



## Washington Fly Fishing Club

April 4, 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 <sup>st</sup> Ghillie	P	Michael Nolan	Outings	P
Paul Buehrens	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ghillie (non-voting)	P		Photographer	
	TRUSTEES		Lily Cutler	Publicity	
Dave Spratt	Past President			Raffle	
Pat Becker	Trustee	P	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	P	John Gravendyk	Youth	P
	GUESTS		FFI Coordinator	Neal Hoffberg	P

P = Present

### **President**

Danferd Henke opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. with 14 officers and trustees.

### **Approval of Minutes of March Board Meeting:**

The minutes were approved with no updates.



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### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

#### **TREASURER      Kurt Peterson**

Kurt presented Q1/2023 report. 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 113 people have paid their membership fees, leaving 40 who have not paid their membership fees. 10 unpaid members have been members of the club for over 10 years. 4 unpaid members have been members of the club for over 5 years. 26 unpaid members are new to the club, having joined last year. Jack Troutman will turn 80 in June and has been a member for 50 years. He is requesting senior status.

Jim and Chapin called everyone on the unpaid list. This effort was marginally successful. Some of the members they contacted have paid their dues. One provided negative feedback regarding the lack of friendliness he experienced at an outing. Some people expressed that they are too old to fish and no longer benefit from membership in the club. Some members found the website too cumbersome. If unable or unwilling to pay on-line, they are welcome to send a check. An inquiry was made if the website could be made more user friendly. Dan said this is in the works but will take time. Jim G said that the website is working fine.

A lively discussion ensued regarding options to recruit new members as well as approaches to make people who are considering membership and/or new members feel more welcome both at meetings and at outings. Robert T suggests allowing members to pay someone else's dues who may be experiencing financial hardship. A specific member's name was brought up and Jim G said he will pay that individual's membership dues. Robert T suggested allowing people under 21 to join. Dan suggests a student membership price. Chuck suggests a periodic "seminar" format at meetings. Chuck suggests name tags at outings. Dan suggests a "welcome banner" at outings. Robert T suggests better signage at outings. Dan suggests that one person needs to take the initiative at outings and be the designated welcoming committee (of one). Please introduce yourself to anyone you don't know, initiate conversation, and welcome them.



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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.

### **PROGRAMS**      **Neal Hoffberg**

Neal reports that monthly meeting speakers have been booked for the year and he is now working on next year. George Pess from NOAA is booked for January, 2024. He will offer a presentation on the Elwa. Unfortunately, only two people signed up for the beginning fly tying class so class was canceled due to low sign-ups. Dick B met with the two people who signed up in order to coordinate individual lessons. Neal offers a perspective about marketing and publicity. He reports that he spoke to a friend and CI in California about what their clubs do for marketing. They have tried newspaper ads, Facebook, and MeetUp but only obtained one new member from those efforts. They have found word-of-mouth to be the most effective.

Beginning casting class starts April 5th in Luther Burbank Park. If anyone is interested in helping, please just stop by.

The FFI event on April 29th is nearly full. WFFC will have a table at that event.

### **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'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. Neal reminds the group that Project Healing Waters has a volunteer vetting process. Dan sent a request to club members to contact Lone Lake regarding the algae issue. He would like the club to consider getting involved in the project.

Correction to originally submitted meeting minutes per email from Robert Thorpe dated 5/2/2023 as follows: "Brook Thorpe --Env Sci major at UW Bothell--last year is working with UW and UWB instructors thru 3 Rivers on fish counts, stream restoration and volunteering for Healing Waters again this year --# Rivers is I assume fully qualified to do Healing Waters--I will join them and am recruiting from 70 member organized UW house( Kappa Sigma students to help with



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HWs and restoration projects --They also do UW-WSU Apple Cup Run for donations to Military Heroes/Fisher Houses So my efforts are to reach out to yponger potential members thru Consv efforts of WFFC/3 Rivers/MVFF and Spokane/Tu/FFi-"

### **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.

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

Mike Wearne is hospitalized due to an infected, necrotic, and now amputated toe. Pat visited him and brought beef jerky and cough drops which were appreciated. His son is scheduled to arrive today. Mike W will not be able to help with the Lake Hannon outing due to this illness and need for rehabilitation. The outings committee has offered to help with the outing.

Correction to originally submitted meeting minutes per email from Robert Thorpe dated 5/2/2023 as follows: "On visits to Mike Wearne --I thought I said --my wife Anne and thru her Twin Elizebeth (Libbet)Roberts was checking in on Mike regularly --and available to visit later --rather than me being in contact --but giving morale support to Twins --- for Mikes recovery."

### **Outings Mike Nolan**

THANK YOU MIKE FOR BECOMING OUTINGS CHAIR!

Mike thanked the membership team for sharing the one member's feedback regarding the unwelcoming vibe at a past outing. He notes a new member is signed up for the April outing and Mike is planning to call that person to introduce himself. The Quincy Lakes outing was a success. Everyone had a good time, the campsite was great, they had a good bonfire and they caught fish (!). Some people showed up without signing up which is something that should be remembered for the future. Jay Deeds suggests planning for 30% more people to attend than signed up. Next outing is Steep Lakes outing and will be led by John Callahan. Camping is available at Mardon Resort which is also where the club will meet. Jim worries that a legal waiver must be signed by those who do not sign-up in advance. Will provide forms for Mike to have on-hand. Walk-ins also need to pay upon arrival if money is requested. Mike has added 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.



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### **Youth**      **John Gravendyk**

13 students have signed up for the youth academy - 2 girls and 11 boys. The goal is 15 students. The cost to cover 15 kids is \$30,000. The organization currently has \$28,000. Molly Seminick will be helping with casting. Blake from Gig Harbor Fly shop will be helping for one day. Our club has donated \$1500 to the Youth Academy and \$1500 to the Mayfly Project. The Foundation has matched. Robert T Will ask the Methow Valley Fly Club for a donation. If you are interested in volunteering you must sign-up in advance. Please go to the website to sign-up: <https://nwycffa.com>. The Youth Academy camp is June 18-24.

### **Heritage**      **Chuck Ballard**

Chuck reports that Mike N has edited the holiday party video and several Boyd Aigner fly tying videos. He plans to start recording more members to contribute to the club heritage videos.

### **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**

Jim G presented a spreadsheet for Foundation donations. Asking for donations to Western Rivers Conservancy (\$2500), NW Youth Fly Fishing Academy Camp (\$1500), and Project Healing Waters (\$1000). Kris Kristoferson also requested a \$2500 donation to Reel Recovery (\$1250 from club + \$1250 Foundation match). A rousing discussion ensued regarding the decision to donate to Reel Recovery or not. Gary provides additional information regarding the mission of Reel Recovery. It is a 2.5 day intensive workshop around fly fishing for people living with cancer. It provides housing, meals, and fellowship. It is a very intense sharing experience and all equipment is provided. The discussion continued and included what types of causes to donate to and what money is earmarked for donation in the budget. It appears that the club has \$6000 extra to spend as we see fit. This is part of a conservation fund that was established 30 years ago. A motion was made to donate the requested funds and was APPROVED!



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**Webmaster**            **Jim Goedhart**

The website is “stable”. Dan has put together a small committee to help with the website.

**Creel Notes**            **Dave Ehrich**

Chuck has recruited Ron Cheddar (?) to help with Creel Notes. Ron will also join the club as a member.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Fly Tying at monthly club meetings:**

Bob will tie at the April meeting. Marcia will tie at the May meeting.

#### **Fly Tying in Creel Notes:**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Food at Meetings**

Dan received good reviews about the new caterer. People are still not signing up in advance. In February we nearly ran out of food and in March we had too much. We may need to increase the cost per person. Pizza is planned for the next meeting in order to get back on budget.

#### **Lone Lake Conservation Effort**

Dan sent a request to club members to contact Lone Lake regarding the algae issue. He would like the club to consider getting involved in the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by Danferd Henke.

Respectfully submitted

Shelley Scheff,  
WFFC Secretary



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