

# Alpine Fly Fishers

**Our Next AFF Meeting  
Will Be Tuesday  
November 24**

**We will be meeting at the  
Puerto Vallarta  
215 15th St. SE  
Puyallup at 6 PM**



## The Dead Drift - November 2015

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

#### **Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1. Set 'em back.**

Fall fishing on the Yakima River can be an exciting time. The water is very clear and near record lows this fall. The fish are schooling together more and are fattening up for the winter. The river is lined with fantastic fall colors of yellow, red, orange and green. There is a crispness in the air, a hint of the winter that is right around the corner. I have fished a few days on the Yakima River so far this fall and look forward to some great winter fishing as well. It is during the winter that your chances are increased of getting into some big fish and you will be virtually all alone on the water as few people understand just how great the fishing can be. The only complicating factor is the pass, as long as it is open, head for the Yakima River.

Speaking of winter, December is right around the corner. As usual, our December meeting will be a week earlier than usual, on the third Tuesday, December 15. I will have an 'expanded' raffle. A lot bigger than our normal monthly raffles but not as big as past December raffles. The last big raffle we had in December did not produce enough revenue to justify the items contained, thus I will downsize it a bit. There will be lots of tying materials, many dozens of flies, some fly boxes, reels, a nice ghost net, and some other fly fishing related gear. It will be a good raffle and everyone will have a chance to win some more 'stuff', something we all need. 😊

But, the other thing we do at our December meeting is Steve Egge's picture show of all of our trips in 2015. However, for him to do that we need some of the photos you took. We need them before the meeting so Steve can put a presentation together. So far, no photos have been given to me, I don't know if any have been given to Steve, but I guarantee we need photos. Send me some via email and I will get them to Steve.

Everyone who shows up at the December meeting will receive a special door prize.

Dave Alberts has been working feverishly to get us some great speakers for our meetings. As in the past, we hope that some of our club members will be willing to put on a program for us but we will also be going outside the club to bring in special guest speakers. Dave, thank you for all your efforts!!!!

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving, eat hardy be it at home or out and about. See you all at our November meeting. Bring your fishing stories but more important, please bring some photos of your exploits this year.

Good fishing.

Larry



## International Federation of Fly Fishers

### Fly of the Month

#### ~ Lady McConnell ~

November 2005

By

Bob Bates



Here is a pattern that every stillwater angler should have in the fly box. Brian Chan, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada developed this pattern in 1979 to represent an almost completely emerged adult chironomid (midge). He named it after McConnell Lake just south of Kamloops, B.C., Canada where he tested it. Trout in McConnell Lake and elsewhere have an eagerness to feed on adult chironomids. Just about every lake and many streams have chironomids, and fish willingly feed on the larva, pupa and adult stages of the insect. Some anglers note that fish seem to prefer the larva or pupa stages over the adult. However, you should always look for an opportunity to fish the adult. Best times to fish it are early morning and late evening. Chironomids are a nice insect for fly anglers as they might hatch any time there is ice free water. I have seen fish rising to chironomids in the only ice free water at the outflow of a lake. Unfortunately it was before the start of fishing season. One late spring day a visitor to my part of the world talked me into taking him fishing. A difficult task to say the least. After dinner we went to a nearby quality lake. We drifted around a while enjoying the evening, but we were seeing only a few fish. When the evening rise started I had him put on a size 16 Lady McConnell, and he started catching fish immediately. He was amazed at how fast he hooked (and carefully release) so many nice rainbows. That evening all we had to do cast our floating lines, and let the flies sit quietly on the surface for a few seconds. The fish attacked them with abandon. At other times it helps to move the fly with a little jiggle or strip it at a moderate speed to imitate hatching or egg laying insects.

#### Materials List:

**Hook:** Tiemco TMC 100, Mustad 94840 or other dry fly hook, sizes 12-18

**Thread:** Black 6/0, 8/0 or 14/0

**Tail:** Grizzly hackle tip over white Zelon

**Shellback:** Deer hair

**Body:** Gray polypropylene, dubbing or tying thread

**Hackle:** Grizzly

#### Tying Steps:

1. Wind thread on rear 2/3 rds of hook shank, and leave thread at bend of hook (near barb). Attach a few strands of white Zelon on top of the hook, this is a new variation of the pattern that is not on all my flies. Make the Zelon about a shank length long. Tie a grizzly hackle tip on top of the hook longer than needed and pull it to make a shank length tail.



2. Cut a small amount of deer hair. How much depends on hook size. A clump about the diameter of a wooden match stick is about right for a size 12 hook. Clean out under fur and short hairs, cut tips and place tips on hook at a point about 1/3 rd shank length back from the eye. (Butts should be pointing to the rear.) Bind the deer hair on top of hook without spinning it, wind thread backward to the bend of the hook, and spiral the thread to front of the deer hair.



Continued on Page 3 →

3. Attach poly yarn, wind thread over it to the bend and spiral thread forward to front of deer hair. Wrap poly body to front of deer hair, secure and trim. Keep the body slim to be like a chironomid. (Or the body may be dubbed to match the color of local insects.)



4. Bring deer hair forward and bind it down forming a shellback. Take care to keep the deer hair on the top half of the body and that it isn't twisted out of position from thread torque. Trim excess hair and wind thread over butts. Return thread to front of body/shellback.



5. Select a grizzly feather with barbs that are about 1-1/2 gap widths long. Strip off the fuzzy fibers and other unwanted barbs. Attach it to hook with the dull side of the feather facing forward. Leave a little bare stem showing above the thread, bind down and trim excess stem. Leave thread about one eye width back from the eye. (Some tiers use two feathers to produce a fuller hackle.)



6. Pull hackle forward over eye to kink the stem. This and the bare stem help the hackle wrap properly. Wrap hackle forward to thread, secure and trim excess. Wind thread to make a small head, whip finish, trim and add a drop of head cement.



**Closing comments:** I tie this pattern with light poly and grizzly as well as the darker body and hackle pictured. It takes a lot less time to tie a Lady McConnell than it does to write or read about it. Those mean trout tend to shred them so tie a lot. I almost never leave home without a bunch of Lady McConnells in my fly box. It has been my consistent producer for many years. Now when the fish start rising and I don't have my Ladies with me I am lost and feel I should go home.

## Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2015

**November 24**

December 15 (Third Tuesday)

## Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2016

January 26 — February 23 — March 22 — April 26 — May 24

June ?? (picnic) TBD

July & August (No Meetings)

September 27 — October 25 — November 22 — December 13

# Back of Beyond

*By Stephen Neal*

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

## A Walk In The Woods

Dinner was done and the dishes put away, well not put away, they were clean and setting upside down on a corner of the heavy planked park table just out of splatter range of impacting rain drops. A portable sound system played softly, the music, shuffled selections from the past fifty years of living, backed by the harmony of lightly falling rain. The hours of darkness had arrived and we sat snug in our camp chairs watching the campfire flames dance and the embers glow.

It was a time of reflection and storytelling. Sean Michael Gallagher, my friend and traveling companion, had filled my cup with Irish whiskey. As I sipped, Sean related stories of his family and his trip to Ireland with Barbara to visit his father's child hood home. His tale involved his cousin and her village croft, his endeavor to explore the river where his grandmother grew up and a private fishing club. And much to his wife's amazement he returned to the croft from his walk with a Salmon without even fishing. I will not retell Sean's story as it takes a true Irishman to tell this tale and his presence gives it a richness that it deserves. Only a true of heart Irish fisherman can catch a salmon without ever picking up a rod.

As Sean's words filled the night and the Irish whiskey warmed the cockles of my heart I began to fulfill my responsibilities. My tasks on this trip were to watch, listen, learn and keep the fire stoked and sip Scotch or Irish whiskey as the evening progressed. I like to believe that I was a good student and that Sean was an excellent teacher.

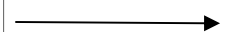
When I was not watching the fire and listening, I was looking out beneath the tarp at the 800 and 1000 year old spruces towering over our heads, their upper crowns lit only by ambient night light. We were setting in an ancient rain forest surrounded by history and beauty, behind me the Q River flowed to the great Pacific Ocean. From time to time I had to shift my seat as the falling water found the pin holes in the tarp and dripped on me. The well used tarp was still up to its task, it kept the fire dry and us sheltered, it let us share the night with the ancient but gentle giants that live here.



In deference to Sean I will not divulge the name of the river we visited. Sean is very protective of this area; his protectiveness is not selfish but that of a caretaker. We live in an inconvenient time, a time of power and greed. A time when the earth and her people are second class, and money has replaced God and spirituality. His and my protectiveness is based upon reverence, we see beauty and majesty others see value and fish and their response it to take. Even though it is a National Park and Protected, poachers and unlicensed guides make their presence known here. Sean has been fishing here since the 70's. In those 4 decades he has watched, wandered, discovered, explored and become attached to the land and the steelhead that call these waters home. You are welcome here but you have to earn your right to be here. You have to discover your own fishing holes and give more than you take. The steelhead which live here are gifts to the future.

As the embers glowed and the rain fell I might have imagined it, but it felt to me as if the rain forest took a deep breath and let out a sigh of relief. It has been a very parched summer for the forest and the rain was breathing new life into the mature spirit forest

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that surrounded us. For Sean it was his first visit back since the rains of winter. Instinctively he felt that the rain forest was under so much duress that he couldn't feel comfortable in visiting. As the forest breathed so did Sean. His second home was beginning to heal.

The next morning we arose to a steaming forest with shafts of sun light piercing its way through the forest canopy and low laying clouds. Beauty was revealed by each delightful spot light; this was the scene that surrounded us as we ate our breakfast and packed for our walk in the woods.

We waded up and began our walk, a rain forest and river walk require wee bit different clothing than most other hiking apparel. We had rivers to cross and rain saturated forest to move through. Our under clothes, pants and shirts were blended fabric to help move moisture away from our bodies and to dry quickly when wet. In this environment, controlling moisture is part and parcel to comfort and survivability. As Sean led the way he pointed out flora and fauna, different rain forest habitat glens of alder and spruce. He told me stories of early aboriginal inhabitants, homesteaders, government efforts, poachers and his fellow steelhead fishermen, friends and acquaintances. Forty plus years on the river, Sean has accumulated a lot of awareness and experience and he shared his knowledge with me.

We walked the main trail at times, at other junctures we followed Roosevelt Elk herd paths to expedite our journey. We crossed the river and inflowing streams, walked up ancient feeder stream beds, wandered gravel bars and meandered through old abandoned homesteads. We craned our necks to view the distant tree tops and stood in awe at the width and breadth of our tree brethren. Sean and I explored steelhead runs of the present and discussed runs that had changed or disappeared due to storms and floods. Rivers never sleep they are in constant motion, what is familiar today will change and recreate itself at sometime in the future. Gravel bars change, runs move or disappear, trees fall, banks collapse, channels move and log jams appear and apparate to another locations. A river recreates itself daily and only with time and contact can one begin to know its nature and moods. Sean was my guide to the past and the present.

In our walk in the woods we listened to bugling elk and watched the herd as they forded the river in majestic style. The herd's bull followed after the herd crossed, alert and watchful, his head held high with his massive rack proudly displayed. I envied his river crossing abilities; something that after sixty plus years of living I know is well in my past. As if I could have managed that even when I was younger is questionable.

It was just a simple walk in the woods but it was also a celebration of our home. We are not separate from nature but an integral part of that whole. Do not take our home for granted, what we do and how we treat it effects us all; it is our past, present and future. Take a walk in the woods, open yourself to its beauty and breathe in life.

Stephen



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

**From Deanna Travis  
Fly Anglers On Line  
Publisher & Owner**

## **HOMEWORK – PLAN A**

November 02, 2009

I'm still working on passing on what information I can to help you catch more fish. I've been recommending an out-of-print book, Gary Borger's Presentation, and if you've found an in-print, more current book which is heavy on the same subject (Presentation) I would appreciate you posting the name of the book, plus author and publisher on our Bulletin Board. There is a reasonably new topic on the board called "Readers Voice" which is an opportunity for our readers to comment on any of the weekly articles here on FAOL, feel free to post your favorite book on Presentation there.

Sometimes catching more fish - or any fish for that matter - depends on doing your homework. If you were going on a big road trip to one of the famous places, say Yellowstone National Park, and were planning on fishing the big streams/rivers there, what would you do in advance? You might post something about the trip (dates when you're planned to be there would be nice) on our Bulletin Board and ask other readers what their experience has been. Maybe you would ask what time of year is best, or what streams they found most productive. Which flies they tied and what were the fish really taking. You might even ask if there was anything you should know about that you hadn't asked. (It could happen.)

Asking about the weather is probably an excellent idea. We had friends fishing Yellowstone and the adjoining regions who were severely snowed on the first week of October. One of them told me he had some interesting thoughts as he was standing nearly chest deep in fifty degree water and being aware it was snowing - really snowing. That was on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, Idaho.

Being prepared is a good thing. If you are flying to a destination you may not want to pack warm clothes and really cold clothes but for sure you best pack rain clothes. If you are driving it can be easier to take a wider assortment of clothing, but in most areas of the U.S. you can find a discount mega store of some kind. Better to spend a few bucks than to have hypothermia from not dressing properly. By the way, toss in a couple of hats while you are packing. One for warm temps and one to wear when you're sure your ears have frozen.

Places to stay? Any state tourist bureau will provide a listing of accommodations, and I'm sure a little research on Goggle will give you an assortment of places fitting both the budget and the desire to have a dry, warm bed. I've stayed in some pretty 'rustic' places in my lifetime, and must say it didn't hurt. In our information age you can find a place to stay almost anywhere, but don't wait until you get there. Big mistake.

Homework? What homework?

Well, how about some reading. There has been something written on nearly everything, including places to fish. You really need to know what to expect. For example, some places in the west have high, run-off water until early July. That means not necessarily fishable. In some places the water isn't open, because seasons vary widely. Don't be disappointed, know what to expect.

What do you do if the water you planned to fish isn't fishable? Now what? It pays to have a secondary plan in case of the worst scenario.

Know your flies, and that takes us back to the reading. Matching the hatch isn't a joke. We've laughed about people who show up to fish somewhere with beautifully tied flies, just not the ones they need. I'm sure it is the same everywhere. Do the research. It might be as simple as reading a post on our board, or if the region is well known, look for books, or at least articles on what is hatching and when. Yes, it requires some work and some thought too, but if you don't do it, no one wants to hear you whine about all the fish you didn't catch. That includes me.

Even when you plan to take even a short local fishing trip, do your homework. When you are fishing, there really isn't a Plan B.

The Ladyfisher

# FlyAnglers OnLine

The Fly Fishing Enthusiast's Online Magazine  
*'The Fraternity of Fly Fishers'*

There are several of us at AFF who belong to FAOL. It is a great site for fly fishers, lots of helpful information and many fly tying recipes and articles about all aspects of fly fishing and fly fishing gear. Check it out.

[www.flyanglersonline.com](http://www.flyanglersonline.com)



## Alpine Fly Fishers Next Meeting November 24, 2015



### A Fly Fishing Quote:

"...had I a river I would gladly let all honest anglers that use the fly cast line in it, but, where there is no protection, then nets, poison, dynamite, slaughter of fingerlings, and unholy baits devastate the fish, so that 'free fishing' spells no fishing at all."

~ by Andrew Lang ~

~ Introduction to Walton's Compleat Angler (1906) ~

### TFO Rod Raffle Board - TFO Lefty Kreh TiCrX Series 9 ft, 5 wt, 4 pc

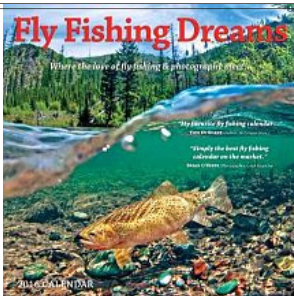
If you read the President's Report from the October issue of The Dead Drift, I asked for you, the club members, to decide if you wanted a 60 square board at \$5 per square or a 30 square board at \$10 per square. Either way the club will make \$300 on the raffle of this rod.

At the October meeting you all decided we would do the 30 square rod board so starting with our November meeting, you can purchase squares at the rate of \$10 each.

### New Club Members

We have three new members to our club. Both **Brian Shepard** and **Richard Stone** joined the club after attending our September meeting and joined the IFFF. At our October meeting, **Ronald Zarges** came to the meeting to check us out and he told me he wants to be a member. He already belongs to the IFFF.

**WELCOME TO THE CLUB!!!!**

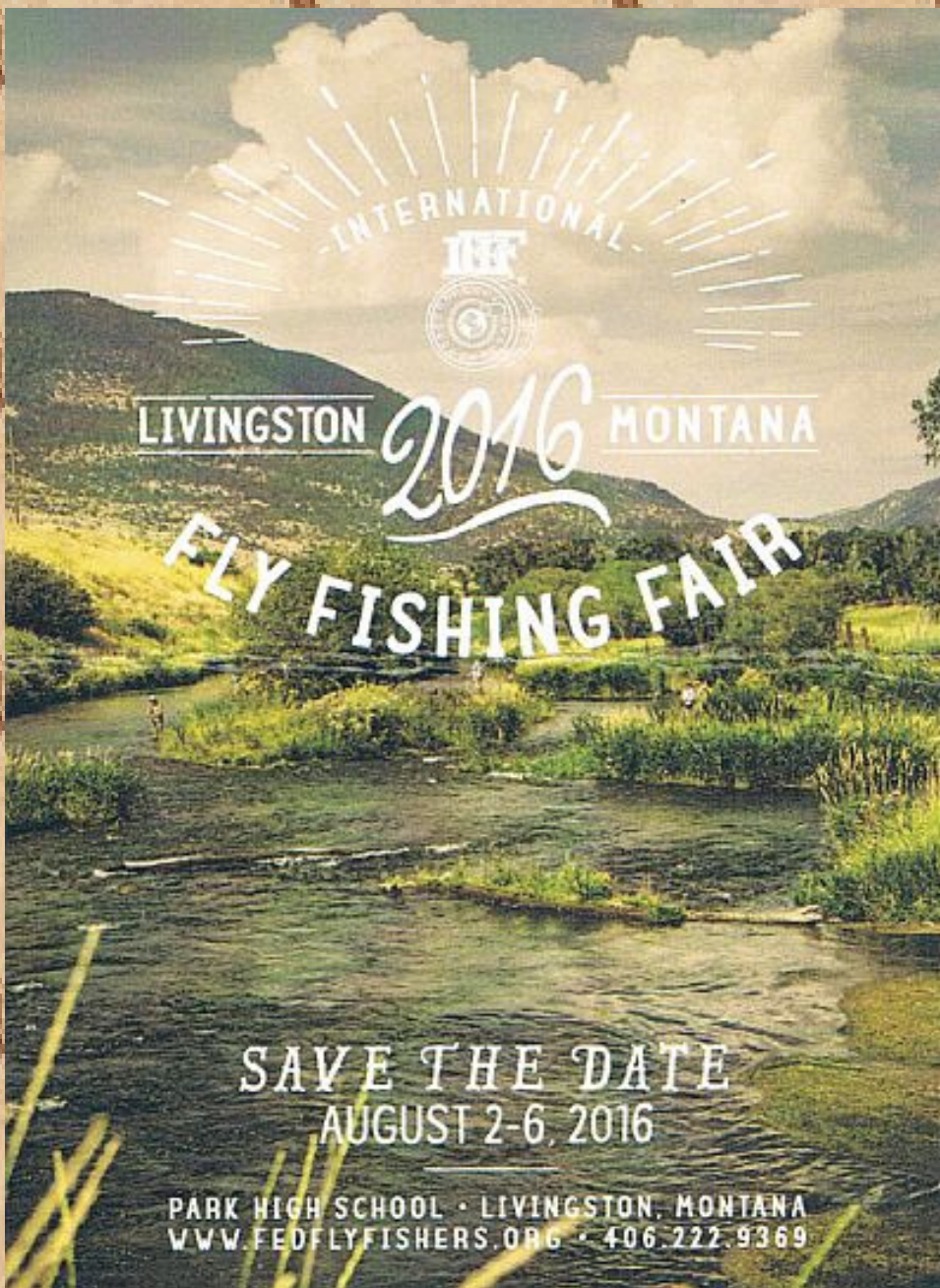


### 2016 Calendar - Club Fund Raiser

I purchased a few of these 2016 fly fishing theme calendars from David Lambroughton as a club fundraiser. I have a limited number of them so if you are interested, please purchase one of them now. The photography is spectacular. Selling at \$10 each. **There are only three (3) left so speak up now. Email me to reserve one.**

### Forgot To Pay For Your Meal

I know this happens sometimes, you get involved in a conversation at the end of the club meeting and leave without paying for your meal. At the October meeting, someone bought a Taco Salad (no drinks) and didn't pay. I paid the bill. So, whoever did that, could you please pay me the \$12 for the Taco Salad? Thanks. Larry



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Washington State Council  
International Federation Fly Fishers

[www.wsciff.org](http://www.wsciff.org)

**2016 WA FLY FISHING FAIR**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Ellensburg, WA April 29 & 30**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**2016 WSCIFFF Fly Fishing Fair**

**April 29 & 30**

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**2016 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair**

**August 2 - 6**



# November / December 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 November Daylight Savings Time Change	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	<b>24 Club Meeting</b>	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30	"The year has turned its circle, The seasons come and go. The harvest all is gathered in And chilly north winds blow. Orchards have shared their treasures, The fields, their yellow grain, So open wide the doorway - Thanksgiving comes again!" <i>Author Unknown</i>				

"I heard a bird sing In the dark of December A magical thing And sweet to remember....."		<b>December 1</b>	2	3	4	5
6	<b>7 Hanukkah</b>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	<b>15 Club Meeting</b>	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	<b>25 Christmas</b>	26
27	28	29	30	31	'We are nearer to Spring Than we were in September,' I heard a bird sing In the dark of December." ~ Oliver Herford 1863 - 1935 ~	

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

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