



# FLY PAPER

April 2025

## Editor's Message

*I look into my fly box and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: Water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guy told me. "90% of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about 5/8 of an inch long." – Allison Moir-Smith*

It seems to me, novice that I am, that fly fishing is part art and part science.

I so enjoy listening to the experts amongst us talking about what the trout are eating: mayfly larvae or caddisfly emergent or dry midge; are the trout surface feeding or sipping or whatever else they do; and what does it mean? I learned well from Gary and Tom about the lifecycle of the insects that provide our inspiration: the larva, pupae, hatching and emergence, resting and swimming and egg-laying and the like.

Then there's the art part. Much of our conversations at a club meeting are noting the ebb and flow of the seasons on the river or lake; knowing what is likely to happen before even setting foot in the water; and enjoying the mystery of it all.

Of course, a big part of it all is luck: being at the right place at the right time with the right lure.

Luck plays a big role for sure, but we should never fail to remember that *chance favors the prepared mind*\* and that the more we learn from the old-timers, the more likely we are to know when we have found that sweet spot in time and space, can breathe into it, and meet the moment of strike with full awareness. (\* Louis Pasteur)

## The Woody Hayes rule of casting.

Legendary Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes once explained why he closely embraced the "three yards and a cloud of dust" offensive philosophy this way: When you

put the ball in the air, Three things can happen, and two of them are bad. Whether or not the coach actually said those words, It got me to thinking about the obvious correlation with fly casting.

While beautiful long loops might be pleasing to watch, they usually don't do a lot for you on the trout stream. False casts spook fish. And all casts have the potential of developing line weakening wind knots which occur when an angler cannot control his line. Why not let the current do the work instead? Let the water lift the line behind you, lift your rod, tip high, pods, then unfurl a pinpoint cast by directing the rod tip where you want to your fly to land. The angler who learns how to roll cast, improvises with short mends, adjusts the fly line with the help of the current, and learns to let the water help him set up. The next cast is going to be much better off than the one who tries to throw a Hail Mary every time play. While you might not beat that school up north every time you play, you'll commit fewer turnovers and win your fair share of games.

- Kirk Deeter, *The Little Red Book of Fly Fishing*.

### Looking Downstream

- WVFF's last meeting was held at Pinnacle Beerworks (18N Mission Street). There was a large turnout including many current flyfishing class members! The setting works: our next meeting will be held at Pinnacles as well on May 15 (6:00 – 8:30). See you there!
- WVFF was unable to meet the staffing needs for Wenatchee Schools to provide flyfishing instruction. We will speak more about that at the club meeting.

### Looking Upstream

#### Next Club Meeting

May 15. Pinnacle Beerworks, 5:30-8:30 pm.

#### Upcoming Events

- April 26 Outing. Blue Lake Sinlahekin, Club Potluck.
- April 27 - Earth Day Fair - Waste Loop (Leavenworth, WA).
- May 8-12. Outing. Big Twin
- June 1. Fly casting class and WVFF potluck at Walla Walla Park, Shelter 2.

#### Outings Report

Despite the poor weather reports, a few brave individuals met up at Quincy Lake on Saturday March 22 for the WVFF's first outing of the year. A very special thanks to Bob Bartlett for cooking this year. The sun came out just in time for lunch when some of the members came back to share their fishing reports. The water was cold, the fish a little sluggish but they were biting for those who were patient enough. Some new members had

some time to practice their casting. They were quick to pick it up and will be fantastic fly fishers in no time.

For me, it was nice to be out on the water again and enjoying the sights and sounds of nature. With all the uncertainty and animosity going on in the world right now, there's something quite refreshing and healing listening to the birds and frogs while floating along the shoreline. The only thing I caught was a minor sunburn, but the peaceful feeling was well worth it.



Our next outing is Blue Lake Sinlahekin on April 26. There will be a club lunch and potluck dinner. I won't be able to make it this year to Blue Lake, so I'm hoping to see you at the following outing at Big Twin May 8-12. There are still a lot of spots available at Big Twin.

Please call the Resort to reserve your spot, you won't be able to reserve online. The number is 509-996-2650 and please leave a message if Loree or Jessica doesn't pick up. They will call you back to get your reservation set up. They are excited to have us return and have been very kind and helpful hosts.

# Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers

## Minutes

April 3, 2025 (DRAFT)

## Virtual Board Meeting

**Attendance: Present: Derek Corder, John Richmond, Tod Treat, Mike Wyant**

Absent:

Call to order: 7:05 p.m.

March 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes (taken by Mike Wyant)

Motion to approve: Tod Second: Derek Carried: Unanimous

Current Finances:

John reported

- \$11,800 in checking with \$1,460 outstanding for a net of \$10,300.
- \$8,961 in community fund with \$8,000 of that being liquid.
- Total of \$19,332 total in club accounts.

President's Report: Derek reported the following:

April 26 member meeting will be at Pinnacle Beerworks, 18 N. Mission (old Wenatchee World office) in Wenatchee from 5:30 to 8:30. Attendees can order from the food and drink menu. The establishment appears to be very interested in hosting and supporting the club. Derek is encouraged that this may be a possible permanent meeting location.

May membership meeting will be on Sunday, June 1 at Walla Walla Park beginning at 10:00 a.m., featuring a potluck at noon, and ending in the early afternoon. Casting will be the topic with a certified fly caster on hand.

**Outings:** Seven members attended the Quincy Lake outing. The weather and the fishing were generally not great.

The Blue Lake and Big Twin outings are set. Leftovers from the Quincy Lakes outing will be used at Blue Lake.

**Website:** Work on the website is tabled until summer.

Membership: Allan will be back on April 10. He and Derek will go over the membership list to bring it up to date. The website has not been cleansed of those who are no longer members nor has it been brought up to date regarding those who have paid dues for 2025. The introduction the fly-fishing class has started. 22 participants are enrolled.

Derek is still working with Cody Jaspers at Wenatchee High School to find dates for an introduction to fly tying session with students.

A check for \$1,382 was sent to Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group to cover an

expense under last year's conservation grants.

**General:** Discussion was held regarding offering a "Things that float" workshop at Beehive Reservoir in the afternoon following introduction to fly-fishing class outing in June. This session could provide examples of float tubes, pontoon boats and other assorted floating craft and accessories for people to consider and try out. Derek is going to discuss this possibility with Gary Anderson. Mike offered to take the lead in organizing it.

**Adjournment Time:**

Motion to adjourn: Tod

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**Minutes  
Virtual Board Meeting  
March 13, 2025**

**Attendance: Present: Derek Corder, John Richmond, Tod Treat, Mike Wyant**

Absent:

Call to order: 7:05 p.m.

February 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes (taken by Mike Wyant)

Motion to approve: John Second: Derek Unanimous approval

Current Finances: John reported,  
Just under \$9,000 in Community Foundation fund  
\$12,654 in checking/savings accounts

Budget: John led the discussion

- Wait on offering any conservation grants due to budget uncertainty.
- Derek will call the gentleman who makes the annual donation to confirm that he will be o.k. with the club not spending the contribution on conservation if it comes to that.
- Only the Board needs to approve the budget. It does not have to go to the membership.
- John expressed concern about the money in the Community Fund account given the uncertainties of the current economy. He suggested moving some of it into a short-term

Certificate of Deposit. The decision was to hold off doing that for now but to authorize Derek and John to make that decision at some point if they decide that it is in the club's best interest.

The Board approved the budget as presented by John. Mike made the motion. Tod provided the second. Unanimous approval.

The Board approved the club paying for Derek's upgrade of Zoom so that he can conduct meetings without worrying about a 40-minute limit to a meeting. Mike made the motion. Tod provided the second. Unanimous approval with Derek abstaining. The amount is \$17.40 a month.

Website: Discussion as to whether the club needs a members-only section on the website. There was consensus that members' personal information should not be visible to the general public. There has been continued difficulty for some new members to access the members only portion of the site. John suggested contacting a local technology company, SimplePowerIT, a company that specializes in supporting non-profits. More information will follow. No decisions were made.

Adjournment Time:

Motion to adjourn: Tod Second: Mike

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