



MARCH MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE
COMMONS
March 10, 2020
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

March Meeting Tenkara Flyfishing

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Bob Schmitt

My Fellow Members,

I had some sad news that I wanted to share with the membership at the February meeting, but didn't want to throw a lot of cold water on the meeting with the ladies being present. In late January we were notified of the passing of one of our long time members Jim Brock. Jim joined our Club in the late 1980's after retiring from the Air Force with twenty one years' service. At the time of his retirement, he was a Command Sergeant Major which means he had attained the highest enlisted rank possible. After his retirement, he started his own gunsmithing business which he ran for forty seven years retiring at the age of eighty three. Mr. Brock was a patriot and an industrious, hardworking American. America needs more people like Jim Brock. He was a credit to himself, his country and to our Club. I'm sure that those close to him miss him dearly.

We also learned that our President Emeritus, George Potter was recently in the hospital and is gravely ill with a dim prognosis but has been moved to Avalon Care Center. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

On a brighter note, a number of our brethren have enjoyed some good fishing at times out at Fourth Of July Lake. Some of us should probably be named honorary Coast Guardsmen since most of these trips involved breaking ice to get to the open water. On one of these trips, as we were plowing thru the ice, I noticed what looked like hundreds of little white dots frozen in the surface ice. On closer inspection they turned out to be marshmallows and white Power Bait with a few pieces of pink Power Bait thrown in. It's apparent there has been a lot of 'bait slinger' activity this winter - though I can't imagine why anyone would want to take those fish home. A few years ago a friend of mine kept a couple fish and took them home and fried them up. He said they tasted like they'd come from 'Joe's Sushi Bar & Bait Shop'. They were inedible. So much for good taste.

On another fishing front, Fr. David Kuttner went out to Amber Lake to check on conditions. He's reported that as of last Friday, Feb. 14, Amber was two thirds open. With this more mild weather on the way, Amber should be completely ice free for the opener

Tenkara, literally: "fishing from heaven", or "fishing from the skies") is a simple type of fishing practiced in Japan. Primarily used for mountain stream trout fishing, tenkara is one of the most popular methods of angling among fresh-water mountain anglers in Japan.

Tenkara fishing can be seen as a streamlined counterpart to western fly-fishing. There is no reel; the rod is usually very limber and often telescoping. The traditional line is a tapered furlled line (twisted monofilament) of the same length or slightly shorter than the rod. The main advantage of furlled lines is the delicate presentation and ease of casting. Flies are similar to standard, though the hackle often faces forward.

Come and see this presentation about an interesting angling technique.

President's message, continued

there Sunday, March 1.

Inside, you'll read of Kids Fishing Day out at Clear Lake taking place this year May 1 and 2. Floyd Holmes is seeking volunteers once again. It is a wonderful experience to participate in that event.

Last year I spent a Friday afternoon threading worms onto hooks for some kids from the Ronald McDonald house. One of those kids was a twelve year old boy who didn't have a hair on his head from all the chemo treatments he'd gone through. He was between treatments and feeling pretty good, but was going to have to start chemo again on the upcoming Monday. He spent an hour and a half having the time of his life catching one fish after another. When he left the dock, I said, 'now next week when you're suffering the effects of the chemo, try to remember the good time you had out here this afternoon'. He gave me a smile that was a mile wide. It was truly a heartwarming experience to have been able to help that youngster enjoy his trip to Clear Lake.

Randy Osborne and his people from Fish and Wildlife perform a great service by providing a fun experience for those kids. If you have the time, you will be well rewarded volunteering at Kids Fishing Day.

February Meeting Highlights

Our February 11 Valentine's meeting was a great time. Lots of conversation and friendship, excellent food, great prizes and impromptu but wonderful presentation of prestidigitation by Magician Jon Bowne. I'm told fish fear his sleight-of-hand.

President Bob Schmitt addresses the members and guests



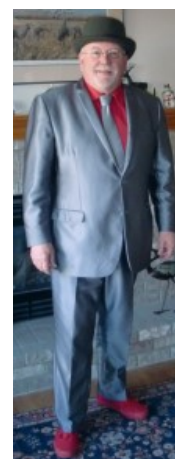
Pleasant conversation, stories, and friends, old and new



Kristen Heinz displays her new jewelry box handmade by Denny Carson

Jon Bowne

Angler, magician, entertainer



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Conservation Activity Plan for 2020

By Jerry McBride and Jim Athearn

Your committee has a busy 2020 planned, and there's lots of volunteer opportunity, which are also great opportunities to expand your circle of club friends!

In partnership with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:

One additional sign at Medical Lake that would include a frame. WDFW Region 1 is in favor of the project and it needs approval by the Town of Medical Lake. The IEFEC board has to approve this project. If this project goes ahead we will need volunteers to help build the frame for the sign, install the sign in the frame and plant the sign in the ground out at the Medical Lake City Park.

Fin Clipping – Scheduled for September 28 and 29, 2020. We will need seven volunteers each day.

Amber Lake boat launch – Spread and compact an additional 12 yards of 5/8" minus crushed rock. Project is favored by WDFW. IEFEC board must approve this project. If this project goes ahead we will need four volunteers to spread and compact the crushed rock. Tentatively scheduled for April 13, 2020.

In partnership with the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge:

Clean out spawning channel and restore spawning bed gravel at Bayley Lake. Scheduled for September 26, 2020. We need eight volunteers. Usually four members bring their boats and after the work is done we go fishing.

Other

North Idaho Fly Casters may have a project that we could help out on. No details at this point, but most likely we would be asked to help out on a tree planting project.

As usual, other projects may present themselves as the year progresses. Stay tuned or contact Jerry or Jim if you're interested.

Opening dates of interest

Many selective lakes in Eastern Washington open March 1, including local favorites Amber and Coffeepot. Most others open 4th Saturday in April, if they are not open year around.

Many Washington Rivers open the Saturday before Memorial Day. Again, others, like the upper reaches of the Yakima, open March 1.

In the Idaho Panhandle and the Clearwater area, all waters are open all year, though special regulations cover limits, species, and tackle in some waters.

In Montana, lakes are open all year, while rivers and streams are open the 3rd Saturday in May until November. There are of course well known exceptions to these dates.

In any case, in any state: **Check your regulation pamphlet** for the place and date you want to go. The regs can be bewildering.



Photo courtesy Bob Schmitt

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Kids Fishing Plans By Floyd Holmes

Mark your Calendars!

Kids fishing 2020 will take place on Saturday May 2nd with the Ronald McDonald house Kids fishing to take place on Friday the 1st of May.

Floyd will have two sign up sheets (one for each event) on the tables at the March and April meeting.

The volunteers for the Ronald McDonald house kids fishing should show up by no later than 1:30 pm as the bus will leave for the lake about 2:00 pm. We'll leave the lake around 5:00 pm. If you'd rather, you can meet us at the lake.

The volunteers for the kids fishing event on Sat May 2nd should show up between 7 and 7:30 am so Randy can explain what is to take place for the day. While there, be sure to sign in one the sign in sheet so the DFW can credit your volunteer hours. The sign up sheet will be with the lady that is checking in the kids.

There will be rod building on Wednesday April 8th from 6:00 pm lasting until about 9:00 pm. Rod building is typically at the Wildlife Council building on N. Market Street.

Whether you sign up or not please pass the sheets around the tables and make sure that I get them back. We'll have more details at the meetings and in next month's Flyleaf, but if you want information quicker contact Floyd Holmes directly.

An Australian take on Catch-and-Release, or why we should cast flies for Smallmouth Bass

Jerry caught this photo on a recent trip to Australia.

Fish is good food! Let's save 'em so we can eat 'em!



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Halfback

March 2020

John Dexheimer

The Halfback is a superb multi-dimensional fly that can suggest a dragon, damsel, mayfly nymph or a Chironomid. Popular in the BC interior stillwaters, variations in wing case colors, size, and presentation make this versatile fly appeal to the most discerning trout. And it's easy to tie with inexpensive and available materials. See Phil Rowley's tying video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99wc7Tw9T1o>
Editor's note: The Halfback catches fish in February, too.

Hook: Tiemco 5262, #6 - #14, or equivalent 1x nymph hook.
Thread Black or olive 6/0 or 8/0. Also hot orange for the "hot spot".
Tails: Pheasant tail or rump fibers.
Body: Peacock herl spun in a dubbing loop of fine copper wire.
Wingcase: Pheasant tail or rump fibers.
Thorax: Peacock herl.
Legs: Tips from wingcase material.

Tie in thread base from mid hook to above the barb. Grab 8-10 pheasant tail or rump fibers, and bind down as a tail, extending about half the hook shank aft. Tie the gold tinsel as a tip at this point if you wish. Choose about 5 mallard fibers and tie in a tail about as long as the gape of the hook.

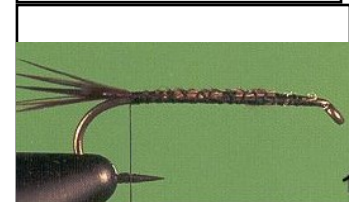
Create a dubbing loop out of fine copper wire and tie in about 2/3 of the way to the eye. Wrap over the wire back to the tail, and tie in 4-6 strands of peacock herl.

Advance the thread again to 2/3 of the way to the eye and tie in another clump of pheasant tail or rump to serve as the wing case.

Wrap the wire and peacock herl together and advance to the head, forming a tapered body.

Bring wingcase fibers forward, spread evenly over the thorax. Tie down with 3-4 wraps down,

Gather the tips of the wingcase material and sweep them directly under the thorax. Hold them in place using the left thumb and forefinger. Secure the legs using a minimum number of thread wraps. Build a neat head, whip finish and apply head cement.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI Happenings By Chet Allison

FFI's Fly Casting Fair is scheduled for May 2, 9 AM, at Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island, WA.

Free events, open to the public

Walk in Casting Clinic opens 9 a.m.

Bring your rod for quick help from the experts. A limited number of loaner rods will be available.

Self-guided Casting Challenge opens 9 a.m.

Test your skill with off shoulder casts, mend casts, stacked line casts, double haul and distance casting

Casting Demonstrations

11 a.m. Molly Semenik demonstrating "Roll casts and switch casts."

3 p.m. Don Simmonson will focus on "Controlling the fly line"

Spey Casting Demonstration

9AM – Simplifying Spey Equipment with Molly

Semenik and Todd Somsel. After discussing

equipment they will head to the water to demo roll and switch casts.

1PM – Molly and Todd will demo switch cast, single spey, double spey, snake roll and snap casts.

Register for these events at

www.wscffi.org

Workshops are 2 hours, \$45 per student, limited to eight students per class

9 AM Beginning casting workshop;
Dave McCoy

9 AM Advanced casting workshop:
Anil Srivastava

1 PM Beginning casting workshop:
Ryan Smith

1 PM Advanced casting workshop:
Tom Cammarata

**Fly Fishers International Washington
Council Banquet begins
5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m.
\$45 per person
Auction and awards**

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, whatever, into the next issue...

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington