



## **NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER, 2010**

### **THE MEETING**

We will convene the October meeting at 7:00 pm at BJ's in Hamilton on Tuesday, October 5. But ya'll come about 6:00 pm when all the tall tails start. Dinner and drinks are on you but the program (and it's a great one) is on us. If you love fly fishing, mingle with equally afflicted souls. Meet with friends, new and old, to stretch the truth and grin a lot.

### **THE SPEAKER**

Our own Denny Westover will present a program on tying and fishing BWOs. For the uninitiated, that is Blue Wing Olives, a small mayfly coming off our waters as this is being written. This is our last opportunity to catch fish on the surface. The BWOs may strain your eye sight but the fish eat them in great quantities. See Denny's fly of the month patterns below.

### **THOSE WHO SPAKE**

For September, our Prez, Bob Pearcy, put together an awesome DVD of fish

and fishing photos taken by the members over the past year. It was gratifying to see that so many sacrificed naps, grass cutting and visiting with grandchildren to take up their rods and march to the rivers, creeks and lakes to provide something to do for our otherwise unemployed President.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank those of you who submitted photos for our September "what I did over the summer" slide show. They provided unequivocal proof of the big fish and the good times had by club members. Photoshop was not required! Also impressive were the volunteer efforts and club activities that educated young people on the techniques and joy of fly fishing and provided an enjoyable outing for Ravalli Services clients. Activities, such as the river clean up and other stream improvement projects, improve the experience of being on the river for all.

Speaking of enjoyable river experiences, I have rediscovered the joys of wade fishing. I, like many, think of floating as the way to fish the river, but recently I have been doing some wade fishing in the afternoon. It is only five to ten minutes from my house to several river accesses from Hannon to Wally so I can go down for an hour or two without the logistical effort required to shuttle vehicles and set up even something as simple as my Water Master kick boat. I have not been catching a lot of fish but usually one or two manage to get fooled, like a nice 18 inch brown that fell for a Hecuba imitation this evening. It reminds me that fly fishing is not about numbers or even size (o.k. an occasional good fish is nice) but rather the relaxation and rejuvenation that results. Here is a quote from Henry David Thoreau (with apologies to our women members):

Bob Pearcy, President

## ODDS AND ENDS

### **Steelhead Trip:**

Our Cruise Director did a little research on this year's steelhead run. He says: "The Steelhead run appears to be better than average according to the Idaho F & G website. People have been catching fish already and the word is that

they are earlier this year".

The lodge in Shoup has a lot of open dates in October, but is booked in November for Veteran's weekend and Thanksgiving. Availability is dependent on the size of the group. The numbers in Shoup are 208-394-2150 or 208-394-2140 and the number in Hamilton is 363-1651".

Phil Romans will be going over to the North Fork on Thursday, September 30th. He will leave at 6 am. Anyone interested in going should call Phil at 363-0744 or email him at [promans@aol.com](mailto:promans@aol.com).

### **List Serve and Blog:**

Well, you've had your chance. Instructions will no longer clog this newsletter. If you want them, contact Leon Powell (777-1070). Both the List Serve and the Blog are for Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot members in good standing only.

### **Save The Fish:**

Each year, the water to our irrigation ditches gets cutoff about this time of year. One of those ditches, Republican Ditch, is unscreened. A large number of fish from the Bitterroot River have swum into this ditch throughout the southern Valley (Hamilton south to Sleeping Child). While a number of good folks who live on these ditches undertake dip and bucket brigades, a lot of fish are left to die as the water drops. At the suggestion of Gary Brothers, the indefatigable Cliff Gibbons has been working closely with a host of officials, scientists and ditch folks to arrange a fish save in early October. We will use both fish traps and buckets to rescue our future catches. Cliff will provide more detail at the October meeting or you may call him at 961-5642.

### **Fly tying:**

The folks are mangling feathers and fur on Wednesday evenings at the Hamilton Brewery beginning at 5:30 pm. All skill levels welcome. There's enough beer to go around.

### **Membership:**

As most of you already know, our Club started a dues program in September of last year. The annual dues for an individual is \$25 and for a family \$35. Please see Linda Powell at the check in desk at our meeting or download an application form at [www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org](http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org). A number of you are a little tardy in paying up. But more to the point, our Club is filled with activities and opportunities: a day fishing in a stocked pond for handicapped folks; stream bank restoration in conjunction with TU; the May Fly Fishing Clinic; Fly

Fishing 101 at Hamilton High School; a casting clinic; a rowing class; Bitterroot River clean-up; the Pig Roast; a new fish save; various outings under the stewardship of our Cruise Director; and much more. If you yen to get involved, speak to any director or officer. **Recycling in the 'Root:** Dan Dulebohn passes this on: that a volunteer group has started recycling #1 and #2 plastics as well as aluminum. They collect on Mondays from 3-6 at the northern entrance to the fairgrounds and hope to expand to collect more recyclables as they get up and running."

## FLY OF THE MONTH

### Bow Tie Buzz

By Denny Westover

The Bow Tie Buzzer is one of my favorite and most effective stillwater chironomid patterns originally conceived by Rick Takahashi (*MODERN MIDGES*, 2009, Stackpole Books). His pattern imitates a stillwater midge pupa. It's simple to tie and is effective because it is thin and sinks quickly.



I tie it in black, olive, red and brown. Black is by far the most effective color. I typically start fishing with a size 14 or 16 and then change size and color based on stomach samples from the first few fish. The finished fly should be coated with two coats of Loon Knot Sense or Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails. The gills are an important component of the fly and the strand of Oral B Ultra Floss should be tied in perpendicular to the hook eye and then trimmed to size.

I find the fly most effective when fished with a floating line and strike indicator. Using a dead slow inch-at-a-time retrieve, begin one foot off the bottom in the am and move the fly higher in the water column as the hatch progresses towards the surface. Try pairing the Bow Tie Buzzer with a bloodworm in the spring or a damselfly nymph in the summer/fall.

Hook –Tiemco3761 or 2488

Thread-Black 70 or 140 denier UTC  
Abdomen-Tying thread  
Rib-Silver Flashabou Holographic tinsel  
Wing buds-Brown biot  
Wing case-Mirage tinsel  
Gills-Oral B Ultra Floss

And here are some of Denny's BWO patterns:

## **BLUE WING OLIVE FLY PATTERNS**

### **Nymphs**

#### **RS-2**

Hook - TMC 101 or 100 sizes 18 -24  
Thread – Black 8/0 or 14/0 or a color that matches the naturals  
Tail – Two dark dun Microfibetts, tied split  
Abdomen – Natural beaver or beaver dyed to match the naturals  
Thorax – Natural beaver or beaver dyed to match the naturals  
Wing – Dun or gray fluff from the base of a pheasant feather

#### **Churchill's Sparkle Wing RS-2**

Hook - TMC 101 18 – 24  
Thread – Gray 8/0  
Tail – Gray elk hair or hackle  
Abdomen – Adams gray Superfine  
Wing – Pearl Braid  
Thorax – Adams gray Superfine

#### **Micro Madison Beadhead Baetis**

Hook – TMC 100 size 18 and 20  
Head – Copper metal bead, 1.5mm

Thread – Tan 8/0  
Tail – Hungarian partridge  
Rib – Small brown hot wire

Abdomen – The working thread  
Wing case – Strip of pearlescent Mylar  
Thorax – Olive Antron or Z-lon dubbing

### **Tyvek Baetis**

Hook - TMC 101 18-24  
Thread – Brown 8/0  
Tail – Wood duck or mallard flank  
Abdomen – Olive beaver or olive Superfine  
Wing – Tyvek colored with a black Sharpie  
Thorax – Olive beaver or olive Superfine

### **Mercury Baetis**

Hook – TMC 200R or Dai- Riki 270 18-22  
Bead – Clear, silver lined glass bead (extra small)  
Thread –Light –cahill 8/0  
Tail – Black saddle hackle fibers  
Abdomen – BWO superfine  
Wing Case – Black Z-lon

Abdomen – BWO Superfine  
Wing Case – Gray foam  
Hackle – Medium dun

### **BWO Flashback Barr Emerger**

Hook – TMC 2487 18 – 22  
Thread – Iron Gray 8/0  
Tail – Brown hackle fibers  
Abdomen – Blended olive and brown dubbing  
Flashback – Mirage tinsel (medium)  
Wing case/Legs – Blue dun hackle fibers  
Thorax – Adams gray Superfine dubbing

### **Cravens Soft Hackle Emerger**

Hook – TMC 101 18-22  
Thread – Gray 8/0  
Tails – Medium dun Microfibets, split  
Abdomen – Gray Beaver or Muskrat dubbing  
Wing – White Umpqua Flourofiber Hackle  
Hackle – Med dun neck hackle, soft  
Thorax – Gray Beaver or Muskrat dubbing

## **Cripples**

### **BWO Cripple (Blue Ribbon)**

Hook – TMC 100 18 and 20  
Thread – Gray 8/0  
Trailing Shuck – Brown Z-lon  
Abdomen – Olive Superfine or Olive Z-lon dubbing  
Thorax – Same as above  
Wing – Enrico Puglisi EP-Trigger Point Int'l Fibers – Blue Wing Olive  
Hackle – Medium dun

### **Elk Hair Cripple (BWO)**

Hook – TMC 100 18 and 20  
Thread – Gray 8/0  
Trailing Shuck – Gray Mirabeau  
Abdomen – Gray Superfine  
Rib – Light gray 6/0 thread  
Thorax – Gray Superfine  
Wing – Elk hair  
Hackle - Medium dun

### **South Platte Quigley**

Hook – TMC 206 BL 18 and 20  
Thread – Olive-Brown 8/0 or 14/0  
Trailing shuck – White Z-lon, sparse  
Abdomen – The tying thread  
Thorax – Superfine Brown Olive dubbing

Wing – Fine, bleached elk. Tied in butts forward and trimmed to size  
Hackle – Light blue dun

## **Dry Flies**

### **High Viz Parachute BWO**

Hook – Tiemco 101 18 -22  
Thread – Light-cahill 8/0  
Tail – Medium dun hackle fibers  
Body – Olive Superfine  
Wing – Cerise McFlyon  
Thorax – Olive Superfine  
Hackle – Medium dun rooster

### **Viz-ADun (Barr)**

Hook – TMC 101 18 – 22  
Thread – Iron Gray 8/0  
Tail – Watery dun hackle fibers  
Wing – Light gray poly yarn  
Abdomen – BWO Superfine dubbing  
Hackle – Light dun rooster  
Thorax – BWO Superfine  
Head – BWO Superfine

## **FOR FUN**

Okay, I'm a sentimental slob. Try reading this without a tear.

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a



separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual. On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on. Several years later, one of the students was killed in Viet Nam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before.. He looked so handsome, so mature.

The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin. As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's math teacher?' he asked. She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.' After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there obviously waiting to speak with his teacher. 'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. 'They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it.'

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him. 'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.'

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.' Chuck's wife said, 'Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.' 'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary.' Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: 'I think we all saved our lists.'

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be. So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Remember, you reap what you sow. What you put into the lives of others comes back into your own. May Your Day Be Blessed As Special As You Are.

## **THE (SENTIMENTAL SLOB) AUTHOR**

The River is in beautiful shape and the fish are looking up. If you can shake your booty, get on the water! As the careful reader has already discerned, I do include worthwhile items from others in this compendium of fly fishing stuff. If you've got any reasonably accurate fishing stories ready for print, contact me. You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage newsletter ideas.