

# FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT

NEWSLETTER FOR March, 2008

MEMBER



## THE MEETING

Our March meeting will be held Tuesday, March 4, 2008, upstairs at the Exchange Club on Main Street in Hamilton (unless we get bumped downstairs again). Cocktails and general fish tales start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. As a rule, the Club meets the first Tuesday of every month except for the months of July and August, when there will not be any meetings. Please remember to sign up with FFF if you haven't already done so. Membership applications are available at all meetings. See Dorreen Romans, our Membership Chair. This can also be accomplished on line with FFF, <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>. Guests are always welcome but you must be a member of FFF to attend regularly our monthly meetings and programs. In order to comply with FFF requirements, the Club will soon make an effort to update our membership data, including each person's FFF membership number and expiration date. The Club has no membership fee other than the cost of being an FFF member.

Don't forget to make reservations (Dorreen Romans, 363-0744) only if you are coming for dinner. If we have enough folks coming, The Exchange will hire extra help. Otherwise, the service will be slow, so please make reservations. Thanks for your help in this. There is no charge for attending the meetings or any requirement

to have dinner.

## **THE PROGRAM**

As our President's message notes below, we'll have Dave Inks speaking on the fabled Dean River. As one who has been there and done that, this is unbelievable steelhead fishing. Consider a 25 pound fury steaming across the river just under the water and slamming your fly. Kind'a spoils you for anything else.

## **THOSE WHO SPAKE**

Perhaps it was the fact that no one spoke at our February program, but it was very well received. We wish to thank all those who manned the various tables and helped the rest of the benighted of us with our various fishing needs: Bill Bean on reel cleaning; Phil Romans on rod repair and wrapping; Greg Chester, Rick Thomas and Dennis McIntyre on fly tying; Chuck Stranahan on fishing knots; Bob Curry and Cliff Gibbons on fishing vest contents; and, most of all, Doug Johnson and Lou Royce from Montana Fish and Game who answered questions on fishing regs and like matters. We'll likely make this an annual affair.

## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

From The President's "Raft":

Well, we tried something new and it worked. I had a numbers of the members come up to me after the meeting and tell me they enjoyed the mini workshops and the change of pace. My special thanks to all who participated in making this a success.

In March, we are going Steelheading on the **DEAN RIVER** in British Columbia. Dave Inks will be our guest speaker. He guided for Flyfishing International on this **World Class Steelhead River** for a number of years.

Has anyone checked the River's temperature yet? I can hardly wait for the magic 42 degrees and our old friend *Mr. Skwala*. I bet the fish can't wait either.

Don't forget to talk to your friends about our joint Fly Fishing Clinic with T.U. and "The Teller" in May ( May 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th ) from 6-9pm at Teller's Slack Barn. Posters are in place at the fly shops and Bob Wards in Hamilton. It is not too early to sign up. If you have questions talk to any of your Board Members or Phil and Dorreen Romans.

Keep a tight line. Cliff

## **WEB PAGE ARRIVES!**

Look it up! [www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org](http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org).

## **FREEBIE TABLE ESTABLISHED**

The Club has accumulated a few items that can and should be shared with all members, such as a box of turkey feathers, a large roll of wing material, fishing magazines, etc. We will set up a table at each meeting and set these items out for any member to help themselves. Any member may bring in items for the table subject to two caveats: they must be for free distribution (no sales of old gear) and if they are not taken, "he who brung 'em, must take 'em home."

## **OTHER CLUB TOOLS**

The Club owns two tools that may be of periodic use to members. We have a motorized rod drying machine and a dubbing machine. Both these handcrafted tools are available for use by any member free of charge. They are maintained at Bill Bean's Fishaus in Hamilton.

## **THE EVENTS**

### **Club Outings:**

Under the clever tutelage of Pierre Satkowiak, our beloved cruise director, all those who signed up for the hoped for Smith River outing should have already sent in the coordinated date applications. Keep your fingers crossed for a successful drawing from our collective apps. We continue to plan on an outing to Georgetown Lake on May 17, the traditional opening day. More on this later. Other destinations are under active review. Contact Pierre (777-2348) if you have any thoughts or even if you don't.

### **Raffle:**

Under the stewardship of Bob Curry and Ed Couchman, a review of our raffle items is underway. The tickets for each item are counted and the interests of

members in that item are gauged. This will be a long term, ongoing effort. If you have any suggestions for future raffle items (*i.e.*, more nonfly tying items such as clothing, wine, etc.) please contact Bob or Ed. recall that the Club's principal source of income is the raffle. All attendees, whether members or honored guests, may purchase raffle tickets.

### **Bitterroot Fly Guide:**

Under the able leadership of Board member Mike Wesche, the Club is putting together information that will be incorporated into a form of booklet or trip ticket. A map of the Bitterroot, the various fly hatches, put in and take outs, guides, shuttle services and the like is being compiled. More on this exciting project will come in future editions of this critical reading venue. We anticipate this will be sold in fly shops, etc. and become a source of income for the Club.

### **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, Phil Romans, Dick Galli and a number of great Bitterroot tiers are usually there. And there's always the permitted 48 ounces of your favorite flavor. We hope to see some of you. Perhaps there could be a dedicated effort to tie for the Fly Fishing Workshop scheduled for May. (See below.)

### **May Fly Fishing Workshop:**

Each May, on four consecutive Wednesday evenings, the Club, in conjunction with the Bitterroot chapter of Trout Unlimited, puts on a fly fishing clinic for men and women ages 16 and up. This year, as in the past, it will be held at the Slack Barn at The Teller. (Look for posters at your favorite fly shop.) This Clinic is for beginner and intermediate fly fishers and a wonderful source of information and hands on learning about casting, stream entomology and fly tying and all the components that go into our beloved sport. It is also a great source of new members. As part of this Clinic, participants are given fly books with a few flies. Members are encouraged to tie a few flies for this event and give them to Phil Romans or Greg Chester.

### **Board of Directors Meeting:**

Our next Board meeting will be Monday, March 24th at 7:00 pm. at the home of Cliff Gibbons. (NOTE TIME CHANGE!) All are welcome. Call Cliff at 961-5642 for directions.

### **News from the Bitterroot Trout Unlimited Club:**

The next TU meeting is at 7:00 pm at the Hamilton Elks Lodge on Thursday, Feb 21. Kris and Dave Kumlien from Bozeman's Montana Troutfitters will present a program entitled "Gunning for the Big Boys." They will talk about fishing for larger trout in the legendary rivers in the Bozeman area.

The Bitterroot TU is posting fishing regulations about and around the Bitterroot. This project is scheduled for Saturday, April 26. TU expects to post up to 40 signs. TU is asking for help from our Club. Please contact Greg Chester, 363-0033.

### **Stream Setbacks:**

There was a great editorial by former BRTU President Doug Nation in the February 12 *Ravalli Republic* in support of stream setbacks. Here is the link if you want to check it out.

<http://www.ravallirepublic.com/articles/2008/02/12/viewpoint/01viewpoint.txt>

Streamside Setback Committee meeting on Feb 19. Rocky Haralson, MT Dept of Revenue Region 4 Bureau Chief, will be presenting to the Ravalli County Streamside Setback Committee on Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 pm in the Commissioner's meeting room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 215 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton. Haralson will present an overview on the effect zoning in general and streamside setbacks in particular may have on property values and the Ravalli County tax base, and on how real property is appraised for tax purposes in Montana. He has worked for the MT Dept of Revenue for 20 years and is a Montana Certified Real Estate Appraiser. Haralson will be joined by Debbie Reesman, MT Dept of Revenue Region 4 West Area Manager, who has worked for the Revenue Dept for 17 years and prior to becoming the Area Manager concentrated in Land Classification Law. She also is an Agricultural Appraiser. Together they will explain the appraisal process and will address how property values are determined when zoning laws and streamside setback regulations are enacted. The 45 minute presentation will be followed by a 15 minute question and answer period.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **FFF Possible Move of Headquarters:**

The national headquarters for FFF and the associated museum is currently located in Livingston, Montana. Access into and out of Livingston is somewhat limited and difficult both for visitors and for FFF personnel. The FFF Board of Directors is currently studying the possibility of moving FFF headquarters to a more central and accessible location, perhaps Loveland, Colorado. No decision has

been reached. The museum is not well attended and there is thought about combining it with an existing institution at another location to relieve FFF of the expense of maintenance. All FFF members have been requested to weigh in on these issues. You can find materials about this at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>.

### **FFF & FFF Council events:**

#### **FFF 43rd Int'l Show & Conclave 2008**

2008 Conclave planning has begun. It will be our 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual FFF International Fly Fishing Show (Conclave) and the dates are set for July 22 – 26, 2008. The location for this Conclave will be Whitefish, Montana. Whitefish is a small town located on the shore of Whitefish Lake. Just a few miles from Glacier National Park and International airport. Mark your calendar !!!!

**<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/conclave2008/begin.php>** There is some talk about getting together an interested group from the Club to attend the Conclave.

### **THE ERRATA**

#### **Thoughts to Ponder:**

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. He who laughs last, thinks the most slowly.
3. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
4. Those who live by the sword, get shot by those who don't.
5. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
6. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
7. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
8. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.
9. The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.
10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day, drinking beer.
11. Flashlight: A metal tube used to store dead batteries.
12. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
13. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

## THE AUTHOR

Well, another collector's item put to bed. If you have the urge, you can reach me at 206-362-1199 with comments or items to add (yes, it's a Seattle area code but if you use the ubiquitous cell phone, there's no extra charge.) or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage newsletter ideas. Also, this newsletter may still not be getting through the ether to all members. If you are not getting this collector's item of info, call me or see me at a meeting to ensure the correctness of your e-mail address in our files. Rich Morrissey