

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on

Tuesday

May 28, 2013

We will be meeting at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup at 6 PM



Charter
Club



The Dead Drift - May 2013

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Mailing Address

Board of Directors

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By Larry Gibbs

The 'Big One' that did not get away

It is no secret that my favorite state to go fishing is Montana. This year I decided to go a little early, with the hopes of hitting the Skwala hatch to catch some large Rainbows and Cutthroats. I arrived on a Tuesday afternoon and the Clark Fork River looked rather muddy and high. For the previous month the river had been running below the 83 year Median Daily flow rate, which was perfect. Remember that false warm spring weather we had just before Old Man Winter hit us again? Well, the rivers of Montana all shot up with the melting lowland snows. Just great! My guide, Brooks Sanford, picked me up on Wednesday morning and we did the float from St. Regis to the 14 Mile Bridge. It was hard fishing. I managed 9 trout, the biggest was only 16 inches. The river shot up another 1,000 cfs that night.

Brooks picked me up on Thursday morning and suggested we hit the Flathead River for Smallmouth Bass. Sounded good to me. The Flathead was running clear and with a beautiful aqua-green color. I caught my first Northern Pike that day, a small 25 incher, yea, small, for a Northern Pike, but big to me. I also caught a 17 inch Smallie and a 15 inch Smallie plus a few under that. Then the 'Big One' hit. You can always tell when you have an exceptional fish. The guides get really excited and their voices go up a couple notches. I brought in a beautiful, fat female Smallmouth bass of 20 inches. The Montana state record smallie is 21+ inches but they judge by weight. Mine was over 5 pounds but the state record was a little over 6 pounds. So, I had a near record Smallie. That I enjoyed. We took a couple pictures, did a quick length measurement and released her back into her home where she will be able to spawn many future generations of large Smallmouth Bass. Check out the photo on page 8.

To finish my fishing report, I also fished the Flathead on Friday, cold wet rain and lots of wind blowing upstream. I caught some more nice Smallies, but nothing to compare to the 'Big One'. That is ok. She is still there, waiting for me or someone else.

Looks like in the future I will have to include a day on the Flathead River along with my days on the Clark Fork.

Don't forget, the WA Fly Fishing Fair is May 3 & 4, come on over and check it out.

Good fishing.



Jock Scott Tied by Davy Wotton

Larry

Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

Shrimp

May 2009

By Bob Bates



There are many food sources for fish that swim from fresh water to the salt. About three years ago Scott Kinney, Eugene, OR started fishing for steelhead with flies that were tied to represent shrimp. In Oregon there are 60 some varieties of shrimp (300 species worldwide). Scott tied this pattern at the 2008 Northwest Fly Tier Expo in Albany, OR. As he tied it, many pictures of shrimp species were shown on his computer. He fishes bays, estuaries and fresh water for steelhead, coho, Chinook, sea run cuts and other fish that might be interested in his shrimp pattern. It works quite well for him. Fish probably start feeding on shrimp in the bays and estuaries before they head out to sea. At sea there are many more opportunities to feed on nourishing shrimp. So Scott feels he is offering the returning fish something to remind them of home.

Materials list:

Hook: For this tie he used a Daiichi hook, size 6, but he uses many other hooks and sizes

Thread: Red 6/0

Antenna*: Crystal flash, pinkish

Legs and other front portions of shrimp: Marabou, fleshy pink

Weight: Lead eyes (Additional lead wire optional)

Shellback: Magic shrimp foil, 1/8th inch wide

Rib: Ultra wire red brassy

Body: Medium Krystal hackle shrimp, pink

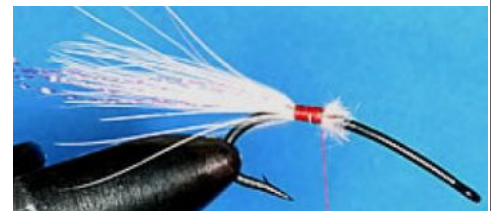
* Apparently the shrimp don't have a real antenna, but many drawings show long fine appendages.

Tying steps:

1. Tipping the hook downward makes attaching the lead eyes easier. Attach thread at rear of hook and for this hook size attach four 2-inch pieces of Crystal Flash.



2. Attach pink marabou to simulate legs over bend of hook



3. Attach lead eyes roughly over point of hook. Use little black eyes on the smaller patterns. Always keep the size of eyes proportional to hook size.



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4. Tie on shellback Magic shrimp foil and red Ultra wire behind the eyes. Also, rotate hook in vise to level the shank

5. Sometimes Scott adds lead wire all the way to the hook eye for extra weight. Occasionally he will even put on two layers of lead. Do it before tying on the Krystal hackle. Tie in medium Krystal hackle behind the lead eyes, and wind thread forward to about one eye width behind the hook's eye.

6. Put two wraps of Krystal hackle behind the lead eyes while stroking the fibers back to prevent winding them down. Wrap Krystal hackle around one lead eye, pass it to other side of hook, once around the other lead eye then wrap in front of the lead eyes. This gives full body at back of hook. Now start wrapping forward while stroking the fibers back. Secure behind the eye, and trim excess.

7. Trim top fibers about even with the lead eyes and tapering to the front.

8. Pull shellback forward.

9. Secure the shellback with a couple of thread wraps. Wrap the wire forward, can be counter wrapped or not. The first wrap is over the shellback behind the eyes, then under the eyes to just in front of the eyes. Spiral wire forward to hook eye, secure under the shellback, and trim wire with old scissors. Trim shellback a little more than two eye widths ahead of tie down point

10. Hold up shellback and wind thread over wire to cover it for small head. Pick out sides a little then trim sides and front of body a little. Concentrate on tapering down the Krystal hackle toward the tail of the shrimp (eye of the hook). Apply a little head cement on the thread winds under the shellback.



There are also some bigger shrimp to imitate so Scott ties some flies up to size 1/0. These flies usually have extra weight. Please be careful when you cast one of these heavily weighted flies. It hurts when one hits you in the back of the head.

Washington Fly Fishing Fair 2013

Ellensburg, WA May 3-4, 2013

Hours: Friday 11:00 am to 5:00 PM — Volunteer dinner 5:30 PM

Hours: Saturday 8:00 am to 5:00 PM — Banquet at 6:00 PM — Awards, board nominations, distinguished guests, etc
7:00 PM Auction follows ~7:45 PM

Welcome,

I welcome you to the 2013 Washington Fly Fishing Fair web page. This is our seventh annual event and the result of the generous support of many talented flytiers, casters and flyfishers devoted to our sport and to conservation and education. The WSCFFF board and fair committee encourage you to visit our Fair pages often to check on updates. Please check out:

- Our free seminars will be located in the Manastash Room and the Heritage Center
- Our workshops: With space in some will be limited so sign up early to reserve your spot
- Our amazingly talented fly tiers, we have about 100 tiers for you to see. The list will be updated as they sign up
- Our Federation Fly Fishing 9 Hole Casting Course at the Park, it's free. On Saturday afternoon there will be a competition, it's also free and there are some great prizes
- Get an emergency check up on your casting at the Park....at our casting clinic on Saturday. It's free!
- Our vendors and partners

While we encourage everyone to have a great time, this event is our only fund raiser and our major source of funds to support education and conservation events in the coming year. So we encourage you to attend and participate in our auction and raffles. If you have any items you would like to donate please contact Larry Gibbs, our Auction/Raffle Chair.

On Saturday evening we have our awards banquet. The evening will consist of dinner, Council awards and our live auction. Please register and join us.

This event does not go off without the help of a lot of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me. On Friday evening we hold a dinner for our volunteers and vendors to thank them for their support because without them this event would not be possible.

I hope to see you there.

Carl Johnson

Alpine Fly Fishers Meeting in 2013

May 28 June 25 (Picnic) September 24 October 22 November 26 December 17
(No meetings in July nor August — Go fishing)

FFF Events in 2013

Washington State
Washington



Council of the FFF
Fly Fishing Fair

The Washington State Council will bring you the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. Friday and Saturday, **May 3 & 4, 2013**. Don't miss this one, it is a great event!!!!



INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF
FLY FISHERS



The Federation of Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Fair will be held in West Yellowstone, MT. This will be a FALL gathering, **September 24 - 28, 2013**.

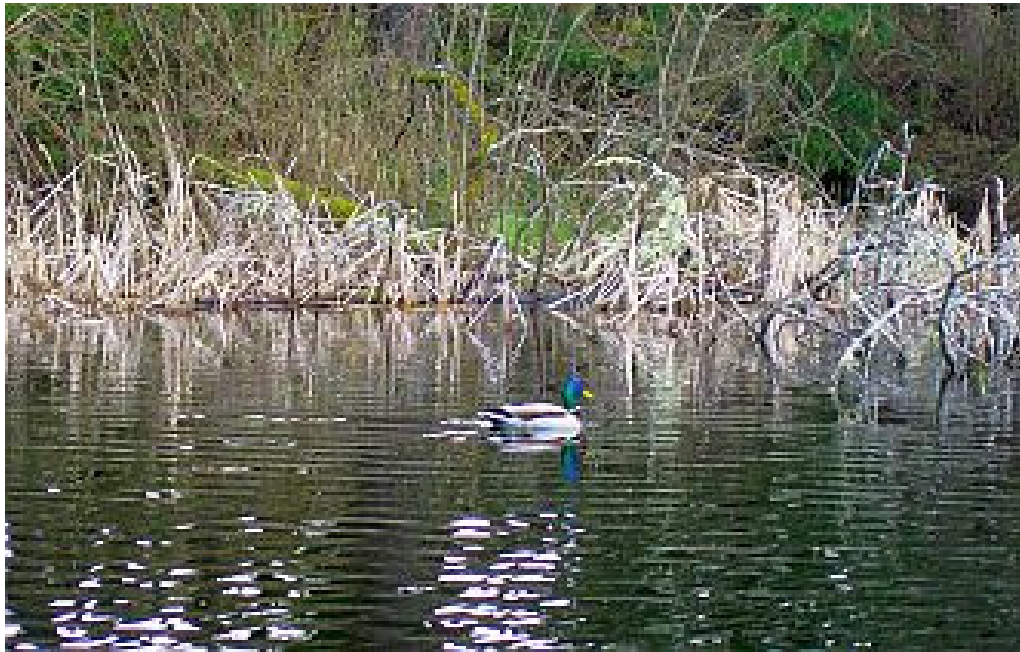
Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

Shanghai Wind

My left shirt pocket vibrated; it was Howard an expatriated Washingtonian now living in Montana calling. He was going to be in town in two weeks and wanted to know if I wanted to go fishing with him on Munn Lake. The hair on the back of my neck lifted as a breath of a breeze began to blow. I answered with an affirmative and he promised to get back to me with the details; as I pushed the end button on the phone to disconnect, that breath of a breeze was a strong breeze. Before I knew it, it was a wind. The wind is the oldest river, rhythmic, unceasing, and infinite, you can feel it but not touch it, hear it but not see it, harness it, but not control it, go with it, or stand against it. It goes where it wants, you can be one, with it, or be buffeted by its passage. For me the pull of fishing is like being tossed around by the wind, it is always best to go with the current. No, I was not being pressed ganged into going fishing, but I think shanghai wind is an appropriate term for answering the call to go fishing. It is a fishing wind.



The big blue above was filled with big clouds with dark bottoms but it only spit on me as I passed through Olympia. To put it simply, it was a gorgeous day for fishing. It is about an hour drive from my house to Munn Lake just outside Olympia, WA. It is a neighborhood lake not too far from the Olympia Airport and exit 101 off I-5. When I arrived at the Lake, Bill Fox was anchored in the parking lot putting his pontoon boat together and Duffy was already on the water, with her usual efficiency. Bill Aubrey

and Howard Inks pulled up just before I launched. Howard impressed us all by bringing his oars this time, today he had miss placed his seat but with a persistence search that too was revealed; with that good omen I cast a dark green Jay Fair wiggle tail and commenced the days fishing. I had a major hook up on my third cast; the days fishing prospects was showing some promise.

As I finned along the east bank a gentle shanghai breeze blew the cobwebs from my mind. It was just one of those days when it was great to be breathing. I was surrounded by tall western hemlocks pointing the way to heaven with interspersed leafless giant oaks anchoring the shore to the lake. Homes with large green lawns running to the water's western edge were nestled among tree stands. Red winged black birds perched on last year's bull rushes and sparrows flitted from bush to bush. I cast towards an underwater snag and had my second hook up, but like my first fish hookup, this fish came undone and slipped the hook also. No worries the fish finder showed lots of fish 7 to 8 feet down, I just had to find what they wanted and how to keep them hooked up.

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While my conscious mind weighed fly options and counted down seconds for the right depth for my intermediate sinking line my subconscious mind was free to seek its own solace. Pressing problems seem to work out for me if I let them go from my aware mind and let my intuitive mind handle them. Fishing is a way to recharge my batteries, it is my alone time, even when fishing with friends once you are on the water it is just you. On the water people interaction falls into how you are doing, what are you using, and once that information exchange happens social interaction is satisfied and you are back on your own. While people are wonderful and necessary, too much is too much. I know my wife does not fully understand my periodic need for alone time but for me it is a completion of the cycle, the yin and the yang. I'm not trying to get away, but to reconnect with myself. To re-establish my center; to create stillness in motion, and motion in stillness, open my mind to all the possibilities and find Tai Chi. (Grand Ultimate)

Although the fishing was slow, my intuitive mind was sorting through the daily hubris of life. I continued to get hits but no takes, it was time to take a break even from fishing and I put down my rod and opened up my lunch bag and drifted with the wind. The climate conditions were sun and clouds with short rain squalls. To cope I pulled my hood up or pulled it down, not much effort was required to make it feel alright. After my dinning interlude, I changed flies and tied on a black woolly buggler leach pattern, and cast out. After letting it sink I finned along the west bank trolling behind me. And that my friend was the answer to my hook up and land them issues. No stripping, no casting per say, just getting it to the right depth and just letting it drift behind as I finned along. I landed two beautiful rainbows 15+ inchers. They were both fat and sassy as I brought them to net, and both swam off slowly to deeper water after the release. It is such a great feeling when it all comes together.

Unfortunately for me just as the fishing picked up my free time was running out, I had to get on home, my grandsons soccer game needed my attendance. Howard and Bill Aubrey were still on the water as I headed north, they also had better luck in the afternoon and landed several fish but you will need to talk to them about that as I don't want to steal their thunder. Let's leave you with thought of multiple fish greater than 16" but less than 20". You will also need to check in with Bill Fox and Duffy as they got off the water earlier than I, on how there day went.

Yes I succumbed to the Shanghai Wind, it talks directly to my soul, and when it blows, whenever possible I answer to its call. When I fully surrender to its force it takes me to a place of wonder, peace and beauty.

May you too answer its call soon and often?

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



Sandy River Spey Clave

Oxbow Park, Sandy, OR www.flyfishusa.com

This year the Sandy River Spey Clave is totally integrated. Instead of "Ladies Day" on Friday, as in the past three Spey Claves, Friday has turned into "Beginner's Day", which focuses on introducing new anglers into the sport of Spey Fishing. Male and female Instructors/Presenters will mixed into all three days of the scheduled on-the-water programs.

What is the Sandy River Spey Clave?

It's a gathering of anglers interested in two-hand fly rod fishing.

It provides a format for the exchange of Spey casting & fishing information.

It's a free Spey casting college open to everyone.

It's a show for your entertainment.

It's a place to rub elbows with the best Spey casters and steelhead anglers in the World!

Has been termed, "The Woodstock of Spey casting events"!

The plan is to provide a weekend that will entertain and inform you. If you are interested in meeting other steelhead Spey fishers and hope to learn a lot about Spey casting and more about steelhead fishing, the Sandy River Spey Clave is for you. The event will start at Oxbow Park on Friday morning the 17th of May and conclude on Sunday 19th. Exhibitors may set up on Thursday May 16.

This time of year there should be plenty of Summer Steelhead. Most years it is also the peak of the Spring Chinook run. The days are long and the weather is warm. This event was first proposed by The International Spey Page and Discussion Group. If you are interested in Spey rod casting and fishing, we would strongly recommend that you join this warm friendly group. Spey Discussion Group

To attend The Sandy River Spey Clave there are no charges except for the Oxbow Park entrance and camping fees. Oxbow Park Entrance Fee is \$5.00 per vehicle.



20 Inch Smallmouth Bass

Yep, just had to show you all a picture of my 20 inch Smallmouth Bass that I caught on the Flathead River near Paradise, Montana

Guide service by Brooks Sanford

406-239-6640

St. Regis, MT



The Alpine Fly Fishers holds monthly meetings at the Puerto Vallarta restaurant in Puyallup.

We start our meetings around 6 PM and enjoy a social hour of food and drinks. Everyone gets to give a fishing report, then a guest speaker will give a presentation and finally we have a raffle.

Please feel free to join us and check out our club while you dine on some great tasting food.

May / June 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 May	2	3 WA Fly Fishing Fair	4 WA Fly Fishing Fair
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Club Meeting	29	30	31	

See You In Ellensburg ???

1 June

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25 Club Picnic	26	27	28	29

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 Larry Gibbs, Editor 253-863-4910 flytier015@q.com

Alpine Fly Fishers
 PO Box 1456
 Sumner, WA 98390

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 Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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