



NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER, 2011

THE MEETING

All too soon, winter's breath is upon us. Stories of huge steelhead in the North Fork and clouds of BWO's on the Bitterroot merely send me to the thermometer to turn it up before I make my way to the tying vise. I must be getting old. The cold bites sharper and the wind penetrates deeper. But there are many friends to warm my days and evenings and a wonderful new wife to spice my nights. It has been a good year. Time to tuck in and anticipate the skwala hatch.

We meet on Tuesday, November 1 at BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton. General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm.

THE SPEAKER

Our November meeting will feature the Club's own Mart Karstetter (of the wicked grin!). Marty Karstetter is a renowned bamboo rod builder from Darby, MT. (This guy's got a waiting list longer than Republican presidential candidates.) Marty has more than 60 years of experience fishing for steelhead and salmon throughout Oregon, Washington, Alaska and British Columbia. He will be sharing his knowledge, equipment, flies, and expertise while also presenting a film, *A Steelhead Family*, about a family he has fished with for twenty years in British Columbia.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Heather Mullee, Executive Director of the Bitterroot Water Forum, spoke about the planting of regenerative vegetation on the East Fork, particularly as it impacts fisher folk and wildlife. She then induced some of us to volunteer for a Saturday of hole digging and planting on the East Fork. I still have healing blisters.

DECEMBER MEETING

Hold on there, pardner! There's more! Our December meeting will be a pot pourri. That's one of them there Frenchy words to say we got a whole lot of different things going on at the same time. To pull this off, the members will circulate and the various presenters will be at fixed stations. To make that work, the Club will provide, at its expense, 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 on some place other than the meeting room.

ELECTIONS!

Our December members meeting will include our annual Board of Directors election. The newly elected directors will, at their first meeting in January 2012, elect our new slate of officers for the year. 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 four or five folks who have indicated an interest in serving on the Board. They are welcome, as you are. There is no set 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 Morrissey at 406-381-5611 or richmorrissey@q.com.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Green Butt Skunk

Tied by Bob Percy

It's steelhead time over the hill on the Salmon River so this month's pattern is an old standard. Ed Link, the outfitter in North Fork, says that you only need three flies, a Green Butt Skunk, a Green Butt Skunk, and another

Green Butt Skunk. Another saying is that the fly to use for steelhead is the one you have confidence in. Pattern itself does not seem to make much of a difference, subject to a few rules. First, early in the season when the water is warmer the fly should be tied smaller and sparser. Under winter conditions really large 2 to 4 inch long flies are used. Second, use a dark fly on dark, cloudy days or at sunrise and sunset and a bright fly under sunny conditions. The Green Butt Skunk has some dark and some bright characteristics so it will work pretty well under all brightness conditions. The fly is cast down and across at about a 45 degree angle and, by mending, allowed to swing back across the run as slow as possible. Once it is directly below you or on the dangle as they say, take two steps down the run and cast again. In this way you cover the run with the hope that your fly swings in front of a fish willing to grab it. When one does, hold on. One of our intrepid steelheaders uses a tandem rig with two Green Butt Skunks and casts upstream and across so that the flies drift deeply along a seam in a run. It is not exactly the classic presentation but hey it works! We have seen the picture to prove it. Although there has been an ongoing debate about whether or not steelhead feed while in the river, the consensus now is that they do at least to a limited extent. However, they probably grab a steelhead fly more out of a territorial than a feeding response.

Recipe

Hook: Tiemco 7999 or equivalent, size 4 to 8 (the hook in the photo is an Alex Jackson Spey)

Thread: black 6/0

Tail: red hackle fibers

Butt: green chenille

Body: black chenille

Collar: black saddle hackle tied swept back

Ribbing: silver Mylar or oval tinsel

Wing: white calf tail with a 6 or 8 strands of crystal flash on top



ODDS AND ENDS

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 will start Wednesday, November 2 at the usual time and place, that is, the Hamilton Brew Pub and at 5:30 pm.

Membership:

September is our membership month meaning dues are due. Our dues are \$25 for an individual and \$35 for a family. You may pay at a regular monthly meeting, send a check to Fly Fishers of the bitterroot, PO Box 692, Victor MT 59875, or you may use PayPal via the Club website www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org. Click the "Pay your dues" link on the home page. If you are not a PayPal member, you may still use PayPal to pay with your credit card.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Board of Directors set a policy recently concerning classified ads in our newsletter. We want to facilitate our members selling unwanted, unneeded gear. The following rules apply: (1) the seller must be a Club member; (2) the seller must be noncommercial; (3) this editor has full right to edit submitted materials; they should be "Tweet" size (4) the ads will run a maximum of two times and then be retired; (5) the thing or things to be sold must be related to fly fishing; and (6) we not will charge for the ad placement and take no responsibility for its accuracy.

BOAT FOR SALE – 14ft aluminum boat and 25hp Mariner outboard. Includes trailer with spare. Boat is set up for fly fishing and includes flat floor, hydraulic steering station, electric starting and fore and aft anchors. \$2400. Call Dennis Westover 206 605 0404 or Jay Haglund 406 961 4275.

FOR FUN

South Carolina cops have a way with words. These are actual comments made by South Carolina Troopers that were taken off their car videos:

1. "You know, stop lights don't come any redder than the one you just went

through."

2. "Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch after you wear them a while."

3. "If you take your hands off the car, I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document." (My favorite)

4. "If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."

5. "Can you run faster than 1200 feet per second? Because that's the speed of the bullet that'll be chasing you." (LOVE IT)

6. "You don't know how fast you were going? I guess that means I can write anything I want to on the ticket, huh?"

7. "Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I'm the shift supervisor?"

8. "Warning! You want a warning? O.K, I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket."

9. "The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?"

10. "Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy and corn dogs and step in monkey poop."

11. "Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven."

12. "In God we trust; all others we run through NCIC."

(National Crime Information Centre)

13. "Just how big were those 'two beers' you say you had?"

14. "No sir, we don't have quotas anymore. We used to, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we can."

15. "I'm glad to hear that the Chief (of Police) is a personal friend of yours. So you know someone who can post your bail."

16. "You didn't think we give pretty women tickets? You're right, we don't. Sign here."

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.