



The Barbless Flyer

The mission of the Spokane Fly Fishers is to provide a family friendly organization for promoting the sport of fly fishing through education, application, and conservation



September Speaker Jeff Currier



Jeff Currier Short Bio May 2022 After 34 years living in the Yellowstone Country, Jeff Currier now resides in Hayward, Wisconsin where he bases his globe-trotting career in fly fishing. He is an active member of the R.L. Winston Rod Co Professional Advisory Team as well as Simms, Scientific Anglers, Costa Sunglasses, Fly Fishers International, Yeti, Kates Real Foods, Be Alive and Bauer Reels. Jeff is also an “Ambassador” for Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures hosting exotic trips and exploring new destinations throughout the world.

Jeff is a fly-fishing lecturer and well-known fish artist. He has taught the skills of fly fishing, guided throughout Wyoming, Idaho and Yellowstone National Park and escorted fly fishers on six continents. Jeff has fished in sixty-three countries and caught over 430 species of fish on the fly!

Jeff’s articles, photographs and artwork have graced the pages of magazines, catalogs, brochures and books. He is the acclaimed author of Currier’s Quick and Easy Guide to Saltwater Fly Fishing and Currier’s Quick and Easy Guide to Warmwater Fly Fishing guidebooks. Jeff is also a well sought after expert for television, radio, podcasts and many fly-fishing films.

Jeff has won numerous fly-casting competitions and the Jackson Hole One Fly. He led Team USA to its first ever top ten finish in the World Flyfishing Championships in Jaca, Spain in 2003. During the competition Jeff managed to fool fish on every venue and placed third in the individual standings, becoming the first American ever to take home a medal in the thirty-year history of the Championships. In June of 2017 Jeff did it again in the World Masters Fly Fishing Championships in Portugal then took it a step further bringing home a Silver Medal with his team from South Africa in 2019.

Jeff lectures throughout the United States and Canada on nearly every aspect of fly fishing. He demonstrates fly casting, teaches seminars on the basics of the advanced skills of fly fishing and presents many fly-fishing destination programs ranging from his home waters to the most remote corners of the globe. Some of his shows take you to destinations you’ve never heard of and will leave you in awe that such creatures can be enticed to eat a fly!

Jeff brings a sense of humor, enthusiasm, approachability and more than forty-five years of fly fishing wherever he goes.

You can follow Jeff’s fly-fishing adventures, exploits, tips, advice, photography and storytelling on his expanding blog and informative web site.

<http://www.jeffcurrier.com>



Prez Sez

By Brad Collins for Kevin Brannon

I know you are wondering why I am writing the Prez Sez instead of our President, Kevin Brannon. Kevin is having some health issues at the moment, so I have stepped in as acting President until he is back with us. Kevin does an amazing job as President of the Club, and he works tirelessly to make sure our organization is strong and that we provide high quality programs and activities. We are missing Kevin's expertise and leadership greatly, but we are committed to holding things together until he gets back. Please send Kevin good thoughts as he recovers.

We had a great summer, and I know that those of you who joined us on some of our outings will agree. This year we were committed to making sure our new members had someone to fish with so they didn't feel abandoned. We partnered new members up with a mentor during the outings - they caught fish and had a fantastic time! A heart-felt "Thank you" to everyone who helped with the outings, workshops, and other events over the summer. A special shout-out to Robin Gavelin for coordinating our outings this year!

I would like to invite everyone to think about becoming more involved with organizing the events and activities that we offer through Spokane Fly Fishers. We have relied on some great members like Claude Kistler, Paul Olsen, Craig Adams, and several others to step in and take care of things for a long time. They always come through and do amazing things, but they need a break! Often, I hear people saying that they would like to help, but they feel like they don't know enough about the club, the area, or even fly fishing, to make any kind of contribution. I felt exactly that way when I joined the club a few years ago. However, I can say from experience that making that leap forward, getting out of your comfort zone, and offering to help will be very rewarding. I've learned more about fishing the local lakes and rivers from my experience organizing membership, managing the web page, and being a part of the board than I have learned from actually fishing those places. I've found that members of this club are always willing to take newcomers under their wing and help them out. I'll be sending out more information about how you can help early in September.

Finally, we have a few events coming up this fall. The September and October meetings will be on the second Wednesday of the month (as always) and will be at the St. Francis of Assisi Church at 7pm. Our November meeting will be replaced by our Fly Auction and the December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. More details about these events will come out soon via email. And last, but not least, everyone is welcome to welcome to join us during our Thirsty Third Thursday fly tying session the third Thursday of the month at 6pm at Lumberbeard Brewing.

Hope to see you at these events!



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↑ ↓ September 2024

Today Day Week Month Year ...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9/1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8 Fish Creek Outing - - - -	9	10	11 6p Pre-Mtg Social 7p SFFC Membership Mtg	12	13	14 Georgetown Lake Outing - - - - -
15 Georgetown Lake Outing - -	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	10/1	2	3	4	5

The Annual Fly Auction is coming up November 13th!

**We hope to have a variety of great flies to auction this year.
We already have some tyers working hard to fill boxes.
Interested in helping? There's still time to get a dozen or so
flies whipped up!**

**Additionally, we will offer several boxes of LeRoy Hyatt flies,
including several of his famous steelhead patterns!**

**If you are willing to donate some patterns, please plan to
deliver them *early* rather than at the time of the event. Keep
an eye on your email for instructions about dropping off flies.
We'll have several locations for you.**

**We will also need some help setting things up on the night of
the auction. We'll announce more about this during our next
couple of monthly meetings.**

**This is an important fundraiser for us as last year we brought
in around \$2500!**

Hope to see you there!

~ Brad Collins





Are We Mending Too Much?

Level 1

By Ken Moore

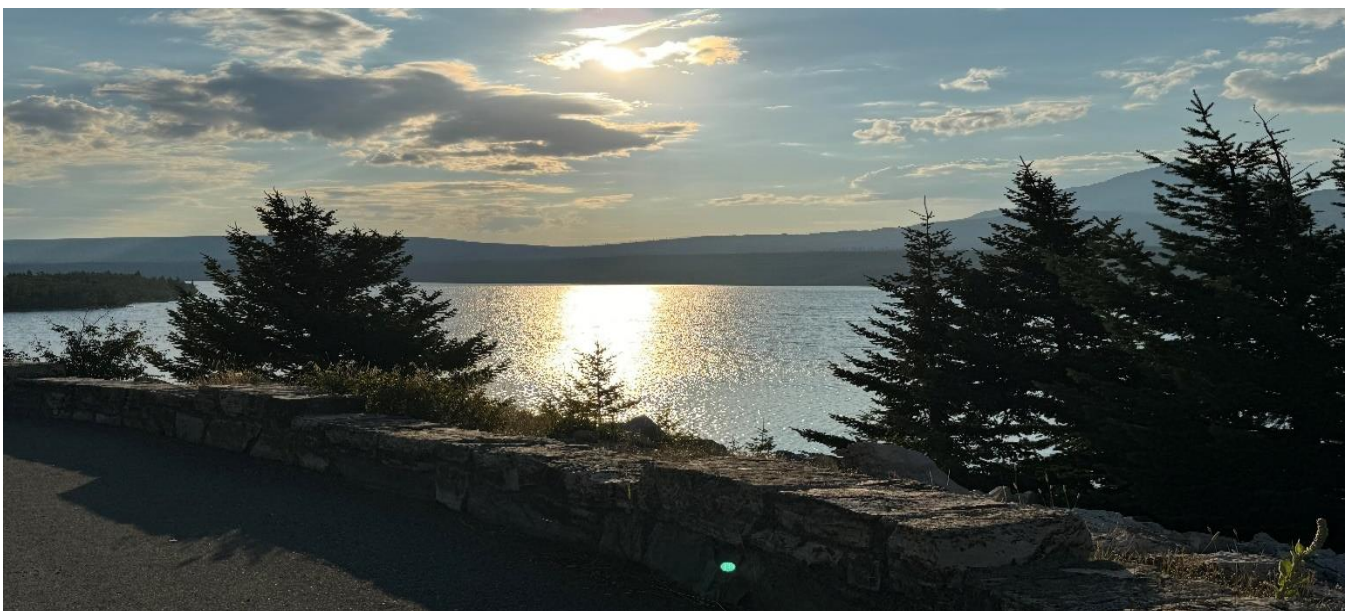
Is it true that we fly-fishing anglers mend too much? Guides and Fly-Fishing instructors have emphasized mending so much that experienced and inexperienced fly fishers believe they have to mend, often multiple times, on every cast. I am guilty of instructing my clients by saying “mend...mend...MEND!” In my defense, I know what a drag-free drift looks like, and we mend our fly line in a stream to achieve a drag-free drift. If your fly floats drag-free over the fish you are targeting, there is no reason to mend.

There are several circumstances when you probably shouldn't mend at all. If you are standing and casting your fly upstream, say toward the top of the riffle, the current will bring the fly back to you drag-free - no mending required. What you need to pay attention to is getting too much slack in your fly line as it floats back to you. To counteract this, you must strip in your fly line as the fly floats downstream. This is a reminder to keep your fly line between one of your fingers and your rod's cork grip as you strip, or you won't have tension to set the hook when a trout unexpectedly eats your fly.

Another time when mending is unnecessary or detrimental is when fish feed in a very tight spot, and a long drift is impossible. Often, a short-on-target, drag-free drift is more effective. Maybe you spot a fish feeding on the surface in a little cut along the side of the streambank. Or perhaps it's under a bush where your fly will become tangled if it floats too far. In these and other instances, it's best to cast closer to the fish with a shorter drift. When we mend, we often move the fly off its line or sink our fly. Cast tight and let the fly float without mending.

Ideally, we want to cast from a position that allows you to cast without mending, so use your feet to position yourself in an ideal casting location. You are not a tree or anchored to the ground, so don't be afraid to move.

Be safe and happy mending!





Aerial Mends

Level 2

By Ken Moore

Let us review ways to mend our fly line in the air before our fly line touches the water. The advantage to mending your line in the air is it saves you one or two immediate mends, which the fly fisherman must execute immediately when their fly line touches the water. The reach cast facilitates a drag-free drift by placing the fly downstream of the tippet, leader, and fly line. This ensures that the fly is floating without drag for the longest time possible, as the line and leader need to catch up to the fly in the drift before the line can pull the fly, creating drag. The reach cast is not challenging to perform, although there is some nuance to the cast. First, remember where the fly tip stops is where your line always goes. Second, you need to compensate for the amount of line you are using to reach the fish. If you cast straight at a trout rising across from you, you will use less line than if you cast upstream or downstream at an angle with a reach cast. This causes many anglers to cast short of the fish they target; you have not compensated enough for the mending cast.

I have attached two short videos to assist you in learning or perfecting your reach cast. The first video from Orvis is about how to do the cast. The second video from Rio Fly Lines provides some additional tips; and where it may be appropriate to use this type of aerial mend.

Orvis Reach Cast:

https://youtu.be/5OhzRGofsgM?si=ffWfGBJ-Y9oxk_GW

Rio Fly Lines Reach Cast:

https://youtu.be/pJUz50_xSWo?si=FhtRGU_ZB5-z7dbu

The Curve Cast is just as its name implies; it is intended to help you throw a curve with your fly, tippet, leader, and fly line around an object. Anglers also use this cast to avoid potentially scaring the fish by lining a fish. If the term “lining” is new to you, it means the fish observe the movement of your fly line, and it spooks them, putting them off their feed. If you utilize a euro-nymphing setup, this cast can also be accomplished. Of course, with euro-nymphing we have different names for most things fishing and this is known as a “Lag” cast. Combine a Harvey leader to your mono line set-up and this is a deadly accurate approach to fishing obstacles and creating virtually a perfect drag free drift.

The most important thing to remember when executing any cast is that the fly line, and ultimately, your fly, will follow wherever you stop your rod tip in your casting stroke. You can approach this cast from many angles, and I think the easiest way is to lean the curve cast is to drop the tip of your rod out to your side, more parallel to the ground than near your head as in a traditional fly casting stroke. As you get the hang of the curve cast you will be able to cast it on or off your dominant shoulder. Which side will depend on whether you are trying to curve the line to the left or the right?

Below is a video from Orvis on how to learn the Curve Cast:

<https://youtu.be/nd3NrrYa1Hc?si=673BKYGiEcDldqiX>

Learning or improving the ability to mend your fly line in the air is highly beneficial to your casting/fishing game. Not to mention it is just plain cool when the perfect cast catches a fish, that you just knew was in that pocket of water. Practice, practice, practice! Good luck and happy fishing!

Beginner Fly Tying

By Chet Allison

Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Soft Hackle, FFI



Hook: Standard Wet Fly Hook.

Thread: Brown 6/0

Tail: Wood Duck Flank fibers

Rib: Oval Gold Tinsel

Body: Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Mask Dubbing Fur

Hackle: Brown Partridge Body Feathers

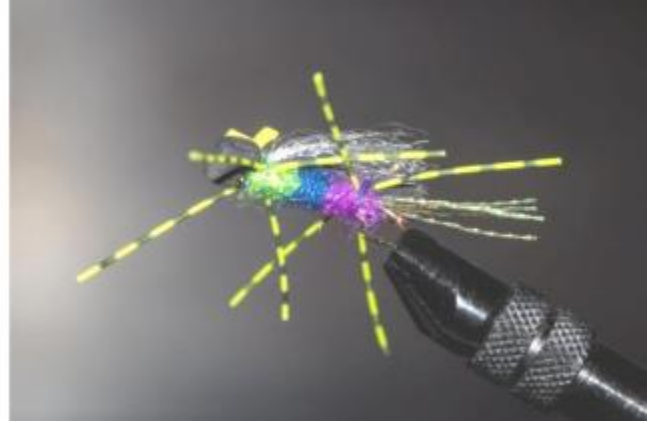
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYkHQPARRBM

- 1.** Start the thread eye length behind the eye and wrap back to the bend of the hook, wrap forward to between the barb and the hook point.
- 2.** Tie in the tail fibers at the bend, fibers are the length of the hook shank.
- 3.** Tie in some oval gold tinsel under the shank of the hook at the bend of the hook.
- 4.** Dub some hares ear mask on the tying thread and begin wrapping it forward about 2/3 the shank and tire off.
- 5.** Wrap the tinsel in the opposite direction as the body was wrapped, try to get 3 or 4 wraps of tinsel and tie off.
- 6.** Tie in by the tip and the vivid hackle color facing forward a Partridge feather at the tinsel tie off wrapping the feather 2 to 3 times stroking the feather fibers back each time. Stroke the fiber backward and build up a nice head. Put some head cement on the head and go fishing!

Intermediate Fly Tying

By Chet Allison

Heather Hodson's Rainbow Bright



Hook: Dai Riki (710) #4-#12

Thread: Ultra Thread 140 or 70 – Lime Green, Yellow, Purple or Blue

Tail: Yellow Krystal Flash

Body: 3 Equal Segments

1. UV Purple Ice Dub
2. Blue Steelie Ice Dub
3. Caddis Green Ice Dub

Legs: Silicone Black Barred on Chartreuse

Head: Black Foam mm – Folded over at Head

Post: Yellow 2mm Foam

Wing: MFC Widow's Web Silver

Tying Steps:

1. Pinch barb
2. Wrap thread on the hook (do not crowd the head)
3. Tie in Tail (6 Strands of Yellow Krystal Flash)
4. Wrap thread back to front Abdominal Body
5. Dub body 1/3 of the way towards the back with Green Ice Dub
6. Dub another 1/3 towards the back after the Green with Blue Steelie Ice Dub
7. Dub the final 1/3 towards the back after the Blue with Purple Ice Dub
8. Tie in Black Foam (cut to width of hook gap and 2 times length of shank of hook) A. Leave hook gap length past bend of hook
9. Create a gap with foam on top of hook by wrapping 4 times

10. Tie in one leg at a time (2 times wraps per leg)
11. Dub Purple Ice Dub over foam
12. Dub blue under foam to green part of body
13. Dub green under foam towards head
14. Tie in black foam A. Leave hook gap length past bend of hook
15. Tie in one leg at a time (2 times wraps per leg) Wing
16. Tie in Widow's Web
17. Fold over and wrap widow's web 2 times
18. Sparsely dub green over thread (2 times wrap) Head
19. Fold foam towards back creating a bullet head (foam over eye of hook)
20. Tie in small piece of yellow foam Finish Rainbow Bright
21. Whip Finish 2-3x at eye of hook under foam and legs
22. Trim wing case (have overhang a hook gap past foam)
23. Trim foam A. Can round corners of foam if you'd like
24. Cut tail 3 times hook gap



Outings Schedule September 2024

By Robin Gavelin



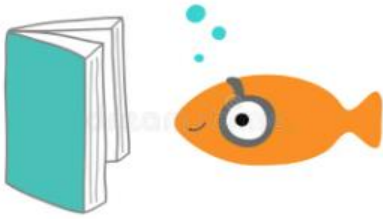
September 5-8 – Fish Creek Outing (Hosted by Robin Gavelin) – Click here for info and registration:

<https://spokaneflyfishers.com/event/fish-creek-outing/#!event-register/2024/9/5/kootenai-river-float-and-wade-trip>

September 12-15 – Georgetown Lake Float (Hosted by Dan Wight) – Click here for info and registration:

<https://spokaneflyfishers.com/event/georgetown-lake-outing/#!event-register/2024/9/12/georgetown-lake-outing>





Larry's Book Nook

By Larry Ray

Reprint from February 2020 Barbless Flyer

Thomas McGuane. I've stated, in prior reviews, that I thought Thomas McGuane was the finest fishing writers out there. Yet, he is so much more. He has written novels involving hard-life types from his home state of Montana, as well as his beloved Florida Keys. He is also an accomplished short-story author, with collections involving characters of a similar nature to those in his novels. He has also written non-fiction over subjects such as horses he has known and loved in his life. Luckily for us who enjoy fishing reading, he at times turns his skills to writing about that topic.

The Longest Silence is a collection of essays regarding his pursuit of fly fishing around the world, but most especially in Montana and other locations in North America. It was once said that, in baseball, Sandy Koufax pitched in a higher league. For me, Thomas McGuane writes at a higher level. I find myself, at times, re-reading sentences and paragraphs to catch the full flavor and meaning of what is said. A single sentence can be laced with subtle humor as well as keen observation, while setting tense anticipation for what might come later. He writes, thusly, about a girl he encountered during a trip to Ireland: "When I came in that evening, I returned the wave of an ardent and heavily made-up young woman with unnatural blond hair, rather a beauty but profoundly influenced by the latest Carnaby Street fashions. From time to time, she appeared in a burst of enthusiasm and ill-concealed carnality... I saw her waving from ...the nave of the thirteenth-century church of Saints Peter and Paul, in ruins but the final resting place of Gaelic poets. Finally, I saw her cavorting with an entire hurling team from Blossom's Gate..." Virtually all McGuane's fly-fishing stories are laced with such asides. I've read no other outdoor writer who possesses his vocabulary and the ability to use it in such a way that the story is enriched without distraction. Oddly, the reader will occasionally encounter a factual miss-step that will momentarily bring one up short. For example, he writes mistakenly of the "harrier losing it's winter white" in "Spring." Harriers do not change colors with the seasons, as do, say, weasels or snowshoe hares. Adult male harriers are of a light gray, year around, which might pass as white in certain light. Meanwhile, females retain a brownish-grey throughout their lives. Thus, it's possible one could see the two-color phases at different times of year and deduce that they molt with the seasons.

Also, he writes of his experiences at San Francisco's venerable Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club, in Golden Gate Park in 1966, which he labels "The Summer of Love." As one who was present there during that summer (and who survived!), I can tell you the Summer of Love was in 1967. Encountering such inaccuracy by an author so observant is momentarily startling. Which, of course, in no way harms the reading experience...

In more than one place, McGuane decries what he apparently sees as pseudo-sophistication or the mystique some attach to fly-fishing. He ends the chapter "Runoff" with a paragraph that states "...like "military intelligence" and "airline cuisine," "sophisticated angler" is an oxymoron. And if it wasn't, it would be nothing to strive for. Angling is where the child, if not the infant, gets to go on living." One wonders if McGuane is aware that the level of his own writing contributes mightily to those impressions he challenges? Yet he, himself, recognizes that fly angling is so much more than just striving to catch fish. Such as this clip from his opening remarks at the front of the book, describing his feelings after a friendly encounter with a bait fisherman on an Oregon stream: "If fly fishermen have an edge in this

elaboration of the soul that we resent hearing called a sport but are too timid to call an art, it is our willingness to deepen the experience at nearly any personal cost. This is why we tie flies, not to save money through bulk purchase of hooks and feathers. This is why some of us cannot live without the breath of varnish from the rod tube when we rig up for another holy day. The motto of every serious angler is “Nearer My God to Thee.” Humans have suspected for thousands of years that angling and religion are connected. But if you can find no other ideal than out fishing your buddies, catching something big enough to stuff, or winning a trophy, you have a lot of work to do before you are what Izaak Walton would call an angler.” McGuane, himself, treats lovingly with other fishing writers as Izaak Walton and Roderick Haig-Brown. Indeed, the chapter on Haig-Brown is the best of all the attempts by those who have tried to capture the essence of his contributions to northwest fly fishing. Such as: “For many who regard angling as the symptom of a way of living ... the writing of Roderick Haig-Brown serves as scripture. He is a genuinely famous fisherman in an era when famous fishermen scramble to name flies and knots after themselves with a self-aggrandizing ardor unknown since the Borgia Popes.”

Our SFF Library is fortunate to have a copy of *The Longest Silence*. Borrow it and treat yourself to fly fishing journeys to locations such as Ireland, Iceland, and North America, which are richly described in the lovely, stimulating prose that is unique to Thomas McGuane.



SFFC Information

Officers

President: Kevin Brannon
 Vice President: Brad Collins
 Treasurer: Brian Soth
 Secretary: Larry Ray (interim)
 Board Position 1*: Jim Athearn
 Board Position 2**: Bill White
 Board Position 3***: Brian Desautels
 Past President: Craig Adams
 Sgt. at Arms: Bill Millspaugh
 *3-year term expires May 2026
 **term expires May 2027
 ***term expires May 2025
 President, VP, Treasurer,
 Secretary and Sgt. at Arms
 elected annually

Committee Chairs

Publications Comm: Kevin Brannon
 Conservation: Brian Desautels
 Kevin Brannon (interim)
 Robin Gavelin
 Outings: Chris Bryant
 Education: Brad Collins
 Membership: TBD
 Fly-fishing School: Larry Ray
 Librarian: Open
 Programs: Jacki Shear Brannon
 Barbless Flyer Editor: Craig Adams
 Proj. Healing Waters: Brian Soth
 FFI Liaison: TBD
 Beg. Fly-tying: Brad Collins
 Int. Fly Tying: David Marshall
 A/V Coordinator:

SFFC Contact Info:

Change of Email Address: Log into our web page spokaneflyfishers.com and change the data on your profile form which is visible after you log in.



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Club Mailing Address:

SFF Club, PO box 4141, Spokane, WA 99220

SFFC Business Members

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES



KEN MOORE
OWNER/HEAD GUIDE
509-953-8669
KENMOORE509@GMAIL.COM



Business Memberships are available for \$50/year or payment in kind and include an Honorary Membership if not already a member. Contact SFFC, PO Box 4141, Spokane, WA 99220.

