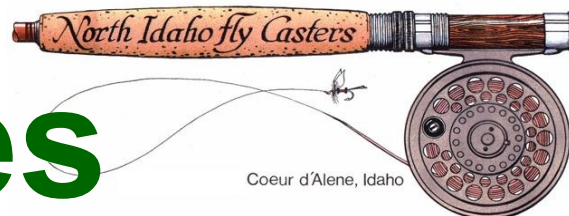


Flies & Lies



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

www.NorthIdahoFlyCasters.org

NOVEMBER 2025

Mentoring next-gen fly fishers



—NIFC photo

A Timberlake High School student displays the results of three-day fly fishing course mentored by NIFC volunteers.

Members teach students to tie, cast, catch

By DAVE LONDEREE

On Oct. 6 and 7, NIFC volunteers spent time with students at Timberlake High School, in Spirit Lake, who were tying flies and casting.

The students tried their hands fishing at Silverwood the morning of the Oct. 8. Several nice rainbows were

brought to the net, and a grand time was had by all.

We spent Oct. 20 and 21 at Silverwood with students from Lake City High School, in Coeur d'Alene.

In all, we had another great few days with some outstanding kids from both schools. There were over 100 students this fall.

[See NEXT-GEN, page 7](#)

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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Time to submit photos for NIFC Christmas program



Christmas is coming fast.

If you have pictures of your outings – they don't have to be fishing or club stuff – that you would like to share with the club at our December meeting, please send pictures (JPEG images) to Dave Londeree at

dlonderee@roadrunner.com

ASAP so Dave can put together the slideshow.

Trout Spey specialist to present Nov. 20

Greetings fellow Club Members. Sorry to miss the last meeting, as a few club members and myself were out steelheading on the Clearwater.

Club member Tom Christopher landed his first steelhead (see photo, [page 9](#)), and a few other club members had the pleasure of reeling in some. Be sure to congratulate Tom at the meeting.

Speaker's Corner

By MATT VALBUSA



If you have any interest in the Columbia River, trout Spey, tying soft-hackle flies or just want to be in the presence of a great author who has published some fine books on the topics, be sure to attend the Nov. 20 meeting.

[See SPEAKERS, page 6](#)

Wildlife view enhances fishing regardless of success

Solunar tables are interesting science, but results may vary



President's Message By RICHARD BIRKETT

I have a theory that if I see wildlife, it will be a good day for fishing. I think it goes back to my observations that it just worked out that way for the past few decades. It certainly isn't based on science.

My fishing buddies will tell you that we talk about that every time we go out too, and that it seems to work out that way for the most part. Why I started to think about that, I will never know, but it began as a desire to be outdoors and an

ever-increasing appreciation of the beauty of the animals with each trip. Today I always connect fishing to the abundance of wildlife seen whenever I go out.

Many years ago, while I was in high school, I read an Outdoor Life article about John Alden Knight and the solunar tables. My curiosity was peaked. Could there be an accurate predictor in fishing activity? Who was this guy anyway? I did a little digging to find out more.

John Knight was a banker by trade, who also happened to write 12 books on hunting, fishing, and other outdoor topics. He wrote over 500 magazine articles and had a column found in over 147 newspapers. Fly tyers might be familiar with one particular pattern, formerly known as The Assassin, later renamed the Mickey Finn. He popularized catch-and-release because of his love for the outdoors. As he said, "One nice thing about fishing – you can always put 'em back."

John developed the solunar tables in 1926, founded on his belief that wildlife activity was based on the phases of the sun and moon and the associated effects. He then translated that into peaks and troughs by longitude and latitude. His fully written work came out in 1936. (Thanks to Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, and Findagrave

for the above information.)

Back then, people either doubted this work or were willing to accept at least the premise. I am sure that has not changed today. The one undeniable fact though is that John loved the outdoors and that started his observation of the variety of wildlife activity found every time he went out. Over time, that led him to have the confidence to write about it.

So, does it work? Let's see: We fished on Oct. 9, 15, 22, and 30. According to the tables for Prichard (83873), the 9th was average, the 15th could be better, the 22nd was average and the 30th could be better. Our fish counts were pretty good on the 9th and 15th, good on the 22nd, and the fishing on the 30th was very slow. There is no real proof, or even an indication, that the tables worked for us. However, I recall that the tables were pretty accurate when we went Yellowtail fishing in Mexico years ago.

I must admit that I have not used these tables since my teens, sometime after I found that they were fallible, but it was interesting to see what went into the tables. We all rely on nature's signs when it comes to fishing. Things such as the phase of the moon have always been part of our possible explanation for the bite being weak or strong. But there are other signs too, like when birds aren't flying or when

animals tend to bed down during the day. So, I guess as I went through life these things stuck with me, and I became the observer I am today, left to wonder what makes it all work.

What I did accept is the effort John put into the sport of fishing and the time he spent sharing the same with others through his writings. It was those articles that appeared in magazines that a teenager read and imagined what it would be like on rivers and streams in the mountains. I

didn't know the Beaverkill then, but I had a perfect picture of what it was like. I found out that the solunar tables might not be perfect, but the information used as its basis was helpful to me in later years. In short, I learned something from Knight!

Today I pay attention to the weather, stream levels, the phase of the moon, wind and temperature predictions, and other things. But I believe that if I see wildlife, it will be a good day. And the more I see, the better it will get. It may



—Photo by Richard Birkett

Some say that wildlife activity can be a predictor of fishing success.

CLUB NEWS

THE NEXT CLUB PROGRAM

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

Nov. 20, 2025
Coeur d'Alene Inn
506 W. Appleway Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Wet Fly Hour at 5 p.m.
 Dinner at 6 p.m.
 Meeting at 7 p.m.

Presentation: **Trout Spey Fishing**
 Guest Speaker: **Steve "Bird" Loiseau**,
 Associate Editor, Swing the Fly Presses. See
 Matt Valbusa's Speaker's Corner, [page 1](#), for
 more info.

*****RSVP Please*****RSVP Please*****

Reservations and dinner choices can be made by
 emailing craigpbaumann@gmail.com
 Dinner options for the November meeting
 are **Pork Loin Chops** or a **Vegetarian plate**.
 The price is **\$28**.

Deadline for reservations is
Monday, Nov. 17 at 9 a.m.
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

2025-2026 club dues can be mailed to:

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

Annual Membership Dues:

\$65 — Family/Single/Senior
 \$100 — Corporate/Business

The membership year is September 2025 through
 August 2026.

MERCHANDISE



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

RAFFLE UPDATE

We want to thank everyone who purchased
 tickets or donated items for the raffle.

Our big year-end raffle will be held at the
 December meeting.

If you have anything you want to donate, please
 contact Dave Gillmor at: (208) 920-9000 and let
 him know.

You can either drop it off at his place, bring it to
 the meeting, or call for pickup.

Items do not have to be fishing related. It's your
 club, and we need your support.

OCTOBER 2025 RAFFLE

ITEM	DONOR	WINNER
Shirt & BBQ Set	D & D Londeree	Dave Gillmor
Organic Apples	Skip Quade	Mark Vehr
Hat	North 40	Howard Fennimore
Book Ends	Dave Hodge	David Heberer
Books	Joe King	Dave Gillmor
Fly Tying Material	Bud Frasca	Chris Ford
Fly of the Month	Howard Fennimore	Mark Vehr
Shirt	Nancy Davison	Gary Weister
Vector Line	North 40	Christeen Hanes
Pheasant Tail	Paul Banducci	Howard Fennimore
Rod Holders	Tom McLaughlin	Doug Fraser
Books	Larry Krumpleman	Chris Ford
Flies	Club Member	Pete Mahoney
Rod Rack	Skip Quade	Ken Pina

CLUB NAME BADGES AVAILABLE

You may have noticed club members sporting
 name badges adorned with the club logo and the
 wearer's name.

These badges are a real work of art. To order one
 of these badges, please contact Pat Smith at the
 meeting. He will 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 order.

***"Volunteers do not necessarily have the
 time; they just have the heart."***

~Elizabeth Andrew



Shannon and Bill Coder, Kootenai County directors of the Toys for Tots drive, will be guests at the Nov. 20 NIFC meeting.

November 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	25	26	27	28	29

Toys for Tots campaign to revisit club

We will once again have our friends from Toys for Tots joining us at the November meeting.

Bill and Shannon Coder are the Directors for Kootenai County and will be available for questions and comments.

As usual, we also plan to give to this important charity for those

kids in our community! See you there!

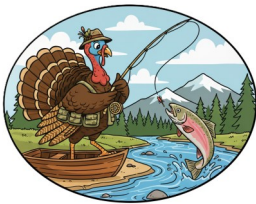
You can find more information about the Kootenai County Toys for Tots in this Coeur d'Alene Press article:

<https://cdapress.com/news/2023/oct/01/match-made/>.

December 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	31			

CALENDAR



November 2025

13th — Board meeting
20th — Dinner Meeting
27th — Thanksgiving



December 2025

11th — Board Meeting
18th — Dinner Meeting
25th — Christmas
31st — New Year's Eve



January 2026

1st — New Year's Day
8th — Board Meeting
15th — Dinner Meeting
19th — MLK Day

January 2026

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	31

Fly of the Month: Courtesy of Dave Londeree

PICKLE

HOOK: Jig hook #8 barbless

BEAD: Slotted tungsten 3/16" (4.6mm)

WEIGHT: Lead-free wire .020

THREAD: Red 6/0

TAIL: Sexi-Floss copper/brown medium

LEGS: Sexi-Floss copper/brown medium

BODY: New Age chenille (Halloween)

Tying Steps:

1. Slide the bead on the hook and mount the hook in your vise.
2. Wrap eight or nine turns of the lead-free wire on the hook shank, behind the bead.
3. Start the thread behind the bead and dress the hook to the bend. Make a small bump of thread at the bend of the hook.
4. Cut a piece of the Sexi-Floss into three pieces. Use one piece to make the tail. Bend the Sexi-Floss in half and tie it at the bend just in front of the bump you made in step 3. This should splay the tail about 30 degrees.
5. Strip 1/8 inch of the fuzzy stuff from the chenille to expose the inner thread. Tie it to the hook shank at the hook bend.
6. About 1/8 inch from the tail, tie another section of the Sexi-Floss to the hook shank to make the back legs. Wrap the thread 1/4 inch forward and tie on the last piece of Sexi-Floss to make the front legs. Wrap the thread forward to behind the bead.
7. Wrap the chenille two wraps at the bend. Jump the chenille over the back legs and wrap around the hook shank. Wrap the chenille forward to the front legs. Wrap the front legs same as you did the back legs.
8. Continue wrapping the chenille up to the bead and tie it down. Snip the excess free.
9. With the thread, wrap several turns to make a "hot spot." Whip finish and add a drop of head cement.



NOTE: This is a very heavy fly for its size. I learned the Pickle last month on the Columbia River, in British Columbia, Canada (see story, [page 8](#)). It is designed to sink fast under an indicator. The Pickle is an October Caddis Pupa. It is tied very much like a "Pats Rubber Legs".

FLY OF THE MONTH BOOKLET

A collection of five years of the Fly of the Month in booklet form. Cover to cover filled with flies from Jim Rogers and a few from Dave Londeree. It can be yours for \$25.00 + postage or pick them up at the club meeting. Contact: Dave Londeree at dlonderee@roadrunner.com or 208-946-6631

IDFG fisheries manager highlights restoration efforts

Fish passage study covers More than 1,000 crossings

By **RICHARD BIRKETT**

We welcomed Mike Thomas, Regional Fisheries Manager, IDFG, to our October meeting. Mike's first presentation to NIFC was an overview of trout management for the Spokane River drainage. The drainage includes the Coeur d'Alene, St. Joe, and St. Maries rivers, as well as Coeur d'Alene Lake.

Also attending our meeting was Andy Dux, who is very familiar to those of us in the club as he has spoken to our group before. Andy and Mike are from the local office in Coeur d'Alene.

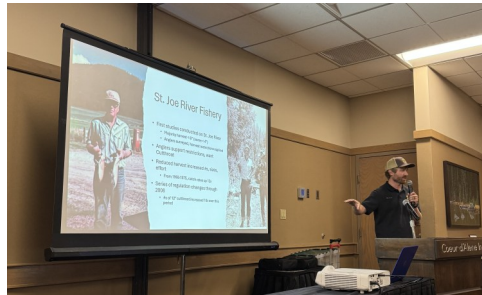
Mike's presentation took us through the various waters in his region and highlighted the ongoing and upcoming projects for restoration. Some of these included culvert replacements, working with other agencies and landowners, and the constant snorkel surveys.

The history of our area was included to give an important perspective of progress, starting with the mining that affected so many areas, followed by the restoration of streams and the management of our

local cutthroat populations. An example of this is the St. Joe River fishery where the decline of cutthroat population was prioritized in the late 1950s. This resulted in a reduction in harvesting that increased the average size and number of fish.

He also talked about the study on fish passage throughout the drainage, which started last year and is scheduled to be completed in December. This study covers more than 1,000 crossings. This is an excellent example of a collaboration with the Restoration Partnership and Trout Unlimited.

Our members asked about the increase in smallmouth bass in the lake and the potential for some kind of bounty program to reduce that population. The potential effect on fish populations has not been proven as being directly related to smallmouth bass. Bounty programs might be something to consider if the science supports it.



—Photo by Richard Birkett
Mike Thomas, of IDFG, speaks at the
October NIFC dinner meeting.

One question included a request for more enforcement, and Mike agreed. However, Mike's side of IDFG is related to science, not enforcement.

Fly fishers appreciate having game wardens around to prevent the taking of protected fish, and to help educate others who might not know the law. While everyone would like to see more visibility from that side of IDFG, the limitation on staffing gets in the way. Meanwhile, members of NIFC can help by spreading the word.

We offered to provide additional signage on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, but Andy suggested that this may not be as effective as talking with others we see while we are out fishing.

Another suggestion is that we use the CAP (Citizens Against Poaching) hotline at (800) 632-5999. This is a 24-hour number, which is also printed on the back of all licenses.

We are lucky to have Mike and Andy nearby, and their willingness to present to our club on matters important to us. Thanks guys!

SPEAKERS from page 1



—Courtesy Steve Bird
Steven "Bird" Loiseau is the featured
speaker for the Nov. 20 NIFC meeting.

Steven "Bird" Loiseau will be the featured presenter.

Steven Bird is a writer and guide from Northeast Washington. Steve is the author of "Upper Columbia Flyfisher and Trout Spey" and "The Art of the Swing." His third book, "Spiders & Spades for Steelhead, Salmon & Larger Trout" will be released later this year.

His stories and articles have appeared in numerous outdoor journals including Flyfishing & Tying Journal, The Drake, and Fly Culture Magazine,

in the UK.

Steve currently serves as trout Spey editor at Swing the Fly Press.

Steve's format will be more of a "campfire" talk session engaging more intimately with the group, spending a large portion of our time taking questions that lead to conversation wherein all are welcome to participate.

So if you have any questions, gear thoughts, or "Why" type of topics, bring them and prepare for an engaging open forum discussion – one not to be missed for sure.

NEXT-GEN, from page 1

I want to thank Chuck Leis, Terry Wallgern, Mike Owen, Rich Birkett, Dave Gillmor, Howard Fennimore, Kelly Michelson, Wayne Hudlemeyer, and Pat Smith.

Thanks to the teachers Cory Owen (Lake City) and Shawn Lawler (Timberlake) for their involvement and help getting the students interested in fly fishing.

Special Thanks go to Gary Norton for letting us bring the students to the Silverwood Pond.

Here are a few pictures.



Birthday Wishes

NOVEMBER

Forrest Whitt

November 7

Al Baldridge

November 8

Terry Wallgren

November 9

Ruth Pratt

November 11

David Brown

November 13

Bob Holman

November 18

Wayne Hudlemeyer

November 20

Greg Blythe

November 23

Denise Travis Childress

November 30

DECEMBER

Deanna Bradley

December 1

Don Boehm

December 3

Gaynell Coppess

December 9

Leslie Balsley

December 10

Tracy Ball

December 15

Janet Reagan

December 16

Joseph Lowe

December 17

Lee Coppess

December 18

Stephanie Snook

December 19

Mike Hensel

December 21

Greg Henderson

December 23

Nathan Bradley

December 26

Cary Childress

December 28

Kathy Baker-Grigg

December 29

Taking in fall colors on the Columbia

By DAVE LONDEREE

Chuck Leis and I went to Canada to fish Oct. 14 and 15. We had a grand time and caught several fish each day on the Columbia River, upstream of Trail, British Columbia.

The fishing was great, but it was cold. Not cold enough to freeze up the guides on our rods, but enough to keep us chilled most of the time.

We were using 10-foot, 6-weight rods



—Courtesy Dave Londeree
Dave Londeree, above, and Chuck Leis, right, display rainbow trout caught recently on the Columbia River, in Canada.

with a fly called a "Pickle." (See the Fly of the Month, [page 5](#).) Fishing was different this fall from what we were used to.

Instead of staying in the eddies for fall fishing, we were casting to what are called the "walls" (the banks) with moving water. The fly is heavily weighted and hung under

an indicator about 5 feet.

We were catching upwards of 25 fish a day. They were not all large. I even pulled in several fish measuring 8 to 14 inches – still beautiful and hard fighting.



We did meet up with an old club member Ron Mamajek. It was good to see him and visit a little.

We are already planning for next year.

Knots to Know By DAVE LONDEREE

LEADER-SWIVEL CLINCH



This knot is used to attach a swivel between the leader and tippet. You can add weight without adding a split shot and keep your fly from twisting and turning.

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.



PHW fly rod drawing set for December

Chuck Leis built a beautiful 9-foot, 3-inch 8-weight fly rod. We are selling tickets (cards) at \$5 each. All proceeds will go to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.

The drawing will be held at the December Christmas meeting. See Dave Londeree, Chuck Leis, or Rich Birkett for tickets.



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

10:00 a.m. — 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

Open to all veterans.
You do not need to be a veteran to
volunteer your services.

Brian Saks, Program Lead (208) 561-1375

Share your pictures, stories

Help us continue to create a newsletter that is interesting and fun to read by submitting stories and/or photos of your fly fishing adventures. If you would rather “tell” your story than write it, we can set up a time to talk, and I’ll transcribe it for you.

Contact Mike McLean at mclmik@hotmail.com, or (509) 842-6590.

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Water Resource Info

Suggestions from our readers

Regional Fly Shops:

Northwest Outfitters Orvis 208-667-2707

2171 N. Main St., 9+CDA, ID

Castaway Fly Shop 208-765-3133

1114 N 4th St., CDA, ID

Castaway Outfitters 208-682-2929

1560 CDA River Rd., Kingston, ID

North 40 Fly Shop 208-666-0506

170 E Kathleen Ave., CDA, ID

Silver Bow 509-924-9998

13210 E Indiana Ave., Spokane Valley, WA

Links to Fishing Reports:

<https://nwoutfitters.com/river-reports>

<https://www.silverbowflyshop.com/fishingreports/>

Weather:

National Weather Service/NOAA

<https://forecast.weather.gov/>

Information (Regs/Maps):

IDFG North Fork CDA

<https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/water/1162568475573>

<https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/>

Associations:

North Idaho Fly Casters

<https://www.northidahoflycasters.com>

Fly Fishers International

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org>

River Flows:

USGS North Fork @ Prichard

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv/?site_no=12411000

North Fork @ Enaville

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv?site_no=12413000

PRESIDENT from page 2

not equate to dozens of fish, but it will most definitely mean the day will be close to perfect. There is nothing better than having the experience of seeing elk, moose, deer, otter, eagle and osprey in a beautiful setting! And then you still catch fish?!! After all, isn't that the real reason why we go out fishing?

During our recent visit to Silverwood with a Lake City High School class, a young lady explained that she lived with her mother in Coeur d'Alene, while her dad, a sergeant in the Army, was in Boise. She loved to fish because it was time with her mom, and it brought her and her dad closer when he could visit.

She missed the first class on fly tying and knots, so we started from scratch on the pond. After stringing her fly rod and tying on a fly, I showed her a roll cast, and off she

went. She talked about the birds she saw on a recent trip with her mother. They were fishing for salmon on the Columbia and were successful. She talked about how appreciative she was for having the opportunity to be in this class.

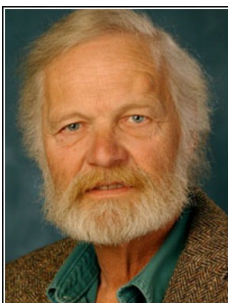
Her fly wasn't working, so we tried another, which immediately got a hit. She learned after four fish how to hook and land the fifth one. The grin got larger too, and even bigger when she landed four in a row. Afterward, she thanked me for the time spent showing her how to fly fish, and then she told me that she could hardly wait to tell her dad that she could fly fish with him now too!

Now I just checked the solunar tables, and it says the fishing activity for that day was "EXCELLENT." Do you think? I wonder if ... no, never mind, I won't even go there!



—Photo by Richard Birkett

A Lake City High School student says she hopes to fly fish with her dad after being introduced to the sport by NIFC members.



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 —

AZ QUOTES

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

~~Benjamin Franklin

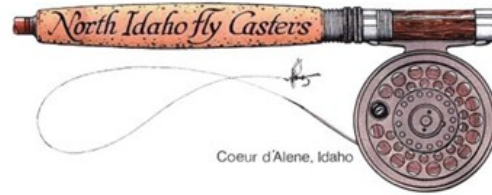
NIFC Board Minutes Submitted by RICHARD BIRKETT, President

Date: Oct. 9, 2025

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Elmer's — Coeur d'Alene

1. Call to Order
2. Social
 - a. Speaker Schedule



Meeting Date	Topic	Speaker	Notes
10/16/2025	Trout Management Topic	Mike Thomas	IDFG Fisheries Biologist
11/20/2025	Trout Spey Fishing	Steve "Bird" Loiseau	Assoc. Editor, Swing the Fly Press
1/15/2026	Binarch Creek Trout Transplant Project	Rob Ryan	IDFG Fisheries Biologist
2/19/2026	Clark Fork Trout	Danner Haskins	Owner, Clark Fork Trout
3/19/2026	Still Water Fishing	Marc Williamson	Fall River Fly Fishing
4/16/2026	Swinging Flies for Steelhead	Bill Herzog	Author and Photographer
5/21/2026	Kootenai River	Leanna Young	Guide, The Last Resort

3. Educational
 - a. Lake City High School Oct. 13 & 14 (tying and casting): Silverwood Oct. 20 & 21.
4. Conservation
 - a. Hudlow Meadows Rehab Project w/ TU (Cathy Gidle) — Summer 2026
5. Other
 - a. Awards & Plaques — Confirmed new vendor and that memorial plaques will be brought to all meetings.
 - b. Budget — Presented draft with discussion following. Recommendations made. Budget will be prepped for board approval in November
 - c. Finance — Financial Review
 - i. Reviewed financials
 - d. New Membership Application presented.
 - e. Discussed speaker fees and gifts.
 - f. Next Board meeting: Nov. 13
6. Adjourn



*When nothing is going right,
go fishing!*

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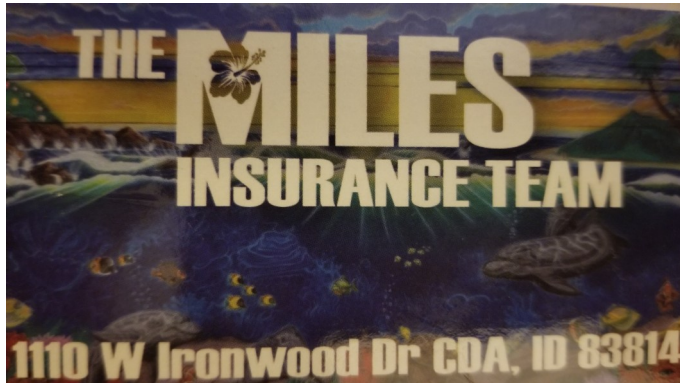
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