



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
Spokane Airport Ramada Inn
May 13, 2025
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Dinner cost \$35.00

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

MAY PROGRAM Greg Heister—Fishing Alaska

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Guy Gregory

I had a spirited discussion with one of my favorite weather and climate gurus in the past few days. The topic was “early Spring”. My perspective was yes, it is a bit early this year, as the bluebirds showed up at my place 2 weeks ahead of time, and as I observe now from my office the serviceberry are in full bloom fully one week ahead of their usual. My friend disagreed, saying it was not early, in fact was well within the range of usual, and cited the bluebirds himself, noting that after arrival their beaks chattering in the cold kept the coyotes awake. And, said he, the serviceberries blooming a few days earlier than normal is not unusual at all.

In the end I had to agree with him. Nevertheless, early or not, it's been a dandy spring. Rivers are dropping into shape after a fairly easy snowmelt season, allowing some fine skwala and early stonefly fishing. And early season lakes have plenty of water and have been ice-free for weeks now.

Make sure to start out your May helping out with **Kids Fishing on 5/9 and 5/10**. It's a great event and the forecast is for good weather, it's one of our best “give-back” events of the year. Later join **Pat Stuart** on 5/17 for a great outing planned for **Coffee Pot Lake**. He's indicated he'll supply moose stew for anglers at his RV at the camp there. Recent reports are that Coffee Pot is fishing well, and several age classes are present.

Of course **May 13** is our last meeting until fall. It's a great time to connect with old friends and new members to plan for that trip you've talked or thought about all winter while others went south.

If you have wanted to go to Alaska to fish, this is a program for you. Greg Heister, the voice of the Zags, will be discussing Alaska fishing on a budget.



Greg is well known in the Inland Northwest for his show “Seasons on the Fly”, as well as being seen broadcasting Gonzaga basketball. He has a lodge on the Kvichak River up in Alaska, where you can pretty much design your adventure. This will be an outstanding program for anyone interested in fishing Alaska's waters.



(Presidents Message continued)

So weather-wise, looking forward, it's gonna be a great spring and summer filled with good trout fishing. We're working on a dynamic group of speakers for the fall to catch your interest. Now, get out, have some great outings, catch your best trout, document a poach or two, and we'll see you in September.

Guy

AMBER LAKE PROJECT

By Jerry McBride

The Spokane Fly Fishers and the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club did a joint project to renew the launch at Amber Lake on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. We split the cost of the project and each club provided four volunteers to do the work. The project was coordinated with Dan Dziekan of the WDFW.

We met for breakfast at the Geiger Denny's and then drove out to Amber Lake.

A 12 yard load of 5/8" minus crushed rock was delivered to the site by Action Materials. Twelve yards of crushed rock weighs about 16 tons. The driver dumped the load at the upper part of the launch so we could wheelbarrow and shovel most of the crushed rock downhill. The crushed rock was compacted with a motorized plate compactor. Adam Brant who works for the WDFW was on site and was a big help.

We started working about 9 am and were pretty much done by 10:30 so we took a break and had coffee and donuts and then went home.

Thanks to all the people who made this project a success.



The crew from left to right. Jerry McBride IEFFC, Adam Brant WDFW, Doug Brossoit IEFFC, Phil Beck IEFFC, Gordon McCammond SFF, Jim Athearn SFF, Jeff Pope IEFFC, Bill White SFF, Al Odenthal IEFFC/SFF, Dan Dziekan WDFW



Volunteers hard at work spreading the gravel.



Jeff Pope puts finishing touches on the ramp with the plate compactor.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

AMBER LAKE—ONE FLY

By Bob Johnson

This year's One Fly contest was not like last year's, with its small craft warning winds.

This year the weather was picture perfect. High clouds, 68 degrees, with a light breeze, just enough to put a little chop on the water. Although it didn't have a great turnout, those in attendance had a good time. Food was scrumptious and everyone ate well.



Shawn, Pat and Guy

The best part was that the fish cooperated, and this years one fly champion, **Bryan Harman**, was there to put on a clinic. Whereas last year **Matt Mason** caught five fish to take the crown, followed closely by **Jerry McBride** with four, Bryan wanted to make sure no one got close. Bryan caught 11 fish. I know, because I netted 10 of those fish for him. I made him net that 11th fish himself and asked him " How greedy can you get?". Apparently he could get greedier, as after lunch, he went out and caught 4 more. Father David better watch out when Bryan's around. **Bob Johnson** and **Pat Stuart** tied for second. Matt Mason broke off early, which is the perennial "one fly" nemesis. The end result was a number of nice fish caught..



Bob, Guy and Shawn

We are already excited for next year and hope to see you there.



Shawn, Bryan and Bob



Shawn Denny



Bob Johnson



Shawn, Bob, Guy and Bryan

Club Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Time
5/9-10/2025	Kid's Fishing	Clear Lake	Bryan Harman
5/13/2025	IEFFC Monthly Meeting	Spokane Airport Ramada	
5/15/2025	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Guy Gregory/6PM
5/17/2025	Coffee Pot Lake Outing	Coffee Pot Lake	Pat Stuart
7/26/2025	Presidents Retreat	Devil's Elbow Campground	Guy Gregory
9/9/2025	IEFFC Monthly Meeting	Spokane Airport Ramada	
9/11/2025	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Guy Gregory/6PM

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

KID'S FISHING

The Best Volunteer Opportunity of the Year

Kids fishing is **May 10th** at the Fairchild Recreation area on Clear Lake. Volunteers start showing up at 7AM, as we need all hands on deck for assembling rods, baiting hooks, tying knots, cleaning fish and basically everything needed to have kids have a successful and fun day catching fish. If you have done this before you know the smiles on kids faces and screams of joy are the best part. We will begin pulling nets at about 3 pm so if you want to show up a little later, bring a pair of pliers for pulling hooks from the nets will help a ton. This is one of those many hands makes light work moments so we hope to see a few members either stay late or show up later to help.

No mention of kids fishing would be complete without Ronald McDonald House kids fishing day. This will be on **May 9th** leaving the RMH at about 1 pm and headed to Clear Lake and then a second group leaving the RMH at about 2:15. The fishing will be from about 1:30 to about 3:30, Please show up at Clear lake about 1:30 bring a life vest (Fairchild is requiring PFDs for anyone on the docks) long handle nets are very helpful as well. We know these kids have a tough row to hoe, and this is a great opportunity to help these kids have a great time and get outdoors and forget about being sick for a few hours.

I look forward to seeing lots of club members out there and helping the next generation of fishermen get hooked on fishing.

COEUR D'ALENE RIVER CLOSURE

April 1, 2025 to Late 2026

Construction has begun to replace the Interstate 90 bridges over the Coeur d'Alene River near Cataldo.

Public Accommodations

- Directional signage to be installed at closure signs upriver and downriver to provide guidance to public navigation during off hours.
- Additional signage to be placed on work bridge piling where necessary and allowable.
- Provide navigable passage at all times for Kootenai County and Shoshone County Fire and Rescue and Sheriff Departments.
- The Public should follow all posted Signage for clarification on river traffic or river closure during on and off work hours/weekends
- River access will be directed to the East side of river from as soon as July 8th but no later than pipe pile installation in the river until safe passage is decided under the work bridge.
- 2025 Mon-Sat 6am-6pm. 2026 river access timeline will match that of 2025.
- Holidays that land in our work schedule are Memorial Day, July 4th Independence Day and September 2nd Labor day.
- No river work will be conducted on weekends of Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor day. River Access will be directed to area of safe passage of the river at or around the Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day holidays.

For questions, contact ITD Project Manager: Steve Nettleton

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

GRIMES LAKE ACCESS DISAPPEARS

By Chad Jackson WDFW

Late last week (April 13-19) the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Region 2 Office (Ephrata) learned we will lose public access to Grimes Lake (Douglas County) effective immediately.

Grimes Lake is the only “quality water” (i.e., selective gear rules) in Douglas County and one of the few lakes in Washington planted with **Lahontan cutthroat trout**. Public access for the past 40+ years has been through a lease agreement with the private landowner. That landowner has decided to terminate the lease with WDFW. I do not have any details on why the landowner decided to terminate the lease.



Grimes Lake

In the coming week(s) WDFW will develop outreach materials to notify anglers before the June 1st season start date. We will also post signs leading into Grimes Lake to alert anglers. Since Grimes Lake is largely visited by fly anglers, part of WDFW’s outreach is to directly contact fly fishing clubs in Washington.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call Chad at **509-754-4624, ext. 250**. Thank you.

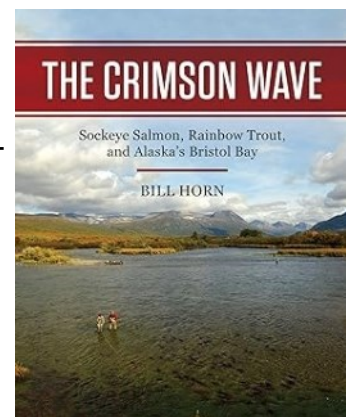
Chad Jackson is the Region 2 Fish Program Manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

THE CRIMSON WAVE

Sockeye Salmon, Rainbow Trout and Alaska’s Bristol Bay

Jake Nelson generously donated a book for sale for the May meeting. The book is *The Crimson Wave: Sockeye Salmon, Rainbow Trout, and Alaska's Bristol Bay* by Bill Horn. Jack Dennis describes this book as "... the ultimate guide to fly fishing southwestern Alaska,"

Jake placed a price of \$20 on this book, the proceeds going to the Legacy Committee. It will be available at the meeting.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

By Guy Gregory

Growing club, growing opportunities

Our club is growing! We're getting new members wanting new experiences and new things that membership in the Club can provide. Many recent (and long-time) members wonder if we couldn't do some things a bit differently. Others would like to see us add some activities, whether it be more outings, or at least more gatherings outside of meetings, and some folks would like to see us become more active in education of the next generation of fly angler, just to name a couple.

We on the Board hear you. There's a lot of opportunity out there. In a perfect world, we could do all those things.

But it's not perfect. What could make it more perfect? You.

Each of our Committees could use additional folks to pitch in. Is hands-on conservation work your idea of fun? We've got a committee for that. Maybe you'd like to pitch in on the Christmas Raffle, which generates a lot of fun for members, and generates a great deal of the funding for the work of this Club. I think Gordie's got room for you. Our Board of Directors and our Officers are both looking for new blood to join and participate in leadership of the Club. No previous experience necessary. Bring your ideas and energy!

Our work gets better when the individual burden gets lighter...and you'll meet new folks who like to fish! More people involved means our club can do more things, and we can all fish more, make more friends, and have more fun. That's the way to get value out of your club dues and meeting payments,

So, contact a Committee chair or Board member, get in the game. We'll hit the ground runnin' this fall.

FISHING THE MISSOURI

Stephen Aspinwall and **Phil Beck** just spent a few days on the Missouri with our November speaker Tony Reinhardt.

They caught a number of rainbows and browns.

Here is a picture of a couple of brown trout that was the result of a Stephen/Phil double.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Bob Schmitt

Recently, **Bob Johnson**, our 2024 President was down at Amber Lake soaking some of his favorite bugs. He struck up a conversation with another fly fisherman and thereby discovered that this fly fisherman was looking to find out where the fish were biting, what they were biting on and what sort of new patterns were catching fish. Bob got his contact information and that fly fisherman now will be welcomed into our Club at the May meeting. Which points out the fact that our members are a good source of NEW members.

I have a supply of our Club's business cards which contain our web address. I would encourage all members to pick up a couple of these cards from me, write your name and phone number on the back or write my name and phone number on the back. If you are in a conversation with someone and the subject turns to fly fishing, ask the individual if they've ever considered joining a fly fishing club. If they are receptive to that idea, offer them one our business cards and invite them to go to our website and check us out.

Tight lines and good fishing to all.

FLY TYING NIGHTS

Returning in the Fall

We just finished another successful winter of Fly Tying Nights. The popular sessions were held in the Spokane Valley and on the Northside of Spokane throughout the winter. The sessions allowed members to learn from other members and also prepare their fly boxes for the 2025 fishing season.

YAYA Brewery and Fieldhouse Pizza were both very accommodating and we look forward to a return for the 2025-2026 Winter.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

COFFEE POT OUTING May 17th

Our next outing is sponsored by **Pat Stuart** and will be held at Coffee Pot Lake. Pat has threatened to have Moose Stew available for lunch, so make sure you put this one on the calendar.

Coffee Pot is fishing well this year and the fish are strong and active. The lower portion of the lake is open again and fish have populated the areas below the adjoining channel. If you haven't fished Coffee Pot before, this is a good time to try it. It is fished by either pontoon or float tube or by boat. Gas motors are allowed, and often necessary to reach the bottom end of the lake.

We will be sending out additional information and asking for an rsvp as we get closer. Look for it in your emails.



Coffee Pot Lake

PRESIDENT'S RETREAT Devils Elbow Campground—July 26th

Time to add this one to your calendar.

This years Presidents Retreat is planned for July 26th, at Devils Elbow Campground on the North Fork of the Coeur D'Alene River. Details will be sent out as we get closer, but if you plan on camping for the weekend, I would get on Recreation.gov now and get your reservation.

Guy has already booked sites 15 and 19, so if you are camping, you can use that as a reference. There are some first come sites, but you may end up at Kit Price Campground, actually not a bad alternative, if you wait too long.



This event is open to all members and family members are very much welcome. We have found that even though it is a weekend, there are fishing spots still available, and the fishing is usually exceptional in July.

SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION

Grant & Lottie Richie of Minam, Oregon will be talking about their home waters, the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers, what you can expect of the fishery by the season and the big hatches of each season. Grant & Lottie bought the Minam Store business in 2011 and have been guiding and outfitting fly fishing trips for the past 14 years.

Minam Store Outfitters guides multi-day trips down the 40 mile roadless, wild and scenic section of the Wallowa & Grande Ronde. This is eastern Oregon's best trout fishery. They also guide day trips on the first 10 miles of the roadless stretch and shuttle back to Minam via the railroad tracks. This is a one of a kind shuttle via rail! Their home is on the banks of the Wallowa River at the confluence with the Minam River, giving them intimate knowledge of their home waters.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Corbett Lake Bomber

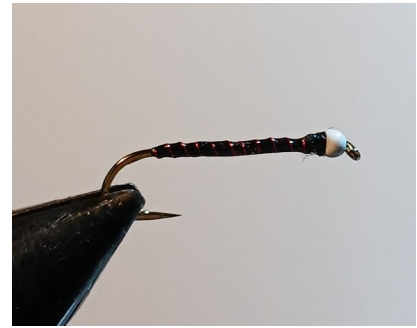
May 2025

Lee Funkhouser

This fly was originally shown to me by Scott Fink. He actually gave me a couple of flies and also the materials to tie them. I have used it for years on my visits to Corbett Lake and it never disappoints. I tie it in four ways, although there may be a multitude of colors that can be used. I use black with a red rib, brown with a red rib, silver with a red rib and black with a silver rib.

The fly is quite easy to tie and is the same chironomid pattern I use at lakes such as Amber and Coffee Pot. The main difference is the size, thus the name "bomber". At Corbett, I usually fish it under an indicator, but I have had good success also dangling in deeper water. Black with a silver rib is the most consistent, while brown with a red rib has given me my most aggressive strikes.

Hook: Fulling Mill Traditional Streamer or equivalent. Size 8-10.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Bead: Hairline Tungsten 3/32" White.
Body: Flashabou. Black, brown or silver.
Rib: Softwire 7gr small. Red or silver.
UV Resin: Loon UV Clear Fly Finish Thin.



Pinch the barb and slide on the white tungsten bead. Start the thread and wrap towards the bend of the hook.

Tie in the flashabou and wire. Wrap the thread towards the hook eye.

Wrap the flashabou towards the eye of the hook covering the thread. Secure the end and trim the excess. Counterwrap the wire and secure the end at the eye of the hook. Helicopter off the excess wire.

Whip finish and trim the thread. Apply the UV resin lightly to the fly body and cure with the UV light.



2025 IEFFC OFFICERS

Your IEFFC Officers for 2025



Bryan Harman
Vice President



Lee Funkhouser
Treasurer



Guy Gregory
President



Jeff Pope
Secretary



Phil Beck
Board Member



Matt Mason
Board Member



Stephenie Stephens
Board Member

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 WSCIFFF 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 the FlyLeaf Editor at flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the last Friday of the month for inclusion in the following months newsletter.