

# Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Gathering  
Will Be Tuesday*

**September 22**

*We will be meeting at the  
Puerto Vallarta  
215 15th St. SE  
Puyallup at 6 PM*



## The Dead Drift - July 2015

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

The 2015 Alpine Fly Fisher's picnic was a big success. Many thanks to Stephen and Terry Neal for letting us descend upon their place for this event. It was a fantastic day, not too hot, not too cool, not much wind and we had plenty of great people to talk with. The food was outstanding, a wide assortment of main dishes, side dishes and desserts.

I started a rod/reel board and took it to the picnic. Guy donated one of the two Albright 8/9 wt, 9 ft, 4 pc rods that he won this past year and I added an Albright reel to go with it. I was hoping we could sell the board out and pick a winner, but that didn't happen so we will continue selling the squares at our September meeting. If you want to buy a square just send me an email and let me know. I will insert your name in a square and you can mail me the money. Too bad the board didn't fill up as this is a Pink year and the rod would have been great for fighting those salmon. We almost made enough money in the 'garage sale' to pay for the food. Did I mention the food was really good? Yea, I know I did but I thought it was worth mentioning again. 😊

By the way, a foot was lost during our picnic. Well actually a rubber like piece that fits over a wide but thin leg (most likely) off of a metal dish. If anyone lost this I have it. Looks like it tore at one end allowing it to slip off. Stephen and Terry found it and gave it to me to try to locate the owner.

Summer is upon us now, meaning it is a great time to get out and do some fishing, or in some cases casting practice with the anticipation of catching a fish. I know the Yakima River is calling my name and the Clark Fork River in Montana is shouting my name so I must respond to them. 😊 The flows on the Clark Fork are at near summer time levels, should be some great dry fly fishing. If the river gets too warm this summer then the Smallmouth Bass fishing will be great on the Flathead River just downstream from St. Regis.

If anyone has an article you would like to submit to me for the newsletter, please feel free to do so. Maybe a report on a great fishing trip or just a vacation to some neat place, you know we would all like to hear about that. Speaking of that, please take some pictures of your trips and submit them to either myself or to Steve Egge so we can have a great power point show at our December meeting. That may seem like a long way off but now is the time to take the pictures, when you are out and about, gallivanting off around the country.

Good fishing.

Larry

**International Federation of Fly Fishers  
Fly of the Month**

**~ Turkey & Bead Soft Hackle ~**

**July 2009**

By  
Bob Bates



John Kimura from Alturas, California did something different with his turkey wing quills. (At least it was new to me.) This was at the WA State Council FFF Fly Fishing Fair, May 1-2, 2009 in Ellensburg. Somebody gave him two nice matched turkey wing quills. Instead of using them on a grasshopper or Muddler Minnow pattern he made a good looking soft hackle fly. He had tied this pattern before, just with different body materials.

Soft hackle patterns are used in streams and lakes. When wading in streams, cast so it will sink a little as it drifts and let it swing toward shore. Sometimes a fish will chase a fly all the way across the stream and think about hitting it as it moves enticingly at the bottom of the swing. Hence the advice: Be patient at the end of the swing and vary the retrieve before casting again. Depending on where the fish are in lakes (shallow or deep) use floating to full sinking lines and a variety of retrieves. Try to remember what you did just before the fish hit.

Strike indicators are also useful. One time on the Madison River in Montana I cast upstream to let my soft hackle sink. My strike indicator stopped by a boulder and I thought “hang up.” But the “hang up” went crazy when the line was tightened. Usually in lakes there is no question about the strike.

**Materials list:**

**Hook:** Czech Republic barbless, DaiRiki 135, Tiemco TMC 2457 or other scud hook

**Weight:** Gold bead

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Body:** Barbs from turkey wing quills, can use pheasant tail or turkey flats

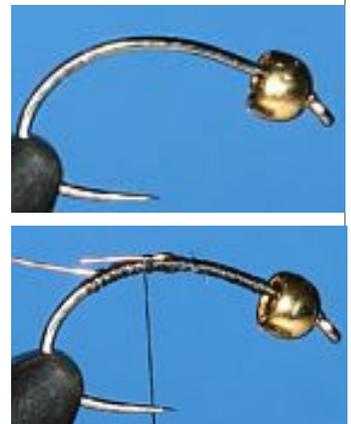
**Rib:** Copper wire, Ultra XS or S

**Hackle:** Blue Grouse or Partridge.

**Tying steps:**

1. Slip bead onto hook, and put hook into vise.

2. Wrap a thread underbody first. Put copper wire on hook. Fold back end of wire and tie it down to make it more secure.



Continued on Page 3 →

3. Take 3 to 6 fibers out of wing quill and tie in by tip.

4. Wrap body forward to the bead.

5. Counter wrap wire to the bead, tie off behind bead and trim.

6. Whip finish and cut off thread.

7. Push bead back over thread and body. Reattach thread in front of bead. Prepare grouse feather by pulling off the real fuzzy stuff. Hold feather by tip and stroke barbs away from tip. Tie in by tip with dull side of feather toward hook.

8. Trim excess feather. John recommends using clean materials. His Blue Grouse was washed. Stroke fibers back as the feather is wrapped forward. Secure feather, trim excess and finish the fly with a small head between hackle and eye of hook. Can make the hackle a little sparser than shown.

**Closing Comments:** It is a fairly simple fly to tie, and it catches fish. The main point: Don't get hung up on a particular color of material. If you think that another color or a different material might be more attractive to fish, use it. Then go out and test it. When you dazzle all the other fly anglers, give it a name and become the hero of the area.



## **Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2015**

**July & August (No Meetings—Go Fishing)**

**The 4th Tuesday of the other months, except for December**

**September 22 — October 27 — November 24 — December 15**

# Back of Beyond

*By Stephen Neal*

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

## Spring Fishing

*"Living on the road my friend, was gonna keep you free and clean, Now you wear your skin like iron, your breath's hard as kerosene. You weren't your mama's only boy, But her favorite one it seems, She began to cry the day you said goodbye, And sank into your dreams" Pancho and Lefty - Townes Van Zandt*

My soul needed to be steeped in the waters of time, my rust and kerosene needed to be cleaned and stripped away by the earth's flowing source of life; it was time to stand in the water waving a stick. I had premeditated the tides tables and corrected them for Puget Sound; my calculations put Friday's high tide at its turning point around 8:30 am. I met Howard in the parking lot in front of Sportsman's at eight. We saddled up, and hit'm a lope, fore it weren't no site of a ride, and those were the days a buckaroo could oil up his ole insides. Oops! That's another story from another decade, will leave that one for latter. But it weren't no site of a ride and Howard and I were soon pulling on our waders and threading our fly line through the eyes of our fly rods. We slipped past the sleek runners on the walking path, gave a nod to the beach tavern, crossed the railroad tracks and stepped onto the narrow shingle of a beach left by the crest of the high tide.

We entered the waters of the world; time slowed and washed our souls. Howard was deep into the learning curve of casting a fly rod, his brief time of lawn casting was some help, but now he had to find his own rhythm and feel his line. There is no short cut to casting well, there is only time and effort and one's own impatiens's to learn that have to be overcome. Howard took the lead, he got to fish fresh water and I could watch his cast and offer tips as he grew stronger and more practiced as he learned and absorbed the lessons he was teaching himself.

We cast, retrieved, stepped and cast again; we were searching, learning and reading the beach and tidal flow. Both Howard and I being new to Sound fishing were perplexed by the tidal flow it seemed to be moving backwards to what our senses were broad casting back to our brains. We were below the narrows bridge and the water was flowing in, not out, as we thought it should on an ebbing tide. Driftwood and other flotsam were moving with the tide to our left. As we stepped and cast; we worked our way down the barnacle incrustated beach through what we discovered to be a back eddy in the flow of Puget Sound. Only experience can give you a fuller picture.

Our back eddy gave way to the full Sound's out flowing tide and we started to finally cast to the seams where the cutts were feeding. I had my first take and a nice fight on my hands. My new 6 wt rod and salt water intermediate sinking line were up to the task and I very nearly landed my first sea run cutthroat trout, as I made my reach, he was gone. I did not think much about it at that time but when the second one got off after a very brief hook up; I reeled in and discovered that my hooks point was broken off just at the point where I had mashed the barb. Drat! Howard's hook point was also gone. We had reached the end of our fishing. We had run out of public beach, it was almost slack tide, Howards casting arm was tired, our stomachs thought our throats had been cut. Fish and chips at the beach tavern were sounding mighty good. Howard and I made the walk back cementing plans to come again soon.

The Sound's natural magic had hit the mark, Howard and I both breathed deeper and work tense muscles relaxed. We had found ourselves again standing in the waters of life waving a stick.

*"She asked him why does he ride for his money, Why does he rope for short pay, He ain't getting' nowhere and he's losin' his share, He must have gone crazy out there, But she's never seen the Northern Lights, Never seen a hawk on the wing, Never seen Spring hit the Great Divide, And never heard Ol' Camp Cookie sing" Night Rider Lament - Michael Burton*

Continued on Page 5

Steve and I sat in our pontoon boats on the far shore of Lake Lenice, tucked in near the islands. A cornucopia of bird, aquatic and insect wildlife surrounded us. Yellow-headed black birds, Red-winged blackbirds, Hooded Orioles, and others that my memory banks held no information from which to identify, were very busy indeed singing and feeding on a plethora of insects. They would fly into the rushes and reeds, land or crash, and then begin to feast. They hopped from reed to reed or pulled themselves up with their beaks or short violent wing beats all the while feeding.



The birds provided the chorus of chirps and cackles, the frogs were the base section building to a cresting thrum, then falling back to the underpinning of the music. The beat of the insects wings buzz added a gentle hum that was the counter point to the chirps and bright song snips flung skyward by the birds. The crescendos of the musical piece were the trout, as they leapt from the water to go air born after zebra winged dragon flies; after their airborne aeriels they crashed back into the water. The sound they generated was like a beaver slapping the water or a small child's canyon ball into a pool, a deep base hollow ka-whoosh. Steve and I as music lovers were enthralled. We were front and center for one of earth's great symphonies. This was the sound of silence, not the absence of sound, but the earth music played while we could truly hear. No cars or airplanes, nothing artificial or manmade; just a pure terrain composition uncomplicated and pure.

Beyond the music Steve and my fishing souls were also excited, trout were everywhere; they were boiling on the surface and flying. We did not have to search for fish they were all around us. Boy, this sure did look like it was going to be a great day on the water. While the earth music played we fished but this was not a bountiful catch day. This was a try everything you could think of to entice the trout to the fly, and they were focused on one thing only. Those gorgeous zebra winged dragon fly's mating in the early morning June warmth, over a high desert lake in eastern Washington. The trout took those dragon flies in the air and below the surface when they dived to lay their eggs. Way before Steve and I went through over 50 fly patterns between the two of us, we concluded that a drone zebra winged dragon fly was the only thing that might have a chance at landing one of those beautiful aquatic denizens of the deep, and we did not have one.

As mere mortals we used what we had, we fished with dry flies, wet flies, damsel flies, wooly buggers, ants, stimulators, leeches, and in every color we had, you name it we threw it. I even used floating line, sinking line and split shot. But somehow both of us had forgotten our Zebra Winged dragon fly drones. Drat, next time, next time! Around 1 pm we packed it in. Between the two of us we caught three or four fish, nothing on the same fly. While the music was outstanding the fishing was a big tease. Undaunted we retired to the Columbia River and in the 102 degree heat we sat our lawn chairs in the river, placed Steve's reacquired river table in its proper place, in the river, filled its surface with music, scotch and glasses. We spent the late spring evening listening to music, sipping scotch, practicing our spey casting, while visiting on topics of living. In the evening we dined on homemade Mexican food supplied by Mike Velke's neighbors and talked of fishing trips to come.

Hope to see you on the water soon, while listening to the songs of mother earth.

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

## Soft-Hackled Flies

Soft-hackled flies are much under used and underrated. The main reason there is any popularity of soft-hackled flies in America is because of Sylvester Nemes. However, they have been very popular in Scotland and Ireland, I guess for that matter, all over merry old England, for centuries.

Sylvester Nemes has published several books about soft-hackled flies. One that is easily attainable is **“The Soft-Hackled Fly and Tiny Soft Hackles, A Trout Fisherman’s Guide, Second Edition”**. That is selling for around \$25 to \$35.

One that is very expensive to obtain is **“Two Centuries of Soft-Hackled Flies: A Survey of the Literature Complete with Original Patterns, 1747-Present”**. If you can find this book it is selling for prices between \$275 to \$1,033. Yep, just a bit pricey for my blood.

But fear not, the internet is loaded with videos about soft-hackled flies and how to tie them. A couple of years ago at an IFFF Fly Fishing Fair in West Yellowstone, I was able to bid on and win some beautiful ‘Northern Spider’ flies tied by a tyer from Ireland. Beautiful flies, simple and elegant and I am sure very fish worthy, but I will never fish them. I will tie my own versions and let the fish beat them up.

I have taken some workshops on tying soft-hackled flies while at the IFFF Fly Fishing Fairs. I enjoy hearing about the history of the flies and of the many ways to tie them. Some of the very popular original flies are tied with Partridge soft hackles using silk in three main colors: green; yellow; & orange with green a close 4th. Naturally, other birds produce soft hackles and some of the more popular are woodcock, grouse, snipe and starling. However, there is no need to stop there. Any soft hackle feather from any bird can be used if you are looking for variety.

Many of the soft-hackled flies have very thin bodies, consisting of just a few wraps of silk thread. But we really like to vary the soft-hackled flies in many ways. Things like beads, glass or metal, for the head. We tie some flies with thicker bodies. Some with a thorax or shoulders. Some have tails, many do not. Wire can also be used for the body or as an accent color.

I tie some on a thin dry fly hooks. This gives the fly very little weight and it is really slow to sink. Just perfect to be cast out on a dry fly line with a long leader, and slowly worked back to you so the fly stays just under the surface. Or it is great for a dry-dropper combination if you want the soft-hackled fly to remain right under the surface. Others are tied on a standard dry fly hook for a little more weight and still more are tied on a heavy hook, like a nymph hook, for even more weight, perfect to be used as a dropper off another fly either when deep nymphing or as a dry-dropper combination where you want the soft-hackled fly to be a couple of feet below the dry fly.

Sylvester Nemes has tied soft-hackled flies on really large hooks for salmon and steelhead and on really small hooks for finicky trout, like on a size 20 hook.

Go on the internet, take some ‘courses’ on tying soft-hackled flies and tie up a variety to place in your fly boxes. They are a great fly to have. Use them and enjoy the catch.



**SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 11-15 2015**

**Exhibit hall open 9am - 5pm August 13-15**

Join us at the Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center

Advance Registration will open June 8th, 2015 at 9am MDT



Auction and Raffles: every year we have a great selection of fishing and non-fishing items in our silent auctions and raffles going on Thursday-Saturday, and the live auction Friday Night.

Book Signing: Come see your favorite fly fishing author and have your book signed.

Casting: Workshops, Demonstrations, Rendezvous, and games all about casting.

Conservation: Conservation is a big part of why we exist as an organization, stop by the IFFF Conservation Booth to get information about what we are doing in conservation activities across the country.

Fly Tying Demonstrations: Two shifts at each table every day for three days...that is how many demonstrations will take place, that's right, over 120 demonstrations!

Free Programs: Free with your entry to the Fair, come and see unique hourly presentations that include fly fishing destinations, conservation topics, to fishing specific types of water, and flies to use.

Meals and Special Events: From the Tuesday free reception to our closing barbeque there are several opportunities to join us for food and fun!

Youth Activities: Educating our youth about fly fishing instills a fun, family oriented activity to enjoy for years to come.

Women's Program: This is for women only, a one and a half to two day experience you won't forget!

Biographies – There are so many people who give of their time to teach and demonstrate! Here you can find information about Casting Demonstrators, Demonstration Tiers, Program presenters, and Workshop instructors in their biographies.

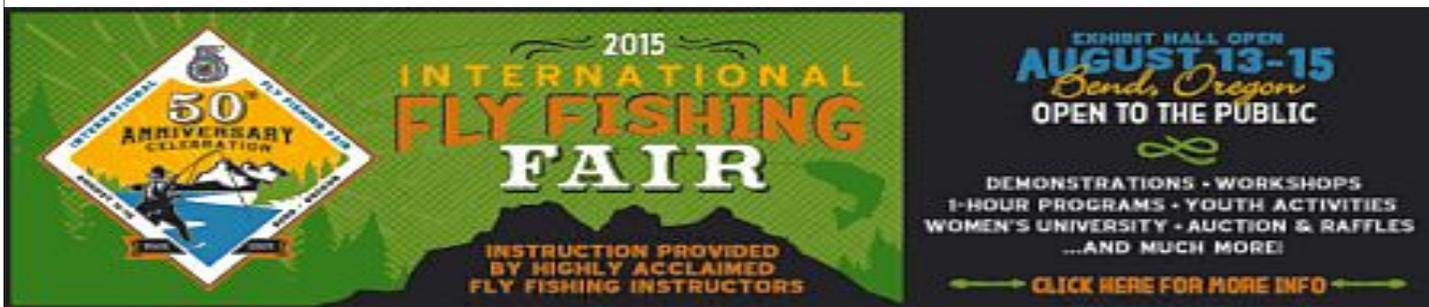
Local area information – Most of you come to the Fair not only for the fly fishing learning experience, though we know that is the main reason but also for the location, location, location! The local area information pages will give you an overview of what is going on locally, where there is great fishing, area shops and guides as well as maps to help you get around.

Photo Contest – This is an attraction we have annually, it is a fun contest for anyone to participate with prizes for the winners. There is an on-site vote for the people's choice as well. A digital category has been added, go to this page to see how to submit your photos!

Volunteers – Hundreds - yes, HUNDREDS of volunteers take time out of their week, or day to help where needed at the Fair. If you are interested in volunteering click here to sign up!!

Workshops – What can we say about workshops, well nothing short of fantastic, superb, excellent, and we could go on...but why when you can go to the workshop page and see for yourself. Workshops are for ANYONE who wants to learn anything and everything about fly fishing. Pick from the many workshops at your experience level and you will come away learning something new. Workshops take a limited number of students so you get great individual attention too.

Dates for the 2015 International Fly Fishing Fair are August 11-15, in Bend Oregon. If you plan to attend, start thinking about it now as Bend is a prime location for fishing and you won't want to miss it!



**A Fly Fishing Quote:**

*"A trout river is like a book: some parts are dull and some are lively."  
~ H. G. Tapply - The Sportsman's Notebook (1964)*



May 12, 2015

Alpine Fly Fishers  
PO Box 1103  
Milton, WA 98354

Dear Friends of CfR,

I am delighted to thank you for your gift to Casting for Recovery. Your generosity plays a vital role in furthering our mission to enhance the quality of life of women with breast cancer through a unique program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing.

Philanthropic support like yours is essential to fund this year's 40 retreats held across the country. The retreats provide resources to help address quality of life issues after a breast cancer diagnosis, and a new outlet – fly fishing – as a reprieve from the everyday stresses and challenges of cancer. Casting for Recovery retreats are offered at no cost to the participants, which is why your donation means so much. Together, we will continue to improve the quality of life of breast cancer survivors, one woman at a time.

For your records, Casting for Recovery is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization. This organization did not provide any goods, services or other privileges, in whole or part, for the contribution received. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of your contribution. Thank you again for your support.

With warm regards,

Whitney Lange Milhoan  
Executive Director

WLM/wg

EIN #03-0354382

Date Donation was processed: 5/13/2015

Gift Amount: \$250

Comment: Your donation will support the Washington program of Casting for Recovery.

**2015 NWYCFFAcademy  
“Breaking News” –  
Mike Clancy**

As I write this article, we are into our second day of this year’s Academy. Our first day was used to teach skill levels. P.J. Hicks - tying tools, Kevin Ryan – knot tying and streamside Ethics and Etiquette, Carroll Hall, Robert Gerlach and Bill Wheeler – casting. Janet Shimpf, Karen Royer are teaching fly tying, Mike Croft has taught 2 classes. Mike Koslosky, Bob Triggs and Dr. Jim Carr will be teaching classes this week along with many more volunteer instructors. We have 21 great boys and girls with 6 Ghillies that are alumni from past Academy’s. The kids are fishing at The Ponds and on the Little Deschutes River starting at 5:30 AM and 5 PM on various days. Grandpa Terry Lueck is here to assist with the kids that include his 3 grandchildren, Oliva, Maverick and Colton, also accompanying him, his granddaughter Jessica, another Alumni of The Academy. Dan Drake is helping this year with the guiding, with his grandson attending this year. We are very fortunate to have incredible instructors, volunteers and support from our Fly Fishing/TU groups along with other organizations throughout the State. It’s all about the kids. Thanks everyone.



## For Sale

**Brand new  
Nor-Vise,  
Bobbin Kit,  
Bamboo Mounting Board  
And DVD**

**\$350 OBO**

Bruce Jones was kind enough to donate this brand new Nor-Vise outfit to our club as a fund raiser.

Retail value for this is \$405 plus tax, making it a \$445 value.

I am offering this to our club members first then I will sell it on Ebay if we have no takers. I personally have two Nor-Vises and love them. Please consider buying this, it is a very good deal.

Thank you Bruce.

Last  
Chance

After this I  
am going to  
sell it  
on-line  
somewhere.





Alpine Fly Fishers  
Next Meeting  
**September 22, 2015**



**2015 IFFF FLY FISHING FAIR**  
**August 11 - 15, 2015**  
Bend, Oregon



IFFF  
- 2015 -  
INTERNATIONAL  
**FLY FISHING  
FAIR**  
AUGUST 11-15, 2015  
BEND - OREGON  
*Save the Date*  
50<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
RIVERHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER - BEND, OR  
WWW.IFFFISHERS.ORG - 508.333.8388

On line registration opened in June for this great event being held this year down in Bend, Oregon.

# July / August 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
We have no club meetings in July or August so go fishing. ~ See you on September 22.			<b>1 July</b>	2	3	<b>4 Happy B'Day America, 229 yrs</b>
5	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	

*Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.  
~ Sir John Lubbock 1834 - 1913 ~*

**1  
August**

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Fly Fishing Fair in Bend	12 Fly Fishing Fair in Bend	13 Fly Fishing Fair in Bend Main Hall open	14 Fly Fishing Fair in Bend Main Hall open	15 Fly Fishing Fair in Bend Main Hall open
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club  
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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](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)

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