

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

**Will Be In September**



FFI  
Charter Club



As always, at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM

## The Dead Drift - July 2017

### In this issue:

#### Page 2 & 3

*FFI Fly Of The Month*

#### Page 4 & 5

*Back of Beyond*

#### Page 6

*In The Past*

#### Page 7

*AFF Meetings 2017*

*FFI Fly Fishing Fair*

*A Fly Fishing Quote*

*Photos Please*

*Picnic*

#### Page 8

*2017 Club Picnic*

#### Page 9

*PSF Fair*

#### Page 10

*Calendar*

*Editor Information*

*Mailing Address*

*Board of Directors*

### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

For the May meeting, fearing we could have a no-show guest speaker, I had quickly put together a thumb drive of some Montana fishing pictures. But I had them in different folders and the transition was not a smooth one when we tried to watch at the meeting. So, I went home and started organizing them. I went through my CD's and other thumb drives that had pictures saved dating back for well over a decade. I gathered together 366 pictures and have them all organized for a smooth flowing slideshow. I will be adding to them as I fish in Montana again this year. But, while I was doing that, looking at all those trips, the memories just came flooding back. So many fun times. Some with just my guide and myself but some of them with either a group of fellow fishers or just one or two good friends. The names of the rivers sort of flowed through my mind: The Clark Fork; Flathead; Kootenai; Missouri; Big Hole; Beaverhead; Jefferson; Madison; Yellowstone; Mill Creek; Big Horn; Bean Lake; and Rock Creek. Yes, I have been blessed with some great trips and being with some really good people.

Fly fishing has given me that, a purpose to travel where I want and fish the waters I want and to be able to enjoy those experiences. However, for me, fly fishing is more than that. I enjoy volunteering with various fly fishing organizations. I started off by joining PSF at the end of the 90's and then I joined the FFF. After a few years I joined my favorite club, the Alpine Fly Fishers. I am not saying that just because I am the president of this great club. It is because we have a tremendous group of loyal members who share in the enjoyment of fly fishing. I also belong to the North Idaho Fly Casters club. I am still on the Board of Directors for the WA State Council FFI and I did a two year term on the national BOD as well. All my years of being the auction coordinator for PSF, then WA State Council and five years for national, really helped me fill a purpose in my retirement, that of making money for the organizations and making people happy when they have won something they wanted. On a smaller scale I do that now with the raffles for our club, and I am the vendor coordinator for the WSCFFI's Fly Fishing Fair.

I don't know how long I will be able to keep this up, but I hope for a long time. There are so many rivers to fish, even if I keep going back to the same ones. New rivers can be fun to fish, yet they can also be a challenge since you don't know the river or the way the fish live and feed in that body of water. I guess that is why I keep going back to my favorite waters like the Yakima River here in WA and the Clark Fork and it's tributaries over in Montana. I feel like I am coming home to the river. The fish always present a challenge, no doubt about that, but I really do feel at peace when I am fishing waters that I know and love. So, I will keep making my trips east of the Cascades, be it Ellensburg for the Yakima River or St. Regis, MT for the Clark Fork or Flathead rivers.

Good fishing.



Larry



**Fly Fishers International**  
**Fly of the Month**  
**July 2013**  
**TURKEY NYMPH**  
**Published by Bob Bates**



**Opening Comments:**

Here is an effective pattern that Don McFarland was demonstrating at the 2013 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo. Don is from Boise, Idaho, and he ties at several shows, fairs and expos in the Northwest part of the United States. Don said that he uses it on the Owyhee (Oregon) and Boise (Idaho) rivers. He even had a picture of a monster fish that his friend caught using a Turkey Nymph that Don had tied. OK how does he fish it? Most of the time he suspends it from a strike indicator. The length of leader between the strike indicator and the fly depends on how fast the water is moving. In still water or very slow moving water make the length a little less than the water depth. In moving water make it two times the water depth. If it is run-off time you don't have a chance so go home or a nearby lake. Keep your eye on the strike indicator. If it does anything strange, tighten the line and see if there is wiggle. That is what I did years ago on the Madison river in Montana. I was casting so the fly would sink and drift alongside of a rock. My strike indicator stopped, and my first thought was "hang-up." However, there was a wiggle when I tightened the line. Eventually, a nice foot long rainbow came to hand and was released. If the strike indicator moves sideways you can be pretty sure you have a fish. I say "pretty sure" because nothing is a sure thing when you are fishing. In lakes or ponds if the strike indicator goes down it might be a fish. If it stays down it is probably a weed. Fish will usually spit out phony food. If you look away to pour coffee or get a sandwich the strike indicator will go down, and when you look back it will be coming up. I start with the strike indicator about a foot above the bottom in lakes and adjust until I catch fish. Try casting downwind; then cast crosswind.

**Materials list:**

Hook: Daiiiche 1310 short shank, size 18 (The shank has the length of a #20)  
Thread: Uni thread, 8/0, Camel  
Tail: Wood duck  
Rib: Copper wire, fine  
Abdomen: Cinnamon turkey tail fibers  
Thorax: Peacock herl

**Tying steps:**

Step 1: Attach thread at bend of hook, which is usually over the barb. Trim excess.



Step 2: Select three fibers of a wood duck flank feather, and tie them on giving about a shank length. The shank is measured from the bend at the back of the hook to the bend at the eye



Step 3: Trim excess wood duck at front of hook. Hold copper wire under shank and wind thread rearward securing it to just in front of where the tail was tied in.



Step 4: Select two fibers from the turkey tail feather, and tie them in by their tips. Trim excess turkey fibers and wind the thread forward to about one eye width back from the eye.



Step 5: The turkey fibers are delicate, so be careful with this step. Hold the fibers gently in the hackle pliers and carefully wrap them around the shank. It helps to let the hackle pliers and fibers hang over your fingers, rather than holding the hackle pliers. Secure the turkey fibers when you reach the thread. Trim excess.



Step 6: Spiral the copper wire rib forward three or four turns. Wrap the wire in the opposite direction than you wrapped the thread and turkey fibers. This counter wrapping strengthens the turkey fibers and gives the appearance of segmentation. Secure the wire.



Step 7: To save wear and tear on your scissors, break off the wire by wiggling it. Tie on some small peacock herl and spin it so the herl is twisted with the tying thread. Trim excess peacock herl. Whip finish the head. Do not use head cement.



### Closing Comments:

When you start tying this simple pattern you will probably break a few turkey fibers. Don't be discouraged. Even Don breaks one occasionally. When on a roll tying 4 or 5 dozen for his fly box he does better. The big fish he catches are particularly hard on this pattern. He usually replaces a fly after three or four fish.

This is a simple and quick fly to tie. Use some different colored materials for variations on a theme. Add some legs for another look. Tie on a little soft hackle for yet another variation. Get creative, that is one of the fun things about tying flies, that and catching fish on them.

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## National Monuments

The Interior department has been directed to review National Monuments designated over the last 21 years. The Department of the Interior released a list of 27 National Monuments under review and is seeking public comments on this process. In most cases, the protections were put in place only after robust discussions and broad support from local communities and stakeholders.

The 1906 Antiquities Act, was signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt, it empowers Congress or the President to safeguard public land by designating national monuments. It is one of our country’s most enduring and important conservation tools. A monument designation allows for a variety of uses while protecting an area’s unique natural, historic, or cultural heritage.

Our wild places are directly tied to our nation’s cultural identification and to our inventiveness and creativity: “that coarseness and strength combined with acuteness and acquisitiveness; that practical inventive turn of mind, quick to find expedients; that masterful grasp of material things ... that restless, nervous energy; that dominant individualism.” Fredrick Jackson Turner.

Nature demands visualization and the full use of the senses. If one brings the disorder of the world to nature, one may wash it in a creek, turn it over and see what lives on the unseen side of that bewilderment. Nature can frighten us as well, but fear also teaches us.

We need wildness. Examples: “Each year 53,000 acres of land are developed in the Chesapeake watershed; that’s about one acre every ten minutes. At that rate, development will consume more land in the Chesapeake watershed in the next twenty-five years than in the previous three and a half centuries, according to the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay. Similarly, the Charlotte, North Carolina, region lost 20 percent of its forest cover over the past two decades; between 1982 and 2002, the state lost farmland and forest at the rate of 383 acres a day. The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects forest declining from 767,000 acres in 1982 to 377,000 in 2022. Amazingly, developed land in North Carolina increased at a rate twice that of the state’s population growth.” – Last Child in the Woods. Richard Louv.

As open space shrinks across America, overuse of our public land increases. It is counter intuitive to believe that shrinking or eliminating National Monuments is good for the Nation or its people. A growing body of evidence and research indicates that direct exposure to nature is essential for physical and emotional health. But beyond the human toll that less open space causes is that National Monuments also hold the keys to our survival. Humankind is not separate from Nature we are a part of the whole. We are not more important but equals with all other living things. What happens to them, happens to us as well. We must look at our wilderness areas as seed and wildlife banks. The more we shrink open spaces the faster we accelerate species extinctions. It is already at an all-time high and it is predicted we will lose about a quarter of the world’s wildlife over the next two decades.

Our National Monuments are fragments of the whole. As an example, let’s look at the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation area. “Since 1988 nearly half the river’s hundred miles, and fifty-eight thousand acres of surrounding corridor, have been protected. Eighty-two species of mammals—a community unmatched anywhere north of the tropics—inhabit this valley.

Hanford Reach  
River



A section of the Hanford Reach

Cascade-Siskiyou National  
Monument



Soda Mountain

Continued on Page 5 →

Hiding out here as well are 43 kinds of reptiles and amphibians. Including the endangered Huachuca leopard frog, a bizarre critter that calls (as if he knew it was a big, harsh desert out there) from underwater. The San Pedro also harbors the richest, densest, and most diverse inland bird population in the United States – 385 species. It's one of the last nesting sites for the willow fly catchers and western yellow-billed cuckoos; green kingfishers breed nowhere else in the country. For millions of migratory birds traveling from winter food in Central America to their breeding grounds in the northern U.S. and Canada, there is one reliable passage, on which their lives depend. Just this one.” The Patience of a Saint, - Barbara Kingsolver

But because the San Pedro is a fragment its days are numbered. We need to balance our views on land use, we need a system that balance the needs of all people, protecting our environmental and economic balance. Life and Nature is like a three-legged stool. When you have all three it is balanced and it will support us. To make decisions based solely on economic worth dooms us all. The need for more public land is at an all-time high people need open space.

Great men with far seeing eyes have tried to teach us for years the importance of conserving and protecting our environment and the lands that give us life, Henry Davis Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, Joseph Wood Krutch, John Muir, Rachel Carson and Teddy Roosevelt is a short list of men and women pointing us in the right direction. As an outdoor enthusiast, Backpacker, Bicyclist, Fly-fisherman, Camper, and Grandfather sharing our National Monuments with my children and grand-children, please protect all our National Monuments and the future of our world.

Basin and Range- Nevada; Bears Ears- Utah; Berryessa Snow Mountain-California; Canyons of the Ancients- Colorado; Carrizo Plains – California; Cascade Siskiyou – Oregon; Craters of the Moon – Idaho; Giant Sequoia– California; Gold Butte – Nevada; Grand Canyon-Parashant – Arizona; Grande Staircase-Escalante – Utah; Hanford Reach – Washington; Ironwood Forest – Arizona; Mojave Trails – California; Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks – New Mexico; Rio Grande del Norte – New Mexico; Sand to Snow – California; San Gabriel Mountains – California; Sonoran Desert – Arizona, Upper Missouri River Breaks – Montana; Vermilion Cliffs – Arizona; Katahdin Woods and Waters – Maine; Northeast Canyons and Seamounts – Atlantic Ocean; Pacific Remote Islands – Pacific Ocean; Papahānaumokuākea – Hawaii; Pacific Ocean, Rose Atoll – American Samoa — Pacific Ocean.

Stephen Neal

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

As a fellow outdoor recreationist and a stake holder of public lands, please send comments or print this article and sign it and send it to: Monuments Review, MS1530, U.S. Department of Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

The deadline for submitting comments is July 10th. They are also accepting comments online.

**Note from the editor: I ‘borrowed’ the photos from Wikipedia. They have a great library of data.**



The Missouri River carved the Breaks into the Montana landscape

## Rose Atoll

### Atoll



Rose Atoll

## San Gabriel Mountains



Summits in the eastern San Gabriel Mountains,

~ In The Past ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers  
'The Fly Line' -  
Vol. 1 No. 6

August of 1973



Next meeting date: August 6, 1973  
Place: Noel's Restaurant  
Time: Social Hour: 6:00  
Dinner 6:45  
Program: ???  
Draw Prize: FFF Membership  
DELAIR

Last Meeting: Held at Noel's. The Club patch design was approved. It was voted that we become affiliated with the FFF as soon as we have five members become FFF members. Join the FFF!!!

**Echo Lake Fishout:** Six members and one guest made this one. The fish were there and easy to catch, just as promised, but their size was not up to expectations. Most fish were only slightly longer than the blisters that resulted from the fast five mile downhill. Echo Lake has the unfortunate combination of excellent spawning areas and a meager food supply which results in a large population of stunted fish.

**Next Fishout:** This will be the Yakima River, August 11 & 12. We'll be staying at the Taneum Creek Campground. More on that later from the Activity Committee. Originally the August fishout was to be on the Bogachiel, but September is a better month there. Leech Lake was dropped because the Shoreline Protective Act has made all but five of the campsites there illegal.

**Fishing Reports:** Some places that have been reported as good by members are Loch Katrine on Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Tree Farm, Fish Lake and Chopaka Lake in the Okanogan, and the Williamson in Oregon. For you steelhead enthusiasts, the North Fork Stillaguamish is Fly Fishing Only and said to be holding good numbers of fish. A 15 pounder was taken there in late June.

**Fly Patterns:** For the Yakima River, one of the best dry flies to use is the Adams. It floats well and looks "buggy".  
Hook: Size 10 - 16.  
Tail: Mixture of grizzly and brown hackle fibers.  
Body: Dun Grey dubbed fur, polyester yarn or polypropylene.  
Wings: Grizzly hackle tips.  
Hackle: Brown and Grizzly, mixed and full.

**Atlantic Salmon:** At least three members have had recent experiences with the Atlantic Salmon, either in Hosmer Lake or Chopaka Lake. They agree that compared to a Rainbow of equal size, the Atlantic Salmon comes in a poor second. This is really unfortunate, because the Game Department has spent a lot of time and effort on the Atlantic Salmon program.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of this program will not be a superior game fish, but the exposure of the fishing public to the concept of barbless hooks and releasing the fish. As more people try this kind of fishing they will realize that the real pleasure of fishing is not measured by the number of fish killed. The real joys of fishing are more abstract, a blend of the satisfaction of deceiving the fish, mastering him on terms as anglers and the communion with nature in its many moods. These things cannot be measured. They must be felt.

Bring a guest. The more the merrier. Get behind you club and help it grow!!

## Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2017

Our club meetings are on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month except for December (the third Tuesday) and there are no meetings in July or August.

~~July~~ (No Meeting); ~~August~~ (No Meeting);  
September 26; October 24; November 28; December 19 (3rd Tuesday)



2017  
International  
Fly Fishing Fair  
August 1 - 5, 2017  
Livingston, MT



### A Fly Fishing Quote:

*“We may say of angling as Dr. Boteler said of strawberries:*

*Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but*

*Doubtless God never did, and so,*

*if I might be judge, God never did make*

*A more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling.”*

*Izaak Walton - The Compleat Angler (1653)*



**!!!!!!! PHOTOS PLEASE !!!!!!!**



Every December, at our Christmas meeting, Steve Egge puts on a great power point presentation of photos given to him by some of our club members of fishing trips they have taken over the past year.

Unfortunately, we don't get enough photos. We would all love to see shots of your exploits, scenic photos as well as fishing photos. I know our members travel all over North America during the year, so please take some pictures where ever you are fishing. Let us enjoy your trips with you, even if it is vicariously.

You can turn them in to me or Steve anytime of the year. We want them!!

### Our 2017 Club Picnic

Over the years we have been blessed with some fairly nice weather the evening of our club picnics. This time we had some great weather. Nice and sunny but not too hot. We had a good group of people there, talking and eating. Howie came over from Montana just to be at our picnic. Well, not really but he made it over here in time to attend our event and we thank him for that. It was good to see him again. Check out the photos on page 8.

# OUR 2017 PICNIC

Thank you Stephen & Terry for letting us use your home for this!





# Puget Sound Fly Fishing Fair

July 29, 2017



Puget Sound Fly Fishers is celebrating its 60 years in South Puget Sound by hosting a fly fishing fair July 29, 2017 at Pierce County's Environmental Services Building in Chambers Creek Regional Park. The facility has a spectacular view overlooking Puget Sound with the Olympic Mountains in the background.

Our objective is two fold; to introduce non-anglers to the sport of fly fishing, and to enhance the skills and knowledge of current fly anglers. Of particular interest to us is providing particular programs, activities and demonstrations to women, children and families so they can see a way to get engaged in the sport.

There are 13 presentations scheduled including techniques for catching tiger muskie presented by Mike Sturza, topwater tactics with Leland Miyawaki, open water cutthroat skills by Bob Triggs, introduction to fly fishing with Rueben Lamphere, fly fishing photography brought to you by Carol Ann Morris, BC steelhead with April Vokey, panfishing for everyone with WDFW's Bruce Bolding, tuna on the fly with Anil Srivistava, stillwater tactics with Skip Morris, smallmouth fly fishing featuring David Paul Williams, new and exciting information about Coastal Cutthroat Trout thanks to WDFW's James Losee, and kayak fishing in Puget Sound.

Topics are designed to cover all interest and skill levels from fresh brand-new beginner to the seasoned angler. One of the most rewarding elements of fly fishing is that you can always add to your skill set and your reset your game. Ask yourself if there is a species you haven't chased, a technique you need help with, a style of fly fishing you haven't tried yet. Be sure to save July 29, 2017 on your calendar to attend our celebratory event.

Like other fairs we will be providing demonstrations, seminars, kids activities, hands-on practice sessions, industry reps, a silent auction, fly tying demonstrations, casting tips and techniques, and resource personnel from both WDFW and USFWS. As a special bonus we will be holding a swap meet where anyone can bring used gear to buy/sell/swap which could be a great way for new anglers to get into the sport without a huge outlay of cash. We will also be providing a selection of personal watercraft so visitors can see the options available to get out on the water - both fresh and salt.

Put us on the calendar for July 29, 2017, we hope to see you there.

# July / August 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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"Mosquito is out, it's the end of the day; she's humming and hunting her evening away. Who knows why such hunger arrives on such wings at sundown? I guess it's the nature of things."  
 - N. M. Boedecker, Midsummer Night Itch

**1  
July**

2	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29 PSF Fair

**No Meetings In July or August**

"Summertime and the living is easy  
 Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high"  
 George Gershwin and Dubose Heyward,  
 Porgy and Bess

**1  
August**

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability." - Sam Keen "Summer's lease hath all too short a date." - William Shakespeare	

**No Meeting In August**

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