



NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER, 2011

THE MEETING

As this is written, snow squalls slide down the flanks of the Bitterroots, leaving powdered sugar slopes and ink splashes of dark forest. But it is the Holiday season. Thoughts of Thanksgiving, and soon Christmas, push out the dreary winter. I look forward to seeing you at our annual organizational meeting .

We meet on Tuesday, December 6th at BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton.

Now, normally, we start our programs at 7:00 pm. **CHANGE!** This one time the PROGRAM STARTS AT 6:00 pm.

THE SPEAKER

December will feature our annual pot pourri of presenters. Instead of you sitting down, chewing the fat and dining, you will circulate amidst a group of tables, each with different presenters. We will have reel maintenance and cleaning by Bill Bean (bring yours!), knot tying by Jeff Gray, fly tying ("Bitterroot classics") by Chuck Stranahan, reel repair by Phil Romans and Greg Chester tying winter nymphs. There will also be a white elephant sale.

This program starts at 6:00 pm!

To make this fun session work the Club will provide, at its expense, as it has in the past, finger food (yes, including pizza slices) to munch on whilst you meander. So, if you want a full meal before the meeting, best plan on eating some place other than the meeting room. The Club's food will be coming out starting at 6:30 pm.

The Club will provide a table for selling your excess gear. See White Elephant Sale below. There will also be our usual raffle.

And, most importantly, we elect our next crop of directors.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Our November meeting featured the Club's own Marty Karstetter (of the wicked grin!). Marty shared his knowledge, equipment, flies, and expertise in fishing for steelhead while also presenting a film, *A Steelhead Family*, about a family he has fished with for twenty years in British Columbia. It was a great program. Thanks Marty.

PRESIDENT' S MESSAGE

Happy holidays, fellow anglers

Since this will be my last month as President, I would like to first take a moment to thank the Board of Directors for all their time and effort into making this club great. They have worked very hard to organize club activities, clinics, volunteer projects, one heck of a fly fishing guide book and a fabulous pig roast, and I greatly appreciate their help.

Congratulations to Jim Cline on being our new President in 2012. Best wishes to the new board members and remaining stalwarts and a big thank you to the retiring members as well.

We hope to see you at our next general meeting as we will be having a potpourri of skilled craftsmen and fly tiers, etc., to educate us on a variety of fly fishing related subjects. And fly tying at the Bitterroot Brewery is on again. In case you missed the article in the Ravalli Republic on Monday, the 21st, check out this link: http://www.ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_83856372-13f3-11e1-83f8-001cc4c002e0.html

Don't forget to buy another book or two - it'll make for a great gift for your favorite fishing buddy!

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy, and successful year in 2012.

Fish on!

Cathy Lowe
President

ELECTIONS !

Our December members meeting will include our annual Board of Directors election. The newly elected directors will, at their first meeting (scheduled for December 12), elect our new slate of officers for next year. It is our custom to elect a First Vice President each year who then succeeds to the presidency the next year. Last year, we elected Jim Cline as First Vice President. Presumably, the directors will elect him President for 2012 at the December 12 meeting. (Is there palace revolt in the air?)

There are a number of grizzled old hands (you know who you are!) who have served honorably and now wish to make room for new blood on the Board. I have five folks who have indicated an interest in serving on the Board for the first time.

The returning directors are Jim Cline, Howard Friedberg, Leon Powell, Jeff Lowe, Phil and Dorreen Romans, Pierre Satkowiak, Doug Duff, Greg Chester, Bob Curry and Rich Morrisey. The following have indicated their interest in serving on the FFB Board this next year: Howard Knight, Jay Meltzer, Brent Greenwell, Nick Hooper and Judy Morrisey.

These new directors are welcome, as are you. There is no fixed upper limit on Board members. The election is not competitive. Anybody who has the interest to learn the secret handshake and secret inner rituals of the Club is free to join us. Contact Rich Morrisey at 406-381-5611 or richmorrisey@q.com.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Shop Vac
By Phil Romans



I first heard about this fly from Greg Chester, who got it from "Blue Ribbon Flies". It's a fairly easy tie, but very effective every month of the year. I think the white tuft on the top represents a bubble that is fairly common for small insects to use to get to the surface. I use it very effectively in the winter months under a hopper as my indicator. Surprisingly, I catch a fair amount of fish even in the dead of winter on the hopper, but most of the fish I catch are on the "Shop Vac". I use about a twenty inch dropper under the hopper tied with a double surgeon's knot, and I try to find drop off's where the bug will float over the top of a ledge. It's a killer fly under those conditions.

Recipe

Hook: #16 Scud type such as Daiichi 1150 or Dai-Riki 135 1x short

Thread: 8/0 black or brown

Body: pheasant tail

Ribbing: copper wire wound counter to pheasant tail

Wing: white Zelon

Bead: gold tungsten



Tying a Shop Vac at a Wednesday night tying session at the Bitter Root Brewery

PHOTOS NEEDED, NOW!

We need your photos for our January 2012 slide show program: "What I did over the past year"

We had a successful and entertaining program at the September 2010 meeting showing a continuous picture program of our Club members during the 2010 year: pictures of fish, members at Club functions, fish, scenery, fish, fishing companions and, oh, yes, fish. Let's make our January 2012 program of

“What ya’ll did last summer” successful as well. Jeff Lowe and Bob Percy are putting together “What I did over the past year” for 2011. It will show at the January 3, 2012, members meeting.

We have received photos from some of you but we know that there are more out there. So if you have not done so already, please send Bob Percy or Jeff Lowe photos of your fishing trips and related activities in 2011, including:

1. Fish you or your companions caught, big or small
2. Fisherpersons of all ages
3. Scenery photos from your fishing trips
4. Wildlife observed while fishing
5. Photos from your Bitterroot (or other river) floats or wade trips
6. Photos from Brown’s Lake, Georgetown Lake, etc.
7. Club activities, clinics, classes, conservation activities (especially Bitterroot Buggers, Fish Day at Stafford Pond and the River Cleanup)
8. Fly tying, rod building
9. Photos of any mermaids you might have seen
10. Anything else you would like to get into the program

It is most convenient if you send them either to Bob Percy (rwpearcy@gmail.com) or Jeff Lowe (fischjager@gmail.com). They can also use photos on CDs or scan prints. Mail them to Bob Percy, 390 Mount Zion Loop, Darby MT 59829 or let Bob know and he can come and pick them up if you prefer. They will return any CDs or prints.

Now when do they need them? Right away and certainly by December 15. It takes some time to put the program together so please send them as soon as possible.

ODDS AND ENDS

White Elephant Sale:

There will be a table at December’s meeting available to members to place

any of their excess fishing gear to sell. You mark the price and your name (and phone, etc.) Sales are between buyer and seller. The Club is not a party.

Sales do not commence until 6 pm. No early bird sales. Sellers should have their marked gear on the table by 6 pm.

In prior years, sellers have generously donated 10% of their sales income to the Club. This is optional but encouraged.

Book Sales:

Help us get this fine work distributed. Remember that Christmas is coming soon. They will be available at the meeting at members' discount.

Fly tying:

It started Wednesday, November 2 at the usual time and place, which is, 5:30 pm at the Hamilton Brew Pub.

Membership:

September is our membership month. Every member is obligated for dues in September, irrespective of the month you joined. (Oh, okay, we do cut some slack for those joining at the May clinic, and in the three months before September.) Our dues are \$25 for an individual and \$35 for a family. There are several easy ways to pay. See our Treasurer, Leon Powell, at a monthly meeting, such as December 6. Or give a check to any Board member. Or go to the Club's website, www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org. There you will find a PayPal link available to use your credit card. You do not have to be a PayPal member to use the system. Or you can mail a check to: Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, PO Box 692, Victor.

FOR FUN

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How

about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service.

If you are looking for me I will be on the front porch.

THE AUTHOR

Judy and I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and elsewhere in our wonderful Bitterroot Valley. Hope you are well and as happy as we are. You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or **richmorrisey@q.com**. I encourage newsletter ideas.