

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday at 6:00 PM
October 26, 2010

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



Charter
Club



The Dead Drift – October 2010

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Editor Information

Mailing Address

*Club's Board
of Directors*

Presidents Line

By Larry Gibbs

Howard Inks, Duffy Christy and her son Bruce and I had a very good fishing trip to the Clark Fork River a couple of weeks ago. We all caught lots of fish and had fun. Fishing trips don't get much better than that.

I spent a lot of time in Montana this year, making many trips over and back for fishing trips plus spending a week in West Yellowstone for the FFF Fly Fishing Fair/Conclave the last week of August. Mainly I did a lot of fishing in Montana, mostly on the Clark Fork River but also on the Missouri River. It is hard to beat river fishing in Montana. I plan on making a few trips over next year as well. If you are interested in going over with me let me know.

I hope all of you had time to wet a line a few times and catch some fish. Don't forget, just because it is turning to winter, there is still fishing going on. We have a number of year round lakes and rivers that produce great winter fishing.

Speaking of that, we need to set a date this winter to go up to Lone Lake on Whidbey Island. It can be a very productive winter fishery, using red San Juan Worms fished 6 inches off the bottom. This would be a weekend trip, as the traffic is horrible during the week, driving to Mukilteo and taking the ferry to the island. Hence the weekend fishing.

The Yakima River is a fantastic river to fish in the fall and winter. You can catch some decent sized fish and they put up a good fight.

Bill Aubrey has been lining up some speakers for our club meetings this fall and winter.

Don't forget our Christmas meeting this December. It is our main fund raiser and we should have some great fly fishing items as well as some non-fly fishing items. Plan on buying plenty of raffle tickets so you can win lots of 'stuff'. We will set the date for the meeting at our September club meeting. More on that later.

Steve Egge will want lots of digital photos from all of you so they can be flashing on the screen letting everyone know just how much fun you had this year getting out there to fish.

See you all on Tuesday, October 26 at the Puerto Vallarta in Puyallup.

Good fishing.

Larry

FFF Fly of the Month

EARL MADSEN SKUNK

October 2005 FFF Fly of the month

By Bob Bates



"This fly floats so well you could hang a bowling ball from it." That was how Julie Nielsen, from Rockford, Michigan first described this pattern at the 40th Anniversary (2005) FFF Conclave in Livingston, MT. She later modified it a little to: "...hang bead heads from it."

The pattern, also known as the Michigan Skunk, was originated in 1930 by long time AuSable River guide Earl Madsen. It is definitely a proven pattern and might even fit the category of a classic pattern. Modern guides often use it to put their clients into fish. Also, they would prefer that Julie didn't talk about it so much. Everybody wants to keep a good thing secret.

How you fish it is usually determined by the situation. If fish are clearly rising and taking large insects use dry fly techniques. In a stream cast upstream of the working fish, and let the fly drift drag free down to them. A reach cast or careful line mends might be needed to assure the drag free float. Sometimes a large pattern like this makes a good searching fly. Julie commented: "The beauty of fishing the Skunk is that you can get some vicious strikes by 'popping' the fly. The bushy elk hair head pushes lots of water if you twitch the fly abruptly in pockets and around structures."

If rising fish are cruising in stillwater try to estimate where the fish will rise again and put your fly there. It is most satisfying to see your fly disappear in a mighty swirl.

If nothing is happening on the surface, hang a bead head or other weighted fly from a Michigan Skunk. Try to put the fly where the fish might be. In other words use enough leader or tippet to suspend the fly near the bottom in stillwater. Set the hook if the fly goes under or does anything strange. In moving water the starting guide line is use a leader that is twice as long as the depth of water being fished. If the fly stops, moves sideways or goes under you are either hung up or into a fish. Set the hook to be sure. Fluorocarbon is used by many anglers because it's specific gravity is greater than water so it sinks, and it's index of refraction is close to water so it is nearly invisible. One thing, if an Earl Madsen Skunk is being used as a strike indicator your friends can't say you are bobber fishing.

The step pictures were taken while Julie tied the fly at the Conclave.

Materials & Equipment:

Hook: TMC 101, size 10

Thread: Dynacord Superfine

Tail: White calf tail

Body: Tinsel chenille

Wing: Premium elk

Legs: White round rubber

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Step 1: Put hook into vise at the bend, and line it with thread. Leave the thread a little in front of point.

Step 2: Cut a bunch of calf tail about the diameter of one or two wooden match sticks. Hold the bunch by the tips and pull out the under fur and short hair. Hand stack it, measure the bundle to give a tail 1-1/2 gap widths behind the bend. Hold hair on the hook and cut the butts at a point about 1/3 rd shank length back from the eye. Secure hair on top of hook. Leave thread at point of hook.



Step 3: Strip some of the fuzzy part off chenille to expose the thread core. Attach the chenille on top of the tail by the thread core. Wind thread backward to bend of hook securing thread core. Then move thread forward to just in front of the tied down tail. Wrap the chenille forward, secure and trim excess. The final position for the thread should be 1-1/2 to 2 eye widths behind the eye; this is the first wing tie-in point.



Step 4: Then move thread forward to just in front of the tied down tail. Wrap the chenille forward, secure and trim excess. The final position for the thread should be 1-1/2 to 2 eye widths behind the eye; this is the first wing tie-in point.



Step 5: Cut a generous (about a wooden pencil diameter) bunch of elk hair. Comb out any under fur and stack. Place the tips not quite to the end of the tail, and trim butts at the front of the hook's eye. Hold the elk hair tightly with cut ends about over the middle of the eye. Slide the thread between thumb and hair and back down between hair and finger then tighten. Do it again tighter, and again tightest. The thread wraps should be on top of each other. Look at Julie's fingers in the pictures; she is holding everything so tightly her finger tips are white.

Step 6: Slide the fingers toward bend of hook another 2 eye widths; this is the tie-in point for the legs. Keep the thread tight, and bring it back to the fingers, wind thread straight up and down around elk hair bundle. Make the first wind a little loose and follow it with two tight winds.



Step 7: When the fingers are released the fly should look like this.

Step 8: Put on legs one at a time with tight winds of thread so they stand out from body.

Step 9: After securing the legs bring tight thread forward through the head, and put two half hitches behind the eye. A few spots can be put on the legs with a permanent felt pen.



This is a very durable fly so all you have to do grease it once in the morning, and then fish with it all day. From the stories I heard many many fish have been caught using it dry or as a strike indicator.

AFF 2010 Club Outings

By Bob Alston

1. **Lone Lake on Whidbey Island.** This will be a winter fishing trip in November, December or January. 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

Silver

*Slowly, silently, now the moon
Walks the night in her silver shoon;
This way, and that, she peers, and sees
Silver fruit upon silver trees;*

*And motionless fish in the water gleam,
By silver reeds in a silver stream.*

By Walter De La Mare 1873-1956



As taken from A Summer On The Test by John Waller Hills — 1924 Chapter XV "The Harvest Moon"

Fly Tying Video Tutorials

The Weekly Fly

While reading the latest FFF September E-News, I ran into a link that took me to a very interesting fly tying site.

www.theweeklyfly.com

This site has 141 tutorial videos on tying flies. Here are just a few examples of what this site offers:

Jesse Riding Rainy's Bumble Bee
Jerry Criss The Bleeding Minnow
Jesse Riding Rainy's Bead-Back Scud
Clark "Cheech" Pierce's Petite Sirloin Stonefly
Ben Byng CDC Yellow Sally
Clark "Cheech" Pierce's Grumpy Frumpy
Ben Byng Guinea Fowl Parachute
Ben Byng's CDC Caddis
The Bread Crust Wet Fly by Doug McKnight
Dave Bloom's Emergent PMD Nymph
Bob Jacklin ties the Grey Wulff
Sylvester Nemes' Tup's Indispensible

Check it out!!! Larry

October / November

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

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

Alpine Fly Fishers
PO Box 1456
Sumner, WA 98390

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