



**INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB  
SEPTEMBER MEETING**  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
Wet Fly 5:30 Meeting 6:30 PM  
**RAMADA INN-AIRPORT**  
8909 W Airport Dr, Spokane, WA 99224

## Presidents' Message By Bob Johnson

While penning these ramblings, I received the e-mail of the passing of Bill McElroy. I enjoyed fishing with Bill. We fished together on multiple occasions, so his passing has left me very sad & a bit empty. Please remember Bill and his family in their difficult time.

The Valentines meeting was a rocking event. We had 64 members and guests in attendance. The buzz from all the conversations going on was a wonderful sound to hear.

We welcomed Larry Garner to the club. Make sure you stop and say hello to him at the March meeting.

We listened to the trials of Bob Burton, as described by Skip Cavanaugh, from their fishing trip to Brazil. Then the folksy and humorous presentation by Byron Johnson that left a smile on the faces of all.

Hopefully we have more at the March meeting where we will be starting a raffle for not one, but two boxes filled with flies, tied by some of the premier fly tyers in the club. Bryan Harmon, Phil Beck, Matt Mason, and Jerry McBride. We can't thank these great fly tyers enough for their contributions to the club. The boxes of flies will be divided into River and Lake flies. The first ticket drawn will get their choice as to which box they desire. So, start getting your tickets this month and we will be drawing the winners at the April meeting.

Pull out your calendars and save these dates.

March 7th and 21st. The final fly tying nights at Ya Ya Brewery til next winter. Those will be your last chance to come out tie, chat, and maybe even have a beer in such great company.

March 12th. The next general meeting at the Ramada.

March 13th . 6 pm board meeting at Ya Ya Brewery. The date

## March Presentation Dave Blackburn 'Kootenai Country'



Since 1982, Dave Blackburn has owned of Kootenai Angler out of Libby, Montana.

Nothing makes he and his guides happier than sharing the joy of fly fishing one of Montana's least fished rivers, the Kootenai. Kootenai Angler offers a full service fly shop, and float or wade guided trips, river cabins, and a restaurant!

Dave's presentation will present the great attractions of this nearby but often overlooked area, an area perfect for a long day trip, or weekend getaway for those of us in the inland Northwest

Remember, flows in the Kootenai are regulated out of Libby Dam, so it's perfect for a late summer trip when everything else is closed or curtailed!

Join us for a wonderful presentation by Dave.



## If you have not paid your dues, please do not sing the blues

For you remaining few, 2024 club dues are due. \$50 again this year. Please send a check to

IEFFC  
P.O. Box 2926  
Spokane, WA 99220

or pay at a meeting! Like this one!

## Presidents' Message (continued)

By  
Bob Johnson

had to be changed to a Wednesday night this month due to the Big Horn Show starting on Thursday night.

March 14th thru 17th . The Big Horn Show is on at the fairgrounds. If you weren't able to sign up as a volunteer, at least come and stop by the IEFFC booth and say hi.

April 6th . The spring fishout at Amber Lake. From 9am til noon we will be competing in a one fly contest. Lunch will be served from 12:30 until 1 or thereabouts. You can turn in your results, eat and return to the water for more fishing if you so desire. It will be fun for all, unless you break your fly off right away. Then that might be a poach

....

I had the opportunity to fish Omak Lake with Jerry McBride. It was the Trip I won at the Christmas Raffle. You couldn't ask for a better day. Light rain all day, no wind at all, and the Billy Burger on the way home was delicious.

Thank you and see you at the March meeting.

## Omak Lake Images

By  
Bob Johnson



Bob forwarded some extraordinary images from his trip with Jerry to Omak Lake. No wind, perfect light.

So much of fly angling is about place, is it not?



**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

## What's New with Strike Indicators? (Part 2)

By  
Mark Pinch

We've all been there. Working some nice fish. Then the release type of strike indicator keeps coming unbuttoned on each cast. Frustrating. It happens when we are fishing our balanced or jiggy type flies. Indicator fatigue. The foam wears out around the peg.

Last month, we talked about some fun ideas with fixed indicators. They are effective to about 8 feet of depth. With the release indicators, we can fish depth up to 14 feet effectively. It's a good system but it's time to upgrade the design. .

Two goals: An indicator that lasts; and is easier to see.

This new design effort took several years fabricating indicators out of cork, rubber, and foam. Some worked well, but took too long to make. Most didn't work at all. So the next thought was trying to improve the existing form indicators. The key was trying to make a tough insert that the black peg would fit into that would not wear out the foam.

In Figure 1, you can see two indicators that have been fished about the same amount of time. The one on the right is shot. The one on the left with the insert is still going. Now we're having fun!

So here's the great discovery and an easy one: Go down to your hardware store (I like North 40) and buy a foot of surgical tubing, 8 mm on the outside, 5 mm on the inside. Bring your peg with you so you can try it inside the tubing.



Figure 1



Figure 2

In Figure 2, you can see one of several cutters that work well to create an insert. Cut the tubing 3/16 of an inch to make an insert 3/16 inch deep.

The best way to create a perfect hole in the foam for the insert is by utilizing a wood-burning tool like the one in Figure 3. It works fast so take your time. Drills will not work.

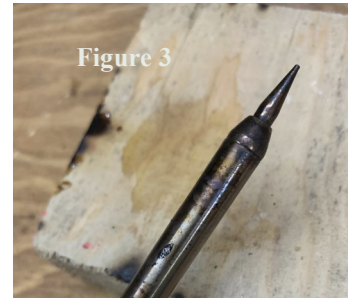


Figure 3

Figure 4 is the burned in hole before and after installing the insert.



Figure 4

Normally super glue will melt foam. It does not utilize this method. The wood burner turns the foam into a hard plastic. Three generous drops of glue, slide in your insert, and you're done. Loctite Gel Control has worked best for me.

The result is a release indicator that you can count on.

## What's New with Strike Indicators? (Part 2)

By  
Mark Pinch

Figure 5 shows the insert ready to go in, Figure 6 the finished product.

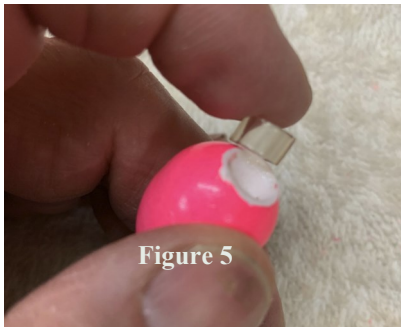


Figure 5

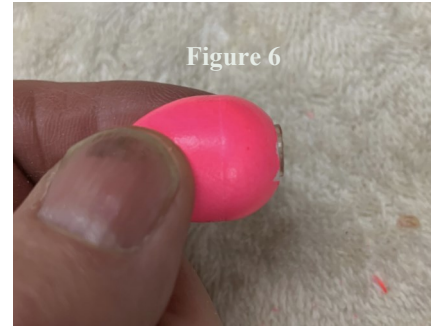


Figure 6

Now what about improving visibility?. Some of our friends are having trouble seeing the ball indicators. Small balls are fine for the shallows or calm days. But even the bigger balls disappear half the time in a rolling chop. If you're purchasing the store-bought indicators, ditch the balls. Buy the teardrops which sit up a little higher. Better, but still not great.

Think about this: What would happen if we used a longer indicator that would tip up to vertical, one to two inches high above the water line?

Whoa.....whole new world!

Figure 7 shows several prototype strike indicators in various sizes from 1/2 to 2 inches. They are made from cigar shaped indicators, foam construction insulation and foam tubing. We're ditchin' the balls, baby! We're just using the same insert system in a more creative way.



Figure 7

After experimenting with the weight of the fly on various sizes of indicators, the result is that indicators up to 1.5 inches will tip up with a 5/32 tungsten bead fly or heavier. Those big old' 2 inch cigar indicators are great for a heavier fly like the 1/32 ounce lead jiggy head. On the lighter side, a 2.5mm tungsten or brass bead on a balance fly will tip up the 1" cigar or the football indicators.



Figure 8

In Figure 8 you can see the tipped up vertical strike indicator in a home vase. Great look and much more sensitive than a ball.

## What's New with Strike Indicators? (Part 2) By Mark Pinch

A couple of issues with these: Using a vertical indicator for Chironomid fishing will require additional weight to the line or fly..

Wind and Drift Speed: Verticals drift faster. So if you want to drift with the wind or catch up with the current speed, go Vertical. If you want to slow down, go with the dreaded ball. Much lower wind profile.

One vertical problem: With these wonderfully tall, tip up, full release indicators, the leader coming out of the top of the indicator tends to tip them over some. Need another idea.

If you look at the last photograph (9), you will see a new hole. The hole goes through the side of the indicator and through the plastic insert which is near the bottom of the indicator. Now the line will not have to go through the top, the full length of the indicator. The leader routes through the new hole then down a short distance exiting the bottom then the peg. What a difference!

Maybe a little bit trickier to cast, but they do stick up reliably and mighty high! It's a beautiful thing.

*(Ed. Note: Pincher will be filing the third in this series in a future issue ....be sure to keep your eyes open for it!)*



## February 5 Fishout to Rocky Ford

Members enjoyed some pretty bluebird weather for February on a fishout to Rocky Ford on the 5th And fish were caught!



Brian makes Chili...



President Bob Johnson demonstrates why we came....



Members discuss how to eat chili with a fork....

## February Valentines Meeting Results

Byron Johnson put on a fantastic program! We had 65 attendees, everyone had a lot of fun with the program, activities, and conversation. And, everyone had such a great time your Publications folks took no pictures. So, if you missed it, you missed out.....see you next year.

Thanks again Byron for sharing your wonderful travels.

## Member Product Review Riverstick Custom Wading Staff –by Guy Gregory

I wade fish as much as possible. As I got older, I found a staff became a welcome helper in swifter, higher gradient, or more irregular streams. And certainly those of us who fish the Spokane or Deschutes know a staff can save a lot of grief on big slippery basalt boulders.

I graduated from found sticks to telescoping trekking poles. These are reasonably priced and easily replaceable. Most also fail about when you really need them. I acquired a used collapsible staff by a famous manufacturer but gave it away because it just wasn't strong enough, and it always felt wobbly.



I found out about Riversticks and ordered one from the man who makes them. He's on Vancouver Island, where you bloody well need a wading staff.

Just as shown in the pics, it's made from thick walled aluminum tubes (Tube diameter about 21 mm, wall thickness about 3 mm) connected together by a shock cord running through the tubes and by tapered joints machined to join the long pieces. I suspect these joints stiffens the staff for twisting or wrenching torque. These are also fixed into the tube, whether pressed or glued I don't know, but they ain't coming out.

The male piece fits into the open tube, which is in turn tapered internally for ease of fitting.

Short: This thing fits together very quickly and smoothly, and is very steady under load from any direction. It breaks down smoothly as well, no sticking. As far as "wear" parts go, the cane tip and the handle are pretty darn available in most areas with enough population to support a fair sized variety store.



If you're serious about a wading staff, this is a serious wading staff. I've used this for three years now and it's kept me out of more than one sticky problem. It is the perfect length, trouble free, and rock steady. The finish is excellent, the fit is precise. If you are needing a wading staff, this is the best product of it's kind available anywhere. I recommend it without reservation, this is my best piece of kit. . It's a piece of functional art, and I hope to wear it out.

Rick Humphrey is the maker. He makes them to order for you. He says "I'm pretty direct-drive and can usually have one on its way w/in a day or two. I can be reached at [rhumphrey@telus.net](mailto:rhumphrey@telus.net) (my email)."

A general rule of thumb for height/length: 5'4" - 5'6" = 49", 5'7" - 5'10" = 52", 5'11" - 6'2" = 53", 6'3" - 6'5" = 54-56". A good measure is to top of waders /ctr of chest. This will give you good reach while wading, w/o being too long. You can reach him on most internet fly fishing forums as Herkileez, or at his email below. Price is \$110+ \$20 shipping (to USA) = \$130 usd. Information, orders, and payment via Paypal can be made at [rhumphrey@telus.net](mailto:rhumphrey@telus.net).

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

## Jungle Peacocks 2024 By Leon Buckles

January 29, 2024, four members of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club arrived in Manaus, Brazil along with four of their close friends. Members were Steve Boharski, Leon Buckles, Bob Burton, and Skip Cavanaugh. We were met at the airport by Elisa, a representative of River Plate Outfitters. After settling in at the hotel, a Brazilian BBQ was on the agenda. The variety of meat came faster than we could consume it and the wine flowed freely.

The next morning, after a breakfast in the hotel we were taken to the airport to catch a charter flight to the fishing camp on the Rio Jufari. It is a one hour twenty five minute flight over the jungle to the fishing camp in a C 208 Caravan on amphibian floats. We were met by camp staff and whisked off to our floating camp.



Camp on the Rio Jufari

After the usual orientation information, we settled into our sleeping quarters and assembled our fly fishing gear. It was then time to join up with our guides for a bonus half day of fishing. We got a sample of what the next six days would be like. Bob Burton was the first to score with a large peacock bass.



Bob's first Tucunare



Skip with a beauty

The next six days we had epic fishing under the equatorial sun. The total six day count for the group was 1085 peacock bass landed. This did not count the other species landed which included Piranha, Jacunda, Traire, Peixe Cochosso, Aruanda, Bicuda, plus others. I am sure you are all familiar with these species. Each of our group hooked up with the highly prized large Tucunare.

The river flow was four meters lower than normal for this time of the year. The fish were concentrated in the river. Many lagoons were isolated and required a short hike to access.

Sack lunches were provided with the guides doing a shore BBQ mid-week. We rotated guides and fishing partners each day. That, combined with a daily happy hour solidified great relationships and made for a great trip.

*Pictures by Leon Buckles and Skip Cavanaugh*



Guide's shore lunch



Happy hour

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

## Jeff Pope fixes rods! (and builds them, too!)

### Fly Rod Service



Has your favorite fly rod run out of warranty coverage? Not interested in paying \$35 in shipping and insurance on top of an expensive repair fee? Or, interested in having a custom graphite or Bamboo built for you? Well, I can help you with these needs.

The following services are offered:

- Broken graphite and bamboo tip repairs and restored to original length.
- Guide or tip top replacement.
- Repair wraps.
- Cork grip repair, replacement or fighting butt installation.
- Graphite rod construction from blank you provide.
- Bamboo rod construction: I build from the culm.



The most common job is a graphite tip repair which will run around \$30. No shipping needed just bring your broken piece to me at one of our meetings and I will get it done for you. If you break a rod gather up all the pieces, (especially the tip piece) so I can put it back together. Text, email or give me a call. I can help. I am always in need of extra graphite pieces from broken rods. If you have any, please consider donating so I have a variety of pieces for the repairs.

Thank you!!

## Member Support Committee

Dr. Jim Gaddy has volunteered to become the lead person for our Member Support Committee. Many of our members were taken by surprise by longtime IEFFC member Bill McElroy's recent passing and we need to be more aware of how our members are doing.

The IEFFC is more than just a fly-fishing club. The reason we have survived for almost 70 years is because our member's care. We care about our fisheries, we care about the environment, we care about fishing, but most of all we care about each other.

If you are having issues, or if you know of a member having issues, don't hesitate to reach out to Jim. He will be our contact person and will work with the board to make sure none of our members feel forgotten. To reach Jim, you can reach him directly at the information in your club roster or you may contact him through the club at the club email address: [mail.ieffc@gmail.com](mailto:mail.ieffc@gmail.com).

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**



## Some suggestions By Jerry McBride

I like things that are simple and that work well. Given my Scottish heritage, if it is inexpensive (cheap), so much the better.

### Winter Fishing Gloves

Several years ago Lee Funkhouser showed up with a pair of rubberized gloves that had a fuzzy lining. If it is cold he puts them on to keep his hands dry while handling the wet anchor rope to drop the anchor or pull it up. When he gets done handling the anchor rope takes the gloves off and puts his fingerless gloves back on.

I thought his gloves were a good idea so I bought an identical pair. What I discovered was that you could fly fish with the gloves on and skip the on and off procedure keeping your hands dry and warm. They have a good grip and you can feel the line while casting and stripping. I bought my gloves at the Airway Heights North 40, but they are available at lots of other places. The other day when I was grocery shopping at Rosauers on West Francis they had them on their glove rack. Cost is a little over \$9 a pair.



### Spool Keepers

A while back I was going through a collection of extra reel spools that have fly lines on them that I don't use very often. I had used rubber bands as spool keepers to keep the lines in place on the spools. Without exception, all of the rubber bands had fallen apart and the lines were coming off of the spools making for a big mess. I mentioned this to my wife and she suggested I buy some fuzzy elastic bands that people use to hold their pony tails in place. Great idea! I bought a card of 20 at Walmart for about \$3.50.

I hope these two suggestions are helpful.

## Meeting information

Jerry's got a giveaway for March. He will set up a table at our March meeting for free stuff. Jerry will bring several items of fly tying material (and he has good stuff). If you have something useful related to fly fishing that you want to give away please bring it to our March meeting. Anything on the table will be free for the taking by club members.

We've also got a great raffle going, with a special box filled with flies tied by Jerry, Matt Mason, Bryan Harman and others. Get yourself some tickets at the meeting.

April will bring **Andy Dux** and **Randy Osborne** on local Idaho and Washington angling outlook. We'll be asking you for questions for them ahead of time, so they can tailor their presentations. Guy will be doing his water supply guess for the west.

Don't miss 'em!

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

# ***FLY OF THE MONTH***

**Peacock Bass Streamer**

**March 2024**

**Jim Athearn**

This is a fly I tied for a trip down to Brazil last January to fish for peacock bass. I based it on my experience from a previous trip. I had to cancel out this year but the guys that I gave flies to caught fish with it so I'm sharing the pattern. I planned to use just a floating line because it is easier for me to cast than a sink or sink tip and casting for peacocks can get pretty frantic - so I used lead barbell eyes to add weight to make the fly sink. **This fly will be raffled at the March meeting!**

Hook: Gamakatsu SL12S # 1/0 - 3/0  
Thread: Veevus G02 200D  
Eyes: Large painted yellow lead barbell  
Body: Polar Flash - Green Pearl  
Polar Flash - Gold  
Kreelex Fish Flash - Copper

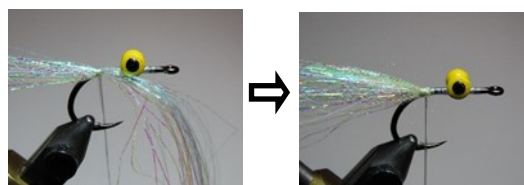
Head: EP Wooly Critter Brush - 1.5" Tan

Note: Using a Smhaen Material Guard helps control the body materials as you wrap the head

Step 1: Wrap a thread base and tie on the lead eyes just forward of the hook point. I cover the thread wraps with super glue and let it cure to make the eyes more secure.



Step 2: Tie on a small bunch (about the diameter of a pencil lead when pulled tight) of pearl green polar flash in the middle and then bend it back and tie it down.



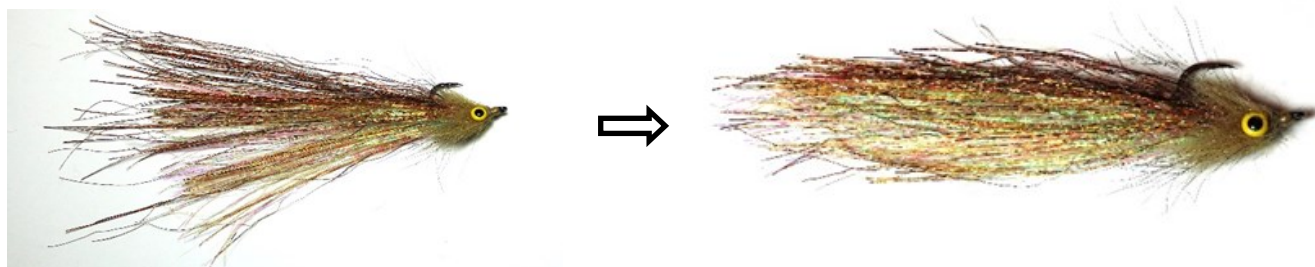
Step 3: Turn the hook over (it helps if you use a rotary vise) and repeat step 2 using first the gold polar flash and then the copper Kreelex Fish Flash.



Step 4: Tie on the EP Wooly Critter Brush and wrap around the hook once behind the eyes and then over the eyes in a figure 8 pattern covering both the top and bottom of the lead eye gap. Then add two wraps around the hook in front of the eyes and tie off. At this point I coat the head with UV cement and add a little extra to the base of the fibers going back over the eyes to shape them pointing back.



Step 5: Remove the fly from the vise and comb the body to spread and blend the fibers. Trim to size and shape. This is easiest with long scissors. I tend to leave my fly bodies fairly long and take scissors when I fish so I can trim them more according to fish/conditions.



**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

## FFI

Consider joining FFI! It's easy and you will be joining a number of IEFFC members already involved in the organization.

To Join FFI simply go to the website listed: <http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/> , click Membership, Click join, then the blue round button. Join the FFI today !

Fly Fishers International  
*Conserve, Restore and Educate Through Fly Fishing*



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*.

## Tackle Tips

If you carry several weights of line on similar spools, or just have a bunch of reels and lines, it's easy to forget which line is what size. Try this old trick: use a black permanent marker on the end of the line.. A long mark (1/2 to 3/4") for a 5wt or whatever is your most used weight, then short marks for each line size heavier -a 7wt line would have one long mark and two short marks for instance... a 3wt would have three short marks

If you, like me, have built several rods and store them in PVC tubes, it's hard to remember which end to open. Marker stuff wears off in the back of a pickup. I now put stickers on the open end, they stay put. Oh, and use white PVC, black ABS gets too hot

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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...

***Just look at all the great member contributions to this issue! Thanks to all authors!***

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**