

# Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Meeting*

*Will Be Tuesday*

***January 28***

*We will be meeting at the*

*Puerto Vallarta*

*215 15th St. SE*

*Puyallup at 6 PM*



Charter Club



## The Dead Drift - January 2014

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

Winter, cold, crispy, ice, snow. Yes, the perfect conditions to fish the Yakima River over in Ellensburg. The water is low, crystal clear, and the fish are podding up in certain areas of the river. What a time to go fishing. Sure you have to squeeze the ice out of the guides after a few casts, that is ok. If you get your hands wet, put on a dry pair of gloves and keep fishing. The Whitefish are spawning so include a small cream colored egg pattern as a dropper on your nymphing rig. The trout and Whitefish are quick to clean up any stray eggs. San Juan Worms are a good bet during the winter, red and also pink. Sometimes a purple or blue SJW is effective. Stonefly nymphs are a great choice as well. Every day there will be a midge hatch and sometimes the fish respond to them both in nymph form and on the surface, sometimes, but not always. There will be more nymphing than dry flying that is for sure.

If you go on a guided trip with the Worley Bugger Fly Co., their winter rates are in effect. For two people it is \$275 and for one person it is \$225. This is a great way to fish the Yak, with a guide who will furnish all the flies and point out the areas to cast those flies. Steve Worley will have a booth again at our WA Fly Fishing Fair. So, give them a call or call one of the other guide services in the Ellensburg area and get out there for some great fishing on the Yakima River.

Speaking of fishing rivers, Steve Temple purchased Clark Fork Trout from Brooks Sanford and the guide service is now located in Superior, Montana. Brooks will remain on as a guide when he isn't teaching at the local school in St. Regis, his new fulltime job. I mention this because Steve and Brooks will have a booth at the Washington Fly Fishing Fair this May and Steve will be doing a half hour seminar on the 'Secrets of the Clark Fork'. This would be a great presentation to attend. I know I am going to sit in on program.

Believe it or not March is fast approaching and the first weekend in March is the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo in Albany, Oregon. Some of us go down every year and spend a couple nights at the hotel which is an easy walk to the Expo center. This is a great show with lots of seminars, programs, vendors and the largest collection of fly tyers in the west, in my opinion anyway. If you want to come down there with us please let me know. I will be reserving rooms at the first of the year.

I enjoyed our meeting in December, modified as it was. Please refer to page 5 for some important information about our January meeting on the 28th.

Good fishing.

Larry

# International Federation of Fly Fishers

## Fly of the Month

### Mohair Leech

January 2010

By Bob Bates



Often a simple fly pattern will catch as many fish as more complicated patterns. Such is the case with this pattern. As I watched Norm Crisp tying it at the 2009 FFF Conclave in Loveland, Colorado I thought this is too simple to put in the FFF Fly of the Month. Then I remembered that it is very similar to a pattern in my fly box that has caught many nice fish. It even has the same name. The only difference is the marabou tail. Norm is from Prairie Village, Kansas, and he fishes whenever he can. In fact he fishes it all over the world; it is his fly of choice. For him it is a stream fly, and he drags it through deeper holes like a Woolly Bugger. However, I bet it would work in lakes also.

The lighter colored version imitates a Golden Stonefly nymph. Norm thinks that it might also imitate a crawdad that has just shed its older cover. Fish seem to know that such a crawdad is good eatin'.

#### Materials List:

**Hook:** Cabela's model 21 or TMC 200RBL sizes 6, 8

**Thread:** Olive, 6/0

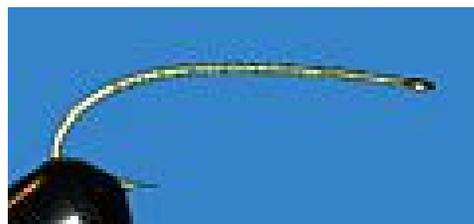
**Weight:** Lead wire, 035-inch

**Tail:** Marabou, olive

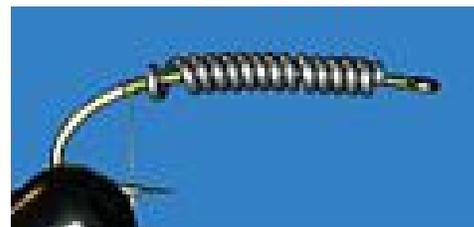
**Body:** Mohair yarn, olive, dark yellow golden and black

#### Tying steps:

1. Attach thread behind eye, and wrap it backward to near where the barb would be if the hook was not barbless.



2. Put on 12 wraps of 0.035 lead wire. Start the wraps about half way between the barb location and point. After the 12 wraps, hold the coil and break off the wire, and roll down any wire that sticks up.



3. Attach the tail behind the lead coil. Tie it long, and break it off later.



Continued on Page 3

4. The mohair yarn that he got at a yarn shop was a little thinner than he likes so he doubled it. Every couple of wraps, pull fibers out and back. This way they will flow backward over the body.



5. Tie off yarn at front. Fold the yarn back, and wrap over it to keep eye clear. Whip finish to complete the fly.

6. Pinch the tail at the length you want, and break off the excess. Pinch the marabou hard between the thumb nail and first finger so it doesn't slip when excess is broken off. You might have to do this more than once.



Closing comments: This is a great fish catching fly that is easy to tie. Tie a few and test them in your local waters; I think that you will be happy with the results. Sometimes mohair has places where the fibers are bound down when the yarn was made. They can be picked out with a bodkin after tying the pattern.

### A Fly Fishing Quote:

#### *"To The Fish Of The Brook"*

Why flyest thou away with fear?  
Trust me there's naught of danger near,  
I have no wicked hook,  
All covered with a snaring bait,  
Alas, to tempt thee to thy fate,  
And drag thee from the brook.

Enjoy thy stream, O harmless fish;  
And when an angler for his dish,  
Through gluttony's vile sin,  
Attempts, the wretch, to pull thee out,  
God give thee strength, O gentle trout,  
To pull the rascal in!

~ John Wolcot (1738-1819) ~

## IFFF Loaner Program Helps Scouts Earn Fly Fishing Badge

IFFF Flyfisher E-News

IFFF member Michael R. Brand took advantage of the Federation's loaner program for a Boy Scouts of America - Certified Angler Instructor Training course in Saint Louis, MO last month. Brand utilized the program by loaning 27 rods and reels and 10 tying kits and vices.

Brand and 15 additional BSA Certified Angler Instructors used the equipment to train 20 BSA Adult Leaders on Fly Fishing Instructional efforts. After successfully completing the 2 day program, the entire team then hosted a Fishing and Fly Fishing Merit Badge Skill Center where 100 Scouts, ages 11-18, were provided an opportunity to earn the Fishing and Fly Fishing Merit Badge. The rods, reels, vices and kits were then used at fishing educational stations where Scouters worked with the Boy Scouts to review a wide variety of fly fishing skills. "It is so gratifying teaching the Boy Scouts everything they need to earn the Fishing and Fly Fishing Merit badge, but more importantly providing them an introduction to a lifetime hobby and appreciation of the outdoors," said Brand of the event.

### IFFF Museum News!

The IFFF Museum gained several new fly plates and three fly rods this year. Two of the new fly plates came from a donation given several years ago by Bennie Janes of Dayton, WA. In 2004 Janes donated flies tied by Buz Buszek and by Dan Bailey's Fly Shop. Steve Jensen arranged flies into a 1965 Buszek Fly and Tackle Shop plate (seen here) and a 1951 Bailey's Fly Shop plate. Janes, a long time Life Member of the Federation, passed away in 2010. His wife Ruth and daughter Susan Balling of Long Beach, IN were instrumental in getting Janes' fly donation displayed. We also thank Steve Jensen, Treasurer of the Fly Tying Group, for creating the plate where the flies now reside.



In addition to the fly plates, we also received three fly rods from Glenn Biron of Costa Mesa, CA. Biron's donation of a 1892 Hardy 11'6" 2 piece/ 2 tip bamboo rod, 1880's Hardy 8' 6" 3 piece / 1 tip bamboo rod, and 1950's Vesta Elasticane 10' 3 piece / 1 tip salmon rod (seen here) adds diversity to the already extensive fly rod collection at the museum. We invite you to stop by the museum to see these and many other collection items during the Fly Fishing Fair here in Livingston, MT August 5-9, 2014.



### 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 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)

## Our December Fund Raiser Meeting Will Be In January

*By Larry Gibbs*

Our December meeting is 'in the books' so to speak and yes, it was greatly modified. When I arrived at the restaurant I quickly realized we would never be able to have the room to sit a number of people (22 of us were there) and display around 100 raffle items. It just plain was not going to happen. So, I made a command decision, and opted to have a small raffle during our meeting. I noticed everyone seemed to be well engaged in conversation, so I hope everyone had a good time.

A number of you brought flies for our poor naked Christmas tree and now it is getting a nice adornment of goodies, a wide variety of types, colors and sizes. The tree will also be at our January meeting and we will still be accepting donations of flies to sparkle it up even more so one lucky person can win a 'whole bunch' of neat flies.

Some of you also brought donations for the raffle, thank you very much. They will be out on the raffle tables at our January meeting. We should end up with a wide selection of goodies. We will still be accepting donations at the start of the January meeting, so if you have some great stuff, bring it on but bring it early so everyone who buys raffle tickets can have a chance to win!

Steve Egge was able to collect more digital photos from some of you, thanks again for those. Steve will put together a nice presentation for our viewing at the January meeting. Remember, we do this every year, usually in December. So, this year as you are out and about the rivers, lakes or saltwaters, remember to take a few digital photos of your exploits and pass them on to Steve for our 2014 December meeting.

One thing that I did a little different this time was the door prize. That gave everyone a second chance to win something from the raffle tickets they had purchased. I know Guy really enjoyed it as he was the winner of the nice selection of steelhead flies. I do believe I will do that at all of our meetings from now on. However, the door prize at our January fundraiser meeting will be extra special, at least I hope you think it is.

# See all of you on January 28th!

## Our 2014 Board of Directors

At our December meeting we did vote in our 2014 Board of Directors

### **Board Of Directors:**

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-863-4910
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Programs/Director:	Dave Alberts	253-584-1714
Director:	Bill Aubrey	253-678-3683

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## Christmas 2013

Winter is here, I come to this conclusion based not upon the date listed on the TU fishing calendar hanging on the wall. Rather my observation is based upon the weather outside my front door. Our front lawn and driveway are covered in a half inch dusting of snow; Mt. Rainer is concealed by storm clouds and its foothills, (known locally as the Cascades), are covered in a white blanket of powdery wet stuff. Plus, the exclamation point on all of this is that it has been damn cold, (in the teens) for the past 10 or 11 days! Old man winter sits upon the land, more to the point; he has laid down, and taken up residency. He has pulled the arctic air up around his chin whiskers and is sound asleep. It may not be calendar winter but I'm pretty sure that it is winter from where I sit.

Last week while putting up the Christmas lights, the grass crunched and cracked under foot when I trod its surface. To put up the yard art and lights for our Christmas celebration, the lawn spikes had to be pushed (hammered) through a layer of ice to get to the unfrozen subsurface below. Coinciding with winter's commencement Christmas is nearly upon us. In preparation I focused on the outside and Terry started inside, the tree still needs to be put in its place and decorated and then the kitchen will soon be warm from cookie baking and candy preparation and the house will be filled with the smell of VOC's or in a more comforting depiction, the ambrosia of cookie dough baking. Sometimes air pollution just smells wonderful. Thank you lord, for the wonderful smell of cookies fresh from the oven: just one of those small miracles of this festive season of celebration and caring. The smell of cookies baking always brings forth images of warmth, safety and a loving home; a memory gift from my mother, to me and my childhood.

While I sit here watching snowflakes swirl outside as they plunge earthward, my thoughts turn to the past years events. Looking back on the year I have had some memorable fishing trips with friends and family, but those trips I have covered in my monthly articles. During this season of celebration the stories I wish to illuminate are about day trips with my grandsons. Because I spent a great amount of my life time outside wandering alone through fields and forests, I tend to take my grandchildren outside when I'm with them. We wonder alongside rivers, streams, lakes, empty lots and playgrounds. Many of these trips revolve around water and rocks I refer to these rocks as, leaveritrites as in "leave it rite there" my admonishments are seldom if ever heeded though. It did not work with my daughter or son so why would I expect it to work on my grandchildren. Nicole brought home whole rock families from children to parents I guess I'm lucky she didn't include grandparent rocks as well. Since our family unit was four she stuck to brother and sister and mom and dad rocks. Cy had an attachment to his rocks he would not let loose of them when he threw them in the river, many are the times I or Terry had to grab him before he went under or downstream. My grandchildren are the same; rocks are big items in our outdoor adventures.

Cassie would rather climb over them, than walk around them, Nolan ignores them and tries to walk on the water instead, Conner throws them and Nathan kicks them as he moans about being outside and having to hike. Dalton takes it all in stride, rocks, trees, sticks, trails or bush whacking are just fine with him. On one hike through the wood lot on the back of our property Dalton, my son and I struggled through the berry vines and nettle. To protect Dalton he road on our shoulders just out of reach of the stinging nettle and berry vine thorns grasps. But when we were clear he trucked along beside us determine to be with us and to walk his own path through life.

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Now the twins Darren and Colin have taken leaveitrites collecting to a fine art form. Their justification for all this rock collecting is that they are gifts for Mom or Nana depending on how many they want to collect or to justify the request for me to help carry those said rocks for them. Darren tends to go large in his rock selection, he has three of many at home that we call Boulder, Pee Wee and Crunch. Now Colin likes quantity, the more rocks the better, he fills his pockets and when they are full he pulls his shirt tails out and carries them in the folds as we hike. Just a few rocks have gone through Mom's wash from both boys' pants pockets.

The three of us spend much time on the banks of rivers and lakes, me watching, them launching rocks into the water. I have attempted to teach them rock skipping but their motor skills haven't quite gotten to that point yet. The rocks ker-plunking and disappearing under the water surface and the resultant rings seem to keep them fully entertained though. When fishermen are about I try and minimize their rock and stick throwing endeavors,

explaining that it scares the fish away and that it bothers the fishermen. While I have limited success with "leave it rite there" I have been successful on the rock throwing when fishermen are about, because they both now ask if it is OK to throw the rocks or will it bother the fish or fishermen, before launching into a favorite past time. On one hike we found our leaveitrites at the start of our hike. These stones were not light they weighed anywhere from 2 to 3 pounds each, they insisted on carrying them the whole way around the lake a mile and half to the car. We took many rest and rock throwing stops before we made it back to the car, I even carried them for awhile until they asked for them back. Those rocks were presented to Mom and are now nestled in the garden at home.

During winter chill and this season of celebration and joy may your Christmas season be rock solid with love and warmth and may some leaveitrites find their way into your home.

Merry Christmas

Terry & Stephen

PS:

One of the many things my Mother shared with me was the love of Christmas music. I know, I know, for some it is way over the top and can be played way too much, but every year I discover a new gem that lights up a day. The song evokes memories or adds an insight or puts to words a belief that rings true in my life. This year I discovered a song by Alabama that rang true in so many ways that I had to share.



## Alabama – Angels Among Us Lyrics

Songwriters: GOODMAN, DON / HOBBS, BECKY

I was walking home from school on a cold winter day.  
Took a shortcut through the woods, and I lost my way.  
It was getting late, and I was scared and alone.  
But then a kind old man took my hand and led me home.  
Mama couldn't see him, but he was standing there.  
And I knew in my heart, he was the answer to my prayers.

Oh I believe there are angels among us.  
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.  
They come to you and me in our darkest hours.  
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give.  
To guide us with the light of love.

When life held troubled times, and had me down on my knees.  
There's always been someone there to come along and comfort me.  
A kind word from a stranger, to lend a helping hand.  
A phone call from a friend, just to say I understand.

And ain't it kind of funny that at the dark end of the road.  
Someone lights the way with just a single ray of hope.

Oh I believe there are angels among us.  
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.  
They come to you and me in our darkest hours.  
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give.  
To guide us with the light of love.

They wear so many faces; show up in the strangest places.  
To grace us with their mercy, in our time of need.

Oh I believe there are angels among us.  
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.  
They come to you and me in our darkest hours.  
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give.  
To guide us with the light of love.

To guide us with the light of love.

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



## 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. 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!!!

Send me an email. Larry [flytier015@q.com](mailto:flytier015@q.com)

**Join our Yahoo Groups site. Just send me an email and I will send you an invite from the site.**

## Alpine Fly Fishers

Restricted Group, 43 members

**ATLANTIC SALMON FLY INTERNATIONAL EXPO 2014**  
*The Celebration of the Art & Passion of the Atlantic Salmon Fly*

MAY 17 & 18, 2014  
 9AM-5PM

THE PAVILION  
 EVENT CENTER  
 RENTON, WA, USA

**TYING**  
 DEMONSTRATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS BY THE MOST RENOWNED SALMON FLY TYERS IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING MIKE RADENRICH, TIMO KONTIO, PAUL LITTLE, DAVE MCNEESE, PAUL ROSSMAN AND JOHN SHUWEY.

**EXHIBITORS**  
 WASATCH, F&P, SABAGIONE, NO FEATHERS, WATERS WEST, DAHLKE FEATHERS

**SILENT AUCTIONS**  
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REGISTRATION AND INFO @ [WWW.ASFI-EXPO.COM](http://WWW.ASFI-EXPO.COM)  
 \$25 ADMISSION INCLUDES BOTH DAYS  
 YOUTH UNDER 14 FREE

**Wasatch Custom Angling**

## NWASFG

Northwest Atlantic Salmon Fly Guild

The NWASFG is having an Expo on May 17 & 18, 2014 in Renton. Atlantic Salmon fly tyers from all over the world will be there, demonstrating and tying their works of art. While it is still early in the year, so far tyers from over 10 countries have signed up to tie.

Even if you do not tie these wonderful flies, you owe it to your self to attend this event and watch the experts at work. There will also be hook making demonstrations, dyemasters teaching the craft of coloring materials, and seminars on history, design and methods.

There will be lots of silent auction items with the proceeds going to both Project Healing Waters and the NASF.

Check them out on line at:  
[www.asfi-expo.com](http://www.asfi-expo.com)



## **NW YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY**

*by Mike Clancy*

2013 is near to an end, and we are now going into 2014. So is The Academy. We will be accepting new applications effective January 1, 2014 for another wonderful event for our youth 12 to 16 years old. What a great opportunity for these kids to learn about conservation and fly fishing. They will spend a week at Gwinwood Christian Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. June 22-28th. In clean, warm, cabins with showers and comfortable bunks.

We are looking for mature and serious minded youth willing to learn the sport of fly fishing and conservation willing to participate as a future fly fisher and conservationist.

The applicant must write an essay, stating why they would like to attend The Academy and they will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor or science teacher.

Any questions may be directed to Mike Clancy @ [mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net) or Jim Brosio @ [brosioj@q.com](mailto:brosioj@q.com)  
Applications are available on our website – [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com) Our email address – [nwycffa@comcast.net](mailto:nwycffa@comcast.net).  
And we are on Face Book.

### **Northwest Fly Fishing Events for 2014**

A quick glance around the greater north west

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January 11-12 Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo @ Expo Idaho Boise ID / [www.bvffexpo.com](http://www.bvffexpo.com)

February 15-16 The Fly Fishing Show @ Lynnwood Convention Center Lynnwood WA / [www.theflyfishingshow.com](http://www.theflyfishingshow.com)

February 22 Lower Umpqua Fly Fishing Expo Reedsport OR / [www.lufc.us](http://www.lufc.us)

March 7-9 Oregon Council FFF Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo@ Linn County Fairground Albany OR / [www.nwflytyerexpo.com](http://www.nwflytyerexpo.com)

March 21-22 North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo Lewiston ID / [www.niffe.org](http://www.niffe.org)

May 3-4 WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair@Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg / [www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

May 17-18 Northwest Atlantic Salmon Fly Guild in Renton / [www.asfi-expo.com](http://www.asfi-expo.com)

July Metolius River Fly Fishing and Bamboo Rod Fair@ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman, OR / [www.campshermanstore.com](http://www.campshermanstore.com)

August 4-9 IFFF International Fly Fishing Fair (formerly known as Conclave) @ Livingston, MT / [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)

November Pacific Northwest Fly Tyers Rendezvous @ Jackson Armory, Portland, OR / [www.nwflytyers.org](http://www.nwflytyers.org)

# January / February 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 January	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

Fund Raiser Raffle

Fund Raiser Raffle						1 February
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Happy Valentines Day</i>	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	<b>25 Club Meeting</b>		26	27	28

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](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)

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Outings Coord:	Bob Alston	253-848-6884
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