

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Will Be Tuesday

May 26

We will be meeting at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM



The Dead Drift - May 2015

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Mailing Address

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By Larry Gibbs

Twice a year we go through season related transitional periods. When the chill of late spring turns into the warmth of early summer and again in the fall when the heat of the summer starts changing into the chill of fall. Do we use the heat mode today or should we switch over to the cool mode? Sometimes both are used.

Much the same occurs when fishing, especially the rivers, at least for those of us who fish both nymphing and dry styles. During the short cold winter days, nymphing is beyond a doubt the very best way to catch fish. Seldom is there a decent opportunity to switch to dries, even if a small hatch of midges or BWO's occurs, the fish usually stay down on the bottom feeding on the nymphs where they expend as little energy as possible to get the life giving food they need to survive the winter. Then the weather starts to change and the transition starts to occur. Start with nymphing in the early morning and switching to dries in the late morning to early afternoon, then maybe back to nymphing. Eventually, the dry fly rod is the one most used and the nymphing rod is either never put together or is sits there in the boat, rigged, but often unused. Then in the very late fall we start to transition back to nymphing.

I enjoy both forms of fishing. Mostly what I enjoy is the hookup and the first few moments of the fight, that is why I fly fish. After that it is just a matter of getting the fish in as safely and fast as possible to release it so it can fight again another day.

Winter fishing can be very exhilarating. The crisp cool air with the snow drifting down around you. Hardly anyone else out on the water and the fish are there for the taking. Yet the summer and fall fishing can be just as exhilarating with the sound of the grasshoppers buzzing on the hillsides, the insect hatches coming off the river and the trout slurping the emergers and spinners. I love both seasons.



Good fishing.

Larry

International Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

~ ERV EMERGER ~

May 2007

By

Bob Bates



John Newbury, Chewelah, tied the fly for the step by step pictures and wrote the following history leading to its development.

“The Birth of the Erv Emerger”

In the middle of June 2005 the caddis had been hatching for several evenings. The first evening the hatch was sparse, and the old standby parachute elk hair caddis was working as always. Five nice rainbows were landed. On night two the hatch was heavier, and I only managed to fool three rainbows on the adult caddis. The third night caddis owned the river, and I only managed to fool two on the dry fly. On the fourth night my guest was Mark Few (the coach of the Gonzaga basketball team), and Mike Ressa, a fly fisherman and friend, agreed to take us by boat on the river. We went fishing down the river from hole to hole. The Caddis were everywhere, and catching fish was tough. The fish were there, and they were porpoising in a feeding frenzy. You’d see the wide back and high fin, large tail and then gone...over and over again. They were not taking the dry (adult), they wanted the nymph. So we tried some soft hackles, but the fish were being particular. It seemed the fish were keying on the soft hackle as it swung near the end of the drift. So presentation was everything.” “On the way home Mike, Mark and I talked about how to catch fish that were targeting a swimming pupa. Arriving home after midnight, I had to know more about the swimming pupa stage. I reread two books: Caddisflies by Gary LaFontaine and The Caddis and the Angler by Larry Solomon and Eric Leiser. I finished reading at two AM and went out to the vise and tied up a pattern by Gary called the Dancing Caddis, which was tied on a Swedish dry fly hook. So, back to the river I went, tied on the Dancing Caddis and a soft hackle dropper. At the end of the night I had two fish on the Dancing Caddis and two on the dropper. Once again the dropper was effective in the final swing of the drift. At home, I once again put my head in those books. I started thinking about a conversation I had years earlier with the late Gary LaFontaine at the last FFF Conclave he attended in Livingston, Montana. He said that I was on to something in reference to producing the hinge on my Wiggle Damsel. He said to keep pursuing that line of thought. Thinking about what he had said, those swimming pupa and getting the proper presentation, it dawned on me that I might have had the answer all along - make a caddis that’s hinged. I sat down and tied some hinged caddis. Its basically a soft hackle hinged beneath an elk hair caddis. This enables the soft hackle to be kept in the surface film. New night. Back to the river. I tied the new fly onto my tippet, flipped the fly out onto the water and started peeling line off my reel to enable me to cast. While taking line off of my reel all of sudden something grabbed the fly, I felt an instant jerk and it was gone. The excitement was looming. The next five casts produced five fish. Hey, I’m onto something. After the third fish, I heard an angler from a boat on the river say, ‘Hey, what are you using?’ I answered, ‘I don’t know. It doesn’t have a name, and I guarantee you don’t have anything like it in your box anyhow.’ After the fifth fish the guide and his client came to shore with a big fancy net offering to help me land my fish. I politely said: ‘I don’t need any help, and you really just want to see the fly that’s in this fish’s mouth.’ After releasing that fish, four more big bows followed. Fishing was good the next couple of nights.

Its now the last week of June and I have a visitor, my friend and sometimes fishing partner, Harry Lemire, stopped on his was home from B C. The first two nights we fished the caddis and hex hatch off the bank. The caddis were in swarms, and I gave Harry a handful of flies I thought would be effective. I told him to tie on the new fly. He ties one on and starts casting. It didn’t take long and he was into a big rainbow. Over and over again that night he was into big rainbows. He also, said in his soft, well spoken and easy manner: ‘John, I think you’re on to something. You might have even revolutionized caddis fishing.’ The next night we fished off the bank again with similar good results.

Continued on Page 3 →

Then for two nights we fished out of my boat so we could target the hexes down river in a huge back eddy. Once again he was impressed. He kept asking what I was going to name this new fly. I asked him what he thought of the Erv Emerger. He thought it had a nice ring to it. I told him the story of how Steve 'Erv' Tveit had showed me this section of the river in 1982, and told me he thought we would catch some nice fish on a fly. The water was so big and intimidating, but there were caddis all over. For the next 10 to 12 years Erv and I fished the river together. After getting married he fished the river less and less because of increased work and family responsibilities. I told Harry that Steve had gotten ill in the spring of 2005. The diagnosis was a brain tumor that was cancerous. I thought I'd name the fly in his honor. He had three operations and was given a short lease on life. I tied the fly first in public at the FFF Conclave in Livingston, Montana in August 2005. People were amazed at the simplicity and potential effectiveness of the fly. My friend, Al Beatty, was at the show, I gave him one of the flies and told him of its successes. He published the Erv Emerger in the Spring 2006 Annual Gear Guide issue of Fly Fish America. The rest is history. The Erv Emerger is a "wet" fly and a "dry" fly. Fish it using a floating line, and drift it through "nymphing" fish with a drag free float. Be ready to fight a fish at any time but especially near the end of the drift.

Photography by Bob Bates

Materials List:

Trailer Hook

Hook: Dai Riki 135 size 12

Thread: Brown

Rib: Fine gold wire

Body: STS Trilobal, black, olive brown, rusty brown

Thorax: Ostrich herl, brown

Hackle: Hungarian partridge rump, brown phase preferred

Floating Body:

"Hook": Stainless steel wire, 0.013-inch diameter, 1.25 inches long

Thread: Brown

Wing: Elk mane

Tying Steps:

This fly is tied in two phases. First the wet (trailer) fly portion is tied like many wet patterns. Then the trailer fly is hooked onto stainless steel "staple" and the floating fly completed.

1. Start the thread at the rear of the fly, wind forward to near the eye leaving some bare shank, and return thread to a point above the point of the hook. Put rib on hook, wind thread over it well around bend and return to a little in front of mid shank.

2. Use a tacky dubbing wax on thread. Put dubbing on thread and place it so the dubbed body will start at a position above the point of the hook. Keep dubbing thin, and roll the dubbing in the same direction between the thumb and first finger.

3. Wrap dubbing well around bend and return to starting point, and build a little shoulder at back of thorax.

4. Wind rib forward many turns pulling it down into the abdomen. Tie off in front of body. Attach ostrich herl with stem side up to give a fuller thorax.

5. Wrap ostrich herl forward stopping about two eye widths from the eye. Secure and trim excess.



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6. Moisten fingers and stroke ostrich herl back. Select a Hungarian partridge feather with barbs that are about the length of the hook. Tie it by the stem in front of the thorax. Tying by the stem gives a more durable fly.



7. Grab feather by the stem (not the barbs), and wrap it forward 2-1/2 turns. Stroke the barbs back as you wrap. Wind the thread rearward a little, if necessary, to make the barbs slope backward. Secure and whip finish.



8. Use smooth jaw pliers when working with the stainless steel wire. Serrations on the jaws might let the wire slip, or they might nick the wire making it weaker. Grab the one and one quarter inch long wire in the middle and bend into an open staple or paper clip shape. Be sure the ends of the wire overlap. If the ends just meet they sometimes slip when you are playing a big fish.



9. Place one end of the bent wire in the vise and slip the trailer fly over one end as shown.



10. Start the thread in the middle of the staple or paper clip and wind thread to hold parts together. Gradually work outward. As you work the thread winds outward from the center make sure you don't restrict either end. Especially keep the end with the trailer fly free. This is about enough thread winding.



11. Use the pliers to twist the front part of the wire to a horizontal position so it looks like a regular ring eye on a hook.



12. Turn the fly over in the vise so the trailer fly is down. Select a generous portion of elk mane, about a pencil diameter, and tie it onto the stainless steel wire. Have the thread wraps farther back from the eye than you normally would. Elk mane doesn't flair like body hair does.



13. Slip your scissors between the wire and the elk mane with the blades on top and bottom of the bundle. Cut elk mane behind the eye. Hold wing tightly and unwind most of the thread winds so you can rewind them closer to the eye. Whip finish and put a little head cement on the thread only.



Continued from page 4

14. Turn the fly over and clip any elk hair that slipped around to the bottom. Also clip some of the fibers at the bottom of the wing. Make sure the trailer fly is free to move.



15. Here is a trailer fly that was tied with scud back. Experiment a little with different patterns.



Closing comments: Caddis flies are common in just about all of the streams and lakes worldwide. There are times when a high floating Elk Hair Caddis doesn't do the trick. That is the time to turn to an emerger. The Erv Emerger is a little more complicated to tie, but having a few of them in your fly box can do wonders for your catch rate. So tie a few, and go fishing.

2015 NWYCFFAcademy

By Mike Clancy

I am happy to report that we are going to have another full house again this year for The Academy. We set our goal to recruit 22 boys and girls, and we have accomplished that goal. I am also happy to report that all of our instructors from the past years are going to return, and we are blessed to have some of the best in our area.

What we will need now is support from the fly fishing community to help the kids at the River and Ponds. Folks that are willing to make sure the kids are safe and help with their fishing. If you would like to help, please call:

Jim Brosio @ 360-943-9947

Tom VanGelder @253-261-8890

Mike Clancy @253-278-0061.

The fishing is in the early morning and in the evening after dinner starting Monday evening. The event is June 21-27 at The Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. Mike Clancy, Co-Director

May Presentation

The Rocky Mountain Fly Highway

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2015

May 26 — **June 16 (Picnic)** — July & August (No Meetings) September 22
October 27 — November 24 — December 15 (Club Fishing Picture Presentations)

June 16 is our Club's picnic and this year we are also having a garage sale, 50/50 split of funds for you and for the club.

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

The Sun Felt Wonderful

The sun felt wonderful as I sat in the garage opening looking out towards Mount Rainer. I was taking a break from a frustrating morning working on the newer truck. Wrong parts sent and manufacture changes to other parts had put waste to my days off efforts to bring the newer truck up to snuff. So I sat taking in the view letting my frustration dissipate. The warmth I sat in had triggered an insect hatch; the swallows that call our yard their summer home have returned and sit in their normal location on the cable line running to our home. The swallow's iridescent colors of white and green sparkle in the clear air. On the front lawn Mr. and Mrs. Robin scratch and peck at the front lawn; like the swallows they come back every year. And they are always welcome.

Mount Rainer's new coat of snow reflected the sun's rays back at me with such intensity that I squinted to view it clearly. The real world pushed my disquiet away and I stepped back and reflected on the near past and the promise of the future. Cosmic forces have been in full play lately. My lead at work had her truck totaled by a hit and run semi. She suffered a concussion putting her on the disabled list for a couple of weeks. When she returned to work from her truck crush I told her that she had to give me her Christian card as only the good died young and that I wanted her to stick around. She laughed heartily and hand it right over. It is good to have her and her laugh back.



Another dear friend is going through a marriage crises and it is heart rendering to get her texts and offer survival tips to help her travel this difficult road that she now walks. When hearts, minds, dreams and wishes come crashing down on our heads it is a monumental struggle to find meaning in our new reality. The disquieting thing is that most of the time there is no why, there is only the now and turmoil. If there are answers they may never be found in this life time, hopefully maybe in a future one. For now I listen and let her know that I care. Very wisely she has chosen the Phoenix and the bear as her totems to guide her through.

Just before Easter I was out in the yard and my hip vibrated, it was an email from my first love. We last saw each other 45 years ago. When her name popped up on the screen forty five years dropped away and I was a young man running beside an old green Rambler with failed brakes, crawling through the passenger door to save a damsel in distress. That took me a just a wee bit to get my mind bent around; time travel triggered by an email. Somehow she came across a blog I started 4 years before and abandoned a year later, I thought nobody was reading it. In some way those old Back of Beyond articles sparked a neuron in her being and she put together a lot of courage to send me an email to see if I remembered her. I did and she has caught me up on many of the people we knew and that I had lost track of in the last 45 years. A very brave lady and I thank her for conquering her fears and getting in touch. Old lovers always have baggage and 45 years does not erase them. I'm glad that she reached out.

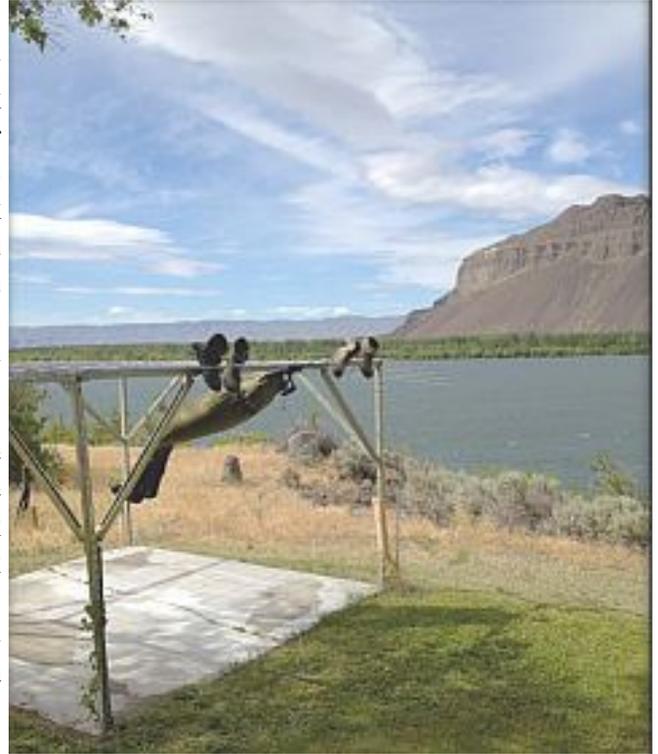
As the bees worked the dandelions in the pasture on my right, my mind drifted to thoughts of promised fishing trips. The newer truck was purchased from a coworker, no name yet: Johnny while drivable is not dependable enough to take on fishing trips. I could not work on him and get to my day job, while he was being repaired. However the newer truck needs some work as well but now I have another to drive while I work on the other one. It is an understatement to say that a dependable vehicle is a must for fishing.

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One of those future trips is a Sea Run Cutthroat trout adventure, Howard (my boss) and I have been conspiring together to go exploring Puget Sound for this beautiful fish. Now that Amada T is back, we just might be able to squeak a few lunches together so that I can teach him to cast. Of course we are at the mercy of the work gods on this one but we keep our fingers crossed and hope. It is a great dream just at the moment an unrealized one.

In early June the Alpine Fly Fishers have a club outing called Cast and Blast. This one is already on the work calendar so I'm looking forward to three days on the water and trailer evenings with good friends, snacking on John's Jalapeño Poppers, while laughter raises the roof of the Pink lady. There is even a rumor that there will be Scotch sipped while the mighty Columbia rolls to the sea and the canyon winds blow down gorge. Last time I was there our waders dried vertically, just a fresh evening breeze to shake the cobwebs from your soul.

Sometime this summer Sean has invited me to spend time with him exploring the Olympic peninsula. In preparation he has sent me a link to a NPR news cast and a book recommendation, Mountain in the Clouds. I have homework for the trip, must be a residual from his teaching career. It is fine with me, pre-knowledge opens my eyes wider and the adventure expands. Walking with Sean in wildness is a treasure to be savored.



In early July, Cy and his family will make their annual pilgrimage north to spend time with us. This is special time when Terry and I have our children and grand-children all together. Hopefully this year there will be less car repair time and more play time. There are Cascade trails to walk and vistas to gaze from. And most important I get to hug my kids and grandkids.

Come October it's Dunsmuir time, Bob, Jeff, Scott, Kevin, Cy, Roger and me will stand in the Upper Sacramento and wave rods. This time together fuels our souls and laughter and joy fills our lungs with fresh air. Fly Fishing has brought me the best friends, so is it any wonder that it fills my thoughts while setting in the warm sunshine of early Northwest spring.

Someday soon, may you sit in the sunshine and reflect on the cosmic forces that swirl through our lives and may you dream of possibilities of waving a stick in a stream.

Well enough musing I've still got to put the brakes back together and figure out what to do about those damn redesigned oil cooler lines.

"Seek out that particular mental attitude which makes you feel most deeply and vitally alive, along with which comes that inner voice which says "this is the real me", and when you have found that attitude, follow it."

William James

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



2015 WSCIFFF FLY FISHING FAIR

May 1 - 2, 2015

Friday & Saturday
Ellensburg, WA



The WSCIFFF Board and fair committee invite you to see the variety of tying, casting and learning events at the 9th Annual Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg Washington May 1st and 2nd 2015. Free seminars will be given that may include Fishing the Upper Columbia, Steelhead Fishing in Washington, or maybe Bass Fishing in your backyard. Workshops at various fees on casting, from beginning to expert some designed just for women.

An IFFF Nine Hole Casting Course will be available both for competition and your knowledge, the cost FREE. See how good you are in the areas that you have perfected and find out where your cast needs more work. Tasks of the course are "The Multiple C", "The Obstacle", "Reach Right & Left", "Pile it Up", "Fly First", "Tighten Up", "Get it Under", "The Non-Stop", "What's Comfortable". Fun for anyone, regardless of experience, walking from hole to hole along the nine hole casting course. Each hole presents a different real fishing situation which you get to solve by learning more about fly casting. You may pick up some valuable new ideas about how to cast for fun or fishing.

Bring your own equipment...or equipment and instructors are available to guide you along the course.

Private lessons with a Certified Casting Instructor will be available for a fee. These men and women know their casting to a "T" and will work with you on your cast.

About one hundred tiers will be tying flies on Friday and Saturday for your enjoyment and learning. The techniques and tips will be available to you for the asking. Some tiers will be as young as 14, yes 14. Fly tying isn't just for the "old guy". These young tiers are good and will show you how to tie their patterns with many tips available. Every type and style of fly by all ages of tiers will be tied, find those that interest you and watch how the experienced do it and pick up all the tips you can.

The WSCIFFF through your support can continue our mission to conserve and restore our resource's and educate fly fishers in their sport and grow advocacy for fish and fisheries.

There will be vendors available with tying materials, rods, reels, lines and a full spectrum of items needed for fly fishing that you can try out, buy and question for the quality and uses for your casting and fishing styles.

Times for the fair are May 1, Fri. 9 AM-5PM and May 2, Sat. 8AM-5PM, all at the Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg WA.

FFF members and youth under 16 get in for free, nonmembers cost is only \$5.

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS
Conserve, Restore and Educate Through Fly Fishing

A Fly Fishing Quote:

"...buying a fly rod in the average city store, that is, joining it up and safely wagging it a bit, is much like seeing a woman's arm protruding from a car window: all one can readily be sure of is that the window is open."
~ Anatomy of a Fisherman by Robert Traver 1903 - 1991 ~



For Sale

**Brand new
Nor-Vise,
Bobbin Kit,
Bamboo Mounting Board
And DVD**

\$350

Bruce Jones was kind enough to donate this brand new Nor-Vise outfit to our club as a fund raiser.

Retail value for this is \$405 plus tax, making it a \$445 value.

I am offering this to our club members first then I will sell it on Ebay if we have no takers. I personally have two Nor-Vises and love them. Please consider buying this, it is a very good deal.

Thank you Bruce.





Alpine Fly Fishers
Next Meeting
May 26, 2015



2015 WSCIFFF FLY FISHING FAIR
May 1 - 2, 2015
Friday & Saturday
Ellensburg, WA



2015 IFFF FLY FISHING FAIR
August 11 - 15, 2015
Bend, Oregon




BLOG

The Federation now has a blogspot. Join the conversation and read what others have to say.

<http://fedflyfishers.blogspot.com>

May / June 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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*"The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness,
the human soul is apt to revive also."
Harriet Ann Jacobs 1813 - 1897*

1 MAY 2

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26 Club Meeting	27	28	29	30

Club Picnic is on the 3rd Tuesday of June!!!!!!	June 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Club Picnic	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<i>"In a bowl to sea went wise men three, On a brilliant night of June: They carried a net, and their hearts were set On fishing up the moon." ~ Thomas Love Peacock 1785 - 1866 ~</i>			

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

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