



November 2015 Newsletter

*November meeting – Tuesday November 3rd at 6pm
BJ's Restaurant – Hamilton*

“The sport of angling used to be a genteel business, at least in the world of ideals, a world of ladies and gentlemen. These have been replaced by a new set of paradigms: the bum, the addict, and the maniac.”

Thomas McGuane
From *The Longest Silence*

It's been a long, DRY summer and for most of us the trout fishing season is over. Many of you will beak out steelhead or saltwater gear and depart on long planned trips to fish the flats or swing a fly in a local river or venture north to Canada. (Your editor recently returned from two days of what turned out to

be casting practice on the beautiful Clearwater River – no steelhead but better than any alternative I can think of...) If you don't have plans for some kind of winter fishing resolve now to get out at least once this winter – midge fishing on a bluebird winter day can be fun and productive! –ED

The Program

Our speaker for the November meeting is John Arnold. John is co-owner of the Headhunters Fly Shop in Craig Montana on the banks of the Missouri River. John Arnold and Mark Reisler established Headhunters in 2008 and have become recognized for their innovative approach to angling for the often-difficult trout that inhabit their famous tailwater. In an effort to extend fishing opportunities beyond the dry fly season into the spring and fall shoulder seasons, John has popularized the use of lightweight two handed “spey” style tackle for trout fishing. Drawing on techniques from Salmon and Steelhead anglers, John will explain how to fish for trout using light “trout spey” tackle. **Don't miss this program – it promises to be one of the year's best!**

The Presidents Message

Fall is in the air despite the unseasonably warm temperatures. Right now is a good time to tag that monster brown that most of us have been chasing all year. The forecast over the next 10 days calls for mostly cloudy conditions, which is the type of weather that gets the big fellas more active. The

number of floaters has been decreasing weekly and should thin out even more as this weekend is the deer and elk hunting season opener. I was talking to Chris Clancy the other day and he said that the stretch of river from Belle Crossing to Stevensville is where they find the highest number of the bigger brown trout during the yearly fish counts on the Bitterroot River. Dry fly fishing is still hanging on and the streamer fishing has been good. The good weather will not be around forever (hopefully), so get out there and fish while you can!

Club Business:

1. Once again we are looking for financial support from our membership to help offset the cost of our donation to Casting for Recovery. This event has given people hope and changed their lives in a very positive way. Any donation would be greatly appreciated!

2. I would like to thank all of the people who have stepped up to become new board members and committee chairs as well as the "old salts" that continue to serve our club year in and year out.

3. Club fees are due. \$25.00 for an individual or \$35.00 for a family. You can pay online with PayPal on the website <http://flyfishersofthebitterroot.org/>, at the next meeting or via mail. If you choose to pay by mail, make the checks out to FFB and send them to the address listed below.

Chris Andersen
970 Carolyn Lane
Corvallis, MT 59828

Ken Quinn
OR 1160 Weeping Willow Way
Corvallis, MT 59828

Tight lines!

Chris Andersen

“It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming”

John Steinbeck

American author

Fly of the Month
Bantam Intruder
By Bob Percy

Recipe

Hook shank: TMC 7999, size 1/0 or 35 mm
Montana Fly Co. Waddington-style shank
Trailer hook: Gamakatsu Octopus, size 4
Thread: Black, 6/0
Wire: Surflon leader wire, 20 lb.
Eyes: 1/8 in dumbbell, nickel
Rear ball: Ice Dub, Red
Rear hackle: Schlappen, Kingfisher blue
Body: Trilobal Dubbing,
Kingfisher blue
Rib: oval tinsel, silver
Front ball: Ice Dub, Blue Steelie
Front hackle: Guinea hen, dyed blue
Wing: Grizzly hackle, two
Flash: Six pearl Crystal flash,
Overwing: Six ostrich herls, black
Underwing: Six ostrich herls, black



Here is my favorite steelhead fly for the Salmon River, ID. Intruder-style flies are popular on coastal rivers especially for winter run fish. Classic intruders are as much as four inches long and present a large visible profile in the often high and colored water characteristic of coastal rivers. Large flies are difficult to cast;

intruders partially solve this problem by minimizing water-absorbing material as compared to bunny and marabou-based leech patterns often used for winter run steelhead. The Bantam Intruder pattern developed by Miguel Morejohn is, in contrast, only about two inches long. It is easy to cast and is especially suited for today's shorter and lighter spey and switch rods--and single-handed rods. Overall it has proved to be a very versatile and effective pattern. Blue and black is my favorite color combination but I have also done well with a green butt and black fly. It is a kind of a fussy fly to tie because it uses so many different materials, so whether to tie or buy is an open question. I lose few flies while swinging for steelhead so tying, while satisfying in itself, doesn't save money as compared to buying. They are available via web sites of most fly shops in steelhead country.

Tying Instructions

To tie it, affix a hook in the vice. Ultimately this hook will be cut just before the bend and only the shank will be used. Alternatively a 35 mm Montana Fly Co. Waddington-style shank can be used. Lay down a thread base covering a little more than one inch of the shank. Attach the trailer hook using stainless steel leader wire by forming a loop around the trailer hook shank doubled through the hook eye and then securely lashing the two ends to the shank. We start from the rear and work forward. Create a ball of red Ice Dub dubbing on the thread base just above the shank end. Tie in a kingfisher blue schlappen or saddle hackle and then wrap backwards towards the blue ball. Adjust the tie in point so that the hackle barbs extend about 1/2 inch back over the red ball. Tie in a length of tinsel and then dub a body with kingfisher blue Trilobal dubbing. Counter wrap the tinsel. Create a ball of blue steelie Ice Dub dubbing, leaving room for the head and dumbbell eyes. Tie in front of the ball a kingfisher blue dyed guinea fowl feather by the tip and wrap to form a collar. You can effectively adjust the length that the feather barbs extend over the ball by adjusting the tie in point. Wrap the thread back over the barbs to splay them out over the ball. Tie in the dumbbell eyes. Tie in two grizzly hackle tips that extend back over the fly. Tie in 5 to 6 strands of pearl crystal flash on the top. Tie in 5 to 7 Black marabou herls each on the top and bottom. Form a head and dub it and around the eyes with black Ice dubbing. Whip finish and cement. If you tied it on a hook shank, remove the fly from the vice and grab the hook at the place you want to cut it with a pair of stout wire-cutting pliers. To avoid the chance of injury, I recommend that the cutting be done under a piece of cloth because the hook point and bend may go flying. Fish the fly with standard swinging techniques.

Raffle Flies

Speaking of flies, our hard working raffle chairman, Nick Hooper, asked me to remind our fly tying members that a major source of our raffle revenue comes from member flies that are donated and raffled off at our monthly meetings. Donated flies should be in a

box or container and labeled with the pattern name and the name of the tyer. Why not make a personal commitment to donate a dozen of your favorite pattern this winter. Help fill the Club's coffers and show off your tying skills!

Casting for Recovery

This year, as in years past, our Club has pledged \$2000 from our treasury to help fund the work that Casting for Recovery is doing here in the Bitterroot Valley. The club pledge can be offset by individual member contributions and as of this writing members have committed \$300. CFR is a very efficient (means they use your money wisely) and targeted organization doing important work for women who are dealing with a deadly disease and they are helping women who live in our community. Bring you check, big or small, to the November meeting or contact member and National Program Director, Peg Miskin, at 802 440 2227.

Dues are due

Club dues are due and payable each September - \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families (CHEAP). Bring cash or check to the November meeting or send a check to our treasurer, Ken Quinn at 1160 Weeping Willow Way, Corvallis, MT, 59828. Please don't make us send Luigi out to break your kneecaps!

“No human activity other than sex and murder has spawned more books than fishing”

William Tapley

Gone Fishin'

The January Slide Show

It's not the Academy awards but it's a close second. Once again, Director, Writer and Producer Bob Prince will present a pictorial review of club members and families doing what they do best, catching fish and having fun. But alas, there can be no piscatorial extravaganza unless YOU send photos to Bob – yes YOU. Send your best grip n' grin shots to Bob Prince at robertwaprince@gmail.com and enjoy fifteen minutes of fame at our January meeting.

As of press time your editor had received no fishing reports from the membership. Since I know many of you are retired and have nothing but time on your hands I can only conclude that (1) None of you went fishing in the past month (2) You can't type, or (3) You did fish but are too embarrassed about the outcome to report on it. I know that none of the above is true so....Come on folks – send me those fishing reports. Good, bad or ugly, your fellow members want to know!!! Send to dwwestover@comcast.net

***The Editors Drift* – Things I've learned (and ideas I've stolen from my fishing partners)**

The fall issue of **Fly Fusion**, a very classy Canadian fly mag, featured an article by Gary Borger on specialized leaders for nymphing. The set up intrigued me so I tied up several leaders according to Gary's formula and fished them over a four-day

trip to the Elk River in Fernie, B.C. I can't report that they changed my life but I can say that they offer a number of advantages over the traditional tapered leader and indicator set up.

Here's the formula:

Four feet of 20 or 25 pound Maxima Ultragreen or Clear.

Four feet of 12 pound fluorocarbon (I use Seaguar because it's the most flexible fluorocarbon and find it more economical to buy it in 200 yd spools – hope I live long enough to use it all)

Knot the Maxima and fluorocarbon together using a double surgeons knot or blood knot and then attach a tippet ring or small swivel to the end of the 12 pound fluorocarbon. If you fish a leader butt then blood knot the butt end of the leader to the leader butt. I prefer a loop-to-loop connection so I tie a perfection loop in the 20 pound and loop it to my fly line.

Depending on the size of the nymph I am fishing I tie one foot (yes, just one foot) of 3X, 4X or 5X fluorocarbon tippet to the swivel of tippet ring. Rig your fly or flies to the tippet using an improved clinch knot.

Attach a strike indicator to the leader based on the water depth you are fishing. I prefer Air Lock Strike Indicators because they are easy to attach, don't kink the leader, are easily and quickly readjusted and they stay where you put them!.

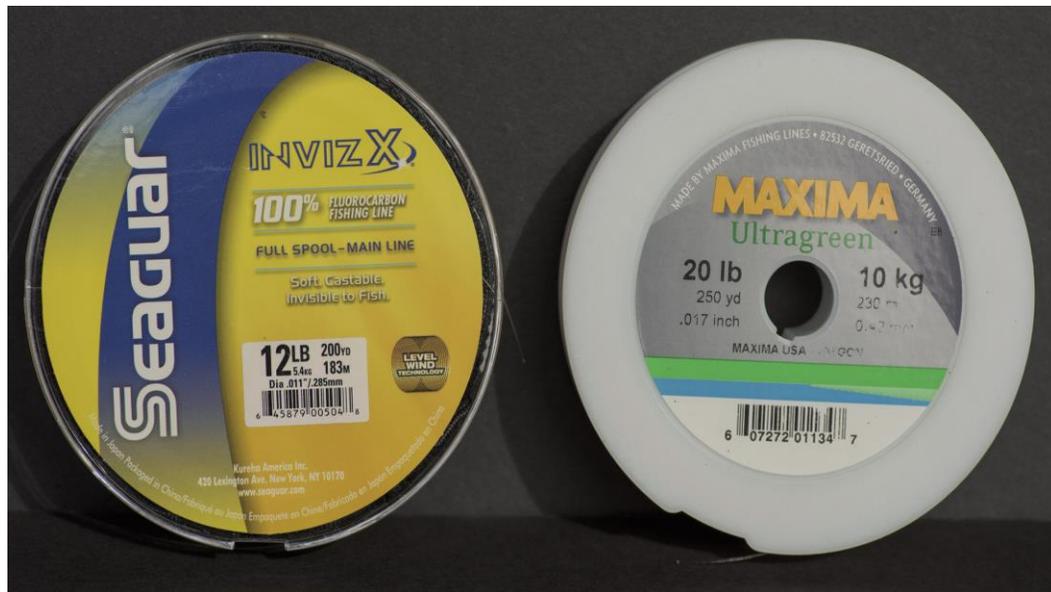
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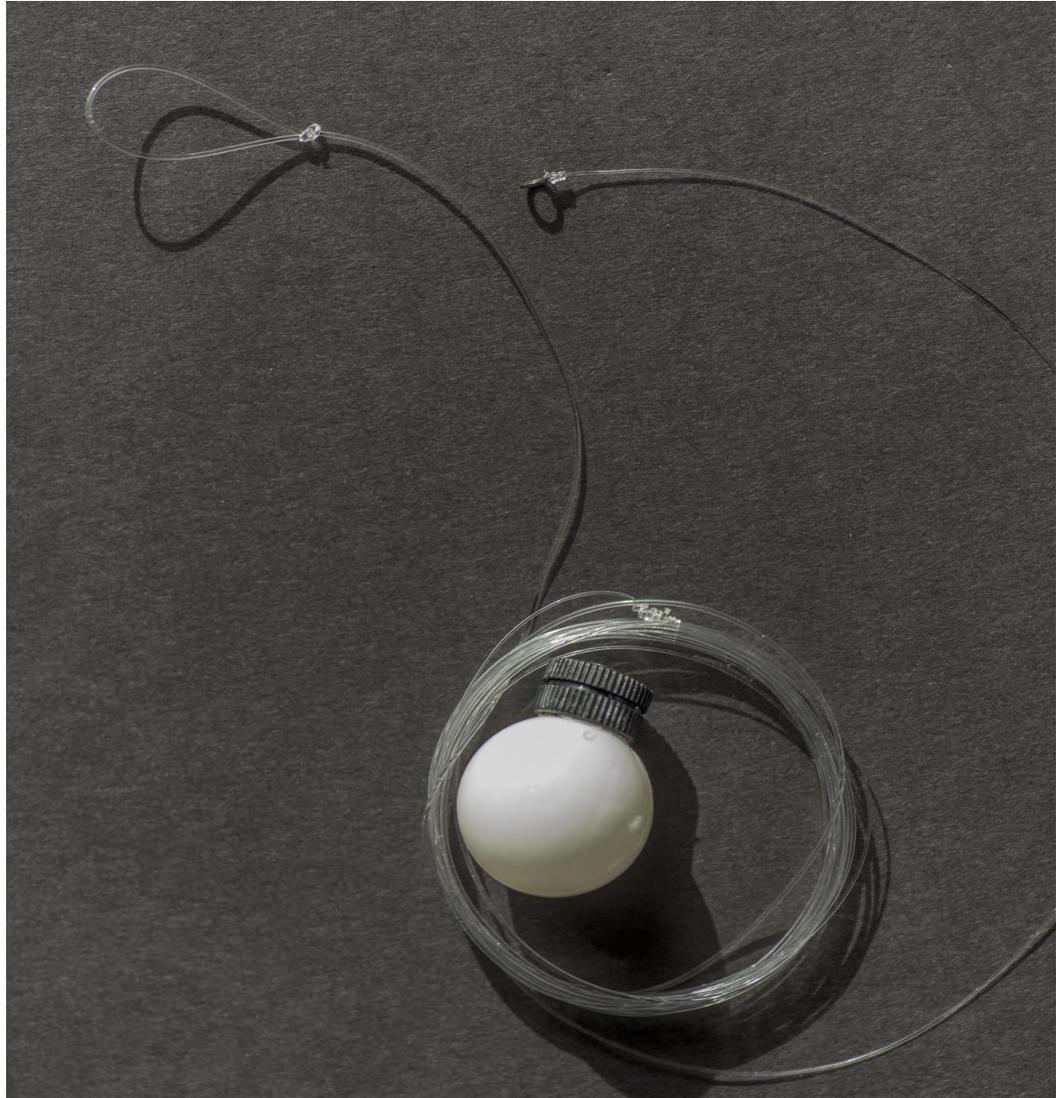
In my four day test I noted the following advantages over nymph rigs I have used in the past.

- (1) Smother casting and fewer tangles, especially with a double nymph rig.

- (2) Easier, simpler re-rigging after breakoffs. Simply tie on another one foot piece of tippet material – no more rebuilding leaders.
- (3) No more leader kinks.
- (4) Attach split shot above the swivel (no slippage). Lengthen your tippet if you want more than 12 inches between your split shot and the first fly.
- (5) One or two leaders should last an entire season

Try it, you'll like it.....





Fly Tying at The Bitterroot Brewery

Fly Tying will resume at the Bitterroot Brewery beginning on November 4. Dennis McIntyre will have two tables set up. One on stage will be manned by Phil Romans for that evening for those who are simply trying to re-supply their fly boxes for the coming season or making some exotic offering to the currently elusive and sometimes impossible "Steelhead" that are presumed to be in the state to the South and West of us. The other will be an open table for those individuals who would

like to either learn a new technique, or simply learn how to tie so they can save money on those expensive flies that we purchase in our local shops (good luck with that).

Tying will begin around 5:00 and continue until 8:00 when the Brewery closes. If you have your own materials and vise, then bring them along, but it's not necessary to do that if you would like a lesson. You will go home with a presentable fly for your next adventure. Call Phil Romans with questions – 363 0744

We need your flies (patterns that is!)

Attention Fly Tiers! The Fly of the Month has been a stable feature of the Newsletter for almost six years. It has featured many interesting patterns useful for the Bitterroot and other nearby rivers and lakes. Four or so members have authored most; we would very much like to get others involved. We are sure you have some favorite patterns to share with Club members. All the patterns are archived on the Club web site (flyfishersofthebitterroot.org -- look under Menu) so you can see what fly patterns have been previously published as well as examples of write ups.

There is no set form other than we include a photo of the fly, a materials list and a brief write up that could include how to fish the fly, tying instructions or an interesting (and brief) story involving the fly. If you do not have a suitable photography set up I would be happy to take the photos for you.

Bob Pearcy
rwpearcy@gmail.com