Fork.

This month's "Back of Beyond" hits really close to home as we too lost trees and power lines and cable lines. But we endure.

Good fishing.



Larry

Fly Fishing International

Fly of the Month

February 2004

MINI POP

By Bob Bates



Like so many steelhead flies, the Mini Pop is beautiful in real live color. Is the color to attract the steelhead or the steelhead angler? The experts tell me that color is important, but which color combination is best depends on a lot of things.

This fly came from the fertile mind and memory of G.L. Britton in about 1992. At the time he owned Silver Bow Fly Fishing Adventures in Spokane, WA. He doesn't claim to be the sole originator of it since most new flies are built on earlier ideas and patterns. However, at this point in time I cannot find any steelhead pattern like it. Marabou speys are somewhat similar in appearance, but the tying method is different.

So much for history and references: Does it catch fish? YES! It may be fished on floating, sink tip or full sinking lines. Down stream quartering cast will deliver a Mini Pop so it can swing across current and attract attention. One caution when using it with a floating line, the fly will wake across slick fast water in the tail of a pool or flat. Sometime that excites the fish, and they will come slashing after it. Just remember when a steelhead hits a surface or near surface fly you have to let it go until you feel some weight.

This fly is tied in a wide range of colors and color combinations, depending on your preference and that of the fish. Steelhead on the Dean River liked the pink version. G.L. found that chartreuse and lime was preferred by pink and chum salmon on one of his trips to Bella Coola, British Columbia. He also uses chartreuse and lime for steelhead when the Grand Ronde River is crystal clear.

Materials List:

Hook: Tiemco TMC 7999, 4 & 6

Hackles: All are saddle hackles; two rear hackles are given first and two front hackles second.

Thread: 6/0, color is listed last.

Color Combinations:

1. Light chartreuse - light chartreuse & hot lime - fluorescent chartreuse
2. Cerise - purple & blue - fire orange
3. Yellow - yellow & red - fire orange
4. Orange - orange & black - fire orange
5. Orange - purple & black - florescent green
6. Pink - pink & cerise - fire orange

FOTM Cont. on page 3 →



Tying Steps:

1. Smash the barb with smooth jaw pliers so you can release any wild fish.
2. Pick four saddle hackles with fibers and marabou-like fibers (fluff) that are shank length long.
3. Strip fluff from stem, but leave 1/4- to 1/2-inch of fluff below the barbs.
4. Put thread onto hook right behind end of loop eye, and tie in two saddle hackles (first color).
5. Wind both hackles forward tightly while stroking fibers rearward so they aren't tied down. Continue wrapping until you have completed two turns past the fluff. Secure and clip off excess. Save the hackle tips for another fly.
6. Tie on second pair of hackles with 1/4- to 1/2-inch of fluff below the barbs, and wind thread forward to within an eye width of the eye. Wind second pair of saddles forward tightly, as you did the first, until you have completed three turns past the fluff. Secure and trim excess.
7. The stiffer barbs are now standing like a collar, so they need to be laid back. Stroke them rearward and wind the thread rearward about 1/16-inch over the barbs. It should put everything into a pyramidal shape.
8. Whip finish and add a drop of head cement.

The Mini Pop in any color combination will catch steelhead in most of our steelhead streams. The only thing you need to do is find where the steelhead are and go fishing.

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

In Wildness is the Preservation of the World
“Henry David Thoreau”

Sledding into February

We have passed the hump of January and are sledding into February. No, we do not have snow on the ground, but sledding is a fitting description for this frosty slip inducing transition period. As is normal for this time of year I have not received any fishing reports, most of us are willowed up or computer focused. My email and text correspondence are full of links to environmental impact articles, humorous fishing stories (fishing with a chicken) and uplifting outdoor stories. The need to be outside doing is manifesting itself in video, article and story sharing. Shortened daylight hours has us retreating to the internet for our outdoor fix.

The present storm season actually has me spending more time outdoors. We had a total of three trees on our new property, beautiful Douglas-firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). In our last wind storm one of them lost one of its two tops. The winds dislodgment of said top, took out our power as well as our neighborhood power, and closed our road. We are a little sheepish over this, our tree top forced separation, delayed the restoration of power to our neighborhood, for three days.

Everything has balance, we were not the sole reason for the time delay. The storm damage was extensive and covered two counties, trees and powerlines were down all over. Roads were closed, travel disrupted, long lines at gas stations, full restaurants, gas cans shortages and sold out generator inventories, were common as people dealt with the storm's aftermath. We as a family spent two evening in the wind and rain removing said tree top from the power line and our next-door neighbors drive way. With the power off and jangled nerves and sweaty palms high on a ladder; Cy limbed, untangled and bucked the tree top till we got the lined cleared so that power could be restored. Terry directed traffic, while limbs and trunks fell. Cole, Nolan and I pulled limbs off the road, rolled logs and steadied ladders.



Over the last week I have utilized axe, hand saw, pruning shears and chainsaw to reduce that tree top and other felled limbs into firewood and green waste. I still have about 20 rounds that need to be split. But not today this article is due to the news letter editors by the 20th and so here I sit composing this article. Those rounds will be there tomorrow. The same storm took our makeshift green house, Cy and Cole managed to save the tarp material, but the frame has been twisted and warped by the wind, let's just say it was bent out of shape. While trying to save the tarp they were tossed turned and flayed by 50 mile per hour wind gusts. Welcome to the Pacific Northwest.

Life up here happens just like it does everywhere else, but I have noticed that in some case it happens much more often. On Mount Rainier it is normal for a trail crew to replace foot bridges over creeks two and three times a season. Glacier blow outs and heavy rains take out bridges and change the rivers course, a once useful bridge is now a work of art on and unusable trail or a tangled mess deposited downstream. Fishing holding water and fish redds move or vanish.

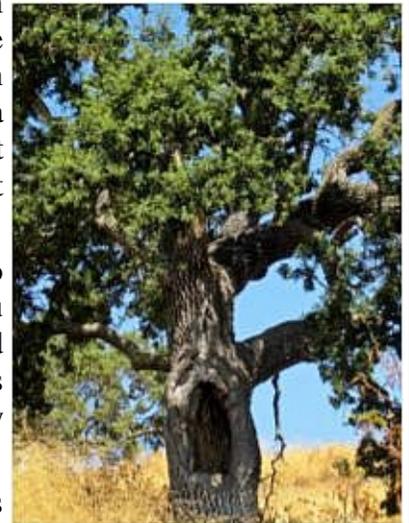
Continued on Page 5 →

Trees block channels and rapids appear over once peaceful waters. Trees explode, crash, drop limbs and fall, pulling massive root balls into the light. On my fishing trips, I carry a chainsaw not for firewood but for self-extraction. Tree blocked forest roads are to be expected. Back of Beyond is more than just a state of mind, it is being out there.

It is probably my age, but illness and loss of friends seem to be happening a little too frequently for my druthers. Marriage, divorce, illness, birth, death, movement and transformation constantly change the landscape of our lives. Some are joyful, some are sad, and some are just painful. But all are thought provoking. Friends come into our lives in many ways, some are like lightning bolts, they burst into your life searing your retinas and after they move on, the after image is still visible. Their opposite are the ones that creep into your life on cat paws, somehow, they manage to curl up on your lap without your noticing. They become an integral part of your life providing depth and insight. Others show up on your doorstep for a few days, months and even years before moving on. They might even spend time on your couch or in your spare bed a time or two. Everything in life is transitory, so it is with friendships as well, friends come and go, the path we walk, converges and splits as we travel this way. Deaths separate us, this seems to be the most permanent at least for our physical body. Life style changes pull others away, changes in jobs, changes in interests, health issues, families. The reasons of our partings are as varied as our human existence. We feel the loss because each friendship is a gift, each individual imparts something of themselves onto us, as we do unto them as well. Every fisherman has a story about the one that got away, why, because even in a 2 second or a three-hour struggle to land a fish, a connection has been made. The strength of the connection has no relation to the amount of time, a slow steady growth, is just as powerful as a lightning strike. Our hearts intuit this while our minds struggle to understand. We are defined by those we meet and connect with.

I have lost some friends in the past month one to his passing the other to retirement and exploration, I wish to acknowledge them here, with a thank you as they journey on new paths. Howard, it was your quiet and understated strength that caught my attention, your interest and joy in seeing my grandsons explore your property and your enthusiasm for living, artfully demonstrated by your ordering a new driver at 90+ years of living to improve your golf game.

Deanna, your knowledge and expertise with prescription glasses was exemplary, you took care of my family and their needs with knowledge, integrity, honor and humor. We all cherished each visit with you as you helped us to see the world clearer, and that was not just with our glasses.



*(Man! that was a long nap, when I fell asleep, It was just an acorn.)
Or (Speak Softly and carry a big stick.)*

May you and Lory have a wonderful time exploring our world on your journey of discovery. We look forward to your travel notes.

To all my friends hope your sled journey into February is full of wonder and the warmth of friendship.

Celebrate your friends as they are a gift.

See you on the water soon.

Stephen

“When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind – Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

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

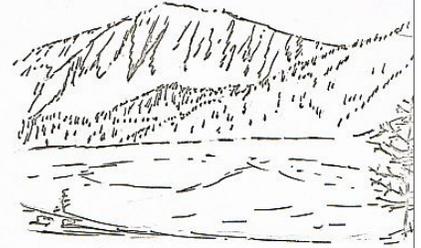
~ *In The Past* ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -

Vol. 3 No. 3

March of 1975

*The Fly Line
of
The Alpine Fly Fishers*



This ~ *In The Past* ~ article was published in 1975. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate. This is a historical document only.

Reed Miller, Editor

Next meeting: Date: March 3, 1975

Program: Steelhead on the fly! The Dean River! Dick Denman, one of the founders of Everett's Evergreen Fly Fishing club, has some great footage of taking steelhead to 24 lbs. in Canada's Dean River last summer. Bring all your steelheading buddies to see this one.

Draw Prizes: A rod blank, a fly box, and a dozen nymphs in a little fly box.

Last Meeting: As promised, Ed Foss spoke on Searun Cutthroat fishing in saltwater. He also brought a special bonus—the WFFC fly books, which contain famous Northwest patterns tied by their originators. The turnout was very good. Keep it up.

Fishouts: March 15 & 16 is the time and the Desert Wildlife Area is the place. For those of you who haven't been there, it's just west of the Potholes Reservoir. There's a sixth lake that I haven't seen, and all of them hold trout. More on the fishout at the meeting.

FFF Regional Council Mtg: The Northwest Council of the FFF will meet at the Fife Holiday Inn March 8. One of the main topics will be quality and fly-oly water regulations and recommendations. If you have any suggestions for streams or lakes to be so designated, see **Jim Higgins**. Be prepared to have sound reasons for giving that water a special designation. The Game Department wants facts, not emotions.

New Member: John Cook has joined our group of ne'er-do-wells. He's married, works for Weyerhaeuser as a designer/analyst and is a novice fly fisherman. Quite a few of our new members are novices at fly fishing. Those of us who have a little skill and experience should make a special effort to pass it on to these people.

Fishing Reports & Prospects: Haven't heard much in the way of fishing stories good or bad. **Gary Strodtz** did hook a couple of steelhead on flies in the Green. Spring is knocking on the door and trout are beginning to show in some of the low lakes on warm afternoons. Most of them are still closed but a few are open year round. If you can break away some warm afternoon, give it a try. You might catch something besides pneumonia. Besides, it beats working in the yard!

Conclave Scheduled: How'd you like to listen to Ernie Schweibert? Rub (and bend) elbows with some of the best known fishermen in the West? Well, come June 14 and 15 in Eugene, Oregon, you'll get your chance. There will be a Regional Conclave of the FFF to celebrate it's founding ten years ago in Eugene. In case you don't know, a conclave is sort of like a convention, but not quite. (Don't ask me how its different). I'll have more in the future issues as details become firmed up.

Fly Pattern: One of the patterns Ed Foss recommended for Searun Cutthroat fishing was the "Dead Chicken". This is a bright attractor pattern that is fished wet.

Once again I have failed to find a photo of a fly. Last month it was the Double Cow Pie fly and this month's Dead Chicken fly alludes me as well. Lots of articles about dead chickens but none of them are flies.

Dead Chicken

Thread	Black Nymo or equivalent
Hook	Size 6 or 8, 3x long
Tail	Red
Body	Thick yellow chenille
Rib	Embossed medium silver tinsel
Hackle	Soft grizzly, tied long and full

Book Review: For the really serious fly tyer, I highly recommend Eric Leiser's "Fly Tying Materials". He gives tips on where to get materials, how to care for them and how to use them. Although a book on the subject such as this could be very blah, he writes with a smooth and interesting style that makes the pages go very fast. Of special interest is the new concept of "photo-dying" necks to a blue dun color. Read the book and learn the details. His description of neck colors is excellent.

Bring A Guest: If you have any steelheading buddies, bring them to the meeting Monday night. The program should be of special interest to them.

Join The FFF: Now is a good time to join the FFF. **Jim Higgins** has all the details, forms, etc. Support better fishing.

Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2019

February 26; March 26; April 23; May 28; June ?? Picnic;
July & August (No Meetings) — September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17

IMPORTANT FLY FISHING DATES FOR 2019

February 16 & 17, 2019 – The Fly Fishing Show, Lynnwood Convention Center, www.flyfishingshow.com

March 8 & 9, 2019 – NW Fly Tyer Expo, Linn Country Expo Center, Albany, OR., www.nwexpo.com

May 3 & 4, 2019 - WSCFFI - WA Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg. www.wscffi.org

June 23-29, 2019 – NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy, Lacey, WA. www.nwycffa.com

July 23-27, 2019 – Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Fest – Bozeman, MT. www.flyfishersinternational.org

February Guest Speaker

Dana Chambers

Casting For Recovery

2019 NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

Once again I would like to remind folks of this incredible opportunity for our 12-16 year old boys and girls to learn about our great sport of fly fishing and conservation. Various Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters and individuals will sponsor youth, The Bruce Ferguson fund, managed by PSFF, established in 2011, will sponsor 2 youth along with the Al Harger fund which is managed by SSFF. If you have a grandchild, neighbor, friend, son or daughter that would like to learn our sport, have them write an essay on why they would like to attend and they will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor or science teacher. The Academy next year is the last full week of June. June 23-29. 2019 at the Grinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey WA. We are on Facebook with lots of pictures and applications are on our website – www.nwycffa.com. Email: nwycffa@comcast.net

Please contact: Co-Directors - Jim Brosio @ 360-943-9947 or Mike Clancy @ 360-753-1259.

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for future.

1000 Stewards Program

I want to thank the club members for their vote to approve a motion to have our FFI charter club sign up to be a sustaining supporter of the 1000 Stewards Program. This is a very good fund raising program that the FFI has started and it is slated to be used to further the FFI efforts regarding conservation, education and community. Stephen Neal volunteered to be the one to report back to our club the various programs that are going to be enhanced by the 1000 Stewards program.

1713 SOUTH CANYON ROAD
ELLENSBURG, WA 98926
509-962-2033
worleybugger@fairpoint.net



Worley Bugger Fly Co.

Steve Worley has some great guides and he has put together the best fly shop filled with a massive amount of fly tying materials and equipment. You really need to stop by the shop and check it out. Just take the Canyon Road exit off I-90 and turn north towards town, the Worley Bugger Fly Co. shop is on the left or west side of the road. Open all year. Stop by and say Hi!

guided happiness!

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ST. REGIS, MT

OWNER & OUTFITTER, STEVE TEMPLE

www.ClarkForkTrout.com 406.382.0161

Clark Fork Trout

St. Regis, MT

Steve & Peggy Temple have their fly shop just on the north end of St. Regis, right across the street from the road down to the boat launch.

Check it out!!!

For a really good guided drift boat fishing trip, you should check out the Clark Fork Trout.

The Clark Fork Trout fly shop is closed for the winter. Opening again in the early spring.

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February / March 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"Away in a meadow all covered with snow, The little old groundhog looks for his shadow. The clouds in the sky determine our fate. If winter will leave us all early or late." - Don Halley					1 February	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 Club Meeting	27	28	"February, when the days of winter seem endless and no amount of wistful recollecting can bring back any air of summer." - Shirley Jackson, Raising Demons	

"Go to the winter woods: listen there, look, watch, and "the dead months" will give you a subtler secret than any you have yet found in the forest." - Fiona Macleod, <i>Where the Forest Murmurs</i> (AKA: William Sharp (12 September 1855 – 12 December 1905))					1 March	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26 Club Meeting	27	28	29	30

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
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Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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