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# SEPT 2020

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## President's (?) Message { MEMORIES AND "SUCH" }



Don't forget the picnic  
See page 2

Some 20 yrs. ago, when I retired from teaching, I decided to make fly fishing one of my pastimes ("habits"). My wife helped by buying me a Christmas gift—a 3piece 5-6 wt. fly rod with reel, fly line, leader, flies, and nippers all for \$19.99. This "gag" gift started my journey to real fly fishing.

I had fished with my family for as long as I can remember. I started with a "backlashing" casting Ocean City reel with multiple colored line and a worm. Later I used a Magic reel and Dare Devils, usually, red and white. Then Mitchell reels and my first pole I bought from Herters. Our favorite fishing places were Crowthers, Deep Creek, The Kids Pond (Saint John's), Weston and Chesterfield- all reservoirs and the Rocky Ford and the Malad Rivers- little creeks. We caught rainbow trout, perch, largemouth bass, bullheads and carp. We kept most of the fish we caught except the carp which we gave to a neighbor lady.

Fishing Chesterfield was my introduction to fishing with a fly. We used a clear bubble which could be filled with water and trailed it with 3 feet of line and fly (a "JO"-beaver fur with blue tail) and of course our Mitchell reels. This was my type of fly fishing until the early '70's. Note: [We kept those fish that were four pounds and larger and brought them home in a gunny sack.]

After my childhood, like most of us, came college years, marriage, making a career of teaching, and raising a couple of boys or at least trying to help my wife do that. There was little time to think of or do much fishing except on some special occasions. Work seemed important and to keep food on the table my wife also taught and I played plumber in the summer to make ends meet. Weekends in the fall were spent hunting and killing anything that walked, crawled or flew. We got real tired of eating deer meat.

We moved to Weiser in the fall of '71 after spending a year in Oklahoma getting more

education ? ?. It was sometime later that I met some people that were into fly fishing and they encouraged me to join them in some fly fishing outings. This is when I started to use that "Christmas Gift". The flies I used I either bought or found in old tackle boxes I had. I also had to figure out how to "hook up" the leader to the fly line and learn how to cast with this new pole. Since the internet and You Tube didn't exist I had to find reading materials on fly fishing in magazines. At this time I didn't have time to do much reading because of work. That is when a few tips from friends helped. Some suggested I learn to tie my own flies and offered to help. They suggested I buy fly tying books so I purchased 2 books by Randall Kaufmann, "Tying Dry Flies" and "Tying Nymphs". These books really helped with choice of tools, materials and hooks. So with the purchase of a Thompson vise my fly tying adventures began.

Somewhere around year 2000 Mark Imus, Perry Kelley and Mary and Mark Thompson started a fly fishing club which my wife and I later joined. The first membership list of the INDIANHEAD FLYFISHERS-(IHFF)-I found was for 2002 and totaled 46 members. They spent many hours drawing up a constitution and bylaws to meet state requirements to become a non profit organization and eventually a federal non profit. Attending membership meetings gave me needed information but not as much as the members individually gave me. Taking me fly fishing and inviting me into their homes for fly tying really helped with my fly fishing techniques.

I have been an active member of IHFF since we joined- doing my part to learn about fly fishing and share what I have learned with others. I have served on committees, the board, as an officer including president (way too many times) and been involved in many club projects. I have shared pictures, stories, and many President Messages in the IHFF Newscaster. I have spent many hours with others in finding a

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**President's (?) Message**  
**{ MEMORIES AND "SUCH" }**

(Continued)

place and eventually building a fishing pond for the community of Weiser.

Fly fishing has never been a competitive thing with me. I have caught big fish, little fish, a lot of fish with cheap equipment, expensive equipment, homemade equipment, and gifted equipment. I have gone fly fishing and have not landed a fish. I have had days when I have landed close to 100 fish and everything in between. I have taken hundreds of pictures of the places I have fished. I even made a picture book of the scenery to or from some of these places.

But the most important thing about fly fishing to me is the friendships I have made. I have had the opportunity to meet people I would have never met had it not been for our interest in fly fishing. Some became friends and fly fishing partners. Others I have offended for

some reason. Quite a few have gone to that great fishing spot beyond and are greatly missed. I have been liked by some, disliked by others, been admired by a few and been treated sarcastically by others. I have taken pictures of many IHFFers to help remember them. I have been supported by most in my duties as president of the IHFF.

I plan to continue to support the INDIANHEAD FLYFISHERS as long as it exists but not as its president. I hope to see the time when this club's membership is made up of "younger" people whose interest is teaching our youth to become fly fishers.

THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES,  
SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIPS !

Ole *Mike Thomas*



First Membership meeting of the new year is typically a pot-luck picnic. Bring a dish to share with about 8 people. The club will provide fried chicken, water, paper plates and plastic forks, knives and spoons..



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**The Following Members Owe Their Dues This Month**

-  Bonnie Akbar
-  Ken Burber
-  Stanley Graves
-  Dave Henderson
-  Ray Perkins.

**Dues should be mailed to:**  
Mike Stanton  
Box 654  
Weiser, ID. 83672

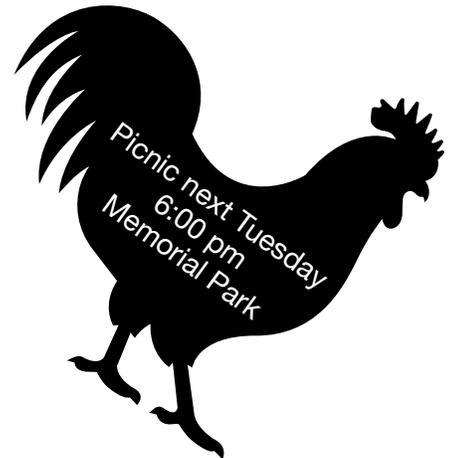
Dues are \$30 per year or \$45 for a family (There is a limit of 12 members per family.)

**Officers**

President -  
Vice President -  
Past President - **Mike Thomas**  
Secretary - **Eileen Boots**  
Treasurer - **Jascha Zeitlin**

**Directors**

**Ray Perkins**  
**Mark Sands**  
**Mike Green**  
**Janet Baker**



**Board / Committees**

Greeter - **Eileen Boots & Janet Baker**  
Fly Tying - **Bruce Parsons & Perry Kelley**  
Library - **Bob Maki & Karen Kosowan**  
Membership/Dues - **Mike Stanton**  
Newscaster - **Dick Garrett**  
Tax Exempt - **Tom & Cindy Dyer**  
Publicity - **Janet Baker**

Raffle - **Ray Perkins**  
Owyhee River Cleanup - **Dave Henderson**  
Christmas Party - **Marg & Mike Green**  
Club Outings - **Mike Green**  
Programs/Presenters - **Chris Clark & Mike Stanton**  
Weiser Community Cleanup - **Mike Thomas**  
Recruit/New Members - **Jim Gulu & Al Sillonis**



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### Important IFF Tax Numbers

The club is a (501)3C charitable organization #C142076 so you can deduct contributions to the club (see your tax advisor for details).

FYI our federal tax number is 71-0998737.

Please plan to attend and participate in the Annual Picnic Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 p.m. at Memorial Park.

We always start of the new year with a bang, but of course we will need to respect the recommended distances. Shouldn't be too hard out in the open.

Bring a pot-luck dish and we'll provide the chicken.

Planning for the picnic at Wednesday breakfast. Join us if you have anything to add.

## SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
.		1 No Board meeting	2 Breakfast at Homestead	3	4	5
6	7	8 Annual Pot-Luck Picnic	9 Breakfast at Cook Shack	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Breakfast at Homestead	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Breakfast at Cook Shack	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Breakfast at Homestead	The rotation of the earth really makes my day!		

Grant Baugh sent this in on July 18 and I missed it with several other articles including the one following from Mann Creek Res. Sorry folks but maybe you can still answer his question.

New to me. Anybody seen one?  
Photo taken at 6975' near Bull Trout lake, Banner summit. Body reddish brown, same size as the blue variety.



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Submitted by Bob Maki on July 28



Tom net's another trout 2 fly's below an indicator did the job on a calm Mann's Creek



Grant gets ready to release another Mann's Creek trout.



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## **Tie a Better Fly #1 September 2020**

### **The Half-Hitch Tool**

Perry Kelley

I am going to feature a column on fly-tying hints this year. I suggest the fly-tying reader try to incorporate some of these ideas, hints and techniques in your fly-tying endeavors.

The first hint is the use of a half-hitch tool. Half-hitch tools come in several forms. Basically a half hitch tool is a 3- to 4-inch brass rod with a small hole at each end. The brass rod is tapered down to the opening to slip over the eye of the hook. Half-hitch tools come in groups of 4; each end will be a step-up larger: thus there will be eight different sizes. To use the half-hitch tool, put the tool near the eye of the hook, go underneath the tapered end of the tool with the thread, and then make a couple more wraps. Then slide the tool over the eye of the hook and carefully slide the thread on the hook. Tighten the thread and you have a knot that will keep your tying material in place.

#### **Now the magic of a half-hitch tool?**



When you are tying a fly on a small (size 16-22) hook, it is difficult to have room for all of the steps (tail, abdomen, thorax, wing, hackle and head) on the space you have on the hook. Tie in the above components on the fly, then size and tie on the hackle, wrap and then tie off the hackle feather. Now, go back to your half hitch tool. Push the tool, with the thread and knots over the hook eye, then slide back to the hackle. Next lightly push into the hackle. Then pull the tool back to the hook eye, Now, with the thread toward the back of the fly, lightly slide the knot back on the fly, slowly towards the hackle. Then remove the knot from the tool, pulling tight against the hackle. You will end up with a compressed hackle on the fly that is beautiful. Note: If these directions are confusing, I will demonstrate this tying technique at the fly tying session this year (If we have them).

One other function that is quite useful when using Half-hitch tool is applying head cement to finish the fly. Using a bodkin or needle dipped in the cement is a possibility, but often, you get the head cement into the eye of the fly and, as we all know, that when on the stream, this can cause a lot of frustration.

Start with a "post-it pad." Drop small amount of head cement on the post-it pad. (Sally Hanson finger nail polish is great if you can find it.) With a large end of a half-hitch tool, dip it into the head cement on the pad, rotate the tool to apply a thin coat of cement. Next, slide over the edge of the fly hook eye and rotate so the cement lightly cover the head. Remove and wipe the half-hitch tool, then take a wire (from the post-it pad) and put into the hook eye and rub the inside edge. If you are concerned about having room for your leader tippet, try to insert a larger length of leader into the hook eye.

Thank you and I hope you will start using half hitch tools. They are a little difficult to find in fly shops. Google "fly tying half-hitch tools" online. You can also make your own tools using the barrel of an old ball-point pen.



**WISHING YOU A HAPPY  
WHATEVER DOESN'T  
OFFEND YOU.**

Mike T. Fishing at Oxbow.  
Wants to know if anyone can  
identify the fish with the  
question mark. Let me know  
your thoughts and I'll put them  
in the next NewsCaster.



**I WAS ADDICTED TO THE  
HOCKEY POCKEY THEN I  
TURNED MYSELF AROUND.**

**A selfie a day keeps  
everybody away.**

Dear Math,

Grow up and solve your own  
problems.

You should know that alcohol  
and calculus do not mix, so  
don't drink and derive.

*Shouldn't cookies be called bakies?*