

Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Meeting
Will Be Tuesday*

October 28

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



The Dead Drift - October 2014

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

I had such wonderful plans to be fishing this fall, both on the Yakima River here in eastern WA and on the Clark Fork River in western MT. Fall is one of my favorite times to fish the rivers, fewer people, cooler weather, very hungry fish, yea, one of the best times to fish, that is if the old body would let me. That wasn't the case this year. I developed some medical issues that kept be stuck at home so all my plans went down river with the fall rains. Oh well, there is always next year (or this winter).

See Page 8 for info about the fly rod boards. I had a new Shu-Fly fly rod board starting up at the September meeting. If you were at the meeting I hope you had a chance to check out the rod. Looks pretty good.

In the past we have had some fly tying sessions during the winter months. Most of the time there would be three or four of us at these, sometimes only one. I have decided to give it a try again this fall and early winter to see if there is any interest in them. I prefer to book conference rooms at local libraries but we are in competition with many other groups plus the many library functions. So, for now, I have booked the room at the Pierce County / Bonney Lake Library located in the heart of downtown Bonney Lake. See page 8 for more details. Looking over available dates for the conference room, I decided on the third Thursday of October (16th) and December (18th). The room was totally booked in November. Times are 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. If we get enough people who want to attend these and who can make it on those dates, then we can continue these tying sessions in 2015, January thru March. If not, then we won't.

We had a good meeting last night. We were shy of some of our regulars but the fact that they are out of the area on some fishing trips is a very good reason for not being there. There were eighteen of us there for our first post-summer meeting. Sounds like most of you got out there and did some fishing, had fun and enjoyed yourselves. We found out that we have to say goodbye to Kevin and Catherine as they are moving to California. They say they will be back in five years, I told them we would still be here.

We had a guest last night, Errol, who just moved up from California, and is interested in getting into fly fishing. Welcome to our area!

Bob Koehne is going to be our Speaker of the Month, he will be doing a presentation on trout fishing in Canada.

See you all on October 28th. Those of you who couldn't make it to the September meeting will have to tell us about your summer at the October meeting.

Good fishing.



Larry

International Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

~ BLACK TAIL BEAD HEAD ~

September 2007

By
Bob Bates



Sometimes fairly simple fly patterns catch lots of fish. Joel Popham from Spokane Valley, WA has been exercising northern Idaho fish for years with this pattern. He showed us how to tie it at the Western Rocky Mountain Council (FFF) Fly Fishing Exposition in West Yellowstone, Montana, June 30, 2007.

Northern Idaho has many streams and lakes with cold water in which cutthroat and rainbow trout flourish. That means that fishing can be good to excellent if you know what you are doing and exactly what rock to fish behind. The streams are high in the spring with runoff from melting snow in the mountains. Also, the lakes are at their deepest. That is a good time to use wet fly tactics. Joel uses this pattern like a Woolly Bugger. Later in the year floating patterns become important. In streams or lakes I use floating, sink tip or full sinking lines depending on water depth and probable location of fish. Lakes are usually best fished from some sort of floating device. That includes everything from a real boat to a float tube with all kinds of pontoon boats in between. Once you have the floating device then you need to think about the presentation. Many times it is a matter of casting as far as you can, letting the fly sink and bringing it back to you. The retrieve can be a slow hand twist, a strip-pause, a short strip or a long strip like you were trying to pull the fly away from the fish.

If you don't want to work that hard you can resort to "bobber" fishing by using a strike indicator. Measure the water depth by clamping forceps onto the fly, lowering them to the bottom or top of weeds and set the strike indicator where it will hold the fly at the proper depth. Oh yes, take the forceps off the fly before you start fishing. Now all you have to do is wait for the "bobber" to go down so you can strike. Frequently the "bobber" will sink when you are watching a bird, talking to a friend or pouring a cup of coffee.

Small streams in north Idaho are usually waded. It is a matter of casting so the fly will sink a little, and following the drift near a rock through a seam or other place where a fish might be waiting for a meal to move by. Depending on conditions some mending of the line might be needed to keep the fly on the right path. Mending is usually a quick flip of the rod to remove a belly in the line caused by water currents. Ideally, the fly isn't moved by the mend. If you have trouble with mending talk to good casters in your fly club, take a lesson from a FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor or go to your favorite fly shop. Joel sometimes suspends it from a bushy floating pattern in slow stretches of moving water. If the bushy pattern does anything strange, strike.

As far as I know this pattern doesn't imitate any particular insect, and it can be changed in several ways to make it more attractive to fish. Lead or lead-free wire or heavy beads can be added to help it sink faster.

Materials List:

Hook: Gamakatsu P10-2LLH 12-16

Thread: Gray, 6/0

Beads: Blue or pink glass

Tail: Marabou, black

Highlight: Krystal flash, usually a lighter color.

Body: First layer, peacock, Ice Dub. Make the second layer a lighter color. (Color of dubbing optional)

Hackle: Any soft feather; partridge, juvenile hen etc. dun or brown

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Tying steps:

1. Put bead on hook and place hook in vise. Start thread at bend of hook, spiral to the bead and spiral back to the bend.
2. Tie on a shank length black marabou tail, trim excess and leave thread at bend.
3. Tie in a few pieces (2 or 3) of Krystal flash on each side of tail just to give it a little bit of color. Near side first then far side. Make the Krystal flash the same length as tail. Usually the flash is a light color.
4. Bring the thread to the bend and put a small amount of peacock color Ice Dub on the thread. Wrap the first layer forward.
5. Spiral thread to bend and then put sparse UV pearl or golden yellow Ice Dub on thread. Wrap the thread and dubbing forward. The over-dubbing should be sparse enough to let the first dubbing layer to show through. Joel uses different layers depending on what he wants. Sometimes he puts the lighter layer on first and the darker layer second.
6. Tie in hackle by the butt, make two turns and secure. Clip off excess feather. Clean it up a bit, and whip finish between hackle and bead.

Closing comments: This pattern is an easy one to add to your fly box. It has a good history so it should catch fish for you also. Try a few on your favorite waters.



A Fly Fishing Quote:

“Being able to read trout streams is just as valuable to a fly fisherman as the ability to read a defense is to a Quarterback.”

~ Jimmy D. Moore ~

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2014

October 28 — November 25 — December 16 (Fund Raiser Raffle)

October Speaker

Our very own Bob Koehne will be giving us a presentation on Fishing In Canada!

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2015

January 27 — February 24 — March 24 — April 28 — May 26 — June 23 (picnic)

July & August (No Meetings)

September 22 — October 27 — November 24 — December 15 (fund raiser)

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

October is Calling

Outside my front window Mount Rainer's top is missing, high gray clouds slowly moving eastward have hidden its crown. Our nights have turned cooler and day to day temperatures fluctuate from nippy to warm, fall is arriving; and I have not fished from the time when October was middle aged last year. This old earth of ours has made a full journey around the sun since I last fished. A new position at work, balky vehicles and the priority of being with my grandsons has led me down the path away from fishy-ness. But this coming October is a time of promise and opportunity right around the corner; I'm and already packing my bags, checking my gear and ordering new lines. The time is right for piscatorial pursuits.

I have two trips planned for October; the first will be to the Deschutes River in Oregon from Oct. 9th through the 12th. The second will be to the upper Sacramento (Dunsmuir) Oct. 18th through the 25th. The Deschutes is the river of Steelhead dreams. Last year's steelhead dreams got washed out due to heavy rains all over the Northwest; those imaginings were washed into the Columbia River with all the flotsam & jetsam being flushed downstream due to the big washout. But this is a new year and with new dreams and even a new #7/8 switch rod to augment my #6 spey rod. I now will be able to swing (while the light is off the water) and nymph (while the light is on the water) for Steelhead this trip. The Deschutes is big water, with scrub brush lined banks and basalt cliffs that stair step down to the water, making spey casting the perfect fit for its broad rolling waters.



Commodore Steve Egge is in command of our expedition. We will put the inflatable raft in the river downstream of Maupin, OR on the morning of the 10th and pull out on the Banks of the Columbia on the 12th. Early morning's, 0 dark 30, will find us on the river fishing till mornings light pushes the fish down, then it's back to camp for breakfast. Mid-day, is travel and new camp setup time, with a little nymph fishing to keep it real. Early evening will find us back on the water swinging flies, and then late evenings are for savoring good food, fine scotch, Cuban cigars, sharing tunes and easy conversation. Then we will be lulled to sleep by the sound of big flowing water. I did tell you I was dreaming about this, right. For me over-night camping on the banks of big water is good for the soul.

My second trip is an event I think about from the minute I leave till I return the next year. This is our Dunsmuir trip. The Occasion when Scott, Jeff, Bob, Kevin, Cy, Roger and I get to spend time together fishing the Best Water on Earth. Yes I did say Roger; he may have moved onto better fishing waters but he still takes time out from his busy schedule to join us for this week every year, and we look forward to his company. His hat hangs on the hook by the door and makes the place feel like home.

While Dunsmuir evening meals like the Deschutes are supplemented with good Scotch now and then, our evening gathering is more famous for Scott's margaritas. Yes the master of the blender is at his best on the banks of the Sacramento River, and his stories of the day's accomplishments truly do grow in depth and detail as he embellishes the nuances' of his exploits much to our delight. Our Jeff will razz us on some minute →

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infraction we have made in the nuances of living, known only to Jeff. And we in-turn will give back to Jeff, just as much razzing as is his just due. Our itinerary is fishing and over dinner and breakfast we will make our plans, discussing the likely-hood of which waters will produce and where to take our chances the next day.

To keep it all real Roger will raise his middle finger anytime we get to close to the truth. To say that we enjoy each other's company on the water or around the table is a miserable understatement. I did tell you I was dreaming about this, right! Some mighty fine fish have been caught by us on the Best Water on Earth, but it is our friendship that truly make them great fish.

Digression, while I have not had a chance to stand in a river waving a rod as they say, over the last year; I have been enjoying the out-of-doors or the back of beyond, as my past articles have attested to. Earlier this week I made it to the Carbon entrance to Mount Rainier National Park. It is only 20 miles from my front door so you are probably wondering why I have not made it sooner than this. After making the trip I'm asking myself the same question.

Much to my delight I found it to be a rainforest, the eastern most one in the US. At a minimum it gets 70 inches of rain a year, it's so close to my home, but in a completely different climate zone, wow-zer!!! As my sister Rhonda and I hiked though this wonderland we saw miniature gnome living quarters' met the caterpillar from Alice in Wonderland and saw Paul and Ringo in their mop tops from the 60's. The plant growth and moss kept urging me to stop and stare with wonder at this new area of Rainer almost at my doorstep. The girth of the trees and their heights had me bending my neck backwards to look towards the heavens where the tree's crowns disappeared amongst the other trees crowns. You could not pick one tree top from another; it was a thick living canopy of green covering this remarkable living world. A canopy made up of red cedar, Alaskan yellow cedar, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, Douglas fir, Pacific silver fir, and western white pine. During our walk we were serenaded by the Carbon River and its tributary creeks on its way to Puget Sound. I can't wait to take my boys exploring.

Back from the digression, well now you know my plans for October, what are yours? Here's hoping the fall finds you on the water with a tight line to the fish of your dreams or if not on a river, may life find you exploring this beautiful land of ours. Hope to see you on the river soon. The time is almost always right for piscatorial pursuits.

PS. Greeting to the Kaweah Fly Fishers and welcome to "Back of Beyond". Thanks Wayne Thompson for the invite.

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



IN THE BEGINNING

From Deanna Travis
Fly Anglers Online
Publisher & Owner
Aug 25, 2014

So you want to fly fish? Or learn how? It could be a mistake. Unless it is something you are doing for yourself. Not because it might make someone else in your life happy. It's about making you happy. Being successful at fly fishing takes more than going out and buying a fly rod, reel, line and associated stuff.

Just getting the right stuff won't do it. Spending big bucks won't do it. You can purchase entry-level gear to get started for less than \$200. Or you can spend a thousand, or more.

What should you expect from fly fishing? That all depends; mostly on what you really want. Being part of a historically connected society, [or religion if you've read or seen *A River Runs Through It*] takes time. Among other things, if it really is a religion, and I'll leave that call up to greater dogmatic experts, being a member means more than simply showing up.

Now we're into the meat of it. Fly fishing can be whatever you want or need it to be. For most anglers fly fishing is not about numbers, or not who caught how many fish. It's the total experience of being where fish live.

It's reading the water, knowing the fish and their habits. It's learning about the fishes food, where and when they appear and in which form. It's learning about fly fishing equipment and which lines to use and for what purpose. The differences in rods, and why those differences exist, translate into finding the optimum rod for your use in a particular situation.

And where do you want to fish? Is this an annual vacation trek, or do you have "home water," a nearby fishery you can get too often? How much time can you devote to your new avocation? Note, I did not say hobby or sport since those who get good at fly fishing find that it is an integral part of their life.

Casting is very important, and it's easy to do, but not necessarily easy to learn. If you want to fly fish bite the bullet and learn to do it right. A good school will also bring you up to speed on the necessary equipment. You should be equipped to catch your first fish when you come out of a proper class. On top of instruction you need to practice your casting.

Ah, but you won't know what fish to catch or how to play a fish once you have it hooked. If you hook and land a trout could you hook and land a salmon, a bonefish or a tarpon? It's all a learning experience. Just when you think you have one aspect all figured out you go where the fish are entirely different. Then there are the rods, lines, and different fishing conditions like casting into the wind! There are always new challenges, and it can become a way of life. Are you prepared for the commitment?

Success is measured in your personal pleasure. How much you are willing to put into fly fishing is in directly proportion to what comes back to you. It can be in the form of personal satisfaction as in, "Hey, I got that right!" Or it can be as simple as taking a deep breath and being aware that nothing has intruded on your thoughts except this fishing experience. It becomes the intricate embroidery on the fabric of your life. It is incredibly personal.

Natural beauty surrounds nearly all of the fresh or saltwater fisheries, and that's not a small item either. The connection via a fly line with the water, or if you really get it right, a connection with a fish, is primal food for the soul.

If you want to have a private place, that place where the soul lives, where you can retreat and unplug from all the other stresses that intrude on your life, fly fishing can provide that place.

Originally printed as a newspaper article on January 30, 1997 in the Kitsap Sun Sport Section, published in Bremerton, WA

Fly Anglers On Line ————— *www.flyangersonline.com*



Alpine Fly Fishers
Next Meeting
October 28, 2014



2015 WSCIFFF FLY FISHING FAIR

May 1 - 2, 2015
Ellensburg, WA



2015 IFFF FLY FISHING FAIR

August 11 - 15, 2015
Bend, Oregon



**Other IFFF Events
In October, 2014**

**Southern Council Fly
Fishing Fair**

October 2 - 4

Mountain Home, Arkansas

www.southerncouncilfff.org

Florida Council Expo

October 10 - 11

Crystal River Plantation

Crystal River, Florida

www.fedflyfishers.org/Councils/Florida.aspx

TFO Fly Rod Board Vote

On September 8, two weeks after I posted the TFO fly rod vote to everyone via email, I closed the vote. The results: By over 2 to 1, the majority voted to wait until we get five new IFFF members to join our club. The reason for the wait was to obtain the more expensive and faster action TiCrX fly rod. Also, the majority of those who voted wanted a 5 weight rod. So, we will keep our points and wait for five new members. We have 13 points and we need 18.



Shu-Fly Fly Rod Board & Flies

Since the TFO rod is in a holding pattern, I decided to offer up a different fly rod that I purchased from the Big Y Fly Co. as a fund raiser for the AFF. This will be a Shu-Fly trout & panfish series fly rod. It is a 9 foot, 4 weight, 4 piece rod. The company has a decent limited lifetime warranty. For those of you who were at the September meeting, you had a chance to take a look at it and start buying squares at a rate of \$5 each. When the board is full we will pick a winner! Just to make it a little more interesting I will add some flies into the selection process. The board is made up of five horizontal columns and eight vertical columns. When we pick a vertical column, every square in that row will win six flies. Then when we pick the horizontal column, every square in that row will also win 6 flies and the winner of the fly rod will have won at least one dozen flies. One person could end up winning more than six flies if he or she purchased more than one square in those columns. So, the more squares you buy, the better your chances for winning the rod and some flies. This is a great chance to win a fly rod. Even if you don't need another fly rod, you can always sell it for a nice profit over the price of two or three squares. You have a one in forty chance of winning a fly rod and a one in three chance of winning at least six flies in a fly cup. Great odds!

Alpine Fly Fishers Fly Tying Sessions Bonney Lake Library

I am going to try a trial run for having fly tying sessions. If these first two sessions work out then we can continue them into 2015 for a few months.

October 16 - 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm (The Third Thursday)

November - **No** tying session in November

December 18 - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (The Third Thursday)

Bonney Lake Library

18501 90th St E. Bonney Lake, WA 98391

From the west, get on Hwy 410, go up Elhi Hill into Bonney Lake. At the top of the hill make a left at the light onto the Sumner-Buckley Hwy. Then make a right at the next light which is Main St. (about 1 block away) and turn left onto 90th st. It is on the right hand side after the Municipal Building.

From the east, go west on Hwy 410, make a right at Main St. (across from the Chevron station) and turn right onto 90th at the Municipal Building.



October / November 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Time to bring out the October Caddis		1 October	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Fly Tying Bonney Lake Library	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Club Meeting	29	30	31	

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

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Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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