



# NEWSLETTER

*wmflyfishingclub.com-flyfishingwmclub.com*

*Established 1996 P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935 August, 2025*

## PRESIDENTS COLUMN

### "TIGHT LINES"

It is hard to believe we are already into August with our "Banquet" looming upon us. Your BOD has been busy with your donations and getting ready for silent auctions, raffles and door prizes. I am collecting flies for a "Guess-The-Number-Of-Flies" jar. So, if you have flies you want to donate for the jar, please bring them to the meeting. They can be any flies you want.



I have received a message that Garrett Fabian (AZGFD) has offered up several August dates for a Silver Creek Hatchery tour. I will lock down a date and let you all know as soon as I have confirmed it via an email blast to all members.

***August 12 at 8:00 a.m. tour. Meet at Silver Creek at 7:30***

I have been too busy to get out fishing, but I hope to hear some reports at our August meeting.

Once again, I want to express our sincere thanks for all your donations towards the banquet and our monthly meeting raffles.

Take care,

Your President, Mike Whitney



## ***August WMFF meeting***

***Program: "The tug is the drug and the bent pole is the goal! YOU BET!"***

***Chris Rich, Owner of Az Fly Shop,  
Scottsdale***

**Meeting held at White Mountain Nature Center**

**425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside**

**August 20, 5:30 Raffle and chatting**

**Continuing Raffle—Fundraiser—Rod and Reel**

## AUGUST PROGRAM:

**“The tug is the drug and the bent pole is the goal! YOU BET!”**

**by Chris Rich, Arizona Fly Shop in Scottsdale, Arizona**

Christopher Rich – AZ Fly Shop | Fly Fishing Advocate, Community Leader, and Conservation Partner

Christopher Rich is the founder and owner of AZ Fly Shop, a hub for Arizona’s vibrant and growing fly fishing community. With a deep passion for connecting people to the water, Christopher has dedicated himself to creating a welcoming space where anglers of all experience levels can learn, grow, and thrive in the sport of fly fishing.

Beyond the shop, Christopher is an active leader in conservation and community engagement. He partners with local and national organizations such as Trout Unlimited, Casting for Recovery, and the Homeless ID Project, leveraging the power of fly fishing to create positive change both on and off the water. AZ Fly Shop regularly hosts events that raise awareness, build community, and support these meaningful causes.

Christopher also leads hosted fly fishing adventures around the world—from the canals of Arizona to the flats of Cuba and the jungle waters of Brazil—always with a camera, a story, and a mission to inspire more people to fall in love with the sport.

With an energetic and approachable style, Christopher is passionate about sharing his journey, building community through fly fishing, and highlighting the importance of conservation and stewardship in preserving the waters we all love.



Where it all Started....,



Grace Rich, Business Manager



Jill Rich, Shop Manager



## Spotting Fish

For many thrill-seeking anglers, this one included, spotting fish before casting to them, lifts flyfishing excitement into new and dizzy heights. One thing you must try is to remain calm and tranquil while entering a Zen state of mind. Failing this, take ten deep breaths... however we have overreached ourselves; first we must learn the tricks behind fish spotting.

### Spotting

We have learned that Stealth is important if we are to discover the whereabouts of our quarry; we must tiptoe quietly around the banks, creeping along with great caution. Through understanding feeding behavior and the flow, we also discovered the likely looking places where fish are to be found. This combination of stealth and knowing where to look is paramount when attempting to spot fish.

Good water clarity obviously helps and countries such as New Zealand really lend themselves to this sort of fishing, but with care you should be able to spot fish in almost any river.

### Dress sense

The most important item for fish spotting is a good pair of Polaroid sunglasses. Polarizing lenses cut through surface glare, enabling one to see beneath the water surface. I have used many different lens colors over the years; I have tried yellow, amber and tan but without doubt the best color in my opinion is sandstone.

Polaroid lenses reduce reflected light in one direction only, so if you are facing the water at an unusual angle (sideways out of a tree for example) you may discover the polarizing to be ineffective. There are two techniques to use under such circumstances: one is to rotate your head around and the other is to wiggle the glasses about your face.

A brimmed hat is essential for fish spotting since it helps to stop light entering from above the glasses. By the same token wraparound funky style sunglasses are best.

*Now that we are fully equipped it's time to start looking...*

### The Search

"To look without looking, to see without seeing, to search without searching" It's a bit like that.

When searching for fish the important thing to remember is not to actually look for the fish themselves. Most of the fish I spot start off as shadow. The shadow of a fish is always much easier to see. Fins and especially the pectorals or tail fin can give them away since these often contrast to the river background. Wild rainbow trout sometimes have white leading edges to the pectorals making them rather easy to spot – I have often wondered why this is so incidentally. Occasionally (and this is getting pretty far out now) feeding trout can be spotted when they open their mouth; the inside is white.

Every once in a while a nymphing trout will flash its flank, revealing itself. Surface, or near-surface, feeding fish are often the most obvious since they displace water with their feeding movements.

Fish habiting pools can be the easiest to see and also the hardest to catch. Fish in riffles and runs however are the complete opposite. No prizes for guessing why. When scanning a river I try not to concentrate on the bottom itself; studying each individual feature simply doesn't work to well. When you come to likely looking water, slow down, take your time and give the fish a chance to move and reveal itself.

Spotting with the sun on your side of the river is always better and often essential, however be careful not to spook fish with your personal shadow or that of your line when you come to make the cast. With practice you quickly go from "thinking it's a fish" to simply "knowing it is a fish".

*Remember that once you have spotted your target fish to immediately dip down out of sight. Now is the time to plan your attack...*



Article submitted  
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## WMFFC MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission Statement of the White Mountain Fly Fishing Club is: "To assist in the development and maintenance of fly fishing opportunities and to promote and participate in fly fishing in its many forms."

We support the practice of "Catch and Release." We support the use of barbless hooks and harmless netting-and-release practices. Fish should never be held out of water for longer than you can hold your breath.

## No planned outing in August (We need an outing chair) HELP!!

### OUR BANQUET TICKETS ARE HERE!!! SEE BOARD member

The banquet committee has secured a place for the fundraising banquet-**September 13th at the Casino-MARK YOUR CALENDARS**. We're really excited and are starting to collect donated items.

Gary Miller is in charge of the committee. We could also use items for our monthly raffle along with our special rod raffle. See Gary Miller or members helping (Chuck Aldini, Scott & Margie Dennis, Ed Shatto, or Jon Wallace.) We can always use banquet help.

We have 150 tickets to sell for the banquet and definitely need your help. If you haven't gotten your tickets (\$50) for dinner and a delightful night at the casino. Great Silent Auction items, raffle items and lots of other fun stuff. This is YOUR club—tell your friends. Call a board member.

## *2024-25 WMFFC Board Members*

<b>President:</b>	Mike Whitney	(541) 390-5389
<b>Past President:</b>	Barry Curseaden	(623) 398-5242
<b>Vice President:</b>	Gary Hall	(480) 510-6362
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
<b>Board Member at Large:</b>	John Potts	(480) 766-8020
<b>Board Member at Large:</b>	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
<b>Board Member at Large:</b>	Margie Dennis	(602) 203-6414
<b>Board Member at Large:</b>	Jon Wallace	(480) 694-9865
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
<b>Conservation and Community Projects Chairman:</b>	Unfilled	
<b>Education Chairman:</b>	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
<b>Newsletter Chairman/Website:</b>	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
<b>IFFF Representative:</b>	Gary Hall	(480) 510-7381
<b>AZG&amp;F Liaison</b>	Larry Kivela	(480) 695-5162
<b>Inventory Chairman</b>	Scott Dennis	(602) 339-7518