



***June meeting – Tuesday June 2nd at 6pm
BJ's Restaurant – Hamilton***

“My wife said I have so many fly rods and reels that I cannot possibly use them all. My reply was that I had rods and reels to fish, rods and reels to tinker with, and then my fine crafted rods and reels to fondle and admire while dreaming of trout fishing during the cold winter months. You can imagine what kind of look she gave me.”

Jimmy D. Moore
Fly Tier and Southern Wit

The June Program

Chris Clancy, FWP biologist, and Al Pernichele, Bitterroot River Water Commissioner, will discuss current and likely summer water conditions, water usage and the impact on our native Cutthroat trout fishery. Chris has new data regarding water temperatures and the effect on different trout species based on stream surveys. Al will explain water allocations and release schedules from Painted Rocks and Lake Como.

The Presidents Message

Spring is here and fishing opportunities are everywhere! The salmon fly hatch on Rock Creek is going strong and it should start on the forks of the Bitterroot in the next couple of weeks. For those of you willing to brave the crowds, the upper stretch of the Beaverhead is open and fishing well. The Missouri is also really good this time of year. I have heard several reports of people having good days at Brown's Lake and Clark Canyon Reservoir. Also don't forget some of the smaller lakes and streams. Always be safe and wear your life jacket, as we all know this is a dangerous time of year due to the increased flows.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting. Chris Clancy, FWP biologist, and Al Pernichele, Bitterroot River Water Commissioner, will discuss current and likely summer water conditions, water usage and the impact on our native Cutthroat trout fishery. Chris has new data regarding water temperatures and the effect on different trout species based on stream surveys. Al will explain water allocations and release schedules from Painted Rocks and Lake Como. Regardless what you do, get out there and enjoy the fishing while you can!

Chris Andersen

June 2015 Fly of the Month

Stimulator, Yellow

By Bob Percy

Recipe

Hook: Tiemco TMC200R, Size 8
Thread: Uni 6/0, orange
Abdomen: Fluorescent yellow
Antron yarn
Rib: Brown hackle,
undersized and counter-
wrapped with small gold
wire
Tail: Bleached elk hair
Wing: Bleached elk hair
Thorax: Amber African goat
dubbing
Hackle: Grizzly



Randall Kaufmann, probably based on some earlier patterns such as the Sofa Pillow, developed the Stimulator. It can be used either as an attractor pattern or to match the golden stonefly hatch that overlaps with the tail end of the salmon fly hatch. By this time the fish have seen many salmon fly imitations and have often become quite picky. These very same fish however often grab a golden stonefly imitation.

The Stimulator can be tied in different colors and sizes to match stoneflies ranging from salmon flies tied on a #4 hook to yellow sallies tied on a #16 hook. An effective attractor variation, the Royal Stimulator, has a royal coachmen style abdomen.

The Editors Drift – Things I've learned (and ideas I've stolen from my fishing partners)

I recently spent a week lake fishing in south-central British Columbia. Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot members Bob Percy, Pierre Satkowiak and Bruce Channer joined me at Corbett Lake. Having five consecutive days on the same lake is pure luxury – no daily launching, packing, unpacking and re-rigging and of course the fact that your learning curve goes way up as the week progresses. Fishing with other accomplished

lake anglers is a real bonus. Aside from the usual “how did you do?” we spent most of the cocktail hour(s) dissecting our day on the lake and sharing techniques and successes and failures. Fly patterns were exchanged, hot spots described, and detailed plans were made for the next days assault on the water.

Fishing was good but lacking the heavy hatches of callibaetis mayflies we have had in past years –probably a result of the warmer than average spring peaking the hatch earlier than usual. The sporadic hatches forced us to sharpen our techniques and where in past years we had 2 to 3 hours of epic dry fly fishing each afternoon this year challenged us to innovate. Instead of a blanket of callibaetis popping to the surface we experienced only occasional rising fish – usually just outside of casting range. We managed to occasionally connect with one or two and when we did they were substantial fish – Kamloops rainbows ranging from 17 to 24 inches. Most afternoons were windless and careful observation revealed the telltale pop of emerging chironomids dotting the surface. A compound hatch of midges and mayflies gifted us with a new opportunity to improve our results. British Columbia allows two rods to be fished simultaneously but only a single fly on each rod. The compound hatch gave me the opportunity to fish two rods – one to each of the separate hatches. I rigged an additional rod with a floating line and a chironomid under an indicator, cast 20 feet from the boat and placed it in the rod holder. I continued to actively fish the dry fly rod but kept an eye on the indicator. Surface fishing was slow but steady and as a bonus the indicator would occasionally disappear attached to a nice rainbow. Kamloops trout tend to take chironomids aggressively and as a result they usually hook themselves making it a simple matter to pick up an unattended rod and firmly set the hook. It almost seems like cheating but on a slow day it’s a guilty pleasure!

Later in the afternoon when both the chironomid and callibaetis hatches fade but before cocktail time lake fishing usually slows or stops altogether. A technique I’ve used in the past with some success proved worthwhile again on several slow afternoons at Corbett Lake. Most lakes have gradual transitions from the shallows to the deepest parts of the lake but a few lakes enjoy rather abrupt and well-defined “drop off” transitions from the shallows (2 to 10 feet) to the deeper, darker water (10 to 30+ feet). Lake fish do most of their feeding (and we do most of our catching) in the shallows, however when they are not feeding fish prefer the safety and cover the deeper water provides. So when they retreat to the deeper recesses of the lake how do we get them to eat? Here’s a method I have used with good success on lakes that feature abrupt drop offs.

Using your depth finder, or visually if water clarity permits, locate the edge of a drop off and anchor your boat parallel to the line of the drop off. Once you are set up choose a fly pattern and a sinking or sink tip line and cast a long line along the drop off and count it down to just above the depth where the shallows transitions to the deeper water. Retrieve and cast again, this time more towards the deeper water. Alternate casts between the shallows and the deeper water. You will usually hook up when a fish appears out of the deeper water to eat your fly as you retrieve it

along the edge of the drop off. This technique works well with attractor patterns, damsels and chironomids. It is especially effective with a sink tip line and a flashy, bulky streamer pattern. Big streamers push a lot of water and fish in the deep water can detect that movement from a distance. Strip fast and hang on!!!

Next time you are lake fishing and find the catching slow try something new – staying with the same fly or technique hoping for a new result is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic!

Summer Humor

The room was full of pregnant women with their husbands.

The instructor said, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surface like grass or a path."

"Gentlemen, remember -- you're in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for you both."

The room suddenly became very quiet as the men absorbed this information. After a few moments a man at the back of the room, slowly raised his hand.

"Yes?" said the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

Brings a tear to your eye, doesn't it?

This kind of sensitivity just can't be taught.

Karstetter Classic

Darby, Montana

August 23, 2014

The third Karstetter Classic will be held Sunday, August 23, 2015, on the banks of the Bitterroot River at 144 Hannon Lane, Darby, Montana, 59829, three miles south of Darby on Hwy 93. The Karstetter Classic will be a gathering of those who build, use and admire the classically made bamboo fly rod (both antique and new) and the classic reels used on them.

Many of us own and use bamboo or cane rods in our fly fishing adventures, but it is rare that we have an opportunity to compare the various rods and reels that represent this segment of the fly fishing art. The differences and characteristics of these rods and reels are remarkable. Only by casting them one after the other do we understand their true natures.

In addition, some of us are practitioners of the fine art form of crafting cane rods, professionally or for our own use. We encounter problems and find we have needs that only others performing similar tasks will understand and perhaps have solutions. The Karstetter Classic is an opportunity to mingle with other bamboo rod makers and ask questions and learn new techniques and sources.

Marty Karstetter lives and works in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana where he crafts handmade bamboo rods considered by many to be classic examples of the art form. Well known to the rod building industry, he is also a ceaseless ambassador for their application and use, mixing and matching rods and reels to achieve the best possible result then using them on his favorite rivers. His rods are made for fishing like so many of those now being made by craftsmen throughout the county. Everyone is different, every combination unique. An opportunity to see, feel, compare and test these fine examples of a rapidly vanishing fishing style and craftsmanship is rare. Hence the Karstetter Classic, a gathering of classic and classically made fly-fishing equipment for those who make them and those who admire them. Our first gathering in 2013 had over 30 participants, old friends and new with a number of fine and rare rods and reels.

The event is scheduled for 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Sunday, August 23, 2015, on the banks of the Bitterroot River south of Darby, Montana. It will be held on private property. It is a free event. There will be no charge for entrance, parking, display or sale of rods and reels. All bamboo rod builders, collectors, and all fisher folk who use or want to use bamboo rods are invited. However, this is a hands on event so rods brought should be

expected to be available to be cast by other participants. For professional rod makers, display tables may be erected on the grounds.

This is not a moneymaking event. There are no costs other than the BBQ charge for non-club members. It is designed to attract those interested in a vanishing style and art of fly-fishing. To see and compare what was and is available to those who appreciate the sport and art of classic fly-fishing.

A casting pond is available and over 2000 feet of river abuts the property. The property sits at the confluence of the East Fork, West Fork and main branch of the Bitterroot River. Wade fishing is feet from the event. A boat launch is located on the property. A private lake is also within walking distance. Room to park RV's, boats and visitor parking is plentiful. You can roll in Saturday afternoon and pitch a tent or park your rig. Hotels are located within three miles in Darby, Montana.

The property owner and event sponsors assume no responsibility or liability for use of the river or lakes. Weather should be warm, mosquitoes will be down, water will be low, both floatable and wade able. Summer thundershowers are always possible and participants should be prepared for short-term afternoon showers.. We will have more shade around the boathouse. Suggest you bring an easy up if you have one.

The Karstetter Classic will end at 5:00 pm. However, the event is being held in conjunction with the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot annual picnic hosted on site by the club starting at 4:00 pm. Any non FFB member may join the FFB members for a steak bbq and open keg for \$10.00. Alternatively, you may join FFB at \$25.00 for a year's individual membership. Last year the Karstetter crowd gravitated to the picnic and pretty soon the sun was setting, the beer was flowing and fish stories were in abundance.

This is our third annual. Hope to see you there.
For information contact:

Steve Lilburn, River Resorts LLC, steve@lilburncorp.com; or 909-224-8099.

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, richmorrisey@q.com; or 406-381-5611

“To live is not necessary, to fish is necessary”

-Latin Saying

ANNUAL MEMBERS AUGUST PICNIC SUPPER

The Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot will host its annual members picnic starting at 5 pm on Sunday, August 23. This fabulous event will be held, once again, at the lovely riverside home of member Steve Lilburn. His home is directly across the river from the Hannon access. Turn east from Highway 93 into his driveway just before the road to the West Fork peels off to the west. (If you have crossed the bridge over the Bitterroot going south on Hwy 93, you have gone too far.) We will attempt to place a FFB sign at the turn. If you are new to all this, call Rich Morrissey at 381-5611 for more detailed directions.

As in the past, the Club will burn rib eye steaks and provide a keg of beer, water, some soft drinks and chips. We will also have paper plates and plastic cutlery.

You bring maybe a salad, chip dip or an appetizer to share and any particular beverage not otherwise supplied. Also bring camp chairs. Houseguests are welcome with a ten-dollar donation.

The second annual Karstetter Classic for bamboo rod folks is scheduled for 1 pm that day at Steve's. You already have that announcement. Come early for casting and learning.

We will attempt to manage the wasp population this year.

We had over 80 folks last year and it was a great time. Don't miss the fun.

"Our tradition is that of the first man who sneaked away to the creek when the tribe did not really need fish"

Roderick Haig Brown

*Writer, Magistrate, Pioneer,
Conservationist, Fisherman*

More Humor

Older Men Scam

Women often receive warnings about protecting themselves at the mall and in dark parking lots, etc. This is the first warning I have seen for men. I wanted to pass it on in case you haven't heard about it. A 'heads up' for those men who may be regular

customers at Lowe's, Home Depot, Costco, or even Wal-Mart. This one caught me totally by surprise. Over the last month I became a victim of a clever scam while out shopping. Simply going out to get supplies has turned out to be quite traumatic. Don't be naive enough to think it couldn't happen to you or your friends.

Here's how the scam works; Two nice looking, college-age girls will come over to your car or truck as you are packing your purchases into your vehicle. They both start wiping your windshield with a rag and Windex, with their breasts almost falling out of their skimpy T-shirts. (It's impossible not to look). When you thank them and offer them a tip, they say 'No' but instead ask for a ride to McDonald's.

You agree and they climb into the vehicle. On the way, they start undressing. Then one of them starts crawling all over you, while the other one steals your wallet.

I had my wallet stolen Aug. 4th, 9th, 10th, twice on the 15th, again on the 17th, 20th, 24th, and the 29th. Also Sept. 1st, 4th, 8th, twice on the 16th & 17th, and very likely again this upcoming weekend.

So tell your friends to be careful. What a horrible way to take advantage of us older men. Warn your friends to be vigilant.

Wal-Mart has wallets on sale for \$2.99 each. I found even cheaper ones for \$.99 at the Dollar Store and bought them out in three of their stores.

Also, you never get to eat at McDonald's. I've already lost 11 pounds just running back and forth from Lowe's, to Home Depot, to Wal-Mart.

So please, send this on to all the older men that you know and warn them to be on the lookout for this scam. (The best times are just before lunch and around 4:30 in the afternoon.)

For Sale – Spare oar – Three piece, Power Stroke by Clackacraft. Spent all of it's life in the middle seat of my 16ft ClackaCraft. \$50 Leon Powell 406-360-9743.