



Cultivating the art of fly fishing through a spirit of fellowship and resource enhancement”

washingtoncountyyflyfishers.com

Issue 298

May 2026

Meeting Location
Westbrook Club House
14255 SW 6th Street (one block east of SW Murray)
Beaverton, OR 97005
Next Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday May 6, 2026

May Agenda

6:30-7:00	Welcome
7:00-7:15	Club business and Fishing Report
7:15-8:15	Guest Speaker – Chris Wilson – John Day River
8:15-8:30	Raffle, Door Prize and adjourn



Presidents Message

May 2026

Our May meeting continues a string of talented member presentations. Chris Wilson will be presenting on the John Day River. He will introduce you to the area around Cotton Wood Canyon State Park, including techniques, flies to use, and ideas on where to fish. He has lots of photos to share so it should be a great presentation.



Our fly-tying class has been very successful. Thirteen tiers and three instructors took tyers through five different patterns and covered many “secrets” to tying good and useful flies. Members each received a complete kit for every fly which either started their materials inventory or added significantly to it. The class has been so successful we are considering another one either later this year or early next. If you have any ideas in that regard, share them with Rick, Chuck or Dave.

Quick note – we are planning a Deschutes trip with Rob Crandall on July 9, 10, 11. If you want to go, let Galen Flinn know as soon as you can.

It’s time to start tying flies for the summer. The hatches may be a bit early this year, perhaps as much as a week and a half on the Deschutes. I am tying caddis and stonefly imitations with particular focus on caddis emergers which can be used on both rivers and lakes. In that regard, be advised that prices for tungsten beads will be rising significantly anywhere from 3X to 10X. There is a shortage of the metal worldwide due to a number of factors. Local shops are seeing the increases now.

We are looking forward to our picnic in August. We plan to have a silent auction and a raffle, so if you have anything gently used that other members might be interested in, consider donating it to the picnic.

Watch your email for news about casting classes this summer. We will likely be at the Murry Hill Pond on Murry Blvd near Scholls Ferry where we were last year. No dates are set yet.

We are always looking for new members so if you have a friend or acquaintance who fishes, tell them about the club. Mark Bray was at a lake recently and struck up a conversation with two fishers in the parking lot. They both expressed interest in the joining the club! It's that easy!

Tight Lines,

Rick Pay, President



Washington County Fly Fishers

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Club Calendar

- May
 - 6 – Club Meeting – Speaker - Chris Wilson – John Day River
 - 16 – Breakfast meeting
- June
 - 3 – Club Meeting – speaker Nick Wheeler – Equipment and flies for summer vs winter steelhead
 - 20 – Breakfast - Peppermill Lounge
- July
 - 1 – Club Meeting – speaker Chris Williams – Orvis - Carp
 - 9,10,11 – Deschutes fishing with Rob Crandall
 - 15 – Breakfast - Peppermill Lounge

- August
 - 8 – Club Picnic
 - 15 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- September
 - 2 – Club Meeting – speaker Kevin Stertz – ODFW
 - 19 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- October
 - 7 - Club Meeting – speaker Brian Bangs – US FWS – Willamette Valley Non-game Species and their interaction with game fish
 - 17 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- November
 - 4 – Club Meeting – speaker Jennifer La Follette – Golden Trout at June Lake
 - 21 - Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- December
 - 2 – Christmas Dinner
- January
 - 6 – Club Meeting
 - 16 – Breakfast
- February
 -
 - 27 – DRA Auction



Casting Into The Wind

Wind is a fact of life in the West. If you're going to fish out here, at some point you'll be doing it in the wind.



By John Juracek

A friend of mine is fond of saying that if you don't learn to fish in the wind in Montana, you'll fish two days a year. Now, he may be guilty of slight exaggeration, but his point is well taken.

Wind is a fact of life in the West. If you're going to fish out here, at some point you'll be doing it in the wind. I often field questions from visiting anglers about what adjustments are necessary when the winds start blowing.

The answer is simple: increase your line speed. All else being equal, the faster a line moves, the more energy it carries. And more energy is exactly what's necessary to offset the effects of the wind.

There are two ways to achieve higher line speed. One is to speed up your casting stroke. Moving your arm and hand faster (and therefore your rod) makes

your line move faster. The other way is to [haul with your line hand](#). Whether single or [double](#), a haul accelerates the line, imparting the extra energy needed to cut through wind.

Sounds simple enough. Is that really all there is to it? Technically, yes. Practically, well, maybe.

That's because it all depends on your casting stroke. If you have a fundamentally sound stroke, then yes, the only adjustments you need to consider are speeding up your stroke, hauling, or doing both if the wind is particularly severe. Nothing else is necessary.

Unfortunately, very few anglers possess fundamentally sound casting strokes (in my estimation it's less than 1%). So here's the crux of the issue: If you have flaws in your casting stroke the wind will, at the very least, expose them. More likely, it will exacerbate them. Simple casting situations become difficult, and difficult ones become impossible.

There is but one good way around this. Improve your fundamentals. Sure, it's sometimes possible to jerry-rig your stroke in order to get by, but any solution that fails to address proper fundamentals is destined for long-term failure. Covering up the problem is not the answer.

Because the basic principles of good fly casting are straightforward and easy to learn, we should all make an effort to learn them. But be forewarned: your fishing buddies are not the ones to listen to when it comes to casting advice (even if they're credible fishermen). Seek [professional help](#). Speaking from almost forty years of teaching experience, I guarantee you'll be glad you did.

Fishing in high winds isn't fun for anyone. But on certain days it's that or nothing. If you know enough to render the wind irrelevant, as the experts do, then you're still in the game. You'll be able to catch fish and have fun doing it. And in the end, isn't that what it's all about?

John Juracek is a fly fisherman, writer and photographer from West Yellowstone, Montana. For twenty-some years he was a partner at [Blue Ribbon Flies](#), a local fly shop, and is currently the head casting instructor at the [School of Trout](#) and [Anglers Academy](#). His writing credits include *Yellowstone: Photographs of an Angling Landscape*, [Fly Patterns of Yellowstone](#), [Fishing Yellowstone Hatches](#) and [Fly Patterns of Yellowstone, Volume Two](#).

He is considered one of the sport's expert fly casters and instructors and offers casting lessons for \$100/hour at jjuracek@gmail.com or (406) 640-2828.

Fly of the Month: The Humongous
Ralph Brooks

Background

The "Humongous" is popular among a growing number of anglers world-wide but retains a strong following in the United Kingdom, where this bugger variation originated. In addition, it has been a popular competition fly. So what gives here? It's basically a woolly bugger, right? Well, yes and no. The longer tail and hackle fibers throw a bit of wrinkle into the original bugger style and are part of what makes this so effective. Plus, it's got some nice flash on the body. At any rate, it has been fishing well in the western United States and might be worth adding to your arsenal.



How to Tie

- 1) Begin by putting a silver bead on the hook and then attaching the thread to the hook shank.
- 2) Just into the bend of the hook, tie in 4-6 pieces of silver Flashabou for the lower portion of the tail. Cut the strands so they are about 2.5 times the length of the hook.
- 3) The upper portion of the tail is black marabou and is tied above/over the Flashabou. Make the tail about the

Category	Trout
Hook	Standard wet, 2x long, sizes 8-12
Thread	Uni 6/0, black
Weight	Silver bead
Tail	Silver Flashabou & black marabou
Body	Silver tinsel chenille & silver wire
Body Hackle	Grizzly hen hackle

same length as the Flashabou.

- 4) At the tie-in point for the tail, secure a piece of 3-4 inch length of silver wire (size BR or SM) leaving the excess wire extending beyond the back of the hook.
- 5) At the tie-in point for the tail, secure a 3 inch piece of silver tinsel chenille. Wrap the chenille forward to bead using tight wraps and secure the chenille.
- 6) Select a piece of hen hackle with barbs that are slightly longer than the hook gap. Strip the lower webby/fuzzy portions of the feather and trim the excess portion of the shaft. Tie the butt of the feather immediately behind the bead. Make two wraps of hackle immediately behind the bead and then make in 3-4 wide wraps ending at the tail (palmered). Grab the wire hanging off the back of the fly and counter wrap the wire over the hackle back to behind the bead. Secure the wire with the thread, whip finish and cement.



Variations

Over time, the Humongous has inspired multiple color and style variations, including: Classic olive, black and silver, and hot orange. The weighting of the fly varies from using lead wire in the body, to using various sizes of beads, or using dumbbells.

How to Fish

[The Humongous is versatile and effective for trout actively hunting fry. Key fishing tips:](#)

- Use a floating line with a leader of 6–12 feet or a sinking line and a leader of 3-4 feet, depending on depth
- Employ a figure-eight retrieve with occasional twitches or pauses to mimic struggling prey
- Keep the hook sharp, especially during repeated casts or fast retrieves

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