

# The Flyline



Washington County Fly Fishers

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

*washingtoncountyyflyfishers.com*

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## **Meeting Location**

**Westbrook Club House**

**14255 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street (one block east of SW Murray)**

**Beaverton, OR 97005**

**Next Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday July 1, 2026**

## **July Agenda**

6:30-7:00	Welcome
7:00-7:15	Club business and Fishing Reports
7:15-8:15	<b>Guest Speaker – Nick Basaraban: Fly Fishing for Carp</b>
8:15-8:30	Raffle, Door Prize and adjourn

## President's Message

July 2026

As we enter the dog days of summer, we are cautiously watching water levels and temperatures, hopeful that our rivers will continue to flow at levels and temperatures that support trout and steelhead. We have already observed lakes that are too low to fish. Remember, when the temperature of any water gets at or over 68 degrees, it is best to stop fishing for trout so as not to exhaust and potentially kill fish. Also remember that the surface temperature of a lake may or may not represent the temperatures at depth. In any case, take care to protect our fishing resources.



Our July speaker will be Nick Basaraban of Royal Treatment Fly Shop talking about fishing for carp. That is one fish that can take the higher temperature waters and they are called fresh water bone fish for a reason. They can really give you a reel screaming battle. Nick will cover equipment, flies, strategy and waters to fish. He may even have a box of flies for the door prize. See you at the club house July 1 at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7.

In July we are looking at an outing to either Cold Water Lake or Goose Lake, both in Washington. Water levels will drive the choice. In August we are looking at possible bass fishing options. We will have several outings in September and October. And, of course the breakfasts will continue on the third Saturday of the month.

August 8 (Saturday) will be the club picnic in lieu of a normal meeting for August. It will be at the club house around 4 pm. The club will furnish the main course and water/sodas with members pot-luck for the rest. Bring a salad or dessert to share. We are planning a raffle and silent auction of some nice items and also a casting clinic. Save the date!!

Finally, John Gillingham has notified the Board that he will be retiring as Treasurer next February after well over 14 years of outstanding service. We really appreciate all he has done to keep the finances in order. We thought we had a replacement but circumstances have changed. We Need A Treasurer!! Please consider running to help your club - we need you!

My thanks to Mark Bray for arranging some great outings for the club. He has really stepped up and has explored some great places to fish!

Tight Lines,

Rick Pay, President



## Washington County Fly Fishers

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### Club Calendar

- July
  - 1 – Club Meeting – speaker Nick Basaraban - Royal Treatment Fly Shop - Carp
  - 10 – 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
  - 3 – Club Meeting and Annual Meeting/Elections
  - 20 - Breakfast
  - 27 – DRA Auction

Going ultra-thin for a better Euro-nymphing rig

## "Thinning out" your mono-rig can pay big dividends when Euro-nymphing

*by George Daniel, Hatch Magazine- Thursday, Mar 23rd, 2023*

The fly-fishing systems we employ should draw on our knowledge and streamside experience. The system described below, which focuses on using ultra-thin mono to build a Euro-nymphing rig, was developed based on those two criteria. Everyone's knowledge and experiences—as well as the water types we each fish—differ, so take what you read below and apply it to your fisheries accordingly. Hopefully, you'll find a bit of information that helps you with your journey towards becoming a more effective Euro-nymphing angler.

### **THE SPECS**

When constructing an ultra-thin Euro-nymphing rig, I utilize 35-40' of 6lb Maxima Chameleon (connected directly to backing) followed by 2' of 3X or 4X Scientific Angler sighter material, then a level segment of 4X-6X tippet. When fishing directly under the rod tip, at close range, tippet length is 1-2' longer than the average water depth. I don't need a tapered leader or one that has multiple knot connections. Any knotted connection will catch within the guides, even knots that are coated with UV resin. I prefer not to have any knots going through the guides when casting or playing fish, which is why I opt for a level and seamless 35-40' section of mono for my base leader.

#### **THINNER = LESS MASS**

Thinner rigs result in less mass within and outside the guides. Ultra-light mono rigs create less pullback on the nymphing rig as it rides within the water column. The reason why I rarely need to use split shot while fishing light to medium weighted tungsten patterns (2.0mm-2.5mm) in moderate current is due to how light my mono rig is. I would need heavier flies or need to add split shot if I used heavier mono, such as 15lb or 20lb, when fishing the same water. By extension, this is why I no longer use Euro fly lines which possess more mass than 20 lb test mono as again, I would need to fish heavier flies anytime I add mass within and outside the guides. If you're trying to understand how some anglers are able to achieve deep drifts in heavy water with little weight, much of it is a result of their efforts to "thin out" their mono rig.

#### **EASIER CASTING**

Casting is also easier when using thinner mono systems. When Euro-nymphing, traditional fly casting gives way to something that more closely mirrors spin casting—a heavy lure pulls thin line through the air. This negates the need for a heavier, 15-20 lb butt section in my mono rig leader, as the mass or taper of the leader is not used to make the cast. Instead, the weight of the nymph or nymphs

is utilized to pull or propel your rig to the intended target. The lighter and thinner the mono rig, the less mass the weight of the nymph must propel to its destination. This is why the use of a thin mono rig makes casting easier. If you use a heavy nymph with an ultra-thin mono rig, you'll be able to shoot distance with little to no backcast needed.

### **ENHANCED STRIKE DETECTION**

Strike detection is enhanced when using thinned out mono, simply because thinner mono is more sensitive than thicker mono. There's little doubt when a trout takes when using a mono rig—the sighter will suddenly *jump* towards the fish. In contrast, when using thicker mono, a trout strike can often look the same as when your fly snags bottom, but there's little doubt when a trout takes while using thin mono. I've noticed both myself and my students quickly decoding the difference between bottom and a fish when using an ultra-thin mono rig.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF ULTRA-THIN MONO**

There's no such thing as a perfect rig, so it's important to consider a few of the drawbacks when using ultra-thin mono systems. Despite the drawbacks, I still find the positives outweigh the negatives.

#### Line Management

Mono is difficult to manage with line hand, especially during colder weather. Despite all the benefits of mono listed above, you won't be able to take advantage of them if you're unable to manage mono with your line hand. Due to its diameter and slickness, some anglers find it difficult to grab onto thin mono rigs when stripping or retrieving.

#### Tippet Mismatch

Ultra-thin mono rigs (e.g. 4-6 lb.) are not ideal when fishing heavier tippets, since your tippet strength may be stronger than the rest of your mono rig. In these circumstances, it is necessary to bulk up the rest of your rig. For example,

if I'm fishing 3X tippet on Montana's Madison River, I'll opt to use 15lb for my mono base. Tippet diameter should impact the diameter of your mono rig.

### Lack of Versatility

While thin mono is deadly effective for Euro-nymphing, it lacks the power to cast dry flies or any type of wind-resistant indicator. When you're using an ultra-thin rig, Euro-nymphing may be the only tactical option you have since your rig lacks the power needed to cast dry flies or indicators. This is another reason some Euro rigs use thicker mono (15-20lb) as their base, as this diameter often has the thickness and mass to aid in casting.

### Reel Management

Mono tends to slip through the cracks with regular fly reels, which is why you may find it useful to use a full frame reel, otherwise known as Euro reels (like [this one](#), or [this one](#), or [this one](#) (Euro model)). These reels have a full 360-degree cage which prevents mono from slipping through the cracks. Using any reel without a full cage will quickly result in frustration as the mono will constantly slip between the spool and the frame.

### **FINAL WORD**

It is important to use the right rod to cast these ultralight rigs. Traditional fly rods are designed to cast fly line. When utilizing an ultra-thin mono rig, you want a rod designed to cast ultralight rigs. This is where 2 and 3 weight Euro fly rods help. Certainly, it's not impossible to cast these rigs with traditional action rods, but you will have to work harder to load these rods. Finally, make sure you know the rules and regulations where you fish. Some regulated waters prohibit mono rigs, so know the rules before you cast.



Kingsley Reservoir, June 2026

# How to cast 20 feet

Doing it well isn't as easy as you think

*by John Juracek - Monday, Nov 14th, 2016 HATCH Magazine*



*Photo: John Juracek*

At the most recent Federation of Fly Fishermen conclave held in West Yellowstone, among other activities there was a lot of fly casting taking place. Never one to ignore such a thing, I took in the proceedings with great interest. The wide variety of casting skills I saw on display reminded me—as always—that one of the most difficult things to do in all of fly fishing is to cast twenty feet.

Twenty feet? Am I kidding? No, I'm not. And I'm not being snide, either. I'm simply talking about casting a fly accurately to a target twenty feet away from where you stand via a tightly driven loop of line and leader.

Try it yourself. If you find that you can cast twenty feet (this includes your leader) repeatedly, accurately, with a tight loop, in the presence of wind, congratulations. You know a thing or two about fly casting. Indeed, you are casting better than 98% of all fishermen.

Why is the short cast so difficult? There are several reasons, but the primary one is the use of a casting stroke that is too long for the length of line being cast. For maximum efficiency and effectiveness, a given length of line requires a given length casting stroke. When the length of the line changes, so too must the length of the stroke. There is a simple tenet regarding this concept that every angler should know: Shorter line, shorter stroke. Longer line, longer stroke.

Here's how it works: If you find your line and leader turning over in a wide loop and piling up in a heap (when this isn't intentional), your stroke is too long. Shorten it by not taking the rod so far back on your backcast. Shorten your stroke until you find yourself forming nice, tight loops that drive the fly to the target. Conversely, if you find that your line and leader crash onto the water before they have completely unrolled, lengthen your stroke. Virtually every student I've ever instructed has needed to shorten their stroke to make a twenty foot cast; so look to that first.

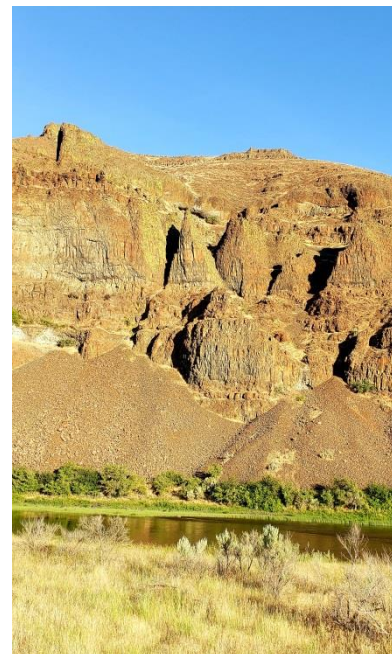
The goal here is to find the right stroke length—which will be slightly different for all of us, owing to our physical differences—that delivers the fly to the target with a tight loop, turning over a foot or so above the water. In this way we can achieve great accuracy and render irrelevant most wind.

In really big wind, you may also have to speed up your stroke to straighten your leader and fly. But increasing the speed of your stroke must be done in conjunction with the proper length of stroke. Effort alone will never straighten your leader and fly—your stroke must be the right length first.

Casting twenty feet (or shorter) should be one of the simplest tasks in fly fishing, but for most anglers it remains one of the most difficult. To make it simple, just remember to employ the right length casting stroke. For almost all of us, that means shortening our stroke.

## Outings

**Chris Wilson** ventured over to the John Day River for some bass fishing. Here are some photos he took.





## ***Fly of the Month: Jolly Rancher by Rick Pay***



### **Background**

I was first introduced to the Jolly Rancher by Amy Hazel at the Deschutes Angler Fly Shop. She had a customer that would buy all of her stock of this fly every year to fish the lakes near Grass Valley. The fly is now distributed by Umpqua Feather Merchants although that version is a slight variation to this. You can find videos on line that show how to tie it, but again those patterns are slightly different, some of which are black. I have other black patterns but this green version, especially with the chartreus head is magic! I have fished it in central Oregon, on Mt Hood, and in the coast range. It seems to be just as effective wherever it is fished. I have tried four or five other patterns, then when I switch to this, fish on! Sometimes they even hit it on the sink before I start stripping.

Category	Trout
Hook	Fulling Mill FM50 45 size 8
Thread	Brown/green, 8/0
Bead	Hanek Tungsten slotted Chartreuse 3.5mm - 3.0 for size 10
Tail	Med olive green Marabou UV2 with two pieces of blue flashabou mixed in along sides of tail
Body	Stems from tail marabou loose wrapped with thread to just behind head
Body	Palmered dark green grizzly hackle – barb length = hook gap

#### How to Tie

- 1) Attach the bead to the hook and attach the thread. Wrap the hook shank to the bend of the hook.
- 2) Tie in a clump of marabou where the bend of the hook starts extending back about the same length as the hook shank or a bit more. Allow enough stem length toward the head for the next step and don't trim yet.
- 3) Attach a piece of flashabou at the hook bend the same length as the marabou tail, one on each side of the tail.
- 4) Tie in a grizzly hackle by the tip at the bend of the hook. The barbs of the hackle should be about the hook gap length.
- 5) Loose wrap the thread over the marabou stems toward the head to form a loose body of the marabou stems. Tie off

just behind the head and trim the stems.

- 6) Palmer the grizzly hackle forward to the head making one additional turn immediately behind the head and tie off. Remove excess hackle.
- 7) Whip finish. Cut thread and attach a drop of glue just behind the head.
- 8) Trim tail to desired length (1 to 1.5x shank length) by pinching off excess marabou to form blunt end. Don't use scissors; pinching gives a better profile.

#### Variations

This pattern seems to work best in larger sizes (e.g., size 8). It can also be tied size 10 with a 3mm bead as a micro leech. I have tried other colors such as brown and black but the green seems most effective.

#### How to Fish

I use a clear intermediate line most of the time with this pattern. You want it down, potentially a couple or three feet, but not deep. I have found that this pattern works exceptionally well if you cast, count to five or six to let the fly sink and then commence a rapid short series of strips. Each strip is 3 – 4 inches long; four to six strips. I believe this causes the leech to move up and down in the water which drives the fish crazy. I pause for a couple of counts, then strip again and so on. I have caught fish in just a couple of feet of water as well as in water 20+ feet deep. The fish come up to the fly. If the water is shallow, only count down 2 or 3.

## Washington County Flyfishers

**President**  
Rick Pay  
503-626-7225

**Vice President**  
David Eisenhauer  
503-649-3804

**Secretary**  
Chris Wilson  
971-330-9393

**Treasurer**  
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503-646-2492

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Bob Pryor  
503-941-5306

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