

Alpine Fly Fishers

The next meeting will be

on

February 28, 2012 at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE, Puyallup



Charter
Club



The Dead Drift - February / March 2012

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By Larry Gibbs

Late in February, we have a club outing on Lone Lake on Whidbey Island, see page 5 for more details. This is a great winter lake to fish and Steve has offered the use of his cabin for sleeping, fixing meals and relaxing during the evening.

March is right around the corner and along with the March winds comes an annual trek to Albany, Oregon and the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo. This happens on March 9 & 10. A number of us head down there every year and have a great time. It is only 215 miles to Albany. This event sort of kicks off a series of such gatherings around the great northwest.

In April there is the East Idaho Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo in Idaho Falls, ID. I attended this event a few years ago and if you are going to be in the area it is a good one to check out. It is a bit too much of a drive, 800 miles one way, but I wanted to see how they ran their auctions.

Then a few weeks later our very own Washington State Council puts on the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, WA. Those dates are May 4 & 5. This is a short drive, only 118 miles. As you know, I am the auction coordinator for this event.

The next great event is put on by the national Federation of Fly Fishers organization. This year they will have the International Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane. Only a 290 mile drive. Those dates are July 12—14. I am also the auction coordinator for this event.

There is another event that happens during this whole period, it is called TIME TO FISH!!!!. As fly fishers we can fish year round so get out there and do just that.

Good fishing.

Larry

March Brown Emerger

By Bob Bates

FFF Fly Of The Month

February 2009



The March Brown is an important spring mayfly. It is a reasonably sized insect so it is easy to imitate. Monica Mullen was tying this pattern at the

2008 N.W. Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo in Albany, Oregon. Many people I talked to during the Expo raved about the March Browns in their local streams.

The March Brown (genus *Rithrogena*) is a clinger mayfly that is found in fast flowing streams. They are widely distributed through the western U.S. and Canada along the Pacific Coast to British Columbia and inland to the Eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Notable rivers around the western North America include McKenzie and middle fork of the Willamette in coastal Oregon, Yellowstone, Madison, the Henry's Fork, Rock Creek (Montana) and Crowsnest (Alberta). There are some populations of *Rithrogena* elsewhere, but hatches are not reliable. Oregon seems to have the earliest hatches in late February to March with higher altitude streams in the Rocky Mountains or Canada as late as mid-May.

According to references, in faster streams the nymphs hang on to the bottom while the dun emerges underwater. Finally, the emerging dun is released from the bottom and floats to the surface. At the surface the dun's wings need to dry before it can fly off. This is a great time for trout as they seem to delight in feeding on drifting emergers. The angler can take advantage of this and float the fly behind boulders, near eddies, along under banks and log jams. Use a floating line and a dead drift.

Materials & Equipment:

Hook: Dry fly size 8

Thread: Black 6/0

Tail: Antron yarn, tan

Rib: Ultra wire, brassy, red

Body: Peacock herl dyed red

Wing: Deer hair

Thorax: Hairtron, dark brown

Step 1: Start thread a little more than an eye width behind the eye, and wind back to the bend.

Step 2: Tie on Antron yarn for tail. Wind thread rearward around the bend so the tail slopes downward a little. Then wind forward to about two eye widths behind the eye.

Step 3: Tie on the wire rib, and wind thread rearward over it to a little behind the bend. Bring thread forward to the bend. Keep the rib on top of the hook. Leave thread at bend.

Step 4: Tie three peacock herls rearward of the bend, and wind thread over them to a point about 2/3rds shank length in front of the bend.



Step 5: Wrap peacock herls forward to the thread, secure and trim excess.

Step 6: Counter wrap the rib, secure and trim excess with cheap scissors. Don't use the sharp points of your good scissors. "Counter wrap" means to wrap the wire in a direction opposite to how the herl was wrapped.

Step 7: Take a small bunch, a little more than match stick, of deer hair, clean out the under fur and stack it. Tie the bundle at front of peacock herl with tips pointing backward. Trim flared hair at the 1/3rd shank length back from the eye. Wind thread over the butts

Step 8: Put dubbing on thread and build up thorax. Use two layers to get a large enough thorax. It should be fuzzy to stand out more than the body.

Step 9: Grab deer hair and bring it forward over the dubbing. Tie it down right behind the eye. Hold up the deer hair and whip finish between the deer hair and the eye.

Closing Comments: If you are near a stream that has March Browns in it be sure to tie a few of Monica's emergers to be ready for the hatch. The swift water habitat of a March Brown will make every fish feel like a monster. Always release the fish carefully so they can play with your fly another day.

Monthly Fly Tying Demos at the club meeting

- ◆ PJ Hicks will be tying at the February meeting
- ◆ Bob Jacobs will be tying at the March meeting



2012 NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY

By Mike Clancy

Once again we are preparing for another Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy to be held June 24 to June 30, 2012 at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. Once again Jim Brosio and I will be contacting over 50 dedicated volunteers to contribute their time for the success of the Academy and for the kids. This Academy is all about the girls and boys, 12-16 years old, to help them learn the basics of fly fishing and conservation. The event is one full week with the staff and youth living at the Gwinwood Center and boarding in cabins. All meals are provided. Students need to bring their personal belongings, i.e., sleeping bags, pillows, rubber boots, etc. All fishing gear and fly tying equipment is provided, however, students may bring their own fishing gear.

The event is sponsored by WCTU and WSCFFF and hosted by South Sound FF and Olympia Chapter TU.

The cost to each student is still \$275, but sponsorships are available through TU Chapters, FFF fly clubs and private donations. No applicant will be turned away because of lack of money.

Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2012 until April 15, 2012. Applications may be downloaded from our website – www.nwycffa.org, requested via email to mtclancy@earthlink.net or call 360-753-1259. Each applicant must submit an essay explaining why they want to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is required from a school teacher or counselor.

We are very proud of The Academy, this has been a life changing experience for many of the youth.

THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE FOR OUR SPORT OF FLYFISHING

Call for donations for the 2012 International Fly Fishing Fair

The FFF Show Committee is already gearing up for the 2012 International Fly Fishing Fair, which will be held in Spokane on July 10 -14. As the auction coordinator for this great event, I am already gathering up a nice selection of items for the raffles, silent auctions and live auction. I have some graphite fly rods, fly reels and a fantastic bamboo fly rod.

We need donations so that we can offer a huge selection for everyone to bid on or win in the raffles. I am especially looking for items that fall within the \$5 to \$50 range in retail value. Naturally, I will accept items that are above that range in retail value. Please contact the FFF or me, Larry Gibbs, via e-mail at flytier015@q.com or phone 253-863-4910 about any donations you would like to donate. We are a 501.c.3, so all donations are tax deductible.

Other Events In The Greater Northwest

- ◆ Lower Umpqua Expo — Fly Casters Fly Fishing Club — February 25, 2012 — Reedsport, OR
- ◆ Oregon Council FFF Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo — March 9-10, 2012 Linn County Fairground, Albany, OR www.nwflytyerexpo.com
- ◆ River Fly Fishing and Bamboo Rod Fair — Tenth Annual Metolius Black Butte School — July 2012
Camp Sherman, OR www.campshermanstore.com

February Speaker

Stephen Neal

Our newest member, Stephen Neal, will be talking about fishing in Northern and Central California. I know California has some great fishing so here is our chance to learn about some good fishing areas.

Alpine Fly Tying Sessions

Guy Magno has arranged for at least two more fly tying sessions down at the Sumner/Pierce Co. Library.

Thursday, February 16 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Monday, March 12 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

This article was written by Stephen Neal for the Fresno Fly Fishing Club's newsletter

Going Slow

New fishing country needs new fishing knowledge. I have been waiting to get a drivers license until I have a permanent address and this in turn as precluded obtaining a fishing license. While this self imposed slowdown has severely curtailed my on water time, it has given me an opportunity to gather information and to familiarize myself with my new living and fishing area.

For now my daughter's home is my center, with that jump off point I located (via internet search) two fishing clubs within close proximity and reviewed their websites. My next orientation point was a Mount Rainer map given to me by Jim Jacobson as a going away gift and a state of Washington road map obtained from Triple AAA. With these basic figures and a compass I could place myself in this new country. On our journey north to our new home with open eyes I noted each river I crossed further placing myself in this environment.

Now that I am in the area, every car journey whether to the store or longer exploration drives I look for rivers, streams and creeks; mentally I cataloging roads and river confluences. While major highways display river names, most state and secondary roads do not. In the evenings after returning home I pull out maps or pull up Google maps and trace the rivers from their sources to their outlets in Puget Sound. Google maps are an excellent source of information as it shows road information overlaid upon aerial imagery. You can view bends, riffles and access points. With this data I have begun to assemble a mental picture for future investigation and fishing forays.

On a visit to Cabela's in Lacey I obtained Fishing in Washington, a Sportfishing Rules Pamphlet published by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. While I have read the 147 page pamphlet I do not claim to comprehend it all. I still am learning to translate from CA. Dept of Fish & Game language and terminology to WA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and back again, to obtain a starting point. I have concluded that Washington rules focus primarily on Salmon and Steelhead and California on Trout and warm water fishery. Most if not all of the Mount Rainer watershed flowing into Puget Sound is presently closed to protect returning salmon and steelhead. While retrieval nets are not banned their use is discouraged, fish are not supposed to be removed from the water during the release process; and fishing licenses require a parking permit, who knew!

Besides Cabela's I have also visited Sportco and Outdoor Outfitters, all three are large warehouse style outdoor sport retailers, Cabela's is the upscale retailer, lots of shopping amenities, with a restaurant, large fish aquariums, wildlife displays and air gun shooting booth, it is a destination. Outdoor Outfitters is middle road, nice layout, ample stock, fishing reports, licenses and restrooms. Sportco is the warehouse, barebones no nonsense, lots of equipment but no showmanship here, it is take it, or leave it. All three have people willing to share information on local fishing.

White River Tributary



Carbon River

For Christmas I purchased a laminated map of Washington's fishing rivers and lakes and loaded an app on my phone, called FishHead, it gives Weather, Flows, Sun/Moon and maps for multiple locations on rivers. I currently have 2 local rivers and 6 locations bookmarked so that I can monitor them. The December meeting of Alpine Fly Fishers was my first introduction to local fishers. As to be expected they were closed mouthed on their fishing water but a great source on flies, equipment and fishing methodology. There was lots of laughter and good natured ribbing and story sharing.

So what's the point of all this? Well before I step foot in the water in Washington, I need to let go of all I already know about California. Preconceived thoughts get in the road of being open and learning. Each new water, brings new opportunities for learning. I am not saying that what I have already learned, in fishing and fly fishing, is not valuable, but I do not want it to become, a road block to learning more. When I step into the water I want to see and feel the world around me, to let it tell me its story, to show me its beauties and its secrets. If I only look for what I've seen before I will miss what is right in front of me. Please do not interpret this as a step by step guide for learning; this is simply one person overview of an education experience. Each investigation keeps opening up more areas to investigate and hopefully next month I can write about a line on the water experience.



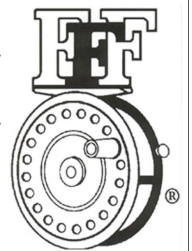
“Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after” Henry David Thoreau



Renew Your FFF Membership

Remember to renew your FFF membership when it comes due. A total of twenty three of our club members came due in late 2011 and / or sometime in 2012. I will be sending out letters to those of you who are up for renewal and I will let you know what your date of renewal was or is. We don't pay any club dues, so your FFF dues are your membership to our club. You must belong to the FFF to be a member of the Alpine Fly Fishers. Thanks.

Larry Gibbs



Check Out Some Of The FFF Council's Websites

Florida: <http://www.fff-florida.org>

Great Lakes: <http://www.fffglc.org>

North Eastern: <http://fff nec.org>

Ohio: <http://www.ohiofff.org>

South Eastern: <http://www.fffsec.org>

Southwest: <http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org>

Washington State: <http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org>

Gulf Coast: <http://www.gulfcoastfff.org>

Mid Atlantic: <http://www.macfff.org>

Northern California: <http://www.nccfff.org>

Western Rocky Mtn: <http://www.wrmcfff.org>

Southern: <http://www.southerncouncilfff.org>

Oregon: <http://orcfff.org>



In The FFF Corner

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

Upcoming FFF Events

FFF International Fly Fishing Fair

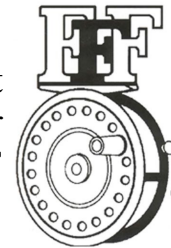
July 10 thru July 14, 2012

Spokane, WA



Renew Your FFF Membership

We have been a FFF Charter Club for over 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.



About Our WSCFFF

Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

By Larry Gibbs



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

WSCFFF Booth Show Schedule

- o Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Show– Sequim, April 14 -15, 2012
- o **2012 Washington Fly Fishing Fair - May 4 - 5, 2012**

February Club Outing

Lone Lake on Whidbey Island

Steve Egge has graciously offered the use of his cabin on Whidbey Island as a place to stay while you are fishing Lone Lake. Feb 24,25,26 – Friday/Saturday/Sunday. Head up there late Friday morning to avoid the Seattle rush hour traffic, take the ferry at Mukilteo to Clinton then hit the lake. That evening you can drive to Steve’s cabin which is just a few miles or 10 minutes away. There are places to eat in Langley but that weekend is a busy time for them as it is “Mystery Weekend”.

Steve says, “The cabin sleeps 12 ... will put sign up sheet at the next meeting ... could squeeze in a few more ... depends on if there are couples.

Dinner Friday and Saturday night ... crabbing season will be closed. Chance for clams low tide around noon to one ... but not really low ... could work though.”

Maps will be available at the January meeting.

Lone Lake is a great lake to fish using red San Juan Worms fished right off the bottom, or you can work a Woolly Buzzer as you row around the lake. Naturally other flies work well also but the two mentioned seem to be very effective. Pontoon boats, rafts, non-gas powered boats are all effective at Lone Lake.

February / March 2012

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			February 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Fly Tying Session	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Lone Lake Club Outing	25 Lone Lake Club Outing
26 Lone Lake Club Outing	27	28 Club Meeting	29 Leap on out there			
				March 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Fly Tyer Expo, Albany	10 Fly Tyer Expo, Albany
11	12 Fly Tying Session	13	14	15	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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