



**INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
APRIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 11, 2024
Wet Fly 5:30 Meeting 6:30 PM
RAMADA INN-AIRPORT
8909 W Airport Dr, Spokane, WA 99224**

**Presidents' Message
By
Guy Gregory**

I walk my dog Dugan every morning. The thing I like best about January is the days become undeniably longer. By this time of month, the sun is up and poking over the horizon when I typically go, and it stays a bit later in the afternoon than it did on New Years for our evening walk. I think all of us get a more positive outlook when the sun's out.

We've got the varsity in town for speakers this month. We're partnering with Spokane Fly Fishers to bring **Phil Rowley** to town for two days of intense stillwater tying and angling. **Rich Landers** is gracing us at the Valentine's meeting. You missed a great time at the Rocky Ford outing on January 18th. Fish were active and the weather was dandy. **Lee Funkhouser** hosted, producing hot dogs and hot baked potato soup to take the chill off. Enough fish were caught by lunch to spark some lively conversation. It's good to get out and recreate with fellow members on a beautiful Inland Northwest day.

Chilly afternoons tend to push me down to the tying bench to get my familiar patterns restocked. It's good to keep those fingers moving and retain some flexibility during the winter. The evening club tying get-togethers are a great way to spend a couple of hours with folks talking fishing and enjoying a beverage. And learning a new technique, new material, or new pattern. **Phil Beck** and **Bryan Harman** are the chief organizers, and each venue is a pleasant place to tie and talk. Sometimes there's 10 of us, sometimes there's 2, and you don't need to tie to join in the conversations.

Phil Beck is keeping mighty busy with club business this year. He's taken the lead on planning for our February meeting. Be sure to let us know on the response email should you be bringing your Valentine for dinner, we've got a great program and some fun drawings planned. Once Phil is done with all this work, will he still have energy to fish?

Each day gets a bit lighter, and a bit closer to the good fishing coming in Spring. Me and Dugan are enjoying the trip, I hope you do too.

February Program

Rich Landers



Rich Landers will present to the club for our February meeting. His presentation, entitled "As Time Goes By, will be a celebration of the club, the sport, and our Valentines. You'll see many familiar faces,

along with a few beautiful ones", in some of the fabulous places we go to pursue fish with a fly. There will be something for everyone in this wonderful talk.

Rich joined the Spokesman-Review in 1977, and became Outdoors editor. His job entailed writing and photographing stories about hiking, hunting, fishing, boating, conservation, nature and wildlife and related topics throughout western North America. He "retired" in 2017.

He's published numerous articles in local, regional, and national publications, and at least 10 books, many of whom are required for anyone hiking in the Inland Northwest. He's a member of most outdoor organizations in this area (including this one) and the recipient of a wall full of awards and honors, including the Circle of Chiefs Award, the Outdoor Writers Association of America's top conservation award.

8 years after retirement, Rich remains an avid upland bird hunter, a skilled fly angler and outdoorsman, and a powerful voice for conservation region-wide. You'll surely enjoy his images and stories of club legends and wonderful places to fish. Don't miss it!

Reminder Club Dues are Due March 1!

Bring to the meeting, or by mail to:

**IEFFC
P.O. Box 2926
Spokane, WA 99220
\$50**

Phil Rowley Month in the Inland Northwest

It seems February is Phil Rowley month in the Inland Empire. We're partnering with Spokane Fly Fishers to have Phil present two workshops on February 18th and 19th! The schedule looks like this

Day 1: February 18

Fly Patterns for Stillwaters Workshop Part 1 (12:30-4:30)

Strategies and Tactics for Stillwaters Workshop Part 1 (6:00-8:30)

Day 2: February 19

Fly Patterns for Stillwaters Workshop Part 2 (12:30-4:30)

Strategies and Tactics for Stillwaters Workshop Part 2 (6:00-8:30)

Location:

Southside Senior Center
3151 E 27th Ave
Spokane, WA 99223



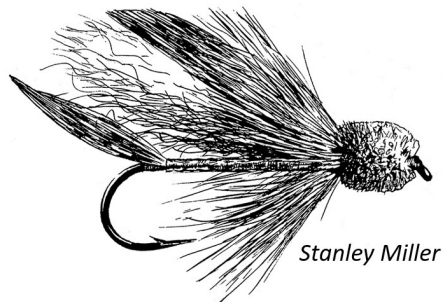
Both workshops are free to members and non-members alike, but space is limited! Please register for **each event separately** using the form found at this link:

<https://spokaneflyfishers.com/nonmember-resources/#!event-register/2025/2/18/stillwater-fishing-with-phil-rowley>

Remember to check your club membership on the form.

You should have received an email with expanded schedule and suggested materials for fly tying classes. If you haven't, contact us at leaf.ieffc@ieffc.org and we'll get you set up.

Also note: Club member and Conservation Chair **Jerry McBride** is scheduled to appear on Phil's livestream show in early February. It'll likely become a YouTube in the near future. When you see him, congratulate Jerry on becoming an **internet sensation!**



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

SPECIAL BULLETIN

A Note from IEFFC to
all "Enablers, Spouses and Dates" of club members
Regarding the Valentine Meeting Raffle

Be prepared! We will have raffle items at our Valentine Meeting that "all present" may purchase....member or nonmember.

Please note: we will have a **More & Nicer Raffle** dedicated to all of you Enablers, Spouses, and Dates! You have exclusive access to purchase tickets in this raffle.

So don't forget to bring some cash (or be sure your Member Companion brings extra) to purchase Raffle tickets for the Items dedicated to you.

We are happy to have you join us and look forward to it. Happy Valentines Day, and thanks for your support!

- IEFFC Program Committee, on behalf of our Membership..

Washington/Idaho News

Washington:

- WDFW has reprinted an article from the January issue of *Northwest Sportsman Magazine* that is a wealth of information on Rufus Woods Lake. It describes access and camping spots, licensing and permit requirements, and the best times of year to go to pursue the legendary Rufus Woods rainbows. Check it out at <https://wdfw.medium.com/head-to-north-central-washington-for-winter-trout-fishing-1ebff9030aa>
- Monofilament recycling tubes are located at many WDFW access sites in the area. Used mono and tippet materials put into these bins gets recycled or disposed of properly, rather than left lying around to tangle up fish and wildlife. Use 'em!

Idaho

- The successful IDFG South Fork Clearwater Steelhead broodstock collection program kicks off 1/31 and runs until they reach their collection goals. This year, over 12,000 smolts from the program returned to the South Fork, the best return ever. If you're down there, hook up with one of the crews to see how to help.
- Idaho Fish and Game will be hosting six public meetings for anglers to provide comments and opinions for spring/summer Chinook salmon fisheries. The meetings are slated for February, are free to attend, and (best of all) complimentary pizza and beverages will be provided. The closest meetings to Spokane are at IDFG Regional Offices in Coeur d'Alene (February 10) and Lewiston (February 12). Meetings begin at 5:30 last until all angler comments are heard and the pizza is gone, roughly 2 hours.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Club Calendar

- 2/4 Fly Tying-North Side Fieldhouse Pizza and Pub Phil Beck-6:00 PM
- 2/11 February Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport Rich Landers
- 2/13 February Board Meeting Fieldhouse Pizza and Pub 6:00 PM
- 2/18 Fly Tying-Valley YaYa Brewery 6:00 PM
- 2/18-19 Phil Rowley Seminars Southside Senior Center Tying 12:00-5:15,
Stillwater Workshop 6:15-8:30 PM

- 3/1 Amber Lake/Coffee Pot Lake Opener
- 3/4 Fly Tying-North Side Fieldhouse Pizza and Pub Phil Beck-6:00 PM
- 3/11 March Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport Chip
- 3/13 March Board Meeting Spokane Valley Library 6:00 PM
- 3/18 Fly Tying-Valley YaYa Brewery 6:00 PM
- 4/1 Fly Tying-North Side Fieldhouse Pizza and Pub Phil Beck-6:00 PM
- 4/8 April Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport WDFW/IDFG fishing outlook
- 4/10 April Board Meeting TBD 6:00 PM
- 4/15 Fly Tying-Valley YaYa Brewery 6:00 PM
- 4/26 One Fly Outing Amber Lake Fishing 9-12 AM
- 4/26 Lowland Lake Opening Day
- 5/13 May Club Meeting Ramada Inn Airport Greg Heister
- 5/15 May Board Meeting TBD 6:00 PM
- 5/17 Coffee Pot Lake Outing Coffee Pot Lake Pat Stuart
- 7/26 President's Retreat Devils Elbow CG, Coeur d'Alene River

Highlights:

- We'll be at the **Big Horn Show in March** again! In addition to the booth, we'll be presenting two sessions during the seminar portion of the show. Sign up soon to help out in the booth (get free admission!) and tell the club's story to folks.
- It's not too early to start thinking about **Kid's Fishing in May**. Planning is in the early stages, but keep your calendar open in early May, it's a great time for a great cause. **Floyd Holmes, Skip Cavanaugh and Bryan Harman** are leading the club activities again, call them for more information.
- And, yes, the **One Fly** will be at Amber Lake on April 26. Bob Johnson will lead the day again. Last year was memorable for all of us, and we'd be happy to see you there, more being better! The one who catches and releases the most fish using one fly between 9-12 AM wins bragging rights. Matt Mason is the current trophy holder and hasn't shut up about it since..

Reminder

Club Dues are due March 1. \$50. Bring to the meeting, or mail a check to

**IEFFC
P.O. Box 2926
Spokane, WA 99220**

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Rocky Ford Outing By Lee Funkhouser

Rocky Ford Creek was the site of our Winter outing. It was a successful day, with great weather, good food, and huge fish. Jeff Pope caught the largest fish of the day, a massive 28-inch rainbow. He was rewarded for his efforts by losing his balance while reviving the fish and taking a plunge into the water.

Shawn Denny caught what he said was the largest trout he had caught with a fly rod. There are some mighty big fish in the creek this year.

IEFFC members present were Jim McDevitt, Shawn Denny, Guy Gregory, Jeff Pope, Lee Funkhouser, Bryan Harman and his friend Trevor.

The lunch menu included hot dogs and baked potato soup, and everyone seemed to enjoy the time we shared.

Our next outing is the Annual One Fly Outing at Amber Lake on April 26th . That is an outing that you don't want to miss.



Jeff bundled up and fishing



Jeff about to release a very large trout



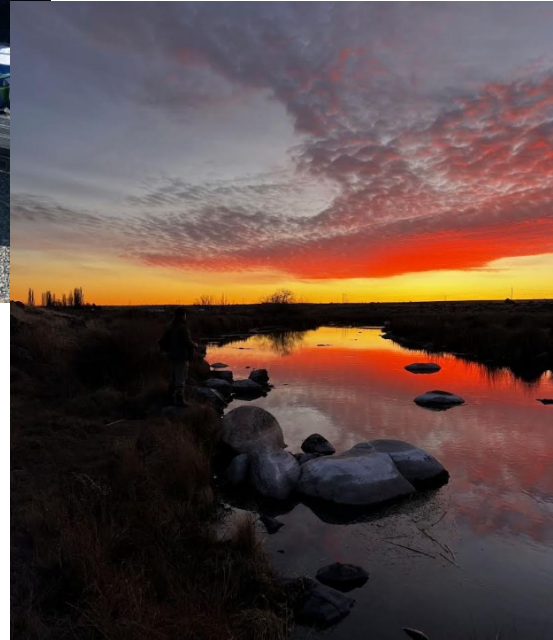
Another fine example of a Rocky Ford Rainbow

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

More Rocky Ford



Lunch break and warm up



Winter views of Rocky Ford Grant County's famous Spring Creek

Upcoming shows and such

Want a little winter getaway? Here's some upcoming Fly Fishing/Tying/Outdoor themed events in the region:

- East Idaho Fly Tying Expo, February 14 and 15, 2025, Mountain America Center, Idaho Falls, ID
- The Fly Fishing Show: February 15 and 16, 2025 Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA.
- Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show: February 12-16, 2025 Portland Expo Center, Portland OR
- Spokane Great Outdoors Expo: February 22-23, 2025 Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA
- International Fly Fishing Film Fest (IF4) 2025, February 27, 2025, Garland Theater, Spokane, WA
- NW Fly Tyeer and Fly Fishing Expo: March 7 and 8, 2025 Linn County Fair and Expo, Albany, OR
- Fly Fishing Film Tour, March 18, 2025, Bing Crosby Theatre, Spokane, WA
- Big Horn Outdoor Adventure Show, March 20-23, Spokane Fairgrounds
- Washington FFI Fly Tying and Casting Fair, April 27, Pickering Barn, Issaquah, WA

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Skwala Stonefly

February 2025

Montana Trout Outfitters

This low-profile Skwala is a favorite of anglers on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork. It looks like a good Skwala year may be in store, tie some up! A wonderful Youtube is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoiIJ0Yq7nY>

Hook: Size 10 Daiichi 1260 or equivalent
Thread: Olive dun 6/0
Underbody and egg sac: 2mm black foam
Body: Montana Fly Co Skwala Dubbing (pale yellow)
Rib: Small brown v-rib
Underwing: Dark Dun CDC Wing: White calf tail
Head and wing: Elk Hair
Silicone legs and a bright antron or foam sighter

Tie in the foam strip about 1/3 of the way back on the hook from the eye. Tie in that foam all the way back to the hook bend, then fold over forward, forming an egg sack.

Tie in V-rib and dub the body forward to where you tied in the foam.. Not too thick with the dubbing, the underlying foam adds bulk. Wrap the v-rib forward and tie off to form the body.

Tie in an underwing of gray CDC, a bit longer than the body. Trim off the wacky ones. Now start your bullet head of elk hair tying in elk with the tips facing forward. Wrap it down fairly tight, and trim the butts close.

Add more dubbing between the CDC tie in and the head, and form the bullet head by pushing the elk hair tips back, and tying them down closely at the base of the underwing. Flare it nicely.

Make it look like the top picture by tying in a couple of rubber legs at the base of the wing, and put a bright sighter on top. This is a low floating fly, you'll want to see it!. Whip finish and you're done.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI News and Happenings

FFI's Washington State Council is expanding their spring Puget Sound event! It's now the **Washington FFI Fly Casting and Tying Fair** and it's moving to Issaquah at Pickering Barn, a city park and event space just off I-90 at the 17th Ave. exit. Both the lawns and indoor tying space at Pickering are larger than Ballinger Park north of Seattle where we have held our past three Casting Fairs. The new location is more central for FFI members south, east and north of Seattle.

Tying director Sam Matalone also will be reaching out to Washington fly tiers to fill the spacious barn at the park. It's much larger than the space at Ballinger Park. With a name like Pickering Barn, of course the place has a barn, but the cows are long gone. It's a swell venue for tiers and Sam has also invited the Seattle Atlantic Salmon Fly Tying Guild to join us for the day. Details will be out in spring, but you can expect a tying theater and demos by some of the best tiers in the Pacific Northwest.



Tim Rajeff giving a noon program at the Vancouver Fly Casting Fair last September.



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 *restore* our resources, and *educate* fly fishers in our sport and *grow advocacy for fish and fisheries*.

IEFFC Officers and Board of Directors

Guy Gregory - President

Bryan Harman - Vice President

Jeff Pope - Secretary

Lee Funkhouser - Treasurer

Board Members are: Stephanie Stephens, Phil Beck, and Matt Mason.

Membership Committee Chair: Bob Schmitt

Contact information for all Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs are in the 2024 Roster or on the website. If you've inquiries please email us at: 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 before the last Friday of the Month! Lee and Guy will get your story, your fly of the month, your member product review, whatever, into the next issue...

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington