



INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB SEPTEMBER MEETING

January 13, 2026

Wet Fly 5:30 Meeting 6:30 PM

RAMADA INN-AIRPORT

8909 W Airport Dr, Spokane, WA 99224

Presidents' Message By Bryan Harman

Happy 2026!

January is here it is a new year and new club officers, I would like to thank all the board members and previous board members and officers for all they have done to get the Inland Empire Fly Fishing club to where it is today. I am proud to be the 70th president of this club and can only hope to serve you as well as the previous presidents.

I hope everyone is making New Years resolutions to be healthier and better for 2026, but lets be honest those resolutions are tough and most of us aren't going to follow through. Here is the solution for the better resolution: we can all be better casters, fly tyers and fly fishers! With some diligent effort, a couple club fishing trips, a few tying nights, several buddy fishing trips on local waters and heck while you are at it a big adventurous fishing trip to somewhere amazing, we can all be better fly fishers. I think this is an opportunity to have a serious heart to heart conversation with our enablers about a New Year's resolution you can stick to for the whole year. For any one that survives this conversation please advise on tips and techniques as this quality fishing information will be very helpful to club members.

I am looking forward to 2026 as I have 2 daughters graduating high school and they are off to the next adventure in life. The big adventure is not in the cards for this year for me but hopefully not too much longer, so I will fill my time with fly tying nights, club meetings, club outings and sneak out with some close friends and new friends for a few days on the water. I hope as club members, we get together we share the stories of fish caught, fish missed (the bigger fish of course) and skills learned.

If you haven't been to a club meeting in a while, 2026 is your year, we have some great speakers lined up this year. Fly tying nights are going strong: even if you don't tie get out of the house socialize with friends its good for your sanity on these short winter days when sunshine is tough to come by. Telling fishing stories and hav-

JANUARY PROGRAM

Garrett Lesko Oregon Fly Tying

Garrett Lesko of Oregon Fly Tying is our January speaker. Garrett is an author of several books, was featured as a "Master at the Bench" in American Fly Fishing magazine, and was awarded "Fly Tyer of the Year" the OR Council of FFI in



2024. His Youtube channel is packed with Oregon fly fishing information.

His passion to learn and to teach his skill has sent him to multiple fly tying expos and shows in Washington and Oregon, the biggest being the NW Expo that is in March every year in Albany, Oregon.

He has also been a regular club speaker at fly fishing clubs in Oregon and beyond over the last few years. He enjoys using his 16+ years of experience in the fly fishing and tying industry to teach through his local club, other fly fishing clubs, and beyond.

He has done demos and shared his knowledge of deer hair work and warm water fishing with local fly fishing club and project healing waters chapters. As of now has tied flies for people going all over the world from Argentina to Mongolia to Christmas Island to Alaska to Montana and would love to tie more and share his knowledge with anyone who wants to learn.

Garrett's presentation is Calderas of Oregon and Their Fish, with a dash of new Stillwater techniques added in. Oregon is one of the most volcanic states in the country. Not only can you explore the various volcanic peaks, you can fish the lakes inside the calderas. From Crater Lake to Paulina the fishing opportunities are vast and exciting. Garrett will be going over the various different lakes in Oregon, the fish that call these hollow volcanoes home, and the tactics to catch them. Don't miss it!

President's Message (continued)

ing some laughs keep a positive spin on life and if nothing else you will feel better knowing someone else lost a fish bigger than the one you lost last summer. I am planning to head to Rocky Ford to see if any of these flies work but the conversation will be good enroute and optimism runs high. We fly fishers are an optimistic bunch we head to a body water with limited info and take a net, hemostats and a Runge Releaser because we believe we are going to catch fish.

The Christmas raffle was fantastic success this year! Lots of great prizes, the WSU table had what felt like an above average showing bringing home some nice prizes (The WSU guys being above average has given me faith that all things are possible,) It was great to see lots of members at the meeting and fun was had by everybody.

After more years than I can remember, Gordy Olsen is stepping down from running the Christmas raffle. Bob Johnson will step into a big set of shoes. Thanks for stepping up, Bob, I have full faith that you will do a great job. If any members want to help Bob or any other committee please speak up or grab me and we will get you in touch to help.

I met our January speaker Garrett Lesko at the Flyfishing Expo in Albany Oregon this year. His fly tying is what caught my eye and after talking to him, I'm afraid I am going to have to add an Oregon fishing license to my wallet in addition to the Idaho, Washington and Montana that occupy that space.

See you on January 13th at the Ramada and hopefully see you at the next fishout too`

-Brian.

Fly Tying Contest!



Our club has many excellent tyers, so this may be of interest to you. Pacific Fly Fishers is having a fly tying contest and are offering some great prizes for the winning flies. Something to look at as you are wondering what to do this winter.

Link to the rules and prizes, and entry form here.....

<https://pacificflyfishers.com/pages/fly-tying-challenge>

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Club Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Speaker
January 6	Fly Tying Night	North Spokane Fieldhouse Pizza	Phil Beck
January 13	IEFFC Meeting	Spokane Airport Ramada	Speaker: Garrett Lesko
January 15	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
January 17	Rocky Ford Outing	Rocky Ford-2nd Parking Lot	Lee Funkhouser
January 20	Fly Tying Night	Spokane Valley YAYA Brewery	Lee Funkhouser
February 3	Fly Tying Night	North Spokane Fieldhouse Pizza	Phil Beck
February 10	IEFFC Meeting	Valentines Dinner Spokane Airport Ramada	Speaker: Chip O'Brien: CdA River
February 12	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
February 17	Fly Tying Night	Spokane Valley YAYA Brewery	Lee Funkhouser
March 3	Fly Tying Night	North Spokane Fieldhouse Pizza	Phil Beck
March 10	IEFFC Meeting	Spokane Airport Ramada	TBD
March 12	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
March 19-22	Big Horn Show	Spokane Fair and Expo Center	Denny Carson

Fly tying Nights!

Fly tying nights continue to be popular! We will keep it going through the New Year. Next session is on January 6 th , at Fieldhouse Pizza.

We will continue using YAYA Brewery and Fieldhouse Pizza and they are always glad to see us. Winter is a great time to learn some new patterns and fill your fly box with flies for the next fishing season.

Fly tying will be the first Tuesday of the month at Fieldhouse Pizza and the third Tuesday of the month at YAYA Brewing. Fieldhouse Pizza is located at 4423 W. Wellesley Ave, across the street from Veterans Hospital. YAYA is located at 11712 East Montgomery Drive in the Spokane Valley, and we tie from 6PM to 7:30PM. They have food service at both locations and the beer is cold. Guests are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Club Awards for 2025



Bob Burton and Pat Stuart, 2025 President's Award winners, with 2025 President Guy Gregory



Lee Funkhouser
2025 Distinguished Service Award

It was my distinct pleasure to present Club Awards this year.

Pat Stuart and Bob Burton received President's Awards, Pat was recognized for his enthusiastic participation in fishouts and club activities and innovative angling techniques. Bob for his long time service, dedication, and devotion to the Club, to fly angling, and to members. Bob is a very, very fishy guy who helps anyone who asks. Both these gentlemen make our club special.

Lee Funkhouser received the Distinguished Service Award for his many years of work in club leadership, his enthusiastic and creative efforts to get us fishing, and for his tireless efforts to keep our club alive, and then growing, during and after Covid.

These are IEFFC members to admire.
-Guy Gregory

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Fly Fisherman of the Year Bob Johnson



Bob Johnson accepts the Hugh Evans Memorial Fly Fisherman of the Year Award from outgoing President Guy Gregory

The Award is presented to a member of the club who is proficient at lake and stream fly fishing, and exhibits the highest qualities of good sportsmanship.

Sportsmen's Shows and Fly Fishing events: 2026

- **Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show** (January 23–25, 2026): Hosted at the HAPO Center in Pasco, focusing on regional fishing and hunting
- **Washington Sportsmen's Show** (January 28 – February 1, 2026): Located in Puyallup, featuring a unique indoor "Steelhead River" and extensive fishing seminars.
- **Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo** (January 30–31, 2026): A premier two-day event in Boise/Garden City featuring expert fly tyers, casting demonstrations, and industry exhibitors.
- **Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show** (February 11–15, 2026): Held at the Portland Expo Center, this is one of the largest fishing and boat shows in the region.
- **The Fly Fishing Show – Bellevue** (February 14–15, 2026): Held at the Meydenbauer Center, this event features the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4), seminars, and world-class gear vendors.
- **Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo** (March 13–14, 2026): Hosted by the Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International in Albany, Oregon, focusing on education and conservation
- **Big Horn Outdoor Adventure Show** (March 19–22, 2026): A major outdoor event in Spokane Valley.
- **Eastern Idaho Fly Tying Expo** (March 20–21, 2026): A key gathering for tiers and anglers in Idaho Falls.
- **Washington FFI Fly Casting & Tying Fair** (April 19, 2026): A specialized event focused on technical skills in the Washington area.
- **Canadian National Fly-Fishing Championship** (July 2–4, 2026): Hosted in Merritt, B.C., on venues including Corbett Lake and the Similkameen River

Search the web for more information on these events!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

2026 Club Leadership



Stephenie, Larry, Charlene, Shawn, and Bryan. Not pictured: Jeff Pope, Matt Mason

Members working in Club Leadership keep our club vibrant and fresh. This year's slate of Officers and Directors will infuse our club with new energy and perspectives. Their success is ours!

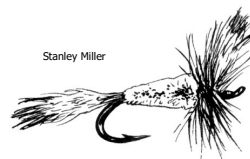
Bryan Harman will step into the Presidents' chair this year for his 3rd year as a club Officer.. Bryan is a leader on Big Horn Show and Kids Fishing crews.

Shawn Denny is joining the Officer Team as Vice President. He's an active club member.

Charlene Douglas will take on the Treasurers' post beginning this year. She is a relatively new member, but has served in this capacity for other fly clubs in the region.

Larry Ray has agreed to become club Secretary this year. He's been in leadership in many sporting clubs in the Northwest, and is Librarian of the Spokane Fly Fishers.

Jeff Pope is nominated for the 2028 Board of Directors office. **Stephenie Stephens** is the 2027 office holder, and **Matt Mason** is the 2026 Director.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Christmas Raffle Action



L-R: Mike Beasley, Hubert Langenhorst, Steve Cozzetto, and Merlin Olsen get their tickets ready at the Coug Table. Go Cougs!



Folks check out the many terrific raffle and silent auction items!



Bob Schmitt and Denny Carson keeping' the paperwork straight!

Leon Buckles and Bill Papesh share a pleasant conversation



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Rocky Ford Outing January 17, 2026

Our next outing will be the Rocky Ford Outing, to be held on January 17th, 2026, weather permitting. Lunch will be provided and we will be staging at the middle parking lot. We will be sending out a RSVP request the week before the event and will be monitoring the weather to make sure the event is successful. Several members have fished the creek in recent days and the fishing has been encouraging.

Last years outing was outstanding as many members caught personal record fish. Jeff Pope led the pack with a massive 28 inch rainbow. We expect more of the same and look forward to some big fish, good food and great conversation.



WDFW Columbia River Endorsement Needed Now

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, anglers age 15 years and older must purchase a Columbia River salmon and steelhead endorsement (CRSSE) to fish recreationally for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River and its tributaries. The total cost of the endorsement, after transaction and dealer fees, is \$8.75 for resident and non-resident anglers 16 years old and older. The endorsement fee is \$7.10 for 15-year-olds and resident seniors (70 years and older).

Soggy December Flooding and High Flows

This screen grab from a youtube by Robert Wheelock shows the “Texaco Hole” on the Lower North Fork Coeur d’Alene River, the Kingston Gas station is just right of center, from about December 12. The gage at Enaville reported 25,000 cfs that day.

Our warm December and over-normal rainfall has melted what was the initial snow-pack in the mountains, creating springlike flow conditions on most rivers in the Northwest. Our hearts go out to those victims of flooding, fortunately there are only reports of property damage.



But it is not over. Use caution this winter and early spring as bottom profiles at most rivers and streams familiar to us have changed. If you’re out for an early float, remember that there will be tons of large woody debris and local damming of those streams, expect sweepers and shallows at unfamiliar places. Remember, these flows change things, sometimes for the better for fish!

Safety first!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Pheasant Tail Spinner

January 2026

Craig Matthews

The Pheasant Tail is an old pattern, first published in 1877. There are dozens of variants, because it's very effective representation of all the stages of a mayfly's life. This pattern is from the new book *Pheasant Tail Simplicity*, and is specifically for the spinner life stage. Easy to tie and effective. What's wrong with that? Check the Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0PlhDQqg64>

Hook: Tiemco TMC 100BL, or similar dry-fly hook, #16–#18
Thread: 8/0 UNI-Thread, rusty dun or red
Tails: 4–6 pheasant tail barbs
Abdomen: Same pheasant tail barbs as used for tails
Ribbing: Thread
Wing case: Leftover pheasant tail barbs from abdomen pulled shellback style over the thorax and tied off at the head to form a shellback
Wing: Grizzly or dun hackle barbs
Optional hotspot/thorax: Kapok dubbing of proper color

Tie in 4-6 pheasant tail fibers at on the hook just above the barb, extending the fibers about a gap length behind the tie in point for a tail. Wrap thread forward tying down the fibers on top of the hook about halfway to the eye.

Bring the thread back to the tail. Fold the fibers back to the tail and tie in. Advance the thread forward again halfway to the eye, and form a slender thin delicate abdomen by wrapping the fibers to the thread, then tying down. Do not trim the ends.

If you desire, a thin thorax of fine dubbing in a red or rusty color can be formed now. Thorax or not, now wrap about 5 turns of grizzly hackle dry fly hackle style in front of the pheasant tail fibers forming the wing.

Fold the pheasant tail through the grizzly hackle, dividing the grizzly in half, sort of like forming a wing case. Tie it forming a head. Whip finish. Trim the grizzly hackle flush along the base so the fly rides like a spinner on splayed wings. The slim, slender body and broad wings, and the brown color of the pheasant makes this a very effective imitator of almost all species of mayfly.



FFI News and Happenings

Washington FFI Spring 2026 Events

Fly Fishing Show: February 14-15, Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA
<https://flyfishingshow.com/bellevue-wa/>

FFI will be operating the Learning Center at the show again this year. To volunteer as a fly tier or casting instructor please contact president@wscffi.org

Washington FFI Fly Casting and Tying Fair
April 19, 2026, Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah, WA

Our premier casting and tying event is returning to Issaquah next spring with an expanded roster of classes and instructions. Watch the Washington Council Newsletter (or this one!) for details out in February

Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous
May 22-24
Craig, MT

Join FFI Women Connect for a weekend of fishing and social events on the Missouri River. The two day gathering will be hosted by guide Trisha Campbell and Washington FFI Director Marion Hiller, both of whom are FFI Casting instructors.

Registration and tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-connect-missouri-river-rendezvous-tickets>

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

Bryan Harman - President
Shawn Denny - Vice President
Larry Ray - Secretary
Charlene Douglas - Treasurer

Board Members are: Stephanie Stephens, Matt Mason, and Jeff Pope.

Membership Committee Chair: Bob Schmitt

Contact information for all Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs are in the 2025 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