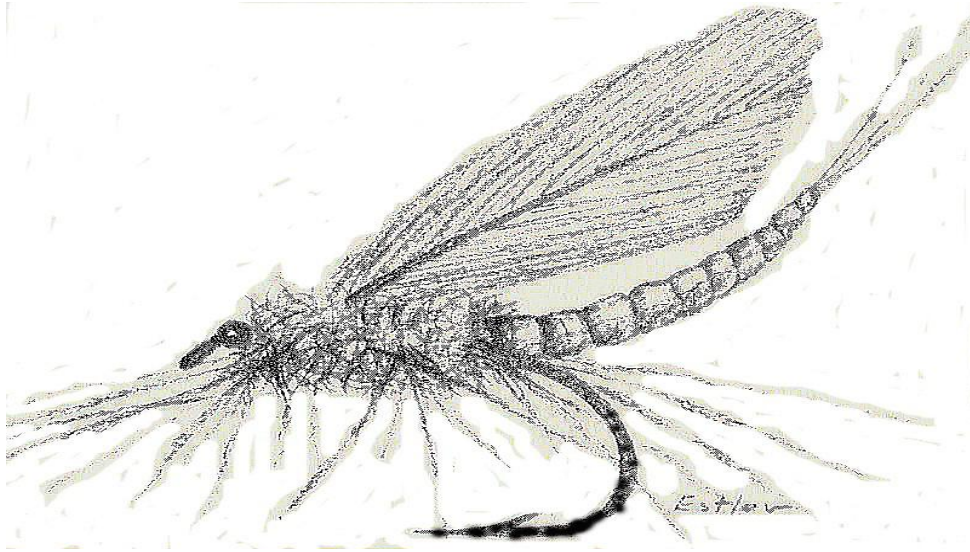


FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT



NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER, 2008

THE MEETING

We will gather Tuesday, November 4 (yes, Election Night!), at BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street (that's Highway 93 folks) in 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, when there will not be any meetings (nor were there any).

THE SPEAKER

Chuck Stranahan, local fly shop owner and nationally known angling writer, fly tyer and fly designer will present "Fishing Nymphs - the Basics and Beyond." In addition Chuck will tie some of his favorite patterns. Those who know Chuck realize that our time will be filled with wisdom and, if you're not careful, polemics. He is a talented angler in all aspects of our sport. Just, PLEASE, do not ask him about local politics. We'd like to be done NLT midnight.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

October's meeting was probably the best I have attended. Denny Westover, a new member, treated us to a well-organized and well-presented talk on chironomid fishing for trout in still waters. He went from a discussion of what these little critters are, to trout habits in engulfing them, to angling techniques, to tackle and to samples from his tying desk. We all learned at least something, except for El Jefe, who already knows everything about anything (or is it anything about everything?). Anyway, well done, Denny!

DECEMBER'S MEETING

Here is a teaser on December's meeting. We're going to try something a little different. Instead of sitting at tables and having one speaker standing awkwardly in front of us, we will have a number of tables set up with different speakers interacting with those interested in that speaker's topic. For instance, FWP will have one or two folks to answer questions you may have on how to poach and get away with it. Several brave souls will tie flies right in front of you. I believe Chuck Stranahan will tie you in knots. El Jefe will awe crowds with the contents of his now famous fly vest. That sort of thing. We did this last year (successfully, if you had enough beer). We call it The Potpourri. We admit deficiencies in imagination. Since our members will be circulating (hopefully) and not sitting, we do not expect you to order supper. Instead, the Club will purchase hors d'oeuvre (snacks) and have them on a table for your gustatory delight. Plan your eating habits accordingly.

December will also be the Club's annual member meeting. At that meeting, we will elect a new slate of directors to take us bravely into 2009. If you have any interest in being a director and cannot be dissuaded by common sense, see Rich Morrissey, Phil Romans or Leon Powell, the constituents of our Nominating Committee. Seriously, our Club exists because of the work of its directors. Anybody can be a director; no questions and no background check. Must be willing to attend monthly Board of Directors meetings and occasionally stick that hand in the air to fulfill some stupid request for assistance. The directors will elect officers for 2009 in its first meeting in January, 2009. It is rumored that Ed Couchman has assented to run for the presidency and is, so far, unopposed. We'll just see

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the Presidents Raft:

Well, it's hard to believe this year is winding down and with it my term of office. All in all it has been a good year with but a few ups and downs. I think back over the year to a successful spring clinic, opportunities for new friendships and varied inspiring programs. Our club continues to grow with new members and ideas. This winter I will remember all the great days on the river with new friends. I still get a rush from fooling the cunning trout with fur and feather. The pleasure is even greater knowing I tied the fly myself. My only regret is that we didn't pull off the young people's clinic, but there is our challenge for next year.

Cliff

THE ERRATA

Dues:

Your Board of Directors has voted, unanimously, to commence a dues program in September of 2009. By that point, all who purchased FFF memberships in the May 2008 Clinic will have amortized their investment. Simply put, we will need modest dues going forward. We recently purchased an insurance policy for the Club at \$880 which will need annual renewal. We donate to the annual Bitterroot River Cleanup. We run the May Fly Clinic for beginner adults. We sometimes need to pay for dinners for speakers and, more rarely, travel expenses. We engage in stream restoration projects. Now that we are insured, our esteemed Cruise Director is planning a number of fabulous Club outings. We're buying you snacks at the December meeting. Our stealth project, a Bitterroot River Flies book, is actually beginning to move along faster than the Arctic ice cap is melting. We still are actively planning a Bitterroot River Fly Fishing Academy for high schoolers. And El Jefe has requested a Golden Parachute. Our raffle does make small monies but not enough. So, we will start in September with a dues requirement of \$25 annually for a single membership and \$35 for a family. Please remember, you no longer need to be an FFF member to be in our Club. That is all up to you. More on this later.

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. You, too, can learn to tie a post or spinner or some other exotic pattern. Greg Chester and Phil Romans are usually there. If you lose as many flies as I do, you'll need to tie or your own or face imminent bankruptcy.

20/20 Club:

One of our own has joined the 20/20 Club in royal fashion. Greg Chester recently landed a lunker (25 1/4" at last measure and still growing) rainbow near Darby on a size 20 fly. Ask him about it. I understand he can be prodded into reluctantly talking about it.

Vote:

Seriously, folks, it is a privilege and a responsibility to vote your conscience. Just DO IT!

For Fun:

These fit so well they should be in a dictionary.

ADULT:

A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR:

A place where women curl up and dye.

CANNIBAL:

Someone who is fed up with people.

CHICKENS:

The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE:

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST:

Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST:

Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF:

Cold Storage.

INFLATION:

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO:

An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN:

Grape with a sunburn.

SECRET:

Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON:

A bunch of bones with the person scraped off..

TOOTHACHE:

The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW:

One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN:

An honest opinion openly expressed.

and MY Personal Favorite!

WRINKLES:

Something other people have, similar to my character lines

THE AUTHOR

Well, another newsletter for the dustbin and you can't even start a fire with it. But if you dare to suggest contributions to this otherwise perfect tome, call or e-mail me: 406-381-5611 or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage (I'm going to regret saying this) newsletter ideas. Rich Morrissey, your faithful and fitful secretary.