



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
Spokane Airport Ramada Inn
March 10, 2026
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Dinner cost \$35.00

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

March Program Joe Rotter: Angling travel tips

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Bryan Harman

Wow where did February go? Between the Valentine's meeting, going to Bellevue for the Fly Show and a business trip to Boise, February slipped away without me casting a line. I suppose if you have to lose a month of fishing, February is the shortest month and the insect hatches tend to be a little thin.

March is here and it seems as if winter might finally be trying to have a go at it. I am looking out and seeing more snow on Rathdrum Mtn than I have all winter which is a bright spot in an otherwise very low snow pack. We will have to consult with Guy to get the exact numbers but mother nature does seem to have a way of getting even so fingers crossed for a snowy spring (in the mountains).

The Big Horn show is just 3 weeks away and thank you to everyone that has volunteered and for those that have not please reach out and we can find you a time slot (several are available). It is a fun time to hang out and talk about the club and fishing with other club members and people they want to become club members. The club can always use new members, from people wanting to learn more about fly fishing to people that have stories and new techniques they can bring to the club.

While we are on the subject of volunteers and club needs if anyone is interested in wading into (pun intended) the clubs social media accounts please let me or any of the board members know.

Phil Beck and I went to the Fly Fishing show in Bellevue and met several presenters and got info on some really cool lodges from northern BC to Iceland. We are hoping to get some great presenters going into the fall, more info to follow.

Fly fishing guide, outfitter, and instructor **Joe Rotter** invites you to join him for an inside look at how he plans and executes successful trips on unfamiliar water. Joe will share how he uses modern tools—from computers to smartphones—to streamline trip planning, save time, and maximize efficiency before ever stepping into the river.



From a strategic standpoint, Joe will also discuss how Tight Line Nymphing (Euro Nymphing) can help level the playing field for DIY anglers on public rivers and creeks. These techniques offer a highly effective way to present western-style nymphs and streamers using ultralight tackle. In addition, he will share background on fishing the Yakima River along with some of his strategies for scouting and finding access to new public waters.

Joe is best known as a partner at Red's Fly Shop and for the shop's highly successful YouTube channel, which has helped anglers around the world gain confidence in technical fly fishing.

While Joe's riverside fly shop in the Yakima River Canyon keeps him deeply connected to local fisheries, he has also traveled extensively to fish destinations including Russia, Chile, British Columbia, Belize, Argentina, Christmas Island, Florida Keys, Mexico, Costa Rica, and the Everglades. This broad, worldwide angling experience brings added depth to the conversation, and during the Q&A session Joe is happy to discuss a wide range of fisheries, techniques, and travel-related questions.

February Meeting



Our February Meeting honoring our partners and angling enablers was again a great success! **Phil Beck** and friends did another truly terrific job acquiring and organizing raffle prizes, it was a very pleasant evening for all.

Pictures: Charlene Douglas and Stephanie Stephens



Chip O'Brien, our presenter, was entertaining and informative, discussing the things that make our nearby north Idaho cutthroat streams so important to all of us.



A host of raffle prizes tempted and delighted all!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

More February pictures



Joe and Charlene Douglas



Denny and Tina Carson



Phil and Stephany Beck



Jim and Gretchen McDevitt



A great time at this table



Tom and Theresa Stralser get some tickets going...

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Washington Lake Opener From WDFW

More than two dozen Eastern Washington lakes open March 1 for fishing, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced today. In addition to stocked rainbow trout, many of these lakes offer excellent late-winter fishing opportunities for bass, yellow perch, burbot, cutthroat trout, brown trout, crappie, wall-eye, and bluegill.

“We’ve had a mild winter, and early March can be a great time for lake fishing opportunities,” said Steve Caromile, WDFW statewide inland fish program manager. “As the days become longer, these early spring fisheries are a good way to start the season.”

In Spokane County, Liberty Lake opens March 1 and received 4,000 catchable-size rainbow trout and 350 jumbo rainbow trout in 2026. Trout at Liberty Lake can range from 12 to 16 inches. Amber and Medical lakes also open March 1; both lakes are managed under selective gear rules and are expected to fish well this spring.



In Lincoln County, Coffeepot Lake opens March 1 and is scheduled to receive 5,000 put-grow-take rainbow trout in spring 2026.

Downs Lake, located on the Lincoln-Spokane County line, typically opens on March 1, but it is not accessible to the public this season. Access to the lake is limited to a privately-owned resort that is currently closed. No fish were stocked in 2026, and stocking will not resume until public access is available. WDFW is working to restore public access.

In Grant County, WDFW recently stocked rainbow trout in several lakes opening March 1. Martha and Upper Caliche lakes each received rainbow trout fingerlings in March 2025 and an additional plant of catchable-sized trout in October 2025. These fish are expected to average 13 to 14 inches by opening day, with some reaching 20 inches. These lakes will also be stocked with additional catchable trout in March 2026.

WDFW stocked Quincy and Burke lakes with more than 21,000 trout fingerlings in spring 2025 and received an additional 1,500 catchable-size rainbow trout in February. Last year's fingerling plants are expected to be 10 to 12 inches, with some larger carryover fish in the 13- to 15-inch range.

Additional Grant County lakes opening March 1 include Cliff, Crystal, Cup, Lower Spring, and Upper Spring lakes, each stocked with fingerling rainbow trout in March 2025. These lakes can produce trout in the 12- to 14-inch range, with some fish growing larger. Lenice, Nunnally, Dry Falls, and Dusty lakes are also part of the March 1 opening. Lake Lenore is one of six lakes in Washington where anglers can catch Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Remember, Anglers parking at WDFW-managed vehicle water-access areas are required to display the WDFW Vehicle Access Pass provided with an eligible annual fishing license, or a Discover Pass. Anglers visiting Washington State Parks or Department of Natural Resources lands need a Discover Pass.

Our club One-Fly outing is coming up in April....get ready!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Resource Agency O&M Budget Woes from WA DNR, WDFW, and NW Sportsman Magazine

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced tentative reductions to recreation access across the state due to budget cuts amplifying an ongoing lack of funding for maintenance and staff.

Chopaka Lake, a fly-only water tucked in a stunning portion of Okanogan County, and nearly 20 other sites around the state are listed for a range of tentative service reductions should supplemental operating budget proposals from Governor Ferguson or the state House and Senate come to pass this short legislative session.

Other campgrounds that could be fully closed include Hoh Oxbow near Forks, Lyre River west of Port Angeles, Skookum Creek near Newport and Winston Creek near Mossyrock. The other DNR recreation sites would see late openers, winter, seasonal or partial closures, service reductions, or combinations thereof.

“The Governor’s proposed budget for the 2026 legislative session includes cuts that threaten crucial maintenance work performed by DNR staff. The Operating Budget for DNR’s Recreation Program was already reduced by more than 20% moving into the 2025-2027 biennium, and the 2026 proposal includes an additional \$750,000 per year in reductions. Both proposed House and Senate Operating Budgets also include reductions to the Recreation Maintenance Account.” says a DNR press release.

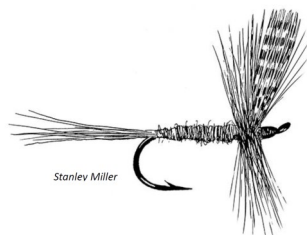
Over at WDFW, both the Senate and House propose to reduce how much money is allocated for WDFW water access sites, restrooms, grounds and facilities, among other properties, the Senate by \$2 million a year from 2023-25 budget levels, the House by \$800,000 from that same benchmark. This is in addition to a 10 percent reduction in WDFW enforcement staff.

Both agencies are preparing comments on legislative proposals as legislators begin the process of merging the spending plans into something that can pass the legislature by the scheduled end of the session, March 12. You may wish to contact your legislator with your opinion.

Governor Ferguson then will receive the budgets to sign or veto in part in April.

Upcoming Volunteer and Fishout Activities

Check the calendar...there’s plenty of club action coming up this spring. The **One-Fly**, a fishing outing where each angler must use one fly and one fly only between 9 and noon, will be in April again at Amber Lake. Each year has been more fun than the last, the weather is often springlike, I always break off or have the wrong fly or something, but we get lunch and the winner gets a trophy! The **Big Horn Show** is in March, and Brian can always use volunteers to staff the booth and talk to folks about our club and about fly fishing in general. **Kid’s Fishing** will be May 9, we do work on that day, and on the day prior with kids and families from Ronald McDonald House here in Spokane. This is our most rewarding activity and I encourage you to sign up when the sheets come around at the meeting, or email Bryan, Skip, or the Flyleaf editor to get involved. It’s a very, very good time.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

April Meeting Questions for Idaho and Washington Fish Folks

We are changing our format for the April meeting! For many years, we've had fisheries managers from Idaho Fish and Game and Washington Fish and Wildlife present information on local conditions. This year we're doing something new, and we will no longer be having these folks do a presentation.

Yet, because we still have questions that need answering, we asked both Andy Dux from IDFG and WDFW's Randy Osborne to answer any questions we have regarding their respective states. They've agreed!

So, if you have questions, please send them in and we will forward them to Andy and Randy. Submit your questions by March 17, we will send the answers in a separate email to all of the membership

IEFFC CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Time
March 3	Fly Tying Night—North Spokane	Fieldhouse Pizza	Phil Beck
March 10	IEFFC Meeting	Spokane Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman
March 12	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
March 13-14	NW Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo	Albany, OR	
March 19-22	Big Horn Show	Spokane Fair and Expo Center	Denny Carson
March 17	Fly Tying Night-Spokane Valley	YAYA Brewery	Lee Funkhouser
April 14	IEFFC Meeting	Spokane Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman
April 16	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
April 18	IEFFC One-Fly	Amber Lake	Bob Johnson
April 19	Washington FFI Fly Casting Fair	Issaquah, WA	
May 9	Kid's Fishing	Clear Lake	Bryan Harman/Skip Cavanaugh
May 12	IEFFC Meeting	Spokane Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman
May 14	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

A thank you from Riverkeeper



The Riverkeeper Crew

Jerry McBride reports receipt of a thank you from Spokane Riverkeeper of our \$150 donation supporting their work to protect, preserve, and restore the Spokane River watershed. We look forward to sharing the impact of your contribution and continuing this important work together.

Riverkeeper is a boots on the ground operation, and IE-FFC donations go directly to improving our watershed.

FLY TYING NIGHTS Continuing Into The Spring

Fly tying nights continue to be well attended so we are continuing them in February and March. Some really amazing flies are being tied and some really amazing stories are being told.

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 next years fishing season.

Fly tying will be the first Tuesday of the month at Fieldhouse Pizza and the third Tuesday of the month at YAYA. 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

DUES

Dues are due by March 1st. Please bring to the March meeting or send to our P.O. Box. \$50.00 for active members.

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

A couple of announcements

- **Treasurer Charlene Douglas and the Board** are working to get **credit card payment** capability for dues, supper, and other club activities. Though not ready for prime time yet, look for lots of emails when this rolls out.
- **The first supplement to the Fly of the Month Collection** had been compiled by the Publications Committee. This supplement contains copies of the Fly of the Month for the 5 years 2001-2005. It is only available as an electronic document. Download for free at <https://bit.ly/40jxFJA>
- **Al Odenthal** invites you to the Spokane Fly Fishers Raffle and Auction on March 11th at St. Francis church, 1104 West Heroy in north Spokane from 6:00 (view items) 7:00 p.m. (raffle begins) until finished (around 9 p.m.). There will be new and used equipment, gift cards, guided trips, watercraft, rods, reels, fly collections and all manner of equipment offered. Admission is free, tickets are a buck. Details are at <https://spokaneflyfishers.com/event/2025-raffle-ticket-purchasing/#!event-register/2026/4/8/2026-annual-raffle-tickets> Tickets are a buck per ticket.
- **Apply your social media and webmaster skills!** Contact Lee or Guy to join the Publications committee and lead us into this brave new world! Do it now!

FLY OF THE MONTH CONTRIBUTIONS

For over 60 years, the Fly of the Month has been a major part of our newsletter. Hundreds of patterns have been chosen to be our Fly of the Month and most of those flies were introduced by club members. We do look outside our club for patterns that members can tie and utilize in our waters, but our preference will always be member contributions.

If you have a special fly that you would like featured, we welcome your input. Here are a few things that will allow us to feature your fly.

1. Name your fly. 2. Provide a list of materials. 3. Provide a step by step description of the tying process. 4. Provide approximately five pictures taken during the tying process. 4. Provide a brief description of the fly, (how it came about, how to fish it, etc.) 5. Provide a picture of the completed fly.

We look forward to seeing your favorite pattern in an upcoming edition of *The Fly Leaf*..

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Fat Albert

March 2026

Brent Taylor

Your trout boxes are full, and you're ready to get out, but you get the call to go chase some bass. Whip up a few Fat Alberts real quick and leave that spinning gear in the closet. It's leggy, it's a high floater, you can see it well, and smallies or largemouths go wacko for it. It's also Skwala like, so your more carnivorous trout will hit it, too. And it makes a great indicator over heavy leeches or nymphs. Check out <https://www.flyfishfood.com/blogs/dry-fly-tutorials/fat-albert-dry-fly> for great instruction, or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3BmWhz_dDM for a "speed tie".

Hook: TMC 2302 Caddis and Terrestrials, size 8
Thread: Ultrathread 140-Dark brown, or your choice
Body 1: 2mm foam, brown
Body 2: 2mm foam, tan
Wing: EP fibers, white, or other white synthetic
Indicator: UV green fibers, optional
Legs: Life flex or tarantu, medium



Begin thread on hook just behind eye and wind backwards to the bend. Wind towards eye again and return to bend, creating a thread foundation to attach foam body. This will prevent foam from rotating around hook. Move thread back to hook point as this will be the tie-in point for foam. Prepare 3 pieces of foam – tan, brown, tan. Cut the 2 mm foam in 2" lengths, the overbody about 1 1/2 times the hook gape, the underbody about the width of the hook gape.

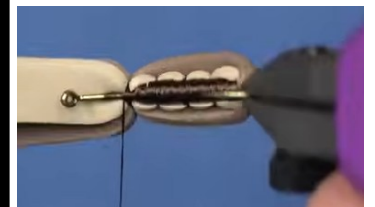
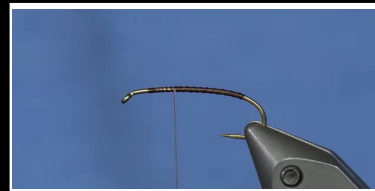
Cut a "V" point for tie-in on one end of brown foam used for the overbody. Tie down foam and wrap back to hook bend. Bring thread forward to point just in front of hook point.

Cut a "V" point for tie-in on one end of tan foam used for underbody. Wrap thread backwards to jam foam against over body foam. Doing so will create the desired "big butt" for fly. Use touching turns of thread to cover and securely attach foam.

Wrap thread forward to hook point and pull tan underbody foam forward and secure with several thread wraps. Segment the underbody with 4 evenly spaced segments to the 60% mark on the hook. Pull overbody foam forward and tie off securely with 4 thread wraps. From underneath it looks like this:

Tie legs on each side using same spot where foam is tied in. often folks tie the rear legs knotted. Tie in wing material, folding back to create thicker wing. Trim to end of body.

Tie in some underbody foam atop the wing, or use a separate color as an indicator. Snug all the foam down at the head, one piece at a time. Add one strand forward wings. Whip finish, and glue both the middle and head tie in points. Trim the foam angles. Glue the bottom thread body wraps and bottom well for durability.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI News and Happenings

Washington Fly Casting Fair

April 19, 2026, Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah, WA

Our premier casting and tying event is returning to Issaquah featuring an expanded roster of classes and instruction.



In addition to a full day of casting and tying instruction, games, and workshops, **Maxine McCormick** is featured! At the 2022 World Championships in Norway she took home four gold medals while winning all of the single handed fly casting events. Her perfect accuracy result was the highest score ever recorded at the World Championships for male or female participants. She set a single hand fly distance record in the Women's Sea Trout event. Don't miss it!

In addition, there'll be casting and tying workshops for anglers of all levels, good times, and new friends.

Details, Registration and tickets:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/washingtonflyfishersinternational/1973309>

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: Stephenie 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