

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Will Be Tuesday

May 27

We will be meeting at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM



The Dead Drift - May 2014

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By Larry Gibbs

If you drove up to Whidbey Island for the AFF Outing, I hope you had a good time. It is very nice of Steve to open his place up to all of us. I wasn't there because I was on one of my trips to Montana to fish the Clark Fork and the Flathead rivers. Regarding the Flathead, the water was still way too cold and the Smallmouth Bass were not interested in anything. I fished it for half a day and gave up on catching any warm water species, so I fished for trout on the Clark Fork instead.

I managed to get a Super Grand Slam - Rainbow & Cutthroat & Brown & Cutbow trout plus a few Whitefish. My biggest trout was a Cutbow at 20.5 inches, and another of 19.5 inches. Over the years, I have noticed that the Cutbows do seem to be the largest fish. I took most of my fish while deep nymphing, but I also caught some on dries and some on emergers. The Umbrella Callibaetis would have been a great fly to fish with in the afternoons. Guess I better find some of those hooks.

Many rivers in Montana are already blown out. With around 150% snowpack up in the mountains it may be a while before the rivers are fishable again. Come late June or early July they will be in great shape. Over here in Washington, the lakes that feed the Yakima River are mostly full even before our main runoff so that spells well for the Yak and fishing this summer. There should be plenty of water for the irrigation of the Kittitas Valley which is why the lakes feed the Yak.

The IFFF keeps track of the new members. For every 12 new members who join our club we get a free TFO fly rod. That means we will be having a fly rod raffle board so someone can win a new rod. I most likely will be able to bring that out this fall. I designed a Rod Raffle Board with 45 slots. Each slot will sell for \$3. When the board is full we will draw a winner. That will help out our fund raising efforts.

Most of my time now is getting ready for the auctions and raffles at the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg this first weekend of May. We have a nice selection of items. Come on over and check them out.

Speaking of fund raising, PJ called me and said a fellow fly fisher, Mike Trask had a friend who was interested in buying that WaterMaster Raft that I donated to the club. I took the raft over to Mike's place and he paid me for it. So, we will have an extra \$500 in our checking account. Thanks PJ and Mike.

Good fishing.



Larry

International Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

~ UMBRELLA CALLIBAETIS ~

May 2006

By

Bob Bates



Now this is a strange looking hook and fly. Unlike some patterns, flies tied on this hook always lands upright. The point is down where it is first thing a fish hits when it strikes. The parachute under the body gives the fly plenty of support to float nicely. The hooks are made of high carbon steel, H80C for you technical types. They are strong and made with very sharp points. There is a choice of barbed or barbless (BL). They come in three sizes large, medium and small. The following size relationships are on the back of the package: Large #12, #10, #8 ; Medium #16, #14, #12 ; Small #20, #18, #16. The bold numbers above are bold on the package; I assume that it must be relate to the actual gap size. I am told that there is a midge size available for #22, #24 and #26 patterns. The hooks are called Elephant Proof Umbrella hooks.

Materials List:

Hook: Umbrella large, medium or small

Thread: Un-waxed, similar color to the body 3/0, 6/0 or 8/0

Body and tails: Duck flank or similar feather

Wings: Grizzly hen hackle tips

Hackle: Grizzly or similar feather, saddle hackle preferred

Tying Steps:

1. Place hook in vise so the part of the hook behind the eye is horizontal. Start thread at bend and wind forward to the eye and return to the bend. Trim tag and wind a small bump at the back of the body. This bump does two things: Helps make the body tip upward and helps stop the thread from moving backward as you pull the body rearward. See Step 4. Leave thread hanging just in front of bump.

2. Select a duck flank feather and pull off the real fuzzy type stuff. Prepare the feather by holding the tip and stroking most of the barbs away from the tip. Besides separating the parts of the feather it exposes the shaft. Lay feather on hook with exposed shaft at front of thread bump. Put one wind of thread over the exposed shaft and let the bobbin hang.

3. Put a finger on side of hook to hold the one thread wind in place as you pull the feather away from the eye. As the feather slides under the thread the barbs are pulled into a narrow body. (With waxed thread it was more difficult to pull the feather, and I had to hold the thread between my thumb and first finger.) Secure body with thread winds in middle of body. Put a few thread winds under the back and front of the body to help them sweep upward. Leave thread near back of body. Trim excess feather at the eye leaving a little head like an Elk Hair Caddis

4. Separate two tail fibers from each side of the feather tip.



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5. Hold tails toward eye as you cut out most of the tip, but leave a little of the tip to make sure the tails stay apart. Stroke the tail fibers back in place.



6. Select two hen hackles, match tips and put dark sides together so they separate at the tips. Place them on body with tips to rear and near the rear of the body. Switch hands holding the feather in place and cut the feathers at the eye. Move hand away from eye slightly and roll fingers back so the cut portion of the feathers separate. Slide feathers over the hook with one feather on each side and secure.



7. Stand up the wings by pushing them forward with your first finger. As you push on the base of the wings they should separate. Bring thread between the wings, and touching the base of a feather pull thread forward carefully to position it. Wind thread once around hook in front of wings. Move thread around back of the other wing, touching the base of the wing, and position it by carefully pulling the thread forward. Wind thread once around hook in front of wings. With a little practice the wings can be positioned with four winds of the thread.



8. Put a half hitch over the body, and take the hook out of the vise. Reposition it with the eye down and the part of the hook under the body horizontal. Move the thread to the now horizontal part of the hook and wind a smooth thread base away from the body to the next bend.



9. Prepare a hackle by cutting or stripping a few barbs off the stem. Hold the hackle with the dull side toward the hook, and the bare stem along the hook. Leave a little bare stem showing before the first thread wind securing the hackle. Wind thread over stem toward the body, and let it hang next to the body.



10. Pull the feather toward the body to put a kink in the stem, wrap feather around hook to the body and hold feather tightly as you secure it to the hook with several winds of thread. Half hitch thread at eye. A half hitch tool is handy since you are half hitching under the front of the body. Now you are ready to go fishing.



AFF Hats On Sale Now!!!

By Larry Gibbs



I purchased some baseball style hats for the club. They will be on sale starting at our February club meeting.

Cost is \$12 per hat.

All funds collected will go into the AFF treasury and will be used as the club decides.

Supplies are limited. This is a one time offer. When these hats are all sold, there will be no others.



Head for Montana this Summer

Great Fishing

Great Fly Fishing Fair

August 5 - 9 in Livingston

A Fly Fishing Quote:

*“Stalking along from log to log, or plunging their long legs into the oozy swamp,
[two large herons] paid no attention to my presence,
but occupied themselves with their own fishing arrangements,
as if their wilderness were their own.”*

~ W.C. Prime ~

I Go A Fishing (1873)

WSCFFF & IFFF Events in 2014

The Washington State Council Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg will be on **Saturday** & **Sunday** in 2014, not Friday and Saturday. That is the first weekend in May. **May 3 & 4, 2014.**

The International Federation of Fly Fishers' Fly Fishing Fair will be **August 3rd thru the 9th** in 2014, at Livingston, Montana.

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2014

May 27 — June 24 (Picnic)

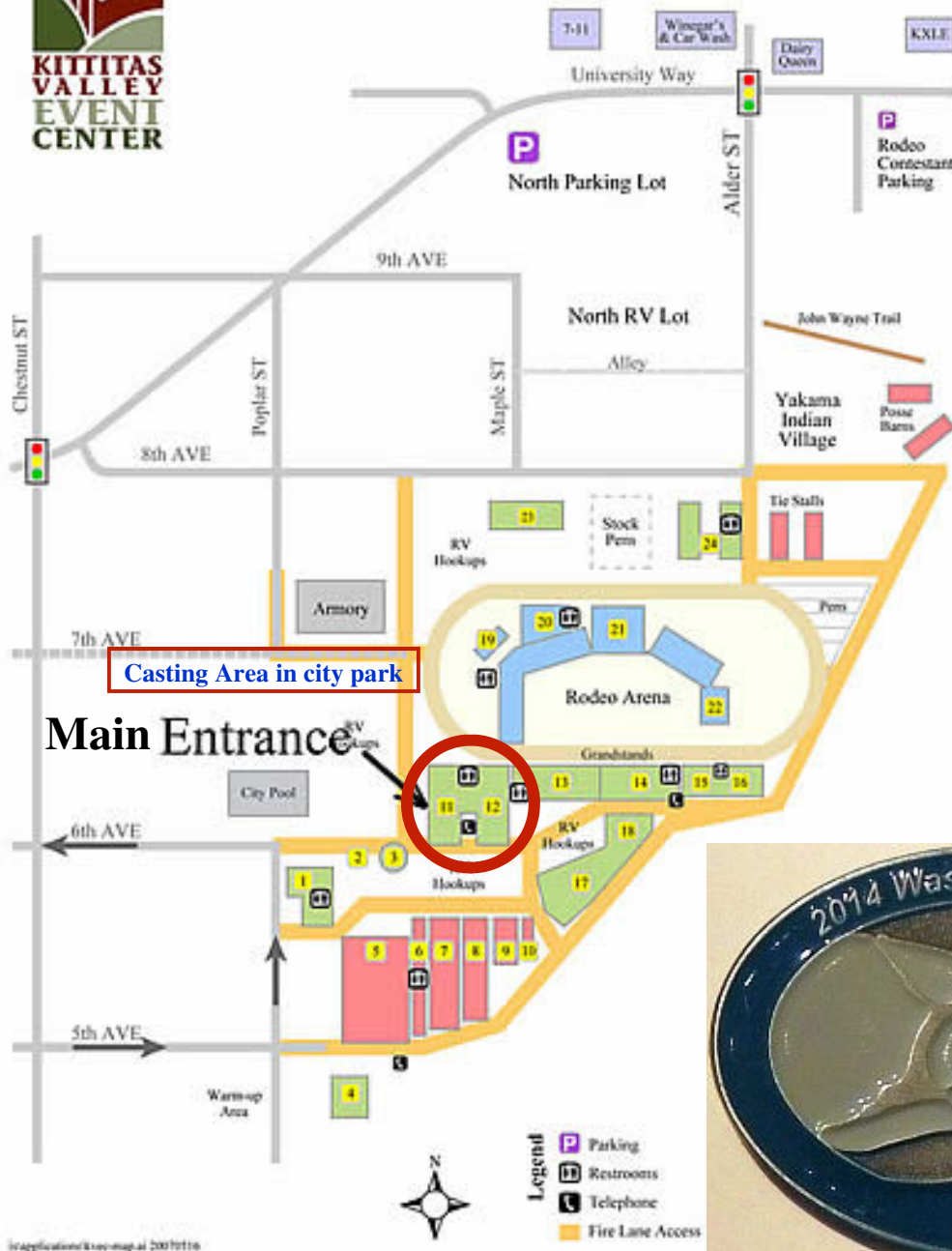
July & August (No Meetings) — September 23 — October 28

November 25 — December 16 (Fund Raiser Raffle)

Washington Fly Fishing Fair

Location:

Northeast corner of Ellensburg

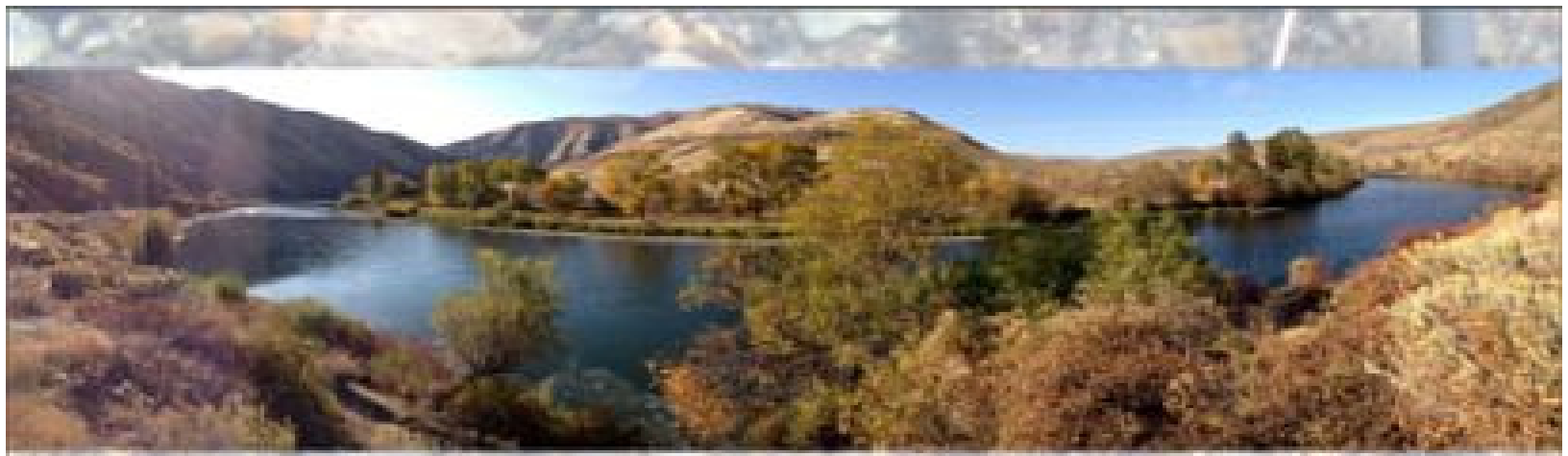


Holiday Candy
Atlantic Salmon Fly
Dressed by
Dave Millard

ATLANTIC SALMON FLY
INTERNATIONAL

Renton, WA....May 17th, 18th

www.asfi-expo.com



The Washington State Council
of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers presents the 8th Annual

Fly Fishing Fair

“Explore the Art of Fly Fishing”

- * Workshops and Programs
- * Fly Casting and Demonstrations
- * Fly Tying Demonstrations
- * Vendor Exhibits
- * Raffles and Silent Auctions
- * Live Auction
- * Awards Banquet

General Admission \$5

IFFF Members & Youth Under 16 FREE!

(to register in advance visit www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)



Exhibit Hall Hours:
Saturday May 3, 9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday May 4, 8 AM - 3 PM

Kittitas County Fair Grounds, Ellensburg, WA



Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

Johnny - aka - "The Fishing Truck"

A branch of the electrical life stem of the van has given out; it still runs and is drivable, but only for limited excursions - parts runs to the auto store for new pieces for Johnny. The failure of the lights, windshield wipers, door locks and all gauges and the subsequent diagnoses of the control body module failure and the need for an engine and transmission rebuild have necessitated some life style changes. Two motor vehicles now replace one, a motorcycle and a fishing truck. The bike was by design; the truck was by intervention, not quite Devine intervention but close. I asked my son if I could borrow his motorcycle until I could afford to buy a used car or truck for transportation. He readily agreed to lend me his bike, but unbeknownst to all of us was that the borrowing of motorcycle would entail the procurement of a fishing truck.

The difficulty began with how to get the bike to Washington? For hire transportation was too expensive, my sister and brother-in-law offered to tow it back up after a visit to California but the age of their car canceled that effort. Cy offered to drive up and back on a weekend but that meant 28 hours of windshield time for him and little rest so I nixed that idea. I procured a cheap flight to San Jose to ride the bike back up here but was not looking forward to 14 hours on a crotch rocket as a nice leisurely re-acquaintance ride. Cy nixed that idea and came up with a plan to buy a truck for himself that would reside in Washington until he moved up here to claim it. The bike came north on the truck.

My son's first choice for a truck fell through, and that is when Johnny came into our lives. Now fishing is built on dreams, it is the allure that pulls us towards the water, the vision of a defiant fish struggling to remain free, putting a massive bend in our rod and straining the knots of our leaders. That's what day dreams are made of; a fishing truck is made up of dreams as well and Johnny is mostly in the dream state at the moment. One piece at a time came to mind when I met Johnny for the first time and when I explained to Terry that the truck was made up from parts from a 1973 body and a 1977 frame, she named it Johnny after Johnny Cash and his song "One Piece at a Time". Some dreams do not always meet reality, but being a fisherman I'm comfortable with that.

Now Johnny got me and the bike back up here to the Northwest but it was an adventure in moving as U-haul is wont to say. Now as first dates go this was not love at first sight. We all carry a vision of what our vehicles should look like and being a truck man from way, way back even back of beyond if I may be so bold. Johnny did not meet my vision, his tires were way too big and his smile was crooked, the grill was missing and I could tell he would need lots of work. But like most blind dates I kept my thoughts too myself, I didn't want to offend my date. The truck ran and its electrical system mostly worked but the support systems did not always function in seamless actions. The gas gauge always registered overfull, the valve that interchanged gas tanks did not switch. Even after Cy spent time and money trying to rectify this flaw. The speedometer read 15 mph slow, the waist height tires ate up gas and necessitated right hand turns into oncoming traffic to get back to one's appropriate lane of travel. The height of the tires also required me to pull myself into the cab by grasping the steering wheel and to stand on the bumper when checking the oil and transmission fluid levels.

The gas tank that worked in supplying go juice to the engine did not like being filled and if you were not slow, slow, slow in the delivery of fuel to the tank it would spit-up back on you. The large tires, age of the truck and lack of an operating gas gauge required that I stop every one-hundred or so miles to make sure I did not run out of gas. My normal travel time of 13+ hours turned into a sixteen and half hours drive. And the topping on the trip was, just three mile short of home I got pulled over for straddling the white line.

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The officer said he pulled me over because he thought I was tired or drunk. When he ascertained my non-inebriated state and saw that I was indeed just tired he sent me on my way. Bless him as I sure could not have afforded a ticket on top of my gas bill to make it home.

Now while the truck needs some work its heart is strong and those of you who have worked on projects know that "some work" is a relative term. He got me home safe and sound with the bike and so as first dates go it was a success and I'm more than willing to put more time into our relationship. Johnny's coming into our lives has meant that Cy and I spend more time on the phone discussing the truck, our plans for repair, and diagnosing problems as the work continues. Regular phone conversations with my son are a good thing.

Johnny has not moved since we made it home, pieces and parts have arrived from Kansas and a local auto wrecking yard. He is slowly being reassembled into an operating fishing vehicle that will transport me to dreamed of fishing adventures. Sometimes unexpected guests bring many blessing with their arrival. Here's to great fishing trips of the future and a hope of seeing you on the river soon.



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

During Stephen’s presentation in April he talked about this nymph, the Eng Theng. Here is a photo and recipe from Stephen.



Recipe
.010 lead
1/8" copper bead
#14, 1x short nymph hook
Tail- pheasant tail fibers
Abdomen- 1st strand peacock, copper wire ribbing
Thorax- 1st & 2nd strand peacock, plus salt water flashabou shellback
Wings- amber or orange biots
Head- 2 wraps of peacock, whip finish

Wayne Eng's "ENG THENG"

May / June 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Just in case you haven't heard, the WA Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg is going to be held on Sat/Sunday, May 3 & 4				1 May	2	3 <u>WA Fly Fishing Fair</u>
4 <u>WA Fly Fishing Fair</u>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Club Meeting	28	29	30	31
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 Club Picnic	25	26	27	28
29	30	Have a great summer. No more meetings after our June picnic until September 23.				

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
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