

FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT



NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY, 2009

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

THE MEETING

We will meet Tuesday, January 6 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, when there will not be any meetings (nor were there

any).

THE SPEAKER

Joe Sowerby will present a slideshow on Montana's most remote and treasured stretches of river including the Smith River, South Fork of the Flathead, and a few "notellum" creeks. Over the last 17 years Joe has guided fly fishing on every major river in Montana as well and many "notellum creeks". During this time he also guided hunters into the wilds of Montana, Wyoming, and Tanzania, East Africa. His business, Montana Flyfishing Connection, focuses on guiding fly fishing anglers down Montana's 60 mile-5 day Smith River canyon trip as well as many other quiet, out of the way rivers around Western Montana. Joe is on the Pro-Staff for Scott Fly Rod Co. and Boulder Boat Works. Joe lives in Missoula, Montana with his wife Carroll Anne and their three yellow labs, Cody, Callie and Roo. (We ALSO expect a cameo by our Treasurer and Scourage of the Doves, Leon Powell.)

THOSE WHO SPAKE

December's soiree was an undisciplined walk about, with a number of tables holding out expertise, advice and bull puckey (it varied, table to table) on a wide variety of topics, from panda food to law breaking to fly mangling. The Club dug deep into coffers (the Treasurer being out of state at the time) and bought heavy appetizers for all. But since everybody was speaking at once, no special mention of personalities will be recorded here.

ELECTIONS

The membership has spoken and a largely repetitive cast of characters was elected to directorship. We do have several new faces on the Board. You might single these folks out and give them some sympathy. Our directors for 2009 are: Phil and Dorreen Romans, Cliff Gibbons, Ed Couchman, Rick Hancock, Jim Cline, Greg Chester, Bob Percy, Leon and Linda Powell, Pierre Satkowiak and Rich Morrissey. (To leap forward in time, these scalliwags met on December 15 and elected officers as follows: Ed Couchman as President, Jim Cline as First Vice

President, Leon Powell as Treasurer and Rich Morrissey as Secretary.)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the Presidents Raft:

First off I want to express our appreciation to our past President, Cliff Gibbons, for leading us through 2008. I want to thank you, the members, for another year to serve you on the Board of Directors. And, thanks to the Board for electing me your President for 2009. I look forward to serving the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot as we enter a new year on our own. By “on our own,” I mean without affiliation with a major organization as back up. With all of us working together we can make the FFB a recognized, respected and productive organization in the Bitterroot Valley.

I want to thank Greg Chester, Phil Romans, Chuck Stranhan and Dave Inks for their support in 2008. These people tied and donated some great flies for our raffles. Combined, these flies generated \$478.30 for us in 2008. We still have more flies in the Raffle inventory that you’ll soon see on the raffle table.

Additionally, I want to thank Laurie Lane for her generous donation of a photo print on canvas valued at \$850. Under the leadership of our new Raffle Chairman, Jim Cline, one lucky person will win this amazing piece of art. Watch for it in the coming months.

Other donors in 2008 included: Jay Hagland, Doug Nations, Bob Curry, Doreen Romans, Ed Couchman, Leon Powell, Bob Jacklyn, Missoulain Angler and Sportsman’s Warehouse. All our donors helped us stay financially sound. To the rest of us, those of you buying the raffle tickets each month, Thank You! Without your financial support, the donations would be somewhat worthless. Your continued support and involvement will keep our organization strong and enjoyable.

Happy New Year everyone,
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 tie more.

New Members:

There may have been some at the December meeting but they were lost in the general chaos of the walk about. Please surface again at the January meeting after which you shall be properly recognized.

Cruises:

Our esteemed Cruise Director, Pierre (pronounce-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. Seven stalwarts have signed up and paid deposits. There's room for either two or five more. See Pierre for details.

For Fun:

HOLIDAY EATING TIPS

1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.
2. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly. It's rare. You cannot find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!
3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.
4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.
5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?
6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.
7. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.
8. Same for pies. Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?
9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.
10. One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner. Remember this motto to live by:

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well

preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

THE AUTHOR

Well, I'm still composing this ode to failing memory. However, because my phone decided to imitate the infamous Bitterroot Dunk this summer (without its owner attached), I have procured a new phone and new number. You can now reach me at 406- (Yes, Martha, I am now officially a Montana resident with a real Montana type area code) 406-381-5611 or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage (I'm going to regret saying this) newsletter ideas.