

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday**

**January 22, 2013**

We will be meeting at the

**Puerto Vallarta**

**215 15th St. SE**

**Puyallup at 6 PM**



Charter  
Club



## The Dead Drift - January 2013

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

Winter fishing should be at its finest about now in eastern WA. The Yakima River will soon be edged with ice and the water clear and cold with hungry fish lined up and ready to feed on the abundant aquatic life. This is when I really like the Yak.

We had a good turnout at our December fundraiser meeting. Thanks to those of you who brought donations for the raffle and to everyone for buying raffle tickets. We made enough money to keep us afloat for a while. Actually, our finances are doing rather well. While we are not rich we are not hurting. Taking into account our normal expenses, we will be able to maintain a good balance for 2013 and have some good guest speakers.

I also want to thank Steve Egge for gathering up the photos from many of us and setting them to music as we watched some good looking fly fishing photos pass across the screen. As you fish in 2013 and take pictures, remember that we would like to see some of them next December, so set them aside for Steve.

We had our annual vote for our Board of Directors (see page 8) so we now have a BOD in place for another year. If anyone is interested in becoming a director on our BOD, please let me know.

We are going to have an outing at **Trophy Lake on Saturday, January 19**. Our club has 21 one hour fishing passes. That should give us a good time. Refer to the article on page 7 for more information. We need to know for sure if you are going to be able to attend this outing so we can reserve golf carts and give the people at Trophy Lake an idea of how many of us are going to be there. Please let me know ASAP. Email me if you have any questions.

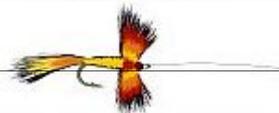
Bill Aubrey is working on getting us some really good speakers for our meetings. If anyone has an idea for a speaker, please let him know. It isn't easy trying to match speakers up with our scheduled club nights so it is always good to have a large 'pool' of possible speakers to draw from.

We just had our first taste of the white stuff, snow that is. Remember that the roads are going to be slick from snow and ice and rain so drive with care.

This is being sent out before Christmas so I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas / Happy Hanukkah. Have a great holiday season and see you on January 19th if you are going to Trophy Lake and/or on the 22nd for our club meeting.

Good fishing.

Larry



# Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

## Pale Morning Dun

January 2008

By Bob Bates



Often you will find fly patterns that will imitate different mayflies closely enough to catch fish in a variety of situations. This is one of them. In the western U.S. we have the Pale Morning Dun that some people consider the most important mayfly around. In the eastern part of the U.S. there is a mayfly called the Sulphur. Then there is the Eastern Pale Evening Dun that also has a yellowish body

and legs. If you want more details on these mayflies get a good book on mayflies and start studying the chapter on the Genus Ephemera. Depending upon where you are PMDs might be hatching from May to September. The nymphs are classified as crawlers and live in the medium to slow water streams. In spite of its PMD name they hatch from mid morning to mid afternoon (sometimes as late as 6PM). According to some descriptions the dun actually breaks out of the nymphal shell before it breaks through surface film. Everything gets pretty wet, and the wet wings have to dry before the dun can fly off. So it sits on the water surface for quite a while. This is a dangerous time for the mayfly, but a good time for fish and anglers. You will find that cool and misty days generally provide longer lasting hatches than hot dry days. Jim Johnson, Big Fork, MT tied this pattern at the 2007 FFF Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Livingston, MT. Jim has tied at a lot of shows. At one of the shows a guy from Pennsylvania said: "Hay! That's going to be a perfect Sulfur" as Jim tied this PMD.

### Materials list:

**Hook:** DaiRiki 300, sizes 12-18

**Thread:** Danville, Flymaster, yellow

**Tail:** Coq DeLon

**Wings:** Wood duck

**Body:** Superfine dubbing, PMD yellow

**Hackle:** Ginger or tan

### Tying steps:

1. Attach thread and build a thread base leaving the thread at mid-shank.



2. Coq DeLeon feather, stiff fibers toward the tip make good tails.



3. Pull off the fluff and any short fibers. Select a few fibers that are all the same length. Tie them on to make a tail that is 1-1/2 shank lengths long. This is much longer than the books say, but it will all work out. Then move the thread forward to a point about one eye width back from the eye.



4. Pick a wood duck feather that is flat across the top. Pull off the fluff and short fibers. Squeeze the fibers into a brush and tie them on with the tips forward where the thread is hanging. Make wings about a shank length long. Cut off the butts at about mid shank, and wind thread rearward to cover the butts. Leave thread hanging at the bend. Note: with the longer than “standard” tail and wings mounted forward of the usual 1/3rd point, the fly will never tip over on its nose.



5. Put dubbing on thread using your favorite method. When rolling dubbing between thumb and first finger, always roll it in one direction. Wrap dubbed thread forward toward the wing. Taper the body larger to the front, and stop wrapping a little short of the wing. This is to leave room for wrapping the hackle.



6. Pull up wing and put just a few winds of thread in front. Don't put on a lot of thread winds to stand up the wing like many tiers do. Leave thread behind the wing. Pull off fuzz and long fibers from the hackle feather tie it down behind the wing. (This picture was taken before Jim did the next part of the step.) Fold the stem back and tie it in so it helps hold the wing a little straighter. This saves about 5 turns of thread.



7. Put three hackle wraps in back of the wing and three in front so the wing is in the middle of the hackle. Secure and trim excess feather. Put Super Glue on an inch or so of your thread and wind the head. Let the bobbin hang a little while until it dries. Want water proof Super Glue. According to Jim most of the Loctite Super Glues are water proof. Pull the wings apart to give the traditional appearance of a mayfly. Use black felt pen to darken the head; then you can put a little head cement over the threads.



**Closing comments:** This is a high floating PMD that will catch a lot of fish. The PMDs where Jim lives are fairly large so he can tie on size 14 hooks. Some PMDs are as small as size 18 hooks. Match the size of mayflies floating on the surface. Also look at the body color carefully as some PMDs have a slightly pinkish or reddish tinge. I might be wrong, but I don't think that you need follow what Earnest Schwiebert once specified: “pinkish urine-burned red fox belly fur” There are other ways to achieve the pinkish cast. (Red or pink thread or mix in some reddish dubbing.)

## January Guest Speaker

**Dana Bottcher**

### A Fresh Perspective on the Smith River in Montana

The 2011 Smith River trip was my first trip down that river and I was with my brother, his son, and a couple of other friends. My brother, who lives in upstate NY, has been making an annual fall trip to the west to fly fish with me since 1973. We have fished almost every major river in MT, ID, WY, WA, OR, Alberta, and BC.

I owned a paddlesports store, Swiftwater Sports, for almost 25 years. We sold rafts, pontoon boats, and kayaks. I also was a professional guide on Oregon's Deschutes River for 20 years. Did trout and steelhead group raft trips mainly on the last 25 miles of the river. I taught fly fishing, fly tying, and rod building through the student run Experimental College at the University of Washington from 1973 to 2000.

I am a longstanding member of the Northwest Fly Anglers (NFA) and have been its newsletter editor since 1995. I have taught fly tying for the NFA. Have now been retired for over 3 years and getting to go fishing more. Have also become more serious about photography.

Dana is a friend of Alpine Fly Fishers member Peter Maunsell. Peter asked Dana to do this presentation for us.

### Alpine Fly Fishers Meeting in 2013

<b>January 22</b>	February 26	March 26	April 23	May 28
June 25 (Picnic)	September 24	October 22	November 26	
	December (Date to be decided)		(No meetings in July nor August)	

### Sporting and Fly Fishing Related Shows in 2013

**Tri-Cities Sportsmen's Show — Pasco — Jan 18 - 20**

**Washington Sportsmen's Show — Puyallup Fair & Events Center — January 23 - 27**

The Fly Fishing Show returns to Washington State in 2013. Lynnwood — February 16 & 17

Yakima Sportsmen's Show — February 15 - 17

Wenatchee Sportsmen's Show — February 22 - 24

### FFF Events in 2013

The 2013 Northwest Fly Tyers Expo, will be held again in Albany, Oregon.



#### NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence

March 8th and 9th - 2013  
Albany, Oregon



Fri and Sat  
**March 8 & 9,**  
**2013.**  
Plan to attend.

Washington State  
**Washington**



Council of the FFF  
**Fly Fishing Fair**

Also next year, the Washington State Council will bring you the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. Friday and Saturday, **May 3 & 4, 2013.** Don't miss this one, it is a great event!!!!



INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION  
OF  
FLY FISHERS



The Federation of Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Fair will be held in West Yellowstone, MT. This will be a FALL gathering, **September 24 - 28, 2013.**

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## Wandering

*"The timid folk beseech me, the wise ones warn me,  
They say I shall never grow to stand so high;  
But I climb among hills of clouds and follow vanished lightning,  
I shall stand knee deep in thunder with my head against the sky"*  
— Winifred Welles —

I am a wanderer, the back of beyond calls me friend, my heart answered and my feet responded. The day after High School graduation I opened the backdoor and headed north. Early in my journey I came across the poem above and carried it in my wallet till it was faded and reduced to more air than paper and then tucked it away in a box, but by then it had become part of me.

I came upon my wandering connection early, my mom read to me when I was little; soon thereafter I spent Saturday morning at the YMCA and my afternoon in the downtown library and would leave with 6 or 7 books to read and start over again next Saturday with another fresh batch. My favorite song when I was a button was "Tumbling Tumbleweeds". As a child I visited many distant parts of California on family Sunday picnic drives, four and five car expeditions with all my aunts, uncles and cousins to the mountains, ocean, vistas and growing regions. My view from the backseat was everything above the lower window frame to the roof which is to say sky and power poles until we reached our destination. As I grew my view took in the earth and sky as we rolled to our new objective. On our own family vacations my father was not one to follow the familiar route; he loved the back roads to new and old destinations. He studied maps and made copious notes on distances and travel routes.

As I grew I became aware of my family's history of exploration; my mother's father would come home from work in the 20's and 30's and pile the Keller family in the model A and go for long weekend camping trips and multi-state family vacations. Their model A had at least four spare tires to get them there and back again. They even moved out to California from Illinois on a family vacation. My Fathers family, the Neal's, moved to California by wagon train and my father's mother's family came to America on the Mayflower. Yes I have wanderers blood flowing through my veins.

The past is our foundation it has made us what we are today. Books fed my minds need for learning and understanding; they opened up vistas and new perspectives. My feet carried me to new experiences and new life situations; I have been a laborer, carpenter, electrician, maintenance engineer, cowboy, nurse's aid, teacher's aid, cook, auto mechanic, student and teacher. I have spent over 20 years in Research & Development for the energy industry. I have lived in California, Nevada, Arizona and now Washington; I have worked in 31 states and 3 Canadian provinces, and have visited 5 countries.



Continued on Page 6 —————>

I have backpacked in mountain ranges, coastal expanses and estuaries, desert plains, rainforests, canyons, dunes, jungles, ice fields and glaciers. My camps have been visited by bears, javelinas, deer and howler monkeys. Thunder and lightning have put on dazzling displays of power and beauty for me in California, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, Washington, Illinois, and Utah. One of the most wondrous thunderstorms, minus the smell of ozone and hair tingling, was in a plane over the Midwest; as far as the eye could see in all directions were these massive storm cells spitting out massive electrical discharges, while the pilot threaded us through this display of power that could have swatted us from the sky.

My wandering ways are what drew me to exploring rivers and to fly fishing. What better way is there to learn from rivers than to fly fish them? To know a river you need to wade, float and sometimes swim them, to explore the main channels, tributaries, streams and creeks and to put line onto the water to entice the salmon to the fly.

A wanderer is just another name for a seeker and fishermen are seekers, that which they fish for is elusive. Like other fishermen I too have stood in cold and mist shrouded winter rivers; thigh deep just off shore on the edge of a possible run since before dawn in rain, wind and snow, casting and casting again retrieving nothing. Why don't we stop, because we just know that steelhead lie hidden beneath the slick, just inshore of the riffle? I have stood there while my stomach rumbles from long overdue feeding, my back aching from the cold and uneven fishing stances. And yet I continue to cast and cast again. What holds us in the river, why do we ignore the discomfort, why do we put in the time just for a chance at a strike?

Those of us who are hooked on fishing believe that if we put in our time, if we practice, read, study and learn, to understand water and comprehend aquatic insects we will get really good at this pastime of fishing. But how much time and knowledge does it take to become really good at this pastime of fishing, months, years, lifetimes? That is the unknowing part we won't know until we know. So we proceed on faith and hope, we seek. And as we seek we learn more than we thought we needed too, to wade and test our steps, to brace ourselves against the current, to anchor ourselves in a flowing world. To let the river tell us its story to understand the language that it speaks, to know its source and the changing songs of each season.

We fishermen are in essence penitent we know we have to pay our dues. For me I know that I was born a seeker; and what I seek is equilibrium or inner balance, to bring my soul, my mind and my body into harmony so that when I touch something be it art or craft it becomes a thing of beauty. I probably will not reach this goal in this life time but it is goal worth stretching for. I have my doubts and fears, I have been hungry and cold and tired and even given up a time or two and somehow I begin to walk the path again. Whether or not I find what I seek; I do know that my fly fishing/wandering has allowed me to have followed the rivers, climbed the mountains, to follow vanished lighting and to have stood knee deep in thunder with my head against the sky.

May you find what you seek and if not may you embrace the journey?

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

PS: My thanks to David Duncan and his book "The River Why"



The Alpine Fly Fishers holds monthly meetings at the Puerto Vallarta restaurant in Puyallup.

We start our meetings around 6 PM and enjoy a social hour of food and drinks. Everyone gets to give a fishing report, then a guest speaker will give a presentation and finally we have a raffle. Please feel free to join us and check out our club while you dine on some great tasting food.

At our December meeting the club voted to send a donation of \$250 to contribute to this academy. This is an outstanding program that really teaches our youth about fly fishing.

### **The 2013 Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy**

*By Mike Clancy*

As we approach the holiday season, now would be the time to be thinking of gifts for your children, grandchildren and any other youth you think might like to learn about fly fishing and conservation. To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must write an essay explaining why they would like to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is also required, written by their science teacher or school counselor. The dates for the WSCFFF and WCTU sponsored event are Sunday, June 23 – Saturday June 29th. The weeklong event is hosted by the Olympia TU Chapter, South Sound Fly Fishing Club and the Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma. The Academy will be held again at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The youth reside in cabins with Ghillies (counselors), fly fishing gear is provided along with fly tying materials, all meals are included. Cost for the whole week is \$275, there are sponsorships available. No one will be turned away because of funds. To learn more about the Academy, go to [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com) or our Facebook page. The application is available on our website or contact Mike Clancy @ [nwycffa@comcast.net](mailto:nwycffa@comcast.net).

This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and the basics of fly fishing. The youth of today, are the guardians of the future of our sport of fly fishing.

### **Trophy Lake Outing Saturday, January 19**

Looks like we will be having our Trophy Lake outing on Saturday, January 19. Duffy has offered the use of her place in Edgewood as a gathering point for car pooling. If you are interested in doing that then be at Duffy's place no later than 9:30 AM. I can take four people with me. I also have a 'Good To Go' pass so coming back over the Narrows Bridge is really easy. If you decide to drive to Trophy Lake yourself then plan on meeting at the club house at 10:30 AM.

We will be fishing at one of two ponds, one near the club house and the other up near Hole 6. Golf carts will be available for our use. You can not wade in the ponds, only fish from shore. A large fish friendly net is good to have, I will be bringing mine. There will be a variety of fish planted in the ponds ranging in size from near 12/14 inches to a whole lot bigger.

Since we do not want to stress the fish, please use a 5 or 6 weight rod minimum. Some of us will have a wide variety of flies available so don't worry about what to bring if you don't have many flies. I do not know what the 'hot' flies are right now but it wouldn't matter as the outing is still a month away and who knows what the fish will like at that time. Many people use floating lines, some use intermediates and some sink tips, just bring what you feel comfortable casting. The ponds are not real deep. We will fish for two hours then go up to the restaurant and have a great lunch, as they serve some really good food.

Email me, Larry Gibbs, if you have questions.

From Milton Trophy Lake is 35 miles away, about 45 minutes driving time.

From Gig Harbor it is about 18 miles with 23 minutes of driving time.

Directions to Trophy Lake Golf & Casting Club at 3900 SW Lake Flora Rd, Port Orchard, WA 98367

Cross over the Narrows Bridge heading west on Hwy 16. Exit at Sedgwick Rd, Hwy 160, and turn left. Just stay on that road. It turns from Sedgwick to Glenwood to Lake Flora Road. About 4 miles after turning off Hwy 16 you will find Trophy Lake on the left.

# January / February 2013

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

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club  
 Larry Gibbs, Editor    253-863-4910    flytier015@q.com

**Alpine Fly Fishers**  
**PO Box 1456**  
**Sumner, WA 98390**

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

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