

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Tuesday

November 24

ZOOM MEETING

7:00 to 7:40 PM


FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club
1000 Stewards member



The Dead Drift - November 2020

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

As I have mentioned several times, it really saddened me to have to cancel all of our meetings since this pandemic hit us. I hope they come up with a usable vaccine soon so we can get our shots and be a little more comfortable about being in public. This uncertainty really places a burden on Ron. He can't try to find good speakers for us until we have an actual date for a club meeting. I hope we can start our meetings sometime in early 2021. The next three months or so may set the stage for us.

I keep buying a few things for future raffle items. I know that we will start having our meetings again and I want you all to have a good chance of winning something you will really like.

Our new website went on line the morning of October 1. Great! The morning of October 3, I was unable to access it. Sometimes I really don't like trons. So, after a couple of text messages with Steve and contacting Sam, then an hour on the phone with GoDaddy, the problem was resolved. Now I am all set up to be a Webmaster. Scary thought.

If you checked out the new website at alpineflyfishers.org you may have noticed the carousel of photos. If you want some of your photos displayed, send me a decent size picture and I will see about placing it onto the carousel. Let's show the people who check out our website that we do in fact fish "All Fish All Waters" like the FFI says.

I sent an email to the Board of Directors regarding the yearly costs of our website. Just for info, Steve Egge started the original website many years ago and he has been paying the yearly fees associated with it. Thank you Steve for your dedication to the club. I asked the BOD to approve using club money to pay for the club's website from now on. They agreed.

Speaking of the Board of Directors, normally our December meeting is our 'official' meeting and we take a vote to certify the BOD for yet another year. If anyone wants to become a Director on our BOD, please let me know and I will add your name to the list for the vote. This is one of those things we are required to do every year to maintain our status as a club. So, this is your official notification of the upcoming ballot. The last page of the newsletter shows the BOD members. If we get anyone else wanting to become a Director, I will add them to the list and we can all 'vote', maybe during a Zoom call or via email in December.

The Loop fly rod outfit raffle board is **82%** sold, only **15** squares are left. Our Zoom meeting ability now exists so I would really like to do a Zoom meeting and pick the lucky winners of the fly rod and other neat items. See page 8 for an explanation on how the winners will be chosen and how they get to choose what they win. If we were doing this at one of our regular in-person meetings, the second person chosen (if they were present) would have the ability to come up to a table and pick which prize they want. Then the next person and so on. So, I will pluck the winning peoples name out of a hat. The first name will win the Loop rod outfit. The next 5 names will be plucked from the hat (one person can win more than once) and I will contact them in the order that they won to have them pick which prize they want. Even the last winner will have a selection to pick from. That is about as fair as I can make it.

"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink, I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains." Henry David Thoreau

Good Fishing & Stay Safe



Larry

Fly Fishing International
Fly of the Month
November 2006
DUCK LAKE CHIRONOMID, RED

By Bob Bates



Our lakes and many streams are filled with chironomids (midges). They are in the water all year and hatch anytime there is open water. They belong to the order Diptera meaning two winged. Other members of this true flies order include crane flies and mosquitoes. Adult chironomids are sometimes confused with mosquitoes because of their size and shape. However, they have one important difference: Without a sharp proboscis they can't bite.

Chironomids have a complete metamorphosis cycle (egg, larva, pupa and adult) fish have many opportunities to feed on them. Over the years midges have been ignored or relegated to the "Lesser Trout Foods" chapter of a book while a great amount of time and verbiage was expended on mayflies. Don't get me wrong, I like mayflies, especially when trout are devouring little sailboats sitting on the surface, but we need to keep our eyes open for the "Lesser Trout Foods" that the fish seem to enjoy. Philip Rowley in his book *Fly Patterns for Stillwaters* has some eye opening charts. He studied trout diets in British Columbia lakes, Canada, and he found that chironomid larva and pupa were a large part of the fish's diet. In the spring, trout diets consisted 50 percent of chironomids. For the whole year 39 percent of the diet was chironomid larva and pupa.

OK, what about these Red Chironomids? Chironomid larva feed on the detritus at the bottom of our lakes and streams. To compensate for this oxygen deficient environment the larva have extra hemoglobin producing the red color. Anglers, especially fly tiers, see these red worms in the anchor mess and immediately start tying flies. Patterns range in size from 10 or 12 Bionic Worms to 22 chironomids tied on a red hook. Materials used to make the red body include V-Rib, floss, Body Glass, Flashabou and red wire. I have enough different patterns to write a dozen or more Fly of the Month articles on red chironomids. All the patterns catch fish, but for now I'll settle on just this one.

Jerry Smalley, Columbia Falls, Montana demonstrated this pattern at the 2006 FFF Conclave and Show in Bozeman, MT. He said that it was developed by Bob Arends on the Blackfeet Reservation. The way they use it is with a floating line and a long leader, up to 20 feet if necessary. Put a split-shot a foot above the fly. Most important: Anchor your boat at both ends, and don't retrieve the fly. It has been successful at hooking some monstrous rainbows. How does 15 to 20 fish a day sound?

Materials list:

Hook: Dai Riki 135, sizes 12 - 16

Thread: Fire Orange 8/0

Body: Micro-tubing

Wings: Pheasant tail fibers, natural

Head: Ice Dub UV Red

Continued on page 3 →



Tying Steps:

1. Lay a thread base from front to rear ending over barb.
2. Move thread to the front, lay a piece of Micro Tubing on the hook and spiral thread over it rearward to a position above the barb.
3. Wind thread forward to about two eye widths from the eye, wrap micro tubing forward to thread and secure.
4. Trim excess Micro Tubing. On each side attach three pheasant tail fibers with tips to rear, trim excess pheasant tail fibers. Put Ice Dub on thread and wrap a small head. Whip finish or double half hitch behind the eye, and trim excess thread.

Closing comments: It doesn't look like much, and it is easy to tie. So tie up a bunch and you'll be ready to do battle with some nice fish. Remember chironomid larva are in the water all the time, and it is just a matter of hanging the fly where the fish usually see them.

Flies on the Web

Winners for the seventh 'Flies on the Web' drawing:

Guy Magno / Stephen Neal / Brian Miller

The flies will go out in the mail early next week!!!

This announces the start of the next 'Flies on the Web' drawing.

Just respond back to this email or contact me in any way!!

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

Angels of the Water, Sirens of the Sea

Steve feathered the oars, letting stored momentum glide us unto the beach. On the other side of Highway 84 and the Railroad Bridge, the waters of the Deschutes blend with the Columbia. Our river journey complete, we came to rest on the fine sand of Heritage Landing as the waters that had bourn us, rolled on towards the sea.

As we unloaded the raft, infrequent raindrops fell on our shoulders. The morning had been clear and clean, yesterday's storms had flushed out Oregon's Basalt river canyons. The air was sweet, but its bite hunched our shoulder blades beneath our jackets. The brisk effort of transferring our gear from raft to truck warmed our well used muscles; soon enough we ditched our wet wear, as the work progressed. This was a practiced effort; we had moved camp everyday as we chased sparse and elusive steelhead. We had this unloading and loading down. With steady effort the raft was unloaded, truck and raft loaded, clean clothes donned, and we were headed home.

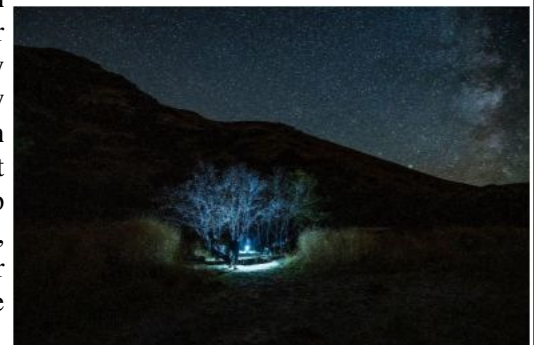
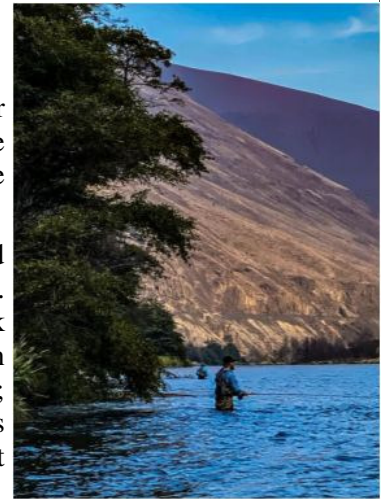
Heavy rain fell as the wipers kept time with the wind induced dance of trees on our left, and the wind driven waves of the Columbia on our right. The rain slowed the world as we transitioned from river time, four miles per hour to highway speeds of 60 plus. The rain was a welcome buffer, as I settled into the passenger's seat and reflected. A little over a week ago I had been mowing our sizeable lawn, my earphones were set on noise reduction as Joni Mitchell serenaded me on my lawn rounds. My thoughts were forming ideas for this article and the upcoming fishing trip with Steve and Cy.

For me, the writing process and fishing trips start the same way, they are formed in my mind long before pen or packing begins. For a story I try and identify what it is, that I want to say and then frame it with the narrative of an event. For fishing, every trip plan begins with the fish that I will pursue, and the piscatorial opportunity frames the affair. As I made ever smaller circles in the grass, touch/connections became the nucleus of my next article, and a six and seven weight 12-foot spey rods for my fishing trip. Now the happenings would tell the story.

Thank God the washboard dirt road was behind us, the jiggling of our bones was beginning to subside, around us our camp neighbors were silent in their tents and campers with lights out. Above our heads the stars seemed ready to be plucked from the heavens, maybe we could store them in our pockets to push back the darkness of 2020. The raft was launched and moored, cots setup and sleeping bags unrolled below the stars. We strung our rods and sipped a cold beer to ease the stress of the road from our bunched shoulder muscles. The river ran clear with the promise of surface flies swung to summer run steelhead. With stars above and the rivers song to ease our slumber, we fell into a night of dreams in the land of basalt river canyons, far from cell towers and civilization.

Steve emerged from the camps darkness and handed me a cup of fresh ground, brewed and pressed coffee to start our day. Steve's talent for roasting and preparing our mornings coffee repast always pushes my knowledge and taste buds to new discoveries. Each new cup offers new delights. Over the years Steve has taught me to appreciate coffee, scotch steelhead fishing and the casting of a spey rod. Through Steve, I have met some absolutely wonderful people, who have enriched my life. Each trip with Steve is a treasured gift. By 8 AM with camp broken, the raft loaded, and rods rigged we pushed off into the waters of the Deschutes under a clear sky, clean water, and no wind. The sirens were calling, so we entered the waters of life.

We soon pulled over into a spot where the morning sun still had not touched the water and swung flies to the possibility of steelhead, alas if they were there they were not interested. With our fishing kinks worked out we resumed our downriver journey. As we neared Hidden Camp a jet boat appeared downstream playfully headed right at us. A friend approached, Marty Sheppard with three fishing clients throttled back and drifted close to say hi and exchange river news. Introduction were made and fishing spots and river camps were discussed. Good friends looking out for each other.



In discussing best camp sites and their availability, Marty offered to head back down river to check the openness of a camp for us. With his clients still onboard, he turned around and headed back down river to check it out. He soon returned with the news that the camp had just been claimed and that Hidden camp was our best option. While we tied off, Marty and his guests lingered sharing stories and imparting fishing reports and current river events and the success of his sheep hunt amidst the Oregon fire season and how fine the meat tasted cooked up home style. Marty claims he lost 50 pounds climbing up and down the canyon mountains while scouting in the pre-season. His once in a lifetime sheep permit was a well-earned accomplishment.

One of the many beauties that I appreciate about fly fishing is the connectivity it brings. It illuminates the grandeur of small intimate things. While Steve, Cy, and I fished together, we also interacted with three other people and a puppy, Marty Sheppard, Brian Silvey and Ryan and his puppy Maybe. The whole experience is like listening to Mark Knopfler or Joni Mitchell music. We all have a song or picture to share. Sometimes that music comes together and become stronger and more vibrant in the telling. Mark and Joni both use lyrics to tell their stories, sparse and beautiful, evoking images and feeling, but they both take it to the next level and the notes they play fill in what words cannot express. Both musicians kept searching for the notes they needed to fully convey the story they wanted to tell. Mark innovated his fingering, picking, and strumming, Joni used open tuning and jazz notes. Fishing with and around Steve, Cy, Marty, Brian, Ryan, and Maybe is much like listening to a well-crafted musical piece. Love breathes life into the heart, bringing grace to the body.

Steve's music contains his medical knowledge, his fondness for flavor and spicy earthy essence in his choices of scotch and coffee, his years of experience and lessons learned during water bourn travel. Cy's song contains life knowledge, power and strength, and an analytical mind combined with a since of style. Marty's song holds the river essence (strength, power, grace, life), and its community of people, animals, fish, birds, and waterfowl. While I have not fished with Brian, his connection to the river comes through the stories I have been told about his fishing and casting expertise, I have touched his song by fishing his flies, that evoke fish responses through Steve Egge the medium of moving water and the fishing lines that he has helped to developed which bring a better connection to the water medium in which it performs.

Ryan and Maybe were a new addition to the music of the river. Ryan is establishing his guide service and paying his dues in learning and service. In our meetings in the mornings as we both moved camps, he gladly shared his hands. Maybe, his chocolate lab's song is the youngest, the world is his oyster and he is planting the grains of sand that will become pearls, At 9 weeks of age he stalked me through the short grass on the rivers bank, then lunged at my out reached hand with puppy gusto, tumbled down the bank when he stopped for a rest, stole Ryan's tent lines, and hid in the grass until discovered. His song brought laughter to our hearts and smiles to our faces as we witnessed Maybe's joying in being alive.

Each morning we arose before dawn and sipped coffee as we dawned our waders. With Steve's flavor-full coffee and caffeine coursing through us, we waded into the waters of Oregon's Deschutes, and swung flies enticing Steelhead to come, to our flies. We fished until the sun hit the water and then returned to camp. We then packed up camp visited with Ryan and Maybe as we loaded the raft for the journey to our next camp and fishing spots. After a stop or two, too fish good steelhead unSunkissed water we would unload the raft, setup camp and enjoy a well-earned lunch repast. Steve would then don his mentoring cap and work with Cy on Spey casting.



Continued on page 6 →

To break up our days and nights the canyon would unleash her winds, or her skies would make the stars disappear and fill the emptiness with rain. With practiced ease Steve, Cy and I would spring into action to minimize the impact on our outdoor living accommodations. After disaster was averted, we would return to our slumbers, or our Scotch as the river rolled to the sea.

Once the sun left the water in late afternoon you would find us back on the water swinging flies until it was too dark to see. Our evening begins with scotch, music, and dinner preparation, after dinner, we relax into the evening and savor our experiences of the day, music, and good scotch, before we washed dinner dishes. Finally, we settled onto our cots under the stars, to rest our weary bones, at peace with the world.

As a fishing trip it was a tough outing, Steve caught and landed one Steelhead, Cy caught three sucker fish and I came away skunked. And so, it goes, each trip brings me closer to the music of life and the songs that the people of the river sing. Each trip is a deep connection too what Thoreau wrote, “in wildness is the preservation of the world”, these events are things of beauty, each song that is sung fills the music with vibrancy, each note tells more of the story. The Angels of the water and Sirens of the Sea sing a deep rich song and when we answer we become closer to life and to understanding the richness that has been given to us. It is our responsibility to add our notes to the music and pass it forward to future generations.

The life of our planet is in our hands, may your song be clear and concise, and may you gift it to those who are here now and to those not yet born. As we rolled on home through the falling rain, I heard the song of the river and it was richer with the new notes I had learned.

“So, lay down a back beat, and crank up your old Gibson, son, let’s give it everything we got just one more time lovin’ the life were livin’ playing that Georgia (River) rhythm, nothin’ else made me feel so fine.” - Atlanta Rhythm Section – Georgia Rhythm

Stephen

*“When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind – Dr. Wayne W. Dyer
“Many go fishing all their lives, without knowing that it is not fish they are after” - Henry David Thoreau*



~ *In The Past* ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -
Vol. 5, No. 1

January of 1977

Reed Miller, Editor



This ~ *In The Past* ~ article was published in 1977. The information it contains is 43 years out of date and is not accurate.

This is a historical document only.

Program: Dawn Holbrook, well known northwest angler, spit cane rod builder, etc. will discuss a potpourri of off-season activities such as rod repair, line care, fly tying and what ever else may tickle your fancy.

Last Meeting: The main business actifty elected the following officers: President Pat Trotter; V. Pres George Vaars; Secretary Doug Hansen; Treasurer Phil White; Ghillie Pam Trotter; Trustee Stan Gregory

Phil White and Jim Higgins put on a good program featuring the Elwha River.

Board Meeting: The board of trustees met at Pat Trotter's to dicuss future blub activities, appoint committee chairmen, and drink Pam's hot spiced wine. Some of the committee chairmen appointed were: Membership - George Vaars; Program - Bill Vernon; Activities - Jim Higgins; Publications - Reed Miller

Fly Fishing Only? Here's a list of some of the things Pat trotter collected on a recent trip to the fly-only stretch of the Green River (Toutle River drainage): Plastic worm with beaded spinner; Giant spinner with treble hooks; Yarn fly on a 4/0 hook. Also, the following incident occurred there. Two fellows had taken salmon illegally. About the time Pat started to inform them of the error of their ways, a third person flashed a badge and said he was taking care of the problem. The trio left. At the parking lot another club member saw the three men, laughing and joking, get into a vehicle and drive away together. He did not know of the incident at the river. I guess poachers are getting smarter all the time.

Fly Pattern: This is the fly that Cal Cole used so successfully for Cohos on the Quilcene:

Cal's Purple Thing

Hook:	Size 6, 3x long, sproat bend
Thread:	Black
Tag:	Gold Tinsel
Body:	Dubbed claret seal's fur
Rib:	Medium gold tinsel
Hackle:	Black, sparse
Wing:	Purple hair

Fish this fly slow and deep, right off the bottom. You should hang up occasionally on rocks.

International Angler's Exposition: Mark January 26-30 on your calendars, fly fishers. That's when the realllly Biiggg Shew hits Seattle. I won't bore you with a list of who's going to be there, but Whitlock, Schwiebert and Swisher are just a few. It'll be at the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall and will cost \$2.50 for Adults. This is a "don't miss" event. I have the flyer if you want more details.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING. BRING A GUEST. BRING MORE MONEY. GO FISHING..



ZOOM CLUB MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020 @ 7:00 PM to 7:40 PM

ZOOM MEETINGS

On October 15, there was a brief Board of Directors meeting using Zoom.

We decided to start up our club meetings again, using the Zoom system. The meetings will take place on the fourth Tuesday of the month, just like our regular meetings used to be. Tuesday, November 24 and the meeting will start at 7:00 PM. This meeting will only last for 40 minutes.

This first meeting will be like our first meeting after our summer break. A time to pass the 'Liar's Cup' around so to speak so everyone has a chance to bring us all up to date on their lives and how they are dealing with the situation. Naturally, we will all want to hear about any fishing trips, but also about your home life and any trips you may have taken.

I have high hopes that the last 15 squares will be purchased by that time so we can pick the winner of the Loop fly rod outfit and the winners of the other five prizes.

If we can get enough club members to join us on these Zoom meetings, then we can start having Zoom presentations from various speakers. Ron is going to start looking for some great speakers and we are aiming for January 2021 being our first one. I will have to do a lot of learning about Zoom but I believe we have some 'expert' Zoom users in our club? and I will be trying to learn from them.

One thing about Zoom presentations, Robert pointed out that the speaker can come from anywhere in the USA. I know a number of clubs and groups have been using Zoom for this purpose, I guess you could say we are bringing our club into the 21st Century.

At first we thought about using a FFI related Zoom system via the WA State Council. But, that had some time restrictions on it that could result in meeting conflicts. So, I checked with the BOD and they approved us getting our own Zoom account. Not wanting to jump in with both feet, I established a free Zoom account for the club. Biggest problem with that is the time restriction, the meetings can only last 40 minutes. I figure we can use them for some quick 'getting used to Zoom and chatting' meetings for November and December, then in January the club will purchase an expanded account allowing us as much time as we need for meetings. The biggest advantage to us is the fact that we don't have to worry about other clubs taking our meeting times.

Prior to the November meeting I will send out notices of two very short meetings which will allow you to sign in and make sure you can join in on the regular meetings. If you don't have a camera on your computer, then a tablet or even your smart phone can be used to attend the meetings.

The Order of Winning

When the winners are drawn for the Loop fly rod raffle board, I want this to be a fair drawing for everyone who wins.

So, the first winner naturally will win the Loop fly rod outfit and the 4 dozen flies (plus an extra dozen). That person still has a chance to win some of the other prizes.

The next five winners will be plucked from the hat. They too will still be able to win more than once. All depends on how many squares they purchased and good old Lady Luck.

So, I will have the names. I then will contact each person in the order that they won and ask them which of the items that remain would they want. The last person will still have a choice as I will have more than just five items available. I think that is as fair as I can be considering the Covid situation. I will try to have a drawing while on a Zoom conference call if at all possible.

Larry

Six (6) Winners on Loop Rod/Reel Raffle Board!!

I want to thank **Howard and Paul and Duffy and Bruce and Guy and Dean and Dr. Robert and Kevin and Brian and Guy (Again) and Ron** for buying some squares on the Loop fly rod/reel board. Between their purchases and my own purchases, we now have over **82%** of the rod board squares sold! There are only **15 squares left**.

I would really like to get the whole board sold out before too long. It would be nice to pick some winners maybe in a Zoom meeting!!

If you are thinking that you really don't need another fly rod (really?) then consider buying some squares to try to win and then you can re-gift the fly rod outfit to a deserving youth or a friend or a very worthy cause like Project Healing Waters so a vet can have a really nice outfit. Or how about Casting for Recovery or someone you know who may just be getting into fly fishing or who needs a second outfit. If not yourself, then make someone else happy!

So, here is what is going to happen. The first square chosen will be for the Loop outfit. Then we will draw a total of five (5) more winners. I will have five nice items for the winners.

One person can win more than once, the more squares you buy the greater your odds are at winning.

Check out the names in the first paragraph. Twelve people have purchased 82% of the squares. There are only 15 squares left. Twelve club members. There will be five (5) items won in this drawing. The odds could easily be around a 30% chance of winning one or more of those prizes. Fantastic odds. So, why not join in on the drawing and buy some squares. You will have a 100% chance of winning something!!!! See below.

Every person who buys some squares will also receive a dozen trout flies.

Email me and I will send you my home address so you can mail a check to me.

Don't forget, this is a fund raiser so Ron can get some great guest speakers and down the road in 2021 we will be meeting and enjoying those presentations.

Larry



TELL YOU WHAT! I will add a clear fly box with at least four (4) dozen, yep, that is at least 48 flies of various types. This will really set you up for some fishing so come on, buy some Loop fly rod outfit squares. Just mail a check to me filled out to Alpine Fly Fishers and I will place your name on the board. \$5 per square.

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Steve Worley has some great guides and he has put together the best fly shop filled with a massive amount of fly tying materials and equipment. You really need to stop by the shop and check it out. Just take the Canyon Road exit off I-90 and turn north towards town, the Worley Bugger Fly Co. shop is on the left or west side of the road. Open all year. Stop by and say Hi!

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St. Regis, MT

Steve & Peggy Temple have their fly shop just on the north end of St. Regis, right across the street from the road down to the boat launch.

Check it out!!!

For a really good guided drift boat fishing trip, you should contact Clark Fork Trout.

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Loop 'Q' Fly Rod Outfit



This is a Loop 'Q' series fly rod/reel kit.

It includes a 5 weight, 4 piece 'Q' fly rod,
'Q' 4/5 large arbor fly reel,
'Q' weight forward floating fly line
'Q' rod/reel case

(I am also including an additional fly line, a weight forward 5 weight)

Fly Rod/Reel raffle board - \$5 per square

Email me and I will give you my address so you can mail a check to me to purchase some squares for this great fly rod/reel combo.

Fishing Reports

Ron Zarges: Ted Werner and I fished Coldwater Lake on Wednesday September 30 and Thursday October 1st. The weather was fine, with a few light breezes. I felt hot and was sweating around noon, but the breeze and late afternoon made the days pleasant. Ted and I both caught trout to 16" on Wednesday, in my case mainly by casting a small black leech to rises. For some reason Thursday the fishing was slower, and the fish we caught were smaller. I caught a 12" trout that rose near a stump using a small black dry fly. Thursday I also caught two fish on a seal bugger. On both days Ted outfished me, catching a couple more fish than I did. At one point on Wednesday, Ted said his fly was snagged on the bottom in a shallow area. I thought, well it must be shallow over there, then, whoops, I was snagged too right after he just got through telling me it was shallow. Such is life.

Brian Miller: Hello, another recent report: Back in mid-July ago I had ordered a full-flex Tenkara rod fishable at 12'-11.5'-10.5' lengths for targeting fish to 14" or so in open streams without a lot of streamside brush and overhead branches. Full-flex rods Tenkara are great for casting unweighted flies on light OX equivalent hi-vis fluorocarbon lines, and aren't as prone to send dinks flying through the air when setting the hook like my faster action mid-flex and tip-flex rods that can cast weighted flies, get better hooksets deeper in the water column, and handle larger fish to say 20". However the movement of the full-flex rod to set the hook and play fish requires a more open stream. I thought it would be a good compliment for my longer faster action rods and a shorter full-flex rod I use in very small brushy creeks.

During the long dry & smoky spell most streams were at very low water conditions. After over 3" total rain in 3 days the CFS on some streams was back to late spring runoff levels. I waited a couple of days until September 29th. The Deschutes was still pretty high, cold; est 52° F, air temp was 60° F - 68° F, and winds calm. Wet wading was pretty chilly for the first few hours :confused: . I caught these two Cutthroat with the rod at the 12.5' length with an unweighted sakasa kebari (forward facing hackled fly) that has a pheasant tail body and peacock thorax at the head of a pool in about 3 feet of water near a log. These fish were, energetic, and gave a good showing for themselves.

The new rod casts nicely and very accurately out to 21 feet where I have excellent control over the drift. This longer full-flex action rod worked great for more open water! The line was singing like a violin string as it was dragged through the water but I quickly moved these smaller fish away from the log jam into the middle of the stream, and the net.

Back in the spring I had broken off a big fish when setting the hook using a 13' rod that I was holding at a lower angle for a longer reach because I couldn't wade close enough to a rising fish and the rod couldn't flex to absorb the shock. I had brought my 17'-15.8'-14' Keiryu zoom rod that just for this purpose. Keiryu rods have firmer midsections and the Japanese use them for natural bait (nymphs) with weight. They also get good hooksets on fish that are deep in the water column. But the rod also casts weighted flies very accurately, and can handle larger fish. I caught 3 larger fish with the Keiryu rod at its shortest 14' length in seams cutting through the far side of a couple of deeper & wider pools where I couldn't wade close enough to keep a high rod tip with a 21 foot cast from a 12.5' rod. They ate a fly like this beadhead rust-brown Dazzleaire (Antron) yarn body-olive ice dubbing thorax sakasa kebari. I was thinking about selling the Keiryu rod for lack of use, but I think I'll keep it now!

This piglet had been eating well and was a lot of fun. It and the other two all made runs straight at me but the length, leverage, and power of the Keiryu rod with lateral rod movement kept them in the middle of the pools and away from submerged snags. To see that 14' tip-flex rod bent over the way it was as the fish fought was very cool. I also ldr'd one and broke another one off on the hookset that felt like they were in the same size class.

Larry Gibbs: Well I would have had a fishing report for you if Mother Nature had been kinder. Steve Worley called me and cancelled the float because of high winds (40+ mph). So, we rescheduled the trip for the next week when I was able to slip in between a day of high winds and a day of blowing snow. Fall has finally descended upon the Yak.

Larry Gibbs: The Perfect Fall Day, that is how Steve Worley described the day we spent on the Yak. The sun was out all day and while the temp started out around 35* it warmed up to the mid to upper 40's. There was virtually no wind, which is rare on the Yak. Hatches were coming off all day despite the bright sun. Large October Caddis were dancing across the waters most of the day, the Blue Wing Olives got started around noon and were always around. There were some Mahogany Duns working the water as well as some small caddis. The fishing was okay, not spectacular, but I caught fish and I had a number of fish that were so eager they would jump over the dry fly instead of grabbing it. As the sun started to get lower to the horizon, the chill could be felt in the air when we would drift through a shady area. The trees were all turning to their gold and red colors, and not that many leaves had started to fall so I only hooked up on a couple of leaved while fishing. That problem will increase in the near future. It really felt good to be back out on the river.

November / December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 November	2 End day- light savings ←	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 ZOOM MEETING!! 7:00—7:40 PM	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30	<i>"A few days ago I walked along the edge of the lake and was treated to the crunch and rustle of leaves with each step I made. The acoustics of this season are different and all sounds, no matter how hushed, are as crisp as autumn air." - Eric Sloane (1905—1985)</i>				

Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.
~Sara Coleridge (1802–1852),
"The Garden Year"

		1 December	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 ZOOM MEETING	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31	<i>"I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!" - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</i>	

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Larry Gibbs, Editor 253-820-0475 flytier015@q.com

Alpine Fly Fishers
PO Box 1456
Sumner, WA 98390

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