

# The Fly Leaf



Volume 66 No. 2

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February, 2021

INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB  
DECEMBER ZOOM MEETING

**TUESDAY February 9**

BYOB Wet Fly 6:30 Meeting 7:00 PM

**Connection details to follow by email**

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jon Bowne

Generally, the president's message is one of recounting a recent successful (or unsuccessful) fishing trip he made. I'm afraid I won't be able to do that. Thanks to my own lung issues, I have been overly cautious and avoided going out fishing or doing much of anything that involved proximity to people since March. I was chased out of Scotland in late February by the virus just weeks before the travel bans started.

Arriving back home I was looking forward to a productive year. I was prepared. After a week to recover from jet lag my boat was loaded, rods, reels, and flies packed for a shakedown trip to a local lake, then bang! Outdoor recreation was suspended. I put the boat back and crossed my fingers hoping it would all be over in a month or so. It was not to be.

I cancelled Airbnb reservations for a spring trip to Montana. As it dragged on, I cancelled a week long North Fork fall trip as cases were spiking in north Idaho. I did manage to sneak in a couple hours of creek fishing in western Washington, or as you guys call it, the coast. I grew up in Seattle. The coast was Hoquiam and Ocean Shores.

So I have resolved to get back into the dirty habit of fly fishing. Armed with my first of two shots of vaccine, I'll cast off this Covid funk and head out. That will be made easier, I hope, by a new service for the club proposed by Jim Athearn and now spearheaded by Bob Schmitt. They will be working with our webmasters to come up with a "Buddy Fishing Service." It will be a way to connect with others in the club to arrange trips to local hot spots. Just one fisher posting, "Hey, I'm going to so-and-so lake tomorrow. Anybody want to join me?" Bob will explain it all at the next meeting.

I hope to see you all as we Zoom into February. Rich has some great speakers lined up for the coming year. Stay safe and be well.

Tight lines,  
Jon

## February Meeting Russell Dobrzynski

### "Fly Fishing the Mighty Mo"

Learn about the types of fish and quality of wild trout the Missouri River and its tributaries have to offer. From the classic tail-water stretch below Holter Dam to fifteen miles of gorgeous canyon that resembles a mountainous freestone experience, to the challenge of fishing the meandering lower river, braiding around countless islands and riffles, earning the reputation as the largest spring creek in the world; come along as I detail the dynamic seasons and bug hatches of this world renowned fishery.

My dad introduced me to the outdoors of Minnesota and Wisconsin, essentially from birth. I picked up a fly rod for the first time when I was about nine and although I taught myself to cast, I didn't get into fly fishing until many years later I was 31 years old when I caught my first trout on a fly rod! My learning curve shot straight up! Since then I've fished extensively in Montana and Wisconsin.



I started guiding in Montana in 2007, and in 2014, I became a Montana licensed outfitter, branding my own company as Montana Dream Fishing Outfitters LLC. I produce videos for The Montanan Dream YouTube Channel, write The Montana Dream Blog and produce The Montana Dream Cast, which is a podcast I created with local radio personality, Scott Hirschi.

I feel incredibly fortunate to be making a living, guiding on the Missouri River. It can be one of the most technical rivers in the country for the novice angler and has kicked my ass numerous times in the beginning. However, with years of experience, a good deal of creativity and an understanding of the dynamics of a river like the Mo, I've developed a style of guiding and an understanding of the fishery that ensures success for my clients and myself. I'm looking forward to sharing my knowledge of the Mo with you!

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

## President Emeritus Leon Buckles

Leon Buckles has been named by the IEFEC Board of Directors as our President Emeritus. It is an honor conferred on one member at a time and for the lifetime of the individual appointed.

Leon was born in Kansas and migrated to Washington where his father was a grass farmer on Orchard Prairie. He graduated from John Rogers High School.

Leon met **Karl Paulson** in 1948. Karl (a name familiar with all outdoorsmen) became his mentor for both hunting and fishing. They hunted cats and coons with hounds and hunted deer, upland birds and waterfowl. They fished together regularly for cutthroats at the Little Pend Oreille Lakes chain. Leon received a fly tying kit for Christmas in 1953 and James Hyndman's book *Modern Fly Craft* (1938). Eventually he took a fly tying course from **Everett Caryl** and built his first fly rod under Everett's direction.



In 1961 while serving as a Navy Airman, he married Peggy in Bremerton, Washington. They returned to Spokane to raise their family. His most memorable fishing experience was the first time he fly-fished alone. He fished with his Montgomery Ward fly rod and reel filled with a level sinking line and a mosquito. He fished off the weed bed near the boat ramp at Williams Lake. The fish were suicidal that day. He was so proud and could not wait to tell Karl, only to discover that a mosquito was a dry fly. In 1962, he joined the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club but got off to a rocky start and missed several meetings as a result of the Cuban missile crisis. He was working at Fairchild AFB as a field modification mechanic and was put on night shift for several months. He became IEFEC Secretary in 1964.



In 1966, Leon began a career with Kaiser Aluminum, Trentwood Works in the engineering department. After well established at Kaiser, he moonlighted as a flight instructor and charter pilot for Felts Field Aviation. In 1969 Leon became president of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. Leon taught fly tying in Adult Education classes at North Pines Junior High and at the Sport Cove after **Rex Gerlach** moved to California. Among his students were names such as **Dell Coppock, Dick Odell, and Floyd Holmes**. In 1981 he was named IEFEC Fly Fisherman of the Year.

In 1982, Leon was transferred to Kaiser Aluminum Technical Services, an overseas management division of Kaiser. He was assigned to work in the West African country of Ghana, a tour that lasted fifteen years. During these years, Peggy and Leon were fortunate enough to travel on six of the seven continents and see many diverse cultures and wonders of our world. During Leon's fifteen years in Ghana, he pioneered offshore fishing primarily for blue marlin. As a certified open water diver he also explored shipwrecks and did some spear fishing. Twice he took first place in the IGFA Annual Fishing Contest for largest of species and also earned an all tackle World Record for West African Spanish mackerel. In 1998 he landed a 1283 pound (weight estimated by IGFA from measurements and photos) blue marlin. He exercised many blue marlin and landed fifty-four during his stay in Ghana. Their average weight was approximately five hundred pounds each. There are one thousand ways to lose a marlin and he says he has found one thousand and one.

Leon and his good friend **Hardy Kruse** took many trips together, especially exploratory ones. In 1997, they spent one month in the Cariboo District of British Columbia exploring the lakes and found at least a half dozen lakes that produced 24-inch or better fish. Leon has fly-fished many places in this world and with many IEFEC members, in warm saltwater to the cold water of Alaska. His list of fly-fishing locations and his life list of fish caught is impressive.

Leon is considered by all that know him as an outstanding fisherman and is sought out for his knowledge and expertise, which he shares willingly. He is an excellent craftsman and always involved in some project, designing and building it in his shop. He hosted the **Don Chinn Fly Tyers** for several years in his barn loft.

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

## President Emeritus, Continued

Since Leon's retirement in 1997, he and Peggy split their time between Spokane and their place on the Clark Fork River near Thompson Falls, Montana. Leon continues as the IEFEC Archivist. In 2005-2006, Leon served as chairman of our club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Leon received the IEFEC Distinguished Service Award in 2007 and the Ed Wolfe Memorial Award in 2009. There are simply no more awards to be given to Leon. He has them all. We are fortunate to have him as President Emeritus.



## Acceptance By Leon Buckles

WOW!! What a terrific surprise. Of the various awards the club has bestowed upon me over the years, to be named President Emeritus is the greatest. I will strive to uphold the standard set by my honored predecessors.

The club was six years old when I joined its ranks. I have seen many changes over the years as our sport has evolved and grown. During my time in this club, I consider it to be a JOURNEY OF OPPORTUNITY.

- It has given me the opportunity to meet people with a similar love for the sport of fly fishing. Many of these people have become life-long friends. Sadly over time many have passed but the memories remain strong.
- It has given me the opportunity to learn and apply new methods and techniques to present the fly to various species of fish.
- It has given me the opportunity to improve my fly tying by learning new techniques and exposure to new materials available to tie more effective flies.
- It has given me the opportunity to learn new destinations to pursue additional species of fish and see the great waters that God has made for us to enjoy.
- It has given me the opportunity to meet some of the predominate personalities of our sport. I will always cherish time spent with these people. Among them, Lee Wulff, Dan Bailey, Leon Chandler, Phil Rowley, to name a few. You learn that most are great individuals, not just great fishermen.

The club has given me more than I have given it. I love this club and want to see it continue to promote the sport of fly fishing and preservation of our outdoor resources. One way, I believe for this to happen, is that each and every member should give some of their talent and time toward this endeavor. Thank you all for this honor.

## Reminder-Dues are Due!

Please send your 2021 dues to the club in the stamped, addressed envelope in the dues letter that you received from the club in early January. Dues need to be received by March 1 according to the club's by-laws. Cut that check today!

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

## Fly Fisherman of the Year Guy Gregory

Our 2020 Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club Fly Fisherman of the Year is a very deserving Guy Gregory. He has been a “behind the scenes” worker for IEFFC for a number of years and in 2020 had a great fly fishing year.

Guy is co editor of our newsletter *The Fly Leaf* and also works on the website to keep things on our website current. His enthusiasm and attention to detail are evident in his work on the Publications Committee.

He does an annual presentation on the status of our watershed and assists us in anticipating what kind of year our fisheries will experience. His knowledge in the area of hydrology is extensive and the information invaluable. We look forward to the April presentation as an annual event.

2020 was a year for Guy to also accomplish a major fly fishing goal as he completed the Wyoming Cutthroat Slam, netting four species of cutthroat. He was accompanied by his dog Dugan and accomplished the task in a little over a week. The trout listed in the slam are the Snake River, Colorado, Yellowstone and Bonneville species of cutthroat. It is a huge accomplishment and his article in the September issue of *The Fly Leaf* has motivated additional club members to add this to their bucket list.



Guy continues to work for the betterment of the club and the IEFFC is blessed to have Guy as a member and as our **2020 Fly Fisherman of the Year**.

**Editor’s note:** I look up to and admire the members of this club as anglers, conservationists, sportsmen, and men. I am deeply humbled to be named Fly Fisherman of the Year for 2020. Thank you.

### A few websites you may find interesting

Covid and winter have many of us cooped up and threatened by the shack nasties. Here’s some fairly obscure websites with great content you may not have seen that may help. Of course, hit up local shop websites, the FFI webpage, and our own IEFFC webpage for great content!

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|---|--|
| <a href="http://www.troutandfeather.com/">http://www.troutandfeather.com/</a>   | Tim Camisas' page, with tons of fly tying and fishing tips, with a Pennsylvanian accent                            |
| <a href="https://flytyingnewandold.blogspot.com/">https://flytyingnewandold.blogspot.com/</a>   | Literally hundreds of patterns, often information on the history of the fly in focus.                              |
| <a href="https://anchoredoutdoors.com/">https://anchoredoutdoors.com/</a>   | Homepage for April Vokey’s outdoor podcast, presenting in-depth interviews with interesting folks on great topics. |
| <a href="https://globalflyfisher.com/">https://globalflyfisher.com/</a>   | Northern European focused, excellent content, interesting takes on angling, especially for anadromous fish         |
| <a href="https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/nighttimevise/?hl=en">https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/nighttimevise/?hl=en</a> | On Instagram, each night at 7PM Pacific, a live tying group gathers. Organized by Spokane’s own Josh Mills         |
| <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/DavieMcPhail">https://www.youtube.com/c/DavieMcPhail</a>   | Perhaps the best fly tying content on YouTube.   |
| <a href="https://subscribe.orvis.com/fly_tying_101_s21/">https://subscribe.orvis.com/fly_tying_101_s21/</a>                           | Orvis Fly tying 101 free classes! Schedule on webpage  |

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



## **2020 Presidents' Awards**

### **By Bob Schmitt**

My Fellow Members,

This past year has been one of anxiety and unknowns for me. It seemed like one challenge after another continued to arise. Our Club has been able to thrive for over 60 years now and my overriding motivation has been to see that it doesn't fall by the wayside on my watch. With the business plan changing out at Mukagowa, it was apparent that we needed to find a new home for our Club meetings. With the change in the Treasurer function, our Bylaws needed to be updated in a few areas. Based on these challenges, I turned to experienced members of our Club for help, advice and counsel. To a man they all rose to the occasion. The gentlemen listed below (in alphabetical order) are the guys that came to my aid. They are getting a personal 'Thank You' from me by way of a President's Award. They are:

**MATT ANDERSEN** – Who better to make the necessary changes to the Bylaws than an attorney like Matt. The changes needed to be worded such that no ambiguity existed that would allow conjecture on the part of anyone. When I asked Matt to take on this project, he immediately stepped up. We went thru a number of iterations and came up with a solid set of Bylaws that were ratified by our Board and the Membership at large. The very least I can do is honor Matt with a President's Award.

**JIM ATHEARN** – The finest confidant anyone could ask for. I sought advice from Jim many times during the year. In most cases, he had a better idea of what to do than I did. For this reason, Jim is most deserving of a President's Award.

**PHIL BECK** – As the outgoing President, Phil was an advisor to the incoming President. Phil was always ready to help with choosing the best path on the correct decision to make. Phil was an indispensable help as I worked thru many issues this past year. He too is most deserving of a President's Award.

**SKIP CAVANAUGH** – When we had to find a new home for our Club, I turned to Skip because I knew he had done an extensive search back in 2012 for an alternative to Mukagowa. Turns out at that time, Mukagowa was still the best choice. However, with Mukagowa's change in business plan, we had no choice but to find a new home. Skip volunteered immediately. His past experience paved the way for our move to the Ramada Inn out at the airport. He too deserves a thank you by way of a President's Award.

**JERRY HARMS** – Over the past year I continually sought counsel from Jerry. He was always supportive with advice and encouragement. That kind of support certainly merits a President's Award.

**MIKE MARSHALL** – A big 'Thank You' to Mike for his three years of participation as an 'At Large Board' member. That kind of dedication also merits a President's Award.

All of these gentleman will receive a framed certificate acknowledging their service to our Club.

**Roster corrections  
by  
Lee Funkhouser**

Robert Whaley 2416 S. Napa Spokane, WA 99203

**Reminder-Dues are Due March 1**

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

## Proposed Boater Law Change HB 1018/SB 5176 2021 Legislature

In Washington, in order to operate a motor-driven boat or vessel of 15 horsepower or greater, a person must be at least 12 years old and: (1) possess a boater education card; or (2) be accompanied by and under the supervision of a person at least 16 years old who has a boater education card. Certain individuals are not required to have a boater education card. Among those exemptions are persons born before January 1, 1955.

This year's legislature is considering expanding the requirement to non-motorized craft, and doing away with the birthday exemption. Similar bills exist in the House and the Senate, the bill numbers are above.

In each bill:

Operators of human-propelled vessels in marine waters are required to obtain either a human-propelled boater education card or a boater education card.

A person operating a human-propelled vessel is not required to obtain a boater education card if they are renting and operating the vessel under the guidance of a rental business, or they are operating the vessel within the first 60 days after purchase.

Human-propelled vessels include a vessel that is oared and paddled including canoes, kayaks, rafts, and stand-up paddleboards. A human-propelled vessel does not include a surfboard. *Ed. Note: This will include float tubes, prams, pontoon boats, etc.*

The exemptions to the boater education card requirement for a person operating a motor driven boat or vessel with a mechanical power of 15 horsepower or less, or a person born before January 1, 1955, are eliminated.

Failure to possess a human-propelled vessel boater education card as required is a natural resource infraction punishable by fine.

In the Senate, Bill 5176 is sponsored by Senator Van de Wege. In the House, Bill 1018 is sponsored by Representatives Lovick, Ryu, Ortiz-Self, Goodman, and Orwall.

Currently, boater education courses range in cost from free to \$50 online. Once complete, you submit a copy of your completion certificate and \$10 to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Boating Program and in 2-4 weeks they send you a card. No mention of costs or additional fees is in the legislative bills.

Perhaps your legislative representative would appreciate an email, letter, or phone call with your feelings on the matter. You can reach them through information on <https://leg.wa.gov/>.

## Pebble Mine Update

Northern Dynasty minerals have posted to the company's website the Pebble Limited Partnership's appeal of the US Army Corps of Engineers' recent issuance of a negative Record of Decision for their Pebble Mine Project. The appeal is dated January 19, 2021.

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

# ***FLY OF THE MONTH***

## **Balanced Mop Fly**

**February 2021**

**Jerry McBride**

Several years ago I became aware of mop flies. They are tied using “fingers” cut from mops made to dust cars. The mops come in a variety of bright colors. The internet has loads of information on mop flies, where to purchase them, how to tie them and where to purchase material to tie them.

The original mop fly with the finger tied in near the eye of the hook leaves a lot of space between the hook and the body. To me, this means missed strikes when the fish gets the body of the fly in its mouth but not the hook. For those that know me, I am always looking to tie my flies in balanced form, here’s my take. The orange mop fly has so far been the most successful.

Hook: Daiichi 4640 Size 10  
Thread: 8/0 Orange  
Bead: 1/8 Orange Tungsten  
Pin: Sequin pin or regular straight pin cut to length  
Tail: Orange Mop Finger  
Body: Orange Mop Finger unfurled  
Collar: Hareline Dubbin Micro Polar Chenille Hot Orange

Pinch barb, put hook in vise and line hook with thread.

Put pin through bead nestling the head of the pin in the countersunk end of bead. Loosely lash pin onto shank of hook with bead about two bead diameters from eye of hook. Secure bead in place by forming a thread dam behind it. Half hitch, cut thread and remove hook from vise.

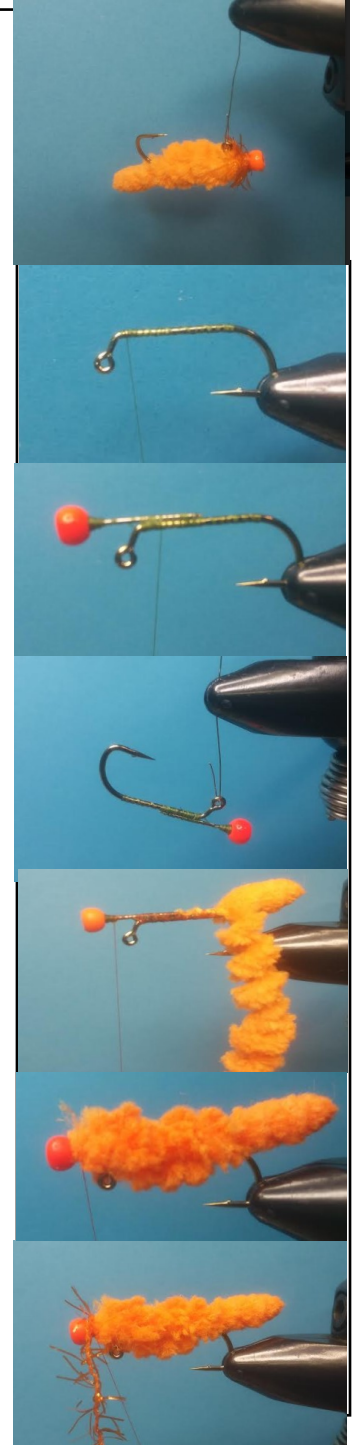
Hang hook on a piece of wire through eye of hook to check balance. Wiggle the pin to slide bead closer or further from the eye to get the rear of the hook up a bit to allow for weight of material to be added. You only have to do this for the first fly. Use the first fly as a gauge for all subsequent flies.

Put hook back in vise, restart thread. Coat thread wraps with super glue and wrap thread through the glue. Strip fuzz on mop finger back to point where about 3/8” of finger remains. Tie in for tail. Then, unfurl a mop finger and tie it in at the bend of the hook. Bring thread forward and let bobbin hang behind the bead.

Wind unfurled mop finger forward and tie off just behind the bead. Trim excess.

Tie in chenille, make multiple wraps, tie off, whip finish and trim off thread and chenille.

YouTube resources: Jelly Mop by Phil Rowley.  
Wooly Worm from mop material by The Frugal Fly Rodder



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

## FFI Happenings

We understand FFI we will not be having an International Expo in 2021, and after 50 years, it has been retired. The FFI Board are working on a plan to roll out a regional Expo model that will begin in 2022.

FFI Online, Season Two is underway. Their seminar series change weekly, so check this webpage often. the latest was a delightful seminar by Jeff Currie on his adventures Fly Fishing Oman. Check these out at

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online>

Seminars completed in the last two years are available on the FFI website. They encompass a wide range of topics, from Conservation: Arctic Grayling Historic Distribution, Research, and Restoration in Michigan, or Conversations: Columbia River and the Pacific Northwest Salmon and Steelhead Recovery with Dr. Richard Williams to Fly Casting: How To Get Certified, The Road To Casting Instructor and lots of tying, including Soft Hackles for Pan Fish to Taming Elk Hair with Jerry Coviello.

Directors of the Washington Council have joined the Amazon Smile program to help fund our work. You can help by shopping through Amazon Smile. To join follow these steps:

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), sign in with the Amazon.com credentials you ordinarily use to shop at Amazon. Search the list of charities and select Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA. Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your computer to make it easy to return to the charity site.

Every time you shop through Amazon Smile a portion of every purchase you make will help fund FFI education and environmental stewardship in Washington. Several FFI councils nationwide participate in the program so be sure to select Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA when you sign up.

## IEFFC Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jon Bowne  
Vice President: Rich Semler  
Treasurer: Bob Johnson  
Secretary: Denny Carson  
Matt Anderson (2021)  
Doug Brossoit (2022)  
Jerry Harms (2023)

Membership Committee Chair: Steve Dixon

Contact information for all Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs are in the 2020/2021 Roster. If you've inquiries, email [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, whatever, into the next issue...**

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