



**GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
Spokane Airport Ramada Inn
September 8, 2026
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Dinner cost \$35.00**

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM Amanda Chapman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Bryan Harman

Fall is coming and more importantly fall fishing. All the local fish seem to want to strap on the feed bag and put on some fat for winter and hungry fish help tilt the advantage to the angler.

This summer has been the busiest I have ever experienced from a vacation in Colorado, business trip to Atlanta and cross country road trip to North Carolina to drop my daughter off at Appalachian State, I have not been in my own bed for more than 2 weeks since June. I have not met the minimum fishing requirement a man of my means needs but I will be looking to put some days on the water soon (cooler days and nights get here soon). If I could ask all the club members to do your own version of asking for divine intervention so we can get some rain and cooler temps, to help with the fires, smoke, water temps and of course fish activity.

Early August brought more excitement than any of our members cared for with the fires but as far as I am aware we did not have too many losses within our club. To any club members or family that were affected I wish you the best.

September is the first meeting back and I am looking forward to hearing some great fishing stories from your summer. I hope everybody that can come, will come, and enjoy a great presentation and good company. Studies show social interactions and creativity are good for your brain health, and since fishing stories by definition have a good bit of creativity, which sounds better than "lies and exaggerations", telling them to a fellow club member is by definition good for brain health.

Hope to see all of you at the club meeting for brain health and a cold drink or two, and while you're at it grab someone and plan to go fishing this fall while the fish are hungry and before that cold, white stuff, that we don't mention in September comes for a visit.

See you at the meeting!!

Previously working for Emerald Waters Anglers in Seattle WA and House of Fly in their Lewiston location, Amanda Chapman has several years working in the Fly Fishing Industry as shop rat, guide, women's program director, fly tying and casting instructor and commercial fly tyer. She has settled herself in what she considers the sweet spot for spey casting two handed rods for world renowned Steelhead in Idaho. She currently instructs and guides for skated flies on the Grande Ronde for a limited season each fall and runs her own Fly tying business.



Amanda

A native of western Washington, Amanda began her Steelhead journey tying flies in 2019. Creating buggy patterns to attract anadromous fish quickly became a passion as well as a true source of joy for this mama of five. Her successful patterns range from top water skaters and muddlers and classic spey flies to large profile Hobo style and heavily weighted intruders. Her flies have met wild Steelhead on numerous rivers, the Clearwater, Dean, Skeena, Skagit, Deschutes, Grande Ronde, Snake, Rogue, Trinity, Sandy, and Umpqua to name a few.

Her newest passion is tying and designing flies for large Salt Water Game Fish such as Tarpon, Redfish, Sheepshead and Jack Crevelle.

With Steelhead season quickly approaching, this is a must see presentation.

SPOKANE RIVER DISAPPEARING

By Lee Funkhouser

The eastern Spokane River is facing one of its most challenging summers in recent memory. Anglers who frequent the stretch near the Idaho border have seen the water drop to levels that are not just low, but historically low. For the second year in a row, the river has run dry in places—this time even earlier than last summer—and the impacts on fish habitat, aquatic insects, and recreation are becoming impossible to ignore.

The most striking example is the 1.5-mile reach between Barker Road and Sullivan Road. This section has gone completely dry, leaving a bare riverbed where trout, whitefish, and the river's insect life should be thriving. Riverkeepers describe this reach as “functionally dead” during these dry periods because aquatic life simply cannot survive repeated seasonal dewatering. What makes this year especially concerning is the timing: the dry-up occurred roughly two weeks earlier than it did last year, suggesting a worsening trend.



Spokane River at Barker Road

Flow data confirms what anglers are seeing. Across the river system, flows have hovered around 1,180 cubic feet per second—about 56 percent of normal for late August. At Post Falls, the USGS gauge recently recorded flows near 500 cfs, well below the long-term median. These reductions are closely tied to operations at Avista's Post Falls Dam, which has cut releases to protect the falling level of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The dam's federal license allows these reductions, but river advocates argue that the license was written for a different climate reality and doesn't adapt well to the extreme drought conditions we now face.

Several factors are converging to create this situation. Hotter, drier summers have become the norm, reducing inflows to both the lake and the Spokane Valley–Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. In very dry years, the aquifer can actually pull water from the river rather than feed it, further lowering surface flows. Hydro engineers point to a 15-year downward trend in available water, with year-to-year variability but an unmistakable long-term decline.

For fly fishers, the consequences are significant. When the riverbed dries, fish lose critical rearing habitat and cool-water refuges. Insect production drops sharply, affecting the very foundation of the river's food web. Lower flows also mean warmer water and reduced oxygen levels, creating stressful conditions for cold-water species. Pollution becomes more concentrated, adding yet another layer of strain. Even access becomes an issue: shallow, rock-exposed channels make traditional wading routes difficult or unsafe, and some favorite runs simply don't fish the way they used to.

Recreation beyond fishing is also affected. Rafting and floating seasons shorten, rocks become hazards, and outfitters report challenges in keeping operations viable. The river is still beautiful, still worth visiting, but it is undeniably changing.

Local communities are responding. Spokane has tightened lawn-watering rules, limiting irrigation to twice per week and restricting daytime watering. These measures aim to reduce aquifer drawdown and indirectly support river levels. Riverkeeper groups continue to push for more adaptive dam-flow management and greater recognition of climate impacts in federal licensing.

For our club, this is a moment to pay attention and to stay engaged. The Spokane River is central to our fishing lives, and its health affects everything from insect hatches to fish survival to the simple joy of wading into a cool current on a summer evening. Understanding the forces at play—and supporting efforts to protect the river—helps ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities we've enjoyed.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

AMBER LAKE CLUB CHALLENGE

By Chip O'Brien

The glove has been thrown, and the rematch is set for Saturday, October 3rd at 9:00 am at Amber Lake.

While the Inland Empire Fly Fishers were very good sports about it, losing a fishing contest to Spokane Fly Fishers in 2025 was a bitter pill for them to swallow. Some of their members have grand hopes of bringing that trophy home this year.

The first Spokane Showdown was held last year, and Spokane Fly Fishers members Mike Sportelli and Chip O'Brien prevailed. Last year the rules counted points for largest fish and the most fish caught. The Sportelli/O'Brien team landed the most fish, but Inland Empire members Scott Fink and Pat Stuart had the largest fish. The tie was broken (as agreed to in advance) by "Rock, Paper, Scissors."

Everyone has agreed that this year's winning team will be decided by the most fish in the net, 8 inches and over, caught by each two-person team.

Teams are urged to arrive early (to get rods rigged, pontoons inflated, etc.). Teams will fish hard from 9 :00 to 12:00 noon. Teams may fish from one or separate crafts. Fish caught before 9:00 am or after 12:00 noon will not be counted.



Amber Lake

COFFEEPOT "BIG FISH" OUTING

JUNE 6th and 7th

Our Coffeepot outing was hampered by hot weather and some fairly stiff winds. The fish were not super cooperative either.

Pat's famous Moose stew was again a masterpiece and numerous members came by to either fish or eat. The two day event was a lot of fun despite the adverse conditions.

The Big Fish Award went to Pat Stuart with another monster fish. Some members think he caught it in Medical Lake and brought it over to Coffeepot, but Medical Lake hasn't been fishing well enough for that to be the source.

Hoping to have the outing earlier in 2027 as the fishing at Coffeepot does drop off in the hotter weather.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FIN CLIPPING 2026

By Doug Brossoit

We have made a change this year. ***We are going to break our volunteers into morning and afternoon sessions.*** This makes it easier for busy schedules, and for many of us with older bones and joints.

As we have for many years, we are fin clipping at the hatchery again this year, this time on **Tuesday, September 29th and Wednesday, September 30th**. We have committed to have five volunteers from IEFEC clipping fins for the morning and afternoon sessions each day. The morning session is from 8am to noon with coffee and donuts at the break and lunch at noon provided. The afternoon session is from 1pm to 4pm with a treat provided during the break.

If you haven't done this before, it is a lot of fun and it is a very important part of the WDFW's fish management program.

If you would like to volunteer or have a question about volunteering contact Doug Brossoit @ 509-991-4466 (phone or text) or dougbrossoit@gmail.com . Specify day and session you would like to fin clip.

If you would like to work multiple sessions that would be great. Volunteers for the morning session need to be at the hatchery at 8 am and for the afternoon session they need to be at the hatchery at 1pm.

There will be a sign-up sheet passed around at our upcoming meeting September 8, 2026



IEFEC 2026 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact
Sept. 8th	IEFEC Meeting and Program	Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman
Sept. 10th	IEFEC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
Sept. 24-27	Steelhead Big Fish Derby	Grand Ronde, Snake, Clearwater	Pat Stuart
Sept. 29 & 30	Fin Clipping	WDFW Hatchery	Doug Brossoit
Oct. 3rd	Amber Lake Club Challenge	Amber Lake	Chip O'Brien
Oct. 6th	Fly Tying	Fieldhouse Pizza	Phil Beck
Oct. 13th	IEFEC Meeting and Program	Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman
Oct. 15th	IEFEC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
Oct. 17th	Williams Lake Outing	Williams Lake Public Launch	Lee Funkhouser
Oct. 20th	Fly Tying	YAYA Brewery	Lee Funkhouser
Nov. 3rd	Fly Tying	Fieldhouse Pizza	Phil Beck
Nov. 10th	IEFEC Meeting and Program	Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman
Nov. 12th	IEFEC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
Nov. 17th	Fly Tying	YAYA Brewery	Lee Funkhouser

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

STEELHEAD BIG FISH DERBY

By Pat Stuart

We are trying something a little different this year. Pat Stuart is organizing a Steelhead Derby to be held from Thursday, September 24th through Sunday, September 27th.

Steelhead can be caught in the Grande Ronde, Snake or Clearwater Rivers and a picture, (fish in the water, of course), is needed for entry. Estimated measurement is acceptable, but this is not on a Tuesday, and this is not Liar's Club.

Pat will be supplying lunch on Saturday, at 2PM, on the Grande Ronde. Location is at the confluence of the Snake and Grande Ronde.

This should be interesting, so let's see if we can make this work. Pat can answer your questions at 509-325-5100.

FLY TYING NIGHTS

Coming Back in October

Fly tying nights have been well attended so we are bringing them back this Fall, starting in October. We will again schedule them for the first and third Tuesday of each month.

We will continue using YAYA Brewery and Fieldhouse Pizza and they are always glad to see us. Fieldhouse Pizza will be used for the first Tuesday of each month and YAYA Brewery will have us for the third Tuesday of each month.

These sessions will give you a chance to start getting ready for next year, or for some of the hardier fisherman, allow you to get your Fall and Winter fly tying done.

Fly tying will start October 6th at Fieldhouse Pizza and October 20th 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

THANK YOU LETTERS

We received two very nice responses to the donations we send to conservation related organizations.

Here are the two messages.

Dear Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club,

On behalf of Spokane Riverkeeper, I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of a generous contribution in the amount of \$150.00, made on 02/12/2026.

- **Amount received:** \$150.00
- **Date received:** 02/12/2026
- **Transaction reference:** 3739
-

Thank you for your generous support. Your gift directly advances our 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. With gratitude,

Your Spokane Riverkeeper Crew

To all our friends of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, We are so grateful for your generous donation. Every dime helps with the work we do here.

This year is going to be very costly to fund due to the increased rates of diesel and the hauling of dumpsters, so I can promise you your donation will be put to great use.

Please know how much we appreciate you.

Tight Lines,
Dawn Wiksten
Friends of the River Coalition

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

Hoh Bo Spey

September 2026

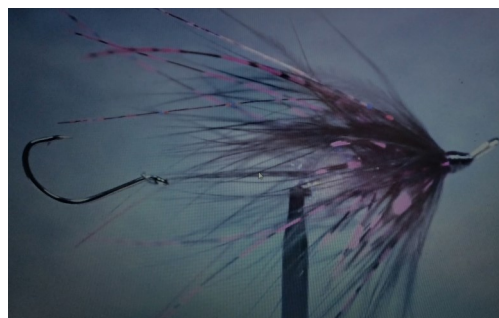
Tim Flagler

With Steelhead season approaching, it is time to look at appropriate flies. Here is a pattern invented by Charles St. Pierre and tied by Tim Flagler, courtesy of Fly Tyer Magazine. You can find a helpful video through youtube. Google Hoh Bo Spey Tim Flagler.

Tim calls it one of those flies that has everything that you need and nothing you don't. It also can be easily modified with different colors and materials.

A fairly easy fly to tie and a fly that should give you reasonable success this fall and winter.

Hook: Partridge Intruder Size 2.
Hook Line: Berkley Fireline. Smoke. 30 lb test.
Thread: Black UTC 140 Denier.
Foundation: Waddington Shank. 25mm.
Butt: Pink UV Ice Dub.
Body Hackle: Pink Guinea Hen Feather.
Body: Purple UV Ice Dub.
Hackle: Black Strung Marabou.
Flash: Holographic Fuschia Tinsel.
Flash: Pink Lady Amherst Fibers.



Secure the Shank: Place the Waddington shank firmly in your vise. Start the thread behind the eye and wrap rearward to bind the shank legs together, closing the rear loop. End with thread at the base of the rear loop

Attach the Hook: Fold a 6-inch length of FireLine in half, insert through the hook eye, loop around the bend, and pull tight to form a handshake loop. Bind the FireLine to the top of the shank and secure underneath

Tie in the Butt: Twist a small amount of UV Ice Dub and wrap it forward to form the butt of the fly

Add Rib & Support: Tie in a Guinea hen feather by the tip and spiral-wrap it over the body. Strip fibers from one side if needed to make wrapping easier

Form the Body: Dub the main body with UV Ice Dub, spinning and brushing to create a smooth, slightly extended profile

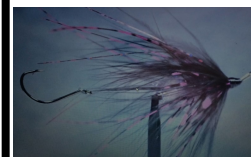
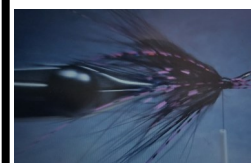
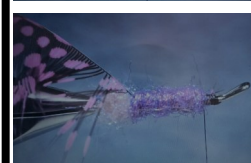
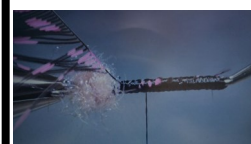
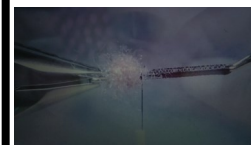
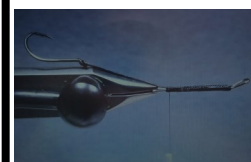
Wrap Hackle: Palmer a hackle feather along the body and counter-wrap with tinsel to protect against fish teeth

Tie in Marabou Collar: Attach a sparse marabou feather at the front, making 2–4 wraps. Stroke fibers back so tips extend to the trailing hook point

Add Flash: Tie in six strands of holographic tinsel on top and sides of the marabou for extra attraction

Attach Lady Amherst Fibers: Tie in fibers around the collar—two on top, one on each side, two on the bottom—ensuring they extend past the hook point

Finish: Secure all materials with thread wraps, trim excess, and apply head cement to lock everything in place



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

2026 IEFFC OFFICERS

Your IEFFC Officers for 2026

Bryan Harman
Shawn Denny
Charlene Douglas
Larry Ray
Matt Mason
Stephenie Stephens
Jeff Pope

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Member Ride Service By Bob Schmitt

If the ravages of time and age have forced you to curtail your driving, we have the answer for you.

If you need a ride to one our monthly meetings simply call Bob Schmitt at (509) 466 1934. A ride will be arranged for you. You will be picked up at your residence, taken to the Club meeting and returned home. It's as simple as making a phone call.

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.