



**INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
APRIL MEETING
Tuesday, April 8, 2024
Wet Fly 5:30 Meeting 6:30 PM
RAMADA INN-AIRPORT
8909 W Airport Dr, Spokane, WA 99224**

**April Program
Randy Osborne WDFW
Andy Dux IDFG
Guy Gregory**

**Presidents' Message
By
Guy Gregory**

Chaos in March. It snowed a week ago, now it's gonna be 75 degrees here tomorrow. Rain, sun, dry, wet, cold, hot. I spent the first two weeks of the month living in the basement because of recarpet and repaint of my house, and did I get time to tie flies? Of course not. Well, I was busy sorting out new lines and leaders based on Phil Rowley's stillwater presentations, but... Move furniture out. Move furniture in. Make room for family, and host an impromptu dinner for 16 of them, just because. Oh yeah, take time out for a bout of whatever seems to be going around this spring for a couple days.

At last, a bit of return to normalcy. I think I'll take advantage of the warm weather to repack some wheel bearings on the trailer and get on the water for a bit of this spring angling. There'll be some river fishing in the usual spots once runoff is over, until then there'll some lake fishing in some usual and other not-so usual spots.

I've got my pattern chosen for the One Fly on April 26 at Amber. That is the same day as this year's lowland lake opener, so we should have plenty of room for lots of competitors. Matt Mason won last year going away, but this is a new year and I've got lots of faith in my pattern, my rig, and my chances. I hope for good weather so it'll be fun to fish in the afternoon following lunch. Join us, last year was a really good time.

Most committees are getting together this month and next to plan activities for the upcoming fall and winter season. I'm sure there's a job for you should you need one, there's also some task that can sure use your help. Catch up with a committee chair and pitch in.

Kids Fishing is coming up in May, always one of our most rewarding club efforts. It's another club activity you'll find where what you receive exceeds your expenditure.

Early lakes have been open since March 1, so if you're not taking advantage of some of these fine weather days in all this chaos, shame on you. Get fishing!!

Guy Gregory

It's April, it must be Local Fishing and Western Water Outlook Month!

Randy Osborne received his Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries Resource Management from the University of Idaho, and his Master's Degree in Biology from Tennessee Tech University. He has worked for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife since 2000, starting out in Ephrata working as a warmwater fish biologist. He transferred to Spokane in 2002 and worked for the warmwater fish team until 2012 when he promoted to the District 2 Fish Biologist. His current duties include managing all the fisheries in Spokane, Whitman and Lincoln counties.

Andy Dux is the Regional Fishery Manager for Idaho Fish and Game in the Panhandle Region. In this position, he oversees the fisheries program in the region. Andy has worked for IDFG since 2008 and has been in his current role since 2015. He was born and raised in Idaho, received his undergraduate degree in fisheries resources from the University of Idaho, and his Master's in fisheries management from Montana State University. Andy is also an avid angler.

Guy Gregory is a hydrogeologist in the Inland Northwest. Following retirement from WDOE in 2018, he now provides consulting services to clients in water supply issues as Gregory Geologic LLC. He is a longtime member and board member of several Spokane area chapters of fly fishing and conservation clubs, and current President of IEFCC..

Email your questions for Randy, Andy, and Guy by April 4 to flyleaf.editor@gmail.com to get better answers!

Renew your Washington Fishing License

New Licenses begin April 1!

Update your Discover Pass and other such information at the same time...and get that Steelhead punch card sent in by May 1.

A-Buck-A- Book at the April Meeting



Bring some dollars and a bag to the April meeting: The Legacy Committee will have a table of fly fishing books at the April Meeting. **You can buy them for a buck apiece.**

If you'd like to bring some of your angling books, you can, but remember any that do not sell must go home with you. 5 volumes or less, please.

Again, all books on the table, \$1. Proceeds go to the Club Legacy Committee in support of scholarships, Kid's Fishing, and other activities.

Fall Anadromous Fish Outlook Adapted from The Wenatchee World 3/21/2025

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) held a public meeting to discuss the upcoming salmon and steelhead fishing seasons in Central Washington. The meeting was part of the North of Falcon process, an annual cooperative effort to plan most salmon seasons in collaboration with stakeholders.

Forecasts for 2025 indicate moderate to good ocean conditions for salmon smolts entering the ocean over the past four years, according to the department. However, a weakening La Niña in early spring is projected to result in increased sea surface temperatures in the northeastern Pacific, potentially affecting salmon returns. Concerns include low snowpack, warm summer stream temperatures, and shifting marine heatwaves from coastal environments to deeper sea areas, adding uncertainty to forecasts. While some species may adapt to changing conditions, others may struggle to find optimal habitats.

The Steelhead forecast for the Snake Drainage is not optimal. The steelhead return is expected to be low. WDFW will monitor returns at Bonneville and Lower Granite dams to adjust seasons through emergency rules. Chris Donley, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 1 Fish Program Manager, said Steelhead is recovering; if



“ocean conditions and competition can be resolved in the North Pacific, Steelhead will rebound fast. But unfortunately, we don't have control over lining that stuff up, and so far it hasn't happened,” Continued low A-index and B-index forecasts limit fishing opportunities. The 2025 forecast is 59% of the recent five-year average. Block closures from the Columbia River's mouth upstream are expected. Tributary closures and restrictions on nighttime fishing may also be implemented.

In other news, the South Fork Clearwater Broodstock program had a successful 2025 season. Nearly 1100 fish were sampled, transporting 680 to the Dworshak Hatchery for spawning, a new record. About 300 presumably wild fish were captured and sampled for genetics.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Fly Tying Nights in April

We're still on with this popular get-together. North Side: April 1 at Fieldhouse Pizza at 4423 W. Wellesley Ave, across the street from Veterans Hospital. Show up at 6 and bring your vise. Last up at YAYA Brewery located at 11712 E. Montgomery Drive. That session will be on April 15 and it will also start at 6PM.

We'll resume this program next October!

New Product! Strato Caster by Redington By Lee Funkhouser

Nymph fishing with an indicator has become a popular form of fishing, and with the advent of the balanced leech, still water fishing under an indicator has become the method of choice for numerous fly fisherman.

One of the difficulties facing indicator fisherman is having the ability to cast major distances with the indicator rig, especially if the indicator is 8 to ten feet above the fly.

Redington is aware of this issue, and they have produced a new reel and accompanying device to solve the problem. The new product is named the Strato Caster.

The Strato Caster is patterned after the typical air rifle and is used to launch the indicator. It is coupled with a reel that can be set to release an exact amount of line, allowing the fisherman to precisely target an area where the fish lie.

The caster is designed to be used with the Reddington Strato Caster reel, but any reel can be used if the fisherman chooses to just strip off the preferred amount of line prior to launching the indicator and then setting the caster for the distance desired.



Once the setup is completed the Strato Caster Gun is pointed towards the target and the trigger is pulled, propelling the indicator rig towards the desired landing area. It should also be noted that the caster will accommodate many different indicators, but the best success has been achieved with the Oros indicators, based upon their uniformly round shape.

The Strato Caster has been tested, but mostly in my mind, as again this is my annual contribution to our April first issue of the newsletter. Happy April Fool's Day!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Club Calendar

Spring angling and events are heating up! Here's the players, and the scorecard....

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 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 |
| • 4/16 | Amber Lake Project | Amber Lake Ramp | Jerry McBride for details |
| • 4/26 | One Fly Outing | Amber Lake | Fishing 9-12 AM |
| • 4/26 | Lowland Lake Opening Day | | |
| • 5/9 and 5/10 | Kids Fishing events | Clear Lake | Skip, Bryan and Floyd |
| • 5/13 | May Club Meeting | Ramada Inn Airport | Greg Heister-Alaska Angling |
| • 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 | |
| • 9/9 | September Club Meeting | Ramada Inn Airport | TBD |

Highlights:

- Sign up for **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, contact them for more information, or sign up at the April meeting.
- 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..
- **Pat Stuart** will be hosting an outing at Coffee Pot Lake 5/17. He'll be camped there, and claims he'll have the best Moose Stew this side of, well, wherever the second best is. Big fish are on tap.
- Further afield, **Mark Pinch** and others will be fishing the famous chironomid hatches of Upper Holter Reservoir the week of May 12. The schedule is somewhat fluid due to weather, but if you're interested, contact

A Point of Emphasis-lots of Spring Action

Join us !

Volunteer now or at the meeting to support Kids Fishing May 9-10! Volunteers say this is the most rewarding thing our club does.

Get your favorite Amber Fly ready! April 26, 9-12 Fishing, then lunch. Watch your email for more details and signup information. Inquiring minds want to know.....Can Matt Mason repeat? Will Pat Stuart's approach pan out for the win? Does Jerry have a new plan this year? Is Shawn Denny the dark horse most likely to win, or does Father David have the edge? How many C&R fish in 3 hours will be the winning total? Join us to find out.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Big Horn Show 2025

By
Bryan Harman

Mark by email at markatthelake@gmail.com, including Montana in the subject line.

Another year, another Big Horn show in the books. We talked to lots of people, handed out brochures to interested individuals and made a healthy list of people for the membership committee to call. I really enjoyed my time working with several club members, talking fishing, tying and sharing stories. We also tied dozens of flies for kids to help plant the seed for future fly fishers.

This show takes a lot of help from members and I want to thank everybody that helped make it a success. Thanks to all the volunteers, Denny Carson, Jeff Pope, Jake Nelson, Jerry McBride, Stephen Aspinwall, Jim McDevitt, Doug Brossoit, Bob Johnson, Leonard Gross, Pat Stewart, Floyd Holmes, Larry Ray, Skip Cavanaugh, Shawn Denny, Guy Gregory, Stephanie Stephens, Rob Stephens, Phil Beck and Lee Funkhouser.

This year Jerry did a presentation about fly fishing in the seminar room on behalf of the club. I extend a special thank you to Jerry and Lee for making that happen.



Our crowd-pleasing display of every fly in *Flies of the Northwest*



The setup: Bryan Harman next to a cacophony of bright kid-attracting fly materials; and Pat Stuart ready to discuss all aspects of fishing with passers-by.



Rob Stephens and Phil Beck! Phil tying a fly which no doubt pleases the crowd and some trout in the region

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Washington State Council FFI Fly Casting and Tying Fair April 27, 2025

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. The event will be held from 9 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, April 27, 2025

The classes are inexpensive, and it is recommended that you sign up early as many of the classes are limited in attendees. There are also some amazing seminars that will be well worth the time to cruise over to the west side of the state.

Anyone under 18 attending the fair April 27 at Pickering Barn Park in Issaquah will have the chance to enter a raffle for a new TFO NXT Black Label 5 wt. 4-piece fly rod. This 9-foot rod comes with a case plus a TFO NXT reel loaded with 5wt. line and ready to fish. Participants must register in person. There is no purchase necessary. One youngster will own this rod for free just by attending the fair. Look for the registration desk on arrival and simply register for the raffle. Drawing at 3 p.m. April 27. You don't have to be present to win.



A new approach to cardio workouts for the angler



Jeff Pope proudly sports the latest in racing attire adopted by the Rocky Ford Creek Swim Team, presented at the last meeting by Poacher Mark Meyocks, for his recent record-setting performance!

At some point, Jeff, we will let it drop. Soon. I promise.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Madam X

April 2025

Doug Swisher

Doug Swisher published this design in 1980, a fly he'd tied for his Bitterroot River home water, in his book with Carl Richards *Selective Trout*. Very adaptable, small for stones, dark for cricket, big for hopper, and parachute for stone/Skwala attractor. Some say it's out of style. Some say it still catches a lot of fish. See if you agree with the cutthroat. Check out Trident Fly fishing's YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voeK9qJMfY>

Hook: Size 6-12 Mustad R43 or equivalent 3XL 1 extra fine dry fly hook.
Thread: Yellow 6/0
Tail and underbody: fine deer hair
Body: Yellow floss
Head and wing: Deer hair
Standard white rubber legs.

Wrap in yellow thread beginning about 2 eye lengths behind the eye, wrap back to the hook point and then back to the starting point for a good foundation. Grab a pencil lead- sized bunch of pretty fine deer hair, clean it and stack it. Now, measuring the tail about a hook gap long, cut off the hair at the tie in point. Snug the hair down with some fairly open turns to the bend of the hook working to secure the hair without it flaring or rolling on the hook. Begin tighter turns as you wrap forward to secure the hair.

Tie in the floss from the front snugging it down all the way to the bend of the hook. Bring thread back forward to your tie-in. Wrap floss forward to the tie in point. Tie in, then advance thread to the hook eye.

Grab another pencil lead-sized bunch of hair, clean and stack. Tie in with points toward the eye of the hook with about a hook and tail length of hair extending forward. Snug down so the hair flares. Trim off flared hair behind the eye.

Push the hair back to form a bullet head, using a straw, tube, or your fingers. Tie down as shown, pulling thread tight to flare the wing, and wrap toward the head to tighten up the head.

Tie in rubber legs in the wraps used to form the head, one on each side, forming the X. Trim the legs where they look good to you, the rear legs a bit longer than the tail. Whip finish, UV resin for the leg knot and head as shown above



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI News and Happenings

.More on the FFI Fly Casting and Tying Fair:

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Sign up for classes at this link:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/washingtonflyfishersinternational/1546362>



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: Stephenie 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