

FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT



NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY, 2010

THE MEETING

You say you aren't tired of Holiday parties yet? Hold on! There's great good luck for you partying fools out there. We will convene Tuesday, January 5 in the hallowed but grease stained halls of BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton. Yes, Martha, there is still time to hoist a beverage of your choice and share vivands with fellow fly casters. General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. Dinners and your favorite libation are available. So, unless you're terrorizing bone fish in some sunny clime, we'll see you there.

THE SPEAKER

We are proud to welcome back Montana FWP fisheries biologist David Schmetterling. Dave will update us on the effects of the removal of the Milltown Dam on the Clark Fork and Blackfoot systems. His last presentation was fascinating.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Tony Tomsu of River Road Creations, Inc. (world's largest producer of wing and foam body cutters) spoke and tied. Tony was a delight and his cutters and tying techniques are worth paying attention to. His skwala was the best I've ever seen. (And that particular fly should be haunting your dreams as it will soon appear in the flesh.) I beleive we'll be seeing Tony again, particularly at the February pot pourri.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Past Presidents Message

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot (FFB) for the opportunity to serve as your President for 2009.

Not just for me, but your overall support is what makes this young organization the success that it is today. Your contributions including membership dues, donations of raffle items, purchase of raffle tickets, and your time attending our meetings, participating in special projects and just being good friends has contributed to our success. With some exceptions, and with our approval as a 501(c)(3) federal tax exemption as a public charity, we can offer individual donors and corporate donors a tax deduction for their charitable donations.

Your Board of Directors of 2009 deserves a lot of the credit for making a special commitment to all of us. Without their extra efforts, the organization would be nothing but fun and games. As it is, they are committed to making the FFB a special organization recognized throughout the Bitterroot Valley. Their continued work, no doubt, will eventually be recognized throughout Montana and beyond.

Of special consideration, I want to shine the spotlight on just a few Board Members:

Leon and Linda Powell: Along with their duties of Treasurer, Webmaster (Leon) and Membership, Dues (Linda), together (along with Jim Cline) they organized and implemented our 1st Annual Fishing Day for Special Needs People. In cooperation with Ravalli Services, the FFB hosted approximately 40 participants at Stafford Pond. This event not only provided recognition by those participating but also by leaders in the community. Donations by local retailers helped keeps costs very low.

Doreen Romans: Getting the word out of our meetings and programs each month takes a special effort dealing the Ravalli Republic Newspaper. Doreen must be commended for pushing through the hurdles to get our messages published. Each time the announcements appear they result in new visitors at our meetings and sometimes a new member or two. Surprisingly, these new visitors have lived in the Valley several years but not heard about the FFB.

Cliff Gibbons: In my opinion, the headache of the organization lies with Cliff. (Editor's query: Is that the same as Cliff being the headache of the organization?) Month after month Cliff was charged with responsibility to research, find, organize and present a guest speaker or presentation for our meetings. Because our members are interested in different aspects of fishing, not everyone will enjoy all programs presented. There lays the headache - finding the right person, with the right subject, at the right time, and, willing to speak for 30 minutes without any compensation. Such a deal this is for special guests. Cliff does a tremendous job for us and I'll nominate him for another year as the Programs Chairman.

Jim Cline and Doug Duff: The raffle is our major source of income. Finding interesting raffle items that generate a desire to win something special is what keeps us financially stable. It's sometimes difficult to find items that create that special interest at a reasonable cost. This leads me to our next "Special People".

Our Fly Tiers: Greg Chester, Phil Romans, Dave Inks and several others have donated countless flies, including fly boxes, for our raffles. Their continuing donations help us financially and support our activities and programs. Without their contributions and devotion to FFB we could be very limited in the some of the programs and activities we're involved with.

Rich Morrissey and Bob Ficket: Another first for our organization is what will be our Annual Pig Roast. Thanks to their organizational and roasting skills, they pulled off an excellent picnic at Como Lake this past year. Although the pig was somewhat on the rare side (maybe I should have got to the front of the line), it was all good. Our members also contributed with some amazing dishes to fill out the menu and enjoy a day of fun, food and fellowship.

Don McGourty Jr.: deserves special recognition for continuing the tradition of organizing and promoting the annual Bitterroot River Clean-up. This event brings our organization together with the community and results in everlasting benefits for the environment we all enjoy.

Pierre Satkowiak: Our Cruise Director has put in many hours researching new and interesting places to spend time fishing in our great outdoors. It's not an easy task to coordinate these activities especially when weather has a say in the event.

And finally, I want to wish the best of luck to our new Officers and Board of Directors for 2010. With their foresight and efforts, including the support of our membership, we all can expect good things to come.

Have a happy and safe new year,
Ed Couchman

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

At our December members meeting, a new slate of directors was elected: Phil and Dorreen Romans, Cliff Gibbons, Jeff and Cathy Lowe, Jim Cline, Greg Chester, Howard

Friedberg, Doug Duff, Bob Fickett, Bob Percy, Leon and Linda Powell, Pierre Satkowiak and Rich Morrissey.

These directors at a meeting on December 29 elected as President, Bob Percy; First Vice President, Cathy Lowe; Treasurer, Leon Powell; and as Secretary, Rich Morrissey.

ODDS AND ENDS

Fish-a-Month:

I am informed that Phil Romans is burnishing his credentials as a Fly Fishologist by landing at least one fish each month of the year. His latest was a sockeye over in Idaho in December. Are there others out there going for this icy goal? I am reminded of a duck hunt I went on in the dead of winter in eastern Washington. When I got to my favorite pothole, it was frozen over. But in the middle of the icy pond, there were two duck feet stuck in the ice. All around there were feathers and blood. Coyote dinner. Is that what will happen to our winter casters?

Fly tying:

It's on! Wednesday evenings at the Hamilton Brewery. 5:30 pm. All skill levels welcome.

Membership:

As most of you already know, our Club started a dues program in September. The annual dues for an individual is \$25 and for a family, \$35. Please see Dorreen Romans, sitting in for Linda Powell, at the check in desk at our meeting or download an application form at www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org. Just to brag a little, we already have over 70 paid members. Not bad for a little ole club. 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; Bitterroot River clean-up; the Pig Roast; various outings under the stewardship of our Cruise Director; and much more. If you yen to get involved, speak to any director or officer.

New Year Wishes:

I wish for each of our members enough time fishing this year that you are satisfied; for at least one 40 plus fish day; for at least two fish over 20 inches and maybe one at 25 inches; for always having the right fly at the right time; for a safe and dry experience; and for an opportunity to give back to our chosen passion.

FOR FUN

A friend gave me a wonderful card recently. Here are a few of the thoughts contained therein:

You know you're getting older when:

The tooth fairy has more of your teeth than you do.

You think "libido" is an Italian pasta.

You sit down at breakfast and hear "snap, crackle and pop" and you haven't poured milk on your cereal yet.

You begin to think of an RV as "one sweet ride."

Lawn care has become a big part of your life.

You think of a "quickie" as a short nap.

Your back goes out more often than you do.

THE AUTHOR

The rumors are true! Old curmudgeons can find love! Judy and I became engaged in December. So now I have a permanent fishing buddy. If only I could get her to learn how to tie flies You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage newsletter ideas.