



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
Tuesday, May 14th, 2024
Wet Fly Hour 5:30pm
Dinner 6:30pm
Spokane Airport Ramada Inn

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

MAY PROGRAM BYRON JOHNSON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Bob Johnson

Mother Nature, oh Mother Nature, You tease us with some relatively warm weather for a couple of days then rip it out from beneath us and drop down to the low 30's again. How is anyone able to plan a nice dry fishing trip when you keep doing that to us. We have to carry twice as much gear because we don't know if you're going to rain and snow on us or burn us with your hot blazing sun. Either way we are happy you are clearing the waters as it's flowing down the stream beds and awakening the bugs to feed the fish.

Speaking of the water flowing down the stream beds. With the flows picking up, I am sure everyone has heard of the terrible tragedy that took place on the North Fork of the CDA river. That's where a person, fly fishing with his great grandson, slipped in, and his body was found 2 days later. I personally was worried that it might be a club member, but thankfully it wasn't. So, I urge everyone to please be extra careful during runoff as the water is quick and can be quite dangerous. Our prayers of comfort to his family are offered.

Our next fishout is scheduled for June 15th at Medical Lake. This fishout will be hosted by **Lee Funkhouser**. It's just fishing, food and laughs with your club members. Plus maybe a few poaches thrown in for fun. Rsvp's will be sent out later along with details, so watch your email.

Don't forget the Ronald McDonald house outing and kids fishing day.

I have been approached with some great ideas for other fishout locations. But unfortunately I have the memory of gnat, or should I say midge. I would appreciate any feedback, suggestions or just things you would like to see the club do, email me at, jaf111@comcast.net. It is your club, so help us make this a club you want to be involved with. Make it worth your time.

Club member **Byron Johnson** will be doing a presentation on Saltwater Flats and Blue Water Fly Fishing. Major emphasis on the Flats and its species. It should be a very entertaining program.

Byron has fished extensively, all over the world, and his presentations are filled with personal anecdotes. Byron is an exceptional photographer and his program will be filled with amazing pictures of the flats.

This is a program that you will really enjoy.

In addition to the presentation, we will have **Matt Mason** tying his "One Fly Contest" winning fly and will have some to be given out in the dinner ticket raffle.

We will continue to have a table of free items and Skip will have some items that the Legacy Committee will be selling at amazingly low prices.

This is the last of my ramblings you have to put up with until September. Our Summer break is approaching and I am wishing everyone a happy, safe and successful summer of fishing. If you want to go out fishing and need someone to fish with, I suggest flipping thru your roster, call someone you haven't fished with and make a date. Since I joined the club in 2014, I have had the privilege of fishing with 28 different members. That does not include multiple persons outings. I hope I have been able to donate some of my knowledge because I have certainly learned a lot. Especially about still water fishing. You may learn something or you may have something to teach. Share your knowledge and make a new friend, or better yet, make a new fishing buddy. It doesn't get any better than that.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the final meeting before the summer. That's Tuesday May 14th at 5:30 at the Ramada at the airport for wet fly hour to start.

Bob J

SOMETIMES THINGS GO SOUTH

By Leon Buckles



The second week of April, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club members, **Bob Burton, Bill Papesh, and Leon Buckles**, were on their annual trip to the Bahamas. Three good friends, Jim, Larry and Mic, were a part of the group to fish for bonefish. We would meet up with Larry in route and Mic in Nassau.

The day before we were to leave Spokane, Bob received a phone call. Mic, on the phone asks Bob where he was. Bob replied, "At home, where are you?" The reply was, "In Nassau." Mic was in Nassau a day early. He called Hermon Bain and made arrangements to spend an extra day at the camp.

The other members of the group arrived on schedule and gathered their luggage and proceed to check in with LeAir for the short trip

to Fresh Creek. Our reservations had been sold to other customers and the plane was full. Someone failed to secure the reservations with a credit card. It was then a scramble to find transportation to our destination.

Gator (a pilot we had flown with before) was available to fly a charter flight in a twin engine Piper. Gathering up our luggage, we hired a van to take us to the private aviation area of the airport. After boarding the charter, we began to taxi to the active runway. During the taxi, ground control radioed that we hold our position for approximately 10 minutes. A Cessna 208 Caravan had a flat tire on the runway. After 10-minutes, ground control instructed us to return to the apron for thirty additional minutes. When released for departure, the stacked up arriving and departing aircraft slowed down our departure.

Mic and Leon had a bit of excitement while fishing the expanses of the Joulters. Leon hooked a bonefish in very shallow water and immediately two sharks appeared. In an effort to prevent the bonefish from becoming a meal, he frantically began striping in line. Hermon began flailing the water with his push pole when three additional sharks appeared.

With the fish in a net, Hermon lowered the prop slightly into the water and began to leave the area. As we got into deeper water the prop was lowered further into the water and we picked up speed. Three of the sharks followed the boat. Bringing the fish into the boat we left the area at full speed. Clear of the area we released the fish. As he swam away our hopes were that he survived. Later in the week one other bonefish was attacked by a shark after it was released. It did not survive.

The morning we left, arrangements were made for two taxis to pick the six of us at 6 am for the 9-mile trip to the airport. Only one taxi was on time. When the second one arrived it was occupied by two other passengers with only room for one of us. Hermon again came to the rescue.

While fishing on the last day, a doctor fly bit Bob on the ring finger. The next morning his finger and hand were badly swollen. When we arrived at the Atlanta airport he required medical attention. His wedding ring was cutting off the circulation. This resulted in him missing the connecting flight and he arrived home one day late.

In spite of everything, it was a great trip. Several large bonefish (4-7 lbs.) were caught. The home cooked meals and conch salads were fantastic. Each evening happy hour in the pergola solidified our lasting friendships.



Conch Shells

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

KID'S FISHING By Bryan Harman

Kid's fishing is coming up quickly and this is a great opportunity to assist WDFW in giving the area youth a chance to experience fishing. True, it's not fly fishing, but we work closely with Randy and his group and many of these youngsters will graduate to our sport at some time in their fishing career.

The Kids Fishing day will be at Clear Lake on May 11 from 8 am to 3 pm. These kids just want to fish and have a good time like we all did all those years ago, (spin casting rod and a tub of worms) but they can use pointers on rigging a bait, when to set the hook, fighting the fish and even cleaning fish. If you think this is a thankless job come clean fish with me for about an hour, I get so many "thank yous" and "thank god I don't have to do that" from parents that aren't that "outdoorsy".

You don't have to come for the whole day. If you can do a few hours we can find stuff for you to do. If you're there after 3, bring a pair of needle nose pliers. When Randy and his team pull up the nets confining the fish for the kids, there are hooks caught in the nets. A pair of pliers helps to get them out. You also get to warm up to the game wardens and fish biologists in the area so they don't get stuck doing it all by themselves. That's just icing on the cake.

Also remember the Ronald McDonald house effort. We meet on Friday 5/10 at the Ronald McDonald House at 2 pm and then head out to Clear Lake (or you can meet us at Clear Lake Recreation area about 2:30). These kids from Ronald McDonald house get to come out before the other kids and catch a few fish before the crowds on Saturday. If you can help these kids catch a few fish, their excitement and smiles will stick with you for a long time to come. Side note for volunteers. It seems like every year we need people with long handle landing nets, a pair of needle nose pliers (hemostats) for removing hooks from fish and the nets, and if you happen to have an old fish bonker those are handy from time to time.

Please considering volunteering and look at this flyer: Bring along two cans of food, and get entered into a drawing from these other fine supporters of Kid's Fishing!

Contacts for this program are **Floyd Holmes and Bryan Harman**. Editors note: This is an absolutely great time!

Spokane Kid's Fishing Event

Canned Food Drive

Donate at least 2 cans of food at the Event, and your name will be entered into a drawing for a prize from one of these fine supporters!!



KID'S FISHING Rod Building

The first volunteer opportunity connected with Kid's Fishing was held on Tuesday evening, April 23rd, at the Wildlife Council Headquarters. Volunteers unpacked and made ready 1,000 fishing rods for the kids to fish with, and then take home following the fishing event.

The process is somewhat tedious, requiring the addition of a swivel, hook and weight to each of the rods, but the group was lively and home made cookies helped make it a fun event.

The following members from the IEFEC were present and assisted in getting this important task completed: **Charlie Boettcher, Bryan Harman, Stephen Aspinwall, Floyd Holmes and Lee Funkhouser.**

The dates for the balance of Kid's Fishing are

May 10th (Ronald McDonald House)

May 11th (Public Event)

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

MEDICAL LAKE OUTING JUNE 15TH

The outings have been successful and we have now scheduled our next event which will be after the reopening of the Medical Lake boat launch.

Saturday, June 15th is the planned date and we will be sending additional information to members the first week of June. Reports on the fishing have been good and the area is perfect for a get together.

We will be providing food for lunch and there will be lots of free advice on how to fish the lake.

It is a lake that has special regulations. No motors are allowed, so be prepared to row or utilize your fins. It is also a selective gear lake which means terminal fishing gear is limited to artificial flies with single-point barbless hooks or lures with single-point barbless hooks and bait is prohibited. Up to three hooks may be used. Only knotless nets may be used to land fish. In waters under selective gear rules, fish may be released until the daily limit is retained.

We hope to see you there!



FLY TYING NIGHTS

We have discontinued the fly tying nights until next fall. The program was a lot of fun and well attended all through the winter. Yaya was a great place to meet and the available fly tying help was exceptional. We look forward to getting this program going again when the weather pushes us back indoors and welcome any suggestions to make the experience even better. Now it's time to see how well those flies are working.



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

AMBER LAKE OUTING ONE FLY CONTEST

Despite being a tough weather day, the Amber Lake fish out was a huge success. The food was great, once we were able to shield the grill from the wind so the flame wouldn't keep blowing out, and the One Fly competition was fierce.

The wind started out tolerable, but as the day wore on, it gradually became pretty rough. The fishing was not great, but fish were being caught and this years Amber Lake fish are big and strong.

Our inaugural "One Fly Contest" was a battle to the end, with **Matt Mason** edging out **Jerry McBride**, though Jerry had a chance to tie in the waning minutes, only to see his line go limp with the tying fish halfway in. Matt's winning fly is his own "Matts Damsel" and is featured as our Fly of the Month in this issue.

We are looking forward to the next outing, and also looking forward to next years One Fly Contest, as this will become an annual event.



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

ROSTER CORRECTIONS

We will be sending out roster additions and corrections through our IEFFC membership email list. Check the roster and let us know if there are corrections to your member information.

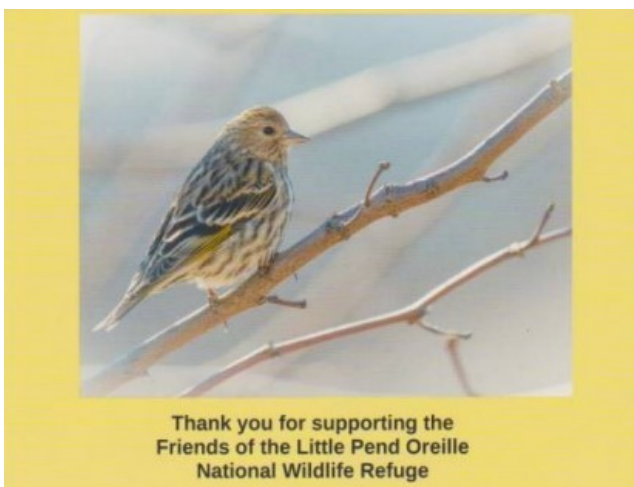
Corrections can be sent to: flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

TIPS TO CATCH FISH DURING HIGH WATER Riverbum

- Fish tight to the banks. To conserve energy, fish will hold close to the banks, out of the main current.
- Shorten your rig and strengthen your tippet. When casting tight to the bank, it's easier to do so with a shorter rig, and fish become less leader-shy as flows increase.
- This is a great time for streamer fishing! Again, cast tight to the bank and strip downstream.
- High water means worms! Be sure to stock worm patterns and don't be afraid to use them in high-flow situations.
- Fish darker patterns with some flashy features! This will make them more visible to the hungry and aggressive meat-eaters lurking below.

THANK YOU FROM Friends of the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

WADING SAFETY

By Lee Funkhouser

In light of the recent drowning on the North Fork of the Coeur D'Alene, safety is an issue that we should revisit. The unfortunate event could have happened to any of us. As I was told years ago, "If you haven't fallen in the river, you haven't fished". Everyone falls at some point and that means that we all should follow some important steps to help us survive a fall.

The first step is to take precautions that will minimize the chance that you will fall.

Observation is a key element. When crossing the river or stream, always look for the easiest water to cross. If possible, cross downstream from deep troughs. That will help you avoid being pushed into deep water. Take the time and effort to walk upstream or downstream a few steps more to avoid the more difficult water. Always look for that shallow wide area that poses minimal risk. In some cases, especially during Spring runoff, it may be wise to just look at a different spot to fish.

Always have a wading staff available and make sure it is utilized. Many believe the staff is best positioned upstream so that if it slips the flow of the water will actually help you retain your balance. If it is downstream, and it slips, you will be more likely to fall as the force of the water will be pushing you down. However, there is also the theory that keeping it more in front of you, will help you to detect depth changes and underwater debris that could trip you up. In reality, the most important thing to keep in mind is **be patient**. The wading staff provides a third point of contact and to use it successfully you should always make sure only one of the three points of contact is moving at a time, leaving the other two points in solid contact with the bottom of the river.

Don't multi-task while you are fishing in the river. If you are moving down a run, finish your drift and then take your three steps. Don't be fishing and moving at the same time.

Make sure your footwear is appropriate. If you are required to use rubber soles, you may need to add cleats or studs to make the boots safer. If felt is allowed, it will give you some added protection against the slippery rocks that you encounter.

Finally, I again emphasize that you be patient. Observation is your best tool in preventing a fall. Just look around, sometimes after each step, and take note of your surroundings.

The second step is to be prepared for when you do fall.

As I said earlier, everyone falls at some point. It is inevitable. With that in mind, there are some things you should do to prepare yourself.

Wear clothes, including waders, that give you freedom of movement. If your clothes make it hard to move around out of the water, they will become a detriment in the water. It's not a fashion show...well, okay, for some it is, but wear clothes and have gear that is functional, **and safe**.

Tighten your waist belt so that if you do fall, water will not go to your feet. Many waders come with stretchy belts. Consider getting one that does not stretch and then tighten it up.

Wear a personal flotation device. There are many approaches with this and each has its merits. Some pfd's are quite bulky and will impair your fishing. Here we will discuss two options that can be useful in rivers or streams, while still enabling you to comfortably fish.

First, a classic foam vest will provide upper body flotation and, if fit tightly over your waders, will also help prevent water from entering your waders if you do fall. Some of these are designed to provide dual purpose as a pfd and a fishing vest. The negative to this approach is that it will not insure that you will stay facing up if unconscious, but it will keep you afloat.

Second is the automatic pfd that inflates by pulling the inflation handle or automatically by contact with the water. They are small enough to allow freedom of movement while fishing, but are there when you need them as life saving equipment. The self inflation flotation device will assist you if you are injured in a fall and unable to pull the cord to inflate it, but it can be costly if you fall often. These also do not insure that you will remain facing up if unconscious, but are strong enough to keep you floating..

There are many things we can do to remain safe, but most important is the use of common sense and patience. Avoid the most dangerous situations and be patient in your approach to our amazing sport.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

ROAD WORK AFFECTING KELLY CREEK ACCESS

KAMIAH, Idaho, February 20, 2024:— While it is still snowy and cold in much of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, it is never too early to plan for the summer. In anticipation of the coming thaw, the Forests want to share some information about construction projects that will impact your summer travels on the North Fork Ranger District.

The 700 Road reconstruction project towards Smith Ridge will continue again this summer. American Pioneering and Excavation will continue replacing culverts and reconditioning the road as soon as conditions allow, likely in early June. This work will require road closures to ensure public and contractor safety. The road closure will begin at the junction of the 700 road and 4800 road (Salmon Landing Road) and will be in effect Monday through Friday. Access to the Smith Ridge trailhead will be available on weekends.

The 250 road will also have culvert replacement and road reconditioning work from the intersection of the 250 and 247 road to Kelly Forks Work Center. Work is anticipated to begin in early June and last all summer. The road will remain open during the project, but motorists can anticipate delays, some as lengthy as 3-4 hours while travelling this section of the 250 Road. This project will replace approximately 62 culverts and re-establish appropriate drainage from Bungalow to Kelly Forks.

Maintenance work will also take place on the bridge that crosses Kelly Creek where the 255 Road and 851 Road intersect. The bridge will not be closed, but the public should anticipate delays from this project as well.

North Fork District Ranger Andrew Skowlund Said: “Visitors should drive slowly and vigilantly during construction projects. This work, when completed, should improve the visitor experience and enhance environmental conditions in the North Fork District.”

IEFFC CLUB SHIRTS

IEFFC Club Shirts are Available!

A local vendor is making Eddie Bauer Fishing Shirts available to our club. These high quality, well fitting shirts are engineered for fishing, offering sun protection, polyester upper back and cape lining for coolness and comfort, and flybox sized chest pockets, including a zippered chest pocket.

Each will be embroidered with the IEFFC logo.

The description is below, but note you must choose color, size (S, M, L, XL, 2XL) and sleeve length. The price: \$70.

Contact the Fly Leaf editor for the order form and instructions on ordering.



Eddie Bauer® - Short Sleeve Performance Fishing Shirt. Eb602
Defend yourself from the sun, sweat and odors in our super lightweight, high-performance fishing shirt.
This outdoor-ready style offers UPF 50+ protection and a moisture-control system that actively moves moisture away from your body to keep you cool, dry and comfortable.
Microban® - technology minimizes odors.
2.3-ounce, 100% polyester ripstop
100% polyester mesh upper back lining
Sun shield collar
Built-in rod holder
Two large fly box pockets with hook and loop closures
Zippered chest pocket
Utility loop and tool holder
Cape back with mesh ventilation
Hook and loop-fastened collar points

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Matt's Damsel

May 2024

Matt Mason

Amber lake is where this fly was born. I needed something to fish in shallow water without hanging up on the bottom. Trout love to target damselfly nymphs as they make their way to the reeds to hatch and this fly stays in the target zone. This pattern has proven itself in many area lakes, Amber, Medical, Coffee Pot, Chopaka, Nunnally, Dry Falls and the list goes on and on. This fly has become, by far, my most effective still water pattern. I like to fish this fly three ways.

1. With a Scientific Anglers Camo intermediate line. Casting tight to the reeds/shore(real tight), with a slow, short - medium inconsistent retrieve with a pause now and then.
2. With a midge tip line cast into lanes/ bare areas in the reeds. Same retrieval as one. This is deadly at Chopaka in late May and early June!
3. Trolling slowly along in shallow flats/bays. Trolling in 12-20 ft of water, for this I let out almost the entire camo intermediate fly line. A long pause with good fast strips will often entice a savage strike. If you see damselfly nymphs in the water swimming this is your ticket!

Hook: Daiichi 1760 #14 or Togans 2X curved nymph in #16.
Body: Medium olive marabou twisted and wrapped forward to thorax.
Thread: Yellow Olive UTC 70.
Tail: Medium olive marabou - slightly longer than shank length. (Don't cut tail use for body).
Thorax: Arizona Semi Seal #38 Golden Holo.
Eyes: Maxima Ultragreen 25lb 1in burned at both ends to 1/4 in gap.
Head: 2mm foam light olive green.



Snip off a small clump of marabou at the stem, you want long fibers. Tie in the tail at bend just past the bar, DO NOT CUT!

Wrap thread forward to thorax, then twist the marabou into a noodle and wrap forward to the thorax.

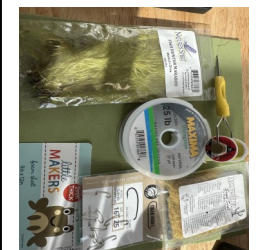
Just behind the eye tie in a 1 inch long, 1/4 inch wide piece of foam facing forward. Cut a V in one end of the foam and use that end to tie in. Makes it a lot easier and neater.

Tie in the mono eyes as forward as possible, put a dab of superglue down when done. Make a 3-4 inch dubbing noodle and figure 8 around the eyes with a few turns behind, building a thorax.

Pull the foam over and tie off. I like to put a little superglue on the thread before whip finishing.

Pick out the dubbing and get it real buggy.

It's ready to slay!



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.