

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Tuesday

February 23

ZOOM MEETING

6:45 PM to ??


FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club
1000 Stewards member



The Dead Drift - February 2021

In this issue:

Page 2 & 3

*FFI Fly Of The Month
Amazon Smile & WSCFFI*

Page 4 & 5

Back of Beyond

Page 6

In The Past

Page 7

*A Memory by
Dean Hamilton*

Page 8

**Zoom Meeting
Guest Speaker**

Thoughts on January Meeting

*Also Photos of
Rainbows on the
Clark Fork River*

Page 9

*Worley Bugger Fly Co.
Clark Fork Trout*

Page 10

*Calendar
Editor Information
Mailing Address
Board of Directors*



President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

2021 will be a very good year, eventually. I hope. By the time many of us start fly fishing again, meaning late spring or early summer, we should be just about over this Covid threat and life can return to a new normal. This past year has changed our habits and our lives in many ways but we adjusted to them. All through our American history, there have been periods of time when people had to function way outside their 'norm'. Americans always adjusted to the change and life kept on. We will have had 15 or 16 months of total change, but we adjusted during this period and we kept on. So, here's to another change, one where we get back to nearly our old normal. Life will never be exactly like it was. Anytime we have to adjust to a major incident, we can never return to the exact 'old ways' but we can get close.

I won't be having any more raffle boards until we start meeting in person. However, I have been acquiring some really nice 'stuff' to be used on those boards. Wait until you see them!

I haven't gone to the restaurant and reserved any time for our meetings, since we don't know for sure when that will be. I may sign us up for September. I just hope we can continue with our fourth Tuesday of every month meetings. I will let you know.

I have been trying to keep the Alpine Fly Fishers website updated. I must admit, I have stumbled a few times, being the dinosaur that I am when it comes to computers. When I was in the US Navy, the computers I worked on still had vacuum tubes, yea, a long time ago in a land far, far away. But I keep trying. I did ask my friend, Sam, from Texas to give me a hand the other night and I think I have it all figured out now (yea, right). If you have not checked out the site, it wouldn't hurt to go there and if you have any ideas on how to improve the site, please let me know. Go to: alpineflyfishers.org

I do hope you all are keeping healthy and Covid free. I know of seven people who contracted Covid. One passed the other day. Three were hit really hard (one took 4 months to semi-recover and the other two had a hard time but managed to recover). The other three had fairly mild cases and managed to recover quickly. I can only hope that the shots they are coming out with are actually effective, in both stopping this virus and allowing us the chance to start meeting in person again.

Keep safe, wear a mask, keep your distance.

"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

February 2007

EP Streamer

By Bob Bates



Here is a fly that really attracted my attention at the 2006 FFF International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Bozeman, MT. Norm Domagala, Alpine, OR (near Monroe) had a fly box almost filled with them at his tying table. He uses them in the Oregon high Cascade lakes. He either casts from shore or mooches the fly from a floating device. Norm emphasized that when mooching, move very slowly you can't row too slowly. Sometimes wind drifting will work. If that fails, use a variety of retrieves until something works. Some of the lakes have chubs and stickle back minnows in them so the fish might think this fly is the usual good size meal.

The pattern uses a material called EP Brush that is manufactured by Enrico Puglisi, www.epflies.com. There might be other materials that would work, but the EP materials have an appearance that is attractive to most fish. The EP materials find wide use in salt water patterns and some fresh water patterns like this one. The "epflies" website has a list of retailers. Norm took the step pictures, and I manipulated them for the web.

Material list:

Hook: Daiichi 2220, 4XL Sizes 6 & 8

Thread: Uni F70 Olive

Cone Head: Gold, small

Tail: Pine Squirrel Zonker FL. Chartreuse, 3/32-inch wide

Body: EP Streamer Brush 06 Reddish Olive

Hackle-1 : Whiting Brown Spey Hackle

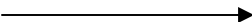
Hackle-2 : Whiting Orange Spey Hackle

Hackle-3 : Whiting Brown Spey Hackle

Last Layer/ Collar: EP Anadromous Brush 01 Sky Blue

Tying Steps:

1. Put hook upside down and slide on cone head. Then return it a normal position. Put thread on back 3/8ths of hook. (Sometimes Norm replaces the cone head with a thread head, attaches 3D eyes and coats the head with 5-minute epoxy. He flattens the area where the eyes will be attached with pliers, and sometimes uses a glue stick (Elmer's) to help stick the eyes. Rotate the vise after applying a coat of 5-minute epoxy to even it out. A true rotary vise is needed here.)
2. Put a drop of super glue on back of hook, and tie down squirrel tail at the bend of the hook. Trim it to a length equal to the hook shank.
3. Tie on red olive EP Streamer Brush.
4. Wrap it forward in a not too tight spiral. Stroke the fibers back as you wrap. Wind it forward until it is 1/4-inch from the cone. Use a bodkin to pull out any fibers that were tied down.
5. Flatten stem of brown hackle to make it wrap better. Don't trim or pull off webby part of hackle. Tie it in so the webby part of the hackle will be wrapped first.
6. Grab feather by the tip and wrap the webby part twice while stroking the fibers back.

Continued on Page 3 



7. Secure hackle, and trim excess tip. Moisten fingers and stroke fibers back. Wind thread rearward to make the fibers point rearward if necessary. Comb the hackle back to marry it with the EP Streamer Brush.
8. Flatten stem of orange hackle, tie it on hook.
9. Wrap orange hackle two or three times around hook. Pull fibers back as the feather is wrapped. Moisten fingers and stroke the fibers back. Wind thread rearward if necessary to make the fibers stay pointing back. Comb fibers back into the other hackle and EP Streamer Brush.
10. Attach another brown hackle, wrap it, stroke fibers rearward as feather is wrapped and marry all of the fibers using a bodkin.
11. Trim excess brown feather and attach the EP Anadromous Brush.
12. Stroke fibers back while wrapping EP Anadromous Brush forward two or three turns, secure and trim excess EP Anadromous Brush. Put a little head cement on 1.5 inches of thread and whip finish twice. Use a comb to marry all of the fibers and give the fly a nice taper. Stroking with moistened fingers will help shape the fly. Push cone head back into the fibers, bring thread to front of cone head, build a small thread block, put a little head cement on thread and whip finish.

Closing comments: This pattern could be very useful in several waters near my home. One of them has nice rainbows and browns that should like a big mouthful like the EP Streamer. Another has big fussy rainbows that recently have taken a liking to white crosscut rabbit patterns. This is different enough to really attract them.

Washington FFI joins the Amazon Smile Program

You can donate to the Washington State FFI council with every purchase you make at Amazon

Reward programs are everywhere these days. From the grocery to airlines everybody is rewarding a purchase by giving you credit for future purchases or contributing to a cause. Now the Washington Council of Fly Fishers International is one of the groups you can help when you purchase goods through Amazon Smile.

Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of the price of every purchase to the non-profit of your choice. It doesn't change the price you pay for goods. Amazon takes a sliver of its earnings from each transaction to donate to the non-profit you choose.

Washington FFI supports a wide range of education and conservation efforts every year from donations and contributions. We support Casting for Recovery for women cancer survivors to Project Healing Waters serving wounded veterans. For years we've backed the annual Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing School that continues to introduce generations of teens to our sport. Last year we helped organize and fund the successful effort to preserve public ownership of the Ebsen Fishing Access on the Grand Ronde and we helped fund new signage for fishers on the Yakima River.

Since our founding 56 years ago, Washington FFI has worked to support the 22 FFI member clubs in Washington and Alaska and design ways to promote and conserve fly fishing for all fish in all waters of the state. Washington FFI pursues projects and partnerships that educate the public about our sport and the habitats that sustain salt and freshwater fisheries. We have a track record of success creating innovative education programs, sound conservation efforts and a strong community of fly fishers statewide. Help Washington FFI continue that success by signing up at smile.amazon.com and selecting Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA as your non-profit of choice. Thank you.

It takes cash to sustain these efforts, cash we usually raise through our annual Fly Fishing Fair and other events. That hasn't been possible lately. Everyone still shops. Many FFI members shop on line at Amazon. Your Washington State Council joined the Amazon Smile program to help fund our work. Many FFI members shop online at Amazon. You can help the Washington State Council continue by shopping through Amazon Smile. To join follow these steps:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with the Amazon.com credentials you ordinarily use to shop at Amazon.
3. Search the list of charities and select Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA.
4. Bookmark smile.amazon.com on your computer to make it easy to return to the charity site.

Every time you shop through Amazon Smile a portion of every purchase you make will help fund FFI education and environmental stewardship in Washington. Several FFI councils nationwide participate in the program so be sure to select **Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA** when you sign up.

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

Right Outside my Front Door

December and January for me is the season of anticipation and preparation. This year that all has become, amplified. LaNiña's winter storms are rolling in off the Pacific, an atmospheric river stretching 4000 miles targeting Washington. They vary in strength, intensity, and duration but they all contain copious amounts of water, interspaced this with our normal short daylight hours, frost, snow, and high river runoff, the windows of opportunity for outdoor activities are few and far between. Throw on top of this our current pandemic and our societies social upheaval and you have a time that is deeper than usual with disquiet and unease. The need for outdoor time has become even stronger. Even in the normal times, the best course of action is to take care of what you can, even the completion of small things breathe life into one's day and ease your personnel disquiet. This year's normal preparation for outdoor activities took



on a more significant import. Over a year of outdoor activities, my gear gets worn, mixed up and misplaced during the packing and unpacking from trips requiring different equipment. Because we lost our garage the mix up and misplaced items are a little more pronounced. We are a combined household with six people's worth of stuff in a single-family home with no garage. The garage was an early casualty in a renovation effort. What we thought was a simple shingle replacement for a leaky roof, became a roof replacement, then a truss replacement, and that became a tear down the whole damn building and start over project.

Our home and detached garage have had multiple owners with varying degrees of home repair ineptness. The short story is that every time we began to fix a found problem, we found deeper problems that needed to be addressed, but when we found that none of the structural walls in the garage had "No" studs that actually ran from the top plate to the floor plates, we were screwed. Cy and I slumped onto a concrete footing and almost cried, our repair plans collapsed, and we resigned ourselves to tearing it down and starting over. We no longer had a garage or a covered outdoor space to do projects. In the Pacific North West that puts a major crimp on getting anything done during the rainy season.



With storage space at a premium and everybody needing things from the limited storage space, stored items placed in one spot, move when others came looking for items they needed. I spent multiple days in the trailer finding all of my camping and fishing equipment, that had traveled since I last touched it. Additionally, I repaired or replaced items that needed attention and tender loving care. A stitch was needed here and there, tin cloth jackets and hats needed re-waxing, boots needed cleaning and conditioning. My missing, since our move, camera lens filters have resurfaced and are reunited with the camera equipment. (For me this was a Big Deal.)

Continued on page 5 →

Sleeping Bags cleaned, cab heater build completed, axes, and knives sharpened, and a hundred other items attended to and taken care of. It is a nice feeling having all in order for the coming year.

These small tasks filled my day with small victories and a sense of accomplishment. None of these things changed the bigger world, but they changed my day and filled me with peace and a stronger connection to life. Sometimes life forces us to look inward and to reattached to our home. The view out the home window can be just as beautiful as a view a million miles away. It is nice to rediscover what lays right at our feet once again. The warm moist

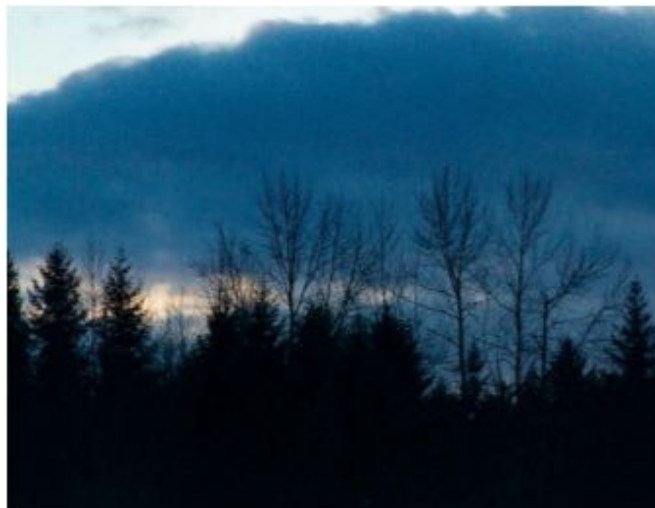


mist that forms in the cool of the evening air as it creeps beneath the cedars. The alder grove highlighted by a slanting ray of fading sunlight. The frost covered morning that sparkles in early morning sunrise. The robins at play in the dew wet grass beneath the mailbox. The warmth of our dogs when they greet me at the beginning of my day. My joy at watching them roll in the grass, with the simple joy of being outdoors. Me trying to scrub the sleep from my eyes as I raise the blinds on a new day. A text or a call from a friend reinforces the connections that make us human. The smell of fresh cut wood. A fresh and finely sharpened axe. These are all small tendrils that bind us and keep us whole.

As we anticipate better weather, a better political environment, more social contact, outdoor activities, do not just wait, take up the small tasks and prepare, repair, plan and most important, call and text friends and look out your window and walk your yard. There is beauty all around us if we open our eyes and really see.

Stephen

The world is out there, the journey starts the minute you leave the door, go outside and truly live.



“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* ~

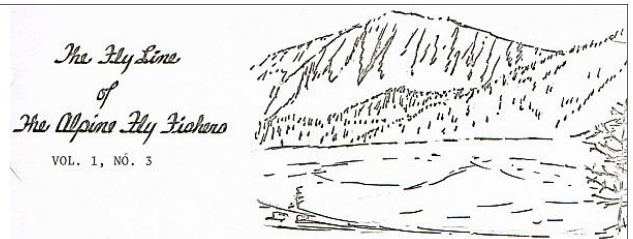
The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers

'The Fly Line' -

Vol. 5, No. 5

May of 1977

Reed Miller, Editor



This ~ *In The Past* ~ article was published in 1977. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate.

This is a historical document only.

Program: This year of little snow means a long high lakes season. Fran Wood of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and John Callahan will present their slides and thoughts on high lakes fishing. John will feature fishing for Golden Trout in the Enchantment Lakes area.

Door Prize: An 8 1/2 foot glass fly rod for an 8 weight line, made from a Lamiglas blank. Also, a couple lesser items.

Last Meeting: The by-laws were amended to remove the 19 year old minimum age restriction for membership. The by-laws are being retyped and will be available by the June meeting.

Fishouts: The fishout at the Desert Wildlife Recreation area was a mixed success. Saturday the wind blew everyone off the lakes. By the time I got to the campground Saturday P.M., the night fisherfolk had spent several hours swapping lies, telling jokes and supporting the WLCB. Sunday was a different story. The wind was gentle and the fish, though small, were numerous and cooperative.

The next fishout will be at Pass Lake, May 14 & 15, 1977. This lake is fly fishing only and has a 3 fish, 12 inch minimum size limit. To go there, take I-5 north to Mt. Vernon. Take the road to Deception Pass State Park. The lake is in the Park. There is camping at the park, but get there early because it often gets full on weekends.

Fishing Reports: As stated earlier, Desert Lake was excellent for small (8" - 11") rainbows. Several club members tried the Yakima River on Sunday, April 17, and found the fishing slow due to cold (44 degrees) water. They did take a few fish by working nymphs deep and slow.

Pat Trotter tried Ohop Lake opening day and did "lousy".

Phil White fished Hull Lake and took several small cutthroat. He reports fishing pressure was light and the lake should improve as the water warms up.

Gary Ritchie sent a letter. (He's in Washington D.C., serving as a science advisor to the U.S. Senate). He said he is gonna be back here for a little while in May to get married. I guess being in the insane atmosphere of the Senate messed him up a bit. He also said he'll be back here full time come August.

See you at the meeting Monday night. Bring a guest. Pay your dues. Get your guest to join. Join the FFF.

P.S. The Fly Line needs a new editor. I'm moving to Longview, so won't be able to take care of the newsletter any longer. It's been a really enjoyable 4+ years. Many thanks to those who have contributed, filled in, etc. I'm really going to miss you.

BRING A GUEST.
JOIN THE FFF

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JOIN THE FFF

‘A Memory’

by Dean Hamilton

Your description of fishing the Madison River (*in the January newsletter**) brought back some amazing memories of my adventures there in 1977. I was a journeyman carpenter in southern California and my wife and I sold a house and decided to take a road trip which turned out to be the trip of a lifetime.

We left so cal the first of April and headed north to Oregon and stayed with my sister and while there I fished the Santiam River for steelhead. Back then it was with a spinning outfit and spoons. We hiked into a deep gorge with our 11 month old son in a backpack and found a section below a dam that I hooked and landed two ten pounders. Funny as at the time I thought steelhead fishing was fun and easy based on my initial success.

From there we went up to Washington to stay with Dianna’s sister and we snow skied the Cascades and went up to Canada and hung out with a girl I met on R&R in Australia that I had been pen pals with since 1968. Had an amazing time skiing with them and left to go fishing. We had a brief visit in Gooding Idaho with an uncle and headed out to Ketchum, Idaho to start my adventures.

I was a beginner at fly fishing but being a beginner never stopped me from anything so I went full speed and caught nothing. I was very frustrated to say the least. We eventually made it to the West Yellowstone area and I stopped in a shop and started talking with a guy tying flies. His name was Rene Harrop. He spent a lot of time explaining what I was doing wrong which was trying to fish a dry fly when the hatches wouldn’t start for another month. He sold me some wooly buggers and said I needed to get a different reel and sink tip line and a 9 foot rod.

So we took off to I believe it was Livingston and ended up in Dan Bailey’s shop. Remember this was late April 1977 so it was no surprise that I was the only person in the shop. Dan was very congenial and he handed me off to his son who fixed me up with a Hardy Princess reel with a 6 wt sink tip line. Cost a whopping \$80.*

From there we moved on to Twin Bridges which at the time that was where the Winston shop was. I spoke with the owner and tried to buy a bamboo rod but they had nothing available as everything he had shipped out fast. Remember back then you could buy nice bamboo rods in the \$300* range. The only thing he had in stock was a kit for a glass rod. I bought it and went back to the campground and built the rod and painted the guides and set out for the Madison.

We went outside the park and headed north to a town called Ennis on a Wednesday as Thursday was opening day in that area. We went to bed that night in our camper and expecting a mob scene like I was used to in so cal. When I got up the next morn we were the only people in the place. In typical greenhorn fashion I waded out and started tossing my new sink tip with a wooly bugger. And exactly as Rene predicted I started catching fish!! I caught several fish that day and we only saw one vehicle pull in and the guys fished for a couple hours and left after they caught a few. They were locals and had to get back to work. I wish I would have had the sense to hire a guide and learn to do it right.

From there we went back to West Yellowstone to a different shop owned by Bud Lilly. I had no idea who he was but by the time I left the shop I felt like we were old friends. Incidentally, he was the one who got me straight with catch and release.

Fished a lot of rivers on that trip but one that sticks out as special was the headwaters of the Yellowstone. We had to head home that morn and as we were leaving the park I spotted a great looking pool and put on my waders and rigged up and waded out. As soon as I got in the water it started snowing. I could hardly see but I caught several cutthroat trout.

Sometimes that trip seems like nothing but a dream. Still it was as adventure I’ll never regret as regardless of how much money and influence you have you couldn’t duplicate that trip now. Hell, we watched Old Faithful one morn and we were alone except for the Ranger talking with us. My understanding talking to the locals it got very busy in the summer but that was mostly tourism as fly fishing hadn’t turned into another fad that everybody has to do.

Hope I haven’t bored you to death Larry.....Dean

Note from editor, ie: me – the italicized item was my input. As a side note, in 1977, \$80 was the same as \$343 in today’s money and \$300 has a value of \$1,290 in today’s money. Larry



ZOOM CLUB MEETING

TUESDAY, February 23, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

February Zoom Guest Speaker Program

A Presentation by Captain David Dietrich of Adventure Angling
He will be talking about cutthroat and Coho fishing in Puget Sound

Thoughts on our January Zoom Meeting And More

In January we had our second official Zoom meeting and our first with a guest speaker.

I want to thank Eugene Rivers for his presentation on the mighty Madison River in the great state of Montana.

We had seventeen people 'at' the meeting, sixteen Alpine Fly Fisher club members and Eugene.

That set a new bar for our Zoom club meetings and I hope we can increase that number in the future.

Ron has gotten us some very good guest speakers for the future Zoom meetings. As noted above, Captain David Dietrich will be with us in February and in March it will be Marc Williamson on Spring Creeks in eastern Oregon. More to follow.

I invite all of you to join us at our Zoom meetings. If you have never downloaded Zoom, a very easy thing to do by the way, then shoot me an email or give me a call and I will be more than happy to set up a mutual time when I can guide you through the process of joining a Zoom meeting.



Rainbows on the Clark Fork River

Late December, 2020

Just had to show all of you a couple really nice Rainbows that Brooks Sanford caught on the Clark Fork River the days after Christmas. The river hadn't iced over by then so he they went out and scored some great looking trout for a few days.

1713 SOUTH CANYON ROAD
ELLENSBURG, WA 98926
509-962-2033
worleybugger@fairpoint.net



Worley Bugger Fly Co.

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!

guided happiness!

Clark Fork Trout.com

MONTANA FLY FISHING OUTFITTERS
ST. REGIS, MT

OWNER & OUTFITTER, STEVE TEMPLE

www.ClarkForkTrout.com 406.382.0161

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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.

Closed for the winter

"GUIDED FISHING ON THE CLARK FORK, BITTERROOT, MISSOURI AND BLACKFOOT RIVERS AND PROVIDING FLY FISHING CLASSES BY PEGGY TEMPLE."

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February / March 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Chocolate and Valentines Day go hand in hand	1 February	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentines Day 	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Zoom Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	"Loud are the thunder drums in the tents of the mountains. Oh, long, long have we eaten chia seeds and dried deer's flesh of the summer killing. We are tired of our huts and the smoky smell of our clothing. We are sick with the desire for the sun and the grass on the mountain." - Paiute Late Winter Song					

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." - Hal Borland	1 March	2	3	4	5	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20
21	22 Zoom Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	"The March wind roars like a lion in the sky, And makes us shiver as he passes by. When winds are soft, and the days are warm and clear, just like a gentle lamb, then spring is here." - Author Unknown		

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
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Visit our website at alpineflyfishers.org

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