



## THE MEETING

As this is written, the morning sun is hiking down the white flanks of the Bitterroots, chasing night shadows before it. The leaves in the yard crinkle their objections to being walked on so early in the day. Winter has, as it always does, asserted itself.

Our River runs low and clear. Most of us have tucked away our gear for the season. A few are numbing their fingers on trout-a-month hegras or metal head freeze outs. The rest promise, and promise again, to start tying flies soon to supplement the diminished stock from the past months.

We meet at BJ's restaurant on Tuesday, December 4. We will have the usual opportunity to embroider the truth over libations starting at 6 pm. We then slide into our regularly scheduled programming at 7 pm.

## THE SPEAKER

Steve Hoovler will present a program called "Yellowstone - off the beaten path." He will explore some of Yellowstone Country's more remote fisheries and encourage people to get off the beaten path to explore on their own in the back country.

Hoovler is a Montana Outfitter {#9021} and owns and operates Oarsmen Expeditions located in West Yellowstone. When you call or email, Steve will be at the other end of the line. [steve@oarsmenexpeditions.com](mailto:steve@oarsmenexpeditions.com). 406-579-6440

He's called Montana home for more than fifteen years. Before that he grew up fishing in Pennsylvania. Summers during college were spent working for Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone. After college, Steve went on to become a partner at Blue Ribbon and manage the shop for eight years. Outside of fishing, Hoovler' is a dad to Jack, a ski instructor, and he loves following his bird dog "Goose" around in the fall.

## THOSE WHO SPAKE

Unfortunately, due to fully discretionary and totally recreational traveling, I missed our last meeting. That means I missed Christmas coming early by means of Greg Chester's show and tell. I understand it was great. Thank you, Greg.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Our December members meeting also acts as our corporate annual meeting at which we elect directors for the ensuing year. All directors from this last year have chosen to stand for election again for 2013 with the exceptions of Howard Knight and Nick Hooper. In addition, Bob Prince has agreed to run for a directorship. We thank Howard Knight and Nick Hooper for their service. Our Club has always had a policy that any member who wished to join our Board of Directors could do so, provided, of course, the members elect them at our annual meeting in December. But there are not a fixed number of directors and no position is competitive. If you wish to become a director of the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, please contact President Jim Cline (406-396-4516) or Secretary Rich Morrissey (406-381-5611) prior to the December 4 members meeting.

Unless modified by last minute deletions or additions, the following persons have expressed their desire to be elected as directors of the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot for 2013: Bob Prince, Howard Friedberg, Leon Powell, Judy Morrissey, Rich Morrissey, Phil Romans, Dorreen Romans, Pierre Satkowiak, Jim Cline, Jeff Lowe, Doug Duff, Greg Chester, Bob Curry, Jay Meltzer and Brent Greenwell.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we transition from one holiday to the next, the club also goes through its annual transition to a new year. It is this month that we elect the Board of Directors for the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot. The Board then chooses members who will fill officers positions to be announced at the January meeting. The Board is planning events, programs and activities for next year. This is your opportunity to be involved. We welcome new input, ideas and energy. So if you have any interest at all in being on the board please let me (363-2516) or Rich Morrissey (381-5611) know before the meeting on Tuesday, December 4.

See you at the meeting,  
Jim Cline

## DUES!

Here is a gentle reminder. All you souls who have not yet paid, you are now officially in arrears on Club annual dues. Individuals pay \$25 a year and families pay \$35 a year. Membership Chair Judy Morrissey will be quite happy to collect at

the door at the December meeting, or you can pay at our web site or you can give checks to any Board member or ....

## FLY OF THE MONTH

### The Missing Link

*by Greg Chester*

If you've nothing better to do during the next snow storm, and have wanted to test your tying dexterity you might like to give this bug a try, plus it's a real fish catcher. I was introduced to this pattern by the guys at Blue Ribbon last April and together we came up with a tying procedure that gets the job done with minimal hassle. As some of you may know this pattern was developed by Mike Mercer, a noted Northern California tier, who has many successful patterns to his credit. He created this pattern to imitate spent caddis on the Lower Sacramento River and for reasons known only by the trout they started taking it for various mayflies as well as caddis during complex hatches – go figure!

#### Recipe

Hook: Tiemco 102Y, #13 – 19 (yes, odd-numbered sizes like the Iris Caddis)

Thread: 8/0 Unithread, camel

Tail: none

Abdomen: Tying thread

Ribbing: Small pearl Flashabou

Coating: SofTex. Coat abdomen after ribbing (head cement will work as well)

Outriggers: Dark dun EP Fibers, straight Zelon or Z Yarn

Thorax: Ice Dub, UV Brown

Wing: Elk body hair, natural

Hackle: Dark dun tied Parachute style, one size larger than normal.

Head: Tying thread



As always trying to ascertain why trout eat what do at times is an exercise in futility. So, just accept it and give this bug a try for your caddis and mayfly activity. As I noted earlier this pattern will test your dexterity and adherence to proper proportions. The menu reflects Mike's original specifications but feel free to try colors to match other caddis and mayflies. I tied up some #15's in Callibaetis colors and had great success at Harriman Ranch on the Henry's Fork in August of this year – no small achievement fooling those PhD rainbows. A #17 PMD version also scored well for me on Idaho's famous Silver Creek – again, tough fish to fool. So, grab a favorite beverage, cue up some tunes and hit the vice.

#### Tying Instructions

##### Abdomen:

Wrap a base of thread including part way around the bend. Tie in ribbing at hook bend and advance thread to midpoint of shank – NO FURTHER!!!. Wrap ribbing in open spirals to midpoint of shank. Coat abdomen with SofTex. This takes a while to dry, so tie a few more up to this point while you're waiting.

**Outriggers:**

Tie in EP fibers in a spent wing configuration. Leave fibers long for the moment. Sparsely dub Ice Dub in a figure 8 pattern around tie-in point forcing outriggers into a delta, swept back configuration. Don't crowd the head space as you'll need room for the wing and hackle. I suggest that you temporarily control the untrimmed outriggers by securing them to your vice with a wrap of lead wire, or clipping hackle pliers onto the ends and letting them dangle until completing the fly.

**Wing:**

Clean, stack and tie in a clump of elk hair in the thorax area with butts toward the eye and the wing equal to the body length. Don't trim butts yet and don't crowd the head space!

**Hackle:**

Tie in hackle in front of the wing and wrap 3 times around wing and butts, parachute style. Tie off hackle and form a small head with tying thread. Cut off thread.

**Complete the fly:**

Trim outriggers equal to the length of the hook.

Trim elk butts leaving a short stub (similar to an Elk Hair Caddis)

Cement head.

**Celebrate:**

Pour a finger or two of single malt and congratulate yourself on a job well done.  
(now try a #21 in Baetis colors!)

**Notes:** If you have trouble finding the 102Y hooks try Tiemco's 900BL or MFC's 7009 series, (both even sizes). You want a wide gape, light wire hook.

## ODDS AND ENDS

**January Meeting:**

Just an early heads up that our January meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, not New Year's Day. Mark calendars now.

**Become Immortalized!**

All those great fish pictures your fishing buddy took over the summer of you holding piscine monsters need to be in our Club video. Contact Jeff Lowe at 369-5467 or [fischjager@gmail.com](mailto:fischjager@gmail.com). Time's running out. The video is scheduled for world premiere at our January meeting.

**Fly of the Month:**

All Club members are invited to submit flies to be considered for Fly of the Month. Send your recipes and pictures to Bob Pearcy at [rwpearcy@gmail.com](mailto:rwpearcy@gmail.com).

**Fly tying:**

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm at the Brew Pub.

## FOR FUN

**PRESBYTERIAN**

When you rearrange the letters:

## **BEST IN PRAYER**

### **ASTRONOMER**

When you rearrange the letters:

**MOON STARER**

### **DESPERATION**

When you rearrange the letters:

**A ROPE ENDS IT**

### **THE EYES**

When you rearrange the letters:

**THEY SEE**

### **THE MORSE CODE**

When you rearrange the letters:

**HERE COME DOTS**

### **DORMITORY**

When you rearrange the letters:

**DIRTY ROOM**

### **SLOT MACHINES**

When you rearrange the letters:

**CASH LOST IN ME**

### **ANIMOSITY**

When you rearrange the letters:

**IS NO AMITY**

### **SNOOZE ALARMS**

When you rearrange the letters:

**ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S**

### **A DECIMAL POINT**

When you rearrange the letters:

**I'M A DOT IN PLACE**

### **ELEVEN PLUS TWO**

When you rearrange the letters:

**TWELVE PLUS ONE**

### **MOTHER-IN-LAW**

When you rearrange the letters:  
**WOMAN HITLER**

## THE AUTHOR

Judy and I have missed the last two member meetings and we look forward to seeing our old friends at this December 4 meeting. You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or [richmorrissey@q.com](mailto:richmorrissey@q.com).