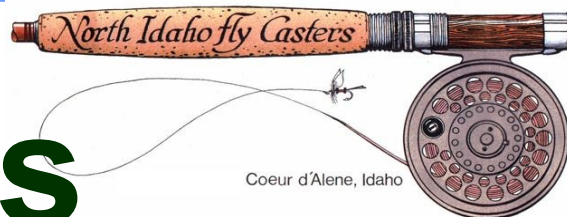


# Flies & Lies



North Idaho Fly Casters, P.O. Box 1698, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

[www.NorthIdahoFlyCasters.org](http://www.NorthIdahoFlyCasters.org)

## Speaker's Corner

By MATT VALBUSA



We had an amazing meeting in January with Tyler Nash, accompanied by his wife, Sierra, from White Pines Outfitters in Moscow, ID. Tyler holds one of two guide permits on the St. Joe River and guides multiday trout and steelhead trips on the Grande Ronde and Salmon River.

One of Tyler's many excellent screenshots detailed their fly selection for the St. Joe by month and fly type. For those listening attentively, he mentioned the color for each fly as well. The highlights included a wealth of firsthand fishing tips, stunning photography and detailed memorable fishing excursions. If you're looking to experience a fantastic float trip on local rivers for a day or multiple days with plenty as well as excellent chef-style meals, give them a call and book your adventure at (208) 883-3900. They also offer guidance for getting started or upgrading skills in navigating a drift boat or raft on the river.

You won't want to miss our February speakers! We're thrilled to have Erin Plue, the new Idaho State Director for Trout Unlimited, who has been developing the North Idaho restoration program for about five years. Erin plans to speak on recent and current restoration projects that TU has been working on in North Idaho, including specifics on work being done on Red Ives Creek, Prichard Creek, Gold Creek, AOP surveys, and the Priest River Watershed Group. Accompanying Erin will be Cathy Gidley, who will be filling Erin's former position as North Idaho's TU Habitat Restoration Specialist and has a long work history in fisheries in the area and has a wealth of knowledge.

Lastly, in March we will have a very special guest — no name to mention yet. His credentials include: author of three fly fishing books, fly fishing coach, operates a fly-fishing school, popular YouTube channel and Idaho Fly Fishing store owner... Don't miss the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, seats will fill fast for this one. We look forward to seeing everyone at the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, as well.



## FEBRUARY 2025

## We are the NIFC

Since 1977, the North Idaho Fly Casters Club has been dedicated to all facets of the sport of fly fishing by providing a wide range of educational, social and conservation opportunities to the fly fishing enthusiast.

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## President's Message

By RICHARD BIRKETT



I must admit that I'm confused. Normally, I tie some flies when it snows because I know the water is too cold, ice is too slippery, and the roads are at least partially closed. But these days there hasn't been snow or ice for that matter (at least down here on the flatlands)! I hope that snow is still on the schedule so that our summer doesn't suffer more than it has in the past. I'm sure I'll adapt but, in the meantime, I have only so many fly boxes left to fill!

We announced the Fly Fishing 101 class will be presented on four Monday evenings starting April 28. The flyer, which is included on page 9 of this newsletter, is the flyer which will be posted in a few local stores, plus in a few publications as well as in our Facebook group. The class size is limited to 25 and will include a lot of information, all geared to make it fun for the student. We want fly fishing to be something easy, comfortable and enjoyable. If you know anyone, regardless of age, level of skill, or whether they have the gear or not, please share this information with them. There are other classes, but this one is the only one that is comprehensive and taught by people who just want to see more folks having fun fly fishing.

Up north, our friends at Trout Unlimited have announced that Chip Corsi is their new President. Chip retired from the Idaho Fish and Game in 2022 after 40 years. He was the Panhandle Regional Director for IDFG. His background and love of fly fishing makes for a superb appointment for the TU chapter. We pass along our congratulations to Chip!

On the club's business side, we announced a price increase in the meals starting in February to \$28 per person. That's about the best news we could have received because we were prepared for something higher. We have our eyes and ears open for other venues but have decided to stay where we are for the time being. We have found that other options exist but there are additional restrictions and costs that make them less preferable.

Our Board is examining an increase in dues. The subject will be discussed at our next board meeting, and maybe even take a few board meetings to finalize. Steve did a great job of outlining the trend of increased costs that are eroding our club financials. The need to protect our club for future members is vital, so with a long range view we will need to decide how much and when the increase will begin. There are a few options on the table, and it will take some creative input to

make this a decision that is balanced between ensuring the future of our club and retaining member engagement. We appreciate the comments from those of you who spoke at the November meeting and encourage anyone to forward your thoughts to my attention over the next two weeks.

Looking back over the past twelve months I am amazed and thankful that we have handled the large number of obstacles. Those of us who have been in the club longer than I, tell me they have never seen the "perfect storm" of change hit at the same time. We have rising costs and changes in our storage site, library, and insurance coverage. Yet it could not have been handled better thanks to the board members who really shined when we had to. There still is a bit to do, including the above, but I am confident we have the right group to handle it.

Each month we produce a newsletter that includes many articles, announcements, and details about our club. Trying to pull this together involves having to keep people on schedule (i.e., myself and others) and that's not easy! Asking for articles, photos and information requires emails and phone calls, but most of all TIME!

Those of us who supply articles for the newsletter all look to one person to make this happen. Sylvia Bach is the perfect blend of patience and insight into what it takes to make our newsletter look good. I want to thank her for what she does for us each month. For several years now, she has managed to make our club look great by producing a very professional monthly newsletter for our membership. One might think that she has a full plate, yet she will still find time to help with the Project Healing Waters crew from time to time because she enjoys a special connection with our veteran community.

I have not seen Sylvia cast a fly, but I have seen how she draws together pieces from several people into a cohesive newsletter. It takes a very special person to do this, and we owe a huge thank you to her for her caring approach. Thank you, Sylvia, from a club president and fellow member of NIFC! You do a great job, and we appreciate it every month when we see your handiwork!

Okay, that's it for now. I guess I will crawl back into my fly tying room and find some old pill containers and hook boxes and fill them now that my fly boxes are full. I hope you will do some of the same and look forward to fishing soon!

## CLUB NEWS

### THE NEXT CLUB PROGRAM

NIFC holds dinner meetings from **September through May** on the **third Thursday of each month.**

**February 20, 2025**

**Coeur d'Alene Inn**  
**506 W. Appleway Avenue**  
**Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

Wet Fly Hour at 5:00PM  
 Dinner at 6:00PM  
 Meeting at 7:00PM

**Guest Speakers:** **Erin Plue**, North Idaho Trout Unlimited Program Manager, and soon the new Trout Unlimited Idaho State Director, along with **Cathy Gidley**, North Idaho Trout Unlimited Project Manager. Erin plans to present on recent and current restoration projects that Trout Unlimited has been working on in North Idaho. This will include specifics on work on Red Ives Creek, Prichard Creek, Gold Creek, Harvey Creek, AOP surveys, the Priest River Watershed Group and maybe more, so please join us for an interesting presentation and discussion. Please do not forget to also bring your questions and comments!

\*\*\*\*\*RSVP Please\*\*\*\*\*RSVP Please\*\*\*\*\*

Reservations and dinner choices can be made by emailing [craigpbaumann@gmail.com](mailto:craigpbaumann@gmail.com)  
 Dinner options for the February 20th meeting are **Parmesan Crusted Cod** OR a **Vegetarian option**. The price is **\$28**.

**Deadline for dinner reservations\* is Monday, February 17th at 5:00pm.**  
**Please indicate your menu choice.**

(\*Payment for dinner cancellations will be the responsibility of the member after that date.)

Please pay for dinner at the door with cash, check or card. A 75 cent card-use fee will be added on.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

2024-2025 club dues can be mailed to:

North Idaho Fly Casters  
 P.O. Box 1698  
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-1698

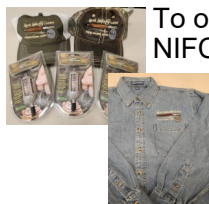
#### Annual Membership Dues:

\$30.00 Family/Single/Senior

\$50.00 Corporate/Business

The membership year is September 2024 through August 2025.

### MERCHANDISE



To order something with the NIFC Logo printed on it, call Patrick Smith at (480) 374-0218 or email [smith.patrick075@gmail.com](mailto:smith.patrick075@gmail.com)

### NEW MEMBERS

None

### RAFFLES

If you have anything to donate to the club for the raffle, give Dave Gillmor a call at (208) 920-9000 or email: [davegillmor@gmail.com](mailto:davegillmor@gmail.com).

January 2025 Raffle		
RAFFLE PRIZE	DONATED BY	WON BY
Fenwick Fly Rod	Bob Clark	Mel Wimmer
Vest	Club	Ann Schumacher
Books	Mark Vehr	Howard Fennimore
Flies	Club Member	Dan Richmond
Fly Tying Lamp	Bud Frasca	Rick Stanrich
BBQ Rib Rack	Dave Londeree	Ann Schumacher
Wood Inlay Bass Picture	Stephanie Snook	Doug Fraser
Stuff	Jim Rogers	Mike McLean
Books	Larry Krumpleman	Adam Borg
Fly Tying Materials	Bob Clark	Doug Fraser
Tackle Box	Pete & Debbie Mahoney	Randy Friedman
Fly Fishing Net	Bob Clark	Terry Wallgren





*February 2025*

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

*March 2025*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

*April 2025*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**CALENDAR****February 2025**

13th — Board Meeting  
 14th — Valentine's Day  
 17th — RSVP for Dinner Meeting  
 20th — NIFC Dinner Meeting

**March 2025**

13th — Board Meeting  
 17th — St. Patrick's Day  
 17th — RSVP for Dinner Meeting  
 20th — NIFC Dinner Meeting

**April 2025**

10th — Board Meeting  
 14th — RSVP for Dinner Meeting  
 17th — NIFC Dinner Meeting  
 20th — Easter Sunday



**PROJECT** EST. 2005  
**HEALING WATERS**

VFW meeting room  
 406 N 4th Street,  
 Coeur d'Alene, ID

**10:00 a.m. — 1st and 3rd Wednesdays**

Participants are disabled veterans.  
 You do not need to be a veteran to  
 volunteer your services.

**Brian Saks, Program Lead**  
 (208) 561-1375

[brian.saks@projecthealingwaters.org](mailto:brian.saks@projecthealingwaters.org)

## Fly of the Month: Courtesy of Dave Londeree

### DYRET (Norwegian for “animal” or “beast”)

**HOOK:** standard hook size 12-16

**THREAD:** 6/0 tan

**TAIL & BODY:** Natural Deer Hair

**DUBBING:** tan or light hare's ear

**HACKLE:** Grizzly Saddle Hackle

#### Tying Steps:

1. Pinch the barb flat. Mount the hook in your vise.
2. Start the thread behind the hook's eye, leaving a long tag (4").  
**Do Not Trim the Tag.** We will be using the tag end later.  
 Dress the hook shank so that the tag end is at the bend of the hook. Wrap back toward the eye and stop, leaving the thread about an eye's length behind the eye.
3. Select a small bunch of deer hair, about ¼ the diameter of a pencil. Clear out the underfur and short hairs. Stack to even the ends of the hairs.
4. Hold the small bunch of deer hair on top of the hook. Leave a deer's hair tail about half the length of the shank.
5. Use 2 wraps of thread to loosely tie the deer hair to the hook and then 1 tight wrap to cause it to flare. Make several wraps the length of the shank to the barb. Secure the deer hair at the tail with a few additional wraps. This is a good time to trim the flared deer's hair at the head. The trimmed head hairs should be about twice the size of the hook's eye.
6. Tie in the butt end of the hackle just ahead of the tail.
7. Dub a tight noodle of tan dubbing and closely wrap toward the eye, stopping just behind the flared deer hair head. Tie it off with a couple of thread wraps.
8. Palmer the grizzly hackle toward the tail using about 5-6 wraps. Tie off the hackle just behind the flared head. Using the long tag of the tying thread, reinforce the hackle by wrapping over the hackle, being careful to wriggle the thread between the hackle fibers. Secure the tag end just behind the eye. Cut off excess hackle feather and the tag.
9. Make a couple wraps in front of the flared deer hair head. Whip finish and cut thread. Carefully add a drop of head cement. Trim the bottom hackle fibers to create a flat bottom



This caddis pattern fishes well in fast water.

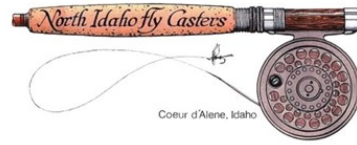
*“Tell me and I forget.  
 Teach me and I may remember.  
 Involve me and I learn.”*

~~Benjamin Franklin

# NIFC Board Minutes – November 2024

Submitted by RICHARD BIRKETT, PRESIDENT

Date: January 9, 2025  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Location: Elmer's - CDA



1. Call to Order
2. Social
  - a. Speakers
    - i. January: Tyler Nash, White Pines Outfitters (Moscow)
    - ii. February: Erin Plue, TU, "Prichard Creek, Priest, and a new volunteer project"
    - iii. March: Mike Sandifer, Northwest School of Fly Fishing (Boise)
    - iv. April: Todd M. Koel, Ph.D., Native Fish Conservation Program, Yellowstone National Park
    - v. May: Daisy Hargrave, Project Healing Waters Field Support Specialist and Shaun Hargrave, Boulder Boat Works (Missoula)
  - b. Fishout schedule for 2025
    - i. Borley, NF CDA: June 22, 2025
    - ii. Hidden Creek, NF Clearwater: July 12, 2025
    - iii. September: sub out Devil's Elbow for Washington Lake Fishing w/ Kelly Michelson as Streamkeeper
3. Educational
  - a. FF 101 Update
    - i. Dates: April 28, May 5, 12 and 19. The latter for outdoor fly casting.
    - ii. Finalize instructor list and supply to committee
  - b. Net and Rod Building Classes
    - i. Discussion on clamp inventory and new policy on outside material usage
4. Conservation
  - a. Watershed Advisory Group Updates
    - i. North Fork CDA: Meeting March 6, 2025
    - ii. South Fork CDA: Date pending
  - b. Prichard Day Use Boat Launch Update: delayed to additional federal reviews. Waiting to hear.
5. Other
  - a. Finance - Financial Review & Discussion on Dues Increase
  - b. Website Update
  - c. Other
    - i. Need reminder to membership at next meeting on Rod & Net building
  - d. Next Board meeting: February 13
6. Adjourn

*Birthday wishes bring many fishes!*

## FEBRUARY

**Ronald Mamajek**  
February 2  
**Mel Wimmer**  
February 13  
**Sharon Kistler**  
February 19  
**Mike Mclean**  
February 20  
**Regine Hensel**  
February 22  
**Skip Quade**  
February 25  
**Gene Yotsuuye**  
February 28

## MARCH

**Mary Wehlacz**  
March 3  
**Bob Miller**  
March 4  
**Brad Zierer**  
March 7  
**Barb Hallett**  
March 11  
**Toni Sommer**  
March 11  
**Dave Londeree**  
March 13  
**Sally Leis**  
March 14  
**Rio Setty**  
March 14  
**Robin Wimmer**  
March 15  
**Dave Kilhefner**  
March 15  
**Mark Vehr**  
March 19  
**Steve Meier**  
March 21  
**Dan Richmond**

*"They say you forget your troubles on a trout stream, but that's not quite it. What happens is that you begin to see where your troubles fit into the grand scheme of things, and suddenly they're just not such a big deal anymore."*

– John Gierach



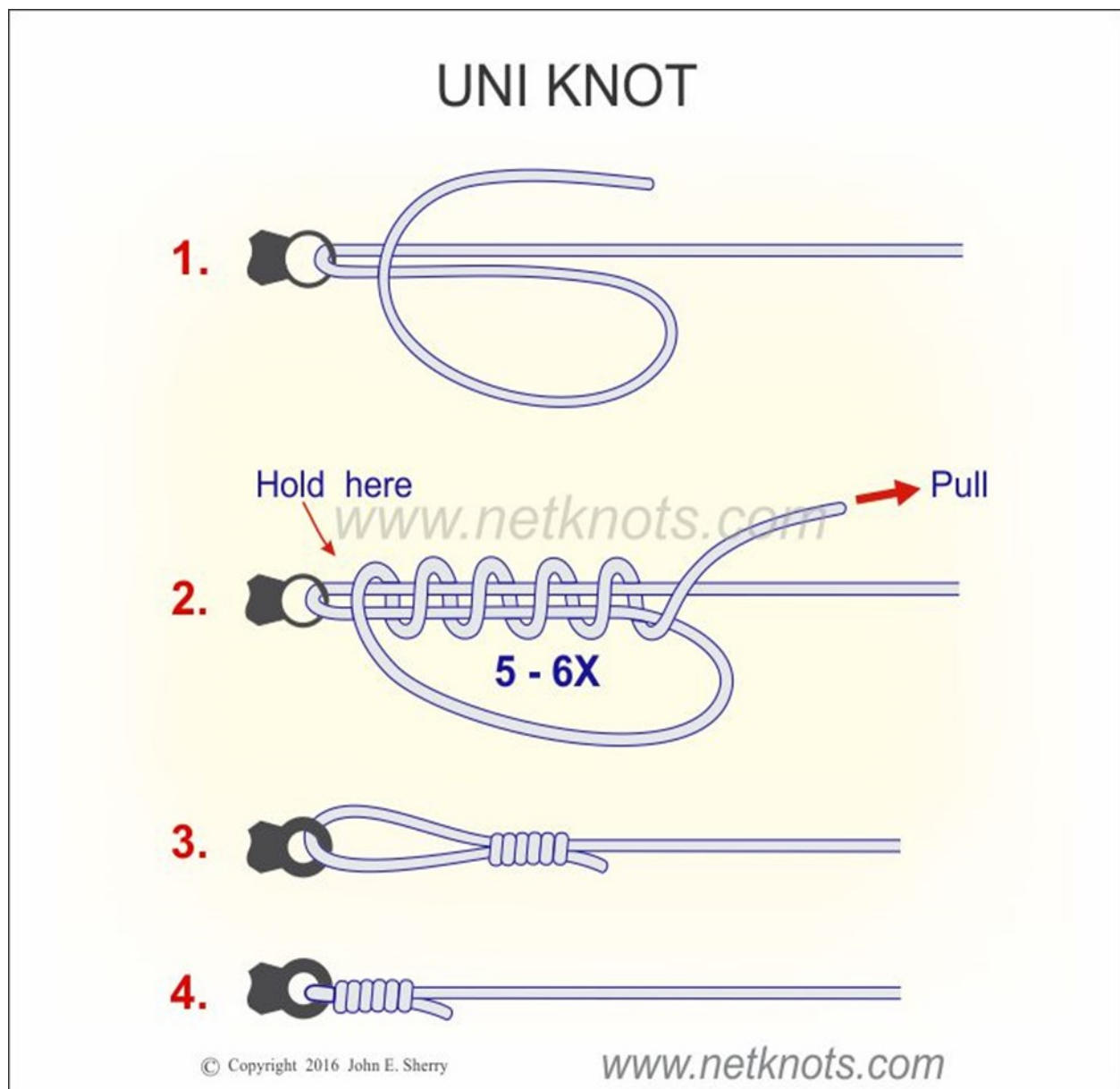
## Knots to Know

By DAVE LONDEREE

**NOTE:** Each month we will show a new knot. Proper knots are very important and need to be tied well. I will pick a knot and have the instructions on the page. If there is a special knot you would like to learn, let me know. I'll do my best to have it for you.

### UNI-KNOT

The UNI\_KNOT is a very strong knot used for attaching a fly or Lure to your tippet. It is easily tied and will hold through the toughest fish fight. Practice it a few times before heading out to your favorite Stream, River or Lake.





## Net Building Update

By TOM McLAUGHLIN



The 2025 net building class took place January 25<sup>th</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our snowless winter thus far made this year's session much easier for parking and minimal snow removal to manage. A special shout-out goes out to Leroy Pickrell who once again provided an orbital sander, router table and belt sander for the club members to use, in addition to providing bandsaw guidance as club members cut their handle stock. Matt Valbusa and Dave Gilmore also deserve a thank you for their assistance in the forming and glue-up stages of the net builds.

This year was not totally stress free with our supply of nets not arriving from our supplier until one day before the nets were needed. These nets had been on order with Jan's Nets since early December but Ed Cummings, the manufacturer, was having supply chain issues on filling their customer orders. Jan's Nets customer service team did a great job keeping me informed of the order status and quickly expediting the turn-around shipments of the nets for our club build.

Additionally, a special thank you goes out to club member and net builder Steve Meier who donated to the club many board feet of Black Walnut to be used in our future net building classes. This black walnut was harvested and sawn from black walnut trees that Steve had grown on his property. So, if you see Steve at our next club meeting, please share a thank you for his generosity to the club.



**Randy Fridlund sanding handle — "Don't over sand this years net!"**



**Left to Right: Doug Frasier, Leroy Pickrell, Randy Fridlund, Matt Valbusa, Gene Yotsuuye, Howard Fennimore, Steve Meier, Tom McLaughlin, Wayne Schumacher, Rich Burkett and Dave Gilmore behind the camera.**



**Bow glue-up. Doug, Howard, and Dave Gilmore Inspector but not time-keeper!**



**Net Glue-Up. Tom, Leroy, Gene and Rich**



**Steve Meier in black Hat Inspecting the bend, Doug, Gene, Rich, Matt and Howard**

As a final note, if anybody can help Dave Gilmore read time, it would be greatly appreciated!

## Rod Building Update

The planning meeting for rod building and bamboo repairs took place on January 26<sup>th</sup>. For the graphite rod builders Doug Fagerness was on hand to provide guidance regarding supplies that each graphite builder will be needing to procure for the March 1<sup>st</sup> build start date. For the first time we also had bamboo rod building members, Randy Fridlund, Wayne Schumacher, and Matt Albaugh share their expertise on many of the antique rods. Several antique bamboo rods were submitted to our experts for their opinions on ability to fish the rods and repair suggestions to get them into fishing condition.

Matt Albaugh also brought several bamboo rods that he has built to have participants experience casting with a bamboo rod. The addition of bamboo expertise provided a new dimension to our rod building education.

The rod building sessions will begin March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. The location will be at my shop at 12245 N Rimrock Rd, Hayden Lake. Building sessions will last through March 9<sup>th</sup>. Times and additional days will be set at the March 1<sup>st</sup> gathering.





North Idaho Fly Casters Presents Fly Fishing 101—  
"What You Need to Know to Have a Great Experience on the Water"



"There is only one reason in the world to go fishing: to enjoy yourself. Anything that detracts from enjoying yourself is to be avoided." - Leigh Perkins

Whether you are new, experienced, or just curious, there is a way to get to know fly fishing while having fun! Taught by fly fishers who enjoy sharing their knowledge and experience, you will learn about all aspects of fly fishing. Classes include fly casting, proper use of gear, safety, fish identification, bugs, reading the water, stream and lake techniques and more. Fly tying demonstrations will be before class as well as during breaks.

Four classes, 90 minutes each, contain enough information for you to have a fun time fly fishing. All students will receive a FF101 Manual, a one-year membership in NIFC, and a grab bag of fly fishing items. So come join us and learn how fly fishing can be easy, exciting and full of fun!

**When:** Monday Night—April 28, May 5, 12 & 19

**Time:** 6:00 PM—7:30PM

**Place:** April 28-May 12 Elks Club, Coeur D'Alene  
May 19 Person Field, Coeur D'Alene

**Cost:** \$125/person

**RSVP Required.** Class Size Limited to 25

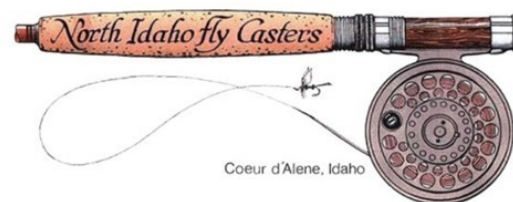
**Reserve by emailing at:**

northidahoflycasters@gmail.com

You can find us at:

[www.northidahoflycasters.org](http://www.northidahoflycasters.org)

## Facebook and Instagram



## Club Officers

### President

Rich Birkett  
(208) 660-1975  
birkettstl@gmail.com

### Vice-President

Tom McLaughlin  
(208) 719-0356  
tmclaughlin924@gmail.com

### Secretary

Craig Baumann  
(858) 353-2300  
craigbaumann@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Stephen Sommer  
(805) 878-4613  
stephen@sommerwholesalenursery.com

### Trustees

Wayne Hudlemeyer  
(208) 664-3611  
vwhud@tds.net

Mark Vehr  
(208) 449-8808  
ma2ve2@gmail.com

Dave Londeree  
(208) 946-6631  
dlonderee@roadrunner.com

### Trustee-at-Large

Dave Gillmor  
(208) 920-9000  
davegillmor@gmail.com

## Committees

### Membership

Craig Baumann  
(858) 353-2300  
craigbaumann@gmail.com

### Conservation

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(208) 680-6792  
albaughrodco@gmail.com

### Youth

Dave Londeree  
(208) 946-6631  
dlonderee@roadrunner.com

### Library

Pat Smith  
(480) 374-0218  
smith.patrick075@gmail.com

### Raffles

Dave Gillmor  
(208) 920-9000  
davegillmor@gmail.com

### Programs

Matt Valbusa  
(208) 916-7036  
mvalbusa@msn.com

### Merchandise

Patrick Smith  
(480) 374-0218  
smith.patrick075@gmail.com

### Quartermaster

Dave Londeree  
(208) 946-6631  
dlonderee@roadrunner.com

### Webmaster

Mel Wimmer  
(612) 816-1379  
mrwimmer@msn.com

### Newsletter

Sylvia Bach  
(208) 771-9697  
sylvia.beth.bach@outlook.com

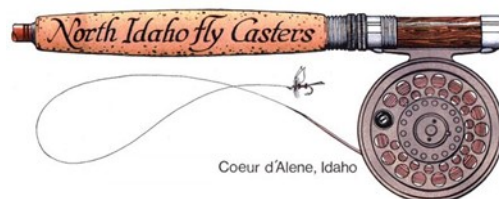
### Newsletter Proofreader

Leslie Balsley  
(425) 785-0511  
RLBalsley@comcast.net

*"I always wondered why somebody didn't  
do something about that.  
Then I realized... I was somebody!"*

## Club Name Badges Available

You may have noticed club members sporting name badges adorned with the club logo and the owner's name. These badges are beautiful, a real work of art. To order one of these badges, please contact Pat Smith at the meeting and let him make an order to the North Idaho Trophy Company. We can get a break in cost if we order in higher quantities. The cost is \$15 with a magnetic fastener and \$12 with a pin back.



Payment is due at the time of your order.

## NIFC Corporate Memberships

Please support these businesses



Aaron Gordon  
(303) 917-2822

[longdriftoutfitters@gmail.com](mailto:longdriftoutfitters@gmail.com)

### THE RACKETEER



*Welcome to the family*

(208) 262-9622 605 E. 8th Ave, Suite B, Post Falls, ID

**Mark's Marine**  
Coeur d'Alene Idaho  
*The World's Finest Fishing Boats*

**LUND**  
Waldcraft  
**HEWES**  
Craft

(208) 772-9038  
[www.marksmarincinc.com](http://www.marksmarincinc.com)

Inland  
North  
West  
**Fishing Guides**  
[www.inwguides.com](http://www.inwguides.com)

### Northwest Outfitters

Idaho Outfitter # 17908

**Michael Beard**

Owner/Guide



2171 N. Main St.  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

(208) 667-2707

E-Mail: [info@nwoutfitters.com](mailto:info@nwoutfitters.com)

### SAINT MARIES FLIES

Derek Darst  
Fly Tyer

333 South 7th Street  
Saint Maries, Idaho. 83861

208-568-0709

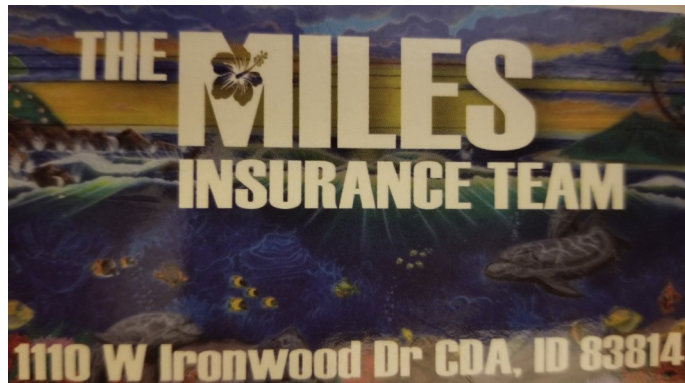
[saintmariesflies@gmail.com](mailto:saintmariesflies@gmail.com)

Follow us on FaceBook and Instagram



# NIFC Corporate Memberships

Please support these businesses



Jeff Smith

1816 Sherman Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

208 667-9304  
[www.fins1.com](http://www.fins1.com)

