

# Alpine Fly Fishers



FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL

Charter Club

1000 Stewards member



Our Next AFF

## ZOOM Meeting

Tuesday

January 25

6:30 PM to ??

## The Dead Drift - January 2022

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### President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

## ZOOM MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

2022, I sure hope this year is friendlier to us than the last two years. This Covid thing is wearing a bit thin. I really had hoped we could have an in-person meeting at the end of January, but on the advice of our doctors, we should do a Zoom meeting in January and hope for an in person meeting in February. What a bummer. But, doctors know best! I really do want to see all of your smiling faces again. Share stories and just chat. The Zoom meetings do help out with that a bit but I wish we had had more club members joining in on the talks.

**Vaccinations:** I know we can't require our club members to be vaccinated with the main Covid shots and the booster, but it sure would be nice if you all did have them. I realize it is a personal choice but remember that some of our members (me included) are in the 'high risk' age and we really do not want to get sick with any variant of Covid. So, when we actually can start having in-person meetings (I hope in February) if people attending can have your shots, please do so.

Doctor Alston added this line: If you are unvaccinated, we urge you to stay away from in-person club meetings. ASAP: please get your shots plus booster to protect yourself and those medically vulnerable club members !

Christmas and the holidays are over. I actually had an early delivery of gifts this year, on the day after Thanksgiving the UPS truck delivered two boxes of some of the neat 'stuff' I got during the FFI Virtual Expo auctions. Lots and lots of future raffle and raffle board items for all of you. I had several more deliveries made over the following weeks. Yep, lots of really good stuff for all of you.

**Raffle Alert:** Speaking of 'stuff', during the January ZOOM meeting, as people come on line and join in, I will assign them a number. Towards the end of the meeting I will pick some numbers, I say some numbers because I will pick a number for every 5 people who join the meeting. So, if there are 15 of us on the ZOOM meeting, I will pick 3 numbers. Those winners will each have a dozen flies mailed to them. That is the best I can do for a raffle for now.

Well, Christmas and New Years Day is in the past. I sure hope everyone had a good time. As we start down the road here in 2022, I hope the path leads to eventual in-person meetings. Soon, I hope, really soon.

For all those people who wished for a white Christmas, well Bah, Humbug. :- ) Ok, just kidding but we did end up with a white Christmas late afternoon. It could have stopped snowing and I would have been happy. But, oh no, it just had to keep it up. The day after Christmas we ended up with 9 inches and very cold with more snow predicted. Bah, Humbug. 😊

*"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

January 2008

### Pale Morning Dun

By Bob Bates



Often you will find fly patterns that will imitate different mayflies closely enough to catch fish in a variety of situations. This is one of them. In the western U.S. we have the Pale Morning Dun that some people consider the most important mayfly around. In the eastern part of the U.S. there is a mayfly called the Sulphur. Then there is the Eastern Pale Evening Dun that also has a yellowish body and legs. If you want more details on these mayflies get a good book on mayflies and start studying the chapter(s) on the Genus Ephemera.

Depending upon where you are PMDs might be hatching from May to September. The nymphs are classified as crawlers and live in the medium to slow water streams. In spite of its PMD name they hatch from mid morning to mid afternoon (sometimes as late as 6PM). According to some descriptions the dun actually breaks out of the nymphal shell before it breaks through surface film. Everything gets pretty wet, and the wet wings have to dry before the dun can fly off. So it sits on the water surface for quite a while. This is a dangerous time for the mayfly, but a good time for fish and anglers. You will find that cool and misty days generally provide longer lasting hatches than hot dry days.

Jim Johnson, Big Fork, MT tied this pattern at the 2007 FFF Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Livingston, MT. Jim has tied at a lot of shows. At one of the shows a guy from Pennsylvania said: "Hay! That's going to be a perfect Sulphur" as Jim tied this PMD.

#### Materials list:

Hook: DaiRiki 300, sizes 12-18  
Thread: Danville, Flymaster, yellow  
Tail: Coq DeLon  
Wings: Wood duck  
Body: Superfine dubbing, PMD yellow  
Hackle: Ginger or tan

#### Tying steps:

1. Attach thread and build a thread base leaving the thread at mid-shank.
2. Coq DeLeon feather, stiff fibers toward the tip make good tails.
3. Pull off the fluff and any short fibers. Select a few fibers that are all the same length. Tie them on to make a tail that is 1-1/2 shank lengths long. This is much longer than the books say, but it will all work out. Then move the thread forward to a point about one eye width back from the eye.
4. Pick a wood duck feather that is flat across the top. Pull off the fluff and short fibers. Squeeze the fibers into a brush and tie them on with the tips forward where the thread is hanging. Make wings about a shank length long. Cut off the butts at about mid shank, and wind thread rearward to cover the butts. Leave thread hanging at the bend. Note: with the longer than "standard" tail and wings mounted forward of the usual 1/3rd point, the fly will never tip over on its nose.
5. Put dubbing on thread using your favorite method. When rolling dubbing between thumb and first finger, always roll it in one direction. Wrap dubbed thread forward toward the wing. Taper the body larger to the front, and stop wrapping a little short of the wing. This is to leave room for wrapping the hackle.
6. Pull up wing and put just a few winds of thread in front. Don't put on a lot of thread winds to stand up the wing like many tiers do. Leave thread behind the wing. Pull off fuzz and long fibers from the hackle feather tie it down behind the wing. (This picture was taken before Jim did the next part of the step.) Fold the stem back and tie it in so it helps hold the wing a little straighter. This saves about 5 turns of thread.
7. Put three hackle wraps in back of the wing and three in front so the wing in the middle of the hackle. Secure and trim excess feather. Put Super Glue on an inch or so of your thread and wind the head. Let the bobbin hang a little while until it dries. Want water proof Super Glue. According to Jim most of the Loctite Super Glues are water proof. Pull the wings apart to give the traditional appearance of a mayfly. Use black felt pen to darken the head; then you can put a little head cement over the threads.

**Closing comments:** This is a high floating PMD that will catch a lot of fish. The PMDs where Jim lives are fairly large so he can tie on size 14 hooks. Some PMDs are as small as size 18 hooks. Match the size of mayflies floating on the surface. Also look at the body color carefully as some PMDs have a slightly pinkish or reddish tinge. I might be wrong, but I don't think that you need follow what Earnest Schwiebert once specified: "pinkish urine-burned red fox belly fur" There are other ways to achieve the pinkish cast. (Red or pink thread or mix in some reddish dubbing.)

## Back of Beyond

*Stephen Neal*

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

### Christmas 2021

Today is not a day of stillness, nature is in motion. Here in the Pacific Northwest, we are deep in the season of the witch, and it is a wet and wild one. An atmospheric river is producing chaotic air movement and delivering additional moisture to an already water rich environment. Trees in the woodlot next-door are dancing, their skirts of cedar and hemlock, weave, wave, and swirl; as if tossed by the fine hands of an Jaliscan lady of Mexico, making elegant designs with the movements of her skirt. One can almost hear Mariachi's playing, as the trees swirl in their dance.

Our river of storms parading off the Pacific, continue to pour copious amounts of water upon us. The forests and grasslands squish, when one treads upon them; saturated foliage will oblige the slightest brush with a cascade of water. Earth bound rivers claw at their banks, reclaiming flood plains, and cutting new channels, as more rain falls. River mouths are producing silt rich waters, filled with trees, shrubs, root balls and human trash. Our beaches and shorelines are blanketed with this river bourn effluent of storm damage, erosion, and human litter. The soil infused surf is topped by a brown foam that is driven shoreward by the onshore winds. Balls and globs of foam break free to be snagged by high tide stranded driftwood, sea grass, and Styrofoam. Ocean bubbles nestle in the crooks and crevices, reflecting multi-colored defused light, making them appear as colored stones or glass beads amongst the high tide detritus. It reminds me of an Easter morning and finding colorful eggs, left by a mythical bunny.

All seasons wax and wane as our Earth makes' its journey round the sun. Our season of the witch is waning, and winter and Christmas are mere days away. Warm, fully buttoned wool jackets, and rain proof outer wear is now the custom. An outdoor excursion prompts an expeditious return to warmth, either a cozy campfire, if it is an extended stay; or heater/furnace visit after a brief excursion. Oh! how good it feels to extend cold touched fingers and toes, over a heat source to restore warmth. Winter thins summers' outdoor crowds. For those of us who revel in the riches of nature, fewer people, allows us greater freedom, to imbibe deeply in the natural world. The rewards of outdoor winter explorations, exceed its cold, icy grip.

In the latter half of November, I managed two trips to Washington's stormed ravaged coast. I must admit I drank deeply, and let its rawness imbue my cells with its spirit. Both trips were planned well in advance, both on a wing and a prayer as to the weather's outcome. We were going, come-what-may, but in both cases, the rain eased, and afforded us a break from the current atmospheric river, down pour. Three days camping on the edge of the world, suspended between the Olympic rain forest, the Pacific Ocean, and the sky. The sound of storm driven waves eased us into our slumber and lifted us from sleep, it was the song of our day and the rhythm of our nights. The waves erased our footprints and nibbled at the bluff we slept upon, they transported freshly deposited logs to new resting places and rearranged the landscape. The storm clouds cleaved the sky and refracted the sunlight putting on magnificent light shows. The setting sun drew us to the ocean bluffs edge, to fill our souls with its glow. We weren't the only souls drawn to the light. Up and down the bluff our fellow campers stood on the edge of the world and turned their eyes west and watched as the earth rotated toward evening, causing the sun to fall below the horizon. As night claimed day, we wandered back to our camp spots carrying an afterglow of beauty with us.



The smell of this wild land of, sea, sand, and pines, is like sipping a fine single malt Scotch, in this case that would be

Continued on page 4 →

an Islay Scotch. The tang of ocean salt, the medicinal iodine smell of seaweed, earthy wet sand, and a hint of damp wood and pine. Pure ambrosia! Nature is a visceral experience, when you let yourself go, it communicates on thousands of levels, and it just feels right.

My second outing was a day trip, the beach was foggy, windy, chilly, and threatening rain. Gloves and scarves accessorized our outerwear to keep the cold from creeping in. Our walk was an intimate affair, no grand views or wide expanse of beach to explore. We walked on a narrow strip of sand, over and around high tide deposits, between crashing waves and grass covered sand dunes. The crest of high tide had just passed, and a moisture rich fog blanketed the shore. A time or two we beat a hasty retreat dune ward, to avoid high waves, to our credit all our shoes remained dry. Our world view was measured in yards, the sounds of life were muted by the fog. Just us, the dogs, Dunlin shore birds and solitary Gulls. We were wrapped in nature, a close quiet stroll in the arms of mother earth. The fog provided the perfect venue for beachcombing as there were no grand vistas to distract us from the world at our feet.

This Christmas is a perfect time to pause and reflect on our earth, our magnificent home. She is the greatest gift that we will ever receive. Every bit of her has a voice, that has a story or a lesson to share and we need to hear. In the words of my granddaughter, trying to get my wife's attention "Nana, you need to turn your ears on". We all need to turn our ears on, the spirit of the earth is speaking to us. She is reeling from many forms of abuse and misuse. Please protect her and care for her as she has cared for us. May we all come together in grateful appreciation for our mother earth. She is in our care, and we need to pass her on in good health, to our children and children's children, for many generations to come.

My sincerest thanks and appreciation to Sean, Greg, Steve, Trisha, and Nicole for walking with me.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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*



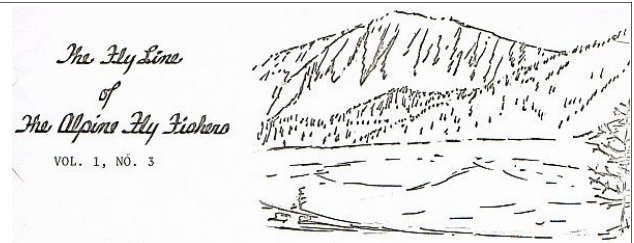


*~ In The Past ~*

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers  
'The Fly Line' -  
Vol. 6, No. 2

April of 1978

Gary Ritchie, Editor



This *~ In The Past ~* article was published in 1978. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate.  
***This is a historical document only.***

**Program:** Dr. Gil Paulsey, Professor of Biology at the U of Washington College of Fisheries will speak on fishing for bass, rockfish and panfish: a timely topic with the lowland lakes beginning to warm up.

**Door Prizes:** Thompson Fly Tyne Vise  
1/2 dozen flies  
1/2 dozen flies

**Reminder:** Dues are due (\$7.00 per member). Associate memberships for living outside the King-Pierce County areas who do not wish to vote or hold office are available for \$5.00. Bring your bread to the meeting.

Trustees Report:

Fishout Schedule:

April 16 (opening day): Price's Lake. We will meet at the Ernst Store on 6th Ave, Tacoma at 6:30 AM.

May 6-7: Dry Falls Lake. A possible second May fishout could be held on the 27th (opening of streams and ponds) on one of the Snoqualmie Falls Tree Farm beaver ponds.

June: (1st weekend most likely): Deschutes River, Oregon

July: (date not yet set): Leech Lake—joint outing with the South Sound Fly Fishers. We Host.

August: High Lake. Choice of Granite Lake, Dewey Lake or a lake in the Snoqualmie Pass area.

September: (weekend after Labor Day): Elwah River.

October: Forks, WA are for searun cutthroats (joint fishout with U. W. research team.

November: Toutle-Green Rivers

December: Winter steelhead trip.

Cal Dunham, Fishout Chairman, is planning to issue a booklet of maps and information about all these places plus many more for members who would like to learn some new places to fish. Watch for it.

See you all at the meeting. Bring a friend.

Editors Note: The charge for dues in 1978 was \$7.  
In today's money, that is the same as \$30.

# Alpine Fly Fishers



## Future Meetings

**February 22, 2022**

(Not sure if it is a Zoom or in-person meeting)

**March 22 / April 26 / May 24 / June ??**

**No meetings in July or August**

**September 27 / October 25 / November 22 / December 20**

## Washington FFI joins the Amazon Smile Program



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

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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*

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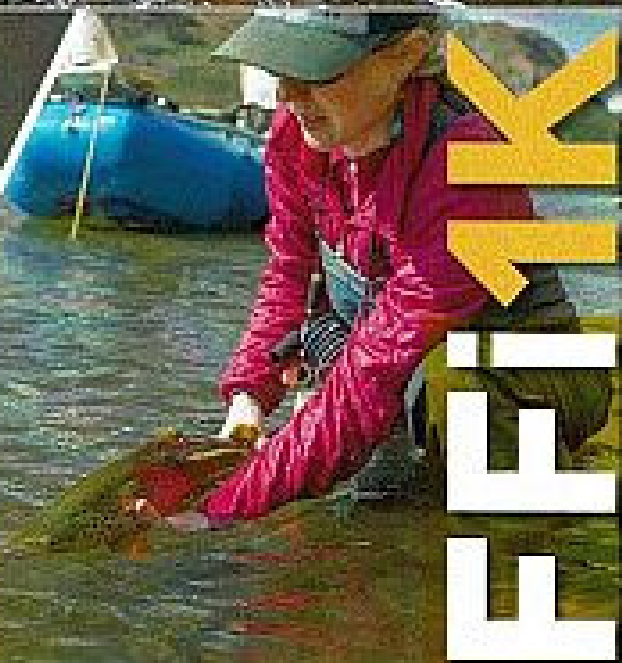
**THE FUNDS RAISED BY THE FFI1K ARE VITAL** to providing a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and expand our mission, and to support:

- **SPEARHEADING PROJECTS** that improve our fisheries and protect our fishing opportunities
- **THE FFI LEARNING CENTER's** wealth of fly fishing knowledge and resources
- **CAMARADERIE AMONG ANGLERS** built at our annual fair and other events

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\*See enclosed card envelope for payment options.  
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You have a unique opportunity to invest in the sport you love.

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has been an organized voice for fly fishers around the world since 1964. We represent all aspects of fly fishing – from the art of fly tying and casting, to protection of the natural systems that support healthy fisheries and their habitats so essential to our sport. Today, our mission is to ensure the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters continues by focusing on CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY.

Join us in safeguarding the long-term health of fly fishing around the world by becoming one of the FFI1k, by committing to donate \$500 per year for 5 years (total of \$2500).

The funds raised by the FFI1K are vital to providing a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and expand our mission and to support:

- Spearheading projects that improve our fisheries and protect our fishing opportunities
- The FFI Learning Center's wealth of fly fishing knowledge and resources
- Camaraderie among anglers built at our annual Expo and other events

**Join the FFI1K Now**



# Some Random Notes On Fly Fishing

By JACK HISE

- 1) Watch your step! The water in the rivers of North Idaho are crystal clear and that next step may be deeper than you thought!! I recommend Waist High waders to keep you from making that “One More Step”!
- 2) Ah! The “Double Haul” a great way to cast your mistakes farther!
- 3) The back cast is a fore cast in the other direction.
- 4) The clear plastic landing nets! They say the fish can’t see them but until I hear that from the “Fishes Mouth, the jury is out!! They are good for the fish though!!
- 5) If you can see the fish the fish can see you!!
- 6) Most fish are caught within 20’ to 40’ so practice casting 50 feet and those will be easier!
- 7) Handle a fish with wet hands!!
- 8) Barbless single hooks and catch and release are the rules on many of Idaho waters so “CHECK THE REGULATIONS”!!
- 9) It’s a good idea to check with a local fly shop for water conditions and what flies are working!
- 10) Fly casting is a bit like learning a new dance step, you may cause a lot of sore toes until you get the rhythm (timing) down! Then it will be very enjoyable!! You have this beautiful partner (your fly rod) and you are about to learn to Tango!!
- 11) Presentation, Presentation. Presentation!! If you are making a nice presentation at 40’ let no one tell you what you are doing wrong! You aren’t!!
- 12) A beginner will be inconsistent with his casting stroke but with practice will overcome it!!
- 13) Take a lesson, you won’t regret it!!
- 14) Slack is the enemy of the fly cast!!
- 15) The old “10 & 2” casting stroke may be a good place to start but It’s not carved in stone!!

Editors Note: Jack is a good friend of mine and lives in Idaho. I belong to another fly club, the North Idaho Fly Casters and Jack is a past president of that club. He does a lot of guiding (walk-in type) on some of the rivers and streams in Idaho. He is heavily involved in teaching youth and several non-profit organization in basic fly fishing including casting.

## We Say Goodbye To A Friend

It is with deep regret that I have to announce the passing of one of our valued club members, Bruce Jones.

Bruce suffered a massive heart attack on June 24, 2021 which ended his life. On behalf of the Alpine Fly Fishers membership, Lynne and I have sent our condolences to JoAnn Jones.

*If there is a place to fly fish in Heaven I know Bruce is there casting away!!*

# January / February 2022

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

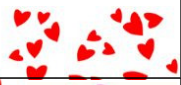

"Nearly all fishermen cast too often. We always say that trout are cunning, but we treat them like fools. A feeding fish sees everything which goes over his head, and if he does not take it, it is not because he does not see it. Yet we continually act as if it were: we keep hammering away, behaving as though we were shouting at someone who is deaf. He is not blind at all, he is remarkably perceptive: and I sometimes he thinks he knows a much about our mentality we we know about his." A Summer on the Test by John Waller Hills 1867-1938

**1**  
**January**

|          |          |                             |    |    |   |   |
|----------|----------|-----------------------------|----|----|---|---|
| 2        | 3        | 4                           | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9        | 10       | 11                          | 12 | 13 | 14  | 15  |
| 16       | 17       | 18                          | 19 | 20 | 21  | 22  |
| 23<br>30 | 24<br>31 | <b>25 ZOOM Club Meeting</b> | 26 | 27 | 28  | 29  |

"The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size."  
- Gertrude S. Wister

**1**  
**February**

|    |   |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| 6  | 7          | 8   | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | <b>14</b>  | 15  | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21  | <b>22 In-Person Club Meeting??</b>  | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28  | <i>"Probably more fish can be controlled in an armchair in front of a February fire with a fishing book and a fly catalog that can ever be knocked out in hand-to-rod combat on the river."<br/>- Neely Turner (totally changed by the editor to reflect fishing)</i> |    |    |    |    |

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**  
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**Sumner, WA 98390**

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Visit our website at [alpineflyfishers.org](http://alpineflyfishers.org)

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