

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Tuesday

March 26

As always, at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM



FFI  
Charter Club



## The Dead Drift - March 2019

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### President's Line

*By Larry Gibbs*

Excuse me while I grouse a bit. Twelve inches of snow the second week of February. Just Ducky.

'Lost Forever'

I have been retyping the Alpine Fly Fishers newsletters that were published back when the club first got started in March of 1973. If Mike Schroeder hadn't given me all the past issues of the newsletters, and had simply tossed them away, then they would have been lost forever. No earth shaking loss I guess, but they are a history of our club and of some of our members and I am glad I can retype them so they now are in an electronic format.

Which brings me to my main 'Lost Forever' thought. Flies. Gary Strodtz loves to tie vintage streamer flies. I bet he has books and books showing photos or at least drawings of some of those streamers, or for earlier flies, maybe only recipes.

Recently, several "In The Past" articles have had fly recipes that were very different. Like Double Cowpie or the Dead Chicken. I searched the internet and some of my old fly pattern books but could not find those flies. Sometime in the past, there were possibly either photos of those flies or at least drawings and they may have been published in a book. But, there were no electronic images of those flies. Once those books get tossed into a recycling pile or burned as unwanted items, then those images or recipes are lost forever.

If somebody could take a photo of each fly from those books, copy it into a PDF with the recipe and titled by the name of the fly, put it out there into the 'cloud', then anyone, be it next door or half way around the world would be able to do a search by name and be able to see the fly and recipe. But, I doubt if anyone is taking those old fly pattern books and doing that. Yes, I know that there may be copyright problems, but that can be resolved.

The FFI has a decent listing of flies in their 'Fly Of The Month' educational resource under Fly Tying. The listing of flies started December 1997. The early years only had drawings of the flies along with a recipe and short instruction on the method of tying. Then as computers got better colored photos were used. It is a fantastic resource for fly tyers, but, at best this are only around 288 flies. There are thousands upon thousands of fly variations out there and some have been lost forever and more will follow.

But then I guess we only actually fish with a few flies each time we go out, so do we need those thousands of flies? I think we do. I know we have fly fishing museums out there. I think that would be a great project for one of them, to collect as many photos of flies along with their recipes and get them on line for everyone to see.

Our club is growing. Some of our newer members: Mary Kenyan; Adam Andrews; Joel Lewis; and Walt Ayers. Welcome to the club!!

Good fishing.



Larry

# Fly Fishing International

## Fly of the Month

March 2004

### YAK SKWALA

By Bob Bates



Spring is coming and that is the time when many of us start thinking about hatching insects and the fish that feed on them. One of the early hatches on several rivers is the Skwala stonefly, a large insect that lives in clean, well oxygenated fast-water. It is 1-1/4 inches long including the tails and antenna; the body is 1/2-inch long.

Depending on water temperature movement can start in the last week of February, and by March the afternoon hatch is well under way. The nymphs become active when the temperature reaches the high 30s with the best starting temperature about 42 degrees F. As the nymphs crawl around, some become dislodged by the faster water and drift downstream. This is a good time to cast a Skwala nymph pattern. The hatch is usually well underway when water temperatures reach the mid to high 40s. Jack Mitchell of The Evening Hatch shop in Ellensburg, WA gave a Yakima River presentation to the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club in November 2003. Prior to the talk he tied a Skwala Nymph, one of his favorite patterns for early fishing on the Yakima. It didn't have a name so it was named on the spot - Yak Skwala.

Fishing instructions start with "dress warmly." Remember this is a pre-runoff hatch. Dead drift the nymph with a sink tip line and twitch it a little. It can also be fished under a strike indicator or large dry fly. Put about 3 feet of tippet between the strike indicator or dry fly and nymph. The fish aren't real active at these water temperatures, but there is no question about the strike.

#### Materials:

Hook: Tiemco TMC 2302 size 6-8

Bead: Gold 3/32-inch

Thread: Brown 6/0

Tail: Olive goose biot

Rib: Medium gold wire

Body: Dubbing Kaufman's Angora goat, Olive Brown or Golden Stone

Legs: Round rubber brown

Hackle: Dyed Olive grizzly or brown dyed grizzly.



### **Tying Steps:**

1. Most of us smash the barb down so we can release fish easier.
2. Tie on biots with curved side out to make the tails go out to side. The tail on a Skwala is longer than on most stoneflies, up to 1/2-inch long.
3. Tie on wire
4. Start putting dubbing on thread, but keep it very thin. Can always put more on the thread and wrap more. Build body a little thicker forward.
5. Bring Rib forward, tie off and trim.
6. Tie on legs one pair at a time. Put a little more dubbing behind, between and in front of legs. Then move thread with a little dubbing to behind legs.
7. Select a saddle hackle with lots of marabou like barbs, schallpen works great. Strip off a little of the fuzzy hackle, and tie the feather on to hook with shaft on far side of hook and behind far side legs. Bring thread between legs to in front of legs. Wrap about 2-1/2 turns of the fuzzy hackle in middle of legs and tie off in front of legs.

The Skwala hatch does not last long, so you need to check with your fly shops or local guides for information. It is usually over by the end of April, or when the runoff comes. Tie a few Yak Skwala patterns and go fishing. This pattern has so much movement in the water that it makes me think it will work at other times also.

# Back of Beyond

*By Stephen Neal*

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

## Wood

*“The Chisels are calling  
It’s time to be make sawdust  
Steely reminders of things left to do  
Monteleone  
A mandolin’s waiting for you  
My Finger plane’s working  
Gentle persuasion  
I bend to the wood and I coax it to sing.”  
(Monteleone) Mark Knopfler*



House projects, have put wood working tools back into my hands, saw dust covers my jacket and pants and the smell of fresh cut wood fills my nostrils. When I work with wood my father, and grandfather work with me. They guide my hands and speak to me through the wood; I hear directions, admonishments, lessons and praise. All of which, helps me to see the wood, to know its strength and flaws, to work with it, not against it. As a child in the evening when my father and grandfather came home, they carried with them the smell of wood on their clothes. Unbeknownst to me that smell was embedded into my senses and memories. Those smells and memories were reinforced as I learned the skills of a carpenter from my father, and grandfather.

Wood speaks to me, it connects me to the world, and I find peace in creating space with wood to make a home. I get lost in its grains, the smell of its resins and the colors of the wood. Like my father before me I do not care for painted wood, my personal preference is to be able to see the beauty of natural wood. It’s grain and coloration tell a story of its life, where it grew and the years on earth when it lived. There are stores written in the wood by wind, rain, snow, draught, abundance and want. Earthquakes, storms, eruptions, slides, flood, fire, ice, birds, animals, insects and human interaction can leave marring and scars to punctuate the writings. Each time you cut into wood a story is revealed, and it is lost when it is painted over.

A big part of fishing for me is studying trees in the environments of where I fish. I have been known to put my rod down and to wander the woodlands, just to look at trees. Not just the living ones but the dead or dying as well. Nursery logs, fairy rings, groves, hollows, fallen giants, log jams, fallen bridges and fallen walk ways. I’ve crawled under, over, around and fallen off a few. I’ve also been known to touch them and embrace them. Just my way of saying hello and I’m glad you’re here. As a child I climbed high into their branches and nestled in a wide yoke and listened to the winds song as it rustles the leaves and needles. To my delight, I discovered there is a word for that sound: Psithurism – sound of wind in the trees and the rustling of leaves. I have heard trees crack, snap and fall, I know the sound they make as they rub against each other. I have seen and heard them explode from lightning strikes, and felt them in my bones, as they crash down from lofty heights into the embrace of mother earth.

Those forest sounds are the inspiration for much of our music, woodwinds use holes and reeds to split the wind to give us melodic sounds, stringed wooden boxes in the forms of guitars, mandolins, violins use wood as a resonator to enhance the sound, and drums use birch and mahogany to give a richer sound. The ancient sounds of forest echo in the music we listen to today. Wood nurtures our soul and brings peace into our lives.

Continued on Page 5 →

To wander in a forest is not only a journey of sight, smell also plays a big part, each tree gives off different scents. The pungent smell of pine needles, the incense smell of cedar. Oak is pungent and birch is leatherier. Jeffery Pine bark smell like vanilla or butterscotch and Ponderosa Pine bark smells like baking cookies. A walk in the woods is a cornucopia of abundance and nourishment.

I search trees out as great fishing lies, it is the perfect place to dead drift or swing a fly, a well-placed fly over a submerged tree, is sure to entice a strike. I once took a photograph of a favorite fishing hole, two ancient trees lying on the bottom of the Lyle Fork of the Merced River. Several years later I saw the same trees in a print by Ansel Adams in a gallery. He had taken the same picture before I was even born. Those submerged beauties connect me to Ansel Adams and every fisherman who ever floated a fly over them to tempt a rainbow to rise. Mr. Adams admired trees, many of his prints feature them, as the principal subject. I appreciate his eye and his subject matter.

When you work with wood it is not the object you make but the space you create that truly brings it to life. Living takes place in the space that is created. It is the space between the floor, walls and roof that bring you warmth, shelter and safety. It is the empty space in the wooden bowl, or the spoon that makes it useful, a mast spreads the sail to catch the wind and a forest will shelter you beneath its canopy. That space connects you to the whole. Honor yourself by taking a walk in the wood. Protect our wilderness because it protects us and in it you will find the preservation of our world.

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*

This article is dedicated to my son, my wood working partner, Thank you, Cy for making music with me.

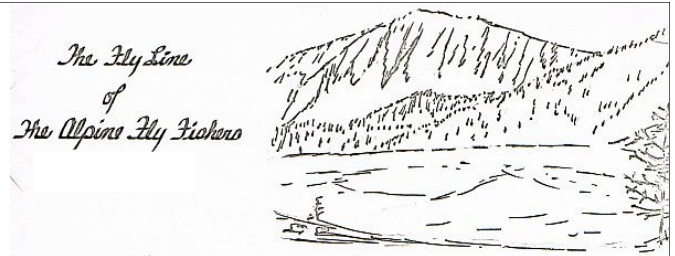


~ *In The Past* ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers  
'The Fly Line' -

Vol. 3 No. 4

April of 1975



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.

Reed Miller, Editor

Next meeting: Date: April 7, 1975

**Program:** This is a back to basics and get ready for opening day program. Topics to be covered are tackle and equipment selection, kinds of fish to go after, entomology, flies and fly tying. An added special attraction is an FFF slide and tape show of Dave Whitlock's nymph tying techniques.

**Door Prize:** A book "Streamer Fly Tying and Fishing" and something else. Bring plenty of money.

**Last Meeting:** Our best turnout ever watched Dick Denman's movies of fly fishing Canada's Dean River for steelhead up to 24 lbs. Most of us were ready to buy a ticket and head north by the time the last frame was shown.

**Fishouts:** The first fishout of the spring was more like the last fishout of the winter. Only three (fool) hardy souls made the trip to the desert Wildlife Area. In spite of a cold start in the snow and rain on Friday and freezing temps Friday night, Saturday warmed up enough for ye olde editor to take a 4 lb. rainbow from Desert Lake. It was a spawner, though, so it's still there for someone else to catch. Cal Cole and **Jim Higgins** christened their new rods on the 11" to 14" yearlings.

The next fishout is for Atlantic Salmon in Quail Lake on April 26 & 27. This lake is open to catch & release only with barbless flies, so flatten those barbs. A census check in late February showed the fish to be 17" long, so come fishout time, look out! If youo want to keep a few fish to take home, there are pleanty of other fish in the Quail Lake area.

**Dues are Due:** Time to spend some of that tax rebate money before it gets here. That's right, it's time to cough up \$7 for a year's worth of dues. Once again the Alpine Fly Fishers have resisted the pressures of inflation and kept the dues unchanged, so spend now.

**On Releasing Fish:** Since Quail Lake is a catch & release lake, a few tips on releasing fish are in order. Common sense rules here. Don't play a fish to exhaustion. bring it in as quickly as possible. Use barbless hooks. (A requirement in Quail Lake.) Leave the fish in the water if at all possible. Usually, with barbless flies all that is needed is a little twist to free the hook. If you must lift the fish from the water, don't grab it by the gills. Place your hand under its abdomen and lift gently. Get it back into the lake or stream as soon as possible. If the fish turns belly up hold it in an upright position until it recovers sufficiently to swim away. Never release a tired fish into heavy current, it can drown there. All the foregoing assumes you have the skill and good fortune to hook a fish. THAT requires more than a paragraph to cover.

**Fly Pattern:** A staple for Washington lakes is the Six Pack. This fly was developed by Karl Hauffler of Edmonds. I don't know if he named it after its color or most fishermen's love of brew, but it is an effective fly.



**Six Pack**

Hook: Size 6—12, 2x or 3x long

Tail: Yellow dyed pheasant rump. Use the tip of the same feather for the body

Body: Yellow dyed pheasant rump feather twisted into a 'noodle' and wound on

Hackle: Yellow dyed pheasant rump

This fly simulates dragon fly and damsel fly nymphs and maybe some caddis pupae as well.

For Sale: **Gary Strodztz** has an 8 1/2' Winston glass rod for sale. It carries a no. 6 line.

**Jim Higgins** has a 4-man rubber raft for sale.

Bring a guest: Keep the guests coming. They are the future members of our club.

Fly taken from: [www.littlefort.com/index.php/flypatterns](http://www.littlefort.com/index.php/flypatterns)

## FFI E-news - February 2019 — Thank You Alpine Fly Fishers!

Recently **Alpine Fly Fishers** stepped forward to support FFI and joined the 1000 Stewards of FFI (FFI1K) program. The donor program provides funds that are vital to maintaining a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and expand our mission and to support our programs. We encourage all councils, clubs and members to join the program and keep FFI's legacy going.

The funds raised by the FFI1K are vital to providing a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and expand our mission and to support:

- Spearheading projects that improve our fisheries and protect our fishing opportunities
- The FFI Learning Center's wealth of fly fishing knowledge and resources
- Camaraderie among anglers built at our annual fair and other events

### Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2019

**March 26**; April 23; May 28; June ?? Picnic;  
July & August (No Meetings) — September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17

### IMPORTANT FLY FISHING DATES FOR 2019

March 8 & 9, 2019 – NW Fly Tyer Expo, Linn Country Expo Center, Albany, OR., [www.nwexpo.com](http://www.nwexpo.com)

May 3 & 4, 2019 - WSCFFI - WA Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg. [www.wscffi.org](http://www.wscffi.org)

June 23-29, 2019 – NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy, Lacey, WA. [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com)

July 23-27, 2019 – Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Fest – Bozeman, MT. [www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org)



**March Speaker**  
**Brian Miller**  
**Tenkara Fishing**



Don't forget about the Tenkara rod board. We almost sold all the squares at the January meeting but there were a hand full of squares left. Those sold out at the February meeting and we did drawing for a winner. Not only for the Tenkara rod, but Brian put together a 'starter kit' for the winner. And the winner was...(drum roll please).....**Peter Maunsell**.

### NW YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY - 2019

The deadline for the 2019 Academy is closing in – April 15, 2019 is the deadline for the Academy. Those that apply and are accepted, will be notified by the middle of May. The Academy this year is again the last full week of June 23-29, 2019. The Academy is held on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. Applicants need to write an essay explaining why “they” would like to attend. They also will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor, science teacher or responsible person. The applicant, boy or girl, 12-16, should not be 17 at the start of the Academy. Cost is \$300 and there are sponsorships available. No one will be turned away because of lack of money.

The support from the fly fishing community again this year is nothing short of spectacular. Applications are coming from all over the State. In the past years, we have been supported by over 50 volunteers each year. We will need volunteers again this year are guides to take the kids fishing in the morning and evenings. We will be fishing a local pond and the Deschutes Rivers in Thurston County. The Academy has a Facebook page loaded with pictures from past years and our website [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com) You may download the application off the website or call Mike Clancy @253-278-0061 or Jim Brosio @360-943-9947. The Academy will be a life experience for these youth, they are the future of our sport of fly fishing.

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

# CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPT

Alpine Fly Fishers  
PO Box 1456  
Sumner, WA 98390

**DONATION AMOUNT: \$500**  
**DONATION DATE: 1/28/2019**

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution.

FFI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
EIN: 23-7037444



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

5237 US Highway 89 South #11 / Livingston, MT 59047

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Dear Alpine Fly Fishers,

Thank you for joining the FFI1K program. FFI is the only outdoor organization that represents fly fishers around the world, but we have the potential to achieve even more. The significance of 1000 STEWARDS is that it establishes a funding base for our programs that has never existed. It will allow FFI to become an enduring leader among outdoor organizations on behalf of future fly fishers. No one will do this for us, and we appreciate you joining this effort to secure the long-term future of FFI.

We cannot accomplish FFI's mission without gifts like yours. Your gift will make a difference in ensuring that future generations enjoy the fly fishing opportunities we have today. Thank you for your commitment to our sport!

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Len Zickler".

Len Zickler  
FFI President & CEO



# TFO Fly Rod / Reel Raffle Board

We have a great rod/reel/rod case raffle board starting up at our March meeting. 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.

1713 SOUTH CANYON ROAD  
ELLENSBURG, WA 98926  
509-962-2033  
worleybugger@fairpoint.net



## 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!*

**Clark Fork Trout.com**  
MONTANA FLY FISHING OUTFITTERS  
ST. REGIS, MT

OWNER & OUTFITTER, STEVE TEMPLE

www.ClarkForkTrout.com 406.382.0161

## Clark Fork Trout

St. Regis, MT

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.

"GUIDED FISHING ON THE CLARK FORK, BITTERROOT, MISSOURI AND BLACKFOOT RIVERS AND PROVIDING FLY FISHING CLASSES BY PEGGY TEMPLE."

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GUIDE PEGGY TEMPLE

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# March / April 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"Go to the winter woods: listen there, look, watch, and "the dead months" will give you a subtler secret than any you have yet found in the forest." - Fiona Macleod, <i>Where the Forest Murmurs</i> (AKA: William Sharp (12 September 1855 – 12 December 1905))					<b>1 March National Peanut Butter Day!!!</b>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Starts	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>17 St. Pattys Day</b>	18	19	20 Finally Spring	21	22	23
24 31	25	<b>26 Club Meeting</b>	27	28	29	30

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." - Doug Larson	<b>1 April</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9				13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Easter	22	<b>23 Club Meeting</b>	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	"The sun is brilliant in the sky but its warmth does not reach my face. The breeze stirs the trees but leaves my hair unmoved. The cooling rain will feed the grass but will not slake my thirst. It is all inches away but further from me than my dreams." - M. Romeo LaFlamme, <i>The First of March</i>			

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**Sumner, WA 98390**

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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