

The Dead Drift - October 2021

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

I was really sorry when we had to cancel our in-person meetings for the rest of 2021. We considered just how erratic this virus was acting so we decided to cancel in-person meetings for the rest of the year. We have high hopes of starting our in-person meetings in January of 2022.

Regarding the matter of Covid shutdowns, I just found out that the Oregon Council FFI has decided to cancel the Albany show in March of 2022 and have rescheduled it for March 2023. I know Oregon is having an increase in Covid and it is so unpredictable that it is difficult to plan an event that is even half a year out. That is too bad, as I do like going to that show. The 2021 event was cancelled so I had hopes that 2022 would be the restart. But that is not to be.

The Washington State Council FFI is going forward with a one day <u>outdoor</u> casting event on Mercer Island this April. We will have a couple fly tyers there but mostly it will be a clinic for improving your cast or learning how to cast and playing casting games. More on that later.

The FFI started having their early on-line auctions leading up to the Virtual Expo in November. I was high bidder for a fly rod outfit, an 8 weight, which will make a great back-up outfit for steelies or bass or salmon. That will end up being one of our raffle items most likely.

Speaking of our raffles, since I have been acquiring 'stuff' over the past year+ I think we can change up our board raffles. Rather than just having one item on the board, we can have multiple items, allowing the winner of the raffle board to choose which one they want. Looks like we will start that in January. By then I will probably have even more items I have won in these FFI auctions. I also picked up an item at the Clark Fork Trout fly shop. Some neat stuff!

Every year we are required to have an official meeting to vote our Board of Directors in for another year. There is a listing of our BOD on the back page. So, this is my official notification opening nominations for anyone who wants to get on the BOD. We will have our official vote during our December Zoom meeting.

Speaking of nominations: I was voted in as president over a decade ago. I started my presidency back in January of 2009. So we are coming up on 13 years. Every year I ask if there is someone else who wants to be president. It seems strange how that question can really quiet a room.

So, that got me to thinking. If I ran for president of this great country of ours, I would be voted in for life since that seems to be the case with AFF. That means we could do away with all those silly presidential elections every four years.

Back on a more serious note, I am happy to continue as the president but I will always be willing to step down if someone else wants the job.

"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

Fly Fishing International Fly of the Month October 2007

Pin Fish

By Bob Bates



People tying salt water patterns are in the minority at FFF conclaves in the middle of Montana. However, Kevin Murphy from Palm Bay, Florida was coming through and contacted tying organizers about demonstrating some of his patterns. He showed us how to tie a great imitation of a pinfish at the 42nd Annual International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Livingston, MT.

This article is designed for fly fishers around the Gulf of Mexico, but some of the techniques can be applied to other fly tying. According to McClane's Standard Fishing Encyclopedia pinfish are found from the south side of Cape Cod, Massachusetts south to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. It is also found in Bermuda. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says that adult pinfish (Lagodon rhomboids) prefer protected waters of the Gulf between 30 and 50 feet deep, while juveniles are common over seagrass beds or other structures such as rocky bottoms, jetties, pilings, and in mangrove areas where there is cover from predators. It grows to 4.5 inches long and is a popular target for kids.

Why is it important to the fly angler? It is the preferred food for snook, tarpon, red fish, sea trout and several other carnivorous saltwater species. Fishing techniques are influenced by what you are going after. Mostly use sinking lines, for retrieves use long strips or short strips. Be erratic. Some days one system works and some days another system works. Bring along all of your lines and rods. Just remember that you are going after some mean and sometimes large fish.

Materials List:

Hook: Mustad Signature 4/0 Thread: Mono thread 6/0 clear Body: Crystal chenille, red Overbody: Polar Flash, pearlescent First topping: Purple Polar Flash two bundles Second topping: Super Craft fur, tan Gill Plate: Marabou, red Eyes: 3D dome eyes

Tying steps:

1. Attach thread on the shank just above the point, and tie on a piece of chenille. Make a few wraps of chenille to keep the rest of the materials open.

2. Attach, one at a time, four bunches of Polar Flash around the hook. You can still see red chenille inside. Cinch real tight on the material. Trim any excess Polar Flash, and put some head cement on the tie down area.

3. Tie two bunches of rainbow or purple Polar Flash on top of the pearlescent Polar Flash. Cinch real tight on the material. The rainbow color Polar Flash gives it a little depth to the fly. One bunch went all the way back, and a small left over piece was tied on top.

4. Put cement on tie down area before winding thread over the Super Craft fur. Let it soak in a little, and then the Super Craft fur will not come out because there is a little knob there. The mono thread lets you tie it on hard.

5. Tie on the red marabou gill plate.

6. It is much easier to trim a fly from the rear. Just jab in scissors and snip. Trim to get the profile you want. Don't over cut it.

7. Don't try to draw a line with the magic marker. To put stripes on take a magic marker and dot it. If you dot it hard enough the line will show through, and you can follow the line on the other side.

8. Flip it over, and dot the other side.

9. Put fly back into vise, and put on the dome eyes with a sticky back. Then coat head and eyes with epoxy. If anything can go wrong with epoxy it will. Biggest problem is little pieces sticking up, so really clip everything clean. Kevin used 5 minute epoxy during the Conclave. At home he uses 30 minute epoxy and puts the fly on a wheel to cure. You have to be very deliberate putting the epoxy heads on.

Closing comments: This is not a difficult fly to tie, and if you are in the market for big salt water fish, try a few. One thing that makes it an attractive pattern shows up when the fly is back lighted. The red crystal chenille gives it red glow like a live pin fish. Kevin ties them in larger sizes for peacock bass and striped bass.

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

Evocative

Dawn was still a promise as I left the house and climbed into the cab of my pickup. It was cool, without being cold, so I set the heater and fan controls to low as I pulled down the driveway. Once the truck's sound system synced with my iPhone, I chose Mark Knopfler's Lucky, to be my companion on this early morning ride. Music and warmth filled the truck's cab, soon I was safely cocooned in my old truck making miles disappear beneath my wheels. This was a shake down trip with my 99 Chevy truck, it was my first road trip since I got it back from the mechanic, and I was anxious to get it out on the road to see how it would perform.

A fine mist, and low cloud cover, subdued the already feeble light offered by this September morn sunrise, as I pointed my truck towards Washington's wild western edge. Sporadic rainstorms enveloped my pickup, but almost as soon they appeared they became part of the past as they disappeared in my rearview mirrors, their freshly fallen waters appearing as rooster tails in my wake. In their passing they left fresh air and dampened earth, welcomed gifts after a summer of unseasonable heat and dryness.



Traffic melted away as I left the I-5 corridor, and soon the road before me and behind was empty. A liberation of spirit embraced me, like the first time you sped away on a bicycle free for the first time. That is the emotion that grasped me as I sped towards a land, where human's touch has been mitigated by the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and the earths raw natural beauty is on peacock display. The trucks engine purred as the miles disappeared beneath my wheels. It was comforting to feel the engine effortless transfer of energy from the motor to the drive train as the day brightened and cleared as I drew closer to Aberdeen and Hoquiam; old lumber towns built upon the banks of Grey's Harbor.

The engine problems that had disrupted my trip with my grandsons, were now part of the past. Seven broken exhaust manifold bolts, a broken spark plug wire and a faulty O² sensor had discombobulated the computers control over the engines operation and my truck had said enough is enough. Man, it felt good having my truck back and hitting the open road. I pulled over in Aberdeen and hit Safeway, for gas, a forgotten avocado, and a pee break. In that brief stop the clouds had moved further east leaving blue skies and a fall day that dreams are made of. It was a day full of promise, I knew at that moment that sometime this morning, I was going to lounge on a sun dried and warmed riverside rock, in the fall sunshine and watch the river roll downstream to the Pacific.

I climbed back into my truck with a goal in mind and resumed my journey. I synced up my phone once more and chose John Hiatt's, Walk On, as my musical companion for this part of the journey. Highway 101 going up the Olympic Peninsula runs through heavily harvested forests. While I know that this is part of our nation's economic engines, the sight of this tumultuous landscape always leaves me feeling outsized in my body, you know the old say being too big for your britches. I felt stretched as if my clothes did not quite fit. I know that clear cutting is the most economical way to fell trees and harvest lumber for construction projects and toilet paper.

I also know that it gives life to communities and livelihoods to people, But I also know that it destroys the homes of the animals and birds that called the forest home, it silts up the rivers and streams covering the reds where eggs are laid, and it wipes out future generations of fish and waterfowl and it disrupts the life cycles of insects that fish depend upon. When did mankind get the belief that our actions had little or no consequence to this world that gives us life? We are stewards, not owners.

As 101 winds its way closer to the park the lumber companies leave a fringe of taller trees on the roadside, which screens your view of the scared landscape. The rendered forest is still there, just discreetly hidden. By the time you reach the park boundaries the trees have resumed their natural size and old growth forests become more prominent. Looking at those tall trees makes me feel mere mortal in size, more akin to the world. No longer apart, but now part of the whole. My clothes fit, my breath comes more even, and I am right



sized. The other change I notice is how the forest breathes, living and growing it expands and contract innately. Everything in its place and time. Stillness within motion.

I pick a campsite and put dibs on another, as the truck cools and quiets, I get out and stretch cramped and under used muscles and divorce myself from the road. It is foot traffic for me until Wednesday morn, and I'm going to make the most of it, that I can. Since I am awaiting three more sojourners to join me, I forgo camp setup and hike down to the river to complete my goal. For the next thirty minutes, I rest upon a river rock, letting the fall sun warm my bones as I watch the river run to the Pacific. It is when I am emersed in Nature that I feel the most alive.

The storm that passed through last night and this morning, revitalized this rainforest, the river is low, later I learn that it is probably the lowest that it has been in the last fifty years. Moisture squishes on my walk down to the river, tree and shrub leaves hold raindrops and dew, fall mushrooms and fungus are emerging amongst the ferns and moss. Above my head, birds' flit from branch to trunk, and the inland wind from the ocean rustles the needles and leaves, while the tree trunks sway. My day-to-day unease joins the waters and flows away. The world is alight with possibilities and hope.

At just the right moment, this call to life, pulls me onto my feet and I begin to explore. My brief stop against the river rock has restored me and its time to place my mere human sized footprints once more upon this earth. My steps take me up through the campground and point me to the end of the road. I am not alone here, there are about seven assorted vehicles parked at the trail head and a truck with horse-trailer. The pandemic influenced movement of people escaping to the outdoors is still in effect, and the low water in the river has eased the access to this part of the Park's backcountry. Good on them, many wonders await them on their back country journey. I tip my hat to these venturing souls who also seek the consoling, that only wild can provide. I turn right at the river bluff and head-out on the Sam's River trail.

As always on my sojourns into this rainforest, my feet take me to new wonders, with each step into and through this ancient, old growth forest. Once there were homesteaders here. Their roads, homes and even the land they cleared to eek out a living here, has almost vanished. Only their names sometimes remain on local features of the land. Decay and rebirth all at the same time, like a phoenix arising from its own ashes. We are blessed thatsome of our forebears had the foresight to protect this area for future generation to enjoy.

This rainforest reinforces and sanctifies Thoreau's quote, "In Wildness is the Preservation of the World" When, my feet and socks soaked by the wet grasses that lined the trail started feeling cold, I turned back towards camp, just as amazed by my return journey as I was by my outbound trek.

Continued from page 4

Back at camp I listened for the sound of Sean's Cummings diesel to announce his arrival. As per usual he made a left at the entrance, and I followed his progress as he circled the campground. Michael and Greg's arrival soon followed. Each of us found our nesting spots for the next three nights and got to work putting down our roots. Greg and I erected our tarps and awnings, our dining lodge or breakfast nook moved from tarp to awning of whoever, was cooking.

This sharing of camps results in a cross pollination of practices, ideas and wish to have. Plus, this movement, provides its own merriment, thought sharing, and stories, especially fishing stories. This was a camping trip of four Steel headers, who weren't really fishing for steelhead. All



four of us had cut the hooks off our flies. If there were steelhead in the river, we just wanted to shake their hand so to speak, their numbers are so few, we did not want to stress them at all, just say hello.

It felt good after a dry spell of non-fishing to hold a rod and cast. I had numerous nibbles by smolt in the run just below camp, Sean, and Greg each had grabs by bull trout and Michael hit the jackpot. The day we left he stayed over and hiked up to the further reaches of the upper valley, and had a steelhead take his fly, Man and fish shook hands and parted ways. The sharing of Michael's story made us all feel good, knowing that wild summer steelhead still make it through the nets, log jams, and harassment on the lower river and still find sanctuary in the waters of the upper valley, miles from the ocean. The seeds for a recovery, while slim still exist. There is still hope, it is our responsibility to preserve and nurture it for our children's children.

The human need for wildness is stronger now than at any time in human history, and it is under threat greater than we have ever seen. Embrace Wildness it truly is the preservation of our world. Go outside and let Nature evoke in you a sense of wonder and let it transport you, and please leave only human sized footprints that show you are a steward of this planet we call home.

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. 12

January of 1978

Gary Ritchie, Editor

VOL. 1. NO. 3

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: John Tibbs will present "A Northwest Strategy for All Seasons". John is a 27 year old attorney and a fly fisher tier per excellence. His program will include two classic fly fishing movies and a pre-meeting fly tying demonstration. John ties professionally for Orvis and Eddie Bauer.

Door Prizes: - To be announced (Dick has some real goodies for us this month)

Fishing Report: Retired club president **Pat Trotter** reports that the floods have made some substantive changes in the sizes and locations of holes on the Toutle-Green system. Both systems were in good shape last weekend, but few fish were being taken. Although Pat was unable to locate any fish, he did locate four poachers in the fly-only stretch of the Green. Fortunately for them Pat was unarmed at the time.

Business: The Trustees have decided to completely up-date the club by-laws. These will have to be adopted by the members at the January meeting.

At the same time the question came up again about weather or not we should continue to have business sessions at the club meetings. There are times when the business is heavy and the meetings grow late. This is annoying to some but not to others.

Anyway, to change the present meeting format also requires a change in the by-laws, which must be voted on by the club. To take care of both matters at the same time, the Trustees had some changes to the by-laws drawn up. The changes do away with club business sessions and empower the board of Trustees to conduct all the business of the club.

We will vote on these matters at the January meeting. If the members wish to continue the meetings as in 1976, then vote for the by-laws as written. If you favor doing away with the business sessions at the meetings, vote for the changes.

Please come prepared to cast your vote (in other words read this stuff ahead of time).

See you all Monday night.

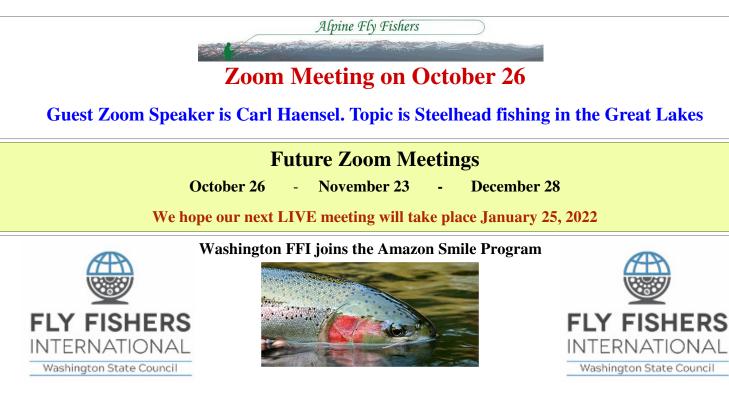
A Membership Message From the President Regarding FFI Dues

We have some club members who have not paid their dues to Fly Fishers International. The FFI sends out a number of notices via email and one notice with USPS. Translation, you should be aware of when you are due to pay for the next year. Alpine Fly Fishers is a Charter Club with the FFI. That means that to belong to the AFF you have to belong to the FFI. We do not have club dues. The only dues you have to pay to remain in our club are your yearly dues to the FFI. National has been swamped getting ready for the up coming Virtual Expo so I have not received a current report from them regarding our members status. I have asked for one and when I get it I will send out notices to the past due people. If it turns out that you had just paid, I am sorry I said you were not, just let me know and I will correct the paperwork. Thank you. Larry

A Quote

"I cast. I was looking right into the west, and the water was coloured like skim milk by reflection from where the sun had set. My silver sedge was as visible as by day. It floated down, there was a rise, I struck, and something rushed upstream. Then I knew."

John Waller Hills from his book: A Summer On The Test Published in 1924



You can donate to the state FFI council with every purchase at Smile.Amazon.com

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 State 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 State 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

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!

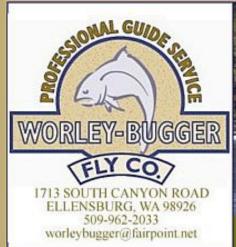
Bookmark smile.amazon.com on your computer to make it easy to return to the charity site.

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 and selecting:

Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA as your non-profit of choice. Thank you.

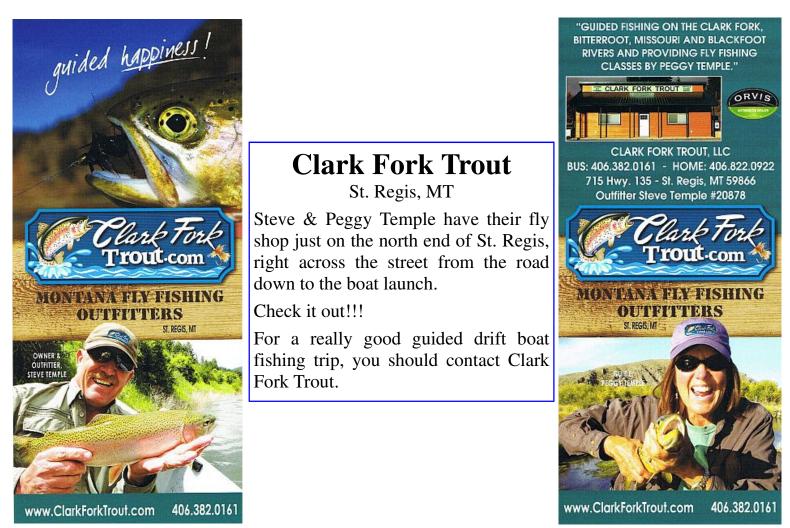
Editors Note: I already had a link to Amazon on my computer but it did not open to Amazon Smile, so I copied the URL to the Smile site and opened up my link and pasted the new URL in it. Now I open to Amazon Smile when I click the link. It doesn't cost me any more money and the WA State Council FFI gets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





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!



VIRTUAL EXPO 2021

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has transformed its annual International Fly Fishing Expo into a virtual event for 2021, completely reimagining how fishing enthusiasts from around the world can enjoy the Expo from the comfort of their own home.

"Our goal is to have fun while learning and immersing ourselves in everything fly fishing," — Patty Lueken, Chair of FFI's Virtual Expo Planning Committee



The FFI Virtual Expo 2021 will take place November 5-7, and will be unlike any fly fishing show in the past.

FFI is pulling out all the stops to make the Virtual Expo the premier fly fishing event of the year. Teaming up with some of the best instructors, presenters, and fly fishing personalities in the sport, FFI Virtual Expo 2021 will feature workshops and presentations on casting, fly tying, conservation, women in fly fishing, travel, and much more. Similar to fly fishing shows, there will be vendors, break-out rooms, and entertaining activities—something for everyone.

Highlights will include:

- Fantastic classes and workshops from renowned "fishy" folks
- Compelling and important conservation workshops
- Fly tying demonstrations with some of the world's best
- An online auction culminating in a virtual live auction on Nov 6
- Great giveaways

• Specialty classes on cooking, nutrition, tricking out your camper, "how it's made," and other topics to interest fly fishers and non-fishers alike.

"Building off of the incredible success of the FFI Online series — during which we brought the essence of FFI out to the international fly fishing community — the Virtual Expo will bring the fly fishing show experience to you." — Patrick Berry, FFI President, and CEO



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GRAB YOUR SPOT IN THE FFI VIRTUAL EXPO 2021!

Fly Fishers International has opened registration for the inaugural FFI Virtual Expo taking place from November 5-7, with some classes starting as early as Sept 6. Fly fishing enthusiasts will have the opportunity to learn from some of the best instructors, presenters, and fly fishing personalities in the sport during this one-of-a-kind event focused on education and fun.



FFI VIRTUAL EXPO HIGHLIGHTS

"Fly fishing enthusiasts won't want to miss this event!"

– Patty Lueken, chair of FFI's Virtual Expo Planning Committee

The Virtual Expo can be enjoyed right from home and will feature:

- Over 150 interactive, hands-on workshops and presentations on casting, fly tying, conservation, women in fly fishing, travel, and much more with experts like April Volkey and conservation partner, Trout Unlimited.
- Offerings for every skill level and all things fly fishing.
- Break-out rooms, social gatherings, and entertaining activities.
- A fly fishing film competition open to anyone with a camera, a love of fly fishing, and a great story to tell.

"The Virtual Expo allows FFI to transform the legacy of our fly fishing education programs and build a more inter-connected fly fishing community," — Patrick Berry, FFI President and CEO

Space is limited to the first 1,500 registrants. Significant benefits are available for FFI members and discounts for non-members.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
still thick on the trees, I	round mist, yellow sunshi but de-spangled gossame e green open park spaces	threads hung on the bus	shes and the shrill littl		1 October	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26 Zoom Meeting	27	28	29	30
"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn."- Elizabeth Lawrence	1 November	2	3	4	5 FFI Virtual Expo	6 FFI Virtua Expo
7 FFI Virtual Expo	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Zoom Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	"When the trees their summer splendor change to raiment red and gold, When the summer moon turns mellow, and the nights are getting cold; When the squirrels hide their acorns, and the woodchucks disappear; Then we know that it is autumn, Loveliest season of the year." - Carol L. Riser, Autumn			

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers ClubLarry Gibbs, Editor253-820-0475flytier015@q.com

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