

Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Meeting
Won't Be Until Tuesday
September 24, 2013*

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



The Dead Drift - September 2013

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

September, the end of summer, but the start of a great fall. I do love fishing in the fall. The fish are hungry, they want to bulk up for the long winter. The October Caddis are starting to show up and the last of the Grasshoppers are flying around. This morning I looked up at my skylight and was reminded of another late summer, early fall insect, the flying ant. They are now starting to come out as there is one walking around the glass above me. These are also sort of orange in color, no wonder the favorite color for flies in the fall is orange. The perfect time to bring out the Halloween Woolly Bugger, a great fish catcher.

September is our first meeting after the summer hiatus so this is the month we all get to tell our fishing tales of our fishing exploits. I am sure there are some great stories that will be told. How was the fishing in Oregon as compared to Washington, or did Montana fish as well as it should have, even with the drought. Who went to far off exotic places for a chance at some great piscatorial battles. Who won the Star Wars Lightsaber battle between Bill and Bob? How easily does a pontoon boat travel when you are dragging it over slippery rocks? Who took a dunking in the water? Did Bill get face to face with a Grizzly and grab some tying material or did he throw Howard to the Wolves? Yes, I am sure there will be some stories told, all truths for sure since we are fly fishers and do not lie. Makes me wonder, why do we call it a Liar's Cup?



I hope everyone has been taking pictures and will share them with Steve for our December raffle fund raiser event. Please start sending Steve Egge those photos so he can get them organized. There will be a great raffle for all of you to try your luck, so remember to bring the bucks to buy the tickets!!! Flies, fly boxes, tying tools, tying materials, all will be on the table. Speaking of the December meeting, I am accepting donations for the raffle, either new items or slightly used items in excellent shape.

At the September meeting I will have 15 items up for the offering, so buy lots of tickets and Good Luck To All OF You!!!! Guy Magno will be running the raffle at the September meeting.

I had to cancel a trip to the Clark Fork. The river is way too low for decent fishing. In all the years Brooks has lived there the lowest he has seen the river was 1850 cfs. It just hit 1830 cfs on the 23rd of August, and still dropping.

Good fishing.

Larry

Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

Bionic Worm

September 2005

By Bob Bates and Ron Pantzar



Many years ago Ron Pantzar of Spokane, Washington examined the weeds on his anchor and found several 1- to 1-1/2-inch long bloodworms. The largest he had ever seen. That evening he tied something to look like them. The next day an unbelievable number of fish fell for the new creation. It was astounding since the trout in this Central Washington quality lake were pretty fussy. Naturally Ron and his three friends kept quiet about the new pattern as they improved it.

After a decade or more the name Bionic Worm leaked out, and the question "Do you know how to tie the Bionic Worm?" was asked often in the fly shops. Finally the pattern came out in a magazine, but it was attributed erroneously to another tier. It was also published in *Flies of the Northwest*, 1998, by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. Now the rest of us knew what it looked like and how to tie it. Early versions of the fly were tied on an English bait hook or scud hook. Improvements flourished: A bead was added to make it sink faster, a gold hook was used to add a glow or sparkle, a fluorescent bead was used and finally a gold rib was added. Whatever the variation it caught fish in lakes and in rivers. Many of us are still using the original pattern as well as several of the variations. Frequently the Bionic Worm was responsible for fooling the larger fish.

Enough history, how do you fish it? Most people use a floating line, strike indicator and enough tippet to suspend the fly near the bottom or weeds. Using a loop knot such as the Duncan Loop to attach the fly will let the fly move more freely. Varying the depth is always a good tactic. A little chop on the water makes the fly move and the offset in the hook makes it twist a little. Any movement will give action to the marabou tail. Once the fly is down it is an important for the angler to watch the bobber (sorry strike indicator). Set the hook when the strike indicator goes down or moves in any strange way. If your attention wanders to watch a bird, talk to a friend or pour a cup of coffee, the strike indicator will be coming up when you look back at it. The original rule on this type of fishing was to throw directly down wind and don't move the fly. Now that best anglers say to vary the cast direction relative to the wind, but do a little mending from time to time to reduce the bow in the line. If it is a dead calm situation use a slow irregular hand twist retrieve. Ron tied the flies for the pictures.

Materials & Equipment:

Hook: Gold Kahle hook, Eagle Claw 143G, sizes 10 and 12

Bead: Gold, 1/8-inch, optional

Thread: Red 6/0

Tail: Marabou, red, pink or maroon

Body: Red V-rib (transparent) medium or small

Rib: Gold wire, optional

Tying steps:

1. Debarb hook to make threading on the bead easier. If the bead has a larger hole on one side than the other have the smaller hole toward the hook eye.



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2. Attach thread a little behind the barb. Tie in a small clump of marabou for the tail.



3. Trim the V-rib to a sharp point with a razor blade and a block of wood.



4. Nice sharp point on V-rib



5. Attach V-rib to hook securely by the point. Stretch the V-rib as you are doing this. If it breaks, trim and tie on a new piece. Tie in gold rib if you wish. Spiral the thread forward to the bead. Let as much of the gold hook show as possible.



6. Pull on V-rib, wrap it forward to bead, secure and trim excess. If a gold rib was attached, wrap it forward between each wrap of V-rib, secure and trim. Wind a small head behind the bead, whip finish, trim thread and cement.



Closing comments: Orange and other colors of V-rib have been used, but red seems to be the most successful. Also other bead colors including fluorescent orange have been used. This fly has caught so many fish for me that I am reluctant to add it to the FFF Fly of the Month. So please carefully release the fish you hook so they can grow up and play with you or some other angler another day.

Editors Comments: When tying this or other San Juan Worm varieties in pink, the pink V-Rib will not show up as much as you will want it to. So, first wrap an under layer of a pink material onto the hook, tie it off and then wrap the pink V-Rib around that. The pink color will really show through then. This fly can also be effective in blue or purple. Tie a few and give them a try sometime. LWG

A Fly Fishing Quote:

"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." - Charles F. Orvis

Alpine Fly Fishers — Board Of Directors

Traditionally, at our December fund raiser meeting we also vote in our Board of Directors for the next year. As you can see, we have some duplications, those being Bill Aubrey and Bob Alston. It would be nice if they didn't have to wear two hats. All you have to do is toss yours into the ring and ask to be on the ballot. In the past we have not had an actual written ballot since we have not had more than one person wanting to participate in any particular position. That means we just ask the members who attend the December meeting to do a verbal vote for the Board of Directors. As long as the majority vote for the existing BOD, then every BOD member simply gets re-elected.

Here is your chance to step up and voice your desire to be on the Board

of Directors. If we have more than one person vying for any particular position then we will have a written ballot that will be passed out to the active club members who attend the December meeting.

If anyone wants to be the President, please feel free to apply for the job.

Give it some thought and if you want to join the BOD, please send me an email to let me know which position you would like.

Thank you.

Larry Gibbs — flytier015@q.com (Third Notification)

Board Of Directors:

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Alpine Fly Fishers Yahoo Site

The Alpine Fly Fishers has a Yahoo Group site. This isn't used very much, in fact hardly at all. That is too bad since a Yahoo Group site can be a very effective tool. Up coming trips can be posted, and the person posting can announce if they are inviting people to come along or just letting us know what they are doing. Items can be posted for sale and fishing reports can be given.

I must admit I do not check in on this site near as much as I should, so for a pre-New Years Resolution I will try to check in at least once a day from now on.

How many of you club members belong to the AFF Yahoo site? In theory we have 42 members but some of those are very old entries and are inactive.

If you don't belong, why not join? If you do belong, why not use the site more often?

I have to wonder if some of these social group sites that have sprung up over the past few years are taking the place of Yahoo Group sites. I know there used to be a MSN fly fishing group site that was very active but a number of years ago they shut down.

Log into Yahoo and look up our site or use the website address listed below to access us. Join and do a post letting us know you are around. This is a members only site so only members can read the posts. If you join you will have to be accepted before your posts show up on the board.

Give it a try.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AlpineFlyFishers/>

September Guest Speaker

You!!!

September is our first meeting after the summer hiatus so this is the month we all get to tell our fishing tales of our fishing trips. Stories of the big ones that got away, or the catch of a lifetime, or picking up the pieces from broken rods. Come prepared to give an entertaining report and to listen to everyone else's fun times.

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2013 September 24 — October 22 — November 26 — December 17

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

Fishing with Mike

New fishing experience and new water, I'm working for Sportsman's Warehouse in the fishing department and picking up a lot of fishing knowledge from the guys I work with and the customers. Before Sportsman's my experience with bait and gear was limited; my bait fishing was surf fishing, using the leavings from the cleaning tables and dumpsters behind Vic's in Morro Bay and my gear fishing was with jigs off the Cayucos pier and the use of flatfish and rooster tails, on high mountain lakes and streams with a backpack spinning rod. While my fly fishing knowledge is good my lack of knowledge on bait and gear fishing has necessitated a steep learning curve on the right equipment for all of the varied fishing opportunities in the Pacific Northwest.

Fortunately for me the guys I work with have a wealth of knowledge and have been very open in sharing their enthusiasm for the line and the reel, and their quest for the fish that swim in the waters of planet earth. To add to that knowledge I readily agreed to go fishing with Mike when in a brief moment of time, our days off coincided. We were going fishing for Kokanee in Alder Lake on the Nisqually River. In preparation for this new occurrence, Mike pointed out the items I would need to troll for and catch Kokanee. After Mike was done with me, Keith our boss added to my equipment and knowledge base by advising me on flashers and how to bend them to get the most action out of them so that I could out fish Mike! With that tutorial I was set for my quest for Kokanee with Mike. Well not quite I still needed to hit the store for White Shoe Peg Corn; Mike was responsible for the maggots.

The August day dawned overcast, which was a surprise as we have been hot and dry for a surprisingly long period for Western Washington. To compensate for this wrinkle I grabbed a jacket and drove over to Mikes. We loaded our gear in the Starcraft boat and wound our way through wooded neighborhoods to the mini mart for two beers and then onto back roads, to state routes and after a road work detour found ourselves on the boat ramp ready for launch. As I rigged my rod we disappeared into the fog covering the lake surface. Now there is one problem with rigging your rod while disappearing into the fog, with your head down you lose all your reference points and have no idea where you are and where you are going. So when I lifted my head I was lost on the surface of the lake, until a fog defused glimpse of another embarkation point I had seen just before we motored out into the lake orientated me. After my momentary placement confusion passed I relaxed into our journey. Mike who had been piloting our boat knew where he was the whole time as he headed towards the damn and our fishing drop spot. As Mike piloted our craft downstream and west; my weight, bent flasher, wedding ring, with shoe peg corn on one hook and maggot on the other hook settled deep into the lake on one side of the boat and Mike's weight, flasher and Koko'e'nut with corn and maggot settled deep on the other side.

And that my readers is Kokanee fishing, I was thinking as we trolled along how uneventful this type of fishing was compared to fly fishing, I am use to picking up my fly after a nice drift and presentation and casting to a new spot, here I needed to content myself with sitting back and relaxing while the electric trolling motor did all the work of moving us.



Little did I know that lots more, was to come? I had forgotten about maggots, beer, speed

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boat driven waves, bent flashers and Mike's sense of humor. All of which were about to liven up the day. I began to catch fish and to have quite a few hook ups, with involuntary releases, while Mike's setup produced less than nothing.

Like any true fisherman Mike began to experiment with his tackle, and after discussing my Keith induced bent flasher; Mike decided to bend his flasher as well, but instead of bending, his flasher broke. Now as you well know, fishermen become attached to their gear especially if it has produced fish for them over a number of years. Mike reluctantly replaced his flasher but his gear still did not produce any fish and his broken flasher became the topic of discussion for the day and for a few days to follow as well. Of course Keith was blamed for this tragic and unfortunate fishing equipment failure and the loss of this favorite flasher. But the best was yet to come, as we fished on. Mike continued to fiddle with his rig but still the fish gods did not smile upon him nor did the Kokanee. Near 11:00 AM Mike reached for his beer, while contemplating his next gear change and grumbling at the speed boaters for causing waves and crossing our fishing lines and our course.

It can and has been said that life is stranger than fiction, because now waves, gear, beer and maggots were on a collision course that will result in a story to be told where fisherman gather for years to come. Now the maggots Mike had obtained from our refrigerators at work come in Styrofoam containers filled with sawdust and maggots. Not the most stable of contents with wind and wave action. Now the setup, Mike has judiciously placed his open container of beer on the boat deck to his right side, the boat controller is held to his side by his elbow as he re-rigs his trolling set up. A speed boat passes on our port side as an easterly breeze blows. Mike at this same moment opens his maggot container pinches the maggot to place it on his hook, the wave hits, the breeze blows and the saw dust and maggots rain down upon his open beer can.

To me this all seemed to happen in slow motion, as the sawdust and maggots began to fall I alerted Mike, as he covered the maggot container his facial expressions began to change. He went from a fisherman trying to solve a catching problem while enjoying a sip of beer, to a crest fallen fisherman still trying to solve a catch issue who now has a horrifying image of a maggot floating in his beer lodged in his mind. The sawdust was a minor inconvenience, but those maggots now grew in size and worry. Had they fallen in his beer, should he take a sip and what would his physical reaction be if one had actually fallen in his beer and he took a sip and found one?



All of these expressions flowed across Mike's face before he uttered a word of his dismay and dilemma. With laughter and humor he debated with himself on whether or not to take another sip of beer. I must add that this was Mike's only beer and he had had only two or three sips before the eventful maggot fall. It was a couple more trolling runs before Mike built up enough courage to take a sip. I know the suspense is killing you, were their maggots in the beer. Luckily for Mike, no wiggly items were discovered in his liquid refreshment. Not too much longer after the rainfall of sawdust and maggots and another sip of beer, Mike caught a Kokanee. There is an old saying among fishermen to explain days where you have gotten skunked, that you were probably not holding your mouth right. Now I maintain, that Mike now caught a fish because he was now holding his mouth right, if a maggot might have fallen in your beer I'm sure you would change the way you hold your mouth, that maggot fall solved Mike's catching problem. Finding no maggots in his beer did not ease Mike's doubts and fears, that night he dreamed of being chased by giant maggots. How could I have ever thought that trolling for Kokanee was an un-eventful way to fish?

Thanks Mike, for a great day on the water, your great sense of humor and lessons in Kokanee fishing.

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

The Adams Family

The Adams is such a great fly, one of the early 20th Century classics. This fly is around 90 years old and is still hanging in there. Over the years there have been many variations of the fly, I guess you could call it a compliment. The Adams, or more exact, the Parachute Adams (for visibility reasons) is one of my favorite flies. Here are some of the variations I was able to snip photos of from the internet. I am sure there are other variations out there. If anyone has a photo of them, please send it to me. Thanks. Larry

Adams



Parachute Adams



Para Adams Hi Viz



Para Adams Indicator



Para Adams Spinner



Female Adams



Extended Body Adams



Comparadun Adams



Klinkhammer Adams



Moosetail Adams



Para Extended Body Adams



Adams Wet Fly



Adams Reversed



Hair Wing Adams



Adams Wulff



Delaware Adams



Adams Thorax



Adams Purple



Adams Emerger Beadhead



Adams Downwing



Adams Soft Hackle



Adams Irresistible



Adams Sparkle Dun



Adams Spent Wing



Adams Spent Wing



September / October 2013

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

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

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