

Our Next AFF Meeting
Tuesday

September 27

No Meetings
In
June, July, August

The Dead Drift-June 2022

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President's Line

By Larry Gibbs

I was watching a shooting show the other day and they were demonstrating the very first engineered weapon. The Atlatl. Our very early European ancestors developed this spear throwing device over 17,000 years ago. As I watched the throwing of this weapon I realized that fly fishers would have a great advantage in learning this skill. The action of the throwing arm is almost identical to the action of the casting arm. The really neat thing about this is that almost anyone can use it, from early teens to a more elderly age. Timing is extremely important in this sport just like timing is very important to fly casting. Also, you do not want to use excessive strength as that will spoil the cast, much like in fly casting. You can get that spear to speeds in excess of 100 MPH. Would not want to get hit with that. Am I going to run out and buy the Atlatl throwing device and a lot of 6 foot spears and become an atalatalist? No. There are not too many places around here where you could throw a spear and be safe. I have graphite and bamboo throwing devices that I use.

For all of you who did not attend last Tuesday's Alpine Fly Fishers club meeting, you missed a great presentation from Steve Egge and Peter Maunsell on Redfish fishing in the Gulf of Mexico off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. They put on a very informative session. Afterwards, the Q&A went on until almost 9:30.

That meeting ended our club meetings until this coming September. Recently I got a new cell phone and when I did that I expanded my service to include 15 gigabytes of 'Hot Spot' coverage. Translation, we can use my phone as a way to connect to the internet and at some of our fall and winter meetings we will be able to get speakers on a Zoom conference call rather than just in person. We never have to worry about using too much air time. This opens the door to a huge field of speakers from around the world. The time zone change is the only limitation.

Recently I was talking to Sherry Steele from the Oregon Council FFI. When we had our events in Ellensburg, she was one of the many Oregon fly tyers that came up to see us. The Oregon Council is going to start up the Fly Tyer Expo in Albany again in March of 2023. She asked me if I would be an advisor for their event and if I would work the FFI booth. I was happy to agree. This is a great event. Well over a hundred fly tyers will be demonstrating, There will be casting demonstrations and classes. They will have a great selection of destination and how-to classes you can sign up for. There will also be a large selection of vendors that have a huge assortment of 'neat stuff'. Naturally there will be raffles and silent bidding tables and I am sure they will also have a live auction. This is a great event, I can't stress that enough. You really need to attend it and enjoy yourself. Friday and Saturday, March 10 & 11, 2023. Don't miss it. I hope in the future the WA State Council can start having events like this again, time will tell.

"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 June 2008 FOAMPY

By Bob Bates

Often a high floating fly is needed in heavy water. If you use a great fly like the Humpy, it works just fine until those mean fish shred the deer hair. Also the Humpy is a bit difficult to tie. The Foampy is Ed Morphis' approach to solving both problems. He showed us how to tie it at the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen Fly Fishing Expo in Boise, Idaho, March, 2008. The general recommendation is fish it with a floating line and drag free float. To do this in moving water you can cast upstream, across stream with a reach cast, downstream with a wiggle cast (high cast or



draw cast also work downstream), or just pile line and leader out there and hope for the best. You can get more precise instructions from a FFF Certified Casting Instructor. A good floating fly is sometimes needed when there is a gale like wind blowing across a lake. Sometimes I will cast straight downwind and wait for a take. Other times I will cast crosswind and let the line and fly get blown downwind. Normally the fly cannot be seen so just look for a big splash an appropriate distance beyond your line. The fish could be hitting a drowned naturalor your fly, so tighten the line just in case. Ed likes turned up eye hooks because he has a lot of them, and it looks a little like mayfly eyes.

Materials List:

Hook: Eagle Claw 159, size 10

Thread: Black, 14/0 Tail: Moose mane

Back: Closed cell foam, gray, 2 mm thick, 5/32-inch wide

Body: Uni-Stretch floss, yellow

Wings: Zelon, white Hackle: Grizzly

Tying Steps:

- 1. Start thread on front of hook, wrap back to bend, and then forward to about 1/4 shank length back from eye. Make sure everything is covered. It is important to come back to bend because of the way the foam and moose mane are used. (More later.)
- 2. Tie on moose mane wrapping along the shank to where the wing will be. The tail is about 1 and 1/4 shank lengths long. Then bring the thread back to the bend.
- 3. Put on foam and tie it all the way back so it depresses the tail a little. When the foam is pulled forward later the tail will be firm and straight. The front of the foam is a little behind mid-shank. Leave the thread at the front of the foam.
- 4. Tie Uni-Stretch at front of foam. Wrap it back to the bend and then forward to tie in point. Make sure everything is covered. Wrap the Uni-Stretch tightly. Pull on it a little bit before you trim so it will snap back leaving no loose ends. Leave thread at front of floss.
- 5. Pull foam forward gently so the cells are not collapsed the, and hold it a little toward yourself before tightening thread. Thread torque will bring it to center. Tie it down firmly, and trim excess foam.
- 6. Wind thread forward to front of moose mane, (about 1/3 shank length back from the eye), where the wing will be tied in. Tie Zelon across hook shank wrapping lightly a couple of times. Figure-eight it tighter a couple of times. Post each wing (wrap up and down each wing a couple of times). Wrap around the wings to stand them up and separate them the right degree. He likes to use Zelon because it doesn't collapse like other materials do. He has tried things like poly and trilobal fiber, but they don't work as well.
- 7. Select a hackle with barbs (fibers) that are about 1-1/2 gap widths long, and tie it on in front of foam. Make sure to leave bare quill above the thread as you tie in hackle. This way when you start wrapping the barbs wont distort as easily.
- 8. If the barbs distort as you wrap, trim some of the barbs that start against the shank. Make 4-6 wraps behind the wings and the 2 to 4 in front. Tie off hackle securely. Trim tip. Half hitch against the hackle with a half hitch tool. Then you don't have to use special hackle control tools.
- 9. Whip finish a couple of times. With 14/0 thread you can do this and still have a small head. Trim wing at top of hackle.

Closing comments: Zelon is a little hard to find, but it is available at Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, MT. The same thing, but called Z-lon, is available though Orvis and Cabela's websites. This fly is easier to tie than the traditional deer hair Humpy that I teach in class. The traditional deer hair tie forces the students to think seriously about proportions and being systematic. Perhaps this one should be added to show a pattern that is easier to tie and also catches fish. After all catching fish is the purpose behind these patterns and words. Please carefully release all fish so you can play with them another day.

Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

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

Chopaka 2022

Sustained cold, five layers of clothing top to bottom, cold, finger burning painful, cold. Three weeks' worth, Sean began to refer to it as "F---ing Cold" this from a man who normally does not swear, cold! The beauty and the bounty of place kept us there. A drop of dew or two, from the Scottish Isle that warmed the cockles of our hearts, probably helped a little too. Spring was present when Steve and I set up camp, it was just a tease.

Lake Chopaka this year was unseasonably cold, the latter days of April and first days of May at 4,000ft of elevation are generally still touched by winter. But winter is normally waning as spring waxes, Springs promise of warmth was never delivered, some disruption in the supply chain was the rumor. Tree buds took almost my entire three weeks stay to transform into young pale light



green leaves. I did not see one bloomin' lupin blossom until three days before we left and then it was just one. Instead of afternoon spring showers ushering in the mayfly hatch, it was snow flurries. The few days that opened with sunshine (ah! bless those precious sunshine mornings) were soon eclipsed by wind, rain, and snow.

I was pleasantly surprised, that the Rudy ducks and Golden Eyes, beat us to the lake. The Red Winged blackbirds arrived a day later than we did. It was a pleasure to get reacquainted; I am always transfixed by their antics, flights, landings, arial combat, navigational skills, and mating courtships. The sheer beauty and intelligence of these citizens of earth and air stir my soul and rededicate my efforts in the preservation of our wild world. The ducks and blackbirds did not seem to mind the cold, as Sean reflected on our cold circumstances by oft repeating the phrase, "weather that only a duck can appreciate", every time we spied them on the lake peacefully riding out the storm of the moment.

Chopaka lies in the north central Cascade Mountains, a very strong stone throw (about six miles) from our Canadian neighbors. I have received welcome to Canada texts, when attempting to use my cell phone. The eastern slope of the Chopaka drainage flows into the Similkameen river, as it enters Washington from its origins in Canada, before melding with the Okanagan River. The pull of this land is strong, and I return annually to steep myself in its serenity and gorgeousness. It is cattle country, with grass lands, sagebrush and ponderosa pines filling the slopes and draws. The fishiness of the lake adds to the pull as well, a certain mayfly hatch has quickened my heart beat a few times. I will attest to the fact that I love the Salish Indian language names - Similkameen, (treacherous waters), pronounced - "Sa milk a meen", Sinlahekin, pronounced 'Sin law heck in", Okanagan, (place of water/rendezvous), pronounced - "O ka naw gan", and Conconully, (garden or place of abundance), pronounced Con co nully), these place names roll off the tongue like tart honey, with a savory after taste.

Indian place names to some, may add little to the enjoyment of fishing, but the total sum of the small things is what brings fullness to the fishing experience. To be a good fisherman, immersion is part of the process, like a jigsaw puzzle, you must fit all the pieces to together, to complete the picture. The missing notes must be found to complete the song. If only catching fish makes you happy, then the song has only one note and is not nearly as satisfying. A well tied knot in 4X fluorocarbon tippet with cold fingers in a ten mile an hour wind is a musical note that must be celebrated especially when you land that seventeeninch rainbow amongst the reeds.

Continued from page 3

A good casting read of wind direction and wave action, so that your trimmed and felt pen dyed fly matches the hatch and slides down the crest of the wind driven wave to land amongst the newly surfaced mayflies drying their wings before flight, and watching your imitation as it is sipped from the surface and then the fish leaps into the air in its quest for freedom, that is a cornucopia of musical notes that must be celebrated.

Fishing is not easy, even on the mildest days when the weather is in your favor there are thousands of things that must come together for a successful hookup. Even when you do everything right the fish can have lock jaw and all your effort and execution is for naught. Other times everything can still go wrong, and you can still bring a fish to



hand. The fumbled cast, with slack in the line, as the fish takes your fly, in your haste to keep the fish on the line, with a back lash on your reel, you strip like crazy, your fly line and running line lays tangled in the reeds at your feet, somehow you keep the fish hooked up and guide him through the reed bed and as you lean over to unhook him he flops into your tangled fly line turning your fly line and the fish into a large snarled knot of yarn. Those are all notes in the music of fishing SNAFU, fumbles, touchdown, and home runs, they make the music sweet, and sour but it is all for the sake of the song. The deeper your immersion the richer the song. The wind in the grass, the rock that grabbed your foot as you side stepped for a better presentation, the new green growth on a bank shrub, the dark grey mayfly wings setting sail in the midst of snow fall, fish rising all around your feet and trying to decide where to cast, three doe's, down from the mountain, their necks bowed to the lakes surface for a long drink to satisfy their thirst, stories told around a campfire or in the tent as the rain fell outside and the wind pops the fabric, the zing of a parted line; and much, much, more make up the song. It is music of the soul.

While watching Steve trolling and being pushed across the lake by a up canyon wind, the Title of a Clint Eastwood movie came to mind. High Planes Drifter, it seemed to me only logical to start calling him the "The High Lake Drifter". I know silly but still it is a good moniker. Steve and I shared one great fishing day, during the first ten days, the sweet spot was 29 feet deep, they were feeding on tiny cone head chironomids, that Steve had tied. About every five minutes our rods would dip and then jerk, fish on, rinse and repeat. The next day we returned to the same spot, but the whole lake seemed to have turned off, and endless searches produced nada. The fish were there but for some reason beyond our knowing they all had come down with a bad case of lockjaw. So, we resorted to trolling which produced, not consistently, nor in any great numbers. The most successful combination was a blond leech with a black leech dropper. Steve had better results than I, in his pontoon boat he could troll at half a mile per hour and strip, my raft required me to row for locomotion so no hand striping for me. Even drifting with the wind had my drift speed above four miles per hour. I worked with what I had.

On the day Steve departed I witnessed the first mayfly hatch, three days later following Sean's lead I began fishing from shore, I put on a black ant on as a searching pattern and caught a few, I then put on a mayfly emerger and had some small success, but

when I switched to a full mayfly, the lake turned alive. I entered my personal fly-fishing heaven, casting to feeding fish. Mother's Day was really good to me. Sean and I prowled the reed beds and found great success and had several double headers as the fish fed on hatching Mayflies. On my second day of fishing from the reeds I began to miss fish, my fly disappeared in a boil but when I attempted to set the hook, nothing. That evening when I told my story of the days fishing Sean suggested that I wait. Sure, enough the next day I waited and never missed a fish, the boil was just the prelude to the dance, they always came back for the hookup. Garry did well in his raft not far from where Sean and I fished. All three of us will attest that when the mayflies hatch, the fish song is indeed very sweet, even when it is "Weather that only a duck could love". Thank you, Steve, Sean, and Garry.



"There is pleasure in the pathless woods, there is rapture in the lonely shore, there is society where none intrudes, by the deep sea, and music in its roar; I love not Man the less but Nature more." George Byron

Stephen

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

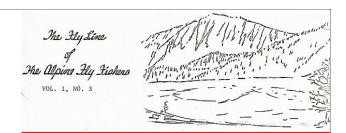
"When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind – Dr. Wayne W. Dyer "Many go fishing all their lives, without knowing that it is not fish they are after" - Henry David Thoreau

~ In The Past ~

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers
'The Fly Line' Vol. 6, No. 7

October of 1978

George & Sandy Vaars, Part-time Editors



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: A FFF film and general B.S. session (remember that these nights are always the fun evenings with no serious business to discuss).

Door Prizes: 1. Tent heater (Radiant heater Hot-Pot)

2. ??????

Trustees Report: As discussed in the last newsletter the changing of the club dues to be collected on the first of the year instead of April so as to coincide with the change over in officers was voted and approved. The dues are \$5.00 as of January 1, 1979.

October Fish-Out: There are three options for this month's fishing and they are: Lake Isabella; Price's Lake, or the Kalama River.

November Fish-Out: Fishing this month has two options, the Green River (trib Toutle) for local saltwater trout or the Toutle River for steelhead.

December News: Don't forget that this is the month we raffle off our Orvis graphit rod, reel and line at \$5.00 a ticket with a limit of 2 (two) tickets per member. Tickets are also going to be sold at the November meeting.

Our December meeting is also the meeting that you husbands bring your wives, girl friend or whatever but not both to have dinner and toi show them a nice time. So wives, if youo are by any chance reading this newsletter start nagging them about going as we do have a good time.

I am not sure if Stan Gregory has been informed that he is in charge of this affair or not, but he has been elected. (When you don't attend a Trustees Meeting we automatically elect you as a chair of something).

Of Human Interest: The Maladerit Award was given to Geoff Meyer for his story of 30 foot pools he says he was fishing in. This award as you know is for the one who can tell the biggest lie. Let's see who can top this next time.

Fly Pattern of the Month: Trotter-Killer

Hook: Size 6 to 8

Tail: Red hackle fibers
Body: Hot orange chenille

Hackle: Badger

Wing: White buck tail

Tips: A few whole cloves in your fly box will keep the box moth proof and will not evaporate the way moth crystals do.

BRING A FRIEND....BRING A FRIEND....BRING A FRIEND....BRING A FRIEND

Alpine Fly Fishers

Future Meetings September 27

No meetings in June or July or August

September 27 / October 25 / November 22 / December 20

At this time, the meetings are in-person meetings but if we have to we will go back to Zoom meetings.



Washington State Council 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.

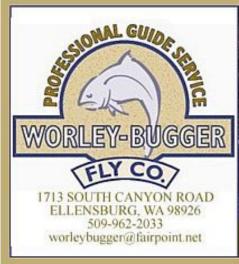
Every time you shop through Amazon Smile a portion of every purchase you make will help fund FFI education and environmental stewardship in Washington. Several FFI councils nationwide participate in the program so be sure to select Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA when you sign up.

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





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!



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.





FFI1K - BECOME A MEMBER OF 1000 STEWARDS OF FFI

You have a unique opportunity to invest in the sport you love.

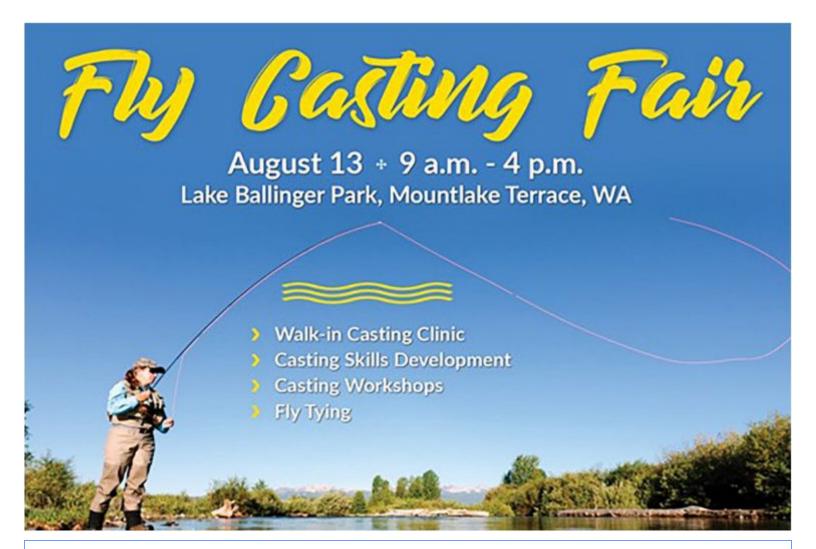
Fly Fishers International (FFI) has been an organized voice for fly fishers around the world since 1964. We represent all aspects of fly fishing – from the art of fly tying and casting, to protection of the natural systems that support healthy fisheries and their habitats so essential to our sport. Today, 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



In Person Events are Coming Back This Summer

The Washington Council of FFI is re-starting in-person events with a first of its kind Casting Fair. The event at Lake Ballinger Park will be a day-long program of casting skills, challenges and fly tying. We want to invite all FFI members and members of our affiliated fly clubs to join us. Bring your rod and get expert help tuning up your cast.

Bring your friends and get a re-introduction to everything FFI has to offer. More events are in the works, including a new Expo in coming months. Join us Aug. 13 at Lake Ballinger and let's get back in action.

Christmas Gift Drawing

I mentioned in the May newsletter that this coming December, at our Christmas meeting, I will be holding a special drawing. Each time a member attends a meeting this year, they will get one entry into the drawing. So far we have had two meetings so some club members already have two entries for the drawing. First place will be an Orvis Encounter fly rod outfit, a 9'6", 6wt, 4pc, with reel and line. I will also have second and third place winners as well.

Just for clarification, if Nature doesn't treat us well and we have to go back to not having in-person meetings, but rather having Zoom meetings, those who attend the Zoom meetings will each get one credit per meeting towards this drawing.

FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL (FFI) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with the distinctive mission to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. Formed by some of the most influential luminaries in the world of fly fishing and conservation back in 1964, and dedicated to innovative strategies to inspire a new generation of fly fishers, providing FFI members the opportunity to leave a legacy in the sport we love.

FFI continues to focus on conservation, education, and community as the underpinning of our work. Our commitment to these principles provides the rock-solid foundation as we lean into the challenge of unprecedented times, and ascend to meet the needs of the evolving demographics of fly fishing.

JOIN FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL TODAY to help ensure that fly fishing can continue to instill the kind of passion it does today in so many of us.

WHY JOIN FFI? TOGETHER WE:

- PROTECT THREATENED WATERS AND HABITATS for current and future generations.
- BRING TOGETHER EXPERTISE in fly casting, fly tying, fly fishing skills, and conservation education and development programs.
- ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES and initiatives for conservation issues.
- STRENGTHEN THE FLY FISHING COMMUNITY by sharing knowledge and experiences.
- PROVIDE RESOURCES for fly fishing educators and professionals.
- INSPIRE A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION ETHICS in people of all ages.

MEMBERS RECEIVE

Access to an unmatched repository of knowledge through the FFI Learning Center

- Special offers and discounts Recognition for special skills or achievements
- Access to a network of like-minded outdoor enthusiasts
- A chance to help make a positive impact on the sport

We've got momentum— Help us keep it going as a member of FFI. As participation in fly fishing has grown, FFI is providing enhanced opportunities to learn, sustained our commitment to conservation, and offers new and exciting opportunities to expand our community. JOIN US!





Membership Categories

□ 1-Year General......\$35 □ Student (22 & under)* .. \$20 □ 3-Year General.....\$90 □ Business*......\$100

 □ Senior (65+)*.
 \$25
 □ Lifetime.
 \$1,000

 □ Veteran*
 \$25
 □ Lifetime Premium**.
 \$1,500

Note: General and Veteran memberships include spouses, cohabitating partners and children under 18 years of age. Lifetime memberships include spouses and cohabitating partners.

*Membership eligible for up to 3-year purchase (multiply price by number of years).
**Lifetime Premium member will receive a custom-built rod from TFO Rods.

PRINTED FLYFISHER MAGAZINE:

□\$10/yr U.S. residents □\$20/yr International residents
Lifetime and Business members will receive a free printed copy of
Flyfisher. All members have free access to Flyfisher on our website.



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Yes, I want to preserve the sport of fly fishing.

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☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard	☐ Discover	☐ Amex
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Exp. Date MM/YY		
☐ Please do not share my	information v	vith organizations outside of FF

June / July 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 No Club Meeting	29	30	31	"I know well that the June rains just fall." - Onitsura

	mer's busy song the nelodies, till noon b					1 July
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10		12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25 No Club Meeting	26	27	28	29

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

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Visit our website at **alpineflyfishers.org**

B LOCKE 4		
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