



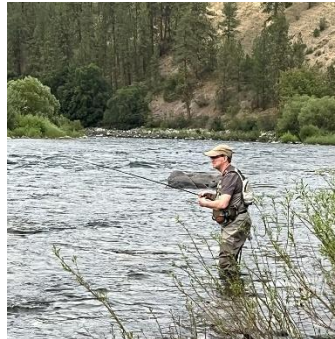
The Barbless Flyer

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



Casting, Catching and Connecting

Fly Fishing School



Jump off Joe & Long Lake



North Fork CDA River



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July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Fly Casting Tune-up
12	13	14	15	16	17 St Joe River Outing	18 St Joe River Outing Streamside Fly Fishing Clinic
19 St Joe River Outing	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Board Meeting 6 pm	29	30	31	

Prez Says

Bill White

Fish on! The new Board of Directors and numerous Committee Chairs met in early June and set an exciting and aggressive agenda for 2026-2027. We also hooked a Vice President-Elect, to round out the Board's Officers. The Board approved the nomination of Rich Rohde for VP. He will be formally voted on at the September general meeting.

Agenda Highlights for the 2026-2027 season

Spokane Fly Fishers turns 50 years old in 2027, and Claude Kistler has graciously agreed to assemble an active 50th Anniversary Committee. Senior Club members, this is your opportunity to be heard, remembered and revered. Thoughts include a banquet of some sort, perhaps in conjunction with an existing event. Contact Claude, if he or one of his cohorts hasn't contacted you already, to take an active role in putting this effort together. Without YOU, there is no US.



Uncle Salmonid Needs You! The Board is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

- **New Members Coordinator** to work under the Membership Committee and tutelage of Brad Collins.
- **Auction & Raffle Coordinator** to head up our only fundraiser of the year. Last year's coordinators Cassandra Collings and Keith Kuchner, who set the bar for this event, have graciously agreed to provide guidance and much of the programs and materials they generated to make the event look professional, run smoothly, and be a financial success.
- **Two (2) Presenters for the February Round Table Event:** Chip O'Brien will be talking about fishing Kelly Creek. We need two more presenters to discuss rivers we have not previously discussed e.g. Fish Creek, Bitterroot River, Yakima River, etc. You pick'em.
- **International Fly Fishers (IFF) Liaison** to succeed Claude Kistler. It is a cushy position with little work but high prestige. You want this sophisticated-sounding title, you need this impressive title.

Purchase of Logo Apparel will be headed by Rich Rohde, VP-Elect. He will be looking at various apparel options, but he will eventually need firm, viz-a-vis paid, commitments from you on long sleeve fishing shirts and other specialty orders. He is also exploring new style hats, a commemorative logo sporting 1977 – 2027, and more. It's time to show our Club pride and update our haggard wardrobes. Contact Rich if you want to be part of this exciting venture. Maybe help with a revised SFF Club logo.

If you wish to volunteer of any of the above, contact me at wfwjtjeff@icloud.com.

Spokane Showdown 2026: Chapter II is coming Saturday; October 3rd and we need to defend our inaugural victory. The trophy and bragging rights belong with our Club. Start lining up your two-person team now. The “friendly competition” against Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club will be on a local lake. Chip O’Brien is the point of contact and will be publishing the rules in the August Barbless and on the Outings page of the Club website.

Future Planning: Here are our meeting dates for the coming year:

2026 Calendar

September	Sept 9 th	Wed	Monthly Meeting
October	Oct 3 rd	Sat	Spokane Showdown II Tournament
October	Oct 14 th	Wed	Monthly Meeting
November	Nov 11 th	Wed	Monthly Meeting
December	Dec 9 th	Wed	Christmas Holiday Party

2027 Calendar

January	Jan 13 th	Wed	Monthly Meeting
February	Feb 10 th	Wed	Round Table Sessions
March	Mar 10 th	Wed	Annual Fundraiser (Auction & Raffle)
April	Apr 14 th	Wed	Monthly Meeting
May	May 12 th	Wed	Annual Awards & 50 th Anniversary Banquet (tbc)

Annual Dues: A reminder that 2026-27 dues were due in June. Do check that you have renewed your membership. Spokane Fly Fishers is the best deal in all the land! \$30/individual and \$35/family, a bargain at twice the price.

Together we will bring Spokane Fly Fishers Club back to its glory days and beyond. Meet, greet, and develop new fishing contacts, knowledge, and companions! Get involved. Make a difference! Enjoy your summer, fish often, and stay connected through the Barbless.

Bill

Membership Updates

Brad Collins

Membership continues to grow, and we are excited to welcome many new faces. Please join us in welcoming our newest members, who joined in April, May, and June. The list includes Individual and Family Memberships (F).

Jeff Cross	Lane Nussbaum	Bruce Folsom (F)
Dustin Teter	Tim Nicholas	Edward Wynne (F)
Sean Smith	Steve Vining	Robert Asbury
Brian Schnick	Dean Knudsen (F)	Bonnie Lambert
Randell Hahn (F)	Douglas Wester	

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact the Membership Chair at membership@spokaneflyfishers.com.

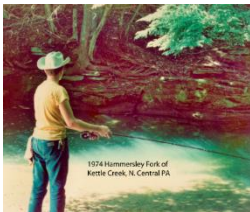
New SFF At-Large Board Members

Two new At-Large Board Members have been appointed recently. They have already started to contribute and strengthen the Club.

Scott Lougheed

Scott is an Inland NW native and a 2025 graduate of the fly fishing school. As a tech support specialist for Spokane Public Schools, he uses fishing and other outdoor hobbies to spend his free time recovering from all the screen time. He looks forward to serving on the board and learning more about and contributing to the club, in addition to getting incrementally less bad at fly fishing over time.

Vince Kurpan



Vince grew up in NE Ohio and started fly fishing in the 1970's. There was not much trout around there but lots of ponds with bass and panfish. His grandfather gave him his first fly tying kit (no pictures, just text), and he started tying right away. Vince lived in Oregon for 30 years prior to moving to Spokane and retired from a career in electronics engineering. He lives in Spokane with his wife Nancy, and he is an avid reader, musician, and woodworker

Education Committee News

Chris Bryant

Below is additional information on our upcoming education events this summer and an opportunity for members to give back to the Club.

July 11th – Fly Casting Tune-up

Thatcher Beatty will be providing a fly casting tune up clinic. Maybe you have a glitch in your back cast or want to extend your range or just need some guidance. Thatcher will start with some basics and then work on aspects of the cast we don't always think of until we get caught in a situation. Location will be at Franklin Park, meet at parking lot on west side, just off of N. Whitehouse Street.

July 18th – Streamside Fly Fishing Clinic

During the Club's St Joe weekend outing, **Ken Moore** will present one of his world renowned Streamside Fly Fishing clinics, again for the beginner or anyone wanting to participate. Ken always puts on a dazzling show for the easily entertained or hard to teach or like me, the slow learner.

September - Date TBD - Spey casting on the Spokane River

We are asking as an inquiry to determine level of interest and whether more would like an introductory class or an intermediate level class. Please reach out if you are interested.

Monthly - Knot Typing Classes

We are also looking for **volunteers** to help with knot tying instruction during the social time before the regular monthly meetings. Along with this we could use some help with mini classes on specific lakes or rivers that the presenter is familiar or an expert with. Volunteers make these sessions happen for the Club.

Contact me to volunteer or if there are any questions. Chris (509) 869-1733

Online Entomology Course

Ken Moore

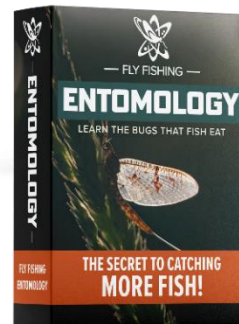
For those interested in learning more about Entomology, I secured this discount code for a Gilbert Rowley course (Yes, the award-winning filmmaker/videographer). Gilbert created this excellent course - the explanations and filming are outstanding. Once someone buys it, they have it for life.

The Ultimate Online Fly Fishing Entomology Course

www.codebreakerangler.com

Add the 20% off discount upon checkout.

BUGNERD20



Outings Committee Updates

Mike Sportelli

Summer is here! I for one have been maximizing my time out on the water. I hope you have too. There have been plenty of opportunities with our amazing club offerings. Since the last Barbless article, we have had three scheduled club outings.

There were 9 members and guests that met out at **Jump Off Joe** ~45 minutes north of Spokane. Some found success trolling while others caught fish anchored and let the fish come to them. As is typical, in late spring a drizzle of rain tried to interrupt things, but it did not last long and those that stayed out were rewarded with some catching! This was a great little lake, close to Spokane and very accessible for small watercraft. Give it a go sometime! A big thank you to our club president for providing morning refreshments and hosting!



An outing that takes place every year is at **Long Lake in Ferry County** near the town of Republic. The campground is very nicely maintained by the U.S Forest Service and right close to the launch area of Long Lake. Do you like fishing dries? Do you like catching a bunch of fish? This is the place. I would consider this a great place for beginners wanting to learn the ropes of lake fishing, lots of opportunities for willing cutthroat on the surface and trolling and nymphing. All techniques worked on this outing. A big shout out to Jim Marshall who hosted this outing on June 12th and did the cooking for the group dinner on Saturday night.



The annual **NF Coeur D'Alene** outing just finished up this last weekend and what a smashing success it was! Special thanks to Ken Babin for hosting this event at his property in Prichard and a thank you goes out to the Allen's for allowing members to access the river from their property. The fishing was good at times; there were many members who saw success using dry flies which is always a treat. We had quite a few new members that camped out and Ken Moore held an on the water entomology class Saturday morning that was well received.



The highlight of the weekend was the group dinner! It sets the benchmark for the future! With the club provided food and potluck offerings provided by members and friends, there were endless choices to enjoy around the campfire. Mike and Keith cooked up sausages and chicken, Ken Babin smoked a brisket and ribs, and Dan Hansen making a Dutch oven apple/huckleberry crisp that was truly amazing. We even had live

music with one of Ken’s grandsons providing the entertainment. We had an amazing turnout for this event and everyone who attended was saying they can’t wait to do it again next year!

Another much anticipated outing is coming up on the **St Joe River from July 17th - 19th**. Ken and Alicia do an amazing job with this event. There are currently 28 signed up for this one and it will be another summer highlight. I will be attending this year, and I can't wait to meet and help out with new members coming out to this wonderful blue ribbon fishery.

Enjoy the summer fishing and I hope to see you out on the water soon!

Fly Fishing School Outings

Bill Wagstaff

The 2026 Fly Fishing School began in classroom sessions during the cold weather of early March, and the final classes took place on the Spokane River. The river classes included an evening outing on June 25th and a morning outing on June 27th. An earlier class outing, covering still water techniques, also took place at Amber Lake in May.

Moving water techniques, taught during the evening classes in March, were put to use on the Spokane River, including indicator nymphing, euro-nymphing, dry fly, dry dropper, and swinging streamers. The emphasis was for students to set their equipment up for the various techniques. An emphasis was also recognizing common fly fishing mistakes, and how to solve them.

Several fish were caught during all class outings - Well done! And I would remise to not add a quick reminder to watch out for poison ivy this summer along the river.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Ken Babin

Cassandra Collings

The Spokane Fly Fishers would like to extend our sincere thanks to Ken Babin for once again hosting our end-of-June club outing.

Your generosity in opening your property to our members year after year is a gift that simply can't be measured. The opportunity to camp in such a beautiful setting, surrounded by incredible fishing opportunities, is something our members look forward to every summer. It's an experience that creates lasting memories and strengthens the friendships that make our club so special.



Beyond the beautiful location, it's all the little things you do that make the weekend unforgettable. From the welcoming campfire and endless supply of firewood to allowing us to use your outstanding cooking facilities and legendary grill, you help make Saturday night's club dinner a highlight of the weekend. And, of course, the entertainment you provide always keeps everyone smiling long after the sun goes down.

"Thank you" hardly seems like enough for everything you and your family do. Your hospitality, kindness, and willingness to share your home with fellow fly fishers have become a cherished tradition for both longtime members and those attending for the very first time.

On behalf of the entire Spokane Fly Fishers family, thank you for your generosity, your friendship, and for helping create one of the most anticipated events of our year. We truly appreciate you.

Tricos – Dry Fly Strategies and Observations

Ken Moore

As the final days of June slip into July, many fly fishers mourn the passing of the fat hatches of Spring. I'm excited because my best days of the trout season are still ahead. **Tricos** are a large part of my fishing strategy during the summer to fall months. Tricos are the most reliable Mayfly summertime hatch on trout streams throughout the country. For this month's article, since we are at a time of year when most of you want to try your hand at dry fly fishing, we will focus on the dry fly fishing portion of this prolific hatch. Does this mean you cannot nymph with a Trico imitation pattern? Absolutely not. Nymphing is still king when it comes to trout eating your imitation flies. Don't forget the Trico in the emerger stage. In my opinion, the odds are in your favor most of the time when fishing emergers.

* To aid you in distinguishing between the Dunn and Spinner, I have capitalized these two words throughout this article. Is this grammatically correct? I do not know, but I hope it helps you in understanding better what is happening as this fly hatches and matures through full maturity.

I toss the words Dunn and Spinner around quite a bit in this article. So, a reminder is in order for some.

When a Mayfly emerges, a **Dunn** is the newly hatched, immature adult, whereas a Spinner is the fully mature, mating adult. The wings of the Dunn are opaque, cloudy, and often grayish or brownish. They are held upright like little sailboats. Dunns typically drift on the water's surface to dry their wings, then fly to streamside foliage to molt.

The **Spinner** is the final, sexually mature adult stage. After molting in the trees, Spinners swarm over the water, mate, and lay eggs (more on this below). The wings, after the molt become completely clear and glass-like, with dark, visible veins. When they die, their wings lie completely flat on the water's surface, often called a "spent fall." The Trico is ubiquitous across the country, but since we live in the West, we will focus on our very own.

A large part of my guiding is helping my clients understand the "why" behind what we do when fly fishing. Observation is a major component of this sport, and this Mayfly is one I absolutely geek out about when I talk about observing. I hope you get a sense of how using your eyes and knowledge can put more fish in your net.



Trico Dunn



Trico Spinner

In the West, the principal species is the *Tricorythodes minutus*. Because these aquatic insects are so small and delicate, populations are most abundant in streams with moderate flows and fine bottoms. Tricos inhabit tailwater rivers, freestone streams, and cool, flowing spring creeks. Especially noted for prolific emergences are the Bighorn and Missouri rivers. Here in the West, they appear from July into late Fall and sometimes well into November on some of the famous Paradise Valley spring creeks. I've heard that some anglers say that the first killing frost ends Trico hatches. Not entirely. Although hatches diminish after the first frost, they are still around, and enough duns and spinners are often present to entice a trout or two to the surface.

Your fly imitation size choices should be in the size range of 18 - 24, and the color of the abdomen is a distinguishing feature between the sexes. Female Trico Dunns have olive abdomens, while males have black or dark brown abdomens. During the heat of the summer, prime Trico time, male Tricos emerge from the water first, often beginning just after sunset and continuing through the night. The females hatch the following morning, beginning at daybreak. This is an important bit of intelligence, because when you get to the water and start stripping line off your reel first thing in the morning, few male duns may be on the surface; they'll already be up in the trees, molting. An imitation of a female Dunn is your best offering.

As the summer fades into fall, the evenings and mornings become cooler, and the emergence of male Dunns is typically delayed to just before sunrise, followed directly by the female Dunns. In these circumstances, both males and females are on the water at the same time, and once again, olive-bodied Dunn patterns become effective until both male and female Tricos molt into spinners. When the female Dunns begin to emerge, the male Spinners begin to swarm high over the riffles and along the banks on larger waters. Sometime during the morning, the female Dunns molt into Spinners. Air temperatures determine when this happens. Warmer air temperatures mean an earlier molt; cooler temperatures mean a later molt. So, the female Dunns may molt within minutes or hours after emerging. After molting, the female Spinners fly into

the swarms, where the males grasp them to mate. After mating, the male Spinners immediately fall to the water, where they are eaten by waiting trout. The female Spinners make for vegetation to wait for their egg

sacs to develop, head back to the water to lay their eggs, and finally drift off on their watery graves. Generally speaking, the first of the male Spinners fills the air by 7:00 am. By 8:30 am, the first Spinners begin falling into the water. A heavy spent fall/spinner fall usually lasts several hours.

Trout go crazy when these tiny mayflies hit the water. Some remarkably large fish move from their protective shelters and position themselves in plain sight, just below the surface, to dine on the parade of dark-bodied flies. Although normally calm pools are now erupting with energetically rising trout, these fish are not easy to catch. Stop everything and watch. You'll notice that many fish are rising routinely, some every few seconds. Get a feel for the rhythm of your target fish and then time your cast and the anticipated drift of your fly precisely with the next time you expect the fish to rise.

A trout feeding on Tricos moves only inches to sip the next morsel - or your fly. Imagine your window of opportunity as a ten-inch pie plate immediately upstream from a rising trout. Your fly has to land within that window and fall as gently as dandelion fluff. A delicate cast that's right on target is vital. I recommend that you increase the length of your leader from nine feet to at least eleven to fifteen feet and finish it with 6x to 8x tippet. This added length will help your fly create a soft, delicate Trico imitation as it gently lands on the water.

The trout are highly attuned to this sequence. Watch how their behavior changes as the morning progresses. After two or three Trico mornings, you should pick up on their transition from feeding on Dunns to feeding on Spinners. If you're unable to detect a change, look closely at the water and see if Dunns or Spinners are drifting downstream. At first, a few trout switch their attention, and then nearly all will be feeding on Spinners. Remember that the males fall into the water first. During the early stages of the Spinner fall, trout take males exclusively, making the male Spinner imitation your best bet. Before the female Spinners fall to the water, they fly back and forth above the stream, an indication they are ready to lay their egg sacs, and you should be ready with female Spinner imitations. If you don't notice the female flights, look to the water to determine what is drifting on the currents.

Most trout are completely engrossed when feeding on this minute but abundant morning concentrations of Dunns and spent Spinners. Wise trout often let their guard down and forget about what lurks around them. So, as trout begin to focus on the feeble Dunns and Spinners, try narrowing the gap between you and the trout. Slowly creep into a position that is around twenty to twenty-five feet away. Decreasing the distance between your rod tip and your fly helps eliminate fly drag. Depending on your eyesight, you may just be able to see the tiny Trico imitation. If you are unable to see the Trico, try a two-fly combo with a foam beetle or parachute caddis attached to your tippet and a Trico attached to 6x or 7x tippet. Your best approach is from behind for several reasons. The fish is less likely to see your cast, and your cast is in the same current as the feeding trout, which helps eliminate drag.

I truly hope that you learned something new from this article. If you did, put your newfound knowledge to work for you, and share it with a beginner fly fisher person.

Tight lines, my friends.

How I (accidentally) became a Fly Fisherman

Vince Kurpan

I grew up in Livingston Montana, fishing the famed Yellowstone river on my way home from school. I fished with Dan Bailey's son (of Bailey's fly shop fame), and we caught 3 lb. Browns all the time. No, wait a minute (insert record scratching sound here) that wasn't me. That was my friend Dan. I'm sure I was supposed to grow up in western MT, but something got mixed up and I "popped out" in northeast Ohio.



We fished for perch with minnows off the pier at my grandpa's house on Lake Erie. Sometimes we'd get a boat and fish for white bass out by Sandusky. We'd go camping and catch panfish on worms dangling under bobbers at the campground ponds. In the summers, we'd go visit my other grandparents on Florida's gulf coast where we fished from bigger piers (and bridges) with bigger minnows. Fishing almost always involved bait.

When I was about 14 (1972 ?) we went camping with some 2nd cousins. The dad was half American Indian and a frequent hunting partner of Fred Bear (founder of Bear archery). These guys were the real deal. So, my cousin Denny says, "let's go fishing." I said, "you got worms?" - "No, we use flies" - "Flies?????" Next thing you know is I have a spinning bubble on my line with a fuzzy hook below (a.k.a. - a fly).... and I'm catching fish!

So, the next week I bought a 99 cent bubble pack of nameless imported flies and a couple spinning bubbles. But I was intrigued about REAL fly fishing. We had an old fly rod in the garage in with some sticky level line, so I tried casting it in the backyard but never did get good enough to fish with it.

Then, when I was about 15, I landed in the hospital with appendicitis. Back then, appendix removal was a one week sentence in the hospital. (Today they take it out through your belly button at the drive-through window.) My grandfather brought me an 8" stack of Field & Stream and Outdoor Life magazines. I read all the fly fishing stories including an expert "fly rod test." So, when my mom picked me up from the hospital, we went straight to the Uncle Bill's store where I bought my 7-weight, 8-1/2' genuine 5-star, 2405-DL Garcia Conolon Fly rod. Now I could really fly fish.



Trout were "not a thing" in NE Ohio but fly fishing was great for panfish and sometimes bass. You could send a floating line right over the top of the heavy weeds. And you could usually pick up your line and make another cast without catching the weeds. (The weeds behind me were another matter.) I started fly tying right away because there was no way I was going to keep paying 99 cents for 9 flies. The rest is history.

I read more and more fly fishing books and started to realize it was about more than just the fishing. It was sort of a cult or almost a "religion." Kind of like Harley riders, sailors, or cowboys. I became a member before I even realized it. If I lived on the moon, I'd still somehow be a fly fisherman. It just gets into your DNA and doesn't wash out. Even when you're surf fishing or golfing – you're a fly fisherman. It sneaks up on you when you least expect it.

Fly Pattern

Chet Allison

Olive X-Caddis by Tim Flagler

Hook: Mustad 94840, sizes 12 - 16

Thread: Olive, 6/0 or 140 deniers

Shuck: Olive Zelon

Body: Olive dubbing (rabbit/Antron blend)

Wing: Natural deer hair cleaned and stacked

Head: Deer-hair butts

Note: Tie this in several colors to match the naturals



Olive X-Caddis

1. Place the hook in the tying vise and start the tying thread one third of the way down the hook shank taking wraps to about the hook point.
2. Tie a strand of Zelon for the tail shuck. Take wraps to the bend. Trim off the extra material about a hook shank in length.
3. Apply dubbing to your tying thread and wrap back to the tail shuck. Now starting wrap around the hook shank going forward. Your thread should be at the initial tie in point.
4. Snip a small clump of deer hair and clean out the fussy junk as you hold the tips. If you have too much material pull some off, then place the remaining deer hair in a stacker tip first. With the deer hair in your right hand measure so the tips are at or just short of the hook bend. With the deer hair at the bend switch hands and hold the hair in place. Take two loose wraps over the hair at the front tie in point and pull straight up on your side flaring the deer hair ends. Continue taking tight wraps through the deer hair. Once secure pull the butts up and back taking thread wraps behind the hook eye and make your whip finish. To finish the fly, pull the stems up and snip them off at an angle over the hook eye. You can snip and trim the head to the shape you want or just run with in now.

SFFC Information

Board of Directors

President:	Bill White
Vice President:	Rich Rohde *
Treasurer:	Mike Williams
Secretary:	Keith Kuchner
Sgt. at Arms:	Bill Millspaugh
Director at Large:	Vince Kurpan
Director at Large:	Scott Lougheed
Director at Large:	Cassandra Collings
Past President:	Al Odenthal

* Vice President-Elect - official member voting in Sept

Committee Chairs

Programs:	Vacant
Conservation:	Vacant
Outings:	Mike Sportelli
Budget:	Vacant
Membership:	Brad Collins
Publication:	Keith Kuchner
Education:	Chris Bryant
Fly-Fishing School:	Bill Wagstaff
Beginning Fly-Tying:	Vacant
Intermediate Fly-Tying:	Brad Collins
Project Healing Waters:	Craig Adams
FFI Liaison:	Vacant
Librarian:	Larry Ray
A/V Coordinator:	David Marshall

Feedback and Contributions to the Barbless Flyer:

For feedback or suggested contributions to the Barbless, please contact the Editor at keithkuchner@outlook.com. New articles, photos, and content are always welcome.

Update of Membership Profiles:

Log into the SFFC website spokaneflyfishers.com. After login, the profile form will be visible, and relevant membership information can be updated.

Contact Information:

Spokane Fly Fishers Club (SFFC), PO Box 4141, Spokane, WA 99220
 membership@spokaneflyfishers.com



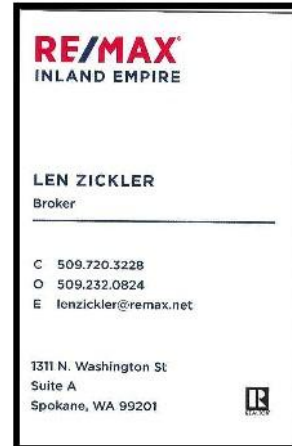
Website



Facebook



SFFC Business Supporters



Business Memberships are available for an annual fee or payment in kind. Members and Non-Members interested in advertising, please direct questions to the SFFC website or to a member of the Board of Directors.