



## NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER, 2012

### SORROW

One of our founding members, Phil Pennel, recently lost his treasured wife. We all share deeply in the sorrow.

### THE MEETING

As low as the River may be, the cooler nights are prodding the fish into dining again. And, if you've not been out recently, the River is beautiful. The fall colors are magnificent. Of course, every Eden has its serpent. Our usual fall mists have been usurped by great veils of smoke. The usual views of the Bitterroots from my house are but smoky memories. I haven't seen the mountains in weeks. Get in the habit again. We meet at BJ's restaurant on Tuesday, October 2. We will have the usual opportunity to embroider the truth over libations starting at 6 pm, a home grown program on Argentina at 7 pm, and that all important raffle. So come when you are able.

### THE SPEAKER

Our own Dennis Westover, known to some as the Fish Doc, has traveled to Argentina more than once, and now speaks piscine Spanish fluently. He has put together (meticulously, as you know him) a slide show of great mountains, sweeping plains, beautiful rivers and, ... Oh, yes, fish. For those of us who love the Bitterroot, Argentina is a chance to experience the best of it all over again in the winter months. This will be a good program.

### THOSE WHO SPAKE

Chris Clancy is a great asset to our fishing community. He gives so much to our River and fish and us. At our September meeting, Chris provided endless facts about the Bitterroot and its fish. We are fortunate to have him in our area. Thank you, Chris.

### OPPORTUNITIES

Our Club has always had a policy that any member who wished to join our Board of Directors could do so, provided, of course, the members elect them at our annual meeting in December. But there are not a fixed number of directors and no position is competitive. We will elect our 2013 Board at the December meeting. If you have an interest in joining a highly trained, elite special forces fish attack group, contact Jim Cline or Rich Morrissey. What the hell, you don't have enough to do now, do you?

And, irrespective of being a Board member, we will have need for a new Raffle Chairman. Yes, sadly, our Brent Greenwell has decided to retire after a glorious year of stewarding our monthly raffle. I'm hoping that perhaps a female type member might be interested and bring a different slant to our raffle offerings. And, if any of you want to be Secretary or Treasurer or Newsletter Editor, you have only to ask.

### DUES!

Here is a gentle reminder. All you souls who have not yet paid, you are now in arrears on Club annual dues. Individuals pay \$25 a year and families pay \$35 a year. Our Membership Chair, Judy Morrissey, will be quite happy to collect at the door at the October meeting, or you can pay at our web site or you can give checks to any Board member or ....

### FLY OF THE MONTH

Signal Light

*by Bob Pearcy*

It's October, meaning that the steelhead season on the Salmon River is rapidly approaching. A fly that I have had good success with is the Signal Light originally developed by Randall Kaufmann. The black and purple wing, tail and hackle provide good contrast so the fly is a good choice for the low light conditions in the morning and evening and in off-colored water. The bright pink and chartreuse butt provides contrast and is thought to provide a target for a steelhead "player". Fish it by casting one quarter to one third downstream in a run moving at about a fast walking pace and let it swing to directly downstream. It can be tied in sizes ranging from 6 to 8 for early-season, clear-water conditions to 1/0 for late-season cold water. Remember to pinch down the barb.

### Recipe

Hook: TMC 7999 size 4

Thread: Black, 6/0

Body: Black chenille followed by chartreuse and then hot pink fluorescent floss

Rib: Wire or fine tinsel, silver

Tail: Purple hackle fibers

Collar: Purple saddle hackle

Wing: Black marabou over 6 to 8 strands of crystal flash

Head: Black thread, well cemented



### Transitions

Jim Cline, President

As we enter the fall, transitions are not only a part of our weather but also for the Board of Directors of the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot. Openings on the Board for 2013 include: Vice President, Cruise Director, Raffle Chairman and possibly others. If any of you are interested in filling a position on the Board, please let me know. Our program chair, Jay Melzer, has a great line-up of speakers through the month of March. Our first meeting for 2013 will be on January 8th (moved from January 1st) and YOU ARE THE STAR! But only if you get your favorite fishing pictures of the 2012 season to Jeff Lowe. Please send pictures to Jeff via e-mail or CD as soon as possible.

I would personally like to thank the club members for their generous support of Casting for Recovery. Participants were chosen by CFR lottery. FFB sponsored two Bitterroot women from Florence and Stevi for the weekend retreat in West Glacier. My wife, Mary, was also able to attend thanks the Hamilton Soroptimist Club. I'll see you all Tuesday night.

### CASTING FOR RECOVERY

"I can't stop smiling!" That was the comment of a participant at the end of a beautiful September Casting for Recovery retreat in West Glacier. Fourteen breast cancer survivors along with a volunteer staff of fly fishing instructors, medical facilitators and social workers (oh, and great cooks!) gathered Friday afternoon at Glacier Outdoor Center to begin our weekend journey together. Some were years past their breast cancer experience; for some, only weeks. Some had fly fishing experience, most had none. But all were in the same boat—and that created a bond immediately. Casting practice, knot tying, fish psychology and behavior, bugs and flies. Much of our time was spent with gifted instructors preparing us for our big outing on the North Fork of the Flathead River. Interwoven with fishing was instruction and discussion surrounding our common experiences with breast cancer. All served to pull us together as empowered women who were not alone in our challenges—and who were ready to take on the river!

Sunday morning we donned our gear—boots, waders, vests, hats, rods and reels—all donated by Orvis— and headed out to chase fish. We were greeted by our individual "helpers" many of whom were professional guides and otherwise expert fisher people donating their time and infinite patience to foster our emerging skills. We were a changed and bonded group when we departed for our homes across Montana Sunday afternoon. It was the glow on the faces of the women that morning on the river that best expressed the vision and spirit of Casting for Recovery.

Thank you, Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, for your generous support in making this wonderful experience possible.



### CLASSIFIEDS

The Board of Directors has a policy 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.

12' Freedom Hawk fishing kayak-polyethylene. Folding casting brace, rod holder, dry storage, self bailing. Unique outriggers that deploy and retract while you are in the boat. Comes with paddle, pole and rubber fishing net and adjustable back rest/seat. Must see to appreciate like new. Used two times as a demo in a fly shop in Arkansas and once in a bass pond in Oklahoma, it catches bass and crappie on a fly rod well. Retail for \$1695, selling for \$850. Contact Howard Knight at 406-777-3542 or [howard.knight@montana.com](mailto:howard.knight@montana.com).

18' Grumman aluminum canoe. Are you ready for a trip on the Missouri or the Clark Fork then here is your canoe. Super clean, comes with two Kenowah adjustable canoe seats, two aluminum paddles and Yakima canoe mounts for your Yakima Rack. \$450. Contact Howard Knight at 406-777-3542 or [howard.knight@montana.com](mailto:howard.knight@montana.com).

14' Self Bailing Otter. Excellent condition. Still under warranty. Bighorn I frame, oars, patch kit, pump and cooler. Ready to fish. \$3,250 firm. Call Phil Romans 363-0744

50 caliber Smith and Wesson "Guide Gun" (3 1/2" barrel) for sale. Like new condition. Extra holster. Sells for \$1,300 at Wards. \$850 firm. Call Phil Romans 363-0744. (He will register the sale and transfer of weapon at the Sheriffs office.) (For those who query how this gun relates to fishing, it is clear you've never fished Alaska.)

#### ODDS AND ENDS

January Meeting:

Just an early heads up that our January meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, not New Years Day. Mark calendars now.

Become Immortalized!

All those great fish pictures your fishing buddy took over the summer of you holding piscine monsters need to be in our Club video. Contact Jeff Lowe at 369-5467 or [fischjager@gmail.com](mailto:fischjager@gmail.com).

Fly of the Month:

All Club members are invited to submit flies to be considered for Fly of the Month. Send your recipes and pictures to Bob Pearcy at [rwpearcy@gmail.com](mailto:rwpearcy@gmail.com).

Fly tying:

Not yet. Not yet.

#### FOR FUN

Life from the seat of a tractor:

"Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads."

"You cannot unsay a cruel word."

"Every path has a few puddles."

"When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty."

"The best sermons are lived, not preached."

"Most of the stuff people worry about, ain't never gonna happen anyway."

"Don't judge folks by their relatives."

"Live a good and honorable life, then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time."

"If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'."

"Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got."

"The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'."

"Always drink upstream from the herd."

"Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment."

"Live simply: love generously; care deeply; speak kindly."

#### THE AUTHOR

May your life be graced with good friends, good health and good fishing. You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or [richmorrissey@q.com](mailto:richmorrissey@q.com)