



**INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
APRIL MEETING
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Wet Fly 5:30 Meeting 6:30 PM
RAMADA INN-AIRPORT
8909 W Airport Dr, Spokane, WA 99224**

**Presidents' Message
By
Bob Johnson**

It's December. The holidays are approaching and Thanksgiving is in the rearview mirror. With that, this will have to be the last time you are going to be subjected to my ramblings. That's if you read them...so you can be thankful for that.

Thinking about what I should be thankful for, club wise.

First and foremost, is the honor and trust that had been bestowed upon me to lead this club. For that I will always be thankful.

That the club has left the COVID years far behind us. From trying hard to get 25 to a meeting to now averaging over 50 at every meeting.

The club is growing. We've grown by around 10 members this year .

That more of the members are stepping up to help with our many and various projects.

Knowing that the club is going to be in great hands. With incoming President **Guy Gregory**, **Bryan Harman** as V.P., **Lee Funkhouser** has Treasurer, **Matt Mason** as Secretary, and **Phil Beck** as a returning at large board member and our new at large board members **Stephanie Stephens** and **Jeff Pope**. Of course, the membership needs to vote them in, at the December meeting.

All those that led different things in the club. **Jerry McBride** leading all the conservation projects. **Bryan Harman** with the Big Horn show, Kids fishing projects, and instigator of the fly tying nights, **Rob and Stephanie Stephens** for all their A-V help. And who could forget **Gordon Olson** for his year long work on the Christmas Raffle. **Guy Gregory** and **Lee Funkhouser** for their monthly work on the flyleaf and other communication work.

Phil Beck for lining up those great speakers we've been listening to. **Skip Cavanaugh** for his Legacy committee. **Bob Schmitt** taking care of welcoming new members to the club among other things. **Mark Meyocks**, as the poacher. for taking away the members hard earned money for their screw ups, and **Floyd Holmes** for the

**December Program
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

We are having our Christmas Raffle/Annual Meeting this year on December 10th.

We hope to see you there...raffle tickets are still just \$1!

Please refer to the raffle article in this newsletter for details and look for an upcoming email asking for an RSVP.

We will be conducting the Raffle, electing officers, honoring our Fly Fisherman of the Year, and generally having a great time.

Make sure you put the December 10th meeting on your calendar...it's always a lot of fun and good cheer!

Presidents' message (continued)

dangerous job of having to collect it. **Dr. Jim Gaddy** for stepping up to keep in touch with our ailing members.

And, of course, **Lee Funkhouser**, chief bean counter, keeping us financially viable. I want to thank all of you for the things you do for this club. As a regular club member, you should reach out and thank them too.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting on December 10th. Don't forget to donate prizes for the raffle, and buy tickets to win other prizes.

As an aside, as I fade into the sunset, you're not getting rid of me that easy. I will be back to run the one fly fishout at Amber Lake, currently scheduled for the 26th of April.

Thank you
Bob Johnson

Christmas Raffle Time

December always brings us our Holiday Raffle where members get the opportunity to obtain great fishing related items, while raffle donations allow the club to continue with our various programs, many of which help the fisheries of the greater Spokane area.

It's December 10th, in conjunction with our annual meeting. Be sure to confirm when you get the email request.

The raffle committee has done another outstanding job gathering items for the event. As always, most items are from members who donate trips, gently used or new items in their personal stashes, or well crafted outdoor items. Some of the most



sought after items are flies tied by members, though they compete with trips provided by both guides in the area and our own members. Don't hesitate to step forward with a box of your favorite flies or a trip to your favorite spot.

We already, we have some commitments for donated member-guided river trips and we expect to see more of the same. Many of our members are expert fly tiers and have historically donated their boxes of flies to our Club Holiday auction for all to try to win.

Most of the items that are donated are fly fishing related, but some members stretch their imagination and give other items like wine and booze (editors note: scotch is an essential part of your angling kit) or other outdoor themed art or craft works.

There's also a silent auction table, often containing Zag tickets, stays at local resorts, special rods and other tackle that are hotly contested.

The Committee asks that the items that you do donate be new or gently used. Items like magazine collections and mostly worthless items garner few or no tickets and simply allow you to clean up your storage. It is best if you contact Chair Gordon Olson (509-467-6944) ahead of time to donate your item, or if you have any questions. You can also bring your items to the Ramada on the night of the Holiday Raffle.



A few days ahead of the Raffle, we plan to email a listing of the items that we have procured to that point. This will give the membership (that have an email address) the chance to preview the raffle items so they can be ready to search out those displayed items and maybe collaborate your tickets or bidding with other members.

We will see you at the December 10th Holiday Raffle/Club meeting! Bring lots of money to buy lots of \$1 tickets in order to have the opportunity for great goodies, and treat yourself to one of those silent auction items.

You'll have a great time!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Club Calendar

- 12/3/2024: Fly Tying North Side: Field House Pizza Phil Beck, sponsor
- 12/10 Club Christmas Raffle! Ramada Inn Airport Raffle
- 1/14/2025 January Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport Leon Buckles
- 1/18 Rocky Ford Outing Rocky Ford Ck, Grant Co. Weather dependent, watch your email
- 1/21 Fly Tying Ya Ya Brewery 6:00 PM
- 2/11 February Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport Rich Landers
- 2/18 Fly Tying YaYa Brewery 6:00 PM
- 3/11 March Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport Speaker TBD
- 4/15 April Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport WDFW/IDFG fishing outlook
- 4/26 One Fly Outing Amber Lake Fishing 9-12
- 5/13 May Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport Speaker TBD
- 5/17 Coffee Pot Lake Outing Coffee Pot Lake TBD

Toys For Tots By Lee Funkhouser

Our donations to Toys for Tots greatly exceeded our goal. In all, we were able to collect an impressive \$2,825.00 for the program, in addition to a handful of toys.

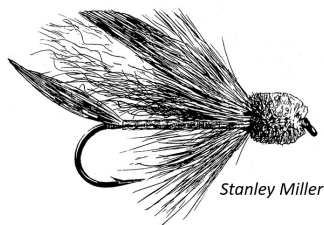
The program began in 2009 as the brainchild of IEFFC President Jon Allan. Initially, we mainly received donations of toys and each year members donated hundreds of toys. Working with Toys for Tots representatives we were made aware of the greater need for cash donations to fill in categories where toy donations fell short.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE



This year we had Toys for Tots representative Kari Sobisky attend our meeting. During the meeting Kari said a few words about the importance of the Toys for Tots program to the Spokane area, and reminded us that volunteers apply 100% of donations to the cause. President Bob Johnson presented her with a check from the club.

Thank you, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club members, for your tremendous generosity in supporting this special program.



Stanley Miller

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Fall 2024 IEFFC Member Survey Results

With the concurrence of the Board, Membership Chair Bob Schmitt and Vice President Guy Gregory recently conducted a survey of IEFFC members. The purpose was to assess the feelings of membership on various meeting elements in order to determine how well the members were being served by the current meeting system. The survey was internet based through Google Forms, so there was no cost to the club.

Participants in the survey were not tracked, so the responses were anonymous. In retrospect, a couple of the questions were not as precise as we would have liked, yet the results lump pretty well together to give us a snapshot of member sentiment. 42 members, or 39% of members, returned surveys.

38.1% of members feel it is very important (7 or greater out of 10) to have alcohol available at meetings. 30.9% do not (less than 5).

23/42 respondents would like soft drinks and coffee available, 31/42 want having beer and wine available, 9 prefer liquor.

69.1% (29/42) of respondents feel it is important to have dinner at the meeting (6 or greater out of 10). Only 9.5% (4/42) feel it is not (4 or less out of 10).

Subject matter of the speaker is the most important meeting element, followed closely by who the speaker is. For example, well known speakers are well attended (39/42) no matter what, while subject matter is of prime consideration (41/42) whether they know the speaker or not. Camaraderie is important to 31/42 members, and the meal quality is (26/42) somewhat important. 50% of respondents feel auction and raffle prizes are not very important.

33/42 Club members are good with the starting time. 25/42 feel the meetings are about the right length, but 17 feel they take too long. 12/42 find the price too high, 30/42 find the price low, or about right. 2 club members have transportation problems.

Activities: Education projects are preferred by 19% (8/42) of members. Fly tying nights haven't really caught fire yet, with 13 members (31%) preferring that meetup. Fishouts and Conservation Projects are liked by nearly half of membership, while the Christmas Raffle and meetings are both attractive to 2/3 or more of the membership.

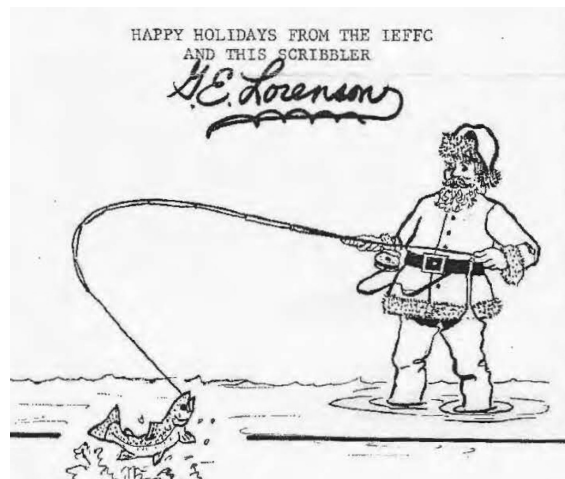
31/42 (73.8%) of respondents plan to participate in a club activity this year. 42.5% of respondents were regular meeting attendees, 45.2% attend 4 meetings or more, and 16.6% of respondents attend 3 meetings or less a year.

Written comments provided some interesting insight into what things the club may wish to emphasize to enhance member interest and involvement.

Thank you to those who completed the survey. If you'd like the full report, email me at ggregory@rocketmail.com and I'll send you a copy.

From the December, 1996
Fly Leaf

-Gene Lorensen



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Christmas Raffle- Donate a Trip By Bryan Harman

From talking to several members of the club over the years seems to me that everybody has a place they like to fish and some hard earned knowledge of that fishery, and we all joined to meet new people. Let me suggest an idea to support the club, meet new people and apply some of that hard earned fishing knowledge.

Donate a fishing trip to the Christmas raffle! It's easy...basically you go fishing where you would have gone anyway and take the winner along with you. You get to show them a few secrets of that fishery and you might get a new fishing buddy.

Heck, last year I took Lee fishing on the Kootenai River and I'm still doing a trip this year so how bad can it be? (just kidding Lee it was a ton of fun). We stuck a few fish and made a heck of a day out of it.

You don't have to be a professional guide, trust me I am not, or ask Lee, Guy, Mark, or Matt to confirm but we catch a few, drink a few and have a good time. The trip raffles are always a great revenue source for the club at the Christmas raffle, so donate a trip, take somebody new fishing and share a place you like to fish with a club member.

Speaking of Trips.....

Mark Pinch and Scott Fink (and maybe others) spent a couple days on upper Holter Reservoir this fall...



Maybe again in early summer?



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Rocky Ford Outing By Lee Funkhouser

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Our next outing will be a winter outing at Rocky Ford Creek. As always, we will be monitoring the weather to make sure we are able to fish.

The outing is scheduled for Saturday, January 18th, 2025. There will be hot food for lunch and plenty of advice on how to fish the creek. Put it on your calendar and we will be sending out additional information and an RSVP request following New Years.

The placid, undisturbed waters of Rocky Ford Creek as I usually see them.



The somewhat more active waters of Rocky Ford Creek as seen by Lee Funkhouser

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Fly Tying Tips By Jerry McBride

Here are a couple of fly tying tips that you might find helpful.

Painted Beads

The paint on painted beads is pretty brittle and the fish chip the paint off of the bead in fairly short order. After I have mounted the bead on the hook for a fly that I am tying I coat it with UV resin. Put a thin coat of resin on the bead and continuously rotate the hook with the vise to even out the resin on the bead. Cure the resin with your UV light and then finish tying the fly.

The picture below shows the difference between uncoated and coated beads on flies that have caught a number of fish.



Shaping Flies

Here is how I shape flies after I have tied them.

Cut a plastic straw into short lengths. I cut the lengths to 1 1/8" for size 10 jig hooks that I use for balanced flies. Slit the segments longitudinally their full length. With scissors nip off the corners at the beginning of the slit on one end of the segment to create a lead-in.



Here is what the segment will look like.

After you have finished tying the fly slide it into the straw segment eye first as shown below.



Heat up some water in a Pyrex measuring cup in the microwave. Put the flies with straw segments over them in the hot water and let them soak for a bit. Take the soaked flies out of the water and set them aside for a day or so to air dry. When you take the flies out of the segments they will be shaped and ready to fish.

Upcoming shows and such

Want a little winter getaway? Here's some Fly Fishing/Tying themed events in the region:

- Steelhead Expo 2025: January 10-12 2025: Hells Canyon Grand Hotel, Lewiston, ID
- 53rd Annual Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo January 31-February 1, 2025 Expo Idaho, 5610 Glenwood St. Garden City, ID...sponsored by the Boise Valley Fly Fishers
- East Idaho Fly Tying Expo, February 14 and 15, 2025, Mountain America Center, Idaho Falls, ID
- The Fly Fishing Show: February 15 and 16, 2025 Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA.
- NW Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo: March 7 and 8, 2025 Linn County Fair and Expo, Albany, OR
- Fly Fishing Film Tour, March 18, 2025, Bing Crosby Theatre, Spokane, WA
- Big Horn Outdoor Adventure Show, March 20-23, Spokane Fairgrounds

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

2024 New Members

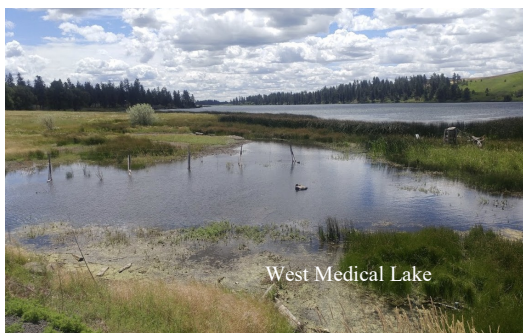
Introduce yourselves to our newest members when you see them....

Larry Garner
Jeremy Strang
Doug Burpee
Pat Stewart
Shawn Denny
Andrew McLeod
Terry Martin
Joe Douglas
Charlene Douglas

Welcome to our club! Join us at a fishout, a tying night, or just meetings. We're happy you've joined!

Local WDFW News

Winter-only lakes open the Friday after Thanksgiving each year. Winter-only lakes include Hog Canyon Lake northeast of Sprague in Spokane County, Fourth of July Lake on the Lincoln-Adams county line just south of the town of Sprague, and Hatch Lake and Williams Lake in Stevens County. Williams was treated with rotenone last fall to remove invasive fish species that were competing with native trout. It did not open for the 2023 winter season but was stocked this past spring and as recently as October so the fish should be ready to bite by the time the lake opens for fishing on Nov. 29. All these lakes fish pretty well before and after ice!



As of July 1, 2024, Deer Lake in Stevens County is now a year-round lake. Where it used to close to fishing each fall, it will now stay open, which is great news in particular for people who ice fish.

West Medical Lake in west Spokane County was treated with rotenone in October to eradicate illegally introduced goldfish that had proliferated and taken over the lake, squeezing out native trout. This lake will remain closed until the fourth Saturday in April after being stocked with rainbow and brown trout of various size next spring for the lowland lake opener.

The Tucannon River in southeast Washington is open to catch-and-release fishing from the mouth up to the Hatchery Bridge, inside the Wooten Wildlife Area. Above the Rainbow Lake inlet to the Cow Camp Bridge is closed for the season.

In Spokane County, Newman Lake and Silver Lake are open year-round for largemouth bass, crappie, perch, plus some tiger muskie, which usually bite best in warmer months. If not iced up, it's usually worth a trip.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Rio Grande King-Trude

December 2024

Matt O'Neal

The Rio Grande King wet fly appears in Bergman and is “..well known among western anglers,” Trude patterns date to 1906 or so, so suffice to say this pattern is easily over 100 years old. While not particularly popular nowadays, it won't be long before “trout spey” anglers remember they're swinging wet flies, and this one works. You'll find the pattern referred to as a dry fly, but it doesn't float well or long, so go ahead and fish it wet. Check it out in Dave Hughes' book “Trout Flies, the Tiers Reference”, or at Matt's Savage Flies youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0Z0XbKLMZ8>

Hook: 1x Dry Fly hook, i.e. Mustad 9672, size 8-12

Thread: Black

Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet

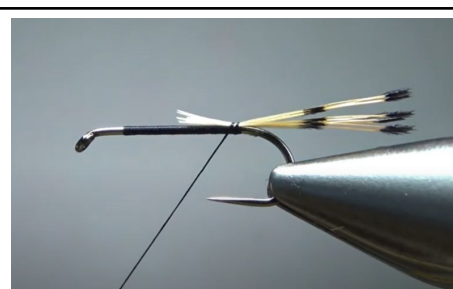
Body: fine Black Chenille

Wing: White calf tail

Hackle: Brown



Start your thread on the hook, wrapping back to the start of the bend. Tie in some golden pheasant barbs, try and show two of the bars. Tie down the barbs, and return to the tie in point.



Strip a bit of the chenille fuzz off the chenille core. Tie in that core, and advance your thread to the tie in point, about 3 hook-eye distances behind the eye. Wrap the chenille forward to the thread, tie down, and snip off the excess.



Grab a small tuft of calf tail, stack it to even the tips a bit. Grab a body length of the material and tie in, locking the wing in place so it doesn't spin. Trim off excess and wrap a smooth



Wrap a stiff brown appropriately sized dry fly hackle 5-6 wraps so you make a heavily hackled fly. A variation would use a brown hen hackle, slightly oversize, and save yourself some floatant.

Wrap a nice sized head and whip finish.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI News and Happenings

Imagine a world where young people develop a deep connection to the outdoors and a passion for conserving our natural resources. This vision is at the heart of the NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy and we would like your help to sustain it. For the past 21 years, we have been inspiring and equipping the next generation of conservation-minded fly fishers through our week-long program every June for youth aged 12-16.



Our Academy offers a blend of hands-on experiences in fly fishing, casting, fly tying, and conservation principles, providing a transformative experience for both boys and girls. Participants leave with an appreciation for the environment and the skills to protect it.



We are proud to be supported by the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited, Fly Fishers International, various Northwest fly fishing clubs, TU Chapters, local businesses, and individuals like you.

To learn more about our Academy and make a donation, please click here: WWW.NWYCFFA.COM

The Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club
FFI Charter Member and McKenzie Plaque Winner
The WSCFFI through your support can continue our mission to *conserve* and *restore* our resources, and *educate* fly fishers in our sport and *grow advocacy for fish and fisheries*.

IEFFC Officers and Board of Directors

Bob Johnson - President
Guy Gregory - Vice President
Bryan Harman - Secretary
Lee Funkhouser - Treasurer

Board Members are: Bob Schmitt, Phil Beck, and Matt Mason.

Membership Committee Chair: Bob Schmitt

Contact information for all Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs are in the 2023 Roster or on the website. If you've inquiries please email us at: flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com

FLYLEAF CONTRIBUTIONS

Your input is welcome! If you have articles to contribute to the Fly Leaf, make sure you send them to the newsletter email: flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com before the last Friday of the Month! Lee and Guy will get your story, your fly of the month, your member product review, whatever, into the next issue...

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington