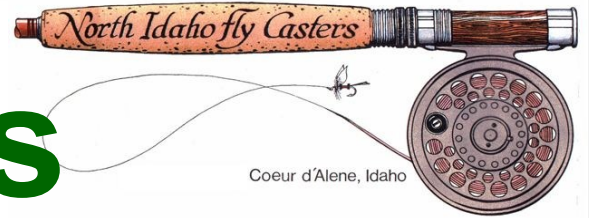


MAY 2026

Flies & Lies



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

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.

Inside this issue:

- [President's Message](#) 2
- [Elections](#) 3
- [Youth fly tying, fishing](#) 3
- [Club News](#) 4
- [NIFC raffle results, news, ...](#) 4
- [Spey rod drawing](#) 4
- [FOTM: Hot Butt Caddis](#) 5
- [Knot: Improved Albright](#) 5
- [Calendar](#) 6
- [Birthdays](#) 6
- [Water resource info.](#) 10
- [Officers-Trustees](#) 10
- [Board minutes](#) 11
- [Corporate members](#).... 12, 13

Canada's Columbia holds mighty trout



—Photo courtesy Richard Birkett
Spencer Eisenbarth displays a Columbia River rainbow.

Friends test skills in big water, tricky currents

By RICHARD BIRKETT

Once again, a group of club members headed north to enjoy Columbia River fishing in Canada. Matt Valbusa assembled and organized the trip with [St.Mary](#)

[Angler](#), whom you probably recall is owned by Kelly and Karen Laatsch. Kelly has spoken to our club on several occasions about this fishery and the techniques that have helped

[See COLUMBIA, page 8](#)

Kootenai River guide to be featured at NIFC's May dinner meeting

Greetings fellow Club members. Spring has sprung! April's meeting featured steelhead extraordinaire Bill Herzog, and it was packed full of great information and super slides of his journey through the years. If there was a take-away from that presentation it was "Go fish the Grande Ronde River." It is a 182-mile tributary of the Snake River that originates in Oregon, flows into Washington, and empties into the Snake River in Idaho. Start in the fall and put in some time; you will reap the rewards. Thank you Bill for a super job.



Speaker's Corner

By MATT VALBUSA

guide with [The Last Resort Outfitters](#) and a veteran fly fisher on the Kootenai River. Leeanna has fished the Kootenai River for over 20 years and is considered *the* local guide to fish with. Leanna also has a



Leeanna Young with happy client.

background in swiftwater rescue in western Washington, thus she is very safety minded about fishing.

This will be a great presentation packed full of useful information on the history of the Kootenai River and how

[See SPEAKER, page 9](#)

May's meeting will feature Leeanna Young, a lead

Picture perfect days have arrived early on NF Cd'A

Water still high, but March Browns, midges are hatching in some spots

Recently, I spent a day on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. It was a beautiful day, with blue sunny skies, air temperatures around 71 degrees and the water temperature at 42. It was the picture-perfect day we all envision when we think about North Idaho.

Water levels were still high but dropping slowly. Fish were not rising, and the bugs were limited to midges and a few March Browns, but only in a couple of spots. I visited about five spots ranging from Independence Creek to Prichard and found bugs in the two locations at the farthest points, but nothing in between.

That's what fly fishing is about in my opinion. We get enticed by the fish, attracted to the weather, and then interested by the challenges. Will there be fish activity on the surface? Are there bugs around so I can see what they are biting? Will I be able to use the "ol' standby" fly patterns, or do I have to actually figure out something new? And on and on it goes.

I believe that it's this process that requires our minds to leave the daily stresses and duties and focus on the water in front of us. That results in the mindfulness of fly fishing, or the resulting peace we feel when we are out on the water enjoying nature.

This trip, I happened to be fishing alone, partly because I decided at the last minute when my schedule changed, and I just could not avoid the weather.

Before I left, I went through my usual checklist: Look at the water flows to see the trends; make sure I load up with all the gear; pack water and usual snacks; and let my wife know where I will be going and when I plan on returning. I usually rig up a rod or two, which I did this time, with a dry fly rod and a nymph rod. I knew that midges were out (they usually are year-round, but I saw them on the water a week earlier, so I had first-hand knowledge). I also expected to



—Photos by Richard Birkett
Above: The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River looks inviting. Inset: Early results are promising.



see some stoneflies and mayflies, but this river has taught me that each section has its own hatches, so it was a bit of a gamble to assume I would use the right flies at the start. Nevertheless, I tied on a midge and March Brown nymph, with a March Brown emerger on the dry fly rod.

I arrived at the first location and "waded up." I hiked over to the spot and spent a few minutes looking at the river. Midges were flying around and it was warming up. After looking at the current, which was still high, I approached the hole from a different spot than I had originally planned. I changed my nymphs to midge patterns and struck out. After changing flies about four times, and having adjusted my indicator to

different depths, it was a Hare's Ear nymph that landed a nice cutthroat. As I mentioned earlier, there were a few locations with no visual insect or fish activity, and all three resulted in no catches.

It was the final location that produced. At this point of the day, it was easy to see that the bugs were out because the swallows were out feeding on them. When you see these birds at work, you know that bugs are available. Midges had been flying around in large numbers and after climbing over some rocks on the shore, I found dozens of March Brown mayflies on the rocks, waiting to take flight. Using a March Brown nymph I was fortunate enough to land 16 fish – all on this fly. They would not take a midge pattern either as a dry or a nymph, which might appear to be odd to some folks, but it's all part of the plan. Fly fishing presents these types of scenarios where we have to adjust on the fly (pun intended) in pursuit of the catch.

As it happens, I am constantly thinking while I am out fly fishing, especially if I am alone. Anything can come up as I wade and walk. I have a love for the outdoors so the wildlife always holds my attention. I like the scenery and the colors of the water too. I'll also spend time thinking about my casting, the knots I use, the flies and length of my tippet. I might work on my technique too, wanting to make it efficient and simple. But on this day I happened to

[See PRESIDENT, page 7](#)



President's Message

By RICHARD BIRKETT

Elections set for May meet for club officer positions

New Pres, VP sought

By RICHARD BIRKETT

Our club has always thrived because of the passion, dedication, and volunteer spirit of our members. As we look ahead to the coming year, we're seeking enthusiastic individuals to help guide and support our community.

Elections will be held on May 21. Right now, however, we need your nominations to build a slate of candidates. Our April 16 meeting did not yield any nominations from the attendees, so if you did not make the meeting, or have some second thoughts, you can reach out to any board member with your nomination ahead of time.

Nominations can be for any position, but these two are particularly important to fill:

- President
- Vice President

The roles of President and Vice President are especially vital to ensuring the continued success and

NIFC NEEDS YOU



growth of our club. If you care about our fishing community and want to help shape its future, we strongly encourage you to consider stepping forward. These positions receive the full support of the board, which includes past President's and VP's, so there are nearby resources at all times.

Whether you'd like to nominate a fellow member or self-nominate, your

You don't need prior board experience — just a willingness to contribute, collaborate, and support the club.

participation is what keeps our club strong.

You don't need prior board experience — just a willingness to contribute, collaborate, and support the club.

This is your chance to:

- Give back to a community you enjoy.
- Help plan events and programs.
- Keep our traditions alive while bringing in fresh ideas.
- Connect more deeply with fellow anglers.

If you have questions about any position or what's involved, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Let's work together to ensure another great year on the water!

Youth Fly Tying programs underway; volunteer mentors are welcome



—Photo by Mike McLean

Several NIFC members introduce fly tying to students at Priest River Lamanna High School recently.

By DAVE LONDEREE

Our Youth Fly Tying program has been going great so far this spring. Lake City High School's tying and casting is completed. We traveled up to Priest River Lamanna High School Monday and Tuesday April 27 and 28 for fly tying. Next is Timberlake High School May 11 and 12 for fly tying and casting. Fishing at the Silverwood Pond is scheduled for May 13 with Timberlake H.S., May 14 with Priest River H.S. Lake City H.S. May 21 and 27.

Thanks go to Rich Birkett, Chuck Leis, Terry Wallgern, Kelly Michelson, Pat Smith, Dave Gillmor, Howard Fennimore, Wayne Hudlemeyer, Mike McLean, Mike Owen and Steve Sommer and Skip Quade for all their help.

If you would like to help with this effort, please let me know. Contact Dave Londeree at (208) 946-6631 or dlonderee@roadrunner.com.

Think about it.

CLUB NEWS

NEXT CLUB PROGRAM

NIFC holds dinner meetings on the third Thursday of each month from September through May. The next meeting is:

May 21, 2026
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: Leeanna Young, of The Last Resort Outfitters, will speak about Kootenai River history, conservation efforts, and fishing strategies on the reach of river above Bonners Ferry. See Speaker's Corner, [page 1](#), for more info on the program.

Dinner options for the May meeting are **Pork Loin Chops** OR a **Vegetarian Platter**.

Reservations and dinner choices can be made by emailing craigpbaumann@gmail.com
 The meal price is \$28.

Please RSVP and indicate your menu choice.

Deadline for reservations is Monday, May 18 at 9 a.m.

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 current 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

Last chance for cards for Spey rod drawing



—Photo by Dave Londeree

This Spey rod will be raffled off at the May 21 NIFC meeting. Tickets are \$5 per card.

By DAVE LONDEREE

A few months ago, our club was gifted a beautiful ECHO 12-foot 6-inch, 6-weight Spey rod.

The rod is brand new and has never been fished.

We are going to raffle it off at \$5 per card. You may purchase as many cards as you want.

See me, Dave Londeree, at the meeting or contact me via email at [dlonderee@](mailto:dlonderee@roadrunner.com)

roadrunner.com.

I will pick a card at random and put your name on the card for you.

We will pick a winner at the May 21 club meeting.

I still have a few cards left that will be available at the meeting. It will be the last opportunity to get them while you can for a chance to win this really nice Spey rod.

Good luck to all.

APRIL 2026 RAFFLE

RAFFLE ITEM	DONOR	WINNER
Flask & Bourbon	Mark Vehr	Mick Nocera
Autographed Books	Larry Krumpleman	Matt Valbusa
2 Mugs & Hat	Christina Haynes	Dave Londeree
Fir Pack	Club Member	Ron Smith
Flies	Club Member	Christina Haynes
Feathers	Bud Frasca	Ron Smith
Vise & Bobbin	Joe King	Doug Fraser
\$25 Certificate	Wayne Hudlemeyer	Craig Baumann
Wading Staff	Bob Clark	Mike McLean
Grab Bag	Bud Frasca	Skip Quade
Travel Mug	Rich Birkett	Howard Fennimore
Magnetic Bag	Jack Hise	Dave Gillmor
Waders & Boots	Bob Clark	Unknown



If you have anything to donate to the club for the monthly dinner meeting raffle, give Dave Gillmor a call at (208) 920-9000 or email him at davegillmor@gmail.com.

Fly of the Month: Courtesy of Dave Londeree

HOT BUTT CADDIS



Hook: Dry Fly 12-18
Thread: #8/0 Chartreuse
Tail: Red Floss or Crystal Flash
Wire: Red (Small)
Hackle: Brown
Body: Chartreuse Floss
Wing: Elk Hair



The Hot Butt Caddis is a dry fly that imitates the female caddis that is laying eggs. When you see the caddis bouncing up and down to the surface, she is dropping eggs. Now is the time to cast out the Hot Butt caddis and hang on.

Tying Steps:

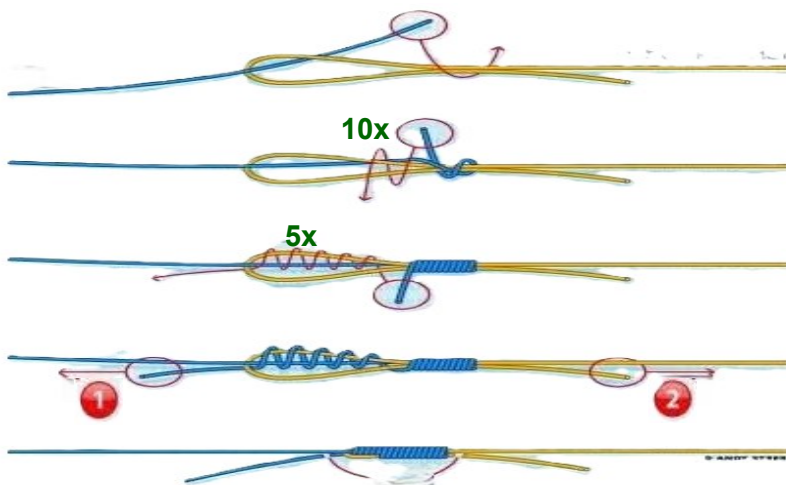
1. Pinch the barb flat.
2. Secure the hook in the vise.
3. Start the thread at the two eye lengths from the hook eye.
4. Tie on the tail material to the hook shank to the starting point of the thread to make a smooth body.
5. Tie on the wire to the side of the hook nearest you.
6. Tie on the hackle (properly sized for the hook, 1 to 1 1/2 the hook gap)
7. Tie on the body floss and wrap a smooth body and tie off. Cut off the excess.
8. Palmer the hackle in open wraps and tie off at the starting point.
9. Counterwrap the wire to strengthen and secure the hackle. Tie off the wire and helicopter off or cut the excess.
10. Clean and stack the Elk Hair for the wing. The wing should be equal in length to the shaft of the hook and about 2 times the diameter of the hook eye. Tie the wing behind the hook eye hold the up and trim the excess hair. Whip finish and apply head cement.

Knots to Know By DAVE LONDEREE

IMPROVED ALBRIGHT KNOT

The Albright knot is used to attach the fly line to your backing line. It is much easier than a blood knot and just as strong. When tied correctly it will slide through the guides of your rod.

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.



May 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 ₃₁	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 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				

July 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	

CALENDAR



May 2026

- 10th — Mother's Day
- 14th — Board meeting
- 18th — RSVP for Dinner Meet
- 21st — Dinner Meeting
- 25th — Memorial Day

June 2026

- 11th — Board Meeting
- 14th — Flag Day
- 19th — Juneteenth
- 21st — Father's Day
- 27th — NF Cd'A Fishout



July 2026

- 4th — Independence Day
- 9th — Board Meeting
- 11th — NF Clearwater Fishout



Birthday Wishes

MAY

- Bob Beardslee
May 1
- Bob Seddon
May 1
- Matt Valbusa
May 2
- Jessee Fraser
May 5
- Valerie Hodge
May 7
- Katie Walters
May 7
- Marisha Lowe
May 14
- Tom Christopher
May 14
- Mike Steiner
May 15
- John Crossland
May 15
- Jim Rogers
May 17

Dick West
May 17

- Kay Nelson
May 21
- Stephan Speer
May 21
- Adam Borg
May 21

JUNE

- John Maher
June 1
- Claude Kistler
June 4
- Roger Grigg
June 23
- Victor "Tom" Yzaguirre
June 27
- Renee Blythe
June 29
- Dale Harder
June 29
- Timothy Hall
June 30

PRESIDENT from page 2

somehow think about how my eyesight has adapted to fly fishing over the years (Maybe because I was using size 20s!).

Like many other friends of mine within our club, my eyesight has gradually declined, making it harder to tie flies. I noticed it about 20 years ago, and my stepdad (a retired optometrist) told me, “You better get used to it.”

I started to wear glasses, which resulted in stronger glasses as time passed. This is a common theme, I know, but I have found a few aids that have helped greatly and thought I would share them with you.

For fly tying, I purchased a magnifying glass with my fly tying table. This is about 4 inches in width held on a long flexible neck. The longer the neck, the better, so that it can be placed away from your light.

Speaking of light, I use a full spectrum halo style lamp. This has daylight (over 4,000K, and 875 lumens) specifications. The brighter the light, the better it is on my eyes. Lights can be expensive, and this one was purchased with my fly tying table (Oasis Fly Tying Benches), but I don't see it on their website any longer. There are many others out there, however.

As time went on, and my eyes aged



—Photos by Richard Birkett

At some point in the life of a fly fisher, magnifiers will become necessary equipment, both on the water and at the fly tying bench...

a bit more, I bought a pair of Clic glasses with 3x power. I know that some folks use these on the water, but I chose to start with a pair on my fly tying table. This adds extra magnification with my magnifying glass, making things better. I bought this when Clic had a sale, but Cabela's has them for about \$40.

When I am on the water, I use a clip-on magnifying glass that stays with my hat. I can use this with my polarized sunglasses and move it down easily when I need to tie on a fly. It stays out of my line of vision, and it does not weigh much, so my hat stays in place. I am on my second pair in about 15 years, choosing to replace them when they are too scratched. They are easily cleaned with the same cleaner I use for my sunglasses. The magnification is 2.5x. These are required for me. I cannot tie on tippet on a fly without multiple attempts, so this magnifier really helps save time and allows for better knots. I spent about \$18 for them, and you can find them for around that amount today.

Each of these helps me to stick with fly tying and fly fishing. A few of my buddies have commented on them, especially the last item, wanting to know how it might

help them too, so we aren't alone!

Just like adapting to the challenges on the river, we too have to decide how our bodies have to adapt to meet the challenge of aging. These devices all help to accomplish that, so I will continue my hunt to look for other ways to make my time on the water more enjoyable.

Your Business Card

Could be Displayed on Corporate Membership Pages and Projected Prior to Every North Idaho Fly Casters Club Meeting

Contact Dave Londeree
(208) 946-6631

dlonderee@roadrunner.com

Find out more about your



PROJECT HEALING WATERS
EST. 2005

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.

COLUMBIA from page 1

many folks enjoy fishing the stretch of river near Trail, British Columbia.

Our group included Matt, Spencer Eisenbarth, Tim Skelton, and myself. Our guides were Ray and Cale. Ray has been guiding on Vancouver Island for years and more recently on the Columbia, while Cale has guided the Elk and St. Mary rivers, and just started this year on the Columbia.

Our equipment included 6-weight, 10-foot, Echo fly rods with large-arbor reels. Our boats were 19 feet and had 40-horsepower jet motors, allowing us to scoot up and down the river, with the guide rowing the last 50-100 yards. They provide lunch, drinks, and PFDs as well.

The Columbia River is huge, and the flows demand respect. Many parts of the river do not allow swimming or wading, so having a boat is a necessity. Our abilities to read water come from other areas, and we had to adjust to the Columbia. As an example, compare a run on the St Joe where it is always there, with varying levels of water throughout the season. If that was the Columbia, the run would disappear, then reform, and repeat that over and over. A typical stretch of the Columbia, includes smooth water, boiling and changing water nearby and in the middle, and a run on the far side.

Our guides have a clear understanding of where the eddies are and how whirlpools, boils and currents continuously change. Terms such as “push,” “seam,” and “debris pile” are common. Pushes are where the top current moves against slower current, so it appears like a mini wave pushing against itself. If you fish for trout on a stream, you know the term “foam line,” where trout hang out in slower current waiting for food to pass by in the faster current. On the Columbia, debris that may be wood chips, needles, leaves and whatever else, floats by and gives us a visual hint on



—Photo courtesy Richard Birkett

From left, Tim Skelton, Richard Birkett, Matt Valbusa, and Spencer Eisenbarth recently enjoyed an outing on a Canadian reach of the Columbia River..

where to cast. But unlike the foam line, it is changing in direction and size. Having a guide helps educate the fly fisher into seeing the signs of current differences, which then become the target for our casts.

Flies were “guide tied,” so they were custom and specially made with years of Columbia River experience. As a side note, Kelly and Ray would rise early and tie on a daily basis, incorporating minute changes based on the previous day. Today, both Cale and Ray tie, although I get the feeling it may not be on a daily basis because they do not lose that many flies (we lost zero flies between the four of us over two days) and these flies plain work!

Several patterns share names that may be known to us, but look much

different. For instance, their Frenchie is all red and has more wire, and what they call a Prince Nymph looks more like something that’s on steroids with a lot of bling, multiple colors of wire, and carries red, gold and lots of UV resin. Sizes are much larger than what we normally would have expected too. Believe me, you won’t find these at any fly shop or online!

These fish are trout, but not your normal rainbow trout. They are descendants of steelhead that were cut off when the Grand Coulee Dam was constructed. No longer able to migrate, they stay in the Columbia and have adapted over the years. Their colors range from steel silver to bright red sides and bronze backs. Their tails are thicker than your typical rainbow

[COLUMBIA continued next page](#)

SPEAKER from page 1

the Libby Dam has changed the river. The presentation also will highlight actions underway to promote the fishery and of course, her strategy on how she puts clients on fish.

Don't forget the next NIFC meeting is Thursday, May 21, at the Coeur d'Alene Inn. See Club News on [page 4](#) for the program

time and meal options.

Last but not least: I will be passing the baton of Programs Coordinator on to club member Mr. Ron Smith.

Ron has graciously stepped up to take the position and has some great contacts and



RON SMITH

some possible new presentation ideas. Please introduce yourself to Ron and get to know him.

I met Ron at the fly-tying classes held at North 40 the last couple of years, he's super good at fly tying and a

fun person in general. Thank you Ron!

There are still a couple of officer spots to be filled, please give it some thought if you want the club to continue. NIFC needs more than good river stories to move forward. It doesn't take a whole lot of time but does require some, and you will reap the rewards for helping the club out.

COLUMBIA continued from previous page

trout, and their energy is unmatched. It's not uncommon for them to jump (I had one jump six times before landing), and they always fight. We used a strip set but had to let more line out as they made run after run. These fish will cause you to have burned fingers and very tired arms as they are a workout!

We arrived Sunday afternoon, settled in at the Prestige

Mountain Resort hotel and enjoyed a couple drinks and dinner. (Quick note: St.Mary Angler sets up the hotel rooms and a discount. Keep that in mind should you be interested in using their guide service.) Monday morning, our guides met us at the hotel, and we were off at 8-ish a.m. The river is 20 minutes away, and we were on the water shortly thereafter. The weather on Monday was perfect — blue skies, a few clouds, cool in the morning, and then it became quite warm. Fishing was slow at first but then it picked up. We used the Prince Nymph, Frenchie and a midge

pattern – all three are tied on jig hooks with beads. Most (darn near all) of the fish were caught on the Prince. Leaders were short with 6 feet of tippet and a large Oros indicator. Both boats had an excellent day.

Tim and I fished with Ray and had 41 fish ranging from 16 to 22 inches. Matt and Spencer also fell in that range but had at least one fish even larger.

Tuesday, we headed out to a different weather pattern (common on this river). The sun

was gone and although it was not very cold, the wind showed up and that changed the fishing. The pattern was more like one or two fish per spot (if any), and then move on because the fish laid down very quickly. Our overall counts were not as high, and we had to work hard to land the 25-plus we landed in our boat. All of us found it challenging to fight the wind while still reading the current and spotting places for our casts.

I would not recommend this trip for someone new to fly fishing, mainly because it involves a decent casting

stroke, a ton of mending, and the ability to quickly strip set, all of which might be beyond the newbie skill set. Unlike typical trout fishing, these casts are much longer and are more frequent due to the constantly changing water hydraulics. There is also the need to communicate with the guide and the other fly fisher to avoid getting tangled – something that happens to the best of us when the wind arises. Then you throw in the movement of the boat, and the need to remain standing using the leaning bars to brace yourself while floating. Having said all that, this type of fishing is attractive to many fly fishers because of the challenge while fishing for these rainbows.

One of the best things about a trip like this is the stories, some of which were made on the trip, while others from the past. This was the first time fishing with this group for me, and it was a lot of fun. Having a beverage and talking about the day over dinner makes for a special time. It's what fly fishing is and should always be!

So thanks to Matt for putting this together, and to Spencer and Tim for being excellent friends – you guys really made for a perfect couple of days on the water!

If you are interested in fishing the Columbia, contact Kelly or Karen Laatsch at St.Mary Angler, you can reach them at 1-800-667-2311 (<https://www.stmaryangler.com>).



—Photo courtesy Rich Birkett
Matt Valbusa hefts a healthy trout.

Water Resource Info

Suggestions from our readers

Regional Fly Shops:

Northwest Outfitters Orvis 208-667-2707

2171 N. Main St., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Castaway Fly Shop 208-765-3133

1114 N 4th St., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Castaway Outfitters 208-682-2929

1560 Coeur d'Alene River Rd., Kingston, Idaho

North 40 Fly Shop 208-666-0506

170 E Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

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 Coeur d'Alene River

<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 Coeur d'Alene River @ Prichard

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

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River @ Enaville

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

Club Officers

President

Richard Birkett

(208) 660-1975

birkettstl@gmail.com

Vice-President

Patrick Smith

(480) 374-0218

smith.patrick075@gmail.com

Secretary

Craig Baumann

(858) 353-2300

craigpbaumann@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

craigpbaumann@gmail.com

Conservation

Matt Albaugh

(208) 680-6792

albaughrodco@gmail.com

Youth

Dave Londeree

(208) 946-6631

dlonderee@roadrunner.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

Newsletter Editor

Mike McLean

(509) 842-6590

mclmik@hotmail.com

Newsletter Proofreader

Leslie Balsley

(425) 785-0511

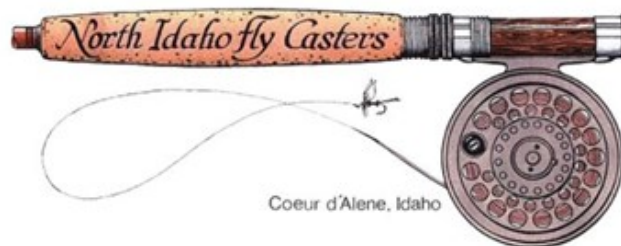
RLBalsley@comcast.net

North Idaho Fly Casters club bylaws are available upon request to the Secretary.

The Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of the month.

NIFC Board Minutes Submitted by RICHARD BIRKETT, President

Date: April 9, 2026
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Brewscape – 9551 U.S. 95, Hayden, ID 83835



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

Meeting Date	Topic	Speaker	Notes
4/16/2026	Swinging Flies for Steelhead	Bill Herzog	Author and Photographer
5/21/2026	Kootenai River	Leanna Young	Guide, The Last Resort

- B. Hidden Creek Fishout, July 11
- C. TU Panhandle Discussion
 - a. Potential joint meeting discussion
- 3. Educational
 - A. Trout Spey Class by Steve Bird
 - a. Rich still working on venue. Will be in Cd'A area.
 - b. Date, price etc. to come.
 - B. High School Fly Tying and Casting
 - a. Priest River HS
 - i. April 27 & 28 - Fly Tying and Casting
 - b. Lake City HS
 - i. April 6 & 7
 - ii. Fishing @ Silverwood May 21 & 27
 - c. Timberlake HS
 - i. May 11 & 12
 - A. Rod building class
 - a. Ongoing
- 4. Conservation
 - A. Prichard Day Use Area Project
 - a. Small team (Ed, Mark & Rich) and others communicating monthly with USFS and

- IDFG.
- B. Hudlow Meadows Rehab Project w/ TU (Cathy Gidle) - Summer 2026 - Pending
- 5. Other
 - A. Elections
 - a. Plan for election of new President and VP.
 - b. Sending out more communications.
 - B. Financial Reports Review
 - a. Motion to accept: Dave; 2nd: Wayne - Unanimous
 - C. Regular Meeting Agenda
 - a. Reminder of elections and nominations
 - b. Guest speaker: Bill Herzog, Author and Steelhead Fly Fisher
 - D. Motion to donate spare rod dryer to Project Healing Waters
 - a. Discussion on lack of usage and space used in storage unit
 - b. Motion: Pat. Second: Dave. Vote: Unanimous
 - E. Next Board meeting: May 14
- 6. Adjourn

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 a real work of art. To order one of these badges, please con



-tact Pat Smith at the meeting. He will place your order.

The cost is \$15 for a badge with a magnetic fastener and \$12 for one with a pin back.

Payment is due at the time of order.

FLY OF THE MONTH BOOKLET

A collection of five years of the Fly of the Month in booklet form is still available. The booklet is filled from cover to cover with flies from the vice of Jim Rogers and a few from Dave Londeree. It can be yours for \$25 plus postage, or you can pick them up at the next club meeting.

Contact: Dave Londeree at dlonderee@roadrunner.com or 208-946-6631

NIFC Corporate Memberships

Please support these businesses



Guided fly fishing & float trips
Kootenai River, Idaho



Aaron Gordon
(303) 917-2822

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

Inland Northwest Fishing Guides
www.inwguides.com

Northwest Outfitters
Idaho Outfitter # 17908

Michael Beard
Owner/Guide

2171 N. Main St. (208) 667-2707
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 E-Mail: info@nwoutfitters.com

SAINT MARIES FLIES
Derek Darst
Fly Tyer

333 South 7th Street
Saint Maries, Idaho. 83861

208-568-0709
saintmariesflies@gmail.com
Follow us on FaceBook and Instagram

NIFC Corporate Memberships

Please support these businesses

**THE MILES
INSURANCE TEAM**

1110 W Ironwood Dr CDA, ID 83814

Fins & Feathers™
Tackle Shop & Guide Service

Jeff Smith

1816 Sherman Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

208 667-9304
www.fins1.com

State Farm

Tim Skelton Insurance Agcy Inc
Tim Skelton, Agent
2140 Riverstone Dr, Suite 202
Coeur d Alene, ID 83814
Bus 208 664 2155 Fax 208 667 0241
tim@timskelton.biz

The greatest compliment you can give is a referral

GRACE
TREE SERVICE

SHAWN BENNETT
Certified Arborist - Owner

Office: (208) 762-5800
Cell: (208) 699-6200

shawn@gracetreeservice.com
www.gracetreeservice.com

1860 W. Hayden Ave Hayden, ID 83835

**BLACK SHEEP
SPORTING GOODS**

**SUPER
FOODS**
We Set the Standard

Adam Borg, PT
Physical Therapist

adam.borg@nipt.us
(208) 762-3332

BPI NORTH IDAHO
BioPerformance Institute PHYSICAL THERAPY

Experts in Human Performance

Physical Therapy / Chiropractic / Recovery / Functional Training / Nutrition