

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on  
Tuesday

May 25, 2010

We will be meeting at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup



Charter  
Club



## The Dead Drift – May 2010

### In this issue:

#### Page 2

FFF

Fly Of The Month

—Kirkham's Cray—

#### Page 3

Fly of Month Cont.

Key Dates in Future

#### Page 4

FFF Fly Fishing  
Fair Poster

Name Badges

#### Page 5

FFF Outings

Montana

Quote of the Month

#### Page 6

About Being a FFF

Charter Club

#### Page 7

Calendar

Mailing Address

Club

Board of Directors

### Presidents Line

By Larry Gibbs

I sure hope I see some of you over in Ellensburg at the Washington Fly Fishing Fair on April 30 & May 1. It is going to be a great event with good weather. Make sure you swing by the silent auction/raffle area to say hi and while you are there...well place a bid on some great items and buy some raffle tickets!!!

Your next chance to attend a good fly fishing fair will be at the end of August. The FFF Fly Fishing Fair (Conclave) is being held on August 26 thru the 28th. Some events actually start on the 24th. I will be there since I am the auction coordinator for the national FFF organization. The fishing in Montana is fantastic in late August, early September. Come on over to the Fly Fishing Fair and enjoy it and enjoy some great fishing.

As I write this, it is down to the crunch time to get ready for the WA Fly Fishing Fair. AFF members **Bill Fox** & **PJ Hicks** & **Nate Gunderson** are going to be there helping me with the auctions and raffles. I would not be able to have a successful auction and raffle if I did not have some great volunteers. I have four other volunteers from the PSF club who will also be helping me. To you volunteers, **THANK YOU!!!!**

At our April meeting we decided which TFO rod to request from the FFF. We are getting this free since we have had enough club members join the FFF. We will use this rod as a fund raiser. I will submit the paperwork and I suspect that by the time we start having our meetings again in September we will have a rod board.

You may have noticed I placed a name for our newsletter up near the top. It dawned on me the other day that we really didn't have a name for just the newsletter and I had thought of "The Dead Drift" some time ago, so I sort of married the two ideas together and gave our little newsletter a name. Let me know what you think, if you don't like it no problem, I can always change it. That is what is nice about being the editor, you can do stuff like that.

Thanks for voting the Board of Directors in at our last meeting. We had to have a BOD and I figured the people listed on the last page would be great. The By-Laws of the club state we have to have a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and "...other officers as it deems desirable...". So, welcome to our new Board of Directors. Check the list on page 7.

Good fishing.



Larry

# FFF Fly of the Month

## KIRKHAM'S CRAY



By Ruth J. Zinck and Bob Bates  
May 2002 FFF Fly Of The Month

The Kirkham's Cray by Ruth Zinck caught my eye as I flipped through the 1990 Patterns of the Masters. I asked Ruth if I could use the information for a Fly of the Month. She said yes and sent me a fly to photograph. Step by step pictures are given on pages 159-161. If you don't have a copy, the FFF Oregon Council still has a few for \$20 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling. Contact the Council, 2120 Robins Lane SE #101, Salem, OR 97306. Most of the information given below was copied from Patterns of the Masters. A few of my comments have been added.

"Joan Kirkham lives in Cambridge, Ontario and is one of the best and most creative tiers I know. She is also a dear friend and when I get east, spending hours talking tying with her is always a highlight of the trip. She showed me her crayfish pattern in June of 1989 and gave me permission to 'tell the world' at Conclave. It was too late to include the fly in last year's book but that is remedied now. I have made no changes in her pattern ... yet, especially since a lunker smallmouth grabbed it on my first cast." (I asked Ruth about the size of the "lunker." She replied that in her mind it was 8 pounds, but more likely it was 3.)

### Fishing Suggestons

We know that bass like to eat crayfish. "Kirkham's Cray should be crawled over the rocky bottom of a lake or river and occasionally retrieved in short spurts. Depending on water depth, use a sink tip, full-sink line or weighted leader. However, I once got a good strike on the fly just as it hit the water."

One crayfish angler in Washington fishes rocky shorelines and catches trout. He says: cast toward shore from your boat or float tube, and let the fly bounce down the rocks. Use a slow hand twist retrieve to imitate a crayfish's walking movements, and a 2- to 3-inch strip retrieve with a pause to simulate their quick movements. (The same instructions that Ruth gave above for bass.)

Last month we found crayfish and crayfish parts in rainbow stomach samples. (It was during catch and release fishing sessions with stomach sampling by our state fish biologist.)

### Materials

**Hook:** Mustad 79580 or 9672, Daiichi 2220 or 1720, Dai-Riki 700 or 710 or similar hooks, size 10

**Thread:** Black or brown Monocord

**Back:** Red fox squirrel (use long hair from middle area on top side of tail)

**Head and Body:** Medium size, brown/black, variegated chenille

**Rib:** 6-lb test clear monofilament

**Claws:** Red fox squirrel (as above)

Go to Page 3 [→](#)

## Tying Steps

1. Wrap thread to bend. Cut a bunch of squirrel hair slightly larger than a household match. Hold near tips and comb out short hair. Tie in remainder by butts on top of hook with most of hair extending beyond bend of hook. Trim butts at an angle, and wrap over cut ends. Return thread to bend.
  2. Head: Tie in chenille, and wrap to 1/4 shank length from bend. Secure, half hitch and then move chenille to a material holder to clear work area. (Expose thread core by stripping off fuzzy chenille to make tie in easier.)
  3. Burn one end of an 8" piece of monofilament to make a small blob. Tie the blob end in on top of the hook at the half hitch. The blob will prevent the mono from pulling out. The rest of the mono should be moved to the material holder.
  4. Right claw: Cut a bunch of squirrel hair slightly smaller than a household match. Comb out short hair, and use a hair stacker to even the tips. With tips of hair toward bend, wrap one circle of tying thread around the bunch and then place it on the far side of the hook. Tips should protrude about 1 inch to left of thread. Tie down firmly.
  5. Tie down butt ends of claw along top left side of hook to 1/8" from eye. Trim butts at an angle.
  6. Left claw: Return thread to right claw tie-in point. Repeat steps 4 and 5 on near side of hook.
  7. Wrap both sets of trimmed butts.
  8. Wrap monofilament clockwise around base of right claw 2 to 3 times. Bring monofilament under hook and wrap left claw counter-clockwise finishing across top of hook on eye side of claws. Make one turn around hook. Keep tension on mono.
  9. Wrap thread to monofilament and tie down. DO NOT CUT. Mono should extend beyond far side of hook. Return thread to eye.
  10. Cover wrapped squirrel body and base of claws with head cement.
  11. Wind chenille to within 1/8" from eye and tie off. Trim.
  12. Bring squirrel hair over chenille and, pulling it TIGHT, tie down at eye. DO NOT TRIM.
  13. Wrap monofilament around body in wide spirals toward eye. First wrap should be close to base of claws. Tie down well. Trim.
  14. Whip finish under tail at eye. Use head cement on tail wraps and whip finish. Cut tail 1/4" beyond eye.
- The last step in any fly tying project is to take your gems out to your favorite body of water. Apply your knowledge as to where bass might be hanging out around rocky areas with crayfish. Carefully creep your fly along the bottom, and be ready for a fight with a lunker.

## Key Dates In The Future

**May 25 — Club Meeting**

**June 26 — Club BBQ at Duffy's Place**

**July & August - No club meetings until September**

**August 26/28 FFF Fly Fishing Fair in West  
Yellowstone, MT**

### Annual Alpine Fly Fishers Club BBQ

At our April meeting we decided we would have our BBQ at Duffy's place on Saturday, June 26. Times will be listed in the next newsletter and we will discuss the menu and such at our May meeting. We will have people tying, and there will be casting instruction available and we may even have a casting game set up. See you there?

# The National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave 2010

Presented by the



# Education Inspiration



# Celebration

**Fair hours:**  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. August 26-28

**Activities include:**  
fly tying demonstrations, fly casting demonstrations, hour-long seminars, exhibit hall, raffles and much more!

**Exhibit hall admission:**  
adults \$5, kids 15 and under free  
**Saturday is FREE for all**

**Workshops:**  
Take one or more workshops on tying, casting, on the water, and non-angling. Fees for workshops vary. It is requested to sign up in advance, however numerous walk-up workshops will be offered on-site. Workshops are offered August 24-28. See the on-line schedule for more details.

Visit us at:

Holiday Inn at **West  
Yellowstone**

Montana

August 26-28, 2010

[FederationConclave.org](http://FederationConclave.org)

## Name Badges

*By Larry Gibbs*

I will have new name badges at the May meeting for those who indicated they needed them. If your name is not on the list then let me know and I will add it. So far these are the people who have indicated that they needed name badges: Guy Magno; Nate Gunderson; Howard Inks; Dana Herron; Peter Maunsell; Bob Jacobs.

## AFF 2010 Club Outings

By Bob Alston

1. **John Day River** Float trip: A 70 mile float unguided 6 days, 5 nights for small mouth bass, all on dry fly. Some white water experience preferred. Need a cat or raft 9 feet long minimum. Time: July 3, 2010 leave, put in July 4th ( no fireworks allowed). 5-6 wt rods. Currently filled (13 people), but you could put your name down as alternate. See Bob Alston or Steve Egge for further details. We do all our own cooking, cleanup, etc. Cost: just the food and shuttle.

2. Is anyone up for **Chupaka Lake** near Tonasket? A great lake for fly guys only, recently rehabilitated, with excellent reports. Pat Blackwell knows this lake

3. Also, **Isaak's Ranch** in Eastern WA would be a fun outing before end of May. A pay lake with large trout. Could probably get a discount if enough members went.. See Red's Fly shop for info. Limited availability. Usual cost is \$225. Max 10 per day on the lake. BIG FISH

4. **Montana and the Clark Fork River.** This spring, summer and fall Larry Gibbs will be going to St. Regis, Montana to do drifts on the Clark Fork River. He will announce the dates at the AFF club meetings and if anyone is interested in coming along, please let him know. You will stay at the Super 8 Motel in St. Regis. You will use the Clark Fork Trout & Tackle shop for guided drift boat trips. This is owned by Brooks Sanford. You will have a chance to meet him this April 30/May 1 at the WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair. Larry would need even numbers of people to go along with him, either 2 or 4 or 6 or 8. Big Browns, big Rainbows and big Cuttbows, that is what the Clark Fork produces. Most of these drifts will be for two days of drifts but a third day is always an option.

.Let me make a point about Montana and fishing the Clark Fork River. St. Regis is located a mere 417 miles from here, an easy 7 hour drive. You head over on a late morning and arrive at the fly shop before it closes at 4:40 Mountain time (3:30 our time). You get your Montana fishing license the grab a great meal at a nice restaurant north of town, and have a relaxing evening. The next morning the guides pick you up at the motel and take you for a great days fishing, dropping you back at the motel that late afternoon. One more day like that then a relaxing evening and you head back home, filled with great memories and you can't wait to get back to do some more fishing. See me about it. I have taken a lot of groups over there and they have all had a blast. Let's go to Montana this year. Larry

### Quote Of The Month



#### MAY AND THE MAYFLY

Pan doth pipe to us anew,  
Reedy calls and catches,  
So we'll go and throw a fly  
Dainty, delicate and dry,  
Forty miles from Waterloo—  
Where the May-fly hatches.



*The Trout Fisher. By Patrick R. Chalmers, 1914*

*As taken from 'A Summer On The Test' by John Waller Hills 1924*

## About Being A Charter Club

### **Charter Clubs:**

A Charter Club is one in which all club members join as individual members of the Federation of Fly Fishers. No annual club dues are collected from our Charter Clubs and they fall under the FFF's 501(c)(3) status. Both established clubs and brand new clubs can join under this club category.

### **Requirements:**

- 1) All club members join the FFF or are already FFF members.
- 2) Provide your club roster and list of new officers annually to FFF Headquarters.
- 3) Provide financial statements to enable the FFF to incorporate the information on to their group Federal tax return.

### **Benefits For Charter Clubs:**

501(c)(3) Status - Classified as a subsidiary of the FFF and would fall under the FFF's established 501(c)(3) umbrella.

Legal Support - Receive free legal support by the FFF's legal counsel.

Conservation Grants - May apply annually for grants from the FFF for conservation projects. Contact FFF Conservation department for information and application procedures. Available at a low cost are Catch & Release booklets (freshwater and saltwater). Also available for purchase are the Whitlock Vibert Boxes for club conservation activities.

Education - Check with our FFF Education department for current offers available. Items are offered at low or discounted cost to our Charter Clubs. Some items that have been donated to the FFF for educational purposes are announced in the FFF ClubWire (e-mail newsletter) and also the Flyfisher magazine. Below is a list of previous and current offerings to our clubs.

Rod & Reel Loaner Program  
Tying Equipment Loaner Program  
Float Tubes  
Fly Lines  
Tying Materials  
Hooks  
Fly Casting Instructors Handbook

Flyfisher Magazine - The club's FFF contact person will receive the FFF's quarterly magazine. The club will also be added to the FFF Council's newsletter list to receive more localized news on special events and projects.

FFF Councils - Regional Councils provide support and advice, in addition to a network of clubs, retail shops and individual members to address problems common to an entire area.

FFF Web Site - Each club is listed with a link to the clubs web site if they provide that information. Individuals can join the FFF as well as locate an FFF club to join by searching this web page.

ClubWire - This is a monthly e-mail newsletter put together specifically for our club newsletter editors. However, any of the club officers may request to be added to the e-mail list by contacting ClubWire Editor. The ClubWire provides news items, humorous articles, book and DVD reviews, FFF conservation reports and FFF announcements on promotions and current happenings. All items may be re-printed as long as they give proper credit for each article.

Savings - Clubs may purchase FFF merchandise and educational booklets at wholesale prices for resale. Contact our Merchandise department for specific costs on any of the merchandise seen in our shopping area of the the web site.

Awards - Clubs and their members are eligible for Regional and National FFF awards, given annually in recognition of outstanding conservation and education efforts. FFF Awards List

# May / June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						May 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	<b>25 Club Meeting</b>	26	27	28	29
30	31					
		<b>June 1</b>	2	3	4	5
5	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 NO MEETING	23	24	25	<b>26 Club BBQ at Duffy's</b>
27	28	29	30			

**Alpine Fly Fishers**  
**PO Box 1103**  
**Milton, WA 98354**

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)

**Board Of Directors:**

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-863-4910
First Vice President:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	253-568-7965
Secretary:	Howard Inks	253-881-1885
Ghilly:	Joe Fitzpatrick	253-405-7356
Outings Coord:	Bob Alston	253-848-6884
Programs Coord:	Bill Aubrey	253-678-3683
Librarian:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Webmaster:	Steve Egge	253-841-1093