

FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT

NEWSLETTER FOR June, 2007



THE MEETING

Our June meeting will be held Tuesday, June 5, 2007, upstairs at the Exchange Club on Main Street in Hamilton. Cocktails, fly tying by our speaker, Chuck Stranahan, and general fish tales start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. As a rule, the Club meets the first Tuesday of every month except for the months of July and August, when there will not be any meetings. (Somebody should count the wayward souls that show up the first Tuesday in July.) Please remember to sign up with FFF if you haven't already done so. Membership applications are available at all meetings. See Doreen Romans, our Membership Chair. This can also be accomplished on line with FFF, <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>. Guests are always welcome but you must be a member of FFF to attend regularly our monthly meetings and programs.

Don't forget to make reservations (Doreen Romans, 363-0744) **only if you are coming for dinner**. If we have enough folks coming, The Exchange will hire extra help. Otherwise, the service will be slow, so please make reservations. Thanks for your help in this. There is no charge for attending the meetings or any requirement to have dinner.

THE SPEAKER

Our featured speaker for June is the inestimable, the passionate, the talented Chuck Stranahan. Chuck is going to enlighten the benighted about the "two fly system". A power point presentation shall show us how to fish, at the same time, on the same rod, with the same line, two wet flies, two dry flies or some combination thereof. At this writer's request, he will also attempt to demonstrate some of those unbreakable knots that the guides all seem to know how to fashion while the rest of us bear on with the improved clinch. Chuck Stanahan owns and operates Chuck Stranahan's Fly Shop (formerly, Riverbend) in downtown Hamilton, 363-4197. This writer will attest that if he doesn't have the fly you are looking for, he will tie it on the spot. But, please, at least until his formal presentation is over, do not ask Chuck about setbacks; I want to hear the presentation. Chuck will set up his fly tying bench at 6:00 pm before dinner to demonstrate his favorite early season patterns.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Thanks to Rick Thomas for his wonderful slide show and talk on fishing the Bitterroot, his specialty, at our May meeting.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our President has been testing the prices of gas in several states and is not available to pen this month's message. Doreen went with him, so We expect a sighting at the meeting.

THE EVENTS

Georgetown Followup:

The Club annual opening day outing to Georgetown Lake was "two days of heaven." according to a survivor. Great weather attended. Successful patterns were giant Prince nymphs, the always useful black wooly bugger and tan birdsnests fished in the film. (I will refrain from a bon mot about birdsnests and soup.)

Club Outings:

The Board of Directors at its meeting a week ago, discussed more ideas for various club outings. Places such as Browns Lake, a Mission River and/or a Clark Fork float, and a fall

steelhead trip to Idaho were mentioned. We decided what was needed was a Club outing director, sort of a cruise director. Could be any member with an organizing talent, eye patch and riding crop. This will be discussed at the June members meeting. If you're interested, be prepared to raise your hand. You would not have to do it all, just be the big picture guy or gal. (Sure, you bet.)

Wheelbarrow Creek:

On a picture perfect day in early May, our Club provided five of the baker's dozen good citizens who, along with three ranch hands, strung wire on new fences to keep cattle from mucking up Wheelbarrow Creek, a trib of Three Mile Creek, a trib of the Bitterroot. This effort was sponsored by TU and others, along with our help. Greg Chester, Cliff Gibbons, Jon Anders, Pierre Satkowiak and the author made a good day of it, followed by beer at my house. It felt good to do good.

Cleanup of The Bitterroot:

As a reminder, the date for the river cleanup this year is September 8. It was decided by survey to try this date because we will be better able to pick up trash in the river due to the low water at that time of year. There will be a barbeque following the cleanup and **Anglers Roost** has generously donated their site.

FFF & FFF Council events:

FFF 42nd Int'l Show & Conclave 2007

July 31 - August 4, 2007

Livingston, MT

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/conclave2007/begin.php>

Southern Council Conclave

October ,2007

Mtn Home, AR

<http://www.southerncouncilfff.org/>

Other:

Call for Papers, Posters, Nominations: Wild Trout - IX

October 9-12, 2007

Holiday Inn - West Yellowstone, Montana

"Sustaining Wild Trout in a Changing World"

<http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com/>

THE ERRATA

Raffle:

Not quite all the 100 tickets for the dubbing machine have been sold; so grab your wallets at the meeting. A Greg Chester hand made net will be a featured auction item at the September meeting.

Fly Tying:

Fly tying, Wednesday evenings at the Brewery in Hamilton, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Be there or be square. Bring your favorite pattern or just come to observe. Greg Chester and Phil Romans are usually there. We hope to see some of you. Any fly you are afraid to throw into heavy cover is good only for an ornament, so you know you need to tie more.

Stream Setbacks:

The Ravalli County stream setback committee is being formed by the County Commissioners. Rick Hancock and Greg Chester from our Club and Eddie Olwell from TU have applied and deserve your support.

Members Bulletin Board:

The Board of Directors set up a committee to further the arduous study and lengthy preparation necessary for a Club interactive web page and bulletin board. Cliff Gibbons kindly volunteered the good advice of a computer knowledgeable friend who guided us at the last Board meeting. The committee shall proceed.

THE AUTHOR

Until deposed in a popular uprising or lost mysteriously on a float, the newsletter duties have devolved to Rich Morrissey, aka The San Juan Worm. You can reach me at 206-362-1199 with comments or threats (yes, it's a Seattle area code but if you use the ubiquitous cell phone, there's no extra charge.) or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage (I'm going to regret saying this) newsletter ideas.