

Alpine Fly Fishers



No Meetings Until
September 22, 2009

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

J u l y 2 0 0 9 / N E W S L E T T E R (R e v i s e d)

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By Larry Gibbs

What makes it a 'Club Outing' as opposed to a group of people from a club deciding to go to a place to fish? I don't know, maybe the only real difference is one is advertised within our club and the other just happens.

We have had several suggestions that we need more club outings. I agree. Some larger outings are already in play:

- (1) The alpine lakes trip this July to the Pasayten Lakes Wilderness area.
- (2) I have announced a Clark Fork in August trip for Aug 4 & 5.
- (3) I have announced a Clark Fork in September trip for Sept 17 & 18
- (4) Then we have the 3 Lakes trip to Dad's Lake in NE WA the first week of October. There are 5 or 6 of us from Alpine going on that trip and we could use 3 or 4 more.

I think we do need to start making some more local one day trips as club outings. Most trips like that are last minute, "Hey, let's do this" type trips so we can't really call those club outings. But, we can have some official club outings. All we have to do is pick a day, pick a body of water, give it a couple of weeks notice on the AFF Yahoo site and we are good to go.

Lakes are popular places to have club outings. Across the bridge we have Teal Lake and Cady Lake. Up on Whidbey Island there is Lone Lake. However, even closer, we have some great small lakes that we can fish: Kapowsin; Rapjohn; Ohop; Tanwax; Clear Lake; Harts Lake; Silver Lake; and Whitman Lake. Some of those should be good for a club outing or two. Then there is Leech Lake, always a great choice for some Triploids and good fighting Brookies.

Another place that is supposed to be good is the Snoqualmie River up in the Denny Creek area. How many times have we driven by that and thought "I really would like to fish that someday", well maybe we need to go exploring soon and give it a try.

All we need is for someone to say, Hey, let's do it!" and make an announcement on the Yahoo site. If you don't belong to Yahoo and don't visit our site, you could miss out on a lot of fun. Email me on how to join Yahoo, it is easy and there is no spamming.

See you on the water?



Larry

Target and Distance Casting Practice Seminar

Lesson Two — Conducted By Jim C. Chapralis

In order to enjoy better fishing results, it is necessary for most anglers to practice casting on a continuing basis. Admittedly, practice is b-o-r-i-n-g, so it's my job to make casting practice so much fun that you'll almost like it as much as fishing! And down the road you might even want to enter a casting tournament! And Win!

LESSON TWO: To review: To succeed in fly fishing, we need to become good casters primarily in terms of accuracy, but also, under certain circumstances, in distance. In our introductory remarks last month, we mentioned that most of us learn the fundamentals of casting through books or videos, casting schools, or, perhaps, from a veteran fly-casting friend. But between fishing trips, these lessons are lost, so it is necessary to practice our casting periodically. We agreed that usually practice isn't fun. Well, if you bear with me, we're going to make casting practice "fun," to a point that many of you will actually look forward to it. We'll get to the juicy stuff - the casting practice fun things - next week, but we need to go over some "ground rules" and set up some targets. If you haven't read the first installment, please read it now. To succeed, you must understand and accept the premise: good casting is fun in itself, but also produces better fishing results. Snook are very difficult to fool. They "chill out" next to mangroves and often won't hit a fly or popper unless it's within inches of the mangrove. This is where your casting practice will give you an advantage.

WHERE DO WE PRACTICE? That's the advantage of "tournament" or "practice" casting. We can do it anywhere. If you have a back yard, say about 80 to 100 feet of cleared space, you can do it there. Or maybe at a nearby park. Or at a football or a soccer field. Better yet, perhaps there's a pond or you have a swimming pool, because it's best to cast on water. If you live in the northern climes, a gymnasium is a wonderful place in the wintertime to sharpen your casting skills while waiting for spring.

All you need is some open area, where you can set up some targets from 20 to 50 feet for most practice games. Remember, you're going to need almost the same amount of room behind you for the back casts. I prefer an open park or athletic field, because in addition to the ample room, there is usually a breeze, and one of the facts of angling life is that there is usually some wind on the waters which can effect your casting. I sometimes practice in my back yard, which is not very big, but mostly I go to a park for the serious sessions, including distance. If I have more time, I drive to our casting club in Chicago's famous Lincoln Park.

WHAT KIND OF TACKLE? You can use nearly any fly-fishing gear you have. Assuming that most of you are trout fishers, an 8-ft. for a No. 5 or 6 line is fine but an 8-1/2 ft. fly rod is better for some events we're going to practice. If you're a bass-bug fly rodder, you're probably using a 8-1/2 or 9-foot fly rod, that takes an 8 or 9 weight line. I'm going to assume that your fly reel is spooled with the right weight line for the rod you're using. Tie on a 7-1/2 ft. tapered leader, perhaps tapered down to 2X or 3X for initial practice sessions for the trout fishing events (you'll need a heavier leader for Bass Bug practice event which we'll describe in a later session). Now comes an important part. Whenever you are practicing casting, Whenever you practice your casting, always, repeat always, tie on a fly or a piece of wool. Many anglers practice without a fly or piece of wool. This is wrong because a fly is to a line and leader what a tail is to a kite. It stabilizes the cast. Without it, your leader swishes back and forth and you change your casting stroke to accommodate this. A piece of wool yarn, about the size of a No. 10 fly (bright orange or yellow so that you can see it) is ideal. Another thing: In practice or actual fishing always wear eyeglasses (sun glasses or plain). Make that a "must" rule whenever you are fishing or practicing. More than one person has lost his vision because he was fly fishing without glasses.

THE TARGETS: When we were kids first we wanted to learn how to throw a ball, rock, stick or snowball, and after we acquired the throwing motion, we wanted to hit a target. We threw at objects. A garbage can. A tree. Whatever. And, boy, did we feel good when we hit our target! Right?

If you can't find Hula Hoops you can make your own targets from a variety of materials. An old brightly-colored rubber hose is ideal. What you want to do is make six hoops that are about 30 inches in diameter. Use duct tape to secure the ends together.

Actually you need only five for most games but six for the Bass Bug Event. If you are going to cast on water, you need some small weights and string to anchor the targets, and some pieces of wood or cork or other buoyant material to keep them afloat. The "close" target will be about 20 to 25 feet away and the long target will be 45 to 50 feet out.

Get those targets ready because next session we start with one of the most important games.

Stay tuned every month ~ Jim C. Chapralis

Next session: The Dry Fly Event.

Reprinted with the permission Deanna Birkholm, the owner of Fly Anglers On Line.

Editors note: Many 'Dollar' type stores have versions of Hula Hoops that are brightly colored and work great as targets.

Change of Date

Alpine Fly Fishers Fall/Winter Fly Tying Sessions

By Larry Gibbs

Monday, September 14, 2009

That is our first tying session.

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Fly of the session: **The Sucker Punch** a Dave Speer fly as tied by Jack Lehman

This is the Austin Fly Fishers – June 2009 fly of the month.

You can view it at: <http://www.austinflyfishers.com/documents/AFFJuneNL09.pdf>

Jack Lehman: “I’ve tied the fly in orange here because that makes for a better picture, but think about what the colors are for the shrimp, crabs or crawfish in your fishing area. Dave has given us a couple of other color combinations to try.

Tied in light olive, this fly would more closely imitate the naturals in freshwater. The shrimp colors or dark olive would be better for saltwater. Of course the burnt orange variation can always be an effective color and you should give it a try as well. Other color combinations Dave is tying are a shrimp pink (Softshell Crawdub, natural pheasant rump, and Speckled Tan legs) and a Texas Hill Country olive (Pale Olive Crawdub, olive pheasant rump, and Speckled Olive legs).

Materials:

Hooks: #6 Mustad 3366 (freshwater), #4 Mustad 3407 (saltwater). Hooks are awfully personal, but, this one is tied on a #4 Mustad 3407 for bonefish, skinny water reds, tailing black drum, and sheepshead. For carp I usually use a #6 Mustad 3366.

Thread: Rust thread, or to match body

Eyes: Bead Chain Eyes - large (5/32”), black

Legs: Centipede Legs - Montana Fly Company, Speckled Orange #801, size Mini #0

Body: Wapsi Life Cycle Peacock Dubbing, Crawdub Burnt Orange Dubbing

Wing: Hot Orange”

I will have a repeating photo slide show on our TV that will demonstrate this fly being tied step by step for easy and quick reference while tying.

Club Fund Raising

By Larry Gibbs

Interested in helping our club raise a little money? I can sell many different fly fishing related items on the FAOL (Fly Anglers On Line) bulletin board. I will designate the items as a fund raiser for our club. I would want items that are in decent shape, (for instance: maybe a scratch on a reel but still fully functional.) Fly tying materials go great on this site. Flies sell really well. Virtually anything fly fishing related is acceptable.

If you are interested, just bring the items to me or give me a call and I can pick them up. At the end of the year you will receive a letter of thanks from the club listing the items you donated. You will be able to write the amount you feel they were worth off on your income taxes since we are a non-profit organization.

Give it some thought. I am sure all of you have some capes that you are not using, or duplicate materials or equipment you are not using. How about a few dozen flies? Let’s turn these items around and bring up the balance of our treasury. With more in our kitty, we can have more guest speakers, or we can start buying some DVD’s for our library.

Quote Of The Month

“It was a long time before the next fish moved. He was in deep water at the head of the shallow, he rose only once when I was some way off and then not again. But I thought I knew where he was, after waiting a bit I began to get out line in order to cast over him. As I was lengthening my throw, and was resting the fly on the water some two yards below where I imagined him to be, a fish took with a splash and was firmly hooked. But he did not play strongly, and when I saw him I was not surprised to find him undersized. Was this my fish? It is uncommonly hard to mark a rise when you are twenty or thirty yards below, and I might easily have been some distance out. Yes, I suppose it was. I have reeled up, preparing to move on, when a subconscious thought forced itself to the front. It said, think again: think of the rise you first saw: picture it in your mind: was that, or could it have been, caused by the miserable pounder you just returned? Think again, it said, and then cast again two yards higher. I lengthened my line, and was rewarded by a rise that made my heart glad. He weighed two pounds and a half.

By now dusk had come on, stars were in the sky and in the air bats had taken the place swifts. All was over.”

A Summer On The Test by John Waller Hills — 1924

Fly of the Month

Partridge and Orange Soft Hackle

By Matt Lyons



Hooks: Wet fly.

Thread: Orange 6/0, or Pearsalls orange tying silk.

Body: Orange floss, or Pearsalls orange tying silk.

Hackle: Gray partridge, about 2 turns.

Reprinted with the permission Deanna Birkholm, the owner of Fly Anglers On Line.

Tying Instructions:

1. "Mount" your thread on the hook, Syl Nemes starts it just back from midshank.
2. Now tie in floss if you're using it, wrap forward to just behind eye, tie in and trim excess. If just using thread, wrap it forward, covering shank thoroughly. For large flies using just thread, you may have to run the thread up and down the hook a couple times to get the body built up.
3. Select your hackle, in general, the hackle should be sized so the barbs extend about to the back of the bend, so the barbs would be slightly longer than the shank. Stroke the hackle fibers backward, so they stand out at right angles to the stem. Hold it by the tip to do this. Strip off the fluff from the base of the stem on both sides.
4. Tie in the hackle just back from the eye, so the "natural curve of the feather is towards the hook" or so the concave side faces you.
5. Do NOT advance thread to in front of feather. Make 1 1/2 to 2 wraps with the partridge hackle, then leave the hackle pliers hanging down below the hook, still holding the butt of the feather. Make sure you keep the convex side of the feather facing forward as you wrap. At this point, the thread is behind the wrapped hackle now bring the thread forward thru the hackle, being sure to wrap down the stem once as you go. Be careful not to bind down any fibers. Now advance thread to the eye, trim excess butt of feather.
6. Form a neat, tapered head. Whip finish and cut thread.
7. Cement.

Fishing the Fly: This is the way Sylvester Nemes ties them. I love these flies, and am to the point where I fish them at least 50% of the time. The traditional method of fishing them is "greased line". Basically, casting across stream, holding the rod toward your bank, and moving the rod out toward the fly and feeding slack to slow the drift. The idea is to get a mostly drag free drift, while keeping the line tight enough that you feel the strikes. I fish these in the traditional method, as well as many others. They work well fished like a nymph, dry or emerger as well. Give them a try, you WILL catch fish. If you want to learn more about the fishing technique, tying, or history of these flies, there are three books available entirely on soft hackles. The author, Syl Nemes, has written a trilogy: THE SOFT HACKLED FLY, THE SOFT HACKLED FLY ADDICT, and SOFT HACKLED FLY IMITATIONS. All three are great reading, I would recommend them to everyone. ~ Matt

Post Card Survey Results

By Larry Gibbs

(By the way, **EN**, means Editors Note.)

To those of you who returned the postcards I mailed to everyone, thanks for taking part in the recent postcard survey. Some of the results: 18 people out of 27 members responded, which is 67%

1. **Yahoo Site visitors:** 0 = 7 / 1 = 2 / 2 to 3 = 2 / 5 = 1 / 10+ = 6 people (61% visit)
2. **Website Visitors:** 0 = 3 / 1 = 9 / 2+ = 1 / 3 = 1 / 5 = 2 / 10+ = 2 people (83% visit)
3. **Do you read the newsletter that is posted on the website?** Yes = 15 / No = 3 (83% do)
4. **Do you want the newsletter sent to you in a PDF format?** Yes = 13 / No = 5 (72% do)

EN: Right now I send the PDF version of the newsletter out to 10 members: Steve; Phil F; Al; Pat; Jim; Doug & Julia; both Bills and Peter. If you want to be added to this please email me.... flytier015@msn.com

5. Is there anything you would like to see done differently or anything you would like to add to our monthly meetings?

Excerpts from that question:

- ◆ “I can't think of anything at the moment but I do like the way you have been leading them! ...I like the FFF updates as well as if there is something going on with PSFF.....” **EN:** Thanks.
- ◆ “Better Location & Monday night meetings” **EN:** Locations are reeeeaallly hard to find. I think that the Puerto Vallarta will work out for us. See 3 messages below regarding Mondays.
- ◆ “We need to up the outings offerings to retain new members” **EN:** I totally agree we do need more outings, see my Presidents Line message.
- ◆ “Hey Larry, didn't know there was a Yahoo site. I do now!. Just got done reading newsletter 6/1/09 and checked the mail and got your card. Great Job!! Thanks.....” **EN:** Glad you found the site.
- ◆ “Change meeting back to Monday” **EN:** We talked about that at the unofficial PV meeting, it is an option but would need at least a majority if not 2/3's of the membership to agree. If we did that then again there would be some members who would not be able to attend because they are tied up on Mondays. So for now we stay with Tuesdays.
- ◆ “No – Good Job” **EN:** Thanks.
- ◆ “Going to check anyways, Flys in the news letter would be nice” **EN:** I started a fly of the month using FAOL (Fly Anglers On Line) flies, hope you like them.
- ◆ “I just joined AFF- need to check out the site. Enjoy speaker programs- different topics. You are doing a great job- very organized. Love your enthusiasm.....” **EN:** Thanks.
- ◆ “Better Selection in raffles, outings & info” **EN:** We make virtually no money on the raffles, we are spending about what we take in. To get more and better we would need to sell more tickets. We can't have the raffle be a drain on our treasury. But, we will see what we can do. As everyone knows, I do love raffles.
- ◆ “Let's not get too 'organized'. I like the 'loose' and informal style for this club.” **EN:** Couldn't agree with you more, that is why I joined AFF, I like the informal way of doing things. Larry.
- ◆ More fly tying demos. Present different flies and explain how that particular fly should be fished/where and when. **EN:** Great suggestion, with the camera/TV that we now have I will set those up at a table for a demo tyer to use during our social hour.
- ◆ Very involved, thanks for all you do. **EN:** Aw shucks, you are making me blush. Thanks

July / August 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			July 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	27 FFF Conclave	28 NO Meeting, See you in Sept.	29 FFF Conclave	30 FFF Conclave	31 FFF Conclave	August 1 Conclave Ends
2	3	4 Clark Fork River in St. Regis, MT.	5 Clark Fork River in St. Regis, MT.	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 NO Meeting, See you in Sept.	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NOTICE:

Our New Mailing Address

Club correspondence can be sent to:

**Alpine Fly Fishers
PO Box 1103
Milton, WA 98354**

If you have an email address allow us to send this newsletter via the internet. If your email address has changed recently, please share your new address.

Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org.

Club Officers:

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-863-4910
Vice President:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	253-568-7965
Secretary:	Howard Inks	253-881-1885
Ghilly:	Joe Fitzpatrick	253-405-7356
Outings Coord:	Bob Jacobs	360-897-8733
Programs Coord:	Bill Aubrey	253-678-3683
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