



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

The Annual Fly Auction November 13th



PREVIEW at 5:30 PM, AUCTION STARTS AT 7:00 PM

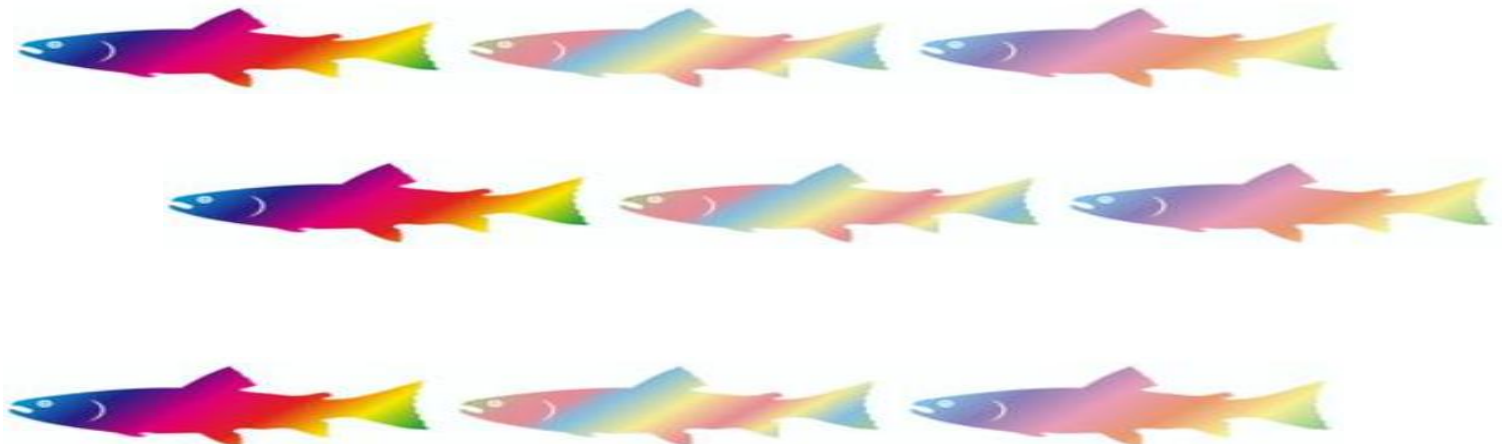
Our annual fly auction is one of the major fundraisers for your Spokane Fly Fishers Club. Join us at the auction and win some great flies!

If you are donating flies, please contact any Board member to pre-register. By pre-registering your flies, you are not only informing us of the quantity of flies you are auctioning, but also allowing us to display them sooner.

You may drop off flies to be auctioned starting at 5:30 PM. You may also begin scoping out the offerings as early as 5:30. The auction itself will start at 7:00 PM.

For those lucky auction winners, we will accept cash, checks, and credit cards.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Adams at (509) 999-5660, or email at craigflyfisher@gmail.com.



Prez Sez

By Brad Collins for Kevin Brannon



I'm in shock that we are closing in on November already but I'm excited that fall is here because I love fishing during autumn in the northwest! The scenery, the chill in the air, and the hungry fish in our local waters make it my favorite time of year. Don't think that because the days are getting shorter and colder and some folks are hanging up their rods, that fishing is over. Far from it! Fall and winter fishing can be very productive as long as the water isn't frozen over. Steelhead are moving into some of our rivers and trout are still eating, so why not go fishing? You must be patient and expect that things are going to be slower, but it can be great out there.

Regarding club topics, my current focus is to get our committees up and running again. Lately our committee situation has been dismal – we don't really have active committees right now – and we need to change that. A small number of people are doing lots of work and that isn't sustainable for them or for our club. I'm encouraging everyone to consider being part of a committee and helping the club by taking on small jobs in those groups. I've already sent out messages about these committees but here are our biggest areas of need:

- Programs committee – organizing our monthly speakers
- Outings committee – planning and organizing our outings
- Membership committee – organizing people and facilities for our meetings and events
- Fly school committee – organizing and running our annual fly school

Thanks to those folks who have already offered to serve on some committees!

Next, don't forget that our annual Fly auction is this month. If you want to donate some flies, please contact one of these members to arrange a time to give them your flies:

- Craig Adams (craigflyfisher@gmail.com)
- Jim Athearn (jathearn99@aol.com)
- Bill White (wfwjtjeff@icloud.com)
- Brian Soth (bsoth17@outlook.com)
- Brian Desautels (bmdesautels@gmail.com)

This year, we will be selling some food at the fly auction, and we hope to continue through the other monthly meetings. We will have hot dogs, chips, cookies, and soda for sale - a full meal for \$5. You can't eat anywhere else for that!

Finally, our December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party, so look for details about what to expect and how you can contribute to a great event. Master Chef Carla Ferguson will be providing another amazing dinner this year! I'm excited for that in itself!

Go catch some fish!

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November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 SFF Monthly Board Mtg	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 SFF Monthly Membership Mtg ANNUAL FLY AUCTION!	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Thirsty 3 rd Thursday: Fly Tying at Lumberbeard Brewing	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving 	29	30



Holiday Get Together 2024

We will be hosting our Annual Holiday potluck for our December meeting. Again this year, our own Carla Ferguson has graciously volunteered to prepare the main course consisting of Turkey, taters and gravy and maybe a ham.

We are asking each of you to join us and bring something to add to our feast. You may bring anything you like to share with your fellow members, like salads, desserts, dinner rolls, stuffing, relishes such as cranberry sauce, olives, or punch. Your choice!

We also hope that each of you participate in our annual gift exchange. Hmm...What kind of gift would a fisher enjoy? Hmm.... The maximum amount of a gift is \$20. Bring a gift, get a gift!

Please help at the potluck with set-up before and cleanup afterward! A sign-up sheet for those willing to help will be available at the November meeting.

You can get hold of Carla at (509) 701-6696 text/call and email at mischef57@gmail.com.

You will be receiving an email from the club (via Brad Collins) with further details on the program and how you can participate.





Beginning Fly Tying Classes

By Chet Allison

Beginning fly tying classes are scheduled for **Saturday's starting January 4th at 10:00 a.m.**, through February 8th, 2025. Class is limited to 10 students. Classes will be held at Sportsman's Warehouse at 6720 N. Division.

Times for the classes are 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Attendance and participation will be limited to club members only, so you will need to pay the \$50 dollar class fee first. Go to our club web site spokaneflyfishers.com to sign up and pay for the class.

Participants will need to bring their own vise and tools to the classes. Basic tools should include a tying bobbin, scissors, hackle pliers, and head cement with applicator.

This class will emphasize simplicity in learning to tie durable flies. We will tie practical patterns that are appropriate for our vicinity. A fair dose of humor and levity with perhaps a bit of irreverence tossed in can be expected. After all,...don't we all do this for the pure fun?

Questions about equipment can be directed to Chet Allison at msn.com.

Intermediate Fly-Tying Workshops



We will begin our Intermediate Fly-Tying Workshops on **Thursdays starting January 9th at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Spokane Valley Methodist Church, 115 N Raymond Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99206.

The workshops continue each Thursday for six weeks and we tie for about two hours each session.

Participants are expected to bring their own fly-tying tools and thread. The presenters will supply the materials to tie the flies that they present.

This event is more like a series of workshops than a class. The presenters will teach a wide variety of flies from nymphs, dry flies, streamers, and everything else. The flies also cover a range of difficulties and skill level, but anyone with working fly-tying skills should be able to follow along and learn some new skills.

Please register through the club website. If you have questions, please contact Brad Collins.

Beginner Fly Tying

By Chet Allison

Carey Special by Tim Flagler



Hook: Mustad 9672 size 10.

Thread: Black, 6/0 or UTC 140-denier.

Rib: Gold Ultra Wire, small.

Tail: Speckled Golden Olive Coq de Leon feather.

Body: Brown-olive rabbit-fur dubbing.

Thorax: Brown-olive SLF dubbing.

Hackle: Speckled Golden Olive Coq de Leon feather.

Head: Tying thread.

Adhesive: Head cement or UV-cure resin.

Note: Try this pattern with different materials, colors, and sizes.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_Z22CrtzFI

1. Smash the barb of a size 10 hook placing in the vise. Start the 6/0 black thread one eye length behind the eye. Make a few wraps and snip the tag end of the thread.
2. Tie in the small Ultra wire a ten-inch length will make several flies. Let the wire roll to the far side of the hook.
3. Tie in the tail material



Intermediate Fly Tying

By Chet Allison

Bird of Prey Caddis by Tim Flagler



Hook: Mustad C49S or Tiemco 2488 sizes 14-18

Bead: Gold, 7/64-inch.

Thread: Black, 8/0 or UTC70-denier

Rib: Pearl Flashabou, small.

Tail: Natural Hungarian partridge.

Body: Light hare's mask.

Hackle collar: Hungarian partridge.

Thorax: Peacock herl.

Adhesive: Head cement.

Note: Tie this pattern in colors to match the naturals.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pCGsAzbqIQ

Watch the Youtube first it will help a lot

1. Flatten hook barb then apply the bead to the hook first. Apply thread at the back of the bead wrapping thread to about the hook point.
2. Tie in the flashabou tail wrapping thread down the hook shank.
3. Tip the hook forward to apply the tail easier. Wrap the thread about half way to the hook barb.
4. Create a thin dubbing noodle on the thread about two and half inches long and start wrapping back to the tail tie in point apply one wrap behind the ribbing material then continue forward. Wrap body to the bead and tie off.
5. Wrap the rib forward segmenting the body. 5 or 6 wraps will do fine. Tie off the rib. Make a small flat area behind the bead with several wrap of thread.
6. Get small Partridge feather pull of all of the fluffy fibers leaving the nice fibers. Get hold of the very tip of the feather preen the longer fibers back. Tie in the feather be the small fiber tip. You can trim off some of the tip now to tie it in place.
7. Get hold of the stem and pull the longer fibers back neatly and start wrapping the feather around the hook. With one or two wraps complete hold the stem securely applying 4 or 5 wraps over the stem snipping the extra leftover stem off. Preen the fibers back and take a few thread wraps back making a little flat area to apply the peacock herl head behind the bead.
8. A single peacock herl will do fine, tie in the herl over the flat area with the stem toward you. Take several wraps of herl toward the bead. Tie off the herl behind the bead snip off extra herl making 4 or 5 thread wraps right agents the bead. Apply a touch of head cement.

Using A Thermometer for Finding Trout

By Ken Moore



As fly fisherfolk, we obsess over trout food sources. Stop off at any fly shop or pull off along a river, you will hear questions about what "they" are biting on. What size and color are you using? Should I take the beginning fly-tying class offered by the club? (The answer is yes.) I get it and do it, too. Magazines, fishing conferences, and movies are dedicated to this topic of what trout eat. A thermometer will narrow your focus and tell you two vital facts you need to know. What is the probability of the fish consuming the fly I am presenting, and how likely is the trout willing to exert energy to consume that fly? If I had to narrow it down and pick one item in my bag that would instantaneously tell me when, where, and how to fish my flies, it would be a \$12 thermometer.

Water temperature and oxygen levels (which we will discuss later) drive everything from trout behavior and location to the insect hatches they eat. If you want to take your fly fishing to the next level, then understand how water temperature affects your target fish,

The most utilized tool in my fly-fishing kit is a thermometer because it tells me the best time of the day to fish. The speed, depth, and water locations I should focus on. When I first arrive at the streamside, I pull out my thermometer and continue to monitor the water temperature throughout the day. As the day advances, I expect the river's temperature to rise and fall 3-12 degrees daily.

Four parameters drive a trout's behavior: predation, temperature/oxygen levels of the water, food source(s), and once-a-year spawning. Water temperature and oxygen are the most insightful for establishing where fish are located.

Because fish are ectothermic (cold-blooded), their metabolism is ruled by temperature. As the water temperature rises and falls, so does their metabolic rate. Put another way, as the water temperature increases, so does the quantity of how much a trout will eat and how far they will move to eat. A trout will eat 3-4 times more at 55-65F (degrees) than at temperatures less than 47F. Water temperature will even indicate the type of water they will be lying in - be it a riffle, a run, or a pool. When they begin to eat and move, the ideal temperature for increased metabolic rate is 48-50F. Depending on species and strain, most trout have a maximum metabolic range of 55-65 F, meaning they will eat and move around considerably more. Trout enter stress mode at 68-70F, and their willingness to eat and move for food decreases dramatically at those temperatures. If you think about it, that is a pretty narrow range for temperature fluctuations for prime trout fishing, and that is why I measure water temperature early and often when I am on the water. The correlation between trout location and feeding is not happenstance; water temperatures are that important to your success.

Let us examine trout behavior and how it correlates to the importance of temperature. Tom Rosenbauer of the Orvis Company once wrote: "Water temperatures below 32F degrees are lethal for trout because fish don't do well encased in ice." I agree, but at temperatures above 34F degrees, trout and their food sources (macroinvertebrates) become very predictable. I don't expect much activity if the water temperature is cold, say 33- 39F. Although I have had lovely days fishing in these temperatures, you won't find me fishing riffles or fast-moving water. In colder water, trout hold in the slowest water they can find, like the back of deep dark pools and spots where they feel safe from aerial predation and do not have to exert much energy. I take my time working likely fish-holding spots and move and fish patiently and deliberately. I sink my flies to the bottom and put them right in front of their nose with multiple drifts and at varying angles of attack. I fish jigs, mops, stoneflies, and even egg patterns. I aim for the fish to see my offering as it rolls and bounces a couple of inches off the bottom stream.

At 42-48F, things are beginning to look up, and trout begin to spread out a little. I focus on eddies along the bank sides and more significant pocket water, allowing the fish to hold to the structure tightly. This is the time to begin considering riffle-run transition zones and the head of pools. If you are a dry fly aficionado, this is an excellent time to break out your dry fly rod and start presenting midges and Baetis flies. I often find trout holding in shallower water and small riffles, especially if large mayflies are at 46-50F.

From 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit, a trout's metabolic rate is coming into full swing, and you will find trout throughout the river, even in the fastest water. I imagine trout putting on the feed bag. At these temperature ranges, trout move away from one another into prime feeding lanes but remain near the bottom of the river. At 55-60 degrees, I have experienced trout more willing to move from the bottom of the river to mid-level in the water column. I focus on a structure that allows the trout to conserve energy in shallow water and fish the inside foam lines close to the bank. I rarely focus on the slowest parts of runs and the back half of pools unless I am targeting apex predators, the largest fish in the river system. For reasons unknown, big trout do not like side pressure and often hang in the slowest water in the river.

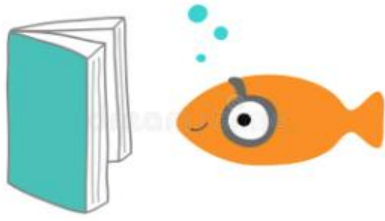
When the water temperature is 57-68F, you have the highest chance of fish dining at the end of your tippet. It is in these temperature ranges that a fish eats 3-4 times more aquatic food than when the temperatures are in their 30s and lower 40s. I focus on faster water with a holding spot for trout, deeper heavy pools that exhibit a standing wave, and riffles (riffles oxygenate the water and are where several species of invertebrates reside). I learned this lesson well on the Snake River, with the water temperature between 62-67F. I found rainbow trout nosed into the fastest parts of riffles, gorging themselves on everything that the river would produce. It didn't matter what I threw. If I could put the fly in the right spot, it would be eaten by a big fat rainbow. A day like that only happens because you combine the correlation of water temperature, insect hatch, and understanding current breaks and how a trout seeks to conserve energy.

Temperatures above 68-70F are when Fish and Game begins hoot owl hours in many of our western states. At higher temperatures, oxygen concentration declines significantly in water, making it harder for fish to breathe. This is an excellent time to switch from trout to other species like smallmouth bass or look for cooler water temperatures in the river.

Equipment note: I have used regular analog thermometers for years but have recently taken to digital thermometers. They are significantly faster at capturing the water temperature, and the numbers are easier to read because they are bigger and my eyes are older. I have not found a fishing company that makes a waterproof digital thermometer. So, I have substituted the thermometer you utilize to prepare steak or chicken. I prefer a 5-5.5" folding meat thermometer with a 4-4.5" probe. Many of these are now "waterproof," but I don't suggest giving them a dunk in the river or lake. I also prefer the type that automatically turns off. You can purchase these folding meat thermometers for \$12-\$20 at any store that sells kitchen supplies or Amazon.

In conclusion, we know that temperature rules a trout's metabolism and, subsequently, the water's oxygen levels (the warmer the temperature, the lower the oxygen level). If the temperature trends to match the prime metabolic rate of trout (55-65F), We can expect a fine day for catching. We expect a slower day if the temperature is trending away from prime. We also know that during the day, the water temperature typically rises; this helps us decide when and where we want to target our favorite fishing holes.

Fish with knowledge and focus and watch how your confidence grows. See you back here next month, and yes, you should take the beginning fly-tying class.



Larry's Book Nook

By Larry Ray

(Reprinted from Sept 2020)

A Substantial Upgrade! In keeping with our ongoing efforts to upgrade the SFF Library, we have purchased some more newer volumes (as well as one new video). Most were recommended by at least one Club member, other than the Library staff (me). I have shown the copyright dates by each title, to show how recent are most of these works. I think our selections comprise a fine mix of historical fishing writing by famous authors, species research, fly fishing instruction, and guidebooks.

One thing to note is the quality of photography in all the newer volumes. It is so uniformly wonderful that I thought about saying so once here, then not mentioning it again in the individual descriptions.

THE BUG GUY - Younghanz, Robert (Video). Robert shows us, "If you want to catch more fish, think like a bug."

THE BROWN TROUT – ATLANTIC SAMON NEXUS, Supinski, Matthew, © 2018. A study of both species, their close genetic relationship and origins, followed by great descriptions and instructions regarding the pursuit of each. Well-researched. Check the HUGE close-ups of fly patterns.

FISHING CENTRAL OREGON - published by Gary Lewis Outdoors, © 2016. The sixth edition of this wonderful guide. Comprehensive, with many maps and other guidebook instructions. A great tool for planning any trips to the area.

FLY FISHING THE YELLOWSTONE: THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE BACKCOUNTRY – Staples, Bruce © 2017. If you want to fish Yellowstone country and get away from the beaten path and hatches of anglers on such as the Madison, Firehole, and Yellowstone Lake, here is your guide for doing so. Wonderful photography shows the streams and still waters around the park. Some of the directions for getting to these places are almost intimate in their detail.

HEMINGWAY ON FISHING - Hemingway, Ernest, © 2000. Edited by Nick Lyons, who also writes the introduction, which you will want to read along with son Jack Hemingway's forward to really understand how Hemingway loved fishing and how it was woven through other facets of his life. A wonderful, comprehensive compilation of the great man's fishing writing. Some fiction, but also some fly fishing. Fishing excerpts from some of his great novels, including European locations (Fly Fishing the Rhone Canal). Also, some of his blue water stories (Islands in the Stream). Read this for your love of literature as well as the fishing.

THE ORVIS GUIDE TO HATCH STRATEGIES - Rosenbauer, Tom. © 2017. Lots of great instruction, reinforced by marvelous photography.

TYING STREAMER: Essential Flies and Techniques for Top Patterns - Craven, Charlie.

©2020. Probably the most demanded book of the bunch. Cravens is simply a master tyer and a master teacher as well.

SALMON: A Fish, the Earth, and the History of Their Common Fate - Kurlansky, Mark,

© 2020. This work explores the relationship between salmon and virtually all human activity throughout its range, in both hemispheres. Awe-inspiring, sometimes haunting photography. Revealing, and at times disheartening, yet hopeful. Highly acclaimed!

SILENT SEASONS - Edited by Chatham, Russell, © 1988. Twenty-one great fishing stories

by such as Charles Waterman, Thomas McGuane, as well as Chatham himself. Fireside fishing reading at its best...

SMALLMOUTH BASS FISHING FOR EVERYONE - Root, James, © 2017. How to catch “the

hardest fighting fish that swims” is what the author promises in instruction. Do you agree with the author’s assessment of fighting quality? Such debates just enrich the discussion... Meanwhile, this volume is rich in photographic illustration of gear, fish, and more gear. Warning: This is NOT a fly-fishing book.

At our next meeting, come over to the library and check out our new books as well as the rest of the collection.



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.



Visit Us on Facebook



Club Mailing Address:

SFF Club, PO box 4141, Spokane, WA 99220

SFFC Business Members

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES

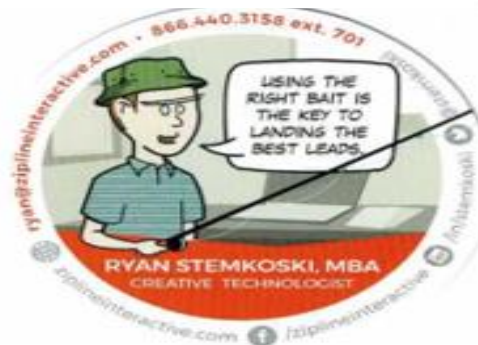


KEN MOORE

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.

