

# Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our next meeting will be on*

*Tuesday*

*September 25, 2012*

*We will be meeting at the*

*Puerto Vallarta*

*215 15th St. SE*

*Puyallup*



Charter  
Club



## The Dead Drift - September 2012

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

We had a nice club picnic the last of June at Duffy's place. Even the weather cooperated with us and the sun came out for most the evening. We played a couple games of ACCBB (Alpine Cross Country Bocce Ball), you would have had to be there to understand the X-Country. The food was great, Steve's Scotch was great and the camaraderie was even better.

All of you know that I am the auction coordinator for national FFF events. This past July, I had the pleasure of working with Stephen Neal who came to Spokane to be in charge of the Silent Auction portion of the Auction/Raffle fund raisers. Stephen stepped up to the plate when a mutual friend or ours from California became very ill. Our friend's wife is usually the one in charge of the Silent Auction but naturally she could not attend, so Stephen took over. Stephen, you did a fantastic job. Thank you.

I also had a number of other volunteers who helped us out. Our very own Peter Maunsell was one of them. Peter, thank you for all your help and hard work and again welcome to the WA State Council Board of Directors.

Steve Egge was over there at the Spokane show as well, he was working the Loop booth and also checking out some of the great fly tyers doing their magic. If any other club members made it over I did not see you, but then I tend to be rather busy and I don't get to do much looking around.

Our September meeting will be for us, our chance to stand up and tell our fishing experiences from over the summer and what we will be doing this early fall and into winter. Cliff Molz had what sounds like a fantastic fishing trip this summer and I asked him if he could share some of his photos with us so I will have the power point projector set up at the meeting for Cliff to use. If anyone else has any digital pictures they would like to flash on the screen send them to me.

Speaking of digital pictures, I know Steve Egge will be looking for photos of our fishing trips from this year to display during our December meeting (December 11 by the way, so the meeting doesn't interfere with the holidays). So if you have some digitals you would like displayed, then bring them to Steve.

Good fishing.

Larry

## Federation of Fly Fishers

### Fly of the Month

# BLACK JUNE

By Bob Bates

The August 2010 FFF Fly Fishing Fair and Conclave was held in West Yellowstone, Montana. It was a great opportunity to meet fly anglers and tiers from all over the world. There were people from South Africa, Ireland, Scotland, Great Britain, Canada, many parts of the United States and other places.

One favorite demonstration fly tier was Ellen Clark from Ft. Washakie, Wyoming. She likes Gary LaFontaine patterns. They are easy to tie and catch fish. Black June is a searching pattern generally for streams, but it can be used in lakes. In streams she usually fishes it like a nymph, down and across. If you feel it is not getting deep enough add a little lead to the leader. Also give it a little action; don't stay with a dead drift. In lakes use a slow retrieve. This pattern is supposed to imitate a beetle.



#### Materials list:

**Hook:** Any heavy nymph hook like Dai Riki 280 size 12

**Thread:** 6/0 black

**Tag:** Silver tinsel

**Rib:** French oval tinsel

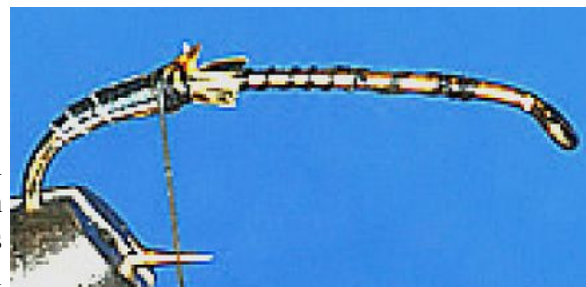
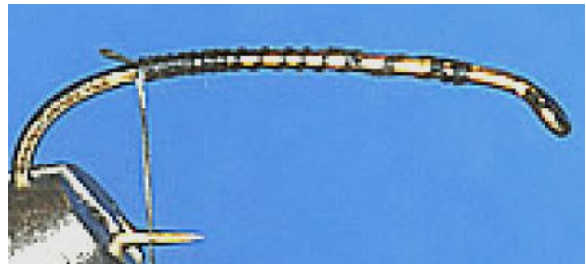
**Body:** Peacock herl

**Wing:** Monga ring tail, black fibers

**Collar:** Hen hackle, black

#### Tying steps:

1. Wrap a thread base on hook, and let thread hang between barb and point of hook.
2. Tie in gold/silver Mylar ribbing so the silver side is up when you wrap. Wrap the tag around the bend, and then back to tie in point. This is longer than it should be because the tinsel is sometimes a little messy when it is tied off and trimmed. It will be partly covered by the body.
3. Tie on a piece of thin silver oval French tinsel where the tag ends, trim any excess and let it hang. Tie in fairly long pieces of peacock herl above the barb so you don't have to cut and paste in the middle of the body. Even if you do it is not the end of the world; the fish don't care. She says that at least the fish haven't told her that they care.



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4. Start by wrapping the peacock herl two or three times around the thread. Then hold the thread and peacock herl together as you wrap forward. The thread reinforces the delicate peacock herl as you wrap. Wrap forward to about two eye widths from the eye. Ellen learned years ago to leave one eye width for each material to be tied on. Tie off and trim excess.



5. Counter wrap the oval tinsel forward. This means to wrap in a direction opposite to what the peacock herl was wrapped. By counter wrapping the peacock herl is reinforced and the tinsel is visible on top of the herl. Trim excess with part of scissors back from the points. Keep the tips sharp for trimming hackle.



6. Pick out a small bunch of black hair from a Monga Ring tail, and clean out any under fur. Trim off the butts if needed to make it fit in the hair stacker, and stack with tips down. Tie bunch of hair onto hook with tips at about the end of the hook.



7. Pick a black hen hackle, and trim the barbs where it will be tied in. Since this is a soft hackle pattern make only two turns. Secure and trim excess.



8. With three fingers pull the barbs back, and wind the thread rearward to make the fibers point backward a little. Half hitch or whip finish the head. Finally, put on enough head cement all the way around the head to soak in.



Closing comments: Tie a few Black Junes and go searching for some nice fish. If you are not going to keep them for dinner, be sure to release them carefully so you or a friend can play with them another day. Also keeping the fish in the water as you take out the barbless hook helps survival. If you have to net the fish use a net with a knotless or rubber bag.



## Alpine Fly Fishers

Meetings for 2012  
Fourth Tuesday of the Month (except December)

September 25

October 23

November 27

Christmas Party - December 11

## Fly Fishing Related Shows in 2013

Washington Sportsmen's Show  
January 23 – 27  
Puyallup Fair & Events Center

The Fly Fishing Show returns to Washington State in 2013.  
Lynnwood  
February 16 & 17

## FFF Events in 2013



Next year this great show, the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo will be held again in Albany, Oregon, on Friday and Saturday, **March 8 & 9, 2013**. Plan to attend.



Also next year, the Washington State Council will bring you the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, on Friday and Saturday, **May 3 & 4, 2013**. Don't miss this one, it is a great event!!!!



The Federation of Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Fair will be held in West Yellowstone, MT, sometime during the late summer months of 2013. I will post the dates when they have been established.

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## Invisible Cords of Life

(for Roger & Sandy Miller)

Outside my bedroom window heavy rain fell, when my sleepy mind fully awoke, it identified the sound of rumbling thunder. The early dawn light revealed a wet Friday morning filled with electricity, an unusual weather pattern for the coastal Northwest. As the crash and echo of thunder filled the house; little did I know that it was having a direct affect on a friend who lives 6 miles to the south west on a southern ridge of the Puyallup river valley. As Steve looked out a window sipping a cup of daybreak brew little did he suspect that his home and yard were the epicenter of a massive imbalance of negative and positive ions? From a moment of peaceful contemplation watching the rain fall, to an instant of a home filled with dazzling light, and rumbling with the deep boom of thunder. It was in this moment of time that Steve realized he was truly awake; it was either the thunderstorm or one hell of a good cup of coffee.

Outside his front door, a 100 foot tall Hemlock had just received a fatal lightning strike. In the moment that Steve's lips had met the edge of his coffee cup, at a minimum, one million volts of energy with a temperature of 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit surged through the heart of the tree; boiling the sap, generating steam and exploding cells as it followed the path of least resistance seeking its grounding in the earth. The lightning strike returned the imbalance of positive and negative ions to equilibrium, while destroying the balance of the tree. Bark and branches blew off and out showering the ground, the tree's roots erupted skyward and the tree's structural integrity was destroyed. But still the Hemlock stood tall, shaken to its core but holding on, just not yet ready to start surrendering to the pull of gravity. Steve left for the clinic blissfully unaware of the work of cleanup awaiting his home return.

Slowly the tree began to surrender, we will never know when it gave up the fight or why? Was it a gust of wind, the inevitable pull of earth's gravitational rotation, or a blue jay's weight on a branch on the homeward side that pulled it over? The top fifty feet shuddered and began to topple, one too many fibers give way and the tree top embraces the manicured lawn sod, driving its limbs deep into the earth, spewing boughs, limbs and bark over a hundred foot area, the tree had returned to the earth from which it had risen.

"When we try to pick out anything by itself we find that it is bound fast by a thousand invisible cords that cannot be broken, to everything in the universe." John Muir

Now let us pick up one of the invisible cords that bind us all together. Steve without the counsel of his wife who was visiting family on the East Coast, who surely would have recommended a professional tree service for falling and clean up; purchased a chain saw and all of its needed and suggested accoutrements plus instructional DVD. He educated himself on wood working techniques and then bent his back, his knees and elbows, then turned his hands to hard labor. Over the next five days he successfully rendered the top fifty feet into firewood and scraps. He had the yard clean and back in order. With his firewood neatly stacked he emailed a few friends to come celebrate his justifiable and laudable success, and to witness the falling of the last 50 feet of Hemlock.

We gathered at 6:30 PM to observe his triumph and the falling of the rest of the tree. We all must come clean; we all approached the event with a little trepidation. One among us even hoped to film an award winning video to be titled Doctors Gone Wild. Steve is an accomplished individual in both his professional and personal life. But he does tend to come out of some of his upfront and close contacts with broken appendages, therefore our sense of slight unease. preparedness



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The aspiring film maker among us stepped up, with some unease to the tree and with great form he executed what Steve's studied had arraigned; and felled the tree exactly where it was suppose to fall. Once the earth vibrations stopped, the noise of the crash ceased and the chainsaw cooled and popped we got down to our celebration.

Now how do five fishermen celebrate a lightning strike, a tree felling and a successful clean up? With Single Malt Scotch, gourmet chesses, roasted almonds and nachos served on the stump of the recently fallen tree turned garden table. As the evening slowly turned to night, Mount Rainer vanished from sight and the evening star began to shine bright, we sipped scotch, nibbled and munched while discussing Aurora, Colorado, guns and senseless death, Steelhead fishing, Vietnam, World War II, Steelhead fishing, daughters and growth, daughters and breakups, sons marriages, future Washington Moose hunting trips etc... What does all of this have to do with a lightning strike on a tree in Steve's yard; well as friends we came together to share his success and to be together as friends but underlying the fishing, friendships and the tree, our gathering is a free reality check on life.



Current life is a series of lightning strikes, our world is changing rapidly around us, a visit to a theater can mean life or death, our economy is in shambles because the old business models are giving way to new ones and the new ones are slow to appear. Information dissemination is instantaneous; we share our lives by facebook and twitter. The encyclopedia in print form is gone; it is now trying to reinvent itself as an electronic version. For us it is Wikipedia and internet searches; knowledge is no longer personal property or a book stored in a library, it is at our finger tips. Real property has lost its inflated value; manufacturing is not the main stay of our economic building blocks. We are in the middle of a time of human and civilization growth, no clear path stands before us. Education, science and research have uncovered new insights and knowledge of the invisible cords that bind the world together. How do we implement the new knowledge into old forms to minimize the disruptive impact on our lives and livelihoods? If our history is any indication it will not be easy, humans hate change but life is movement, old gives way to new, decay gives way to growth, the longer you hold change back the more dynamic is its emergence. Life demands life.

We are five men 59 years to 82 years; all of us in one form or another are conservative, progressive, pragmatic, optimistic, concerned and searching. Steve's lightning struck tree and celebration table become a forum to exchange ideas, to share concerns, it was and is a metaphor for change. We shared insights and life experiences, our children's triumphs and struggles. We bounced ideas off each other and laughed and joked. We did not solve any life challenges as we talked, but we eased some of our fears; we know we are not alone in our life struggles. We know that we are more alike than different, that our views about life have not been made without peer review from different outlooks. We all want a better world for our children and our children's children. What is best for them may not be what was best for us, the past made us what we are but once a lesson has been learned we need to let it go so that we can learn the next lesson. Do not fear the lightning strikes of life they just herald a change. We need to celebrate our successes in meeting the challenges and changes. One cannot hold back the tides or the time. Our fear of change cost us not only today but also the joy of a new tomorrow.

My wish for you is to celebrate life around the stump of a tree with friends. May you find there that change is part of the natural order of life and that is where the human spirit is reborn.

Thank you, Steve, Bob, John, Pete and Mike and all my friends in Alpine Fly Fishers and Fly Fishers for Conservation. Pictures provided by Steve Egge



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

# September / October

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

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