

# Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Tuesday

June 22

ZOOM MEETING

6:45 PM to ??

  
**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Charter Club  
1000 Stewards member



## The Dead Drift - June 2021

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

After watching Marty Sheppard's steelhead program at last month's Zoom meeting, I can see why Steve & Stephen & Bob like to go down there for both steelies and smallies.

As some of you may know, I am on the board of directors for the WA State Council FFI. I am the membership person. The president is Steve Jones. He took over that job when Bill Wheeler had to leave due to health reasons. But, Steve is also the VP of Communications which is a job that keeps him rather busy plus he was the newsletter editor for the WSC. All those jobs combined were a lot for one person. So Steve asked the board members if anyone would take over the job of newsletter editor. Since I have been editing newsletters for fly clubs for the past 22 years I figured why not? So I will now be editing four additional newsletters each year. That is how many the WSC sends out, roughly one every three months. I hope you all have been enjoying Stephens 'Back of Beyond' stories. I decided to dig back into past years and start adding his Back of Beyond articles to the WA State Council newsletters with his permission.

The rivers in Montana are in spring runoff now. All that low lying snow is melting off and will soon be gone. Then the rivers will return to very fishable waters. I just had an email from Steve Temple of the Clark Fork Trout fly shop and guide service. Even with high water he has been getting out on the river and nymphing with very small nymphs and catching a few fish. They are rather picky at this time but when the waters lower and clear up there will be some great fishing.

The Yakima River has been doing its yo-yo thing for this time of year, up then down then up.....To be expected and soon it will start running really clear and will be in the normal summer time high flow so the farmers and ranchers down in the valley can have water. Fishing is going to be really good this year.

When you are out there on the lakes or rivers or saltwater, please be careful and don't take unnecessary risks. We love fly fishing but not so much that we are willing to die for 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**  
**June 2007**

**Puget Sound Sand Lance**

By Bob Bates



Nathan Keen, from The Avid Angler, Lake Forest Park, WA, was one of 56 tiers who were demonstrating their skills at the first Annual Fly Tying Expo of the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers in Ellensburg, WA April 21, 2007. He was tying this fly along with other favorite saltwater patterns. He has been tying it since year 2000 when he returned to Western Washington from the Orvis Striper School on the east coast. He learned the flat wing style used on this fly from Kenny Abrams while he was there. Perhaps it is a favorite because he has caught many sea-run cutthroat and coho salmon with it. Sea-runs are 18 to 20 inches long, and Cohos range up to 5 pounds. Usually he fishes from shore.

Either a floating or intermediate sinking line may be used. In real shallow water use the floating line. Remember the water depth changes with the tide. If you know what to look for you can sometimes see fish slashing after tiny sand lances and other bait fish. That is a clue to using a hard strip to imitate bait fish fleeing in panic. At other times the schooled bait fish are visible, and they might even create nervous water with their movements. As with other types of fishing, be aware of what is happening and use to your advantage. If the bait fish aren't giving you clues then use blind casting like other anglers. Cast in any direction and try a variety of retrieves. With casts into deeper water you can let the fly sink a little before retrieving. However, don't forget to work a few casts along the shore. The fly above looks pretty slim. In the water it will look even slimmer, just like a sand lance.

**Materials List:**

- Hook: Gamakatsu SL, black bonefish size 4
- Thread: Uni 6/0 white
- Tail: White bucktail
- Dubbing Ball: Downey material from a chartreuse saddle hackle.
- Second tail: White neck hackle
- Third tail: Chartreuse dyed grizzly hackle
- Highlights: Lavender Gliss-n-Glow
- Body: Bill's Body Braid, pearlescent
- Beard: White bucktail
- Wing: Bucktail, olive, chartreuse and blue (hand mix before tying on fly)
- Overwing: Dark dun saddle
- Topping: Peacock herl
- Eyes: Synthetic or natural jungle cock

**Tying steps:**

1. Lay a thread base on shank from front to rear. Stop with thread over point of hook. Then tie white bucktail securely so the tail is a little longer than the hook.
2. Take some of the soft downy material from a chartreuse saddle hackle, dub it on the thread and form a dubbing ball over the tie down point for the tail.



3. With the curved side up, tie in a short white saddle hackle in front of the dubbing ball. The feather should extend a little bit beyond the tail. Tie it flat on top of hook. Materials in this and the next three steps are tied on the hook right on top of the dubbing ball.

4. Tie a chartreuse dyed grizzly saddle hackle over the white hackle. Make it about a gap width longer than the white neck hackle. Tie it flat on top of hook.

5. Tie in four pieces of lavender Gliss-n-Glow a little longer than the chartreuse saddle hackle. Wind thread forward to a point between 1 and 1-1/2 eye widths from the eye. This length of bare hook is needed. Remove the excess material.

6. Tie on a piece of body braid, wind thread rearward over it to the dubbing ball and then wind the thread forward. Wrap the body braid forward to the thread in a single layer, secure and trim excess. Leave 1 to 1-1/2 eye widths of bare shank in front of body.

7. Turn over fly. (It is nice to have a rotary vise for this otherwise take the fly out of the vise to turn it over.) Hand stack a small clump of white bucktail, and tie on a beard right in front of the body. Have it extend about a gap width beyond the hook. Trim excess bucktail.

8. Turn fly right side up. Tie on the pre mixed bucktail overwing right in front of the body. Make the bucktail overwing a little shorter than the tail of bucktail. Trim excess bucktail.

9. Strip barbs from a dark dun saddle feather so that when it is tied on top of the hook the tip will be 1/4-inch shorter than the dyed grizzly hackle tail. Tie the feather flat on top of hook right in front of body. Fold the bare shaft back and wrap thread over it to lock the feather in.

10. Tie in two peacock herls with the tips matching the dark dun feather. Leave the thread a little in front of the tie down point for the peacock herl.

11. Prepare two synthetic or natural Jungle Cock nails, and tie them on each side of the head of the fly. Position them with the tip of each feather about an eye width forward of the dubbing ball. Whip finish. Since the thread was moved forward in the process of tying the Jungle Cock, an efficient way of doing the whip finish is to move the thread rearward. Trim excess thread.

**Closing comments:** I wish that I had some of these flies the last time I went fishing for Sea-Run Cutthroat. My chartreuse Clouser Minnow only fooled one 18-inch Sea Run. With a pocket full of Puget Sound Sand Lances I am sure I would have been more successful.

## Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

### Thou Shalt Not Fish

Camp is just above the lakes surface, the journey to the water is maybe 20 steps downhill through a curtain of small trees and shrubs. That tree and shrub fringe, separates two different worlds. Camp lays in the warmth of early May's morning sunshine; but once you pass through that foliage screen where songbirds feed and duck nest you enter the lake effect and you had better not forget your jacket and raincoat. In camp I shed my jacket and contemplate leaving it in camp, but once I step down to the water's edge clouds appeared over the mountain ridge to the north and a freshening breeze announced a weather change. Before I push off into the water world of fish and ducks, I make damn sure my jacket is close at hand.



Mountain lake weather is fickle, and you ignore it at your own peril. One mid-morning Steve and Garry rowed against the wind to reach the south-end of the lake believing that they would get a wind assist rowing home, they had barely reached their destination and the wind swung one hundred and eighty degrees and now they had to row home against it as well. Maybe it was my imagination, but I thought I saw blue smoke raise above their heads as a new reality settled in.

Chopaka Lake time is easier to adjust to if you spend at least two weeks getting to know its moods and patterns, but never be complacent, change is probable at any given moment. Sean and Garry introduced me to this bit of fly-fishing heaven 5 years ago, it became an annual journey. It is an exceptional place, so exceptional that I begin planning next year's visit before I have completed the present one. What equipment can I leave home, what new equipment do I need, and what adjustments will I need to make, to be back next year. Our core group expanded by two this year, Steve and Bob joined us, and they were discussing plans for next year before we left. Once you catch the Chopaka Lake bug there is no cure, returning is the only option to satisfy the need to immerse yourself in its siren call.

Fishing is not a singular activity, like a finely cut diamond, its multifaceted faceted surface, reveals depth and diversity as it reflects and refracts light. The big W forces you to change your cast, you innovate to get your fly on the water, what was an easy cast is now dramatic, or damn near impossible. The appearance of eagles and osprey make one's heartbeat deeper with wonder and appreciation, but they also put fish down, sunlight and clouds compete for dominance and move the fish up and down in their liquid world. Ample food sources dictate fish feeding habits and they change through-out the day. Chironomids and leeches work well in the morning, ants just before the hatch and then it is emerger and dry flies before reverting back to leeches. Ducks, provide entertainment and vexations, it is a bag of aerial artistry, feeding and mating rituals that captivate and interrupt us in turn. Bears and moose are known to make appearances and they add their own elements to one's fishing awareness. Weather influences hatches, too much sunshine putts down the hatch, small ripples on the water's surface, with rain and clouds, present the best conditions for spectacular hatches and rising fish.

One's own mood also affects how the fishing goes, blown cast, knots, reed snagged flies, broken rods, lost rods, water filled or leaky waders, bruised knees, swollen hands, mis-placed gear, you can embrace them or fight them, your reaction to each will impact your fishing. Know that they are all part and parcel to fishing, untangling a knot can be tranquil and engrossing if it is just another part of fishing. Handle each incident as part of the whole not as a misstep or obstacle but just another step in your journey of fishing. Each incident is just another facet that reflects the light.

Continued on page 5 →



Chopaka refracts the light on a personal level as well, I travel to the lake with close and special friends, we all watch out for each other, but I found out on this trip that watching out for each other is not just based upon a personal friendship. On my first day on the lake, I lost a rod and reel to an exceptionally large fish, I had put down my oars to change flies, as I turned my back to grab my kit bag, my rod went over the front of the raft, as I turned to pursue, it vanished into the depths. Despondent but not crushed I continued to fish and caught two more beauties. The next day found me back on the water, just afternoon, I pulled my anchor and moved to a new location I reached down to grab my rod and it had a 45-degree bend in the shaft, two days of fishing and I was down two rods. I was beginning to believe I was being told Thou Shalt Not Fish, when I reported my loss to Garry and Steve, they both offered me rods to keep fishing. It was not just my friends that were covering for me, other fishermen/women when hearing of my plight offered me loaner rods, and then friends and family at home heard of my misfortune, they also made sure that I was taken care of by sending rods by others coming to join us. When all was said and done, I went from minus two to plus six rods to choose from. Our dinner and campfire visits expanded as well, John and Dave joined us each evening and most morning while they were in camp. Good friends and caring people draw people to them, and a community grows.

Chopaka is an active ecological life zone, waterfowl pass through here on their migration along the Pacific flyway, some rest up and feed before continuing their journey, other stay and raise families in this, their spring and summer home. Bald eagles, hunt the land and water to feed and raise their young in a nest high in a Cotton Wood near the lakes end. Osprey and Golden eagles compete with the Bald eagles in aerial combat for the right to harvest the land and water. Their battle cries echo from the hills as they put on their dizzying display of winged flight. The lake side shrubs are full of songbirds busy harvesting bugs. When the swallows swing low over the water it is a sure sign that a mayfly hatch is eminent, and it is time to reach for your dry fly rod. In June as the gloaming manifests itself, traveling sedges emerging from the lakes depth and making a bee line for the shore, a well-presented cast and a fast strip shoreward can produce slashing hookups. Spring is mayfly and midge hatches; summer brings damsel and dragon flies. Ants are a good searching pattern, they are affective pre and post hatch, for enticing the big ones to come out of the reeds to feed. Casting to rising fish is its own art, so too are trolling and chironomid fishing, each effort is fraught and blessed with unique and valuable fishing skills that need to be learned, absorbed, and tested through application and perseverance.

I freely admit that my favorite way of fishing is presenting a dry fly or emerger to rising fish. For me this is the ultimate fishing experience. To watch a fish feed and then to lay a dry or emerger in the feeding zone and watch the fish target my fly and then their take, is a pure and joyful experience. My favorite take on this trip was when I presented my fly between two freshly emerged Mayflies. The hatch was slowing down, I noticed that the fish were going for small groups of mayflies vs, individuals. When I saw two mayflies pop to the surface about six inches apart, I laid my fly between them and let it match their downwind float.

When I saw two mayflies pop to the surface about six inches apart, I laid my fly between them and let it match their downwind float.

My presentation delivered a powerful take, and I landed an 18-inch buck, a bright red sided beauty who powered out of the water into the air, provided aerial entertainment before entering my net. Another delightful experience was a selfmanufactured hatch. While changing fishing positions I rowed above approximately six wildly spaced trout holding just above the bottom in about seven to nine feet of water. I dropped my anchor and picked up my rod and reel rigged with a dry line and a dark mayfly and mayfly emerger. There was no hatch happening at the time, but I had heard that Mayflies had been seen on the water the day before. I decided to take a chance, I laid out my cast about thirty feet from my raft as the flies floated in the light chop, I gave it a gentle tug, just enough to make the flies hesitate, it was fish on, over the next 15 minutes or so, I made another seven or eight casts and landed 5 more 18" plus sized rainbow beauties all of them had taken the adult mayfly. Each time I landed a fish, I dried and redressed my flies for my next presentation. I had a smile on my face that matched the joy in my soul. When the bite turned off, I rowed over too Steve and Bob to tell my story and share with them a sip of Islay Scotch to celebrate.

Two weeks is never enough, but it is the minimum that is required to let yourself enter into the essence of Chopaka lake. It is not just the fish, it is the place and the people, (friends and strangers), the animals, insects, birds, and waterfowl. The land, water, and sky, it is the evening campfire with friends and shared meals, Steve's personal roasted coffee, freshly ground each morning, Scotch and extra fly lines, Bob's, humor, cubscout merit badges and Lagavulin. Sean's stories, fly rod, reel, and dry sense of humor. Garry's (His Hunkness) breakfasts, fires, kitchen table and six weight fly rod. Chopaka 2022 is already calling us back.

PS Garry, Bob really did appreciate his 5:30 wakeups and he is expecting a two merit badges for his fishing vest, one for his fires under your tutelage and the second for making his bed every morning so we could eat breakfast.

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. 7

September of 1977

Gary Ritchie, 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:** Norm Knott, formerly of the Washington Department of Game will present a talk on "Seepage Lakes of the Columbia Basin." Norm has held positions in biology, enforcement, land purchase and land management with the Department and is knowledgeable on a wide range of fish and game issues.

**Door Prize:** Berkeley 556 fly reel; Perrine fly box; four Berkeley flat-butt leaders

**Fishing Reports:** All sorts of wild tales have been floating in during the past week or two. Pat Trotter and Phil White report that the Elwha fishout was a super success, with plenty of native fish and generally good water. A brief rain did rile the river up for a few hours but it came back and the rainbows were ready.

Doug Hanson has been knocking them dead down on the fly-only section of the upper Kalama. Two steelhead from the same hole within an hour. He was using a super fast (Type 4) sinking line recently offered by Cortland (and very hard to find). Doug says the line gets right down to the bottom of fairly deep pools where the fish are. I fished the same stretch of the Kalama last weekend and got skunked, but the stream itself is so beautiful and fishable that it's worth driving down there.

Jim Higgins fished the Metolius and the upper and lower Deschutes two weeks ago. The Metolius was very cold (both in terms of temperature and fish). The upper Deschutes produced some nice browns on light cahill flies, the lower was rather slow.

Marilyn (my wife) and I have been fishing like crazy ever since we got back from Washington D.C. Among the many streams on which we were skunked during the past three weeks were the Satsop, North, Skokomish, Hamma Hamma, Smith Creek and Humptulips. I didn't have a bit of luck on the Green (Toutle tributary) last Friday night, when a big steelhead sucked in my floating #18 Adams (ably tied by Jim Higgins) to my great surprise. I was delighted when my 4 or 5 pound tipper actually held up for about ten minutes before breaking in the middle and setting the big steelie free. (I would have released it anyway, of course).

Items of Business: (you don't have to read this BS if you don't want to)

Item 1: Monday night we will discuss and vote on a proposed change in the club bylaws. The change simply involves holding meetings on the third, rather than the first, Monday of each month.

Item 2: The Trustees are recommending the following ground rules for the special drawing for the Orvis fly rod in December.

- only members are eligible
- \$5.00 for ticket, one ticket limit per member
- there will be two other worthwhile door prizes to be drawn separately in the regular way at the regular price.
- there would also be special gifts for the ladies present

**Membership Plug:** The above mentioned Orvis rod is a \$170 item. An opportunity to pick it up for \$5 should be a real incentive to join the club. Get your membership in now! Don't miss out on your chance!



## ZOOM CLUB MEETING

TUESDAY, June 22, 2021 @ 6:45 PM

June Zoom Guest Speaker  
**Steve Worley**  
Fishing the Yakima River

### Washington FFI joins the Amazon Smile Program



You can donate to the state FFI council with every purchase at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)

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 the transaction to donate to the non-profit you choose.

Washington FFI supports a range of education and conservation efforts every year from cash contributions. We support Casting for Recovery for women cancer survivors and Project Healing Waters serving wounded veterans. For years we've backed the annual Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy that has introduced a generation of teens to our sport. Last year we helped organize and fund a 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.

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. But everyone still shops. Many FFI members shop online at Amazon. Directors of the Washington Council have joined the Amazon Smile program to help fund our work. You can help by shopping through Amazon Smile.

To join follow these steps:

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

Sign in with the Amazon.com credentials you ordinarily use to shop at Amazon.

Search the list of charities and select **Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA**. Make sure it says Seattle!

Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](https://www.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.

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. 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](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and selecting Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA as your non-profit of choice. Thank you.

*Editors Note: I already had a link to Amazon on my computer but it did not open to Amazon Smile, so I copied the URL to the Smile site and opened up my link and pasted the new URL in it. Now I open to Amazon Smile when I click the link. It doesn't cost me any more money and the WA State Council FFI gets a donation from Amazon.*

Larry

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## 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

## Clark Fork Trout

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.

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

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## **Euro Nymphing From A Drift Boat**

Okay, I know I said that the Echo Shadow II, 2pc, 10ft, 4 pc Euro Style fly rod that I bought at the Worley Bugger Fly Shop back in March was for was for a future rod raffle board, but things change. After watching Garrett Lesko on his presentation about Euro Nymphing I got to thinking. Aron Larsen, a guide for the Worley Bugger, has that client who only fishes in the Euro Nymphing style from his drift boat. Some of us are past the ability to wade and walk small rivers and streams, but we can still fish from a drift boat. That is the only kind of fishing I do now.

I like dry fly fishing, who doesn't? But there are many times the trout are simply not looking up and are only feeding on nymphs. So I do a lot of nymph fishing under a strike indicator. The majority of that style is done just a short cast from the boat. So, why not do the Euro Nymphing style of nymphing?

You can most likely guess what I decided. Yep, that rod/reel I bought from Steve Worley is going into my arsenal. I called Steve and ordered up the Euro fly line, Euro style leader, the sighting leaders, and the fluorocarbon tippets along with some very heavy tungsten beaded nymphs.

I am going to go out on the Yakima River with Aron and he will teach me Euro Nymphing from a drift boat. So, that is what I will be doing this summer. When that 3 weight Echo Shadow II comes in that I purchased on the FFI Partnership program, that will be the outfit for the rod raffle.

# **Fly Fishers International's**

## **Virtual Fly Fishing Fair**

**Coming your way**

**November 5 & 6 & 7**

**Make sure you register for this great and unique event.**

# June / July 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"I know well that the June rains just fall." - Uejima Onitsura 1661-1738		<b>1 June</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 <small>June Rose</small>	18	19
20	21	<b>22 Zoom Meeting</b>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	"In these divine pleasures permitted to me of walks in the June night under moon and stars, I can put my life as a fact before me and stand aloof from its honor and shame." - Ralph Waldo Emerson, Journals 1803-1882		

"That beautiful season the Summer! Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; And the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood." - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow				<b>1 July</b>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <small>Delphinium</small>	22	23	24
25	26	<b>27 No Meeting</b>	28	29	30	31

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club  
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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 [alpineflyfishers.org](http://alpineflyfishers.org)

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