



MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

May meeting – Tuesday May 6, 2014
BJ's Restaurant - Hamilton

“All Americans believe they are born fishermen. For a man to admit a distaste for fishing would be like denouncing mother-love or hating moonlight”

-John Steinbeck
AMERICAN AUTHOR

Well, here we are in the month of May – having survived another Bitterroot winter. Old Timers tell me it was one of the coldest in memory with snow up to your ears. Fortunately the winter of discomfort produces the spring and

summer of abundant water and fat trout. Your editor missed it all, having spent the winter in Seattle where the season is akin to standing in a cold shower for six months!

Unless we have an unusually warm spring and a very heavy runoff, water levels should be ideal this summer and fall. For those of us who fish as much as our spouses will allow this will be a great year to try to push our luck with a few more days on the river or lake. For those of you who admit you don't fish as much as you'd like this is the year to fish more and procrastinate less!!! -Ed

Presidents Message

As we are about to enter May with a bountiful snowpack everyone is anticipating either a big run-off or an extended one. In either case it's off the Bitterroot for a while. So many of us will turn our fishing endeavors to other options such as lakes and tailwaters. This makes our next three programs very timely.

First, this month's program by Tim Tollet entitled "Beaverhead Country" will give us information on the Beaverhead river, a tailwater below Clark Canyon reservoir, as well as the reservoir itself.

Second, June's program by Joe Kipp will fill us in on fishing lakes on the Blackfoot Reservation.

Third, July's program by our own Denny Westover will present the in-and-outs of fishing lakes (just prior to the club's July Georgetown Lake and August Quake Lake outings).

Seven of us made it to the Missouri River for the April Club trip. In spite of the strong winds we all caught several nice fish and had a good time. Again this year snow drove some of us home a day early. We are all looking forward to next year's trip.

The annual Club picnic will again be held at Steve Lilburn's place on Sunday August 17. More information on this event will appear in future newsletters.

The Special Needs Fishing Day at Stafford's Pond will be held on July 20. Please consider volunteering to help with this event.

The FFB Board has agreed to support Casting for Recovery again this year and asking for member support. Last year our members were very generous in support of the program helping send two women to last year's program at West Glacier in September.

Tight lines -- Doug

“Bass fishermen watch Monday Night Football, drink beer, drive pickup trucks, and prefer noisy women with big breasts. Trout fishermen watch MacNeil-Lehrer, drink white wine, drive foreign cars with passenger side airbags and hardly think about women at all.

This last characteristic may have something to do with the fact that trout fishermen spend most of the time immersed up to the thighs in ice-cold water.”

New Yorker Magazine

The Program

Tim Tollet

Frontier Anglers, Dillon MT

Tim Tollet started flyfishing back in the early 60's as his dad was a very avid fly fisher. In the early 1970's, he worked for the Powell Rod Company building some of the first graphite fly rods. In 1980, he and his wife, Teresa, opened Frontier Anglers in Dillon.

Tim's talk is titled "Beaverhead Country" - An accumulation of 37 years of fishing the

Beaverhead, Big Hole and other waters found in Southwestern Montana.

From the best insect hatches, to the best times to fish these famous waters, Tim will cover it all.

With our bountiful snowpack this year we will probably have an extended run-off. The Beaverhead river is a tailwater and if the engineers controlling Clark Canyon reservoir cooperate, it will fish well throughout our high water period. This should be a timely program.

Tim's website is: <http://www.frontieranglers.com>

***Another pearl from our guest (ghost) writer, the venerable San Juan Worm. This may be his final contribution (a chorus of sighs or loud cheering depending on your point of view) as I have had no contact with the mystery man for over a month. Don't disappoint your fans
SJW – send more tales of your adventures!***

Diarrhea

By: The San Juan Worm*

Diarrhea. There! I said it. I got it out in the open.... The subject matter I mean. I know! I know! Nobody wants to talk about this. Me neither, except for my life long quest to understand all the nuances of fly fishing. And what, you ask, does diarrhea have to do with fly fishing? I'm glad you asked. You did ask, didn't you?

I don't for a moment think fishermen are more prone to the runs than more normal folks. Except for my fishing buddy, Dun Caddis. Something on him is always running off or slipping out so to speak. But we fishermen eat at Mexican restaurants. We don't properly wash our fruit. And then there is that all too common practice of using your mouth as a third hand when retrieving line. They call it giardia, folks. That's the beaver's revenge for tearing down his damn dams.

What makes diarrhea particularly dire for fishermen is our attire, what we wear. Think about it. We layer our togs to fend off the chill of the river. Then we put on waders to keep the water out. Then we often get into a drift boat or raft. So when.

The boat or raft must come to shore. One must relax that death grip on one's bowels to get out and on the shore. That's always tricky. Then there is the frantic search for a likely repository. Then the waders and clothes must be pulled down to the ankles in a frantic race against time. The baring of one's posterior to brambles, poison ivy, snake bite and the cold wind is about as painful and embarrassing as having to tell your best fishing buddy that you are in love with his wife. Of course, there is also that fear, as relief floods you, that you may not have gathered in the shoulder straps to your waders. But whatever pause that gives is quickly replaced by the sudden realization that you left the toilet paper in the boat. It really tests the bounds of friendship to have your buddy walk TP to you as you squat.

No, it's clear that we fishermen suffer unduly. The only solace I can find is the awareness that fisher women face the same issues just to pee.

- San Juan Worm is an obvious *nom de plume*. But if you were born as Bead Eye Peacock Hurl, wouldn't you use an alias?
-

Trip Report-CORBETT LAKE

I joined Denny Westover and several friends in the third week of May of 2013 for a one week trip to Corbett Lake. Corbett is a private lake in British Columbia; approximately 52 miles south of the Kamloops, BC. The lake was managed for many years by Mr. Peter McVey and is approximately 250 acres. Small fish are considered to be in the range of 16 to 18 inches. Mid-range 24 to 27 inches, with Granddaddy's over 30 inches. All the fish are Kamloops Trout. Corbett has a nice Lodge with dinning facilities and cabins that range from quite suitable to rather primitive. The Lodge has nice aluminum boats for rent, if you don't want to pull your boat that far, and is electric motors only. You must anchor fore and aft when chironomid fishing. A neat way to make a cheap anchor is to use a one gallon milk jug. Cut the top off, fill it with concrete and insert a eye bolt.

From the Hamilton area to Merritt, B.C. is an eleven to twelve hour drive. We drove Hwy 90 to Spokane, picked up Hwy 2 and drove west to Wilbur. At Wilbur N.W on 174 to Grand Coulee Dam, then north on Hwy.155 to Omak. . Here you take Hwy. 97 north and cross the boarder and drive up the Okanagan Valley to Westbank. Here you turn west on Hwy. 97C over the mountain to Merritt B.C. We stayed over night at Merritt where we met up with Denny's son and some other friends from the Seattle area.

I asked Denny what flies I should have? He sent me patterns consisting of eleven flies along with tying instructions. They ranged from callibaetis emergers to stillwater nymphs. Sizes for the dries #14 to #18, stillwater nymphs# 8 to #10. Chronomid size range from #18 to#10 in colors of black, olive, red and chrome with bead heads of white, brass black and clear. I had most success with #18 Zebra long shank. Denny will critique your trying skills, so don't be thin skinned. He didn't like my wing on the callibaetis cripple— said it was too small. The fish thought it was just fine, but what do they know. If you want see these patterns, I will bring then to the May meeting.

We fished for four days and had great success. The biggest fish I boated was a measured 27 inches, taken on a stillwater nymph. I had bigger fish on, but not boated. The lake runs north and south with the boat ramp at the south end of the lake. We fished most of the time at the north end of the lake. I would slowly motor up to the upper lake trolling the stillwater nymph. I would always take two or three fish on the way up. In the morning I would mostly fish chironomid's in water anywhere from 6 feet to 12 feet deep, with a break-a-way indicator. I also had great success casting a stillwater nymph on a 5 wt. intermediate camo sink tip. I used a Sage 999 5 wt. for chironomids, Scott 5 wt on the intermediate camo sink tip and a Sage One 4 wt on the small dries. What a hoot taking a large fish on a # 4 wt..

In the afternoon, off the weed beds we would get the callibaetis hatch and the fish would go nuts. I had heard about this, but never experienced it myself, i.e. throwing # 14 callibaetis in the poring rain. We had one full day of this type of rain. In south Georgia we would call this a frog drowner. Boy did it rain!, but the fish didn't mind—they were already wet.

As an aside, the wine country up Okanagan Valley is not bad duty either and a very pleasant drive. If you have a chance to fish this county, I am sure you will enjoy it.

406-961-5642

Fly of the Month

Greg Chester

The following are my favorite patterns for fishing Hebgen Lake in late summer. They're primarily for Hebgen's Callibaetis hatch but with color and size adjustments will work for Mayflies anywhere Spinners are the prime bug for the lake (versus duns or emergers) but I've included a softhackle and nymph you should tie up as well. Try dropping them off of the top fly. You can still use all your normal patterns like parachutes and sparkle duns. An Adams will work on Hebgen tied in tradition gray. Remember to tie tails longer for spinner patterns, about 2X the hook shank.

Deer hair spinner

Thread	8/0 tan
Hook	Dry Fly, #16 and 18
Tail	Light colored fibetts or hackle fibers, split preferred
Abdomen	Callibaetis (grayish tan) dubbing
Wing	Fine deer hair, split with thread and dubbing. Tie in hair with tips over the hook eye like a sparkle dun. Then split first with thread then again when dubbing the thorax
Thorax	Callibaetis (grayish tan) dubbing



Foam spinner

(same as above through the abdomen)

Throat Thin strip of 2mm gray foam.

Wing/Hackle Grizzly or medium dun, one size larger than normal, tied heavy

After completing the abdomen tie in the foam strip in the throat area with excess toward the bend. Then hackle the fly in the thorax area, then split the hackle fibers by pulling the foam strip through the hackle and tie down near the head. It may be easier to do this after first cutting a "v" in the hackle prior to splitting it, but I like as many fibers present as possible to create a full wing profile once it's split. trim hackle flat on the bottom of the fly so the remaining hackle wing lies flat on the water. For added visibility try orange foam.



Soft Hackle

Thread	8/0 tan
Hook	Dry Fly, #16 and 18
Tail	Partridge fibers short and sparse
Abdomen	Callibaetis (grayish tan) dubbing
Ribbing	Small copper wire
Thorax	Callibaetis (grayish tan) dubbing
Hackle	Partridge. Sparse and not too long



Callibaetis Nymph

Thread	8/0 tan
Hook	Dry Fly, #16 and 18
Tail	Pheasant tail fibers (6 - 8) tied short. Don't cut excess yet
Abdomen	Callibaetis (grayish tan) dubbing
Back strap	Pheasant tail fibers - same clump as tail
Ribbing	Small copper wire
Thorax/wing case	Callibaetis (grayish tan) dubbing with a silver mylar wing case.
Legs	Pheasant tail fibers - same clump as tail. Clipped short
Head	Tying thread

Start by tying in pheasant tail fibers but don't clip excess. Tie in copper wire at tail tie in point. Dub abdomen to thorax area. Pull pheasant fibers over abdomen and tie down in thorax area. Don't clip fibers yet - let them extend over the hook eye for the moment. Wrap wire over abdomen and tie off in thorax area. Clip wire. Tie in mylar with excess toward bend. Dub thorax and fold mylar over thorax simulating a wing case. Divide remaining pheasant tail fibers in half and tie back on each side of fly to simulate legs. Cut short.



The Editors Corner

Things I've learned and ideas I've stolen from my fishing partners.....

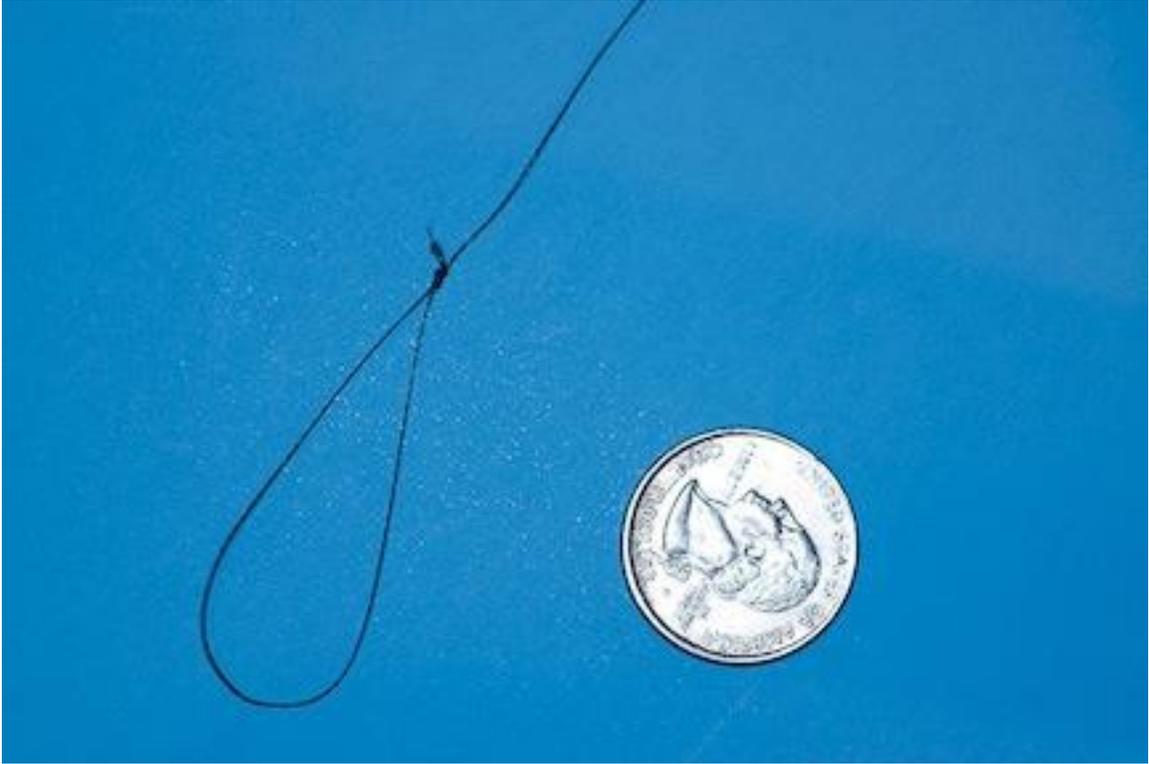
Fishing chironomids in lakes is one of my favorite ways to fool trout. I like every thing about this type of fishing – with two exceptions. They aren't big deals – just minor annoyances - but I finally found a way to eliminate them.

Kinky/twisted monofilament leaders

We have all experienced this. You start the day with a fresh leader and after a few fish and dozens of readjustments of your strike indicator your leader has developed twists and kinks that no amount of stretching will remove. So what, you say – this isn't a beauty contest! No, but it is a contest to hook the fish before he spits out your fly. Twists and kinks in a 18 foot leader can easily amount to an additional 5 – 10 inches of slack that must be taken up before the fish is hooked. Most of the time we are quick enough to hook the fish – slack and all. But the thought of missing a hook up with “Big Fido” because of a little slack in my line is too much for me to bear.

Here's a simple technique that eliminates both slack and stretch from your chironomid leaders. Instead of a 9ft or 12ft tapered leader as the first part of my chironomid leader I substitute a length of **Rio Extreme Tippet Material**. I use 20lb which mikes out at 3X. Rio no longer makes this material but it is readily available on Ebay for about \$ 5.00 per 20 yard spool. Alternatively, a braided bait casting line such as FireWire will also do the job. The Extreme tippet won't kink or stretch and guarantees a straight connection from your fly line to your fly. Rigging the leader is simple – put a loop knot in one end, loop it on to your fly line and then thread on your break away strike indicator. Attach a small swivel on the other end. Attach 3ft of 3X fluorocarbon to the swivel and then tie in a 24 inch length of 4X or 5X fluorocarbon and tie on your chironomid. Add a small (BB) lead shot above the knot that joined the 3X and the and the 24 inch tippet.

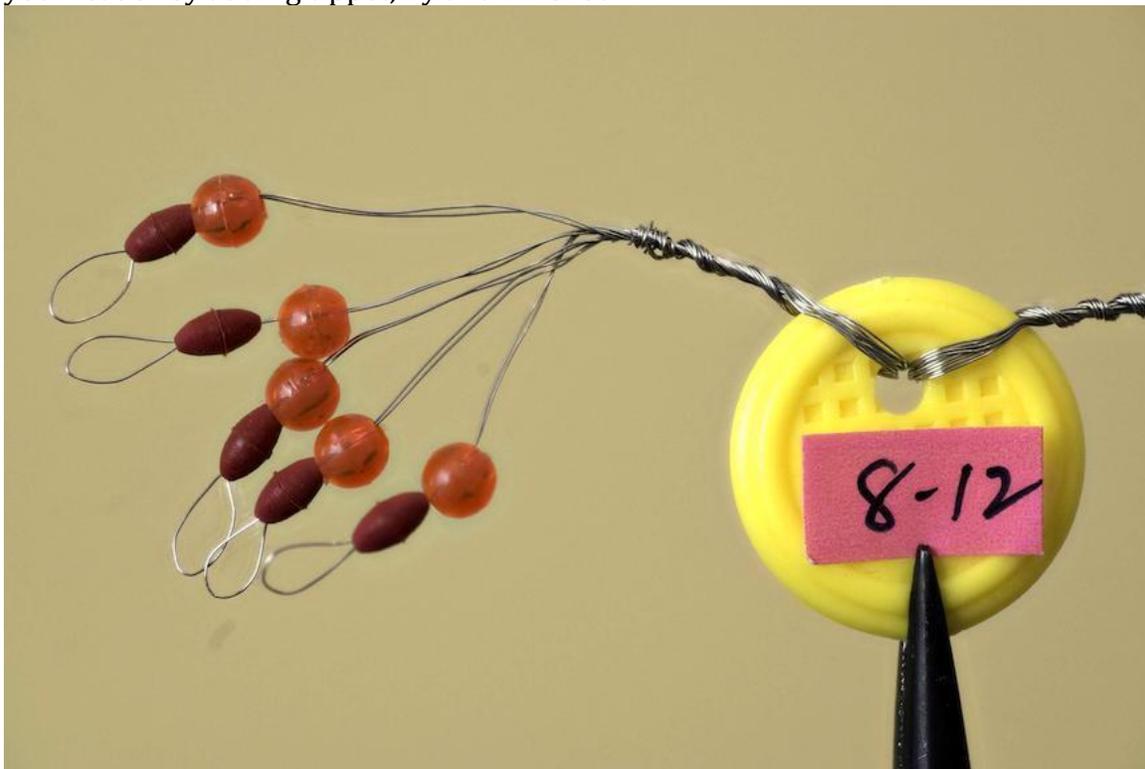
This rig casts nearly as well as a tapered leader set up but sinks faster and eliminates those annoying kinks and twists. Big Fido is out there waiting to see how fast you are!! The “Extreme” leader works best when you are fishing deep; 15 – 25 feet. If I am fishing in less than 7-8 feet of water I tend to use a traditional tapered monofilament leader.



BOBBER STOPPERS

Most chironomid fishermen begin the day by setting up their rig so that their fly is positioned about one foot above the bottom. The tried and true approach to doing this accurately is to attach a pair of forceps to the hook and lower the leader to the bottom – then raise the leader by one foot and secure the break away indicator. (Don't forget to remove the forceps before you make your first cast!!) Unfortunately, this process must be repeated each time a fish is hooked and released. So, if you are having a great day and releasing fish after fish this process becomes tedious and time consuming. Here's a way to eliminate all but the first measurement.

“Bobber Stoppers” can be purchased at any sporting goods store. Buy the 8-12lb size. After you loop the 9 or 12 foot tapered leader or the length of “Extreme” tippet material on to the end of your fly line and BEFORE you attach the fluorocarbon tippet, or the swivel and tippet in the case of the “Extreme” material, thread the fine end of the leader through the wire loop protruding from the bobber stopper. Pull it through about 12 inches and then slide the stopper over the leader material until it clears the doubled over portion. Discard the red plastic bead. Slide the stopper up the leader until it is a few feet from the line to leader loop. Complete the assembly of your leader by adding tippet, fly and BB shot.



When you set up to make your first cast in a new area determine your proper depth using the forceps method described above but before you make your first cast slide

the bobber stopper to a point just above the indicator. Each time you hook a fish and release the indicator the bobber stopper provides an exact reference point for accurately reattaching the indicator. Attaching the stopper takes only a few seconds but eliminates the annoyance of resetting your indicator after every fish!!



“If you want to catch a lunker trout, use big streamer flies. When a trout reaches 2 ½ to 3 pounds he is done with midges, freshwater shrimp, and other small fry. He wants to gulp down something big enough to make his stomach sac press against his sides”

JOE BROOKS

**“FISHING STREAMERS AND BUCKTAILS FOR
TROUT”**

Bitterroot Buggers Fishing Day and Picnic

Sunday, April 27, Stock Farm pond

Personal cars not allowed – we'll use busses like last year.

Logistics:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 3:30 PM
Hamilton) | Meet at Westview center (9 th and Main, |
| 3:45 | Load up and depart in busses for the Farm |
| 4:00 – 6:00 | Fishing, picnic, prizes, photos |
| 6:00
Center | Load up busses and depart for Westview |
| 6:15 | Arrive at WV Center |

Lunch provided. Bugger parents will bring side dishes.

Instructors – bring you vest to help kids with tippetts, leaders, floatant, net, etc. We'll have a drawing for a nice prize going to a lucky volunteer.

Not a fly fisher? We can still use your help wrangling kids and lunch.

Thank You in advance for your help.

Questions? Call Greg Chester, 406-363-0033

“Fishermen are born honest – but they get over it”

Ed Zern

For sale 2003 16' Clackacraft low side drift boat. Complete with Carlyle oars, Clackacraft cover, anchor, and Clackacraft trailer. White with red and black accent stripes. \$5500 \$100 donation to Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot if sold with this ad. Contact Leon Powell if interested. (406) 360-9572, or email eleonfish@gmail.com.



Not to be cheered by praise, not to be grieved by blame, but to know thoroughly one's own virtues or powers are the characteristics of an excellent man.
Satchel Paige