



## NEWSLETTER FOR MAY, 2011

### **THE MEETING**

I believe the kids use the phrase “OMG!” ‘Tis the season folks. Our River stays in relatively good shape, for the time being. The sun plays tag with clouds of grapple. The skwalas still flaunt and float and now they’re joined by swarms of March Browns and Gray Drakes. I understand that on cloudy days (not particularly hard to come by recently), Baetis are hatching. This is why we live here. Get out and enjoy the riffles and runs before runoff chases us to surrounding lakes. (Ice is off Clark Canyon. Looking for a report on Browns Lake.)

We look forward to seeing all my old friends and some new ones this Tuesday, May 3 at BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton. We will nourish our aging bodies with too many calories and libations with fellow fly casters, dabblers and snarl creators. General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. And there will be tales. Oh, yes, there will be tales!

## **THE SPEAKER**

Our May program is entitled “The Bitterroot, A River for All Seasons.” It will be presented by our own Phil Romans. This is essentially the program Phil took to all the California fly clubs recently. So you will, after watching this show, know why all those folks with California accents are prowling our River.

Most of our club is familiar with our River, but whether you are a newcomer to the Valley or an old hand, this presentation may add a little bit to your store of knowledge in regard to the history of Hamilton, the origin of the “Bitterroot”, and perhaps a better appreciation of our “backyard” through photos of the seasons, its flora and fauna and best of all its people (mostly our club members). Phil wants to especially thank Greg Chester and the fly tiers, Steve Akre, and Jane Johann, for their incredible photos.

## **THOSE WHO SPAKE**

The speaker was an old friend of Jim Cline’s, Richard Bacon, U.S. Forest Service, retired. Richard had official responsibilities for the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. He knows a lot about this part of Idaho and had many interesting stories to tell. I think more than a few of us became interested in floating this river.

## **THE PRESIDENT 'S MESSAGE**

With the dreaded spring run-off imminent, I am hoping to wet a fly before having to sit and wait for the water to drop. Fortunately, we can start fishing the lakes and smaller streams in just a couple of weeks, so we can always get our fishing "fix" somewhere other than the river.

We have many exciting events in the near future for both anglers and volunteers which we will discuss these in more detail at the meeting on Tuesday.

- The May Clinic starts on Wednesday - a great chance to brush up on your skills.
- Our fly fishing book is at the publisher and will hopefully be available at the June meeting.
- We will have a booth at the First Annual Bitterroot Valley Sportsman's Expo on July 30th at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds.
- We will have a booth at the Second Annual Scottish Irish Festival at Daly Mansion from August 26th - 28th.
- Our annual pig roast at Lake Como will be August 27th.

- Our annual Bitterroot River cleanup will be September 10th.

We have lots of great opportunities for everyone to get involved in both club and community events, and I hope that you are as enthusiastic about them as I am. Having been involved with so many events, including the Bitterroot Buggers and our class at Hamilton High School, I personally enjoyed "setting the hook" with many people (and future anglers), and sharing my passion for the sport of fly fishing, and I hope that you are willing to "rise" to the occasion and bite off some of the pie for yourself.

Fish on!

Cathy Lowe  
Président

## **FLY OF THE MONTH**

### **Bob's Maroon Chironomid**

By Bob Pearcy

Here is a chironomid pattern that I have had good success with on Browns, Hebgen and Georgetown Lakes. It has the general characteristics of many chironomid patterns but is somewhat unique in using a maroon (hard to find) or brown glass bead and maroon floss for the abdomen. I like to experiment when tying and I just happened to have this material at hand. Red, black and brown are common chironomid colors and maroon may come close

enough to mimic all of these colors. I generally fish it as the lower fly of a tandem fly rig under an indicator set so the fly is about a foot off the bottom. I generally let it sit for a minute or so and then retrieve it very slowly with a hand twist retrieve. Usually the other fly is some other chironomid pattern but I get the majority of the fish on this one. For lack of a better name I will call it the Bob's Maroon Chironomid (there are a few other maroon chironomids out there, notably one by Brian Chan).



### **Recipe**

Hook	Tiemco 2457 size 12, 14 or 16
Gills	White Zelon tied so the bead slides up over it
Bead	Maroon or brown glass bead
Abdomen	Maroon floss
Ribbing	Silver wire
Thorax	Peacock herl

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

The Board of Directors set a policy recently concerning classified ads in our newsletter. We want to facilitate our members selling unwanted, unneeded gear. The following rules apply: (1) the seller must be a Club member; (2) the seller must be noncommercial; (3) this editor has full right to edit submitted materials; they should be “Tweet” size (4) the ads will run a maximum of two times and then be retired; (5) the thing or things to be sold must be related to fly fishing; and (6) we not will charge for the ad placement and take no responsibility for its accuracy.

Having said all that, there are no classified ads in this month’s newsletter.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

### **Raffle Items:**

Jeff Gray of Western Flies and Guides has very, very generously donated a full day guided raft trip for two. We are auctioning this wonderful gift in a silent auction that ends at the close of our May meeting. The TFO rod being raffled will also be closed out at the May meeting. Award will be made to the highest bidders! Come on, you big spenders, crack open those wallets.

### **Fly tying:**

Wednesday evenings at the Hamilton Brew Pub, 5:30 pm. All skill levels welcome. Hmmmm, beer. Will go until runoff so come down soon.

### **Membership:**

You should be proud to be a member in our vibrant Club. We have 96 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.

### **May Clinic:**

Our annual May Clinic for the fly fishing benighted starts on May 4 and runs consecutive Wednesdays through May 25. It starts at 6 pm and goes to 9 pm at the Corvallis Middle School. This year's Clinic for beginner and intermediate fly fishers is headed by our esteemed President, Madame Cathy Lowe, with the assistance of Greg Chester, with Chuck Stranahan cheerleading the casting periods. They will need our support. Turn out and help with the casting and back row catcalls.

### **Fly Book:**

It's so close, I can feel it! Actually, it's at the printer. More will be said, undoubtedly, at the meeting.

### **River Etiquette:**

Here are some common sense guidelines we should all heed:

- Floating anglers should yield to bank and wade fishermen.
- Wade fishermen should yield to boats when there is only one navigable channel.
- Drift anglers should never pass another boat to cut in on water being fished.
- Avoid wading in spawning areas.
- Pick up trash, even if it's not yours.
- Motorboats: no wakes please
- Keep access points and ramps open by launching boats quickly.
- Conserve the resource. Know the fishing regulations.
- Do not trespass on private land. Stay below the high water mark.
- Don't let your actions affect someone else's fishing pleasure. Treat everyone as you would like to be treated, but understand that they may not share your sense of ethics.

### **Slide Show:**

We are planning another slideshow 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](mailto:rwpearcy@gmail.com) or to Jeff Lowe ([fischjager@gmail.com](mailto:fischjager@gmail.com)). Bob Percy

### **Help with Buggers:**

## **Call for volunteers**

## The BRTU Bitterroot Buggers Fishing Day and Picnic Sun, May 1, 4-6 pm at The Teller Wildlife Refuge Pond

We'll need help with gear set up, casting, fishing and (hopefully) landing and releasing.

### Things to bring:

Tippet material, hemostats for pinching barbs, a few flies, net and hip boots/waders for landing fish. Also, we'll supply fried chicken and side dishes but bring your beverages and a chair.

**There are no restrooms on the premises, so plan accordingly!**

All volunteers receive a raffle ticket for a Monte Dolak print drawing

We'll have over 30 kids so we hope to see many of you on Sunday.

Thanks!!

Directions: From Eastside Highway approximately 1 mile north of Corvallis turn west on Quast Lane. Proceed until you come to a Tee at Chafin Lane. Go directly across through the Teller gate property and continue approximately 1 mile (staying to the right) to the pond.

## **FOR FUN**

I'm having way too much fun fishing to find and publish anything for fun. Sorry. Not!

## **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.