



## Washington Fly Fishing Club

January 10, 2023  
Zoom Board meeting

	OFFICERS			COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
Danferd Henke	President	P	Bill Neal	Awards	
Jim Beck	1st VP - Membership	P	Robert Thorpe	Conservation	P
Neal Hoffberg	2nd VP - Programs	P	David Ehrich	Creel Notes	
Jim Goedart	3rd VP - Fundraising		Neal Hoffberg	Education	P
Kurt Peterson	Treasurer	P	Pat Becker	Fruit & Flowers	P
Shelley Scheff	Secretary	P	Robert Thorpe	IFFF Coordinator	P
James Emswiler	1 <sup>st</sup> Ghillie	P		Outings	
Paul Buehrens	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ghillie (non-voting)	P		Photographer	
	TRUSTEES		Lily Cutler	Publicity	P
Dave Spratt	Past President	P		Raffle	
Pat Becker	Trustee	P	Pete Baird	Senior Advisor	
Jay Deeds	Trustee		Jim Goedhart	Webmaster	
Gary Bergquist	Trustee		Eugene Bloundel	Webmaster	
Chapin Henry	Trustee	P	Chuck Ballard	WFFC Heritage	P
Tom Neu	Trustee	P	Marcia Kinsinger	WFFC Foundation	
John Gravendyk	Trustee	P	John Gravendyk	Youth	P
	GUESTS		FFI Coordinator	Neal Hoffberg	P

P = Present

### **President**

Danferd Henke opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. with 11 officers and trustees.

**Approval of Minutes of December Board Meeting:** John Gravendyk and Chuck Ballard requested two corrections to the minutes. These have been updated by the secretary and the minutes were approved.



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### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

#### **PRESIDENT      Danferd Henke**

Danferd initiated a discussion regarding the one unsold live auction item - an all inclusive one week stay at the Naknek River Camp in Alaska. The package includes lodging, food, and guided fishing. The item was pulled during the live auction by Jim Goedhart due to the low bidding amount. The question is, "What do we do with the item?". Danferd has a personal relationship with the owner and would like this to remain in good standing so he believes the package needs to be sold. The package was donated in full so any amount paid will be monetized directly for the club. Suggestions included posting an ad on the WFFC website forum, contacting the highest bidder from the live auction, and asking the owner of the package to carry the donation over to next year. Dan will speak with Jim to discuss these options.

Danferd recommends a review of the holiday fundraiser by a small group, also known as a hot wash. This review will examine all aspects of the event and identify any changes that may be beneficial. Danferd requests volunteers to form a small committee to address these concerns. Jim Goedhart was volunteered but was not present to confirm - Danferd will reach out to him. Kurt Peterson, Dave Spratt, and Lily Cutler also volunteered. Paul Buehrens suggests sending a survey monkey to members who did not attend in order to get that group's perspective of what, if any, changes may improve their attendance at future events.

Danferd expressed his thanks to everyone who served last year especially those who were instrumental in resuming in-person meetings, finding a more affordable venue, and resuming outings. He acknowledged the passing of several club members last year - Kurt Jacobs, Bob Birkner, and Dave Schorsch. The club has received a bequest from Kurt Jacobs' estate. Danferd asks to let him know of any other members who have passed. He also requests anyone who is interested to share memories of departed members. He plans to say a few words at the January meeting regarding this matter.

#### **TREASURER      Kurt Peterson**

Kurt presented an in-depth year end/year start review ledger summary as well as a holiday fundraiser summary. The pertinent financial documents are included in the minutes.

Kurt presented a preliminary budget for 2023 which is included in the minutes. He also presented budget sheets for each board member and committee chair and



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requested review of the proposed budget. These sheets will be sent to the appropriate people by Kurt. They are also included in the minutes. Kurt encourages anyone who has questions to call him at any time.

WFFC - BECU Signature Card Transfer of Officers resolution was put forth and approved as follows: IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Washington Fly Fishing Club (the "Club"), that commencing immediately Danferd Henke, President, and Kurt Peterson, Treasurer shall be authorized signatories on the Club's BECU bank accounts, including all checking, savings, and money market accounts and that David Spratt, past President shall be removed as an authorized signatory on the Club's BECU accounts.

### **MEMBERSHIP     Jim Beck**

Jim reported the WFFC has 154 members. These include 130 active members, 12 associate members, 2 honorary members, and 10 senior members. Of the 130 active members, 24 have paid. Of the 12 associate members, 4 have paid. That leaves 114 members who have not paid. Jim plans to send a blast message to the club reminding members of the importance of paying their dues. Following the message, a phone tree will be established to call those members whose dues remain outstanding.

Jim reports his primary goal is to maintain current membership, increase engagement of current members, and add new members.

### **PROGRAMS     Neal Hoffberg**

John Shaner is confirmed for the January meeting. He will be presenting the History of the House of Hardy. He will also tie a fly - the North Country Spider. Concern was raised regarding the timing of the meeting as the award ceremony will also be conducted. Danferd will speak to Bill Neal about the timing of the presentations and speeches.

Mac Brown is confirmed for the September meeting. He will be presenting on line control.

The only meeting that does not yet have a speaker confirmed is the November meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Conservation     Robert Thorpe**



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Robert Thorpe expressed his continued commitment to fund-raising efforts and support for conservation topics. He plans to reach out to new members and younger members to increase engagement in conservation efforts. He recommends continued funding relationships with the MVFFC, FFI, and 3 Rivers.

### **Education Neal Hoffberg**

The curriculum for the casting class has been completed, updated from the original outline written by Don Simonson. Jim Black, CI, will be the lead instructor for the casting class. The date is tentatively set for April 13th. Please reach out to Neal regarding your date preference. A location for the class still needs to be determined. Various parks around Mercer Island are being considered. Robert Thorpe volunteered to be the liaison between the WFFC and the Mercer Island Parks Department in order to secure a site.

Dick Brening is working on organizing the fly tying class. This class is also in need of a location. Peter's church is no longer able to host up. Neal has spoken with a nearby synagogue, Herzl-New Tamid, to inquire about availability of that space. We are unable to use public spaces because the club charges for the class.

Continued discussion regarding the previously suggested option of conducting group fly tying forum before the monthly meetings. As the January speaker is planning to tie a fly, it was decided that there will not be a club fly tying gathering so as to not compete with the speaker. Chuck will tie a fly at the February meeting. Decision regarding holding the forum at that time has been tabled to the next board meeting.

### **Fruit and Flowers Pat Becker**

Pat has, unfortunately, been busy with fruits and flowers responsibilities as of late. As mentioned above, Dave Schorsch and Bob Birkner have passed away. Additionally, Peter Cumbaker passed away suddenly due to an encounter with bees resulting in anaphylactic shock. Sympathies and condolences have been offered.

### **Youth John Gravendyk**

John reports the Mayfly Project and the Youth Academy both had successful years. He is looking for ways to get new members involved in youth initiatives.



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### **Heritage      Chuck Ballard**

Chuck video recorded Pete Baird's at the Holiday Party and took several pictures. He asks if we need a signed photo release form in order to share the pictures. Danferd will look into this matter.

Chuck plans to resume video recording of elder club members in the new year.

### **FFI      Neal Hoffberg**

The FFI Washington State Council Fly Casting Fair will be held on April 29th at Ballinger Lake from 9-4. Many educational opportunities are available including a women's class, kid's class, tying demonstrations, and casting skills workshops.

### **WFFC Foundation interface      Jim Goedhart**

No report as Jim is not present.

### **Webmaster      Jim Goedhart**

No report as Jim is not present

### **Creel Notes      Dave Ehrich**

No report as Dave is not present. Danferd is hoping to establish a "Fly Tyers Corner" as part of the creel notes. This will be a short piece about fly tying.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **The Club's Immediate Needs, from the Perspective of the Incoming President**

Danferd reports an important goal is to share the club's mission with members and the public.

A top priority for the club is outings. Danferd is seeking a new outings chair and/or outings committee. He suggests that upcoming outings should be a combination of 1-day excursions as well as overnight events. Chuck recommends simplifying the outings. The focus should be on the most important aspects including gathering around the campfire, sharing stories, and building relationships. Robert Thorpe



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volunteered to help with some outing planning. Please contact Danferd if you are interested in chairing the outing committee or being part of the committee. Please also contact Danferd with any outing location suggestions.

Another focus for this year is improving attendance at monthly meetings and increasing engagement of the organization's members. It was suggested that committee reports resume at monthly meetings. This may offer newer members information regarding opportunities to get involved. It was also suggested that committee chairs solicit new members who expressed interest in their specific committee area of focus.

Succession planning was also discussed by Danferd. He suggests that all committee chairs should be looking for a successor. This will include finding someone with similar interests and including them in more committee leadership opportunities.

Lastly, public engagement was discussed. Danferd suggests increasing the club's social media presence. He will look into the photo release matter in order to determine if photos of club members can be posted. Lily volunteered to help with Instagram but is not interested in posting on Facebook. Dave Spratt also volunteered to help. Neal suggested reach out to the FFI social media coordinator as that group is quite active. Danferd endorsed that "old school" methods continue to be important such as distributing the club's updated brochures to local fly shops.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 by Danferd Henke.

Respectfully submitted

Shelley Scheff,  
WFFC Secretary



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