



JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER

THE MEETING

The soft clouds of rain, sleet, grapple and snow drift over the higher reaches of the Bitterroots, like an inadequate blanket, leaving the flanks exposed. The River is a creamed coffee flood and threatening more. We're 15 degrees below normal. The grass is growing so fast, you don't want to turn your mower off. Ah, Montana!

So, let's get together and at least talk about fishing. We'll meet Tuesday, June 7 at BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton. We will dispel the spring blues and hear a few stories from those who fished before the high water doused us. General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. And it's a full slate.

BUT WAIT! We have a new room! We will meet in the larger, north room at BJ's. When you enter the back door (does BJ's have a front door?), turn right or north and find us. For those who do not heed this message, we'll find you in the bar, at some point.

THE SPEAKERS

It's going to be a Canadian sort of night. All the waters to be spoken of are within a day's easy drive.

Gordon ("Gord") Silverthorne owns the Kootenay Fly Shop and Guiding Co., Ltd. in Fernie, British Columbia. The fabled Elk River flows right through town. Gord will speak about other nearby waters as well. Denny Westover and Jay and Donna Haglund try to fish the Elk every summer and always return grinning. Well, maybe they fished. Then Denny and Jay will speak about the plateau lakes in central BC which brim with hungry Kamloops 'bows. Rich Morrissey will add a few words about the incredible Bow River. (Does anybody really believe that I will only speak a *few* words?)

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Our May program was provided by our own Phil Romans. It was entitled “The Bitterroot, A River for All Seasons.” I think that’s the river somewhere beneath all that slushy mud and debris flowing under our bridges. We all want to thank Phil and ask him to slow down the flood of Californians moving here to fish the Bitterroot.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May has certainly been a busy month. The Buggers class concluded with fishing expedition and barbecue for fifty-four kids at the Teller Pond, while seventeen intrepid anglers attended our annual May clinic, and improved their fish and insect identification; knot tying, fly tying, safety and casting skills. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped out with both events.

We hope to see our new club members at our next meeting and out on the river - once it finally settles down, of course, not that Mother Nature seems likely to let that happen any time soon... I highly recommend lake fishing, as some disreputable characters in our midst have told me that Clark Canyon has some sizable trout that tend to feast on chironomids.

Our new book, *Fly Fishing the Bitterroot*, has been sent to the printer and will be available for purchase at the June 7th meeting. We also have many exciting events coming up this summer which will give all of you a chance to get more involved in this sport we all love. Details will be discussed at the meeting.

Fish on!

Cathy Lowe, President

FLY OF THE MONTH

The Donna

By Dennis Westover

Hook:	TMC 100 #10
Thread:	Black 6/0 UNI or UTC 70 denier
Body:	Spirit River Lite-Brite Rainbow
Body:	Blue Ribbon Flies precut hopper body (black)
Underwing:	Ten strands of pearl Krystal Flash
Overwing:	Enrico Puglisi EP-Fibers White or Polar White
Legs:	Wapsi Nymph Sili Legs Black solid



This is my original creation (as original as any fly pattern can be). I designed it to be easy to see, float low in the film but not sink, offer a bit of flash and present a profile that the fish may not have seen a thousand times. It has proven to be VERY effective on all our local rivers from August – October. I fish it on 4x both dead drift and with an occasional twitch. I tie it with pink and bright green wings but find white to be the most consistent producer. The fly is named after Donna Haglund who consistently out fishes Jay and me when she ties on “The Donna”.

ODDS AND ENDS

Special Needs Day at Stafford Pond:

This is an annual event for us, organized by Leon Powell and Jim Cline. We host about twenty special needs folks at a private, stocked pond up Skalkaho. We try to ensure each catches a fish and then we cook them burgers. This event is truly the most gratifying thing our Club does. You've got to see the grins and hear the whoops when these folks catch a fish! We need a good turn out by members because it really takes about a one-to-one relationship to help these folks. Show up at 9 am on Sunday, July 24. See or call Leon (360-9743) or Jim (396-4516) for directions.

Events:

Sportsman's Expo. Saturday, July 30, 10 am to 8 pm. First Interstate Bank Center at the Fairgrounds. We will be manning a booth.

Bitterroot Scotch Irish Festival, Friday through Sunday, August 26 to 28 at the Fairgrounds. Phil Romans will give a casting demonstration.

Ravalli County Fair, Wednesday through Sunday, August 31 to September 4. We will man a booth. Call Cathy Lowe (961-5392) to volunteer for a stint.

Fly tying:

It's still on so long as runoff continues! Wednesday evenings at the Hamilton Brew Pub, 5:30 pm. All skill levels welcome. Hmmm, beer.

Membership:

You should be proud to a member in our vibrant Club. We have 99 paid memberships and a number of complimentary members. And we grow every month.

Pig Roast:

Due to certain marital entanglements, the annual Pig Roast will be held on Saturday, August 27 at Lake Como. Mark your calendars. Food assignments will trickle out in ample time.

Fly Book:

Our fly book, *Fly Fishing the Bitterroot*, is finished and will be offered for sale at the June meeting. Members' cost is \$16.00 (retail is \$17.95). Buy copies for all your friends and two copies for each of your enemies.

Slide Show:

We are planning another slide show made up of members' photos from their fishing exploits over the past year. It will include, of course, fish and fishing photos but also scenery, wildlife, camping photos, etc. This means anything associated with your fishing trips, either nearby or far away. We had a well-received program last September. Let's make this one even better. This depends on you taking and then sending me the photos so I can incorporate them into the show. This year the slideshow is tentatively scheduled for the December meeting. Photos can be sent either to me at rwpearcy@gmail.com or to Jeff Lowe (fischjager@gmail.com). Bob Pearcy

FOR FUN

Fastest warming

12 hour warm-up: 83 degrees. From -33 in the morning to 50 by late afternoon in Granville, ND on February 21, 1918

15 minute warm-up: 42 degrees. From -5 to 37 degrees in Fort Assiniboine, Montana on January 19, 1893

7 minute warm-up: 34 degrees in Kipp, Montana in 1896

Fastest Cooling

24 hour chill: 100 degrees. From 44 to -54 below zero in Browning, Montana on January 23-24, 1916.

12 hour chill: 84 degrees. From 63 to -21 below zero in Fairfield, Montana on December 24, 1924.

2 hour chill: 62 degrees. From 49 at 6:00am to -13 at 8:00am in Rapid City, South Dakota on January 10, 1911

15 minute chill: 47 degrees. From 55 at 7:00am to 8 at 7:15am in Rapid City, South Dakota on January 10, 1911

Interesting U.S. weather facts

Through August 2007, the U.S. experienced its hottest year ever. During the month of August, more than 8,000 new heat maximum and minimum records were set or tied across the country.

The coldest football game ever played was the NFL Championship Game on December 31, 1967 in **Green Bay, Wisconsin** between the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys when the temperature fell to -13. The 2007 NFC Championship game in Green Bay between the New York Giants and Green Bay Packers was the third coldest game in history with a temperature of -1 and wind chill of -23.

The longest rain-free period in the United States was 767 days (2 years, 37 days), from October 3, 1912 to November 8, 1914 at **Bagdad, California**.

A world record rainfall occurred at **Holt, Missouri** on June 22, 1947 when it rained 12 inches in just 42 minutes... This averages to over 1/4 of an inch of rainfall per minute. On July 4th, 1956 In **Unionville, Maryland** 1.23 inches of rain fell in 1 minute.

The average yearly temperature of **New York, St. Louis and San Francisco** differs by only 1.8F degrees.

Which is the least rainy city - **Seattle, New York City or Miami**? Although on average Seattle is cloudy 227 days a year, it only receives 39 inches of rain per year, compared to New York City (42 inches) and Miami (60 inches).

Is **Chicago** really "The Windy City"? Of the 262 major weather reporting stations in the United States, 27% or 72 stations average higher annual wind speeds than Chicago, which averages 10.3 mph. For example, New York City's annual wind speed is 12.2 mph.

Due to **Florida's** proximity to the equator, the state receives more than a hundred times the UV exposure that Maine does.

Cheyenne, Wyoming averages the most hail storms in the United States per year with 10 and **Tulsa,**

Oklahoma experiences the most severe hail storms annually.

The **United States** leads the world with an average of over 1,000 reported tornadoes each year. A distant second is **Canada** with an average of approximately 100 reported tornadoes.

Kansas has received the most F5 tornadoes since 1880. **Oklahoma** encounters the highest number of significant and violent tornadoes per square mile.

Of the total reported tornadoes in the **United States** each year, 20 can be expected to be F5 tornadoes with winds over 200 mph and nearly complete destruction.

THE AUTHOR

Judy and I look forward to seeing all you good folks at the meeting. And remember, if you see a face you don't recognize, introduce yourself. You're only a smile away from a new friend and fishing companion. If you have a particularly outrageous tall tale or things to sell, call me at 406-381-5611 or **richmorrisey@q.com**. I encourage newsletter ideas.