



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



Saltwater Beach Fishing – Puget Sound Style

Bill White



At our November 12th General Membership Meeting, the featured speaker will be David Paul Williams. He is from Bellevue, WA and is a well-recognized presenter on fly fishing in the Pacific Northwest, particularly Puget Sound and surrounding areas. David gave a presentation to our club a number of years back, wherein he was well received, having provided a treasure trove of practical ideas and recommendations.

The title of his presentation is ***Saltwater Beach Fishing - Puget Sound Style***. He will cover fly fishing from the shores of Puget Sound for Pink Salmon, Coho, and Sea-Run Trout.

Why don't we just do it in the salt? Mostly because we don't have a clue about where to go, what to use, or even what fish we can catch. David Paul Williams, author of magazine articles about beach fishing for pink, chum and coho salmon as well as coastal cutthroat trout, demystifies saltwater beach fishing.

David Paul Williams has written for American Angler, Fly Fisherman, Northwest Fly Fishing, Southwest Fly Fishing, American Fly Fishing, Eastern Fly Fishing, Fly Fusion, Bassmaster, Fly Fishing & Tying Journal and Game & Fish magazines and wrote the book on smallmouth bass, Flyfishing for Western Smallmouth. He is the former Editor-In-Chief of Flyfisher and Department Editor at Flyfishing & Tying Journal. He gives entertaining media presentations to clubs and organizations on carp, smallmouth bass, saltwater beach fishing, panfish and alpine trout. Also known for his simple, yet effective fly patterns, he has been fly-fishing since he was ten years old.

The Prez Sez

Al Odenthal



The fishing season is beginning to wind down as frost is in the air. I hope all of you have gotten in your “must do” fishing adventures this season. We have a new Board of Members for our Club after a few stumbles beginning our new fiscal year. The Board is a strong one and has already exhibited a tremendous capacity to work hard to make our club a fun and interesting place to be.

Our Outings Chair has put together a great series of outings for all to enjoy. Thanks, Mike Sportelli, for all the effort you have put into this facet of our club. If you haven't signed up for a club outing, I'd encourage you to visit our website and get in on the action and the great camaraderie enjoyed on these trips near and far. Congrats to the SFF team on winning the Fishing Showdown at Amber Lake earlier this month. According to all reports it was not only a successful competition but a lot of fun for everyone involved.

We have multiple great programs scheduled for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026 so be sure to keep the 2nd Wednesday of the month open on your calendars for some special presentations. We will NOT be conducting our Fly Auction this November. It will be combined with the raffle in the spring.

Your Club Board is working on plans for a Christmas dinner for our December meeting date. It will likely include a non-host dinner at a local location or a catered affair at our usual spot in the church meeting hall. More on that at our next meeting or through the Barbless Flyer newsletter.

Our Fly-Fishing School under the guidance of Bill Wagstaff will be kicking off in early 2026 so be sure to watch for notices in the media and in the Barbless for cost and beginning dates. This usually fills up fast, so if you have family, friends or others who have shown an interest - be sure to register early.

In the meantime, enjoy what fishing weather we still have left. Remember your Board Members are here to represent you so don't be bashful in bringing ideas and concerns to their attention. Tight lines to all...

Contents

Speaker – David Paul Williams	1	Reflection on Volunteering	7
The Prez Sez	2	Pacing: The Forgotten Strategy	8
Contents	3	Fly Fishers International	10
November Calendar	3	Larry's Book Nook	11
Introduction - Board of Directors	4	SFFC Information	14
Updates from the Outings Committee	6	SFFC Business Members	15



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 8:00 Monthly Board Mtg	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 8:00 Monthly Member Mtg 7:00 Speaker St. Francis Assisi	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Hog Canyon Outing	29 Hog Canyon Outing
30 Hog Canyon Outing						

Introduction - Board of Directors

Al Odenthal & Bill White

The Board Members for Spokane Fly Fishers were recently elected on Nov 8th and there are several individuals new to the Board or changing positions. Let's take a moment to meet the SFFC 2025 Board of Directors.

President – Al Odenthal

Al has been a member of SFFC for over 20 years and has been fly fishing in area rivers for some time before joining our club. He has served on the Board of Directors as the Sergeant at Arms, Vice President in the past as well as Board Secretary this past year. He is the instructor in the Club Fly School in Etymology, and in the past as the Moving Waters instructor. Al lives near Spangle with his wife, Mary and granddaughter Morgan.

Vice President – Bill White

Bill was elected in April 2024 to serve a three-year term, expiring in May 2027, as Director-at-Large Position #2. A retired Air Force Officer and recovering attorney, Bill grew up fishing in the Truckee River behind his uncle's cabin, then spent the next 30 years living in New England. Bill fly-fished primarily New Hampshire and Maine rivers, but made forays to the trout rivers of Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Arkansas, as well as Montana. Having retired and moved to Green Bluff, WA in 2021, Bill is enjoying fishing the West once again. He also enjoys grouse and pheasant hunting behind his Irish Red & White Setter.

Secretary - Brian Desautels

Brian grew up as part of a fishing family in Michigan, spin casting and trolling the smaller lakes of Michigan's northern lower peninsula and those of Northern Ontario. He's an Eagle Scout, and in his summer following college, he turned salmon in canneries on Kodiak Island - learning basic fly-fishing at the mouths of tributaries to Resurrection Bay near Seward. For the next 30 years, he owned his own business as an HR consultant and raised his family. Now retired, he has renewed his love of the outdoors and for fly fishing. He was a Director at Large from 2022-2024 as well as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Barbless Flyer* newsletter and the recipient of our Club's 2024-2025 Mover and Shaker Award.

Sergeant at Arms - Brian Soth

Brian is a retired economist, having worked at several companies in the utility industry. He is also a classically trained singer. He has been a fly fisher for 30 years and loves being so close to all the terrific fisheries we have in and around Spokane. Favorite local waters include the St Joe, Rock Creek, the CDA and several of the lakes around Spokane. He has been an active member of the Club for about 10 years and was Treasurer from 2018-2020. He and his wife, Becky, have two grown children.

Director at Large - Bob Schmidt

Bob was elected in April 2025 to serve through 2028 as Director at Large Position #3. He attended grade school through college in Spokane. He spent two years as an officer in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam conflict, followed by 40 years as a Software Engineer. A golfing buddy introduced him to fly fishing, and he is now an avid fly fisherman and fly tier. In 2015 he joined the IEFF club to learn where to fish. In 2024 he joined SFF for the same reasons. Bob was a Board member of IEFF from 2018 through 2022. He looks forward to continuing to make SFF a successful and fun organization.

Director at Large - Cassandra Collings

Born and raised in Florida, I grew up a tomboy, riding motorcycles and doing sweat labor in my dad's transmission shop. I was a pit crew of one for his drag racing pursuits until I eventually found my way into healthcare. Over the years I have held a variety of positions, and in 2015 I took a role in Anchorage, Alaska. Alaska opened a new chapter in my life. I started hiking, learned to scuba dive, bought a Clint Eastwood style .44 mag "bear stopper," took up fishing, and got a bird dog to join me in my first steps into upland hunting. Fast forward six years, and I landed in Washington. In the summer of 2025, I completed the fly-fishing school and was immediately hooked (pun intended). I'm humbled to be part of this community and look forward to learning as much as I can from everyone while sharing a few laughs and maybe a fish tale or two along the way.

Updates from the Outings Committee

Mike Sportelli



Fall has shown up in the Inland Northwest! The mornings may be cold but Fall fishing is where it's at!

Last month SFFC hosted at Coffeepot Lake. Although it had a low turnout, the fishing was excellent with many large rainbows caught.

On October 4th Spokane Fly Fishers Club hosted the First Annual Spokane Showdown at Amber Lake pitting local clubs against one another in a friendly competition. SFFC came out on top this year. This was the first annual and it was a fun event; we look forward to hosting it again next year to see who may take the trophy from Spokane Fly Fishers Club.

In the second weekend of October a group of six braved the rain and cold to fish the upper St. Joe River. Although the fishing was slower than it was in July, the fish were bigger and as beautiful as the fall colors. The weather was a little soggy and down sleeping bags were helpful against the chilly air, but a great time was had by all. The upper river was pretty quiet with the exception of several hunters that were camped along the river; not many were fishing so you could choose your spots freely. Coming home on Sunday, those that went over the pass to St. Regis ran into some snow...so cold weather is on its way!

At the time of this writing there are seven members registered to fish the Grande Ronde for steelhead on the weekend of October 24th. Results of that outing will be posted in the next Barbless Flyer.

There is one more local lake outing coming up before we close out the outings calendar for the year: Hog Canyon Lake which opens on November 28th. If you're around that weekend, come join us. This winter only fishery proves to be very productive on the opener.

Next season's outings will feature many familiar destinations. The events calendar for next year will be updated on the website before the end of the year.

See you out on the water!



Reflection on Volunteering

Paul Olsen

My involvement with the Spokane Fly Fishers (SFF) has been for more than twenty short years. You might ask why I would say “short years.” I really feel I have always gotten more back than I have given to the club. When I moved to Spokane in 1980, I knew exactly four people in Spokane. Now I would say I can't count the number of people I have befriended due to my involvement with the SFF. I have never felt like I had too many friends in my life. Volunteering for different committees and officers positions has given me the opportunity to give back to this organization. It has enriched my life greatly. I could not repay my debt to the SFF within two lifetimes. I may not be a financially rich man, but I am a rich man in experiences and friends thanks to the SFF.

Volunteering has helped me gain knowledge that I would never have acquired without being a member of the SFF. I will use being involved outings as an example. Many years ago, I went on an outing to a lake. I had never heard of this lake (Chopaka) much less had been there before. Because I went on that outing, I have had a fixation on going to outings at Chopaka. Since then, I had been the outings host for outings there several times. I would volunteer go host an outing there again without hesitation. Sharing knowledge, experiences, special places, and fly fishing together is what the club is all about.

Don't be shy. *Volunteer to help with a committee!* This Club has a culture of members readily volunteering and a supporting nature. This helps the Club accomplish many different programs and to serve our mission of promoting fly fishing as a lifelong hobby.



Pacing - The Forgotten Strategy

Ken Moore

During this year's annual St. Joe River outing, one participant asked me how fast he should move through the river system. As with all things in fly fishing, pacing is a strategy for catching trout—and when done correctly, lots of them. I have never written an article about pacing. That's a glaring omission on my part, and I apologize, as it is a topic I cover in my walk and wade clinics in depth. The speed with which water is covered is fundamental to any successful angling strategy. Pacing is quite simple to understand, but it is time on the water that will teach you when to go, stay, or switch flies. Let's get into the basics of pacing. If you like this topic, let me know, and I will share some advanced strategies and tactics.

Speed Up For Active Trout

There's no better time to catch trout than when they are active. When the fishing is good- get after it, choose an aggressive technique, and cover a lot of water. Aggressive techniques include fishing dry flies, long line nymphing, and probing low-density big-fish waters with streamers. You are looking for active trout that want to strike on your first presentation.

It is self-limiting to take an aggressive technique and then fish methodically, casting to the same water again and again. Yet I see this done routinely. Sure, you might catch a trout on the 20th presentation with a PMD dry fly. But if you take those same twenty casts and cover ten or fifteen probable holding stations and you prospect with efficiency whenever trout are active, you're going to show your flies to a lot more fish over the course of the day. The best part is that many of these fish will take your first presentation.

What is an effective prospecting speed for active trout? Make one or two good presentations at each holding station, then move to the next piece of good water. If you catch trout from a slot that could hold several trout, work it a bit more methodically. If not, please keep moving. I often prospect half a mile of water per hour when trout are active.

This doesn't mean that you wade or walk recklessly. In practice, this means passing by marginal water and concentrating on prime runs. Learn to apply stealth selectively. When you fish fast, you will inevitably overrun and spook some trout, especially on unfamiliar water. Still, if spooking a few trout nets you a bunch of active trout, then that is a big win in my journal. What if you spook a large trout? You have discovered where this beast calls its home waters, and you can return another time. Being stealthy all the time severely limits your range, and that can be a liability.

Niches

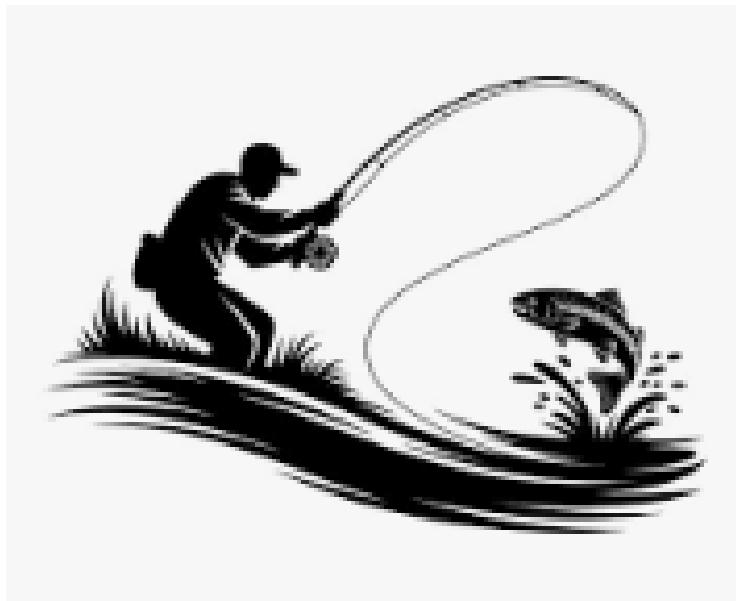
All trout in a given fishery are not active or inactive simultaneously. That's especially true on big rivers with high fish densities, where trout become specialists. Some fish cruise scum lines or sip midges in back eddies. Some gravitate to the banks to gulp ants or hoppers. Some root for scuds along weed lines. Where trout feed in a specialized fashion, they look for active niches of fish. Anytime you identify a niche that can be exploited up and down a river, kick it in gear and cover some water before the fish can switch modes.

Even on marginal water, there are usually scattered refuge runs that attract the bulk of the trout; often, those runs are a long way apart. On many of my favorite streams, I regularly walk 2-3 miles to reach the half-dozen runs I chose to fish. This means I am passing up a lot of non-productive water to work these choice runs. By prospecting these neglected runs, you can have some great fishing in complete solitude while other anglers are jostling for position on the popular streams.

Slow Down for Inactive Trout

When trout are inactive, it is best to gear way down and probe a limited amount of water thoroughly. You are looking for pools or refuge water where inactive trout stack up. You will use subtle presentations, such as nymphing or micro-nymphing. It is rare to have really steady fishing for lethargic trout, but if you locate concentrations of fish and work them methodically with slow, subtle presentations at the precise depth they are holding. You will enjoy surprising flurries of action, even when trout are off their feed. Hope this helps you in any small way,

We are blessed to fish for wild trout, and as I write this article, Brown Trout are still actively spawning. Please be mindful of the reds where they lay their eggs. If you identify a red, get out of the river and walk around the spawning site. Kicking silt or gravel over the spawning site is as damaging as stepping on the eggs.





Fly Fishers International

Claude Kistler

The Spokane Fly Fishers are an affiliate member of Fly Fishers International (FFI), and I am starting a term as your FFI Liaison. I first want to start off by introducing you to FFI.

Their motto is “We Are All Fish, All Waters.” The mission of Fly Fishers International is to foster the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters through conservation, education and inspiring a growing community of fly fishers. Their vision is to play a meaningful role in the global fly-fishing community by collaborating with individuals, organizations, and industry leaders to have a positive influence on the evolution of the sport. FFI accomplishes this vision by building partnerships, increasing its membership, building financial support, and enhancing the impact of its programs.

Conservation is a key pillar of FFI and with the belief that “if we don’t protect the natural systems that are important to us who will?” FFI is the only organization to promote conservation of both salt and freshwater fisheries and their habitats. FFI also originated the concept of catch and release.

Over the course of my term, I will share conservation and educational programs and services offered through FFI.

For more immediate information, please access their website at FlyFishersInternational.org. Membership rates begin at \$35.00 and there are numerous member benefits that will enhance your lifelong learning and enjoyment of fly fishing.

Let’s get to know our FFI.



Library Recommendations

Larry Ray

The time has arrived, as it does each Fall, for scaling back our immediate fishing activity. Oh, sure, there will still be some fishing to be had locally – Lake Lenore is open through the end of November. We can still get out on the St. Joe and the North Fork, CDA, if we are of a mind. But many of the lakes in the area will close at the end of October. Meanwhile, it is reasonable to think that any warm weather has now passed on. Any further fishing will likely be done dressed in layers.

This pause gives time for reflection. Looking back on recent fishing adventures with fondness and probably some expectation for next season. But there is more to the reflection than that – it can take active forms. Time at the vice can be more leisurely, tying for next season instead of the next day. And, if you are like me, you also look forward to a good book in a comfortable recliner, perhaps by a fireplace with good drink at hand. Your Spokane Fly Fishers Library can certainly help in that regard! Your library currently holds over 300 volumes covering such general topics as biographies, fishing destinations, targeted fish species (bass, steelhead, trout), and story telling built around our craft. In addition, we have “a boatload” of fly-tying instructional manuals, suitable for novices as well as old hands at the vice. Finally, the genre of which I am probably the fondest, what I call the fly-fishing classics. Here are some examples of what is available to you from our Library:

Biographical

Most anglers in our northwest are at least somewhat familiar with Roderick Haig-Brown. The famous British Columbia magistrate and fly fisherman pioneered much of what came to be called northwest angling. We hold a copy of his *A River Never Sleeps*. Valery Haig-Brown wrote about him in *The Master and His Fish*, a copy of which we also own. Nick Lyons is everyman in his need to balance family and job responsibilities with his need to fish well in *Confessions of a Fly Fishing Addict*. One of our own northwest writers, Steve Raymond, relates fishing tales similar to our own in *The Year of the Angler* and *The Year of the Trout*. Enjoy a change of pace reading of fishing in other locales such as the Florida Keys in Tomas McGuane's *The Longest Silence*. Then there is the robust power of Hemingway in *Hemingway on Fishing* and the intrigue of Ernest Schweibert's *A River for Christmas*. All told, the Library holds no less than fifteen works of a biographical nature, and probably lots more.

Bamboo

Believe it or not, we hold three volumes dealing with bamboo rod construction and fishing with cane, including *Fishing Bamboo* by John Gierach.

Gierach

Speaking of the late master of prose and cane, the library contains *eighteen(!) volumes* of his work. Time spent by the fire with such as *All Fishermen are Liars*, *Dances with Trout*, and *Fly Fishing the High Country* is time well spent.



Bass Fishing

The library was once criticized for not having enough literature on this topic. In an ongoing attempt to remedy that, the library has now accumulated six volumes dealing with bass fishing. Included are two especially enjoyable volumes by that practitioner of “country slick” style, Grits Gresham, *Bass Fishing* and *The Complete Book of Bass Fishing*. We also hold *Fly Rodding for Bass* by A.D. Livingston.

Fly-Tying

Our library contains more fly-tying guides and manuals than any other form of fly-fishing literature. They range from simple, beginning-level instruction to the most complex. A few, such as Les Patrick’s *Tie Your Own Flies*, were written during our grandfather’s day and seem quaint, with their simple pen and ink illustrations, compared to today’s versions with their super photography. *Charlie Craven’s Basic Fly Tying* and *Tying Streamers* are two wonderful examples of what is possible in modern printed fly-tying instruction through use of photography. All told, we hold over fifty (50!) fly-tying instructional volumes.

Guides

The library contains nineteen (19) guides to various fly-fishing locales. Such guides are held for Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon. For a national overview of great trout water, check out *Trout Unlimited’s Guide to America’s 100 Best Trout Streams*. For local reference, Nathan Caproni’s *Washington’s Best Lake Fishing* and Greg Thomas’s *Fly Fisher’s Guide to Washington* have been helpful to me. Also, of particular interest should be *Fly Fishing the Blackfoot Country* by Robert Fairchild for anyone wanting to explore an out-of-the-way destination for big fish, located fairly close to home. All these are but a sample of the guidebooks held in the library.

History

This is an area of particular fascination for me, and I think others would likewise be charmed by an exploration of our history. *Rod Crafting* by James Hatton explores the history of fly rod making and includes lots of great photos of historic pieces. Read *Reel Women* by Lyla Foggia for a history of some of the fascinating women who have engaged in our sport. There are more...

Instruction in the Art

Would you believe we have forty-eight (48) volumes of work that deal with instruction in the various areas of fly-fishing? Works by such as the late Lefty Kreh, like *Fly Fishing Techniques and Tactics* and *fly Casting with Lefty Kreh*. *The Essence of Fly Casting* by Mel Krieger has been the favored text on that topic for decades. We hold books by such instructors as Brian Chan and Phil Rowley. How to match hatches is taught by Dave Hughes in *Matching Hatches simplified*. There are three books dealing with fly fishing knots! It’s all here, from fishing emergers to stoneflies, midges and nymphing, from poppers for bass to giant streamers for pike. There is far too much to cover here, but you get the idea. Come over to the library shelves and check it out!

Story Telling

We all enjoy a good fishing story, whether listening to friends around the campfire or tying vice, or reading some of the great story tellers. We have a wealth of such volumes, including such as *Cast Again* by Jennifer Olson, telling of her experiences and travails as a female guide. Nick Lyons is a

master storyteller in his *Fishing Stories*. *Fifty Favorite Fly fishing Tales*, compiled by Chris Santella, contains stories by such instructors as Gary Borger, Jack Dennis, Mel Krieger, and Jim Teeny. For a suspenseful *true* thriller, you may not want to put down, read *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Johnson. The library holds many more volumes containing wonderful story telling.

Classics

This last topic is nearest and dearest to me. There is nothing more enjoyable, for me, than reading the classic works that have defined us, and which illustrate the degree to which fly fishing has inspired great literature throughout its history. Some are ancient – we have copies of *The Compleat Angler* by Isaac Walton, *Dry Fly Fishing* by F.M. Halford, as well as G.E. M. Skue's *The Way of a Trout With a Fly*. Closer to home, *The Joys of Trout* and *The Well-Tempered Angler* by Arnold Gingrich, *The Habit of Rivers* by Ted Leeson, and *Trout* by Ray Bergman can be found on our shelves. As with the categories shown above, there are lots more.

I hope you find this abbreviated (that's right, it is very far from inclusive!) guide stimulating and that you will come over to the library's shelves and explore all that is available. **I have a fairly complete listing of titles, by the above categories (and a few more).** I will provide copies at the next meeting. I will also be glad to email copies to anyone who wants one.

Contact me at hoodnfly@aol.com should you wish to receive a catalogue by category. Meanwhile, settle in for the late fall and winter and **READ!**



SFF INFORMATION

Officers

President:	Al Odenthal
Vice President:	Bill White
Treasurer:	Mike Williams
Secretary:	Brian Desautels
Sgt. at Arms:	Brian Soth
Director at Large:	Jim Athearn
Director at Large:	Bob Schmidt
Director at Large:	Cassandra Collings
Past President:	Kevin Brannon

Committee Chairs

Conservation:	Jim Athearn
Outings:	Mike Sportelli
Education:	<i>Vacant</i>
Programs:	Bill White
Membership:	Brad Collins
Fly-Fishing School:	Bill Wagstaff
Beginning Fly-Tying:	Chet Allison
Intermediate Fly-Tying:	Brad Collins
Publication Committee:	<i>Vacant</i>
Editor:	Keith Kuchner
Publisher:	Jacki Shear Brannon
Project Healing Waters:	Craig Adams
FFI Liaison:	Claude Kistler
Librarian:	Larry Ray
Volunteer Coordinator:	<i>Vacant</i>
A/V Coordinator:	David Marshall

Changing Member Information:

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.

Club Mailing Address:

SFFC, PO Box 4141, Spokane, WA 99220

Spokane Fly Fishers Website



Visit Us on Facebook



SFF BUSINESS MEMBERS



**KEN
MOORE**

OWNER/HEAD GUIDE

509-953-8669

KENMOORE509@GMAIL.COM



Business Memberships are available for \$50/year or payment in kind including Honorary Membership. For non-members, requests should be directed to the SFFC website or mailing address.

Tight lines!

