



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
Spokane Airport Ramada Inn
October 13, 2026
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Dinner cost \$40.00

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

Program Chip O'Brien

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Bryan Harman

I have good news and some not as good news. Less good news first: we all have seen inflation in food prices. Well it has finally caught up to the banquet dinner at the Ramada. The board has explored other options and are continuing to look at ways to see if we can reduce costs but nothing has done much to resolve the issue.

Considering the space we need for meetings and food cost, **starting at the October meeting, dinner will be \$40.** This will address costs and make sure that the club is not losing money on dinners going forward. I understand the frustration but I would be curious if anybody has a restaurant they went to 5 years ago that is charging the same price today for the same meal and this trend has caught up to us as well. Feel free to reach out to the board if you have any questions.

On to the good fishing part. I went down to Kelly Creek on the upper end of the North Fork of the Clearwater and the October caddis were out in force in the afternoons. I didn't see too many rises but if you presented a large orange caddis to a good piece of holding water you would be rewarded with an aggressive take, and a subsequent deep bend in your rod. Several nice trout were caught and released that afternoon.

Then we sat around the campfire as a very starry night put on its display. The wife and I made deep dish pizza in a Dutch oven the thickness was probably closer to a thin lasagna but with a full belly and a warm sleeping bag dreaming about the next fight with an aggressive cutty made for great weekend get away. If the weather holds and you can make it happen I highly recommend the get away.

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When people think of California, Hollywood, Disneyland, palm trees and beaches are more likely to come to mind, but not world-class wild trout fishing. In a state of almost 40 million people, that's probably a good thing! But Northern California hosts enough different and terrific fisheries to keep your favorite trout bum busy for years. Forget Disneyland, let's talk about wild trout fishing in Northern California.

This program looks at the upper and Lower Sacramento River, Keswick Reservoir, the McCloud River, Pit River, Hot Creek, Hat Creek, Fall River, Manzanita Lake and Trinity River Steelhead. Having spent over a decade guiding and writing about most of these fisheries, I have a boatload of information to convey. Plan on learning about the biggest hatches, best times to fish, unique techniques.

Nymph fishing is huge in Northern California. Before there was such a thing as Euro Nymphing

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Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

October Program, continued



NorCal guides had come up with their own version, allowing good students to all but vacuum up nearly every trout in the vicinity. There will be many unusual stories and intriguing history too. You won't want to miss this one.

In 1964 a 10-year-old boy caught his first fish with his father's dusty old bamboo fly rod. From that moment on, Chip O'Brien knew he would spend his life fly fishing and sharing his adventures with others.

Educated as a writer/photographer and teacher, O'Brien has authored hundreds of articles in fly fishing magazines, blogs and various other publications. His books, *River Journal*, *Sacramento River* and *California's Best Fly Fishing* are available through Amazon.com and other sources.

O'Brien guided the blue-ribbon trout streams in Northern California for 14 years and served as a Regional Manager for California Trout. He finished out his career (or so he thought) teaching high school kids the fine art of writing. Once retired, he fished all over the West for three years, and then one day found himself a bit bored. A Google search of "fly fishing jobs in Spokane" brought him to the North 40 Outfitters fly shop, first in Airway Heights and now in the new store in Mead, WA.

"I never thought I'd find my dream job after retiring, but it seems I was born to work in a fly shop. Come check it out!"

President's Message, continued

I do have a little more local fishing trip for the day, October 3rd at Amber lake is the club challenge, IEFFC and Spokane Fly Fishers will each fish the lake with the most fish and biggest fish taking home bragging rights. I will be out with Bob Johnson but the more the merrier come out and see if the 3rd is your lucky day.

I hope to see everyone on October 13th for the meeting.

Editors' note

Fishing the Spokane Shootout on October 3rd may seem a bit contrived, but be advised these Spokane Fly Fisher folks are getting a bit testy about their win last year. Let's do our part to recover the title! Remember, it's 9AM-Noon, and a shore lunch at the end!

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Board of Director's Message On October Cost Increase

"To address recent concerns regarding our meeting dinner menus and cost, we would like to clarify how meal pricing works at the Ramada.

1. RSVPs & Attendance

A few days before each meeting, our Treasurer, Charlene Douglas, submits the final meal head count to the Ramada based on member RSVPs. We currently face two main issues regarding meals:

- No-Shows: The Club is charged for the total number of meals submitted, regardless of whether everyone who RSVP'd attends.
- No RSVP: Due to rising ingredient costs, the Ramada now prepares food only for the exact number of guaranteed meals submitted. If members attend without RSVPing, there may not be enough food available.

To address this, future attendees who show up without an RSVP will be placed on a first-come, first-served standby list to purchase a meal only if a no-show spot opens.

Unaccounted no-shows and missing RSVPs have cost the IEFEC approximately \$700 this year through the September meeting. Please remember to RSVP, and if you do, please attend.

2. Pricing & Menu Options

The Club's goal is to break even on dinner costs rather than operate at a profit or loss. Standard dinner buffets start at \$39 per person before additional costs, which exceeds our budget. To keep prices reasonable, we select options from the luncheon buffet menu.

In addition to the base menu price, all meals incur a 20% gratuity, 9.9% tax, and a \$4 per person charge for dessert served after 4:00 PM. Please remember that the Ramada provides the meeting room and bar setup at no charge.

The total per-person cost breakdown for our luncheon buffet options is as follows:

- Deli Buffet: \$33.77
- Burger Buffet: \$32.48
- Italian Buffet: \$37.67
- South of the Border Buffet: \$40.27
- Remington Buffet: \$42.87

At our current charge of \$35 per meal, our menu choices are strictly limited. To avoid operating at a loss and to expand our menu options, the Board has decided to increase the dinner price to \$40 starting with the October meeting.

Additionally, we are exploring alternative venue options that may offer better meal selections while providing a complimentary meeting room. If you have any venue suggestions for the Board to consider, please let us know.

Thank you,
IEFEC Board of Directors"

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Steelhead

Oregon, Idaho, and Washington updated their Steelhead rules for the Snake/Clearwater systems in mid-September. The total A/B index and unclipped steelhead returns at Bonneville Dam are currently the lowest on record since the dam was constructed in 1938.

Washington Release

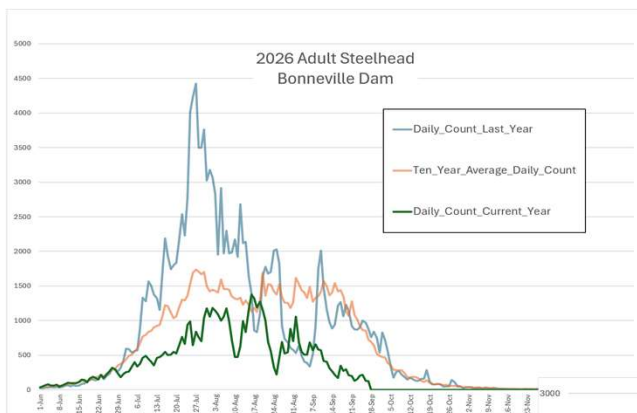
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/emergency-rules/snake-river-hatchery-steelhead-fishing-update-2026-09>

Idaho Release:

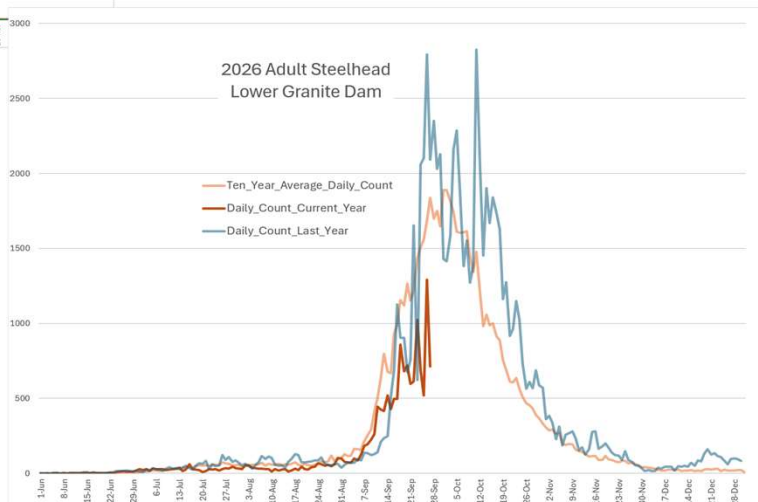
<https://idfg.idaho.gov/article/idfg-modifies-fall-chinook-and-steelhead-bag-limits>

Check before you go!

Current Steelhead Counts US Army Corps of Engineers Data-9/28



The total A/B index and unclipped steelhead returns at Bonneville Dam are currently the lowest on record since the dam was constructed in 1938.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Fall Fishout!

October 17!



The crew at last year's Medical Lake outing. Slow fishing, but a great lunch and good times for all!

Join us on Saturday, October 17th for the IEFEC Fall outing at **Williams Lake** in South Spokane County. The Williams Lake outing is replacing the Medical Lake outing this year to hopes of better fishing. In addition, you will have a chance to participate in **WDFW's annual Trout Derby**.

Williams Lake is one of the featured Derby lakes and there are more than 400 prizes still out there swimming and ready to be caught. You could win major prizes including gift cards up to \$250, resort stays, Seattle Mariners tickets, fishing equipment, clothing and more.

Getting started in the derby is easy: The derby is open to anyone with a valid 2026 fishing license, and children under 16 fish for free! There is no entrance fee or registration required. You just catch a tagged trout before Oct. 31, and you win!

1. Winning derby trout will have a green tag attached near their fin. Keep the tag! You will need it to claim your prize.
2. Fill out the prize claim form
Enter the tag number listed on the side of the derby tag, the lake you caught it in, the date it was caught, and your contact information, (available on the WDFW web site).
3. Win big!

Take your tag to the business location you were provided with and claim your derby prize!

We will be sending out more outing information and a request for an RSVP in early October. **Lunch will be provided at 1:00PM, and we will be meeting at the Williams Lake public launch.**

There is no Big Fish competition, this is just a time to get together and do some socializing and fishing. We hope this gets on your calendar.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Fin Clipping 2026

Once again our club stepped up to help WDFW clip fins of stocker rainbow fry in September. Volunteers include Tom Hoag, Scott Fink, Bill Faloon, Skip Cavanaugh, Jeff Pope, Stephen Aspinwall, Guy Gregory, Bob Gersh, Bob Schmitt, Jerry McBride, Steve Boharski, Bryan Harman, Hubie Langenhorst, Stephenie Stephens, and Lee Funkhouser. We went to 4 hour shifts this year, keeping fresh hands to nip those fins. Thanks again to Jerry McBride and Doug Brossoit for organizing our effort, and to all the volunteers for getting the job done!



Bob Schmitt and the team at the clipping station

Bob Gersh and Stephen Aspinwall get ta' clippin'!



Jerry McBride enjoys an afternoon ice cream treat

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Snake River Algae Bloom

by
Courtney Flatt, Northwest Public Broadcasting

A harmful algal bloom is once again showing up on the Snake River. This is the fourth year in a row that Whitman County Public Health leaders have [warned about algal blooms](#) in the river.

The bloom is showing up intermittently along 50 river miles in the stretch of river between Blyton Landing and Little Goose Dam. That's slightly farther upriver than in years past.

Water samples tested positive on Aug. 18 for microcystin, a liver toxin. Health leaders say people, pets and livestock should avoid any part of the river that looks like it has green or blue scum. It can look similar to spilled paint.

It can look similar to spilled paint and can also be brown, red or pink. The bloom could move downstream with the river current.

Don't drink, swim or get in the water if you [see a bloom](#). Wash any algae or discolored, smelly water off your skin and clothing. Boiling water won't get rid of the toxins.

Before 2023, toxic algae hadn't been detected in the Snake River. At that time, health leaders said they hoped harmful algal blooms wouldn't become a yearly occurrence on the Snake.

"Usually rivers aren't this bad, but we also have the dams. These blooms like stagnant, warm water with high nutrient load," said Maddy Lucas, an environmental health specialist with Whitman County Public Health, [in an earlier interview](#).

Health leaders have [monitored the river since](#). Various algal blooms have been detected [around the state](#) this summer, including [Howard Amon Park in Richland](#).

"It's incredibly difficult to pinpoint the origin of a toxic algae bloom, especially in a river system," Lucas wrote in an email.

The algae is made up of a bacteria that exists naturally in the river. But when a variety of conditions trigger it to grow rapidly — like warmer weather, fertilizer runoff or sewage leaks — it forms blooms. Those blooms produce the toxins

Steelhead Derby 2026

Pat Stuart organized a Steelhead Derby for this year, running between September 24-27. There's no results as yet, and entries are welcome until October 2. At least 1 salmon has been caught. Presumably, Pat will present the winner at the October meeting. Some fish were landed, though.. Here's one from Eric Apelskog...Nice fish, Eric!



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

We now take Credit Cards!

You have new ways to pay to attend the meetings! We take your credit card at the door, or if more convenient, pay online prior to the meeting at this link: <https://square.link/u/zXgyieGU>

There are links available for payment of membership dues and such as well.

IEFFC CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Time
Oct. 3rd	Amber Lake Club Challenge	Amber Lake	Chip O'Brien
Oct. 6th	Fly Tying	Fieldhouse Pizza	Phil Beck
Oct. 13th	IEFFC Meeting and Program	Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman
Oct. 15th	IEFFC 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. 3 rd	Fly Tying Fieldhouse	Pizza	Phil Beck
Nov. 10th	IEFFC Meeting and Program	Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman
Nov. 12th	IEFFC Board Meeting	Spokane Valley Library	Bryan Harman
Nov. 17th	Fly Tying	YAYA Brewery	Lee Funkhouser
Dec. 8 th	IEFFC Holiday Meeting	Airport Ramada	Bryan Harman

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

Water Boatman

October, 2026

Barry Ord Clarke

The Water Boatman fly has been in the boxes of numerous stillwater anglers here in the inland northwest for some time. This pattern is fairly generic, but as tied by Barry Ord Clarke, is versatile and tailorable by changing the body color. Check out the YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCS3-Wvcb1Y>

Hook: Wide Gape wet fly, Partridge in this case

Thread: 14/0 thread, red

Tag/Rib/Air pockets: Ice Blue pearl tinsel

Tail/Shell: Pheasant Tail Fibers

Body: Superfine dubbing, tan, olive, pale grey

Legs: Black Rubber

Adhesive: UV Resin



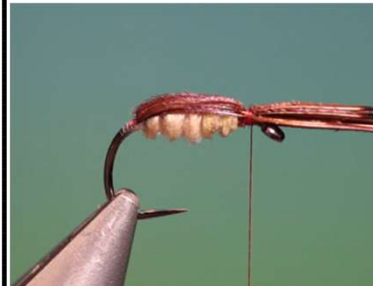
Tie in your thread near the head, and wrap to the point of the hook. Tie in some ice blue pearl tinsel advancing thread to the hook bend,. Tie in a fairly substantial clump of pheasant tail fibers by the tips. Snug them down up to the eye, then back to the hook bend.



Dub a torpedo body up to behind the hook eye. Wrap a tag using the blue pearl tinsel just behind the pheasant tail, then wrap forward as a rib over the dubbing. Tie off.



Flatten and straighten the pheasant tail fibers, then fold forward tying down just behind the head to form the shell back. Trim just beyond the tie in point.



Tie in a rubber leg on each side of the tie-in point. It's easiest to tie in an X pattern, then trim off the forward leg. Wrap down well. Barry colors his red thread brown to make the whip finished head, leaving the red color on the belly. Coat the back of the shell and the tips of the legs with UV to harden and gloss those parts.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI News and Happenings

Members of the Washington Council descended as a group on the Fly Fest 2026 September 24-26 in Redding CA. Activities included casting demos and coaching, fly tying demonstrations, conservation activities and news, and a monster trade show. Numerous presentations were available, including headliner George Daniel, Laurie Banks, Dutch Baughman, Washington's own Jim Borst, Aaron Culley, and Kuni Masuda, and many other guides, scientists, instructors and anglers.

All this information, plus angling trips on the front and back end. It sounds like a great trip!

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*.



There is no better time to join 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

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