



NEWSLETTER

wmflyfishingclub.com-flyfishingwmclub.com

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



PRESIDENTS COLUMN – DECEMBER 2025

As we enter December, I look forward to our “Club Christmas Dinner” to both celebrate the season and the end of another year.

2026 looks to be an exciting year with fishing trips, hopefully a “Fly Fishing Expo”, “Annual Club Banquet” along with speakers, presentations and videos, rod building classes and fly-tying classes. As always, your thoughts and ideas for any of the events are appreciated.

The Winter months are my opportunity to clean up my fly-fishing gear and restock my fly boxes for the upcoming season.

Also, I am planning to attend and work at the FFI (Eastern Rocky Mountain Council) and High Plains Drifters (Denver FF Club) booth at the Denver Fly Fishing Show in February, representing our club.

I am already in the planning stages for several 2026 out-of-state fishing trips to Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Montana. I will be announcing the trip schedules as they are confirmed and as an open invitation to you all to join us.

In closing, we have so much to be thankful for today and always and we look forward to a bright promising future. From our family to yours enjoy a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

“Tight Lines”

Mike Whitney – Your President

WMFF Club Christmas Party —December 20th at 4:30 p.m.

SHOW LOW CAFÉ

—ORDER OFF THE MENU—

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE—\$20 LIMIT

DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLE ITEMS, MERCHANDISE SALE

ANNOUNCING THE “SPECIAL RAFFLE” WINNER OF THE

FLY ROD, REEL & FLY BOX OF CUSTOM TIED FLIES

RSVP: MIKE WHITNEY, elkfever22@gmail.com/541-390-5389

HOMESTYLE DINNERS

Dinners include choice of one side, vegetable of the day and One Trip Soup & Salad Bar.

Side Choices: Mashed Potatoes, Baked Potato, French Fries, Tator Tots, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Wild Rice, Jasmine Rice, Curly Fries +2.29, Sweet Potato Fries +2.79, Onion Rings +3.29

D1 COUNTRY FRIED STEAK DINNER

2 crispy, breaded cube steaks covered in our homemade creamy peppered gravy 18.29

D2 HOMEMADE MEATLOAF

Just like grandma's. 8 oz sliced and heated on our grill 16.99

D3 SLICED ROAST BEEF

With brown gravy 17.99

D4 OVEN ROASTED TURKEY

Enjoy a Thanksgiving feast year-round with our juicy hand torn turkey, homemade mashed potatoes, turkey gravy, stuffing, vegetable of the day and cranberry sauce 17.49

D5 BBQ RIBS

Half Rack 18.99 / Full Rack 25.99

D6 CHICKEN TENDERS

Three hand breaded chicken tenders served with choice of one side and dipping sauce 16.99

Dipping Sauces: BBQ, Ranch, Honey Mustard, Bleu Cheese, or Buffalo

D7 LIVER & ONIONS

Liver topped with caramelized onions, honey smoked bacon and brown gravy 15.99

D8 CHEF'S CUT TOP SIRLOIN

8oz 20.99

D9 RIBEYE

12 oz 28.99

D10 GRILLED SALMON FILET

6 oz grilled in garlic butter 20.49

D11 BONE IN PORK CHOPS

Two 6 oz chops served with a side of apple sauce 17.99

D12 GRILLED COD

6 oz filet grilled in garlic butter, served with side of tartar sauce 19.49

D13 HALF STEAK

12 oz topped with grilled pineapple rings 16.49

D14 GROUND SIRLOIN PATTY

1/2 lb grilled to temp, topped with caramelized onions and brown gravy 16.89

D15 GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST

8oz chicken breast topped with choice of sauteed mushrooms or grilled diced green chilies and choice of cheese: American, Swiss, cheddar or pepper jack 16.89

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY!

Includes choice of one side, coleslaw and One Trip Soup & Salad Bar.

Side Choices: Mashed Potatoes, Baked Potato, French Fries, Tator Tots, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Wild Rice, Jasmine Rice, Curly Fries +2.29, Sweet Potato Fries +2.79, Onion Rings +3.29

BEER BATTERED COD FILLETS

Fresh hand cut cod filets, beer battered then fried until crisp and golden brown, served with tartar sauce
All You Can Eat 22.99 • One Piece Fish Meal 19.99 • A la Carte Fish 6.79

TEMPURA SHRIMP

Five jumbo beer battered shrimp, fried until crisp and golden brown, served with cocktail sauce 20.99

Every fly fisher has heard the old mantra: “Match the Hatch.”

We repeat it like gospel, flipping over river stones to study mayflies, caddis, and midges as if we’re in a science lab. And sure — matching the hatch works. But after twenty years on the water, I’ve learned something that often matters even more

“Matching the Mood” of the fish.

Because the truth is, you can throw a perfect imitation at a trout all day long... but if its mood isn’t right, it’s just another bug floating by.



What “Mood” Really Means in Fly Fishing

Fish are simple creatures with complex instincts. Their behavior shifts constantly with:

Light conditions

Water temperature

Barometric pressure

Flow rate

Predator presence (yes, that includes us)

On bright, calm days, trout often hug the bottom. They’re cautious, selective, and easily spooked. That’s when you use **smaller flies, thinner tippet, and softer presentations.**

But throw in a little **cloud cover and chop**, and suddenly the trout’s confidence returns. They rise more freely, chase streamers, and strike with aggression. That’s your moment to **size up your pattern** and add some **movement or flash.**

I call it **“emotional matching.”** The best fly fishers aren’t just bug imitators — they’re mood readers.



Case Study: The Cloud That Changed Everything

I still remember one July afternoon on the Madison. The sun was high, the water gin-clear, and the trout were ghosts. I was cycling through PMD patterns, 6X tippet, perfect drifts... nothing.

Then a single cloud drifted over the ridge, throwing a soft shadow on the river. The glare faded. I tied on a size 12 hopper — way too big for what was hatching — and within three casts, I landed two browns and a rainbow. The hatch hadn’t changed.

Matching the Mood continued from page 3

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Practical Tips for “Matching the Mood”

Observe before casting. Watch rise patterns, flow speed, and insect activity for five minutes. The river tells you everything if you let it.

Adjust your fly size to the conditions.

Calm, bright days → smaller, subtle, matte tones

Cloudy, windy, or stained water → larger, flashier, more movement

Tweak your retrieve.

If fish are sluggish, slow your drift. If they're chasing, add twitches or strips to trigger a strike.

Stay flexible.

If you haven't had a take in twenty minutes, the hatch might not be the issue — the *attitude* of the trout might be.



The Veteran's Mindset

The difference between a good day and a great one often isn't your fly box — it's your adaptability.

Fishing with awareness transforms guesswork into instinct. You stop fighting the river and start reading its language. And that's when fly fishing becomes more than a sport — it becomes a conversation.

If you enjoyed this tip, subscribe to ***Hooked on Fly Fishing*** — where we share on-the-water wisdom, seasonal fly patterns, and insider tactics that help real anglers catch more and enjoy every cast.

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 WMFF MEETING IN DECEMBER at
THE NATURE CENTER!!**

Instead

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT SHOW LOW CAFÉ—DEC 20th

Full announcement on page 1

RSVP: MIKE WHITNEY, elkfever22@gmail.com

White Mountain Fly Fishing Club Board—2025-2026

President:	Mike Whitney	(541) 390-5389
Past President:	Barry Curseaden	(623) 398-5242
Vice President:	Gary Hall	(480) 510-6362
Secretary:	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
Treasurer:	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
Board Member at Large:	Andy Rybolt	(541) 281-2011
Board Member at Large:	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
Board Member at Large:	Margie Dennis	(602) 203-6414
Board Member at Large:	Jon Wallace	(480) 694-9865
Membership Chairman	Marcie Greenberg	(480) 993-4623
Conservation and Community Projects Chairman:	Unfilled	
Education Chairman/Banquet:	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
Newsletter Chairman/Website:	Kitty Wiemelt	(480) 329-6996
Speaker Chairman:	Andy Rybolt	(541) 281-2011
IFFF Representative:	Gary Hall	(480) 510-7381
AZG&F Liaison	Larry Kivela	(480) 695-5162
Inventory Chairman	Scott Dennis	(602) 339-7518