PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Neal Beechinor

So, I’m sitting here at my desk on this cold New Year’s Day pondering what kind of message I would like to share with you, my fellow club members and friends. It has been 14 years since my friend Pat Kendall brought me into our club. He also introduced me to the joy of fly fishing some 25 years ago. I was hooked immediately, and I set aside my spinning reels and poles (they were poles back then, not rods) forever. Probably like many of us, my dad started me fishing at a young age with worms and salmon eggs. I fondly remember, as a kid, the streams around Walla Walla like Mill, Coppei, Touchet, and the Tucannon. We used to fish the Potholes lakes a lot, Upper Hampton our favorite. My dad’s favorite lake was West Medical, using the surefire egg and marshmallow rig under a slipshot. I’m sure I’m leaving myself wide open to our new poacher, but that’s ok, he will probably get me plenty of times this year. By the way, thank you, Mark Pinch, for agreeing to be the poacher. I remember your performance from past years and know you’ll do a good job. The poacher job is not easy. It’s all in fun and I urge all of us to keep your eyes and ears open and report to Mark. I myself get great joy in turning in my friends. Maybe I have a mean streak, I don’t know.

I had been sitting on the sidelines in our club for a long time enjoying the monthly meetings with drinks, dinner, and entertainment in the form of a poacher and expert presenters on the art of fly fishing, not to mention the information gleaned from some members on where & when & how to fish. Each Tuesday evening my fiddle music group meets, so for years I was torn on the 2nd Tuesday between my music group and the fly fishing meeting. As I gradually got to know more of our club members, I realized what a great bunch of guys you are and it became a no brainer that our club was my choice. When I brought Lee Funkhouser into our club, and saw how he immediately became so involved, I figured I was way past due to contribute. I must say that I was apprehensive when I first joined the board, but it has been a very rewarding journey so far and I anticipate this year will cap it off.

Our club has become like a family for me. I love every opportunity to get together with you guys. I urge all of you to reach out to our members and guests in a friendly and welcoming way. Consider joining a committee or joining the board. The time commitment is minimal and the satisfaction is great.

Dues for 2015 will be payable at the January or February meetings. With the due date of March 1st, everyone should make plans to pay at either of those meetings or send in the $30.00 dues payment to:
IEFFC
P.O.Box 2926
Spokane, WA 99220-2926

This month’s presenter will be Scott Anderson from the Montana Fishing Company. Montana Fishing Company operates out of Missoula and Thompson Falls with guides capable of covering rivers throughout much of Montana. Scott is an experienced outfitter and will be giving a presentation regarding some of the great opportunities to fish Montana waters. His company offers some innovative trips including one that is referred to as “a bucket list fly fishing vacation”. The trip consists of fishing five blue ribbon rivers in six days. Scott will be able to give us some great insight into Montana fly fishing. You won’t want to miss this one if you are looking to fish Montana waters this coming year.
Dr. Steve Dixon was honored this year as the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club Fly Fisherman of the Year. This is the highest annual honor accorded a member and Steve is certainly deserving of the award.

He is an outstanding fly fisherman, mastering both stream and lake fishing, in addition to tying a diverse array of flies that he uses in both venues. He has been the membership chairman for the IEFFC for a number of years and is a past IEFFC Board Member. He is always ready to provide instruction in fly fishing to members and is a sportsman of the highest degree.

Steve began his fishing career at the age of 12 as a Boy Scout and has been an addict ever since. He is extremely competitive and has shown a tendency to outfish anyone who cares to challenge him. Steve loves to fish both streams and lakes which has given him great memories of fishing the St. Joe, Lochsa, St. Maries, Elk, Bighorn, Henry’s Fork, Kootenay, Green and Provo Rivers among others. He has fished numerous lakes across the western U.S. and Canada, too many to mention, and his favorite local lakes are Amber Lake and Farmer Brown’s Lake. He fishes with many of the IEFFC’s members, but has a favorite partner in IEFFC past president Bob Harley.

Steve attended Brigham Young University and graduated from medical school at the University of Utah, paid for by a scholarship from the U.S. Air Force, where he served for a few years after receiving specialty training in Dermatology and Dermatopathology. He currently practices dermatology in north Spokane, where he takes care of many IEFFC members who have failed to heed his warnings regarding the dangers of fishing without protection from the sun.

The Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club is truly blessed to have Dr Dixon as a member and he represents us well as the Fly Fisherman of the Year for 2014.

New Board Member Gordon Olson and his raffle crew hit another home run this year as the IEFFC Christmas Raffle was again a huge success. The items were special and the trips were outstanding. Again Steve Moran supplied some amazing items and Gene Lorenson did not disappoint when he came through the door with his annual painting.

We will have a more complete story regarding the raffle in an upcoming issue, but again...Thanks to all of you who helped by contributing and thank you Gordy and your committee members for a great time.
The Ed Wolfe Memorial Award is given to a member who has made a specific, significant contribution to the IEFFC. Although this is not an annual award, this year the award found a deserving recipient in Gene Lorenson.

Gene is the longest standing member of the club and is our Artist-in-Residence. His contributions to *The Fly Leaf* have been ongoing and certainly appreciated. He has supplied the Fly of the Month for decades and it is his art design that is used as the header for this publication. Gene has also illustrated with line drawings each of the Club’s editions of *Flies of the Northwest* and it was Gene’s design that was used as the 50 year logo for the IEFFC. He has annually supplied a painting for the Christmas Raffle and it is always the most sought after item at the event. In addition to those artistic duties, Gene has supplied a specially created painting to the IEFFC Fly Fisherman of the Year and outgoing President since 1981. The paintings are cherished by all who receive them.

In 2012 Gene was honored by receiving the Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftmanship Award, presented to a fly fisher within Washington, Oregon or British Columbia for original, significant and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing.

Thank you Gene for all that you have done to make our club what it is today.

At our December meeting we elected officers for the upcoming year. As you can see by the picture above, we have chosen a motley crew to run the club. Headed by Neal Beechinor, the group will certainly be up to the task of leading us through another outstanding year. Our thanks and congratulations go out to the following officers: President Neal Beechinor, Vice President Skip Cavanaugh, Treasurer Paul Davis, Secretary Rick Ripley, Board Members Jim Gaddy, Jim McDevitt and Gordon Olson, Sergeant at Arms Floyd Holmes and Poacher Mark Pinch.
STEVE’S GRANDKID FLY

By Steve Dixon

I love this fly! It is extremely easy to tie, easy enough to introduce my grandkids to fly tying. By making a small change here or there, each grandchild can tie and fish with their own unique fly that carries their name. Best of all, this fly catches fish! Lots of them! My grandkids have caught dozens of fish on their own personal fly, and I have caught hundreds of trout up to 10 pounds on this fly. It works well casting and stripping or with a slow troll. Tying instructions are below:

Materials for Logan’s Light Saber:
Size 10 1XL nymph hook
Small red silver-lined bead
6/0 Olive thread
Olive marabou
Olive Ice Dub

Crew’s Killer
Burnt orange marabou

Kendyll’s Black Widow
Black marabou
UV black Ice Dub
1. Pinch barb, put on the bead, wrap a thread base to the bend.

2. Put on a marabou tail the length of the shank.

3. Make a dubbing loop, put in the Ice Dub, spin it up, and pick off the excess dubbing.

4. Wrap the dubbing forward, tie off, then whip finish.

5. Pick out the dubbing with velcro or bodkin, then stroke the fibers back over the tail.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington
The Historical Committee is requesting that members of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club submit photos to be placed in the club archives. The photos may be of yourself or other club members on your fishing expeditions. Fun photos or photos that define the member are also welcome. Submit them to any of the committee members in any format you choose. We can return photos if requested. Our goal is to have some photos of each and every member in the archives. Thanks in advance.

Members of the committee are: Leon Buckles, Richard Ripley, Ward McAuliffe, Jason Mulligan, Chet Allison. See you at the club meeting.