



June 2016 Newsletter

*June meeting – Tuesday June 7 at 6pm
BJ's Restaurant – Hamilton*

"I think it's time for me to get out of fishing, because at the moment I'm only thinking about fishing 21 hours a day and they're the waking moments"

Rex Hunt
Aussie TV Personality and Fisherman

The Presidents Message

June is almost here and with it will come Salmon flies, Goldens, Caddis, PMD's, Drakes, and all the glorious dry fly days of late spring/early summer. If you haven't finished stocking up your boxes by now you're in trouble folks. Runoff (as sad as it was) is almost over and reports of big bugs have already been percolating around the region.

Being on the river in June has to be just about a perfect a thing that can ever be. The water is cold and clear, bugs are popping, trout are chowing down, the sun is usually shining, the hills are green, birds are chirping, and everything is as it should be. I wish June could last forever but sadly it never does. Get your "honey do" taken care of now!

As they say, it's time to get after it!

This month is chalk full of great events. The first being the Dave Hughes workshop and his presentation at our June meeting. Don't miss this one. Coming in close second is the annual Clark Canyon trip (June 10-12). If you enjoy catching steelhead-sized trout, this is your place. The fishing can be downright silly at times if you hit it right and the carp fishing on Clark Canyon can be outstanding (if you're into that sort of thing. I know I am...). Special Needs Fishing Day is on June 26 and is always one of the more fun days of the year. It's a great thing to help these folks catch a few fish; they really get a kick out of it.

Tight Lines everyone.

Bob Prince

President – Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot

The Program

Dave Hughes will be our speaker for the Tuesday meeting in June. Dave is a nationally known fly fishing author. The weekend before the dinner he will be giving two workshops on Matching Western Hatches. His dinner presentation will be on "Reading Trout Water"

The Annual FFB Picnic

The annual FFB picnic & steak burn will take place Sunday, August 21 at Steve Lilburn's lovely riverside property again this year. Our longtime chief cook & organizer, Rich Morrissey, will be on a Cruise in the Baltics and not be unable to donate his services---I can't imagine "why" he would rather be on a Cruise than slaving over the BBQ & cooking our steaks as he has brilliantly done for so many years! But don't fret club members, Albert Henricks, also known as Chef Boy o Boy, of Georgetown cookout fame, will be at the helm of steak burning. Dorreen Romans has volunteered to organize the other aspects of the outing. She being a micromanager has requested that you RSVP for this event and let her know if you would like to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. She remembers one year at Lake Como when we got 2 salads & 11 desserts. Not wanting to tempt fate with all the sweet lovers out there she is requesting you e-mail her promans@aol.com or call 363-0744 to let her know if you will attend. Her ulterior motive is that she wants to make sure we have enough steak, beer, & supplies for all who wish to party! Members are encouraged to bring out of town guests and friends who don't happen to be fly fishers - we'll put a rod in their hand and convert them!

Steve's riverside estate is located at 144 Hannon Lane, Darby 59829. Its on highway 93, 3 miles south of Darby on your left. Karstetter Classic starts at 1:00 pm & the picnic starts at 5:00 pm. Mark your calendar and don't forget to send Dorreen and RSVP.

Karstetter Classic

August 21, 2016, Darby, Montana

The fourth Karstetter Classic will be held from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Sunday, August 21, 2016, 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 is a gathering of those who build, use and admire the classically made bamboo fly rod (both antique and new) and the reels used with 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. Only by casting them do we understand their true nature. This is an opportunity to do just that on the site casting pond or in the adjacent river. Share knowledge, admire craftsmanship and hang out with some real characters.

This event was named for Marty Karstetter. Marty lives in Darby 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. An opportunity to see and compare 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.

This is a free event held on private property. There is no charge for entrance, parking, display, sale or trades. Display tables may be erected and easy ups are suggested. Rod builders, collectors, and fisher folk who use or want to use bamboo rods are invited. However, this is a hands on event so rods brought should be available to be cast by other participants. There is a casting pond and over 2000 feet of river abuts the property. Dust off that old rod and reel and bring it down.

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 club member may join the FFB members for a steak BBQ and open keg with our compliments. Additionally, you may join FFB at \$25.00 for a year's individual membership.

This is our fourth annual. Hope to see you there.

For information contact:

Steve Lilburn, River Resorts LLC, steve@lilburncorp.com; or 406-546-1351.

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, richmorrisey1776@gmail.com; or 406-381-5611.

“The angling fever is a very real disease that can only be cured by the application of cold water and fresh, untainted air”

Theodore Gordon

Inventor of the Quill Gordon, one the first American dry flies

Outings

CLARK CANYON TRIP --- JUNE 10 – 12

SPECIAL NEEDS DAY--- JUNE 26

GEORGETOWN LAKE CAMPING TRIP//LODGEPOLE
CAMPGROUND JULY--- 15 -17.

KARSTETTER CLASSIC AND CLUB PICNIC ---AUG 21

Anyone that wants information should call our Cruise Director Mike Taylor: 961-2448 or 381-7749

Project Healing Waters Float

In conjunction with Project Healing Waters and The Freestone Fly Shop (Jeff Gray) we are treating about 8 vets from Long Beach, California area and the Long Beach Veterans Hospital to three days (June 22, 23 and 24) of fly fishing on the Bitterroot River. Thanks go to Club member Dennis Swing for his hard work in organizing this event.



Karstetter Classic

August 21, 2016

**The fourth annual Karstetter Classic, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
on the banks of the Bitterroot River, Darby Montana.**



A gathering of those who build, use and admire the classically made bamboo fly rod (both antique and new) and the reels used with them.

Show, display, test and admire.

On site casting pond

On the banks of the Bitterroot

Free. No cost to attend.

FLY FISHERS OF THE
BITTERROOT AND RIVER
RESORTS LLC
144 Hannon Lane, Darby
MT 59829

steve@lilburncorp.com

Sunday August 21st
1 to 5 pm

Fisheries Biologist Summer Intern

The FFB has again volunteered to collaborate with BRTU to fund a Fisheries Biologist summer intern. This is an excellent opportunity to enhance the Forest Service's native fisheries program and provide a diverse educational experience for the intern. The purpose is to expose the intern to as wide a range of field-going fisheries duties as possible, including, but not limited to:

- ☐ Monitoring and maintaining livestock enclosure fences;
- ☐ Monitoring road decommissioning and timber harvest projects;
- ☐ Deploying thermographs to monitor water temperatures;
- ☐ Conducting presence/absence of fish population surveys via electro fishers and by snorkeling;
- ☐ Conducting mark/recapture fish population estimates (electrofishing);
- ☐ Conducting fish habitat inventories
- ☐ Conducting mountain lake surveys (together with FWP biologists);
- ☐ Implementing fish habitat improvement projects (shrub planting; dispersed campsite rehab);
- ☐ Monitoring grazing allotments.

The Forest service is responsible to monitor the interns' activities and ensure a concise daily log be compiled into a brief reporting of accomplishments and suggestions for improving the intern program for future interns.

As in past years BRTU and the FFB will splint funding for the intern not to exceed \$2000 (\$1000 each max). This effort continues to be a very popular and important component of future fisheries biologists' education and we're pleased to participate in this endeavor.

"There are people in the world who see nothing in the angler's occupation but tedium, cruelty, and lies...Peace be to all such, and a better way—if they can find it—of spending their leisure time, more humane, more fit for an honest man"

Odell Shepard

"Thread of the River"

Fly of the Month

By Dennis Westover



Purple Lightning Bug

Materials list

Hook – 2x Heavy Scud Hook #18

Thread – UTC 70 black

Bead – Nickel Cyclops 5/64th

Tail – Dyed Purple Pheasant

Body – UTC Purple Holo Tinsel – Med

Rib – Red Wire – Small

Thorax – Peacock Herl

Flashback – UTC Purple Holo Tinsel _ Med

The Lightning Bug is pattern originated by a guide on the Yakima River in Washington State and has been a staple in my fly box for twenty years. The original version was tied with silver tinsel and natural pheasant tail in sizes 14 and 16. That version and sizes are very effective in freestone rivers and tail waters. The size 18 purple version is intended for picky fish in tail waters and is a great Missouri River pattern. Use it in particular when Baetis are present in the river.

This pattern is one of the “Just Add Vise” pattern kits sold by head Hunters Fly Shop in Craig, MT. The kit contains everything you need to tie two dozen Purple Lightning Bugs and includes a link to a video tutorial.

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

Dry Fly Fishing in Stillwaters

I’ve always thought that hooking trout on dry flies in a lake or very slow moving river was more challenging than fooling a rising trout on a freestone stream or tail water. On rivers such as the Bitterroot or Missouri a rising trout can reliably be expected to be in the vicinity of his last riseform – thus eliminating one variable in the process of making the presentation. Lakes and slow moving rivers, however, present an increased degree of difficulty. Trout in stillwaters are constantly on the move looking for their next meal and usually can’t be expected to be where they last rose for more than a few seconds. Yes, if you are able to cover the last rise with a quick and accurate cast you may get the fish’s attention but more often they are yards away by the time your fly hits the water. Chasing riseforms can be frustrating and is usually non productive. So, how to plan your strategy and tactics so as to increase your hookup percentage on stillwaters?

There are basically two levels of activity when trout are rising to insects on stillwaters. The first is characterized by one or two trout rising randomly within or just outside your casting range. They are probably

working the beginnings of a hatch or scavenging spinners or leftovers from a previous hatch. This (or these) trout are catchable but will require more than just covering the rise and hoping you get lucky. The first step in your strategy is to OBSERVE rather than begin chasing rises with rapid-fire casts. Random rising trout in stillwaters usually swim in a somewhat predictable and repeated pattern – usually circular. Observe long enough to pick up the pattern and note whether there is a consistent interval between riseforms. When you have a feel for direction and interval watch for at least two riseforms and make your cast in the direction of those rises and at the interval between the last two riseforms. I find that this approach puts my fly within sight of the cruising fish about 50% of the time and dramatically increases my hookup percentage.

The second level of activity is characterized by significant and repeated insect activity on the surface. This hatch activity usually attracts numbers of fish and results in almost continuous riseforms in your vicinity. Evaluating the direction and interval of rising fish is the wrong tactic now – with so many fish rising your most effective strategy is to cast to an area where fish are consistently rising and WAIT for a fish to find your fly. Patience is now your best tactic and if your fly pattern matches the hatch it's just a matter of time until you are hooked up.

Both of these strategies are dependent on your matching the currently hatching insect. Fortunately, Stillwater surface hatches are usually limited to a few insect types. Spring and fall expect Chironomid emergers and adults. Spring brings Callibaetis mayflies as emergers, cripples, adults and spinners. Damsel adults can be important in July and August. Learn to identify each of these insects and the particular stage of the hatch and improve your success rate on stillwaters! ED