



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
Tuesday, February 13th, 2023
Wet Fly Hour 5:30pm
Dinner 6:30pm
Spokane Airport Ramada Inn

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

FEBRUARY PROGRAM BYRON JOHNSON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Bob Johnson

Well, last month when I mentioned the miserable weather for the Steelheaders, I wasn't quite meaning sub zero temperatures followed by a good dumping of snow, but... we got it anyway. I'll take more snow in the mountains. Just to provide us with the water for our rivers this summer and the lakes too...please. Let's see if we get the same results.

At the time I was writing this, the weather for the fishout at Rocky Ford is predicted to be ideal. Not quite perfect, you know, 70 degrees, light breeze, warm sun, and only overcast directly over the water, but it will be the 3rd of February and figuring that in, it will be a beautiful day. So come on out, enjoy the fishing, maybe catch a few (don't ask me how, I was skunked without a bump last time I went), have a bite to eat and laugh with your fellow club members. Don't forget to bring a pad and pen with you. You don't want to forget the mishaps of your fishing buddies when it comes time to report to the poacher... ha ha ha.

A big shout out is due to **Jerry McBride** for the Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award. He will be following in the footsteps of our previous club members, **John Propp, Del Coppock, Gene Lorenson, and Steve Moran**, who have also been the recipient of this prestigious award. Our annual Valentines meeting is fast approaching (Feb 13th). Bring your favorite enabler for a true dining experience and share the evening together. You do not need to bring someone to attend the meeting.

The response I received after offering to get rides for anyone that has difficulties driving at night was immediate and varied. **Al Odenthal and Jeff Pope** offered to assist anyone living near them. **Larry Ray** called offering suggestions and comments. **Pat Kendall** called wanting to know when I would be picking him up. He lives in Arlington, for those that don't know. I offered to meet him at the airport, but that wasn't quite what he meant. We had a nice chat about the 170 Pinks he caught this year, I'm jealous. For all those that know Pat, and those that don't, he says hello and his thoughts are with the club.

See everybody on the 13th at the meeting!
Bob

Club member **Byron Johnson** will be doing a presentation on Jurassic Lake fishing and will also be including some of his other recent adventures. The area is beautiful and the fish are monsters. It should be a very entertaining program.

Remember that this is the annual **Valentines Day** meeting, but don't feel like you have to bring someone. We will have a number of spouses and partners in attendance, but the meeting is **not a couples only event**.

For the spouses, we will have a number of raffle items.

We are also looking at a fly box and flies that we will be raffling off. Tickets will be available at **both the February and March** meetings. The flies are being tied by some of the premier IEFFC tyers.

See you at the February Meeting!

ROCKY FORD OUTING February 3rd

Our Fall outing on the North Fork was a huge success and we are looking forward to the winter outing at **Rocky Ford**. The date is Saturday, February 3rd and the weather looks to be cooperating. You should have received an RSVP request. Let us know if you're coming so that we have enough food.

The fishing has been tough, but when a fish has been hooked, it has been a MONSTER.

Come and join us. It should be a great time.

JERRY MCBRIDE Letcher Lambuth Award

In January, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club member **Jerry McBride** was honored by the Washington Fly Fishing Club by receiving their highest award, the Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award.

The award is given to an individual who has some of the skills possessed by Letcher and has used those skills to make an original, significant and lasting contribution to the sport of fly fishing.

Jerry is a retired mechanical engineer and has created many new fly patterns, but his real claim to fame is in designing the “balanced leech”. Realizing that “most insects move in a horizontal position”, Jerry sought to come up with a way to fish leeches under an indicator. His invention was introduced to the fly-fishing world through *Fly Tye Magazine* in the summer issue of 2006. As you likely know, balanced leeches are now available in virtually every fly shop in the nation. Promoted heavily by such fly-fishing personalities as Phil Rowley, the balanced leech has become an essential fly for those fly fishers frequenting still waters.

Jerry joins an illustrious list of previous award recipients from the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, that includes **John Propp, Del Coppock, Gener Lorenson and Steve Moran**.

Congratulations to a very deserving Jerry McBride.



Figure 1



Website Videos

The Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club website contains lots of information regarding the club’s activities. In addition, we have a featured video on our home page. We change it from time to time and welcome any suggestions.

The website is available at ieffc.org.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

PAST PRESIDENT AWARD DOUG BROSSOIT

Outgoing President **Doug Brossoit** was awarded a personalized bamboo fly rod made by fellow IEFFC member **Jeff Pope**, at the January meeting. The club thanks Doug for his hard work this past year.

A lot was accomplished in 2023 as we have set out to complete our recovery from the Covid years. We had a notable increase in new members and we are definitely on the right track. Doug's leadership was evident as we made our growth initiative the number one priority. In addition, we have increased the meeting attendance and the participation in club events.

Thank you, Doug, for your commitment to making the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club stronger.



2024 President Bob Johnson presenting the personalized bamboo rod to Doug Brossoit

RSVP's for Club Meetings By Lee Funkhouser

We are attempting to do a better job regarding the RSVP process. Your cooperation is necessary for us to make it work. We give the Ramada an estimated number for dinner. If we are off by a few, there is no problem. If we miss by a lot, we either don't have enough food, or, if we have a number of no shows, we end up having to pay for dinners not eaten.

Emergencies come up, so if something happens between the Thursday prior to the meeting and the Tuesday meeting, let us know. That will give us an idea of where we stand regarding the number of meals.

When you send in your RSVP, also let us know whether you will be having dinner or not. That is very important. They do not charge us for those not requesting dinner.

We do still need to know if you are attending, but not having the dinner, so that we will have sufficient seating.

If you are attending, but are concerned about the close quarters, we can request a modest number of individual tables. Let us know and we will arrange that for you.

Sending an RSVP that includes all of this information will help us to do a better job preparing for the event.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL

Spokane Riverkeeper along with Silver Bow Fly Shop are hosting the 2024 International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4) again in Spokane!

Save the date to join us **February 16** at Bing Crosby Theater! 901 West Sprague Avenue Spokane, WA, 99201

Doors open at 6 PM. Show starts at 7 PM.

Tickets are available at The Silver Bow Fly Shop. Ticket sales will benefit Riverkeeper's efforts to protect the Spokane River.



FLY TYING NIGHTS By Bryan Harman

If you have not attended a tying night, I would like to invite you along with any friends, to come take a look, or a listen, as the conversation is as much about tying as it is about places to fish and ways to use the flies being made. If you have a couple empty slots in your fly box, bring your tying stuff and fill them in or just come talk fishing and get an idea to fill in those empty slots with something new.

February dates are 2/8 and 2/22. We are meeting at Yaya Brewing at 11712 E Montgomery Dr in Spokane Valley from 6pm to 7:30pm.

If any one is interested in doing more of a fly tying class, please reach out to me, (**Bryan Harman**). We are thinking about maybe offering a class this year. That could be an opportunity to break in that new fly tying kit you got for Christmas.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

ATTENDING A MEETING AS A GUEST

NOT A MEMBER YET: To attend our meeting as a guest, we just need to know you are coming so we can have a place for you. Send an email to our newsletter email address letting us know you are going to be in attendance and whether you want dinner or not. Dinner is \$30.00.

The newsletter email address is flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com.

If you are interested in becoming a member, contact our membership chairman at:
schmitl@comcast.net

DUES AND THE ROSTER

Thanks to all who have already paid dues. We have over half the membership paid up for 2024. New members, make sure you add the \$25.00 initiation fee to your \$50.00 2024 payment if you haven't already paid that portion. 2024 Dues are \$50.00 and can be brought to the February meeting or mailed to:

IEFFC
PO Box 2926
Spokane, WA 99220

We are sending out a request to all who have paid dues, to look at the 2023 roster and submit any changes. I have some that came through during the year, but sending them in again just helps us to bring everything up to date.

For new members who do not have a 2023 roster, the format of information is below. Send it in when you receive the roster information request, so that you can be included in the 2024 roster.

Name (Badge #)	Preferred Phone Number
Street Address	Secondary Phone Number
City, State, Zip	email address
Occupation	spouse/partner

NEW MEMBERS By Bob Schmitt

Our newest member was introduced at the January meeting. **Andrew McLeod** is the son of longtime IEFFC member **Al McLeod**.

Welcome to the club Andrew!!



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

CONSERVATION AND THE NEXT GENERATION

By Bryan Harman

I was thinking the other day about conservation efforts, including water conservation, fishery conservation, etc. With all the effort and money that is put into conservation efforts, I asked myself “What is this for?” We are saving the planet and the fisheries and all that good stuff but for what again, and it hit me that we are doing this for the next generation of outdoorsman. If we don’t support and create the next generation of fisherman, then we may as well catch, kill, and keep every fish we can, because nobody is coming up behind us. It is after all the next generation that is going to reap the benefit of our work.

I hope this has some of you inspired to help and make that effort. I hope we all have kids, grandkids and their friends coming to fish with us and hear stories about the big one that got away. I think this is where the club comes in. We have some great programs that get kids interested in the outdoors.

You can volunteer at the Big Horn Show and tie flies for kids, and maybe that fly will never see the water. Honestly to see some of the stuff the kids come up with to tie would probably make the fish sick, but someday they may look back on that and think that fly tying and fly fishing stuff is cool. In this day and age of social media, I think the “coolest” thing we can do for these kids is show them how to get away from social media and have real experience in the real world (wind, rain, sunburn and all).

Kids fishing day is also a great opportunity to connect with kids in the community. The look of excitement when they hook their first fish brings me back to that day of hooking my first fish or maybe just my last fish. This is how we get the next generation “hooked” on fishing and conserving this great place for the generation behind them.

Please think about volunteering for one of these 2 great events, or both. Both is good. If you can’t volunteer please find a young person and pry them away from their computer and have them see the outdoors with you. As the kids say these days we are all “OG” that does not mean Old Geezer it means Original Gangster and basically they think the stuff we do may not be easy, but it is definitely cool.

IMPORTANT DATES

Our two major projects for the Spring are the Big Horn Show and Kid’s Fishing. The dates are listed below so that you can plan accordingly. These are great opportunities to promote our sport and promote our club. More information will be available as we get closer to each event and Kid’s Fishing also has a rod building session that is held a few weeks prior to the fishing day. We will get that date to you when it is available.

Big Horn Show - March 14-17, 2024

Kid’s Fishing - May 3rd (Ronald McDonald House)

May 4th (Event)

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

BOBBERS By Mark Pinch

Many of you will remember Frank Faha, a long time, beloved club member. Frank and I shared a love for innovation. He knew that I was building my own strike indicators. He wanted to brainstorm some of his own ideas.

Frank was enamored with tip up indicators which are popular with Crappie fisherman. He loved the look and insisted they were more sensitive than our floating balls. Unfortunately, his early demise did not allow us to finish our work together to adapt those types of indicators to flyfishing, but he inspired me. I must say that his ideas are quite fruitful. Here's what I have learned so far.



We want to start out with the lightest indicators for ease of casting. Raven makes an FS 1.0 gram indicator which you'll see in the attached photograph along with a small balsam indicator made by Thill. They are both surprisingly easy to cast. After casting, the indicator will lie flat on the water. Once your fly is at depth, the indicator tips up. Good info.

Indicator fishing is a short cast game. We see some fellow fly fishers casting long but they miss being able to see slight movements of their indicator. Those are fish mouthing your fly. These tip up indicators definitely show more action, which is really fun. But you have to be close enough to see the slight movement.

The next consideration is how much weight does it take to tip the indicator up? I've been pleasantly surprised at how little it takes. In fact, with my heavier flies like the 1/32 ounce jiggys, I have had to move up to the next larger size in tip up indicators. They still throw quite well.

To give you some guidelines, both of these pictured indicators will stand up utilizing a 3.8 mm tungsten bead, 5/32 inch equivalent. A small split shot, size BB also stands it up nicely. A naked chironomid does not work without some additional weight. Many of you put extra weight on your leader anyway to get the little pupae down quickly. So we just have to experiment.



There are two different types of attachment methods. The pictured brown Thill bobber has a small hole at the bottom for the line to pass through. The Raven does not. Both systems use small pieces of silicon tubing for attachment.

With the Thill, a small piece of the tubing goes on first. Once you pass the line through the hole, you simply pull the tubing down over the line and the hole.

With the Raven, there is no hole. Two pieces of silicon tubing are utilized, one at the top, one at the bottom which holds the leader in place.



On each system, it is best to run the leader through the pieces of silicon tubing before placing the indicator. Sliding your leader through the tubing makes it easy to change the depth of your fly.

Both systems are fixed. No release feature. They work well to 8 feet deep. 10 feet is really pushing it.

Stop by your favorite bait shop to see all of the different models and sizes of the tip ups and also the silicone tubing. They are all inexpensive.

In a future article, we will play with what's new with release type indicators

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

SILVER BOW FLY SHOP By Lee Funkhouser

The Silver Bow Fly Shop is a great resource for us. Sean and his staff are always ready with advice on what flies to get and where the fishing is best. I refer to their blogs and fishing reports regularly. I find the information up to date and reliable.

We often forget about the contribution of independently owned shops to our sport. Their staffs provide knowledge and expertise that is often essential to our success. When I venture out of my area, I rely heavily on those shops. Many of our speakers are independent owners and the information they provide regarding their home waters gives us great insight.

Don't hesitate to support these shops. They are the foundation of our sport.

WSCFFI UPDATE Steve Jones WSCFFI President

FFI Update for January

FFI is playing a role at the **Fly Fishing Show** in February at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue and the Washington Council wants you and your fellow club members to join us there. For the first time ever, FFI will host a reception at the show **Saturday, Feb. 17** from 4:30 to 6 pm where FFI members and friends can gather to say hello and learn about a game-changing conservation strategy for Olympic Peninsula salmon and steelhead rivers. **The \$30 FFI ticket buys full day entry to the show plus the reception with savory snacks and a chance to win a new Thomas & Thomas 5wt fly rod and other quality gear.** FFI also will host the Learning Center at the show where we will offer walk-in instruction on fly tying, knots and casting if space is available. Tickets are available on the WSCFFI.ORG Website.

The **Fly Casting Fair is returning to Ballinger Park May 4** with a full day of skills development for fly casters and tyers. The event, now in its third year, offers a range of classes for newcomers and experienced fishers and a chance for FFI members throughout Puget Sound to connect. Watch for details in spring.

The Washington Council supports excellence in fly tying, fly casting, education and conservation and invites you to nominate your friends and your fly clubs for our annual awards. Every club has leaders that keep the club going and growing. Nominating those men and women for the annual **Washington Council Awards program** is a way to say thanks. Details about awards and nomination forms are available on the WSCFFI.ORG Website, click on the About Us tab and click on Awards.

Finally, this month the Washington Council wants to welcome a new affiliated club, **4th Corner Fly Fishers of Bellingham**. Join us in welcoming the gang at 4th Corner.

Directors and members of Washington FFI appreciate your friendship and support.

Tight lines to all!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Black Thread Frenchie

February 2024

Lance Egan

This fly is a great fly to fish in a number of ways, as a euro nymph, under an indicator or as a dropper from a dry fly. It is commonly tied in olive, but Lance likes to change things up by tying this one in black. I suggest trying this fly. Can you really ignore a recommendation from Lance, who has been a member of Fly Fishing Team USA in 13 world championships .

It is a quick and easy tie, and will give you great results for those trout feeding under the surface.

A video from Lance is available by googling Egan's Black Thread Frenchie.

Hook: Umpqua 400 series size 16 (can use any jig hook).

Bead: Tungsten Bead 3mm.

Thread: Black Thread 70 denier.

Tail: Coq de Leon.

Rib: Wire 0.2 - Brown.

Hot Spot: Hends Spectra Dubbing - Color #94 (bright orange)



Place the bead on the hook and secure in the vise. Start the thread and wrap toward the bend, gradually creating a body form.

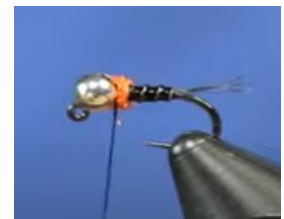
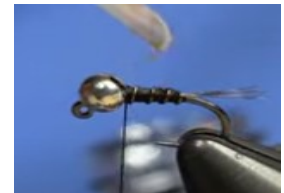
Tie in the Coq de Leon to form the tail and secure while continuing to form the body. Trim the forward excess.

Add the wire and secure it with the thread.

Wrap the wire to produce a segmented look to the fly. Coat with a light amount of UV resin and cure.

Add the hot spot by utilizing a small amount of the dubbing. Very little is necessary and make sure the dubbing is tightly wrapped around the thread.

Whip finish.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

IEFFC OFFICERS 2024

Your Officers for 2024 are as follows:

Bob Johnson - President

Guy Gregory - Vice President

Bryan Harman - Secretary

Lee Funkhouser - Treasurer

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

Contact information is available on the website.

JOINING FFI

There is no better time to consider joining FFI than now. 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 *re-store* our resources, and *educate* fly fishers in our sport and grow advocacy for fish and fisheries.

Submissions for publication in *The Fly Leaf* can be made by contacting the IEFFC at flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the last Friday of the month for inclusion in the following months newsletter.