



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



Introducing the 1st Annual SPOKANE SHOWDOWN 2025 Fly Fishing Competition



WHO: Members of Spokane Fly Fishers, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club and Spokane Women on the Fly and Washington State Council Fly Fishers Int'l. Each club may host as many two-person teams as they want, but participants must declare which club they represent.

WHAT: Teams will fish together from 9am - NOON. Winners will be decided based upon most fish (to hand or net), and biggest fish (strictly honor system). Participants are encouraged to bring a tape measure to record their best fish. Ties will be decided by Ro Sham Bo (Rock, Paper, Scissors). PHOTOS OF FISH OUT OF THE WATER WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 4, 9am - NOON. Awards will be presented at 1pm, with a possible barbeque afterwards.

WHERE: One of three possible venues; Amber Lake, Medical Lake, and Waitts Lake. The names will be thrown in a hat and drawn Friday night, Oct. 3 at Lumberbeard Brewing and announced over social media.



Prez Sez

By Chip O'Brien

Welcome to an abbreviated summertime version of *The Barbless Flyer*. This is Chip O'Brien, your newly elected Prez and de facto Programs Chairman. We're going to have a terrific year!

While you have (hopefully) been out there causing our local fish population to seek therapy, Kevin Knight (our new VP), Mike Sportelli (new outings Chairman) and I have been busy setting up the next year of Spokane Fly Fishers (SFF) programs, outings and events. Let's start with a few announcements!

1. SFF is **changing meeting venues**. Beginning Wed., Sept. 10, Spokane Fly Fishers will meet on the second Wednesday of each month (same meeting night as always) at [Lumberbeard Brewing](#) on Third Ave. in Spokane. Members and Board of Directors agree it's time we shake things up a little. No one is required to purchase food or drink at meetings, but there is that option if you choose.
2. You are cordially invited to **Spokane Fly Fishers Community Get-together at Lumberbeard Brewing on Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 6:00pm**. This is not a regular meeting, just an informal opportunity to gather all Spokane area fly fishers (clubs, groups, guides, fly shop personnel and individuals) together to enjoy a brew and/or dinner and just reconnect with old fishing friends and maybe make some new ones. One consistent suggestion has been to do more with the other area clubs, so this is our first attempt to get EVERYONE, the entire Spokane area fly fishing community together just for fun. Wanna' tie flies? No Prob. Just bring your gear!

There will not be a program beyond just a big "Welcome" to everyone and rotating fishing pictures on all the TVs. The idea is to relax and reconnect with the entire Spokane fly fishing community. Let's pack the joint with fly-fisher people.

3. **September SFF Meeting: 6:00PM, Wed., Sept 10**, Lumberyard Brewery featuring **Josh Mills**, legendary steelhead Ninja (he's gonna' to kill me for calling him that) on fly fishing the **Grande Ronde River**. It's quickly approaching "Go Time" on this renowned steelhead fishery and the numbers of steelhead entering that system are encouraging (as of this writing). Josh is highly entertaining.
4. **September SFF Outing: September 12-14** Georgetown Lake (MT) with Mike Sportelli.
5. Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking five volunteers from SFF to help with **two days of fin clipping in September**. Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club is also supplying five volunteers for a total of ten people. It is a two-day commitment. They are serving coffee and donuts both mornings and pizza and pop for lunch both days. You can sign up at SFF meetings or either of our two local fly shops, North 40 Outfitters [\(509\) 418-9460](#) and Silver Bow Fly Shop [\(509\) 924-9998](#). Fin clipping is fun, interesting and a very important part of WDFW's fish management program.
6. Washington FFI (Fly Fishers Int'l.) are sponsoring a Fly-Casting Skills Development course on **Sunday, Oct. 5th** at Franklin Park in Spokane. More details on this later. All SFF members are invited!



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August				2025		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 6:00 pm SFFC Community Social @ Lumberbeard Brewing 🍺	14	15	16
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Almost Perfect

By Chip O'Brien

Perhaps the moon was in the Seventh House and Jupiter aligned with Mars, but it was late afternoon and the folks I was guiding said they'd caught plenty of fish for one day. Gifted with an unexpected night off, I recalled a certain pool I'd discovered on Northern California's Pit River that offered reliable dry fly fishing just before dark. It was also my 50th birthday.

I kinda'-sorta' hoped there might be a chance to get in a little fishing around my birthday, so I'd slipped my 9-foot, 3-weight Scott G-Series into my vehicle, a rod I affectionately called "Excalibur." It excelled at presenting tiny dry flies with almost impossible delicacy.

Thankfully when I arrived no one else was fishing my spot. I could see another vehicle parked well below me, but as far as I could tell I had the place to myself. I took a moment to survey my surroundings.

There were small PMDs coming off, and I counted 21 regularly-rising fish. I lengthened my leader to 12-feet and dropped down to 6X, just in case. Then, even before I took my first cast, I detected an eerie feeling building in me like storm clouds on the horizon.

It was just too perfect, I thought to myself, my birthday, the unanticipated night off, the hatch, the rising fish. I halfway considered ditching fishing and finding a casino before my luck ran out. But it never did.

For over an hour it seemed I could do no wrong. It was like some crazy reparation for every bad cast I'd ever made, every fish I'd put down, every time I ended up swimming the Pit River. I'd pick a rising fish, sort out where to stand, move into position without spooking anyone and execute. I was so focused that I don't even remember donning my headlamp before losing that last little bit of light. But I was exasperated. There was one fish I simply could not get to take my fly.



All the others, twenty to be exact, came to hand in textbook fashion. How could it be that for twenty fish I could do no wrong, but for that one fish I could do nothing right? I targeted that trout numerous times from this angle, and then that. I'd rest the fish every so often to work on one of its less-selective brethren. I had to hang it up eventually for lack of light.

As I was approaching my car someone called out, "Hey, is that Chip O'Brien?" It was a guide friend of mine I hadn't seen in a while. When I extended my arm to shake his hand he slapped an ice-cold beer in it. What a classic evening.

To this day I still think of that one fish I couldn't catch, often laying in bed in the dead of night. What could I have done differently? Could I let one selective fish ruin an otherwise perfect memory, or just accept that sometimes there just might be a touch of imperfection in perfection?

Spokane Fly Fisher's Club Outings 2025

September 2025

Georgetown Lake, MT	12 th - 14 th , Fri-Sun	Mike Sportelli	Overnight
Lake Lenore	27 th , Saturday	TBD	Day or Overnight**

** Most meeting times will be 8 AM in parking lot nearest boat ramp unless noted*

*** You can turn any Saturday day trip into a weekend Fri-Sun overnight if desired*



SFFC INFORMATION

Officers

President: Chip O'Brien
 Vice President: Kevin Knight
 Treasurer: Mike Williams
 Secretary: Vacant
 Board Position 1*: Jim Athearn
 Board Position 2**: Bill White
 Board Position 3***: Bob Schmitt
 Past President: Kevin Brannon
 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: Vacant
 Conservation: Brian Desautels
 Outings: Chris Bryant
 Education: Chris Bryant
 Membership: Brad Collins
 Fly-fishing School: Bill Wagstaff
 Librarian: Larry Ray
 Programs: Vacant
 Barbless Flyer Editor: Jacki Shear Brannon
 Proj. Healing Waters: Craig Adams
 FFI Liaison: Vacant
 Beg. Fly-tying: Chet Allison
 Int. Fly Tying: Brad Collins
 A/V Coordinator: Dave Marshall

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

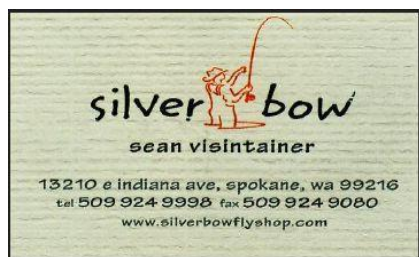


Club Mailing Address:

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.

Tight lines!

