



NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH, 2009

THE MEETING

We will meet Tuesday, March 3 at BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street (that's Highway 93 folks) in the thriving metropolis of Hamilton. General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. Dinners and your favorite libation are available. As a rule, the Club meets the first Tuesday of every month except for the months of July and August. But there is a **CHANGE** for July. See below under "Pig Roast."

THE SPEAKER

Fresh from Victor (yes, our own Victor), we are having Jeff Abel, son of the founder of Abel Reels. We asked Jeff to speak to our Club after hearing him

provide a very interesting TU program several months ago. He will speak about several of his inventions relating to trout and about his passion for our sport. He is engaging and innovative. Come. Hear. Enjoy!

THOSE WHO SPAKE

February's meeting was a good, short (maybe the same thing) talk by Doug Nation, this year's president of the Montana Trout Unlimited. We then watched and learned from a number of good to great fly tyers.

PIG ROAST IN JULY!

After discussing the matter, the Board decided it would be a good thing to throw a pig roast in July this year. It will be held Saturday, July 11th at Lake Como. There is a perfect picnic spot with five tables (some of us will bring extra folding tables) and more benches and fire rings. We will stake it early. (Somebody has to sacrifice, sitting in the sun all day, drinking beer and watching the pork turn.) We will endeavor to sing a little piggy and provide Prez Couchman's famous (deservedly) dutch oven baked beans and, perhaps, a keg or two from the Hamilton Brewery. We will pass the hat, asking for a donation, probably in the \$5.00 range. In addition, we will ask that you bring a dish to share or something to quaff if suds doesn't do it for you. Dorreen asks that not all the potluck dishes be desserts (ie, bring salads or cornbread). This will be our new July meeting for those earning a perfect attendance badge. Oh, yeah. we plan on having casting contests (distance and accuracy) and perhaps a bamboo vs. graphite casting. Subject to further review (I'm making this up as I type.), we'll start at 5:00 pm except for those benighted souls who will have started the pig (and kegs) at 8:00 am.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the Presidents Raft:

If you noticed at the last couple meetings, the FFB has some beautifully designed logo hats for sale. Our beloved Past President, Cliff Gibbons, designed them. Cliff has accepted the job of Logo Chairman and managing all our logo sale items. Please help Cliff by purchasing one of these hats and making your recommendations known about other items you would like to see offered.

Are you ready for some Fishing, Floating and Fellowship?

Fishing: The spring fishing season is about to begin. Large Sqwala nymphs are in the water and ready to bust out. I saw them myself at Anglers Roost on Friday the 13th.

Floating: Several of our members operate three man (person) rafts and are always looking for someone to take fishing on the Bitterroot. Why? Because its difficult to operate a three man raft with only one person. Most of these rafts have been in winter mothballs and are about ready to inflate. (editor's note: Well, actually, it's about those guys always doing the Bitterroot Dunk, but oh, well.)

Fellowship: Are you new to the Bitterroot River? Are you just learning to fly fish? Are you looking for an opportunity to float the river with someone with some experience? Then this is your chance. Some of our members with rafts are willing to take you fishing on the Bitterroot.

At the March regular meeting I will pass around a sign up sheet for those members interested in floating and fishing. All new members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. So, if you're new to the Valley, or new to fly fishing, or just knew you had to join the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot for the benefits of improving your fishing skills and meeting new people, then you're doing right thing.

I'll see you at the March 3rd meeting. Bring a friend or two. Children interested in fishing are welcome too. In the mean time Be Safe.

Ed Couchman

THE ERRATA

Fly Tying:

Fly tying, Wednesday evenings at the Brewery in Hamilton, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Be there or be square. Bring your favorite pattern or just come to observe. Greg Chester and Phil Romans are usually there. We hope to see some of you. Any fly you are afraid to throw into heavy cover is good only for an ornament, so you know you need to tye more.

New Members:

Bill Roma joined with us at our February meeting. He's new to the Valley. Seek him out and say hello.

Cruises:

Our esteemed Cruise Director, Pierre (pronouce-my-name-correctly and win a prize) Satkowiak, has lined up a four night, five day Smith River float lifting off on May 13. This trip will use Speaker Joe Sowerby's rafts and gear. Joe will provide a dray boat and all food (cooked, even) and camping gear but we self guide and provide our own potables. The tourist rate is \$3000 but we get it for \$1200. Eleven stalwarts have signed up and paid deposits. There's room for one more. See or call Pierre for details.

Fly Fishing Tour Films:

The Fly Fishing Film Tour is coming to Missoula, starting March 4. Tickets are being sold at Grizzly Hackle in Missoula or on-line at <www.FlyFishingFilmTour.com> or

<www.aegmedia.com>. In addition they have a library of videos and other resources on their site.

For Fun:

We all make mistakes and, hopefully, learn from them. That's called youth and earning wisdom. But what if you're an old fart and you make a mistake? Well, you need to ask our esteemed and immediately past president what he was thinking when he tore into Horse Camp at Lake Como in three feet of snow just the other day. Turns out, the low four wheel in his pickup just doesn't work when you're high centered and spinning all your tires. And what of those chains in the back which were remembered only after the ignominy of a tow truck was endured. I mean, I love the guy, but serious erosions of trust were made as I slogged about in mocassins in the icy snow trying to dig him out.

THE AUTHOR

I still get to do this newsletter and you, ... you don't. If you don't like it, you can do it. Or you can simply not pay dues in September (or before). Only Club dues paying members will receive this timeless ode to failing memory and poor attempts at humor after September. You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage (I'm going to regret saying this) newsletter ideas or even your original writing (short). Thanks to the computer wizardry of Leon Powell, this newsletter will henceforth be sent in pdf format. For those still mired in 19th century dialup internet, you can thank Leon.