

NEWSLETTER

wmflyfishingclub.com

Established 1996 P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935 August, 2026



PRESIDENTS COLUMN – As we go into August, we have our annual banquet behind us. Overall, it was a successful event. There is always room for improvement, which your BOD is working on for next year.

Thank You to all those who donated and assisted at the banquet, your participation was greatly appreciated by your BOD.

We will have a fly-tying lesson scheduled for September 26th, 2026, at the Show Low Library at 10:00 am. There will be a sign-up sheet at our August 19th meeting. This event will be hosted by Gary Hall and Jon Wallace. They have asked me to limit the sign-up to 6 interested participants.

Our Christmas Dinner will be held at the Show Low Café on **December 19, 2026, at 5:00pm**. We will have a “White Elephant” gift exchange once again, for those who want to participate, along with some special raffle items. Please add this event to your calendars.

NOTE: I have been informed that the White Mountain Nature Center will be closed for a period in October 2026 and had to move our meeting date to **Thursday, October 29, 2026**. Please add this new meeting date to your calendars.

Thankfully, we have been getting some rain during this “monsoon season” this year and hopefully it will help with our lakes and streams conditions.

Looking forward to any fishing reports at our August meeting as I have not had the opportunity to get out myself.

Tight Lines & The Tug Is The Drug!!

Mike Whitney – Your Club President

Meeting—August 19

Held at White Mountain Nature Center

425 S. Woodland Rd. Lakeside 5:30 raffle and chatting

SPEAKERS: Mike Whitney and Andy Ryboldt

Fishing on the Green River

Still doing card raffles on a rod and reel

FISHING ON THE GREEN RIVER

MIKE WHITNEY AND ANDY RYBOLDT



Getting to know a little to know Mike Whitney. Mike began his fly fishing journey in Missoula, Montana where he was introduced to his life long passion by a Frontier Airlines pilot who wanted to ride to Red Creek to fly fish. Mike offered the ride and was introduced to his soon to be passion. Soon after, he and his friend Al attended a fly fishing seminar at the University of Mt. by a local fly shop owner (Frank Johnson of IFFF fame and Streamside Angler owner) Mike and Frank became life long friends until Frank passed away in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Mike was invited and attended fly tying classes at “Streamside anglers” with Frank’s instructors. His first decently tied fly was a “Renegade,” which is his single most favorite and his most successfully fished fly across the multi-state fishing adventures.

Mike has had multiple opportunities to fish the western states while employed by Northwest Airlines and Frontier airlines, which included Oregon (his home state), Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, trips to Idaho and now, Arizona.

Mike has been involved with several fly fishing clubs during his airline employment assignments across the Western states. He continues to travel with several couples from various states and fly fishing clubs as they meet at several favorite fishing destinations across the mountain states.

Mike is blessed to have his wife, Peggy, by his side, who supports his fly fishing passion and their many travels across the country.

A little about one of our speakers today, Andy Ryboldt. Andy started trout fishing in Missouri when he was 10 years of age but he’s spent most of his adult life living in Arizona, northern California, and southern Oregon. Andy fished the White Mountain lakes extensively between the mid-1980’s and the mid-1990’s before moving to Oregon and California where his focus turned to steelhead fishing. Andy returned to Arizona in 2019 to retire and purchased a home in Show Low in 2024. Andy’s hobbies include motorcycling, golf, fly fishing, and an abundance of pickleball. In addition, Andy has enjoyed learning more about fishing from his fellow Club members and resuming his interest in fly tying as well.



TWO RODS

Jim Strogen—June 18, 2026 (New journalist to WMFF, thanks Jim)

Like most fly fishers, I can probably be accused of having too many fly rods; however in my defense I think I need each one of them. I have a few bamboo fly rods that belonged to my uncle who taught me to fly fish, but I don't fish with them much because I would hate to break these treasured, eighty year old fly rods. I also have an eight weight and a ten weight fly rod for trips when I plan to cast heftier flies and fish for larger fish, but that doesn't happen too often.

My go-to rod is a nine foot, five weight, four piece fly rod that is used for almost all of my fishing. I have had that rod in my car for years because I want to be ready to fish every chance I get. For the past few years, I actually have had two identical fly rods set up in my car ready for use.

If you are a bass angler, or have watched any bass fishing shows on TV, you know that they often have several rods on the boat deck ready to use for any particular situation that may arise on the lake. That same line of thinking is why I have two fly rods set up to handle a wide range of fly fishing situations.

I have one rod set up for fishing wet flies under the surface, and the other for fishing dry flies on top. Each rod is rigged with two barbless flies, which is allowed in Arizona. The wet fly rod is usually set up with either a pheasant tail bead-head dropper and a zebra midge trailer under an indicator, or perhaps I will swap out the midge for a wooly buggie or leech.

The dry fly rod often has a larger or light colored dry fly such as a stimulator or caddis as the dropper fly, and a much smaller dark dry fly as the trailer. This two dry fly set-up works well for long casts or fading light, as I am able to see at least one of the flies well. I just have to look about eighteen inches away from the more obvious fly for signs of a fish rising to the fly that I can't see very well. I also alternate that rig a bit by adding a small zebra midge or an unweighted emerger as the trailing fly for certain situations.

More often than not, I will pull just one of the rods out of the car if I am fishing a brushy Rim Country creek. It is hard enough getting one nine foot rod through the bushes, let alone two. But there are many occasions, on both creeks and lakes, that I carry two rods and am very glad to have them.

Often, when I fish a lake it is great to have my wet fly rod and my dry fly rod immediately ready to use. I can't begin to count the number of times that a trout has grabbed my indicator floating on top of the water instead of one of my two wet flies under the surface. Having a dry fly rod set up, makes a quick cast to that topwater-loving fish very easy.

When I fish Woods Canyon or Willow Springs Lakes, I always take both rods to the shoreline. In the fall, it is a real treat to catch rainbow and tiger trout on a dry fly on these Rim lakes, so I usually start off with my dry fly rig first even if I don't see any trout rising for bugs. I will make successive casts over a wide arc to see if I can get a fish to rise for my flies. I usually will walk down the bank toward my waiting second fly rod that is leaning against a bush out of backcasting range and cover a new arc of water. If I am still not getting any action with a dry fly, then I will switch rods and cover the same water with my wet fly set-up. Wooly buggies are often productive on these Rim lakes, so my second rod has a wooly buggie as the trailing fly. I let it sink for a three to five feet before stripping in the line in about foot long spurts.

This gives me the opportunity to put four different flies in front of the fish very quickly since I don't need to take any time to change flies. Having a second rod all rigged up in advance offers another advantage for older fly fishers like me. It is much easier to tie on flies under good light at home, rather than perhaps poorer light and breezy conditions at the lake.

Consider giving this strategy a try the next time you go fishing.

Please look this link up—your president asked me to put this in all newsletters.

<https://freeemergencycontactcard.com/>

How to Tie a Clouser Minnow Fly:

Materials Needed:

- Streamer hook
- Dumbbell or bead chain eyes
- Bucktail (white for the belly, darker color like chartreuse for the top)
- A few strands of flash material

• Step-by-Step Instructions:

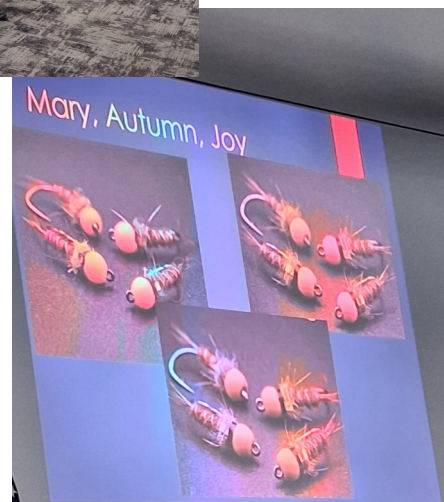
- Start the thread by laying a base on the hook shank.
- Attach the dumbbell eyes near the hook eye with figure-eight wraps.
- Add a few strands of flash behind the eyes.
- Tie in the white bucktail on the underside for the belly.
- Tie the darker bucktail on top.
- Whip finish the thread, add cement to secure it, and you're done!



September 26, 10 a.m. at the library in Show Low
Fly tying lesson maximum 6 people—
sign up at front table at the Aug. meeting

GARY MILLER

July WMFF meeting



AHA MOMENT . . . by Vince Deadmond

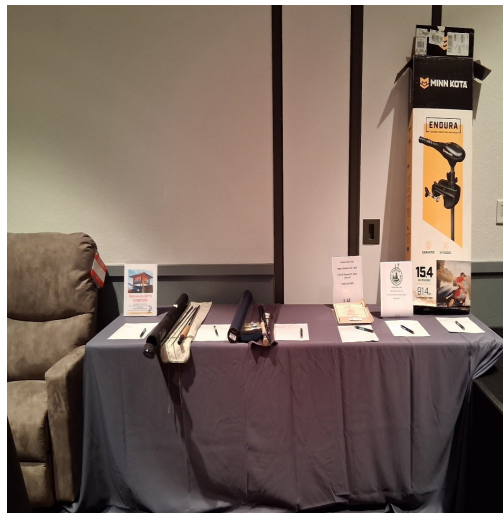
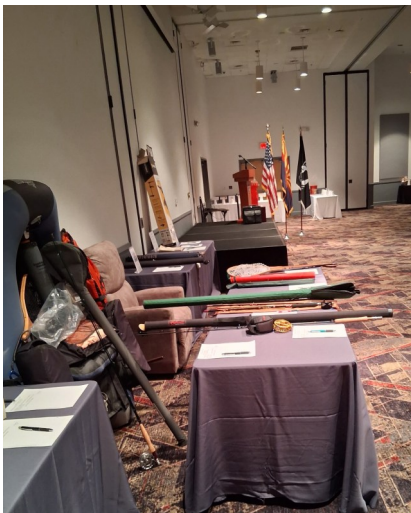
The more time you spend fly fishing the more proficient and skilled you become as a fly fisher. Especially as a saltwater fly fisher. One of the first revelations a fly fisher has, "I need to become a better caster!" I need more distance, so I can easily cast 60 feet. Good casters are always working to become great casters. The most important equipment item for a new saltwater fly caster is a sinking fly line. Most fish are taken sub surface, so the sinking fly line is a must. Occasionally a popper will work with your floating line about 10% of the time. Conditions must be perfect for top water flies to work. When they do work they are a visual feast! Great fun to watch a fish blast your popper. If you are observant and stealthy enough to move your kayak close enough to a fish feeding frenzy, having a popper on can be a really good time. The fish are aggressively feeding and you need to strip your fly like a bait fish trying to escape. When you set the hook with a strip strike (a long fast strip) that is preferred over the Trout set (just lifting the rod tip). The more time you spend on the water the stranger and more bizarre your tall tales become, some are even true!

THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING FISH

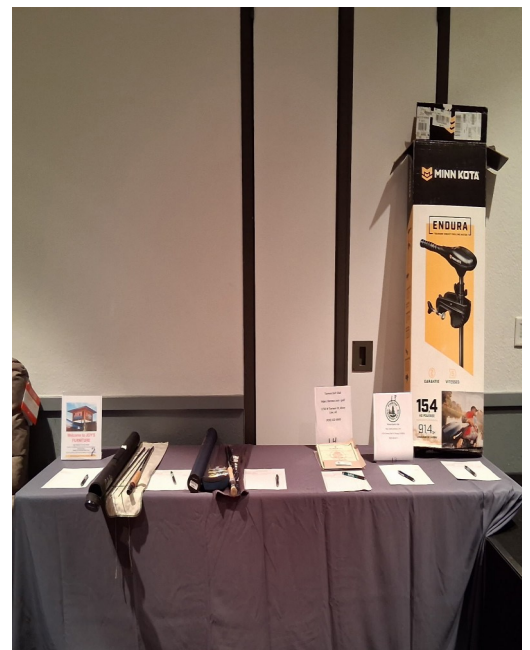
Structure such as rock piles, docks, jetties, and drop offs are usually a good place to start your fishing day. Time and time again I fish the places where I have caught fish previously. One of the places I like to fish is a deep hole in one of the estuaries. It usually is a reliable place to catch fish on an incoming tide, two hours before the high tide. In the past I have caught Flounder, Cabrilla, Orange Mouth Corvina, Sierra Mackerel, Trigger, but no Red Herring. After all, this is a mystery when the fish are missing. One morning I am showing my new friend Watson Johnson the honey hole, but throwing in a word of caution that this quirky place can be fishless at times. As we make the last turn and come around a sand dune that shelters the hole, WOW! There are 6 grey porpoise in my favorite fishing hole. They are chowing down like it's an all you can eat buffet. Soon there is an oil slick and various fish bits floating on the water while the porpoise rodeo round up more fish and feast on them. This process took about 15 minutes and then the porpoise had moved on with no evidence of them being the culprits. My friend Watson smirked as he turned to me and said, "Aha Sherlock. Now you know the answer to the mystery of the disappearing fish." Vince Deadmond The Retired Fly Fishing Hardware Guy can be reached at vincehasgonefishing@outlook.com and at 480 818 1796.



2026 WM Fly Fishermen Banquet



**FUN
FELLOWSHIP
LOTS OF PRIZES
GEARING UP FOR THE
2027 BANQUET—
Mark your calendar—
SEPTEMBER 18, 2027**



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."



Mike and
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fishing at
the San
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