



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE
COMMONS
February 11th, 2020
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

FEBRUARY PROGRAM Chip O'Brien

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Bob Schmitt

Gentlemen,

Speaking of fly fishing, I, and some of the brethren to include Jerry Harms, Lee Funkhouser, Jerry McBride, Mark Pinch, Lowell Tveit plus Fr David Kuttner, decided to get in one last day of fishing at Fourth of July lake before it froze up. The date was Thursday, Jan 9th. Going up the freeway hill westbound on I90 at 7 am, I noted that the outside temp was 27 degrees. Upon arriving at the Viking in Sprague, I saw that the temperature had dropped to 19 degrees. During breakfast there was much speculation among the group as to whether there would be any ice on the lake. Jerry McBride had been at Fourth of July the previous Thursday and had excellent fishing with the water temp at 41 degrees. Since the weather had been fairly mild since then, we thought the lake would be ice free. When we arrived at the lake, we immediately realized that our previous speculation regarding the possibility of ice was very wrong. There was a quarter of an inch of ice covering the entire lake. The group decided that a little ice wasn't going to stop us since this was probably our last shot at getting in a days fishing since the weather was predicted to get much colder. So we launched our boats and turned them into ice breakers. We broke a path thru the ice to the other end of the lake with everyone straining their eyes to see if we could observe any open water ahead. Twice Jerry Harms noted that he thought he could see some open water (I later suggested he see an optometrist). Anyway, arriving at the other end of the lake with no open water to be had, we drove our boats back and forth, breaking up the ice in order to create a place to fish. About the time we arrived at the other end of the lake, John Bennett arrived back at the launch. He said he could plainly hear our ice breaking efforts. Apparently, all that noise severely spooked the fish to the point that in two hours only Jerry and Lee had any takes. The rest of us motored back to the rock of Gibraltar where some open water had developed. We fished for another two hours with no better luck than before, so we loaded our boats and headed home. Pulling away from the lake, I mentioned to Jerry Harms that one didn't have to be crazy to do this, but it certainly helped. On the other hand we both agreed that the fine fellowship and camaraderie made the trip worthwhile.



This is our Valentine's Day meeting and bringing a guest is welcomed, but not required.

Our own Chip O'Brien is our program presenter.

He will be presenting a program reflecting the lifestyle male anglers and their non-angler wives often live every day.

"Travels With Chip" will highlight a number of his favorite fishing spots in the Western United States, as well as some of the more recent family adventures. Fishing venues included will be California: Keswick Reservoir, Manzanita Lake, Burney Creek and the Desolation Wilderness. Oregon fisheries include: Mann Lake, Owyhee River, McKenzie River and upper Deschutes. He will also throw in some images from his trip to Yellowstone Nat'l Park last fall.

Mixed in with the fishing destinations will be non-fishing venues (at least for him) like: The Oregon Coast, renting a fire tower, a Nantucket wedding, Banff and Glacier Nat'l Park.

President's Message (continued)

The February meeting is on **Tuesday Feb. 11** and we plan to **have the ladies join us again**. We'll have corsages for them as well as some very nice raffle items to include exquisite burl wood fly/ jewelry boxes from our own Denny Carson as well as some premium chardonnay. Also, Chip O'Brien is planning a presentation which I'm looking forward to. Best regards to everyone and see you at the February meeting.

JAMES C. BROCK

2-13-1933 TO 1-16-2020

Many of you will remember Jim Brock from either fishing or as someone you could take your gun to for maintenance or repair. Jim was a member of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club since 1987, retaining his membership until his death.

Jim was born February 13, 1933 in Bemis, TN. Jim joined the U.S. Army January 1951 and retired in 1972 as a Command Sergeant Major. He served proudly in Vietnam and Korea.

Jim is survived by his wife of 65 years, Shirley J. Brock and two daughters, Imae J. Oaksford, (Robert), and Debra A. Conery. He also has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by sons, James W. and Timothy A. Brock.

After retirement Jim opened Brocks Gunsmithing in Spokane and worked for 47 years. Jim designed, repaired, and offered the finest of gunsmithing here in the PNW, training many other men to go into gunsmithing. Jim also taught gunsmithing at the Spokane Community College. He retired a second time at the age of 83. His greatest passion was climbing mountains in Alaska and roaming the vast regions. From an early age as a boy, he loved hunting and fishing his entire life and being in nature in remote landscapes.

He will certainly be missed. His family is in our thoughts and prayers.



PAST PRESIDENT

Phil Beck



Newly elected President Bob Schmitt had the pleasure of awarding outgoing President Phil Beck with a painting done by IEFFC Artist in Residence Stan Miller. Phil did an outstanding job as President and the IEFFC is extremely appreciative of his accomplishments. Thank you, Phil, for your dedication and hard work through out your journey through the chairs.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

DID YOU KNOW

By Jerry McBride

Bob Johnson is an adventurous guy. I was told that he took up playing hockey when he was in his late 50's so I asked him about it. Turns out, his step-son was on a hockey team and they needed an assistant coach. Bob went out and bought skates, learned to skate and became the assistant coach. He had so much fun that within a year of learning to skate he joined a hockey league. Someone gave him a hard check and he ended up having shoulder surgery. When he recovered he went back to playing hockey and got another hard check that injured his other shoulder. At this point, Bob decided to hang up his skates. He still loves hockey as a spectator. Bob and his wife Debbie are season ticket holders for the Spokane Chiefs. They sit right next to Jim and Laura Athearn who also are season ticket holders. Bob and Jim got acquainted and learned that they both fly fished. Jim invited Bob to a fly club meeting. Bob joined and is now our club treasurer.

When I asked Bob if he had a picture all suited up for hockey he said he didn't. He then asked if I would like to see a picture of him flying through the air. That sounded interesting so I of course said yes. Bob comes from a family where his mom and dad plus his siblings all rode dirt bikes out in the desert in southern California.

Bob decided he liked four wheels rather than two under him so he built a Baja racer. He was competing in a race in Las Vegas when the picture of him was taken. Bob went on to participate in the Baja 1000. Unfortunately his car broke down and he wasn't able to finish the race.



Bob and his father started Johnson & Father Precision Machine in Santa Ana. They made parts for the space shuttle, aircraft and racing cars. When his father retired Bob bought out his interest and became the sole owner. He eventually moved the business from Santa Ana California to Coeur d'Alene and after 23 years in business shut it down and went to work as a machinist for a local company. He plans to retire at the end of this year.

DUES ARE DUE
REMEMBER THE INCREASE

Dues are now **\$75 per year.**

Dues are due March 1st.

Payments can be brought to the meeting in February, or sent to our Post Office Box, which is **IEFFFC, P.O. Box 2926, Spokane, WA 99220.**

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

PRESIDENTS AWARDS

By Phil Beck

Outgoing President Phil Beck completed his duties by awarding the final Presidents Awards for 2019. Accepting awards at the January meeting were Mark Pinch and Steve Ronholt.

Mark was our 2019 Poacher and did an awesome job digging up dirt on fellow IEFEC members. He now has a target on his back and we expect him to contribute greatly to the treasury this year as members seek their revenge. Poacher is a thankless and difficult job. Mark performed admirably throughout the year and we enjoyed many amazing stories this past year. Thank you Mark!



Steve Ronholt

Steve partnered up with fellow IEFEC member Ladin Langeman to produce the Runje Releaser training video we have posted on our website. Our effort to assist fisherman in proper handling of fish is ongoing and this video is one more way to help that effort. The video is well made, informative and we certainly appreciate Steve and Ladin's contribution. Thank you Steve and Ladin.



Mark Pinch

IEFEC LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Hannah Coles

We were honored to have Hannah Coles present at our January meeting. Hannah is the first recipient of the IEFEC Legacy Scholarship. She was accompanied by Fisheries Professor Dr. Paul Spruell.

Hannah was born in Anaconda, MT, moved to Spokane when she was 5-years-old, and has been here ever since. She will be graduating from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with an emphasis in Fisheries this coming Spring. She has been working in the Fisheries Research Center at EWU under Dr. Paul Spruell and Dr. Allan T Scholz. She is the student president of the Eastern Washington sub-unit of the American Fisheries Society WA-BC Chapter. She is planning on attending graduate school to pursue a Master's Degree in Biology either at EWU or WSU. She worked for the Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources Department this past summer as a Fisheries Technician II on the removal of Brook Trout in Sullivan Creek in Pend Oreille County WA. to help the native Westslope Cutthroat Trout populations. She hopes to one day work as a bio-statistician, fish biologist, in resource management, or other similar positions in the Pacific NW for a local tribe or state government. She hopes to work with others to preserve, conserve, and restore our fish populations so there are stable and thriving populations for present and future generations to experience the sport of fishing just as we have.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

GRANDE RONDE RIVER LAND PURCHASE

By Jim Athearn

On Tuesday, January 28, the Wild Steelhead Coalition signed the papers to purchase an 8-acre parcel on the lower Grande Ronde River from Lynn “Radar” Miller, thus paving the way for this land to remain open to the public forever. Located near several very popular steelhead fishing spots, public access to the river through this property has been allowed for many years due to an easement arrangement between Mr. Miller and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). When Mr. Miller decided to sell his property, the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club (IEFFC) and the Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) stepped in and worked out a deal whereby the WSC would purchase the land with charitable donations and then donate it to the WDFW to manage and operate in perpetuity for public access.



Kay and “Radar” Miller with Jim Athearn and Josh Mills

Many IEFFC members made generous donations, as well as 13 regional clubs and organizations, and many members of the public. There was wonderful regional support for this project which is so gratifying since it will now remain available for everyone in the region and beyond to use. Josh Mills, WSC, was instrumental representing WSC throughout the process to insure its success. It would not have happened without him. I can’t thank Mark Pinch enough for his guidance and hard work with the title company and others to keep us on track through a few real estate “details” that he worked out for us. Of course, we were extremely lucky that the land owner, Radar Miller, was more interested in seeing this property remain open to the public than turning the bigger profit he might have gotten if he sold it to a private entity.

This is a real success story for steelhead anglers and the Northwest.

ROCKY FORD CREEK Where’s the Fish

The fish are there, but the size is not. On a recent trip to Rocky Ford Creek there were fish caught, but they ranged from 8 to 14 inches long. Some larger fish were observed in the water, but those were few and far between. What has happened to the fishery?

Jerry McBride reached out to District 5 Fisheries Biologist Mike Schmuck and he sent a video showing Trout Lodge planting large trout in the creek. He did admit, though, that they were likely behind in the stocking due to a management change on site. He said a gentle reminder is probably needed.

It is sad that it has gotten to this point and we hope the creek returns to the glory days of the past. For now it is still among the few winter options and will be fished. If we see progress we will report it to the club members.

For those interested, the video link is as follows: <https://youtu.be/gPqW1ZHHjH4>



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY FISHING ACADEMY

NW YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY 2020

There is no better opportunity for our girls and boys, 12-16, to learn the sport of fly fishing and the merits of conservation. **The last full week of June 21-27, 2020.** The Academy will be held again at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The applicant must write an essay explaining why **they** would like to attend the Academy and a letter of recommendation is requested from their science teacher, school counselor or responsible person. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2020. Financial Aid is available.

Jim Brosio is lining up the Academy instructors and we are very pleased to learn, most of the instructors from our 2019 event will be returning. We are very fortunate to have the most amazing, talented instructors in conservation, fly tying and casting, from our Pacific NW fly fishing clubs and organizations.

Applications may be downloaded from our website – www.nwycffa.com or you may contact Jim Brosio @ brosioj@q.com, Mike Clancy @ mtclancy39@comcast.net or Tom VanGelder @ TVG@comcast.net Our website – www.nwycffa.com. We also have a Facebook page displaying pictures from past events. Mike Clancy, Co-Director, NWYCFFAcademy

ROSTER CORRECTIONS WEBSITE TRAINING VIDEO

It is time to get the Roster and Website up to date.

We will be sending out a separate email with an attached video that will explain how to log in to the website and add a picture. It will also include a request to send back corrections to this past years roster. Please follow the instructions so we can have a roster that is current.

Your help is appreciated in this endeavor.

ROSTER CHANGES

We do not have a current address and phone for Fred Shiosaki. If you have that information, please forward it to flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com.

Virgil Emery

phone # 509-998-9470.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Zucchini Chironomid

January 2020

Phil Rowley

With a good number of IEFEC members heading to Canada this year, looking at this fly is a good idea. Among the group known as “bombers”, this fly is easy to tie and will supply you with some aggressive takes as you fish the BC lakes. Mainly used in June and July, it has been shown to be effective at other times as it is also looked at as an attractor fly. In the fly tying video supplied by Phil he also gives some great hints on how to improve your fly tying. For those going north this year, make sure you have some “bombers” and good luck. Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEqRCecjp6M>

Hook: Daiichi 1760 #10-14.

Thread: Black Uni-stretch & Black MFC 8/0.

Ribbing: UTC Wire, Small, Red.

Butt: Holographic Mylar, Medium, Red.

Body: Holographic Mylar, Medium Black.

Thorax: MFC 8/0, Rusty Brown.

Bead: White.



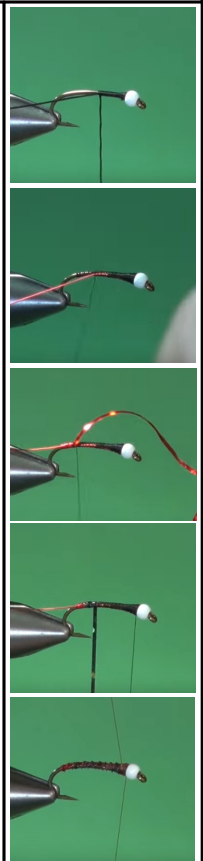
Step 1. Pinch the barb and put on the bead, small hole first. Start by using the Uni-stretch thread as it will add bulk for building the taper. Create the taper base starting at the bead.

Step 2. Continue making the taper and then whip finish the stretch thread. Attach regular thread as this will be used for most of the fly tying. Continue with the taper and then form a base towards the bend. Tie in the wire to be used in the ribbing.

Step 3. Tie in the red Mylar for the butt. Make a few small wraps and then tie down the end. Trim the excess.

Step 4. Tie in the black Mylar just in front of the red butt. Wrap it carefully all the way to the bead and tie it off and trim. Wrap the wire making a rib that form approximately 7 segments. Tie it off and trim. Whip finish and trim the thread.

Step 5. Attach the rusty brown thread at the bead and make a small, but noticeable thorax. Whip finish and trim. Now lightly, but completely, coat the fly with UV resin and cure.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY CASTING FAIR FFI

We've got something new to share!

The Washington Council of Fly Fishers International is holding its first ever Fly Casting Fair May 2 at Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island.

Whether you're a year-round angler or waiting for warmer weather there's no off season for a good cast. We've put together a day-long fair that offers plenty of **FREE** ways to tune up your cast, learn new techniques, test yourself and friends on a challenge course and watch some of the best casters in the Northwest during morning and afternoon demonstrations. Two-hour advanced courses cost \$45 per caster, but the rest of the day is free. Bring a friend, son or daughter and introduce them to the art of casting a smooth line.



And after a day of fun join us for a drink and dinner at the Mercer Island Community Center just steps away on the park grounds. This is a great opportunity to perfect your loop and connect with fly fishers in Puget Sound and beyond. Go to www.wscffi.org for more details to register for classes and dinner.

Join us for the fun May 2. Tight lines friends.

JOINING FFI

There is no better time to consider joining FFI than at the start of the year. It's easy and you will be joining a number of IEFEC 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 WSCFFI through your support can continue our mission to *conserve* and *re-store* 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 IEFEC at flyleaf.iefec@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the last Friday of the month for inclusion in the following months newsletter.