



Washington Fly Fishing Club

March 7, 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 | P | Neal Hoffberg | Education | P |
| Kurt Peterson | Treasurer | P | Pat Becker | Fruit & Flowers | |
| Shelley Scheff | Secretary | P | Robert Thorpe | IFFF Coordinator | P |
| James Emswiler | 1 st Ghillie | P | Michael Nolan | Outings | P |
| Paul Buehrens | 2 nd Ghillie (non-voting) | P | | Photographer | |
| | TRUSTEES | | Lily Cutler | Publicity | |
| Dave Spratt | Past President | | | Raffle | |
| Pat Becker | Trustee | | Pete Baird | Senior Advisor | P |
| Jay Deeds | Trustee | P | Jim Goedhart | Webmaster | P |
| Gary Bergquist | Trustee | P | Eugene Bloundel | Webmaster | |
| Chapin Henry | Trustee | P | Chuck Ballard | WFFC Heritage | P |
| Tom Neu | Trustee | P | Marcia Kinsinger | WFFC Foundation | |
| John Gravendyk | Trustee | | John Gravendyk | Youth | |
| | GUESTS | | FFI Coordinator | Neal Hoffberg | P |
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P = Present

President

Danferd Henke opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. with 12 officers and trustees.

Approval of Minutes of February Board Meeting:

The minutes were approved with no updates.



Washington Fly Fishing Club

March 7, 2023

Zoom Board meeting

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

PRESIDENT Danferd Henke

Dan opened the meeting with a discussion of dues payment. Many members have still not paid their dues. Dan recommended that we waive the penalty fee for late dues until at least April 1st. Tom N agrees. Jim G mentioned that many long-standing club members have not paid their dues. The phone tree has been initiated. Please continue to contact the members on your assigned branch of the phone tree. Dan's tree has had mixed results - some of the people he contacted paid, some no longer want to be involved in the club.

TREASURER Kurt Peterson

Kurt is awaiting the dues to come in. He has provided the check registers for last month. These will be forwarded to the president with the meeting minutes.

MEMBERSHIP Jim Beck

Jim reported that 100 people have paid their membership fees, leaving 55 who have not paid their membership fees. 38 members have been part of the club for over 30 years and several have requested to receive emeritus status. The criteria to become a "senior" member is age 85 years with at least 30 years of membership.

Jim asks if unpaid members should be put in suspended status. The board agrees - Not Yet! Jim will send out another blast email reminder. The phone tree will continue although the matter was brought up that the only people who respond to the outreach are the ones who are planning to pay their dues. Dan says we should continue working on our assigned branches of the phone tree - call those people who have not yet responded. The new deadline for dues payment is April 1st.

Questions were raised regarding several new members. Gary Baughman has already been inducted. Julie Hanata has never been to a meeting - Dan knows her and tells the group that she is not yet comfortable attending meetings due to COVID-19 concerns. Mike Frank has attended a meeting and reportedly had a good experience. There have been 4 additional applications since January.

Jay Deeds suggests bringing back the "sponsor" program. It was suggested that we update the terminology to "mentor" program. Robert Thorpe agrees that this is a good



Washington Fly Fishing Club

March 7, 2023

Zoom Board meeting

idea as he feels it is important that there is someone at the meeting whose job it is to make the new members feel comfortable. Apparently, one of the responsibilities of the 2nd Ghillie is to help welcome people - Paul was not aware of this responsibility. Historically, new members and/or applicants wore red stars on their badges in order to help identify them as new. Is there a way we can bring back the system of identifying new members? Chuck suggests that if you see someone you don't know, just engage them. Robert Thorpe noted that our club may be off-putting because we have a reputation of being a corporate or stodgy club. A positive aspect of our club is that we have a great deal of experience amongst our members.

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

PUBLICITY

The publicity committee is in progress. Lily might be interested in helping. How effective is Meetup? What other advertising can we offer? The log-in information for the Facebook and Instagram pages is unknown. So those old accounts have been removed. New accounts will be created so that our club's information can be more widely shared.

PROGRAMS **Neal Hoffberg**

Neal reports that, unfortunately, the club's education programs are ailing. Only two people have signed up for the casting class. This is not enough people for the instructor (Jim Black) to teach the class. The same is true for the Intro to Fly Fishing and Fly Tying classes. Similarly, the Washington State Council of FFI only has a few people signed up for their upcoming casting classes.

Ruth Sims has offered to conduct an intermediate and advanced casting class. This will be free for club members.

This month's meeting speaker, Michael Schmuck, will be live. Chuck will tie a fly at March's meeting. He will start at 4:30.



Washington Fly Fishing Club

March 7, 2023

Zoom Board meeting

Committee Reports:

Conservation Robert Thorpe

Robert continues to meet with many clubs within the state to discuss conservation matters. These clubs include the Methow Valley Fly Fishing Club as well as 3 Rivers Trout Unlimited club. Robert and Neal are working together on the upcoming FFI casting event. Robert's son, Brooke, has joined a group at his university to raise money for Healing Waters. They are also planning to do a restoration project on Mercer Island. Dan has been in contact with the Presidents of other fishing clubs with the hope of facilitating increased collaboration for conservation and education goals.

Education Neal Hoffberg

The beginning fly tying class has been canceled due to insufficient sign-ups.

The beginning fly casting class will begin April 5th and will include 5 sessions. The casting class will be held at Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island. Two people have signed up for this class. More emails will be sent as well as an announcement at the next meeting.

Continued discussion regarding the previously suggested option of conducting a group fly tying forum before the monthly meetings. Chuck will tie a fly at the beginning of the March meeting. He will start at 4:30.

Fruit and Flowers Pat Becker

No updates.

Outings Mike Nolan

THANK YOU MIKE FOR BECOMING OUTINGS CHAIR!

Mike is adding a monthly outings update in the Creel Notes. He continues to welcome anyone who is interested in hosting an outing. Please contact him if interested.

A new outing has been added for August, 2023 - Cooper Lake.

Leech Lake has been confirmed, June 24-25. Mike was able to negotiate a 1-night stay



Washington Fly Fishing Club

March 7, 2023

Zoom Board meeting

rather than the typical 2-night minimum. Ben D will book a condo in order to allow for use of the grounds. He requests a \$100 reimbursement. This was approved.

There is a situation on the website when people sign-up for outings. A box can be selected to “hide my data from public view”. Can this be removed? Concern that people may sign-up but the host will not know who they are. Jim G said that the host will always be able to see the attendees. The checked box will just prevent other attendees from seeing your information.

Robert is willing to help with North and Central Washington outings. He has a camper, boats, and can carry supplies.

Mike would like to visit the storage facility in order to inventory the outings supplies. Jim G, Jim B and Dan will try to arrange a date/time to meet at the storage facility soon.

Youth **John Gravendyk**

John is not present so Jim G provides a brief report. 10 students have signed up for the youth academy. There are 4 spots left. The program includes a free fly rod and reel and a week of fly fishing instruction. This is a great deal. If you know of any interested kids, here is the website: <https://nwycffa.com>.

Heritage **Chuck Ballard**

Chuck has received the edited video from Mike Nolan of Pete’s poem. He just needs to post it. He also has an old Boyd Aigner video that should be put up on the website.

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 (ages 10-14 years); beginning, intermediate, advanced, and spey casting classes; walk-in casting clinic; fly tying demonstrations; and casting skills workshops.

WFFC Foundation interface **Jim Goedhart**

The remaining auction item, the Alaska fishing trip, has been SOLD! To Ben Davidson. For \$2500. A check will be sent to Kurt.



Washington Fly Fishing Club

March 7, 2023

Zoom Board meeting

Webmaster **Jim Goedhart**

The website is “stable”.

Creel Notes **Dave Ehrich**

Dave is not present so a brief report was provided by other board members. Dave would like to resign from his position as Creel Notes editor. Chuck says that he has spoken to Ron Cheddar (?) and he has offered to help out. Dan will reach out to Ron regarding this matter. Danferd is looking for someone to write a quick update for “Fly Tyers Corner” as part of the creel notes. This will be a short piece about fly tying. Neal will provide a piece he has already written for a different organization.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fly Tying at monthly club meetings:

Feedback suggests that a demonstration fly tyer at meetings would be appreciated. The February speaker will tie several flies. Chuck offered to tie a fly at the March meeting. A coordinator is needed to organize tyers at future meetings. Chuck and Neal will reach out to members to recruit fly tying volunteers.

Fly Tying in Creel Notes:

Dan will ask for Creel Notes contribution for “Fly Tyers Corner”

NEW BUSINESS:

COVID-19 Outbreak at the February Meeting

Multiple club members tested positive for COVID after the February meeting. The only contact they all shared was attendance at the meeting. So our meeting appears to have caused an outbreak. What do we do about it?

Paul B informed us that everyone over 65 will be symptomatic if they are COVID positive. Only young people will be asymptomatic and COVID positive. So the best thing we can do is **strongly** encourage members to stay home if they are not feeling well. We will also provide a box of masks at the Ghillie table for people to use if they



Washington Fly Fishing Club

March 7, 2023

Zoom Board meeting

would like. There is not much more we can do to prevent the spread of the virus. Paul B also informed us that the optimal testing window is 36-72 hours after symptom onset.

Food at Meetings

Dan received good reviews about the new caterer. The pricing is also exactly at the price we charge. If we occasionally go over \$25 per person, the extra cost can be balanced out by ordering pizza for a meeting. Kurt ran the numbers on drinks and the reimbursement was correct. For meals, it is extremely helpful for attendees to sign-up early. A question was raised regarding how to handle walk-ins. Dan will increase the number of anticipated walk-ins so that we do not run out of food.

Proposal to Reduce Quorum Requirement in Bylaws from 25% to 15%

Dan is preparing a written proposal to decrease the quorum requirement from 25% to 15%. He will ask for board approval at the next board meeting and a vote will be held later in the year at a member meeting.

Website Changes

The website is currently “stable”. Dan would like ideas to improve the website as it is at the core of our relationship to the world. It has become our primary means of communication with the club. We need to engage other social media options to drive traffic to the website. Lily has expressed some interest in helping with publicity, including social media.

Several website improvement ideas were offered: Start a blog; Rejuvenate the old forum and generate notifications of new posts; post flys; improve the “tips and tricks” section. Dan believes that there are many opportunities to generate interest. This discussion will be continued at the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 by Danferd Henke.

Respectfully submitted

Shelley Scheff,
WFFC Secretary



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Zoom Board meeting