

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting

Tuesday

September 28

ZOOM MEETING

6:45 PM to ??


FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Charter Club
1000 Stewards member



The Dead Drift - September 2021

In this issue:

Page 2 & 3

FFI Fly Of The Month

Page 4 & 5

Back of Beyond

Page 6

In The Past

Page 7

*Future Meetings
Amazon Smile & WSCFFI*

Page 8

*Worley Bugger Fly Co.
Clark Fork Trout*

Page 9 & 10

FFI Virtual Expo

Page 11

*Calendar
Editor Information
Mailing Address
Board of Directors*

President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

I took a trip to the Clark Fork River in western Montana in August. Fishing had been fantastic on the river. The trout were gorging on hoppers, be they real or imitations and the smallmouth bass were attacking the streamers over in the Flathead River. My guide was a close friend, Brooks Sanford. Andrew, his son, had graduated from high school this year and was guiding as well, making some money for his fall introduction to the University of Montana in Missoula. He was using Brook's old drift boat since Brooks bought a new Hyde. Andrew was also using Brook's old aluminum framed boat net. I figured Andrew deserved a really nice net.

Kevin Gill had donated two very nice boat nets he had made to our club as fundraisers. Since I had two, I took one to Montana and gave that to Andrew. Let me tell you, he was one happy fisherman. I will be donating money to our club to cover the net. Thank you Gill for making such a great net. Andrew will be using it for many years when he is guiding during the summer months.

By the way, when I arrived at Brooks' residence in St. Regis to give Andrew the net, they were just sitting down to a smallmouth bass feed. Brooks and Duncan had been out fishing the Flathead the day before and caught a bunch of smallies. Naturally most were released but they did keep a few for the bass feed. So, Brooks invited me to stay and enjoy the bass feed. I do like eating bass.

Timing, something that is so important in so many of the things we do. But sometimes the timing is a bit off and there is nothing we can do about it. Brooks and I put in at the Cascade Rapids launch (such as it is) on the Clark Fork, and floated to Paradise. (That is a small town in Montana by the way, where the take out is). Right off the bat I caught a really nice 16 inch Cutthroat on a small hopper. Then the timing factor kicked in. Be it the change in atmospheric conditions we were undergoing or whatever, the bite was off. It was what I call a hard fishing day. Lots of casting not so much catching. Even the smallmouth bass at the confluence of the Clark Fork and Flathead Rivers were very tight lipped and at the end of the day I had only gotten 17 fish to the boat.

The next day we fished the 14 mile stretch between St. Regis and 14 Mile Bridge. The first two hours passed and nothing was taking anything. But by the end of the day I had managed to get 18 trout to the boat.

A couple days earlier I would have had some fantastic fishing. But then as they say, "That's Fishing". I did have a good time and I really enjoyed being out on the river.

There is always another day.

"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

September 2007

BLACK TAIL BEAD HEAD

By Bob Bates



Sometimes fairly simple fly patterns catch lots of fish. Joel Popham from Spokane Valley, WA has been exercising northern Idaho fish for years with this pattern. He showed us how to tie it at the Western Rocky Mountain Council (FFF) Fly Fishing Exposition in West Yellowstone, Montana, June 30, 2007.

Northern Idaho has many streams and lakes with cold water in which cutthroat and rainbow trout flourish. That means that fishing can be good to excellent if you know what you are doing and exactly what rock to fish behind. The streams are high in the spring with runoff from melting snow in the mountains. Also, the lakes are at their deepest. That is a good time to use wet fly tactics. Joel uses this pattern like a Woolly Bugger. Later in the year floating patterns become important.

In streams or lakes I use floating, sink tip or full sinking lines depending on water depth and probable location of fish. Lakes are usually best fished from some sort of floating device. That includes everything from a real boat to a float tube with all kinds of pontoon boats in between. Once you have the floating device then you need to think about the presentation. Many times it is a matter of casting as far as you can, letting the fly sink and bringing it back to you. The retrieve can be a slow hand twist, a strip-pause, a short strip or a long strip like you were trying to pull the fly away from the fish.

If you don't want to work that hard you can resort to "bobber" fishing by using a strike indicator. Measure the water depth by clamping forceps onto the fly, lowering them to the bottom or top of weeds and set the strike indicator where it will hold the fly at the proper depth. Oh yes, take the forceps off the fly before you start fishing. Now all you have to do is wait for the "bobber" to go down so you can strike. Frequently the "bobber" will sink when you are watching a bird, talking to a friend or pouring a cup of coffee.

Small streams in north Idaho are usually waded. It is a matter of casting so the fly will sink a little, and following the drift near a rock through a seam or other place where a fish might be waiting for a meal to move by. Depending on conditions some mending of the line might be needed to keep the fly on the right path. Mending is usually a quick flip of the rod to remove a belly in the line caused by water currents. Ideally, the fly isn't moved by the mend. If you have trouble with mending talk to good casters in your fly club, take a lesson from a FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor or go to your favorite fly shop. Joel sometimes suspends it from a bushy floating pattern in slow stretches of moving water. If the bushy pattern does anything strange, strike.

As far as I know this pattern doesn't imitate any particular insect, and it can be changed in several ways to make it more attractive to fish. Lead or lead-free wire or heavy beads can be added to help it sink faster.

Materials List:

Hook: Gamakatsu P10-2LLH 12-16

Thread: Gray, 6/0

Beads: Blue or pink glass

Tail: Marabou, black

Highlight: Krystal flash, usually a lighter color.

Body: First layer, peacock, Ice Dub. Make the second layer a lighter color. (Color of dubbing optional)

Hackle: Any soft feather; partridge, juvenile hen etc. dun or brown



Tying steps:

1. Put bead on hook and place hook in vise. Start thread at bend of hook, spiral to the bead and spiral back to the bend.
2. Tie on a shank length black marabou tail, trim excess and leave thread at bend.
3. Tie in a few pieces (2 or 3) of Krystal flash on each side of tail just to give it a little bit of color. Near side first then far side. Make the Krystal flash the same length as tail. Usually the flash is a light color.
4. Bring the thread to the bend and put a small amount of peacock color Ice Dub on the thread. Wrap the first layer forward.
5. Spiral thread to bend and then put sparse UV pearl or golden yellow Ice Dub on thread. Wrap the thread and dubbing forward. The over-dubbing should be sparse enough to let the first dubbing layer to show through. Joel uses different layers depending on what he wants. Sometimes he puts the lighter layer on first and the darker layer second.
6. Tie in hackle by the butt, make two turns and secure. Clip off excess feather. Clean it up a bit, and whip finish between hackle and bead.

Closing comments: This pattern is an easy one to add to your fly box. It has a good history so it should catch fish for you also. Try a few on your favorite waters.

Editors Note: This is another one of those fantastic flies that can be modified in so many ways. Change the color of the tail or the body or the hackle or the bead. So many possibilities. If you are into tying, make up a few in various color combinations. You never know when one of those will be 'The Fly'. Larry

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

Wishing for a Summer Rain

緑雨 りょくう ryokuu early-summer rain

The book, Fifty Words for Rain, (雨 あめ ame rain) our current draught, and the heat dome parked over the west had my mind in a whirl, this article is the fruition of those thoughts.

Outside it is 97 degrees Fahrenheit and the humidity is 78 percent, the Pacific Northwest weather is more New York, New York, than western Washington. Throw on top of that the dry cycle we are going through, water temperatures to warm for trout, and you can imagine me, wishing for a summer rain. A rain that lays down the face powder dust, strong enough to clear the air and sweeten the wind, but shallow enough to allow the harvesting of hay for the winter feed. That rain has fallen before, and it will again. Rain comes as it will and wishes, my dreams are not part of the equation, I humbly accept her gifts as she provides them, I am her and she is me. Water calls to water.

A typical human body is 60 percent water. Our hearts and brains are 73 percent water, our lungs 83 percent, our skin 64 percent, and our muscles and kidneys are 79 percent water. But here is the kicker, our bodies base structure, our bones are 31 percent, water. Crunchy water people, that's what we are, crunchy on the outside and gooey in the middle. (This part is an aside not truly a part of this article but fun to share anyway. From a dragon's perspective, people as crunchy nuggets, is a pretty apt description, and I should know. There are three beautiful Dragon ladies in my life, wife, daughter, and granddaughter, who are wont to remind me, a mere mortal about our delectable constitution, least I forget. I have learned to peacefully coexist with Dragons!)

Water figures prominently in humans' creation stories, several Southwest American Indian tribe's creation stories have us being brought up into this world on the backs of turtles. This closely follows the western scientific creation story, scientists believe, that as humans evolved, we emerged from the waters of this world onto its lands. I much prefer the Indian origin story; they didn't have to claw their way onto the land by themselves. They were helped-up, by their brothers the turtles.

The crunchy water people me, came into being on the sandy loam soil of Central California's San Joaquin Valley. The place of my birth and a lifetime inhabiting and kicking around the North America West-Coast to the Rockies infused in me an arid outlook on moisture. It sharpened my appreciation of all its facets and moods, that appreciation is renewed every time the rain falls. Collectively, nature, its wonder, and beauty are mankind's inspiration for poetry. The water, air and earth that is us, responds to the water, air and earth that surrounds us. So, when I came across the Japanese language's use of fifty words for rain, I felt a need to incorporate it into this article. It adds a new perspective to our western perception of rain.

As a child I trekked a half mile to school and to the bus stop in High School. Rain, fog, and frozen mud puddles, with a side of frost thrown in, were normal obstacles on those morning walks and afternoon returns. I remember rain condensing out of the tule fog, on damp winter mornings; The joy of cracking the ice sheets that covered the puddles; Hunching my shoulders and ducking my head during, spring hailstorms, (氷雨 ひさめ hisame very cold rain or hail), as it shattered the new peach and nectarine blooms. I remember misting rain, 煙雨 えんう enu misty rain, it had a feathery touch, but that touch, let in colds bite, when it reached my skin.



In Arizona I experienced summer monsoons, 集中豪雨 しゅうちゅうごうう shuuchugouuu severe localized downpour, that called to the Navajo children, as I watched them run from their Hogan's, and brush shade shelters to the canyon rims, to watch flash floods sluice through the canyon lands of their home; and watching a car drive under an overpass and disappear in the water covering the roadway.

I have been lowed to sleep by falling mist and awakened by drumming rain, (横降り よこぶり yokoburi driving rain). I have greeted clean and fresh mornings after a night rain, (夜雨 やう yau night rain), has freshened the dawn. About a week and half ago my wish for a summer rain almost came true, a week system was pushing through the Pacific Northwest, lots of clouds and breezes but no rain, I was feeling disappointed as the clouds dissipated and the sky cleared, when it began to sprinkle, Wow! I was gifted a (天泣 てんきゅう tenkyuu rain from a cloudless sky), it was fleeting but it brought back memories of similar rains when I lived in Nevada's high desert country. I love rain in its many, many, configurations, but as a fisherman my favorite rains are the ones that freshen the river's and calls the salmon and steelhead to procreate in the ancient and primordial cycle of life. I have not found a name for this rain and there should be one, I tried rolling anadromies rain and salmonoid rain, off my tongue, neither were satisfying, maybe just a simple (fish rain) will have to do.

Each rain that falls (降雨 こう kou rainfall) on this earth is always new, and unique in that moment of time when it embraces the earth. Human language grew in our efforts to better communicate natures beauty. The simple word rain does not adequately convey its many moods, incarnations, its timelessness, its connectivity, its transcending nature as it falls to earth. The rain that falls tonight is not the same rain that will fall tomorrow night. The world has changed, that moment will not come again. The moisture that forms around the dust mote to become a rain drop, maybe a sister to the one next to it, but it is distinctly different than the rain that formed and fell, the night before.

As an entity of the west, I will always dream of rain and wish for it refreshing, replenishing advent. Our connection to water permeates us from our cellular level into our psychic being. I for one will hold its memory until I take my last sip of oxygen and my body is absorbed back into mother earth.

The window, for my dream of summer rain is closing but as autumn approaches, my dreams of 秋霖 しゅうりん shuu rin autumn rain, are waxing strong. When it arrives I will call it 恵雨 けいこう keiu welcome rain. In closing I wish to acknowledge the gift of the Japanese language and recognize its sensitivity for nuances and detail which is an essential condition required to read Nature's poetry. Too my reader, may you always welcome ame (rain), and for my fishermen/women may your dreams also hold fish rain.

Sources for further reading on Japanese words for rain: <https://www.faena.com/aleph/50-words-to-describerain-in-japanese>

Stephen – crunchy water person, who loves and is loved by Dragons.

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

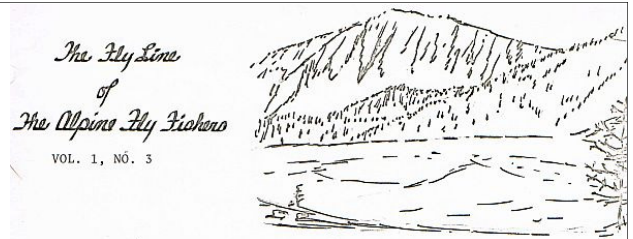


~ In The Past ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' -
Vol. 5, No. 12

December 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: Slide show of AFF members recent fishing trips.

Door Prizes:

- Orvis Graphite Rod
- Fly Reel
- 1/2 dozen Reed Miller flies
- 1/2 dozen Jim Higgins flies
- Line cleaner

This is it, the CHRISTMAS BIGGIE we've been hearing about since last January.

Door prize tickets will be \$5.00 (only one per member) and the big winner will go home with the Orvis rod.

There is still time to get your favorite fishing slides in to Phil White, who is coordinating the slide show. If you forget, bring them along to the meeting and we'll slip them in somewhere.

The only item of business will be election of 1978 officers.

So, bring your wife, bring your kids, bring your girlfriend, and bring your wallet. This one should be a real ball!

Note: Pat Trotter has announced that there will be a meeting of Trustees (both new and old officers) at his house on Thursday, December 8 at 7:30 PM.



Zoom meeting on September 28

Future Zoom Meetings and In-Person Meetings

On **October 26** we will have our first **in-person** meeting (WE HOPE) since February 2020. We hope. Wow. That meeting will be like our normal September meeting. Everyone can spin tall tales of their exploits while fishing or travelling. We meet again on November 23. There is a change for our Christmas meeting this year, we will have it on December 28, the 4th Tuesday, 3 days after Christmas rather than a week before Christmas. This will be one of the few years we can have it after Christmas because of how the days fall in the month.

Washington FFI joins the Amazon Smile Program



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

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

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."

ORVIS AUTHORIZED DEALER

CLARK FORK TROUT, LLC
BUS: 406.382.0161 - HOME: 406.822.0922
715 Hwy. 135 - St. Regis, MT 59866
Outfitter Steve Temple #20878

Clark Fork Trout.com
MONTANA FLY FISHING OUTFITTERS
ST. REGIS, MT

GUIDE PEGGY TEMPLE

www.ClarkForkTrout.com 406.382.0161

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



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.



November 5 - 7, 2021

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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.

September / October 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"September twenty-second, Sir, the bough cracks with unpicked apples, and at dawn the small-mouth bass breaks water, gorged with spawn." - Robert Lowell			1 September	2	3	4
5 pranks were	6 hostages were	7 as the rules	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Zoom Meeting	29	30	"By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer's best of weather And autumn's best of cheer." - Helen Hunt Jackson, September, 1830-1885	

"It was a morning of ground mist, yellow sunshine, and high rifts of blue, white-cloud-dappled sky. The leaves were still thick on the trees, but de-spangled gossamer threads hung on the bushes and the shrill little cries of unrest of the swallows skimming the green open park spaces of the park told of autumn and change." - Flora Thompson					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 /	25 /	26 Club Meeting	27	27	28	29
30	31					

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
Larry Gibbs, Editor 253-820-0475 flytier015@q.com

Alpine Fly Fishers
PO Box 1456
Sumner, WA 98390

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

Board Of Directors:

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-820-0475
Vice President:	Bob Alston	253-848-6884
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	253-653-4716
Secretary:	Stephen Neal	559-977-7979
Director:	Steve Egge	253-841-1093
Ghilly/Director:	Guy Magno	253-831-0444
Programs Coordinator:	Bob Alston	253-848-6884