



## NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY, 2010

### THE MEETING

If it's February, it must be POT POURRI TIME! Yes, children, this annual event is back by popular demand. (We were digging for a program and somebody remembered we did this last year. What? ... You thought we were all too old to remember anything!) So, we will convene at BJ's as usual but the usual stops there. First, most of you are used to coming around 6:30 with the program starting at 7:00 pm. Well, stretch those axioms. Our program starts at 6:30 pm this time. Best you come around 6:00 pm. Moreover, most of you are purchasing dinners. Not this time. The Club is going to recirculate some of that good raffle money you've been throwing at us. The Club will provide heavy hors d'ouerves on a table in the back of the room. (Drinks are still on you.) We do this because we want to use most of the dinner tables in our program. So you should just get used to the notion that you might have to stand around a bit and eat cocktail party style. There will be some limited seating for the young and energetic but, for the rest of us, we want you to circulate. Think of it as an office party and good manners plus the possibility of promotion require you to visit with each company officer (only they are program presenters). Actually, kids, this is really fun. If you aren't riveted by what's going on at one table, say reel cleaning by the inestimable B. Bean, move on. There's a whole, well, POT POURRI out there! More on this below. We

will convene at **6:30 pm** on Tuesday, February 2 in the back hall of BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton.

## THE SPEAKER

POT POURRI! (We've had to conduct spelling lessons for certain Board members using this phrase.) The concept, for you newbies, is to have a number of tables with presenters trapped behind them, forcing them to speak about a certain topic or perform certain (all legal) acts or whatever. There will be a fly tying table featuring Tony Tomsu and Phil Romans (and others). It is rumored that Tony will give close order drill on his most excellent skwala. Bill Bean will command a table at which he will clean your reel for you. Carrying some Bitterroot grit in that old reel? Bring it and get it cleaned for free. Montana FWP will man up a table. Joe Soewerby will be there to speak to you about his offer of a deeply discounted Smith River float this May.

(This was a great trip for twelve of us last year, at a bargain price.) Marty Carstetter will display his panda food fashioned into fishing poles and talk to you about rod building. And Greg Chester, I believe, will tie you in knots. We will have a flick, *Once in a Blue Moon*, showing continuously. In addition to all this splendiferous stuff, we will have a white elephant table. You may bring whatever items smaller than autos but probably related to fishing that you wish to sell. Name your price. Put it on the specially marked table with your name and maybe somebody will find it essential to own. You can munch, at our expense, and mingle. Oh, yes, Martha, there will be a raffle.

## THOSE WHO SPAKE

Montana FWP fisheries biologist David Schmetterling gave us an intelligent and informed update on the effects of the removal of the Milltown Dam on the Clark Fork and Blackfoot systems. His presentation was fascinating.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a difference a year makes. Last year in March when I was filling in for Ed I wrote that the snow pack was normal. This year, as of January 15 it is only 63% of normal, indicating that we are probably in for a dry year. Of course a lot will depend on temperatures and summer rain, a commodity we have been short of now for practically the last decade, and snow during

the rest of the winter. We are in the middle of an El Nino year, which usually results in a warm, dry winter in the Pacific Northwest and western Montana but wet weather in California. This week of January 18 as I write bears this pattern out. We were blessed with three good water years in a row; let's hope that the El Nino pattern is a short one.

As for the FFB we have a very active year planned. In addition to activities that have become annual events like the Bitterroot Buggers, the fly fishing clinic, the fishing day for special needs persons, the pig roast, the river cleanup and several cruises, we have some others planned or in the planning stages. In early March, Phil will offer a fly-casting clinic. Details can be found below. We are also in the early planning stages for a rowing clinic that is also being spearheaded by Phil. There are logistical details to sort out so these plans are not yet firmed up. Learning how to row provides a valuable skill set for fly fishing here in Montana and can lead to more invitations to join other members in their boat!

I will put a plug in for volunteering for the Bitterroot Buggers program put on jointly by Trout Unlimited and the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot. I volunteered last year for one meeting and had a blast. Alas, it was the last fly tying session so I missed out on some of the fun. This year I will be volunteering for more. The room was full of very enthusiastic 8 to 14 year olds and their parents. It doesn't require that you be an expert fly tyer. More information can be found below. Sign up! You will find it to be a most rewarding experience.

Bob Pearcy, President

## ODDS AND ENDS

### **Casting Clinic**

Once again Phil Romans is leading the charge, this time by offering a casting clinic so that we can improve our skills. It will be on either the first or second Saturday in March depending on the weather. You can call Phil at 363-0744 to sign up. We'll have a basic class for the first hour, and cover what everyone needs to know on a basic level, and then move on to some more advanced techniques. We'll start at 10:00 AM, and go on to more advanced items at 11:00 AM, and then end perhaps at the Brewery for lunch.

## **September Meeting Program**

Bob Pearcy supplements his President's Message as follows:

I know it seems early to be bringing up the September meeting but Cliff, our intrepid Program Chair, has asked me if I would be willing to repeat the show of member's slides that I put together last September. The answer to that is yes. We will again make it a program of "What I Did Over the Year", meaning from last September, give or take, up to this coming September. (Sorry, Phil, you can't recycle that monster steelhead.) So at this time, this is just a reminder to take lots of pictures of fish, fisherpersons, scenery while fishing, any club activities, etc. Later on in the year I will ask you to send them to me so I can assemble the show. Digital camera images are best and can be emailed to me (or given to me on a CD) but I can also scan prints and return the originals to you.

## **Where to Go and When**

It struck a couple of us, namely Howard Friedberg and Rich Morrissey, that here we are, a fishing club, with a lot of new members and folks new to the Bitterroot Valley, that may have joined hoping to get the secret handshake and directions to the Special Fishing Hole. We hope some of that happens during our meetings. But we want to make it a little easier. We will hold a no-host lunch on Saturday, February 27 at noon at the Papa Bear Conference Room. This charming room is in Tammany Square located just behind Fiesta en Jalisco at the north end of Hamilton. (Phone 375-9022) We will have on hand a fair number of grizzled old timers who will tell you when and where to fish for maximum results. We will hand out maps that you can mark and a hatch chart telling you when to expect what flies. We will cover both floating and wade fishing, both the Bitterroot River and its tributaries, some mountain lakes and Georgetown Lake, with brief words on other rivers around us (Clark Fork, Blackfoot, Missouri, etc.). I suspect all of us will learn from this.

## **Fly tying:**

The Bitterroot Brewery hosts a fly tying roundtable every Wednesday evening. According to Greg Chester, the fun and tying starts about 5:30. Prominent tiers from around the valley periodically show up and flaunt their abilities. If you want to pick up some tips from the best, stop by, grab an IPA and check it out. Rumor has it that even local living legend John Foust occasionally shows up. The food is superior pub fare, too. All skill levels welcome.

**Bitterroot Buggers:**

The Hamilton Chapter of Trout Unlimited is once again co-sponsoring the Bitterroot Buggers program. This year's co-sponsor is the Hamilton School District. However, our Club always provides much needed volunteer assistance. The Bitterroot Buggers teaches 8 to 14 year old kids how to tie flies. All materials are provided at cost by Jeff Gray of Western Flies and Guides. The program starts on Tuesday, February 23 at the West View School in Hamilton at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. and runs for six consecutive Tuesdays, same times, same place. Come out and help. This is an extremely rewarding program and gives us an opportunity to introduce fly fishing to the next generation.

**Membership:**

As most of you already know, our Club started a dues program in September. The annual dues for an individual is \$25 and for a family, \$35. Please see Dorreen Romans, sitting in for Linda Powell, at the check in desk at our meeting or download an application form at [www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org](http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org). Just to brag a little, we already have over 70 paid members. Not bad for a little ole club. But more to the point, our Club is filled with activities and opportunities: a day fishing in a stocked pond for handicapped folks; stream bank restoration in conjunction with TU; the May Fly Fishing Clinic; Bitterroot River clean-up; the Pig Roast; various outings under the stewardship of our Cruise Director; and much more. If you yen to get involved, speak to any director or officer.

**Editor's Corner:**

A reminder to all. You shouldn't wait for the adult skwalas to start hatching in March. The skwala nymphs start moving to the sides of the River preparatory to hatching about three weeks before they actually hatch. There's fantastic skwala nymph action starting usually in February.

**A Make-up Tribute:**

This newsletter has run a number of tributes to those who contribute. But one guy has been overlooked. Frank Murabito, a master fly tier, ties and donates to the Club for the raffle each month a dozen or so masterful flies. In addition, he has donated a fantastic shadow box of his flies. We should all thank Frank for his wonderful support.

## FOR FUN

This particular feature of your newsletter sometimes sparks retorts from members. I love them all. Here is one from our beloved Cruise Director, Pierre Nobody-Can-Pronounce-My-Last-Name Satkowiak. It helps to remember, he is a retired calculus professor.

### PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head..'
- 13.. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

## THE AUTHOR

You know, once I had thought I had retired and would now have some time on my hands. Foolish, foolish man. You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage newsletter ideas.