

Alpine Fly Fishers



FFI
Charter Club



AFF PICNIC

Tuesday

June 18

The Dead Drift - June 2019

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Editor Information

Mailing Address

Board of Directors



President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

The final WA Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg is over. Yes, the final for Ellensburg. The WA State Council has decided to change the location, we just have to decide where. It will be on the wet side of WA, yes, the west side, but not in the heavily populated areas of Greater Seattle/King County, I hope. Now is a good time to say **THANKS A MILLION** to some of our very own club members who volunteered. **Bill Fox, Brian & Sherry Miller, Peter Maunsell, Jim & Suzanne Higgins, and Pat Blackwell.**

Speaking of the Ellensburg show. By Saturday, I along with all of the other volunteers were starting to feel very tired. Anyway, I was really dog eared tired and hurting (something about older age and solid concrete floors and an already sore back). **Guy Magno** was over there and when he found out I had to drive an absolutely beautiful 2019 Dodge Ram Crew Cab Laramie edition pick up back to the dealer (we had the truck on display), he volunteered to follow me to the dealer and bring me back to the fairgrounds. If anyone has a spare \$65K you could pick up a great looking Dodge truck. 😊

Well, like I said, I was really sore and tired and while driving the truck I didn't notice that my cell phone had slipped back into a nifty little pocket on the back side of the center arm rest. So, when I got out of the truck, I just flat missed it. An hour later I figured out what had happened, the business was closed, and not open again until Monday. I was having dinner with Steve Worley and one of his daughters when I missed my phone. Thankfully, Steve picked up the phone on Monday morning and shipped it back to me. Thanks Steve.

So, Sunday morning found me at the local Fred Meyer store buying a burner phone. You know how on TV they show a person buying a burner, walking out of the store, tossing the packaging and making a phone call? Well, maybe there are some brands out there that do that but not the one I bought. I got the phone, walked into the Starbucks inside Freddie's and started removing all the pieces and paperwork associated with the phone. As I was reading the instructions (which normally I never read instructions) it said to call a certain number to start the process of activating the phone, plus I would need the various codes written down on several pieces of paper to complete the activation. OK, I bought this because I did not have a phone. It says to call a number, so naturally I figured that ability would be built into the phone so I could activate it. Nope, not a chance. I had to go find a phone to make the call. But I guess it was all paying penance for being so stupid for leaving my phone in a vehicle.

Remember the WA State Council TFO fly rod/reel raffle tickets I have had on our raffle table for the past few months? Well, we have a winner of that great outfit. No, it was not one of our club members but Robert Gerlach (a great casting instructor and a member of the WSC Board of Directors) won that outfit. A gentleman from Seattle won the reel only raffle.

Don't forget, our club picnic will be on the **THIRD (3) Tuesday in June. June 18.** We will again be gathering at Stephen & Terry's house. **But, the location is not the same.** They moved down the road and around the corner. I gave out directions at our May meeting. If you were not there or need more info, email me and I will give you the directions.

Thanks to our club members who showed up at the event and stopped by to say 'Hi'.

I will let everyone know what the WA State Council is going to do in 2020 and 2021 once we have made a decision.

Good fishing.



Larry

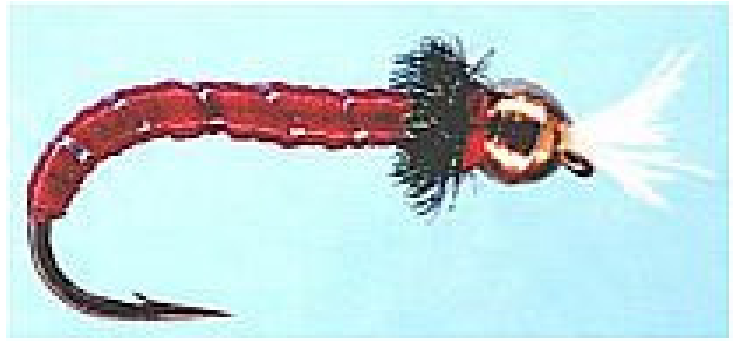
Fly Fishing International

Fly of the Month

June 2004

Bead Head Midge

By Bob Bates



Midge (chironomid) pupa or larva imitations might be the most important patterns available. Chironomids are all over the world and in all kinds of water. Lakes and slow water streams abound with them. They are in the water all year long, and different species hatch whenever there is open water. Usually species that hatch in the winter are tiny, but the spring and summer species are larger. Harold Patterson of Foster City, California tied this pattern at the 39th International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Idaho Falls, ID, August 2003.

Red has been a popular color since anglers years ago found red chironomid larva. It is the color of larva that live in oxygen poor environments such as bottom mud and debris. They have extra hemoglobin, which makes them red. Other colors are also seen so keep a sharp lookout for bugs in your waters. Check the debris that clings to your anchor; there is a lot of information to be gained there.

How is a pattern like this fished? Two techniques may be used:

Bobber fishing with a floating line or dredging with a sinking line.

Neither sounds attractive to the "pure" fly angler. Using a strike indicator sounds better than a bobber. The strike indicator can be a piece of foam, yarn, cork or a dry fly. Put on enough tippet, fluorocarbon works great, to let the Bead Head Midge hang near the bottom or weeds. After letting the fly sink it is a matter of watching the indicator until it makes an odd movement. If nothing happens try something different: Depth, place or fly. Frequently the strike indicator will go down when you are looking at an eagle or other bird fly by.

For dredging select a slow to fast sinking line or sink tip line to reach the depth you wish to fish. Cast, let it sink and then start a retrieve. The speed of retrieve is optional, but a slow hand twist retrieve is a good way to start because chironomid pupa move slowly. One thing for sure is that with a solid connection to the fly there will be little question about the strike. One general recommendation about fishing this way is: Shorten the leader to something like 4 or 5 feet.

Materials:

Hook: R30 #12-14

Bead: Brass, 3/32-inch

Thread: 8/0 Red

Gills: CDC puff, white

Rib: Tinsel, very fine silver or Crystal Flash, pearlescent

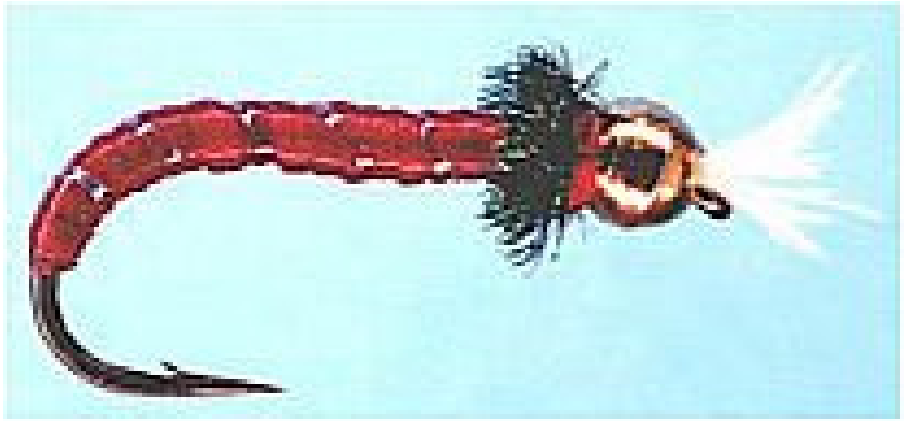
Body: Superfloss, red

Collar: Peacock herl

CDC, Cul de Canard, feathers come from around the preen gland on a duck. A duck uses oil from the gland to dress and waterproof all of its feathers. Such waterproofing makes CDC a natural choice for floating patterns. However, the fibers have a translucency and lifelike movement in water that makes CDC a good choice for wet flies also. Incidentally, never use a floatant on CDC dry flies just dry them with a cloth. Not all fly shops carry the CDC puffs, so look around or have the shop folks order them for you

FOTM Cont. on page 3 →

Bead Head Midge



Tying Steps:

1. If you want to remove the barb, do it before you start tying the fly.
2. Put hook in vise point up. Pick up bead, and slide it onto hook with the larger opening toward the eye.
3. Turn the hook over, but keep the bead near the back of the hook.
4. Attach thread at the eye. Loosely tie a CDC puff on top of hook with tips sticking out over eye. Pull the puff back until less than 1/8-inch of the feather is exposed. Tighten thread, whip finish, cut thread and trim back of CDC as closely as possible. Apply a little head cement to let the bead slid. Move bead forward over the thread and puff. Reattach thread behind the bead.
5. First attach rib on top of hook behind bead. Then tie Superfloss on top of rib. Hold both materials as thread is wrapped rearward. Try to keep tinsel on the bottom, and both materials on top of hook. Continue wrapping around the bend a little. Wrap thread forward in close wraps.
6. Stretch the Superfloss at start of wrapping forward, ease tension as you move forward and really ease up on tension behind bead. Tie Superfloss tightly.
7. Spiral rib forward and secure tightly behind bead. The Crystal flash can be twisted to prevent it from going flat.
8. Attach a peacock herl behind bead, take three wraps of peacock herl, secure and trim excess.
9. Place two whip finishes between peacock herl collar and bead. Cut thread.

Now all that is needed is to decide where you will fish this simple pattern. Just remember if you are using a strike indicator, it will go down when you least expect it. Many of us find it difficult to sit and bobber fish, but it is a very effective way to catch trout and other fish.

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

Amen

"It is so"

Springtime, the earth's oldest river flows over the western lands. It makes its appearance as the sunrises and grows in strength as the day progresses. In fishing circles, it is bad form to utter the W word. It is the bane of all who cast a fly line. Bob Alston began perusing the weather reports weeks before our fishing trip to Oregon. The forecasts were for calm and clear, that is until the day we arrived when a front began moving through. It would bring the big W, sustained at 20 mph with gusts to 40 mph. I suggested that we bring kites, that was met with a few gallows chuckles, but inwardly we all shuddered at the forecast. When we left at 0'Dark thirty, the early morning was calm, by the time we reached Hood River Oregon the big W was in control. We all pulled our hat's down as we leaned into it.

Steve, Bob, Jack and I had joined forces to fish three private lakes on a Ranch near Moro, Oregon. We were on the basalt cap between the John Day and Deschutes River drainage; high above the Columbia River. Three volcanic peaks could be seen in the distance. Mt Adams was North; Mount Hood was due West and Mount Jefferson was South-West. The only thing between us and the wind was a barbed-wire fence and it was full of knotholes. Being seasoned wind worn fishermen we sought any break in the lands surface to facilitate the launching of our watercraft. Since we were lake fishing, we kept our casting to the minimum. Fin, cast, troll and retrieve. This was working man fishing as our leg muscles got a workout propelling us up and down the lakes surface. The force of the wind added to our workload. There were moments when a herculean effort was necessary to get from point A to B against the big W.

Oh! But the fish we caught were beauties, magnificent rainbows all 18 inches and greater. While retrieving these beauties it was common to see your rod tip bend to the waters surface while bring them to the net. The largest fish I landed was longer than my 20-inch measuring guide on my striping apron, since he hung over on both sides; I'm guessing he was at least 23 or 24 inches long and as big around as nerf football. Wow!

We had a snug little cabin to keep the cold wind off our beds at night, the screened in porch was mighty inviting but it was a bit breezy and cold for us, so we ate our meals inside. We fished on three lakes over three days. The wind was our constant companion. But on Saturday it really put on a display for us. The day started off with winds steady at 20 mph, with occasional higher gusts, but after lunch, that's when the big winds came out to play. Steve launched and Jack, Bob and I just watched. While he tried to put on his fins the wind kept blowing him into the trees and shrubs. He gave it up and rowed out into the lake finally getting his fins on, he began to fish. Fish on, by the time he landed and released the fish he had moved sideways at least a quarter of the lakes surface. Those sustained winds were now in the 30 to 40 mph range. The three of us still on shore packed up our gear and headed back to the cabins shelter, we knew when we were over matched. Steve stayed and fished, Bob, Jack and I willowed up.



Continued on Page 5 →

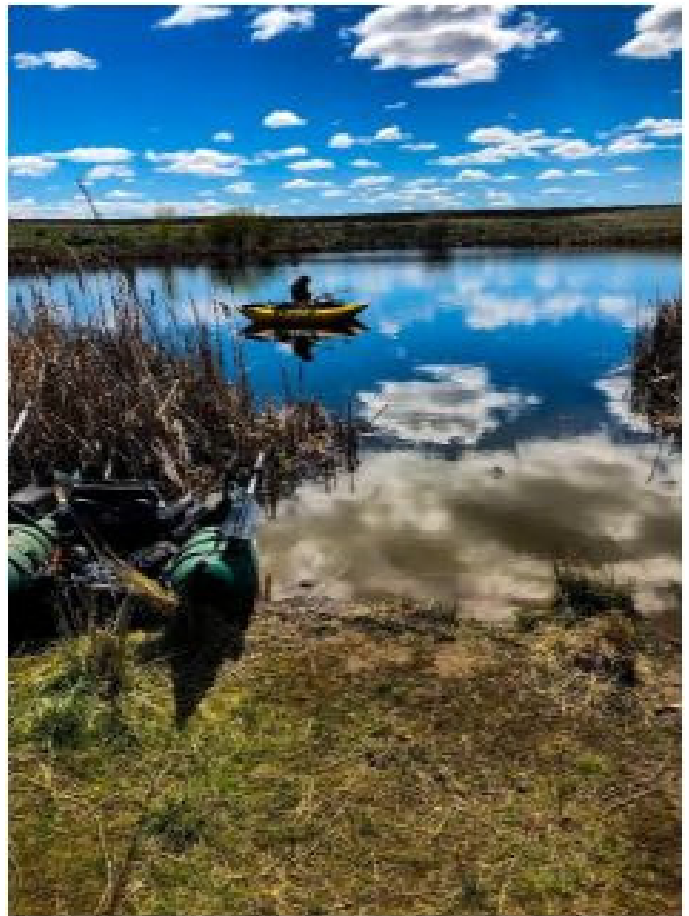
Sunday was breezy, but its fury and power had been used up the day before. Lucky for us because the lake we fished on Sunday was the least protected from the wind, with occasional windy outburst we fished mostly in leisure as we enticed rainbows to our feathery imitations. Sunday afternoon, Steve and Jack headed back to the big city and their patients, while Bob and I explored our surroundings and enjoyed the evening and a good night's rest before heading home.

On Tuesday morning April 30, I headed out to Lake Chopaka. I was meeting up with Garry and Sean to fish for rising trout and the May fly hatch. While this is only my third trip to Chopaka it is an annual trip. For me casting to rising fish is the pinnacle of fishing. Chopaka is also known for its winds. Many a fisherman has beached their watercraft at the southern end of the lake and walked back to camp on some of its blustery days. And more than a few camp sites have met their demise in the micro bursts that frequent this mountain lake in the spring. The wind greeted me when I pulled into camp. This was not a troublesome wind just a familiar presence as I set up camp.

My camp home was fully functional by the time Garry returned from his fishing foray. The fishing reports were good for chironomid fisherman, but for us dry fly fishermen, may flies had not yet, made their appearance. Winter was just a few weeks gone and spring hadn't gotten a good hold yet. Songbirds were evident but just dribs and drabs. The swallows hadn't yet arrived and just a few waterfowl were around, the buds on the trees and bushes were showing but none were open. Day time temps required sweatshirts but not jackets while the evenings called for jackets and campfires. Nighttime temps hovered around freezing, so a good sleeping bag or two were a necessity. My little Buddy Heater was used to get ready for bed and to get dressed in the morning.

Fishing was spotty, meaning that there were abundant healthy rainbows, but they kept to a regimented feeding schedule. The catch was strong from about 10:00 am until 11:30 am, then it shut down until the evening. You could still catch fish, but they were usually one offs, and you worked for them. You changed spots and flies often, a fish an hour was pretty typical in the afternoon. Garry and I would tell each other that we were into double digits of catching. 01, 02, 03. The fish we did manage to hook up with were very nice, 18 inches and bigger and man they sure could put on a show and they were fighters.

I normally do not listen to music while I fish, for me that is an around camp pastime, but on this trip, I took my iPod and earbuds with me. Around two o'clock the fishing was slow, and the wind was on the stiff side, meaning my casts were not always landing where I wanted them too, or they were tangling on boat parts. Needless to say, I was feeling a little annoyed. I laid my rod aside took a sip of water and decided to listen to some music. My iPod holds over 4,000 songs and as I perused my titles I came across Gregorian Chants recording with nature bird songs. I spent the next two hours in perfect peace while I fished. The Latin chants with the sounds of nature dropped me into harmony with the lake the mountains and the fish. I do not want to use this term lightly; it was a very spiritual experience. For those two hours and into the evening everything was right with the world. Amen



Continued on Page 6 →

The May Fly hatch did not come off while I was at Chopaka, it came off the day I left, Sean and Garry got to enjoy this special event, but for my part, I was not disappointed. I spent each evening with two very special friends and my days on the water searching for close encounters with the magical fish of Lake Chopaka. Two weeks gives you enough time to breath, to learn the rhythms of the lake, to watch the sky and taste the wind, to reach your hands beneath the waters surface and hold a rainbow in your hands; to feel its strength, admire its beauty and to release it back into its liquid world. These are the things that are worth holding onto. By the time I left, the swallows had returned, the songbird population was flourishing, nests were going up everywhere. Mallards, Golden Eyes and Ruddy Ducks were choosing mates and green growth was bursting forth. Spring had taken hold.

Just after I left Chopaka the world reached a sad and disappointing milestone. At Hawaii's Mauna Loa Observatory on May 11, a carbon dioxide measurement of 415.26 parts per million was recorded. The highest level in the past 800,000 years. That is the highest level in human history. The startling part is that 50% of that carbon dioxide was added by us in the last 30 years. The earth has gone through at least 5 warming periods in its history, but this one is human caused. There has been much discussion on reaching a 2 degree rise in our climate's temperature being catastrophic, but we are on pace to hit 4 degrees. All that we hold dear and celebrate as outdoorsmen is under threat from us. We are responsible for this and we are the only ones who can turn this around, we owe this to our children and grandchildren. The earth is our home. I try and close all my articles with a positive message, but our earth is crying out to us and it is way past time for us to answer. This is not a tomorrow problem; this belongs to us today. Amen, (It is so)

Stephen

“When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind” – Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

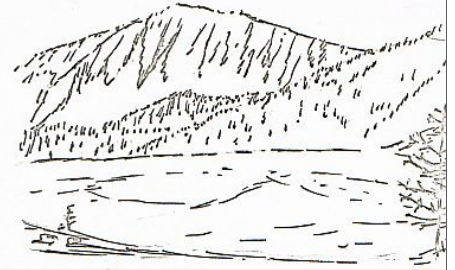
“Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after” - Henry David Thoreau



~ In The Past ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -
Vol. 3 No. 7
August of 1975

*The Fly Line
of
The Alpine Fly Fishers*



Reed Miller, Editor

This *~ In The Past ~* article was published in 1975. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate. This is a historical document only.

Ah, 'tis summer and fly fishing time. The next fishout was to have been the Caches River July 12 & 13, but it's still too high. So, the Leech Lake fishout, originally scheduled for August, will be moved up to July 12 & 13. The Naches will have to wait until August.

Leech Lake is at the summit of White Pass. There is a campground at Leech Lake and another at Dog Lake, which is a few miles to the east. Leech Lake is fly fishing only and has brook trout. Dog Lake is open to all types of fishing and also contains brookies. **Gary Strodtz** fished Leech Lake the 4th of July weekend and did well. There was a black ant hatch and the fish were easy targets for a black fly.

The last fishout was a jaunt into some beaver ponds on Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Tree Farm. These ponds were full of cooperative little brookies and cutthroats. A good time was had by all. Come fall after things start cooling down, these same ponds should be a good bet again.

Fishing reports have been sketchy. **Jim Higgins** and Cale Cole did some fishing on Oregon's upper Deschutes but reported slow catching. Locally, streams are getting in shape and the high lakes are opening up. A few summer Steelhead have been taken in the North Fork Stillaguamish.

Do it now! Go fishing! Hope to see you this weekend at Leech Lake.

NW YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY – 2019

Registration for The Academy is on Sunday, June 23, @12 pm, when 20 boys and girls will be showing up with all their paperwork, sleeping gear, fishing gear, etc. preparing for an exciting week. Some have a little experience, most don't, but these kids will learn quickly with the help of all the great volunteers. Our ghillies are all alumni and know how to relate to the new kids. Jim Brosio has a great line up of instructors and we have the schedules made up for the fishing. Our next challenge is getting volunteers to help the kids fish on The Deschutes River. If you would like to help with the guiding, please give me a call @360-753-1259 or Jim @360-943-9947. Guiding consists of helping the kids, insuring they are safe and learn to land fish. Some will just need encouragement since the kid fishing next to him is catching all the fish. You know how that goes. We welcome your help, this is a very rewarding event. The kids will never forget your help.

I want to thank all the Washington Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters, private folks and corporate organizations that are supporting the 2019 Academy. Without the support of these organizations, the Academy would not happen. Contact info: Mike – mtclancy39@comcast.net, Jim – brosj@q.com

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for the future. FDR

Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2019

June 18 Picnic (third Tuesday in June)

July & August (No Meetings) — September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17

IMPORTANT FLY FISHING DATES FOR 2019

June 23-29, 2019 – NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy, Lacey, WA. www.nwycffa.com

July 23-27, 2019 – FFI Fly Fishing Expo
Bozeman, MT. www.flyfishersinternational.org

June 18 - Picnic!!!!!!!!!!!!

NEW LOCATION CONTACT LARRY GIBBS FOR INFO.



The Loop: The Journal for Fly Casting Professionals is a quarterly publication of FFI Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP). It has been published in one form or another for more than 20 years. The Loop is a digital magazine, a medium through which the talents, knowledge, and ideas of our fly casting professionals can be shared.

Many of the world’s most notable and informed casting instructors have written for The Loop, which makes it a wealth of information for those who wish to learn the basics of fly casting. And, it is an invaluable resource for fly casters who want to learn to teach fly casting and fly fishing.

The Loop is published electronically and it is available to all FFI members. Members receive notice by email. New and older editions can be read online or downloaded to your computer as a pdf file.

Find this publication on the FFI website, under the Casting link.

NO CASTING INSTRUCTION AT PICNIC

Since we moved the picnic up a week, Pat Blackwell will not be able to make it to the picnic to give us refresher casting lessons. He will be on his way back from Canada that day. Maybe next year? Pat feels bad about this. He has offered to put on a demonstration of proper casting techniques at one of our monthly meetings. It will be in the meeting room using a demonstration rod/line. Ron will work with him on the date.

Upper Columbia River near Rossland, British Columbia

Late this Fall I will be taking a drive up to Rossland, British Columbia to fish for large Rainbow trout on the Canadian portion of the Columbia River. My guide will be Kelly Laatsch, general manager of the St. Mary Angler fly shop. I will take a lot of pictures and keep a journal so when I get back I can put together a presentation to show during one of our club meetings.

Check it out at www.stmaryangler.com



Time to Register for Bozeman



Registration for the **Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Expo** opened on May 7. Go to their website and register for this great event. They have workshops and seminars on casting, tying, destinations, and non-fishing related as well. There are lots of fishing opportunities as well in this part of Montana. I will be hanging around the place, checking out the vendors, talking with the tyers and helping with the auction/raffles.

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/>
<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Events/Fly-Fishing-Expo>

TFO Fly Rod / Reel Raffle Board

We have a great rod/reel/rod case raffle board. Check it out!

TFO *IMPACT* Fly Rod 9 foot / 6 weight / 4 piece / Fighting Butt

Medium Fast | Freshwater | Saltwater

Rod design has always been a game of compromises, until now. Impact™ rods, through an innovative fusion of fly rod functions designed to achieve the pinnacle of performance, have made this compromise a thing of the past.

Impact™ rods are unbelievably smooth and powerful, loading and unloading with maximum efficiency, and affording an effortless feel and level of performance that will impress the most accomplished angler, along with the easy loading fishability newer fly casters need. Their action merges the attributes of all your favorite rods in such a way that there's no trace of any of the familiar limitations you've had to put up with.

Each blank offers a very slim profile finished with our exclusive Tactical Series™ stripping guides and ultra-lightweight chromium-impregnated stainless snake guides. Their reduced-profile burl cork handles are both handsome and durable – plus they retain their superb feel under all fishing conditions. Blanks are matte black with black thread wraps and emerald trim. Larger models sport machined aluminum reel seats with gray carbon fiber inserts.



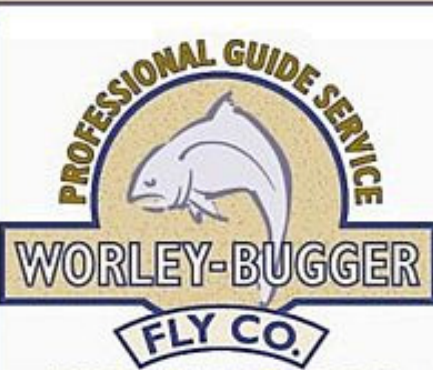
NXT LA II REEL

Lighter, higher-performance and now large arbor – the new Temple Fork LA NXT II reel is the definition of value in a fly reel. Lightweight cast aluminum, adjustable disc drag, and interchangeable spools make these reels a necessity for every freshwater angler. The NXT LA II reel is for 6/8 weight rods.




There is also an *Adams Built* rod/reel case to protect and carry this great outfit around.

Combined value of all three items with sales tax is approx. \$509



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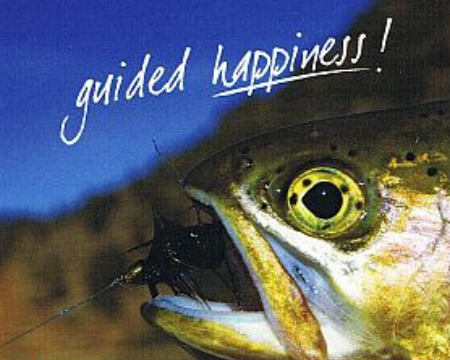



CENTRAL WASHINGTON'S PREMIER FLY FISHING OUTFITTER, PRO-SHOP
AND PROFESSIONAL GUIDE SERVICE

Worley Bugger Fly Co.

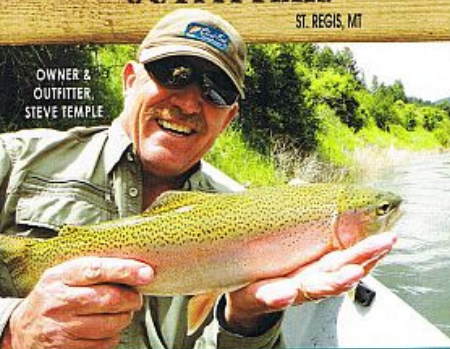
Steve Worley has some great guides and he has put together the best fly shop filled with a massive amount of fly tying materials and equipment. You really need to stop by the shop and check it out. Just take the Canyon Road exit off I-90 and turn north towards town, the Worley Bugger Fly Co. shop is on the left or west side of the road. Open all year. Stop by and say Hi!

guided happiness!





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Steve & Peggy Temple have their fly shop just on the north end of St. Regis, right across the street from the road down to the boat launch.

Check it out!!!

For a really good guided drift boat fishing trip, you should check out the Clark Fork Trout.

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June / July 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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I sit upon the bank of the stream to ponder. What is the best fly to cast upon the waters over yonder.
 I see the little ripples as the fish kiss the surface. They are eating something that must be delicious.
 I wonder which insect attracts the fish. I pick a fly, make a cast and hope I have served up a good dish.

**1
June**

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

"Do what we can, summer will have its flies." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

**1
July**

4 **Happy B'Day America**

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 NO CLUB MEETING Go Fishing	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	"Nothing is more memorable than a smell. One scent can be unexpected, momentary and fleeting, yet conjure up a childhood summer beside a lake in the mountains..." - Diane Ackerman		

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

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