



FLY PAPER

May 2025

Editor's Message

This will be our last newsletter before summer – when club members will be creating experiences on lake and stream and trail. I hope that you all come back with a few stories to tell. When we reconvene as a club I ask that you share – as Mike did last month and John does below. Our stories bring us together and I am so grateful for all of yours!

But first, please join us this Sunday for a final outing!

We are excited to announce a new event for the WVFF. There will be a picnic at Walla Walla Park on June 1 st . We will be at Picnic Shelter 1 from 10am to 4pm. There will be hotdogs and burgers provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnic and/or a dish to share. There will be a raffle, games, and lots of socializing before we break for the summer. Bring your fly rod and test your skills in the fly-casting challenge. Friends and family members are very welcome (We need people to eat this food!)

Fishing near Wenatchee

John Richmond

Soon after a new neighbor bought a house across the street, Will came by to chat while I was outside working on my row boat. He asked if I fished. I told him that I fly fished for trout. He asked how I did. I said it depended on the day. I added that I generally did not keep the fish but let them go hopefully unharmed. Will was puzzled by this - why would I let them go? I did not have a good answer other than the catching was the challenge, keeping was not necessary. But that got me thinking about why I fished. Books have been written on this subject. For me there are basically three reasons:

1. The fishing experience
2. The scenery
3. The camaraderie

The fishing experience

Last month Mike Wyatt described a Canadian fly fishing trip. I also go to Canada for trout fishing - Kamloops Trout are very special. But our region offers very good fishing opportunities, a lot closer and less costly. For me, catching the fish is the most important thing; it is not necessary to keep them. I like to eat trout and fish in general. But as we know it is a resource which needs protection. Releasing fish gives another

person the opportunity to have the reward of testing their fishing skills against a sometimes-formidable creature, albeit not a dangerous one.

I like the challenge - the fly to use, the size and color of the fly, the fly line size, where to fish, how deep etc. I consider myself a “duffer”, far from a skilled fisherman. I depend on others to guide me to the fish. Without that help, my fishing outings would be much less successful.

The scenery

I have always liked the outdoors. When I was younger, I did a lot of backpacking and some mountain climbing. Nowadays I accept a slower pace. Our area offers some spectacular vistas

-the foothills, the mountains, the rivers and the lakes. Coming from the “coast”, clear skies most of the year, the distinct seasons of the year provide a variety of vistas even from my living room.

There are fishing opportunities all year long. I have even gone ice fishing, not really fly fishing but fishing nonetheless. Fishing locations are in all directions from Wenatchee generally within a day. For those who have attended the February meetings with the Wash Dept fisheries people, the trout fishing opinions are almost limitless, difficult to visit even on a multi year time frame. My focus is lakes, but the rivers also beckon. Just watching salmon spawning in a stream after traveling thousands of miles is a memorable experience.

The camaraderie

Fishing can be a solitary sport. I like companions -people whose company I enjoy and who like to fish. The club provides an opportunity to find those kind of folks. The members of the club have a wealth of knowledge ready to share their secrets just for the asking. Finding a fishing partner can be a challenge. The club outings offer another way to get some points to improve your fishing. It is an option to get the benefits of good advice and still fish on your own basis.

So the next time Will stops by to chat, maybe I can better explain to him why I fish. If he is interested, I will offer to take him out to try it. I think Fish Lake near Lake Wenatchee would be a good spot to start. I have always (almost) had good luck there. It is close and in a beautiful setting. Wind can be a problem, so we would need to go early in the day.

Anyway I will see what he says.

Looking Downstream

WVFFs Picnic, June 1, 10 am to 4 pm, Walla Walla Park

We had our members meeting again at Pinnacle Beerworks on May 15, 2025. Our next

members' meeting isn't until September 18, 2025, and it will be at Pinnacle again unless otherwise advertised. President, Derek Corder, did a presentation on Fly Fishing Safety and Etiquette. Stay safe this summer on your travels. Take pics and bring stories to share this December at our special members' meeting.



Outings Report

Outing Report Big Twin Lake

Fishing was a little slow but there were fun times to be had up at Big Twin Lake. The weather managed to hold until Sunday afternoon when it rained hard. Big thank you to Bob and Ann Bartlett for hosting the BBQ lunch and Potluck Dinner at their campsite. We have been very fortunate these past three years in securing this ideal spot. The owners of the campground have been very welcoming and generous hosts. They work very hard to keep the campground clean and orderly. I am happy to report that nearly every spot was reserved.



Outing Report Beehive Reservoir

Rain dampened the outing a little up at Beehive, but the trout were biting. I caught two before the rain finally defeated me. It has turned out to be a wet and cold spring this year. Despite this, several students from the flyfishing class came up to put everything they've learned from Gary Anderson and Tom Whiteside to use.



**Minutes
Virtual Board Meeting
5/1/25**

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

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Approval of April 3, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes (taken by Mike Wyant)
Motion by Wyant, second by Corder, Unanimous Approval

Current Finances: John reported that the club has \$10,160 in the bank.

Community Fund: There has been no report on the status of the fund since March. John will research short term Certificate of Deposit options at a couple of local banks. There is no penalty that affects the principle if funds in a CD are withdrawn early. There is an interest penalty if that happens. If the Community Fund goes down again John will withdraw the club's money. An emergency Board meeting will be required for that to take place.

President's report:

- Portable toilet at Grimes Lake: No need to notify Apple Valley Pumping Service that a toilet will not be needed at Grimes Lake again.

- Derek may not be able to find a certified casting instructor for the event in June. Skilled casters among club members may be called on to help.
- Membership e-mail: Derek is going to use Mail Chimp to e-mail members. It is free and convenient and effective to use.
- No Board meetings during June, July and August.

Outings:

12 – 14 members showed up for the Blue Lake, Okanogan County outing. Fishing was generally slow but some nice fish were caught.

Big Twin Lake: All of the cabins are booked by club members. It appears that there will be a good turnout for the outing.

Adjournment Time:

Motion to adjourn: motion by Wyant, second by Corder
Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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