



www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org

March 2017 Newsletter

***Tuesday, March 7th at 6pm
BJ's Restaurant- Hamilton***

FFB President's Message

Spring has sprung! Well, not really, but She sure is trying- robins and starlings are back, the valley snow is disappearing, the ice on the river's edge has receded and we can see the ground. Good enough for me. It has certainly been a long winter here in the valley this year and I know most of us are eager to get those rods out and go fishing. The first big insect event is just around the corner- the almighty Skwalla stonefly. This hatch can result in some exciting surface action, but don't limit you to this, as great nymphing can also be had. I am sure all of you fly tiers have been feverishly tying February's "Fly of the Month"- the Skwalla nymph by Greg Chester. For Adult patterns, refer to our archives found on the website. There is an excellent article in February 2015 titled 'Five for the Skwalla Hatch' and another one in March 2011. Between these patterns you should be well supplied to go fishing- but don't forget the small patterns such as the Baetis—the 16s, 18s and 20s. If you don't tie flies, now you know what to focus on buying at our local fly shops. As we all eagerly await that "perfect" first day (or at least one free of pouring rain/sleet and blistering winds) remember the first rule of fishing- **safety**. Get your gear ready before you go fishing, not streamside. Check waders for leaks and boots for wear and tear. Wear a wading belt: its purpose is not to hold your waders up or be the latest fashion statement. Its function is to keep water out when you face plant in the river! Hypothermia is deadly. Use a wading staff if necessary. Fish with a buddy, or at least let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. Ok now go fish, have fun and I look forward to some good fish tales next month!

"I go to Nature to be soothed and be healed, and to have my senses put in order."- John Burroughs
Tight lines,
Estelle

March Program



Our Speaker is **Willi Cannell**

His topic is ***fishing for native cutthroats on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River***

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot is pleased to welcome Willi Cannell. Willi and his wife Kat are the owners and operators of Solitude River Trips in Salmon, Idaho. They specialize in rafting and fly fishing trips on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. Willi will be describing their trips using some of the beautiful photography done by his wife Kat who is a professional photographer. They are an Orvis certified outfitter.

The Middle Fork of the Salmon flows through the 2.3-million-acre Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The Middle Fork offers wilderness cutthroat trout fishing. Willi will describe the history, geology and of course the fishing opportunities on the river. Their company was chosen as the Orvis Expedition of the Year in 2006 and was chosen one of the “Best Outfitters on Earth” by the National Geographic Adventure Magazine. To learn more take a look at www.rivertrips.com



Upcoming programs

April speaker- **Tony Tomsu, author of “CREATIONS FROM THE RIVER ROAD”**

May speaker- **Cam Coffin from Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone**

FLY OF THE MONTH

The Almost There Baetis

by

Dennis Westover

This pattern comes from Blue Ribbon Flies of West Yellowstone and is an easy-to-tie and simple emerger pattern that seems to fool trout wherever I have fished it. Big, smart trout will usually opt for an emerger or cripple pattern floating down in the film over a high floating dun pattern and this tie qualifies in every respect. Even the most inexperienced tier should be able to knock out a dozen of this pattern in under an hour.



Hook: Daichi 1140 Or 1150, size 18 and 20

Thread: Uni 8/0 Olive Dun

Tail: three lemon wood duck fibers

Body: Tying thread

Thorax: Gray-Olive Beaver or Superfine dubbing

Wing: Enrico Puglisi EP Trigger Point Fibers BWO

Begin by wrapping a thread base from just behind the eye to about one third of the way down the hook bend. Tie in three lemon wood duck fibers and then wrap your thread forward forming the body of the fly with the thread. Dub a ball of gray-olive beaver or superfine dubbing forming a thorax. Wrap the thread forward to the hook eye forming a thread base and tie in the wing using two or three wraps to secure the wing and then one wrap behind the wing. Lift the excess wing material forward of the tie in point and whip finish. Cut the excess material protruding over the hook eye (Elk Hair Caddis style).

Trim the back of the wing even with the tie in point for the tail.

An important step in building a durable version of this pattern is laying down a thin thread base forward of the dubbing ball thorax. The thread base prevents the wing material (very slippery stuff) from rotating around the hook shank.

For those of you with aging eyes try fishing this pattern as a short trailer fly off a larger ant, beetle or parachute pattern that you can see. Enjoy!

Outings & Special Events

Missouri River Trip

The FFB has planned their annual outing to the Missouri River for April 17-20. Activities will be centered around the Headhunters Fly shop in Craig, Montana. Club members either bring RV's, or rent one of the limited cabins available, to take advantage of this exciting fishery. Many rent Guides for all, or part of their outing, or reserve one of the "Veteran" drift boats graciously provided by Headhunters. The Fly Shop also has reduced guide rates at this time as well.

Even without a boat, the Missouri around Craig has some excellent bank/wade fishing opportunities, especially towards evening. Nymph-fishing is the center piece of the action, but if a hatch comes off, the dry-fly fishing is wonderful. And, with big Browns all along this section of "the Mo", stripping a Streamer can lead to "the fish of the year"..!

Club members gather every evening for pot-luck food and beverages and at least one group dinner at Izaaks restaurant right next to the Fly shop. After a long Winter...consider joining other FFB members for the first outing of the year and hopefully some memorable fishing, on the "Big Mo"!!

UPDATE....

The Missouri River trip is proceeding full-speed ahead. Anyone interested in joining FFB members on this outing can contact Head Hunters in Craig, for information on Cabins, RV spots, and fishing-guides. Any Club members who are signed up for cabins float trips, or camping spots, and who have opening, please let the membership know. The more, the merrier!"

BROWN'S LAKE

As Spring approaches, many FFB members begin to turn their attention to the "Ice-out" event at Browns Lake. One of the Club's resident "Browns Lake- Gurus", believes this will happen later than normal this year, possibly the end of April, or early May. Is this any place for a self-respecting Fly Fisherman? It is, if you want to try for Arlee and Kamloops Rainbows up to 10- pounds!! The lake fishes best in early in the year, especially the first month after ice-out.

At around 500 acres, it is perfect for pontoons, float tubes, and other small boats. Club members have organized impromptu trips on short notice, to an undeveloped campground near the boat launch. There are no reservations, but plenty of room, and a public rest room near the launch. The timing depends on nature, but if you have an

interest, stay tuned at the monthly meeting, or the FFB web site. Perhaps you can join up with someone, or a group, to hook up with other members for an early Spring "Hog-fest"!

Georgetown Lake

Perhaps the highlight of the FFB outings, is the annual Georgetown Lake trip, **somewhere around the middle of July**. Georgetown is a high (6,000 ft), shallow, weedy lake of 3,000 acres, which supports incredible trout numbers. Primarily a Rainbow trout lake, there are also good numbers of Brookies and Kokanee present. Trout up to 15 pounds have been reported, with a good number of 20-plus inches, 4 pound Rainbows not uncommon! Our club trip has evolved into a multi-day campout, with almost 3 dozen attendees last year! Although day trippers were also common, it's much more fun to come and stay, sharing the day's fishing with fellow FFBers around a campfire

There are hatches on Georgetown that can only be labeled...."events"....Damsel flies, callibaetis, and the incredible Traveling Sedge in July. The Sedge hatch is NOT for the "faint of heart"! I personally experienced such an event during our trip last year. When these big, skittering bugs hatch, and are on the water (usually late afternoon), and the trout key on them, the only word to describe it is ..."violent"!! It doesn't last long, but it was one of the most incredible 90 minutes of fishing I have ever had!

The fishing underneath is exceptional as well, with Damsel nymphs, Buggers, Chronimids, Hares Ears, and Pheasant-tails, among many others. Once you find the trout's favorite "fly-du-jour", hang on for some great fishing! This is truly great stillwater fishing in July, with the stunning scenery and wildlife of the Georgetown lake area on full display. It's not too early to start making plans for joining the club on this memorable event!!



May Fly Fishing Clinic Each May, on four consecutive Wednesday evenings, the Club, in conjunction with the Bitterroot chapter of Trout Unlimited, puts on a fly fishing clinic for men and women ages 16 and up. This year, it will be held at the Slack Barn at The Teller. (Look for posters at your favorite fly shop.) This Clinic is for beginner and intermediate fly fishers and a wonderful source of information and hands on learning about casting, stream entomology and fly tying and all the components that go into our beloved sport..

Special Needs Day : This is an annual event for us, originally organized by Leon Powell and Jim Cline. We host about twenty special needs folks at a private, stocked pond. We try to ensure each catches a fish and then we feed them lunch. This event is truly one of the most gratifying things our Club does. You've got to see the grins and hear the whoops when these folks catch a fish! We need a good turn out by members because it really takes about a one-to-one relationship to help these folks. The event generally occurs on a Sunday morning in June or July. Stay tuned for more info.



Raffle NEWS ! Tickets are 6/\$5; 12/\$10; 30/\$20

We have some awesome items coming up in the raffle such as a fly box chucked full of Spring patterns- 2-3 dozen flies!

Speaking of flies, our hard working raffle person is reminding our fly tying members that a major source of our raffle revenue comes from member flies that are donated and raffled off at our monthly meetings. Donated flies should be in a box or container and labeled with the pattern name and the name of the tyer. Why not make a personal commitment to donate a dozen of your favorite pattern this year. Help fill the Club's coffers and show off your tying skills!

Learn from the Best

June 24, 2017 Fly Fishing Workshop

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot is sponsoring a one day workshop on Saturday June 24, 2017. The featured presenters will be Rick Hafele and Dave Hughes. They are the co-authors of **Western Hatches**, which many consider to be the definitive book on this topic

The course will include a presentation followed by streamside collection and identification of insects. This is followed by a session on matching the insects with the best flies. Demonstrations of best fishing techniques for dry fly, wet fly, and nymph fishing will follow. At the end of the day, one-on-one casting tune-ups will be available from certified IFFF casting instructors.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided. The dinner is a Bar-BQ with beer and wine included. Evening entertainment follows. The event will be held at Steve Lilburn's Hannon House south of Darby. B&B rooms are available through Steve as well as RV spots with electric hook ups. Tent camping is also available and a restroom is on site. For lodging reservations contact Steve at riverresortslc@gmail.com. We will be selling Bar-BQ tickets separately so spouses or others can join us for the dinner and entertainment portion.

Participation is limited to the first 25 registrants. Cost is \$150 for FFB members and \$175 for nonmembers. Sign up at using the registration form on the website of FFB which is www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org. A deposit of \$50 insures you a place at the event which is limited to the first 25 who sign up and pay the full program cost. A portion of the Funds over and above the program cost will be earmarked for a Bitter Root Water Forum Project.

This is a once in a life time opportunity, people! The class is starting to fill up-don't miss this unique chance to learn from two of Fly Fishing's Masters- down load the registration form from the website & get your deposits in now.

Read this! Dave Hughes, "Brindle Chutin' Montana," Flyfishing & Tying Journal, Spring 2017, pp. 38-43



Dave Hughes Book List

American Fly Tying Manual
An Angler's Astoria
Big Indian Creek
Deschutes
Dry Fly Fishing
Essential Trout Flies
Fishing the Four Seasons
Fly Fishing Basics
Fly Fishing for Trout
Handbook of Hatches
Matching Mayflies
Nymph Fishing
Nymphs for Streams and Stillwaters
Pocket Guide to Western Hatches
Reading Trout Water
Strategies for Stillwater
Tackle and Technique for Taking Trout
Taking Trout
Trout Flies: A Reader's Reference
Trout from Small Streams
Trout Rigs and Methods
Western Streamside Guide
Wet Flies: Tying and Fishing Soft
Hackles, Flymphs, Winged Wets, and All
Fur Wets
The Yellowstone River and Its Angling

Bitterroot Buggers 2017

The **20th Bitterroot Buggers** class is here! For those new to the Valley the Buggers is an annual class for 9 - 14 year old boys and girls covering elements of fly fishing and extensive fly tying instruction. We limit enrollment to 30 beginning and 10 advanced students, and the 2017 class is full! Sponsored by **BRTU and Keystone Enrichment Program**

Buggers dates, all Tuesdays and all at the Keystone facilities in Hamilton;

All 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Feb 28	1st class - Orientation
Mar 7 - Apr 4	5 tying classes *
Apr 11	Casting and knots
Apr TBD:	Stock Farm picnic *

Report on “bagging night” –February 21st.

Success!!

We broke the record set last year by completing all the bagging in 50 minutes! Congrats! Thanks you very much for volunteering your time. It sure streamlines each tying night having this job taken care of ahead of time.

The next Bugger event is Orientation, held at Hamilton Middle School (same place) next Tuesday 2/28, this time at 6:30PM. This isn't a volunteer intensive evening but if you all are willing to attend and perhaps help wrangle the kids around to the different venues it would be greatly appreciated.

The venues are:

"Why We Fly Fish"
"Safety"
"Fish ID" and
"Entomology"

Announcing... ***A Fly Fishing Clinic***

sponsored by The Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot (FFB) and the Bitterroot Chapter of Trout Unlimited (BRTU)

^ Wednesdays in May , 2017 (5/3, 10, 17 & 24)
Corvallis Middle School, 6 – 8:30 PM



Designed for beginning adult anglers

- Comprehensive curriculum covering all aspects of fly fishing.
- Great value at **\$50 per person**
- Enrollment includes a 1 year membership in BRTU & FFB
- Already a member? ...then your tuition is only \$35

Special Feature!

*Casting instruction provided by Chuck Stranahan and his expert staff.
Chuck and Steve Davis are Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting
Instructors*

Sign up deadline - April 15!!

Limited enrollment so sign up early!

You may enroll at [Freestone Fly Shop](#) in Hamilton or
[Chuck Stranahans Flies and Guides](#) in Hamilton.

You may also mail in your enrollment form plus a check payable to BRTU

BRTU PO Box 262 Hamilton MT 59840

Questions? Call Greg Chester at 406-363-0033 or Chuck Stranahan at 406-363-4197

Cut here

Fly Fishing Clinic

Tuition: \$50 (\$35 if a member of BRTU or FFB) Make checks payable to BRTU. If mailing send to BRTU, PO Box 262 , Hamilton MT 59840

Name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____



Wading Advice For those not practicing the Bitterroot Dunk, we have several tips on wading, now that the Bitterroot River is coming up. First, if the water looks too high and fast, it probably is. Trust your instincts. Second, use a wading staff. The fly shops all sell great folding staffs or simply pick up a stout stick on the bank (making absolutely clear it is a stick and not a snake). Third, slide your feet instead of picking them up to step. High stepping is for Saturday night, not river wading. Stay dry when you cast the fly.

From the June 2009 newsletter

River Safety Reminder It has been awhile since the news of Dick Galli and his tragic river accident touched us all on May 6. According to news reports, three fishermen in a raft became entangled in shrubs or debris on the Bitterroot River downstream from Anglers Roost. Their raft overturned, ejecting all three. Two men made it to safety and the third, Dick, continued downstream where he became hung up on other debris. Imagine if you can, trying to swim in high and fast waters of the Bitterroot during this seasonal snow melt condition while hypothermia begins to settle in. It's easy to look back at this tragedy and second-guess those involved. Truth is most of us can probably put ourselves in those same conditions. We all make mistakes. Some of us have experienced a dunk or two and can relate to that hypothermia feeling in water so cold even breathing is a struggle. I have been dumped from my kick-boat and experienced the struggle of getting my thoughts together for a successful recovery. With today's safety equipment, including rafts that tame the meanest rivers, and communications devices that keep us in touch with the push of a button, it's easy to downplay the dangers we face as anglers each day. And while it's hardly fun to consider what may go wrong, doing so just might save your life. It all starts with life jackets, but doesn't end there. What would you do if your boat overturned or sprung a major leak, or lost a couple oars? What would you do if a member of your party suffered a heart attack? Preparation and preplanning is everything. Playing through potential scenarios makes you consider and hopefully address circumstances that can lead to disaster. Give it some thought each time you enter the water, whether it be a lake or a river. Discuss with your floating group what they might do should an emergency present itself. Your life or that of a friend or loved one may depend on it. Please, be safe. **Ed Couchman**

NEWS & NOTES

State Senator proposes Barbless Hooks on Some Rivers

Recently Senator Pat Connell introduced Senate Bill 74, which would require the use of barbless hooks or hook with the barbs crimped down in all state waters that are designated "catch and release." An article on this bill appeared on the front page of the "Ravalli Republic" on January 14. As a non-political organization, FFB will not take a public stand on the bill, but individual members certainly are free to contact their legislators in either support or opposition.

Ravalli Republic article:

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_f3da4296-da09-11e6-a6a0-cbc74c5c9dbe.html/

Free stuff for fly tiers

Make sure to attend the March meeting if you would like the opportunity to pick up some free fly tying materials including hooks, and a plethora of tying materials.

There are boxes of stuff to take that were donated to the club and are free for you.

Take the boxes too. All of it is up for grabs. don't be shy...

Phil Romans

The Montana Fishing Film Festival.

Join Fishs Eddy O Outfitters and the Bitter Root Water Forum for a film festival made by Montana Anglers for Montana Anglers. Catch these great films along with gear giveaways and a chance to enter a grand prize raffle for float trip with Fishs Eddy O. Doors open at 11AM and films start at 11:30AM. Tickets are sold in advance at Freestone Fly Shop and at the door for \$12.

<http://www.mtfishingfilmfest.com>

Open link to view locations and dates



BITTER ROOT
Water
Forum

Sunday, March 12.

Reels N' Brews Event

Keep the good times rolling at the Reels N' Brews event. Join the Water Forum from 1-7pm at Bitter Root Brewing where a portion of every brew sold benefits clean water in the Valley. Bid at the silent auction, enjoy door prizes, and enter the raffle for the float trip with Eddie O, complete with a gourmet lunch. Silent auction runs 2-6pm.

CASTING FOR RECOVERY's Glacier program is having their retreat early and in a new locale this year. CfR provides free support and education retreats for women of any age and in any stage of breast cancer treatment or recovery, and incorporates fly fishing into the program. It's a three day retreat and Sunday, June 11, 2017 is fishing day where the participants are guided one on one wade fishing for 3 hours. You do not need to be a licensed guide, just comfortable wading with a novice fly fisher, tying on flies, landing fish and helping them w/ the basics. The retreat will be at Lubrecht Forest Lodge, East of Missoula on Highway 200 about 1.5 hours from Hamilton. Fishing location is not set yet decided but will be close by, somewhere on the Blackfoot. 14 river helpers are needed. If anyone is interested in being a river helper, **please contact Peg Miskin, castone@castingforrecovery.org or call her at [707-529-2760](tel:707-529-2760)**. Would love to have the FFB represented this year for this important special day!

Bitterroot Committee meets on West Fork Crowding The newly formed Bitterroot River Recreational Advisory Committee (**BRRAC**) was created by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to address concerns over crowding and reduced wading angler opportunities on the West Fork of the Bitterroot and the upper river down to Wally Crawford Fishing Access Site. The BRRAC will finalize its proposal in a meeting on March 6. The proposal under consideration will close portions of the upper river and West Fork to commercial outfitters one day a week. However, there are five alternate proposals. There will be at least one public meeting after March 6 to take public comment. For more details see articles in the Ravalli Republic (2/17/17) and in the Missoulian (2/20/17) and look for future information regarding the public meeting. Ravalli Republic: http://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_dd3fd277-4ad5-5eb3-b8c2-9f63b96d6ae1.html

State to fix dangerous diversion dam on the Bitterroot River

The irrigation dam three miles below Woodside crossing is undergoing repairs. Read details in the Ravalli Republic at the link below:

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_077426a6-d4eb-56f7-b142-34675e79d828.html



Calendar of events

March 7th –CLUB MEETING
March 7th-Buggers- fly tying class 6-8:30 PM
March 12th – Mt Fishing film Festival at the Pharoplex
March 13th – **Board meeting**
March 14th- Buggers- fly tying class 6-8:30 PM
March 21st-Buggers- fly tying class 6-8:30 PM
March 28th- buggers- fly tying class 6-8:30 PM
April 4th – CLUB MEETING
April 4th – Buggers- fly tying class 6-8:30 PM
April 10th – **Board meeting**
April 11th – Buggers- casting & knots 6-8:30 PM
April 17th – 20th FFB Missouri Trip
May 2nd - CLUB MEETING
May 3rd – MAY CLINIC with TU 6-8:30 PM
May 8th - **Board meeting**
May 10th – MAY CLINIC with TU 6-8:30 PM
May 17th – MAY CLINIC with TU 6-8:30 PM
May 21st ---Jenny West's Fly Fishing Clinic for women - 9:30-4 PM
May 24th – MAY CLINIC with TU 6-8:30 PM
June 12th- **Board meeting**
June 24th - DH/RH workshop
June 27th – June FFB club meeting
There is no club meeting in July
July 10th – **Board meeting**
July 20th-23rd Georgetown Trip

Job opportunities

Web Page Admin/assistant: assistance needed in maintaining our web page
www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org May train up to be webpage admin. Contact Bob Prince (robertprince@gmail.com)

FFB Merchandise Program

FFB graphically labeled merchandise is available at www.okeefesreef.com Sample merchandise can be seen at <http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org/> page

FFB members can order from the website and have merchandise delivered to their home.

We have negotiated a **10% discount** with the vendor on all orders from Club members. Items for ladies also!

Tidbits From the Past

In May, 2010 the article "Fly of the Month" was introduced.

LINKS

Many of you use internet sites devoted to fly fishing or to fly tying. Dick Ellis has volunteered to collect these links to publish in the FFB Newsletter. If you have useful fly fishing related links you would like to appear in the April FFB Newsletter Please send your links to ellis_r@fortlewis.edu by March 21st .

Classifieds

The Board of Directors set a policy concerning classified ads in our newsletter. We want to facilitate our members selling unwanted, unneeded gear. The following rules apply: (1) the seller must be a Club member; (2) the seller must be noncommercial; (3) this editor has full right to edit submitted materials; they should be "Tweet" size (4) the ads will run a maximum of two times and then be retired; (5) the thing or things to be sold must be related to fly fishing; and (6) we not will charge for the ad placement and take no responsibility for its accuracy

Other

- **Name tags and lanyards are ready and are at the check in table**

Last year's diary of a Californian that moved to Seeley Lake, Montana

**adapted from
The First Snow
Internet Joke Book - Volume Three**

By Keith Evans

December 8 - 6:00 PM

It started to snow.

The first snow of the season and the wife and I took our cocktails and sat for hours by the window watching the huge soft flakes drift down from heaven.

It looked like a Grandma Moses Print.

So romantic we felt like newlyweds again.

I love snow!

December 9

We woke to a beautiful blanket of crystal white snow covering every inch of the landscape.

What a fantastic sight!

Can there be a lovelier place in the whole world?

Moving here to Seeley Lake, Montana was the best idea I've ever had!

Shoveled for the first time in years and felt like a boy again.

I did both our driveway and the sidewalks.

This afternoon the snowplow came along and closed in the driveway, so I got to shovel again.

What a perfect life!

December 12

The sun has melted all our lovely snow.

Such a disappointment!

My neighbor tells me not to worry- we'll definitely have a white Christmas.

No snow on Christmas would be awful!

Bob says we'll have so much snow by the end of winter, that I'll never want to see snow again

I don't think that's possible.

Bob is such a nice man, I'm glad he's our neighbor.

December 14

Snow, lovely snow! 8 inches last night.

The temperature dropped to -20.

The cold makes everything sparkle so.

The wind took my breath away, but I warmed up by shoveling the driveway.

This is the life!

The snowplow came back this afternoon and buried everything again.

I didn't realize I would have to do quite this much shoveling, but I'll certainly get back in shape this way.

I wish I wouldn't huff and puff so.

December 15

20 inches forecast.

Sold my California van and bought a 4x4 Jeep.

Bought snow tires for the wife's car and 2 extra shovels.

Stocked the freezer.

The wife wants a wood stove in case the electricity goes out.

I think that's silly.
We aren't in Alaska, after all.

December 16

Ice storm this morning.
Fell on my butt on the ice in the driveway putting down salt.
Hurt like hell.
The wife laughed for an hour, which I think was very cruel.

December 17

Still way below freezing.
Roads are too icy to go anywhere.
Electricity was off for 5 hours.
I had to pile the blankets on to stay warm.
Nothing to do but stare at the wife and try not to irritate her.
Guess I should've bought a wood stove, but won't admit it to her.
God I hate it when she's right.
I can't believe I'm freezing to death in my own living room.

December 20

Electricity's back on, but had another 14 inches of the damn stuff last night.
More shoveling!
Took all day.
The damn snowplow came by twice.
Tried to find a neighbor kid to shovel, but they said they're too busy playing hockey and ice fishing.
I think they're lying.
Called the only hardware store around to see about buying a snow blower and they're out.
Might have another shipment in March.
I think they're lying.
Bob says I have to shovel or the city will have it done and bill me.
I think he's lying.

December 22

Bob was right about a white Christmas because 13 more inches of the white fell today, and it's so cold, it probably won't melt till August.
Took me 45 minutes to get all dressed up to go out to shovel .
By the time I got undressed, and dressed again. I was too tired to shovel.
Tried to hire Bob who has a plow on his truck for the rest of the winter, but he says he's too busy. I think the jerk is lying.

December 23

Only 2 inches of snow today
And it warmed up to 0.
The wife wanted me to decorate the front of the house this morning.
What is she, nuts?!!
Why didn't she tell me to do that a month ago?
She says she did but I think she's lying.

December 24

6 inches - Snow packed so hard by snowplow, I broke the shovel.
Thought I was having a heart attack.
If I ever catch the son of a bitch who drives that snow plow, I'll drag him through the snow and beat him to death with my broken shovel.

I know he hides around the corner and waits for me to finish shoveling and then he comes down the street at a 100 miles an hour and throws snow all over where I've just been!
Tonight the wife wanted me to sing Christmas carols with her and open our presents, but I was too busy watching for the damn snowplow.

December 25

Merry Christmas!
20 more inches of the damn slop tonight -Snowed in.
The idea of shoveling makes my blood boil.
Damn, I hate the snow!
Then the snowplow driver came by asking for a donation and I hit him over the head with my shovel.
The wife says I have a bad attitude.
I think she's an idiot.
If I have to watch "It's A Wonderful Life" one more time, I'm going to stuff her into the microwave.

December 26

Still snowed in.
So called buddy in San Diego sent me a picture showing him sitting by his pool drinking beer. That jerk!
Why the hell did I ever move here?
It was all HER idea.
She's really getting on my nerves.

December 27

Temperature dropped to -30 and the pipes froze; plumber came after 14 hours of waiting for him, he only charged me \$1,400 to replace all my pipes.

December 28

Warmed up to above -20.
Still snowed in.
She is driving me crazy!!!

December 29

10 more inches.
Bob says I have to shovel the roof or it could cave in.
That's the silliest thing I ever heard. How dumb does he think I am?

December 30

Roof caved in.
I beat up the snow plow driver, and now he is suing me for a million dollars.
The wife went home to her mother.
Nine more inches predicted.

December 31

I set fire to what's left of the house.
No more shoveling.

January 8

Feel so good.
I just love those little white pills they keep giving me.
Why am I tied to the bed?