



December 2014 Newsletter

*December meeting – Tuesday December 2nd^h at 6pm
BJ's Restaurant – Hamilton*

***“Fishing should be the exercise of your skills-
and its reward the places it brings you to.”***

Negley Farson- Going Fishing

THE PROGRAM

Mark Raisler is the Co-Owner of the world famous Headhunters Fly Shop in scenic Craig MT where he is also an Outfitter & Guide. He explains his evolution as a fisherman this way.

“I was forced to fish at a young age and did not like it. But, over the years learned to like it, then love it, then live it. Wouldn't have it any other way.”

He claims that he was an aimless wanderer who stumbled to the Missouri on a recommendation of the Missoulain Angler in May 1992. He also claims he could not catch those finicky fish. So he moved to the Missouri in Sept of 1997 and spent the happiest days of his life. He became a fishing guide in 2000 and then an outfitter 5 years later. Then finally a shop owner with friend John Arnold in 2008.

Mark loves the Missouri and claims it is his favorite place to live and fish.

Mark will be speaking about the Tricks and Techniques of catching finicky trout on the Missouri.

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Fishing came to an abrupt halt with the sudden cold weather, so fishing has been put on a temporary hold. However all in all it has been a very good angling year. As it comes to an end so does my term as President of the Fly Fishers of the bitterroot. Chris Anderson will be taking the reins in January. He is a great fisherman and will do a first-rate job as President.

As winter enters the valley we settle in to fly tying, and even a few days on the river on the occasional warm spells. Join us at the Brewery for fly tying on Wednesday evenings throughout the winter months, if not to tie flies join us in telling of fish stories both of the past and of the future. I am really looking forward to this month's program. Our speaker, Mark Raisler from Headhunter's Fly Shop, is a great guide who knows the Missouri River as well as anyone. Mark is an entertaining speaker I am sure you will enjoy.

Thanks to you all for making my year as President an enjoyable one and I look forward to many more both as a Board and general member of a great Club.

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy, and above all a great fishing season in the coming new year.

Doug

SMITH RIVER

A number of Club members have expressed interest in doing the Smith River float. Joe Sowerby, owner of Montana Fly-fishing Connection, and the outfitter we all use, has graciously provided five dates in 2015 that

are available to our Club. For those who have never experienced this iconic MT float, here is how it works: You may try to get a date acceptable to you via the draw system used by FWP but most of us have not been successful in that effort. Instead, we have been offered and use Joe Sowerby's allocated outfitter dates on those dates Joe is not booking full priced sports. This system keeps Joe's guides busy all summer and utilizes his allocated dates. The cost to us is \$1200 per capita for a four-night five-day float. Joe provides camp cooks, usually three, for a group of about ten. All food, some wine and beer, tents, cots, etc. is included. Camp set ups, dishwashing and related chores are done by the guides. You provide your own sleeping bag (but Joe can provide if necessary). You provide your own raft (but Joe can provide usually if necessary). Most importantly, you row yourself. At this price, no guide is rowing for you. The rowing is easy; the Smith is not a hard river. You can pay about triple our cost and have a dedicated guide to row you each day. Your car is shuttled to the takeout for \$100. The floaters assemble the night before put in in White Sulphur Springs. Dinner that evening in a local tavern with guides. Drive to Camp Baker next day, about thirty miles distant, for a 9ish debarkation. You pack your own personals. Joe provides a recommended list at his website: smithriverflyfishing.com The guides are tipped at the end. You are off river on day five in time to drive home for supper.

It would be impolitic to ask Joe to reserve a float for us with less than eight signed up and confirmed. I would hope we would have ten to twelve for a given date. While Joe did not limit us on the number of dates we use, I suspect we will not book enough folks for more than two put in dates. SO I am going to publish the five dates available and collect indications of interest. Please provide me with dates you can go in order of preference and dates you cannot go. Do not bother asking me about other dates; I will not respond. I will collate your input and determine which dates our Club books with Joe. The available dates are: May 14-18, May 23-27, May 31-June 4, July 14-18 and July 17-21. (If 2015 is a very high water year, there is a possibility of booking a fall trip, but this has proved elusive in the recent past.) email me. Please do not call. Rich Morrissey, richmorrisey@q.com.

Fly of the Month

By Dennis Westover

The Quigley Cripple

(Mirabeau body version)



Recipe

Hook: TMC 100 sizes 10 – 18

Thread: UTC Ultra 70 denier (black) or Roman Moser Power Silk (dark gray)

Tail: Insect brown Zelon – $\frac{3}{4}$ shank length (tail is optional)

Rib: Fine gold wire

Body: Three or four individual long strands of olive or dark brown Mirabeau tied in, twisted together and wound forward on the hook shank.

Thorax: Tan (olive body) or pale olive caddis dubbing (brown body).

Wing: Elk hair tied in facing forward over the hook eye.
Hackle: Three turns of grizzly hackle.

This month's pattern is a fly originally designed by Bob Quigley, a highly regarded fly designer and guide from the Fall River area of Northern California. Although Bob's pattern was originally intended for spring creek trout I have found it effective on freestone rivers, lakes, steelhead drifts (larger sizes) and in the salt for sea run cutthroat. Fish of all species seem to love it and because of that it has been one of my favorite patterns for more than twenty years. I know that many of our Club members are familiar with this pattern and fish it regularly but I'm not sure that many are aware of the mirabeau body version. I prefer this version to a dubbed body because the mirabeau moves in the water and traps air bubbles in its fibers, more closely imitating the actual crippled insect. Bottom line – it catches fish!!! I tie the Quig with brown, olive and purple Mirabeau bodies to imitate most of the seasonal hatches on the Bitterroot and other Montana rivers. Tie up a few (size 14 is a good all-purpose size) and try them next spring. You won't be disappointed....

The photos below illustrate the technique I use to tie the Mirabeau body. Tie in the Zelon tail (optional) and fine gold wire, Strip six to eight LONG Mirabeau fibers from the side of a premium mirabeau feather and tie them in by the tips.

Attach your hackle pliers to the ends of the mirabeau and twist them clockwise tightly forming a dubbing noodle.



Wrap the dubbing noodle forward on the hook shank to about the $\frac{3}{4}$ position on the hook shank and tie off. Counter wrap the wire.



Stack a clump of elk hair (a bit less than the thickness of a pencil for a size 12) and tie it in facing towards the eye of the hook. I prefer elk hair with thicker fibers that carry that thickness all the way to the tips. Avoid thin fibers with long, skinny tips.

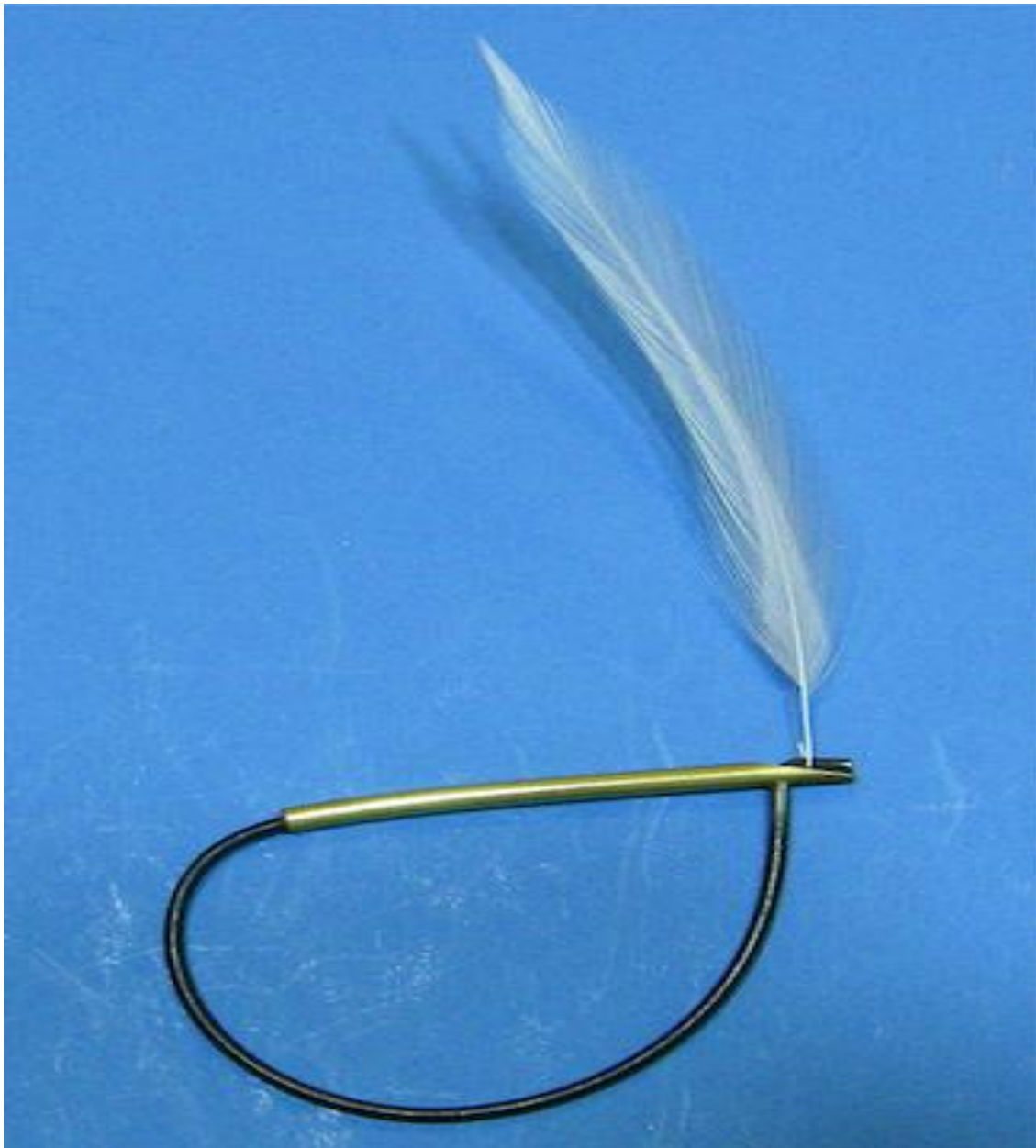


Once the elk is secured trim the butts as shown. Select a grizzly hackle (either neck or saddle is fine) and wrap three turns at the tie in point then bring the hackle forward in front of the wing and tie off. Form a head and whip finish. I like to put a drop of head cement where the hackle is wrapped around the elk as insurance against sharp-toothed trout.

The Ouigley is designed to float hook point down and wing up so apply floatant to ONLY the hackle and wing, allowing the mirabeau body to sink.

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

HACKLE PLIERS THAT WORK - I must have a dozen hackle pliers scattered around my tying desk. Only one or two are used on a regular basis – the rejects have various faults that have consigned them to the bone yard. Perhaps you were lucky enough to get it right with the first pair you bought. I wasn't, but have finally found a tool that works so well that I may finally find the courage to toss the defective ones



The pliers are made by TYFLYZ TOOLS in Cascade Colorado and sell for \$12.00 - not cheap but if they work (they do) then they are worth it. Your local fly shop can probably get them for you or Google TYFLYZ TOOLS - there are a dozen fly shops shown stocking the pliers.

BOOKS WORTH READING – I enjoy reading about fly-fishing and over the years have collected a reasonably good selection of books on fishing and tying. I've read them all once and some twice but when I began thinking about a list of my favorites it turned out to be a fairly short list. The criteria for inclusion in the "Hall of Fame" was simple – am I still rereading them and referring to them on a regular basis? I could only answer yes to six volumes out of a library of more than one hundred. I offer my list below in hopes you will find one or two of them as valuable as I have. GOOD READING!!

Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies – Pat Dorsey

Fly Fishing Tailwaters – Pat Dorsey

Tying Small Flies – Ed Engle

Fishing Small Flies – Ed Engle

Fly Fishing for Bonefish – Chico Fernandez






Small Fly adventures in the West – Neal Streeks (out of print but occasionally available from independent bookshops through Amazon)

“When I was a child starting out, I fished for two and a half years and never caught a fish, but I kept at it.”

John Bailey – Author, Angler and owner of Dan Baileys Fly Shop, Livingston, MT

CHRISTMAS SALE

We are having a Christmas sale. All of the FFB Logo items in stock are on sale at cost plus 10%. Now is the time to get those Logo items you have always wanted.

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Savings *</u>	<u>Sales Price</u>
<u>Men's Long Sleeve Angler Shirts</u>						
	Oxford Tan	XL	1	\$45.00	-8.00	\$37.00
	Blue	XL	1	\$45.00	-8.00	\$37.00
	Blue	2XL	1	\$45.00	-8.00	\$37.00
	Light Foliage	L	2	\$45.00	-8.00	\$37.00
	Light Foliage	XL	1	\$45.00	-8.00	\$37.00
<u>Men's Wick Advance Tee Shirts</u>						
	Cool Blue	L	1	\$25.00	-8.00	\$17.00
	Cool Blue	XL	1	\$25.00	-8.00	\$17.00
	Garden Green	XL	1	\$25.00	-8.00	\$17.00
<u>Cotton Short Sleeve Tee Shirts</u>						
	Fool's Gold	L	1	\$25.00	-9.00	\$16.00
	Fool's Gold	XL	1	\$25.00	-9.00	\$16.00
	Fool's Gold	2XL	1	\$25.00	-9.00	\$16.00
	Fire Brick (red)	L	1	\$25.00	-9.00	\$16.00
	Heather Green	L	1	\$25.00	-9.00	\$16.00
	Heather Green	2XL	1	\$25.00	-9.00	\$16.00
<u>Men's Snake River Fleece Vest</u>						
	Black	L	1	\$35.00	-5.00	\$30.00
	Black	XL	1	\$35.00	-5.00	\$30.00
	Navy	XL	1	\$35.00	-5.00	\$30.00
<u>Woman's Snake River Jacket</u>						
	Black	XL		\$35.00	-5.00	\$30.00
<u>Cotton Twill Caps</u>						
	Khaki		4	\$15.00	-6.00	\$9.00
	Olive		4	\$15.00	-6.00	\$9.00

Sale items limited to stock on hand. Purchases can be made at December meeting or by mail (subject to shipping charges). For mail purchases contact Leon at eleonfish@gmail.com.

**Happy Thanksgiving to all of our
members and their families!**

***“Once an angler always a fisherman. If we cannot have
the” best, we will take the least and fish for minnows if
nothing better is to be had”***

*THEODORE GORDON – Inventor of the Quill Gordon, one of
the first American dry flies.*