



INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Wet Fly 5:30 Meeting 6:30 PM

RAMADA INN-AIRPORT

8909 W Airport Dr, Spokane, WA 99224

Presidents' Message By Guy Gregory

Ah, September. For we outdoorsy types, it begins the most wonderful time of the year. Doves are grouping up to head south. Soon steelhead will enter local rivers in bigger numbers than now. Not long after waterfowl will form up into groups, Upland birds will color up, and big game will begin their fall mating rituals. Can you possibly get enough time to do it all? Or will you attempt something like a cast-and-blast, chasing steelhead in early morning, with an afternoon chukar hunt? Or leaving elk camp in evening to cast to a few cutties in the stream? Yes, this is our time of year.

We've got a lot of club and local activities coming your way this fall, too....more opportunity to make more friends, catch more fish, and have more fun! Check out the calendar: Get hold of Jerry to join up for the October 11 Bayley Lake Spawning Channel maintenance project (including breakfast and half-day fishing). Test out your casting at the WSCFFI Casting Skills Development Program on October 5. Then, get ready for the Fall Fishout on Medical Lake October 18.

Note also this fall is time to recruit new club board members and officers. I'm actively seeking a new club Secretary and Vice President this year. We're also seeking a new club Treasurer (a 3-year position) to help us keep the financials of our club in great shape to meet our club goals. If you're interested, contact me or another board member directly. Otherwise, when I call you to ask for your help, please strongly consider joining up...It's a bit of work, yes, but it's good work, with good people, doing good things. And you'll learn new ways to fish, and new places to fish while you're at it. Step up, pitch in, and become a big part of the future of this club.

Our club will be 70 years old next year. We've a rich history because our members get together to accomplish things. Many of those members are legends in the Northwest Outdoor community. With your help, we can ensure and enhance the future of outdoors activities here, and have fun, make friends, and catch fish in the process. See you at the meeting!

September Program Grant and Lottie Richie Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers Fishery and Hatches

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.

This is a great presentation about a very accessible fishery underutilized by lots of inland northwest anglers. Check out their web presence on social media, and hit up their website..they feature fishing, rafting, bird hunting and food and wine floats on the Ronde, Wallowa, and Snake Rivers. Don't miss this presentation!

<https://minamstore.com/>

Conservation Committee Fall Activities

Fin Clipping: We're full up for volunteers at this year's fin clipping days. We'll be out at the WDFW Hatchery at 2927 W. Waikiki Road September 23 and 24 at 8AM. A pizza lunch will be provided. While we've a full team, if you'd like to be an alternate, contact Doug Brossoit at dougbrossoit@gmail.com

Bayley Lake: We will be cleaning up the spawning channel and renewing the gravel between Potters Pond and Bayley Lake again this year to provide spawning habitat for the resident rainbow trout next spring. It is a fun project that typically takes about two hours and then we go fishing in Bayley Lake for the rest of the day.

Last year we encountered an extra heavy growth of grass and we were unable to clear the grass all the way to the lake. Hopefully this year more of the volunteers can bring weed whackers so that we can clear the grass all the way to the lake. **10 volunteers are needed, five with boats.** If you haven't ever fished Bayley this is an opportunity to fish with someone who knows the lake. Bayley Lake can fish well in the fall.

We will meet at 8 am at the Maverick's Restaurant in Colville for breakfast furnished by the IEFFC and then proceed to the lake.

Contact Jerry McBride at Jerry.r.mcbride@gmail.com or by phone or text if you can help

Presidents' Retreat 2025

We had a good turnout for the Presidents' Retreat July 26 at Devils' Elbow CG on the North Fork. Bob Johnson, Skip Cavanaugh, Jeff Pope, Pat Stuart, Jerry Mc Bride, Bob Schmitt, Bryan Harman, Phil Beck, and Shawn Denny joined Guy and his wife Norine for a potluck supper and some good discussions. Fishing seemed slow for everyone but Jerry...Shawn's Jeep is really cool! Thanks to Phil Beck for the pictures...



Bryan Harman, Shawn Denny, Pat Stuart, and Jerry McBride take in a nearly bee-free evening.

Bob Johnson, Skip Cavanaugh, and Bob Schmitt help Dugan keep Guy in control.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Washington State Council Fly Fishers International Fly Casting Skills Development Program Franklin Park, October 5 1-5 PM

The Fly Casting Skills Development Program (FCSD) helps anglers at every level sharpen their skills, unlock new opportunities, and have more fun on the water—at their pace, on their terms.

Fly fishing is equal parts art, science, and humility. The Fly Casting Skills Development program (FCSD) is about removing friction from that journey. Most people quit fly fishing not because they don't love it, but because they don't get good fast enough. FCSD helps solve that. It gives anglers—whether you're touching a fly rod for the first time or chasing perfection after decades on the water—a structured path to competence.

The program runs on four rungs: Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Foundation is where you learn the language of fly casting: loops, roll casts, and basic accuracy. Bronze, Silver, and Gold are about leveling up—direction changes, distance, presentation. The results: More fish, fewer disappointments. And yes, there's bling: pins and recognition at each level, because achievement feels better when someone acknowledges it.

Important caveat: this is not about becoming a teacher. FCSD is not the instructor certification program. It's not an exam. It's a gym for your casting muscles. You go at your own pace, you decide how far you want to take it, and you'll know—by the tug at the end of your line—that it's working.

The secret sauce is starting at the beginning. Too many anglers want to skip to the sexy stuff. But most bad habits are born at the foundation. Fix those problems, and everything downstream is easier.

Bottom line: FCSD is the cheat code to more fun, less frustration, and better days on the water. The fish are waiting!

Join us at Franklin Park, October 5 in the afternoon for this event! Watch your email for updates.

Jim's got a great boat. It could be yours.



2004 16 foot Clackacraft low profile drift boat with trailer - ready to go! Full cover, Cataract Magnum oars, extra full size oar and emergency oar, pyramid anchor, two life jackets,

Boat Buckle tie downs, extra tie downs, cooler, long handle net, 100 year Clackacraft hull guarantee, electric motor with battery. These boats with trailer go for around \$18,000 new. Asking \$7,500. Will sell to IEFEC member for \$6,000. Contact Jim McDevitt.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Club Schedule

September 9	Club Meeting	Speaker: Grant and Lottie Richie: Fly Fishing the Grande Ronde/Wallowa
September 23-24	Fin Clipping	Contact: Doug Brossoit
October 3-4	Spokane Showdown Fishout-tentative	SFF/SWOTF/IEFFC-Guy Gregory
October 5	FFI Casting Skills Development Program	Franklin Park 1-5 PM
October 11	Bayley Lake Spawning Channel Cleanup	Contact: Jerry McBride
October 14	Club Meeting	Speaker: TBD
November 11	Club Meeting	Speaker: Cecelia Beale, El Encuentro Fly Fishing, Patagonia Fly Fishing
October 18	Fall Fishout	Medical Lake: Contact: Lee Funkhouser

Since last we met....



Keith Kuester:
Getting out, getting trout!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Since last we met.....



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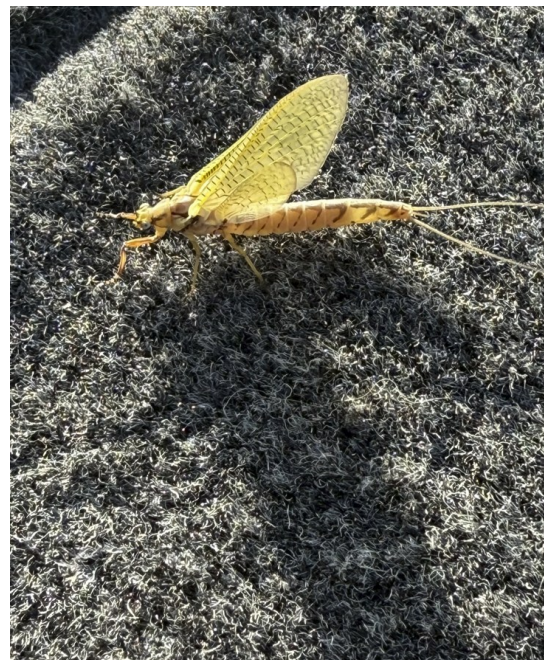
Doug Brossoit and Jerry McBride warmin' them bones under Bahamian skies..



An Upper Holder Rainbow....



Road Warrior on the carp highway



A Central Washington Hexagenia casts a long shadow...

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Summer Steelhead Returns Above Average

By
Idaho Fish and Game-August 7, 2025

Fish and wildlife populations are always surprising us — sometimes in bad ways and sometimes in good ways. This year's steelhead return is guilty of the latter, and the recent spike in returns is worth celebrating.

Before the run had even started, a contingent of Idaho Fish and Game anadromous fisheries managers — working with tribal and federal fisheries managers — predicted a total of 67,500 steelhead would return to the Columbia River, including 55,600 A-run fish and 11,900 B-run fish.

This year's return has already exceeded the preseason forecast, and as of Aug. 6 there have been 76,000 A-run steelhead counted while passing Bonneville Dam. The 10-year average for the same time span is about 30,000 but includes some very poor steelhead return years, so the 10-year average is a low bar to clear.

Steelhead runs are difficult to forecast from year to year. But why?

“The majority of this year's returning steelhead only spent one year in the ocean, so it's similar to forecasting jack Chinook salmon where we don't have any good indicators to predict returns,” said Chris Sullivan, Anadromous Fisheries Coordinator.

Enough about A-runs, though. How's the B-run looking?

While A-run steelhead are definitely proving optimistic, Sullivan argues it's still a little early to determine how B-run steelies are faring. Typically this time of year, fisheries biologists need to wait another month before having a clearer picture.

Currently, about half of the fish that have passed Bonneville Dam are unclipped, or in other words, are wild. This indicates wild steelhead numbers are up this year, too.

Spokane Showdown 2025

Members of the Spokane Fly Fishers, IEFEC, Spokane Women on the Fly, and the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International are tentatively scheduled to meet for a competition on October 4, 2025.



On October 3, a venue will be chosen between Amber, Medical, and Waitts Lakes. Anglers will be notified by social media, email or text of the venue. Two person teams from each club (as many teams as are available) will meet at the chosen venue and fish from 9AM to noon on October 3.

Prizes will be awarded for most and biggest fish, all fish are to be released, no fish pictured out of the water will count. .

Following the awards, a barbecue is likely, and one might assume there will be beverages and conversation for all.

Watch your email for news on this, details are not complete. If you're interested, contact Guy at ggregory@rocketmail.com and I'll keep you posted individually.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Friends of the River Coalition by Jerry McBride

On July 29 Jeff Pope and I stopped in to visit Dawn Wiksten and Ralph Shay at Dawn's home near the Snake Pit Restaurant. Her beautiful home is just off the highway that runs along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. Dawn is the president of Friends Of the River Coalition (FORC) and Ralph is a board member of FORC and a member of the North Idaho Fly Casters.

Dawn told us about the major activities of FORC which are:

- Multiple dumpsters placed along the river every summer for the use of visitors. Dawn shared her nickname among local residents which is "Dumpster Dawn".
- Trash bag dispensers for users of the river to use rather than throwing their trash in the river. Dawn's husband Sid (a mechanical engineer) designed the dispensers and arranged for their manufacture. Parker Subaru paid for the dispensers.
- Removal of heavy trash (tires, appliances and such) from the lower river once a year when the water level is at its lowest. This project is on hold during the I-90 bridge project near the take-out at Cataldo.
- They provided water rescue equipment to the Shoshone County Fire Department.
- They provide a shuttle bus for events on the North Fork.
- FORC is continuing to advocate for the restoration of a launch/takeout at Prichard on the North Fork.



Dawn Wikstein and Ralph Shay of
FORC

Jeff and Ralph Shay hit it off right away because Ralph is also a fly rod builder. Ralph lives in Coeur d'Alene and typically spends four or five days a week on the North Fork. He is very adamant that the catch and release and no bait rules are followed.

The FORC website link is: <https://friendsoftheriver.com/>

FORC is on Facebook. If you would like to join FORC on Facebook contact Dawn at 208-771-0470 or friendsoftheriver@gmail.com

If you stop by Silver Bow.....



....wish Sean and the team a happy 20th anniversary!

A fly shop open under the same ownership for 20 years..
Wow!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Max Canyon

September 2025

Doug Stewart

The Max Canyon is a popular fly for summer steelhead. First tied in the 1970's on the lower Deschutes by Doug Stewart, it remains popular for steelhead in the upper Columbia system. Watch and listen to Doug's son tie this fly on his Wet Fly Swing YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYhbn2-ke34>

Thread: 70 Denier Ultra Red thread
Hook: Dai Riki 899 up eye, size 6
Tail: White and orange calf tail
Body: Back half orange yarn, front black yarn
Rib: Gold Oval Tinsel
Hackle: Black
Wing: White and orange calf tail

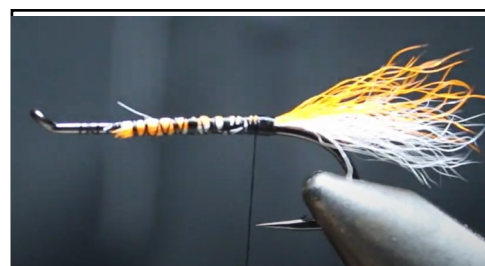
Tie in your thread just above the hook point, and advance to the start of the barb. Tie in a small bunch of white calf tail, extending about a hook gap distance behind the hook. Tie in a smaller bunch of orange calf tail on top of the white. Snug down the tips to about 1/4 hook length behind hook eye.

Tie in a short piece of oval tinsel for a rib. Build the body: tie in orange yarn and wrap forward from the tail, then add black forward to the end of the tips, about 2/3 black and 1/3 orange. Wrap the rib forward about 5 wraps to finish the body.

Tie in a black hackle wrapping 4 or 5 turns, then tying down so it forms a hackle about 7/8 of the distance back to the tail.

Tie down a bunch of white calf tail for a wing, keeping it on top of the hook, extending back just beyond the base of the tail. Again, tie some orange calftail on top of the white, about 1/3 the amount you used of the white.

Trim up the wing hairs nicely, pull the wing back and finish off the head. The fly should look like the above.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI News and Happenings

Join us at FFI FlyFest 2025!

Fly Fishers International is proud to gather our members and the fly fishing community in Grand Rapids for FFI FlyFest, September 26th and 27th 2025.

We've heard the calls for a return to an in-person event, and this will be a wonderful location for our gathering later this year. Offering easy air travel options, and centrally located for highway travel, Grand Rapids is also a hub of culture and entertainment options along with plenty of fly fishing to be done in the area.

FFI FlyFest 2025 will once again offer an extensive slate of indoor and outdoor workshops, presentations, and demonstrations for all experience levels and covering topics including fly casting, fly tying, and important conservation partnerships.

We're excited to have strong industry support from Hardy, StealthCraft Boats, Abel, Ross, Airlite Rods, Airflo, Renzetti, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, Scientific Anglers, and more.

More info link: www.flyfishersinternational.org/flyfest

Registration link: <https://whova.com/portal/registration/Iad0RtGahQhpA9qMbFdR/>

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



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