



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE
COMMONS
February 9, 2016
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

FEBRUARY PROGRAM Phil Rowley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Skip Cavanaugh

My wife and I just got back from a great walk in the sunshine out here in Liberty Lake. Felt terrific! Now settled in and watching the Zags beat up on USF Dons in the first half. Be good to see them put two good half's together.

This is the time when we all look at setting goals for the year we would like to accomplish. Looking back at last year Neal, Lee and the Board achieved a significant goal of redesigning our website. So with that in mind, at our January board meeting I brought up the idea of establishing goals for 2016. This resulted in a very good discussion on potential goals we'd like to accomplish as a club for 2016. Following are the initial DRAFT goals we came up with:

1. Achieve full club membership.

For the first time in a number of years we have the opportunity to achieve full membership. If I recall correctly from my last discussion with Steve D. we are about 7 new members away from meeting this goal, and would like to challenge all our members who have not yet brought a friend or acquaintance interested in fly fishing to a meeting, to please do so. Don't forget the guests dinner is on the club. It's a free meal deal!

2. Create an Activities & Outings committee

As we bring in new members to the club this would be excellent way to get them acquainted with our fellow member. At a high level, this committee would be made up of a few experienced members and all of the new members. They would develop and plan activities and outings for the club. More details to come.

Phil Rowley needs no introduction. One of the foremost specialists on still water fishing, his presentation is sure to be a learning experience for even the finest of fly fishermen. This will be a must-see and you won't want to miss it. *Note that Harry Calhoun has recently added Phil Rowley and Brian Chan's "Conquering Chironomids—Volume II" to our video library.*



3. Develop job/task descriptions for each of the Board Officers – President, Vice President /Programs Leader, Treasurer, and Secretary.

This would significantly help incoming officers on understanding their role and responsibilities as officers.

Again, these are draft goals at this point and we welcome any thoughts and input from the membership. The plan is to finalize our goals at our next board meeting. Don't forget to pay your dues if you haven't done so already.

Look forward to seeing you on February 9th. Phil Rowley in the House!!!!

Dues need to be paid by March 1st. Please bring to the February Meeting.
Annual Dues—\$30.00.
Voluntary IFFF Contribution—\$3.00.

NEAL BEECHINOR PAST PRESIDENT

At the January meeting, past President Neal Beechinor was awarded a painting by IEFFC Artist-in-residence Gene Lorenson. The painting was a reminder of the beautiful Bull Trout caught by Neal this past fall on the Grande Ronde River. The fish is pictured on the right. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Neal for his service over the past 6 years as he proceeded through the chairs to the position of President.

This past year was a difficult one for Neal. As many of you know, he was diagnosed with cancer midway through his term of president. That did not deter Neal from performing his duties and staying the course. His courage throughout the ordeal is to be admired and his commitment to our club is a reflection upon his outstanding character.

Neal and his staff achieved much in 2015. Their emphasis on increasing the membership has been successful, reversing the



declining trend. We see numerous guests at every meeting now, due to changes made by the 2015 Board. Neal worked to improve our club presentation by modernizing our website. The projects committee continued on it's busy course with outstanding presence at the Big Horn Show and with projects ranging from fin clipping to stream restoration and beyond. Kid's Fishing remains a huge event, reinforced during Neal's tenure.

Neal took leadership seriously and the results are indisputable. He is a tireless worker and certainly an asset to our club. His example inspires us all and is a reminder of what the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club is all about.

Thank you, Neal, for all you have done to make our club great. We appreciate your contribution and we are blessed to have had you as our President this past year.

Christmas Raffle By Stephen Aspinwall

According to the Raffle Committee, everyone involved with our annual Christmas Raffle had a good time and the Club made some money. Except me, as I was having a good time catching trout on the North Island of New Zealand with my wife Patti. They tell me that there were some great items up for grabs. I missed out trying to get Bob Johnson's float trip on the Clark Fork, a day on the water with Rich Semler on the St. Joe River, and The Castaway Fly Shop trip on the Coeur d'Alene River. I didn't get a chance at one of Stan Miller's fish prints on the Silent Auction, nor had I a raffle chance on Gene Lorenson's original water color. The big ticket grabbers were Jerry McBride's popular flies as well those from Leonard Gross.

Remember those flies that our members tied at the Big Horn Show last spring?---well, those specialty flies attracted the 3rd most tickets of any item in the Raffle! I don't know what Matt Anderson contributed that was called "Simms Sling Pack with Supplies", but it got a lot of attention with 156 tickets. Those trout lamps that Steve Moran made for the Raffle must have been very attractive as they garnered a lot of your tickets. There was a lot of action on the Priest Lake stay donated by Bill Papesch as well as the Spring Valley wine (purchased with the help of Mike Marshall). Thank you all members for your donations.

According to Gordy Olson, our Raffle leader, we sold 6894 raffle tickets and attracted \$1620 in winner bids on the Silent Auction tables. Net of our costs, we raised \$5,174 not including the Sage Rod and the switch fly line that are currently up for raffle until March. We had 232 items in the Raffle/Auction list this year. That is compared to a net of \$3,788 for the 2014 event which shows how generous our members are getting, especially since I was not there to contribute my few dollars this year! The terrific part is that we made money for our activities, you had fun, and you got some great items to play with this next fishing season.

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Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

DID YOU KNOW

By Jerry McBride

I am having fun writing this column. One of the suggestions I have been given is to include pictures. Here are some more interesting things about our members that you might not have known.

- **Ray Kranches** was the Housing Officer at Edwards Air Force base in California. He met with and arranged housing for then Captain “Deke” Slayton and his family. Deke went on to become one of the NASA Mercury Seven astronauts.

- **Gene Lorensen** is a black powder enthusiast. He likes to tell about the time his local black powder club using muzzle loading pistols out-shot members of the Spokane Police Department shooting team who were using modern weapons.

- **Dick Odell** is a collector of many things. Included in his collection is a gas station mock-up modeled after long-time member **Mike Runje**'s station as it looked in the 1930's.



- **Bill McElroy** is a long-time Corvette owner. Recently he rebuilt the 1975 Corvette he bought new nearly doubling the horsepower of the engine. **Gary Honeyman** helped him a lot with the rebuild. The car has always been stored in a garage so it still looks brand-new.



- **Boyd Matson** was an aircraft mechanic working on B-36 bombers during his tour of duty in the Air Force.



- **Al Cunningham** grew up in California and served in the US Air Force as a dentist. For part of his tour of duty he was stationed at Fairchild Air Force base. He fell in love with the Spokane area, especially the fishing opportunities. After his tour of duty with the Air Force he moved to Spokane and started his dental practice. Al says “Spokane is one of the best-kept secrets for fly fishing”.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Grande Ronde Catch and Kill

By Rick Ripley

For the first time in many years, the state of Washington is allowing fishermen to catch and kill hatchery steelhead on the lower Grande Ronde River downstream from the county road bridge between Jan. 1 and April 15. Retention of hatchery fish is mandatory during that period this year.

That stretch of the Ronde has been catch and release since the mid-1980s. Thus, the change is controversial to conservation-minded fishermen who've become accustomed to the harvest ban. Many contend it results in a different experience than catch-and-keep fishing. "We did it to control the number of hatchery fish that are in the river," says Chris Donley, regional fish manager in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Spokane-area office. "We want to limit those that stray onto the spawning ground. This is all motivated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (NOAA)"

NOAA leads federal agencies that have management purview over Pacific Northwest wild steelhead runs declared threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. In recent years, catch-and-keep regulations for hatchery steelhead have been employed on the Methow River when it has been opened periodically. "It's a recovery tool" for the wild fish, Donley says. "We're instituting it statewide, on the Touchet, Tucannon, and Walla Walla." The rule already is in effect on the Wenatchee and will be implemented on the other side of the state.

Unlike the Methow, the Grande Ronde will continue to be catch and release between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, Donley says. "We left it catch and release when 95 percent of the fishermen are there." Oregon, upstream from the Washington section of the Grande Ronde, doesn't want fishermen to kill steelhead in the Ronde in the fall before they get to the Beaver State, he says.

The federal government wants fewer than 5 percent hatchery steelhead on spawning grounds in rivers where it's trying to preserve wild runs of steelhead. The state of Washington doesn't have the money to sample the percentage of hatchery fish, which are ineffective spawners, on spawning grounds, Donley says.

While it might be distasteful to some anglers to kill hatchery steelhead in the lower Ronde, "you're being asked to do it so you can continue to fish," he says. "Without some hatchery fish there, there would be no fishing. We'd receive no permit to operate our hatcheries unless we prove we're doing something to control hatchery fish on the spawning grounds." Those operations include the Cottonwood Creek Rearing Pond and the Lyons Ferry Hatchery.

Donley doesn't like it that under the new regulations on the lower Grande Ronde, an angler who retains three steelhead will have to quit fishing for the day. "I fish there as much as anybody you know," he says. Yet, he says fish habitat in the Ronde and its tributaries has been so damaged over the years that the drainage's ability to produce wild fish is limited. Tools such as allowing catch-and-keep fishing and requiring retention of hatchery steelhead are a compromise.

"Those fish aren't going to be delisted for a very long time," Donley adds. "If you want to be an active participant in steelhead recovery, get the hatchery fish out of there. If you want to fish for steelhead in 15 or 20 years, get them out of there." Selective gear rules, requiring the use of only unscented artificial flies or lures with one single-point barbless hook, remain in effect..

Movies and More!

Shack nasties got you? Got a full box of chironomids? Get out to a movie or a show! Here's a partial schedule for spring 2016: (Check the web for precise locations and ticket info)

Costa presents Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) - February 2 at the Bing-tickets at most area fly shops

The Fly Fishing Show: Lynwood, WA, February 13-14

Spey Fly Tying Class with Dave Tucker, Silver Bow Fly Shop, February 27

NW Fly Tying Expo: Albany, OR March 11-12

Big Horn Sportsmans' Show: Fairgrounds, March 17-20

IFFF Washington Show, Ellensburg March 29-30

Int'l Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4), April 1, 2016, Tickets at Silver Bow

And, a lot of lowland lakes open March 1. Check the Regs for the body of water you wish to fish in the Spring...opening days are all over the place!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Merkin Crab

February 2016

Leon Buckles

Del Brown developed this pattern. It has become one of the go to patterns for permit from the Florida Keys to Belize. It is also effective for bonefish and mutton snapper. It is normally fished in water six inches to four feet deep. Vary the size of the dumbbell so the fly sinks well but does not crash into the bottom. A good place to start is a size 5/32.

Hook: Straight eye, standard length, Mustad 3407, 34007 or equivalent.

Tail (Claws): Sparse pearl Flashabou in the center. Three pair of ginger variant hackle tips curving outward.

Legs: White round rubber with red tips.

Body/Thorax: Alternating strands of tan and brown yarn, tied across the shank of the hook with fluorescent green thread.

Eyes: Nickel lead dumbbell.



Step 1: Triangulate the hook point. Mount in the vise and tie in the dumbbell eyes on top of the hook shank. Then tie in Flashabou as a tail. Next tie in the variant hackle tips as claws, curving outward.

Step 2: Rotate the hook so you tie in the body yarn on the bottom of the shank, alternating tan and brown. Tie in 3 sets of legs equally spaced on the shank as you progress forward building the body.

Step 3: Comb out the yarn so it fluffs up. I use a mustache comb. An underfur hair comb or a piece of Velcro glued to a Popsicle stick also work well.

Step 4: Trim the body to the shape of a crab. Trim legs to length and paint tips red. Be careful to not clip off a leg while trimming the yarn or you will end up with a handicapped crab.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Christmas Raffle (continued) By Stephen Aspinwall

We want to thank all the members who contributed their time to make the Raffle a success. I was not there, but they tell me the following guys helped: Jim Athearn, Hugh Evans, Randy Shaber, Mike Marshall, Rick Ripley, Bill Papesh, Lowell Tveit, Dick O'Dell, John Ralston and all those member elves who ran around so fast they didn't get counted by name.

As a reminder for next year, please think of the December, 2016 Raffle if you get a chance to ask a guide or lodge to donate a free or discounted trip. Also, throughout the fishing season, think of the Raffle if you come across a unique item that you could ask from a vendor as you buy that new Sage rod or RIO fly line in Montana. I sure wish that I was there, but maybe Patti won't take me on another far away fishing trip next year! But don't count on it!



Stephen Aspinwall

Raffle Committee

IFFF Report By Chet Allison

YOUTH WORKSHOP 9:00am-3:PM SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

You may sign up for this workshop on our registration section on our website. Go to www.wsciff.org, link onto "Fly Fishing Fair", go to "registration" and sign up. This workshop includes lunch and a fly rod kit at the end of the event. You will be introduced to fly tying, fly casting and fly fishing techniques. The event starts at 9:00am with Mike Koslosky's class on "March the Hatch", at 10:00am a fly tying class with a professional fly tyer, 11:00am will be casting instruction, lunch, afternoon of casting or fly tying – your choice. I am a registered Fly Fishing Merit Badge counselor with the Pacific Harbors Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Any scouts interested in obtaining credit for requirements, please bring your own blue card for my signature for the portion you have earned. Contact information:

To Join FFF simply go to the website listed.

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/>, click Membership, click join then the blue round button Join the FFF today



Federation of Fly Fishers
Conserve, Restore and Educate Through Fly Fishing

The Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club
FFF Charter Member and McKenzie Plaque Winner
The WSCFFF 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.

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