



P.O. Box 734 Weiser,  
Idaho 83672  
indianheadflyfishers@gmail.com

### Officers

President-Bob Maki  
642-6971  
1st Vice Pres-Tiffany McPheeters  
720-233-1904  
2nd Vice Pres-Mark Sands  
549-2545  
Past President-Mike Thomas  
549-2473  
Secretary-Lynette Jones  
549-0430  
Treasurer-Jim Gulu  
549-0796

### Board Members

Nando Mauldin	549-2883
Dave McPheeters	720-233-1905
Rod Jones	549-0430
Mike Bishop	549-1549
Ken Gissel	642-3944
Tom Dyer	257-4225

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of  
each month at Idaho Pizza,  
17 W. Commercial St., Weiser.  
Fly tying demo at 6 pm,  
program at 7 pm.

**Join in the Fun!**

### Committees

**Budget:** Jim Gulu, Lynette Jones

**Conservation and Youth:**  
Mark Sands, Nando Mauldin,  
Rick Walters

**Education:** Perry Kelley,  
Garry Swindell

**Fund Raising:** Lynette Jones,  
Sarah Gulu

**Historian:** Suzanne Orwig

**Library:** Rod Jones, Ken Gissel,  
Dick Garrett

**Membership:** Mike Bishop,  
Bill Betts

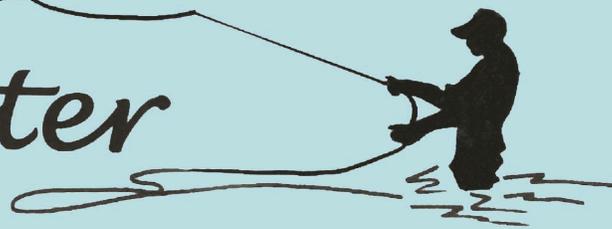
**Newsletter:** Perry & Sally Kelley,  
Mary Thompson, Dick Garrett,  
Ray Perkins

**Outings:** Mike Bishop, Al Sillonis

**Programs:** Tiffany McPheeters

**Publicity:** Mark Sands

# News Caster



February 2012

## President's Message by Bob Maki

The Fly Fishing Expo in Boise this past month saw our club well represented by more than a dozen of our members. We enjoyed programs; watching fly tying experts including our very own Perry Kelly & Marv Orwig; visiting with vendors and everything else the fly show had to offer. Thanks to the BVFF who do a lot in bringing to Boise a great local event.

At January's program we were honored to have with us Bernie Babcock. He gave us a thorough understanding of the care needed to maintain the fly rod. I had to go home and check how I'd last put mine into the rod case. It was wrong and needed rearranging and the lid loosened to give it some air.

The January 50/50 raffle didn't have a winner so it rolled into February's. But, we had two boxes of flies to give away. Tiffany McPheeters took home one box that had the "MT Mahogany Dun's" tied that evening by Marv Orwig who provided us with his expertise at the fly tyers table. And the second box was won by Karen Kosowan, it was full of Salmon flies provided by Perry Kelly. Thanks guys.

The fly tyer's table at the February meeting will feature Ray Perkins; he'll be tying Lake Midges. Stop in and see what he's using for stillwater fishing!

Now if you have ice in your guides (Bernie's fix for iced guides was preparation H), freezing numb fingers, you must be either fishing through ice or going after steelhead in the rivers. Once you've come in from the cold you could try warming up your fingers by tying a detailed fly like the salmon fly Perry introduced to us at our last fly tying class. It, along with the other flies we've been tying, I'll be trying out when the weather warms and opportunity arises.

Need a bit of caffeine? For those interested, the Fly Fishing Film Tour comes to Boise at the Egyptian Theater 700 W. Main St. on Wednesday, Feb 22, 2012, doors open at 6:30 p.m. I attended one of these shows that they call "the rebellious stomoto of cinematic piscatorial pursuits" and they are truly designed to ignite your fishing desire.

As this year's fishing season begins I look forward to spending time getting to know club members better, learning new techniques, fishing familiar water and also getting out on some new water. In the program survey we conducted at the January meeting, it was apparent a number of members would like to see more outings so I'll be working with the board and committee members on getting more outings planned.

If you haven't signed up to make your own custom made net, time is drawing near to when we'll start building them. See Perry Kelly or Jim Gulu for details. We had a great time making them last year and now with a little experience under our belts these promise to be even better.

*From the fireside, where stories are told that never get old, Bob*

## Fly Fishing for Steelhead - 101

by Steve Buckner of [The Northwest Fly Fisherman](#)

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part article by Steve Buckner. The second part will appear in next month's *Newscaster*.

### A look at the variables

Although we may never understand all of the variables that attract a steelhead to a given section of water, and ultimately what leads to a successful hook-up, the following paragraphs will hopefully give you some ideas to ponder before heading out the door with fly rod in hand. Steelhead can be particularly hard to catch, not necessarily because they won't pursue a properly presented fly, but because you're searching for a needle in a haystack. 99.99999 percent of the water is empty, and you're trying to find that one fish that will take your offering. The reality is that many fly fishermen go years without success. Like most things, however, once you consider the variables and process the information more carefully, you can improve your chances of success.

If you ask any successful northwest steelhead angler what are the most important aspects to becoming successful steelhead fly fisherman they'll probably answer by stating something like "fish the right water" and/or "confidence." These most basic of variables do go hand in hand, for without one, there isn't the other. You most likely won't catch Steelhead if you aren't in the right water, and if you don't catch Steelhead you won't gain confidence.

### The fish of "a thousand casts"

Before we even begin to talk about the water that Steelhead can be found in, tactics and fly selection, it is helpful to know something about the life of a Steelhead. While this paragraph isn't meant to be an exhaustive discussion on this species, we'll take a quick look at what a Steelhead is. The Steelhead is a sea-run Rainbow trout. Its Latin name is *Oncorhynchus Mykiss*. Over time, Rainbow trout evolved to go to the sea where they were able to feed more efficiently. After spending approximately 3 years in fresh water as juveniles, they migrate to the ocean as 6-7 inch smolts and feed on the abundance therein. Steelhead may spend 2-3 years in the ocean and may grow to staggering size before returning to their natal stream as sexually mature adults to spawn in the spring. Upon returning to fresh water, Steelhead begin to lose their silvery appearance and regain the color characteristics of Rainbow trout. It is during the upstream migration in preparation for spawning that we

fish for Steelhead. Now that we understand what Steelhead are, and what their purpose for re-entering fresh water is, we'll examine the water that they tend to be found in.

### Steelhead Holding Water

While Steelhead must pass through every section of a given water system in route to their spawning beds, they choose certain sections of a river to rest, and/or spend time. This water is referred to as holding water. Holding water is generally described as water that is 3-6 feet deep and flows about as fast as you would normally walk. While this is true, there are subtle variances that also make one piece of water more appealing to a Steelhead than another. Some of the variables that make up good holding water are: flow, depth, river bottom makeup, and structure. By evaluating this basic set of variables you'll better determine where to spend your time fishing.

What creates great holding water is a function of geologic structure and its surrounding vegetation. For any given river system, the gradient, or slope, of the canyon or surrounding landscape through which the river flows determines the speed of the water. So, obviously, in some sections the river flows exceedingly fast, while in other sections within the same river system the flow may be nearly stagnant. High flows would exhaust the migrating Steelhead so they tend to push through fast water as quickly as possible. In extremely slow water, Steelhead may not get the oxygen they require and/or the temperature in the slack water may be above a comfortable level. Another crucial element that must be considered for good holding water is a run that has a deep section where the Steelhead can move to and hide if it feels threatened. In many cases this deep section may be 15 or so feet deep.

By throwing away the fast and the slow water, we then arrive at those sections of the river where depth and flow is such that the Steelhead can receive the oxygen it requires, the protection it desires, and

*By utilizing polarized glasses, you can now start concentrating on spotting Steelhead.*

without so much force that it would exhaust the fish. It is within these sections that you must concentrate your efforts fly fishing for Steelhead. So now that we have a general idea of the good holding water and what to look for, let's move onto other elements of good holding water.

The makeup of the river bottom needs to be considered. The structure for good holding water is usually made up of large stones or gravel. Sandy runs almost never contain steelhead for long as the sand tends to irritate the gills. Look for runs that have stones as large as your fist, maybe larger. In addition to the makeup of the bottom, runs that contain large boulders are especially appealing to steelhead as they offer protection from the currents.

Holding water can vary widely in length and width. On coastal streams, holding water may only be 30-40 yards in length and 30-50 yards in width, and in some cases may be even shorter. In contrast, on large river systems, they may be hundreds of yards in length, and may be over 100 yards in width. A very important point to remember is that *Good holding water may be separated by hundreds of yards if not miles of river that is either too fast or slow to hold fish.* Because of this, having some means of traveling fairly quickly to the next section of good holding water may mean the difference between success and failure. Keep in mind that fishing for Steelhead is seldom if ever a numbers game. One or two fish in a day is considered a very good day!

In addition to traditional holding water, other places that may occasionally hold fish for brief periods of time are referred to as resting water. Resting water is found directly above or to the side of a section of very fast water, or a chute. This fast water is usually the result of a large change in elevation over a short distance. As the fish come up through the fast water, or chute, they need a moment to rest before making their way further upstream and will find small pockets of slower, softer water to rest and may take a properly presented fly.

Now that you have some idea of what to look for, head to your local river and spend some time observing the water and look for situations as described above. On many small coastal rivers it is possible to gain a height advantage and hike along a given river system while peering into the water. By utilizing polarized glasses, you can now start concentrating on spotting Steelhead. It may take you 10 or

*Remember that Steelhead are almost constantly moving.*

15 minutes of observing a run before finding fish and/or determining that it is empty. Often times, if you can spot one Steelhead you may spot additional Steelhead in the same run. Depending upon light conditions and water clarity, some days are better than others for spotting fish. Look for "shadows" that are about 2 feet in length (fish often look smaller in the water). After locating these "shadows", look for the wavy motion of a fish as it holds its position. You may also notice a "flash" as the silvery sides reflect light from the sun. Spending time observing fish in their comfortable natural environment will give you a better idea of where fish will likely be the next time you decide to fish. Once you've been able to routinely predict where fish will be holding you'll have better judgment of where to fish on an unknown river.

Remember that Steelhead are almost constantly moving. You may find several Steelhead in a specific location today only to find that same location without fish tomorrow. Locate and write down the locations where you have spotted fish. Also write down places where you observe fish caught. This list of locations will be later used as part of your game plan, which we'll discuss shortly.

A very important point to remember is that run timing will also play a crucial role in your success. Sometimes there just isn't anybody home. You'll need to do some research before heading out the door to determine whether the river system you're interested in fishing has fish and when the run is. Some river systems get Summer Steelhead, while other get Winter Steelhead. Some rivers get a mixture of both, but one run may be stronger. Don't waste your time fishing during periods when fish are absent.

Ok, so now it's time to customize your own game plan. You've done some research, you know which rivers get Steelhead, and when the run typically begins and ends. You've spent some time researching a river and have learned where Steelhead typically hold. You've checked the flows and have determined that they are conducive for good water conditions. It is now time to grab your fly rod, and head out fishing. Pick one of the runs on your list, fish it thoroughly, and then move onto the next run in your list. By fishing hard, and presenting your fly in those places which are most likely to hold fish, eventually, your efforts will pay off.

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# Expo 2012

by Perry

It seemed, as Yogi put it, “*It’s like deja vu all over again.*” I found myself again setting up as a fly tyer at the Boise Valley Fly Fishing Expo. It seems that each year I have the same misgivings: Did I bring the right stuff? Will I be able to find the material that I brought? Can I adequately explain the steps and techniques for tying my fly of choice? This has always been a somewhat intimidating experience, for there are always fly tyer celebrities at the Expo that are true experts in their craft. Many are featured in fly fishing magazines and videos. Several have authored books and are professional fly tyers. However, there are also many tyers whose experiences mirror mine and other Indianhead fly tyers. It really is quite a pleasant experience. I would like to see more of our club participate. You have the skills and personality to be quite successful as an Expo tyer.



Clouser Deep Minnow—  
Chartreuse & Yellow



Clouser Deep Minnow—Black

After setting up vise, tools, EP fibers, and hackles I took a restroom break to ready myself for a four-hour tying session. When I returned, I found a young woman standing at my display coveting my saddle hackles. Her demeanor was something akin to a starving man suddenly coming up to a freshly cooked T-bone steak. She was actually salivating at my saddle hackles. I panicked as I ran to my station. Would I have to chase this hackle thief through the Expo building? She asked me if I knew how much one feather was worth. Because of

the fashion industry, fly tyers have been unable to get hackles this season. It seems that the hackle quality of breeders like Whiting, and Metz is so good that the young ladies like to wear them in their hair. They call the hackles hair extensions. Hackles have become quite scarce and expensive beyond reason. I told her what I thought of the current hackle situation and the hardship to fly tying. Even though I have enough hackles to last for a while, I panicked at the thought of having a saddle patch ripped off.

After calming down and seeing the situation was in hand, I started to visit with the young lady. She said that she represented a start-up Idaho outdoors magazine and was looking for fly tyers to demonstrate their skill for an article on the Expo. I quickly removed my saddles from the table. I then noticed that she had an elaborate tattoo on her chest. I am not a tattoo person, and I always wondered how much it would cost to have one like hers, a complex scene that in its entirety would cover a relative large area on the victim’s body. I also pondered why would a person spend lots of money on a scene that was at least partially covered up. Being a gentleman, I soon lost that thought. All I



Clouser Deep Minnow—  
Golden shiner

## Expo 2012 Continues

can say about the tattoo situation is that I somehow did not get the whole picture. (pun intended) She told me that she was going to get her boss and would return. When she left, I quickly took inventory of my saddles.

Momentarily the tattooed lady and her boss, an elderly guy, came back. She asked if she could show the saddle patch to her boss. Then she asked him for \$20. He pulled out a \$20 bill. She pulled one feather from the patch and then tried to buy the feather. I told her that as a matter of principle that I would not sell her the hackle. This poor rooster lost his life for fly tying, not for fashion. I then told her that the next time she came by that she would probably have a pistol and threaten, "Give me your hackles or your life." I would then reply slowly, "Let me think about this." That did it. They both left, and I doubt if I will be featured in their magazine.



Clouser Deep Minnow—  
Red & White



Clouser Deep Minnow —  
Foxee Dace

The next guest I had was a very nice guy whose name was "Skip." He asked me what I was tying. Hoping to be on the cutting edge, I explained my new pattern, the Ipiwipi (Italian for eppweepee).

I asked Skip if he was familiar with EP Fibers. "Familiar!" he said; "I am the factory representative for EP. As a matter of fact I spent the last week with Enrico (Enrico Puglisi, the developer of EP fibers)" Now talk about intimidation! Here I was to demonstrate a material to maybe the foremost expert around. This was like telling Beethoven how to score an orchestra or to explain the theory of relativity to Einstein. What does one do in a situation like this? You act like a politician and feed them a lot of "bull." I made it through the presentation and later on Skip brought me his EP sample kit to peruse. I had no idea there were so many options.

The rest of the Expo was great. I met a lot of wonderful fly tyers, and believe it or not, the Ipiwipi went over very well. I'm sure there will be a run on EP fibers at local fly shops.

### Fishing Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
A box of tackle at my feet...  
My rod and reel perched by the door,  
My hip waders on the floor,

If I should die before I wake,  
I pray, dear Lord, it's some mistake...  
For I just know that the next day,  
I'll catch the one that got away.



The following members have January as their due-date for renewal of membership. Please see Jim Gulu and pay ASAP so he doesn't have to get rough with you.

Grant Bauht  
Tony & Tami Buthman  
Jose Calderon  
James Torrel

# Pyramid Lake Outing

The date for our Pyramid Lake outing is March 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

## How it works:

**Friday** (March 30) is a pre-fish day. Anyone that wants to show up early can fish with **Rob Anderson** for ½ a day. We will also decide that day where to meet the next morning for the first day of the **weekend** trip. **Rob** uses **Friday** afternoon to get ready for the next two days.

**Saturday** (March 31) morning **Rob** will be at the lake at the designated location at day break. People can show up whenever they choose. We have breakfast on the beach around 9:00am and lunch around 1:00 pm. We normally fish all day.

**Sunday** (April 1) is a repeat of **Saturday** breakfast around 9:00am and lunch around 1:00pm. Most anglers usually call it quits after lunch so they can use the afternoon to return home. Rob will be there all day for the folks who chose to stay longer or plan to leave **Monday**.

**Included** – Hosted guide service, Breakfast and lunch both days, ladders, flies and rods and reels for those who need them and any other misc. items important to the trip.

The cost is \$150.00 per angler total for the trip. We need 10 anglers at least to do it for that price. If **we** only come up with 8 anglers, than it is \$170. If we have more than 10 that is no problem but the price stays the same.

You will also need fishing permits from the tribe at a cost of \$9.00 per day.

I plan to collecting deposits at this month's (Feb) membership meeting. The remainder will be collected at the March membership meeting.

## Equipment –

- (1) 5-8 weight rod with a floating line. Any floating line will do.
- (2) 7 or 8 weight rod with a 20-30ft fast sinking shooting head. Like the Rio streamer express dc 24 with a floating running line. Preferably, a 250 grain head for 7 and 8 weight rods.
- (3) Stripping basket for the shooting head set-up
- (4) 3-4 step kitchen ladder if anyone has one it would help out.
- (5) 3x fluorocarbon tippet. 2x fluorocarbon or mono tippet, basically it is 8 lb tippet for the floating line and 10-12 pound tippet for the shooting head.
- (6) Big foam style indicators
- (7) The **guides** will have some rods and reel, please bring extras if you have any.

## Flies-

- (1) Flies- wooly worms in size 4-6 short or no tail. Black, olive, white, chartreuse, pink etc.
- (2) Flies- midges and nymphs in size 10-14. Zebra midges, pheasant tails, copper john's etc. black, red, wine colors.
- (3) The **guides** will also have and provide flies, for our use.
- (4) **Make sure to bring warm clothes, wind/water proof jacket, beanie, sunglasses, waders etc.**

Any questions, please contact me.  
**Jim & Sarah Gulu**  
**Indianhead Fly Fishers**  
**(208/549-0796) Cell (208/550-5770)**

P.O. Box 734, Weiser, Idaho 83672



### Catch and Release

To release a fish, keep it in the water if you can. Handle the fish as little as possible and avoid holding with dry hands to prevent removal of protective slime coating. Don't let the fish bounce on the boat deck, carpet or on shoreline rocks and gravel. If it's a fish without sharp teeth like a bass, hold its lower lip between your thumb and index finger. Hold them vertically and support large fish with a hand under the belly. Grasp toothy fish (such as walleye or northern pike) across the back of the head, with fingers and thumb holding gill plates closed. Watch out for sharp edges and if you must hold a fish by putting your hand through the gill opening, avoid touching delicate gill filaments.

Don't keep a fish out of water longer than you can hold your breath and never tear a hook out. This can harm the fish and it may not live. If the fish is hooked deeply and you can't easily remove the hook, cut the line to release the fish. The hook will rust, dissolve, or become loose without harming the fish.

If you are using bait or lures that are frequently swallowed and deep hooking is likely to be a problem, use barbless hooks. Unhooking your catch with barbless hooks is faster, easier and healthier for the fish.

If a fish loses consciousness, try to revive it by gently moving it forward and backward so water

moves through its gills. When the fish begins to struggle and can swim, let it go.

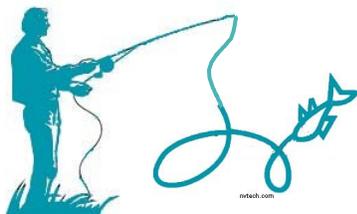
Source: Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, Taken from the website: [TAKEMEFISHING.ORG](http://TAKEMEFISHING.ORG)

*Advanced fly tying techniques aren't about knowing the obscure, they're about understanding the simple.*

*Attributed to Neil Patterson*

#### Coming Events

- Feb 7 —IFF Board,  
Beehive 7 pm
- Feb 14 - IFF Membership  
Idaho Pizza  
6 pm Fly tying Demo  
7 pm Program
- Feb 21 —Fly Tying 7 pm  
Weiser Library



## February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Member Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Fly Tying	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			