

Alpine Fly Fishers



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Charter Club

1000 Stewards member



NO JUNE PICNIC

Our Next AFF Meeting
Tuesday

September 22

At the
Puerto Vallarta
215 15th St. SE
Puyallup at 6 PM

The Dead Drift - June 2020

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

I am glad they opened up fishing again. When it opened for non-guided fishing, Steve Worley and several of his guides went out in their boats and had a blast. There was a large Salmonfly hatch as well as caddis and BWO's. They had fun. Wish I could have been there. The Clark Fork River in Montana had some high water but it dropped a bit then the main blowout started to happen in the middle of May. That river will hit over 40,000 cfs flow. That means it should start to return to a fishable flow by the middle of June or so. If the governor of Montana will allow us to enter without having to sit around for 14 days before we can do anything, then maybe Bill and I can finally get over there to do some fishing. Just as a teaser, I included a couple pictures that Brooks Sanford sent me from when he and his father went out for a couple of hours. [See page 8.](#)

I am planning on having our meeting in September...**IF** the winds blow in our favor. I have asked our two very fine doctors to keep testing the waters and they will be making the final decision as to when/if we have a meeting in the fall.

In the meantime, I would really like to hear from all of you. How you are doing? Getting any fishing done? Where you are traveling? Plus any thoughts or messages for the club members. Please send me an email or give me a call on my cell phone. If you want, I can put short notices in the newsletter from you to our other club members.

Gill sent me some great pictures of some nets he is making. He is also trying out a new rubber type net that has smaller holes and has a measuring strip on the bottom.

Stephen was able to take his grandchildren out for a bit of fishing, read his "Back of Beyond" story. Nothing like getting your feet wet.

I received a box from Orvis. It contains one of our future raffle board items, I think you will like it. That was a freebee for our club, via the FFI Partner program.

I got a couple of fly rods for the WA State Council as prizes for a casting event/competition if we can ever have such an event. We are still trying to set up something on Mercer Island. We had to cancel the May event for this year but we hope to have it sometime down the road.

Now to dust off my fly rods, clean the lines and give them a stretch. Fishing time is here!!!!

"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink, I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains." Henry David Thoreau

Good Fishing & Stay Safe



Larry



Fly Fishing International

Fly of the Month

June 2006

PINK POOKIE

By Bob Bates



If you look around most fly fishing towns you will find chalk boards with river conditions and what flies fish are hitting. Such was the case, August 2005 in Livingston, Montana. As I waited to pay for my breakfast I studied the chalk board. It looked pretty normal: PMD (Pale Morning Dun), BWO (Blue Wing Olive), Pink Pookie, -- Pink Whaaaat? I looked at it several times, and it was still "Pink Pookie."

My question was answered at the 40th Anniversary FFF Show and Conclave. I stopped by the table where Koichi Kawai from the Hatch Finders Flyshop in Livingston, Montana, www.hatchfinders.com, was showing us how he tied the Pink Pookie. Koichi told me some about its development, but Dean Reiner, Owner of Hatch Finders Flyshop sent me a more complete story about the Pink Pookie.

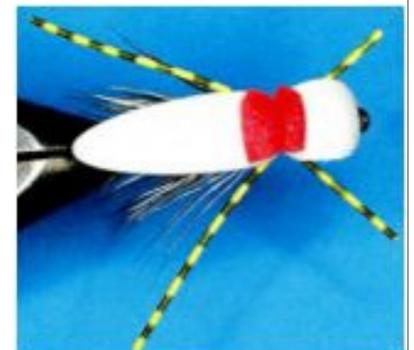
"At the beginning of the 2003 hopper season a guide from Bozeman came into the shop and asked if we had any pink body hoppers. Pink not being a standard color for hoppers. When I said we don't, he asked if we could come up with a pattern for the next day. My partner Koichi Kawai and I decided to give it a try. Just playing around we tied up 10 different patterns 6 each, and the next day we gave them out to him and the guides working out of my shop. Their reports -- pink was very attractive to the trout. We had tied hoppers the standard way and with foam for speed. The guides favored the foam hoppers because they floated well and didn't required dressing as often. Koichi and I kept playing around with different ways to tie the foam on the hook and with different colored legs until everyone agreed on the best pattern."

"The next step was coming up with a name for the fly. Just calling it a pink hopper would do nothing for the mystique of tying a new pattern, we needed a hook to get people interested in the pattern." "In the course of tying many dozen flies a day some eventually end up on the floor. My dog Pookie never paid much attention to what we were tying, but when one of the pink hoppers fell on the floor, she jumped right on it and began tossing it into the air. Not wanting her to find a hook I took it away from her. Then she stood up on her hind legs pleading with me to let her have it. As she was standing up she exposed her very pink belly, Koichi and I thought that would be a great name for the fly, hence "The Pink Pookie."

"After a week of handing out the fly as an experimental pattern the number of requests for the fly grew to the point where we had to put it into the inventory. For the next 45 days we had guys standing 3 deep at the vise at 6 in the morning waiting for us to turn out the fly. We must have tied 200 dozen that first summer; for every year since it has been the most popular pattern for hoppers. Pookie has become the most popular dog on the river; everyone knows her." For many of us a windy day in July or August is the best time to fish a hopper. The wind blows them off the vegetation and makes it hard for them to fly. They sometimes fall from streamside vegetation. Also when flying they sometimes run out of steam and crash. If over water they land with a splash, and so this is the usual way to land a hopper pattern. No delicate casting required. If you are fishing around cut banks always try to float the hopper right along the bank. You can never tell what kind of monster is waiting there. I have a friend who fishes small streams, and he often throws the hopper on the bank and then hops it into the water.

Materials:

Hook: Dai Riki 280 Sizes 8 and 10
Thread: Gudebrod, Red 6/0
Body: Pink foam, 2 mm
Overbody/Wing: Gray foam, 2 mm
Under wing: Elk hair
Legs: Centipede legs black and yellow, medium
Highlight: Red foam, 2 mm



Continued on Page 3 

Tying Steps:

Both the body and the wing foam are cut with foam cutters. The shape is Chernobyl Ant body with a tapered end. Use the medium cutter for the body and the large cutter for the wing. You can use the same cutters for many other patterns. If you are good with the scissors you can cut the shapes. The medium is 38 mm long by 6 mm wide. The large is 43 long by 7 mm wide.

1. Get a dog named Pookie.
2. Push hook through tapered end of body foam.
3. Slide foam onto hook. Start thread about mid-shank and wrap rearward to bend.
4. Secure foam to hook tightly by pulling the foam up around hook with the thread. Make the tie (segment) perpendicular to hook. Pull foam down and advance thread two or three wraps to position of next segment.
5. Continue making segments until you are about two segments (about 3/16-inch) from the eye. Hold foam down and wrap thread to the eye. Secure foam close to eye. Koichi tied four segments before the large one, and a picture Dean sent to me had three before the large segment. So suit yourself, three or four.
6. Trim foam close to thread and wrap thread to hide cut end. (I snip the foam on each side as close as possible to the thread wrap, and then pull down on the bill to snip the center.)
7. Put some Zap-A-Gap on top of foam to be sure it is secure. While the Zap-A-Gap is setting you can go to the next step.
8. Bring thread to top of hook and move it rearward to put one wrap around foam and hook at the back of the big segment. Measure the wing foam to be a little longer than the hook. Then add a little more for the big segment and trim cut end to a taper. Tie the taper securely at the back of the big segment with the wing pointing forward. Then move the thread forward tightly over the foam and take two thread wraps behind the eye before moving the thread rearward to the back of the big segment.
9. Trim a small bunch of deer hair, clean out the under fur and stack. Place on top of hook so tips are longer than body, trim just in front of where the thread is hanging and secure. Don't let the hair spin. Tipping up the back of the deer hair makes catching it with the thread easier.
10. Fold the wing back and secure.
11. Take two pieces of round rubber legs about 1.5 inches long and place them on top of foam wing, put one or two thread wraps over both of them and let the bobbin hang. Adjust if necessary so 1/3rd of leg is in front.
12. Then pull one pair of legs down to bottom of wing. Repeat on other side.
13. Tie a piece of red foam on top of wing to make the hopper easier to see. Whip finish securely over the red foam. Put a little head cement on the bottom thread wraps if you like.
14. This is what the fish sees.

Closing comments: This is a pretty easy fly to tie so get yourself ready for hopper time. Some of our hoppers have yellow bodies or even an orange shade. Try the pink first then, if necessary match your colors and invent a Yellow Pookie, Orange Pookie or what ever Pookie. The main thing is tie a few, go to your favorite water and use them to catch (and gently release) a few fish or a whole lot of fish.

I had a little trouble finding yellow and black centipede or tarantula legs, something about the factory that made them closing down. Dean has them at the Hatch Finders Flyshop and some are available through Cabela's. Also some shops now have black and medium yellow which works fine. Dean said that any color works.

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

Peaceful Easy Feeling

The house was quite after a day of activity, it creaked as it contracted from the heat of a rare warm day. Everybody else was in bed as I settled in to read, my phone pinged alerting me, that I had a text. It was from Darren, one of my grandsons, while it wasn't late late, it was late for a school night. Intrigued, I opened the text; he was asking if I would take him fishing and camping after our states stay at home period had ended. My responding text was "You bet; I would love that." That brief text exchange put a smile on my face, and I fell asleep that night with a peaceful easy feeling. Less than a week later, my daughter called, Darren wanted to know if I would take him fishing this coming weekend.

While my answer was yes it was fraught with a maybe as I tried to figure out where to take him and what species to fish for and what equipment I would need to make it happen. The rivers that flow into Puget Sound are closed, so rivers were out, most of the lakes would require a boat, or float tubes, lack of a trailer eliminated boats, cold water and the dearth of grandson sized waders, crossed float tubes off my list. Shore fishing was my only open option but what lake, Deep Lake was a possibility, but I had already struck out twice there with the boys, maybe Kapowsin would work. It had crappie, bass, and trout. So, with a destination picked out and a strong possibility of catching, the maybe vanished. With my yes now affirmed, I began gathering rods, reels, and tackle.

Darren was over-the-moon, my Daughter related to me his fascination with fishing videos on YouTube and his request for fishing equipment for his birthday, and maybe for his graduation/promotion from elementary school to middle school. Darren called me that afternoon after his moms call to share his excitement and we discussed where we might go and what he wanted to do. His excitement was catching. Darren took charge of his dad's tackle box and made order from chaos. My Daughter sent me a picture of him getting the box in order the night before our trip. As I finalized our plans, I called Darren on Friday to find out if any of his brothers were also interested in a fishing trip. He called me back to let me know that Colin and Connor were coming as well. With this knowledge I needed to put three rigs together. Lady luck was



smiling on me; about four years ago while working at Sportsman's Warehouse my store manager Howard was putting a bass fishing trip together on the Colombia River near Tri Cities. At the last minute, the trip was canceled due to a needed boat repair. Thank you, Howard! In preparation for that fishing trip, I already had most of my equipment needs, I just had to find it.

Saturday morning was overcast with sprinkles, a good omen I hoped. I gathered my boys around 8:30 AM and headed south. The parking lot was full, and the busy boat launch heralded a lake full of fishermen/women. Washington State had reopened for day fishing, I parked my truck on a bit of roadside grass and pulled the rods from the back of the truck. We setup on the only picnic table and put the rods, reels, and plastic worms together on a Texas rig. The first item that Darren grabbed was his artfully arranged tackle box, I had to let him down gently, his box was set up for trout and we were targeting crappie and bass. I knew he was disappointed but his wish to fish dampened his disappointment.

The next four hours brought lots of activity. The clay bank and soft shoreline made getting down to the water line treacherous. On my first scouting venture, to find good fishing spots for the boys, I slid on the slick

clay into the lake, my knee-high irrigation boots were not tall enough, my right boot filled with water. Note to self, wear waders next time!!! We finally settled on three spots that the boys could fish with out hooking each other on their back casts. With a brief casting demo, I let the boys have at it. Very soon the call of grandpa wafted up from the lake shore as I emptied my right boot. While I freed Darren's rig and re-rigged him, Connor called out for help with his hung-up rig. While I worked with Connor, Colin began calling for my help. That's the way our morning went, sometimes you're up, sometimes your down. I cautiously made many trips up and down that slick steep bank, expecting a quick fall at each step. At the bottoms I teased the boys about making me practice my untangling skills and re-rigging prowess. I admit that towards the end I sometimes resorted to my knife, as the repair of their snarls were beyond our allotted fishing time. The plant life near their fishing spots were intimately involved in their casting efforts, as the broken branches and fallen leaves will attest. Snagged lily pads also protest the indignity of it all.



All my boys ended up with wet feet, clay smeared pants and jackets, lost rigs, messy knots, and no hookups. Connor dropped his glasses, stepped in, and dropped his phone all in the water in that order. No lasting harm came of it thank goodness. I filled my boots on three separate occasions as I stepped a wee bit too far in rig recovery operations. Even after emptying my boots and ring out my socks I still squished when I walked. In our efforts to hook a fish we used plastic worm jigs, poppers, and swim bait, alas the fish were not interested. I only heard of two catches on the whole lake for that day. But we had a good time, this was verified by their request to cast just a few more times before taking a lunch break. Our fishing day ended to soon, they made me promise to get them back out soon and more often, and next time we will use Darren's tackle box. The day with my boys left me with a peaceful easy feeling. I fell asleep thinking of future trips with my boys.



Here is a wish for each of you, may you get out on the water soon, a fishing rod is an excellent social distance measuring device and your soul will thank you. Stay healthy and safe.

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

PS. Many thoughts go through my mind as I look for a topic to write upon each month, one of those thoughts was on the flowers and blossoms that have exploded in vibrant beauty here in the Northwest. As I close this article, I could not let pass a comment on my appreciation for this natural beauty on display all around me. After our long self-isolation to flatten the curve of covid 19, pandemic. Nature greeted us with a dramatic display of color and oh man was it welcome. We are so blessed with the beauty, of our natural world.

Thank You!

~ *In The Past* ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -
Vol. 4 No. 8

August of 1976

Jim Higgins, Acting Editor



This ~ *In The Past* ~ article was published in 1976. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate.

This is a historical document only.

There is no dinner meeting planned for August, but they will resume in September.

Four club members and their families enjoyed Gary Ritchie's hospitality for a family potluck and fishout on North Lake. A good time was had by all, with swimming, fishing and even some constructive experimenting on how to right a tube if you should be unlucky enough to get inverted was the order of the day. Thank you Gary.

Pat Trotter is again sitting in the fishing desk. So, if you are going fishing or want to go give him a call. You might also be giving the idea of a fishing desk some thought for discussion at our September meeting. The system does not seem to be working. No one is using it.

We even have a couple of fishing reports this month.

Cal Cole spent the week of July 19th vacationing in Eastern Oregon, and of course did a little fishing. Craine Prairie was very slow, even with a damsel fly hatch every day. An evening on Fall River was a complete bust. Could not even spook fish while wading. Davis Lake was so slow as not even a bump. In the evening there was an enormous caddis fly hatch and not a single fish breaking the surface. However, while driving along the Deschutes River above Craine Prairie, Cal did notice a brown working and proceeded to attack with a #16 dark brown caddis, and on the sixth cast the trout sucked in the fly. The brown turned out to be 22 inches long. Several more browns over 20 inches were landed before dark.

Reed Miller just returned from a week in Montana where he fished the Wise River, Upper Big Hole and the Upper East Fork Bitterroot. All the streams were high due to the recent rains. The fish were plentiful and ran from 8 to 15 inches in size.

Raffles and Raffle Board Fundraisers of the Future

I have faith that we will be able to start having our club meetings somewhere down the road. I have added a couple items to the inventory of future raffle board fund raisers. I think you will like them.

Our regular monthly meetings raffles have not happened naturally, so my inventory for those raffles has not been going down. Great news for when we do start up again, I usually have around 10 items at each meeting, I will expand that to 15 items. All the more chances for you to win!

Speaking of winning, don't forget we will have six winners from the Loop Rod/Reel board. So, buy some squares now and let's fill up that board. See page 8. Just send me an email and I will give you my address so you can send me a check for some squares. Just because we have had our meetings shut down is no reason not to make a little money for our coffers and for some club members to win some great prizes, including the LOOP fly rod/reel outfit.

Plus, don't forget we will be having door prizes at our September meeting. Some great chances for getting some really neat 'stuff' and we all need 'stuff'. See page 7.



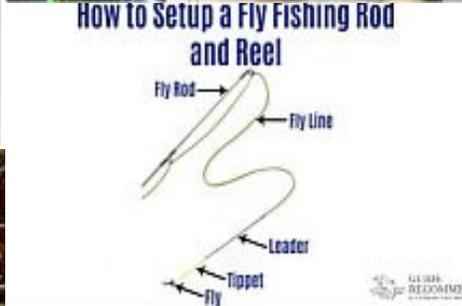
Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2020

NO PICNIC IN JUNE!! July/August (no meetings);

September 22; October 27; November 24; December 15



<https://guiderecommended.com>



There will be **NO** picnic in June this year.

Our next general meeting will be **September 22** (we hope)

Door Prizes at the September meeting!!!

Aside from the Loop Rod/Reel raffle board and the regular raffles we hold at every meeting, I am going to have some great door prizes at our September meeting. Just show up, grab a ticket and wait to see if your number is called. You must be present to win. So, what are the door prizes? That is TBD (To Be Determined), but I am sure you will like them. See you in September.

Larry

NO PICNIC IN JUNE

I sent an email to our Board of Directors asking them about our June picnic, Yea or Nay. From the responses I received we have decided to cancel the June picnic and hold it over until 2021.

I have high hopes for having our normal meeting in late September, but that is always subject to change.

Have a safe summer. Larry

Six (6) Winners on Loop Rod/Reel Raffle Board!!

I want to thank Howard and Paul and Duffy for buying some squares on the Loop fly rod/reel board. Between their purchases and my own purchases, we now have over 40% of the rod board squares sold!!!

I would really like to get the whole board sold out before we have our meeting in September. It would be nice to pick some winners then.

If you are thinking that you really don't need another fly rod (really?) then consider buying some squares to try to win and then you can re-gift the fly rod outfit to a deserving youth or a friend who may just be getting into fly fishing.

So, here is what is going to happen. The first square chosen will be for the Loop outfit. Then we will draw a total of five (5) more winners (***You do not have to be present to win***). I will have five nice items for the winners. One person can win more than once, the more squares you buy the greater your odds are at winning.

Email me and I will send you my home address so you can mail a check to me. Don't forget, this is a fund raiser so Ron can get some great guest speakers!!

Larry



Clark Fork River Trout

Brooks Sanford, a guide for the Clark Fork Trout fly shop, and his father went fishing for a couple of hours on April 29. The river was starting to blow out but the water color was still decent. They caught 21 very nice trout.

Wish I was there.....

Larry

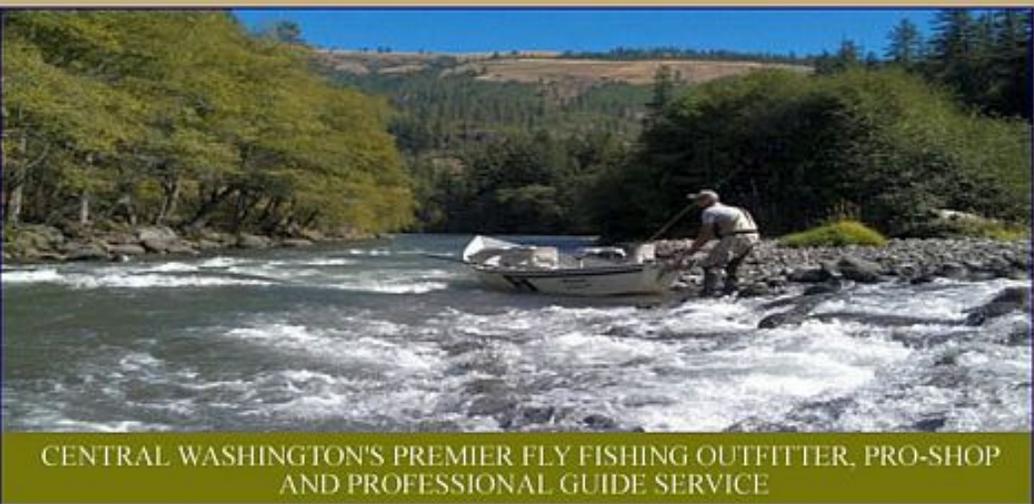


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Steve Worley has some great guides and he has put together the best fly shop filled with a massive amount of fly tying materials and equipment. You really need to stop by the shop and check it out. Just take the Canyon Road exit off I-90 and turn north 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!

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Loop 'Q' Fly Rod Outfit



This is a Loop 'Q' series fly rod/reel kit.

It includes a 5 weight, 4 piece 'Q' fly rod,
'Q' 4/5 large arbor fly reel,
'Q' weight forward floating fly line
'Q' rod/reel case

(I am also including an additional fly line, a weight forward 5 weight)

Fly Rod/Reel raffle board - \$5 per square

Email me and I will give you my address so you can mail a check to me to purchase some squares for this great fly rod/reel combo.

June / July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"I know well that the June rains just fall." - Onitsura	1 June	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
28	29	30	"In these divine pleasures permitted to me of walks in the June night under moon and stars, I can put my life as a fact before me and stand aloof from its honor and shame." - Ralph Waldo Emerson, Journals			

"Our fear of death is like our fear that summer will be short, but when we have had our swing of pleasure, our fill of fruit, and our swelter of heat, we say we have had our day." - Ralph Waldo Emerson			1 July	2	3	
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	"Do what we can, summer will have its flies." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

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