



IFFF Charter Club Our Next AFF Meeting
Will Be Tuesday

November 22

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

The Dead Drift - November 2016

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

Errol and I were doing a drift on the Yakima River the first part of October with Aron as our guide from the Worley Bugger Fly Co. I will let Errol give the fishing report, but you could really see the fall colors starting to show up on the trees and bushes along the river. Beautiful yellows, reds, and oranges. Fall is officially here for sure. The leaves have not started falling into the river so they haven't had very many really cold nights, but that is right around the corner. Going over the pass is where most of the color is being displayed this early October. By the time this newsletter comes out at the end of October, I am sure the full coloration of the trees will be in effect down along the river.

This year our **December meeting** is going to be on the **second** (2nd) **Tuesday, December 13**. Please make a note of it on your calendars/smart phones/tablet/etc. I will be sending out a couple emails as reminders as we get closer to the date. There will be a very nice selection of items for the extended raffle. Flies, fly lines, fly reels, lots of tying materials, tying tools, some neat accessories, yep, should be a good raffle and I hope it brings in a decent amount of money for our bank account so we can pay for our guest speakers. Steve Egge gave us a great presentation on his trip to Mexico at our October meeting. At the November meeting, Bill Aubrey will show us some of the lakes in Montana. Ron Zarges has a speaker already for our January meeting. A friend of Dick Knudson, Charles Vaden will be our speaker, and he is a bamboo rod expert. If you have bamboo rod you would like him to look at, you may want to bring it to the January meeting. Ron is also working on obtaining more speakers for our 2017 meetings.

The winds of October, WOW, haven't seen that much wind since the 1962 Columbus Day, storm. And, I don't care to see anymore of them. I will have to put Mother Nature on notice that we don't need that much wind to clear our air of pollution. But did we ever get lucky down here in our little corner of Puget Sound. To the west and to the north, people got slammed, but we just had a couple days of mildly strong wind.

At the October meeting, I asked if there is enough interest for another fly rod board. I have two St. Croix fly rods, the moderate action Avid models, both 9 foot and 4 piece, one being a 4 weight and the other a 7 weight. The winner would have the choice of either fly rod. Let me know if you would be interested. Like the last fly rod board, this would be a 60 square board at \$5 per square, winner picked when the board is full.

Good fishing. Larry

International Federation of Fly Fishers Fly of the Month November 2012

DAVE'S REAL SKUNK

Published by Bob Bates



Opening Comments:

Dave Hamilton of Grants Pass, Oregon ties this pattern at nearly every show or Conclave that he attends. These pictures were taken at the 2012. International Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane, Washington. In addition to skunk he has tied the pattern with fox mask dyed black, squirrel dyed orange, natural squirrel, mink and woodchuck. Now a few words should be said about collecting the skunk pelt. If your local fly shops don't carry it, check around on the internet. Above all do not pick up road kill; your roommate will kick you out of the house when you bring it home.

Yes it catches fish. Fish it in streams and lakes like you would any other wet fly. Use a floating line if it is shallow water, a sink tip if it is a little deeper and a full sink line in the deep water. Vary the retrieve and depth until the fish tell you what they like. Then keep it up until the fish get bored with your presentation. Or maybe you educated all of the fish in that spot, and you will have to move on. Release the fish carefully so you can play with them another day.

Materials list:

Hook: Down eye nymph hook, 1X long, size 12 etc.

Bead: Glass bead green outside and red center. Size 8 seed bead. (or brass bead)

Weight: Lead wire, 0.015-inch

Thread: 8/0 black
Tail: Skunk guard hair.
Rib: Copper wire, fine
Collar: Ostrich herl, black

Tying steps:

Step 1: Smash down barb or use barbless hooks. The fish are easier to release, and the hooks are easier to get out of the angler.



Step 2: Put 4 to 6 wraps of lead wire behind bead.



Step 3: Attach thread behind the lead coil, and build a thread ramp behind the lead coil. This holds the lead coil in place.



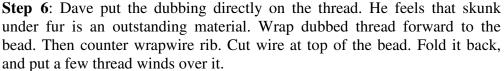
Step 4: Wrap thread over the lead to secure it, and then wrap back to a point over the barb. Cut off a small clump of guard hairs and under fur, and clean out the under fur. Dave takes the under fur home and runs it through a blender to fluff it up. You can use the under fur as is, but he prefers to fluff it up. Stack the guard hairs for the tail. Measure a shank length tail, cut off the excess right behind the lead coil, and tie it on top of the hook.



Continued on Page 3

FOTM Continued from Page 2

Step 5: Tie fine copper wire under the hook, bend the tag end back, and wind thread over it to make it extra secure. Dave does this with the hook upside down.



Step 7: Wind thread back to the body, and tie on a black ostrich herl. Put on a half hitch and move the thread out of the way. Wrap the ostrich herl forward, secure and trim excess. Whip finish right behind the bead. Put on a little head cement. His head cement is thinned by 50 percent, and it soaks in immediately.







Closing Comments:

Very quickly you will get up to speed with this fly. So tie a bunch and go fishing.

2017 NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY

It is not too early to start thinking about the 2017 Academy. Again we are preparing for another Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy to be held June 18-24, 2017 at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The Staff will be contacting dedicated volunteers to contribute their time for the success of the Academy - for the kids. This Academy is all about the girls and boys, 12-16 years old, to teach them the basics of fly fishing and conservation. The event is one full week with some staff and all youth living in clean, warm cabins at the Gwinwood Center. All meals are provided. Students need to bring their personal belongings, i.e., sleeping bags, pillows, rubber boots, etc. All fishing gear and fly tying equipment is provided, however, students may bring their own fishing gear.

The event is supported by WCTU and WSCIFFF, and members of TU and fly fishing clubs of Washington.

The cost to each student is only \$300 for the week, sponsorships are available through TU Chapters, FFF fly clubs and private donations. No applicant will be turned away because of lack of funding.

Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2017 until April 15, 2017. Applications may be downloaded from our website – www.nwycffa.com, - via email to mtclancy39@comcast.net or call 360-753-1259.

Each applicant must submit an essay explaining why THEY want to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is required from a school teacher or counselor. We have a Facebook page listed under our name for viewing pictures from previous events.

We are very proud of The Academy; this has been a life changing experience for many of our youth.

THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE FOR OUR SPORT OF FLYFISHING

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

Moisture and Recollections

Moisture, either too little or too much moisture. The refrain of every rancher I have had the pleasure of knowing. The wind crashes through the aqua saturated woodland, branches and boughs, crack, snap and sway. Some trees oscillate, bend and yield, some shed limbs to remain upright, others succumb to the strain, splintering and fail, some are up-rooted and display their intertwined and macabre root system to the surface world. We are in the midst of a Fall super storm during this Season of the Witch. The rain falls faster than the earth can absorb it. Rivulets of water merge to become streams, creeks, rivers; puddles grow to ponds and expand into lakes it is awesome and inspiring.

Nature the great teacher, as a student my learning receptors are overwhelmed with sensory overload, my emotions run the gamut, from awe, to wonder, respect, amazement and admiration for it's truly raw vibrant beauty. To yield and flow is to survive, stillness in movement, the ability to absorb the power and then redirect it, those trees survive. The effect that the storm was inflecting on us was just a brushing blow, the main track was moving through Vancouver Island to the north of us.

As I watch the storm I am packing, not very quickly I'll admit. My focus is on the hurricane remnants hitting the Enumclaw Plateau. In less than a week I am headed for a rendezvous with friends and family in Dunsmuir. The upper Sacramento pulls us back every year, we will find some place to hang Rogers Hat, then settle into

the warmth of deep friendship and the lure of piscatorial pleasure. Texts and emails with information, banter and anticipatory expectations pulse through the web in data bits and packets circling the globe to be reassembled on each of our phones or computers as the occasion draws nigh.

I spent a day and half going through my gear and packing. Well that is a bit of a stretch I worked about 3 hours on day one as we are shorthanded at work and most of my true packing time was spent enjoying the storm as I gawked at its spent fury. I spent more than a few moments standing in the garage



opening on trips to gather gear. When I did pack, my thoughts were filled with triggered memories of past trips to Dunsmuir and my son, cousin and friends. I spent the 2nd morning in storm darkened light re-stitching my gear bag's burst seams, huddled under a fly tying lamp trying to see what I was doing, while twisting and turning the bag to get the needle and thread to go the right way. Only time will tell if I was successful. Right now the stitches are holding but they have not been travel tested. I cleaned all my fly lines and replaced old ones, fly boxes and the contents have been sorted and selected for possibilities. The same selection process was passed upon each rod designated for this trip, two 5wt's made the cut, a 6wt spey rod, a 1wt small stream rod and a Bass Rod are packed, the others are back in the corner of the closet waiting for the next trip.

Back of Beyond — Continued from page 4

I mended the wading stick that Roger built and gifted to me, each of us treasure these sticks that help us wade amongst the slick Sacramento river rocks safely and they bring Roger to the forefront of our memories. Wading boots are packed with a spare set packed as well, two set of waders found a spot in the bag as well as warm fleece wading pants, not very fashionable but man they feel nice between the cool river water and my legs. My sling pack with my steelhead, flies and gear made the cut and my fly fishing vest for trout and bass found a spot as well. Now gear is just not gear, they trigger memories as well. The mended gear bag with is contents pulled out puts me back in the garage staging area for our days fishing. Jeff is telling a tall tale or story of a misadventure or some fabricated theory. Scott pokes holes in the theory, Kevin smiles knowing where this is going, Cy assembles his rod, threading the line through the eyes and Bob fully assembled, heads for the river ready to fish wearing sandals.

Laughter is a big part of our morning assembly. My favorite rod a sage 5wt with its forest green finish puts me on the river with my son in the dappled shade of Financial with elephant ear plants crowding the river bank we wade within casting distance of each other, enjoying the moment. Possie Bugger Flies always remind me of Bob and that in turn brings to mind his mentoring of Cy on Nymph Fishing techniques. His shy smile lighting his face with each of Cy's successes. Hat's bring Scott to mind, on our second trip together Roger, Kevin and I teased him about getting a real hat. Which he did on a trip to Las Vegas of all places. Fly Fishing vests brings



Kevin to mind since I have been fishing with him he has always warn a blue green camouflaged fishing vest, definitely and old friend, there is comfort in old friends and Kevin and that vest have covered some water in their time together. Now Jeff on the other hand comes up at the glance at all my gear, waders, oars, wading staffs, fleece lined wading pants, etc... Jeff is truly a wonderful and very accomplished individual but weird things happen to Jeff on the water and most of those things are beyond his control. But the stories that each incident produces are shared with glee and Jeff always gives as good as he gets.

I believe that in our third visit to Dunsmuir Roger gifted to each of us wooden wading staffs that he had constructed. He had flame sealed the wood, tapped the tops and inserted shock cord retaining line so that they could be attached to our belts, this allowed us to drop the staffs at our sides too free up our arms for casting. While fishing Financial, Jeff's staff's retaining cord somehow came undone and his staff floated off downstream un-noticed by Jeff. His first notice that it was missing was when Cy walked up asking if anybody had lost a wading staff. Jeff gleefully accepted its return, but claimed that Roger had purposely given him a defective wading staff, Roger protested that it wasn't so. Truly great friends!!!

Well most of my gear is now packed, just a few items will need to be thrown in the truck on the day of departure, thanks for spending the day with me, I hope you enjoyed the storm. Every small moment holds magic if you are open to the possibilities.

See you on the water soon.

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

Henry David Thoreau

Deanna Travis FlyAnglers Online Publisher & Owner

SURVIVAL IN THE SONORAN DESERT

November 6, 2011



Actually I thought that was the title of a book on the stack here and I could steal it for a nice tie-in to our day-to-day life here. Well I was wrong, the title is "A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert" and the reason I mention it is the wonderful color photo on the cover. One of the most beautiful scenes in nature (so I am told not having yet seen it) is the desert in bloom. That is what the cover photo shows, and since it is fairly rare I thought it funny to use it to spark interest in the book. And probably not too honest either.

None of that makes a lot of sense, probably because I am so deprived from not fishing that my whole outlook is screwed up. And on top of that my email didn't work and it nearly took an act of congress to get it fixed. At any rate it is working now and I must ask for your help please. I don't have any of my email history, so no address book! If I have not responded in the past three weeks to a month to something you sent please resend it since it probably was lost in the shuffle between Montana and Arizona. Sorry about that.

We had the first local snow on the mountain tops here when we woke this morning. We expected it since we had a very unusual heavy rain overnight. At one point it rained hard enough to wake me, I listened a bit, got up and partially closed a window. The carpet wasn't wet there this morning so it worked out alright. A rain of that intensity and duration is pretty rare at this time of year. They do have a monsoon season from late June through early September and the majority of annual rainfall comes during that time. The rest of the year rain is pretty rare and therefore very welcome. The weather folks on TV were nearly celebrating the thought. It really doesn't take much for everything to green up very nicely. And it is appreciated by the folks who live here.

I'm gathering all sorts of useless trivia which might only be of value if I should compete on Jeopardy, but as long as we are on the subject I had not heard of a winter lawn before I came here. Seems lawns pretty much bite the dust (sorry about that pun not intended) in the summer, it's just too hot and nearly impossible to keep lawns watered. But during the winter lawns are over seeded with rye grass seed, watered and behold in a couple of weeks, literally the lawn man is cutting the beautiful green grass. On our way down here a couple of weeks ago there was snow on the top of Humphrey's Peak which is the tallest mountain in Arizona at 12,633, as well as the surrounding mountains in the San Francisco mountain range just outside Flagstaff.

We haven't had much for migrating birds here yet, but with the big storm front which blew through here overnight we probably will see more. My husband Trav gets a couple of bird listing via email and those sometimes will list unusual birds for a particular region. Of course we still get the Montana lists so we know what is happening at home as well.

Trav worked a night hike in Saguaro National Park this past Friday night, and he will be leading a hike on Friday afternoons on the life history of the Saguaro cacti. I walked the trail with him a couple of days ago on the Freeman Homestead Trail, if you've ever been in the park it is one of the better known trails and has a little bit of everything. Some friends were commenting on how depressing it is living in a 55 and over community like ours, and I can see how that could happen if one was not involved in community events or didn't have any interests outside the community. There are all sorts of activities here, from exercises to classes, various card games, luncheons and dinners outside the community and even a good local playhouse with a schedule of both Broadway plays and melodramas with special rates for 'seniors.' For us, we have our association with the Northwest Bible Church – which also has more programs and events for seniors, as well as Trav's park involvement so we aren't limited.

I don't remember if I mentioned we also belong to a choral group here, called the Meadowlarks. The most we had last year was probably 35 or so, with a good number of men. You really need the male voices to make it work, and we are really blessed with a good number and good voices as well. We had the first rehearsal last Monday with about half of the group showing up. Some of folks forgot, and a good number of the folks aren't back here yet. We have the first performance set for I think the 11th of December, so we are working on Christmas music.

But I can see how if you just lived in a retirement community and were aware of how many times the ambulance and fire truck (medics) are in and out and did not have any other interests it might become depressing. I'm grateful that isn't the case here.

The local folks were dressed in warm coats with hoodies today, the temp was 60 degrees. We thought it was nearly summer-like and took a little walk around one of the local ponds. Lots of folks spin fishing – these urban ponds are stocked – and one gentleman told me the catching was slow but the fishing was terrific.

It's all about surviving in the Sonoran Desert. Until next time enjoy life wherever you find it.

Alpine Fly Fisher Meeting Dates in 2017

Our club meetings are on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month except for December (the third Tuesday) and there are no meetings in July or August.

January 24; February 28; March 28; April 25; May 23; June ?? Club Picnic; July (No Meeting); August (No Meeting); September 26; October 24; November 28; December 19

2017 ORCIFFF Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

The Oregon Council is holding their Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo In Albany, OR on **March 10 & 11**

2017 WSCIFFF Fly Fishing Fair

The Washington State Council is holding their Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg on Friday and Saturday, May 5 & 6

2017 WRMCIFFF Fly Fishing Expo

The Western Rocky Mountain Council & the North Idaho Fly Casters are holding their Fly Fishing Expo In Cd'A, Idaho on Friday and Saturday, May 19 & 20

Northwest Fly Fishing & Casting Events for 2017

Up here in the great northwest, we are blessed with an abundance of fly fishing & casting events. I have posted notices about three of them that occur during the first half of next year. There are others as well, private shows like the O'Loughlin WA Sportsman's Show in Puyallup, the Fly Fishing Show in Lynwood, and the Spey Clave down in Oregon. But the ones I listed above are all International Federation of Fly Fishers events that are being sponsored by the IFFF councils for those areas.

The Oregon Council IFFF is sort of the granddaddy of them all, as it was in Oregon, with the help of a number of Washington clubs, that the FFF was first created as a national organization. Oregon started having these events a number of years ago, in a very small facility in Eugene. Then they moved to the Linn County Expo Center in Albany which is a fantastic facility. The show has well over 100 fly tyers each year. Also, there are many well known fly casting instructors there to offer their expertise in getting you to cast to the best of your ability. The workshops and classrooms offer great information on fishing the northwest and other locations. Drive down there early on a Friday morning, spend the day and even into the next day to take in the whole show. I go down there every year to volunteer and spend a little money on raffle and silent auction items, most of which I re-gift back to our club. Make note of the dates: Friday and Saturday, March 10 & 11.

Then two months later, the Washington State Council IFFF will be having their 11th annual Fly Fishing Fair at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds in Ellensburg. As you know, Peter and I are both heavily involved with this event, as are some of our club members. Steven Fernandez is going to be our featured fly tyer. We will have many great fly tyers at our event and some of the best fly casters in the northwest. This is a fun show to attend. We have lots of vendors so you can do some shopping and Peter runs a really good silent auction, raffle & live auction. This is the closest event of the three listed, just a hop, skip & jump over the mountain to Ellensburg. Plan to attend on the first Friday and Saturday of May, the 5th and 6th.

Then just two weeks later will be the second annual Fly Fishing Expo, which is a joint project between the Western Rocky Mountain Council IFFF and the North Idaho Fly Casters club, being held in CdA, Idaho. I attended this event this year, 2016, and really enjoyed myself. If you are going to be in the area, maybe for some great late spring fishing, come to this event and check it out. I happen to be a member of the North Idaho Fly Casters club and I know a number of the other members. They are really great people and are trying very hard to make this an excellent event to attend. The dates are Friday and Saturday, May 19th & 20th.



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

A Fly Fishing Quote:

"Unless one can enjoy himself fishing with the fly, even when his efforts are unrewarded, he loses much real pleasure. More than half the intense enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many, many pleasant recollections of all one has seen, heard and done."

~ by Charles F. Orvis, 1886 ~

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2016

November 22 — December 13

WA Fly Fishing Fair Main Event Sponsors Worley Bugger Fly Co. **Wasatch Custom Angling**

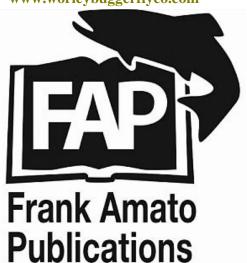
Frank Amato Publications





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Left At Our Picnic

This woven basket and cloth napkin were left at Stephen's house during our picnic last June. The cloth napkin would be hard to replace and they usually come as a set. So, if you know who brought this to our picnic, please let me know so we can get it back to them. We used it at the September meeting as our raffle ticket selection device. I will have it with me at future meetings either until we find an owner or declare it as our official RTSD. Larry



Ideas or articles for our newsletter?

I really want to thank Stephen Neal for his great stories, "Back of Beyond", he is a very good teller of tales.

I was wondering if anyone had an ideas or suggestions regarding our newsletter. I am always open to new ideas on how to improve this publication. So, please send me an email with your suggestions.

Larry



The **Second Tuesday** in December

December 13

This year we are having our December meeting on the second (2nd) Tuesday in December, not the 3rd Tuesday.

All of our club meetings are usually on the 4th Tuesday of the month, but we usually have the December meeting on the 3rd Tuesday, but that that may have been too close to Christmas so we are having it on the 2nd Tuesday, December 13. Just the way the calendar dates worked out.

The Roll Cast

Recently, a question came up on FAOL regarding the roll cast.

My first answer to the question was this: "You can roll cast with any length rod and the appropriate line for that rod. All depends on how far you want to roll cast and how big (wind resistance) and heavy the fly is going to be. If your timing is correct, you should be able to roll cast farther with a longer rod (think spey fishers and their very long rods) and a heavier rod/line combination will handle larger and heavier flies. But, just how far do you want to roll cast? There comes a time when normal casting will get you out there a whole heck of a lot farther than a roll cast. The roll cast is a very specific type of cast used mostly in very specific situations. Go with what you have, learn the timing and technique, then you will be able to make a good roll cast with almost any rod."

Then I got to thinking. I make a fair number of roll casts with a wide variety of rod weights and lengths and line types, but, what would be the best combination for roll casting?

So, I shot off an email to Carroll Ray Hall, an IFFF CCI (Certified Casting Instructor).

Here is the main portion of the email and Carroll's response.

My Question: "In my uneducated mind I think two ways: A fast action rod is stiff enough to load up and power out the fly line. But then, I think that maybe a soft action fly rod is limber enough to really load up the fly rod to cast out the line.

So, my question: If you were going to do a lot of roll casting, which type of fly rod would you use? A Fast or medium-fast, or medium or soft action?

Second question: Would a longer rod be better (it seems to me it would). For instance, comparing a fast action 9 foot rod and a fast action 10 or 11 foot rod."

Carroll: "Those are good questions on roll casting. I think your experience and instincts are on the right track.

Regarding rod action, the best choice for most casters is a medium fast rod. The casting stroke for a roll cast is short and few people can get enough loading done in that limited space using a really fast (stiff) rod. On the slow side, few people can keep the desired straight line path for the rod tip with a soft rod.

Regarding rod length, the longer the rod the better so long as there is enough space available to accommodate the length.

It is also very important to consider the fly line as it impacts the roll cast!

Energy is transferred to the fly line through a combination of energy from the loaded rod and energy from the forward movement of the rod during the casting stroke. Relative to overhead casting, roll casting depends more on the energy from the loaded rod. The weight of the fly line in the D-Loop is a very significant factor in loading the fly rod. That is why the longer rod works better for roll casting.

Regarding the fly line, as the length of the cast increases, the weight of line in a WF line will decrease for the D-Loop unless the amount of line shot is increased. A DT line may work better for some applications. Best of all though would be to consider a taper specifically designed for roll casting. Simon Gawesworth has designed such a line for Rio called the InTouch Single Handed Spey line. It maximizes the weight of line available for the D-Loop."

ovember / December 2016

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Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club Larry Gibbs, Editor flytier015@q.com 253-863-4910

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Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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