



GENERAL MEETING  
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB  
MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE  
COMMONS  
December 9, 2014  
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

## DECEMBER PROGRAM CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Lee Funkhouser

The year has gone by too quickly. We have had a lot of activities and I wish to thank all of the members for a successful year. The officers and board members did an outstanding job of keeping things going. Neal Beechinor was quick to step in when I was unavailable and provided outstanding insight when I faced issues that were unfamiliar to me. In addition, his programs this year were tremendous. Skip Cavanaugh handled our finances quite well and is working hard to bring our Amato account up to date. Rick Ripley did an excellent job as secretary with timely minutes and concise reports. His publication background really showed through. Our board members provided a well rounded train of thought and I enjoyed meeting with Paul Davis, Jack Marchant and Paul Wham. The committee chairmen were solid as usual. Fred Shiosaki and Floyd Holmes expanded our Kid's Fishing commitment to include our support of a special session for The Ronald McDonald House children. Bill McElroy did an awesome job again with Morningstar and Jim Turner and his Legacy group raised much needed funds to support both youth programs. The projects committee was busy and Jim Athearn and George Potter seem to be tireless workers. In our club that quality is essential because that is really what we are about. Leon Buckles has done a great job of updating our bios and his Archives committee is always adding something to the history of our club. Steve Dixon continues to push the membership up and we expect another great group of new members in 2015. With our next meeting featuring our annual Christmas Raffle, I would be remiss to leave out Gordon Olson and his group. The job they do is amazing to say the least. As a club, we need look no further than the number of volunteers at each of the projects. Yes, we mainly fish, but over this past year the club has stepped up to each and every project and made those projects successful.

Our annual Christmas Raffle is the program for this month. As usual, Chairman Gordon Olson has a great variety of items. The trips are exciting and the equipment and gear are special. Make sure you come early so you will have time to study what is available.

This is a membership only meeting and our opportunity to bring in funds to help finance future projects. The money brought in each December goes to our various projects, which have included kids fishing events, as well as stream and lake projects.

If you have items to bring for the event try to come a little early. Many of the special items available are donated by members and Gordy and his staff appreciate this important part of the Raffle.

There will also be a number of items in a silent auction section and, of course, we will have a Gene Lorensen painting.

See you at the December meeting. It will be a special event.

Presidents Message (continued)

I would also like to give a special thanks to this years Poacher, Hubert Langenhorst and our Sergeant at Arms Floyd Holmes. Hube kept us entertained while also raising a good amount of funds for the club. I know that a good portion was from my wallet, but the laughs were worth it.

Finally, my thanks to our Artist-In-Residence, Gene Lorensen. Although he has retired from producing the Fly of the Month, he is still supplying us with his breathtaking paintings, while also being the longest tenured member of the club.

Thank you all for a wonderful year. I look forward to continuing with the publications committee, but must say I am proud to have served such a great group this past year.

## THE TUCANNON RIVER By Lee Funkhouser



Located about three hours south of Spokane is a small river that can be described as a place where you “can’t catch fish”. I have fished the Tucannon River for decades and it has never disappointed. Although the fish are small, the action is fast and you never tire looking for that next piece of water holding a few small rainbows.

The area has a number of great camping spots and during the week there are always a number of sites available. There is great access to the river and the wading is fairly easy. The stretch that I fish is from the Hatchery Bridge upstream and it is open for fishing from the first Saturday in June until October 31st.

I have brought my entire family to the Tucannon at one time or another and it was a favorite place for my Dad. It was the last river that he was able to wade and after his legs started to give out he fished it for a couple more years from a folding chair. He had a couple of spots that pooled up and he would simply use a roll cast to keep his fly in the right location.

You will get more enjoyment by using a three or four weight rod and there is a lot of brush, so short is good. Being open mostly in the summer means simply using hoppers is a good way to go, but there are a number of stoneflies in the river as well. I also have had great success with muddler minnows. To be honest, I think sometimes you can put about anything on the end of your tippet and a fish will find it attractive.

The two things I like most about the Tucannon are the everchanging pattern of the river and the readability of the river. There is always a large runoff and when I return each year I find the river is barely recognizable. I get to fish it as if it were my first time. This change certainly adds to the enjoyment, but because the river is so easy to read I find fish very easily. Being able to look at a spot and say to myself “there’s a fish holding in there” makes the adventure quite fun because there almost always is a fish holding “there”. In addition, it helps me to be more confident when I fish other rivers where the fish population may not be as great.

I don’t fish the Tucannon River as much as I used to as there are so many options closer to Spokane, but I really do try to make a trip or two each year. The best plan is to go for two days, camping in one of the campgrounds, while fishing a good amount of time both days. I also get a chance to sit back in the evening, watching the campfire, while remembering all the wonderful times I have had at this great river.

### EMAIL ADDRESS FOR The Fly Leaf

**In an effort to increase access to the publication of The Fly Leaf we have created a new email address for submissions to the publications committee. Please try to use that address for any future submissions or questions you wish to address to the editorial staff.**

**New email address: [flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com](mailto:flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com)**

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

## TOYS FOR TOTS

The Toys for Tots meeting was again a great success with donations of over 100 toys and cash contributions of almost \$600.00. It is a great feeling that we again can provide some assistance to the United States Marines in helping these area children have a better Christmas. Thank you for your donations!!

Attending our meeting were Marine Sergeant Bryson Subert and Marine Sergeant Tyler Kirk. We appreciate their service to our country and are appreciative of the time they give to this special program.



## CHRISTMAS ISLAND BONEFISH Bill McElroy



It makes you want to book a flight when you see things like this. What Bill sent to me was "Weather was good, winds mild and fishing really good at times. Here is a picture of an 8-pound bonefish." Great fish Bill!!!

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



## **December Meeting Annual Holiday Raffle/Auction**

The month of December always brings us our Holiday or Christmas Raffle where members only get the opportunity to obtain great mostly fishing related items. December 9th is this special day this year. Your Raffle Committee is able to purchase or receive through donation hundreds of items that you will get a chance to own from the Raffle or bid on at the Silent Auction. We will have many of the same fishing trips available as in the past plus probably a couple new ones.

Besides the items that the Club purchases for the Raffle, we ask that the membership also furnish items that your fellow fly fisherman would love to own. Many of you have the talents to tie great fly patterns, donate your own guided trip to a special fishing place, and give fishing and non-fishing related items for the Raffle. You can bring these items to the meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> or make contact with one of the Raffle Committee members to arrange pickup ahead of time. Some of our Raffle Committee members include Gordon Olson, Hugh Evans, Randy Shaber, Stephen Aspinwall and Rick Ripley.

A few days ahead of the Raffle, we will email a listing of those items that we have procured up to that point. This will give those (who have email) the chance to peruse the list for those items that you most want and make arrangements with friends to collaborate your tickets or bidding for your most desired item or fishing trip. Some of the Raffle goodies include the ability to purchase an item or fishing trip at discount. Please remember to support those manufacturers, guides and retailers who contribute to this fund raising activity.

See you at the Raffle and bring lots of extra money to buy lots of tickets and opportunities for great goodies!

Your Raffle Committee

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

## ***FLY OF THE MONTH***

***Improved Shop Vac***

***December 2014***

***Chet Allison***

I was introduced to this fly around 2004 being told it would work in the Spokane River, which I fish a lot. The original that I was shown didn't have the Peacock Herl thorax, but, like all flies, things change and they work. I fish both versions on the Spokane River from Water Street down to the Gun Club with great success. My technique is to swing the fly starting at about a 22 foot cast working my way out to 45 to 50 feet and then I move. Some fishermen use indicators with this fly but I don't. Have fun and let me know if it works for you.

### **Caddis/Mayfly Emerger**

**Hook:** TMC 2487, Dai-Riki 135 size 12-16.

**Bead:** Gold tungsten bead.

**Thread:** UNI black or brown, 8/0

**Rib:** Copper wire, counter wound

**Body:** Natural pheasant tail fibers 4-6

**Wing:** White antron or Sparkle Emerger White Yarn

**Collar:** Peacock herl



Step 1: Tie on thread base, copper wire past bend and 4-5 pheasant tail fibers by the tips at the bend.

Step 2: Wrap pheasant tail fibers forward, tie off. Counter wrap copper wire and tie off.

Step 3: Tie in Wing material and Peacock thorax material.

Step 4: Wrap Peacock thorax, tie off & whip finish. Trim Wing material to 3/4 abdomen length or shorter.



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

**INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB**

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



CHARTER MEMBER and MCKENZIE PLAQUE WINNER

## RETENTION OF HATCHERY STEELHEAD

By Lee Funkhouser

This fall the public had a chance to respond to WDFW regarding a proposal to make it mandatory to retain Hatchery Steelhead. The issue is quite complicated and we have tried to keep you up to date on it as much as we possibly can. I appreciate that club members have utilized our email resources to communicate their opinions regarding the issue. Going onto the internet or onto the WDFW website provides some information and individually that is what we recommend.

As a club, the one concern that keeps coming up as affecting our club members is the possible change of the regulations regarding the lower 2.5 mile stretch of the Grande Ronde. We have responded to that part of the issue and would like to see that small areas regulations remain the same.

We will undoubtedly be told what is happening in the next few months and know that much of what is decided will be based, at least in part, upon what is happening in the courts rather than what was submitted by the public, but for now we are in a wait and see mode as the public comment period ended on December first.

Submissions for publication in the Fly Leaf can be made by contacting Lee Funkhouser at [flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com](mailto:flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com). Articles should be submitted by the last Friday of the month for inclusion in the following months newsletter.