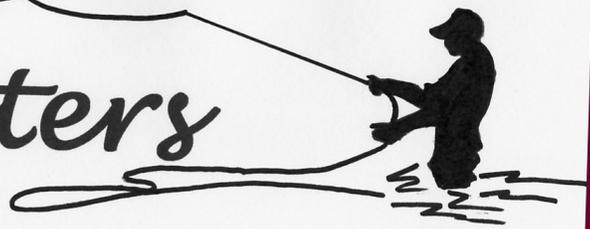




News Casters



P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672

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549-0686
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Nando Mauldin 549-2883
Dick Garrett 549-1311
Bob Maki 642-6971
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Meetings are held the 2nd
Tuesday of each month at Idaho
Pizza, 1255 State Street,
Weiser. Fly tying at 6 pm,
meeting at 7 pm.
Join in the Fun!

Committees

Outings: Rod Jones, Al Sillonis,
Bob Maki

Library: Rod Jones, Dick Garrett,
Annie Steppe

Fund Raising: Lynette Jones, Sara
Gulu, Annie Steppe, Mary Thompson

Membership: Dave Steppe,
Bob Maki

Conservation: Mark Sands,
Nando Mauldin

Budget: Mary Thompson, Lynette
Jones

Publicity: Mike & Diana Thomas

Newsletter: Perry & Sally Kelley,
Mary Thompson, Dick Garrett

Education: Marv Orwig, Mike
Thomas, Frank Thomas, Bill Betts,
Jim Gulu, Perry Kelley

Youth Activities: Mike & Frank
Thomas, Mark Sands, Ken Gissell

Historian: Suzanne Orwig

January 2010

President's Message by Bill Betts

It is that time of the year when one wishes the fish would put on weight as well as we do during the holiday season. I don't seem to get any smarter about cutting my portions as I grow older. On the other hand, how can one dine at the host and hostess's table and not eat heartily? Would that be disrespectful? My parents were death on disrespect. Oh, the complexity of our lives. I hope you have fared better than I this holiday season.

Thanks to David Steppe for organizing our members to help Ray Perkins with the count of the redds on the Owyhee. Thanks to David, his grandson Colin, Colin's pal, Jake, Bill Betts, Al Sillonis, Kevin Sublette, and Mark Thompson. This year we counted 1504 redds. Last year we counted 995 and 961 in 2007. The data indicates that the brown trout are alive and doing very, very well. Stay tuned for more discussion about the brown trout fishery on the Owyhee in a future meeting.

Our January program will feature **Jeff Dillon**, the **Southwest Regional Fishery Manager** for the **Idaho Fish and Game Department**. This is the man who knows about fishing in Southwest Idaho, so if you have questions don't forget to write them down to ask Jeff. If you are like me, you had best write them down when you think of the question because ...well, I hope some of you know what I mean. Member Ray Perkins, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife District Biologist, will most likely be in attendance so we can get our Oregon and Idaho questions answered in the same evening.

Perry Kelley has agreed to teach the fly tying class on the third Tuesday night. Since

Perry is teaching, I can't help myself here, "Come prepared to tie one on."

When you see Nando and Roberta Mauldin, please give them a big "thank you" for organizing our entry into the annual Weiser Christmas Parade. The antique cars and float looked great. How could our float not look great with such beautiful fly fishers sitting in their kick-boats? It was a cold night and the parade moved very fast (I have a picture to prove how fast the floats moved), but did Mary and Roberta have some liquid fire in those mugs?

Our shadow boxes of Atlantic salmon and steelhead flies sold for a total of \$245 at the Festival of Trees Gala. This is a great fund raiser for the Weiser Memorial Hospital. Thanks to Dick Garrett and Jim Gulu for preparing the boxes and mounting the flies and Perry Kelly and Marvin Orwig for tying the flies.

Don't overdo it when shoveling snow this month. We all want to survive the winter. See you on the 5th. Be looking forward to THE Al Sillonis yearly fishing report. Do you have a question for the experts? We will have the experts impaneled for your questions.

Keep Warm and tread carefully,

Bill



“Rub-A-Dub-Dub, Dub a Dry Fly”



by Perry Kelley

It occurred to me that one of the very basics of fly tying, the technique of applying material on the tying thread commonly known as dubbing is often misunderstood. In reality, the concept of dubbing is one of the more complex areas of tying and sometimes difficult to master. Because there are scores of different dubbing techniques and different materials to choose from as well as a lot of different tools to aid the dubbing process. In the next couple of issues of the *Newscasters* I hope to cover some of the basic techniques. Please understand that dubbing techniques vary as do many other procedures that are part of the fly tying art. It has often been said that there is no right or wrong way to tie a fly. I hope to give you some basics that you will be able to use in developing your own style of tying.

Why dub? Quite simply a fly pattern with a dubbed body can be the most effective and realistic imitation of the abdomen and thorax of an aquatic insect. Three factors come to play: color, shape and translucency. By using good dubbing techniques and choosing the correct material, a skilled fly tyer can very closely imitate these three factors. Let us begin with dry fly dubbing.

What kind of dubbing material is best suited for dry flies? There are a lot of choices both natural and synthetic. Traditionally, fur from aquatic mammals such as beaver, muskrat, mink and otter were the dubbing material of choice for most tyers. Beaver has always been a great material because it can be dyed to represent many different colors and shades and the fur is very fine, thus very useful when tying small and delicate patterns. Non-aquatic mammal fur also can be used quite effectively. Sheep fleece, mole fur, Australian opossum and rabbit fur are also widely used. Some furs accept dye readily; others are best used in their natural colors. If one had an assortment of the following colors you could come close to imitating

most insects of interest to trout: black, mahogany brown, callibaetis, Adams grey, olive, pale morning dun yellow and olive brown. Synthetics are very popular and have some advantages over natural fur; namely, they are more buoyant and they come in a wonderful variety of colors. They also have different textures, including extreme fine to course and spiky. If you are tying tiny flies, synthetics should be your choice. Going back to the color, shape and translucency, synthetics are wonderful in color and a skilled tyer can give great shape using synthetics. Translucency, however, seems to be more effective with natural fur, especially the aquatic animals.

In the past several years, most fly shops sell 12-compartment dubbing dispensers. I would recommend either Super Fine or Fine and Dry synthetic dubbing in dispensers. You will not get as much dubbing in each color but you can replace the colors you use most. It is amazing how long these dispensers will last. Also I recommend you get a dispenser of beaver fur. If you already have a good selection of dubbing, you might consider getting an empty dispenser box. You also can make your own dispenser; simply drill a 1/4 inch hole in the bottom of each compartment of a 12 compartment box.

Now how to dub. It is not really complicated if you follow a couple of simple rules: (1) use the smallest amount of dubbing possible and then reduce it by half and (2) twist in one direction then release.

To begin, determine the shape of the body. If you are tying a Mayfly imitation, you will want two or three split tails, a slender abdomen slightly tapered to the thorax which will be somewhat fuller. To achieve this shape, tie in the thread using a jam knot starting back about one hook eye space. This will leave space for the head. Measure the tail fibers and tie in at the thorax position on top of the shank. Hold on to the tails and wrap toward the bend of the hook. You may use the thread to build a slight taper from tail to

thorax. Pull about three inches of thread from bobbin and allow to hang. Let us take a moment to talk about thread. Any thread can be used, but sometimes it is important to match the thread color with the dubbing color. Use nothing larger than 8/0 thread for dry flies size 12 and smaller. Do you use flat or round thread? Is it best to spin the bobbin to make flat thread round or spin the other way to flatten the thread.? Most threads will work fine, I prefer 8/0 uni thread and usually try to match the color of the thread with the dubbing material. When wet, a dark thread will show through light colors in dubbing.

Some tyers prefer to wax the thread. A great way to apply wax is to first rub wax on a small zip lock bag, then apply it to the thread. Other tyers dampen their fingers to help the dubbing process. I know tyers that lick their fingers to dampen. I prefer a small dish of water on the tying bench. I will dip one finger tip in the water and dampen the other fingers. Don't over do it. Make your fingers damp, not wet. Tease a very small amount of dubbing from the clump of material. Hold the clump in one hand, and from the very edge, tease out a small amount into a noodle about one to two inches long. Try to keep the fibers of the dubbing oriented in one direction. Make sure the amount of material is even in the dubbing noodle. You can adjust the amount of dubbing to facilitate the taper of the body. How much is a small amount. Try this: Pull out what you think is the right amount, then hold it above your head and drop it. If it floats slowly you are getting close; if it drops fast, try again.

Now to the process of applying the dubbing on the thread. Lay the dubbing noodle on the thread. It usually will stay in place. If static electricity is a problem, get an anti-static dryer cloth and lightly rub your hands on the cloth and the problem will be solved. Do you twist the dubbing clock- wise or counter

clock- wise around the thread? For tightly dubbed dry flies I prefer to dub counter clock wise looking at the thread from the hook to the bobbin. I use my right hand to apply the dubbing. I place my thumb against the dubbing on the near side, then place my trigger finger on the other side of the dubbing against the first joint of the thumb. With some pressure, I push my trigger finger forward and move my thumb backward at the same time in a somewhat rapid motion. I then immediately lift both fingers off the thread. You will have a major disaster if you allow your fingers to revert back, you will only unwind the dubbing. Also start from the top and work down. When finished, check the dubbing for taper and evenness. You can adjust the dubbing by moving up or down on the thread. If there is a spot where the dubbing is thicker, you simply stretch it out. Try to make the dubbing as even as possible with a slight taper at the top.

One technique that really works when you are trying to achieve a tight dubbed dry fly is to slide the dubbing up the thread so that you will actually start the body with the first couple of wraps. After you catch the top of the dubbing, hold the thread at the very bottom of the dubbing when wrapping. You can use your thumb and trigger finger on the dubbed thread and the bobbin in the palm of your hand. Do not release the tension when wrapping. Each wrap will twist the dubbing one more time, making the body tighter.

There seem to be as many dubbing techniques as there are fly tyers. We will explore some of these during our tying sessions this winter. The above is for dry flies, mainly Mayfly and caddis imitations. The next article will deal with dubbing techniques for nymph and stillwater flies. This is where shape, color and translucency really come

Membership Dues

Past Due: Travis Curry, Larry Parks

Due in January: Grant Baugh, Jim Mosier, Frank Puccio, James Torrel

Thanks for your continued support!

THE SAGA OF COUGAR MEADOWS (Part III continued)

by Bill Betts

We knew the Wild Things were not in either of the crags on which we last found them since we could not find them with the binoculars and, of course, they were too far away to hear the bell. We had everything packed and balanced by 9:30, but the goats had not volunteered to come into camp on their own accord. We started off. I scouted the east side of the mountain and Hershall the south side. Approximately halfway up the mountain I detected a large tuft of wool from a wild sheep and somewhat recent hoof prints. Thoughts went through my mind that those goats might possibly think a bank of yews and lambs might be fun to run with to where, who knows. I finally caught the goats tracks and bedding place above the cliffs and that is where Hershall joined me as he worked his way across the top of the cliffs in my direction. We then tracked the goats 500 feet up the side of the mountain to within forty feet of the top. I went over to the northwest side of the mountain to see if they had gone to the cliffs on the backside of the mountain. From here I had a spectacular view of several mountains and ridges and wondered just how far our friends could have gone in one night. I could not imagine returning without our friends' goats and vowed to walk those ridges if I had to do so!. Several months later we were told by the goats' owners that three bands of goats had been lost in the Central Idaho mountains that summer. Finally, I spotted them coming down a pinnacle a quarter mile away. Hershall spotted the Wild Things at the same time from his vantage point on the same ridge. They were walking towards us, I suspect in response to our calling, but I don't know if they would respond to a call and whistles or not. After climbing 900 feet, walking 1 1/2 miles and putting to use some long-ago-learned tracking skills, we found those buggers. We rubbed them behind the ears, gave them some oats, and said to them that they were

nice goats. Really!!! We could not afford to anger them because we had about 110 pounds of stuff that needed to be packed out to the trailhead. We might have been exasperated, but we are not stupid. They could always be killed later. We finally hit the trail with our fully loaded goats at 11:20.

We were not looking forward to the 1200-foot climb out of Cougar Meadows that morning, but, hey, now we had a nice 2 1/4-mile warm up hike with a 900 foot climb of a steep mountain looking for goats to break a sweat. What more could we possibly want? - maybe some cooperative goats? No. Where would be the adventure with cooperation?

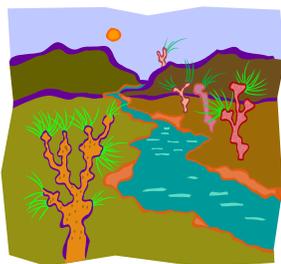


The goats seemed to have really gotten into playing Wild Goat all week and balked at carrying those packs. We ended up training them to the string as in pack string and lead. We hooked two together and Hershall led them up and down the trail for seven miles. I put the third on a leash and we took turns leading each other to the trailhead. It seems it is very bad form in the goat culture to be the hind goat. So every now and again when I was leading Guinness, he would catch a wide spot in the trail and run ahead of me. Then he would be content to follow closely behind the two lead goats with me in arrears. I had no problem being the hind goat as long as we were making progress. Then he would get balky, so I would grab the leash and he would have to be hind goat for a while.

This procedure worked pretty well. I stayed back and took shots with the spray bottle at the goats when they tried to browse instead of walk. They are supposed to tend to the business of packing and not eating and we had pretty good success of moving right along when we broke them of the habit of combining packing and browsing.

Hershall had worked out a plan for crossing the stream at the trailhead. He proposed that

we stop short of the ranch, change shoes, and then make a wild run for the stream. We would dash through the stream so fast that the goats would not have time to work themselves into a state of panic about crossing Big Creek. Well, first, goats can work themselves into a frenzy in about one millisecond and, two, Hershall had meant the word “run” in a figurative sense, but alas, it turned out to be a most literal sense. Unbeknownst to us, the stock dogs of Tom Stokes have a perverse sense of humor and decided to find “urgent” business on the other side of the dirt road from the house at the time we approached the pasture. The mules made a run for us. Our blood pressure streaked. But we stayed cool because we knew the dogs would soon do their thing. Oops. That is when we learned of *their* perversity. The dogs were in the willows lying on their bellies laughing at the tourists. To our great relief, the wooden pole fence held. But now the mules were within ten feet. They were huge. They snorted and breathed heavily. I mean those mules were huge and I even thought they were scary. The goats went into a full panic. You can appreciate, I’m sure, that a 200-pound goat is not easy to hold with a leash under the best of circumstances, but now instead of hiking boots with good traction we had well-worn-tennis shoes with lousy traction. The stock dogs knew we would have to try to hold those goats on a forest dirt road. Chuckle, Chuckle. We more or less “dust skied” for about two hundred yards to the stream. All the time I am holding on for dear life, and Hershall is doing the same with his two goats. Yes, two. I lucked out that time. We did manage to keep control of the goats, but we were teetering on the edge of chaos the whole time. I kept wondering where in the hell were those stock dogs. Well, as we got to the edge of the stream and the goats went into their panic of water, resisting our efforts to run them across the stream, the dogs appear from the opposite side of the pasture and run, slink-butted,



down the road towards us. Their doggy faces were contorted as they barked out roll after roll of laughter. Hershall and I hit the stream full bore. Guinness at first balks, but with the barking of the dogs at our

rear, he races me for the other side of the stream. Immediately to our right, Hershall drags 400 pounds of goats across the stream. Those two goats alternately bolted for the other side and then braced their feet deep into the cobble of the stream attempting to keep from crossing the stream. In those few short seconds Heiniken and Doublebok were rarely in unison in their actions so Hershall succeeded in getting them across. Unfortunately, as Guinness and I were racing for the other side, I had to reach down and grab forty pounds of pack saddle that had rolled off the back of one of Hershall’s goats. Hershall, make a rapid disengagement of the cinch strap, while on the run, (this was a marvelous feat that should have been preserved on video) and we all continued the chaotic plunge across Big Creek with water splashing crazily far above our rolled-up pant legs. The recovered-pack sack had my clothes, sleeping bag, a few books and my boots that I intended to wear dry after we made the crossing. I wore wet tennis shoes all the way back to Weiser, but nothing was really harmed and we had one heck of an adventure.

I really enjoyed the trip with the goats. Hershall and I will have premier stories to tell for the rest of our lives, and we will not take goats packing again. What a circus!!

But the story had not yet reached its final episode. While pulling the trailer over the rough roads from McCall to Big Creek, the cage part within which the goats are contained broke in two places, four bolts fell out and two pieces of metal railing vanished. We held the cage together with some #12 electrical wiring that Hershall had in his Bronco. We arranged with the local FFA chapter at the high school to have one of their ace welders, Cleve Chandler, repair the trailer. We hope the cost is not too much, but the owners of the goat generously allowed us to borrow their pets and trailer so it is a small cost to fix the damaged trailer.



P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672



Roberta and Mary fishing on State Street



Part one of three IFF parade entry. Thanks, Nando and Roberta!



“Of all the liars among mankind, the fisherman is the most trustworthy.”

William Sherwood Fox

Jan 5 - IFF Board

7 pm Idaho Pizza

Jan 12 - IFF Membership

6:00 Fly Tying

7 pm Program

Jan 19 - Fly Tying

7 pm Weiser Library



January 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 IFF Brd	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 IFF Member	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Fly Tying	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						