



FLY PAPER

November 2025

November Flypaper President's Message

President's Message

It's finally feeling like fall with Daylight Savings time making our evenings darker. That also means our Annual Banquet and Auction is just around the corner. I am excited to announce that the Banquet and Auction will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center on Saturday January 17, 2026.

- Ticket sales will open on Monday November 17. The early bird special is \$50 per ticket, and each ticket will have 10 free raffle tickets included. (Additional raffle tickets will be \$1 each) The early bird special ends December 31 at 11:59pm. The price then goes up to \$60 per ticket with no free raffle tickets included.
- The dinner menu is as follows: Prime Rib with Applewood Smoked Spices, Bourbon-Glazed Salmon Filet, Roasted Baby Potatoes with Root Vegetables, Penne Pasta in Creamy Alfredo Sauce, Seasonal vegetable medley, Apple Waldorf Green Salad, Fresh Fruit Bowl, Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter, Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Chef's Choice Desert. An onsite bartender will be available for attendees to purchase alcoholic beverages.
- Our live auction will feature a trip for two from the Evening Hatch Fly Shop and Guides. The package is for two people, three days and three nights at any of their Washington operations that offer lodging and fishing. Please check them out here for more information www.theeveninghatch.com (This will not be the only live auction item)

Our next meeting will be held on Monday November 17, 2025, at Pinnacle Beerworks 5pm-8pm. The speaker is Jason Lundgren of Cascade Fisheries. He will give us a progress report on the conservation work he and his group have been up to. WVFF donated \$800 to their cause last December.

This is a reminder that the December meeting features us, the membership, and I would love to hear from you and get your stories, pictures, and videos of your fishing trips this year. We will meet at Pinnacle Beerworks on Monday December 15th at 5pm-8pm.

There is also an important update regarding Chopaka. Methow Valley Flyfishers President, Pete Speer, and Jim King of the Okanogan County Flyfishing Club have this to report:

On Wednesday September 17, 2025 representatives of the Methow Valley and Okanogan fly clubs attended a meeting with WDFW officials at Chopaka Lake to discuss the condition of the water diversion on Chopaka Creek and to get an idea of when repairs could take place and water restored to the lake. The landowner of the diversion site was also present.

One key observation came out of the meeting: it appears that the diversion dam was purposely sabotaged by an unknown person(s). It looked like someone had packed dirt into the culvert opening and bent the stoplog guides to prevent diversion of water to Chopaka Lake.

On October 14th Pete Speer (MVFF) had a phone conversation with Brian Gaston, the new Regional Habitat Program Manager out of Ephrata. Brian called to give Pete an update on the Chopaka diversion after a recent meeting with WDFW management in Ephrata. They are actively working on solutions to the problem, including:

- Working on design solutions to repair the dam, prevent tampering and reduce chances of future vandalism*
- Revising relevant agreements to bring them up to date with current realities*

- *Redoing the HPA to address the entire system, including 9 Mile creek*
- *WDFW is pleased to have a good relationship with the landowner*
- *The solution may not get fully implemented until the next “work window” (spring 2026)*

Chad Jackson reported 11/04 that WDFW staff had a window of opportunity to clean out and repair the Chopaka Lake diversion structure last week and again this past Monday Nov. 3rd. He reported that the pipe leading to the lake needs a little more work. That work will probably be done sometime early next year. Justin Hauge and Chad Jackson will be working on the water rights this fall to make sure all is squared away with that. So, good things are happening before the snow flies!

The Methow Valley Fly Fishers and Okanogan Fly Fishers clubs would welcome your club’s expression of appreciation of WDFW’s work on Chopaka. We recommend contacting WDFW in writing by snail mail to express your support of their work to ensure the level of the lake is restored ASAP.

*Mailing address: Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, 1550 Alder Street NW,
Ephrata, WA 98823-9699*

Key contacts: Chad Jackson, Justin Hauge and Brian Gaston.

Phone: (509) 431-0339

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Pete Speer

Methow Valley Fly Fishers

Jim King

Okanogan County Fly Fishing Club

On a final note, I want to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility this year. There have been a lot of changes and challenges, and I thank you all for your support. As my tenure draws to a close, I look forward to welcoming the new president (whomever that may be). JC Blankenship has generously volunteered to be the Nomination Committee, and he will be contacting the membership regarding the many opportunities available.

Tight Lines,
Derek Corder
WVFF President

Looking Upstream

WVFF's last meeting was held at Pinnacle Beerworks (18N Mission Street) on October 20.

Tom Whitesides was WVFF's guest speaker in October. Tom's technical description of various techniques serves as reminder that WVFF provides expertise that is invaluable to new and experienced fly fishers.





Looking Downstream

Next Club Meeting

Monday November 17. Pinnacle Beerworks, 5:00-8:30 pm.

A Note from Editor

Some learn to flyfish in the laps of their mother or father who themselves fell in love with the sport in upland rivers and lakes. Their gear – fishing essentials – and tacit knowledge of where to fish, what to tie, how to look and feel – is passed down in DNA and real-life failings in the field while still too young to know fear or shame. We simply become...and then its second nature and off we go, barely differentiating our life in the real world from the only world that matters – on shore, on water, in current – focused solely on the nooks and crannies that bear our shimmering friends. Not prey exactly, but frenemies.

Many of us have come to the sport some other way. We may camp or hike in the woods, may hunt for fowl or game. We may even know the jolt and pull of lure fishing for bass or pike. But our 21st century work lives more likely have drained the wild out of us, and this sport simply feels strange. More likely, we are unfamiliar, unaccustomed, and, if we are honest, we are full of fear and trepidation. We seek those who will make this strange sport of catch and release

– where some actually fish with hookless flies just to become one with the fish. Imagine...stalking rocks and eddies with a naked fly just for a the chance to say *hi!*

The paragons of our club come through: teaching us in the WVC class, at fly tying and club meetings, and in the field. Over time, we too grow fins and gills, breathing in beautiful places, watching caddis and mayflies, digging up strange aquatics under rock,...and learning to think like a trout.



*the White River on a beautiful
October morning.*

When we truly get it, when we truly learn to breathe it all in, catching a trout scarcely matters. We are equipped, and we can see, and all the noise of modernity has fallen away and we can just be.





(Photos by Tod Treat)

*From the river's plashy bank,
Where the sedge grows green and rank,
And the twisted woodbine springs,
Upward speeds the morning lark
To its silver cloud — and hark!
On his way the woodman sings.*

*On the dim and misty lakes
Gloriously the morning breaks,
And the eagle's on his cloud: —
Whilst the wind, with sighing, woos
To its arms the chaste cold ooze,
And the rustling reeds pipe loud.*

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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