

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on

**Tuesday at 6:00 PM**

**November 23, 2010**

We will be meeting at the

**Puerto Vallarta**

**215 15th St. SE**

**Puyallup**



Charter  
Club



## The Dead Drift – November 2010

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### Presidents Line

*By Larry Gibbs*

Late Fall is upon us now, Winter is just around the corner. Soon our places are going to be filled with the smell of the turkey or ham or whatever your traditional Thanksgiving Day feast consists of, roasting in the oven. The leaves are turning color, taking on their yellow and red hues before gently floating their way to our lawns.

I was over on the Yakima River a few weeks ago. The road that goes down to the East Fork of the Cle Elum River is a narrow, tree lined country lane. It was rather pretty, with the trees forming a yellow canopy over the road. Falling leaves also means more leaves drifting in the rivers and on the lakes. I managed to catch more than my fair share of leaves, but, I also caught some Rainbows and Cutthroats, so it was a good day to be on the river.

Winter fishing can be very productive on the Yakima River. The water levels get low, the water clears up, and the fish tend to hold in small pods in certain sections of the river. The fish have to eat all winter long. The smaller fish only need to grab a few bugs per day to maintain their strength, but the larger fish need to feed 3 or 4 times as much as the smaller fish. That means you stand a really good chance of catching a larger fish during the winter.

Speaking of winter, we are having our December fund raiser a bit early this year, it will be on **Tuesday, December 14**. Usually we have our meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month except for December, when we normally have it on the 3rd Tuesday. But, this year, even the 3rd Tuesday was too close to Christmas so the club voted to have it on the 2nd Tuesday of December. As they say, **"Please make a note of that."**

We will have a rod in the raffle and a reel. There will be a lot of flies in fly boxes and many other neat items. Please, if you have a fly fishing related item or tool around the house that is in excellent shape and that you don't need, bring it to the meeting and we will place it in the raffle. Help us raise some money for our club.

Steve Joyce from Red's Fly Shop will be our guest speaker in November, talking about fishing some of the great rivers in eastern Washington.

Hope you can get out and do some fishing.

Good fishing.

Larry

# FFF Fly of the Month

## Draper Dragon

November 2003 FFF Fly of the month

By Bob Bates



There are many dragonfly nymph patterns in existence. Some are so simple that one wonders how they can be called a "dragonfly nymph." Others are so realistic that it might be better to let them crawl back into the water. This pattern solves one of the problems with tying good

dragonfly nymph patterns: Making the body flat and wide without smashing down something like a lead wire body. The two shank welded construction of the Partridge Draper hook, model H3ST, makes the flat, wide dragonfly body easy to tie. The current cost for this hook (2003) is about \$9.75 for a package of ten hooks, but if you look around the fly shops as I did recently you might find some with the 1994 price of \$7.50 for a package of ten hooks. John Newbury introduced the Draper hook to Northeast Washington many years ago when he began tying this pattern. Newbury is a demonstration tier at FFF conclaves. Several local tiers copied the pattern, and as expected added their own touches to it. The late John Propp tied the fly above.

Dragonfly nymphs live two or three years, making them an important year-round food source. Some species are less than an inch long and others are up to 2-1/2 inches long. They make a good mouthful for any fish. Dragonfly nymphs are real bullies and will eat anything smaller than they are. According to Ernest Schwiebert in *Nymphs*, 1973, "The nymphs catch other subaquatic organisms by lying motionless like a muskellunge in the weeds. Although they are capable of rapid movements, they usually trap their victims with a lower labium that snaps out like the tongue of a frog, its hooks pinioning them securely." So when you fish a dragonfly nymph, use a full sink or sink tip fly line. Let the fly sink into or near weeds, and then start working it with a hand twist and an occasional "jet propelled" strip. Vary the retrieve until you find one that fish like. Years ago Propp said: "This pattern is the most effective one around. I catch fish with it all the time."

The original pattern called for seal fur, but there isn't much legal seal fur around. Therefore, substitutes such as Angora goat, Turrall dubbing or other seal substitutes are used. Also early patterns used picric acid dyed feathers that had the exact yellow-green olive color needed around Northeast Washington. However, it is a dangerous material: The crystals are explosive. "Close enough" colors can be achieved with safer dyes. Besides, your dragonfly nymphs might have colors from olive-gray to muddy brown matching their environment.

### Materials List:

**Hook:** Partridge Draper H3ST, 6-8

**Thread:** Olive, 6/0

**Eyes:** Black Mono, medium

**Tail:** Pheasant tail, dyed yellow-olive, optional

**Body:** Seal or seal substitute, dark olive

**Wingcase:** Church window pheasant back feather, dyed yellow-olive

**Legs:** Pheasant tail fibers, dyed yellow-olive

**Head:** Seal or seal substitute, dark olive

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**Tying Steps:**

One thing to remember when tying, don't tighten your thread too much over the two-wire-shank or you will break the weld.

1. Start thread just behind the hook's eye and build a thread base for the mono eyes.
2. Hold the eyes parallel to the shank, and put three or four thread wraps around them and the hook. Then move the eyes into their final position perpendicular to the shank, and put three or four thread wraps diagonally to hold them in position. Repeat wrapping on one diagonal and then the other to secure them.
3. Bring thread to the bend, and attach a tail that is a little less than a gap width long. Newbury's pattern doesn't have a tail.
4. Make a dubbing loop in your thread, over eight inches long, and while holding it, put thread back onto the hook where the tail is tied in. Wrap thread forward to just behind the eyes. Put a little dubbing wax on the loop and start stuffing dubbing into it. Put very little material in near the bend and increase the quantity as you move away from the bend. It helps to use a dubbing loop tool when doing this. When you think the dubbing loop is full enough, about eight inches long, twist it to bind fur into a tight yarn. Wrap the dubbed yarn forward to the mono eyes, and secure. There should be about two inches of dubbed yarn left for later use; do not trim it off.
5. Take a feather from the center back of a ringneck pheasant. Strip fibers from sides to make it about 1/4-inch wide, clip the center stem to remove tip and give the appearance of two wings. Tie feather right behind the mono eyes pointing rearward and laying flat over body so the wingcase extends to about midpoint of the abdomen.
6. Attach five or so pheasant tail fibers on each side of hook behind the mono eyes. The legs may extend from a little behind mid shank to a little past the end of the hook. The legs look nicer if the brown fibers from the pheasant tail are used. Trim excess leg fibers. Move the thread to behind the eye.
7. Now use the left over dubbed yarn, figure eight around and between the mono eyes to form a head, secure and trim excess. Half hitch and whip finish.

According to some the Draper Dragon is the best pattern in the Eleven Western States and two Western Provinces of Canada. Tie a few, try them yourself and see what you find out.



## AFF 2010 Club Outings

*By Bob Alston*

1. **Lone Lake on Whidbey Island.** This will be a winter fishing trip in February 2011. The best way to fish is to use red San Juan Worms just 6 inches off the bottom. Steve Egge has graciously offered his cabin as a place to stay if he is available to go and if you want to make this an overnigher. This will be a Saturday and or Sunday trip. Due to the traffic through Seattle and up to Everett, the weekend is the best time to fish this lake. You drive to Mukilteo on Saturday morning, take the ferry to Whidbey Island and head for the lake. You can then either head back that afternoon, taking the ferry back to Mukilteo or stay the night at Steve's cabin and fish again on Sunday, then head back Sunday afternoon. The fishing is usually fairly good, sometimes hot, sometimes cold.

2. **Yakima River.** You can wade fish in the lower Canyon or go on drift boat floats had have the best chance of getting into some good fish. I use the Worley Bugger Fly Co. as my guide service when I fish the Yakima. Decent fishing in the summer, good fishing in the fall and winter and early spring.

### Quote Of The Month



*The years will bring their anodyne,  
But I shall never quite forget  
The fish I had counted mine  
And lost before they reached the net.*

*— The Devout Angler —  
Colin D. B. Ellis, 1930*



*As taken from A Summer On The Test by John Waller Hills — 1924, 1930*

## November Program

**Steve Joyce and Joe Rotter**

**Of**

**Red's Fly Shop**

**On fishing the Yakima River, the Methow River and the Klickitat River.**

# November / December

| SUN | MON               | TUE                    | WED               | THU                      | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|
|     | <b>November 1</b> | 2                      | 3                 | 4                        | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8                 | 9                      | 10                | 11                       | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15                | 16                     | 17                | 18                       | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22                | <b>23 Club Meeting</b> | 24                | <b>25 Gobble, Gobble</b> | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29                | 30                     |                   |                          |     |     |
|     |                   |                        | <b>December 1</b> | 2                        | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6                 | 7                      | 8                 | 9                        | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13                | <b>14 Club Meeting</b> | 15                | 16                       | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20                | 21                     | 22                | 23                       | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27                | 28                     | 29                | 30                       | 31  |     |

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Visit our website at [www.alpineflyfishers.org](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)

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