

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting
Tuesday

September 22

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


FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club
1000 Stewards member



**NO MAY MEETING
NO JUNE PICNIC**

The Dead Drift - May 2020

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Some Thoughts

Right now we are living through a very scary period of time. None of us were alive during the great pandemic of 1918/1919. That Spanish Influenza swept around the world killing somewhere between 50 million and 100 million people. It took the life of my father's mother, when he was just a small boy. People adapted back then and kept going on.

The Great Plague and the Black Death that swept through Europe and Asia in waves for over hundreds of years during the Middle Ages, killed off massive numbers of people. But the people adapted and kept going on.

Back when humanity, as we know it, was just getting started, there were periods of time when we were almost totally wiped off the face of the earth. One time was a volcanic induced winter lasting for a very long period of time and it killed off the majority of humanity. But several core groups survived they adapted and kept going on.

What we are facing now is no where near that catastrophic. They will produce a vaccine that will protect us and the majority of the world from this newest pandemic. I am sure the virus will eventually mutate and try dumping its evil upon us again. I can only hope our scientists will be able to keep a sharp vigilance on this particular strain and beat it down into submission. Humans have a strong will to survive. We too shall adapt and keep going on.

So, my friends, stay safe. Keep your distance. Wear masks. Do what the doctors say. Don't forget, this was a new and totally unforeseen situation. I am sure that when this is all over, we as a nation and the rest of the world will be far better prepared if this ever happens again, and it may.

Larry



President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

Wow, shutting down recreational fishing statewide. That was a big step. I can see why they would do it for gear fishers, heck, they stand shoulder to shoulder on the rivers when casting. Fly fishers on the other hand have been practicing 'social distancing' forever. Can you image what it would be like standing shoulder to shoulder while a number of fly casters are fishing? There would be massive birds nest to untangle and I am sure a lot of hooks being removed from the skins of people. Fly casters simply need a lot of room between themselves, hence 'social distancing'. OK, so I am being a bit facetious, I know why the governor did that and I have to agree. But they also shut down our local cup cake bakery, I mean don't they know that cup cakes are part of the essential food group? Oh well, this too shall pass and we will be able to wet our lines sometime down the road and chomp down on a fresh cupcake.

It is a good time to get out and do some casting practice. No, not on the water but on the grass. They will never suspect you are fishing for grass eating carp. Speaking of carp. I don't target them but I must admit they are a very strong fish and a good fighter. I have caught three total in my life, all while fishing for smallmouth bass. I love fishing for smallies, which is one reason why I like fishing the Clark Fork River. You get down near the confluence of the Flathead River and the Clark Fork and you start getting into smallie territory. It used to be only at the confluence. Then we started seeing them farther up the Clark Fork. They are slowly expanding their territory. I believe the Northern Pike are also slowly moving up stream. Steve Temple of the Clark Fork Trout fly shop can get you into some really nice smallie fishing.

The Yakima River has some great smallmouth bass fishing, down around Benton City and downstream from there. Steve Worley of the Worley Bugger Fly Co. can take you on a lower Yakima drift and you will have a blast catching those terrific fighters.

There I go, dreaming about fishing again when we can't do any. Guess I will have to settle for changing some fly lines, cleaning and treating others and gathering gear for when we can get our lines wet again. Oh yea, maybe tying some flies!

Check out the fish photos on pages 10 & 11. The Fox and I missed the Skwalla hatch this year on the Clark Fork, thanks to the virus, but they will hatch again next year. I also missed the Skawalla hatch on the Yakima River. 2021 is looking better all the time.

"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.

Larry

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

Fly Fishing International
Fly of the Month
May 2006
UMBRELLA CALLIBAETIS
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. We don't have many fishing reports yet. However, one of our club members fished the Yakima River near Ellensburg, Washington in March and "Absolutely Crushed" the fish with his Umbrella Blue Wing Olive. Many times the fish will be hooked in the upper jaw. A lot of tiers around Washington are tying a variety of patterns on these hooks and catching fish with them. We should have more stories to tell later in the year. I haven't proved it yet, but I think that it will impale a fish trying to make a last microsecond refusal sometimes seen on heavily fished quality waters.

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.

In January, 2006 one of our friends, Stann Grater, set up and ran the Orvis booth at the huge fly fishing show in Somerset, New Jersey. While there, he watched a couple of Japanese fellows tying flies on the Elephant Proof Umbrella hooks. He learned how to tie the flies, was given a finished fly, found out how to order them and brought everything back to Swede's Fly Shop in Spokane, Washington. When Swede, a.k.a. Allen Peterson, saw the hook he immediately sent an e-mail to Japan and ordered a bunch of them. Swede displayed the sample fly in his shop, and put a picture of it on his website, www.swedesflyshop.com. Soon tiers all over Washington wanted the hooks.

They are a little pricey, over, 50 cents each, but the umbrella hook idea is attractive enough to make it worthwhile. These are new hooks and production is infinitesimal by normal standards. They will probably be in short supply for some time. I know Swede works hard to keep them in stock. It is difficult partly because of demand and partly because of the long delivery time.

The pictured fly is based on one of my Callibaetis styles. Species of the mayfly Genus Callibaetis, also known as "The Speckled Dun" by many anglers, are multibrooded. That is that there are up to three or four hatches each year, and hatches might happen from May to October. Callibaetis are most important in stillwaters, but they can be found in slow water stretches of many streams. The mayflies usually become smaller with each succeeding hatch. The common name comes from the distinctly speckle wing markings on the spinner, which makes you wonder about "Dun" in the name. Don't worry, one definition of "dun" is "mayfly." Use a floating line and fish this pattern drag free in the surface film. Sometimes a little wiggle attracts the fish if they don't hit the drag free float.

Continued on page 4 —————>

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.

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.

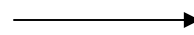
6. Select two hen hackles, match tips and put dark sides together so they separate at the tips. Place them on body with tips to rear and near the rear of the body. Switch hands holding the feather in place and cut the feathers at the eye. Move hand away from eye slightly and roll fingers back so the 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. Or if you want tie a few different patterns. See below.



UMBRELLA MIDGE



UMBRELLA HANK OF HAIR (Caddis)



UMBRELLA BLUE WING OLIVE



FISHING REPORTS

Yea, right. Let's see. They shut down the fishing in the whole state of Washington. The Fox and I were getting ready to head for Montana, but that pesky coronavirus got in the way, first shutting down our state except for essential travel (I mean, fly fishing must be essential!!) then Montana shut down their state except for essential travel and imposed a 14 day quarantine period for anyone entering the state. By the time they did that Bill and I had already decided to not do our Montana trip (we missed the Skwalla hatch!! Darn!!) and we postponed it for an unspecified time in the near future (we hope). At least if you are a caster you can do some great practice casting on the lawn. Meanwhile, if you do happen to get in a legal bit of fishing, please send a quick report to me, and possibly a photo?

Larry

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

Reflections from Our End of the Gravel Driveway

One of the rewards of an outdoor life is the view, many are the times I looked out upon the world and realized that I could not discern where the earth ends, and heaven begins. What a peaceful and restful feeling that is. It is the season of fast-moving storms and sunshine; grass growth is exponential, bee's flick from one blossom to the next like overloaded helicopters. Our pastures look like dandelion heaven, bright yellow balls of glory fill the expanse of green like stars in a clear night sky. It is almost a travesty to mow it down, but if we do not



keep after it, the resulting mass of thick and lush growth would swallow everything that lays within it reach. It is so much easier to contain it, than to try and reclaim it.

Our sun filled skies have been a welcome relief from the winters rain, in this time of social distancing I am pulling all our camping equipment out of the moisture rich storage shed and transferring it to a new temporary home. In the process I am catching up on all the equipment repair projects that I have put off and battling all the mold that has flourished on all the soft goods. All the camp chairs have been washed and mended. I have started the process of replacing missing and broken D-rings, fixing leaks and reattaching oar mounts on my inflatable rafts. I have made upgrades to my truck, I have assembled a portable diesel parking heater for warming my roof top tent during the shoulder season and winter camping, the truck's kitchen got upgraded with a new shelving/work surface, paper towel holder and a cutlery drawer.

While I work my iPod shuffles through over 4800 eclectic songs of life, love, hope, despair, joy, and philosophy. The music transports me to the places where there is no difference between heaven and earth. It has been said the Lord loves us the most when we are at play, I know for me that is a truth. I recently spent a pleasant 2 + hours on YouTube watching a film called Sound City, you know that time when everyone else is in bed and the house quiets and cools. There is nothing to divert your attention and your mind opens up and the information flows. My fascination with music history drew me in. I had no idea that a recording studio lost in the sprawl of the San Fernando Valley on the other side of the tracks, had such an impact on the musicians and music of our era.

In 1969 Joe Gottfried and Tom Skeeter wanted to get into the music business, they bought a former production factory and then invested in a state-of-the-art recording console for the unheard-of sum of \$75,175.00 from the legendary English electronics engineer Rupert Neve. That Neve 8028 one of only four in the world, it became the heart and soul of Sound City. The first song recorded on that console was performed by Lindsey Buckingham and Steve Nicks (Buckingham Nicks) which led to an invitation to join Fleetwood Mac. Over the next 5 decades this small recording studio hidden amongst dilapidated warehouses of Van Nuys, would produce over 100 Gold and Platinum Records. Listed here are only a few of the Artists that recorded there: Spirt, Neil Young, Dr. John, Buckingham Nicks, Elton John, Bachman-Turner Overdrive, Fleetwood Mac, War, Rick Springfield, Grateful Dead, Cheap Trick, Foreigner, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Pat Benatar, Santana, REO Speedwagon, Guns N' Roses, Nirvana, The Black Crows, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash, and the list goes on and on. Why is this so significant, two men's dream and a sound counsel that truly captured the sound of the recording artists, changed meah, into extraordinary allowing the artists to be recognized by the world, the rich sound captured by that counsel on tape, made our lives richer.

The Magic of the Neve 8028 was in how well it rendered the rich sound of drums and live performances of rock bands on tape. Sound City became the epicenter, for a shock wave that reverberated throughout the world of music, it was where music grew as they experimented, shared, and celebrate the joy of music, just another example of a place where heaven and earth merged. A final take-a-way from the film Sound City, to open up your appreciation of music and its history find out who influenced and inspired your favorite musicians. The world is smaller, tighter, and richer than you imagine. Your enjoyment of music will grow.

In closing out this article let me pass around some thank-you's, first to all the health care workers, from support Staff to the Doctors and Nurses, your day to day care of us is a blessing but in this pandemic, your light truly shines, to the people that stay home to protect themselves and others, your part in sharing the light is more precious than you know, we will never know how many lives you have saved, but together we have flattened the curve and someone walks the earth today because of you. To each of you in the essential services area, putting your life on the line making sure that goods and services were delivered, you helped us maintain a semblance of normality in a major social upheaval. To the business leaders who cared for their workers and found ways to show it. To the teachers who have put together online learning programs and hosted video programs to keep their students connected and engaged. To the musician that are performing from home. To all the unknown people who have put themselves on the line for us all. Thank You. Your efforts are where heaven and earth merge into one.

In this time of self-quarantine, it is wise to remember that all things go into contraction before break throughs. Newton defined the laws of gravity while self-quarantine during the plague. This is just one of many things he developed during this time. He described the year and half that he was social distancing as the most intellectually productive period of his life. Like Newton, take this time to reflect, inspect and innovate, with all the challenges that we face in this lifetime, a period of introspection is particularly important, our future depends on it.

Hope this finds each of you well and safe, I know you are looking forward to wide open spaces and the feel of water between your legs. May it come to you to at the right time and place, we cannot push time, we can only embrace it as it comes. And at that moment may you view the world and notice that there is no difference between heaven and earth if we open our eyes and see.

Stephen

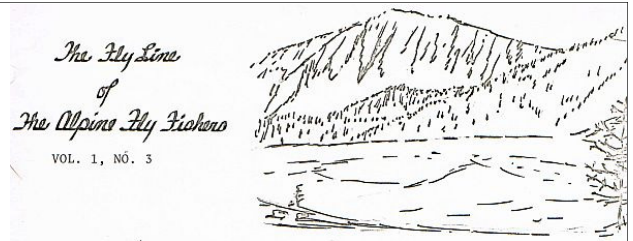
"When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind – Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

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



~ In The Past ~
The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -
Vol. 4 No. 7
July of 1976

Gary Ritchie, Acting 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.

Program: There being no scheduled dinner meeting in July, we will have a family fishout on North Lake and a hot-dog roast at my place, which is right on the lake. If you have a boat, put it in at the public fishing access at the SW end of the lake. My house is at the opposite end of the lake from the access and can be located by the very large cottonwood tree at the lake's edge. Also, it is the only red house on North Lake.

If you have no boat, you can come directly to my house and fish (or swim) from my back yard. I will supply hot dogs, hamburgers and fire. Bring a 6-pack and potato salad if you would like (also some lawn chairs if you have them). Fishing is best later in the afternoon or evening. Bring some light colored, small dry patterns.

Fishing desk: It's me again.

FFI Takes Action on COVID-19
BY FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
Important Message from President and CEO Patrick Berry

Dear Fly Fishers International Community,

As all of us strive to navigate the challenges presented to our communities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fly Fishers International recognizes we are facing some important decisions. The Executive Committee of the FFI Board of Directors convened a special meeting on March 16th to determine appropriate action regard to the 2020 FFI International Fly Fishing Expo scheduled to take place in Bozeman, MT in July of 2020, as well as review additional guidance for members, clubs, and councils.

Regarding the Expo, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to postpone the event until next year, a decision made using guidance from the CDC and other health experts. FFI values the health and well-being of our members and broader fly fishing community, and we simply do not want to add risks associated with convening hundreds of people from around the world until we have a better understanding of the challenges ahead. This decision does provide us with a great opportunity to focus our planning efforts on a new regional model for the Expo to begin taking place in 2021. The goal is to bring the FFI Expo experience to you!

In your own community, we encourage our members, clubs, and councils to evaluate planned meetings and events, and any risk posed to attendees. When making decisions, we recommend using the following guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

Unless absolutely necessary, and due to the stringent nature of the current CDC guidance, we would nevertheless recommend that you to postpone, reschedule, or cancel upcoming events, including all Casting Instructor Certification Program events worldwide. We will continue to re-evaluate future scheduling and provide updates on CDC guidelines as they evolve.

One thing we would strongly encourage: go fishing. There aren't many better ways to exercise the practice of "social distancing," and it will take your mind away from the turmoil we are currently facing. In the meantime, take the right precautions to keep you and your family healthy, and let's hope the crisis subsides in the months to come.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. Berry
President and CEO



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

FFI Fly Casting Fair
May 2, Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island, WA

Cancelled due to virus!

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 for buying some squares on the Loop fly rod/reel board. Between their purchases and my own purchases, we now have 35% 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 a winner then.

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 Trout

No this is not your standard trout that you usually catch on the Clark Fork, but I personally have caught a few that were bigger and fuller of body.

At the end of March is when this beauty was caught on the Clark Fork River near St. Regis.



Fishing on the Clark Fork River

I asked Brooks Sanford, one of the great guides for the Clark Fork Trout fly shop, to send me a few photos of some of their recent catches in late March. Here is what he sent. Don't drool on your keyboard, it will short it out.



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guided happiness!

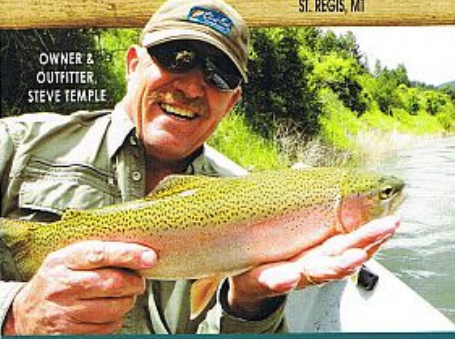


Clark Fork Trout.com

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 contact Clark Fork Trout.

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Loop 'Q' Fly Rod Outfit



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

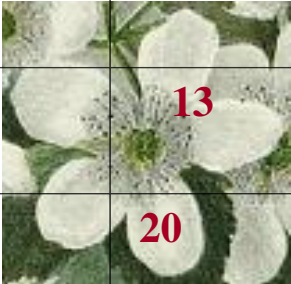
It includes a 5 weight, 4 piece 'Q' fly rod,
'Q' 4/5 large arbor fly reel,
'Q' weight forward floating fly line
'Q' rod/reel case

(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.

May / June 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"The year's at the spring, And day's at the morn; Morning's at seven; The hill-side's dew-pearled; The lark's on the wing; The snail's on the thorn; God's in his Heaven— All's right with the world!" - Robert Browning, The Year's at the Spring					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 31	25	26	27	28	29	30
NO MAY MEETING!!						

"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	 No picnic this year!!!!			
			"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			

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Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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